BIRDWATCHING IN KINGS PARK AND BOTANIC GARDEN

Kings Park and Botanic Garden covers an area over 400ha of native vegetation, parks and gardens in the heart of the city. This provides a sanctuary for over 70 species of birds. Many live here permanently and others visit at various times of the year.

Morning is the best time for bird watching. Good places to see birds are: the Botanic Garden, the banksia woodlands in the spring and the edges of the woodland, where bushland meets the grassed areas. To see some of the rarer species such as Thornbills, you can take a quiet walk along some of the trails throughout the park.


Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Common</th>
<th>Uncommon</th>
<th>Resident all year</th>
<th>Breeds in Kings Park</th>
<th>Migrant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Raptors

Raptors hunt for insects, lizards, small mammals and young birds.

Brown Goshawk
Acipiter fasciatus


Barnardius zonarius


Cockatoos, Parrots

These birds look for hollows in trees for nesting. They have strong beaks for cracking seeds and nuts.

Rainbow Lorikeet
Trichoglossus haematodus

Introduced from India in 1898. Now widely spread in the metropolitan area and further. Has a brush-tipped tongue.

Australian Ringneck
Barnardius zonarius

Feeds on ground, shrub and tree feed. A wide variety of calls. Most birds are a hybrid of two subspecies.

Cockatoos

Tawny Frogmouth
Podargus sydneyensis

Pedestal nesting. Lives in pairs in a permanent territory. Usually seen sitting quietly in a tree. Feeds by night on ground dwelling animals. Inconspicuous stick nest.

Rainbow Lorikeet
Trichoglossus haematodus


Laughing Dove
Streptopelia senegalensis

Introduced from Africa in 1898. Larger than Laughing Dove with a spotted cap.

Cuckoo

Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus latirostris

An endangered species that visits the wheatbelt, December – March. Builds nesting tunnels. Forms flocks before departure.

Australian Wood Duck
Chenonetta jubata

Common on most lakes and waterways around Perth. Usually seen in pairs or small flocks.

Painted Button-Quail
Turnix varius

Ground dwelling bird, often heard bringing in leaf litter for seeds and insects. Takes flight when flushed.

Cuckoos

Spotted Dove
Streptopelia senegalensis

Present mainly winter and spring. Main hosts are honeyeaters as hosts.

Australian Wood Duck
Chenonetta jubata

Food on grasses and sometimes insects. Form monogamous pairs. Males have a darker coloured head.

The Laughing Kookaburra
*Dacelo novaeguineae

Introducetd from Eastern Australia in 1898, now spread throughout the southwest. Well known laughing call.

Rainbow Bee-eater
Merops ornatus

Brilliant plumage. Often seen on ground dwelling animals.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Cacomantis flabelliformis

Unmistakable with iridescent wings and noisy wing beats. Voice is a deep penetrating ‘oom aam’.

Pigeon, Dove

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These smaller birds live in the foliage and collect insects from the leaves.

**Scrubwren, Allies**

Yellow-rumped thornbill  
Anarhiza chrysocephala  
Usually in flocks, feeding on the ground in open areas.  
(B, Res, U)

**Western gerygone**

Gerygone fusca  
More often heard than seen. distinctive wistful, ‘unfinished’ call. May be seen fluttering near foliage.  
(B, Res, C)

**Weebill**

Sericornis biewieni  
Australia’s smallest bird  
Distinctive call ‘wee-bir’. heard before it is seen. Moves through the canopy in groups.  
(B, Res, C)

Honeyeaters are found in every major vegetation zone in Australia. They are important pollinators of Australian plants and are very active in their search for nectar and insects.

**Honeyeater, Chat**

**Western wattlebird**  
Anthochaera novahollandiae  
Smaller than the red wattlebird. Note the dark shading on the chin and throat and copper in wings. Has a short ting call.  
(B, Res, U)

**Red wattlebird**

Anthochaera carunculata  
Very noisy, aggressive to other birds. Note the red wattle.  
(B, Res, C)

**Grey fantail**

Rhipidura albicauda  
Has a spirited song during courting. Female has streaked buff breast.  
(B, Res, C)

**Fantail**

Rhipidura leucophrys  
Bild, active, conspicuous. little bird. Usually found on lawns and in open country.  
(B, Res, C)

**Grey magpie-lark**

Grallina cyanoleuca  
Territorial. Usually found in parkland and open bush. They have a musical call. Male has a black chin.  
(B, Res, C)

**Silvereye**

Zosterops lateralis  
Note their fine curved bill for nectar feeding on banksias, wattle and kangaroo paws. Has an interesting flight: female much less colourful.  
(B, Res, U)

**Pardalote**

Striated pardalote  
Pardalotus ater  
Listen for their loud distinctive call of ‘chirpy-chirpy’. Eats insects, including leaf bugs and sometimes nectar. Nests in tree hollows.  
(B, Res, C)

**Western spinebill**

Petrochelidon acutirostris  
Note their fine curved bill for nectar feeding on banksias, wattle and kangaroo paws. Has an interesting flight: female much less colourful.  
(B, Res, U)

**Grey butcherbird**

Cracticus torquatus  
Lives in permanent territories. Prefers bushland bordering open areas. Has various mellow piping calls.  
(B, Res, C)

**Mistletoebird**

Phylidonyris novaehollandiae  
Note their fine curved bill for nectar feeding on banksias, wattle and kangaroo paws. Has an interesting flight: female much less colourful.  
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**Cuckoo-shrike, Triller**

**Black-faced cuckoo-shrike**

Coracina novaehollandiae  
Notice its wing-shuffling display on landing. Distinctive undulating flight.  
(B, Res, C)

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**Welcome swallow, Martin**

**Welcome swallow**

Hirundo neoxena  
Often flies low in open areas, seeking insects in flight. Builds small mud nests on built structures.  
(B, Res, C)

**Tree martin**

Petrochelidon nigriceps  
Visits the park in search of mistletoe berries or small fruits. Usually solitary out of breeding. Female lighter with pale red underside.  
(B, Mi, U)

**Australian magpie**

Cracticus torquatus  
Lives in groups to feed, roost and nest. May swoop during breeding season. Carolling call. Male has a white back, female is mottled.  
(B, Res, C)

**Butcherbird, Currawong**

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**White-eye**

Zosterops lateralis  
Note their fine curved bill for nectar feeding on banksias, wattle and kangaroo paws. Has an interesting flight: female much less colourful.  
(B, Res, U)