

A Native Bird Friendly Garden

Simple garden



Complex garden



The best habitat garden contains a **complex structure**, containing a diverse mix of local natives which provides ample shelter and natural food resources for native wildlife.

Small birds seek shelter and food in the form of small insects, spiny leaved plants and densely planted gardens.

To encourage specific birds, consider their specific feeding, shelter and nesting requirements.

Enjoy creating your habitat garden and birds will enjoy the new habitat haven that you have created for them.

ESTABLISHING Native Bird Habitat IN YOUR GARDEN



Collectively, domestic gardens make up one of the largest areas of vegetation remaining within our man made landscapes and are therefore vitally important as potential refuges for native birds and other wildlife. While we do have a diverse range of native birds in our urbanised environments, there has also been a noticeable change in the make-up of species and types of birds which use our gardens.

Small native birds such as the Red-browed Finch and Superb Fairy-wren are becoming less common, replaced by more dominant and aggressive species such as the Noisy Miner, Pied Currawong and the Rainbow Lorikeet. This indicates that gardens are not always bird friendly, and that birds are often exposed to a wide range of challenging conditions, and potentially harmful disturbances.

Understanding the resource needs of native birds will help you to develop suitable habitats in the garden. This brochure will provide you with useful hints on how you can maximise your garden's potential to support a healthy native bird community.



Useful Contacts and Web Sites

MNC Indian Myna Project www.indianmynaproject.com.au
 Bird Lollies Brochure www.macleaylandcare.org.au
 Habitat Network www.habitatnetwork.org
 Hastings Landcare 6585 4465
 Macleay Landcare 6562 2076
 Nambucca Valley Landcare 6564 7838



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THINGS YOU CAN DO

Assess your garden- Consider: What vegetation currently exists? Which bird species do you want to attract? What kind of habitat and resources do they require? E.g. food, shelter, nesting site & materials

Use local native plant species- Plants which occur naturally in your area will be more successful as they are adapted to local conditions and have existing relationships with local fauna

Develop structural diversity in your garden- Choose for variety and complexity. A diverse range of plants with a mix of native herbs, shrubs and trees will provide a range of habitats and resources for the local bird community.

Reduce lawn area- Exotic species such as the Indian myna prefer a simplistic garden structure, which is open and devoid of dense shrubbery. Converting lawn into garden will also reduce lawn mowing and maintenance.

Build and maintain nest boxes- Nest boxes can provide hollow-dwelling native birds with much needed shelter. Ensure your box is built to be Indian myna-proof and is regularly maintained.

Provide a bird bath- Ensure baths are kept clean and maintained regularly.



THINGS YOU SHOULD AVOID

Don't feed birds- The birds we feed are usually already dominant species which do not need help finding food. It is much more beneficial to establish a garden with a diverse range of native plants which can provide natural food resources for an array of native birdlife.

Don't plant exotics- Plant species such as Cocos Palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) are ideal habitat for feral animals such as the Indian Myna and Common Rat. Many attractive local plant alternatives are available (refer below).

Don't plant hybrid natives- Many of the large-flowered hybrid varieties of Grevilleas encourage large and aggressive honeyeaters such as the Noisy Miner and Red Wattlebird. Selecting non-hybrid species which produce smaller flowers will attract less common nectar feeders to your garden.

Don't over clear - Remove weeds from your garden in gradual stages to minimise disturbance. Ensure there are existing established patches of intact vegetation before clearing large areas. Many birds will abandon a garden if shelter is inadequate.

Feed pets inside- Feeding your pet dog or cat indoors will reduce the amount of available food for pests such as the Indian Myna bird. Chooks and rabbits can also be fed inside their enclosure to discourage opportunistic scavengers.

Bird Type

Requirements of Different Birds
Habitat Preference

Recommended Local Species (Mid Nth Coast)



Large Nectivores (nectar feeders)
Honeyeaters and some parrots e.g. Noisy miner, Little wattlebirds, Rainbow, Musk and Scaly-breasted lorikeets

Small Nectivores
Honeyeaters e.g. Eastern spinebill, New Holland Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater

Granivores (Seed Eaters)
Parrots, finches and pigeons e.g. Eastern rosella, Pale-headed rosella, Common bronzewing, Red-browed finch, Red Browed finch, Chestnut-breasted mannikin

Frugivores (Fruit Eaters)
Pigeons and Cuckoos e.g. Wonga pigeon, Common Koel, Silvereye, Satin and Regent Bowerbirds, Wompoo Fruit-dove, Figbirds

Insectivores
e.g. Superb fairy-wren, Eastern yellow robin, Spotted & Striated pardalotes, Willie wagtail

Carnivores (Meat Eaters)
e.g. All species of Currawongs, Laughing Kookaburra, Grey & Pied Butcherbirds, Powerful Owl, Black-shouldered kite, Peregrine falcon, Osprey, Sea Eagles etc

Shrubs and trees for foraging, perching and nesting. Some also require hollows for nesting

Spend most time foraging and perching in shrubs, but also use trees. Generally nest in dense shrubs

Utilise shrubs and trees for perching, nesting and foraging, but also forage on mature grasses.

Trees and shrubs for shelter and protection. A range of Summer, Spring and Winter fruiting trees will attract frugivores most of the year

Dense shrubs important for protection and nest sites, as well as some open areas for foraging. Insects and invertebrates found in bark and foliage and on the ground

Tall trees for perching, roosting and nesting. Some require hollows for nesting. Food source includes other birds, reptiles, frogs, small mammals and invertebrates

Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *M. citrina*, *M. stypheliodes*), Banksia (*B. spinulosa*, *B. ericifolia*), Willow-leaved Hakea (*H. salicifolia*), Eucalyptus sp.

Grevillea linearifolia, Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca thymifolia*), Coastal Beard-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*), Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*)

Trees & shrubs: Wattles (*Acacia fimbriata*, *A. suaveolens*), Forest Oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*), Tea Trees (*Leptospermum laevigatum*, *L. petersonii*)

Grasses: Wiry Panic (*Entolasia stricta*), Basket Grass (*Oplismenus aemulus*), Hedgehog Grass (*Echinopogon sp*), Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*), Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*)

Figs (*Ficus fraseri*, *F. rubiginosa*), Lillipillies (*Syzygium sp*), Blueberry Ash (*Eleocarpus reticulatus*), Bangalow Palm, Cabbage Palm, Lemon Aspen (*Acronychia oblongifolia*) (See 'Bird Lollies Brochure for more species)

Mat Rush (*Lomandra hystrix*, *L. longifolia*), Banksia sp, Tea Tree sp, Hakea sp, Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia scandens*, *H. dentata*), Coastal Beard-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*), Indigofera (*Indigofera australis*)

Eucalypts, Paperbarks, Figs, Tuckeroo (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*), Guioa (*Guioa semiglauca*), Native Frangipani (*Hymenoporum flavum*) Black Wattle (*A melanoxylon*)