



32

Common Australian Birds

**An Introduction To
Australian Birds**

32 Common Birds Of Australia

A Homeschoolers Guide By Rachel Jardine 2024

Contents

1. Eastern Spinebill
2. Laughing Kookaburra
3. Eastern Rosella
4. Pacific Black Duck
5. Wedge-tailed Eagle
6. Crimson Rosella
7. Grey Butcherbird
8. Welcome Swallow
9. House Sparrow*
10. Common Starling*
11. Noisy Miner
12. Pacific Gull
13. Richard's Pipit
14. Variegated Fairy-wren
15. Grey Fantail
16. White-faced Heron
17. Australian Raven
18. Rainbow Lorikeet

19. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

20. Tree Martin

21. Murray Magpie

22. Galah

23. Australian Magpie

24. Crested Pigeon

25. Superb Fairy-wren

26. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

27. Willie Wagtail

28. Red Wattlebird

29. Scarlet Robin

30. Silver Gull

31. Blackbird*

32. New Holland Honeyeater

Copyright ©

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.





32 Common Birds of Australia

Introduction

Welcome to 32 Common Birds of Australia

This book is designed to help children and curious minds explore the world of Australian birds. This guide features 32 bird species commonly seen across Australia. Each bird is accompanied by information of interest whether it be habitat, diet or behavior. The guide is designed to be a resource for learning and connecting with nature.

Whether you're in the city, the countryside, or by the coast, these pages will guide you in identifying and understanding some of the common birds that live around you. From identification, observation of habits, behaviours and further study can follow.

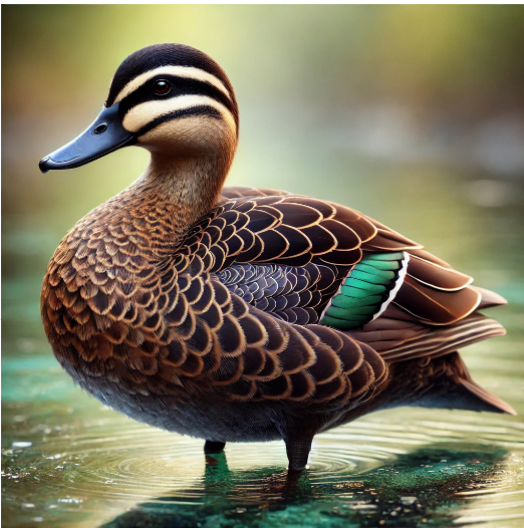
We hope you enjoy bird watching with your family as much as we have.

You can find more resources at www.thelittlegardenfarm.au

Pacific Black Duck

Anas superciliosa

The Pacific Black Duck is a common waterbird found in Australia, seen swimming in lakes and ponds. It has a dark brown body with a distinctive black stripe across its face. These ducks feed on plants, seeds, and small water creatures, using their broad bills to filter food from the water and silty bottom.



Eastern Rosella

Platycercus eximius

The Eastern Rosella is a brightly coloured parrot with red, yellow, and blue feathers. They are often seen in pairs or small groups, feeding on seeds, fruits, and flowers. These birds are common in woodlands and suburban areas, known for their pleasant chirpy calls.



Eastern Spinebill

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris

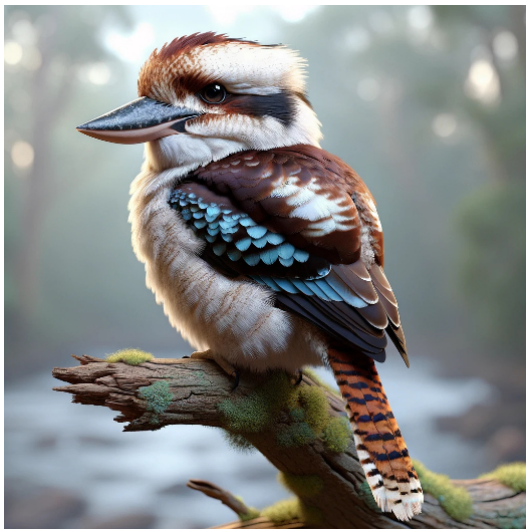
The Eastern Spinebill is a small honeyeater with a long, curved beak, perfect for feeding on nectar from flowers. Its plumage is a mix of chestnut, white, and black, with a slender body that helps it move through small thick shrubs. You can find them in gardens and forests along eastern Australia.



Laughing Kookaburra

Dacelo novaeguineae

The Laughing Kookaburra is famous for its loud, laughing call. It is the largest member of the kingfisher family and has brown and white feathers with a touch of blue. These birds often wait on perches before swooping down to take insects, small animals, and even snakes in forests and gardens.



Welcome Swallow

Hirundo neoxena

The Welcome Swallow is a small, fast-flying bird with a shiny blue back, orange throat, and long, forked tail. It catches insects while flying and is commonly found across Australia. These birds make mud nests and are often seen around open fields and water bodies.



Grey Butcherbird

Cracticus torquatus

The Grey Butcherbird gets its name from its habit of impaling prey on thorns or branches to eat later. It has a grey body with a white collar and a strong, beak. These birds live in open woodlands and have a beautiful, melodious song.



Wedge-tailed Eagle

Aquila audax

The Wedge-tailed Eagle is Australia's largest bird of prey, with long, broad wings and a distinctive wedge-shaped tail. It soars high in the sky, searching for prey, including rabbits and other small mammals. This powerful bird can be found across Australia in forests and grasslands.



Crimson Rosella

Platycercus elegans

The Crimson Rosella is a striking parrot with bright red and blue feathers. It is commonly found in forests and gardens across eastern and southeastern Australia. These birds feed on seeds, fruits, and nectar and are often seen in small, chatty groups.



Pacific Gull

Larus pacificus

The Pacific Gull is a large seabird with a powerful beak, ideal for cracking open shells. It has black wings, a white body, and a yellow bill with a red tip. You can find these birds along coastlines, where they feed on fish, crabs, and other sea creatures.



Common Starling *

Sturnus vulgaris

The Common Starling is a small, speckled bird with glossy black feathers that sometimes shine green and purple in the sunlight. Starlings are not native, introduced into Australia from 1857. They eat insects and fruits and are known for their ability to mimic other bird songs. Starlings are often seen in large, noisy flocks.



Noisy Miner

Manorina melanocephala

The Noisy Miner is a sociable bird, often found in large groups. It has a grey body, black face, and yellow patches around its eyes. These birds are aggressive when defending their territory which includes using their calls to chase other birds. They feed on nectar, insects, and fruit in gardens and woodlands.



House Sparrow *

Passer domesticus

The House Sparrow is a small brown and grey bird that loves living near humans, often found in cities and towns. It feeds on seeds, crumbs, and insects. It is one of the most common birds in the world. Sparrows cheerful chirping calls can be heard in almost every urban environment.



* - denotes species not native to Australia

Variegated Fairy-wren

Malurus lamberti

The Variegated Fairy-wren is a small, colorful bird with striking blue, black, and chestnut feathers on the male during breeding season. They live in small family groups and are known for their energetic movement through undergrowth in search of insects.



.White-faced Heron

Egretta novaehollandiae

The White-faced Heron is a tall, elegant bird with grey-blue feathers and a distinctive white face. It wades through wetlands and shallow water, hunting for fish, frogs, and insects. You can find them across Australia in wetlands, rivers, and coastal areas.



Richard's Pipit

Anthus richardi

Richard's Pipit is a slender, brown bird with streaked feathers and long legs, well adapted for walking and running on the ground. It feeds on insects and seeds and is often seen in open grasslands and farmland, where it moves quickly in search of food.



Grey Fantail

Rhipidura albiscapa

The Grey Fantail is a small, agile bird known for its acrobatic flying and fan-shaped tail. It has grey feathers with white markings and feeds on flying insects, chasing them in mid-air. These birds are commonly found in forests and gardens across Australia.



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus funereus

The Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo is a large, black parrot with bright yellow patches on its tail and cheeks. It has a strong beak for cracking seeds and cones from trees and shrubs. These birds are often seen in flocks, flying loudly through forests and woodlands.



Australian Raven
Corvus coronoides

The Australian Raven is a large, intelligent black bird with a deep, croaking call. It has a strong, sharp beak and feeds on a wide range of foods, including insects, small animals, and carrion. These birds are commonly seen in cities, forests, and open countryside.



Tree Martin
Petrochelidon nigricans

The Tree Martin is a small bird with glossy blue feathers and a white belly. It catches flying insects, often seen swooping gracefully through the air. These birds nest in tree hollows and are commonly found near rivers, open fields, and woodlands.



Rainbow Lorikeet
Trichoglossus moluccanus

The Rainbow Lorikeet is one of the most colorful birds in Australia, with bright red, blue, green, and yellow feathers. These playful parrots feed on nectar and fruits and are often seen in noisy flocks in parks, gardens, and forests. They are not native to several Australian states, and a problem in these States.



Galah

Eolophus roseicapilla

The Galah is a pink and grey cockatoo known for its playful and social nature. It has a strong, curved beak for eating seeds and roots. Galahs are often seen in large flocks in open fields and trees, chattering loudly to each other.



Crested Pigeon

Ocyphaps lophotes

The Crested Pigeon is a common bird with a distinctive tall crest on its head. It has soft grey and brown feathers with iridescent patches on its wings. These birds feed on seeds and grains and are often seen foraging on the ground in parks and gardens.



Murray Magpie

Grallina cyanoleuca

The Murray Magpie or Magpie-lark, is a small black and white bird often seen in parks and pasture. They have striking patterns with bold black and white feathers. Both males and females look similar. They are known for their loud, musical calls, which they often sing as a duet with their partners. These birds build mud nests in trees or on buildings, and hunt for insects on the ground.



Australian Magpie

Gymnorhina tibicen

The Australian Magpie is a bold, black and white bird known for its beautiful warbling song. It has a strong beak for catching insects and ground invertebrates, and it can often be seen strutting on lawns or flying through open areas. Magpies are also known for their protective nature during nesting season.



Willie Wagtail

Rhipidura leucophrys

The Willie Wagtail is a small, black and white bird with a long, wagging tail. It is very active and often seen darting around in search of insects. Willie Wagtails are friendly birds, often found in gardens and parks, cheerfully calling out as they hunt for food.



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Cacatua galerita

The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo is a large white parrot with a bright yellow crest on its head. These birds are loud and playful, often seen in flocks in trees or on the ground, using their strong beaks to crack open seeds and nuts.



Red Wattlebird

Anthochaera carunculata

The Red Wattlebird is a large honeyeater with grey-brown feathers and a red, fleshy wattle hanging from its neck. It has a strong, curved beak for feeding on nectar and insects. These birds are found in gardens and forests, where they are often seen zipping between flowering plants.



Superb Fairy-wren

Malurus cyaneus

The Superb Fairy-wren is a tiny, colorful bird, with the male sporting bright blue feathers during the breeding season. They are very active, hopping and flitting through bushes and grasses in search of insects. These little birds live in small family groups and are common in gardens and parks across Australia.



Scarlet Robin

Petroica boodang

The Scarlet Robin is a small and brightly coloured Australian bird. The males have striking red chests with black and white feathers, while the females are a little more plain, with grey-brown coloring and an orange breast. These robins live in woodlands and forests, and often sit on low branches, watching for insects to catch.



Blackbird *

Turdus merula

The Blackbird is a common bird found in parks and gardens. The males have shiny black feathers and bright yellow beaks, while the females are usually brown. Blackbirds are known for their beautiful singing, especially at dawn and dusk. They eat insects, worms, and berries, often seen hopping around on the ground looking for food. Native to Europe.



New Holland Honeyeater

Phylidonyris novaehollandiae

The New Holland Honeyeater is a small, active bird found throughout southern Australia. It has striking black and white feathers with bright yellow patches on the wings and tail. These honeyeaters love to feed on the nectar of flowers, especially from plants like banksias and grevilleas. They also eat insects and fruit.



Silver Gull

Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae

The Silver Gull is a familiar sight throughout coastal Australia. It has white feathers with light grey wings and a bright red beak and legs when breeding. These gulls are very adaptable and will eat almost anything. They are social birds, often seen in large groups.



* - denotes species not native to Australia