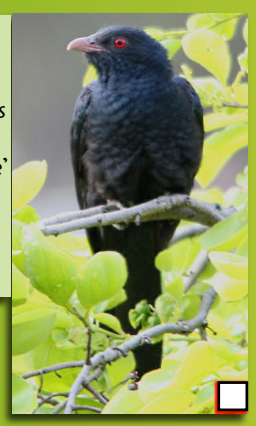
Birds of paddocks, parks and gardens

Crested Pigeon *(42cm)*
Not to be confused with the Topknot Pigeon (which appears to be wearing a wig). Makes a distinctive whistling sound when it flies.

Kestrel *(32cm)*
This falcon is the smallest of our 24 birds of prey. It's one of the few birds that can hover, whilst looking for prey on the ground. (Another is the mainly white Black-shouldered Kite.)

Peregrine Falcon *(42cm)*
OK, this awesome bird isn't common, but can be seen in our area. When it swoops on its prey from a great height, it is the fastest creature on earth.

Koel *(42cm)*
A member of the cuckoo family. It's distinctive, rising 'cooo-ee, cooo-ee' call is a well-known sound in the area in the warmer months.



Satin Bowerbird *(25cm)*
The male builds his famous bower solely for the purpose of seduction – it's not a nest. He decorates it with treasures of blue in the hope of impressing the greenish-brown female

Superb Fairy-wren *(14cm)*
Our familiar 'Blue Wren'. Females and young are brown. Most males lose their bright blue colouring in autumn and winter.

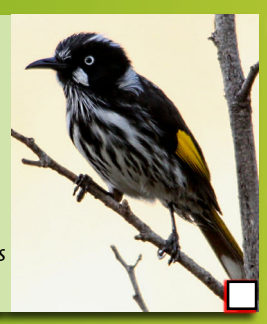
Eastern Spinebill *(16cm)*
A beautiful little bird with a long beak specially designed for probing deep inside flowers to extract their nectar.

Noisy Miner *(26cm)*
Has a large repertoire of different calls as its name suggests. It is aggressive towards other birds, but at least it's a native!

Red Wattlebird *(35cm)*
So named because of the red 'wattles' or skin-flaps on its neck. Its call sounds like a barking dog with a bad cough.

Little Wattlebird *(28cm)*
A Wattlebird with no wattles. Smaller and plainer than the Red. Common in gardens and heathland around banksias, grevilleas etc.

New Holland Honeyeater *(18cm)*
Not a shy bird, it likes to sit on top of bushes and advertise its presence. Shares the same habitat as the Little Wattlebird, and sounds like a squeaky toy.



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *(33cm)*
Not a cuckoo or a shrike, an older (better!) name is the Shufflewing – which is what it does every time it lands.

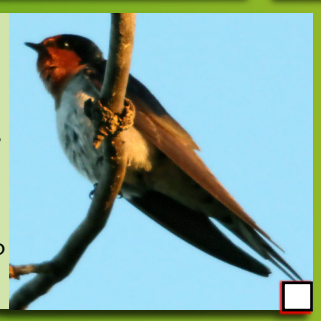
Grey Butcherbird *(28cm)*
So-called as it stores prey in a tree fork, using its hooked beak to tear it up into bite-sized chunks. But it's a handsome bird and sings beautifully!

Willy Wagtail *(21cm)*
A feisty little bird, ready to take on others many times its size. As well as its rattling alarm call it has one which some say sounds like 'sweet pretty creature'.

Magpie Lark *(28cm)*
A.K.A. the Peewee. One of the few birds that sings a duet – when you hear their metallic chiming calls it's usually both the male and female singing together.

Red-browed Finch *(12cm)*
Also known as the Red-browed Firetail, this is the commonest local finch. Firetails are so-called because of their bright red rumps.

Welcome Swallow *(15cm)*
A master of flight, especially low level, high-speed aerobatics that it uses to vacuum up flying insects.



Australian Raven *(50cm)*
Often called a crow, the Raven is the biggest member of the crow family in Australia (and the only one you're likely to find around here).

Birds From Overseas

These are some of the birds found locally that have been introduced to Australia by man.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)

Spotted Dove

Goldfinch

Starling

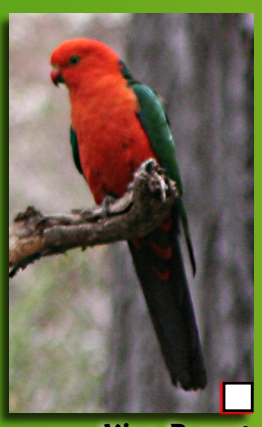
Common (Indian) Myna

House Sparrow

- Numbers in red = Approx length of bird in cm from tip of bill to end of tail.
- To get a close view of the birds (and other wildlife), a good pair of binoculars makes a huge difference. 8x40 is a popular size.
- For a full description of all Australian birds, see the books (Field Guides) by Slater, Morcombe, Pizzey & Knight or Simpson & Day.
- For more information on where to see these birds, visit www.illawarrabirders.org

Over 350 different kinds of bird have been recorded in the Illawarra. These are some of the ones you're most likely to come across .– how many have you seen???

Crimson Rosella



King Parrot

Little Corella

Australian Magpie

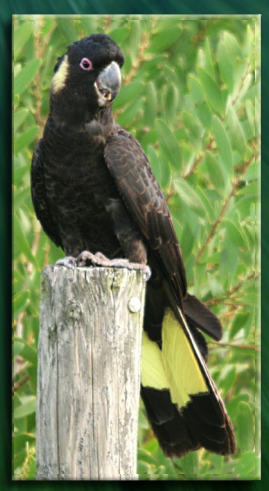
Pied Currawong

Laughing Kookaburra

Birds on Front Page (from top):
1. Galah
2. Rainbow Lorikeet
3. Eastern Rosella
4. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
5. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

ILLAWARRA BIRDS

A Photo Guide



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