

Kestrel (32cm) This falcon is the smallest of our 24 birds of prey. It's one of the few birds that can hover, whilst looking for prey on the ground. (Another is the mainly white Blackshouldered Kite.)

Red Wattlebird

So named because

of the red 'wattles'

or skin-flaps on

its neck. Its call

sounds like a

barking dog with

a bad cough.



Peregrine Falcon

OK, this awesome bird isn't common, but can be seen in our area. When it swoops on its prey from a great height, it is the fastest creature on earth.



Koel (42cm) A member of the cuckoo family. It's distinctive, rising cooo-ee, cooo-ee' call is a wellknown sound in the area in the warmer months.



#### Satin Bowerbird

The male builds his famous bower solely for the purpose of seduction - it's not a nest. He decorates it with treasures of blue in the hope of impressing the greenish-

brown female



#### Superb Fairy-wren

Our familiar 'Blue Wren'. Females and young are brown. Most males lose their bright blue colouring in autumn and winter.



#### Eastern Spinebill

A beautiful little bird with a long beak specially designed for probing deep inside flowers to extract their





## **New Holland**

Honeyeater (18cm) Not a shy bird, it likes to sit on top of bushes and advertise its presence. Shares the same habitat as the Little Wattlebird, and sounds like a squeaky toy.



irds of paddocks, parks and gardens

#### but at least it's a native!

**Noisy Miner** 

Has a large reper-

toire of different

calls as its name sug-

gests. It is aggressive

owards other birds,

**Black-faced** Cuckoo-shrike

Not a cuckoo or a shrike, an older (better!) name is the Shufflewing - which is what it does every time it lands.



### **Grey Butcherbird**

So-called as it stores prey in a tree fork, using its hooked beak to tear it up into bitesized chunks. But it's a handsome bird and sings beautifully!



## Willy Wagtail (21cm

Little Wattlebird

A Wattlebird with no

wattles. Smaller and

plainer than the Red.

Common in gardens

and heathland

around banksias,

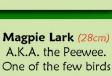
grevilleas etc.

A feisty little bird, ready to take on others many times its size. As well as its rattling alarm call it has one which some say sounds like 'sweet pretty creature'.



## Australian Raven

Often called a crow, the Raven is the biggest member of the crow family in Australia (and the only one you're likely to find around here).



that sings a duet when you hear their metallic chiming calls it's usually both the male and female

singing together.



#### **Red-browed Finch**

Also known as the Red-browed Firetail. this is the commonest local finch. Firetails are so-called because of their bright red rumps.



#### Welcome Swallow

A master of flight, especially low level, high-speed aerobatics that it uses to vacuum up flying insects.

King Parrot



## Birds From Overseas

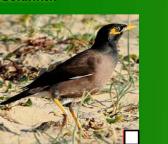
These are some of the birds found locally that have been introduced to Australia by man.



Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)







Common (Indian) Myna





House Sparrow

- Numbers in red = Approx length of bird in cm from tip of bill to end of tail.
- To get a close view of the birds (and other wildlife), a good pair of binoculars makes a huge difference. 8x40 is a popular size.
- For a full description of all Australian birds, see the books (Field Guides) by Slater, Morcombe, Pizzey & Knight or Simpson & Day.
- For more information on where to see these birds, visit www.illawarrabirders.org

Over 350 different kinds of bird have been recorded in the Illawarra. These are some of the ones you're most likely to come across .- how many have you seen???



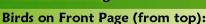
Crimson Rosella



Little Corella



Pied Currawong



- 1. Galah
- 2. Rainbow Lorikeet
- 3. Eastern Rosella
- 4. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
- 5. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



Australian Magpie

Laughing Kookaburra









Produced by Martin Potter for Illawarra Birders Inc. Production Assistant Penny Potter.

Whilst all due care has been taken to ensure the contents of this brochure are accurate, no legal responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions. Copyright material. Photos by Martin Potter

# ILLAWARRA BIRDS



A Photo Guide















Wood Duck (46cm) Just as likely to be seen on land as on water, sometimes even perching in trees.



Pacific Black Duck (54cm)Also known as the Painted Duck because of its facial markings - it looks as though it's wearing makeup!





# Chestnut Teal

(120cm)

when it

Only the male is chestnut. And his head is green. Or black - the colour is iridescent and depends on the light.



#### Wedge-tailed hearwater (42cm)

Shearwaters are better known as Muttonbirds. The waters off the Illawarra coast are a world hotspot for seabirds like this.



get a good view you need And the Austrato be on a boat. lian species has the biggest bill in the world.



Little Pied Cormorant (60cm) Like all cormorants it's not very waterproof, to make diving and catching fish easier. So it has to hang its wings out to dry!



#### **Great Cormorant**

The largest of our four local cormorants - black with a yellow face. (The Little Black Cormorant has an all-black face.)



#### White-faced Heron (68cm) A common sight water. Like all herons its neck

near any body of has a 'hinge' - an adaptation for spearing its prey.



#### Great Egret (90cm)

Its enormous neck is longer than its body. Other white Egrets you might see are the Little Egret (smaller, hyperactive when feeding) and the Cattle Egret (follows cows!)



#### White Ibis (70cm)

Sometimes called the Sacred Ibis as it was worshipped by the ancient Egyptians. Look out also for the Strawnecked lbis which has a black back.



## **Purple Swamphen**

Royal Spoonbill

The Spoonbill moves

bill.

Bigger and more colourful than the Moorhen. Both have a part of the beak hat extends over the forehead - this is called its shield.



#### < Sooty / Pied > Oystercatcher (46cm)

tically patrolling our

coastline. With luck

you might see it pluck

a fish out of the ocean,

hardly getting its feet

wet.

Their orange beak doesn't quite match their pink legs, but is perfect for prising open shellfish.





#### **Black-winged** Stilt (35cm)

Coot has a white

beak.

(38cm)

Stilts live up to their name by having the longest legs (relative to body ength) of any bird. Often seen around Lake Illawarra.



#### **Bar-tailed** Godwit (40cm)

Breeding in Siberia and Alaska, it holds the record for the longest known non-stop migration flight of over 11,000 kms.



#### **Ruddy Turnstone** (23cm)

Its name tells you how it finds its food. Known to travel an incredible 27,000 km on its annual migration to the Arctic and back.



## **Red-capped Plover**



#### Masked Lapwing (36cm)

This bird and its

'kek-kek-kek' alarm call are well-known. It is a brave defender of its young, swooping on predators and sometimes humans.



#### **Crested Tern**

(46cm)

If you see a seagull diving into the ocean and catching fish, then it's probably not a seagull! It is most likely to be a Crested Tern, our commonest Tern.



#### Silver Gull (40cm)

Gull are pirates, often taking food from other birds, so if one steals your chips it's only behaving naturally!





### **Brown Cuckoo-Dove**

(40cm)

A long-tailed bronzecoloured pigeon often seen sitting amongst the oliage. Its loud 'wh-oo-rk' call is a familiar sound of the rainforest



#### Wonga Pigeon

Most often seen walking along paths in the rainforest. Its call is a continuous 'whoopwhoop-whoop' - a bit like a reversing truck!



## Superb Lyrebird

A spectacular bird and one of the world's best mimics. well as the calls of many other birds, it is said to copy the sounds of cars, phones, even chainsaws!



#### White-throated Treecreeper (17cm)

Hunts insects by walking up tree trunks from bottom to top; it then flies down and starts again on the next tree. It's call is a piercing, repetitive whistle.



Named for it's extraordinary call which sounds like a cat miaowing or even a baby crying!



#### Lewin's Honeyeater (20cm)

One of many Australian honeyeaters (nectar-feeders), this one has a yellow earpatch, Its call has been compared to the sound of a machine gun.



#### **Eastern Yellow Robin**

(16cm)

Yes we do have robins with red breasts in Australia, but they are uncommon here. This is the robin you are most likely to see, often perching on the side of a tree trunk.



#### Whipbird (28cm)

Often heard but rarely seen. The 'whipcrack' is the male's call; a 'cheep cheep' afterwards is the reply of an interested female.



#### Golden Whistler (18cm)

This is a classic example of how in many birds the nale is very brightly coloured, but the female is a dull brown!



(16cm) A lively, inquisitive bird that lives up to its name. Its call is very highpitched - beyond the hearing of

some people.

**Grey Fantail**