

FAIRY-WREN

Splendid Fairy-wren (T, A, G, TH, WH, YR)

Seen in woodland margins, townsite areas with water and dense shrubbery, creeks, rivers.

Splendid Fairy-wren



PARDALOTE, THORNBILL & ALLIES

Striated Pardalote

Striated Pardalote (#)

Difficult to see in a tree searching for insects or leaf bugs. Listen for its loud call of 'chip-chip'. Nests in tree hollows.

Weebill (#)

Australia's smallest bird. Heard before it is seen. Call 'wee-bit wee-bit'. Moves through the canopy in groups.



Weebill

Western Gerygone (#)

Open woodlands, mallee. Distinctive mournful call. More often heard than seen. May be seen fluttering near foliage.

Inland Thornbill (A, G, TH, W, WH)

Usually singly or in pairs. Feeds in lower scrub level, with tail cocked.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill (#)

Often in flocks, feeding on the ground in parkland, edge of bush or tracks.



Yellow-rumped Thornbill

HONEYEATER

Red Wattlebird (#, T)

Largest of our honeyeaters. Very noisy and aggressive to other birds. Note red wattles on adults.

Red Wattlebird



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (#, T)

Woodland and scrub. Strong melodious warble.

Singing Honeyeater (#, T)

Once widespread in groups, but less common now. Seen singly. Loud penetrating calls. Note long, curved bill.

Yellow-throated Miner (T, C, D, MH, WH)

Resident of dry woodland, mallee. Live in scattered flocks of 10-20 birds.



Singing Honeyeater

Brown Honeyeater (#, T)

Loud penetrating calls. Note long, curved bill.

White-cheeked Honeyeater (T, M, MO, MR, TH, W)

Heath and woodland. In groups. Eats nectar and insects.

White-cheeked Honeyeater



Western Spinebill (T, M, MO, MR, TH, W)

Note fine curved bill for nectar feeding on dryandras, banksias and kangaroo paws. Has an interesting flight.



Western Spinebill

ROBIN

Red-capped Robin (#)

Autumn visitor. Dry scrub and woodlands. Pounces from low perch to feed mainly on the ground.



Red-capped Robin

Scarlet Robin (A, TH, YR)

Woodlands. Red breast but no red cap. Note white forehead patch.



Scarlet Robin

Western Yellow Robin (MR, YR)

Uncommon in woodland and forest.

BABBLER & SITTELLA

White-browed Babbler (A, D, MH, MR, TH, W, WH)

Open woodlands mallee with shrubby understorey. Live in groups and move through lower branches and on ground in search of insects. Call is a reedy 'churr'.



White-browed Babbler

Varied Sittella (T, A, G)

Wooded areas. Flocks seen spiralling down branches and trunks of gum trees searching for insects. Species declining.

WHISTLER & FLYCATCHER

Golden Whistler (WH, MO, YR)

Makes a call like whip crack. Usually in densely wooded country.



Golden Whistler

Rufous Whistler (#, T)

Male has a spirited song during spring courting.

WOODSWALLOW, MAGPIE & BUTCHERBIRD

Black-faced Woodswallow (#)

Roadsides. Smoky-grey overall, black face. Groups alight on power lines. Aerial and ground feeders.

Black-faced Woodswallow



Grey Butcherbird

Grey Butcherbird (# except town)

Lives in permanent territories - woodland, mallee and agricultural land. Has a loud mellow piping call.

Pied Butcherbird (T, G, MH, WH)

Open woodland and scrub. Beautiful flute-like song.



Pied Butcherbird



Australian Magpie

Australian Magpie (#)

Lives in groups in woodland, agricultural lands and urban. Carolling call.

RAVEN, CROW

Australian Raven (#)

Omnivorous. Common species in built-up areas, woodlands and farmlands.

Australasian Pipit (#)

Open country and roadsides. When disturbed, run then fly a short distance. Nest on ground.

Mistletoebird (#)

Moves to where the mistletoe is fruiting. Usually solitary when non-breeding.



Mistletoebird

SWALLOW & MARTIN

White-backed Swallow (#)

Mostly winter. Feeds aerially.

Welcome Swallow (#)

Feeds in flight. Has benefited from settlement-cleared areas for feeding, buildings for nests.



Welcome Swallow

Tree Martin (#)

Feeds high above the tree tops. Nests in tree hollows.



Tree Martin



Silveryeye

Silveryeye (#)

Moves in flocks through the bushes. Feeds on a wide variety of berries, grubs and Marri nectar.

CUCKOO-SHRIKE

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (#)

Notice their wing-shuffling display when perched. Distinctive flip-flop flight. Winter visitor and resident.



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

White-winged Triller (WH and some roadsides)

Summer migrant from north.

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York Tourist Bureau
Phone: (08) 9641 1301
Web: www.yorktouristbureau.com.au

Birds Australia WA
167 Perry Lakes Drive
Floreath WA 6014
Phone: (08) 9383 7749
Email: bawa@birdsaustralia.com.au
Web: www.birdsaustralia.com.au/wa

LOCATIONS

Locations where birds have been most frequently recorded are in brackets after species name.

- A** Avon River & creeks
- C** Cameron Road
- D** Duck Pool Reserve
- G** Gwambygine Park
- M** Mokine Reserve
- MH** Mt Hardy Reserve
- MO** Mt Observation
- MR** Mt Ronan Reserve
- T** Town
- TH** Talbot Hall
- W** Wambyn Reserve
- WH** Wallaby Hills Reserve
- YR** Yarra Rd/Ridley Rd
- #** Most locations



Emu

(M, MO, MR, W, WH)

Nests on ground. Nomadic, moves to better feeding areas. Uncommon.

RAPTORS

Black-shouldered Kite (T, G)

More frequently seen in spring and autumn over heath - often hovers into the wind.



Black-shouldered Kite

Brown Goshawk (#)

Usually attacks its prey on the ground, including insects, reptiles and birds. Takes small birds in the air. Defends nest aggressively.

Wedge-tailed Eagle (C, WH, YR)

Australia's largest raptor can be seen flying over the town on long upswept wings.



Wedge-tailed Eagle

Brown Falcon (#)

Seen in wooded areas. Hunts mostly at dusk and dawn.

Australian Hobby (#)

Seen in wooded areas. Hunts mostly at dusk and dawn.

Peregrine Falcon (#)

Seen in wooded areas. Nests on cliff face.

Nankeen Kestrel (#)

Seen hovering over grassland in search of insects and small reptiles.



Nankeen Kestrel

BUTTON-QUAIL

Painted Button-quail (W, MR, WH, MH)

Not easily detected unless flushed or calling (boom calls). Look for circular feeding scrapes in leaf litter.



Painted Button-quail

PIGEON

Common Bronzewing (#)

Woodlands, heath, often on ground.

Crested Pigeon (T, MH, W, WH)

Lightly-wooded grasslands and roadsides. Has extended its range from Murchison.



Crested Pigeon

INTRODUCTION

We hope that you will find this guide helpful to recognise many of our native birds around the Shire of York.

This is an interesting transition zone. Within 70 km we move from Jarrah/Marri forest (in the west) through Wandoo woodland to York Gum, sand-plain and farmland.

Birds of the wheat-belt and the Avon Valley have declined in numbers. Individual species have become extinct because of loss of habitat through clearing and the introduction of feral animals and plants.

Let us all be aware that birds are dependent largely on **NATIVE VEGETATION**, so we must now all play our part helping to retain, increase and rehabilitate our remaining bush remnants and wetlands.



Rufous Whistler

COCKATOO, PARROT

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (T, MO, W, YR)

Visitor from the wheat belt Nov-Feb. Feeds on pine, banksia, hakea and dryandra seeds.



Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo



Galah

Galah (#)

Has extended its range from the Murchison.

Western Corella (#)

In some areas have formed mixed flocks with other species of vagrant corellas.



Australian Ringneck

CUCKOO



Pallid Cuckoo

Pallid Cuckoo (#)

Present July to Nov. Juveniles present until Feb. Mainly parasitise honeyeaters' nests.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (#, T)

Migrants from north. Maximum numbers winter and spring.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (#, T)

Breeding migrant from north to Indonesia. Mainly parasitises thornbill nests.



Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

BUSH BIRDS of the SHIRE OF YORK

(Waterbirds are listed on a board by the Avon River)

Bird Guide 41a



Red-capped Robin



Acknowledgments:

Birds Australia WA
York Land Conservation District Council
Joy Fleay for donation
Adelpe King

Artists Susan Tingay, Judy Blyth and Pam Free

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Dec 2005 revised Apr 2009

OWL, FROGMOUTH

Southern Boobook (#, T)

In woodlands. Usually seen sitting quietly in a tree. Hunts insects, small mammals, at night. Night call 'book-book'.

Barn Owl (#)

Night hunter. Voice eerie screech or yelp 'woo-woo'.

Tawny Frogmouth (#)

In woodlands. Usually seen sitting quietly, well-camouflaged, in a tree. Takes food from ground. Night pouncer. Night call 'mo-po-oke'.



Tawny Frogmouth

KINGFISHER & ALLIES

Laughing Kookaburra (#)

Introduced from Eastern Australia in 1898. Preys on small reptiles, birds and small animals, such as honey possum.

Sacred Kingfisher (T, A, G, MO, S, W)

Breeding visitor from the North-west during Sep to Mar. Usually singly. Main food is insects.



Sacred Kingfisher



Rainbow Bee-eater

Rainbow Bee-eater (T, A, MO, MR, YR)

Brilliant plumage. Often seen flying after bees and dragonflies. Breeding migrant from the north from Oct to March. Nests in a tunnel in the ground.

TREECREEPER

Rufous Treecreeper (G, M, MO, TH, W, YR)

Woodlands, forest clearings and edges. Feeds on tree trunks and ground. Circles tree trunks searching for insects.



Rufous Treecreeper