28 Birds: Quail and quail-like birds

Brown Quail Cortunix ypsilophora

These small, plump ground-dwelling birds can be variable in colour. They prefer sites with dense grasses and make well-hidden nests in thick grasses with overhanging vegetation. They feed mainly at dawn and dusk on seeds, shoots and insects. They rarely fly unless they are flushed when they fly close to the ground.



Painted Button-quail *Tumix varius*

The females of these ground-dwelling birds are larger and have a chestnut back and wings, with black and white spots. Male birds have more buff coloured wings. They are active during the night and at dawn and dusk, feeding on seeds, fruit, leaves and insects. You can sometimes see signs of their feeding with shallow depressions of bare soil about 15 cm across amongst the leaf litter.



Australian Wood Duck, Maned Duck Chenonetta jubata

These partially aquatic ducks can be seen foraging around the Bushlands for grasses and herbs and swimming in dams. They have well-developed claws at the ends of their half-webbed feet that they use for perching on tree branches. They mate for life, nesting in tree hollows that they will return to year after year. The female lays and incubates nine to 12 eggs. The young will stay with the parents for about 50 days.



Male (left) and female (right)

Pacific Black Duck Anas superciliosa

These birds are seen in pairs or small mixed flocks on dams in the Bushlands. They feed on aquatic vegetation and insects by 'dabbing' upended with their head and neck in the water. Breeding occurs following good rains when there is sufficient food and water available. They build nests in either tree hollows or on the ground in grass. Females lay six to 11 eggs.



30 Birds: Waterbirds

Grey Teal Anas gracilis

These waterbirds are almost grey-brown with the secondary wing feathers having a glossy blue teal patch. They feed on a range of plants, seeds, crustaceans and insects both on land and in the dams around the Bushlands. Their nests may be placed on the ground or in tree hollows.



Australasian Grebe Tachybaptus tricolor

These small waterbirds are dark-brown above and silvery-grey below. They have a white patch of bare skin at the base of their bill. During breeding they have a black head and a chestnut facial strip. They feed on small fish and insects in dams throughout the Bushlands that are usually caught by diving underwater. These birds can raise up to three broods in one season.



Breeding plumage



Non-breeding plumage

White-necked Heron

Ardea pacifica

These large, often solitary herons have a wing span of up to 1.6 m. They have a slate-black body and a white head and long white neck that is unmarked during breeding and black legs. They are common visitors to the Bushlands where they feed on fish, frogs, yabbies and aquatic insects in dams. They make a harsh guttural croak.



White-faced Heron

Egretta novaehollandiae

These small, often solitary herons are pale grey with a white face and yellow legs. They feed on a wide variety of fish, insects and frogs throughout the dams in the Bushlands. They are often silent but make a loud guttural, graww, call in social interactions and a long drawn out ooooark repeated when flushed.



Little Pied Cormorant Microcarbo melanoleucos

These cormorants are visitors to the Bushlands. They feed on fish, yabbies and a variety of aquatic insects in dams in the Bushlands. They catch their prey by quickly plunging below the water's surface. They can often be seen perching on logs and branches drying their outstretched wings after fishing.



Little Black Cormorant Phalacrocorax sulcirostris

These relatively small, slim cormorants are totally black in colour. They feed on fish, yabbies and aquatic insects from dams in the Bushlands. After fishing they can often be seen perching on branches and logs with their wings outstretched drying. They usually forage and fly alone.



Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

These birds are almost entirely black with a yellow chin and a small white patch on each thigh that is absent in winter. When visiting the Bushlands they feed on fish, aquatic insects and frogs from the dams, which they hunt in shallow underwater dives.



Australasian Darter, Snakebird, Anhinga novaehollandiae

These largely solitary birds are visitors to the Bushlands. They have a wing span of up to 1.2 m which can be seen when they perch on logs in dams after fishing for fish and aquatic insects. When in the water, the darter's long thin neck and head is all that shows above the surface, giving them their alternative 'snakebird' name.



34 Birds: Diurnal Birds of Prey

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

These birds of prey can be seen hovering during the day, with their black shoulder patches clearly visible, hunting for small rodents, reptiles and insects. They form monogamous pairs. Both parents build a shallow nest of sticks. Young birds can feed themselves seven days after fledging (being able to fly) and leave their parents within a month.





Little Eagle Hieraaerus morphnoides

These mainly solitary eagles can be seen flying over the Bushlands and occasionally perching in a tall eucalypt surveying the area. Their plumage varies from light to dark brown. Their long tail is square tipped when closed. They feed mainly on rabbits. When these are not available they prey on birds, mediumsized reptiles, mammals and insects.



Wedge-tailed Eagle Aquila audax

These are Australia's largest bird of prey with a wingspan of up to 2.2 m and weight of up to 5.4 kg for females and 4 kg for males. They have a long wedge shaped tail that can be seen in flight when



they are hunting for rabbits and rodents. They also eat dead carcasses such as kangaroos. They form monogamous pairs and mate for life building large nests out of sticks up to 3 m deep.



Brown Goshawk Accipiter fasciatus

These solitary secretive raptors have a brown slate-grey head with a red-brown collar across the nape of the neck. Their undersides are finely barred. In flight they have a round-shaped tail, which can be used to distinguish them from the Collared Sparrowhawk that have a square -shaped tail. They hunt from a low, wellconcealed perch for small to medium sized birds and rabbits.



36 Birds: Diurnal Birds of Prey

Collared Sparrowhawk Accipiter cirrocephalus

These mainly solitary medium-sized raptors have a slate grey head, a rufous collar and a finely barred underside. In flight they have a square-shaped tail, which can be used to distinguish them from the Brown Goshawk that have a round-shaped tail. They are fast flyers, feeding in denser vegetation on small birds. Their nest is built of sticks in the fork of a tree and lined with leaves.



Whistling Kite Haliastur sphenurus

These light brown medium-sized birds of prey have a wingspan of up to 1.5 m. They can be seen flying over the Bushlands and occasionally near larger dams circling for prey including mammals, birds, fish and insects. They form monogamous breeding pairs and nest in large old trees, building a platform of sticks.



Brown Falcon Falco berigora

These medium-sized raptors range in colour from very dark brown to light brown and off-white below. They are usually seen alone in open or lightly treed areas, sitting on perches searching for small mammals, insects, reptiles and occasionally small birds. They move around locally in response to changes in food availability. These raptors use old nests of another bird or build a nest out of sticks.



Laughing Kookaburra Dacelo novaeguineae

These kingfishers feed from a perch on small prey including insects, worms, crustaceans, small mammals, frogs, birds and reptiles. They pair for life and build their nests in tree hollows in spring and summer. Both parents incubate the eggs and care for the chicks, with the help of offspring from previous years. Their familiar chuckling call can be heard throughout the year in the Bushlands.





The Sacred Kingfisher is likely to be a spring and summer migratory visitor to the Bushlands.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

These heavily built pigeons have a characteristic metallic coloured wing patch. When startled they fly away keeping low to the ground. They feed on seeds and other vegetable material. Both parents incubate the eggs in an untidy nest that they build out of sticks and twigs. The parents secrete a milk-like substance from their crop (throat pouch), which they feed to the young chicks.



Crested Pigeon Ocyphaps lophotes

These stocky pigeons are thought to be new arrivals to the Bushlands and have a conspicuous thin black crest on the top of their head. They are mainly grey-brown with a pinkish underside. Their wings are barred with glossy green and purple patches. They feed in small to large groups mostly on seeds and sometimes leaves and insects.



Pallid Cuckoo Cacomantis pallidus

These migratory birds feed on a range of insects and larvae when they start arriving in the Bushlands from mid-August. They tend to be found in more open areas of the Bushlands than other cuckoos. The female cuckoo lays her eggs in the nest of other bird species. She removes one of the other bird's eggs and replaces it with her own. The early hatching cuckoo chick pushes the other eggs or chicks out of the nest and is raised by the other birds.



Horsefield's Bronze-cuckoo Chalcites basalis

These olive-brown birds have a bronze to green sheen on their back and upper tail. They can be easily overlooked when they are not calling. They forage on the ground and in trees feeding mainly on insects and their larvae but will eat plant matter. They are migratory visitors to the Bushlands arriving from mid-August and staying for the warmer months.



The Shining Cuckoo and Fan-tailed Cuckoo are likely to be migratory visitors to the area.

40 Birds: Nightbirds

Barn Owl Tyto delicatula

These nocturnal owls feed on small mammals, birds, insects, frogs and lizards. They rely on hollows for breeding which takes place often twice a year in response to food availability. They have exceptional hearing that they use in flight to hunt for mice and rats. At night they can appear in flight as a brilliant white colour.





Southern Boobook

These are the smallest and most common owls in Australia. They have dark chocolate-brown plumage above with a heavily streaked rufous-brown and white underside. Their bill is grey and they have yellowish eyes. They feed at night on insects and small mammals like the introduced house mouse which they hunt from a tall perch. They are smaller than the Barking Owl but have similar colouring.



Powerful Owl Ninox strenua

These birds are the largest of all Australian nocturnal birds (males 67 cm, females 58 cm). They are dark grey to dark grey-brown above with dark V-shaped barring on an off-white underside, and have yellow eyes. They feed on mammals, including possums, Sugar Gliders, birds and rabbits. These owls mate for life and rely on tree hollows for breeding. They can be confused with the smaller Barking Owl.





Threatened

Barking Owl Ninox connivens

These uncommon visitors to the area are grey-brown above with heavily streaked whitish and grey-brown underside and large yellow eyes. They feed on a variety of small mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. These owls are often identified by their distinctive 'wook wook' call that sounds like a dog barking. They rely on hollows for breeding and can be confused with the Powerful Owl. Only 50 pairs are believed to be remaining in Victoria.





Threatened

42 Birds: Nightbirds

Tawny Frogmouth Podargus strigoides

These birds feed at night on insects, worms, small mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds. They mainly feed from a perch but can also catch food such as moths during flight. During the day they roost on tree branches, where they are well camouflaged, looking like a broken branch. Both parents incubate the eggs in a platform nest made of sticks.



Australian Owlet-nightjar Aegotheles cristatus

These small nocturnal birds live in hollows. They can sometimes be seen during the day perching at the entrance to their hollows basking in the sun. Pairs form permanent bonds and occupy the same territory throughout the year feeding on a variety of insects and spiders. Both parents incubate the eggs and care for the chicks.





Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo Calyptorhynchus funereus

These large cockatoos are easily identified by their black plumage and yellow-edged tail. They feed in noisy flocks on seeds of native trees and pinecones. Both sexes will construct a nest in a large tree hollow. The female will incubate one to two eggs while the male feeds her. Usually only one chick survives and will stay with the parents for six months.





Galah

Eolophus roseicapilla

These birds often occur in large noisy flocks feeding on seeds mainly on the ground. They mate for life and rely on tree hollows for nesting. Breeding occurs from July to December. Both parents incubate the eggs and care for the young.





Long-billed Corella Cacatua tenuirostris

These medium-sized white cockatoos have a short crest that is not always visible, a short tail and a long upper mandible to their bill. The rose patch of their chest is larger than the Little Corella. They feed mainly on grass seeds, corms, bulbs, roots and insects. They breed from July to November, forming monogamous pairs. Both parents will build a nest, incubate the eggs and feed the chicks. They rely on hollows for breeding.





Little Corella Cacatua sanguinea

These cockatoos are mostly white, with a blue eye-ring and pale rose patch between the eye and beak. They like to play and feed in large noisy flocks on grass seeds, grains, bulbs and fruit. They are thought to mate for life and rely on tree hollows for breeding. They return to the same hollow for multiple years. This species is similar to the Long-billed Corella.





Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

These gregarious white cockatoos have a distinctive yellow crest. They feed in groups where one or more members will watch for danger from a nearby perch while the others feed on berries, seeds, nuts and roots. The chicks will remain with the parents all year round and family groups will stay together indefinitely. They rely on hollows for breeding.





Musk Lorikeet Glossopsitta concinna

These medium-sized lorikeets are often in mixed noisy flocks with other parrots and birds. They follow the flowering and fruiting patterns of trees that they feed on and can travel large distances for food. They rely on hollows for breeding where the female incubates the eggs. This species is in decline.





Crimson Rosella Platycercus elegans

These birds have crimson plumage with bright blue cheeks. Juveniles are green and sub-adults have a mottled plumage. They feed in small flocks on seeds, insects, fruit, tree blossoms, shrubs and grasses. They rely on tree hollows for nesting



Sub-adult

during September to January. The female incubates the eggs and both parents care for the young. The chicks remain dependent on their parents for about 35 days after hatching.



Adult

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

These treecreepers forage arboreally and on the ground, favouring areas with woody debris where they glean insects such as ants and beetles from leaf litter. They will climb up tree trunks and branches probing into cavities and under loose bark with their bill for insects and larvae. Both parents build a nest in tree hollows and occasionally in stumps, sometimes with other birds that will assist in feeding the chicks.





Threatened

White-throated Treecreeper Cormobates leucophaea

These treecreepers have a distinctive white throat and chest and are often heard by their piping call. They can be seen foraging in trees, probing fissures in the bark for ants and other invertebrates as well as nectar. Rarely will they forage on the ground like Brown Treecreepers. Females build the nest in a hollow and incubate the eggs. Both parents care for the young.





48 Birds: Wrens, Pardalotes and Warblers

Superb Fairy-wren Malurus cyaneus

These striking birds forage in small groups mostly on the ground, feeding on insects and other small arthropods. Females are mainly brown and lack the blue colouring of the males, but can be distinguished from juvenile males and sub-adult males



by the brown around their eyes. Females build a well-hidden domenest in low bushes and the eggs. Both parents feed with other members of the helping.



Female

Male

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

These small multi-coloured birds can sometimes be seen, but are usually heard with their two-note 'dee dee' call, high in the eucalypt canopy foraging for insects, especially **b** psyllids (lerps) on leaves. They build their nests at the end of narrow tunnels, excavated in the ground. Both parents build the nest, incubate the eggs and feed the chicks.



Female



Male

Striated Pardalote Pardalotus striatus

These birds forage in small groups in foliage in the tops of eucalypt trees for insects and their larvae. Their two-note call is a sharper 'chip chip' than the Spotted Pardalote. These birds form breeding pairs or small breeding groups. They build nests in hollows or tunnels in the ground. Parents share in the incubation of the eggs and care for the chicks, sometimes with assistance from the breeding group.



White-browed Scrubwren Sericornis frontalis

These birds forage mainly in pairs or small groups on the ground amongst leaf litter and logs for insects and other small arthropods. They prefer habitat with denser shrubs and other midstorey plants. They build a cup-shaped nest with an entrance tunnel close to the ground in thick vegetation. These birds can be confused with the Brown Thornbill who use similar habitats.



Weebill

Smicrornis brevirostris

These are Australia's smallest bird. They have a short pale bill, a pale cream iris and a pale line above the eye. They feed in noisy active flocks in the outer tree canopy on small scale insects. Their call sounds like 'I'm a wee-bill.' Breeding occurs between September and December. The female incubates the eggs in a neatly woven dome-shaped nest. They are often in flocks with Yellow and Striated Thornbills and Pardalotes.



Brown Thornbill Acanthiza pusilla

These small thornbills have a dark red eye, streaked underparts, scalloping on the top of their head and a brown rump. They feed mainly on insects but occasionally on seeds, fruit and nectar in wetter areas of the Bushlands. Pairs remain bonded for many years and will actively defend their breeding territories. Outside of breeding season they are often in mixed flocks with other thornbills, robins and treecreepers.



Buff-rumped Thornbill Acanthiza reguloides

These thornbills are olive-brown to olive on their upper side and mostly creambuff to yellow on their underside, with a caramel-buff rump (top of tail). They have a pale iris. They forage in flocks on the ground and in small shrubs for insects and seeds. They live communally with a breeding pair being assisted by other birds to build the nest and feed the young.



Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Butterbum Acanthiza chrysorrhoa

These thornbills have a striking yellow rump. The top of their head is black with white spots. They have a dark iris and lack streaking on their underside. They feed on insects and seeds on the ground in open areas in small mixed flocks. They can breed cooperatively with group members assisting in feeding the young.



52 Birds: Wrens, Pardalotes and Warblers

Yellow Thornbill Acanthiza nana

These birds lack distinctive markings. They have a dark eye and fine streaking on the ear coverts. They feed amongst tree foliage on insects and some seeds. The female incubates the eggs alone, and both parents feed the young, sometimes with the assistance of other members of the cooperative breeding group.



Striated Thornbill Acanthiza lineata

These thornbills have greenish upperparts, an orange-brown crown streaked with white. They have a streaked underside and a dark iris. They feed in mixed flocks in the tree canopy, mainly on insects but also seeds, nectar and fruit. They can breed cooperatively and have a 'zzzt-zzzt' call. The female incubates the eggs and both parents feed the young with the assistance of other members of the breeding group.



Eastern Spinebill Acanthorynchus tenuirostris

These birds have a long, fine, downward curved beak. They feed on nectar and insects while perching or hovering in flight. The female builds a cup-shaped nest from various materials and incubates the eggs. Both parents feed the young. Some individuals are present year-round with numbers bolstered by winter visitors from moist upland areas of eucalypt forest.



New Holland Honeyeater Phylidonyris novaehollandiae

These birds are mostly black and white with a large yellow wing patch, yellow tail sides and a small white ear patch. They feed on nectar and occasionally fruit, insects and spiders around people's homes. Breeding occurs from July to January with the female laying 2 to 3 eggs in a small cup-shaped nest. Both parents feed the chicks.



White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

These small honeyeaters are olive-green above, with a black cap and white band across the back of their neck. They use their slender bill to feed on nectar, insects and insect products like lerps. They breed communally with both parents caring for the young. Their call is a distinctive 'pew-pew' call.



White-eared Honeyeater Nesoptilotis leucotis

These medium-sized honeyeaters have a distinctive white ear-patch. They are usually seen in pairs or small family groups, where they are quite noisy and conspicuous. They forage under strips of bark or tree crevices for insects but also feed on fruit and nectar. They breed from August to December building a thick-walled, cup-shaped nest lined with animal fur and hair.



Little Wattlebird Anthochaera chrysoptera

These are the smallest of the wattlebirds. They are brown-grey above with a heavily streaked grey underside, a rufous coloured patch on their wings and have bluey-grey pupils. They feed on nectar with their long probing tongue and also on insects at dawn and dusk. The female constructs a cup-shaped nest where she lays and incubates her eggs.



Red Wattlebird Anthochaera carunculata

These are large, noisy and aggressive nectar-feeding birds. They have a fleshy reddish skin fold on the side of their neck. They feed on nectar in eucalypt trees and garden plantings, together with insects and insect products like lerps and honeydew. They breed July to November laying two to three eggs in an untidy saucer-shaped nest. The female will usually incubate the eggs and both parents feed the young.



Yellow-faced Honeyeater Caligavis chrysops

These predominantly olive/grey-brown honeyeaters have a yellow face-stripe, bordered with black. They feed in the foliage of trees and shrubs on pollen, nectar, fruit, seeds, insects and their products. Pairs defend their territories during breeding season (July to January). Some birds are present year-round, but numbers are bolstered by migrants arriving in autumn and winter.



White-plumed Honeyeater Ptilotula penicillata

These medium-sized honeyeaters have a yellowish head and a distinctive white neck plume. They can be seen actively moving amongst the trees feeding on nectar, fruit, seeds and insects, particularly along waterways with River Red Gums. During breeding season (July to January), males will undertake 'song flights' above the treetops. Females incubate the eggs and both parents feed the young.



The Brown-headed Honeyeater, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater and Fuscous Honeyeater are likely to be resident or semi-regular visitors to the Bushlands.

NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF THE CHEWTON BUSHLANDS

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike Coracina novaehollandiae

These birds feed on insects, other invertebrates, some fruits and seeds. Some individuals mate with the same partner each year, building a shallow nest of sticks and bark bound together with cobwebs. Some pairs will also use the same territories year after year. Small numbers of birds may be present year-round in the Bushlands, but they are most common in spring and summer.



White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike Coracina papuensis

These birds are mainly grey with a black band between the eye and beak. They are often solitary or in pairs foraging in the treetops for invertebrates, fruit, nectar and seeds. They build a shallow cup-shaped nest in the fork of a tree. Small numbers of birds may be present year-round, but they are most common in spring and summer.



58 Birds: Cuckoo-shrikes and Whistlers

Golden Whistler Pachycephala pectoralis

These birds can be seen in the canopy and tall understorey foraging for insects, spiders and other small arthropods. Their beautiful melodious song can be heard carrying through the Bushlands. Small numbers may be present yearround, but they are most common in autumn and winter with migrants arriving. Breeding occurs from September to January but would be uncommon in the Bushlands. These birds can be confused with the Rufous Whistler.



Rufous Whistler Pachycephala rufiventris

These birds are found mainly in tree canopies foraging for insects. They form monogamous breeding pairs. Their melodious far-carrying song can be heard through the Bushlands. Small numbers may be present year-round, but they are most common in spring and summer with migrants arriving. These birds can be confused with the Golden Whistler.



Grey Shrike-thrush Colluricincla harmonica

These birds hunt for insects, spiders, frogs, lizards and small birds on the ground amongst logs and also on trees. Fruits and seeds are also eaten. These birds pair for life, inhabiting the same territory of up to 10 ha. They build a cupshaped nest often close to houses and both parents incubate the eggs and care for young. Their beautiful song can be heard throughout the Bushlands.



Olive-backed Oriole Oriolus sagittatus

These birds have an olive-green head and back, and a cream streaked underside. They forage alone or in pairs in canopy trees for insects and fruit. The female builds a cup-shaped nest and incubates the eggs. Both parents feed the chicks. These birds have a distinctive 'ori-orioriole' call but also mimic other bird calls. Small resident populations are increased by migrants over spring and summer.



60 Birds: Cuckoo-shrikes and Whistlers

Magpie-lark Grallina cyanoleuca

These black and white birds forage mainly on the ground in gullies and lower slopes for a variety of insects, larvae and earthworms. They breed from August to December, with both parents building a bowl-shaped nest out of mud. Both parents share in egg incubation and caring for the young. They have a distinctive piping call.



The Crested Shrike-tit, Varied Sittella and Rufous Songlark are likely to be residents or regular visitors to the Bushlands

Australian Magpie Cracticus tibicen

These intelligent birds often live in groups, actively defending their territories for feeding, roosting and nesting. They can be seen foraging on the ground for insects, larvae and frogs in the Bushlands. Breeding pairs mate for life. They construct a platform nest of sticks and twigs high in the tree canopy. Their familiar call can be heard carolling through the bush.



Pied Currawong Strepera graculina

These mainly winter visitors to the Bushlands are usually seen in flocks. They move along the ground and through trees foraging for small lizards, insects, caterpillars and berries. Breeding is uncommon in the area but can occur, with the female building a nest out of sticks. The male will feed the female while she incubates the eggs. These birds can be confused with the Grey Currawong.



62 Birds: Magpie, Currawongs, Ravens and Choughs

Grey Currawong Strepera versicolor

These birds can be seen year round singly or in pairs. They are omnivores, foraging mainly in trees and sometimes on the ground for small birds, rodents, frogs, eggs, insects and fruit. They build large shallow bowl-shaped nests. The female incubates the eggs and both parents feed the chicks. These birds can be confused visually with the Pied Currawong, but have quite different calls.



Little Raven

Corvus mellori

These resident open woodland birds are entirely black with a white eye. They are smaller than the Australian Raven and prefer more open areas for foraging in pairs or small flocks. They feed on insects, small birds, eggs, and occasionally seeds and fruit. Can be confused with the Australian Raven but have a different 'aark-aark-aaark-aaark' call.



Australian Raven Corvus coronoides

These resident large black birds feed on insects, small animals, grains, fruits, and eggs in pairs or in small family groups. Males and females both construct a large messy nest that looks like a platform or bowl of sticks. Their familiar 'aaar-aaaraaaaaah' call can often be heard. These birds can be confused with the Little Raven.



White-winged Chough Corcorax melanorhamphos

These birds have a red eye and white wing patch. They are seen in highly social family groups raking through grass and leaf litter for insects and seeds. They live communally with all birds assisting in building a mud nest for the breeding pair. Incubation of eggs and feeding of the chicks is also shared amongst the family group. From a distance these birds can be confused with the Australian Raven.



The Dusky Woodswallow is likely to be resident or a regular visitor to the Bushlands. The White-browed and Masked Woodswallows are likely to be migratory visitors in the warmer months.

64 Birds: Fantails, Robins and Finches

Willie Wagtail Rhipidura leucophrys

These characteristic black and white birds can be seen in pairs actively darting for insects on the ground while wagging their tails from side to side. Their cup-shaped nests are normally built in a horizontal tree branch. Parents can raise up to two successive clutches in a good breeding season.



Grey Fantail Rhipidura albiscapa

These birds are grey above, with white eyebrow, throat and tail edges. They feed on flying insects mainly in the canopy. Both parents build a cup-shaped nest in a tree fork during breeding from July to December. They also share in the incubation of the eggs and feeding of the chicks. Some birds are resident yearround, but their populations are bolstered by migrants arriving from Tasmania in colder months.



Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

These inquisitive robins feed on insects, spiders and other arthropods, which they hunt from a low perch in damper areas or recently disturbed ground. Females build a well camouflaged woven cup-shaped nest with moss and lichen. Females can lay up to three clutches of eggs during breeding season (June to December). When sitting on the nest only her greyblack colouring shows. Both parents will care for the chicks.



Jacky Winter Microcea fascinans

These small plain grey-brown flycatchers have a dark tail with white edges. They can be seen singly or in pairs perching on low exposed branches swinging their tail from side to side while waiting to pounce on flying insects. Their loud melodious call sounds like 'peter-peter-peter' and can be heard during spring when they breed.



66 Birds: Fantails, Robins and Finches

Rose Robin

Petroica rosea

Males are dark grey above with a white patch above the bill and a rosey-pink coloured breast. Females are mainly brown-grey above and off-white below and sometimes have a pale pink wash across the breast. These slender birds feed in the upper and mid-canopy and on the ground for insects. They breed in wetter elevated areas during spring and summer and migrate to the Bushlands in winter.



The Hooded Robin, Red-capped Robin and Diamond Firetail are possible visitors to the Bushlands.

Flame Robin

Petroica phoenicea

Males have a bright orange breast and throat, and are white on the lower belly and underneath the tail. Females are mostly grey-brown. They feed on insects, spiders and other small arthropods which they hunt from a perch. These birds can be confused with the Scarlet Robin, but the red colour on the chest extends much further down the belly area than the Scarlet Robin. They migrate to the Bushlands in the winter after breeding in wetter elevated areas during spring and summer.



Female



Male

Scarlet Robin Petroica boodang

Males have a white frontal patch above the bill, are black above with a scarlet breast. Females have a whitish frontal patch, are brown above with an orange-red breast. These birds feed mainly on insects, which



they catch from a perch or foraging on the ground. They form permanent monogamous pairs that maintain territories year round. Most birds are resident year-round, but the population is bolstered by migrants arriving in winter months.



Male

Fen ale

Red-browed Finch, Red-browed Firetail Neochmia temporalis

The adult birds have a conspicuous red eyebrow, beak, and rump. Juvenile birds lack the red eyebrow and beak. They are often seen in small flocks feeding on the ground in open grassy areas on seeds and insects, and often near ephemeral creeklines. Both sexes build a large domeshaped nest with a tunnel entrance on the side out of twigs and grass. Both parents incubate the eggs and feed the young.



68 Birds: White-eye and Flowerpecker

Silvereye Zosterops lateralis

These small birds have a conspicuous ring of white feathers around the eye. They feed on insects and large amounts of nectar and fruit. Both sexes construct a neat woven cup-shaped nest made of grasses, hair and other vegetation that is bound together with spider web. Some birds are resident year-round, but the population is boosted by migrants from Tasmania arriving in winter months.



Mistletoebird Dicaeum hirundinaceum

These swift flying birds are usually high in the canopy feeding on mistletoe berries and insects. The mistletoe berries pass whole through the bird's digestive system. The Mistletoebird excretes the sticky seeds on to tree branches where new mistletoe plants will grow. Females build a silk, pear-shaped nest that is suspended from a twig where she will incubate the eggs. Both sexes feed the young.



Welcome Swallow Hirundo neoxena

These acrobatic birds can be seen flying in pairs or small groups above the canopy or over dams foraging on a variety of insects. They are metallic blue-black above, light grey below and have rust on their forehead, throat and upper breast. Mud nests are often built under the eaves of houses and sheds. They also build their mud nests in tree hollows.



The Tree Martin is likely to be a regular visitor or inhabitant of the Bushlands.

Fairy Martin Petrocheilidon ariel

These small birds have dark wings and a pinkish-red head. They can be distinguished from the Welcome Swallow by their white rump and shorter tail that looks slightly forked when closed and nearly square when spread. They are usually seen in small groups, and sometimes larger flocks with Welcome Swallows, agilely catching insects around waterways and dams. They are mainly a breeding summer visitor to the Bushlands where they build bottle-shaped mud nests on walls and similar surfaces.



NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF THE CHEWTON BUSHLANDS