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HUME CITY COUNCIL
**BIRDS OF
HUME**

A guide to identifying
local bird species

INTRODUCTION

Australia has a rich diversity of birds, with over 800 species, and 45% of them are only found in Australia. Sadly, one in five species is now threatened with extinction. Some 450 bird species occur in Victoria, occupying a wide range of different habitats.

This bird field guide contains the native and introduced(*) species commonly found across Hume's woodlands, waterways, grasslands, and farms, as well as in urban parks and backyards. But it does not show all of the cryptic birds, or many of the migrant and vagrant species, that are rarely seen. Male (M) and Female (F) birds can also look quite different in some species.

Hume City Council hopes this bird guide inspires you to look out for our fine feathered friends. Discover some of the best locations to go bird watching in Hume. Learning to identify birds is fun, while bird photography can be a challenging hobby. Consider the various ways you could help birds continue to thrive in Hume. Take part in citizen science projects with regular bird surveys, either in our open spaces or in your backyard. Or just take some time to imagine flying free as a bird.

PHOTO CREDITS

Hume City Council gratefully acknowledges the photographic contributions of the Craigieburn Camera Club members and other local photographers:

- Andrew Haysom (woodlandshistoricpark.com)
- David Jenkins (birdsaspoetry.com)
- Beverley Van Praagh
- Sally Ryan
- Anna Lanigan
- Alison Nisbett
- Gene Ignacio
- Melissa Doherty

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Gunung-Willam-Balluk of the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal living culture as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk and to Elders past and present.

Birds of prey



Black-shouldered Kite
35-38cm



Black Kite
50-55cm



Nankeen Kestrel
30-35cm



Whistling Kite
50-60cm



Brown Goshawk
40-50cm



Collared Sparrowhawk
30-40cm



Wedge-tailed Eagle
90-110cm



Little Eagle
45-55cm



Australian Hobby
30-35cm



Brown Falcon
40-50cm



Black Falcon
45-55cm



Peregrine Falcon
35-50cm



Nankeen Kestrel
30-35cm



Little Corella
36-39cm



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
58-65cm



Blue-winged Parrot
20-22cm

Cockatoos and parrots



Galah
35-38cm



Long-billed Corella
38-41cm



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
45-50cm



Red-rumped Parrot (M)
26-28cm



Red-rumped Parrot (F)
26-28cm



Crimson Rosella
32-37cm



Crimson Rosella (juvenile)
32-37cm



Eastern Rosella
29-33cm



Swift Parrot
23-25cm



Rainbow Lorikeet
26-31cm

Honey eaters



Bell Miner
18-20cm



Noisy Miner
25-28 cm



Musk Lorikeet
21-23cm



Little Lorikeet
15-16cm



Purple-crowned Lorikeet
15-16cm



Little Wattlebird
27-31cm



Red Wattlebird
32-36cm



Eastern Spinebill
14-16cm

Grassland birds



Emu
1.5-2m



Australian Pipit
16-18cm



Brown-headed Honeyeater
13-14cm



New Holland Honeyeater
17-19cm



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
23-26cm



Eurasian Skylark*
17-19cm



Brown Quail
17-20cm



Golden-headed Cisticola
9-11cm

Introduced species ()*



White-naped Honeyeater
13-15cm

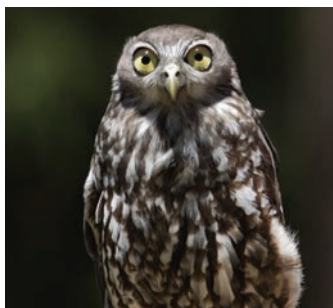


White-plumed Honeyeater
15-17cm



Yellow-faced Honeyeater
16-18cm

Night birds



Barking Owl
35-45cm



Barn Owl
30-40cm



Common Bronzewing
30-36cm



Crested Pigeon
31-35cm



Rock Dove* (Feral Pigeon)
33-35cm



Southern Boobook
25-35cm



Tawny Frogmouth
34-52cm

Urban birds



Spotted Turtle-Dove*
30-32cm



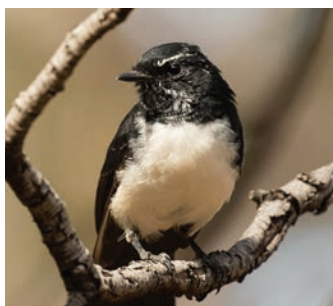
Common Starling*
20-21cm



Common Myna*
23-25cm



Magpie-lark
26-30cm



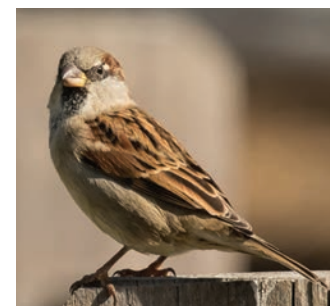
Willie Wagtail
19-22cm



Australian Magpie
37-44cm



Eurasian Tree Sparrow*
13-15cm



House Sparrow*
14-16cm



Common Blackbird*
25-26cm



Grey Butcherbird
26-30cm



Pied Currawong
42-50cm



Little Raven
48-50cm



European Greenfinch*
14-16cm



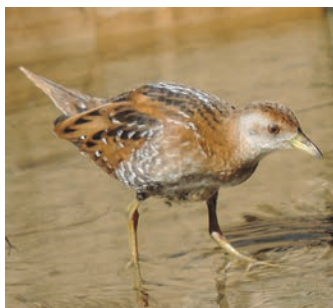
European Goldfinch*
12-14cm



Welcome Swallow
14-15cm

Introduced species (*)

Water birds



Baillon's Crake
15-16cm



Buff-banded Rail
28-32cm



Australian White Ibis
65-75cm



Straw-necked Ibis
60-70cm



Cattle Egret
48-53cm



Dusky Moorhen
35-40cm



Eurasian Coot
35-38cm



Purple Swampphen
45-50cm



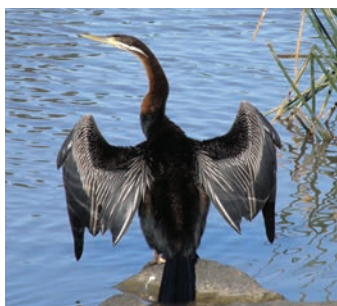
Great Egret
80-105cm



Royal Spoonbill
75-80cm



Yellow-billed Spoonbill
75-90cm



Australasian Darter
85-90cm



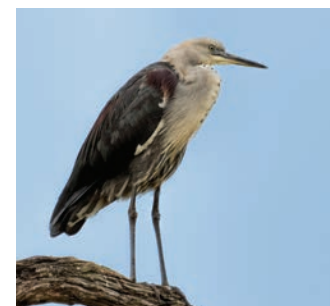
Little Pied Cormorant
55-60cm



Pied Cormorant
70-80cm



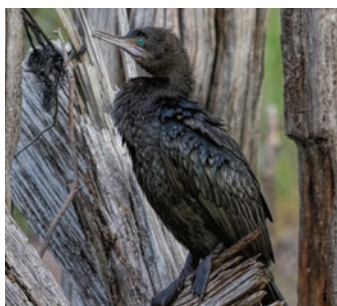
White-faced Heron
66-69cm



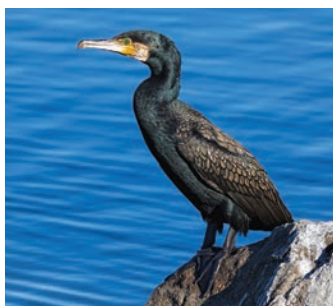
White-necked Heron
75-105cm



Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron
55-65cm



Little Black Cormorant
55-65cm



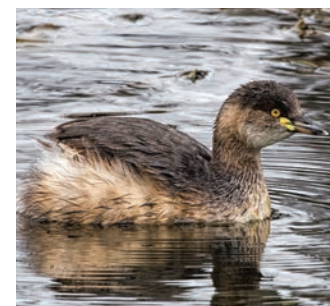
Great Cormorant
80-85cm



Australian Pelican
160-180cm



Silver Gull
38-42cm



Australasian Grebe
23-25cm



Hoary-headed Grebe
29-30cm



Blue-billed Duck
36-44cm



Australian Wood Duck (M)
45-60cm



Australian Wood Duck (F)
45-60cm



Black-fronted Dotterel
15-18cm



Red-kneed Dotterel
17-19cm



Black-winged Stilt
33-37cm



Hardhead Duck
45-60cm



Chestnut Teal (M)
38-48cm



Chestnut Teal (F)
38-48cm



Clamorous Reed-warbler
16-17cm



Little Grassbird
13-15cm



Masked Lapwing
35-39cm



Grey Teal
42-45cm



Pacific Black Duck
45-60cm



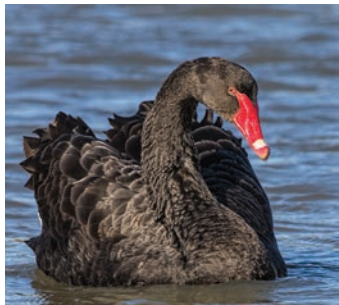
Pink-eared Duck
38-45cm



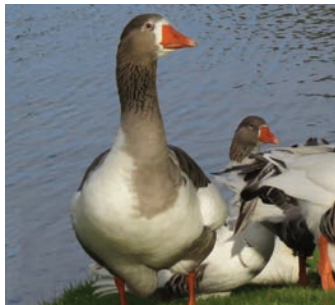
Flame Robin
13-14cm



Scarlet Robin
12-14cm



Black Swan
100-140cm



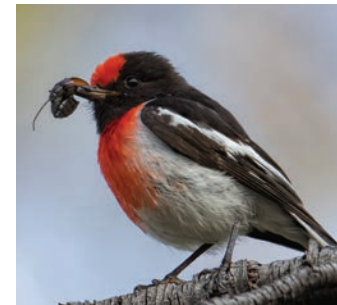
Domestic Goose
75-95cm



Magpie Goose
75-90cm



Red-capped Robin (F)
11-12cm



Red-capped Robin (M)
11-12cm



Rose Robin
10-12cm



Eastern Yellow Robin
15-16cm



White-fronted Chat (F)
11-13cm



White-fronted Chat (M)
11-13cm



Southern Whiteface
10-12cm



Weebill
8.5-9.5cm



White-browed Scrubwren
11-13cm



Fan-tailed Cuckoo
25-27cm



Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
14-17cm



Pallid Cuckoo
28-34cm



Varied Sittella
11-13cm



Diamond Firetail
12-13cm



Red-browed Finch
11-12cm



Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
16-18cm



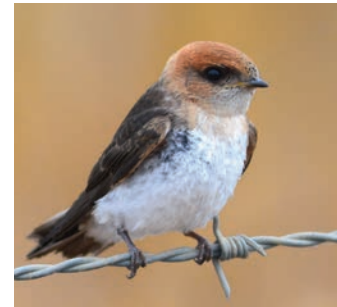
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
30-36cm



White-winged Triller
16-19cm



Zebra Finch
10cm



Fairy Martin
12-13cm



Tree Martin
12-13cm



Grey Fantail
14-17cm



Restless Flycatcher
16-21cm



White-winged Chough
43-47cm



Laughing Kookaburra
40-47cm



Sacred Kingfisher
20-23cm



Silvereye
11-13cm



Brown Treecreeper
16-18cm



White-throated Treecreeper
13-15cm



Crested Shrike-tit
15-19cm



Brown Thornbill
9.5-10.5cm



Yellow Thornbill
9-10cm



Yellow-rumped Thornbill
11-12cm



Grey Shrike-thrush
22-25cm



Dusky Woodswallow
17-18cm



White-browed Woodswallow
19-20cm



Striated Thornbill
10cm



Superb Fairy-wren (F)
13-14cm



Superb Fairy-wren (M)
13-14cm



Rufous Whistler (F)
16-17cm



Rufous Whistler (M)
16-17cm



Spotted Pardalote
8-10cm



Golden Whistler (F)
16-18cm



Golden Whistler (M)
16-18cm



Striated Pardalote
9.5-11.5cm

Hume Plant Communities

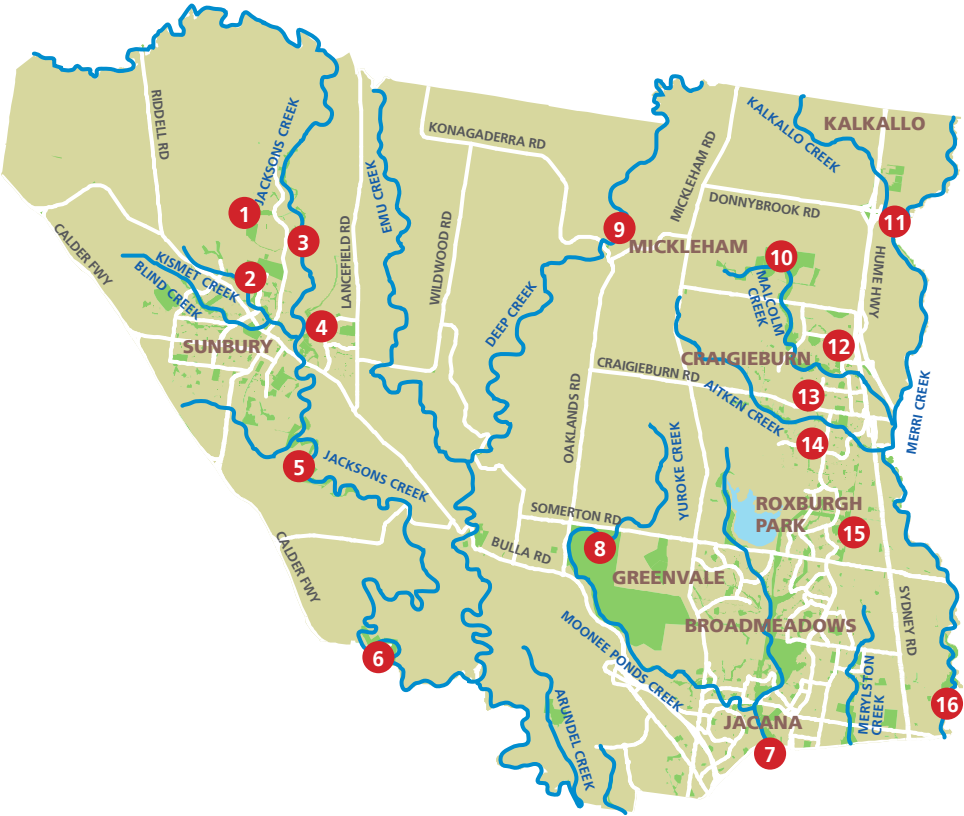
Many more native birds will be found in areas where the native vegetation remains, or where there is permanent water. The widespread clearance of Hume's plant communities has had the greatest impact on bird populations, through habitat loss. However, several species have readily adapted to living in suburbia.

Contact Council for advice about using indigenous plants. Eligible rural landholders can apply for a Conserving Our Rural Environment (CORE) grant to assist with revegetation efforts. Schools can also receive free plants through Council's Seedlings for Schools program, and request assistance with bird surveys and biodiversity audits on school grounds.

Refer to the map overleaf to see where the bird watching hot-spots are!



Birdwatching sites in Hume



SUNBURY

- 1. **Albert Road Nature Reserve**
Albert Rd (*362 C7)
- 2. **Spavin Drive Reserve**
Spavin Dr (*362 B10)
- 3. **Emu Bottom Wetlands**
Racecourse Rd (*362 F8)
- 4. **The Nook**
Vaughan Street (*382 G4)
- 5. **Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve**
Hamersmith Crt (*382 F10)
Watsons Dr (*352 F1)

BULLA

- 6. **Organ Pipes National Park**
via Calder Hwy (*3 E5)

JACANA

- 7. **Jacana Wetlands**
Lorraine Crescent
Broadmeadows (*6 E8)

GREENVALE

- 8. **Woodlands Historic Park**
Providence Rd (*178 F10)
Somerton Rd (*178 B6)
Oaklands Rd (*177 J9)

MICKLEHAM

- 9. **Deep Creek**
Konagaderra Rd (*365 B8)
- 10. **Mt Ridley Nature Reserve**
Eucalyptus Crt (*366 D9)
Heritage Way (*366 H11)

KALKALLO

- 11. **John Laffan Reserve**
Donnybrook Rd (*367 F6)

CRAIGIEBURN

- 12. **Malcolm Creek Linear Park**
Creekwood Dr (*386 H6)
- 13. **Highlands Lakes**
Waterview Blvd (*386 D7)
- 14. **Fairways Lake Reserve**
Fairways Blvd (*386 H12)

ROXBURGH PARK

- 15. **Lakeside Drive Reserve**
Lakeside Drive (*180 A5)

CAMPBELLFIELD

- 16. **Galada Tamboore**
Somerset Rd (*7 K7)

How to attract birds to your place

- In your garden, use indigenous (local native) plants of various growth forms, such as:
 - retaining tall, mature trees for hollows, perches, nesting sites, and a variety of food
 - hedges or clumps of dense and/or prickly shrubs to provide shelter
 - nectar producing plants with different flowering periods and colours
 - wildflowers to attract suitable food for insect-eating birds
 - grasses, shrubs and trees that produce seed for seed-eating birds, and
 - fruiting groundcovers (e.g. *Atriplex*, *Einadia*, *Enchylaena*) or shrubs.
- Use mulch to suppress weeds and conserve soil moisture, while birds can scratch around for insects.
- Provide sources of water for birds to drink and bath in, such as a bird bath, hanging saucer or pond. Clean and replenish regularly, as birds come to rely on these sources.
- Be a responsible pet owner by keeping cats inside or in cat-proof outdoor enclosures and walk dogs on a lead at all times unless in a designated off lead area. If you live near a nature reserve or creek, consider the impact that owning a cat will have on native animals.
- Install nest boxes, with different designs available for various species of local wildlife.
- Consider reducing the use of chemical pesticides which can kill the insects that birds like to eat, or could harm the birds themselves.
- Avoid feeding birds as human food can make birds sick, attract unwanted vermin, increase littering, and can adversely impact bird populations.
- Leave baby birds where you find them, as the parents are most likely still taking care of them.

More Resources

- Field guides to Australian birds by Slater; Pizzey & Knight; Morcombe; or Simpson & Day.
- www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au What's On for details about quarterly bird surveys.
- Bird Week activities are conducted in October, including the Aussie Backyard Bird Count.
- Email bird sightings to Council on faunasightings@hume.vic.gov.au
- birdlife.org.au
- birdsinbackyards.net

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