

# Birds and Reserves of the City of Cockburn



Red-capped Parrot. Photo: John Dart

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## CODES

### Abundance

C common  
 M mod. common  
 U uncommon  
 E endangered  
 \* introduced

### Seasons

Su summer  
 Au autumn  
 Wi winter  
 Sp spring

### Status

Mi migratory  
 Res resident  
 N nomadic

### Habitat

c coastal areas  
 w wetlands  
 b bushland areas

**Note:** This is by no means a complete list of birds seen at Cockburn reserves. Those featured have been selected as among the most easily identified, commonly seen or of significance.

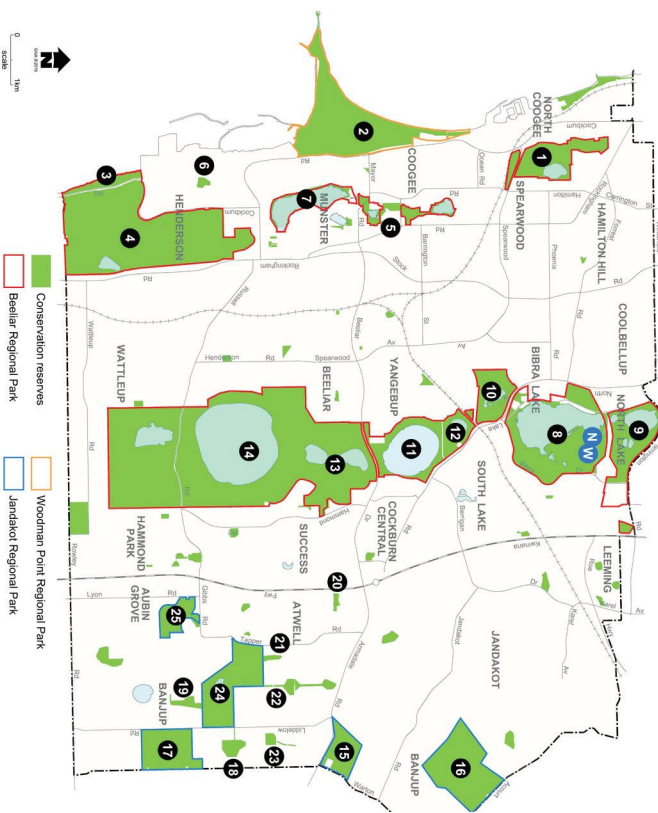
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1. Manning Park
2. Woodman Point Regional Park/Coogee Beach Reserve
3. Henderson Cliffs Reserve
4. Mt Brown Reserve
5. Market Garden Swamp Reserve
6. Redemptora Reserve
7. Lake Coogee Reserve
8. Bibra Lake Reserve
9. North Lake Reserve
10. South Lake Reserve
11. Yangebup Lake Reserve
12. Little Rush Lake Reserve
13. Kogolup Lakes
14. Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve
15. Rose Shanks Reserve
16. Acourt Reserve
17. Denis De Young Reserve
18. Gil Chalmers Reserve
19. Buckingham Reserve
20. Freshwater Reserve
21. Mather Reserve
22. Bosworth Reserve
23. Kraemer Reserve
24. Shirley Balla Swamp Reserve
25. Lyon Reserve
26. Banksia Eucalypt Woodland Reserve
- W. Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre
- N Native Animal Rehabilitation Centre (ARC)



# Species profiles

## Waterfowl

### Musk Duck Mw Res

Stiff-tailed duck. Dives for prey in deeper water. When courting, the male splashes and whistles, while inflating a leathery lobe beneath his bill.



### Australian Shelduck Cw Res/N

Large boldly marked duck, common on fresh or salt water. Feeds by sifting mud and water for food or by grazing on grasslands.



### Australian Wood Duck Uw Res

Numbers have increased with the development of farm dams and pastures. Often seen on grassy areas close to water.



### Australasian Shoveler Mw N

Uses spoon-shaped bill fringed with lamellae to filter small aquatic animals.



### Blue-billed Duck Uw Res

Another stiff-tailed duck, usually found in deeper fresh water. Dives for plants and insects. In breeding plumage, male's bill is a striking blue.



## Grebes

### Australasian Grebe Uw Res

Found in fresh or brackish water. Usually dives to escape danger. Builds a floating nest of water-weeds. Yellow eye.



### Hoary-headed Grebe Uw Res/N

Lighter in colour with dark nape stripe and white eye.

## Pigeon, Dove

### Laughing Dove\* C Res

From Asia. Smaller and more common than the Spotted Dove.



### Spotted Dove M Res

From Africa/India. Slightly larger with spotted collar.

## Frogmouth

### Tawny Frogmouth Ub Res

Easily overlooked. Mottled plumage blends perfectly with habitat; sits motionless by day. Active at dusk.



## Cormorant

### Australasian Darter Uw Res

Specially jointed neck enables it to suddenly stab at prey (fish) or to submerge with barely a ripple. Breeds in colonies.



### Little Pied Cormorant Ccw Res

Has a stubby yellow bill. Usually fishes alone. Perches to dry wings, which are not water-proofed like a ducks.



### Great Cormorant Uw Res/N

Usually in small groups. Has a conspicuous yellow facial patch.

### Little Black Cormorant Mw Res

Similar to Little Pied Cormorant but all black. Sometimes fishes in flocks.

## Heron, Ibis, Allies

### Great Egret Mw Res

Stately bird, usually found singly. Waits, motionless, before making a lightning thrust at prey.



### White-faced Heron

Cw Res

Feeds in shallow wetlands or in open grassy areas. Builds a nest of sticks in a tree.



### Australian White Ibis

Cw Res

Gradual movement south from the Kimberley since 1952. Feeds by stirring water with open bill or probes waterlogged areas for small aquatic animals.



### Yellow-billed Spoonbill Mw Res

In shallow water, sweeps its bill from side to side, in search of small aquatic animals. Feeds solitarily or in small groups.



## Crake, Rail, Allies

### Purple Swamphen Cw Res

Feeds on tender reed stems; also grazes some distance from water. Often seen clambering noisily through melaleucas along water's edge.



### Dusky Moorhen Cw Res

Grazes aquatic vegetation by up-ending like a duck. Also feeds on land plants, insects and frogs. Prefers fresh water.



### Eurasian Coot Cw Res

Has flattened lobed toes and feeds in water or on land. Its call is a sharp 'kyik'.



## Shorebirds

### Black-winged Stilt

Mw MiSu-Au

Feeds on aquatic plants, insects and shrimps. Breeds in Australia.



### Black-fronted Dotterel

Mw N

Feeds on shallow margins, mudflats. Runs, bobs its head, tips and runs. Nests on ground, relying on cryptic colouring and distraction displays for protection.



### Common Greenshank Ucw MiSp-Au

Found solitarily along the water's edge, searching for insects and molluscs. Its call is a haunting 'tew-tew-tew'.



## Noddy, Tern, Gull

### Caspian Tern Uc N

Largest of the local terns. Heavy red bill is diagnostic. Patrols stretches of water, plunging for prey.

### Crested Tern Uc Res

Note yellow bill and shaggy black fringe on back of head. Also plunges spectacularly.

## Cockatoo, Parrot

### Red-capped Parrot Mb Res

Its bill is adapted for feeding from Marri nuts. Silent feeder but also has a soft chattering call. Male especially, is more colourful than the common, mostly green Australian Ringneck.



### Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo

E Mb MiSu-Au

Declining in numbers. Breeds inland and moves to the coast in autumn. Feeds on pine and banksia seeds.

## Raptor

### Whistling Kite U Res

Searches for small prey and carrion. Note paler leading wing edge.



### Swamp Harrier M Res

Large dark raptor with a pale rump. Cruises over lakes or swamps, searching for prey. Nests on the ground or in low vegetation.



## Cuckoo

### Shining Bronze-Cuckoo Ub MiSp-Au

Arrives in late winter. Typical cuckoo in that it relies on a host species (often a thornbill) to raise its young.



## Kingfisher

### Sacred Kingfisher Ub MiSp-Su

Returns each September. Nests in hollows. Feeds on insects and small reptiles.



## Bee-eater, Roller

### Rainbow Bee-eater Ub MiSp-Su

Arrives in October. Excavates a nesting tunnel in sandy ground. Eats bees and other insects caught in flight.

## Fairy-wren, Grasswren

### Splendid Fairy-wren C Res

The breeding male is perhaps Australia's most brilliantly coloured bird. Prefers dense habitat. Nest built low in a shrub.



## Scrubwren, Allies

### Western Gerygone C Res

Tiny bird more easily located by slow, dreamy call. Usually seen singly, searching for insects among foliage.



### Yellow-rumped Thornbill M Res

Small bird; largest of the thornbills with bright yellow rump. Feeds in small parties in low foliage or on the ground.



## Pardalote

### Striated Pardalote C Res

Colourful small bird. Searches for leaf bugs among Eucalypt foliage. Listen for its 'chip-chip' call.



## Honeyeater, Chat

### Red Wattlebird C Res

Largest of the local honeyeaters with yellow belly and fleshy red neck wattles. Noisy and aggressive.



### New Holland Honeyeater C Res

Note yellow wing-patch and high-pitched call. Often occurs in noisy groups.



## Cuckoo-shrike

### Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Mb Res

Diet of insects, berries and seeds. Wings are shuffled each time the bird lands.



## Whistler, Shrike-thrush

### Rufous Whistler Mb Res

Strikingly coloured bird with spirited song, especially when breeding. Female is much plainer than the male illustrated.



## Butcherbird, Currawong

### Grey Butcherbird Cb Res

Sits quietly on a perch before diving on its prey. Song is a mellow piping.



## Fantail

### Grey Fantail

Mb Res/MiSp-Au

Present all year; more numerous in winter-spring. Inquisitive. Catches insects in flight.



## Flycatcher, Monarch

### Magpie-lark C Res

Mud nest builders which retain same mate and territory for life. Forages on ground.



## Old World Warbler

### Australian Reed-Warbler

Cw Res

Lives among tall freshwater reeds. Not easily seen but in spring its strong rich call is conspicuous.



## White-eye

### Silvereye C Res/N

Moves in flocks searching for grubs, aphids, berries and nectar. Has a number of thin, high calls.



## Swallow, Martin

### Tree Martin C Res/MiWi-Sp

Most abundant in summer. Breeds in hollows Look for a pale rump and only slightly forked tail to distinguish it from the equally common Welcome Swallow.

