

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 honeveaters, variety of 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 shelter and low-level grasses and ground coves for small birds and seed eaters.

# Food Supply

Planting a variety of native plants that flower through the year will provide a food source reliable nectar feeders. Seed eaters need native grasses and sedges, and shrubs and groundcovers will host insectivorous insects for 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 them, particularly in warm weather.

## Cats

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

# Feeding birds

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

### Citizen Science events

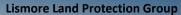
Aussie

Backyard 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 **Participants** eBird. submit their observations on number of individual wrens and their plumage.

This publication is supported by Corangamite Shire's Environmental Fund.



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Bird