



Figbird
length 28 cm

Black-faced
Cuckoo-shrike
length 33 cm

Grey Butcherbird
length 30 cm

Common Koel
(male)
length 42 cm

Blue-faced
Honeyeater
length 29 cm

Common
(Indian) Myna
length 25 cm
(Introduced Species)

Laughing Kookaburra
length 45 cm

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
length 50 cm

Pied Butcherbird
length 35 cm

Pale-headed
Rosella
length 31 cm

Crested Pigeon
length 32 cm

Welcome Swallow
length 15 cm

Noisy Miner
length 25 cm

Rainbow Lorikeet
length 30 cm

Magpie-lark
(Pee-wee)
length 25 cm

Willie Wagtail
length 20 cm

backyard birds OF BRISBANE



Red-backed
Fairy-wren
(male and female)
length 14 cm

Brown Honeyeater
length 14 cm

Striated Pardalote
length 9 cm

Silvereye
length 12 cm

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

Australian White Ibis
length 72 cm

Bush Stone-curlew
length 55 cm

Australian Magpie
length 40 cm

Australian
Brush-turkey
length 70 cm

For inquiries about birds and domestic gardens, contact:

BIRDS IN BACKYARDS www.birdsinbackyards.net t (02) 9647 1875
AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM www.australianmuseum.net.au t (02) 9320 6202
BIRDS AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND www.basq.org.au



Birds in Your Garden

How to bring back the little ones. .

Australia-wide, populations of many of our small bird species are declining. Once common birds such as finches, fairy-wrens, silvereyes and small honeyeaters are becoming rare, or in some places are no longer being seen at all. There are many reasons for this, but the biggest is the loss of places for them to live and successfully raise their families.

This situation exists in both rural farmlands and in built up urban areas; from big cities to rural townships. That means that we can all contribute towards saving our small birds irrespective of where we live or how big our gardens are. We just need to do things a little differently.

Nuisance Birds

Some introduced species, such as the Common (Indian) Myna, compete with native species for nesting hollows. You can discourage them from coming into your garden by not feeding them.

Some native birds can be problematic and a nuisance to humans and other animals, like the Australian White Ibis, Australian Brush-turkey, and Noisy Miner.

For more information and factsheets on these species please see the Pest Animals and Living with Wildlife pages on the Brisbane City Council website: www.brisbane.qld.gov.au

For more information

To find out more about identifying the birds in your area, creating gardens and habitat for birds at home, in school grounds or any open space, or undertaking bird surveys in your own garden or local area, see the Birds in Backyards website: www.birdsinbackyards.net.

Birds of Brisbane, a Queensland Museum pocket guide, is an excellent reference for the local Brisbane bird life.

A field guide to Australian birds is useful for identification, especially for the maps showing where birds are likely to occur. These are available at bookshops, good newsagents, and the reference section of your local library.

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Small changes for a big difference . .

Garden design and structure:

Simple open gardens provide little shelter or food for birds. We need to plant:

- dense shrubs below a tree layer, close together so they form protective thickets.
- shrubs that provide a range of foods: nectar, seeds, fruit, and habitat for insects.
- local plants that provide the things that the birds in our local areas need.
- less grass for mowing, but rather plant native grasses that can seed and only need cutting occasionally.

We should:

- avoid using insecticides
- use composted lawn clippings and leaf litter on garden beds as mulch.

Providing water:

Birds need fresh water but they are vulnerable when they are drinking or bathing and need to feel safe. We should:

- place birdbaths beyond the reach of cats, and in dappled shade.
- grow plants close to birdbaths so birds can perch and observe the area first.
- replace the water and clean the container regularly.
- ask a neighbour to add water when away, so the birds don't lose their water supply.

Provision of supplementary food:

It is much healthier for birds to glean natural food from our gardens than to be fed directly by people. However, many people really enjoy the contact they have with birds that they provide food for. If you want to provide extra food for birds:

- ensure the feeding area is kept really clean.
- never feed meat-eating birds as they can become aggressive to humans and attack vulnerable birds.
- only provide good quality natural foods, e.g. native seed mix rather than bread or sunflower seed.
- For general information on feeding wildlife, see the Food for Wildlife page on www.brisbane.qld.gov.au

Be a responsible pet owner:

Keep your cat inside or within an outside enclosure. This is safer for the cat as well as other wildlife. De-sexing prevents unwanted kittens.

Ensure dogs do not harass ground-dwelling birds.

For more information, see the Responsible Pets Management page on www.brisbane.qld.gov.au.