

# Biodiversity in your Backyard

Part 1  
October 2020



## Birds

**Welcome** to part one of an eight-part series focused on Increasing the Biodiversity in your Backyard. Each month will cover a different topic, providing information and simple ideas on how to turn your garden into an inviting habitat for native frogs, birds, lizards, bees, and butterflies.

### Local birds

The gardens of the Corangamite are home to a variety of honeyeaters, parrots, wrens, thornbills, and of course magpies.

**To attract birds** to your garden you need to tick a few boxes – a variety of vegetation types for shelter, nesting and as a food supply, as well as a reliable water source.

### Vegetation

To entice a range of birds, your garden needs a range of vegetation types and heights. Tall trees provide hollows, nesting sites and flowers for nectar to attract large birds. Middle story shrubs for nesting and shelter and low-level grasses and ground covers for small birds and seed eaters.

### Food Supply

Planting a variety of native plants that flower through the year will provide a reliable food source for nectar feeders. Seed eaters need native grasses and sedges, and shrubs and groundcovers will host insects for insectivorous birds. Ensure there is a range of food source so as not to attract one dominant bird type.

### Water Source

Birds baths make a great garden feature as well as a water source for your birds. Ideally, have several bird baths at different locations around the garden. Large bossy birds can take over a single bath. Place rocks in deep baths for easy access and place them near bushes so small birds can quickly hide from danger. Keep bird baths clean to prevent disease spread, and always filled as birds become to rely on them, particularly in warm weather.

### Cats

Make sure the birds you attract are safe! Keep cats inside or enclosed in a cat run.

### Feeding birds

Providing a supplementary feed source for birds is not recommended. Native birds are adapted to the environment and get a balanced diet from their natural food-sources. If you do feed, make sure it is only occasionally and the area is kept clean to prevent spreading disease and attracting pests.

### Citizen Science events

#### Aussie Backyard Bird Count – October 19 - 25th

Run in October each year, this is a great way to connect with the birds in your local area. The phone app helps in bird ID and results are collaborated to assist Birdlife Australia 'in understanding more about the birds that live where people live.'

### Fairywren project

Open all year, this project collects 'Blue wren' sightings via eBird. Participants submit their observations on number of individual wrens and their plumage.

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