



BIRDS OF DROUIN





Disclaimer

Walking in woodland and wetland places or in high traffic situations can be dangerous. People using this guide to walk in or around Drouin, do so at their own risk.

The Friends of Drouin's Trees, the Committee for Drouin or any of their representatives and the Baw Baw Shire shall not be liable for death, injury or loss or damage of property of any person participating in any activity when using this guide.

Golden Whistler

Introduction

This Birds of Drouin booklet is designed to be a companion volume to the Drouin Tree Walks booklet first published in February 2018 by the Friends of Drouin's Trees.

The Friends of Drouin's Trees recognized the need for a beginners guide to Drouin's wonderful urban bird population.

The Friends of Drouin's Trees is hopeful that users of this guide will enjoy discovering some of Drouin's very special avian inhabitants and the very beautiful spaces and places where they live.

First edition – February 2019

Front cover: Rainbow Lorikeet P62

Back cover: Yellow Thornbill P20

The photographs for this booklet were provided by Peter Ware, Friends of Drouin's Trees.



Bird watching tips for beginners

- Many experienced bird watchers can identify a range of birds by their calls. This can be problematic at times as many birds have different calls for different occasions – courting, defending territory, contact, feeding, etc. Many birds are good mimics of other species and some birds even seem to have regional dialects!
- Most bird apps available for digital devices such as phones and ipads have an audio facility that plays the most common calls for the bird. This can be a very useful tool for identifying a bird.
- Another valuable attribute often displayed by experienced bird watchers is knowledge of the GISS of a bird, “General Information, Size and Shape”. Size and shape are self-explanatory. General information might include whereabouts in the habitat, (in the canopy, on the ground, etc), posture, (standing straight or prone, etc), flight patterns, (rapid, direct, fluttering, undulating, etc), and so on. Obviously, knowledge of these traits takes time to learn but they are quickly uploaded into the memory after one or two sightings are made.
- Field guides often provide some remarks that refer to the GISS of a bird.

- Many experienced bird watchers will agree that it is the shape or outline of a human and our movements that seem more to spook the bird than does the colour of our clothes. Birds are not colour blind and many have heightened UV sensitivity but they do have superior visual acuity – they see shapes and movements very clearly.
- Experienced bird watchers will often stand still next to a tree or within some shrubbery to help conceal their presence.
- If you walk a favourite track to do some bird watching, don't forget to look behind from time to time. Changing your perspective sometimes provides reward.



- Start at home or in the nearby park and try to identify all the birds you regularly see there. Look up a reliable field guide and learn about their habits, etc. Start a list. If you hear a strange call, endeavour to locate the bird for identification. Do this once or twice and that bird and its call will be impressed on your memory.
- Bird species come in groups – wrens, thornbills, fantails, etc are all small scrub birds with particular differences. Try to learn some of the groups of species in your area, their habits, locations, etc.
- Some birds will have a characteristic behaviour they always do – White-throated Treecreepers always work UP a tree, Jacky Winters wag their tail side to side on landing, etc.
- Good field guides have some excellent advice on how to go bird watching and of course nowadays there is the internet.



TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
About Binoculars	7
Small birds	10
Medium sized birds	28
Large birds	48
Tree hollows and nesting boxes	54
Parrots and cockatoos	56
Wetland birds	64
MAP: Where to find birds in Drouin	78
Index of Birds	80

References used throughout this booklet included:
 Field Guide to Australian Birds - Michael Morcombe
 The Field Guide to the Birds of Australia - Pizzey and Knight
 Reader's Digest complete Book of Australian Birds
www.birdsinbackyards.net
<https://birdlife.org.au>

Many birds form invaluable relationships with other animals and plants

Why Drouin?

Drouin has more than 100 species of native birds in its urban environment. This is an extraordinary number for a town. Many of the birds use hollows of old eucalypt trees and some build their nests high in the canopy. Some live in low shrubs and areas of dense cover, and others in wetlands and grasslands.

Many birds are most active in the early morning



About Binoculars

Binoculars are defined by two numbers, 10x40 for example. The first number, 10x, means a magnification of ten times and the second number is the lens diameter, 40mm.

For bird watching a powerful magnification is desirable, but biggest is not necessarily the best. Powerful binoculars have a small field of view, a shallow depth of focus, a less bright image generally and the slightest hand movement

makes them hard to focus. Sometimes a powerful pair of binoculars can get very heavy by the end of a day's bird watching.

The optical quality of the lenses within the barrels can make a significant difference to an image. Always try before you buy.

A good range size of binoculars for bird watching would be from 7x42 to 10x42.

Begin using your binoculars by adjusting the distance between the barrels to fit the distance between your eyes.



You should see an image inside a clear circle, not two circles or a circle with black edges.



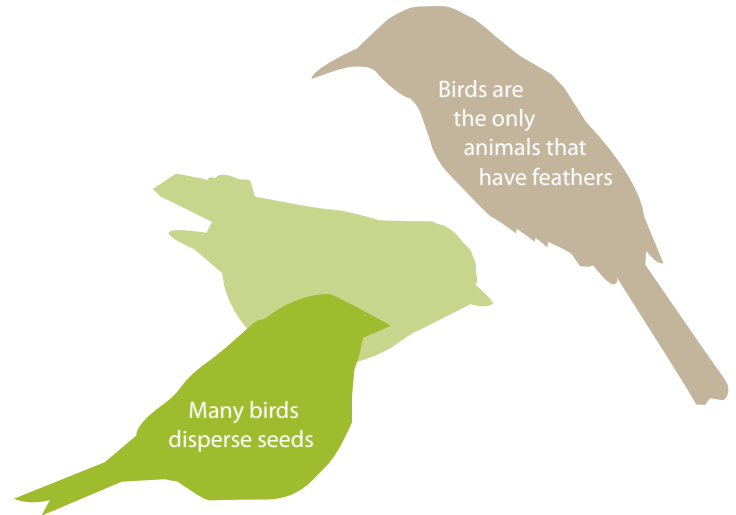
By using the adjuster between the two barrels, focus on a distant object with both eyes open. Practice by trying to read the newspaper from 20 metres.

Fine focus is achieved by adjusting the diopter on the right-hand barrel. Close your right eye and use the adjuster between the barrels to get

a sharp image with your left eye. Now close your left eye and use the adjustable diopter on the right-hand barrel to get a sharp image with your right eye.

You should now have a sharp image with both eyes open. The diopter generally has a scale attached so that you can quickly adjust it as needed from time to time.

Small birds high in a tree canopy can be hard to find with binoculars even for experienced birdwatchers. Make a note with the naked eye of any visual clues – a pronounced fork in a branch, a patch of sky in the canopy, etc and work from there. Try to work ‘down light’ – have the light behind you if possible otherwise you may just get a silhouette of the bird.



Brown Thornbill

Check for: 100mm; small brown bird; buff flanks; tan forehead with darker streaks; black streaks on the throat and chest; red eye.

More: Actively forages for insects in understorey and lower foliage; usually in small parties; rich musical song of varying notes and a distinctive, rolling 'peee-orrr'; sedentary.

Where: Almost anywhere there is dense understorey, bracken, reed beds and sometimes well-established gardens.



White-browed Scrubwren

Check for: 125mm; small grey-brown bird; two small white bar wing patches; white eyebrow and 'whisker mark' under the eye.

More: Low semi-dense to dense scrub, bracken, etc; clear, sustained 'tseer-tseer-tseer'; deep scolding 'zizzing' for intruders; easily overlooked; sedentary.

Where: Rail-side and roadside scrubs, sometimes parks and gardens; John Lardner Reserve, Golden Whistler, Thornell's, etc, Roberts Crt.



Superb Fairy-wren

Check for: 135mm; vertical tail; male breeding plumage – dark blue, sky blue and black; females almost all grey-brown with rufous eye stripe.

More: Jaunty; understory and tall grasses; ubiquitous; rippling, warbling song; sedentary but colony numbers can fluctuate.

Where: Wetlands, scrub, neglected areas, bush, parks and gardens; common at Bellbird Park wetland.



Eastern Yellow Robin

Check for: 155mm; grey bird with yellow throat and belly; often inquisitive of intruders.

More: Pairs or small groups; open to dense woodland; often clings sideways to a tree trunk; diagnostic strong 'tchew-tchew' call among song; some are sedentary, others are winter migrants from the hills.

Where: Bellbird Park, John Lardner Reserve, Thornells, etc, sometimes roadside vegetation.



Grey Fantail

Check for: 150mm; fan tail; grey and white body; white eyebrow and throat; whiskers at the base of the bill.

More: Acrobatic flight to catch insects in mid-strata vegetation; cheery, scratchy, squeaky call always the same; often confiding; sedentary.

Where: Open woodlands, roadside and rail-side verges, Bellbird Park, Balfour Rd, etc.



Jacky Winter

Check for: 130mm; grey upperparts, paler underneath; white outer tail feathers; wags tail sideways on alighting; often confiding.

More: Open woodlands and paddocks; takes insects in flight and on the ground; a far carrying 'queeter-queeter-queeter' call among others; sedentary but may disperse in winter.

Where: Pryor Rd, John Lardner Reserve, Golden Whistler Reserve, etc.



White-throated Treecreeper

Check for: 140mm; grey-brown and white bird; white throat; breast and belly heavily streaked black and white; down-curved bill.

More: Forests and woodlands; winks insects and spiders from under the bark by always moving UP the trunk; loud, clear, diagnostic repeated single note, 'whit-whit-whit-whit...' and a rippling mellow trill; sedentary.

Where: Thornell's Reserve, John Lardner Reserve, Golden Whistler Reserve, Pryor Rd, etc.



Leaden Flycatcher

Check for: 150mm; lead-black and white bird; raised crown feathers when calling; up and down tail-quivering; females have an orange throat.

More: Open woodland and eucalypt forest; diagnostic 'zhirrp-zhirrp' call; gleans insects from the foliage and in the air; uncommon migrant with poorly understood movements.

Where: Golden Whistler Reserve, John Lardner Reserve, Thornell's Reserve.

Leaden Flycatcher, female



Spotted Pardalote

Check for: 90mm; small, colourful, canopy bird; sharp white spots on a dark crown, back and wings; yellow throat; white eyebrow; red rump.

More: Canopy forager for insects on the foliage of eucalypts; comes to ground to nest in a tunnel dug in some earth; constant high-pitched 'seet-dee-dee' or sometimes just the 'dee-dee' part; seasonally nomadic.

Where: Wherever there are tall eucalypts.



Striated Thornbill

Check for: 100mm; dark brown upperparts and pale belly; strong dark streaks on the face, throat and chest; white streaks on the crown; brown eye.

More: Nearly always foraging in the upper foliage of eucalypts; insect-like 'tzzi-tzzi-tzzit' call; sedentary and sometimes dispersive.

Where: Any of Drouin's tall eucalypts



Feral and domestic cats
kill up to 1 million
birds a day in
Australia



Yellow Thornbill

Check for: 95mm; all yellow with some light streaking behind the eye; dark tail band.

More: Unobtrusive but active forager particularly in 'feathery-foliaged' trees like acacias, casuarinas and melaleuca; variable insect-like call; sedentary mostly.

Where: Balfour Rd, parkland and sometimes gardens.



Silvereye

Check for: 120mm; olive-green-grey bird; pronounced white eye ring

More: Highly mobile nomadic parties foraging through semi-dense understorey and mid-strata for seeds, nectar, fruit and insects; very soft but clear 'tseeep'; mostly nomadic but some are migratory.

Where: Bellbird Park, Thornell's Reserve, etc, sometimes parks and private gardens.



Red-browed Finch

Check for: 115mm; olive-green and grey bird; scarlet-red bill, eye stripe and rump.

More: Grassy clearings and paddocks; nearly always in small flocks; seed eater; very faint high-pitched squeaky call; sedentary but can be locally nomadic.

Where: Thornell's Reserve, Bellbird Park Wetland, John Lardner, roadsides, etc.



European Goldfinch

Check for: 130mm; colourful red, black and yellow bird; deep red face bordered white; golden bar in a black wing.

More: Grassland and weedy wasteland, etc; often in flocks; faint tinkling song; an introduced species that seems to be on the rise; sedentary and locally nomadic.

Where: Roadsides adjacent to paddocks; edges of wetlands, etc.



Birds can
be good
bio-indicators

Scarlet Robin

Check for: 130mm; male is the familiar scarlet-red and black bird; white forehead patch; black throat; scarlet chest and belly; females are mostly brown with a pale red wash on the belly.

More: Scrubby open forests; insects and larvae etc taken on the ground by a perch and pounce foraging technique; faint lilting song; numbers fluctuate from season to season; altitudinal winter migrant, seasonally dispersive.

Where: Pryor Rd, Golden Whistler Reserve, Balfour Rd, Thornell's Reserve.



Flame Robin

Check for: 130mm; flame-red throat, chest and belly; small white forehead spot; upright perching; often in a flock.

More: Open woodlands and paddocks; very thin piping call; winter migrant from the high country, dispersive.

Where: Pryor Rd, Settlement Rd, etc.



Australian Reed-warbler

Check for: 165mm; plain olive brown-fawn bird; white eyebrow; tawny rump.

More: Loud, persistent 'tutch-tutch-tutch-dsee-quarty-quarty-quarty'; territorial; migrant from parts of northern Australia; a few may quietly over-winter.

Where: Almost any patch of Common Reed, (*Phragmites*) on edges of wetlands.



Golden-headed Cisticola

Check for: 100mm; golden-buff bird; golden head streaked dark in non-breeding period; pale underbelly; back and wings heavily streaked black.

More: Spirited dweller of reed beds; far-carrying insect-like 'bhzzzt-pillek' during breeding; sedentary/nomadic; very quiet in winter.

Where: Reed beds beside water bodies – McNeilly Wetlands, Gum Scrub Creek, etc.



Grey Shrike-thrush

Check for: 24cm; all grey bird with rufous-olive back; black bill; white eyering; pale streaks on the throat.

More: Forages in the canopy, mid-storey and on the ground; diagnostic undulating flight; rich, varied song easily recognised; contact call a ringing 'seeit' whistle; widespread diverse habitat; sedentary to locally nomadic.

Where: Sometimes appears in parks and gardens but mostly in woodlands on the outskirts, Pryor Rd, Golden Whistler, Thornells and John Lardner reserves, etc.



Noisy Miner

Check for: 26cm; black crown and cheeks; yellow bill; yellow eye-patch; pale grey throat and nape streaked dark grey; faint yellow wing streak.

More: Colonial; noisy; aggressive; varied calls, some mellow and musical, others harsh and raucous; very territorial; woodlands (without understorey generally), parks and gardens; basically a honeyeater that takes insects and fruit; sedentary.

Where: Throughout the town and outskirts.



Common Myna

Check for: 24cm; dark-chocolate brown bird; yellow bill; yellow eye-patch; white under rump and wing-stripe; black head.

More: Introduced from Asia around 1870; territorial bully; competes with native species for food and nest sites; seldom seen away from human habitation; abundant, sedentary, dispersive.

Where: Anywhere around Drouin township – streets, parks, gardens.



Bell Miner

Check for: 19cm; olive-green bird; yellow bill; small red triangle behind the eye; olive-yellow patches above the bill.

More: Eucalypt specialist honeyeater; feeds on lerp on the foliage; clear bell-like 'tink'; colonial; dense eucalypt forests; sedentary but dispersive; making a comeback in some areas.

Where: Bellbird Park wetlands, Drouin golf course, Pryor Rd, etc.



White-plumed Honeyeater

Check for: 16cm; pale olive-grey bird; distinctive white neck plume; pale yellow head; grey underparts.

More: Usually in small parties high in the canopy of open woodland not far from water; nervous and active; in flight call 'chickowee-chickowee'; sedentary and nomadic as they follow the blossoms.

Where: Thornell's Reserve, Bellbird Park wetlands.



Eastern Spinebill

Check for: 15cm; colourful tawny/rufous/white/black bird; unmistakable long downcurved bill; red eye; black 'wishbone'.

More: Prefers flowering understorey shrubs – grevilleas, callistemons, correas, etc; often takes insects on the wing; staccato, piping 'chip-chip-chip...' call; nomadic, some could be altitudinal migrants.

Where: Bush with understorey, parks and gardens.



Golden Whistler

Check for: 17cm; male – a bright golden belly and nape; black head and breast band; white throat; black stubby bill; female – all grey.

More: Forages in the canopy and tall understorey; mostly solitary; contact call a single 'seeep'; a variable, strong, whistling song often ending in a loud 'wheet'; altitudinal summer migrant but some individuals may remain over summer.

Where: Golden Whistler Reserve, Roberts Crt, Pryor Rd, Thornell's Reserve, etc.



Rufous Whistler

Check for: 17cm; male – deep rufous underparts; white throat; black face mask and breast band; female – almost entirely grey with darkly streaked throat and chest.

More: Loud, long, ringing notes song, mostly ending in a powerful 'tchew'; eucalypt forest and woodlands; summer migrant from northern Australia and inland.

Where: Pryor Rd, Bellbird Park wetlands, Thornell's Reserve, John Lardner Reserve.



Grey Butcherbird

Check for: 26cm; grey, black and white bird; black head; white partial collar; strong bill tipped black; fine hook on the end of the bill.

More: Often in small family parties; open woodland and parks; takes insects, fruit, small reptiles and fledglings; one song is a rich, mellow piping, others harsher and strident; mostly sedentary, dispersive.

Where: Any reserves, parks, gardens and back yards.



Crested Pigeon

Check for: 33cm; very obvious crest; grey bird; red eye; wings barred black; iridescent green and bronze feathers in secondary flight feathers.

More: Principally a ground feeding seed eater; burst of whistling wing beats when taking off; distribution appears to be extending eastwards; call is a soft pigeon-like 'whoop-whoop...'; sedentary.

Where: Paddocks, rail and roadsides, wasteland, parks and gardens.



Sacred Kingfisher

Check for: 22cm; small kookaburra-like bird; long, slender bill; white collar; white-buff underparts; deep blue-green wings and back.

More: Diagnostic three to five note 'kek-kek-kek..' call repeated; open woodland and forest with hollows and wetland margins; forages on the ground for small reptiles and insects; summer migrant.

Where: Thornell's Reserve, Bellbird Park wetlands, Pryor Rd.



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Check for: 33cm; upright black, grey and white bird; obvious black face and throat; shuffles its wings when alighting.

More: Often perches high on a dead limb; takes large insects and larvae from the foliage and sometimes from the ground; distinctive rolling, churring call; migratory and nomadic.

Where: Golden Whistler, Thornells and John Lardner reserves, Balfour Rd, etc.



Yellow-faced Honeyeater

Check for: 17cm; grey-green bird; bold yellow line across a black face; pale yellow-green margins to wing feathers; pale streaking on underparts.

More: Active nectar forager in bushland and gardens; ringing, cheery and variable song; migratory and dispersive.

Where: Any piece of woodland, rail-side and roadside, parks and sometimes gardens.



White-eared Honeyeater

Check for: 21cm; olive-green-yellow bird; black face and throat; distinctive white ear-patch.

More: Takes nectar and many insects, some fruit; mostly solitary; wet forests and woodlands; several calls but a diagnostic, mellow, 'chok-chok'; nomadic with some migratory movements.

Where: Thornell's Reserve, Pryor Rd, Golden Whistler Reserve, Bellbird Park wetlands.



New Holland Honeyeater

Check for: 18cm; black, white and yellow bird; staring white eye in a black face; bold yellow wing panel; spiky 'beard'; heavily streaked underparts.

More: Competes aggressively for nectar; often in small parties; takes insects on the wing; a sharp 'jik' call; sedentary or nomadic chasing blossom patterns.

Where: Parks, gardens and bushland reserves with flowering shrubs.



White-naped Honeyeater

Check for: 14cm; striking olive-green, black and white bird; obvious red eye crescent; white nape; black head; olive-green back; white belly.

More: Usually in small parties in the higher foliage; nectar, manna and insects for a diet; several calls but a clear 'shirp-shirp-shirp' is diagnostic; migratory and highly nomadic.

Where: Eucalypt forest and woodland.



Dusky Woodswallow

Check for: 17cm; smoky-brown and grey plumage; pale blue bill; white edge on wings.

More: Soaring flight as it chases insect prey; often roosts in small colonies or family groups; soft seldom heard call that can include mimicry; open forest and sometimes farmland; summer migrant.

Where: Pryor Rd, Bellbird Park, Thornell's and John Lardner reserves, etc.



Crested Shrike-tit

Check for: 17cm; striking black and white head and chin; yellow belly; black head crest; massive, strong bill.

More: Uses its bill to rip at the bark for insects; more often heard than seen; mournful, piping, descending whistle; wet and dry eucalypt forests and woodlands; some are sedentary, most are highly nomadic.

Where: Thornell's Reserve, Balfour Rd, John Lardner Reserve, Bellbird Park wetlands.



Crescent Honeyeater

Check for: 16cm; dark grey-brown bird; yellow wing panel; dark grey-black 'wishbone-shaped' crescent on a whitish chest.

More: Highly mobile and active feeders like most honeyeaters; distinctive 'eejit' call; distribution confined to south-east corner of the continent; seasonally dispersive.

Where: Bellbird Park wetlands, Elizabeth CI woodland, John Lardner and Thornell's reserves.



Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Check for: 26cm; slate-grey back; cinnamon-rufous chest and belly; yellow eyering; upright posture; grey and white barred tail.

More: Springtime migrant; diagnostic descending trill; often sits calling for long periods; dense to open forest habitat with understorey.

Where: Wherever fairy-wrens, thornbills or scrubwrens exist – domed nests.



Some birds
help pollinate
plants

Pied Currawong

Check for: 46cm; large, conspicuous black bird; yellow eye; white wing patch especially obvious in flight; white undertail.

More: Well adapted to urban environment; noisy communal roosts in tall eucalypts at night; various calls – ‘hark-hark-the lark’ and a long wolf whistle; altitudinal migrant but some stay year-round.

Where: Street trees, parks, reserves, back yards, picnic areas, roadsides, etc.



Raven

Check for: Large, all black bird; white eye; robust bill; throat hackles. We have three raven species in Drouin - Little Raven, Australian Raven and at times Forest Raven. They are notoriously difficult to identify by eye, even with binoculars.

Little Raven: Probably our most common raven; often in small flocks; a sometimes diagnostic, short-clipped ‘ca-ca-ca-ca’, call.

Australian Raven: Less common; usually alone or in pairs; a sometimes diagnostic, drawn-out wailing call – ‘aah-aah-aah-aaaaahh’.

Forest Raven: Only an occasional visitor to Drouin; a sometimes diagnostic, deep growling ‘korr-korr-korr-korr’.

Where: Street trees, parks, reserves, fringe bushland, etc..



Red Wattlebird

Check for: 34cm; large grey, striped honeyeater; dark crown; white face below a red eye; red neck wattle; yellow belly patch.

More: Aggressive; noisy - hacking, laughing 'yaak-yakyak' or a single warning 'chok'; sedentary but highly nomadic.

Where: Parks and gardens, bushland reserves, roadsides, etc.



Little (Brush) Wattlebird

Check for: 29cm; largish, dark grey, streaked honeyeater; rufous wing-patch in flight; lacks the wattles and yellow belly of the Red Wattlebird.

More: Aggressive; noisy – various guttural calls, 'yekop-yekop', 'kwock', etc; sometimes confiding when feeding; abundant, sedentary and highly nomadic.

Where: Parks and gardens, bushland reserves, roadsides, etc.



Black-shouldered Kite

Check for: 36cm; handsome pale-grey, black and white hawk; white head and belly; red eye; black shoulder stripe; grey back.

More: Frequently hovers; feeds on rodents and small reptiles; perches on exposed branches, poles, etc; numbers irrupt with availability of prey – mouse plagues, etc; sedentary to nomadic.

Where: Rail and roadsides, edges of wetlands, paddocks, etc.



Brown Falcon

Check for: 45cm; large brown and white bird of prey; double, dark 'teardrops' bordering a white under-eye stripe; grey legs; white underbelly striped brown.

More: Usually sits upright on an exposed tree-top, fence post, etc; preys on reptiles, rodents, sometimes small birds and carrion; sedentary and irruptive.

Where: Roadsides, paddocks and wetlands.



Natural Tree Hollows

More than 40% of Australian mammals, nearly 30% of Australian reptiles and around 17% of Australian birds rely on tree hollows for their survival. Small and large tree hollows

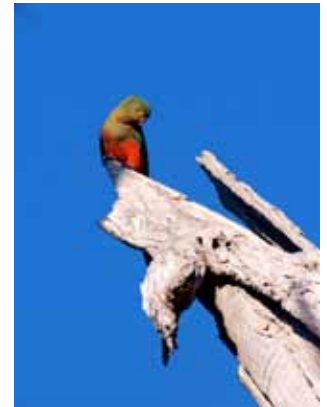
are a precious resource for our birds. Some exotic trees do not form hollows and many native trees have to be mature for hollows to form. Even a single hollow in a dead tree is valuable.

To protect our native birds, mammals and reptiles, we also need to protect our hollow-bearing trees, dead or alive, standing or lying on the ground.



Nesting boxes

Many native birds will adapt to an artificial hollow or nest box if it is correctly constructed and carefully placed and monitored. There are many sources of information about nest box design, placement, etc, on the internet. Abandoned or neglected nest boxes can be sources for the introduction of pest species and disease – be careful.



Eastern Rosella

Check for: 30cm; brightly coloured red, blue, green, yellow and black bird; scarlet head and chest; white cheek patch; yellow belly; yellow back mottled black; blue wings.

More: Fringes of eucalypt woodland and open country; nearly always in small family groups; forage on fallen seed on the ground mostly; sedentary.

Where: Parks, paddocks beside bushland, reserves, etc.



Crimson Rosella

Check for: 34cm; red, blue and black bird; crimson-red head and body; cobalt-blue cheek patch; black and blue wing; crimson back mottled black.

More: Eucalypt woodlands and forests; seed and fruit eaters of the outer foliage and on the ground; sedentary (perhaps a little in decline?).

Where: Some rail and road side locations, John Lardner Reserve, Binbeal Rd, Elizabeth CI, etc.



King Parrot

Check for: 42cm; large red and green parrot; male has a scarlet head and underbelly, green wings and a blue tail; female is dark green with a scarlet lower belly.

More: Varied diet of seeds, fruit, nectar, etc; eucalypt forests and woodlands; often a confiding visitor to parks and gardens; altitudinal migrant but some stay year-round.

Where: Anywhere within or nearby a stand of eucalypts.



Gang-gang Cockatoo

Check for: 34cm; confiding while feeding, dark grey cockatoo; male has a scarlet crest and head; feathers margined buff to white giving a scalloped appearance.

More: Pairs or family parties; distinguishing, rasping 'grarreek' call like a rusty gate hinge; numbers thought to be declining; altitudinal migrant-nomadic.

Where: Flying over; eucalypt woodland; parks and roadsides with native shrubs and trees.



Galah

Check for: 35cm; clownish grey and pink bird; small white crest.

More: Forages for seed on the ground, fruit and grain, etc; mostly in large flocks; adapt well to urban environments, numbers generally increasing; sedentary with local nomadism.

Where: Roadsides, paddocks, parks, wasteland, woodland, etc.



Little Corella

Check for: 37cm; small white cockatoo; small white 'cap'; blue-grey bare skin eye circle; faint pink patch above the bill.

More: Congregates in trees sometimes in large flocks; sometimes mixed with Sulphur-crested Cockatoos; noisy, high-pitched squawking call; sedentary – seem to be extending their range in Victoria.

Where: Parks, paddocks, wasteland, eucalypt woodlands, near water courses, etc.



Rainbow Lorikeet

Check for: 29cm; rowdy, colourful small 'parrot'; bright blue head and eye; orange breast; blue belly; green back and wings; yellow nape.

More: Gregarious, active, aggressive nectar eater; also takes fruit and seed; raucous screeching; fast, direct flights between blossoming trees; sedentary, nomadic follower of blossoming patterns.

Where: Eucalypt woodlands, parks and gardens.



Musk Lorikeet

Check for: 22cm; small, green 'parrot'; almost all green body; scarlet forehead and ear coverts; bluish crown; yellow flank patch; brownish upper back.

More: Often with Rainbow Lorikeets – higher-pitched screech; crawl through the foliage searching for blossom; fluctuating nomadic populations.

Where: Eucalypt woodlands, parks and gardens.



Chestnut Teal

Check for: 44cm; elegant medium-sized duck; bottle-green head; chestnut body; white flank near the rump. Females very similar to Grey Teal.

More: Fresh and saline habitat; white 'armpit' visible in flight; seasonal local wanderings and occasional dispersion.

Where: McNeilly Wetlands, Crystal Waters, Gum Scrub Creek Wetlands, Drouin Waste Water Plant, etc.



Black Duck (Pacific Black Duck)

Check for: 56cm; familiar brown duck; dark crown; black stripe through the eye; smaller black stripe across the chin.

More: Iridescent green-purple secondary wing feathers mostly visible in flight; often tame near people; sedentary – nomadic as conditions vary.

Where: Almost any of Drouin's wetlands.



Grey Teal

Check for: 43cm; smallish, almost all grey duck; distinct white throat extending up to the base of the bill; red eye. Very similar to female Chestnut Teal.

More: Enjoys almost any wet habitat area; sometimes in large flocks; may crossbreed with Chestnut Teal and Black Duck; will often disappear overnight from a location; nomadic – dispersive.

Where: Any wetlands, sewerage works, etc.



Wood Duck (Australian Wood Duck)

Check for: 48cm; up close, a delicately beautiful grey, black and white duck (goose?); chocolate-brown head; two black stripes along the back; darkly spotted throat and chest; short goose-like bill.

More: Grazes pasture and parkland; seeks water as a sanctuary; several pair often creche their babies; sedentary.

Where: Parklands with ponds, edges of wetlands, Civic Park, Summerhill Wetlands, etc



Purple Swamphen

Check for: 47cm; large dark waterhen; scarlet bill and forehead shield; dark-blue head and breast; black back; very long legs and toes.

More: Constantly flicks its tail showing a white undertail; seldom swims; often in small groups; takes eggs and young of other birds; scavenger; no webbing between toes; sedentary, dispersive.

Where: McNeilly, Summerhill, Bellbird Park and Gum Scrub Creek and other Wetlands.



Eurasian Coot

Check for: 37cm; small, dark waterhen; bill and forehead shield all white; red eye.

More: Duck-dives or dabbles for food; also scavenges on the banks of wetlands; webbing lobes along the toes; sometimes irrupts into very large flocks; sedentary, dispersive.

Where: Wetlands, parkland and sewerage ponds, etc.



Dusky Moorhen

Check for: 38cm; small, dark waterhen; red-orange bill tipped yellow; red forehead shield.

More: Prefers open water on well vegetated wetlands; forages on the surface of the water and on the shoreline; less abundant than the Eurasian Coot and Purple Swamphen; sedentary, dispersive.

Where: Any well vegetated wetland.



Grebe

Check for: Grey-brown aquatic birds; excellent duck divers. In non-breeding winter plumage, the Australasian Grebe and Hoary-headed Grebe are very similar. The Hoary-headed Grebe, (30cm), is a little larger than the Australasian Grebe, (25cm). During breeding, the Hoary-headed Grebe has a distinctively streaked head and the Australasian Grebe has a black head with a tan stripe, yellow eye and a patch of yellow on the side of the jaw.

Where: Larger open waters – McNeilly Wetlands, Drouin Waste Water Plant, etc.



White-faced Heron

Check for: 68cm; tall, grey wading bird; white face; long yellow-buff legs; long slender bill.

More: Stately flyer with legs trailing; develops nape and breast plumes when breeding; wades in shallow waters, gutters and pools; perches on posts and exposed branches; sometimes forms large flocks; nomadic – dispersive.

Where: Wetlands, wet paddocks, large roadside drains, etc.

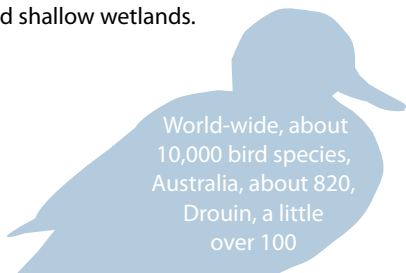


White-necked Heron

Check for: 1m; large, black and white heron; white head and neck; heavy spotting on the neck during non-breeding.

More: Solitary or small groups; prefers shallow fresh water or wet grassland; summer migrant.

Where: Paddocks and shallow wetlands.



World-wide, about
10,000 bird species,
Australia, about 820,
Drouin, a little
over 100



Spoonbill

Check for: 80cm; large, tall, white-bodied birds; obvious spoon-shaped bills; Royal Spoonbills – black bill and face, dark legs; Yellow-billed Spoonbills – yellow bill, white face edged black, yellow legs.

More: Both prefer large, shallow, well vegetated wetlands and grasslands; seasonally dispersive.

Where: Larger dams and wetlands paddocks, etc.



Great Egret

Check for: 1m; large white wading bird; head and outstretched neck longer than body; neck 'kinked'; slightly flattened crown.

More: Slowly and gracefully wades shallows for aquatic prey; often pauses and remains motionless for short periods; usually alone; dispersive.

Where: Bellbird Park Wetlands; McNeilly Wetlands, etc.



Nankeen Night Heron

Check for: 60cm; rufous heron with stooped appearance; short neck; black crown; underparts white-buff; adults may have some long, slender, white head plumes.

More: Often overlooked in daytime as they quietly roost communally in a tree; nomadic.

Where: Bellbird Park Wetland.



Buff-banded Rail

Check for: 31 cm; colourful, small rail; white eyebrow; buff stripe through the eye; buff band across the black and white striped chest; grey throat.

More: Feed on mudflats and wet pasture mostly just after dawn and at dusk; barred undertail; hides in the reeds when not feeding; nomadic and dispersive.

Where: Civic Park, Amberley Estate Wetlands, Gum Scrub Creek, etc.



Where to find birds in and around Drouin

Almost any street, park or wetland in Drouin is used by birds. Private gardens can attract a variety of species, honeyeaters in particular. The following is a brief list of some favourite birdwatching places in and around Drouin:

1	Thornell's Reserve & Picnic Point on the old Princes Hwy
2	'Golden Whistler Reserve', McGlone Road
3	Amberly Estate bush conservation area, Billabong Close
4	McNeilly Wetlands, Jackson Drive
5	Binbeal Road
6	Balmoral Park, Bennett Street
7	Gum Scrub Ck Wetland/Two Towns Trail, Hopetoun Road
8	Civic Park, Young Street
9	Bellbird Park and Wetlands, Settlement Road
10	Drouin Sewerage Works, Settlement Road
11	Crystal Waters Wetland, Waterside Drive
12	John Lardner Reserve, Valleyview Grove
13	Alex Goudie Reserve & 'Snake Gully', Montague Avenue
14	Pryor Road



Other nearby locations include Nangara Res/Jindivick, Uralla/Trafalgar, Mt Worth SP/Allambee, Bunyip SP, Labertouche, Rokeby, Shady Creek, Lang Lang, etc

Index of Birds

Australian Reed-warbler	26	Grey Shrike-thrush	28
Bell Miner	30	Grey Teal	66
Black Duck	64	Jacky Winter	14
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	38	King Parrot	58
Black-shouldered Kite	52	Leaden Flycatcher	16
Brown Falcon	52	Little Corella	60
Brown Thornbill	10	Little Wattlebird	50
Buff-banded Rail	76	Musk Lorikeet	62
Chestnut Teal	64	Nankeen Night Heron	76
Common Myna	30	New Holland Honeyeater	42
Crescent Honeyeater	46	Noisy Miner	28
Crested Pigeon	36	Pied Currawong	48
Crested Shrike-tit	44	Purple Swamphen	68
Crimson Rosella	56	Rainbow Lorikeet	62
Dusky Moorhen	70	Raven	48
Dusky Woodswallow	44	Red Wattlebird	50
Eastern Rosella	56	Red-browed Finch	22
Eastern Spinebill	32	Rufous Whistler	34
Eastern Yellow Robin	12	Sacred Kingfisher	38
Eurasian Coot	68	Scarlet Robin	24
European Goldfinch	22	Silvereye	20
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	46	Spoonbill	74
Flame Robin	24	Spotted Pardalote	18
Galah	60	Striated Thornbill	18
Gang-gang Cockatoo	58	Superb Fairy-wren	12
Golden Whistler	34	White-browed Scrubwren	10
Golden-headed Cisticola	26	White-eared Honeyeater	40
Great Egret	74	White-faced Heron	72
Grebe	70	White-naped Honeyeater	42
Grey Butcherbird	36	White-necked Heron	72
Grey Fantail	14	White-plumed Honeyeater	32
		White-throated Treecreeper	16
		Wood Duck	66
		Yellow Thornbill	20
		Yellow-faced Honeyeater	40



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This booklet was designed in Drouin

BOOK ONLINE lfeyecare.com.au

Friends of Drouin's Trees is a group of citizens that cares about the urban environment of Drouin.



The group has worked with the Baw Baw Shire to compile a Significant Tree Register for the shire, with Drouin being the first town to identify its significant remnant and planted trees.

The Friends of Drouin's Trees meets monthly and is involved in a number of projects aimed at engendering an appreciation of the remarkable tree cover in our town. This booklet is one of these projects.

Other projects include working bees, naming trees and reserves, building and erecting nest boxes for wildlife, guided walks and talks.

Further information:

Web: drouinstrees.blogspot.com.au

Facebook: Drouin's Trees

Email: friendsofdrouinstrees@gmail.com

