

# Providing water for birds

## Providing water is easy and important

Providing water in your yard that birds (and other wildlife) can safely access is an easy but important way to help out. Birds will not only need water to drink, but some will also need to bathe. Bathing allows birds to remove parasites and dirt and generally maintain their feathers.

You don't need to go out and buy a fancy bird bath (though by all means buy one if you like). Instead, look at what you have around your home (or check out the local op shop) that you can put to use. Pot saucers, tubs, buckets, hanging pots, upside down bin lids, ceramic dishes, kids clam shell pools – all make great options (avoid metal as it can heat up too much). Different depths and types of baths provide lots of options for different birds.

### Top Tips

- Place them in the shade around the garden at various heights - on the ground, on a pedestal, hanging from a tree
- Keep them close to shrubs and trees so birds can have an escape route
- Put rocks, a brick or a branch in the water, especially if the bath is smooth and slippery so anything that falls in can climb out
- Change the water daily or whenever it gets hot where practical
- Keep cats indoors and if you have a dog, place the baths in an area where it cannot access
- Check any pools (including the skimming box) throughout the day and provide a wildlife ramp or heavy rope as an escape route if something falls in.

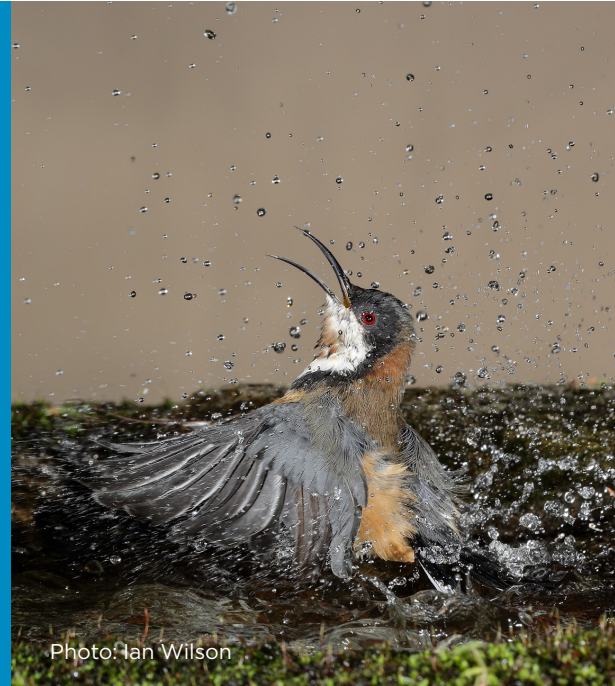


Photo: Ian Wilson



Photo: Kelly Gough