

# ATTRACT NATIVE BIRDS



Attracting birds

## HOW CAN I ATTRACT MORE NATIVE BIRDS TO MY GARDEN?

The best way to attract locally native wildlife of any kind to your garden is by providing them with the three basic survival requirements - food, shelter and water.

### Food

Wildlife should never be attracted through the offer of unnatural foods e.g. supermarket bird seed, or their own food in an unnatural setting e.g. a birdfeeder. There are a number of reasons for this:

1. Many unnatural foods can cause digestive problems for animals, leading to discomfort, pain, disease and/or death.
2. Unnatural foods can contain weed seed that is readily spread by animal droppings into natural areas.
3. The consumption of certain unnatural foods by wildlife near waterways can have serious implications for water quality, and therefore other organisms.
4. The provision of food affects the ability of wildlife to search for their own resources.
5. The provision of food affects the natural biocontrol that wildlife provides us with e.g. local termite populations may increase if their natural predators are given alternative food.
6. Feeding stations can encourage the spread of diseases between animals and cause health risks to humans.
7. The provision of food will attract and support the establishment of pest animals in your garden e.g. Rats, Mice, Blackbirds, Spotted Turtle-doves and so on.
8. Feeding stations can provide an easy target for the predation of wildlife by cats, foxes and other predators.

You will find that enough birds and other wildlife will visit your garden if you revegetate it with a wide range of upper, middle and lower storey indigenous (locally native) plants. This is because they have evolved alongside these plants, relying on them for:

- ◆ nourishment e.g. seed, tubers, nectar, insects and fungi;
- ◆ protection (from the elements as well as predators);
- ◆ residency;
- ◆ nesting material; and
- ◆ observation i.e. a platform for seeking out prey and watching for predators.

While insectivorous birds are often attracted to plants for the insects that are found on them, mulching will help to create a new microhabitat for insects and should attract even more of these types of birds.

### Shelter

Revegetating your garden with upper, middle and lower storey plants will help to provide homes for a range of birds that nest at different heights. For example

Buff-rumped Thornbills (*Acanthiza reguloides*) are known to nest on the ground under well developed clumps of Silver-top Wallaby-grass (*Joycea pallida*), while other birds prefer the protection provided by height i.e. shrubs and/or trees.

Understorey plants are a particularly important source of nesting materials.

Additional shelter can be provided through the placement of numerous nest boxes, which will benefit hollow-dependent birds and other wildlife. This is very important as it often takes a hundred years or more for trees to produce adequate hollows and there are relatively few old trees left in developed areas.

Nest boxes are fairly easy to make, and the dimensions, in particular the opening size, will determine what species of animal it attracts. Construction plans can be found in nest box books that are sold through organisations such as The Gould League, Australian Plants Society (APS Inc.) and the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

### Water

The presence of a permanent water body is very appealing to birds. A bird-bath is an obvious and easy option, though if room is available, a small pond or wetland would provide greater habitat and attract many other interesting animals e.g. frogs and skinks.

## Which native birds might I see?

Australian King-parrot	Grey Shrike-thrush	Silvereye
Australian Magpie	Laughing Kookaburra	Spotted Pardalote
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Little Corella	Striated Pardalote
Australian Raven	Little Raven	Striated Thornbill
Australian Wood Duck	Little Wattlebird	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Bell Miner	Magpie-lark	Superb Fairy-wren
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Masked Lapwing	Tawny Frogmouth
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Masked Woodswallow	Varied Sittella
Brown Thornbill	Mistletoebird	Welcome Swallow
Buff-rumped Thornbill	New Holland Honeyeater	White-browed Scrubwren
Crimson Rosella	Noisy Miner	White-browed
Dusky Moorhen	Olive-backed Oriole	Woodswallow
Eastern Rosella	Olive Whistler	White-eared Honeyeater
Eastern Spinebill	Pacific Black Duck	White-fronted Chat
Eastern Whipbird	Pallid Cuckoo	White-naped Honeyeater
Eastern Yellow Robin	Pied Currawong	White-plumed Honeyeater
Eurasian Coot	Powerful Owl	White-throated Needletail
Fairy Martin	Purple Swamphen	White-throated Treecreeper
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Rainbow Lorikeet	Willie Wagtail
Flame Robin	Red-browed Finch	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Galah	Red Wattlebird	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Rufous Whistler	Yellow-tailed Black
Golden Whistler	Rufous Fantail	Cockatoo
Grey Butcherbird	Satin Flycatcher	Yellow Thornbill
Grey Currawong		
Grey Fantail		

Common names follow Flegg 2002



# INDIGENOUS PLANTS

to attract birds to your garden

Scientific Name	Common Name	Form	Size (HxW)	Role	Flowers	E.R.
<i>Acacia dealbata</i> subsp. <i>dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle	Tree	7-30 m x 6-10 m	P S	Spr	b c
<i>Acacia leprosa</i>	Cinnamon Wattle	Shrub	3-12 m x 2-6 m	P S	Aug-Dec	c e
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle	Tree	8-25 m x 5-10 m	S	Spr-Sum	e
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	Tree	6-30 m x 4-16 m	P S	Win-Spr	a b c k
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle	Shrub	2-4 m x 2-5 m	P	Aug-Nov	a
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	Shrub	3-10 m x 2-5 m	N P S	Jul-Oct	e
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses	Shrub	2-6 m x 3-5 m	N P S	Jun-Dec	a j
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black Sheoak	Shrub	4-8 m x 2-5 m	F P S	Mar-Jun	e
<i>Allocasuarina paludosa</i>	Swamp Sheoak	Shrub	0.5-2 m x 1-2 m	F P S	Mar-Oct	c e o
<i>Austrostipa mollis</i>	Soft Spear-grass	Herb	1.5 m x 0.8 m	S	Oct-Jan	c
<i>Austrostipa muelleri</i>	Wiry Spear-grass	Herb	1 m x spreading	S	Oct-Dec	e o
<i>Austrostipa pubinodis</i>	Spear-grass	Herb	1.5 m x 0.8 m	S	Sep-Jan	c
<i>Austrostipa semibarbata</i>	Fibrous Spear-grass	Herb	0.3-1 m x 0.6	S	Spr	e
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia	Tree	2-10 m x 1-5 m	N S	Spr-Aut	e j
<i>Billardiera scandens</i> var. <i>scandens</i>	Common Apple-berry	Shrub	Climber 1m x 0.8 m	F N	Aug-Jan	c e
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	Creeping Bossiaea	Shrub	Prostrate x 0.5-1.6 m	S	Oct-Nov	e
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> subsp. <i>spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	Shrub	2-6 m x 2-3 m	F N P	Spr	e
<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	Prickly Currant Bush	Shrub	2-4 m x 1-1.5 m	F N P	Jan-Mar	c e
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common Correa	Shrub	0.3-2 m x 1-2 m	N S	Mar-Sep	e
<i>Dianella longifolia</i> var. <i>longifolia</i>	Pale Flax-lily	Herb	0.3-0.8 m x 0.5 m	F	Aug-Jan	c e
<i>Dianella revoluta</i> var. <i>revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	Herb	0.3-1 m x 0.5-2.5 m	F	Aug-May	e
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily	Herb	0.6-1.5 m x 0.5-2 m	F P	Aug-Feb	c n
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath	Shrub	0.5-1.5 m x 0.2-0.6 m	N P S	Aut-Spr	c e j
<i>Eucalyptus baxteri</i>	Brown Stringybark	Tree	3-40 m x 4-20 m	N P S	Sum-Aut	e
<i>Eucalyptus cephalocarpa</i>	Silver-leafed Stringybark	Tree	8-20 m x 5-15 m	N P S	Aut-Spr	c h
<i>Eucalyptus cytellocarpa</i>	Mountain Grey-gum	Tree	10-65 m 2-30 m	N P S	Sum-Win	a b c
<i>Eucalyptus gonicalyx</i>	Long-leaved Box	Tree	8-20 m x 6-15 m	N P S	Aut-Win	k q
<i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>	Red Stringybark	Tree	10-35 m x 10-20 m	N P S	Sum-Aut	e m p
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Tree	10-30 m x 8-25 m	N P S	Spr-Aut	e r
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate	Tree	4-70 m x 6-35 m	N P S	Spr	c e l
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum	Tree	8-30 m x 8-20 m	N P S	Aut-Win	c h j
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	Narrow-leaved Peppermint	Tree	10-30 m x 6-20 m	N P S	Spr-Sum	e
<i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>	Mountain Ash	Tree	25-95 m x 15-30 m	N P S	Sum-Win	c e s
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i> subsp. <i>rubida</i>	Candlebark Gum	Tree	10-25 m x 10-20 m	N P S	Spr-Sum	e m
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	Tree	10-50 m x 8-15 m	N P S	Sum-Aut	a
<i>Goodia lotifolia</i> var. <i>lotifolia</i>	Golden Tip	Shrub	1-5 m x 1-5 m	P S	Spr	e t
<i>Grevillea alpina</i>	Alpine Grevillea	Shrub	1-2.5 m x 1-2 m	N P S	Aug-Dec	e
<i>Hakea nodosa</i>	Yellow Hakea	Shrub	1-3 m x 1-2 m	N P	Apr-Aug	c f m
<i>Hakea sericea</i>	Bushy Needlewood	Shrub	2-5 m x 1-3 m	N P	Win-Spr	a
<i>Hakea ulicina</i>	Furze Hakea	Shrub	1-3 m x 1-2 m	N P	Win-Spr	a e
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple Coral Pea	Shrub	Scrambler	N S	Jul-Nov	e
<i>Joycea pallida</i>	Red-anther Wallaby-grass	Herb	1.5 m x 0.8 m	P S	Oct-Jan	e j
<i>Juncus holoschoenus</i>	Joint-leaved Rush	Herb	0.2-0.5 m x 0.1-0.4 m	S	Nov-Mar	d g h r
<i>Juncus pallidus</i>	Pale Rush	Herb	0.5-2.3 m x 0.3-1 m	P S	Dec-Mar	a c h
<i>Juncus pauciflorus</i>	Loose-flower Rush	Herb	0.3-1 m x 0.2-0.6 m	S	Dec-Mar	a k
<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>	Finger Rush	Herb	0.5-1 m x 0.5-1 m	S	Mar-May	c g j
<i>Juncus usitatus</i>	Billabong Rush	Herb	0.3-1.2 m x 0.3-1.5 m	P S	Nov-Mar	a c f
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Burgan	Shrub	2-5 m x 2-4 m	P S	Sum	a
<i>Lepidosperma elatius</i> var. <i>elatius</i>	Tall Sword-sedge	Herb	1-1.25 m x 1-2 m	P S	Most of year	c e n r
<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i> var. <i>laterale</i>	Variable Sword -sedge	Herb	0.4-1m x 1.2 m	P S	Sep-Mar	a
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree	Shrub	1-4 m x 1-2 m	P S	Spr-Aut	a m
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Woolly Tea-tree	Shrub	2-6 m x 1-3 m	P S	Spr-Sum	c
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Silky Tea-tree	Shrub	0.5-2.5 m x 1m	P S	Spr	a f
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> subsp. <i>coriacea</i>	Wattle Mat-rush	Herb	0.15-0.3 m x 0.15-0.2 m	S	Spr	a c e u
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> subsp. <i>filiformis</i>	Mat-rush	Herb	0.15-0.5 m x 0.15-0.2 m	S	Spr	a c e u
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> subsp. <i>longifolia</i>	Long-leaf Mat-rush	Herb	0.5-1 m x 0.5 - 1.2 m	P S	Year round	e u
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	Swamp Paperbark	Shrub	2-9 m x 3 m	N P S	Spr	c k s
<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i>	Scented Paperbark	Shrub	2-5 m x 1-2 m	N P S	Spr-Sum	c
<i>Notelaea ligustrina</i>	Native Mock-olive	Shrub	2-8 m x 3 m	F N P	Sep	c e s
<i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Musk Daisy-bush	Shrub	3-8 m x 3-5 m	N P	Oct-Dec	c e s
<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snowy Daisy-bush	Shrub	2-5 m x 2-3 m	N P	Sep-Dec	c e
<i>Olearia myrsinoides</i>	Silky Daisy-bush	Shrub	0.3-1.5 m x 1 m	N P	Oct-Feb	e
<i>Olearia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i>	Twiggy Daisy-bush	Shrub	0.5-2.5 m x 1 m	N P	Sep-May	e
<i>Persicaria decipiens</i>	Slender Knotweed	Herb	Prostrate 0.6 m x 1 m	S	Year round	d i
<i>Persoonia juniperina</i>	Prickly Geebung	Shrub	0.3-2 m x 0.6-0.8 m	F N P	Dec-Mar	e
<i>Pittosporum bicolor</i>	Banyalla	Shrub	3-10 m x 3-4 m	F P	Sep-Nov	c e s
<i>Poa ensiformis</i>	Purple-sheath Tussock-grass	Herb	1.5 m x 1 m	P S	Spr-Sum	d h r
<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	Common Tussock-grass	Herb	1.2 m x 1 m	P S	Spr-Sum	a
<i>Poa morrisii</i>	Velvet Tussock-grass	Herb	0.8 m x 0.6 m	S	Spr-Sum	c e
<i>Poa sieberiana</i> var. <i>sieberiana</i>	Tussock-grass	Herb	0.9 m x 0.4 m	S	Spr-Sum	e m
<i>Poa tenera</i>	Slender Tussock-grass	Herb	0.2 m x spreading	S	Spr-Sum	c e
<i>Pomaderris aspera</i>	Hazel Pomaderris	Tree	3-12 m x 2-4 m	P S	Spr-Aut	c e s
<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i> var. <i>lasianthos</i>	Victorian Christmas Bush	Shrub	2-8 m x 2-5 m	N P	Nov-Jan	c e s
<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	Native Raspberry	Shrub	0.6-1 m x 0.5-2 m	F	Dec-Apr	e
<i>Sambucus gaudichaudiana</i>	Native Elderberry	Herb	0.6 m x 0.5-1.6 m	F	Nov-Dec	c e
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Kangaroo Apple	Shrub	1-3 m x 1-4 m	F N P	Jan	e
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	Herb	0.7-0.9 m x 0.75 m	P S	Spr-Sum	a m
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	Tall Bluebell	Herb	0.4-0.9 m x 0.3-0.4m	N	Aug-Jan	e l
<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i> subsp. <i>lutea</i>	Small Grass-tree	Herb	0.6 m x 1 m	N P S	Spr-Sum	e k

## E.R. KEY (Environmental Requirements)

- a adaptable to a range of conditions
- b prefers deep soils
- c prefers moist soils
- d moisture is essential
- e prefers well drained soils
- f tolerates poor drainage
- g prefers boggy areas
- h tolerates occasional inundation
- i tolerates permanent inundation
- j tolerates soils that are wet in Winter and dry in Summer
- k tolerates dryness once established
- l tolerates short dry periods
- m prefers dry soils
- n prefers cool soils
- o prefers clay soils
- p prefers clay loam soils
- q tolerates poor (low nutrient) soils
- r prefers moderate nutrient soils
- s prefers high nutrient soils
- t intolerant of alkaline soils
- u tolerates shade once established

## Role KEY

- F - Plant that is targeted by birds for its fleshy fruit.
- N - Plant that provides a nectar source for birds.
- P - Plant that provides protective habitat.
- S - Plant that is targeted by birds for its seed.



### \*IMPORTANT:

If you need to remove introduced plants before establishing your indigenous garden, please seek advice from your local Shire/Council to determine if a permit is required, or if any other restrictions apply.

Disclaimer: This document is intended only as a guide. It is the responsibility of readers to meet all necessary legal requirements and to ensure that safety precautions are considered first and foremost.

### References

APSM (Australian Plants Society Maroondah) (2001) *Flora of Melbourne*. Hyland House, Melbourne

Flegg J (2002) *Photographic Field Guide: Birds of Australia*. Second Edition. Reed New Holland, NSW, Australia.

Universal Ecology Services

V I C T O R I A

Brochure design, illustrations & content by:

Linda Bester & Matthew Dell

Website:

www.universalecologyservices.com.au

ABN: 11 535 074 086 © UES 2005

## Southern Dandenongs Community Nursery Inc.

-- Open Tuesday & Sunday Mornings --

Birdsland Reserve, 271 Mt Morton Rd, Belgrave Heights (Melway Ref. 84 C2)

Postal Address: P.O. Box 544 Belgrave, Victoria 3160