

1. DEEP OPEN WATER



The **Musk Duck** is a very dark bird which feeds almost entirely by diving for vegetation, insects and crusteans. It rarely comes to land.

In display, the male throws jets of water into the air with a backward kick, expands its bill flap and utters a shrill whistle which can often be heard.

The **Australasian Grebe** is a small, round bird that can be seen frequently diving and appearing some distance away. It dives for food and also for protection. Note its black head and neck and pale yellow face spot.



2. OPEN SHALLOW WATER



The **Pacific Black Duck** can often be seen upending in shallow water to reach small plants. It is more brown than black with a black and white striped face.

The **Eurasian Coot** is recognisable by its white bill and forehead. It feeds on water plants and will also visit picnic areas for food. Look for the lobes on its toes, which replace webbed feet for swimming



The **Australian Shoveler** can be distinguished by its large black spoon-like bill. The male has a blue-grey head and prominent white flank-mark. They feed by filtering mud and water for small animals.

3. WET FRINGING TYPHA AND REEDBEDS

The **Australian Reed-Warbler** is the outstanding summer singer of the reedbeds. Listen for its call 'chutch church, dzee dzee, quarty quarry'. You will have to watch quietly for this secretive plain brown bird which can often be seen perched sideways on reed stems. It feeds on insects and aquatic animals.



The **White-faced Heron** may be seen in shallow water among the reeds, stalking prey. It has a white face, grey body and long yellow legs.



4. UPLAND BANKSIA WOODLAND

The **New Holland Honeyeater** is a boldly streaked black and white honeyeater with a white eye-ring and yellow wing panel. It has a long, blackish curved bill. They are often seen feeding in parties on nectar and insects.



The **Grey Butcherbird** feeds mainly on insects, small reptiles and nesting birds. The name 'butcherbird' comes from its habit of impaling prey on a thorn or in the fork of a tree and tearing off the meat. They have a beautiful piping voice and sometimes sing in duet.



5. PARKLAND AND GRASSED AREA



The **Rufous Whistler** is often sighted in the trees. The male can be easily identified by the black band which separates the white throat and rufous underparts. It has a loud, spirited song.

The **Grey Fantail** is a friendly bird that can be seen flitting and fluttering through trees and on the ground as it hawks for insects. It is conspicuous by its grey and white tail which it continuously spreads and closes.



6. MUDFLATS AND VERY SHALLOW WATER



During summer months waders come to feed on the mudflats as the water level drops. Some of these waders fly to breeding areas in northern Asia/Alaska during our winter. One of these is the **Common Greenshank** which has a long, dark, slightly upturned bill. It is grey above with long, dull-green legs. They feed by jabbing their bills into the mud in search of food.

The **Black-winged Stilt** can be easily identified by its long pink legs and long needle-like bill which is used to probe in the mud for food. These waders breed in Australia.



7. INUNDATED MELALEUCA TERITIFOLIA THICKETS



The **Rufous Night-Heron** can sometimes be seen sleeping in the melaleuca bushes. It has a black head and beak and colourful rufous back. At dusk it sets out to feed.

The **Purple Swamp-hen** uses its long unwebbed toes to clamber through thickets of reeds searching for young reed stems, frogs and molluscs.



Note the bright red bill and headshield. They are very common in most habitats at Bibra Lake.

8. FRINGING PAPERBARK WOODLAND

A party of bouncy, tinkling, small **Yellow-rumped Thornbill** may be seen moving along the ground, close to bushes for protection and feeding on seeds and small insects. Look for their bright yellow rumps as they flit along.



The **Magpie-lark** is a neat-looking, black and white bird with a prominent white eyebrow. They are usually in pairs or small parties feeding on the ground on small animal food. Their bowl-shaped nest is made of mud. Their call 'pee-wit' is often heard.

9. BIRDS OF THE AIR

You will see **Welcome Swallow** gracefully cruising in the air catching insects on the wing. You will also see **Tree Martin** flying among the swallows. See if you can identify these two birds, one with a white rump and one with a rufous breast.



The **Marsh Harrier** is a dark brown bird with a distinctive white band at the base of its tail and yellow legs. It sails low over fringing vegetation and mudflats on upswept wings in search of small animals.

10. BIRDS OF THE PICNIC AREA

Wild birds are much healthier if they are left to find their own food from natural sources - even though some, such as **Pacific Black Duck**, will approach visitors, looking hopeful!



Birds Australia Western Australia

167 Perry Lakes Drive
 Floreat WA 6014 Weekdays 9.30 – 12.30pm
 Ph: (08) 9383-7749
 Email: bawa@birdsaustralia.com.au
 Web: www.birdsaustralia.com.au/wa

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 Western Australia

BIRDWATCHING

At

BIBRA LAKE

Number 39a in a series of
 Bird Guides of Western Australia

Bibra Lake has a wide range of habitats making it an ideal place for many water and bush birds.

Visit each of the habitats and discover how some of the species provide for their special needs of food, protection and breeding.

