

WHAT CAN YOU FIND?

Backyard Birds



Birds are just one of the animals that we can often find enjoying our backyards!

One of the main things that attracts them to our places is the search for food so they can survive. Different birds eat different things including nectar, seeds, fruit, meat, insects and other invertebrates.

We can guess what a bird eats by looking at the shape of its beak. Birds have evolved over time to have different style beaks that allow them to become specialists at eating particular types of foods.

The three basic groups of birds we are likely to find in our backyards are shown in the box. These are broad groups and some birds may skip from one to another, such as a parrot will also eat blossoms or fruit when there's lots around.

Bird Beak Shapes

MEAT EATERS

Sharp-tipped, strong beak

Kookaburra, magpie, currawong, butcherbird, willy wagtail, wren, fantail



NECTAR EATERS

Long, narrow, curved beak

Eastern spinebill, wattlebird, honeyeater, noisy miner



SEED EATERS

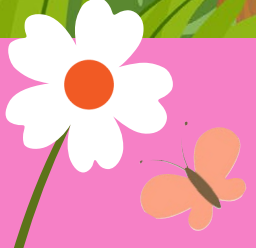
Round, often hooked beak

King parrot, cockatoo, galah, lorikeet, finch, sparrow






Birds in the garden



Go outside and explore your garden.
What types of birds visit your backyard?



STEP 1 Survey your backyard and identify five different birds you find. Be quiet, look and listen. You will need to describe them, so take your time. Think about how you would classify them as either a seed eater, nectar eater or meat eater.

STEP 2 Photograph or sketch your bird so you can look it up later. The [Birds in Backyards Posters](#) show some common backyard birds found in different areas across Australia.

STEP 3 Using the BIRD ID ACTIVITY SHEET record the details of each bird that you identify. Use the posters, other websites or wildlife identification Apps to help you identify your bird. If you already know what bird it is (something easily recognisable like a magpie) then look it up anyway to help fill in your activity sheet.

STEP 4 Collect any feathers you find on your survey. Can you identify which birds they might come from? Stick your feathers on a piece of paper to keep a record of the birds you spot in your Backyard Puzzle Box.

WHAT YOU NEED

Binoculars (if you have some) ● Camera

Five copies of the Activity Sheet
(or one per bird)

Bird Identification Resource
(book, poster, App)

www.birdsinbackyards.net/resources/A4-Posters

Birds are good for your backyard

Birds consume thousands of pest insects, spread native plant seeds and pollinate flowers. Because of this, birds are very important for our bushland and farmland.

Introduced vs Native

Not all birds are equal in the eyes of the law. Introduced birds can damage plants, carry diseases and push native bird species out of their homes.

How to attract more native birds?

Planting native plants in your garden will attract native birds. It is also important to provide them with a water source and to lock up your pets, especially cats.



Backyard Birds

BIRD ID ACTIVITY SHEET

Name:

Date: Time: *The time you started your observation*

Location/address:

Common name:

Scientific name:

Main colours:

Wings

Body

Tail

Any other features? (this could include eye colour, talons, beak, bands of colour)

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What shaped beak do they have?

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What type of food would they mainly eat?

Meat Nectar Seeds

How big is the bird?

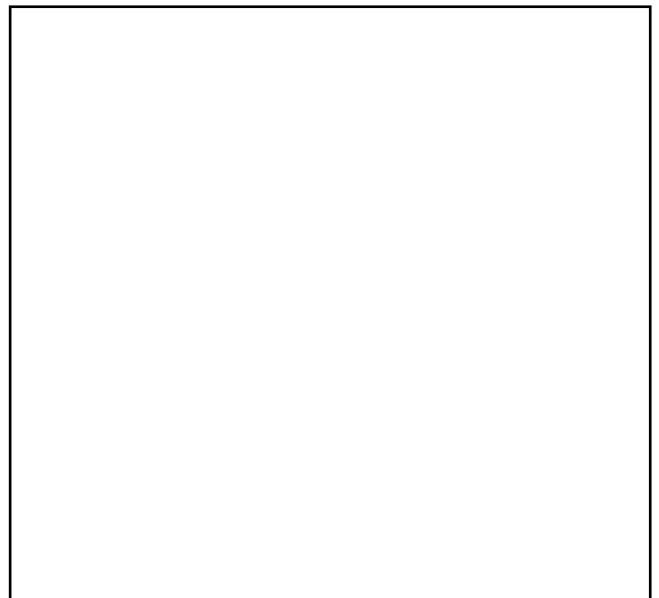
Large Medium Small

Approximate size in cm:

Is your bird an Aussie?

Native Introduced

Sketch what your bird looks like.



Can you hear them making any sounds?

If so, describe the noise.

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Where did you spot your bird?

On the ground In the bushes
 Perched in a tree Flying
 Near water

Ask an adult to help you take part in the
Autumn Birds in Backyards Survey.

www.birdsinbackyards.net/content/article/Autumn-Birds-Backyards-Survey