



Weebill
length 9 cm

Red Wattlebird
length 35 cm

Noisy Friarbird
length 30 cm

Striated Pardalote
length 10 cm

Grey Butcherbird
length 30 cm

Laughing Kookaburra
length 45 cm

Brown Treecreeper
(Vulnerable)
length 20 cm



Noisy Miner
length 25 cm



Eastern Rosella
length 30 cm

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
length 50 cm

Southern Boobook (Owl)
length 30 cm

Grey-crowned Babbler
(Vulnerable)
length 27 cm



Willie Wagtail
length 20 cm



Galah
length 35 cm

Crested Pigeon
length 35 cm



Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
length 33 cm



native

backyard birds OF DUBBO

Bush Stone-curlew
(Endangered)
length 60 cm



White-plumed Honeyeater
length 15 cm



Diamond Firetail
(Vulnerable)
length 10 cm



Silvereeye
length 10 cm



Superb Fairy-wren
(female and male)
length 14 cm



Magpie-lark
(Pee-wee)
length 25 cm



Australian Magpie
length 40 cm



Red-rumped Parrot
(Male and female)
length 25 cm



BIRDS IN THE BACKYARDS OF DUBBO

The aim of this flier is to raise awareness about Dubbo's declining and threatened native birds and describe how you can help to bring them back.

OUR DECLINING LOCAL BIRDLIFE

There are over 270 species of birds recorded from within 50 kilometres of the city of Dubbo. Many of these are woodland birds that can be found in urban backyards, parks, remnant bushland and riverside areas.

However populations of our small native bird species are declining Australia-wide. Removal of trees and shrubs for agricultural and housing purposes has resulted in a significant reduction in habitat areas available for many of our local birds. The Dubbo area is no exception.

Once common woodland birds such as finches, robins, babblers and small honeyeaters are becoming rarer, and in some cases are no longer seen at all. Turquoise Parrots, Regent Honeyeaters, Bush Stone-curlews, Hooded Robins, Grey-crowned Babblers, Glossy Black-Cockatoos and Brown Treecreepers are some of the species present in the Dubbo area that are declining in central NSW and are listed under NSW Threatened species legislation.

There are many reasons for this decline, but the biggest is the loss and fragmentation of habitat - places for them to find refuge, feed and nest. Competition with introduced birds (eg Starlings, Blackbirds, Sparrows) and predators (cats, foxes) are also key issues.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BIRDLIFE

There are many species of birds that live around urban and semi-urban areas that will respond to easy actions that can be taken at a backyard scale. Some of these actions are outlined opposite.

For information about local birds and activities to protect local biodiversity, see:

Dubbo Field Nats: www.dubbofieldnats.org.au
Dubbo Bird List www.dubbofieldnats.org.au/birds.htm
Central West CMA www.cma.nsw.gov.au
Dubbo City Council www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

You can help to restore bird habitat in your own backyard by:

Creative Garden Design - Planting the following in your garden:

- *dense shrubs* - our small native birds need nesting sites and refuge from larger birds (eg Currawongs, Butcherbirds).
- *food shrubs* - shrubs that provide a range of food options - nectar (eg bottlebrush), insects (eg wattles) and seeds. Local native plant species usually do this best.
- *native groundcovers* - groundcover plants such as native grasses, flowering groundcovers, matt-rushes and lillies provide food and cover.

Careful Garden Practices:

- *limit chemical use* - consider low-impact alternatives to strong insecticides and herbicides which can impact on the natural ecology, including birds.
- *birdbaths* - while native birds need fresh water, consider the location of bird baths to ensure birds are safe from predators.
- *care when providing food* - while it is recommended that providing the right food sources for native birds is the best method, if you do provide additional food to birds, please don't feed meat-eating birds as they can prey on smaller native birds.

Responsible Pet Ownership: Keep your cat inside whenever possible or within an outside enclosure. De-sex pets so there are no little surprises. Deter other pets from entering your bird habitats.

If you wish to find out more about creating bird-friendly gardens, schools or business premises, or undertaking bird surveys in your own area, visit:

Birds in Backyards: www.birdsinbackyards.net
Birds Australia www.birdsaustralia.com.au

Photo credits: Birds Australia, Wendy Woolfrey (Bush Stone-curlew), Wojciech Dabrowka and Kevin Vang (Grey Butcherbird, Striated Pardalote, Brown Treecreeper, Laughing Kookaburra, Superb Fairy-wrens, Red-rumped Parrots), Michael Seyfort (Silvereye), Richard Major (Australian Magpie, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah, Red Wattlebird, Noisy Miner, Noisy Friarbird, Peewee, Willie Wagtail) Greg Holland & Leon Kingsley (White-plumed Honeyeater, Eastern Rosella, Crested Pigeon), Akos Lumnitzer (Southern Boobook, Weebill), Nevil Lazarus (Grey-crowned Babbler) Sharon Wormleaton (Diamond Firetail). "Vulnerable" and "Endangered" on photo labels refer to Listing under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

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