

**Field Guide**  
*to the*  
**Birds**  
*of the*



**COLEAMBALLY**  
**IRRIGATION**  
**DISTRICT**

**Compiled by David Kleinert**

---

1<sup>st</sup> Edition, October 2006

**Cover photograph:** A male Superb Parrot, photographed in the CID, July 2006.

© David Kleinert Photography and Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited, 2006.

This publication may be of assistance to you but David Kleinert Photography and Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited do not guarantee that it is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaim all liability for any errors, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

---

---

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The text for this field guide has been largely derived from:

Pizzey, G. & Knight, F. 1999. *The Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. HarperCollinsPublishers, Sydney.

All photographs of birds were taken by David Kleinert, unless otherwise stated. Thank you to Ian Montgomery for providing additional bird images.

Thank you also to Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Limited for the opportunity to compile this field guide, and to the staff for their valuable assistance.

This field guide has been compiled by David Kleinert for Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Limited, October 2006.

---

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements ..... 2

Contents ..... 3

Quick find ..... 4

Introduction ..... 5

Field Guide ..... 7

Glossary ..... 101

References ..... 103

Index ..... 104

---

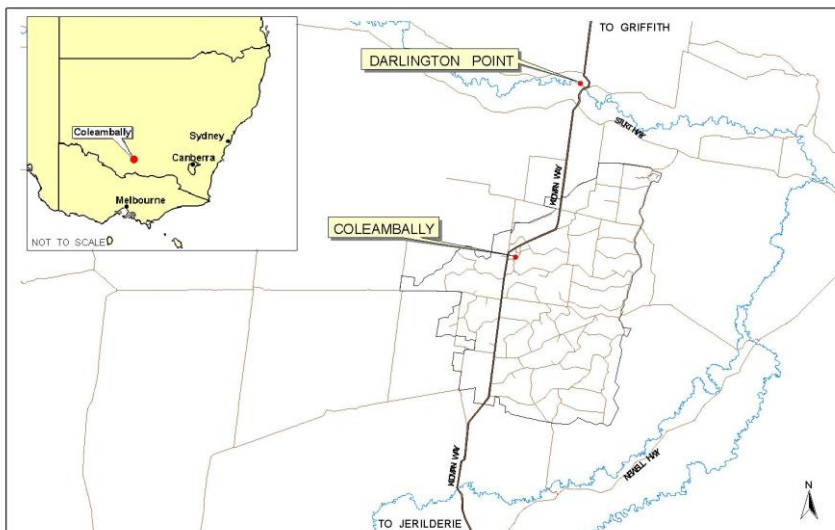
## QUICK FIND

Emu .....	7
Swans and Ducks .....	8-15
Darter and Cormorants .....	16-20
Pelican .....	21
Hérons, Egrets, Night Heron and Bitterns .....	22-26
Ibises and Spoonbills .....	27-30
Kites, Eagles and Falcons .....	31-37
Brolga.....	38
Crakes, Rails, Waterhens and Native-hens.....	39-41
Stone-curlews .....	42
Stilts .....	43
Plovers, Dotterals and Lapwings .....	44-46
Pigeons and Doves .....	47-49
Cockatoos and Cockatiel .....	50-51
Rosellas, Ringnecks and other Parrots .....	52-56
Cuckoos .....	57-58
Owls .....	59-60
Frogmouths and Owlet-nightjar.....	61-62
Kingfishers, Bee-eater and Dollarbird.....	63-66
Fairy-Wrens.....	67
Pardalotes, Thornbills .....	68-70
Honeyeaters.....	71-77
Small Flycatchers.....	78
Babblers .....	79-80
Whistlers and Shrike-thrushes .....	81-82
Willie Wagtail, Fantails .....	83-84
Cuckoo-shrikes .....	85-86
Butcherbirds, Magpie-lark, Magpies and Currawongs.....	87-90
Ravens .....	91
Apostlebird and Chough .....	92-93
Pipits and Bushlark .....	94-95
Grassfinches and Firetails .....	96-97
Mistletoebird.....	98
Songlarks .....	99
Silvereve .....	100

---

## INTRODUCTION

Located in the Riverina area of south western New South Wales, the Coleambally Irrigation District (CID) covers an area of approximately 465,000 hectares. The CID is predominately an agricultural region supporting a range of irrigated and dryland cropping and stock grazing enterprises.



### COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The CID is home to over 100 bird species, including the threatened Superb Parrot, Painted Honeyeater and Brolga.

Although much of the landscape has been modified for agriculture, the CID still retains a mosaic of plant communities that provide suitable habitat for birds. The vegetation types include Boree and White Cypress Pine woodland, ephemeral wetland comprised of Black Box and River Red Gum along with open grassland.

---

The main purpose of this field guide is to assist local community members in identifying birds, which in turn will raise awareness and help to ensure the protection of bird species throughout the CID.

This field guide includes a majority of the birds found throughout the CID. With each bird species a photograph, common and scientific name, descriptive text, and conservation status is provided. Using the Quick Find on page four will help you to locate your bird.

---

**EMU** *Dromaius novaehollandiae*



**Description:** Largest Australian native bird: loose plumage with each feather divided, pale grey-brown to almost black; bare skin of head and neck whitish to blue, darker on female while in breeding condition; eye can be yellow, grey-brown or reddish; legs dark grey.

**Size:** 1.5-2 m. Female slightly larger.

**Habitat:** Plains, scrublands, open woodlands, margins of lakes; pastoral and cereal-growing areas.

**Breeds:** April-October.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

## AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK *Chenonetta jubata*



**Other Name:** Maned Duck or Goose

**Description:** Pale grey duck with a brown neck and two black stripes along back. The male has a small black 'mane' while the female has a paler brown head with two pale stripes separated by the eye.

**Size:** 44-50 cm; span to 80 cm.

**Habitat:** Grasslands, pastures, open woodland, farm dams, lakes, wetlands, flooded pastures, crops, town parks.

**Breeds:** September-November in southern Australia; after rain elsewhere.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened

---

**FRECKLED DUCK** *Stictonetta naevosa*



**Other names:** Monkey Duck

**Description:** Head blackish, large and peaked at rear; the bill is grey and slightly scooped. Male displays a bright wax-red base on bill during breeding. Both sexes have freckled plumage; female paler and more finely freckled.

**Size:** 48-59 cm.

**Habitat:** Large, well-vegetated swamps; in dry periods moves to open lakes.

**Breeds:** September-December or after suitable rainfall.

**Conservation status:** Vulnerable.

---

**BLUE-BILLED DUCK** *Oxyura australis*



**Description:** Male is a small, rich-chestnut coloured duck with an almost black head, dark eye and scooped, bright pale blue bill. Tail is black, consisting of fan-like, pointed feathers. The female is blackish brown, very finely barred buffish; whiter below.

**Size:** 37-44 cm; span 60 cm.

**Habitat:** Well-vegetated freshwater swamps; lakes, large dams; inhabits more open waters in winter.

**Breeds:** September-March.

**Conservation Status:** Vulnerable.

---

**BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus aratus*



**Description:** Plumage is mostly black with white flight feathers. Bill red with white bar near tip. Male: bill and neck are longer and straighter than female.

**Size:** 1-1.4 m; span 1.6-2 m. Male larger.

**Habitat:** Large open waters, fresh, brackish and salt; flooded pastures, green crops. Prefers larger permanent swamps and lakes with emergent and sub-aquatic vegetation.

**Breeds:** April-October in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

## AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadornoides*



**Other names:** Mountain Duck

**Description:** Easily recognised, large, mostly black-plumaged duck with bold white, chestnut markings, large green 'mirror' on wing. The female differs with white eye-ring and white at base of bill.

**Size:** 55-74 cm; span 1 m-1.3 m.

**Habitat:** Large shallow waters: fresh, brackish and saline; farmlands, pastures, stubble fields, young crops, irrigation areas, open woodlands.

**Breeds:** June-November.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**PACIFIC BLACK DUCK** *Anas superciliosa*



**Other names:** Black, Brown, Grey or Wild Duck

**Description:** Plumage is dark wood-brown with pale feather-margins: speculum dark green to purple with black edging. Blackish crown, face and throat whitish, with bold black stripe through the eye and another from chin.

**Size:** 48-60 cm; span 80-94 cm

**Habitat:** Any suitable water: roadside and backyard ponds, farm dams; prefers large permanent waters with plentiful vegetation.

**Breeds:** June-December in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**GREY TEAL** *Anas gracilis*



© Ian Montgomery

**Description:** Small, mottled grey-brown duck. While in flight the narrow white wedge on upperwing, edged by dark green speculum is visible; underwing grey-brown, with narrow white wedge up 'armpit'.

**Size:** 40-46 cm.

**Habitat:** Almost any water body.

**Breeds:** Mostly July-December in southern Australia.; any month when water conditions are suitable.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**CHESTNUT TEAL** *Anas castanea*



**Description:** The male is an attractive small duck with bottle-green head, rich chestnut body, white flank mark and black stern. The female is mottled grey-brown on body and wings with a dark crown, heavily speckled.

**Size:** 40-48 cm.

**Habitat:** Freshwater wetlands, lakes.

**Breeds:** July-December, other months after rain.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**DARTER** *Anhinga melanogaster*



**Other name:** Snake-bird

**Description:** Distinctive kinked neck, pointed patterns in dark plumage and large black tail. Long, pointed, yellow bill. The male is black, with white neck streak. During breeding the male has a richer chestnut neck marking; long pointed plumes on upper wing-coverts and scapulars.

**Size:** 86-94 cm; span 1.2 m

**Habitat:** Large shallow waters, fresh and salt: rivers, lakes, swamps, lagoons, reservoirs.

**Breeds:** Most months.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**GREAT CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*



**Other names:** Black or Big Black Cormorant; Black Shag

**Description:** Largest of the cormorant species, with slender, hooked bill. Throat-pouch and facial skin are yellow in colour.

**Size:** 72-92 cm; span 1.3-1.5 m

**Habitat:** Large waters: rivers and lakes, reservoirs; farm dams, irrigation impoundments, spillways and regulators.

**Breeds:** Most months.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*



**Other name:** Little Black Shag

**Description:** Small, slim, black cormorant with dark grey slender bill and dark facial skin. During breeding the plumage is more bronzed and the head and neck are flecked white.

**Size:** 58-64 cm; span 1 m.

**Habitat:** Rivers, swamps, lakes, reservoirs, irrigation channels.

**Breeds:** Spring-summer in southern Australia, but any month when conditions suitable.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**PIED CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax varius*



© Ian Montgomery

**Other name:** Yellow-faced Cormorant

**Description:** Largest white-breasted cormorant species with a long, slender, horn-coloured bill. During breeding the facial skin is orange-yellow between eye and bill and reddish on chin; eye-ring blue; white facial plumage extends to just above eye.

**Size:** 66-80 cm; span 1.5 m.

**Habitat:** Large inland lakes and rivers, irrigation channels.

**Breeds:** All seasons.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**LITTLE PIED CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*



**Description:** Smallest of the Australian cormorant species: yellow-sided, stubby bill; white eyebrow extends back from bill over eye to side of face; adult birds lack the black flank-mark.

**Size:** 58-64 cm; span 84-92 cm.

**Habitat:** Inland waters of all kinds; rivers, floodwaters, farm dams, roadside ditches, irrigation channels.

**Breeds:** Almost any month.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**AUSTRALIAN PELICAN** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*



**Description:** Easily recognised, large black and white bird. Large bill and pink bill-pouch, which turns red in mating displays.

**Size:** 1.5-1.9 m; span 2.4-2.6 m.

**Habitat:** Large shallow waters: fresh, brackish and saline.

**Breeds:** Almost any month, mostly August-November in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

## WHITE-NECKED HERON *Ardea pacifica*



**Other name:** Pacific Heron

**Description:** Large heron with long white head/neck and slate-black wings/body; during breeding displays plum-coloured plumage on back and breast. Bill and legs are dark grey to black; double line of black spots down foreneck; streaked black below.

**Size:** 76 cm-1.06 m; span to 1.6 m.

**Habitat:** Shallow fresh water; flooded pastures, farm dams, roadside puddles.

**Breeds:** Mostly September-December in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**WHITE-FACED HERON** *Egretta novaehollandiae*



**Other name:** Blue Crane

**Description:** Small, pale grey heron with a white face and distinctive yellow legs.

**Size:** 66-70 cm; span 1.06 m.

**Habitat:** Shallow wetlands: fresh, brackish or salt; farm dams, pastures, grasslands, crops.

**Breeds:** September-November in south eastern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

## GREAT EGRET *Ardea alba*



**Other names:** Large or White Egret; White Crane

**Description:** Tallest of the egret species. Bill is pale to rich yellow, sometimes with dark tip; blackish legs. During breeding the bill is black and the facial skin turns pea-green.

**Size:** 76 cm-1 m; span 1.5 m.

**Habitat:** Shallows of rivers, freshwater wetlands, sewage ponds, irrigation areas, large dams.

**Breeds:** November-February.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**NANKEEN NIGHT HERON** *Nycticorax caledonicus*



**Other name:** Rufous Night Heron

**Description:** Stocky heron, with a large head, short neck and short yellow legs; bill, crown black; upperparts rich cinnamon colour, underparts whitish.

**Size:** 56-64 cm; span to 1.1 m.

**Habitat:** Shallow margins of rivers, wetlands, floodwaters.

**Breeds:** September-February in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

## AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN *Botaurus poiciloptilus*



© Ian Montgomery

**Other names:** Australian or Brown Bittern

**Description:** Heron-like bird: upperparts patterned dark brown, buff and black; underparts streaked brown and buff; legs green and rather short. Eyebrow and throat paler; dark brown mark down side of neck.

**Size:** 66-76 cm; span 1-1.2 m.

**Habitat:** In, or over, water in tall reed beds, sedges, rushes, cumbungi, lignum; also rice crops; drains in tussocky paddocks. Seldom in trees.

**Breeds:** September-December.

**Conservation status:** Vulnerable.

**Comment:** Rarely seen in CID, however, known to inhabit rice crops.

---

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus*



© Ian Montgomery

**Description:** Small dark ibis. While breeding it displays rich purplish brown, glossed bronze or green plumage; facial skin has a distinctive white line border. During non-breeding period the plumage is duller and white facial line less noticeable.

**Size:** 48-61 cm; span 90 cm.

**Habitat:** Well-vegetated wetlands, wet pastures, rice crops, floodwaters, floodplains, occasionally dry grasslands.

**Breeds:** October-December in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**STRAW-NECKED IBIS** *Threskiornis spinicollis*



**Description:** Iridescent black upperparts and sides of breast. White 'collar', underparts and tail. Straw-like tuft of breast-plumes. The female has a shorter bill and a black breastband.

**Size:** 58-76 cm; span 1-1.2 m.

**Habitat:** Grasslands, sometimes far from water; freshwater wetlands, flooded areas, irrigated pastures, crops, sewage ponds.

**Breeds:** September-November in south eastern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS** *Threskiornis molucca*



**Other name:** Sacred Ibis

**Description:** White with bare black head and long curved bill; black tips to flight-feathers.

**Size:** 65-76 cm; span to 1.25 m.

**Habitat:** Freshwater wetlands, irrigated areas; margins of dams, floodplains, brackish and saline wetlands; pastures, lawns, garbage tips, public gardens.

**Breeds:** June-December in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL** *Platalea flavipes*



**Description:** White plumage; long flat bill shaped like a spoon and yellow to flesh-white in colour; legs similar.

**Size:** 76-92 cm; span 1.3 m.

**Habitat:** Small fresh waters: farm dams, roadside pools; irrigated areas: channels, regulators, rice crops.

**Breeds:** September-January in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** *Elanus axillaries*



**Description:** Pale grey hawk with white head, body and tail, black shoulders and red eyes. Cere and legs yellow. A black 'comma' mark in front of eye extends over and to the rear of the eye.

**Size:** 33-38 cm; span to 90 cm.

**Habitat:** Grasslands with trees; farms, cereal-stubbles, roadsides.

**Breeds:** Mostly spring, but any time when food is abundant.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans*



**Other names:** Fork-tailed Kite; Kite-Hawk

**Description:** Floats overhead on long, drooped wings with prominent spread 'fingertips'; twists, tilts its long, forked tail. Plumage mud-brown; slight pale patch at base of primaries; undersides of wings and tail faintly barred paler brown. At rest, note dark mark around eye, pale forehead and throat, fawn band across 'shoulder'.

**Size:** 48-55 cm; span to 1.2 m.

**Habitat:** Grasslands, sand hills, timbered watercourses.

**Breeds:** July-December in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**WHISTLING KITE** *Halistur sphenurus*



**Other name:** Whistling Eagle

**Description:** Small-headed, blonde to sandy-fawn large hawk with browner wings, black flight feathers, and long, plain, pale, rounded tail. Distinctive underwing pattern: broad pale brown leading edge turns at right angles near end of wing and crosses to trailing edge, separating black outer primaries from black secondaries. Pale streaks on head and body; traces of large pale spots on wings; legs/feet bone-coloured, unfeathered.

**Size:** 50-60 cm; span 1.2 m. Female larger.

**Habitat:** Open forests and foothills, usually near water; timbered watercourses; lakes, swamps.

**Breeds:** June-October in southern Australia, anytime after rain.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE** *Aquila audax*



**Other name:** Eaglehawk

**Description:** Large, dark eagle with whitish bill, long, closely feathered legs and long, diamond-shaped tail; male is darker than female.

**Size:** 90 cm-1.1 m; span to 2.8 m. Female larger.

**Habitat:** From open woodlands to treeless plains; occasionally over lakes.

**Breeds:** June-October.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BROWN FALCON** *Falco berigora*



**Description:** Plumage range from dark, nearly uniform sooty brown to light red-brown above, whitish below. Distinct features include double 'teardrop', enclosing pale cheekpatch; red-buff barring and scattered buff spots on flight and tail-feathers; in all plumages, always has red-brown to dark brown 'trousers' around the upper leg.

**Size:** 40-50 cm; span to 1.2 m. Female larger.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands, plains, forest clearings, farmlands, croplands, roadsides.

**Breeds:** August-November southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**NANKEEN KESTREL** *Falco cenchroides*



**Other names:** Australian Kestrel; 'Sparrowhawk'; Windhover

**Description:** Hovers with tail fanned, black tail-band visible from below; hangs motionless in stiff breezes with slender wings crooked back, tail closed and raised. Pale rufous above, with black flight-feathers; whitish below, with black 'teardrop' down through eye.

**Size:** 30-35 cm; span to 80 cm. Female larger.

**Habitat:** Grasslands, plains, farmlands, ploughed land, crops, roadsides.

**Breeds:** August-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**AUSTRALIAN HOBBY** *Falco longipennis*



**Other name:** Little Falcon

**Description:** Small, swift, dark falcon: wings and square-cut tail proportionately longer and narrower than peregrine, with sharper bend on trailing edge. Forehead, throat and peaked half-collar whitish or buff, tinged rufous; upperparts dark slate-blue; underparts orange-buff, with rufous streaks, blue-grey V-bars on flanks.

**Size:** 30-35 cm; span to 90 cm. Female larger.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands, grasslands with trees; environs of wetlands, lakes, rivers, timbered watercourses; foothills.

**Breeds:** August-November.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BROLGA** *Grus rubicundus*



**Other names:** Australian Crane; Native Companion

**Description:** Tall, mid-to silver-grey crane with ‘bustle’ of feathers over rump; bill straight and horn-coloured; eye yellow; bare head pale grey on forehead and crown, pale red around rear of head, with distinctive blackish dewlap under chin (larger in male); legs dark grey.

**Size:** 70 cm-1.3 m; span 1.7-2.4 m.

**Habitat:** Well-vegetated shallow freshwater wetlands; small, isolated swamps in eucalypt forests; floodplains, grasslands; paddocks, irrigated pastures, stubbles, crops.

**Breeds:** July-March in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Vulnerable.

**Comments:** Only seen at certain times throughout the year, usually on the eastern and south eastern edges of the CID.



---

**PURPLE SWAMPHEN** *Porphyrio porphyrio*



**Other names:** Bald Coot; Eastern or Western Swamphen; Pukeko

**Description:** Large, easily recognised waterhen with scarlet bill and forehead-shield, deep blue head and breast; long reddish legs.

**Size:** 44-48 cm.

**Habitat:** Margins of swamps, lakes; shallow rivers with dense rushes, reeds, cumbungi.

**Breeds:** July-December, southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**EURASIAN COOT** *Fulica atra*



**Description:** Plain slate-grey waterhen, darker plumage on head, with pure white bill and bill-shield; legs silver-grey, toes with flattened lobes to assist swimming, diving.

**Size:** 35-38 cm.

**Habitat:** Large, fresh, brackish, occasionally saline waters, with underwater vegetation; permanent wetlands, town lakes, reservoirs, sewage ponds.

**Breeds:** August-February in southern Australia, but any time when conditions suitable.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BLACK-TAILED NATIVE-HEN** *Gallinula ventralis*



© Ian Montgomery

**Other name:** Barcoo Bantam

**Description:** Dark native hen with an erect, black, square 'bantam's tail'; green-red bill, yellow eye; white streaks on flanks; red legs.

**Size:** 30-36 cm.

**Habitat:** Open margins of wetlands, lakes, rivers; wet clay pans, especially in lignum; open woodland; pastures, crops.

**Breeds:** June-December, but any month after flooding rains.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BUSH STONE-CURLEW** *Burhinus grallarius*



**Other names:** Bush Thick-knee; Southern Stone-curlew; Willaroo

**Description:** Unusual, bush-dwelling wader. Grey-brown above, buff-white below, strongly streaked darker; dark mark along wing over a broader pale zone. Bill blackish, forehead whitish; broad white eyebrow over thick black line from below eye down neck; eye large, yellow.

**Size:** 55-59 cm; span 80 cm-1.05 m.

**Habitat:** Open woodland, dry watercourses with fallen branches, leaf-litter, sparse grass.

**Breeds:** August-January.

**Conservation status:** Endangered.

**Comments:** Rarely seen in CID. There have been two sightings in the CID over the past five years.

---

**BLACK-WINGED STILT** *Himantopus himantopus*



**Other name:** Pied or White-headed Stilt

**Description:** Australian race of a widespread cosmopolitan species: adult's black nape and extremely long slender pink legs are unmistakable.

**Size:** 33-38 cm.

**Habitat:** Fresh and brackish swamps; shallow river or lake margins; dams, sewage ponds.

**Breeds:** Mostly August-December in south eastern Australia, but almost any month after rain.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL** *Elseyaornis melanops*



**Other name:** Black-fronted Plover

**Description:** Black forehead extends back through centre of crown and through eyes under long white eyebrow, joining bold black Y on white breast. Upperparts brownish, with dark chestnut 'shoulder-bar'. Bill red to orange, tipped black; eye-ring red; legs flesh-pink to yellowish.

**Size:** 16-18 cm.

**Habitat:** Shallow bare freshwater wetlands; sandbars and margins of rivers; open ground, on pebbles, gravel, mud, branch and leaf-debris, receding shallow floodwaters; farm dams.

**Breeds:** August-February, but almost any month when conditions suitable.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---



---

**MASKED LAPWING** *Vanellus miles*



**Other names:** Masked or Spurwing Plover; Plover

**Description:** Well-known by appearance, aggressive habits and penetrating calls. Crown and back of neck black, extending broadly down sides of upperbreast.

**Size:** 35-38 cm.

**Habitat:** Swamp-margins, flooded ground, paddocks with dams.

**Breeds:** June-October in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**BANDED LAPWING** *Vanellus tricolor*



**Other names:** Banded or Black-breasted Plover

**Description:** Smaller than Masked Lapwing: black cap broken by bold white line through eye, curving onto nape; black sides of neck extend in prominent black breastband, enclosing white throat.

**Size:** 25-28 cm.

**Habitat:** Bare or ploughed paddocks; new crops, plains.

**Breeds:** June-October; other months after rain.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**PEACEFUL DOVE** *Geopelia striata*



© Ian Montgomery

**Description:** Tiny pink-grey and grey-brown dove with fine black and white scalloping on upperbreast. Eye grayish white; blue-grey eye-ring connects with bill, cere.

**Size:** 19-21 cm.

**Habitat:** Scrublands, especially acacias; open, grassed woodlands near water; scrubby, lightly timbered watercourses, agricultural country, roadsides.

**Breeds:** Mostly October-January in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**COMMON BRONZEWING** *Phaps chalcoptera*



**Description:** Pale fringes to feathers of upperparts make distinct scaly pattern; note bronzed fiery orange/green patch on wing. The male has a yellow-buff forehead; crown purple brown; white line curves from bill under eye; neck/breast pink-grey. The female is of a duller colour with less bronze on the wing.

**Size:** 32-36 cm.

**Habitat:** Forests, woodlands, native cypress scrub, acacia thickets.

**Breeds:** Mostly July-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**CRESTED PIGEON** *Ocyphaps lophotes*



**Other name:** Topknot

**Description:** Grey pigeon with a slender black crest. Wings wavily barred black; bronzed green/purple wingpatch edged white; tail longish, dark grey, tipped white.

**Size:** 30-34 cm.

**Habitat:** Pastoral and farming lands, watercourses, stubble-fields, croplands, roadsides, homestead gardens, farmyards.

**Breeds:** Mostly spring-summer, but almost any month.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**GALAH** *Cacatua roseicapilla*



**Description:** Wings, back and tail pale grey, whiter on rump; low cap-like white or pale pink crest; neck/body pink to deep rose red.

**Size:** 34-38 cm.

**Habitat:** Open country with suitable trees; watercourses, town parks.

**Breeds:** July-December in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**COCKATIEL** *Nymphicus hollandicus*



**Other names:** Cockatoo-parrot; Quarrion

**Description:** Male is distinctive with pale yellow crest and face, orange-red ear-spot; otherwise grey with prominent white shoulders. Female head is greyer; outer tail-feathers/underwing pale yellow, finely barred grey.

**Size:** 30-33 cm.

**Habitat:** Near water in open woodlands; scrublands, plains; timber on watercourses; sorghum, sunflowers, stubbles, spilt grain on roadsides.

**Breeds:** August-December in inland areas of southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**SUPERB PARROT** *Polytelis swainsonii*



**Other Name:** Green Leek

**Description:** Slender, long-tailed, bright green parrot. Male has yellow forehead/throat, cut off by scarlet crescent; eye yellow. Female green, washed blue-grey on cheeks, bend of wings; undertail black/pink.

**Size:** 36-42 cm.

**Habitat:** River Red Gums, Black Box, Yellow Box, River Oak, mostly near rivers; stubbles, pastures.

**Breeds:** September-December.

**Conservation status:** Vulnerable.

**Comments:** Locally common throughout CID, usually found around Black Box and Boree woodlands.

---

**EASTERN ROSELLA** *Platycercus eximius*



**Other name:** White-cheeked Rosella

**Description:** Bright scarlet head/body with white cheeks; back yellow, mottled black; shoulders blue; underparts yellow and pale green; under tail-coverts red; rump bright greenish yellow. The female is duller with patchy green on crown/upperparts.

**Size:** 29-34 cm.

**Habitat:** Open grassy forests, woodlands; nearby grasslands; timbered watercourses, farmlands, crops, roadsides, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** Mostly August-February.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**EASTERN RINGNECK** *Barnardius barnardi*



**Other name:** Mallee Ringneck

**Description:** Brilliant blue-green head/body and 'shoulders' contrast with dark blue-grey mantle. Red forehead, yellow rear collar, orange-yellow breast-patch. Female duller with grey-green back.

**Size:** 32-36 cm.

**Habitat:** Edges, clearings, eucalypt woodland, native cypress, Bull Oak scrubs; River Red Gums on watercourses, lakes; farmlands, crop stubbles.

**Breeds:** August-December in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BLUE BONNET** *Northiella haematogaster*



**Other names:** Bull Oak Parrot; Little Blue Bonnet

**Description:** Pale grey-brown parrot with deep blue forehead, face and bend of wing. Shoulder blue and deep olive-yellow; red patch on belly and thighs; under tail-coverts pale yellow.

**Size:** 27-35 cm.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands, scrubs, often far from water: native cypress, Belah, She Oak, Bull Oak; acacias; larger, open mallee; saltbush, grasslands, timbered watercourses, farmlands, crops, roadsides.

**Breeds:** July-December or after rain.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**RED-RUMPED PARROT** *Psephotus haematonotus*



**Other name:** Grass Parrot

**Description:** Males head/neck brilliant emerald green; lower back brick-red; underparts yellow. The female pale grey-head, dull white below; bend of wing blue; rump green.

**Size:** 25-28 cm.

**Habitat:** Usually near water: farm paddocks with living and/or dead trees; grassy woodlands, pastoral country; River Red Gums on watercourses; crops, farmyards, roadsides.

**Breeds:** August-January in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**PALLID CUCKOO** *Cuculus pallidus*



**Description:** Dark bill, dark eye with gold eye-ring; shadowy dark mark down neck from eye; olive-grey feet; white mark on nape; prominent white (or buff) toothings to edges of tail.

**Size:** 28-33 cm.

**Habitat:** Woodlands, scrublands, pastoral country, farmland, roadsides, gardens.

**Breeds:** July-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**FAN-TAILED CUCKOO** *Cacomantis flabelliformis*



**Description:** Slate-grey above; throat and upperbreast pale to warm cinnamon-buff; underparts paler; tail slim, infrequently fanned; feathers wavily notched white on both edges. Eye brown; eye-ring yellow; legs/feet olive-yellow. The female is duller, greyer below.

**Size:** 25-27 cm.

**Habitat:** River Red Gum forests, open woodland, paddocks, roadsides, gardens.

**Breeds:** July-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**SOUTHERN BOOBOOK** *Ninox novaeseelandiae*



© Ian Montgomery

**Other name:** Mopoke

**Description:** Widespread small brown owl with large, pale-rimmed 'goggles' bordering dark patch around each eye; large pale spots on wings; underparts reddish brown, with thick brown and white streaks or heavy irregular mottling (or spots); legs feathered to ankle.

**Size:** 25-36 cm. Female larger.

**Habitat:** Margins of almost treeless plains; woodlands; lightly timbered farming country; pine forests, orchards.

**Breeds:** August-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*



**Other names:**

Delicate, Screech or White Owl

**Description:** White, heart-shaped facial disc; upperparts grey to yellow-buff, with sparse black and white spots; white below, with sparse dark spots; legs slender, feathered white to above 'ankle'.

**Size:** 30-40 cm.  
Female larger.

**Habitat:** Open forests, woodlands, grasslands; farmlands, grain-stubbles.

**Breeds:** Spring, autumn; any month when introduced house mice abundant.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**TAWNY FROGMOUTH** *Podargus strigoides*



© Ian Montgomery

**Other name:** 'Frogmouth-Owl'

**Description:** Variable: plumage grey, mottled; marbled paler grey or brown, with dark streaks; tawny shoulders; eye yellow to orange-yellow, with slight pale eyebrow; underparts paler, black marks down sides of throat/breast; tail finely banded dark/light grey.

**Size:** 33-50 cm.

**Habitat:** Forests; tracks, clearings; open woodlands, timbered watercourses; Boree, Belah scrubs, roadsides, well-treed gardens.

**Breeds:** August-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**AUSTRALIAN OWLET-NIGHTJAR** *Aegotheles cristatus*



**Other names:** Moth Owl

**Description:** Like a miniature owl with a small, broad bill, cat-like whiskers, pink feet and longish tail. Greyish/brown plumage; underparts paler. Note darker markings running from eyes to rear of head.

**Size:** 20-24 cm.

**Habitat:** Eucalypt forests, woodlands; trees on watercourses, billabongs.

**Breeds:** August-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**LAUGHING KOOKABURRA** *Dacelo novaeguineae*



**Other name:** Laughing Jackass

**Description:** Big bill pale below; crown brown, dark brown 'ear-patch'; brown eye; brown wing mottled pale blue.

**Size:** 41-47 cm.

**Habitat:** Woodland, forest clearings, roadsides, timbered watercourses, farmland, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** September-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**SACRED KINGFISHER** *Todiramphus sanctus*



**Description:** Male: crown dark blue-green, with short, wedge-shaped buff eyebrow; mask black; wings/tail peacock blue; back green; collar/underparts variably buff-white. Female greener above, collar/underparts whiter.

**Size:** 20-23 cm.

**Habitat:** Open forests/woodlands; margins of rivers, lakes; parks, garden ponds.

**Breeds:** September-March.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**RAINBOW BEE-EATER** *Merops ornatus*



**Other names:** Rainbow Bird; Kingfisher

**Description:** Attractive blue-and-green bird: bill finely curved; eye red in blue-edged long black eyeline; throat orange-yellow with black crescent. Male has orange-bronze crown; tail shafts extend 2.5 cm, often broken when nesting.

**Size:** 23-28 cm, including tail-points.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands with sandy, loamy soil; sand ridges, sandpits, riverbanks, road-cuttings, woodlands.

**Breeds:** October-February in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**DOLLARBIRD** *Eurystomus orientalis*



**Description:** Stocky upright green bird with wide red bill, eye-ring and legs; large dark brown head; wings/back greenish blue; flight-feathers deep blue; tail short, black tipped.

**Size:** 26-30 cm.

**Habitat:** Forests, woodland, watercourses, wetlands; country, farmlands.

**Breeds:** October-February.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**SUPERB FAIRY-WREN** *Malurus cyaneus*



**Other names:** Blue Wren; Jenny Wren; Superb Blue Wren

**Description:** Male has blue cap and back; blue-black throat and chest; grey-white underparts; tail dark blue. Female: mouse-brown; throat/breast whitish; underparts washed fawn; bill, lores and eye-ring red-brown; tail brown, washed greenish blue.

**Size:** 13-14 cm.

**Habitat:** Dense low cover with areas of short green grass, riverside thickets, bracken, undergrowth of forests, woodlands, road-reserves, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** June-February.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**STRIATED PARDALOTE** *Pardalotus striatus*



**Other names:** Pickwick; Wittachew

**Description:** Crown plain black or can be streaked white; white eyebrow starts with bold rich yellow mark; white wing streak starts with red or yellow spot. Females duller.

**Size:** 9.5-11.5 cm.

**Habitat:** Eucalypt forests, woodlands, scrublands; River Red Gums; other dry scrubs; roadsides, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** June-February.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**CHESTNUT-RUMPED THORNBILL** *Acanthiza uropygialis*



**Description:** Plain, pale thornbill: upperparts mouse-grey; forehead finely scalloped black and white; eye whitish; underparts whitish; rump pale chestnut; tail black with pale tips.

**Size:** 10-11.5 cm.

**Habitat:** Drier woodlands, scrubs, thickets; saltbush, lignum; open pastoral country; among dead trees, stumps.

**Breeds:** July-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**YELLOW-RUMPED THORNBILL** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*



**Description:** Largest thornbill: eyebrow white; crown black, spotted white; eye pale; rump bright yellow.

**Size:** 11-13 cm.

**Habitat:** Short grass on edges of woodlands, scrublands; paddocks, plantations, farms, parks, lawns.

**Breeds:** July-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**SPINY-CHEEKED HONEYEATER** *Acanthagenys rufogularis*



**Description:** Dark-tipped deep pink bill; eye blue; long dark mask; white/yellow brush-streak down neck; throat/upperbreast apricot-buff.

**Size:** 22-26 cm.

**Habitat:** Drier inland woodlands, scrubs; fruiting plants, inc. mistletoe; gardens.

**Breeds:** June-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**STRIPED HONEYEATER** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*



**Description:** Bill blue-grey, finely dark-pointed; head/nape whitish, streaked black.

**Size:** 21-23 cm.

**Habitat:** Drier scrubs, woodlands, cypress pine, saltbush.

**Breeds:** Communally August-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER** *Entomyzon cyanotis*



**Description:** Striking two-tone blue facial skin, yellow-white eye; crown/nape black, with white nape-band; upperparts olive-green; underparts white, with dusky black bib. Immature birds have olive-green face and grey bib.

**Size:** 30-32 cm.

**Habitat:** Open forests, woodlands, scrubs; watercourses, farmlands, roadsides, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** June-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**NOISY MINER** *Manorina melanocephala*



**Other name:** Soldierbird

**Description:** Whitish forehead, black crown and cheeks. In flight, rump grey, dark tail tipped whitish.

**Size:** 24-27 cm.

**Habitat:** Grassy open forests, woodlands, without shrub-layer; large trees on inland watercourses, paperbarks, shelterbelts, roadsides, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** Communally, June-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**SINGING HONEYEATER** *Lichenostomus virescens*



**Other names:** Grape-eater or Grey Peter

**Description:** Fawn-grey; bold black mask runs down neck; thinner line of yellow below ends in broad silvery white mark.

**Size:** 18-22 cm.

**Habitat:** Isolated shrubs, thickets on watercourses; orchards, vineyards, gardens.

**Breeds:** July-February.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER** *Lichenostomus penicillatus*



**Other names:** Chickowee; Native Canary

**Description:** Pale olive-grey with clear-cut white neck-plume, some margined blackish above. Yellow colouring around face, wing and tail feathers.

**Size:** 15-17 cm.

**Habitat:** Seldom far from water in open forests, woodlands; mostly in Black Box and River Red Gum on watercourses; but also blossoming woodlands/heaths, shelterbelts, road reserves, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** July-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**PAINTED HONEYEATER** *Grantiella picta*



**Description:** Male: bill deep pink; eye red; upperparts black; golden edges to flight/tail-feathers; underparts white; black spots on flanks. The female is smaller, browner and has fewer spots.

**Size:** 16 cm.

**Habitat:** Mistletoes in eucalypt forests/woodlands; casuarinas; Boree, other acacias; trees on farmland.

**Breeds:** October-March.

**Conservation status:** Vulnerable.

**Comments:** Uncommon in the CID. There have been only three reported sightings over the past five years. The presence of this bird is associated with Boree trees that contain flowering grey mistletoe.

---

**JACKY WINTER** *Microeca fascinans*



**Other names:** Brown Flycatcher; Peter Peter; Stumpbird

**Description:** Small confident grey-brown bird of much charm: slight white eyebrow; dark eyemark; breast white, washed grey-brown; blackish brown tail has prominent white outer feathers.

**Size:** 12-14 cm.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands, scrublands; paddocks with live/dead trees; stumps, fences, timber on dams, watercourses, country roadsides.

**Breeds:** July-December in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**GREY-CROWNED BABBLER** *Pomatostomus temporalis*



**Other names:** Happy Family; Red-breasted Babbler

**Description:** Largest of the babblers: eye pale yellow; crown/nape pale grey; broad white eyebrow over black mask; upperparts brown-black; underparts warm brown in nominate race. Bill long, black, down-curved.

**Size:** 29 cm.

**Habitat:** Open forests, woodlands, scrublands; farmlands.

**Breeds:** June-October.

**Conservation status:** Vulnerable.

**Comments:** These birds are common throughout the CID.

---

**WHITE-BROWED BABBLER** *Pomatostomus superciliosus*



**Other names:** Happy Family; Stickbirds; Cackler; Jumper

**Description:** Dullest brown babbler, with dark eye; white eyebrow smaller than Grey-crowned Babbler; crown dark brown; white throat shades into brown lower underparts. Bill black, down-curved.

**Size:** 18-22 cm.

**Habitat:** Drier scrubby woodlands; acacia, cypress pine and scrub along watercourses; saltbush.

**Breeds:** June-November.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**RUFOUS WHISTLER** *Pachycephala rufiventris*



**Description:** Male: crown/upperparts clear grey; strong black mask extends in broad black breast-band, separating white throat from rufous underparts. Female: brownish grey above, with touch of olive; throat whitish, breast/underparts washed buff, with plentiful dark vertical streaks.

**Size:** 16.5-17.5 cm.

**Habitat:** Open forests/woodlands/scrubs.

**Breeds:** September-February.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH** *Colluricincla harmonica*



**Description:** Male has black bill; lores whitish; back olive-brown. Female bill pale grey on sides; lores greyish; faint white eye-ring; back paler; rufous or blackish streaks on face/throat/breast.

**Size:** 22-26 cm.

**Habitat:** Eucalypt forests/woodlands; saltbush; watercourses; homesteads, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** July-February.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**WILLIE WAGTAIL** *Rhipidura leucophrys*



**Other name:** Black-and-white Fantail

**Description:** Widespread and well-loved. Black, fan-tailed; white underparts sharply cut off by black upperbreast. Erectile white eyebrow changes with bird's sex/status/emotional condition from near-invisible to flaring/conspicuous; also slim white whisker mark.

**Size:** 19-22 cm.

**Habitat:** Most habitats, except dense forests.

**Breeds:** August-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**GREY FANTAIL** *Rhipidura fuliginosa*



**Description:** Grey with short white eyebrow; white mark behind eye; white tips to wing-coverts; white throat and whisker-mark; dark breast-band; underparts white, fawn or buffish. Outer feathers of dark grey fan-tail have white shafts and are edged/broadly tipped white, or wholly white, according to race.

**Size:** 14-17 cm.

**Habitat:** Inland scrubs, eucalypt forests/woodlands; watercourses, orchards, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** July-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE** *Coracina novaehollandiae*



**Other names:** Blue or Grey Jay; Cherry Hawk

**Description:** Blue-grey with jet black face/throat; underparts white, washed grey; tail broadly margined black, tipped white.

**Size:** 30-36 cm.

**Habitat:** Forests, woodlands, scrublands; timber on watercourses; orchards, parks, gardens.

**Breeds:** August-February.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**GROUND CUCKOO-SHRIKE** *Coracina maxima*



**Description:** Graceful, slender, long-legged. Head/upper body pale grey; black mask; pale yellow eye; wings and long, slightly forked tail black, contrasting with finely barred white lower back, rump and underparts.

**Size:** 33-36 cm.

**Habitat:** Open grasslands with dead trees, belts of live trees; timber on watercourses; and other acacias; cypress pine scrubs; pastures.

**Breeds:** August-November, or after rains.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

**Comments:** Uncommon in CID. Only three sightings over the past five years.

---

**PIED BUTCHERBIRD** *Cracticus nigrogularis*



**Description:** Bill blue-grey, finely hooked, tipped black; white body with black hood extending well down upperbreast, broad white rear collar; rump white; tail black with white corners.

**Size:** 32-36 cm.

**Habitat:** Drier woodlands; watercourses, pastoral lands, treed plains, farmlands, croplands, roadsides, gardens.

**Breeds:** August-November in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**MAGPIE-LARK** *Grallina cyanoleuca*



**Other names:** Little or Murray Magpie; Mudlark; Peewee

**Description:** Male: bill white; eye yellowish white; legs black; head/breastpatch black; prominent white eyebrow and broad white panel down side of neck below eye. Female: white forehead/throat; broad black band from crown down through eye to black breastband.

**Size:** 26-30 cm.

**Habitat:** Virtually anywhere there are trees and mud for nest-building; trees by rivers/wetlands; widespread in urban areas; absent from dense forests.

**Breeds:** August-November.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE** *Gymnorhina tibicen*



**Description:** Conspicuous large black and white bird with pointed whitish, black-tipped bill.

**Size:** 38-44 cm.

**Habitat:** Almost anywhere there are trees and open areas of bare soft ground or grass; orchards, golf-courses, gardens, crops.

**Breeds:** June-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**PIED CURRAWONG** *Strepera graculina*



**Description:** Black bird with robust black bill, yellow eyes, white window in the wing, white base to tail-feathers, white under tail-coverts/tail-tips.

**Size:** 42-50 cm. Male larger.

**Habitat:** Woodlands, farmlands, garbage tips, picnic grounds, parks.

**Breeds:** August-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**AUSTRALIAN RAVEN** *Corvus coronoides*



**Other name:** Crow

**Description:** Long throat-hackle feathers form shaggy bunch as throat balloons out when calling. Bill robust, longish; eye white.

**Size:** 48-52 cm. Male larger.

**Habitat:** Pastoral regions, farmlands, rubbish dumps, urban areas.

**Breeds:** July-October.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**APOSTLEBIRD** *Stuthidea cinerea*



**Other names:** Grey Jumper; Happy Family; Twelve Apostles

**Description:** Sociable dark, ashy grey bird with short, robust black bill, brown flight-feathers and full black tail.

**Size:** 29-33 cm.

**Habitat:** Near water in drier open forests, woodlands, scrubs; timber on watercourses; Black Box/River Red Gum forests; woodlands of cypress pine; roadside timber, timbered paddocks.

**Breeds:** August-March.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH** *Corcorax melanorhamphos*



**Other names:** Black Jay or Magpie

**Description:** Gregarious black bird, smaller than a raven, with a full, mobile, black tail and large round white patch on flight-feathers. Bill black, slender, arched; eye orange-red; legs longish, black.

**Size:** 43-47 cm.

**Habitat:** Drier forests, woodlands of eucalypts, including Belah, cypress pine, timber on watercourses; crops, pastures, homesteads, lawns.

**Breeds:** August-September.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**RICHARD'S PIPIT** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*



**Other name:** Ground Lark

**Description:** Slender, pale brown 'groundlark': wags longish white-edged tail up/down. Note slender pinkish-brown bill; fawn-white eyebrow; fine black streak down side of throat joins fine dark breast-streaks; long, pinkish brown legs. White edges on tail.

**Size:** 16-19 cm.

**Habitat:** Grasslands, crops, pastures; roadsides, open woodlands, paddocks.

**Breeds:** August-December.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**SINGING BUSHLARK** *Mirafra javanica*



**Other names:** Australian Skylark; Croplark

**Description:** Colour variable: sandy, reddish grey or blackish above; bold rufous margins to wing-feathers form strong pattern; often has heavy blackish mottling on breast.

**Size:** 12.5-15 cm.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands/scrublands; cereal crops, lucerne, grasslands.

**Breeds:** September-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**ZEBRA FINCH** *Taeniopygia guttata*



**Description:** Male: grey, bill red; orange-tan cheekpatch/flanks, latter spotted white; rump white; tail black, barred white. Female: bill red; black/white face/tail-markings; otherwise greyish.

**Size:** 10 cm.

**Habitat:** Near water, in grasslands, open woodlands, shrublands and scrubs, saltbush, crops, gardens, orchards.

**Breeds:** Most months.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**DIAMOND FIRETAIL** *Stagonopleura guttata*



**Description:** Bold black breastband joining boldly white-spotted black flanks; scarlet rump, black tail. Female has narrower breastband.

**Size:** 12-13 cm.

**Habitat:** Open eucalypt forests/woodlands; River Red Gums; Bull Oak; cypress pine, acacia scrubs.

**Breeds:** August-January.

**Conservation status:** Vulnerable.

**Comments:** Uncommon in the CID. No reported sightings over the past five years.

---

**MISTLETOEBIRD** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*



**Other name:** Mistletoe Flowerpecker

**Description:** Black bill; upperparts glossy blue-black; throat/upperbreast, under tail-coverts scarlet; underparts grey-white with black mark down centre. Female has dark grey bill; upperparts grey; tail black; underparts whitish; under tail-coverts pale red.

**Habitat:** Any vegetation that supports mistletoes.

**Breeds:** October-March.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

**BROWN SONGLARK** *Cinclorhamphus cruralis*



**Description:** Male breeding: bill black; crown/nape fawn, contrasting with sooty-brown face/throat/breast; legs long, flesh-brown. Male nonbreeding: bill light brown; lores blackish, eyebrow pale; feathers of upperparts patterned by brown centres, paler margins; face/underparts pale grey-brown; throat whitish; centre of breast/abdomen blackish brown.

**Size:** Male 24-26 cm, female 18-19 cm.

**Habitat:** Pastures, cereal crops; inland, open grassy country, saltbush etc.

**Breeds:** September-February in southern Australia.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.



---

**SILVEREYE** *Zosterops lateralis*



**Other names:** Blightbird; Grape-eater; Grey-backed, Grey-breasted or Western Silvereye or White-eye

**Description:** Small grey and olive-green bird with conspicuous white eye-ring.

**Size:** 10-12.5 cm.

**Habitat:** Most vegetation types.

**Breeds:** September-January.

**Conservation status:** Not threatened.

---

## GLOSSARY

**Bib:** colloquial term to describe light or dark combined area of throat and upperbreast.

**Cere:** bare, wax-like or fleshy structure at the base of the upper beak containing the nostrils.

**Collar:** a band of contrasting colour passing around the neck.

**Coverts:** small feathers that cover the bases of the large flight-feathers of the wings and tail, or that cover part of the body structure, eg. ear-coverts.

**Crown:** top of the head.

**Flank:** the side of a bird's breast and/or belly, immediately adjacent to (and under) the closed wing.

**Flight feathers:** long, well-developed feathers of wings and tail, used in flight. On the wings they are divided into primaries, secondaries and tertiaries.

**Foreneck:** the lower throat.

**Gregarious:** living in groups.

**Hackles:** long slender neck-feathers.

**Lore (pl. lores):** the space between the base of the bill and the eye, sometimes distinctively coloured.

**Mantle:** unit of plumage, formed by the feathers of back, upper wing-coverts and scapulars.

**Nominate race:** when a species has several races, the race that takes the scientific specific name of that species is known as the nominate race.

**Plumage:** the total covering of feathers over a bird's body

**Primaries:** outermost and longest flight-feathers on a bird's wing. They vary in number from 9 to 11 per wing, always in a fixed number in any particular species.

**Scapulars:** shoulder-feathers, growing along the side of the back, covering the gap between the folded wing and body.

**Secondaries:** flight-feathers located in a series along the rear edge of the wing, immediately inward from the primaries. They may number from 9 to 20.

---

**Shoulder:** where the wing meets the body. The term is also loosely applied to the bend of the wing when this area is distinctively coloured, as in the Black-shouldered Kite.

**Speculum:** iridescent green patch or mirror on a duck's wing.

**Wing-coverts:** all or part of the covert-feathers on the upperwing or underwing.

---

## REFERENCES

Pizzey, G. & Knight, F. 1999. *The Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. HarperCollinsPublishers, Sydney.

The New South Wales *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Robb, M. and Kleinert, D. January 2005. *Field Guide to the Native Plants of the Coleambally Irrigation District*. Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Limited.

---

# INDEX

## A

*Acanthagenys rufogularis* ..... 71  
*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* ..... 70  
*Acanthiza uropygialis* ..... 69  
*Aegotheles cristatus*..... 62  
*Anas castanea* ..... 15  
*Anas gracilis*..... 14  
*Anas superciliosa*..... 13  
*Anhinga melanogaster* ..... 16  
*Anthus novaeseelandiae*..... 94  
Apostlebird ..... 92  
*Aquila audax* ..... 34  
*Ardea alba*..... 24  
*Ardea pacifica* ..... 22  
Australasian Bittern ..... 26  
Australian Hobby..... 37  
Australian Magpie ..... 89  
Australian Owllet-nightjar ..... 62  
Australian Pelican ..... 21  
Australian Raven..... 91  
Australian Shelduck ..... 12  
Australian White Ibis ..... 29  
Australian Wood Duck ..... 8

## B

Banded Lapwing ..... 46  
Barn Owl ..... 60  
*Barnardius barnardi* ..... 54  
Black Kite ..... 32  
Black Swan ..... 11  
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike ... 85  
Black-fronted Dotterel ..... 44  
Black-shouldered Kite ..... 31  
Black-tailed Native-hen ..... 41

Black-winged Stilt ..... 43  
Blue Bonnet ..... 55  
Blue-billed Duck..... 10  
Blue-faced Honeyeater ..... 73  
*Botaurus poiciloptilus*..... 26  
Brolga ..... 38  
Brown Falcon ..... 35  
Brown Songlark ..... 99  
*Burhinus grallarius* ..... 42  
Bush Stone-curlew..... 42

## C

*Cacatua roseicapilla* ..... 50  
*Cacomantis flabelliformis*..... 58  
*Chenonetta jubata* ..... 8  
Chestnut Teal ..... 15  
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill ... 69  
*Cinclorhamphus cruralis* ..... 99  
Cockatiel ..... 51  
*Colluricincla harmonica* ..... 82  
Common Bronzewing ..... 48  
*Coracina maxima*..... 86  
*Coracina novaehollandiae* .... 85  
*Corcorax melanorhamphos* .. 93  
*Corvus coronoides*..... 91  
*Cracticus nigrogularis* ..... 87  
Crested Pigeon ..... 49  
*Cuculus pallidus*..... 57  
*Cygnus aratus*..... 11

## D

*Dacelo novaeguineae*..... 63  
Darter ..... 16

---

Diamond Firetail.....	97
<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i> .....	98
Dollarbird.....	66
<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i> .....	7

## E

Eastern Ringneck.....	54
Eastern Rosella.....	53
<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i> .....	23
<i>Elanus axillaries</i> .....	31
<i>Euseyornis melanops</i> .....	44
Emu.....	7
<i>Entomyzon cyanotis</i> .....	73
Eurasian Coot .....	40
<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i> .....	66

## F

<i>Falco berigora</i> .....	35
<i>Falco cenchroides</i> .....	36
<i>Falco longipennis</i> .....	37
Fan-tailed Cuckoo .....	58
Freckled Duck .....	9
<i>Fulica atra</i> .....	40

## G

Galah.....	50
<i>Gallinula ventralis</i> .....	41
<i>Geopelia striata</i> .....	47
Glossy Ibis.....	27
<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i> .....	88
<i>Grantiella picta</i> .....	77
Great Cormorant .....	17
Great Egret.....	24
Grey Fantail.....	84
Grey Shrike-thrush.....	82
Grey Teal .....	14
Grey-crowned Babbler .....	79
Ground Cuckoo-shrike .....	86

<i>Grus rubicundus</i> .....	38
<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> .....	89

## H

<i>Halistur sphenurus</i> .....	33
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> .....	43

## J

Jacky Winter .....	78
--------------------	----

## L

Laughing Kookaburra .....	63
<i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i> ...	76
<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i> .....	75
Little Black Cormorant .....	18
Little Pied Cormorant.....	20

## M

Magpie-lark .....	88
<i>Malurus cyaneus</i> .....	67
<i>Manorina melanocephala</i> .....	74
Masked Lapwing.....	45
<i>Merops ornatus</i> .....	65
<i>Microeca fascinans</i> .....	78
<i>Milvus migrans</i> .....	32
<i>Mirafra javanica</i> .....	95
Mistletoebird .....	98

## N

Nankeen Kestrel .....	36
Nankeen Night Heron .....	25
<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i> .....	59
Noisy Miner .....	74
<i>Northiella haematogaster</i> .....	55
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i> .....	25
<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i> .....	51

---



---

**O**

<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i> .....	49
<i>Oxyura australis</i> .....	10

**P**

<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i> .....	81
Pacific Black Duck .....	13
Painted Honeyeater .....	77
Pallid Cuckoo .....	57
<i>Pardalotus striatus</i> .....	68
Peaceful Dove .....	47
<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i> .....	21
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> .....	17
<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	20
<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i> .....	18
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i> .....	19
<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i> .....	48
Pied Butcherbird .....	87
Pied Cormorant.....	19
Pied Currawong .....	90
<i>Platalea flavipes</i> .....	30
<i>Platycercus eximius</i> .....	53
<i>Plectorhyncha lanceolata</i> .....	72
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> .....	27
<i>Podargus strigoides</i> .....	61
<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i> .....	52
<i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>	80
<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i> ....	79
<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> .....	39
<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i> ....	56
Purple Swamphen.....	39

**R**

Rainbow Bee-eater .....	65
Red-rumped Parrot .....	56
<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i> .....	84
<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i> .....	83
Richard's Pipit .....	94
Rufous Whistler.....	81

**S**

Sacred Kingfisher .....	64
Silvereye .....	100
Singing Bushlark.....	95
Singing Honeyeater .....	75
Southern Boobook.....	59
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater ..	71
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i> .....	97
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i> .....	9
Straw-necked Ibis .....	28
<i>Strepera graculina</i> .....	90
Striated Pardalote .....	68
Striped Honeyeater.....	72
<i>Stuthidea cinerea</i> .....	92
Superb Fairy-wren .....	67
Superb Parrot .....	52

**T**

<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i> .....	12
<i>Taeniopygia guttata</i> .....	96
Tawny Frogmouth.....	61
<i>Threskiornis molucca</i> .....	29
<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i> .....	28
<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i> .....	64
<i>Tyto alba</i> .....	60

**V**

<i>Vanellus miles</i> .....	45
<i>Vanellus tricolor</i> .....	46

**W**

Wedge-tailed Eagle .....	34
Whistling Kite .....	33
White-browed Babbler .....	80
White-faced Heron.....	23
White-necked Heron .....	22
White-plumed Honeyeater ....	76

---

White-winged Chough..... 93  
Willie Wagtail..... 83

**Y**

Yellow Billed Spoonbill ..... 30  
Yellow-rumped Thornbill ..... 70

**Z**

Zebra Finch..... 96  
*Zosterops lateralis* ..... 100