

# Melbourne birds

Identification booklet  
for the Port Phillip and  
Western Port Catchment



birds are in our nature

# Introduction

The Port Phillip and Western Port region is Victoria's most diverse and complex in regard to its location, geography and demography. It encompasses the densely populated urban Melbourne, sprawling outer suburbs, growth centres on the urban fringe and rich rural land and natural parklands. This region covers 1.3 million hectares, has over 900 wetlands, including three internationally significant Ramsar wetlands, and is home to more than 1860 species of native flora and 600 species of native vertebrate fauna.

This region is critically important to both native and migratory bird species, some of which travel thousands of kilometers to forage on Melbourne's waters.

This booklet aims to help you identify the most common native and introduced bird species to Melbourne. Sadly, many of these beautiful species and their habitats are subject to increasing threats. The greatest threats include vegetation clearing (leading to the loss of habitat), competition with pest plants and animals, salinity and land use change.

We hope our booklet will inspire you to go and discover the diversity of birdlife that Melbourne has to offer, and join us in monitoring populations and promoting their conservation. If you would like to volunteer with us, visit our website for more information.

## Contact Us

**T** (03) 9347 0757

**E** [info@birdlife.org.au](mailto:info@birdlife.org.au)

**W** [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)

## Bird Identification

This booklet covers 116 bird species that occur regularly in Melbourne, Australia, based on Atlas survey data. For easier identification we have included ID tips for each species and maps of where you are most likely to encounter them within the Port Phillip and Western Port region.

Bird species are ordered taxonomically and split into groups of similar species to make navigating the pages a little faster. Groups are as follows (a detailed index is located at the back):

### Waterbirds

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### Birds of prey

28-30



### Parrots

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### Pardalotes

41



### Honeyeaters

44-48



### Magpies etc.

54-56

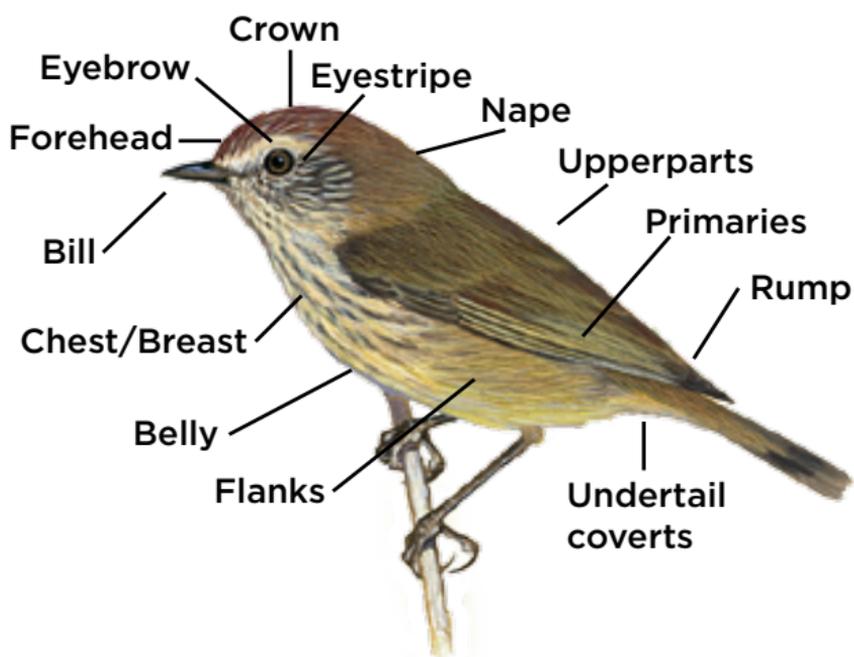


### Introduced

60-61



# Key to descriptions



Size



Identification tips



Habitat description

*bp*

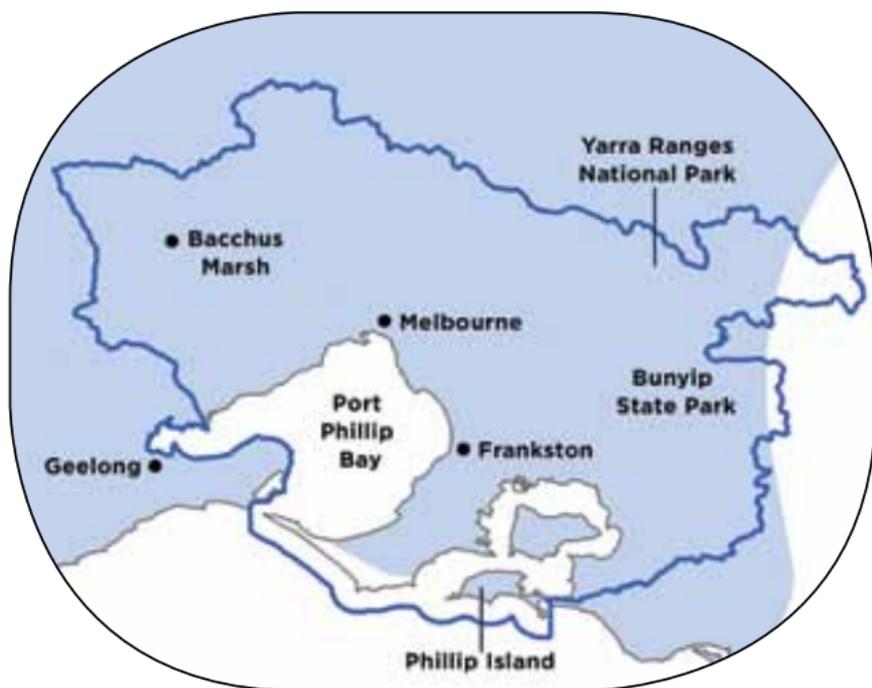
Breeding plumage

**Juv.** Juvenile

Threatened species status from Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (as of February 2017)

# Distribution maps

Dark blue outlined region indicates the Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment area. Species distribution is shaded light blue.



The maps provided here are adapted from the 'New Atlas of Australian Birds' (Barrett et al., 2003), which is the result of over half a million hours of surveys by more than 7,000 BirdLife Australia volunteers. We would like to thank all our volunteers for this fantastic effort.

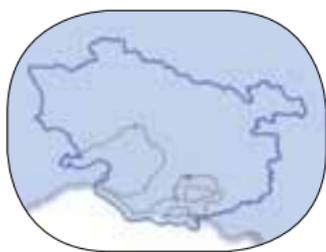
The monitoring of Australian birds through the Atlas project continues, and plays an important role in tracking the effects of environmental change on bird populations and habitats.

If you are interested in Atlassing, visit:  
[birdlife.org.au/projects/atlas-and-birdata](http://birdlife.org.au/projects/atlas-and-birdata)

# Waterbirds

## AUSTRALIAN PELICAN

*Pelecanus conspicillatus*

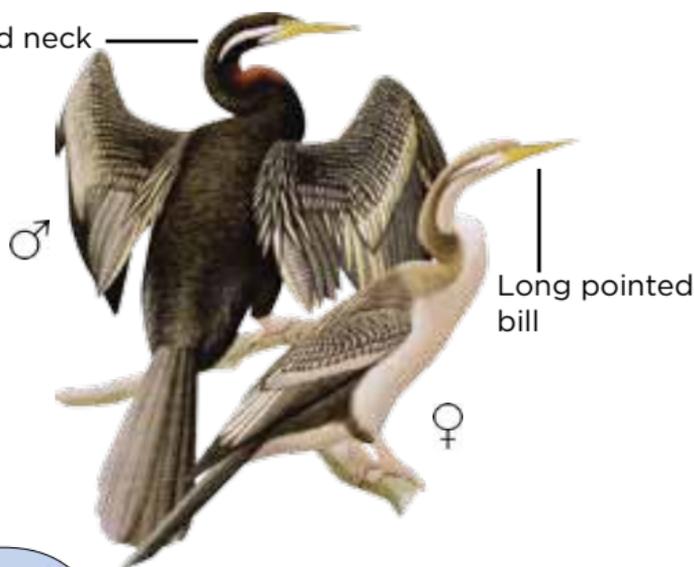


- ↔ 170cm
- i** Unmistakable. Fishes in groups
- ☙ Freshwater and coastal wetlands

## AUSTRALASIAN DARTER

*Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Long kinked neck



- ↔ 90cm
- i** Very low in water. Sometimes only head and neck visible
- ☙ Marine and freshwater

## LITTLE PIED CORMORANT

*Microcarbo melanoleucos*

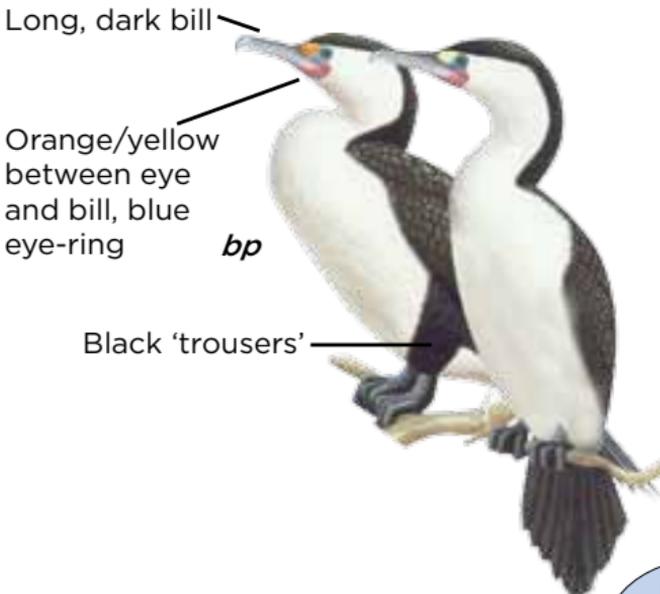


- ↔ 61cm
- i** Has spiky crest in breeding plumage
- W** Freshwater, farm dams, bays



## PIED CORMORANT

*Phalacrocorax varius*



- ↔ 73cm
- i** Travels in V formation in groups of thousands
- W** Marine and freshwater

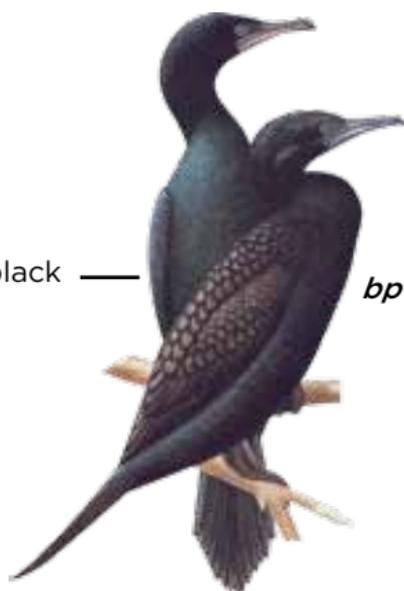


# Waterbirds

## LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT

*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Entirely black —



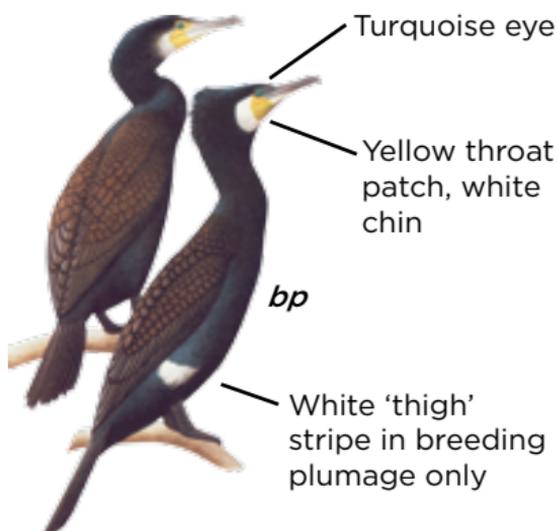
↔ 61cm

**i** Often seen in big flocks

**W** Freshwater and coastal lagoons

## GREAT CORMORANT

*Phalacrocorax carbo*



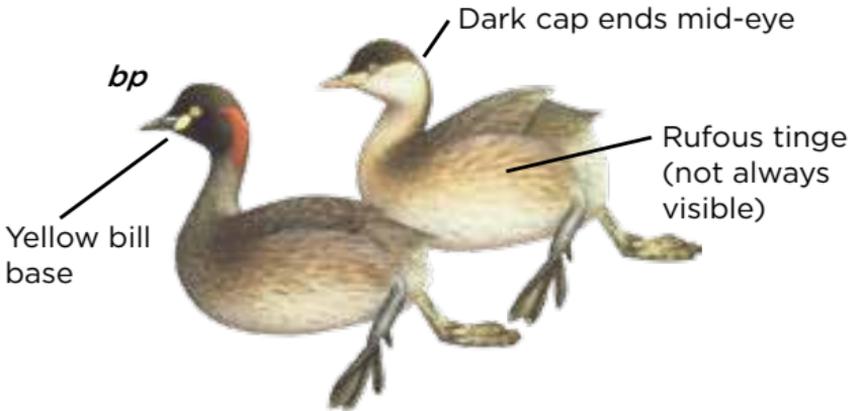
↔ 82cm

**i** Usually found alone

**W** Marine and freshwater

## AUSTRALASIAN GREBE

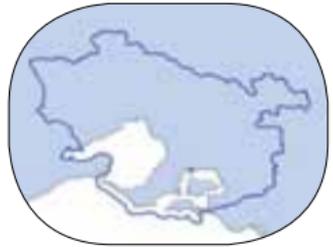
*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*



↔ 24cm

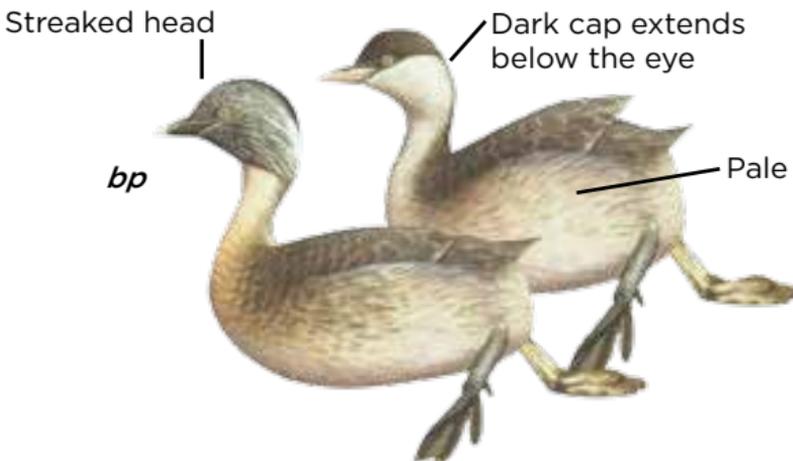
**i** Sits high in the water  
Giggling call

 Freshwater and farm dams



## HOARY-HEADED GREBE

*Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*



↔ 29cm

**i** Sits high in the water.  
Has a more upright posture  
than the Australasian Grebe

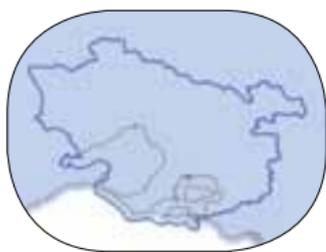
 Freshwater



# Waterbirds

## BLACK SWAN

*Cygnus atratus*

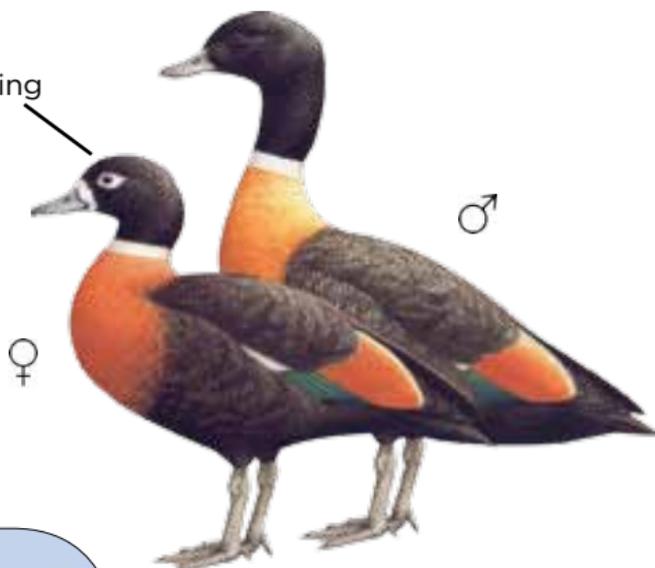


- ↔ 1.2m
- i** Unmistakable. Often in pairs
-  Freshwater and coastal wetlands

## AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK

*Tadorna tadornoides*

White eye-ring  
on female



- ↔ 64cm
- i** White underwing visible in flight
-  Freshwater and fallow fields, small tidal flats

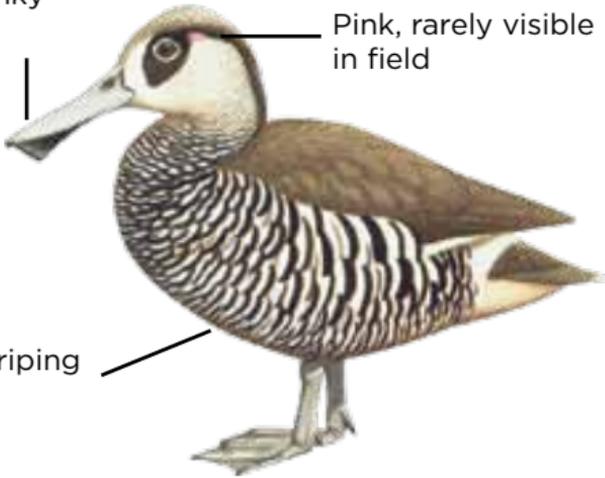
## PINK-EARED DUCK

*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

Long, chunky bill

Pink, rarely visible in field

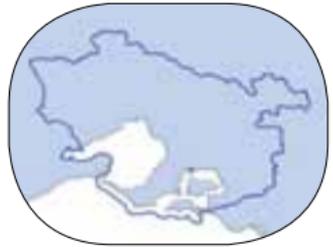
Zebra striping



↔ 42cm

**i** Also called Zebra Duck. Looks uniform grey at long range. Forward stretched swimming style when feeding

 Freshwater

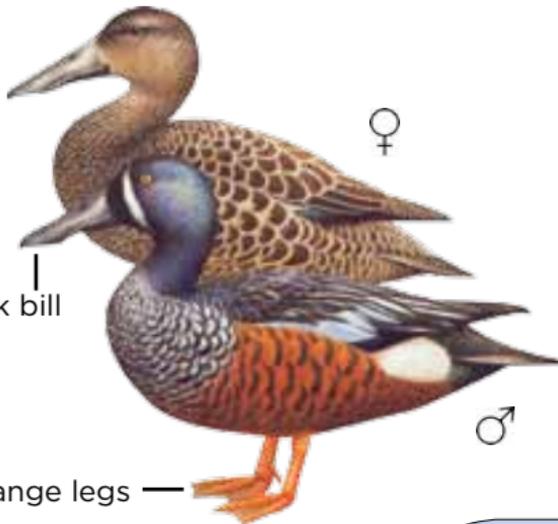


## AUSTRALASIAN SHOVELER

*Anas rhynchos*

Large, dark bill

Bright orange legs



↔ 50cm

**i** Male can look mottled in field. Forward stretched swimming style when feeding

 Freshwater

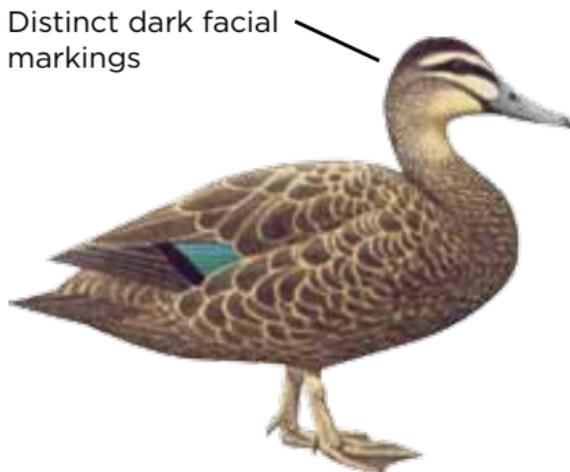


# Waterbirds

## PACIFIC BLACK DUCK

*Anas superciliosa*

Distinct dark facial markings



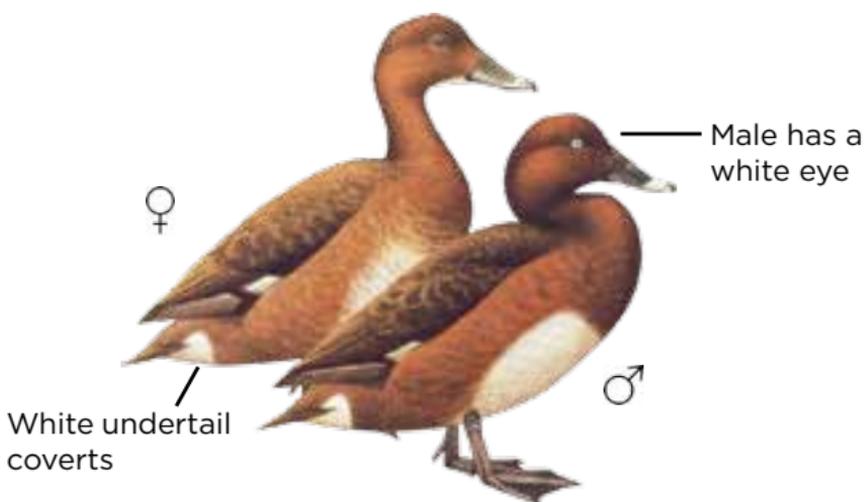
↔ 53cm

**i** Also called Eyebrowed Duck

 Freshwater estuaries and bays

## HARDHEAD

*Aythya australis*



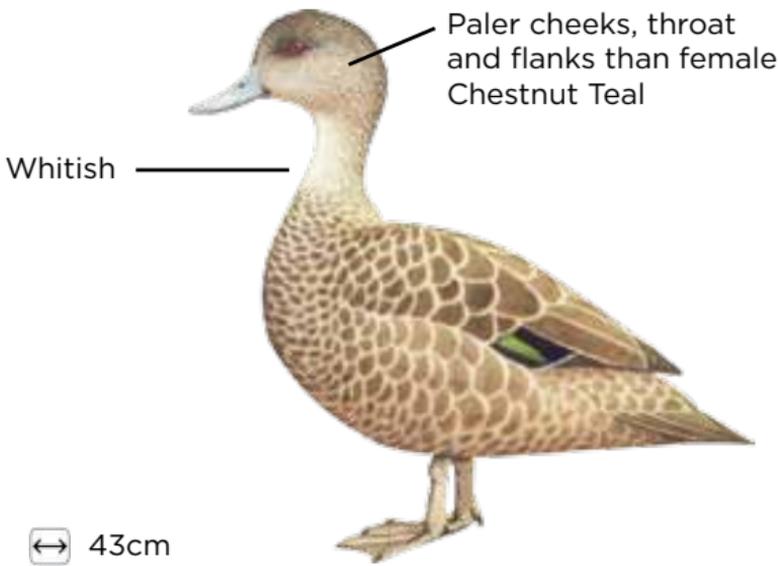
↔ 52cm

**i** Diving duck able to feed in deep water

 Freshwater, rarely marine

## GREY TEAL

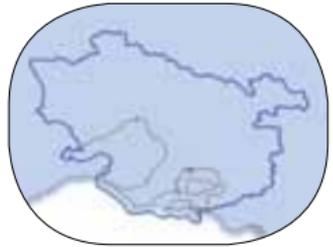
*Anas gracilis*



↔ 43cm

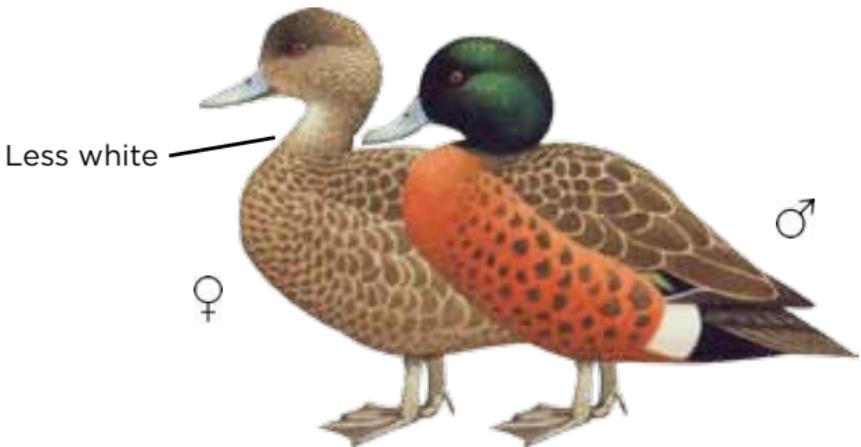
**i** Female and male identical. Difficult to distinguish from Chestnut Teal

**W** Freshwater but can be on sea. More common inland than Chestnut Teal



## CHESTNUT TEAL

*Anas castanea*



↔ 44cm

**i** Calls also very similar to Grey Teal

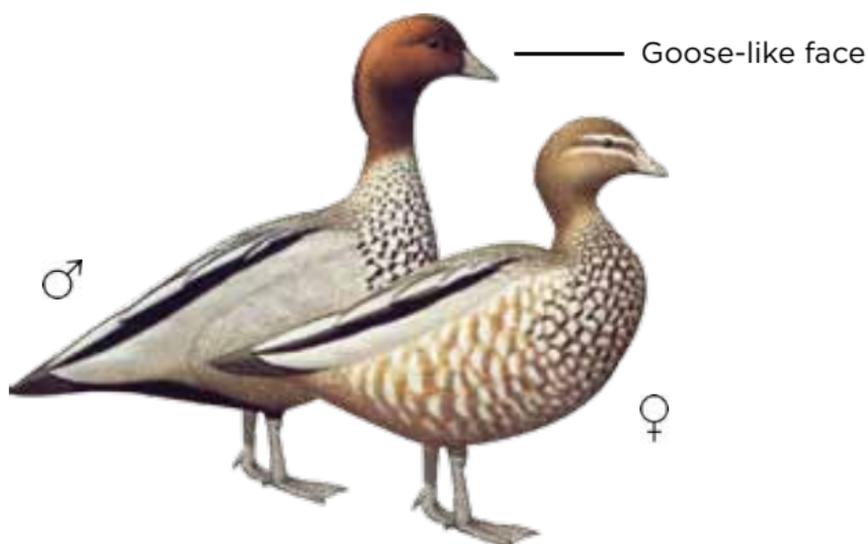
**W** Freshwater, tidal flats. More common near coast than Grey Teal



# Waterbirds

## AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK

*Charadrius australis*



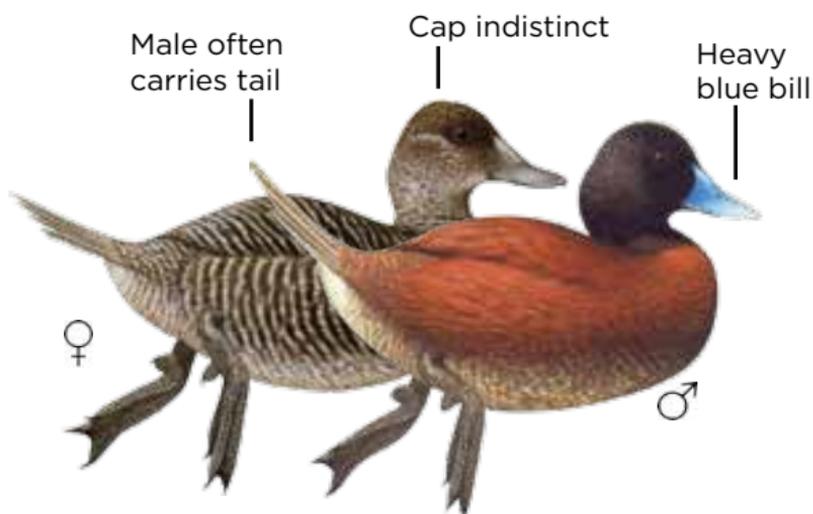
↔ 47cm

**i** Also called Maned Duck. Grazes on land. Breeds in tree hollows.

**W** Freshwater and farm dams, forests.

## BLUE-BILLED DUCK

*Oxyura australis*



↔ 40cm

**i** Dark duck, lying low in the water. Blue bill not always obvious. Diving duck

**W** Freshwater

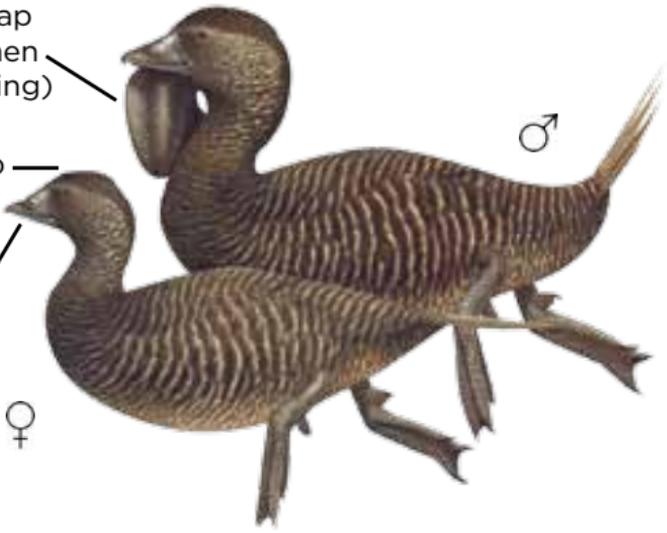
## MUSK DUCK

*Biziura lobata*

Large dewlap  
(smaller when  
not displaying)

Distinct cap

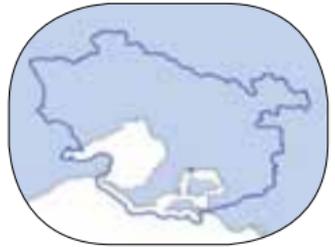
Stubby bill



↔ 21cm

**i** Large diving duck. Swims very low in the water. Female smaller than male

**W** Freshwater and sea



## PURPLE SWAMPHEN

*Porphyrio porphyrio*

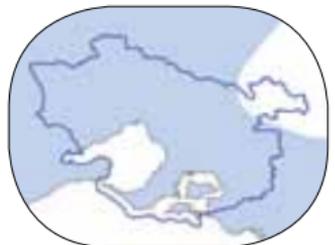
— Heavy red bill



↔ 46cm

**i** Rarely seen swimming, often on land. Large bird with upright posture

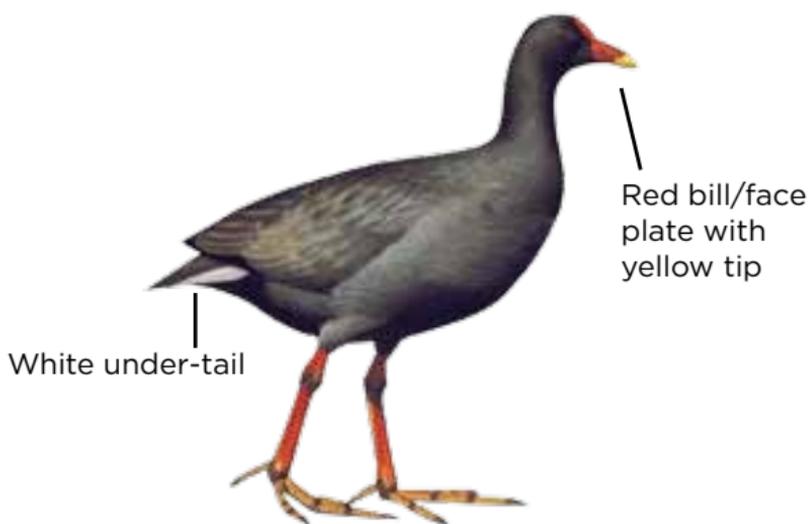
**W** Freshwater, marshlands, parks



# Waterbirds

## DUSKY MOORHEN

*Gallinula tenebrosa*



- ↔ 38cm
- i** Immature birds are browner with a grey-green bill
- 🌿 Freshwater

## EURASIAN COOT

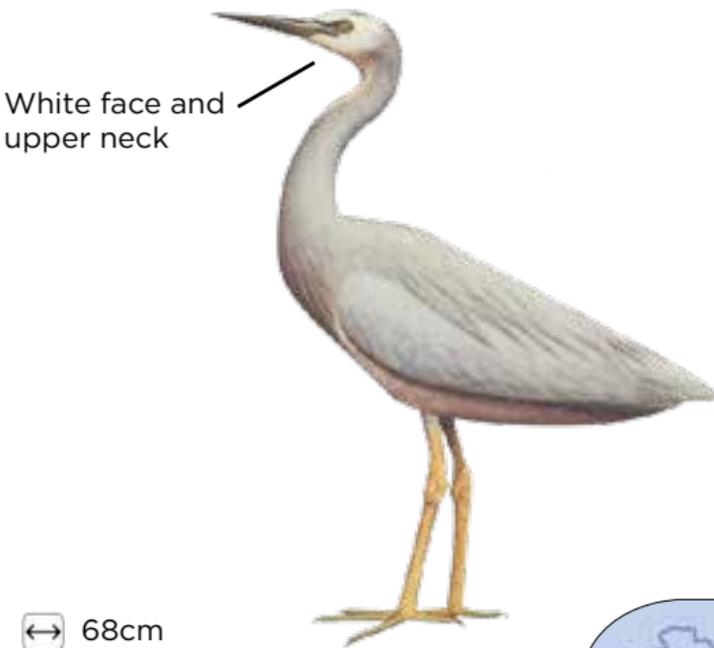
*Fulica atra*



- ↔ 37cm
- i** Frequently swimming, diving. Sometimes feeding on land
- 🌿 Freshwater, pastures and parks

## WHITE-FACED HERON

*Egretta novaehollandiae*



↔ 68cm

**i** Plumes on nape and neck during breeding season

**W** Freshwater and coastal wetlands, pastures and drains



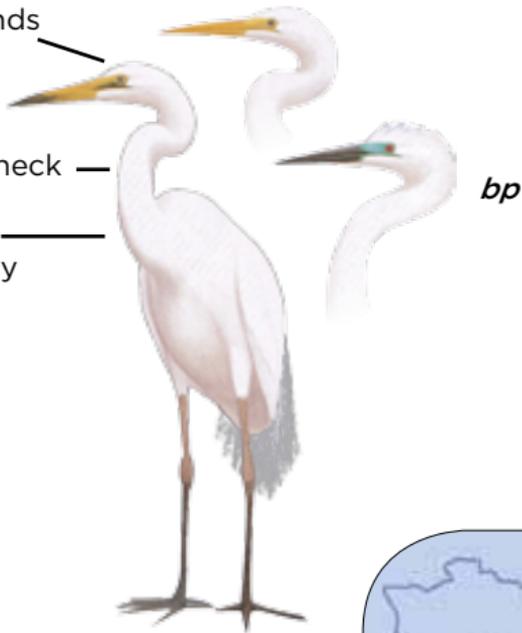
## EASTERN GREAT EGRET

*Ardea modesta*

Yellow bill extends past the eye

Distinct kink in neck

Longer neck in ratio to the body



↔ 88cm

**i** Measured hunting style

**W** Freshwater and marine



# Waterbirds

## AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS

*Threskiornis molucca*

Iridescent head skin



↔ 70cm

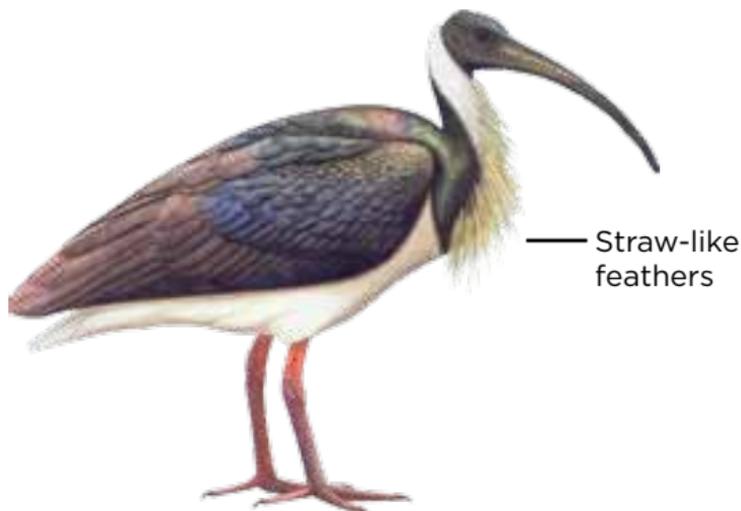
**i** Seen in big flocks

**W** Freshwater, marine and pastures, fields. Scavenges in parks and tips



## STRAW-NECKED IBIS

*Threskiornis spinicollis*



— Straw-like feathers

↔ 67cm

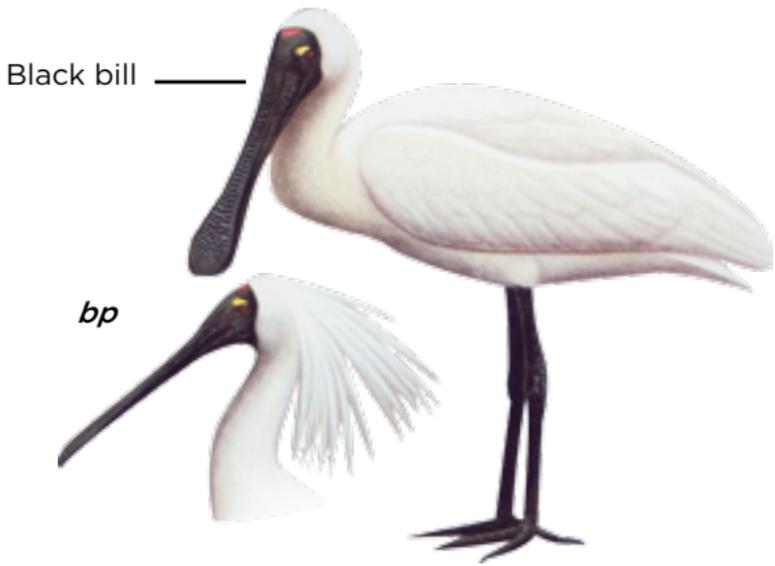
**i** Seen in big flocks

**W** Freshwater, marine and pastures, fields, dry grasslands



## ROYAL SPOONBILL

*Platalea regia*



↔ 77cm

**i** Distinct side-to-side movement when feeding

**W** Freshwater and coastal lagoons



## YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL

*Platalea flavipes*



↔ 83cm

**i** Distinct side-to-side movement when feeding

**W** Freshwater and coastal lagoons



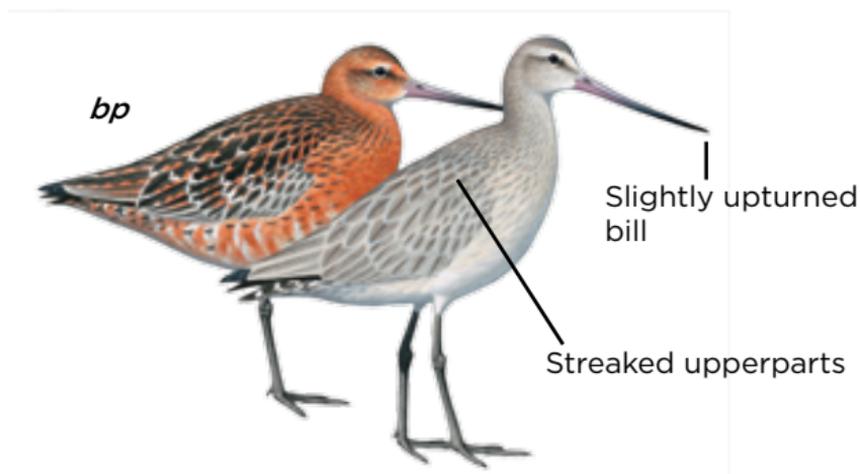
# Shorebirds

## BAR-TAILED GODWIT

*Limosa lapponica*

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (*L. l. menzbieri*)

VULNERABLE (*L. l. baueri*)



↔ 42cm

**i** Obvious striped tail in flight

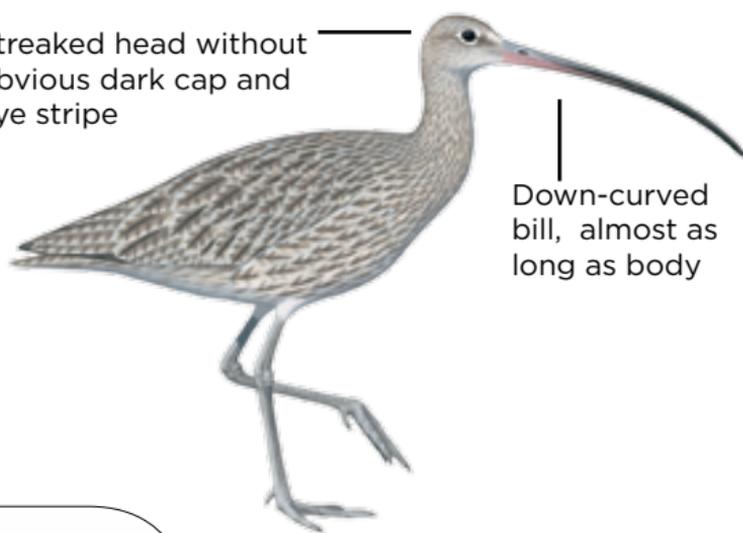
**W** Coastal mudflats  
Sandy intertidal zones

## EASTERN CURLEW

*Numenius madagascariensis*

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Streaked head without obvious dark cap and eye stripe



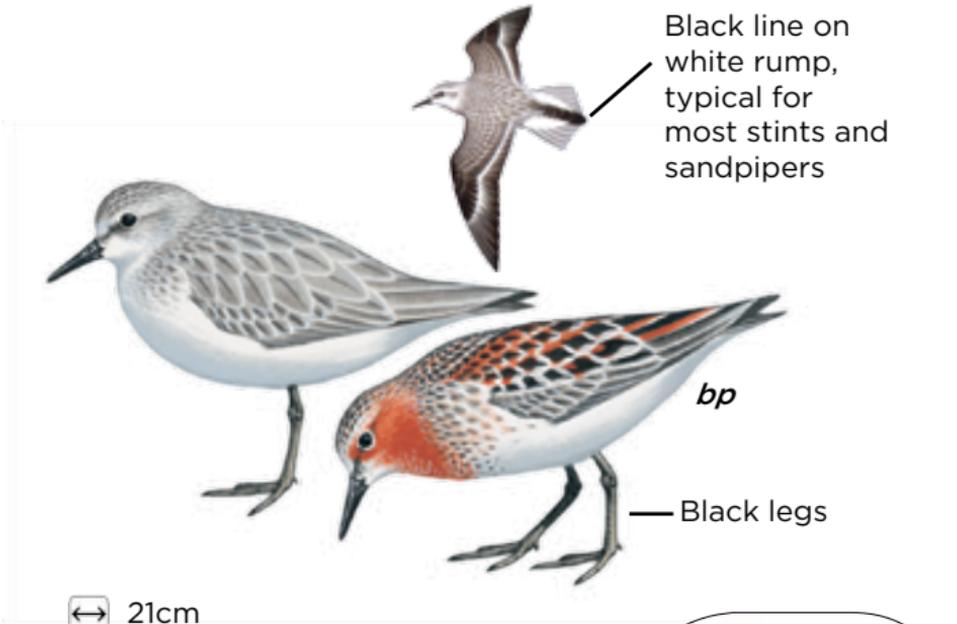
↔ 63cm

**i** Brown rump in flight. Call a mournful 'Cuuuurlew'

**W** Coastal mudflats  
Sandy intertidal zones

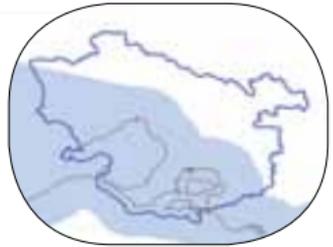
## RED-NECKED STINT

*Calidris ruficollis*



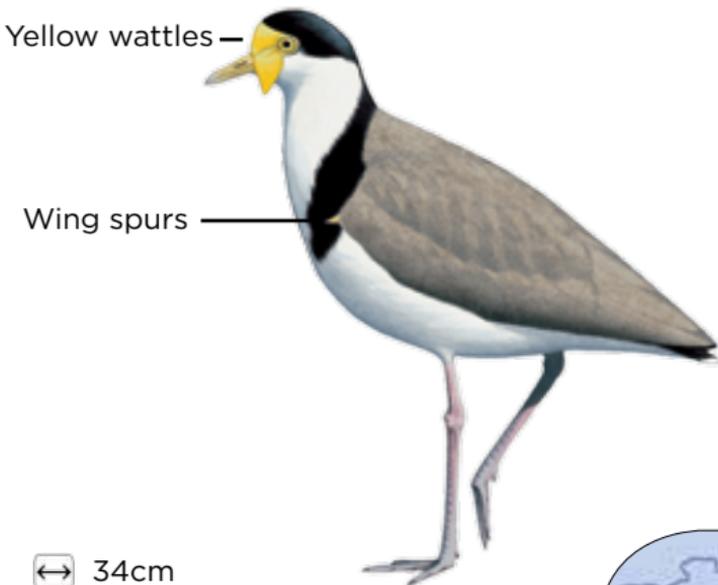
↔ 21cm

- i** Often in large flocks. Common and widespread
- W** Coastal intertidal zones  
Inland saline and freshwater marshes



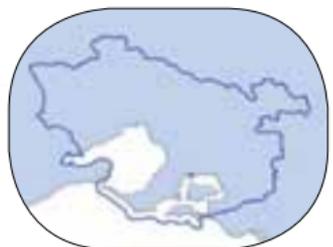
## MASKED LAPWING

*Vanellus miles*



↔ 34cm

- i** Large, noisy and often aggressive plover
- W** Short grass habitats, wetland edges, and modified urban environments



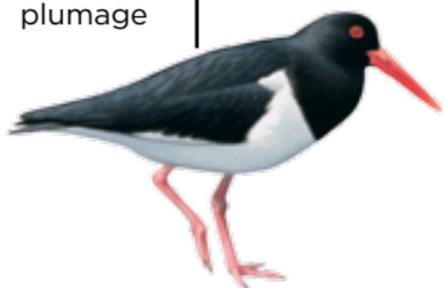
# Shorebirds

## OYSTERCATCHERS

### AUSTRALIAN PIED

*Haematopus longirostris*

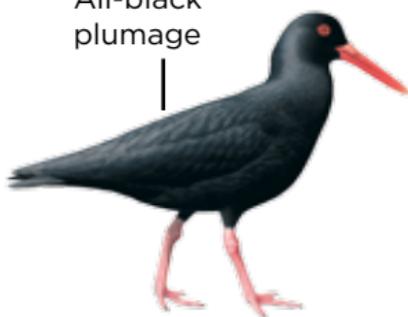
Black-and-white  
plumage



### SOOTY

*Haematopus fuliginosus*

All-black  
plumage



↔ 46cm both species

**i** Young of both species have a black bill tip

**W** Coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones



## BEACH-NESTING BIRDS PROJECT

There are five species of Australian shorebirds which nest only or usually on the beach including the Hooded Plover, Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers, Beach Stone-curlew, and Red-capped Plover. Their nest can be anywhere above the high-tide mark, on the beach or in the dunes.

Australia's beach-nesting birds are threatened by disturbance from humans, their dogs and cars. Disturbance is greatest in spring and summer, the peak period for beach holidays and exactly when beach-nesters usually lay their eggs.

To protect beach-nesting birds our community project works to:

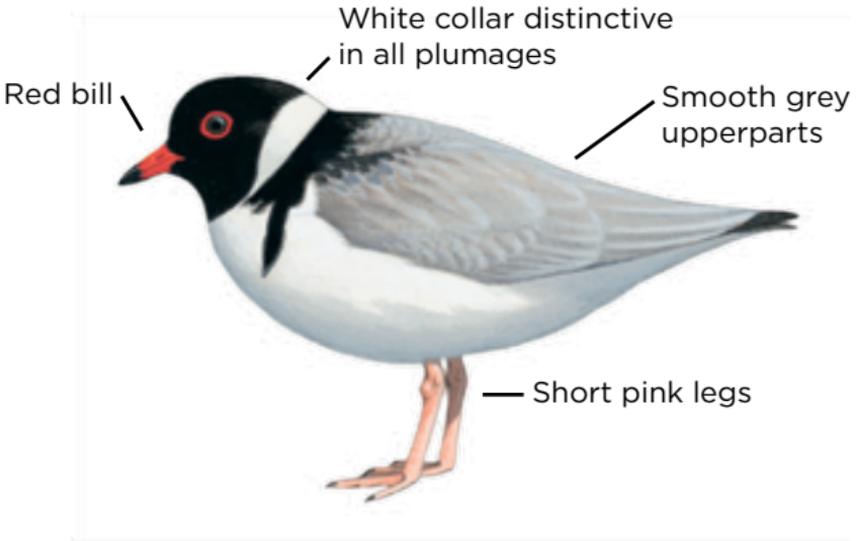
- Educate the public to change their behaviour and attitudes towards beaches and birds
- Establish and support community monitoring of beach-nesting birds
- Involve land managers in beach-nesting bird protection by training them in new conservation techniques discovered by our research team

If you would like to get involved in monitoring your local beach-nesting birds, visit [www.birdlife.org.au/beach](http://www.birdlife.org.au/beach)

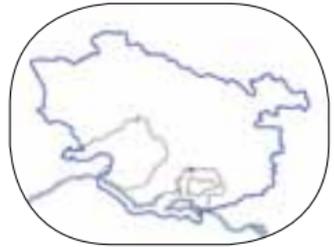
## HOODED PLOVER

*Thinornis cucullatus*

**VULNERABLE**



- ↔ 21cm
- i** Usually in pairs or small flocks
- Sandy ocean beaches



## RED-CAPPED PLOVER

*Charadrius ruficapillus*



- ↔ 15cm
- i** Bobs head nervously, darting and stopping abruptly
- Sandy beaches, bare margins of inland and coastal wetlands



## SHOREBIRDS 2020

The Shorebirds 2020 program coordinates the national shorebird population monitoring in Australia. Volunteers from the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) and BirdLife Australia have carried out monitoring of key shorebird areas in Australia since 1981. Shorebird count data aids conservation by highlighting population trends and identifying threats to shorebirds.

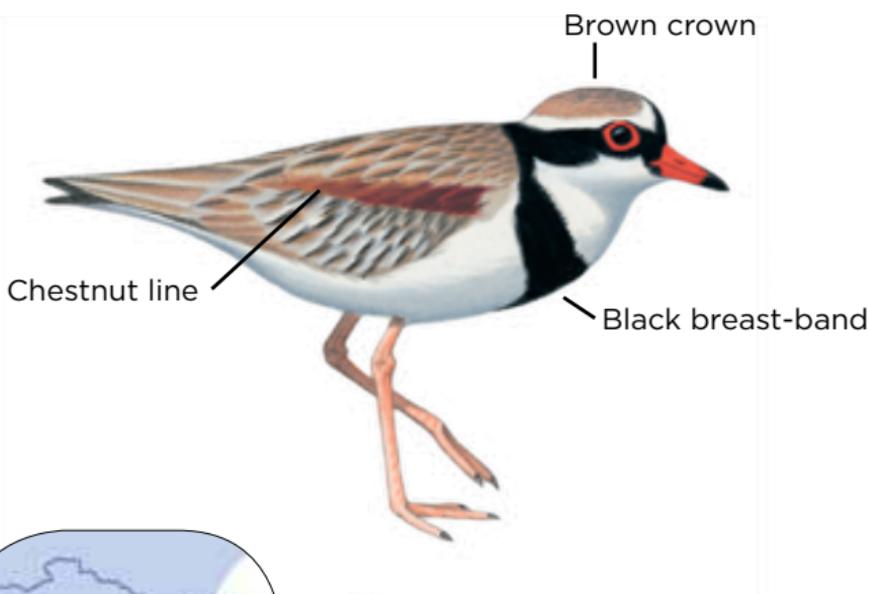
Sadly, these beautiful birds and their coastal habitats are under pressure in Australia and in their staging and breeding grounds in East Asia and the Arctic. Using the shorebird count data we are able to declare Key Biodiversity Areas and influence land management and on-ground conservation management actions, to reduce disturbances to foraging or nesting shorebirds.

We need your help to conduct annual counts at key shorebird areas. We also work to discover and mitigate the factors behind local and national population declines.

[www.birdlife.org.au/shorebirds2020](http://www.birdlife.org.au/shorebirds2020)

## BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL

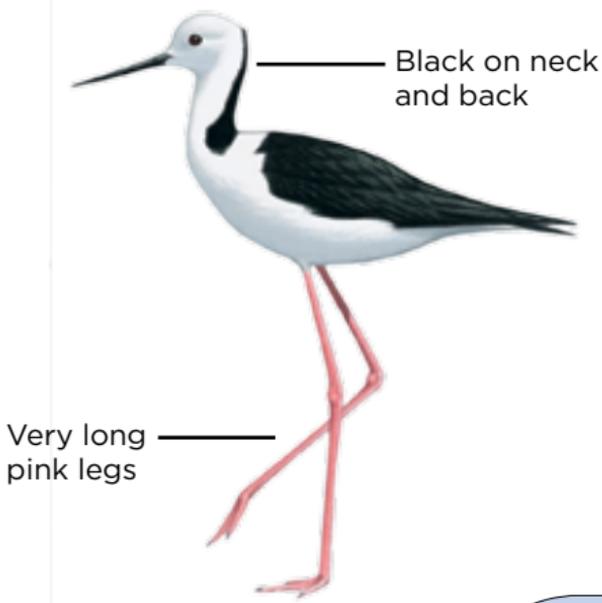
*Elseyornis melanops*



- ↔ 17cm
- i Often in pairs or family groups
- W Dry margins of freshwater wetlands. Farm dams

## BLACK-WINGED STILT

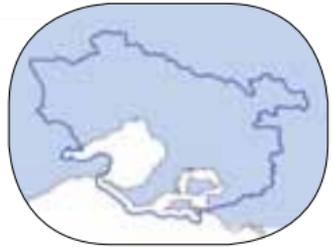
*Himantopus himantopus*



↔ 37cm

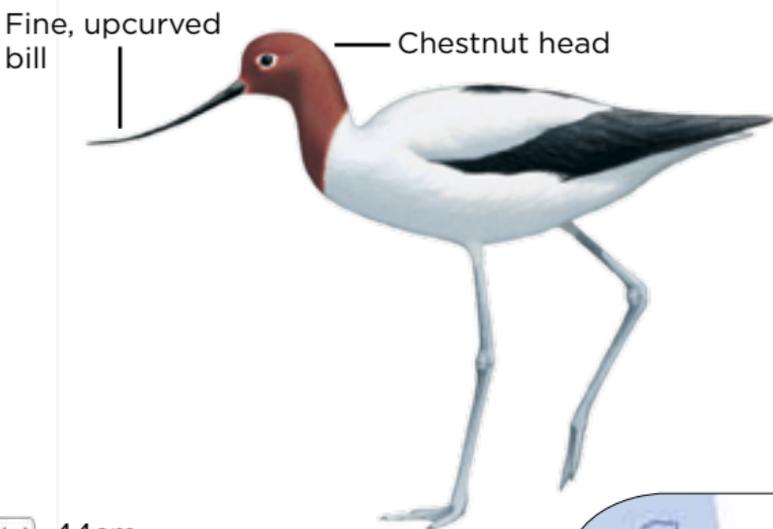
**i** All-black wings in flight

**W** Saline and freshwater wetlands.  
Coastal intertidal zones



## RED-NECKED AVOCET

*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*



↔ 44cm

**i** Saline lakes and saltpans.  
Freshwater wetlands.  
Coastal intertidal zones

**W** Feeds in shallow water, rapidly sweeping bill from side to side



# Seabirds

## SILVER GULL

*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*



↔ 40cm

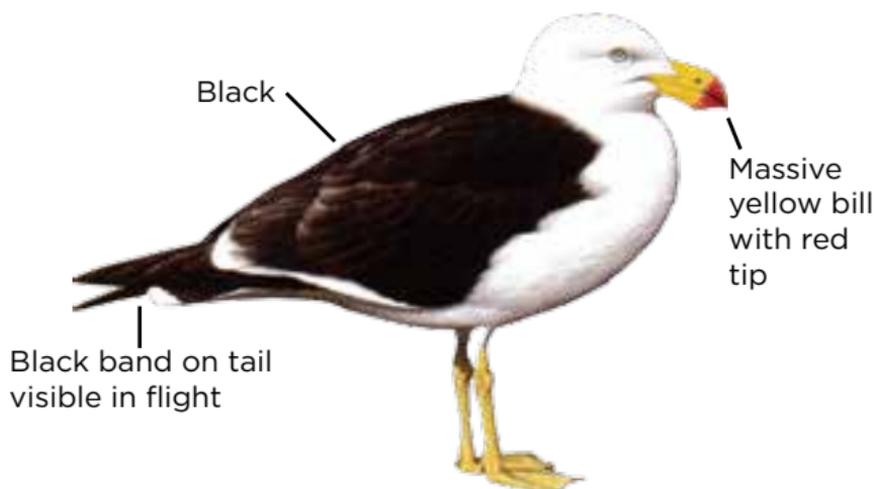
**i** Please do not feed. An over-population of Silver Gulls threatens beach-nesting birds

**W** Freshwater and coastal wetlands, beaches, parks, pastures and tips



## PACIFIC GULL

*Larus pacificus*



↔ 63cm

**i** Juv. have chocolate brown plumage and large bill

**W** Coastal shorelines



## WHISKERED TERN

*Chlidonias hybrida*

Sturdy, dark red bill

Dark grey

Streaky cap

bp

↔ 36cm

**i** Usually in flocks patrolling back and forth over wetlands

**W** Freshwater, marshes, estuaries



## CRESTED TERN

*Thalasseus bergii*

Banana yellow bill

Crest

Dark grey

↔ 46cm

**i** May be in mixed flocks with other terns and gulls

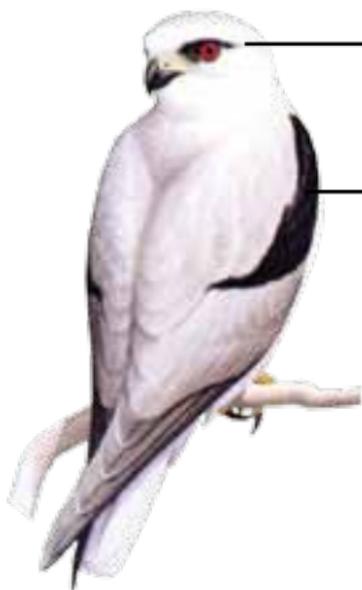
**W** Estuaries and marine



# Birds of prey

## BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE

*Elanus axillaris*



Black eyebrow

Black shoulder



↔ 35cm

**i** Can be seen hovering over tall grasses

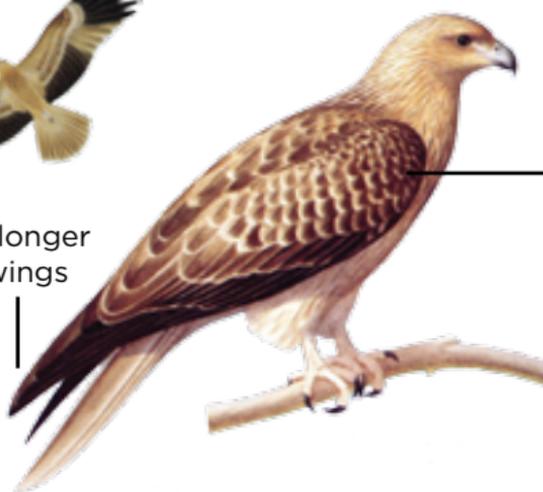
**W** Woodland, grassland, parkland

## WHISTLING KITE

*Haliastur sphenurus*



Tail is longer than wings



Dark wings



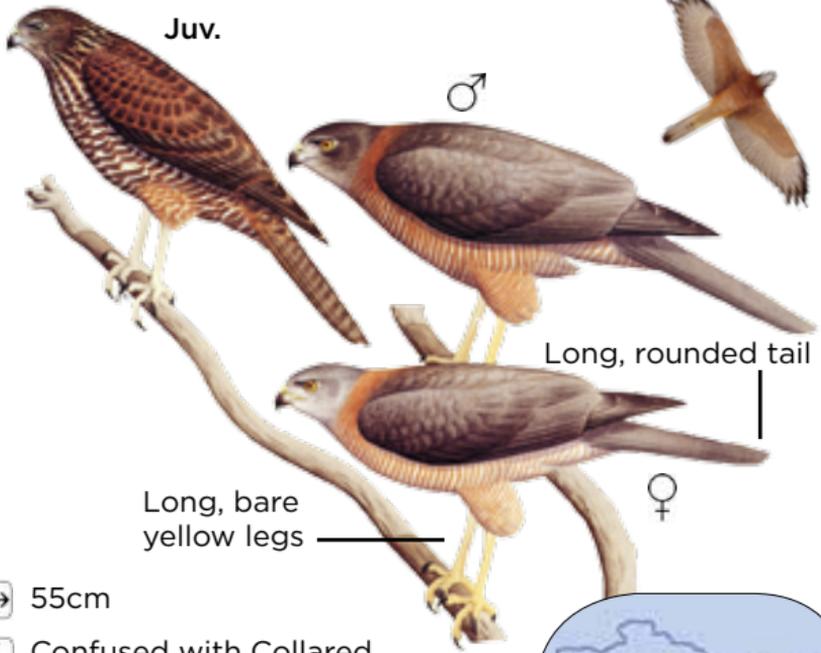
↔ 60cm

**i** Distinctive call

**W** Woodland, plains, streams, coastal areas

## BROWN GOSHAWK

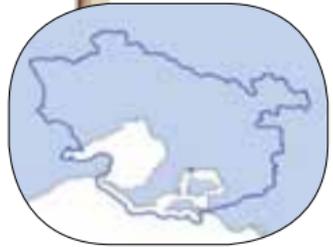
*Accipiter fasciatus*



↔ 55cm

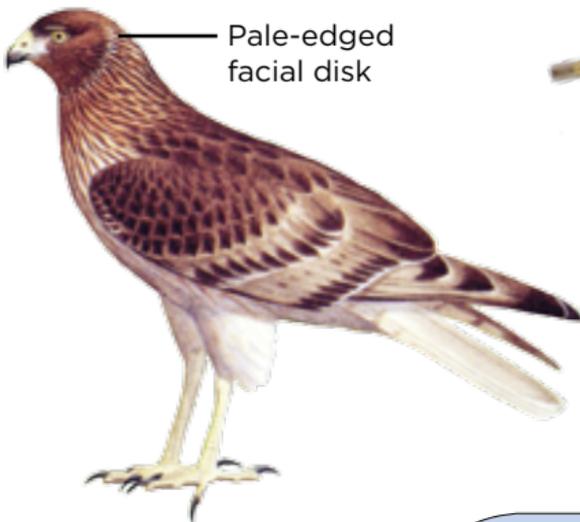
**i** Confused with Collared Sparrowhawk, differ in size, eyebrow and tail

**W** Woodland



## SWAMP HARRIER

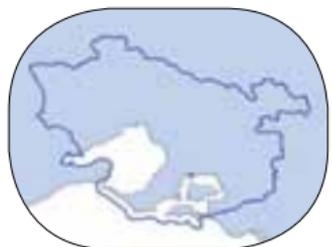
*Circus approximans*



↔ 60cm

**i** White bar on rump obvious in flight

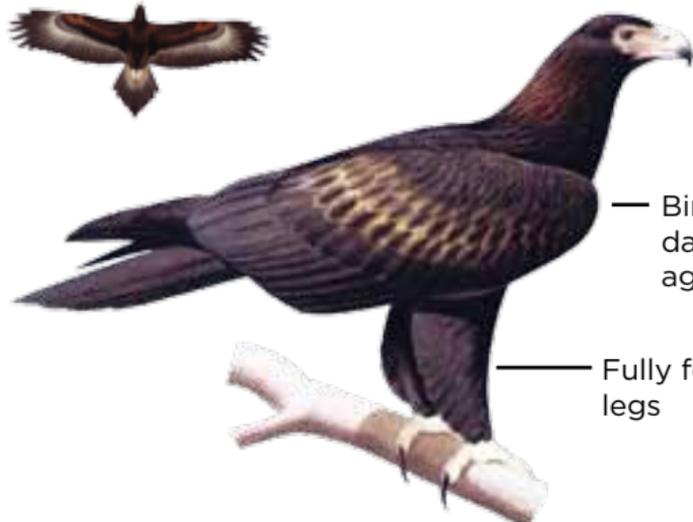
**W** Wetlands, crops, and grasslands



# Birds of prey

## WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE

*Aquila audax*



— Birds become darker with age

— Fully feathered legs



↔ 105cm

**i** Tail diamond-shaped in flight. Wingspan of 2.3m. Carrion-eater

**W** Diverse habitat except closed forest

## BROWN FALCON

*Falco berigora*



— Dark tear marks conspicuous of all colour morphs



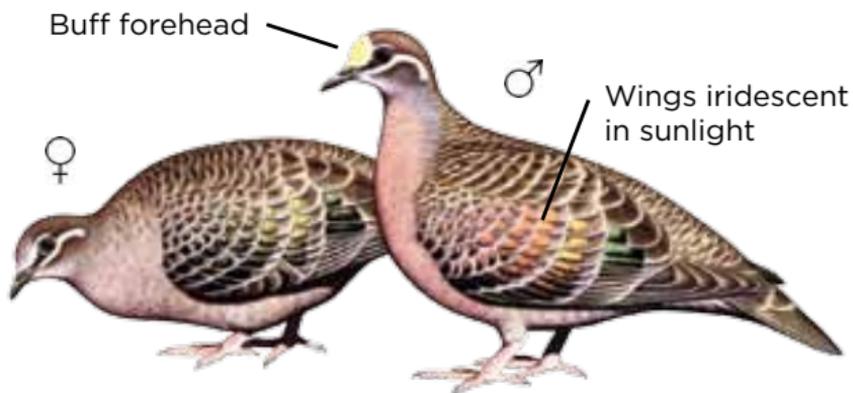
↔ 50cm

**i** Also seen in rufous and light colour morphs

**W** Woodland

## COMMON BRONZEWING

*Phaps chalcoptera*



↔ 36cm

**i** Feeds on ground. Mounful, slow 'who' call

**W** Woodland, farmland



## CRESTED PIGEON

*Ocyphaps lophotes*



↔ 35cm

**i** 'Whistling' wing beats in flight. Tips tail upward on landing

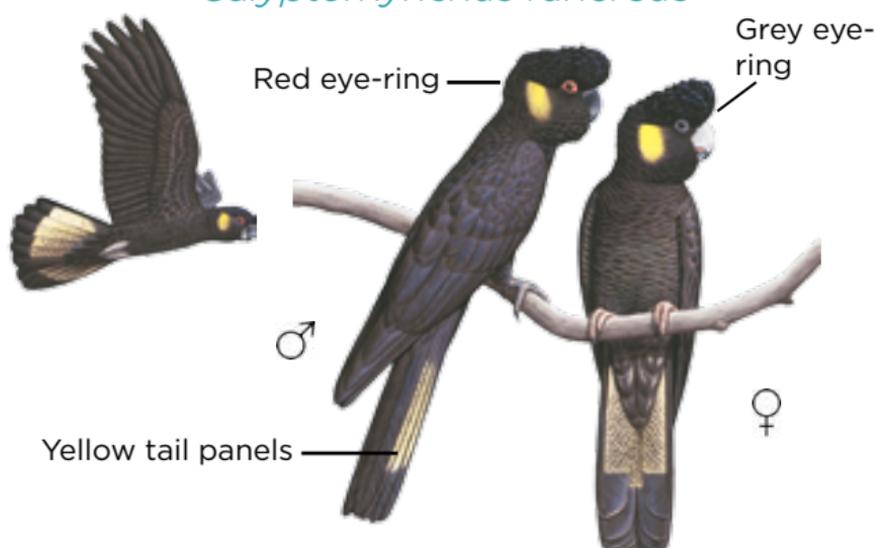
**W** Lightly wooded areas near water, farms, range expanding in SE Australia



# Parrots

## YELLOW-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOO

*Calyptorhynchus funereus*



↔ 65cm

**i** Distinctive, wailing calls, often in small flocks

**W** Diverse wooded habitats, coastal, inland and alpine

## SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO

*Cacatua galerita*

Large yellow crest —



↔ 50cm

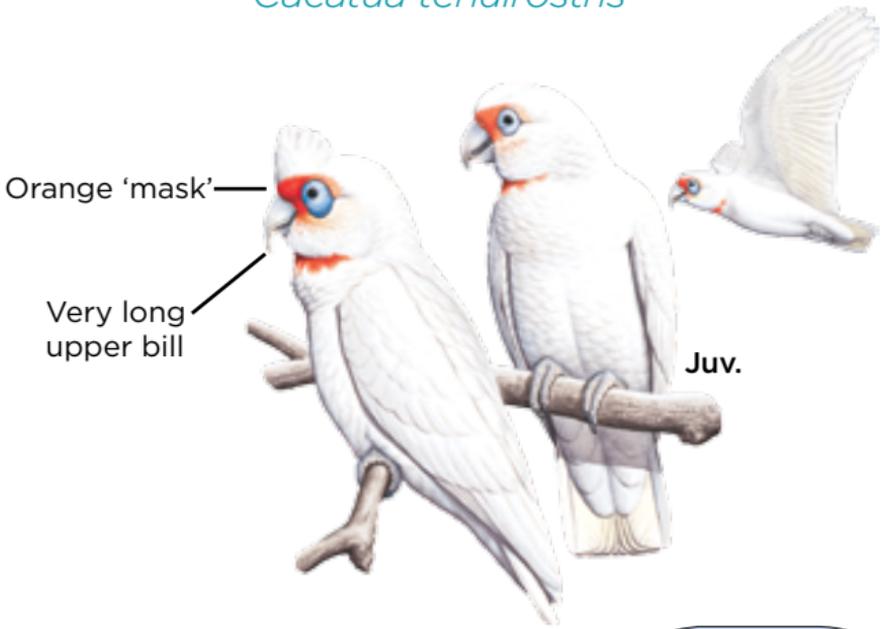
**i** Loud, raucous screeches

**W** Rainforest, eucalypt woodland, parkland, farmland



## LONG-BILLED CORELLA

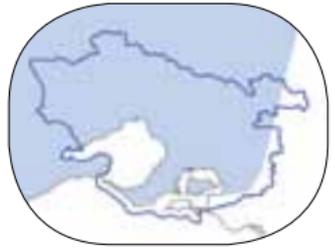
*Cacatua tenuirostris*



↔ 41cm

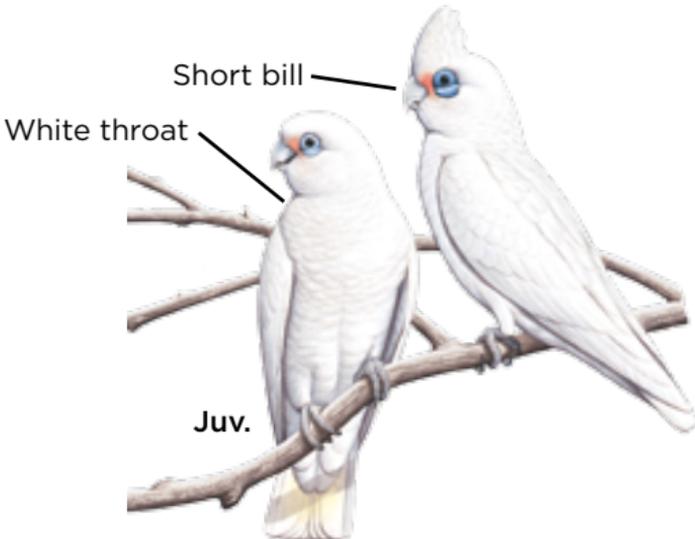
**i** Usually in small to large flocks

**W** Woodland, open forest, farmland



## LITTLE CORELLA

*Cacatua sanguinea*



↔ 39cm

**i** Very noisy in large flocks

**W** Woodland, urban areas, mulga, mallee



# Parrots

## RAINBOW LORIKEET

*Trichoglossus haematodus*



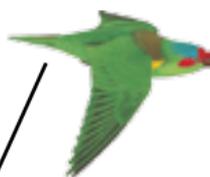
Bill and eye  
bright red



- ↔ 31cm
- i Feeds on fruit, nectar, blossoms, seeds
- 🌿 Diverse habitat types, rainforest, woodland, farmland, mangroves

## MUSK LORIKEET

*Glossopsitta concinna*



Green  
undertail



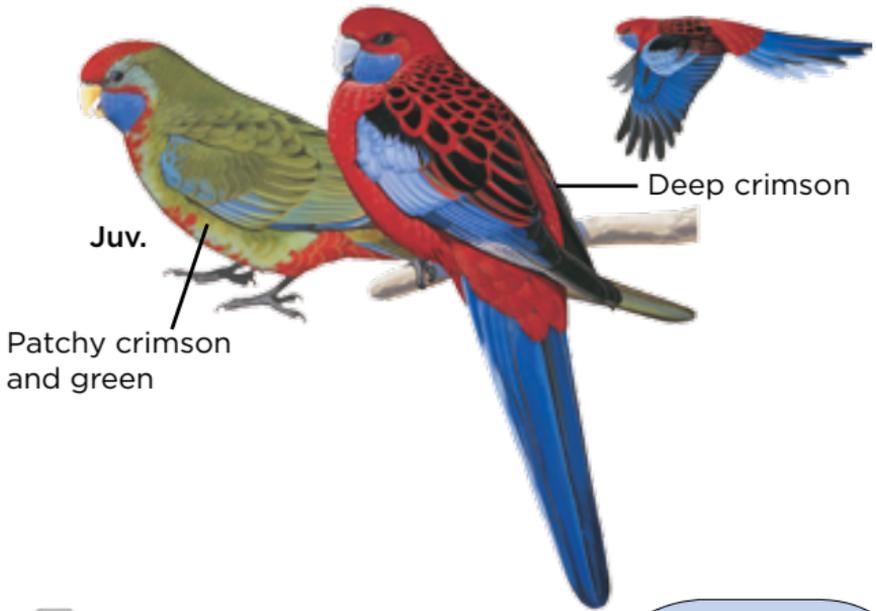
Red extends to  
ear coverts



- ↔ 23cm
- i Larger than Little Lorikeet. Nomadic, in search for nectar
- 🌿 Diverse, where flowering is heavy

## CRIMSON ROSELLA

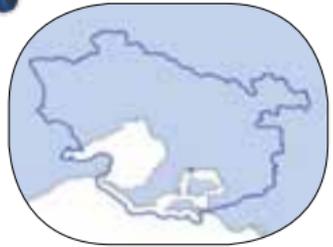
*Platycercus elegans*



↔ 37cm

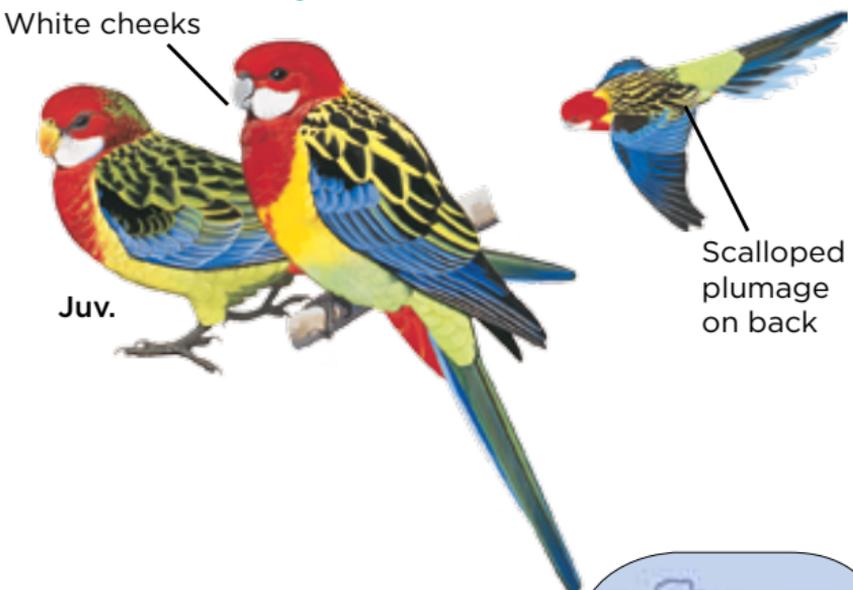
**i** Different colour morphs include yellow and orange

**W** Wet forest, mallee, woodland



## EASTERN ROSELLA

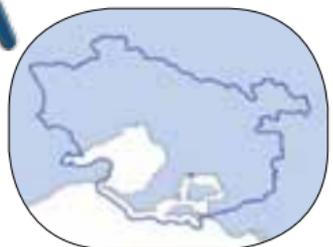
*Platycercus eximius*



↔ 33cm

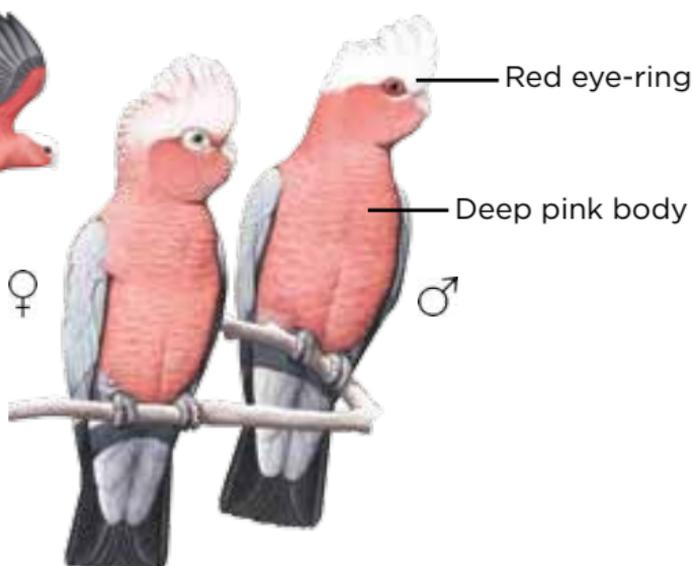
**i** Common species of farmland and grassy woodlands

**W** Diverse wooded habitat types



## GALAH

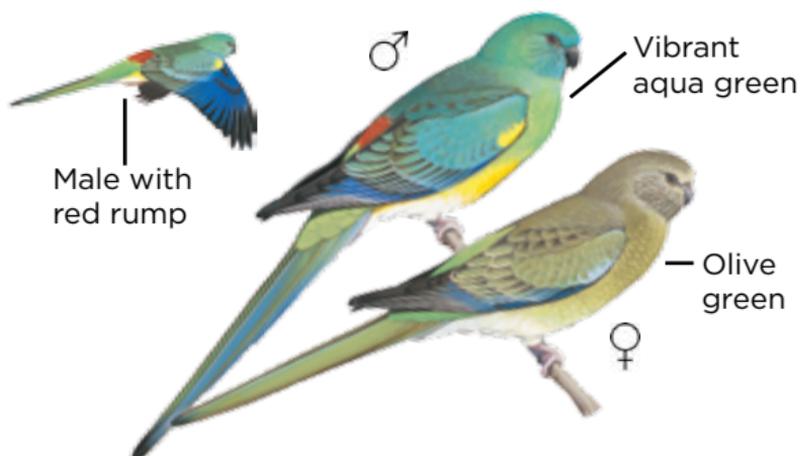
*Eolophus roseicapillus*



- ↔ 38cm
- i** Feeds on ground or low shrubs in small flocks
- W** Diverse open country, woodland, coastal areas

## RED-RUMPED PARROT

*Psephotus haematonotus*

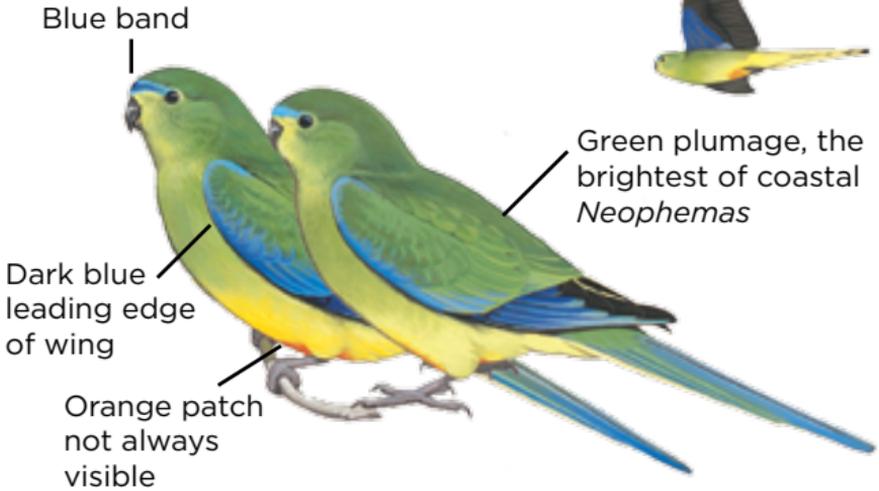


- ↔ 30cm
- i** Usually in pairs or small flocks, often feeding on ground
- W** Near water sources

## ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT

*Neophema chrysogaster*

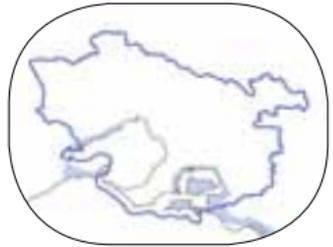
**CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**



↔ 22cm

**i** Migratory, mainland April - Sept, SW Tas Oct - Mar (for breeding)

**W** Saltmarsh, heath



## IDENTIFYING THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT

The genus *Neophema* consists of six small, predominantly green/yellow, ground-feeding Parrots found in southern Australia. Mixed flocks consisting of Orange-bellied, Blue-winged, Rock and Elegant parrots have been recorded, therefore careful observation is essential.

### Plumage

Key plumage identification tips as above.

### Call

Alarm call is diagnostically harsh and buzzing, compared with the twittering alarm calls of Blue-winged and Rock Parrots and the slightly harsh zitting of Elegant Parrot.

### Habitat use

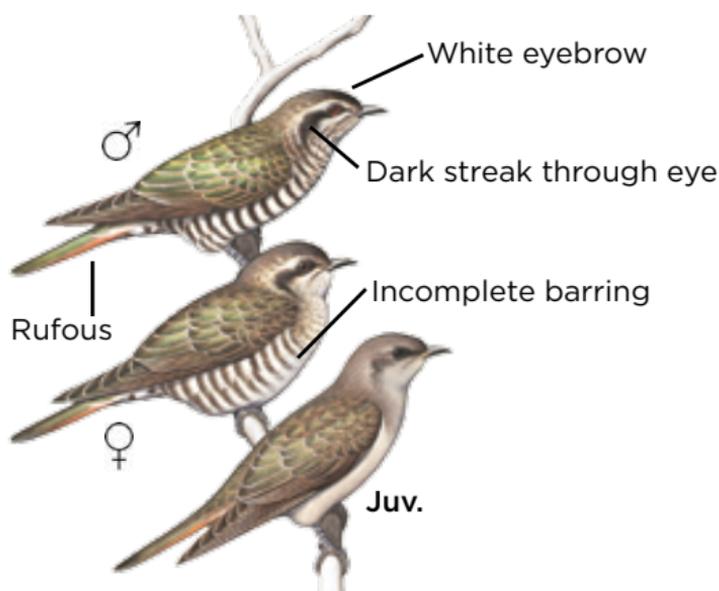
Orange-bellied Parrots are primarily coastal dwelling when on the mainland, preferring saltmarsh areas, often narrow spits and small islands.

If you see an Orange-bellied Parrot, please report sightings immediately to [chris.purnell@birdlife.org.au](mailto:chris.purnell@birdlife.org.au).

# Woodland birds

## HORSFIELD'S BRONZE-CUCKOO

*Chalcites basalís*



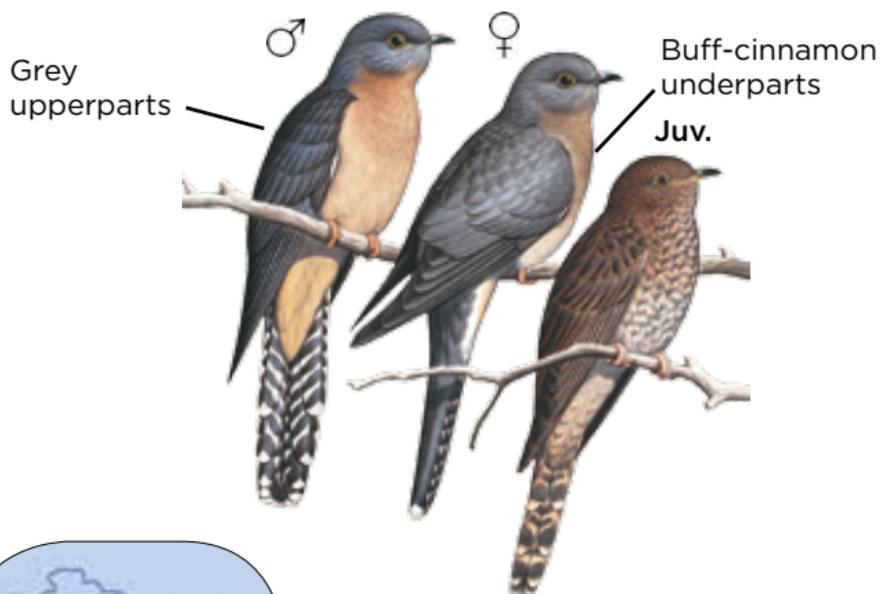
↔ 16cm

**i** Piercing, descending call.  
Confused with Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

**W** Diverse habitat types except wet forest

## FAN-TAILED CUCKOO

*Cacomantis flabelliformis*



↔ 28cm

**i** Distinctive musical, trill call

**W** Diverse wooded habitat types

## TAWNY FROGMOUTH

*Podargus strigoides*

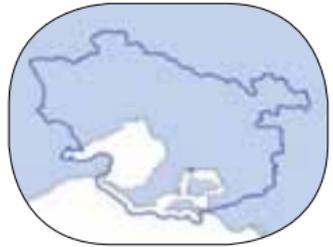
Bristles above beak



↔ 35-50cm

**i** Camouflages on an exposed limb. Same family as Nightjars, not owls

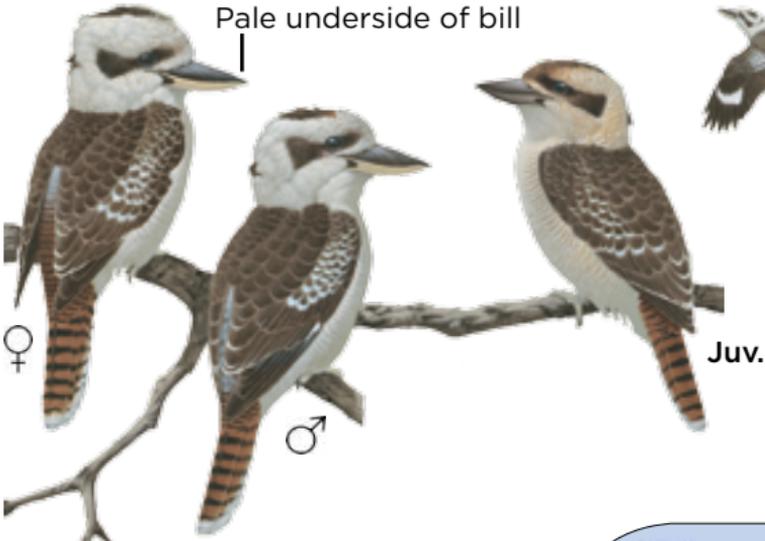
**W** Open woodland, eucalypt forest



## LAUGHING KOOKABURRA

*Dacelo novaeguineae*

Pale underside of bill



↔ 47cm

**i** Merry chuckling call, rising to raucous laughter

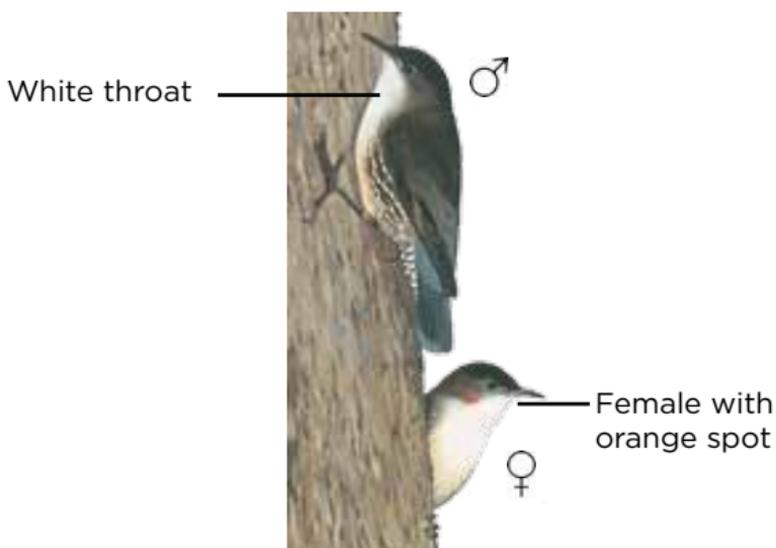
**W** Woodland, open forest, farmland, parkland



# Woodland birds

## WHITE-THROATED TREECREEPER

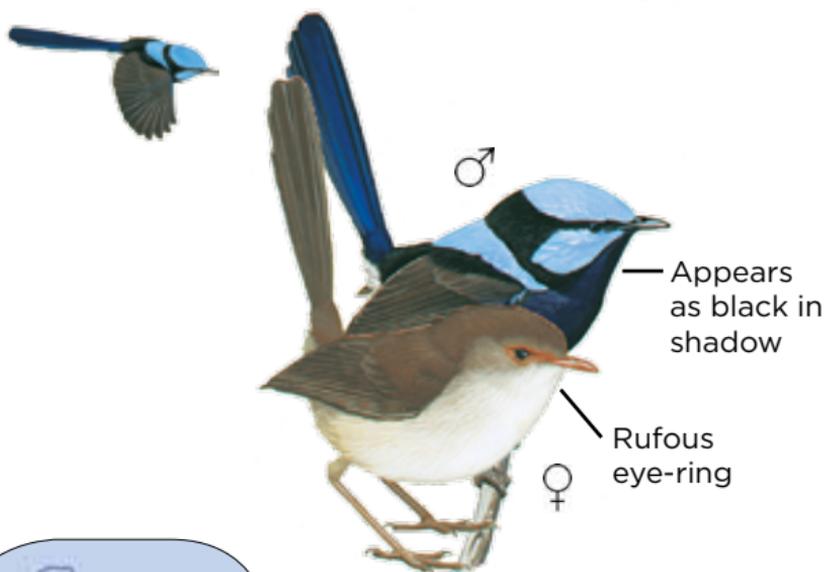
*Cormobates leucophaea*



- ↔ 16.5cm
- i** Spirals trunks upwards to feed, rarely on ground
- ☙ Woodland, rainforest and eucalypt forest

## SUPERB FAIRY-WREN

*Malurus cyaneus*

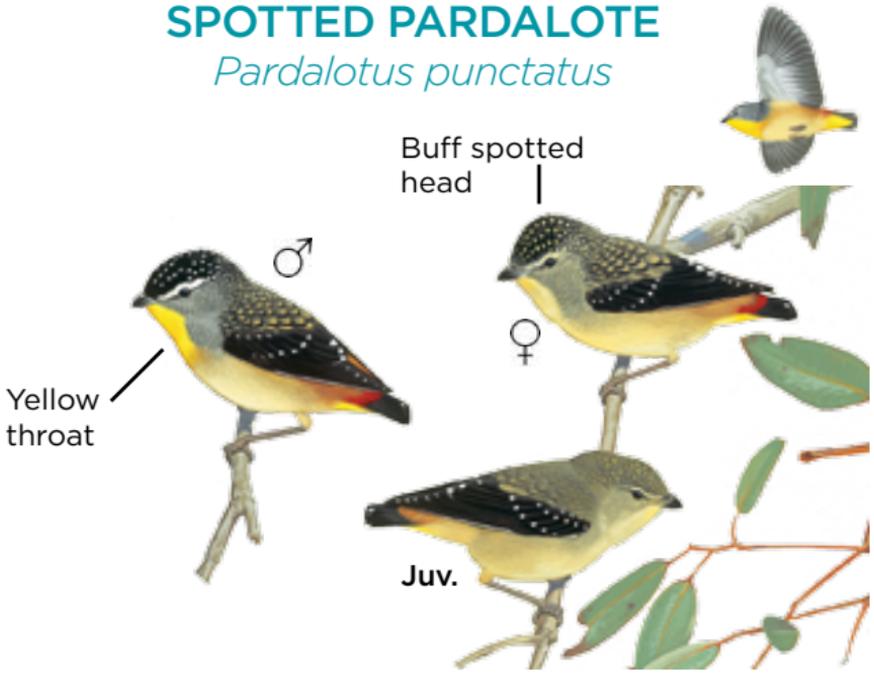


- ↔ 14cm
- i** Young males have similar plumage to females
- ☙ Diverse wooded habitat types

# Woodland birds

## SPOTTED PARDALOTE

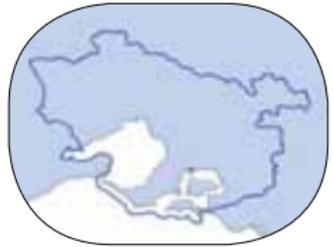
*Pardalotus punctatus*



↔ 10cm

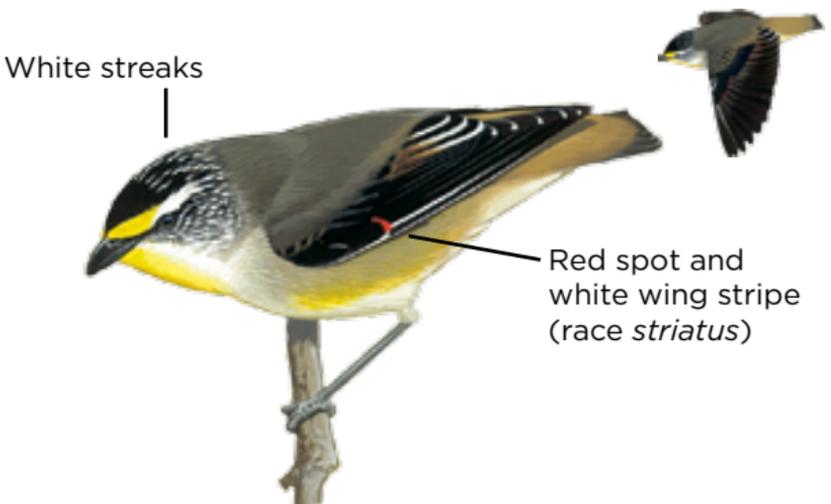
**i** Nests in a burrow in side of river bank, stump or pile of earth

**w** Woodland, eucalypt forest



## STRIATED PARDALOTE

*Pardalotus striatus*



↔ 11.5cm

**i** May build nest in tree hollow or burrow into earth bank

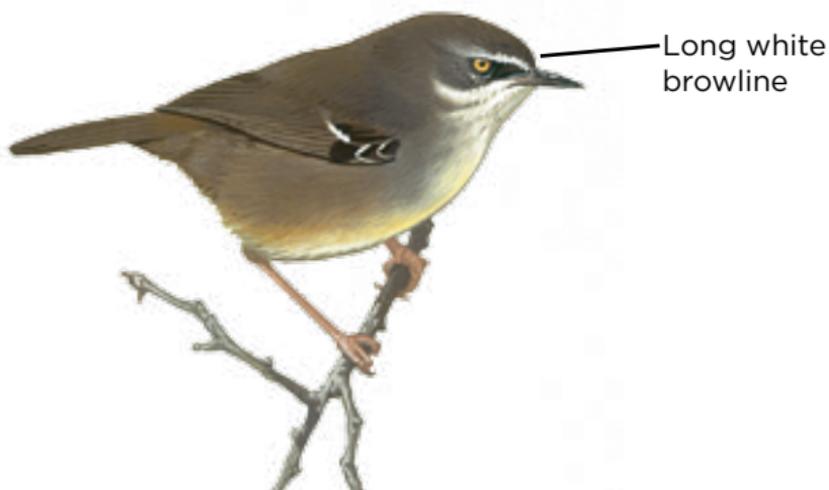
**w** Diverse wooded habitat types



# Woodland birds

## WHITE-BROWED SCRUBWREN

*Sericornis frontalis*



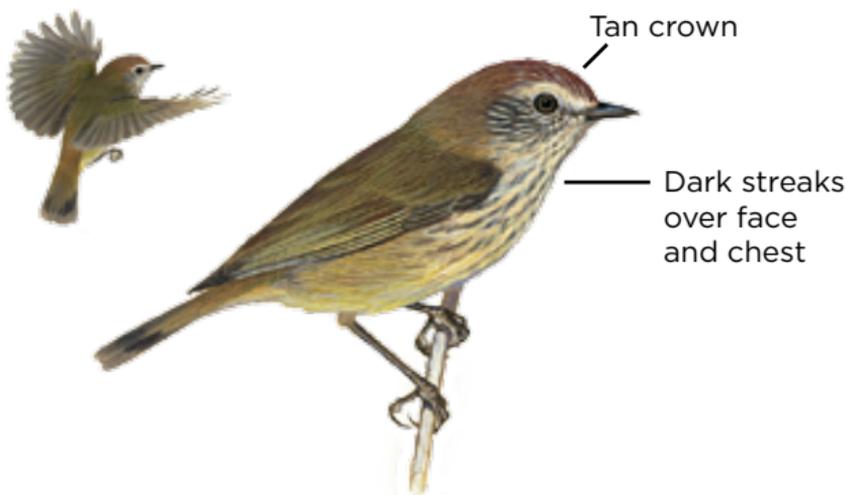
↔ 13cm

**i** Alert with quick movements and scolding alarm calls

**W** Rainforest, woodland with dense understorey

## STRIATED THORNBILL

*Acanthiza lineata*



↔ 10cm

**i** Prefers feeding in Eucalypt canopy

**W** Diverse wooded habitat types

# Woodland birds

## YELLOW-RUMPED THORNBILL

*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

White spots on forehead



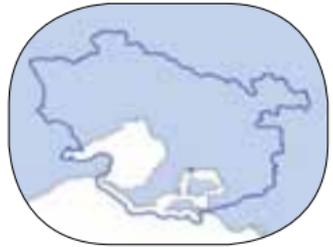
White tips

Bright yellow rump

↔ 12cm

**i** Forages on ground in small groups

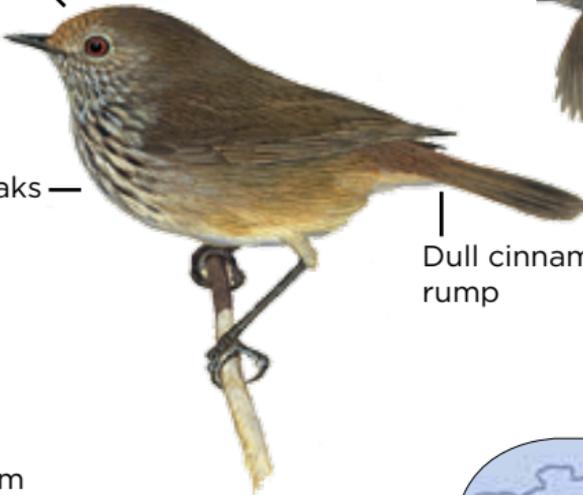
**W** Grassy woodlands, farms and scrublands



## BROWN THORNBILL

*Acanthiza pusilla*

Rufous forehead



Dark streaks



Dull cinnamon rump

↔ 10cm

**i** Forages in dense undergrowth, rarely in canopy

**W** Diverse habitat types



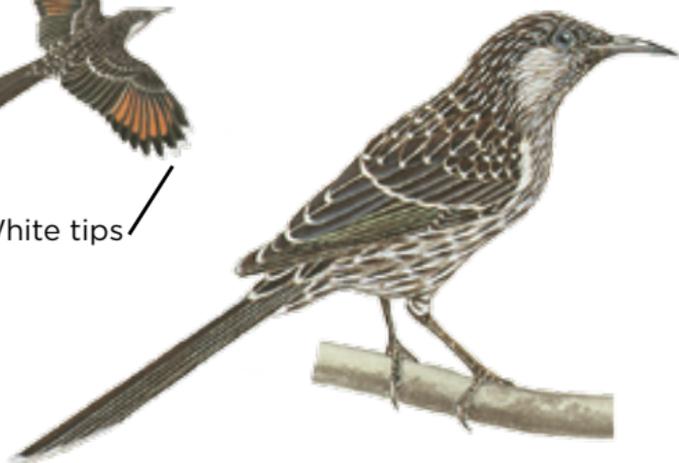
# Woodland birds

## LITTLE WATTLEBIRD

*Anthochaera chrysoptera*



White tips



↔ 35cm

**i** Varied calls from musical to harsh

**W** Forest, woodland, parkland

## RED WATTLEBIRD

*Anthochaera carunculata*



Pale yellow underbelly



Cheek patch silvery white



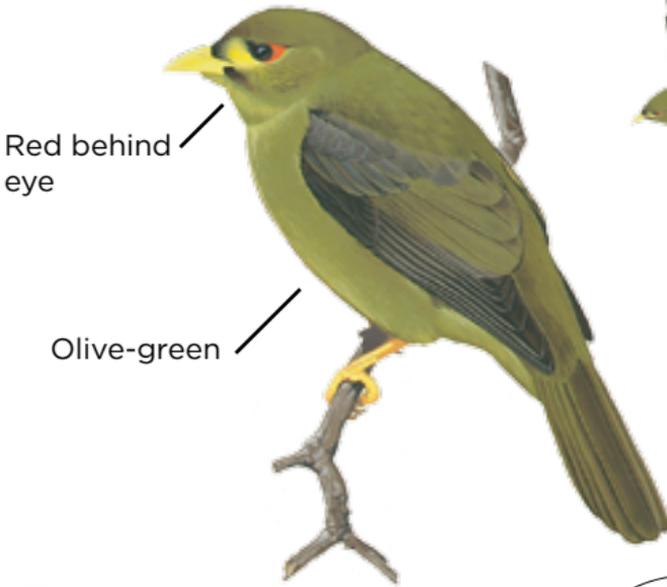
↔ 36cm

**i** Large and aggressive

**W** Woodland, eucalypt forest, gardens

## BELL MINER

*Manorina melanophrys*

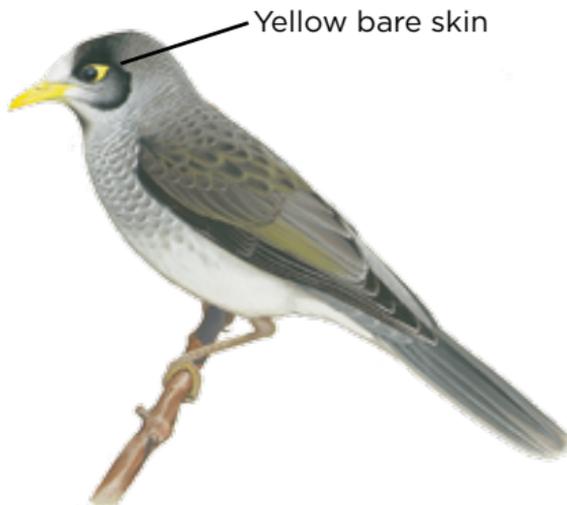


- ↔ 20cm
- i** Distinctive bell-like call
- W** Forests, urban parks

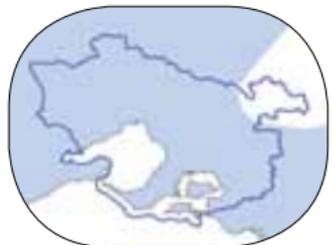


## NOISY MINER

*Manorina melanocephala*



- ↔ 28cm
- i** Native, very aggressive towards other birds, often in large flocks. Often confused with Common Myna (pg. 61)
- W** Urban, woodlands



# Woodland birds

## YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER

*Lichenostomus chrysops*



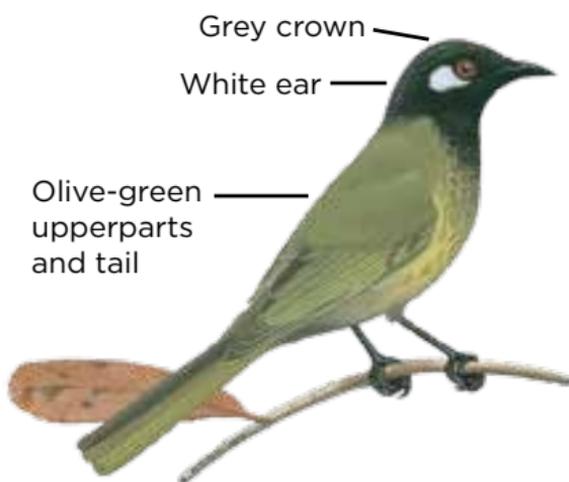
↔ 17.5cm

**i** Partially migratory, spending autumn and winter in northern states of Australia

**W** Diverse habitat types

## WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER

*Lichenostomus leucotis*



↔ 21.5cm

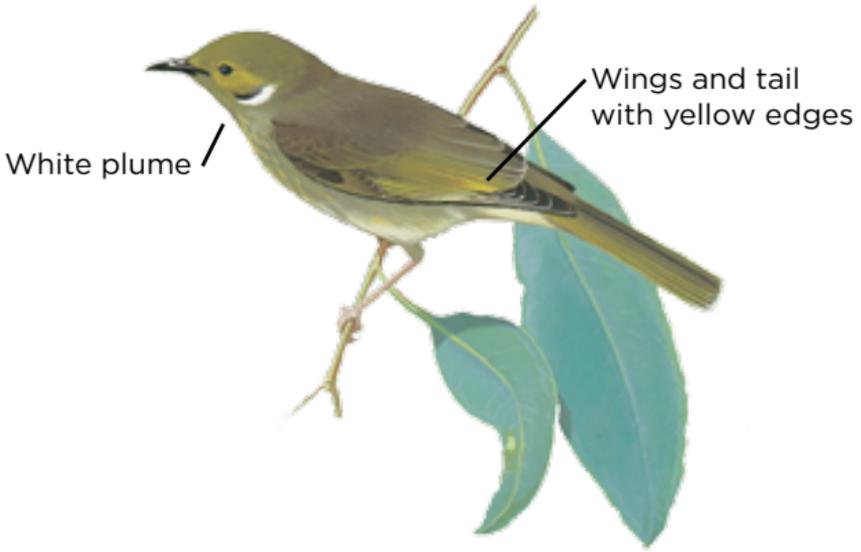
**i** Forages on bark for insects, similar to treecreepers

**W** Dry forests and woodlands

# Woodland birds

## WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER

*Lichenostomus penicillatus*



↔ 18cm

**i** Alert, noisy honeyeater in loose flocks

**W** Woodland, mallee and inland rivers

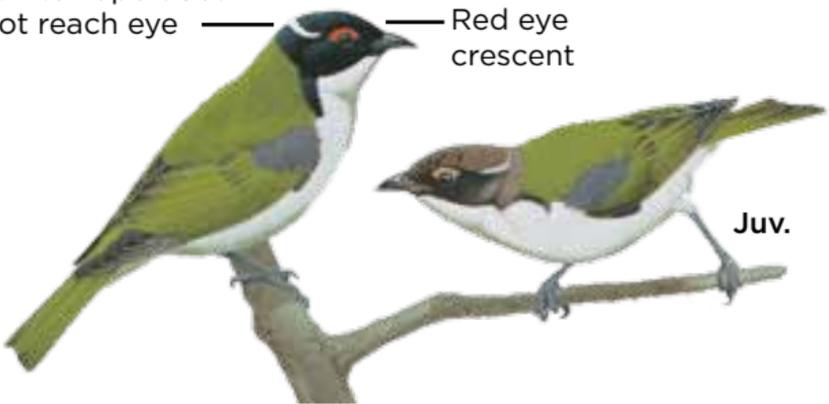


## WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER

*Melithreptus lunatus*

White nape does not reach eye

Red eye crescent



↔ 15.5cm

**i** Migratory with other honeyeaters, follows blossom

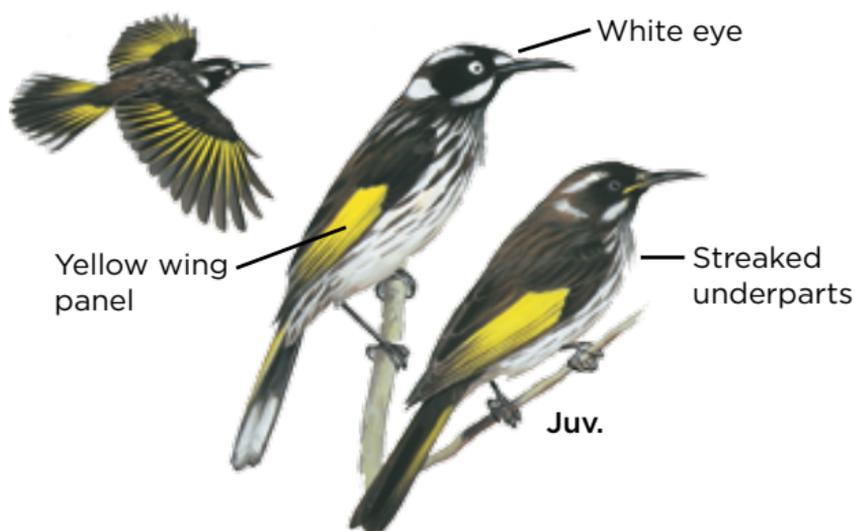
**W** Woodland and open forest



# Woodland birds

## NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER

*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*



↔ 18cm

**i** Competes for insects and nectar

**W** Woodland, forest, urban

## EASTERN SPINEBILL

*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*



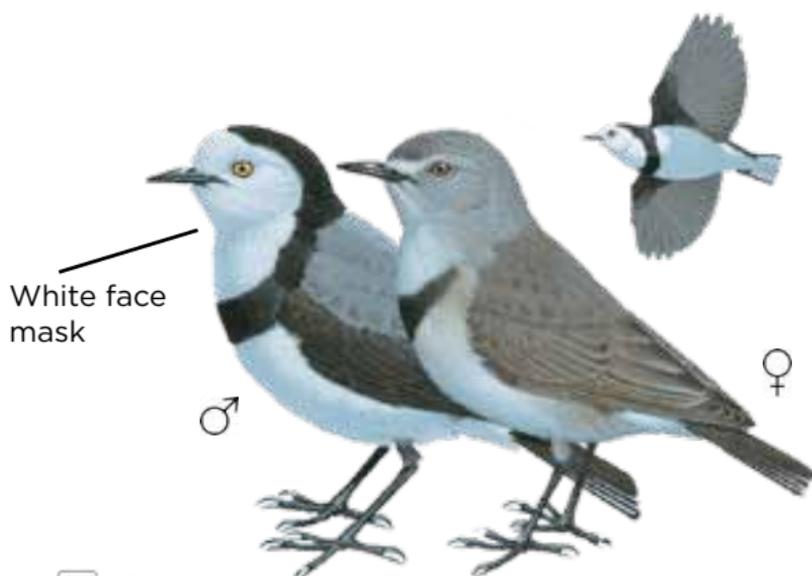
↔ 16cm

**i** Noisy wing beats in flight. Hovers occasionally

**W** Woodland, forest and heath

## WHITE-FRONTED CHAT

*Epthianura albifrons*



↔ 13cm

**i** Forages on ground in small to large flocks for insects. Bouncy undulating flight

**W** Salt marshes, estuaries, low heath



## EASTERN YELLOW ROBIN

*Eopsaltria australis*



↔ 15cm

**i** In pairs or small family groups. Occasionally flicks tail and wings

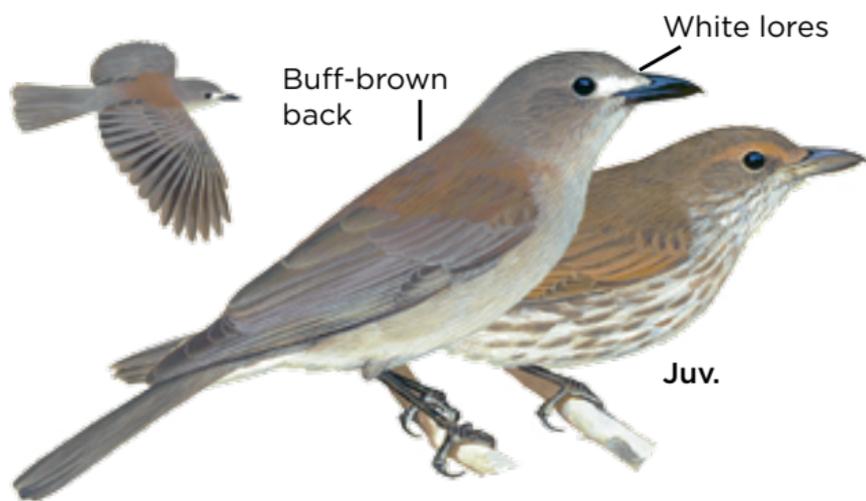
**W** Woodland, wet open forest and coastal heath



# Woodland birds

## GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH

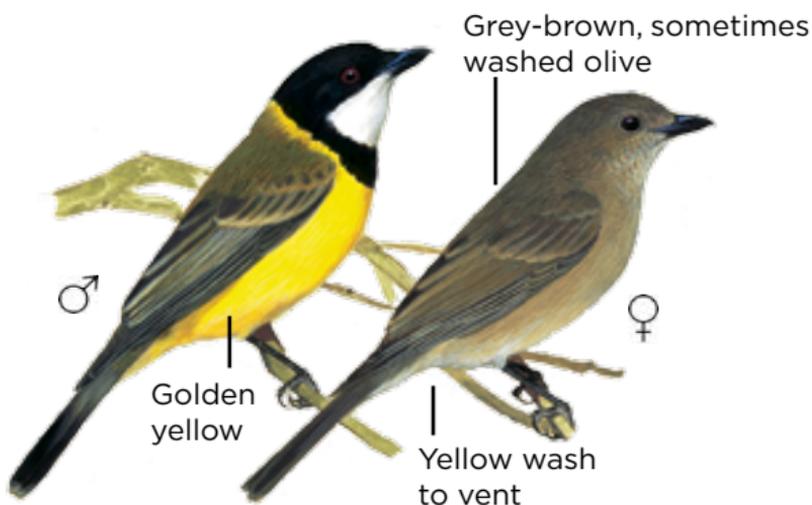
*Colluricincla harmonica*



- ↔ 24cm
- i Extremely varied and loud calls
- 🌿 Diverse wooded habitat types

## GOLDEN WHISTLER

*Pachycephala pectoralis*

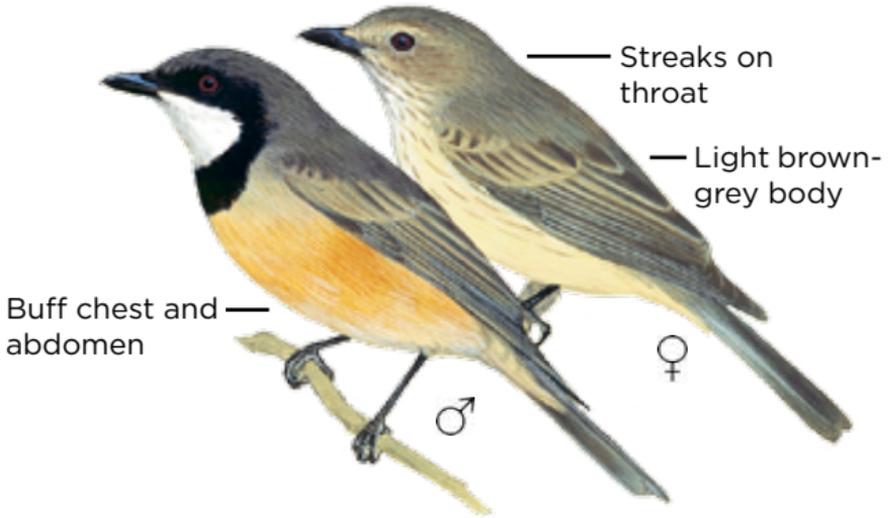


- ↔ 17cm
- i Male conspicuous with loud call in spring
- 🌿 Diverse wooded habitat types

# Woodland birds

## RUFOUS WHISTLER

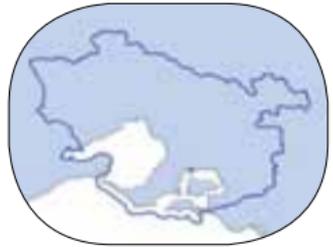
*Pachycephala rufiventris*



↔ 18cm

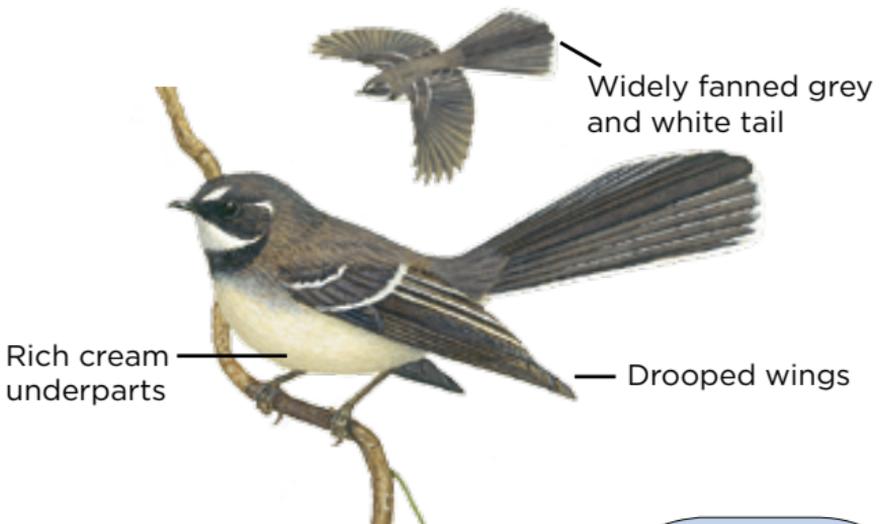
**i** Often seen in pairs or alone, loud and distinctive call

**W** Woodland, mallee and open forest



## GREY FANTAIL

*Rhipidura albiscapa*



↔ 17cm

**i** Rarely sitting still. Swings tail and flutters in undergrowth for invertebrates

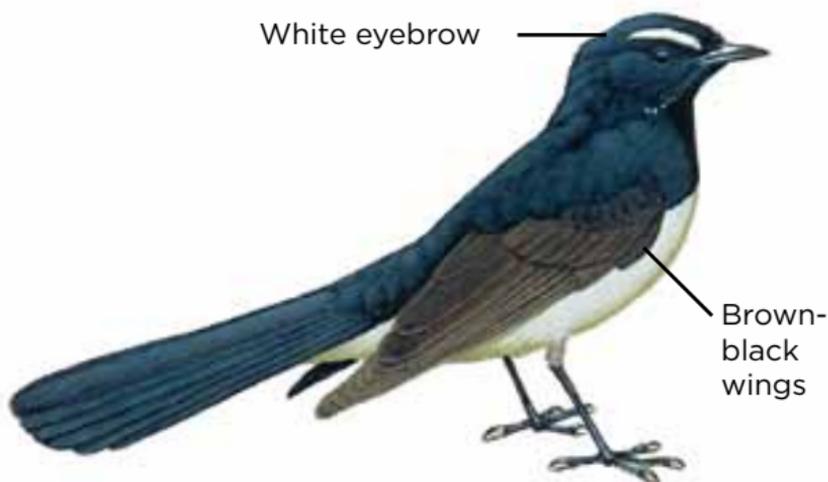
**W** Diverse habitat types



# Woodland birds

## WILLIE WAGTAIL

*Rhipidura leucophrys*



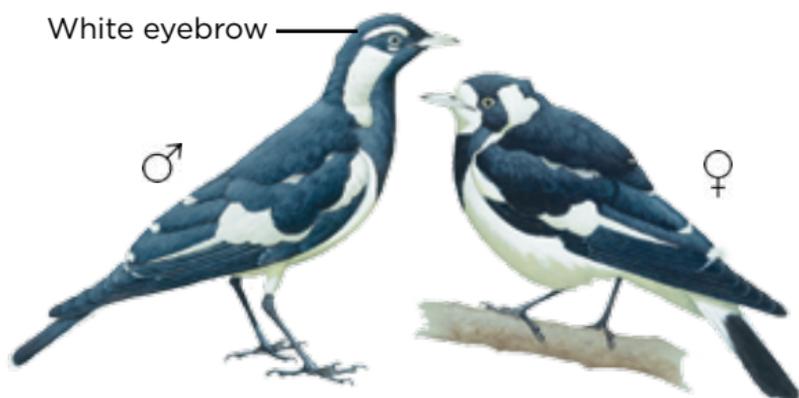
↔ 22cm

**i** Waves tail constantly, flicks wings whilst foraging to disturb insects

**W** Open country, farms, urban

## MAGPIE-LARK

*Grallina cyanoleuca*



↔ 30cm

**i** Creates mud bowl nests usually near water. Alternate name 'Peewee'

**W** Habitats diverse

## BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE

*Coracina novaehollandiae*

Black face  
and throat



↔ 33cm

**i** Shuffles wings upon landing  
at perch

 Diverse habitat types



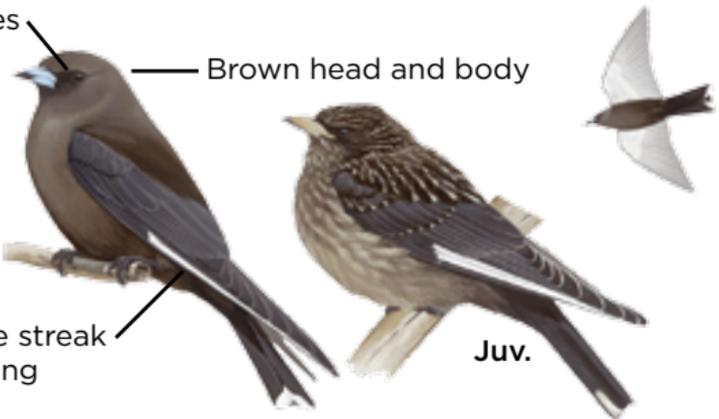
## DUSKY WOODSWALLOW

*Artamus cyanopterus*

Dark lores

Brown head and body

White streak  
on wing



↔ 18cm

**i** Tail wagging behaviour  
when perched

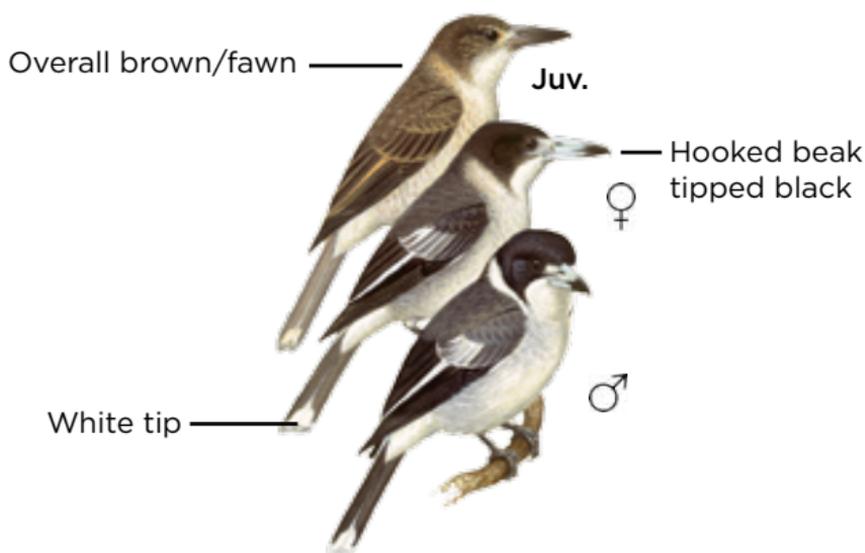
 Woodland and open forest



# Woodland birds

## GREY BUTCHERBIRD

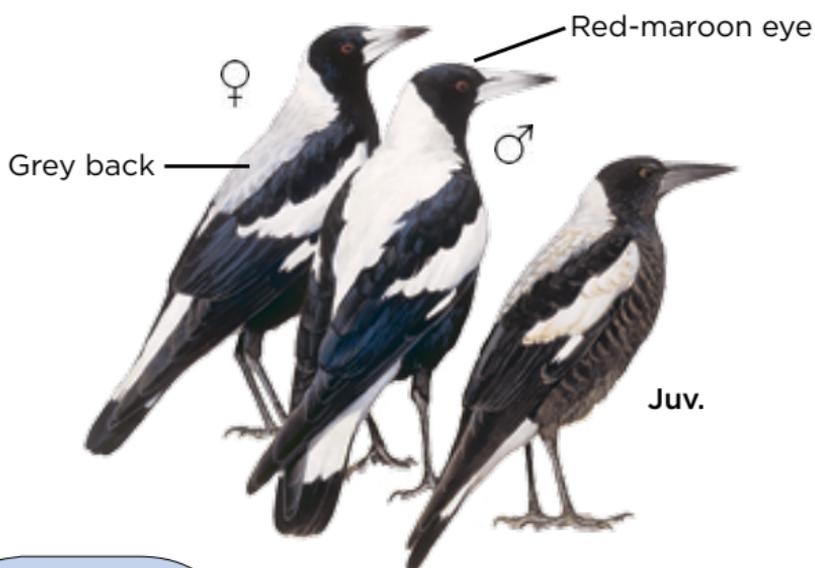
*Cracticus torquatus*



- ↔ 30cm
- i Varied, musical call
- 🌿 Woodland, urban, rainforest margins

## AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE

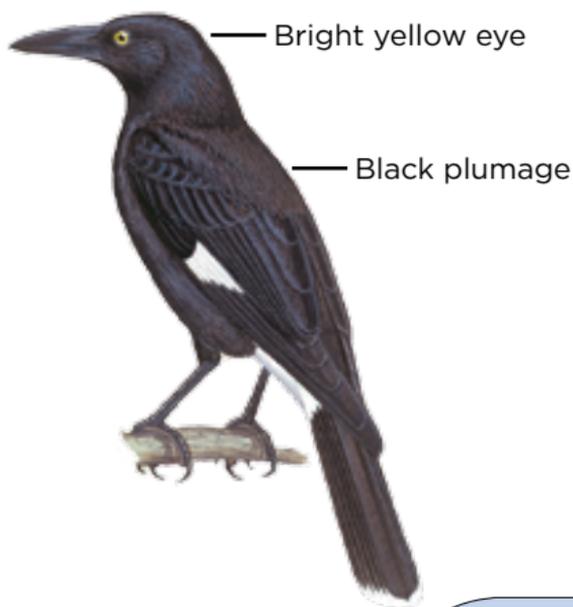
*Cracticus tibicen*



- ↔ 44cm
- i Lives in family groups. Loud carolling call. Forages on ground
- 🌿 Woodland, open country, coastal, urban

## PIED CURRAWONG

*Strepera graculina*



↔ 50cm

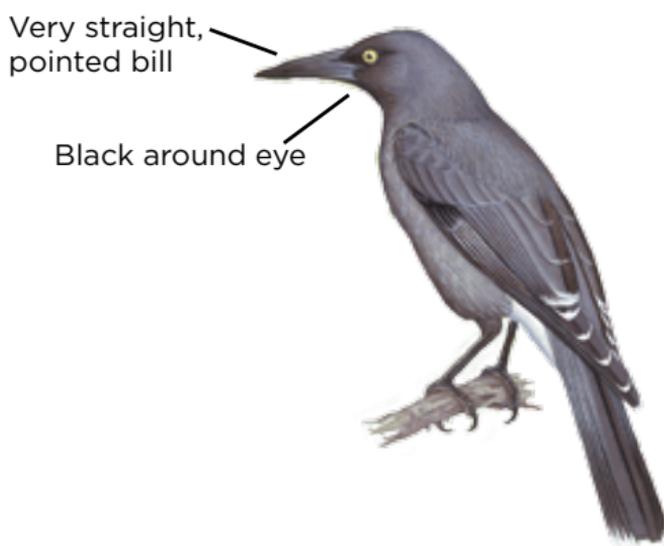
**i** Conspicuous and noisy

**W** Diverse habitat types, rainforest, gardens, woodland, coastal, farmland



## GREY CURRAWONG

*Strepera versicolor*



↔ 50cm

**i** Plumage varies across range, however all have similar 'kling-kling' call

**W** Woodland, forest, coastal, heath, mallee



# Woodland birds

## LITTLE RAVEN

*Corvus mellori*



↔ 50cm

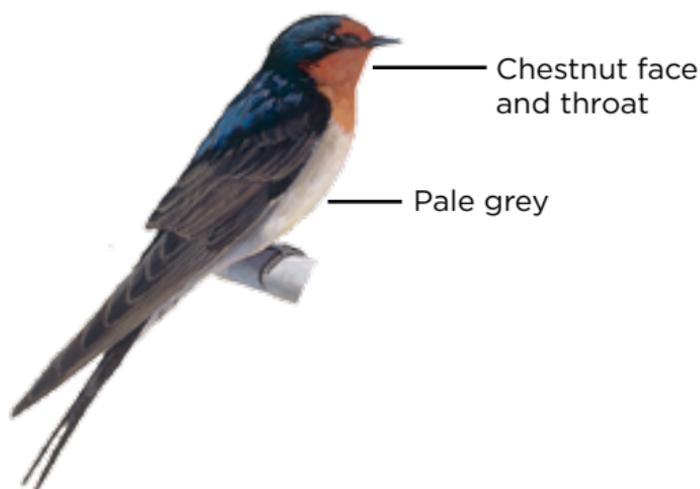
**i** Most common raven to Melbourne. Slightly smaller than Australian Raven

**W** Urban areas, woodland, open plains



## WELCOME SWALLOW

*Hirundo neoxena*



↔ 15cm

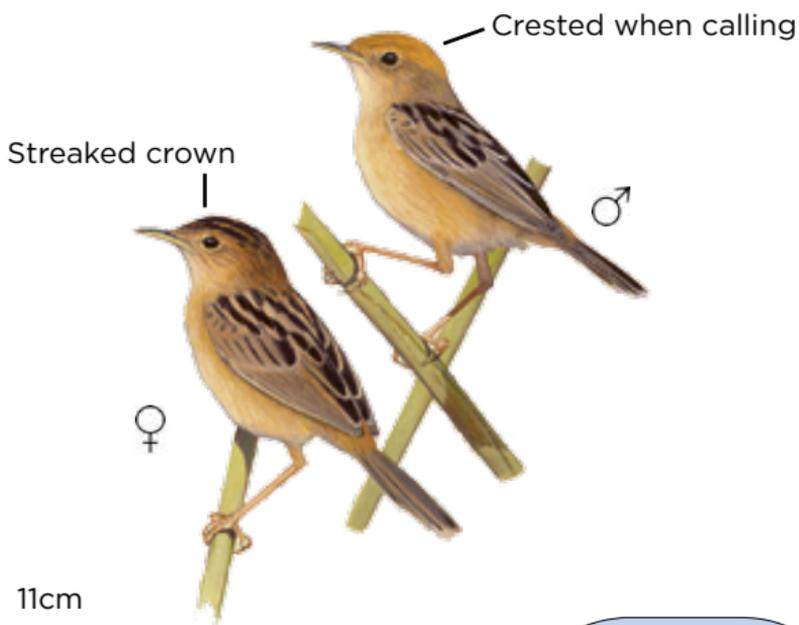
**i** Builds mud nests under eaves of buildings, bridges etc.

**W** Woodland, grassland, wetlands, farms



## GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA

*Cisticola exilis*



↔ 11cm

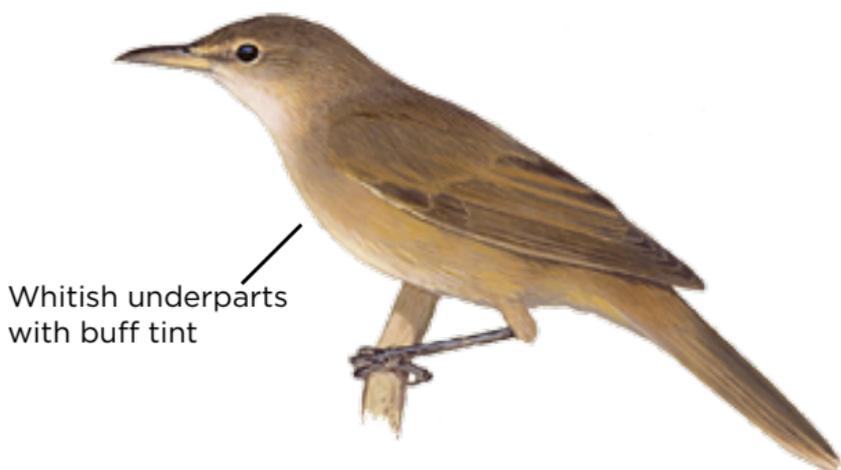
**i** Male similar plumage to female during non-breeding. Male calls loudly from tall grass perch

**W** Wetlands



## AUSTRALIAN REED-WARBLER

*Acrocephalus australis*



↔ 17cm

**i** Usually hidden within reeds, with a strong loud call

**W** Reed beds of wetlands



# Woodland birds

## LITTLE GRASSBIRD

*Megalurus gramineus*



- ↔ 15cm
- i** Usually heard and not seen, 'whp-wheee-wheee' call
- W** Dense vegetation of wetlands

## SILVEREYE

*Zosterops lateralis*



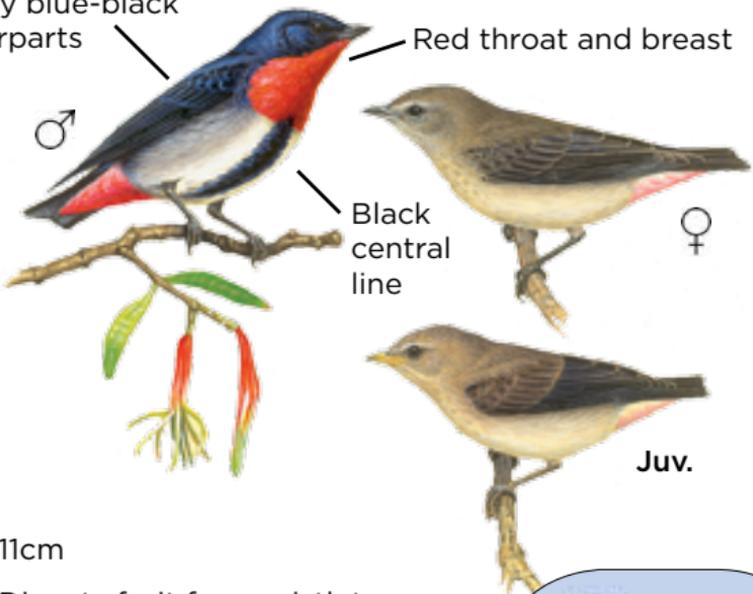
- ↔ 12cm
- i** Eight races across Australia, plumage will differ on location
- W** Diverse habitat types

## MISTLETOEBIRD

*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Glossy blue-black upperparts

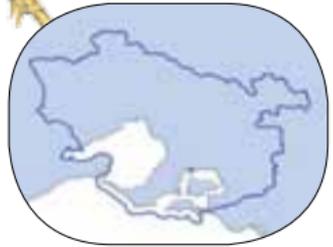
Red throat and breast



↔ 11cm

**i** Digests fruit from mistletoe species, but not the seed

**W** Variety of habitats. Dependent on mistletoe

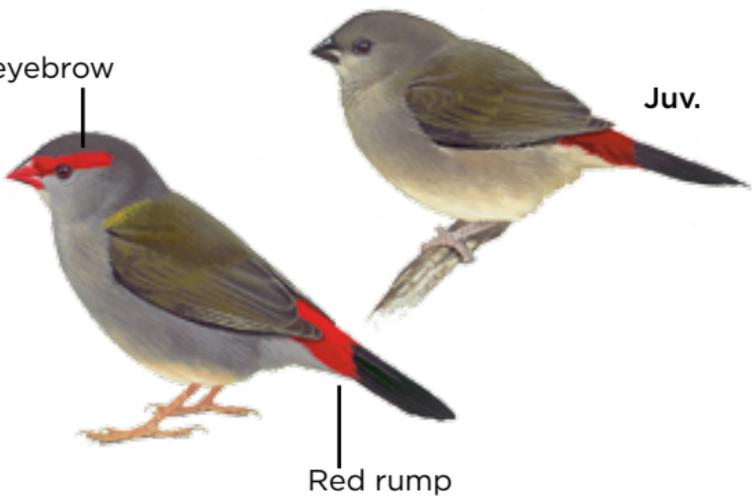


## RED-BROWED FINCH

*Neochmia temporalis*

Red eyebrow

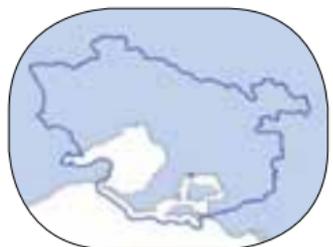
Juv.



↔ 12cm

**i** Forages in flocks usually on ground

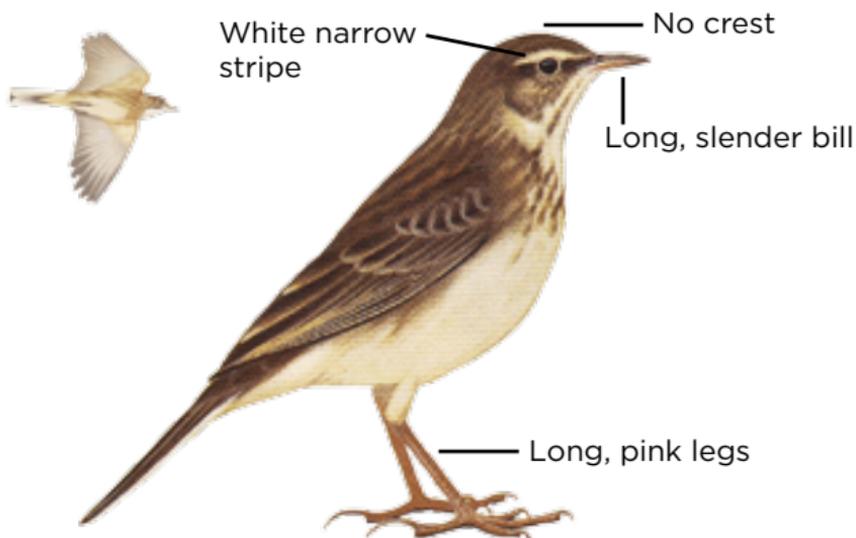
**W** Heath, mangroves, forests, coastal areas



# Woodland birds

## AUSTRALASIAN PIPIT

*Anthus novaeseelandiae*



↔ 16cm

**i** Pumps tail up and down when standing. Similar to Skylark and Bushlark

**W** Open and modified habitats including grasslands, low shrublands and farmland



## INTRODUCED BIRDS

Eurasian Skylark

*Alauda arvensis*

↔ 18cm



Rock Dove

*Columba livia*

↔ 31cm



Spotted Dove

*Streptopelia chinensis*

↔ 30cm

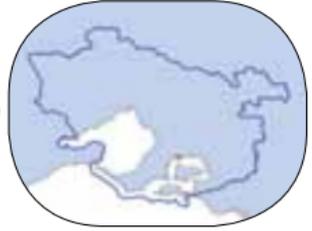


# Introduced birds

Common Blackbird

*Turdus merula*

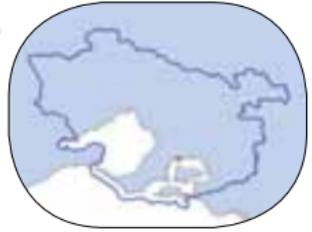
↔ 25cm



Common Starling

*Sturnus vulgaris*

↔ 21cm



Common Myna

*Sturnus tristis*

↔ 24cm



House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*

↔ 15cm



European Goldfinch

*Carduelis carduelis*

↔ 13cm



Common Greenfinch

*Chloris chloris*

↔ 15cm



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This booklet was compiled by BirdLife Australia's Nick Bradsworth with support from Dan Weller and Caroline Wilson for the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA).

One of the roles of the PPWCMA is to coordinate regional-scale environmental projects that actively demonstrate the benefits of strategic partnerships and collaboration. Through our various projects, we bring together federal, state and local government agencies, Indigenous groups, not-for-profit organisations and community groups to implement projects that help protect and improve the ecological values of our region.

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For more information or if you are interested in volunteering visit [birdlife.org.au](http://birdlife.org.au) or call 1300 730 075.

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