



Annual Report

2024





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Bird Conservation Strategy

Our flightpath to recovery





Birds enrich all life on our planet. They provide all of us with a connection to the natural world. They are also an early-warning system for the health of our environment, and we've heard the alarm bells ringing.

One in six Australian birds are threatened with extinction. To save them, we need more than good intentions. We need action, expertise and partnership.

Building on our proud history of bird conservation and science, and drawing from our specialist expertise and volunteer community, our Bird Conservation Strategy is the blueprint for driving the change birds need. But we can't do it alone.

Securing the future of Australia's birds requires world-leading science, strengthened by the contributions of communities and citizen scientists around the country. It also requires innovative partnerships with business, governments, First Nations custodians, and all sections of society so we can repair the system together.

Thanks to our supporters, and to the science which informs our actions, we've achieved some incredible outcomes for Australia's birds. In the following pages, we're excited to share our achievements from the past year, and to highlight the important progress we're making towards the goals of our Bird Conservation Strategy.

BirdLife Australia's vision is a future in which birds and nature are valued, conserved and restored, sustaining a healthy planet for the benefit of all people. We invite you to celebrate our progress with us and join us in putting birds and nature on a path to recovery.

Save Birds. Save Life.

CEO's message



I began 2024 with a clear sense of purpose after spending much of my first six months as CEO of BirdLife Australia meeting and learning from our network around the country. Informed and inspired by these experiences, I committed to strengthening BirdLife Australia's operations, ensuring we are set up to succeed at our mission of putting birds and nature on a path to recovery.

An important part of this was restructuring the organisation so we can best focus our efforts, empowering BirdLife Australia to continue our incredible track record of success for many years to come. Alongside this crucial transformation, 2024 was another year filled with highlights in bird conservation.

Together, we achieved a landmark victory at Toondah Harbour, stopping an irresponsible development that would have devastated a Ramsar-listed wetland, vital habitat for the Critically Endangered Far Eastern Curlew. It was the culmination of more than a decade of tireless campaigning alongside the local community. On the other side of the continent, alongside BirdLife WA and the Cocanarup Conservation Alliance, we saved critical Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo breeding habitat from a destructive lithium mine.

While we celebrated these achievements, we remained vigilant of ongoing threats and challenges. We're still witnessing the global spread of H5N1 bird flu as it devastates wildlife overseas. Thankfully, it hasn't reached Australia yet, giving us valuable time to contribute vital expertise to national preparedness and advocacy.

With a groundswell of support, we advocated hard for stronger nature laws, and I was proud to represent you at the Senate Inquiry Hearing for the Nature Positive Bills. These critical reforms languished at the tail end of the year, but we won't stand by idly. As we advance urgent conservation work, our strong advocacy to fix Australia's broken environment laws will not waver.

We continue our fight against habitat destruction, such as the Whalers Way rocket-launching facility that will leave the last remaining Eyre-Peninsula Southern Emu-Wrens at risk and bauxite mining clearing critical habitat for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos in the Jarrah forests south of Perth.

2024 also brought considerable achievements. The year saw the successful completion of the vast Great Western Woodlands Project; the invaluable data it generated will support conservation efforts for vulnerable species far into the future. We also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Capertee Valley Revegetation Project, which has been pivotal in our conservation work. And in Victoria, a milestone was reached as our volunteers ensured the successful nesting of Hooded Plovers at Lorne for the first time since monitoring began in the 1980s.

The Aussie Bird Count was a massive success—nearly 60,000 people took part across Australia, counting more than 4 million birds. It's become Australia's favourite citizen science event, and the benefits of engaging the hearts and minds of so many people will flow on for generations.

I'm so proud of what we've achieved together and I'm excited about the momentum this gives us today. Every victory is made possible by the dedication and passion of our members, supporters, volunteers and staff. We are making real progress, and we know what still needs to be done.

We have the practical solutions, the commitment and the strategy to turn things around for birds. Through our programs, advocacy and campaigns we will continue to inspire even more people to join our flock and work with us to achieve our ambitious goals.

Together, we can create lasting change for Australia's birds and the ecosystems they depend on.

Kate Millar

Kate Millar, CEO

President's message



Over the past year, the momentum behind BirdLife Australia's exciting new era has grown stronger, thanks to the leadership of our CEO, Kate Millar, and the unwavering dedication of our talented staff, committed members, and tireless volunteers. With our ambitious Bird Conservation Strategy as our guide, we're focusing our efforts on achieving important outcomes for our native birds and the places they depend on.

After a second year as President, I continue to be filled with pride at what our community has achieved together. The strength of BirdLife Australia lies in its people—and this past year has proven just how powerful that collective force can be. Our impact has deepened across the country as we've worked to secure real wins for birds and their habitats.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the dedicated work of Gerard Early. Gerard is stepping down from our Board of Directors after joining in 2011. Gerard has had a distinguished career as a consultant in the environmental and public sector, was formerly the Deputy Secretary of the Australian Government Environment Department, the Chair of our Governance Committee, and the inaugural President of the newly-formed BirdLife Australia. Thank you, Gerard, for your dedicated service to the organisation.

In 2024, the BirdLife Australia Board recognised the work of some of Australia's most influential bird conservationists. Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Alison Russell-French OAM and Duncan MacKenzie OAM for their outstanding contributions to bird conservation. Alison played a pivotal role in the formation of BirdLife Australia and has been a strong advocate for shorebird protection. Duncan led Gluepot Reserve for 23 years, secured major funding, authored over 450 works, and built vital conservation partnerships. Associate Professor Jim Radford was appointed as a Fellow of BirdLife Australia for his extensive work in woodland bird conservation, fire ecology, and mentoring the next generation of conservation leaders. The DL Serventy Medal for exceptional contributions to Australasian ornithology was awarded to Professor Richard Fuller for his influential research on human impacts on biodiversity, particularly the decline of migratory species. The JN Hobbs Memorial Medal went to Brian Venables for his decades-long dedication to bird conservation, including documenting nearly 9,000 Torresian Imperial-Pigeon nests.

We acknowledge these outstanding individuals, but it's the dedication and collaboration of our entire community that has enabled BirdLife Australia to make such a powerful impact on bird conservation nationwide. Our expertise is increasingly sought by all levels of government, and our growing partnerships with communities and fellow conservation organisations are strengthening our shared impact on protecting Australia's birds.

With one in six Australian birds at risk of extinction, our focus is not wavering. The past year has shown that, with our community's passion and expertise, BirdLife Australia is not just rising to meet the challenge, we are leading the way.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mandy Bamford'.

Mandy Bamford, President



A National Effort

Our work—like our birds—takes us to the furthest reaches of Australia. Here are just a few highlights from 2024.

WA

Great Cocky Count

In April, over 750 volunteers joined the annual Great Cocky Count—counting flocks of black-cockatoos as they returned to their evening roosts at survey sites between Geraldton and Esperance. Volunteers recorded threatened **Carnaby's, Baudin's** and **Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos** roosting at 237 of the 405 sites surveyed—counting a total of 20,663 white-tailed black-cockatoos and 3,379 Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos.



NT

Red Goshawk Monitoring Program

BirdLife Australia was contracted by the Federal Government to deliver a national **Red Goshawk** Monitoring Program. This project engages and trains Indigenous Rangers, Traditional Owners, communities and volunteers to locate and monitor breeding Red Goshawks across northern Australia and Tiwi Islands.



SA

Carved Hollows for Habitat Project

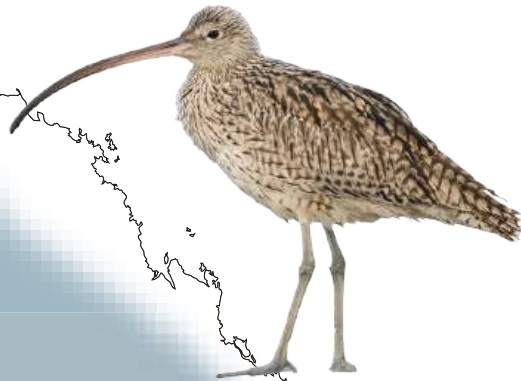
On Kangaroo Island, our Carved Hollows for Habitat Project trialled using a 'HollowHog' wood-carving tool to create critical nesting habitat after the Black Summer fires destroyed 64% of the island's large, hollow-bearing trees. Hollows were carved into fallen timber and standing trees for the Kangaroo Island subspecies of the **Crimson Rosella**, which was uplisted to Vulnerable after the fires.



QLD

Saving Toondah Harbour

After a decade of campaigning, we finally won our fight to save Queensland's **Toondah Harbour** in April when, facing mounting public pressure, Walker Corporation withdrew its application to develop and destroy these internationally significant, Ramsar-listed mudflats. Our volunteers and supporters were behind the hard-won success of one of our biggest and longest-running campaigns, with over 9,000 people joining us in calling on the Federal Government to save Toondah in 2024 alone.



ACT

Nature Laws

We scaled up our campaign calling on the Federal Government to deliver on its commitment to **fix Australia's broken nature laws** and end extinctions. In July, our Campaigns Team launched a Month of Action that saw over 4,000 supporters take a stand for strong nature laws—including making more than 3,500 submissions to the Senate Inquiry into nature law reforms.

NSW

NSW Regent Honeyeater Release

In conjunction with the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council, 49 zoo-bred **Regent Honeyeaters** were released into the Tomalpin Woodlands on Wonnarua Country to help boost the wild population of this Critically Endangered species, in the third large-scale release in the region.



TAS

Swift Parrot Search expansion

Our Woodland Birds Team launched a new **Swift Parrot** Monitoring Program on Bruny Island, expanding our Swift Parrot Search Project on south-eastern mainland Australia to include one of the most important breeding areas for this Critically Endangered species. Volunteers from BirdLife Tasmania collected data at 93 fixed monitoring sites, submitting 510 surveys into Birdata.



VIC

Eastern Australia Fairy Tern census

Over 200 volunteers and BirdLife Australia staff conducted the first-ever census of the breeding population of threatened **Fairy Terns** at 134 sites across south-eastern Australia.





Our impact

At BirdLife Australia, we are committed to bird conservation, guided by our Bird Conservation Strategy. Our work, driven by science, community engagement, and direct action, is tackling the urgent crisis facing Australia's birds. Through innovative research, powerful partnerships, and a growing network of passionate advocates, we are protecting the future of Australian birds and their habitats. From cutting-edge scientific data and citizen science programs to nationwide outreach and advocacy efforts, we are addressing the extinction crisis and empowering Australians to take meaningful action.

The following sections highlight our achievements and celebrate the significant progress we are making in these areas:

- **Building the bird conservation community**
- **Repairing the system**
- **Working with First Nations people**
- **Direct action**
- **Our science leads the way**

The power of

With over 6,000 members and nearly 400,000 supporters, our people are our greatest asset. Together, we made 2024 a powerful year of action.

Birddata

216,060 surveys
30,297,150 sightings
logged to date

Aussie Bird Count

57,000 participants
677 schools
4,117,293 bird sightings

Our website

877,000 website
users
45% increase in
website traffic

Social Media

37,000 new
social media
followers



our people

Birds in Backyards

377 species
5,214 surveys

Webinars

6 webinars
2,015 attendees
4,886 Youtube views

Grants

16 student research
19 community participation
12 conservation & applied research
2 Indigenous

Toondah Campaign

20,808 emails to the government
80,000 signatures
15,677 public submissions



Building the bird community

To tackle the extinction crisis, we're engaging and inspiring more—and more diverse—people to take meaningful action for nature.

By empowering a growing community dedicated to protecting birds, we amplify our message and give voice to Australia's birdlife. We support local and national conservation efforts by equipping communities with the tools they need to protect birds and their habitats.

Our social media reach continues to grow, especially among younger audiences, while our spokespeople actively engage with the media to broaden public awareness. Our flagship publication, *Australian Birdlife*, is a trusted touchpoint for bird lovers, and keeps our community informed and connected.

Through national events like the Aussie Bird Count and Bird of the Year, our Habitat Gardening course, and the popular 'Birds Meet...' webinar series, we are constantly finding new ways to engage and empower people to act for birds.

Highlights

- The 2024 **Aussie Bird Count** was one of the most successful yet. Following incredible levels of publicity across all forms of media, more than 57,000 people took part right across Australia, including students and teachers at 677 schools. Together they accumulated 4,117,293 sightings of Australian birds.
- **Australian Birdlife magazine** continued its excellent standards in delivering engaging articles about birds and those who watch and study them, as well as bird conservation and habitats, spreading the word about birds and BirdLife Australia within and beyond the BirdLife flock.
- The BirdLife Australia **Community Conservation Grants** program provided funding to 11 local community groups to engage in conservation volunteering, education and advocacy activities around the country, as well as bird conservation projects at a local or landscape scale.
- Woodland Birds staff presented **Woodland Birds and Mistletoe Restoration** workshops and launched Mistletoe Propagation in Eastern Australia – A manual, which instructs landholders on how to restore keystone species and increase biodiversity and landscape health.

conservation



- The three-day National **Beach-nesting Birds Conference**, held at Anglesea in Victoria, was attended by more than 160 scientific experts, Traditional Owners, land managers, volunteers, government representatives and students from around Australia and New Zealand. They shared their knowledge of beach-nesting birds and their coastal habitats.



- The successful 2024 **Network Forum** showcased a selection of local bird conservation and monitoring projects that are conducted by volunteers from our many branches and special interest groups around Australia. It also featured sessions on BirdLife Australia's ongoing Nature Law Campaign and healthy group dynamics.
- A **Bird Flu seminar and FAQ session** was conducted to inform stakeholders about the threats posed by the imminent arrival of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Australia and outline the comprehensive strategies to combat its potential spread across wild and domestic populations of birds.
- After a decade-long campaign by our supporters, Queensland's **Toondah Harbour was saved from destruction** when the Federal Environment Minister rejected the proposal for a massive development which would have destroyed 42 hectares of mudflats that are vital for Far Eastern Curlews and other threatened shorebirds.
- Each year BirdLife Australia awards an array of **Research Conservation Student Community and Indigenous Grants**, the sum of which assists specific segments of the wider bird community in making a real difference—in many different ways—in safeguarding the future of Australia's precious birds and the habitats they rely on.

The BirdLife Australia local group network

The beating heart of our organisation is our authentic, organic network of 32 local groups and four special interest groups across Australia. Local groups bring people together through a shared love of birds and nature, and are the engine of community action, data gathering and welcoming new people into our bird conservation movement.

Our local groups carry out many long-term monitoring and conservation projects—endeavours that are labour-intensive and simply couldn't be carried out without the dedication of countless volunteers recruited and guided by our local groups.

Having genuine local groups means that we have passionate people ready to mobilise when local issues arise. BirdLife Southern Queensland, led by Judith Hoyle, Sheena Gillman and Kathy Clark, were the driving force behind the decade-long campaign that successfully saved Toondah Harbour from the destructive development proposed by Walker Corporation.

Our local groups are what makes us different from other conservation charities, and by supporting and empowering them, we are building a genuine bird conservation community.



BirdLife Tasmania: “Making everyone a bit birdier”

“Any time you show up with a pair of binoculars—whether for a twitch, outing, or meeting—you’ll find a lovely bunch of people, young and old. There’s a lot of dynamic, young, amazing birders here, and we’re working to create a space where they can connect,” says Heidi Krajewsky, secretary of BirdLife Tasmania. Heidi understands how vital engagement is to the group’s mission.

“We find ways to empower people,” adds President Karen Dick. “Even if they’re not experts. Being open to anyone with an interest helps us get conservation work done.”

As one of the larger local groups, BirdLife Tasmania runs regular bird walks, lectures, surveys and conservation projects. They also lead long-term monitoring, including twice-yearly wader counts as part of the National Waterbird Monitoring Program. These counts, which span over 50 years, have been key to shorebird conservation. In Tasmania, they revealed sharp population declines at the southern end of the birds’ migratory path—Far Eastern Curlews are now virtually absent.

“I’m using that data in my work,” says Karen, also a Senior Threatened Species Ecologist. “We’re trying to get Curlew Sandpiper listed in Tasmania. It’s already federally listed, but locally, it’s basically extinct. Long-term data gives us the evidence we need.”

In 2024, BirdLife Tasmania led Swift Parrot surveys on Bruny Island, submitting over 500 surveys from 93 sites.

But their influence goes beyond data.

“We’re building strong partnerships—like with Friends of Orford Bird Sanctuary and the Derwent Estuary Program,” says Heidi. “We may not do a lot of direct restoration, but we support those who do.”

Recently, Heidi helped NGOs working to restore saltmarsh in the Derwent Estuary. Before the work began, she led a 20-minute bird survey with volunteers.

“I told them: this is your patch. How amazing to start surveying birds before bulldozers arrive. One guy pulled out his phone and got right into it. That’s empowering to see.”



“They may not be bird nerds like us, but you can see the light in their eyes—this is one more tool they can use to measure their efforts.”

With an active social media presence, the group reaches far beyond its 400 members.

“We post different things to reach different people,” says Karen. “We can reach a whole lot of people with an interest in Tasmania’s birdlife that we haven’t met yet.”

They also host bimonthly conservation talks with strong attendance.

“It’s important to hold space for everyone,” Karen says. “People new to birding can feel like they don’t belong if they’re not experts. We need to provide things at their level that they can join in with and feel competent and welcomed.”

In early 2024, the group launched bird walk brochures with several local councils. Distributed at tourist centres, they’ve been very popular. Engaging with the general public in simple ways that increase their knowledge of birds is where Karen sees the real impact on the community.

“Leading walks in different habitats is a great way to connect. As Heidi loves to say, ‘we can make people a bit birdier’—and that’s exactly what we do.”

Reflecting on the group’s success, Karen adds: “People know where to go when they want to learn about birds.”

“And that includes everyone—from the Minister to someone who just spotted a possible Common Myna. BirdLife has a reputation for being a genuinely knowledgeable place. If it involves wild birds, talk to BirdLife Tasmania. That’s a pretty positive legacy.”

Repairing the System

To stop bird extinctions and put nature on the path to recovery, we must change the system.

As the authority on bird conservation in Australia, our team of experts advocates for and advises on policy reform to address the economic, systemic and social drivers of declines in populations of birds, both nationally and internationally. We lobby governments for strong and effective environmental legislation and better conservation frameworks, policies and practices for threatened species—and we are working with the private sector to adopt pro-conservation and nature-positive practices and policies.

Highlights

- Anthony Maxwell's kind donation has allowed us to support GreenCollar's **wetland restoration project** in Queensland, including the development of the Accounting for Nature method to provide incentives to monitor the impacts of nature-positive land management and blue carbon projects on populations of local birds.
- Delegates from BirdLife Australia attended the **Nature Positive Summit** to build relationships with early adopter industries, with a view to explore opportunities for BirdLife Australia.
- BirdLife Australia's intensive and innovative public **campaign for effective nature laws** saw a number of positive amendments to Federal Nature Positive Bills moved in the Lower House.
- BirdLife Australia and Birds SA mobilised supporters to demand an **assessment of the proposed Whalers Way Orbital Launch Facility on the Eyre Peninsula**. The development would see the destruction of critical mallee woodland which supports populations of threatened species, including the Mallee Whipbird and the Eyre Peninsula Southern Emu-wren.
- With assistance from the Australasian Seabird Group, BirdLife Australia made submissions in response to a number of proposed **offshore renewable energy zones** around Australia.
- In conjunction with a public campaign, BirdLife Australia made a submission in support of the creation of the new **South Coast Marine Park** in Western Australia.



Expanding the flock

Nature Laws Campaigner Tarquin Moon spent 2024 thinking outside the box. Along with mobilising our dedicated supporters and members to advocate for effective nature laws legislation, she spent time building partnerships with non-traditional allies.

“We need to show how broad the support for new legislation is,” she says, “so we are working with other sectors, including small business and the private sector, who are interested to see birds and the environment thrive alongside their businesses.”

In August and September, she organised delegations of small business owners to visit Canberra, where they could voice their concerns about our failing nature laws, and explain in person how better laws are linked to the long-term viability of their businesses and properties.

“We’ve come a long way from the idea that business and the environment are at odds. A growing number of businesses across Australia are showing us all that their success is compatible with environmental protection. That’s the message we wanted to give the decision-makers in Canberra.”

Forging relationships with non-traditional allies is just one of the ways we are tackling the extinction crisis at its foundations, by addressing the root causes and systemic drivers of habitat destruction and bird population declines.



- Birdlife Australia and Birds SA joined forces to liaise with the South Australian Government to roll out **vehicle exclusion areas** in some of the state’s most important sites for beach-nesting and migratory shorebirds.
- A submission was made to a **review of the Tasmanian Regional Forestry Agreement**, particularly in relation to the negative effects of landscape-scale forestry on the Critically Endangered population of Swift Parrots.
- Our Birds in Plantations Project has partnered with forest management services provider PF Olsen to **conduct bird surveys in plantations** in southern NSW, western Victoria, the South Australian Riverland and south-western WA. Exploring plantation design and management strategies that protect birds, the partnership will be in place for the next decade.
- Our Campaigns Team led two business delegations to Canberra to voice their **support for stronger nature laws**. Business owners from WA and NSW met with politicians from both sides of the aisle, demonstrating the breadth of support for effective nature laws.
- Our Urban Birds Program has partnered with pet food manufacturer Fibrecycle to explore the **responsible sourcing and use of bird seed**.



Working with First Nations people

Conservation is collaboration, and partnerships are at the heart of our bird conservation work. In recognition of the vital role that Indigenous people continue to play in the conservation of Australian birds, BirdLife Australia is committed to integrating First Nations perspectives, knowledge and leadership in our bird conservation work. We are working to expand and deepen our relationships with First Nations peoples and incorporate Traditional Knowledge into our policies and decision-making processes to better care for and protect Country.

Highlights



- The 2024 BirdLife Australia Indigenous Grant was awarded to the **Dhimurru Aboriginal Rangers** in Arnhem Land. The Grant will support them in conducting surveys of seabirds, particularly Bridled and Greater Crested Terns and Brown Noddies, all of which nest on Yilipa in the Higginson Island Key Biodiversity Area.
- Members of the **Winjan Rangers** received training from our WA Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team which will help them effectively identify threatened black-cockatoo breeding habitat in the Peel Harvey Catchment and employ best practice monitoring protocols.
- Our Red Goshawk National Monitoring Program is engaging **Traditional Owners across the Cape York Peninsula, Tiwi Islands and Arnhem Land** to monitor the species, supported by a tailored monitoring training program. A research program is also gathering traditional ecological knowledge about connection and land management practices.
- The Beach-nesting Birds Team is training and mentoring members of the **Bunurong Land Council's** Strong Country Team as they begin to monitor Hooded Plovers along the beaches of Victoria's Bass Coast.
- Our Regent Honeyeater Recovery Team is working with the **Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council**, training them in monitoring and radiotracking zoo-bred Regent Honeyeaters which have been released onto Wonnarua Country in the Hunter Valley.
- The Regent Honeyeater Recovery Team is also working with the **Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council** in a groundbreaking program to plant mistletoe seeds in a move to boost biodiversity for Regent Honeyeaters and other woodland birds on Wonnarua Country.

Learning from Country

In 2024, BirdLife Australia introduced a key role to further our commitment to First Nations engagement and leadership in conservation. Samala Cronin is BirdLife Australia's first Senior Advisor–First Nations. Samala is a proud Woppaburra and Butchulla woman from South East and Central Queensland with an extensive background in native title, conservation advocacy, environmental campaigning, and parliamentary procedure.



At BirdLife Australia, Samala's role is not only to guide the organisation in deepening its relationships with First Nations communities but to help reframe conservation work through a lens of respect, reciprocity and cultural authority.

The knowledge that First Nations peoples hold about Country is essential to protecting it. For tens of thousands of years, First Nations peoples have been the original caretakers of this land. Our knowledge systems—rooted in storytelling, observation, ceremony and science—hold the keys to understanding the delicate interrelationships between the land, the sea, the sky, and all life that flows through them.

In today's rapidly changing climate and environment, two-way learning—where Indigenous knowledges and Western scientific methods are braided together—is no longer a choice but a necessity for the survival of countless species. We don't want to simply 'consult' or 'include' First Nations peoples, but walk alongside First Nations communities as genuine partners, knowledge holders and leaders in conservation.

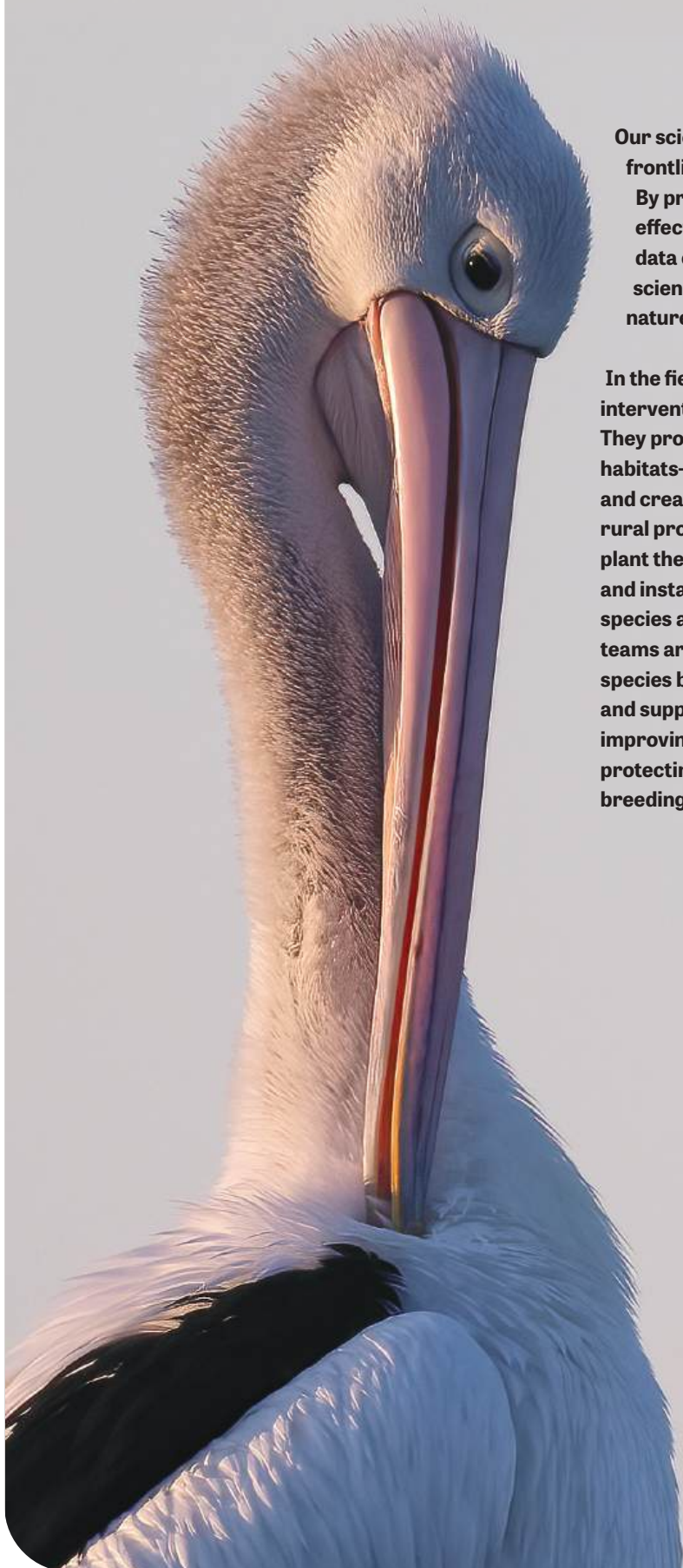
Only through integrating Indigenous knowledge and leadership into every level of conservation—from fieldwork to governance—can we achieve true environmental justice and renewal.

Samala Cronin, Senior Adviser–First Nations



- Our Fairy Tern Project is collaborating with the **Narungga Point Pearce Rangers** to monitor the breeding activities of Fairy Terns in their nesting colonies along the coasts of South Australia's Yorke Peninsula.
- Our Wetland Birds Team provided expert advice and training to the **Narrap Rangers** to accurately identify the shorebirds and other wetland birds they are likely to encounter on Wurundjeri Country.
- The **Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation** ran a workshop in June (assisted by the 2023 BirdLife Australia Indigenous Grant) to share knowledge between ETNTAC Rangers, seabird experts and the community about monitoring, identifying and rescuing seabirds.

Direct action



Our science and conservation teams are at the frontline of bird conservation in Australia.

By providing expert advice and delivering effective and coordinated monitoring and data collection, our researchers find and lead science-based solutions for setting birds and nature on the path to recovery.

In the field, our staff develop and lead critical interventions for birds at high risk of extinction. They protect, restore and enhance critical habitats—working with landholders to improve and create habitats for woodland birds on private rural properties, empowering nature lovers to plant their own bird-friendly gardens at home and installing artificial hollows for hollow-nesting species across the country. Meanwhile, our teams are helping bring priority threatened species back from the brink by monitoring and supplementing their wild populations and improving their breeding success through protecting nest sites and supplementing breeding habitat.

Feathers in our CAPs

Conservation Action Plans, or CAPs, identify the top conservation priorities to protect and manage threatened and declining species within a landscape. BirdLife Australia has taken the lead in developing and coordinating five CAPs: Eastern Hooded Plover, Migratory Shorebirds, Threatened King Island Birds, Threatened Mallee Birds and Temperate Woodland Birds.

By taking a holistic approach to the conservation needs of woodland-dependent birds, we can better focus our efforts and implement actions that have the most effect. The Woodland Bird CAP identifies and manages 51 woodland species of bird, categorised into functional groups that have similar needs and ecological roles. It brings together major stakeholders—including experts, researchers, government and conservation and community organisations—to address key threats, and outlines urgent actions to protect, conserve and restore habitat for priority temperate woodland birds.

Laine Berry, Manager Woodland Birds and Conservation Action Plan



Highlights

- A total of 49 zoo-bred Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeaters were **released into the wild** in the Tomalpin Woodlands in the lower Hunter Valley of NSW to bolster the dwindling wild population. The birds were monitored closely after their release.
- Targeted weed control work was undertaken at 11 sites along the coastline in eastern Victoria to **improve the suitability of the habitats** inhabited by Hooded Plovers, and thereby boost their resilience to climate change.
- Following the purchase of a special 'Hollowhog' tool and other equipment to make **artificial nesting hollows**, a trial has begun on Kangaroo Island to measure their suitability for and acceptance by the island's hollow-nesting and hollow-roosting birds. The trial is being undertaken with Kangaroo Island Landscapes.
- Six Fairy Tern breeding sites at the Murray River Mouth in South Australia were selected for active threat mitigation to **improve the breeding success** of the species in the 2023–24 season, with trials to reduce intrusions by vehicles and pedestrians.



Direct action

Highlights



- Various arms of the Birds on Farms program have **created new habitat** for woodland birds by fencing off paddocks and planting thousands of trees and shrubs, distributing coarse woody debris and installing nest-boxes of various sizes.
- A trial is using 3-D printed Fairy Terns to lure in real Fairy Terns onto specially prepared floating pontoons in southern Victoria to see whether the artificial site will be suitable for the birds to **establish a nesting colony**.
- 'Felixer' grooming traps have been deployed at the Western Ground Parrot release site on the South Coast of Western Australia to assist in **controlling the population of feral cats** in the area and thereby reduce predation.
- **Nest-boxes and artificial nest hollows** are being constructed and installed in box-ironbark woodlands across north-eastern Victoria to determine the nesting preferences of Turquoise Parrots in an environment where natural hollows are scarce.
- To monitor the breeding activity of South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos across their range, **acoustic recorders have been deployed** on trees where the birds are known to have bred in the past.
- In collaboration with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, **on-ground threat abatement works** are being implemented in Eastern Bristlebird habitats across south-eastern Queensland to support the remaining northernmost population of this threatened species.
- **Our Birds on Farms Project matches volunteer birdwatchers with rural landholders** across south-eastern and south-western Australia to conduct surveys on their land to gain an understanding of the bird communities which occur there. Using this information, our experts can support the landholders in planning and implementing site-specific farming practices and habitat management on their properties.

Bringing birds back to farms

Australian woodland birds are in serious trouble with habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation the primary reasons. Less than 20% of temperate woodland habitat now remains across southeastern Australia. Over 80% of these remaining woodlands are located on private property, making it essential for land managers and conservationists to work together and create healthy landscapes that can support productive agriculture and protect woodland birds.

Our Birds on Farms Program works with rural landholders to improve the extent, condition and connectivity of woodland habitat on their properties. Over 550 properties are participating in the quarterly bird monitoring program, which provides information on the health of woodland bird populations on private property and the success of habitat restoration projects.

This year the program has collaborated with 14 landholders to protect and/or create 135.5 hectares of woodland habitat, through direct funding or collaborations with other conservation organisations.

We are always looking for ways to expand our reach and engage more landholders with habitat restoration. This year we were able to expand the program into southern Queensland, with a new project starting in the Lockyer-Toowoomba region.

In addition to this, we developed a series of informative videos, and we partnered with Northern Tablelands Local Land Services to develop the Bird-friendly Farms Guide, both of which are available on the BirdLife website. These materials allow landholders outside of Birds on Farms project areas to learn the important features of woodland bird habitat, the methods for restoring habitat on their own property, and how to conduct bird monitoring to establish the success of their habitat restoration projects.

We will not be able to protect our Australian woodland birds unless there is enough habitat for them to thrive in and as custodians of the land, rural landholders play a key role in their conservation.

Margot Oorebeek, Manager Bird on Farms



Our science leads the way

Across the country, our team of volunteers, citizen scientists and researchers collect vital scientific data. This data builds a robust evidence base to guide our urgent conservation work to protect Australia's birds and their habitats.

The quality of our science and data is recognised both in Australia and in our region, enabling us to form valuable partnerships and lead conservation through evidence-based solutions.

Citizen science is vitally important to building this evidence base, and our volunteers use the Birdata program to effectively monitor birds on a national scale. Meanwhile, our scientists collaborate and share knowledge with governments, Traditional Owners, leading experts, researchers, landholders, local communities and volunteers to help inform and guide urgent recovery efforts across Australia.

Highlights

- BirdLife Australia has established an **HPAI Taskforce**, comprising experts from across various fields of ornithological research and conservation. The Taskforce provides agencies with best advice and engages in risk and preparedness activities via the Federal Government and key partners to prepare for the arrival of bird flu in Australia.
- The WA South Coast Threatened Birds Project is assisting the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to conduct surveys to monitor populations of the **Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird**—three cryptic species which inhabit the scrub along Western Australia's South Coast.
- Surveys of **Eastern Bristlebirds** were conducted in areas of Queensland affected by the Black Summer Bushfires of 2019–20, in conjunction with fire planning and weed management to determine their impact.



- Mapping of the habitat of the **Glossy Black-Cockatoo** in the Coffs Coast region of northern New South Wales was completed, identifying areas which support important feed trees, particularly Casuarina and Allocasuarina.

- A new **Swift Parrot** Monitoring Program was established on Tasmania's Bruny Island, with members of BirdLife Tasmania conducting surveys to locate the species at sites in key habitats across the island during the birds' southward migration in September.
- The Great Cocky Count, which monitors Western Australia's **threatened black-cockatoos** as they return to their roosting sites in the evening, took place in April with more than 400 sites monitored from the Chapman Valley to Condingup.



- Surveys of **Australian Pelicans** were conducted across the Gippsland Lakes and fringing wetlands, allowing BirdLife Australia to record changes in pelican populations across Gippsland, which will contribute to better management and protection of the species.

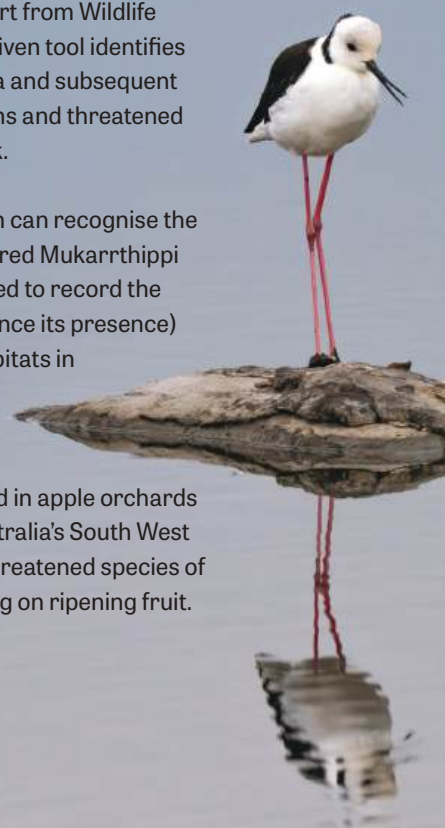
- Additional BirdLife Australia datasets are being amalgamated in Birddata to achieve greater efficiency, consistency and overall quality.
- Work commenced to update **BirdLife Australia's general assets** in line with the latest taxonomic developments included in the most recent version of the Working List of Australian Birds.
- The local organising committee of the **2025 Australasian Ornithological Conference** commenced regular planning meetings for an inspiring event that will bring together leaders in Australian bird conservation and research.
- BirdLife Australia's volunteers play a vital role in **monitoring Powerful Owls** in NSW and Queensland, watching over their nesting hollows and reporting on conservation concerns. Further, our Powerful Science in Schools Project is engaging students to gather data about the diet and behaviour of Powerful Owls, and they even dissect owl pellets to see what the owls have been eating!





Highlights

- **Groundbreaking research into the ecology of Gould's Petrels** breeding on islands off NSW has revealed previously unknown movements. Continued monitoring will allow our researchers to determine their core range, which will, in turn, inform appropriate conservation actions. The generosity of our donors makes species-saving research like this possible.
- **AviStep, a support tool used to assess the siting of renewable energy infrastructure**, particularly wind turbines in relation to populations of threatened species, has been developed and a series of workshops on its implementation have been introduced to stakeholders.
- A new **bulk data-vetting tool** has been developed and is being further refined to assess the contents of large datasets before they are incorporated into the Birddata database, as well as vetting historic data.
- A **Bird Flu risk mapping and response planning tool** has been developed in conjunction with Deakin University and the Alfred Wegner Institute, with financial support from Wildlife Health Australia. This data-driven tool identifies threat pathways into Australia and subsequent spread, and pinpoints locations and threatened bird communities most at risk.
- A **remote acoustic unit** which can recognise the calls of the Critically Endangered Mukarrthippi Grasswren has been developed to record the birds' songs and calls (and hence its presence) at likely sites with suitable habitats in western NSW.
- A bird-friendly **autonomous laser system** has been trialled in apple orchards at Dwellingup in Western Australia's South West to deter Baudins' and other threatened species of black-cockatoos from foraging on ripening fruit.



Powered By Birdata

Effective conservation starts with solid data—we can't save birds if we don't have a good grasp of population dynamics and how they respond to different conservation efforts or threats. Birdata gives us that information.

In 2024 alone, over 200,000 surveys were recorded in Birdata. We share this data with community groups, corporations, universities and government bodies, and it continues to shape landmark publications, legislation and academic research throughout Australia.

I think about Birdata as the means of connecting the small actions of individuals to the much bigger picture of national and global bird conservation. Birdwatchers want to help conserve birds, so many people do, and Birdata is a way to do that.

Rachel Swain, Data and Analytics Manager



- An **acoustic recogniser** specifically designed to detect the presence of the cryptic, Critically Endangered Plains-wanderer was developed by the Queensland University of Technology with assistance from experts at BirdLife Australia.
- A **priority wetland monitoring tool** was piloted to supplement the Victorian Game Management Authority's pre-duck hunting season surveys. The data was crucial in identifying a number of sensitive sites across Victoria which were closed to shooting on BirdLife Australia's recommendation.
- Following the analysis of more than 50 nest-trees (and surrounding territories) used by Powerful Owls in NSW, a **comprehensive on-site guide** was developed to assist land managers in making allowances for the species when developing local management strategies.
- The **Threatened Mallee Birds Conservation Action Plan** was updated using expert knowledge to reflect and address recent developments and emerging conservation issues.
- The Bird Conservation Strategy is now accessible using state-of-the-art **Miradi Software**, which will allow for greater efficiency in the management of strategy data and information.

Thank you and acknowledgements

Our people are vital to our work. We want to thank our members, supporters and partners along with the foundations and businesses who have supported our work. We couldn't do it without you.

50 Year Members

Bruce Abbott
Rosemary Adams
Jill Anderson
David Ap-Thomas
Susanna Ap-Thomas
Heather Arnold
Noel Arnold
Shaun Austin
George Bedggood
Geoffrey Berry
Genevieve Binns
Philip Brook
Margaret Brooke
Lesley Brooker
Michael Brooker
Noel Brown
David Buntine
Max Burrows
Nola Caffin
James Cane
John Carabella
Graeme Chapman
Paul Chick
Donald Clark
David Close
Eileen Collins OAM
Mavis Cooper
Richard Cooper
Andrew Corrick
John Courtney
Gina Cowling
Sid Cowling
Francis Crome
Marion Crouther
Dr Peter Dann
Alma de Rebeira OAM
Henry Dee
Dr Xenia Dennett
Dr Richard Donaghey
Dr Michael Drew
Lillian Durran
Robert Elvish
Jonathan Fell
Joy Fleay
Anthea Fleming
Frederick Fogarty

Dorothy Foley
Anthony Forbes
Patricia Forrest
Dr Peter Fullagar
Phillip Fuller
Barbara Garrett
Dennis Gosper
Murray Gunn
Ronald Hadley
Ken Harley
Peter Haselgrove
Alison Hatfield
Gifford Hatfield
Alec Hawtin
Sharon Hawtin
Tony Hertog
Dr David Hollands OAM
Prof Jim Hone
Peter Hopper
Graeme Hosken
David Hughes
Timothy Hunt
Julia Hurley
Andrew Isles
Margaret Jansen
Kath Johnson
Laurie Jones
Leo Joseph
Mark Kala
Noela Kirkwood
Pamela Knight
Andrew Krumins
Antony Layton
Mary LeCroy
Alan Leishman
Geoffrey Lodge
Gail Lonnon OAM
Tom Lowe
Prof Richard Loyn
Neil Marriott
Wendy Marriott
Pamela Masters
Valerie E La May
Peter Menkhorst
David Milledge
Clare Miller

Edward Milne
Pat Minton
Robert Missen
Bette Mitchell
Walter Mitchell
David Morgan
Alan Morris AM
Virginia Morrison
Christopher Morse
Dr Michael Newman
David Nicholls
Dr Anthony Nicholls PSM
Lloyd Nielsen OAM
David Niland
Juris Ozols
Dr David Paton AM
Lesley Perkins
Trevor Pescott OAM
Deborah Pitman
David Plant OAM
Jill Plowright
Douglas Quinn
John Ravenhall AM
Alan Reid OAM
Gary Richards
Peter Roberts
Dr Shelley Robertson
Alan Rogers
Dr Robert Rogers OAM
Bill Russell
Paul Sagar
Don Saunders PSM
Bruce Semmens
Bernice Seton
Dr Peter Shaughnessy
Dr Lester Short
Brian Speechley
Graeme Stevens
David Stewart

Robert Swindley
Prof Michael Tarburton
Gwenda Taws
Roger Thomas
Peter Tierney
Bessie Tyers
Spencer Unthank
Philip Veerman
Neil Weatherill
Bill Weatherly
Prof John Woinarski



Distinguished Service Awards

Susan Abbotts
Marleen Acton
Rob Anderson
David Ap-Thomas
George Baker
Dr Mike Bamford
Margaret Bennett
Lionel Bloss
Ron Bone
Frances Bray
Allan Briggs
Hazel Britton
Alan Brown
Celia Browne
Max Burrows
Shirley Cameron
Wallie Coles
Shirley Cook
Ralph Cooper
David Coutts
John Crowhurst

Alma de Rebeira OAM
Dr Stephen Debus
Dr Xenia Dennett
Tina Dotto
Val Ford
Lachlan Garland
Barbara Garrett
Sheena Gillman
Janet Hand
Judith Harrington
Deborah Harris
Alec Hawtin
Dr Elisabeth Hodson
Graeme Hosken
Judith Hoyle
Virgil Hubregtse
Julia Hurley
Tania Ireton
Brendan Kinsella
Col Kohlhagen
Andrew Ley

Dr Laurie Living
Marlene Lyell
Peter Mason
Suzanne Mather
Clare Miller
Tim Mintern
Ian Morgan
Ian Muir
Wendy Napier
Clive Nealon
Helen O'Donnell
Jeanette Olley
Rob Parker
Ceri Pearce
Joan Peters
Margaret Philippson
Jill Plowright
William Ramsay
Barbara Reidy
Leonie Robbins
Donald Roberts

Jane Robinson
Jennifer Rogers
Sonja Ross
Don Saunders PSM
Peter Sedgwick
Bob Semmens
Kathleen Shurcliff
Rod Smith
Richard Stevens
Keith Stockwell
Annette Sutton
Nancy Taylor
Trish Teesdale
Duncan Turnbull
Bessie Tyers
Liz Walker
Barbara Williams
Jon Wren
Bob Young

Fellows

Dr Barry Baker
Dr Mike Bamford
Prof Kate Buchanan
Dr Allan Burbidge

Prof Mike Clarke
Sid Cowling
Dr Peter Dann
Prof Hugh Ford

Prof Stephen Garnett
Dr Philip Moors AO
Dr Michael Newman

Assoc Prof Penny Olsen AM
Dr Jim Radford

Honorary Life Members

Kate Armstrong
John Barkla
Dr Patricia Bingham
Geoff Deason
Gerard Early
Sheena Gillman
Duncan Mackenzie OAM

Suzanne Mather
Rosemary Payet
Howard Plowright
Alison Russell-French OAM
Brian Snape AM
Patricia White

We sadly note the passing of

Barbara Archer
Dr Colin Barraclough
Peter Boag
Stephen Conradi
Alan Cope
John Dodd

Dr Michael Feller
Dr Andrew Galbraith
Martin Gascoigne
Dr Graham Harrington
Dr David Harrison
Melanie Kelly

Dr Dick Kimber AM
Bill King
Peg Lade
John Layton
Dr Julie Major
Kaye Murray

Easy Patterson
Ken Russell
Liz Sarraillhe
Wendy Savage
Tanya Stevenson
Yvonne Taylor



Government

ACT NRM
 Albury City Council
 Barwon Coast
 Bass Coast Shire
 Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management
 Campbelltown Council
 Canning River Eco-Education Centre
 Central Coast Council
 Central Tablelands Local Land Services
 Central West Local Land Services
 Central West Local Land Services
 Cessnock City Council
 City of Greater Geelong
 City of Joondalup
 City of Kwinana
 City of Mandurah
 City of Melbourne
 City of Melville
 City of Swan
 Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
 Cowra Council
 Cradle Coast Authority
 Department for Environment and Water (National Parks and Wildlife)
 Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Federal)
 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW)
 Department of Environment and Science
 Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
 Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
 East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
 Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board
 Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
 Golden Plains Shire Council
 Goulburn-Broken CMA
 Great Ocean Road Authority
 Green Adelaide (SA)
 Greening Australia
 Gunning District Landcare (NSW)
 Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
 Hunter Local Land Services
 Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
 Lane Cove Council
 Leschenault Catchment Council
 Limestone Coast Landscape Board
 Local Land Services

Logan City Council
 Melbourne Water
 Melbourne Water
 Mid Coast Council (NSW)
 Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
 Murray Local Land Services
 Murray Local Landcare Collective
 NECMA – North East Catchment Management Authority
 Nillumbik Council
 North Sydney Council
 Northern & Yorke Landscape Board
 Northern and Yorke Landscape Board
 Northern Parks and Forests
 NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
 NSW Environmental Trust
 NSW Government – Environmental Trust
 NSW Government – Saving our Species Program
 NT Wildlife Park
 Parks Australia, Our Marine Park
 Parks Victoria
 Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
 Philip Island Nature Parks
 Reef Catchments NRM
 Riverina LLS
 Riverina Local Land Services
 Rivers of Carbon
 Saving Our Species
 Shire of Mundaring
 South Australia Arid Landscapes Board
 South Coast NRM
 Vic Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
 West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
 Willoughby City Council
 Yarra Ranges Council



Indigenous partners

Aak Puul Ngantam (APN) Rangers
 Anindilyakwa Land & Sea Rangers
 Badgebup Rangers
 Batchelor Rangers
 Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (Djelk, male and female Rangers)
 Binalup Rangers
 Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
 Crocodile Island Rangers
 Dhimurru Rangers
 Djurrubu Rangers
 Dudoroo Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation
 Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
 Goondoi Land and Sea Management
 Gudjuda Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation
 Jaragun Ecoservices
 Karri Karrak Rangers from the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation
 Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
 Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation
 Mandubarra Land and Sea
 Mapoon Land and Sea Rangers
 Mary River Rangers
 Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council
 Mithaka Rangers
 Mungalla Aboriginal Business
 Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation
 Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation
 Nharangga Aboriginal Progress Association
 Northern Land Council
 Nyangumarta and Karajarri Rangers
 Olkola Aboriginal Corporation
 Point Peace Aboriginal Corporation
 Timber Creek Rangers
 Tiwi Land Council
 Tiwi Plantations Corporation (Midway Limited)
 Undalup Rangers from the Undalup Association Inc
 Walker Creek Rangers
 Wellesley Islands Rangers
 Winjan Rangers

Wunthulpu/KULLA Land Trust
 Yawuru Rangers
 Yirrganydji Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers
 Yuwi Land and Sea Rangers
 Additional communications with Lama Lama Aboriginal Corporation, Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC), Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation, and Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation
 Additional Ghost Net Forum Ranger Groups (Gove, Mornington Island, Napranum, Mapoon, Groote Eylandt, Bamaga)



Supporting and research partners

ABC Radio – Goulburn Murray
Agri-business Yarra Valley
Albury Conservation Council
ANU Sustainable Farms
Armadaale Gosnells Landcare Group
Arthur Rylah Institute
Atlas of Living Australia
Australia National University
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Geographic Society
Australian Landscape Trust
Australian Marine Conservation Society
Australian National University
Australian Native Farm Forestry
Australian Ornithological Services
Australian Tropical Herbarium
Australian Wildlife Conservancy
Bellarine Bayside Coastal Management
Biodiversity Maintenance Australia
BioLinks Alliance
BioPlatforms Australia
Bird Alliance (Mount Lofty Ranges)
BirdLife International
BirdLife International Tokyo
Birds Korea (ROK)
Black Cockatoo Centre Kaarakin
Bruny Island Environment Network
Bunyas to Borders
Bush Heritage
Bush Heritage Australia
Cambooya Landcare Group
Care4Esk
Central Tablelands Landcare
Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance
Charles Darwin University
Community Solutions
Conservation Council of WA
Conservation Management Ltd
Conservation Volunteers Australia
Corowa District Landcare
Cowra Natural Resource Management committee
Cowra Woodland Birds Program
CSIRO
CSU – Gulbali Institute
Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
Curtin University
Deakin University
Deakin University
Denmark Bird Group
Denmark Environment Centre Inc
Earth Canvas
East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership

East Gippsland Landcare Network
Eastern Riverina Landcare
EcoVineyards
Edith Cowan University
Enviro House
Environment Justice Australia
Environmental Defenders Office
Environmental Justice Australia
Esperance Bird Observers Group
Euroa Arboretum
Flinders University
Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife
Foundations of Success
Friends of Kings Park
Friends of Nail Can Hill
Gardens for Wildlife Albury Wodonga
Gerogery Primary School
Great Eastern Range Initiative
Great Eastern Ranges – Slopes to Summit
Great Eastern Ranges Initiative
Greening Australia
Greening Australia Ltd
Griffith University
GWYMAC Inc
Habitat Innovation and Management
Habitat Innovation and Management
Halve Waste Education Centre
Healthy Land and Water
Holbrook Landcare Network
Humane Society International (Australia)
Hunter Region Landcare Network Inc
Intrepid Landcare
Invasive Species Council
James Cook University
Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre
Kangaroo Island Land for Wildlife
Katanning Landcare
KI Community Education
KI Western Districts Memorial Community Sports Club
KI Wildlife Network
Kilcoy Landcare Group
La Trobe University
La Trobe University
La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary
Lake Cowal Foundation
Landcare Australia
Landcare SJ

Landcare UpHunter
Little River Landcare
Lockyer Community Action Group Inc
Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc
Lockyer Upper Catchments Incorporated
Melbourne Arboretum
Mid-Lachlan Landcare
Mitta Mitta Canoe Club
Molonglo Conservation Group
Monash University
Murdoch University
Murray Bridge Rotary Club
Murrumbidgee Landcare
Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc
Museums Victoria
Nangana Landcare Network
National Audubon Society Inc
National Parks Association of NSW
National Recovery Team for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Natural Resources Conservation Trust
Nature Glenelg Trust



Business Partners

BHP
Biodiversity Conservation Trust
Cape Paterson Ecovillage Pty Ltd
Cassinia Environmental
CSIRO Publishing
Dampier Salt Ltd Company Services
Hesperia Property
HVP
Ironbark Bird Tours
Jayfields Nursery
Kangra-Boyd to Wyangala Glideways
Land Eco Consulting
Melbourne Water

Nature Conservation Council
Natural Resources Conservation Trust
Nikon Australia Pty Ltd
North Barker Ecosystem Services Pty Ltd
Orange Regional Museum and Gallery
Our Native Garden Nursery
PF Olsen
Stirling Range Retreat
Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management
Wildlife Health Australia Incorporated
Taylor and Francis

Affiliates

Australasian Wader Study Group
Friends of the Hooded Plover Mornington Peninsula Inc
Friends of Western Ground Parrot
Geelong Field Naturalists Club Inc
Hastings Birdwatchers
Hunter Bird Observers Club
Illawarra Bird Observers Club
King Island Landcare Group
Shorebirds SE Inc (SA)
Victorian Wader Study Group
Toowoomba Bird Observers
Birdlife Southern Queensland
Birdlife Southern Queensland Darling Downs local branch
Ovens and Murray BirdLife Branch

Birders Albury Wodonga
Birdlife Warrnambool
Morning Peninsula Birdlife Branch
Birdlife Castlemaine District
Cowra Woodland Birds Program
BirdLife Southern NSW



Wildbird Protectors

We sincerely thank our 2,775 Wildbird Protectors, whose tremendous commitment to making regular gifts enables us to sustainably fund vital work to save threatened Australian birds and prevent habitat destruction for various species nationwide.

Estates

Estate of Maryann Louise Herbert
Estate of Bruce Lindenmayer OAM
Estate of Graham Houston Matheson

Estate of Irene Agnes Rose
Estate of Anne Jocelyn Woods

Legacy

We are extremely grateful to our 596 generous supporters who have included a gift in their Will to BirdLife Australia. We acknowledge their extraordinary commitment to empowering our scientists to save Australian native birds into the future.

Major Donors

Lindsay Adams
The Charles Allen Charitable Trust
John Barkla and Alison Street
Anthea Bell
Beswick Family Fund
Nicholas Branson
Brennan Family Foundation
Burton Family Foundation
Nick Butcher
Lisa Cochrane and Scott Hipkins
The Corella Fund
Peter Crossing AM Family
Isaacson Davis Foundation
Mary Davis in memory of Dorothy Porter

Diversicon Environmental Foundation
Michael Doyle
Henry Foster
Rose Gilder
Chris Grubb and Gina Grubb
Holmes Family Foundation
The Illawong Foundation
The JMS Foundation
Pamela Knight
The Stuart Leslie Foundation
Susan Maple-Brown AM
Dr Michael Martin
Catherine Noone
Kim and Pamela Norris
Patricia Novikoff

Martin O'Brien
Charlie Pascoe
Prof Hugh Possingham
Purryburry Trust
John Rawlins and Family
The Ross Trust
DH Sullivan and MA Rees
Michael Tichbon OAM
Sally White
The Wood Foundation
Wood Family Foundation
Allan Yuen
13 Anonymous Major Donors

Trusts and Foundations

Australian Communities Foundation – Curlew Fund
Australian Communities Foundation – Melliodora Fund
Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation – Sweetpea Fund

Equity Trustees
IMC Pacific Foundation
Perpetual Foundation

Business Donors

AlkaWay
Hesperia
Nikon

Outdoor Sporting Association
Rockhampton Zoo

Major Associates – in kind

DLA Piper
HWL Ebsworth
Konrad & Company
Nous Group



Our Directors



Mandy Bamford
PRESIDENT

Appointed May 2016

BSc. (Hons) zoologist and science communicator, small business partner, Chair Herdsman Lake Regional Park CAC, President WA Gould League, member Community Grants & Awards Committee



Prof. Hugh Possingham
VICE-PRESIDENT

Appointed May 2020

DPhil (Oxon), BSc (Hons, Adelaide), FAA, FNAS, Research Professor (University of Queensland), member Research & Conservation Committee, Chair Community Grants & Awards Committee, Chair Australasian Ornithological Conference 2023



Gerard Early PSM
Appointed May 2011

MPA, BA, Grad Dip Admin, GAICD, environmental and public sector consultant, formerly Deputy Secretary of the Australian Government Environment Department, Chair Governance Committee



Judith Hoyle
Appointed May 2021

BHSc, Nursing; Grad Dip Clinical Studies – Infection Control, Grad Cert Leadership and Management, Dip App Sci Nursing, Cert ICU, Cert STN, Member Community Grants & Awards Committee



Penny McMullin
Appointed May 2023

BCom (Accounting & Business Law), Chartered Accountant, ANZ, financial and marketplace analyst, Member Finance & Audit Committee



Gary Nelson
Appointed Nov 2019

BCA, Chartered Accountant, Chair Finance & Audit Committee/Australian Bird Fund Committee



Tuanh Nguyen
Appointed May 2023

B Com, LLB (Monash University), LLM (Melbourne University), member of Governance Committee



Jarrod Pittson

Appointed March 2020

BSc (Hons) Chemistry, PGDip Environmental Management & Legislation, member Governance Committee



Pamela Sutton-Legaud

Appointed July 2017

MBA, CFRE, MFIA, CEO Homeward Bound Projects, Board member Inner West Community Enterprises/Seddon Community Bank, Director of the Western Melbourne Tourism Board and Hobsons Bay Community Fund, Councillor Hobsons Bay City Council, Chair Development Group, member Governance Committee



Gillian Jervis

Appointed May 2024

BCom, M Applied Finance, Grad Dip Business (Governance), CPA. Environmental advocate and financial consultant, Member Finance & Audit Committee/Australian Bird Fund Committee



Prof. Stephen Garnett

Appointed May 2024

PhD (Zoology & Tropical veterinary Science), BSc (Hons, Zoology), Professor (Charles Darwin), Senior governmental consultant and conservation officer, editor of *Action Plan for Australian Birds*, Member Governance Committee

Meetings Attended

	Attended	Held/Eligible
Mandy Bamford	6	6
Prof Hugh Possingham	5	6
Gerard Early PSM	6	6
Judith Hoyle	5	6
Penny McMullin	6	6
Gary Nelson	5	6
Tuanh Nguyen	5	6
Jarrod Pittson	3	6
Pamela Sutton-Legaud	4	6
Gillian Jervis	3	4
Stephen Garnett	4	3

BirdLife Australia Board Committees

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee assists the Board to discharge its responsibility in relation to Director roles and responsibilities, Board composition, purpose and strategy, risk management, organisational performance, Board effectiveness, accountability, capacity building, culture and engagement.

Meetings Attended	Attended	Held/Eligible
Gerard Early (Chair)	4	4
Timothy Bawden	4	4
Tuanh Nguyen	3	4
Jarrold Pittson	3	4
Pamela Sutton-Legaud	1	4
Brendan Sydes	3	4
Stephen Garnett	1	2

Development Committee

The Development Committee provides advice to the Chief Executive Officer on fundraising and financing activities to assist in resourcing BirdLife Australia's bird conservation programs.

Meetings Attended	Attended	Held/Eligible
Jarrold Pittson (Chair)	3	4
Pamela Sutton-Legaud	1	4
Alec Brennan	4	4
Dr Michael Martin	3	4
Assoc. Prof. Peter Sainsbury	2	4
Dr Alison Street	4	4
Judith Hoyle	1	2

Community Grants and Awards Committee

The Community Grants & Awards Committee administers community grants to empower local communities and our Network to protect birds and restore their habitat through on-ground conservation efforts and advocacy, with a focus on BirdLife Australia priorities at the local level.

Meetings Attended	Attended	Held/Eligible
Prof. Hugh Possingham (Chair)	3	3
Mandy Bamford	2	3
Stuart Cooney	3	3
Judith Hoyle	3	3
Sarah Knoll	2	3

Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance & Audit Committee assists the Board to discharge its responsibility in relation to financial reporting and management, budgeting, accounting policies, internal control systems, audits, investment policies and fund performance.

Meetings Attended	Attended	Held/Eligible
Gary Nelson (Chair)	5	5
Gillian Jervis	5	5
Penny McMullin	5	5
Prof. Hugh Possingham	4	5

Research and Conservation Committee

The Research and Conservation Committee (RACC) provides advice to the Chief Executive Officer on scientific and conservation matters, particularly bird conservation objectives and strategic directions, research priorities and scientific publications.

Meetings Attended	Attended	Held/Eligible
Brendan Sydes (Chair)	4	4
Dr Georgia Garrard (Chair)	4	4
Dr Birgita Hansen	3	4
Prof. Hugh Possingham	3	4
James Trezise	3	4
Prof. James Watson	2	4
Prof. Kate Buchanan	3	4
Dr Steve Murphy	4	4

BirdLife Australia Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Director's Report

As BirdLife Australia continues to implement our ambitious bird conservation strategy to stop the extinction of birds by 2032, the Board reaffirmed its decision to increase investment of BirdLife Australia's resources to deliver a greater impact in the medium term. By strategically drawing down from BirdLife Australia's reserves, we believe new development initiatives will lead to growth in future income and deliver the conservation outcomes that are so urgently needed.

The Committee will continue to closely monitor BirdLife Australia's financial position to ensure continued financial stability as we move into the new financial year.

Gary Nelson
Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee



Disclaimer – Summary Financial Information

The financial information presented in this Annual Report is a summary of BirdLife Australia's audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The summary does not include all disclosures required by the *Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Accordingly, this summary financial information should be read in conjunction with the full audited financial report, including the independent auditor's report, which is available at: <https://birdlife.org.au/agm-2025>

Statement

Statement of Profit or Loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue		
Project income	3,915,174	5,187,189
Donations	5,723,204	5,383,487
Bequests	1,834,812	3,302,256
Subscriptions	508,953	435,663
Sales, courses, and fees	1,140,322	1,105,388
Finance income	791,576	794,298
Other income	17,609	17,987
Net gain/(loss) in revaluation of financial assets at fair value through Profit or Loss	997,272	(3,431,200)
Total Revenue	14,928,922	14,261,892
Expenditure		
Employee costs	13,120,506	12,080,413
Printing, stationery, and magazine costs	531,133	560,120
Finance and administration costs	1,682,901	1,470,048
Project non-employee costs	1,967,417	2,414,863
Occupancy expenses	291,457	347,931
Travel expenses	341,315	471,792
Subscriptions Paid	69,880	38,812
Total Expenditure	18,004,609	17,383,979
Operating surplus/(deficit)	(3,075,687)	(3,122,087)
Other comprehensive income		
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	(3,075,687)	(3,122,087)

Statement

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2024

	Consolidated	
	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,702,730	2,515,038
Trade and other receivables	1,092,883	933,797
Other financial assets	657,188	492,592
Other assets	36,485	50,489
Contract Assets	224,666	244,240
Total Current Assets	5,713,952	4,236,156
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	11,308,224	15,330,291
Right of use assets	26,245	312,522
Property, plant & equipment	1,593,660	1,437,311
Intangible assets	216,992	14,571
Total Non-Current Assets	13,145,121	17,094,695
Total Assets	18,859,073	21,330,851
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,375,165	1,373,322
Lease liability	21,951	105,593
Provisions	1,674,692	1,841,260
Contract Liabilities	2,263,266	1,221,808
Total Current Liabilities	5,335,074	4,541,983
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	171,591	154,435
Lease liability	8,673	215,011
Total Non-Current Liabilities	180,264	369,446
Total Liabilities	5,515,338	4,911,429
Net Assets	13,343,735	16,419,422
Equity		
Retained surplus	13,343,735	16,419,422
Total Equity	13,343,735	16,419,422



RSM Australia Partners

Level 27, 120 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000
PO Box 248 Collins Street West VIC 8007

T +61(0) 3 9286 8000

F +61(0) 3 9286 8199

www.rsm.com.au

Independent Auditor's Report To the Members of BirdLife Australia and Controlled Entities

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of BirdLife Australia and its Controlled Entities (the Group), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Group is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards Simplified Disclosures under *AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Group's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2024, but does not include the financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The Responsible Entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards *Simplified Disclosures* under *AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and for such internal control as the Responsible Entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Responsible Entities are responsible for assessing the ability of the Group to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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RSM Australia Partners


K J Dundon
Partner

Dated: 1 May 2025
Melbourne, Victoria

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Financial Performance

Financial Performance 2024

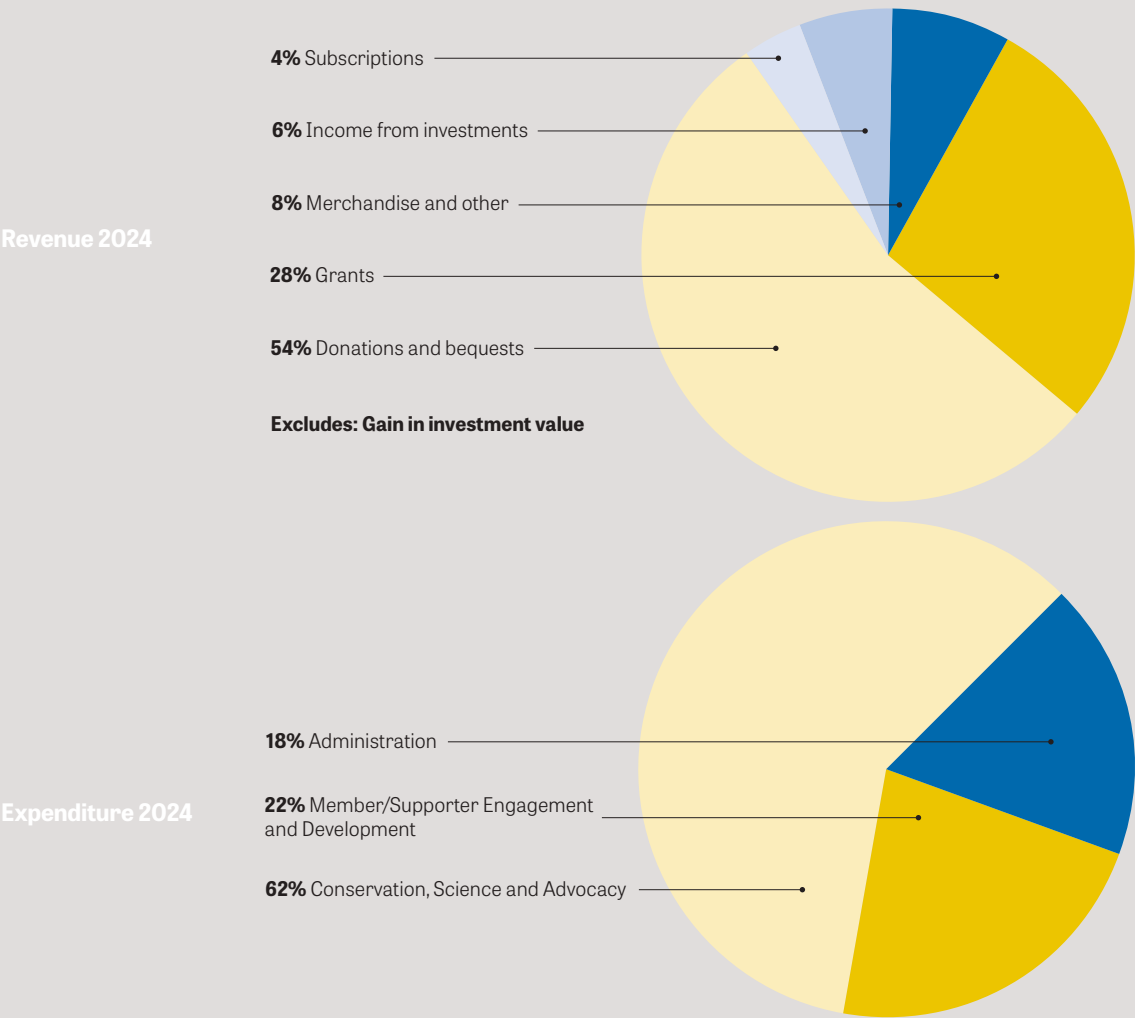
The Consolidated Financial Statements for BirdLife Australia (BirdLife) and its controlled entities, includes the National Office, BirdLife Australia network of branches, reserves, observatories, and special interest groups.

Our Total Revenue in 2024 increased to \$14.9m compared to \$14.3m in 2023. Of this \$0.6m increase; \$1.2m resulted from the increase bequests compared with 2023. This was offset, however, by lower fair value gains on invests (\$0.3m), lower grant income (\$0.2m) and lower sales (\$0.1m) received in 2024.

BirdLife continues to be focused on managing costs during a period of economic uncertainty, while investing in the future. Core administrative costs have increased to 18% of overall 2024 expenditure largely due to restructuring costs and uplift in resourcing in Strategy & Governance (2023: 15%).

The overall (\$3.1m) deficit is supported by strong cash reserves which are being monitored and applied in a strategic manner to support the delivery of the ambitious Bird Conservation Strategy.

Thank you to all our supporters during another challenging year and for your continuing financial support to deliver our vision of ensuring native birds are protected, valued, and enjoyed by all Australians.





ORGANISATIONAL
MEMBER



birdlife
AUSTRALIA

BirdLife Australia

ABN: 75 149 124 774

Level 2 Main Building

54 Wellington Street Collingwood VIC 3066

1300 730 075 birdlife.org.au



BirdLife Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Country on which we live, work and learn and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise and are grateful for the immense contribution of Indigenous people to the knowledge and conservation of Australia's birds.