



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo  
length 60 cm



Australasian Figbird  
length 28 cm

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike  
length 33 cm



Blue-faced Honeyeater  
length 29 cm



Grey Butcherbird  
length 30 cm



Pied Currawong  
length 45 cm



Laughing Kookaburra  
length 45 cm



Noisy Friarbird  
length 30 cm



Pied Butcherbird  
length 35 cm



Eastern Yellow Robin  
length 15 cm



Pale-headed Rosella  
length 31 cm



Spangled Drongo  
length 30 cm



Noisy Miner  
length 25 cm



Rainbow Lorikeet  
length 30 cm



Welcome Swallow  
length 15 cm



Willie Wagtail  
length 20 cm

Common (Indian) Myna  
length 21 cm  
(Introduced Species)

# backyard birds

## OF THE SUNSHINE COAST



Lewin's Honeyeater  
length 21 cm

Scarlet Honeyeater  
length 10 cm

Brown Honeyeater  
length 14 cm

White-throated Honeyeater  
length 14 cm

White-cheeked Honeyeater  
length 18 cm

Crested Pigeon  
length 32 cm

Magpie-lark (Pee-wee)  
length 25 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](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)

t (02) 9647 1875

BIRDS AUSTRALIA

[www.birdsaustralia.com.au](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au)

t 1300 730 075



Sunshine Coast Council

# 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 seen at all. There are many reasons for this, but the biggest is the loss of suitable 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.

## 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 obtain natural food from our gardens by planting suitable native species than for them to be fed directly by people.

- Providing food such as meat can encourage more aggressive and potentially problematic birds such as the Torresian Crow and Pied Currawong which may attack vulnerable birds.
- Feeding sugar or honey and bread to nectar eating species can cause serious health problems as well as potentially increasing the density of more aggressive species such as Rainbow Lorikeets to the detriment of smaller nectar eating species.

- If you do decide to feed native birds locate the feeding station away from domestic animals and only provide supplementary food occasionally. Ensure that the feeding station is cleaned regularly to prevent spreading disease amongst the bird population.

Only provide good quality natural foods such as:

- native seed mix or trees and shrubs with suitable seed.
- nectar available through planting a range of suitable nectar producing shrubs and trees.

### Be a responsible pet owner

Keep your cat inside or within an outside enclosure particularly at night. This is safer for the cat as well as native wildlife. De-sexing prevents unwanted kittens while micro chipping and registering allows your pet to be returned to you if it leaves your property.

The Sunshine Coast plays host to a number of migratory species and other ground dwelling birds. Be a responsible pet owner and keep dogs away so they do not harass these migratory or ground-dweller species.

For more information on responsible dog use of coastal beaches and sandbanks a brochure is available from Customer Service centres or through the environment section of Councils website [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au).

### 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. Contact Council for more information on our community based Common Myna program.

Some native birds can also be problematic and a nuisance to humans and/or other animals, like the Torresian Crow, Australian Magpie, Noisy Miner and Australian Brush-turkey.

### 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](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net).

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.

More information on the following Council initiatives is available by contacting Customer Service Ph 07 5475 7272 or through the environment section of the website [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

- *Responsible dog use of beaches and sandbanks* brochure
- *Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns of Coastal SEQ identification guide*
- *Waterbirds and Raptors of Coastal SEQ identification guide*
- Common (Indian) Myna bird community program

Photographers: Bob Ravich (Eastern Yellow Robin), Wojciech Dabrowka and Kevin Vang/Bird Explorers (Australian Brush-turkey, Brown Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Laughing Kookaburra, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike), Richard Major/Australian Museum (Magpie-lark, Australian Magpie, Noisy Miner, Willie Wagtail, Common Myna, Rainbow Lorikeet, Noisy Friarbird, Pied Currawong), Greg Gowing/Australian Museum (Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo), Ed Pierce (Welcome Swallow, Pale-headed Rosella, Australasian Figbird), Tom Oliver (Levin's Honeyeater, Spangled Drongo, White-throated Honeyeater), Ákos Lumnitzer (Scarlet Honeyeater), Kimberley Prior (Crested Pigeon), Nolan Caldwell (Blue-faced Honeyeater)