

# GARDENS FOR BIRDS

*Here are some useful tips for attracting the local birds in your garden.*

- Plant shrubs, grasses and trees that occur in your local region (indigenous plants). Local flora and fauna have been living together for thousands of years, and have formed a very successful partnership.
- Choose a range of canopy and shrub sizes and habits for attracting birds of all types and sizes.
- Prickly foliage attracts and protects small birds such as finches, wrens, thornbills, and honeyeaters.
- Flowers that are hidden within the foliage of the plant are great for little shy birds. These birds adore the protection whilst feeding. There are many Grevilleas, Hakeas and Correas with hidden flowers.
- Provide nesting material for the birds eg. Stringybarks, Casuarinas, Paperbarks.
- Mulched areas with rocks and logs attract meat-eating birds by providing habitat for skinks and frogs.
- Birdfeeders can attract larger, more aggressive birds and exotic bird species to your garden. So if you are looking at attracting lots of small birds, avoid birdfeeding.

***Birdbaths.*** Some general tips:

- Keep the water clean at all times. Water can harbour bird diseases and infect other birds.
- Place your birdbath in close vicinity of an overhanging branch. This will allow the birds to check out the area before going to the bath, and will give them an area to fly to if startled.
- Allow a space of at least a few metres between your birdbath and the nearest shrub. Cats can hide in these shrubs, and can easily pounce on unsuspecting birds.



## YARRALUMLA NURSERY – GARDEN ADVICE SERIES

By making your garden a haven for birds, you can solve your plant pest problems:

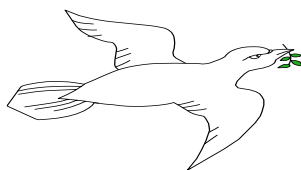
- Thornbills, wrens, pipits, willie wagtails, treecreepers, and other small birds will clean up your unwanted insects.
- Silvereyes love cleaning up the lerps and scale that commonly occurs on many trees and shrubs in the warmer months.
- Small cuckoos will eat hairy caterpillars.
- Ground dwelling birds such as bush pigeons are good ground cleaners. Cockatoos, Magpies and Currawongs will dig in the ground for scarab grubs, allowing you to leave the chemical spray in the shed.

***Chemical sprays do their best to upset the natural balance, thus leaving the birds with no pest problems to solve!***

- Would you like to discourage aggressive birds such as mynahs? Reducing your area of lawn and keeping all possible nesting sites such as broken gutters and eaves well maintained.

***Birds are lovely to have around, and whatever we can do to help house our local birds is of benefit to all of us!***

Please see our pamphlet on choosing bird-attracting plant species.



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