

The Laughing Kookaburra is the bird emblem of NSW – its raucous laugh is well known.

In this brochure are some of the birds you are most likely to come across – how many have you seen? Tick the boxes!



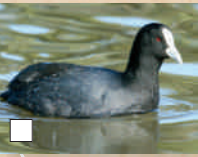
Kookaburra



Galah



Superb Fairy-wren



Eurasian Coot



Pied Currawong



Australian Magpie



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



Australian Pelican

Cover: ☐ Rainbow Lorikeet

Introduced birds



Spotted Dove



Red-whiskered Bulbul



Rock Dove/
Feral Pigeon



Common Starling



Common Myna

Where to find birds

Two parks and a botanic garden close to the centre of Sydney are rich in bird life.

Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney

A wonderful place to wander and discover common bird species. Watch for the Buff-banded Rail darting between garden beds. If you are lucky you may find the Powerful Owl.

Centennial Parklands

Has many large ponds attracting a diversity of species. The trees and undergrowth at Lachlan Swamp and around the Kensington Ponds attract waterbirds and songbirds alike.

Sydney Park, St Peters

Formerly a brickworks and rubbish tip, it is now a green haven for recreation. Its wetlands, newly planted trees and gardens attract many species of birds.

Go birdwatching

To find out more about birdwatching and field outings, visit www.birdingsw.org.au



Photos: E Yan, A Schulte, M Potter

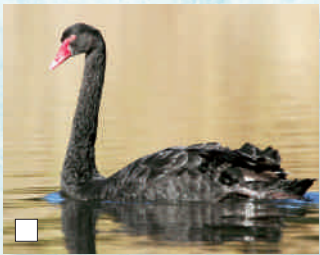
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Birds of Sydney

PARKS & GARDENS



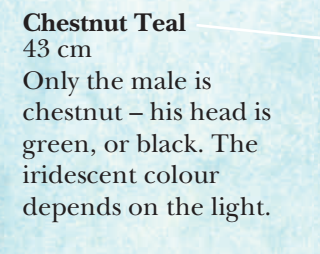
Black Swan
120 cm
It's not all black – when it spreads its wings you will see its white flight feathers. Nests in the reed beds.



Australian Wood Duck
46 cm
Just as likely to be seen on land as on water, sometimes even perching in trees where it nests in hollows.



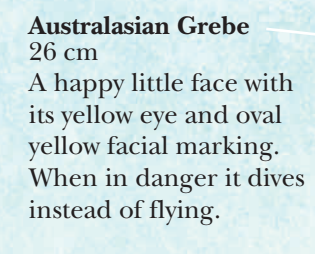
Pacific Black Duck 54 cm
Also known as the Painted Duck because of its facial markings – it looks as though it is wearing makeup!



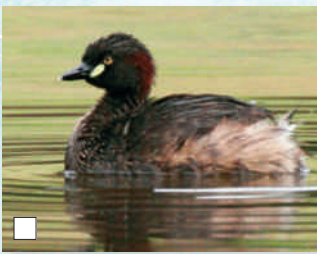
Chestnut Teal
43 cm
Only the male is chestnut – his head is green, or black. The iridescent colour depends on the light.



Hardhead
55 cm
The male Hardhead or the White-eyed Duck is distinctive. Only the male has a white eye and a white-tipped bill.



Australasian Grebe
26 cm
A happy little face with its yellow eye and oval yellow facial marking. When in danger it dives instead of flying.



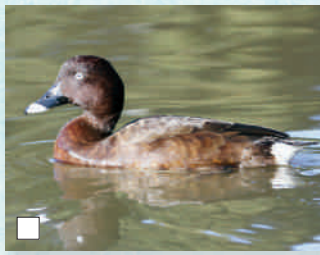
Great Cormorant
82 cm
The largest of our four local cormorants – black with a yellow face.



Dusky Moorhen
38 cm
One of our commonest water birds, its beak is red, with a yellow tip. The similar Eurasian Coot has a white beak.



Little Black Cormorant 60 cm
Often seen swimming along then suddenly diving for fish and reappearing a few minutes later in a different spot.



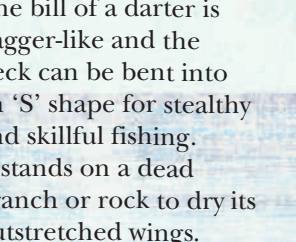
Little Pied Cormorant
60 cm
Lacks the black 'trousers' and orange facial skin of the larger, similar Pied Cormorant.



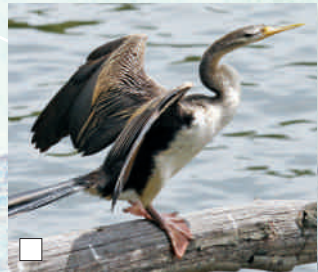
Pied Cormorant
80 cm
Like all cormorants it's not very waterproof, so it has to hang its wings out to dry!



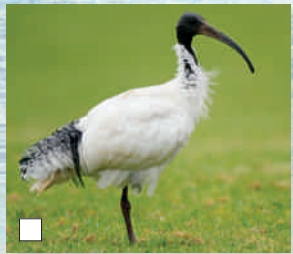
White-faced Heron
68 cm
Like all herons its neck has a 'hinge' – an adaptation for spearing its prey. It moves slowly as it searches for food.



Australasian Darter
94 cm
The bill of a darter is dagger-like and the neck can be bent into an 'S' shape for stealthy and skillful fishing. It stands on a dead branch or rock to dry its outstretched wings.



Purple Swamphe
46 cm
Bigger and more colourful than Dusky Moorhen. Both have a part of the beak that extends over the forehead – this is called its shield.



Australian White Ibis
70 cm
A similar species was worshipped by the ancient Egyptians. Its down-curved bill is perfect for probing in holes.



Water



Australian Raven
50 cm
Often called a crow (and the only one you're likely to find around here). Listen for its powerful *aah-aah-aahaah* call with the last note drawn out and dropping in pitch.



Australian Reed-Warbler
17 cm
Commonly heard calling from reed beds in summer.



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
34 cm
Not a cuckoo nor a shrike, an older (better!) name is the Shufflingwing – which is what it does every time it lands.

Brown Goshawk
55 cm
A secretive resident which preys on small birds. When sunny soars high on slightly upturned wings.



Buff-Banded Rail
33 cm
Can be found skulking in the dense vegetation of garden beds. If frightened the preferred method of escape is to melt silently into the foliage.



Channel-billed Cuckoo
65 cm
You will often see it being chased by Currawongs making a very loud repeated *squawk* as it flies.



Eastern Spinebill
16 cm
A beautiful little bird with a long beak designed for probing flowers to extract their nectar. It often hovers in flight.



Noisy Miner
26 cm
Has many different calls. It is aggressive towards other birds. Not to be confused with the Common Myna an introduced species.



Fan-tailed Cuckoo
27 cm
Its song is a mournful, descending trill. Often mobbed and harassed by other birds who want to protect their nest and eggs.

Australasian Figbird
29 cm
They eat all sorts of fruit and move round in flocks searching for food trees, such as figs.



Golden Whistler
18 cm
The male is very brightly coloured and the female is a dull brown.



Grey Butcherbird
28 cm
So-called as it stores prey in a tree fork, using its hooked beak to tear it into bite-sized chunks. But it's a handsome bird and sings beautifully.



Grey Fantail
16 cm
A lively, inquisitive bird that lives up to its name. When perched, it fans and wags its tail.



Nankeen Kestrel
32 cm
The smallest of our 24 birds of prey. It's one of the few birds that can hover, whilst looking for prey on the ground.



Red Wattlebird
35 cm
So named for its red 'wattles' or skin-flaps on its neck. It has a yellow belly and its call sounds like a barking dog with a bad cough.

New Holland Honeyeater
18 cm
Often sitting boldly on the top of a branch. Sounds like a squeaky toy.



Eastern Koel
42 cm
A member of the cuckoo family. Its rising *cooo-ee, cooo-ee* call is a well-known sound in Sydney in the warmer months.



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
65 cm
Spectacular bird, often seen flying overhead in flocks, heading for pine trees. Loud, creaking call.



Powerful Owl
65 cm
During the day it perches on the branch of a tree in dense canopy. Visible from the ground, often with the remains of its prey in its talons.



Tawny Frogmouth
40 cm
This master of camouflage looks like a broken branch during the day. It feeds during the night by pouncing on small prey.

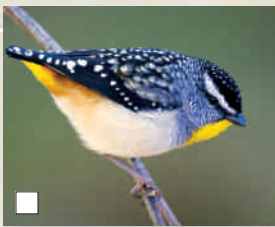


Tree Martin
13 cm
Often confused with Welcome Swallows. Its flight is also swooping but stiff winged and fluttering. Can be seen feeding above the fig trees around Sydney.

Silvereye
12 cm
Busy little birds with bright, white eye rings. Often in tinkling little flocks flitting in the bushes.



Spotted Pardalote
10 cm
This common pretty little spotted bird is difficult to see as it spends most of its time high up in eucalypt foliage feeding on tiny insects.



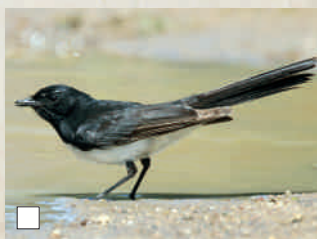
Peregrine Falcon
47 cm
This bird isn't common but is known to nest on inner city buildings. It is the fastest falcon in the world.



Masked Lapwing
36 cm
This bird and its *kek-kek-kek* alarm call are well known. It is a brave defender of its young, swooping on predators and sometimes humans.



Welcome Swallow
15 cm
This master of flight uses low level, high-speed aerobatics to vacuum up flying insects.



Willie Wagtail
21 cm
A feisty little bird. As well as its rattling alarm call it has a call which some say sounds like 'sweet pretty creature'.

Little Corella
39 cm
Seen in noisy flocks feeding on the ground. Acrobatic and playful. Note the rosy blush near the beak.



Magpie-lark
28 cm
One of the few birds that sings a duet - when you hear their metallic chiming call it's usually both the male and female singing together.



Crested Pigeon
42 cm
When it lands its tail tilts upwards. Makes a distinctive whistling sound when taking flight.



Trees and scrubbery

Grasslands