



BIRDS OF HUME

How you can identify, monitor and attract wildlife



Acknowledgement



Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, which includes the Gunung Willam Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and to Elders past, present and future.



Overview

- [How to identify birds](#)
- [Attracting birds to your place](#)
- [“Problem” birds](#)
- [Citizen science monitoring](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Lots of beautiful photos of wonderful birds](#)

Please share your
bird stories too!



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Bird Facts to Begin



- ~10,000 species globally
- ~ 800 species in Australia
 - 20% are threatened
 - 45% are endemic to Australia
- ~ 450 species in Victoria
- 170-220 species in Hume
 - Indigenous
 - Introduced
 - Naturalised
 - Migrants
 - Vagrants



Fascinating Bird Facts



- Evolved from dinosaurs
 - Crocodile closest living relative
- Only feathered animal
- Wide range of habitats, diets, nesting strategies
- Use sound and colour to communicate
 - Males advertise their sexiness
- Many are monogamous

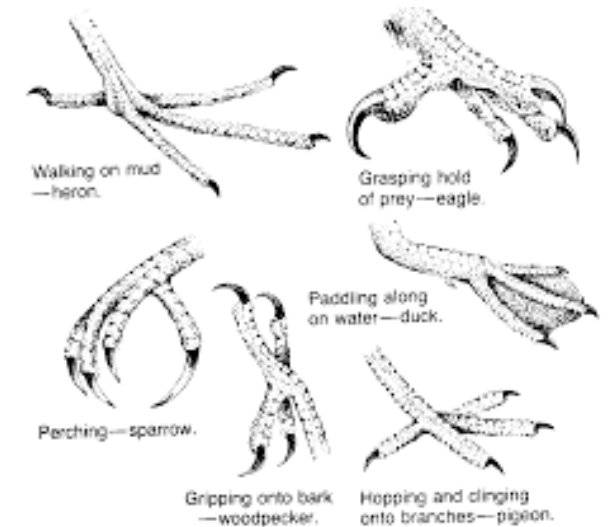
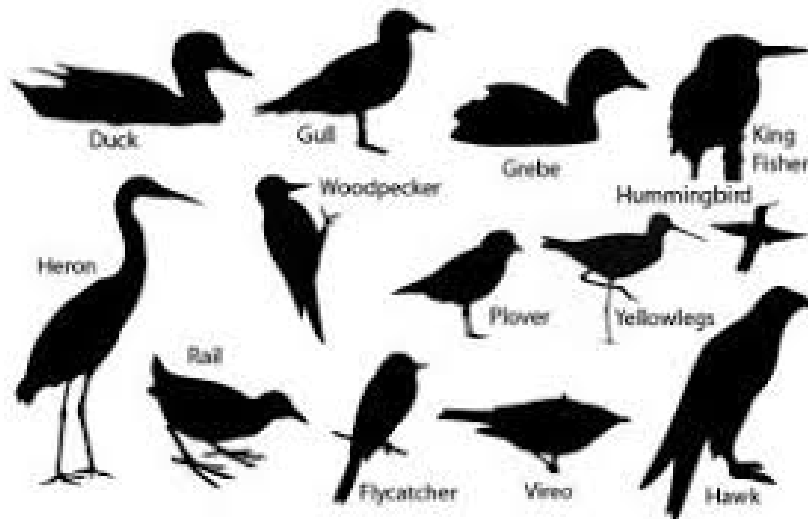
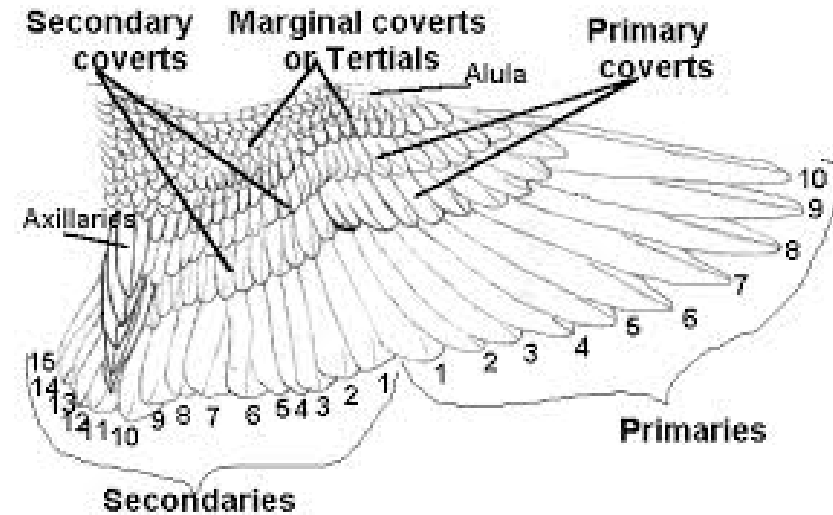


Identifying Birds

- Size and shape
 - Height
 - Wing span and tips
 - Tail length and shape
 - Bill
 - Feet
- Colour and markings
 - Face, eyes
 - Beak
 - Legs
 - Males vs females
 - Immature vs adult



Identifying Characteristics



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Other Ways to Identify Birds



- Behaviour
 - Social or solitary
 - When active (e.g. nocturnal)
 - Flight motion
 - Flight profile
 - Feeding
- Habitat
- Region
- Calls



Gardens for Wildlife [\(website\)](#)

- Organise a garden visit with volunteer Garden Guides to chat about making your garden more wildlife-friendly
- Receive a garden report with advice, support and resources
- Attend G4W workshops to develop your garden plans
- Participate at Greening events
- Contribute to citizen science and experience nature
- Become a volunteer Garden Guide yourself

Spring 2021 seedling orders for 2022 garden plantings!



Feeding Birds

- Please DO NOT feed bread or other processed human food to any wildlife
- Or only feed high-quality wholefoods (seeds, grains, vegetables and fruit)
- Only feed infrequently

Create more bird habitat instead, with a variety of natural sources of food



Plants Attract Birds to Your Place



- Indigenous plants – **BEST**
Australian natives – **Good**
Suitable exotic plants – **Okay**
- Plant in layers, use all forms
 - upper-canopy, mid-storey, ground level
 - trees, bushes, shrubs, grasses, reeds, wildflowers, climbers and groundcovers
- Plant the same species on mass in clumps and swathes



Attracting Birds - Food

- Flowering plants across all seasons for nectar feeders
- Fruiting and seeding plants
- Mulched areas for birds to scratch up insects, worms
- Perches to help spot prey or catch prey on the wing

Variety of plants providing
habitat for all of the wildlife
in the food web



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Attracting Birds – Water, Shelter

- Provide fresh water for drinking and bathing
 - Keep dishes/containers clean
- Mature indigenous tree
- Keep old or dead trees with hollows
- Prickly, dense shrubs
- Install nest boxes
- Nesting material stations
 - Grasses, leaves, twigs, web



Bird-friendly Behaviours



- Responsible pet ownership
 - Keep cats indoors
 - Walk dogs on leash
- Avoid using fruit netting
 - Wildlife-friendly has small holes
- Minimise use of pesticides
 - Avoid using rodent poison
- Keeping low hanging branches for fledgling birds to jump up into safety
- Run a low water sprinkler in the shade on very hot days
- Pickup and put litter in bin



Swooping Magpies



- Spring breeding season
- 5-10% of males swoop
- Learnt behaviour
- Leave fledgling magpies alone as they learn to fly
- Protected wildlife, people need to accept/avoid them
- Point and watch technique
- Make friends with them



Common Myna

- Aggressive introduced bird
- No control or trapping program in Hume City
- Eliminate food sources
- Remove nesting and roosting sites (exotic trees)
- Likes open, clear gardens
- Dislikes enclosed, densely planted gardens



Citizen Science



- [Birdata](#) (Birdlife Australia)
- [eBird](#) (global)
- [Atlas of Living Australia](#)
- National Bird Week
 - 3rd week in Oct
 - Aussie Bird Count
 - www.aussiebirdcount.org.au
- Reports of unusual birds, Birdline Vic
 - www.eremaea.com
- Swans with neck tags
 - www.myswan.org.au



Local Bird Citizen Science

 Beverley Van Praagh



- [Hume City's Wildlife iNaturalist project](#)
- [Friends of Merri Creek BirdWatch](#)
- [Swift Parrot](#)
 - 24 April-6 June
 - 17 July-29 August
- [Latham's Snipe](#)
 - Aitken Creek, Craigieburn
 - Flushing surveys
 - ◆ Saturday 9am-10am
 - ◆ 18Sep-21, 20Nov-21, 15Jan-22



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Birding Resources

- Detailed field guides for Australian birds
 - Slater
 - Simpson and Day
 - Pizzey and Knight
 - Morcombe
 - Menkhorst, Rogers, Clarke, Davies, Marsack and Franklin
- [Birds of Hume](#) field guide



More Birding Resources



○ Websites

- www.birdlife.org.au
- [Ethical Birdwatching Guidelines](#)
- www.birdsinbackyards.net
- www.birdforum.net

○ Smart phone apps

- [Aussie Bird Count](#) (free)
- Melbourne Museum's [Field Guide to Victorian Fauna](#) (free)
- Michael Morcombe's [eGuide to Australian Birds](#) (~\$30)
- [Bird Journal](#)
- [Merlin](#) (free global bird ID)



Bird Webcams (Breeding Season)

- [Collins St Peregrine Falcons](#)
- [Orange Peregrine Falcons](#)
- [Sydney Olympic Park Sea Eagles](#)
- [Port Lincoln Osprey](#)
- [Royal Albatross New Zealand](#)
- [Hawk and Owl Trust England](#)
- [Bald Eagles USA](#)



Birding Facebook Pages or Groups



- [Australian Bird Identification](#)
- [Birdlife Australia](#)
- [Birds in Backyards](#)
- [Victorian Birders](#)
- [Bird Photography Australia](#)
- [Australian Bird Photography](#)
- [Crap Bird Photography](#)
- [Birds of Oz](#)
- [Bird the Feck at Home](#)



Birds of Hume Field Guide Photo Credits

Thanks to Craigieburn
Camera Club members:

- [Andrew Haysom](#)
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- Alison Nisbett
- Gene Ignacio
- [Melissa Doherty](#)



Questions

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