

Noisy Miner
This aggressive coloniser of suburban woodlands has a real gang mentality, driving off most other species. Very vocal including an alarm call especially for raptors.
26cm



White-plumed Honeyeater
A common small grey-green honeyeater with a yellowish head and white streaks on its neck. It has different calls including a sharp piercing whistle.
14cm



Red Wattlebird
Two red, fleshy wattles on its neck and a yellow belly distinguish this honeyeater from the Little Wattlebird, which is prevalent in coastal areas. Both have loud, 'cackling' calls.
28cm



Crested Pigeon
Originally an inland species, flourishing in Sydney since the 1970s. Sometimes wrongly called a Topknot Pigeon, which is one of five rarer rainforest doves recorded in Sydney.
42cm



Willie Wagtail
A feisty little bird with a big attitude, it's all in the eyebrows, will even attack ravens. Chatters an alarm or a sweeter song often heard at night during the summer months.
21cm



Magpie-lark
Also known as a peewee, the magpie-lark has a loud call and builds a mud nest. See if you can spot the different markings between the male (pictured) and female.
28cm



Grey Butcherbird
Its name comes from its grisly practice of impaling small animals to 'butcher'. Its loud piping call is a familiar sound in most suburban parklands.
21cm



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Gun-metal grey with a powder black face, this handsome medium-sized bird is neither a cuckoo or a shrike. Watch for it shuffling its wings when landing on a branch.
33cm



Aust Magpie
The former Western Suburbs emblem. Can be quite aggressive during the breeding season. Its liquid warbles are a familiar sound. Young have dark eyes which turn red at adulthood.
40cm



Pied Currawong
Mainly black with some white on wings and rump, more apparent in flight. Its call is a distinctive clanging chime. Feeds on small animals and insects. Young have dark eyes which turn yellow at adulthood.
45cm



Aust Raven
This large black bird is often incorrectly called a crow, although it is larger and has throat hackles. Hunts and scavenges in groups. Young have dark eyes which turn white at adulthood.
50cm



Eastern Koel
This cuckoo is a summer visitor whose 'Coo-eee' call is a sound of spring. Quite elusive, males are large black birds with red eyes and a long tail. The females and juveniles (pictured) are a mottled brown.
42cm



Welcome Swallow
A superb flyer, zipping low over grassland or water catching insects. Related to martins but not swifts, both of which are summer visitors to Sydney.
15cm



Red-rumped Parrot
Often called a grass parrot because it feeds in grass. Red rump not always visible, the male is green and yellow chest and the female is a duller grey/green.
26cm



Rainbow Lorikeet
This colourful parrot has adapted well to suburban parks and gardens. A screechy fast flier, the blue head and orange chest sets it apart from similar birds.
30cm



Musk Lorikeet
A green bird with red across the forehead. It feeds on flowering trees and is smaller than the Rainbow Lorikeet. Its metallic call is higher pitched and faster than the Rainbow Lorikeet.
22cm



Eastern Rosella
A beautiful parrot, mainly green and yellow with blue in the wings and tail and a red head. It has a soft piping call and a dipping flight. Also found in Sydney is the Crimson Rosella.
39cm



Galah
One of the few birds with a one word name, also used to describe people displaying similar comical antics. These pink and grey parrots are a common sight on suburban grasslands.
35cm

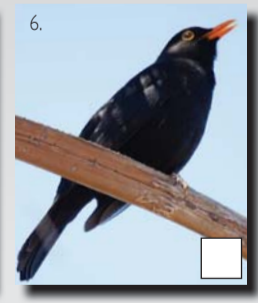
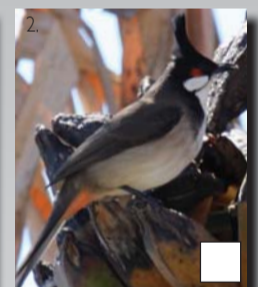


Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
A familiar bird, white with a yellow crest, raised in alarm. Loud screeching call. Yellow-tailed and Glossy Black Cockatoos also occur in the Sydney region.
52cm



Little Corella
A type of cockatoo with a more gentle 'laughing' call and yellowish tinge on wings. Long-billed Corellas, also common in Sydney have a smaller crest and a pink mark across the chest.
37cm

Introduced birds



1. Common Myna (India)
2. Red-whiskered Bulbul (India)
3. Common Starling (UK)
4. House Sparrow (UK)
5. Spotted Dove (China)
6. Common Blackbird (UK)
7. Rock Dove - Feral Pigeon (UK)



Superb Fairy-wren
The brightly coloured male is easy to tell from the rarer Variegated Fairy-wren. The females of both species are very similar brown birds.
14cm



Red-browed Finch
Formerly known as a firetail due to its bright red rump. The most common of Sydney's six finch species, two of which are introduced.
12cm



Masked Lapwing
Previously called the Spur-winged Plover, due to the sharp spurs on its wings (not pictured). This bird has adapted well to suburban sports fields. A ground-nester, it will defend its nest and chicks by loudly swooping at passers by.
36cm

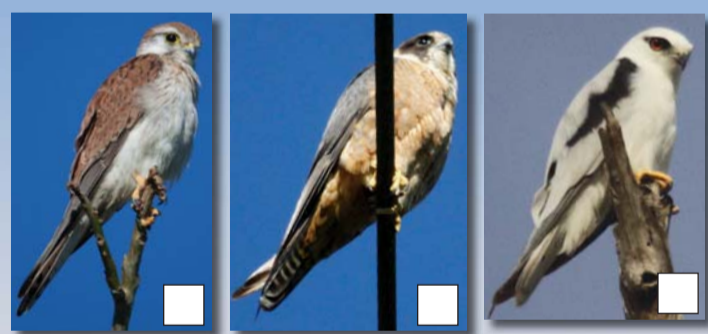
COVER - Six of the 16 species of raptor that occur in the Western Sydney region
Top (L-R) Nankeen Kestrel Aust Hobby Black-shouldered Kite
Bottom (L-R) Brown Goshawk Peregrine Falcon Pacific Baza

The birds featured here are 76 relatively common species found in Sydney (known as the County of Cumberland). You can use this leaflet by ticking the boxes as you identify the birds of your local area. If you manage to see all the birds in the leaflet (and probably some that aren't!), you may want to find the other 365 species that have been recorded in the County of Cumberland. Birdwatching is great fun and doesn't cost anything, although a good pair of binoculars and a field guide will add to your enjoyment. Why not join a club and attend outings where other birdwatchers will be happy to share their knowledge with you? For more information visit www.cboc.org.au



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BIRDS of WESTERN SYDNEY A Photo Guide





Yellow Thornbill
The smallest and most common of Sydney's five thornbill species. Its bright yellow colour not always easy to see as small groups flit around tree canopies, chipping and buzzing.
10cm



Spotted Pardalote
The bright colours are not always easy to spot as this little bird often forages high in canopies. It nests in a hole in the ground. More widespread than Sydney's other pardalote, the Striated Pardalote (par-da-lote).
10cm



Silvereye
This greenish-grey bird is often seen in small groups in trees and shrubs. In winter, resident Sydney birds are joined by flocks from Tasmania, which are more colourful with distinctive rufous flanks.
12cm



Mistletoebird
As its name suggests, this pretty little bird is associated with mistletoe. The female is grey with red under the tail. Listen for a loud single, high-pitched 2-note tuneful whistle.
10cm



Grey Fantail
A relative of the Willie Wagtail with the same bold disposition. This common woodland bird is quite noticeable when foraging through the branches. Its call is very high-pitched.
16cm



Eastern Yellow Robin
This medium-sized bird is the most widespread of the six robin species recorded in Sydney. The others have pink and red breasts.
16cm



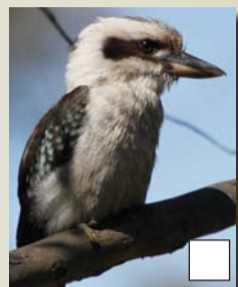
Bell Miner
Also known as the bellbird due to its call, more often heard than seen. Green with orange/yellow feet. Lives in colonies like its suburban relative, the Noisy Miner.
26cm



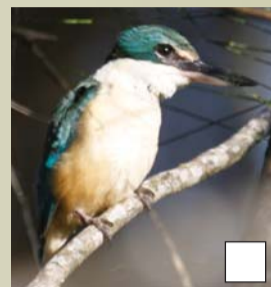
Restless Flycatcher
The male looks similar to a Willie Wagtail. Its call sounds like someone blowing a high-pitched raspberry. The largest of Sydney's three flycatcher species.
20cm



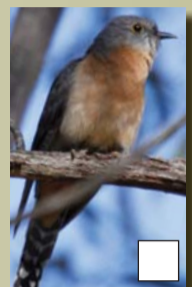
Eastern Whipbird
A shy, secretive bird that spends most of its time foraging in dense undergrowth. This behaviour, along with its loud 'whipcrack' call, means this bird is more often heard than seen.
28cm



Laughing Kookaburra
An iconic Australian bird, and the largest of Sydney's three kingfisher species. Its distinctive call is often used in jungle scenes in old movies, but is heard in a wide range of habitats.
46cm



Sacred Kingfisher
This blue-green and pale orange gem is a common summer visitor to many of Sydney's woodlands. One of its calls sounds like a dog repeatedly barking.
21cm



Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Eight species of cuckoo can be found in Sydney. This relatively common one is similar to the rarer Brush Cuckoo. A yellow eye-ring and the 'fanned' tail sets it apart.
26cm



Grey Shrike-thrush
Not a shrike or a thrush, but Sydney's only Shrike-thrush. What this brown-grey bird lacks in colour it makes up for in song, ranging from a distinctive single note to a haunting tuneful melody.
26cm



Rufous Whistler
As the name suggests this handsome bird has a distinctive 'eee-chong' whistling call, often heard in spring and summer. The female is an overall sandy colour and has a streaked chest.
19cm



Golden Whistler
The call is a loud single note 'seep', commonly heard in the Sydney area through the winter months. Unlike the male (pictured) the female is a pale brown bird, except for a yellow tinge on the vent area.
18cm



Olive-backed Oriole
A green bird, with a heavily streaked white chest, look for the red eye and beak. Often in the canopy, you may hear it tunefully calling its name, 'or-ee-ol'.
26cm



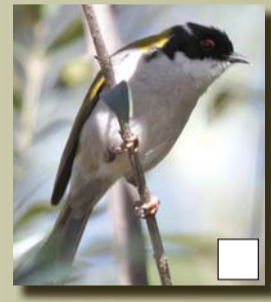
Eastern Spinebill
This small, colourful honeyeater flits around in branches. It can also hover above flowers, using its long bill and tongue to feed on nectar, looking like a hummingbird.
14cm



Dusky Woodswallow
The most widespread of five woodswallow species recorded in the Sydney region. Look for small flocks gliding above the canopy with distinctive white dots on the dark tail.
18cm



White-throated Gerygone
Pronounced *Jerrig-onee*, one of three species found in Sydney. Formerly known as Warblers, the beautiful descending call is a common woodland sound in the summer months.
10cm



White-naped Honeyeater
Green and white with striking red eye-skin. Similar, less common Sydney birds, are the Brown-headed and Black-chinned Honeyeaters.
10cm



Crested Shrike-tit
A striking-looking bird with a black and white head and a powerful beak for ripping at bark. Listen for a descending single-note whistle or 'chuckling' call.
18cm



White-browed Scrubwren
Sydney has three species of scrubwren. This is the most widespread, skulking in the undergrowth, becoming quite bold when its curiosity is aroused.
13cm



Yellow-faced Honeyeater
A small to medium-sized, greyish bird. A migratory species that can occur in large numbers during winter. Has a 'chip' call in flight, often heard as groups fly overhead.
16cm



Weebill
This small yellow bird is in decline and looks similar to the Yellow Thornbill. A tuneful whistle, a paler yellow and its 'wee bill' should help identification. Often hovers near canopy.
10cm



Pacific Black Duck
A dark duck, but former name of Painted Duck more suits this handsome bird. 'Flashes' can be green or blue, depending on light.
54cm



Aust Wood Duck
Formerly known as Maned Duck, males are grey with a reddish-brown head, females are a speckled brown colour. It often nests in tree hollows and has a distinctive 'weoww' call.
46cm



Chestnut Teal
With a deep chestnut body and bottle-green head - the male is unmistakable. The female is brown, and looks similar to the Grey Teal which also occurs in Sydney.
43cm



Australasian Grebe
The most abundant of the three grebe species found in the Sydney region. An expert diver, it will submerge at the first hint of danger.
36cm



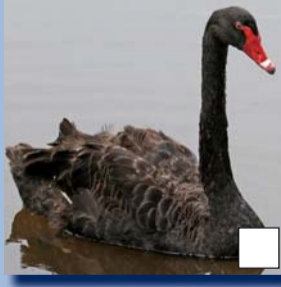
Purple Swamphen
More of a blue/black sheen than purple, with a red 'shield'. Noisy and found in swampy reed-beds or long grass.
46cm



Dusky Moorhen
Smaller and shyer than the swamphen, its bill tipped with yellow. Conspicuous outer white tail feathers from behind.
38cm



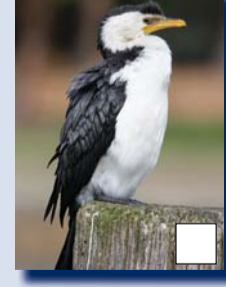
Eurasian Coot
A white 'shield' gives rise to the saying 'As bald as a Coot'. Can occur in huge flocks on large bodies of water.
40cm



Black Swan
There's no mistaking Australia's only native swan. Mainly black, it has a red bill and white on its wings, which look spectacular when seen in flight.
120cm



Little Black Cormorant
Often seen in groups, perching or swimming and diving for fish. Similar to the larger Great Cormorant which has a white patch on its throat.
60cm



Little Pied Cormorant
Most often seen on farmland dams and inland waterways. Similar to the larger Pied Cormorant which is found mainly in coastal habitats.
60cm



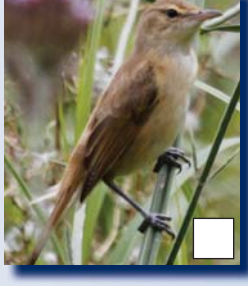
White-faced Heron
The most common of the four heron species found within the Sydney region. Pale grey with a variable amount of white on the face and neck.
68cm



Eastern Great Egret
The largest of Sydney's five egret species with a long snake-like neck. Look for the smaller but equally common Cattle Egret, often seen in paddocks.
90cm



Azure Kingfisher
A bright blue back and an orange front make this a 'classic' kingfisher. Found near creeks, flying low and fast over water or perching on overhanging branches, waiting to dive in and grab a fish.
16cm



Aust Reed Warbler
A small, brown bird which is sometimes hard to see and you may only catch a glimpse. Its loud, distinctive call is a common sound of Sydney's reed-beds during the summer months.
16cm



Aust Pelican
A common coastal bird. Groups of these impressive birds can be seen flying high, looking like squadrons of planes as they follow inland waterways.
170cm



Aust White Ibis
This familiar wetland bird has adapted well to scavenging in suburban Sydney, forming large colonies. More rural, the rarer Straw-necked Ibis, has dark wings.
70cm