

Common vertebrates on Griffith University campuses



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50th Anniversary of Griffith

2025 is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Griffith University. To commemorate this event there were a range of activities, including publishing this book that celebrates some of the diversity of animals found on the three main campuses. It is the fifth in a series of books publicly available from the Griffith University Biodiversity website. We thank all those who have helped us produce these resources and continue to work to conserve biodiversity at Griffith University.

Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith University acknowledges the people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

- Brisbane campuses are situated on the land of the Yugarabul, Yuggera, Jagera and Turrbal peoples.
- Logan is situated on the land of the Yuggera, Turrbal, Yugarabul, Jagera and Yugambeh peoples.
- Gold Coast is situated on the land of the Yugambeh/Kombumerri peoples.

About this Guide

This book provides information about 80 of the most commonly observed vertebrate species recorded on one or more of the three major campuses of Griffith University (Nathan, Gold Coast and Logan). The species have been ordered by class (frogs, reptiles, mammals and birds) and then in alphabetical order by scientific name (based on IUCN naming conventions). Below the photograph of each species there are icons displaying information including endemicity, threat status, the campus(es) it has been recorded on, and threatening processes. A brief description of the distribution and habitat of the species are also provided. More details about the ecosystems, plants, animals and fungi at Griffith including extensive species lists for each campus are available from the Griffith University Biodiversity website.

Brisbane South (Nathan Campus)

The Nathan campus opened in 1975 with 451 students but now hosts around 17,000 students. The 175 ha campus forms the southern part of Toohey Forest, which is an important island of remnant native vegetation within suburbia. The campus contains 12 Regional Ecosystems representing open forests and woodlands, with one Regional Ecosystem listed as *Endangered*, and three are *Of Concern*. It also contains sections of Mimosa Creek. These forests and woodlands support a diversity of wildlife while providing important ecosystem services to the campus and city.

There are over 500 species of native animals on the Nathan campus including 21 mammals, 122 birds, 32 reptiles, 13 amphibians and 9 fish recorded in mid-2025. This includes the Endangered Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), which live in Toohey forest, but are most easily seen in trees near Mimosa Creek. Other species on the Nathan campus that are listed as Endangered or Vulnerable in Queensland and/or by the IUCN include Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Glossy Black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), and the Tusked Frog (*Adelotis brevis*). There are also four species listed as 'Special Least Concern' on the campus: Short-beaked Echidna, the Spectacled Monarch, Black-faced Monarch and Rufous Fantail. Endangered Greater Gliders were recorded in the past, but have not been seen in decades. There are also 13 non-native vertebrates such as rats, mice, Cane Toads and foxes on the campus.

Gold Coast Campus

The 63 ha Gold Coast campus, close to Southport, officially became part of Griffith University in 1990 and now hosts more than 18,000 students. Situated atop ridges, the campus is split by the Smith Street Motorway. On the south side of the Motorway there is a large remnant of the endangered Regional Ecosystem Tall Open Blackbutt forest while along low-lying areas, there are areas of Open Broad-leaved Paperbark swamp and two ponds. On the northern side there are some small patches of Tall Open Blackbutt forest as well as demonstration gardens used to showcase the region's native flora and their benefits.

The campus is home to a rich diversity of native animals with over 330 species recorded, including 77 bird species, 24 mammals, 18 reptiles, and 8 amphibians in mid-2025. This includes five species of vertebrates listed as Endangered or Vulnerable in Queensland and/or by the IUCN including the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Glossy Black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), and the Wallum Froglet (*Crinia tinnula*). A further three species of birds are listed as Special Least Concern: the Rufous Fantail, the Black-Faced Monarch and the Satin Flycatcher. Fifteen introduced species have also been recorded on the campus. These include invasive species such as Black Rats, House Mice, Deer, Mosquito Fish, and Cane Toads, that are of concern and require active management as well as the non-native Asian House Gecko.

Logan Campus

The 52 ha Logan campus located in the suburb of Meadowbrook in Logan, was officially opened in 1998 and now hosts over 2,000 students. It is adjacent to the Logan Motorway to the south and is bound to its east and north by the Slacks Creek tributary. The campus contains large areas of lawn and native gardens including a special bushtucker garden, remnants of two Regional Ecosystems, one of which is Of Concern. There is also Lake Ellerslie which is an artificial lake, comprising two parts – north and south of University Drive, which provides important habitat for waterbirds, fish and other aquatic species. It also hosts the 6.4 ha Logan Arboretum where 56 species of trees have been grown including species of cultural and conservation significance.

There are at least 136 species of native animals recorded on the campus as of mid-2025, including 3 mammals, 85 birds, 12 reptiles, 3 amphibians and 3 fish. This includes a single recorded sighting of an Endangered Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), as well as recordings of the Vulnerable Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*). There are also 11 non-native vertebrates including Common Myna, Mallard, Feral Pigeon, Spotted Dove, Cane Toads, Mosquito Fish and domestic ducks and geese.

Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity

Ecosystem services are the benefits that nature provides. This includes provisioning (seed, bush-tucker, carbon sequestration), regulating (pest control, pollination, flood mitigation, cooling, clean air, biodiversity), supporting (photosynthesis, soil formation, nutrient cycling, water cycling) and cultural services (education, recreation, aesthetics, custodianship, wellbeing, cultural connections). Our campuses provide these and other services to staff, students and the community.



Biodiversity encompasses the entire diversity of Earth's life forms, comprising plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms, their genetic material and the ecosystems of which they are a part of. Biodiversity can be considered across multiple scales – regional diversity, ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity and is dynamic in space and time in response to environmental changes and genetic evolutionary processes.

Which Campus?

The biodiversity lists for each campus are regularly updated with the records publicly available, including on the citizen science website iNaturalist. In this book the campuses at which each species has been recorded as of mid-2025 are indicated using the the following symbols:



Threatened Species

Globally biodiversity is under threat from a range of processes. There are hundreds of thousands of species that have had their threat status assessed by the IUCN. Throughout this book, each species has been categorised into their IUCN status, where those listed as Least Concern are not considered under threat.

Threatened status of species

CE Critically Endangered

E Endangered

V Vulnerable

NT Near Threatened

LC Least Concern

The main threats to species globally are land clearing including for urbanisation, climate change, invasive species and over exploitation with species often impacted by multiple threats. Major threats for each species are indicated using the following icons:

Icon	Threatening Process
	Land clearing
	Urbanisation
	Invasive Species
	Disease
	Climate Change
	Changes to fire regimes

Endemicity

Australia is home to a wide range of species. These include many that are only found in Australia, native to Australia, or introduced to Australia.

Throughout this booklet, each species has been categorised by their endemicity shown below.

Endemic to Australia

E

A species whose range is restricted to Australia, inclusive of all States and Territories.

Native to Australia

N

A species that is not restricted to Australia but occurs in Australia without the involvement of human activity or human intervention.

Introduced to Australia

I

An organism that is not native to Australia and was accidentally or deliberately transported to Australia by human activity.

Tusked Frog

Adelotus brevis



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, this species is found in numerous, scattered populations through the eastern states.

Habitat

An uncommon frog, found under leaf-litter, vegetation and among rocks on the edge of streams and ponds. Adult males will make a "tok tok" breeding call which can be easy to discern. The species has experienced some decline, likely due to the amphibian chytrid fungus introduction into Australia. The males have a distinctive tusk-like spur on their lower jaw used for territorial disputes.

Striped Marsh Frog

Limnodynastes peronii



LC

E

NA

GC



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, this species is widespread in coastal eastern Australia, from far-north Queensland through New South Wales and into Victoria, and with rare occurrences in Tasmania.

Habitat

Thrives in disturbed habitats in open forests and are often associated with permanent water. They are frequently the first frog to colonise a garden frog pond and are a resilient species to pollution.

Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog

Litoria fallax



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

LC

E

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, found on the coast and adjacent areas from northern Queensland to southern New South Wales.

Habitat

Usually found in vegetation bordering swamps, streams, ponds and farm dams often in large numbers. During the day, they shelter in leaf-axils of pandanus and other plants away from the water. Small clumps of eggs are laid attached to submerged vegetation. These common frogs play an important role in controlling insects.

Dainty Green Tree Frog

Litoria gracilentia



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

LC

E

NA



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, this species occurs along the east coast from Cape York to Gosford in New South Wales.

Habitat

Common in areas with thick vegetation including native forests and woodlands, but also around human habitation. They require water to breed but can also use flooded grasslands or gardens to spawn, especially during periods of consistent rain. Males produce a frequently-repeated "arrrc" sound to attract females. These frogs are among the most common in Australian gardens.

Peron's Tree Frog

Litoria peronii



GUY CASTLEY

LC

E

NA

GC



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, in southeast Queensland, coastal and inland New South Wales, the ACT, southeast South Australia, and most of Victoria.

Habitat

Occurs in forests, woodlands, shrub lands and open areas, often far from water, in tree hollows, cracks and areas beneath flaking bark. Prefers habitats with climbing material and only enters water for short periods of time, often to breed. They are also seen in urban areas. They can rapidly change skin-colour from pale green hues to reddish-brown.

Copper-backed Brood Frog

Pseudophryne raveni



LC

E

NA

GC



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, in southeast Queensland from Tamborine Mountain to Nerang and northern New South Wales.

Habitat

Includes temperate forests, subtropical or tropical dry forests, rivers, and freshwater marshes. They prefer soaks and springs rather than swamps. Large eggs are laid in moist soil or under forest floor debris. Adult frogs have strong marble-like patterns of black and white on their undersides, which is thought to be unique to individuals; much like human fingerprints.

Three-clawed Worm Skink

Anomalopus verreauxii



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, found across eastern Australia.

Habitat

Occurs under ground cover in woodlands, paddocks, and rainforests and in suburban gardens amongst leaf litter and in compost heaps. These skinks have been observed foraging on the ground at night and when disturbed will escape by burrowing into the litter layer. Due to their semi-underground habitat, they are voracious insectivores, keeping populations of slaters, slugs, spiders, crickets, termites and flies in check.

Major Skink

Bellatorias frerei



CREATIVE COMMONS

LC

E

NA



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, this large skink is found from Cape York in the north to the mid-coast of New South Wales.

Habitat

Found in a variety of wooded habitats from shrubland and heaths to rainforest edges, this species is a highly social creature. Adults pair for life and usually raise multiple young. Usually, requires relatively good cover of rocks or fallen woody debris where they will be protected from predators. This skink is closely related to the even-larger Land Mullet (*Bellatorias major*).

Yellow-faced Whip Snake

Demansia psammophis



CREATIVE COMMONS

LC

E

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, found in all states except Tasmania.

Habitat

Inhabits a range of environments from coastal forests to arid scrublands and grasslands. They are common in rock crevices and under logs in groups. They are active during the day, always alert and flee quickly when disturbed. During winter, they are known to become semi-dormant, usually only active to seek sun and water. These snakes primarily target lizards as their prey, and while their venom is dangerous, they rarely encounter humans.

Common Tree Snake

Dendrelaphis punctulatus



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

LC

N

NA



Distribution

Found throughout northern and eastern Australia, extending up into southern Papua New Guinea.

Habitat

This slender, diurnal snake is common and can be found in a range of habitats from rainforests through to urban parks and lakes, where it feeds on prey such as frogs, small reptiles, small mammals and fish. Has a range of colour morphs with yellow, grey and even blue individuals often seen. They are agile climbers, as much at home in tree canopies, as on the ground.

Water Dragon

Intellagama lesueurii



LC

E

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, it occurs along eastern Australia, in New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria.

Habitat

Associated with water and is semi-aquatic. They are found near creeks, rivers, lakes, and other water bodies that have overhanging branches or rocks in open or filtered sun. They are shy in the wild but readily adapt to humans in suburban parks and gardens. As such, places like Brisbane's South Bank parklands have become host to dense Water Dragon populations.

Burton's Snake-lizard

Lialis burtonis



GUY CASTLEY

LC

N

NA

GC



Distribution

Occurs across most of Australia other than parts of southern Australia including Tasmania. Small populations may also be seen in Papua New Guinea.

Habitat

Found in a variety of habitats from deserts to the margins of rainforests they are commonly seen in low vegetation or debris on the ground. In areas where leaf litter is not available, they will use grasses, abandoned burrows and other shelter. They are most commonly encountered during the day. Like geckos, this species can 'drop its tail' if threatened, and escape.

Carpet Python

Morelia spilota



LC

E

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, found across mainland Australia, except central areas.

Habitat

Inhabits a diverse range of habitat types including forests, urban areas, and areas near water. They are semi-arboreal and mostly active at night. The Carpet Python is one of Australia's most successful mammal hunters, and in urban areas are very adept at hunting and catching rats and mice. They are a non-venomous snake, and so pose little threat to humans.

Eastern Bearded Dragon

Pogona barbata



LC

E

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, they are most common in eastern and central mainland Australia.

Habitat

Inhabits open woodlands or forests with places to perch, such as logs and fallen branches, retreating to lower and cooler places when too hot. They are seen basking in the sun during the day, returning to burrows for shelter during periods of inactivity. When disturbed, they flee to a nearby burrow under a pile of dead vegetation. They are omnivorous species, eating a range of animal and plant species.

Eastern Blue-tongue

Tiliqua scincoides



Distribution

Occurs in central and eastern mainland Australia, Tasmania, and Papua New Guinea.

Habitat

Active during the day and can be found in coastal regions, montane areas and sclerophyll forests. They are an adaptable species, often finding suitable habitats in urban and suburban areas. Gardeners often welcome this species as they are fantastic at controlling slug, snails and insects. However, despite their size, they are often fall victim to dogs and feral cats.

Lace Monitor

Varanus varius



LC

E

NA



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, this species is found from Cape York in northern Queensland down to South Australia.

Habitat

Active during the day, this large lizard is found in a variety of habitats including both open and closed forests and woodlands. The species is highly versatile with males having home ranges of up to 65 ha, which they roam during warmer months. The species is adept at climbing trees and rocks to escape from predators, and is able to survive long periods of drought.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo

Macropus giganteus



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, found in eastern mainland Australia and Tasmania.

Habitat

Prefers grassy woodlands and forests, but also may inhabit parklands and golf courses. They are active mostly from dusk to dawn, and often seen in large groups of 10 or more individuals. These mammals are the largest herbivores in their range. Their soft feet (unlike hooved introduced grazing mammals) and role in grazing means they have important roles in the ecology of native grasslands, woodlands and marshes.

Red-necked Wallaby

Notamacropus rufogriseus



LC

E

NA

GC



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, in coastal forests of eastern and south-eastern Australia, especially in Queensland, north-eastern New South Wales, and Tasmania.

Habitat

Found in eucalypt forests with moderate shrub cover and open areas nearby, as well as tall coastal heath communities. They spend most of the day resting in cover, foraging at dawn and dusk. They are essentially solitary but may forage in groups of up to 30 individuals. This species has been introduced to other countries, including the United Kingdom.

Sugar Glider

Petaurus breviceps



GUY CASTLEY



Distribution

Found in eastern and northern mainland Australia, Tasmania, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Habitat

Found in open woodlands and forests, where they are most active at night, sleeping in nests in tree hollows during the day. They can be seen in groups of up to 7 adults and young, appearing playful and social but will defend their territory aggressively if threatened. In 2021, this species was split into three new similar species: the Sugar, Savanna and Krefft's Gliders.

Squirrel Glider

Petaurus norfolcensis



LC

E

NA

GC



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, widely though sparsely distributed in eastern Australia from northern Queensland to western Victoria.

Habitat

Found in dry woodland areas, preferring mixed species stands with shrub or acacia midstorey, and heath understorey in coastal areas. They require abundant tree hollows for refuge and nesting, and can be seen in family groups of adults and offspring. While the Squirrel Glider is still reasonably common in Queensland, in New South Wales it is now listed as Vulnerable.

Koala

Phascolarctos cinereus



E

E

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, it occurs in eastern mainland Australia and has been re-introduced to South Australia after becoming locally extinct in the region.

Habitat

Occurs in woodlands and forests as their diet is almost exclusively leaves from a few eucalypt species. They sleep most of the day and are active for approximately four hours at night. They are mostly solitary but can be seen in large groups where densities are high. Koalas are now listed as an Endangered species throughout Australia.

Common Ringtail Possum

Pseudocheirus peregrinus



GUY CASTLEY

LC

E

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia with an extensive distribution across eastern mainland Australia and Tasmania.

Habitat

Occurs in temperate or tropical regions but are rarely found in drier areas. They live in a wide range of environments including forests, coastal shrub, and suburban areas and are mainly solitary but occasionally form small family groups. At night, they forage through trees using their tail to grip branches as they move. These possums favour leaves, fruits and flowers from the Myrtaceae plant family.

Black Flying-fox

Pteropus alecto



Distribution

Native to Australia and Papua New Guinea, distributed across northern and eastern Australia.

Habitat

Found in tropical and subtropical forests, and woodlands. They form camps in mangrove islands in river estuaries, paperbark forests, eucalypt forests and rainforests. They are a migratory species that roosts in large numbers high in the tree canopy during the day. Individuals fly out to feed at dusk and return to their roost at dawn. Their role in pollinating important canopy trees makes this bat a keystone species for many subtropical ecosystems.

Grey-headed Flying-fox

Pteropus poliocephalus



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

V

E

NA

GC



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, along the east coast from Bundaberg in Queensland to Melbourne in Victoria.

Habitat

Found in a variety of habitats including rainforests, woodlands, mangroves, swamps, but also in suburban and cultivated areas. They are typically found no more than 100 km inland, and commonly among tall trees. They form large camps near rivers, dispersing at night in search of food, and returning to camps to sleep suspended in trees during the day. This species is rarer than the Black Flying-fox and is now a protected species in Australia.

Short-beaked Echidna

Tachyglossus aculeatus



LC

N

NA



Distribution

Found throughout Australia and into southern New Guinea, it is regarded as one of the most widespread mammals in Australia.

Habitat

This highly adaptable monotreme occurs in a range of habitats. From coastal plains and beaches to inland dry mulga and desert, it is a resilient species using its spines for defence. Their diet consists of worms and grubs, but also ants and termites in drier areas. Echidna spines are made of keratin; the same substance that comprises human hair.

Common Brushtail Possum

Trichosurus vulpecula



GUY CASTLEY

LC

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NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, they have been introduced to New Zealand where they are regarded as a pest species.

Habitat

Inhabits open dry eucalypt forests, woodlands, and suburban areas. They rest in tree hollows or similar protected nooks, including ceilings of buildings. This possum is larger than the similar Common Ringtail Possum and is easily distinguished by the thick, bushy tail. These possums use scent glands on their chest and chin to rub on surfaces to mark their territory.

Swamp Wallaby

Wallabia bicolor



LC

E

NA

GC



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, from the north of Queensland south to Victoria and South Australia.

Habitat

Occurs in denser vegetation than the similar-looking Red-necked Wallaby, including marshes, swamps, forests, woodlands and weedy farmland or roadside verges. The Swamp Wallaby has a number of different colour morphs, including dark brown-black, russet-brown, grey, and even a bright golden yellow form found around the Gold Coast and offshore sand islands.

Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis



LC

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GC

L



Distribution

Introduced from Asia to combat agricultural pests, it is one of the most recognised birds in urban areas of eastern Australia.

Habitat

Closely associated with urban areas and can compete with native species for nest hollows in trees. During the evening, large groups of up to several thousand birds can gather in communal roosts.

Australian Brush Turkey

Alectura lathamii



LC

E

NA

GC

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, along east coast from Cape York Peninsula, Queensland to the Illawarra region of New South Wales.

Habitat

Usually found in rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests, but may also be seen in drier scrub. In northern areas, they are most common at higher altitudes but move to lowland areas in winter. In the south, they are common in mountain and lowland regions. Males create massive 1.5 m by 4 m mounds of litter to incubate eggs regulating the internal temperature to 33-35 degrees celsius.

King Parrot

Alisterus scapularis



LC

E

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, in eastern mainland Australia.

Habitat

Occurs in wet sclerophyll forests or rainforests where they prefer to fly below tree level, weaving between tree trunks. They usually form pairs or small flocks, feeding on eucalypt and acacia seeds. Once wary of disturbance, King Parrots are increasing in urban areas that have high tree canopy densities. They are also seen more frequently at artificial feeding stations and on fruiting trees.

Pacific Black Duck

Anas superciliosa



Distribution

Native to Australia, they are found across Australia and the Pacific Islands.

Habitat

Common ducks in freshwater and saltwater wetlands, rivers, and urban ponds. They are usually seen in pairs or small flocks and frequently with other ducks. Mating coincides with sufficient food and water availability, often after the onset of heavy rainfall. Mallard Ducks (*A. platyrhynchos*) from the northern hemisphere are closely related, where they occupy similar habitats.

Bush Stone Curlew

Burhinus grallarius



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

LC

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NA

GC

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, across mainland Australia.

Habitat

Occurs in open woodland, grasslands, and occasionally in coastal areas. They are most active at night, usually alone or in pairs. During winter they may form small groups. They have gradually moved into urban areas including Brisbane and the Gold Coast where they prefer open parkland, especially mulch-beds where they are well camouflaged. Their eerie wailing calls can often be heard carrying across parks and the campuses on still nights.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Cacatua galerita



CLARE MORRISON

LC

N

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, they occur in northern and eastern mainland, and Tasmania with a small population in Perth.

Habitat

Occurs in a variety of wooded habitats and around urban areas. They will stay in the same area all year round. They can be seen in flocks of hundreds, foraging on the ground, with a few perched nearby looking out for danger, or roosting in trees. This species often outcompetes less aggressive parrots for nesting hollows in mature trees.

Little Corella

Cacatua sanguinea



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

LC

N

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, they are widespread, although with gaps separating some populations.

Habitat

Found in a variety of habitats including monsoonal forest, paperback swamps, mangroves, woodlands and grasslands. They often form large flocks, especially along watercourses and where seeding grasses are found. They nest in large colonies and feed in large, noisy flocks mainly on the ground and are very intelligent.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Cacomantis flabelliformis



GUY CASTLEY

LC

N

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Native to Australia, found in east and south-western Australia, Tasmania, and naturally occur in Fiji, Indonesia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands.

Habitat

Occur in forests and woodlands with well-developed understorey, where females lay their eggs in nests made by other birds. As a brood parasite their main target "foster parents" are nesting flycatchers, fairy-wrens, scrubwrens and thornbills.

Brush Cuckoo

Cacomantis variolosus



GUY CASTLEY

LC

N

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Native to Australia, in northern and eastern Australia. In southern Australia it is migratory, moving north for winter.

Habitat

Found in a range of habitats from rainforest to woodlands, often in environments rich in trees and a thick shrub layer. Often seen alone or in pairs and difficult to detect as they sit still on tree branches. They are a parasitic breeder, laying eggs similar to existing eggs in the nest of other birds and when they hatch, the hatchling kicks out the host's eggs and is raised by the host.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

Caligavis chrysops



LAURA GROGAN

LC

E

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, along the east coast and migrating north during the winter season.

Habitat

Found in open sclerophyll forests, coastal dunes, high-altitude subalpine areas, and riparian woodlands. They occupy areas infested with weeds and blackberries, as well as orchards, parks and gardens where they feed on fruit and flowers. They may also be seen in forests regenerating after fire or logging, in coastal heaths, among flowering mangroves, and in woodlands near forest or with an understory of shrubs.

Glossy Black-cockatoo

Calyptorhynchus lathami



GUY CASTLEY

V

E

NA

GC



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, they are widespread in eastern Australia with an isolated population on Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

Habitat

Highly dependent on the distribution of *Allocasuarina* and *Casuarina* (she-oak) species and are found in woodlands dominated by she-oak or open forests with she-oaks in the mid canopy. They require tree hollows for breeding so are dependent on the presence on large old trees.

Pheasant Coucal

Centropus phasianinus



LAURA GROGAN

LC

N

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Native to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and northern and eastern Australia.

Habitat

A large ground-dwelling cuckoo often found in areas with dense understorey vegetation, particularly grasses, rushes, bracken and sedges, in open forests and woodlands, and around wetlands. Unusual amongst cuckoo species, they lay, incubate and raise their own young instead of parasitising other bird nests. Their nests are hidden in thick grasses or in weedy thickets.

Grey Shrike-thrush

Colluricincla harmonica



LC

N

NA

GC

L



Distribution

Native to Australia and eastern coastal Papua New Guinea, they are widespread across Australia.

Habitat

Found in various forests and woodlands, especially in those dominated by eucalypts or acacias. They search for food on the ground, generally around fallen logs and on the limbs of trunks of trees. This species is among Australia's most melodious songbirds with a rich and varied call, especially during spring and summer.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Coracina novaehollandiae



Distribution

Native to Australia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands, they occur throughout Australia.

Habitat

Found in almost any wooded habitat, except rainforests, and are common in suburbia where birds perch on overhead wires or television aerials. Outside of the breeding season they form large family groups and flocks of up to a 100 birds. A particular characteristic of the cuckoo-shrike is their shuffling behaviour when they first land, giving them the colloquial name of "Shufflewings".

Torresian Crow

Corvus orru



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Distribution

Native to Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Moluccas and New Britain, they are found across northern Australia and in Western Australia, but rarely inland.

Habitat

The most common corvid of coastal towns in New South Wales, Queensland, and the Northern Territory, they occur on the edges of rainforests, in open forests and woodlands, taller scrublands, beaches and in dry areas. They may also be seen around farms and croplands. They require tall trees for nesting creating a large stick nest.

Pied Butcherbird

Cracticus nigrogularis



GUY CASTLEY

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, across most of mainland Australia with the exception of south-central Australia.

Habitat

Found in open sclerophyll forests, eucalypt and acacia woodlands and scrublands, with sparse or no understorey, or low cover with shrubs. They are more restricted to woodland alongside rivers and billabongs in arid areas and northern Australia. Within its range, they are generally sedentary, with minimal seasonal movements. They are often seen in pairs or small groups, defending their territory from intruders.

Grey Butcherbird

Cracticus torquatus



JOEL IRWIN

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, from mid-eastern Queensland, through southern Australia, including Tasmania, to northern Western Australia.

Habitat

Found in a range of wooded habitats, including suburban areas. In inland areas, they prefer denser forests. Aggressive predators, these birds often impale still live prey (reptiles, small birds, frogs) on branches or barbed-wire and return to them later. They also have distinctive attractive calls.

Laughing Kookaburra

Dacelo novaeguineae



CLARE MORRISON

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, through eastern mainland and introduced to Tasmania, Western Australia, and New Zealand.

Habitat

Inhabits most areas where there are suitable nesting trees including open sclerophyll forest, woodland, parks and gardens. The nest is a bare chamber in a naturally occurring tree hollow, but they have also been observed using arboreal termite mounds. These birds have perhaps the most charismatic Australian bird call. They are believed to pair for life.

Mistletoebird

Dicaeum hirundinaceum



CLARE MORRISON

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Distribution

Native to Australia, Papua New Guinea and eastern Indonesia, found throughout mainland Australia.

Habitat

Found wherever mistletoe grows and are crucial in the dispersal of this plant. In turn, new mistletoe colonies support other animals including honeyeaters and butterflies. They can be seen in parks, gardens and remnant vegetation often restlessly flitting around in the canopy of trees, or flying overhead. They are commonly found in pairs, often hidden among the foliage high in the canopy of trees.

Spangled Drongo

Dicrurus bracteatus



GUY CASTLEY

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Distribution

Native to Papua New Guinea, eastern Indonesia, and northern and eastern Australia.

Habitat

Prefers wet forests, but can also be seen in other woodlands, mangroves, and parks. They avoid more dense forests and rainforests. They are more common in the north, and are often seen alone or in pairs perched on an open branch or telephone wires, waiting for passing insects, which they catch with skilled aerial manoeuvring.

Blue-faced Honeyeater

Entomyzon cyanotis



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

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Distribution

Native to Australia and Papua New Guinea, found in northern and eastern mainland Australia, from Western Australia to near Adelaide.

Habitat

Occurs in a wide range of habitats including open forests, woodlands, mangroves and coastal heathlands close to water in tropical, subtropical and wetter temperate zones. They are often seen in banana plantations, orchards, farmland and urban parks, gardens and golf courses. Their natural food is generally cup-shaped nectar-bearing flowers like bloodwoods.

Galah

Eolophus roseicapilla



CLARE MORRISON

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, and found across mainland Australia and Tasmania.

Habitat

Inhabits most areas and is one of Australia's most widespread birds. They often flock in large numbers in farmland and parks where food is abundant feeding early and late in the day. They have a very distinctive call and colouration.

Buff-banded Rail

Gallirallus philippensis



LC

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Distribution

Native to Australia, as well as throughout south-east Asia, the Philippines, New Guinea and across the western Pacific region. In Australia, its largest concentrations are found along the east coast and eastern islands.

Habitat

Lives in wetland areas bordered by dense vegetation including reeds and sometimes even dense cropping in the agricultural regions. They also make regular use of artificial wetlands such as sewage-treatment areas and ditches. These birds are increasingly found in urbanised areas.

Magpie-lark

Grallina cyanoleuca



Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, found throughout Australia other than Tasmania.

Habitat

Very common and widespread bird in natural, urban and rural areas in almost all habitat types with the exception of rainforests and dry deserts. They are a familiar urban bird, often seen sitting on telephone wires either alone or in pairs, or patrolling bare ground, especially foreshores or swamps. They will defend their territory against other species.

Australian Magpie

Gymnorhina tibicen



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

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Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, they are common throughout Australia.

Habitat

Found wherever there is a combination of trees and adjacent open areas, including parks and sporting fields, but are absent from dense forests and arid deserts. Groups of up to 24 birds live year round in territories that are actively defended by all group members. Although they are generally quite tame, during the breeding season some individuals become aggressive towards intruders.

Welcome Swallow

Hirundo neoxena



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI



Distribution

Native to Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea, they are Australia's most widespread swallow but more common in the south than the north.

Habitat

Can be seen fluttering, swooping and gliding in almost any habitat, between city buildings, over farmland, in deserts, wetlands, forests and grasslands, and every habitat in between. They also breed close to human habitation. The species is protected in Queensland. They are colonial breeding species often gathering in large numbers to look after their young together.

Brown Honeyeater

Lichmera indistincta



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

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Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, they are found from south-western Australia across Queensland, through New South Wales.

Habitat

Often found in mangroves and woodlands or dense forests along waterways, but also in mallee, spinifex woodlands, low dense shrublands, heath and salt-marshes, monsoon forests or rainforests. They are also common in urban parks, gardens, and street trees as well as on farms and in roadside vegetation. This small bird has a remarkably loud "whit whit" call.

Superb Fairy-wren

Malurus cyaneus



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, south of the Tropic of Capricorn through eastern Australia and Tasmania to south-eastern South Australia.

Habitat

Occurs in most habitats with suitable dense cover and low shrubs. They are also common in small groups in urban parks and gardens. They forage mostly on the ground or low bushes, feeding in small social groups. There is a lot of research into their complex social structures, with a primary male leading groups of multiple females and sub-adult males.

Variegated Fairy-wren

Malurus lamberti



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, widespread in arid and semi-arid regions and also recorded in tropical, sub-tropical and temperate regions.

Habitat

Can be found in small groups in forest, woodland and shrubland where there are dense thickets to hide in. They look similar to the Superb Fairy-wren but are missing the black eye-stripe and have a rusty-red wing bar at the top of the wings.

Red-backed Fairy-wren

Malurus melanocephalus



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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, it is widespread in northern and eastern Australia, with a range extending from Western Australia, across Far North Queensland, through eastern Queensland to northern New South Wales.

Habitat

It is the smallest of Australia's fairy-wrens and occurs in a range of grass habitats, especially grassland or open forests and woodlands with a grassy ground cover. They forage together in pairs or in small family groups. This is perhaps the most distinctive fairy-wren, lacking any blue colouration in the males.

Noisy Miner

Manorina melanocephala



CLARE MORRISON

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, from northern Queensland along the eastern coast to South Australia and Tasmania.

Habitat

Found in woodlands and open forests, they are well adapted to urban environments and are commonly seen in parks and gardens. They have benefitted from habitat clearing as well as planting some types of native plants, such as hybrid *Grevillea*. They are a particularly aggressive, often forming dominant communities in urban areas and out-competing many other birds.

Rainbow Bee-eater

Merops ornatus



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI



Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, they are found across much of mainland Australia, and migrate north to New Guinea during the winter.

Habitat

Occurs in open forests, woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands. They are found on farmland, orchards and vineyards and will use disturbed sites such as quarries, road cuttings and mines to build nesting tunnels. These birds are often heard before they are seen, with their characteristic bubbly call.

Scarlet Honeyeater

Myzomela sanguinolenta



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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, along the east coast from North Queensland to Victoria, but less common south of Sydney.

Habitat

Lives in open forests and woodlands with a sparse understorey including wetlands and rainforests. They are seen in urban areas on flowering plants along streets, parks and gardens. They can be difficult to see as they are well camouflaged while flitting among red-flowered *Melaleuca* species and other similar nectar-bearing shrubs. Their alternate name, reflecting an updated taxonomy, is Scarlet Myzomela.

Southern Boobook

Ninox boobook



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Distribution

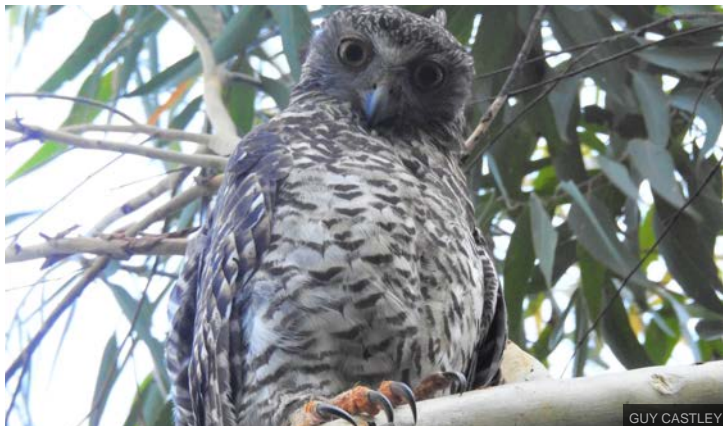
Endemic to Australia, found throughout mainland Australia and Tasmania and on some coastal islands.

Habitat

Inhabits a variety of habitats from dense forests to open desert. If they are observed during the day, they are usually roosting among dense foliage. This owl is the smallest of all the Australian species, reaching just 36 cm in length. The diet ranges from small mammals like mice, to large insects like grasshoppers and moths, and as such they are important species in food-chains across Australia.

Powerful Owl

Ninox strenua



GUY CASTLEY

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, the largest of Australia's owl species it is found from south-eastern Queensland to Victoria.

Habitat

Occur in open forests and woodlands, as well as along sheltered gullies in wet forests with dense native shrub and ground-layer vegetation. They can be found in open areas near forests including farmland, urban parks and gardens. They require old growth trees with hollows for nesting. They roost by day, perched in the dense shade of a tree and will often hunt at night. The species is protected.

Olive-backed Oriole

Oriolus sagittatus



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Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, it occurs across coastal regions of northern and eastern Australia from Western Australia, right around the east coast to South Australia.

Habitat

Found in forests, woodlands and rainforests, as well as urban areas with large numbers of trees including parks and golf courses. They are less gregarious than the closely related Australasian Figbirds with which they are often seen foraging. While they can be seen in small groups, particularly in the colder months, they are more often alone or in pairs.

Golden Whistler

Pachycephala pectoralis



LAURA GROGAN

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Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the western Pacific, they occur from northern Queensland, around coastal eastern and southern Australia, including Tasmania, to Western Australia.

Habitat

Found in almost any wooded habitat, from rainforest to mallee, but they prefer more dense areas. Occasionally they can be seen in parks and orchards perched quietly among the foliage of trees or shrubs, and they usually forage alone. The species exhibits sexual dimorphism with the female a beige-brown colour.

Rufous Whistler

Pachycephala rufiventris



Distribution

Native to Australia and New Caledonia, they occur throughout mainland Australia but not Tasmania.

Habitat

Found in forests, woodlands and shrublands, with a shrubby understorey as well as in urban parks and gardens and farmland with some trees. They usually forage at higher levels than other whistler species and are rarely seen on the ground. The species exhibits sexual dimorphism with the female a beige-brown colour.

Noisy Friarbird

Philemon corniculatus



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Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, they occur across eastern Australia and is a partial migrant in the south of its range, moving north in autumn and south in late winter.

Habitat

Found in dry forests and eucalypt woodlands, as well as coastal scrub, heathlands, wetlands and wet forests. They spend most of their time feeding high up in trees in noisy flocks, only coming down occasionally. They form long-term pairs with both parents defending the nest and surrounds.

Pale-headed Rosella

Platycercus adscitus



CLARE MORRISON

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, commonly found on the east coast, from Far North Queensland through to New South Wales, Victoria, areas of South Australia, and into Tasmania.

Habitat

Prefers open forest, but they have also adapted well to some urban areas. However, they are hollow-nesters relying on old trees to raise their young. Due to the aggressive nature of many other urban birds such as Noisy Miners and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, this rosella often misses out on suitable nests and is less common now in parts of its former range.

Tawny Frogmouth

Podargus strigoides



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI



Distribution

Endemic to Australia, it occurs across mainland Australia and Tasmania.

Habitat

Found in almost any habitat type other than dense rainforests and treeless deserts. Although they are nocturnal they can be found resting on tree branches during the day using their colouration to blend into the bark of trees. They are not an owl, but are nightjars, with this broader group of birds found globally, and almost always have brown and white plumage resembling tree bark or leaf-litter.

Grey Fantail

Rhipidura albiscapa



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI



Distribution

Native to Australia and other Pacific islands, including the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It is widespread in Australia with a variety of subspecies.

Habitat

Often found in forests and urban areas, they are almost never still during waking hours, flitting from perch to perch, sometimes on the ground but mostly on the twigs of trees. This small bird has among the most complex genetics of all birds in Australia with different subpopulations each having distinctive calls, plumage and even nest construction.

Willie Wagtail

Rhipidura leucophrys



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Distribution

Native to Australia, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, the Bismarck Archipelago, and the Moluccas, it is found throughout mainland Australia.

Habitat

Occurs in a wide range of open habitats including grasslands, woodlands, urban parks and gardens. They can be seen singly or in pairs, darting around hunting for insects on the ground wagging their tail from side to side. This bird has numerous onomatopoeic Indigenous names, associated with its scolding call.

Rufous Fantail

Rhipidura rufifrons



MARK NADIR RUNKOVSKI

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Distribution

Native to Australia, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sulawesi and Guam, it occurs along the northern and eastern coast of Australia, particularly in the north.

Habitat

Usually found below the canopy of wet eucalypt forests and rainforests, in the dense, shady undergrowth of gullies. They are seen foraging mostly in the air and perching restlessly on branches. During migration, they may be found in more open habitats and urban areas alone or in pairs. Rufous Fantails are protected as a migratory species across Australia.

White-browed Scrubwren

Sericornis frontalis



GUY CASTLEY

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, they are found from northern Queensland, through South Australia, to Western Australian coast, and Tasmania.

Habitat

Live in rainforest, open forest, woodland and heaths and are remarkably sedentary, usually seen in pairs, in thick vegetation on the forest floor. Scrubwren nests are often built out of neatly-woven grasses, developed into a dome or ball-shape with a small side entrance and an inner lining of feather-down.

Australasian Figbird

Sphecotheres vieilloti



CLARE MORRISON

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Distribution

Native to Australia and Papua New Guinea, including in coastal regions of northern and eastern Australia.

Habitat

Occur in rainforests and wet forests, but also in urban parks and gardens. Attracted to areas with figs and other fruit-producing trees they can be resident birds, but also nomadic dependant on the availability of resources. They are gregarious, forming flocks of 20 to 40 during non-breeding season, and breed in small loose colonies.

Pied Currawong

Strepera graculina



JOEL IRWIN

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, found throughout eastern Australia, from northern Queensland to Victoria, but not in Tasmania.

Habitat

Prefers forests and woodlands, and has become well adapted to suburban areas. Through their range they are common and familiar. They breed in uplands in spring and summer before migrating to lowlands in autumn and winter. The main call is a loud "currawong", which gives the bird its name. Other frequent sounds include deep croaks and a wolf whistle.

Australian White Ibis

Threskiornis moluccus



CLARE MORRISON

LC

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Distribution

Native to Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, it is found across eastern, northern and south-western mainland Australia.

Habitat

Often found in freshwater wetlands, swamps and grasslands, but also a scavenger in urban areas. They form large, often mixed species colonies and can breed year-round in habitats rich in resources. They have adapted well to life in urban environments, often seen wandering amongst people in built-up areas.

Sacred Kingfisher

Todiramphus sanctus



GUY CASTLEY

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Distribution

Native to Australia and large areas of the Pacific, they occur across mainland Australia and Tasmania.

Habitat

Occur in open dry woodlands and forests, and occasionally in urban parks. They are predominately solitary with the exception of the breeding season when they form pairs nesting in burrows in a tree or earth banks. They mainly forage on land but also catch prey in water, although their diet rarely includes fish, primarily feeding on reptiles like skinks as well as invertebrates.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet

Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus



GUY CASTLEY

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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, they occur across coastal regions of eastern Australia from north Queensland through to New South Wales.

Habitat

Occurs in lowland eucalypt forests and woodlands but may also be found in heathlands, and urban parks and gardens. They are often seen squabbling noisily in the canopy of flowering trees. These birds look similar to the Rainbow Lorikeet, but lack the blue, and most of the red and orange colouration.

Rainbow Lorikeet

Trichoglossus moluccanus



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Distribution

Endemic to Australia, they are widespread in eastern and northern Australia but are also in Perth and Tasmania as a result of occasional natural introductions and/or aviary escapes.

Habitat

Found in a wide variety of habitats including rainforest, forests and woodlands, and urban areas with an abundance of trees. They are often seen in loud and fast-moving flocks, or in communal roosts at dusk and are among the most abundant and obvious birds in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Masked Lapwing

Vanellus miles



Distribution

Native to Australia, Indonesia, New Guinea, New Caledonia, and New Zealand, they are common in northern, central, and eastern Australia.

Habitat

Occur in marshes, mudflats, beaches, grasslands and urban areas including sports fields close to wetlands where it feeds on insects and worms. It will defend its territory in the winter and spring breeding season when it will call loudly and swoop intruders, although they are placid much of the rest of the year.

Silvereye

Zosterops lateralis



CLARE MORRISON

LC

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Distribution

Native to Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Vanuatu, they are widespread in much of Australia.

Habitat

Particularly abundant in commercial orchards and urban parks and gardens but can also be found in almost any wooded habitat. They are seen alone, in pairs or small flocks during the breeding season, but form large flocks in the winter months.

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