

2025



**birdlife**  
AUSTRALIA

**Annual Report**

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.

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## 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 partnerships.

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, private and public land managers, First Nations custodians and support from all sections of society so we can repair the system together.

In 2025, the BirdLife Australia community achieved some incredible outcomes for birds and nature. In the following pages, we're excited to share our achievements from the 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 all we've achieved together as we strive to put birds and nature on a path to recovery.

**Save Birds. Save Life.**



## CEO's message

2025 was a year of significant impact at BirdLife Australia as we continued to deliver our Bird Conservation Strategy.

This was a critical year for the reform of federal nature laws. After 25 years,

three different Ministers and two governments, the overhaul recommended by the Samuel Review was well overdue. The new Environment Minister, Murray Watt, negotiated legislative improvements, including National Environmental Standards and making native forest logging and land clearing that directly impacts threatened birds, such as Swift Parrots, now subject to the law. However, within two months of the legislation passing, the Minister allowed Alcoa to continue clearing Western Australian Northern Jarrah Forests that are vital to the survival of Baudin's Black-Cockatoos, under the 'national interest' provision, using this get-out-of-jail-free card to circumvent the government's legal obligations. Australia can't keep on pretending that everything will be fine while degrading and slicing up critical habitat for threatened birds and other wildlife.

BirdLife Australia's data and expertise enabled an Australian first in 2025, with the release of the powerful AVISTEP tool. Developed in partnership with BirdLife International, the tool makes it easier to plan and operate renewable energy infrastructure in ways that are safer for nature. Launching this tool at the Australasian Ornithological Conference in Perth in November was truly uplifting. The next stage of the project is to maximise the uptake of the tool by planners, regulators, developers and our grassroots supporters who are advocating for a nature-safe energy transition.

Thankfully, H5 bird flu is yet to reach Australia's mainland shores. But the detection of the virus on Australia's subantarctic Heard Island signalled a grave risk for the island's birdlife and reminds us how important it is that Australia prepares for a possible outbreak closer to home. We're playing our part, advocating for national preparedness and providing scientific expertise. In 2025, we helped to develop a valuable new tool called AviFluMap which provides critical information for assessing

and responding to the risk of H5 bird flu. Both AviFluMap and AVISTEP are powered by Birddata, demonstrating that our collective passion for birds can be converted into tools for real change.

It was a joy to celebrate birds with the rest of Australia as another Bird of the Year competition turned everyone into champions of birds, followed by our 12th Aussie Bird Count, which once again proved to be Australia's most popular citizen science event. The staggering level of engagement with these events shows how genuinely our community cares about Australian birds, filling all of us with great hope and optimism.

There was much cause for celebration in the field too, with our conservation scientists achieving many great outcomes. The Sharing our Shores team in South Australia worked alongside the Ngarrindjeri Rangers to protect a colony of Vulnerable Fairy Terns in the Coorong, resulting in more than 80 tern 'runners' leaving their nests, the largest number recorded for this colony. Our Birds on Farms program is creating even more bird habitat on private land, and we expanded our reach with new online training to help more citizen scientists get involved in the valuable surveys. Our online 'Habitat Gardening for Birds' went live in March and was a big hit with households across the country, showing that no matter where you live you can make a difference and help us keep our common birds common.

Across the year I travelled to many parts of the country to catch up with our inspiring members. I enjoyed some magical moments meeting volunteers out in nature, including travelling to the wild and rugged landscape of the Eyre Bird Observatory in WA, marvelling at the huge dunes and stunning Pink Cockatoos. I also had the pleasure of meeting First Nations Rangers in Litchfield National Park and hearing about the conservation efforts to protect the magnificent Red Goshawks. I am proud to share our progress with you in this year's annual report. Thank you for being part of our community and supporting BirdLife Australia.

*Kate Millar*

Kate Millar, CEO

## President's message

Looking back on my three years as President of BirdLife Australia, I am proud of the organisation and what we have achieved, with many successful projects and campaigns helping to support Australia's threatened birds. At the same time, BirdLife Australia as an organisation has grown and become better at what we do. One of our huge strengths is the broad range of enthusiastic groups within our ranks, working together for conservation. By building collaboration between our members, staff, volunteers and supporters, we are most effective. As a result of this collaboration throughout the organisation, BirdLife Australia is becoming an increasingly influential and respected voice in the halls of power.

While 2025 was a challenging year for Australia's birdlife, it was also a year which saw us rise to many challenges. We have so many good people on our side—members, supporters, donors and staff—all playing a significant role in protecting Australia's precious birds and the places they live. The groundswell of support from within our organisation and beyond was instrumental in the success and builds momentum for better protection of the environment.

It's our people who drive BirdLife Australia. It's been wonderful to meet so many people who make up our national network of Branches, Observatories and Special Interest Groups this year and see all the amazing work they do to advance the cause of Australia's birds. I admire the dedication of our volunteers who protect beach-nesting birds, install hollows for cockatoos, submit data, or bring bird conservation to the wider community. Thank you all for what you do.

My particular thanks go to our CEO, Kate Millar, who has guided BirdLife Australia with a steady hand and a clear vision for the future. Central to realising her vision is the hard work of our dedicated staff.

One of the highlights of 2025 was an important assembly of national staff I attended in Melbourne/Narrm. It was a chance to renew old acquaintances and put faces to names, while sharing progress and achievements of our many different bird conservation projects, providing a valuable insight into our work. Getting together to share knowledge, experience,

successes and challenges is an important part of building a stronger organisation.

In November 2025, the Australasian Ornithological Conference was held in Perth/Boorloo. The AOC saw everyone from professional ornithologists, students and citizen scientists, to beginner birdwatchers gather from across Australia, New Zealand and beyond to hear about the latest bird research in our region. There was an impressive array of topics, ranging from conserving Palm Cockatoos to bird-proofing renewable energy, from First Nations collaborations to habitat restoration on farms.

Placing our work in an international context, I was part of the delegation which attended BirdLife International's Council and Advisory Group meeting in Singapore in June, where the focus was on conservation work across the East Asian-Australasian and Central Asian Flyways. This is an arena where BirdLife Australia's Migratory Shorebirds and Seabirds programs have an important role to play.

Finally, I'd like to thank the hard-working members of the Board for all they've done to steer BirdLife Australia into the position we're in, and to welcome all new committee members. As I step down from the chair's role, I wish the incoming President well and look forward to my next two years as a Director and to BirdLife Australia's future conservation successes.

With people of such high calibre throughout our organisation, the future of Australia's birds is in good hands.

*Mandy Bamford*

Mandy Bamford, President



# Counting on our community



**7,576**  
members

**465,000**  
supporters

**51,000**  
new supporters joined our flock

**64,000**  
participants in our 12th annual Aussie Bird Count, with over

**5 million**  
birds counted

**38**  
research, conservation and community grants awarded to support widespread action

**82,754**  
Birddata surveys submitted and...

over  
**28,000**  
data downloads

**14,800**  
surveys added to the beach-nesting birds portal

**3150**  
volunteers contributed to...

**9**  
national citizen science survey programs

**1,098**  
users joined digital learning courses

Over  
**60,000**  
advocacy actions undertaken across our campaigns in 2025

**450+**  
delegates attended our largest ever Australasian Ornithological Conference

Over  
**1 million**  
website users

**1.8 million**  
social media interactions

# Building the bird conservation community



To tackle the extinction crisis, we're engaging and inspiring people from all walks of life 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 play a leading role in bringing people together to share knowledge and solve problems, and are constantly finding new ways to help the community to care and act for birds.

Our social media reach continues to grow, while our spokespeople actively engage with the media to share the joy birds bring us, and broaden public awareness of the issues that matter, and the work that is making a difference. Our flagship publication, *Australian Birdlife*, is a trusted touchpoint for bird lovers, and keeps our community informed and connected.

## Highlights

**The Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC)**, held in Boorloo/Perth in November, was an outstanding success. The sold-out event saw more than 450 people attend to hear a diverse range of presentations by bird experts from throughout Australasia and beyond.

**The 2025 Aussie Bird Count**, held during Bird Week in October, was one of our most successful yet. 64,000 people from all corners of the continent conducted 153,000 surveys across the country to count more than 5 million birds. (See spotlight on page 12.)

Across the year, BirdLife Australia's social media captured the moments Australians showed up for birds, from rallying behind their favourite species in the Bird of the Year, to building excitement for the Aussie Bird Count, bird counters sharing their own sightings online, as well as a viral moment from Melbourne's Peregrine Falcons capturing hearts nationwide. These moments were not just seen, they were shared, driving over 1.8 million interactions across all channels and an exceptional 14.5% engagement rate, including shares, comments and reactions, far exceeding typical industry benchmarks of 1 to 3 per cent.

**We launched a free eLearning course for Birddata** to make citizen science and standardised surveys more accessible to new birders. 110 people completed the course in the first month of operation. Supported by Queensland Engaging Science Grants.

**The Birds in Backyards Habitat Gardening Course** was launched this year, helping hundreds of people across Australia turn their gardens and balconies into thriving bird habitats.



**Birds in Schools resources** were put into a Learning Management System, making them easily accessible to primary school teachers across the country.

**The Birds on Farms program** conducted 20 community engagement events to raise awareness of woodland birds and educate the community about how they can play a role in their restoration and conservation.

**More than 100 people** took part in a series of mistletoe roadshow events held across the Central West and Central Tablelands of NSW, being trained on the importance of mistletoe restoration techniques.

**Workshops were held to upskill Beach-nesting Bird** volunteers, helping them to engage effectively with communities on Victoria's Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula.

**Around the country, 172 beach-nesting bird** stakeholder events and training sessions were run with over 2,050 people upskilled. Three Beach-nesting Birds and Migratory Shorebirds workshops were held in key regions of Tasmania, bringing together 46 stakeholders to workshop ways to improve our knowledge and conservation actions for these birds.

**The Migratory Shorebirds team held 17 shorebird** identification and upskilling workshops across the country, including in the Gulf St Vincent, the Coorong and Hunter regions, Western Australia, Queensland, and Victoria's Hobsons and Westernport Bays.

**Our work to modernise methods and promote** Orange-bellied Parrot winter surveys is actively attracting diverse volunteers in greater numbers, with 2,737 volunteer hours provided across the year.

**Promoted widely by our network and special** interest groups, a new Diurnal raptor identification guide was officially launched in Hay, NSW.

**The WA Black-Cockatoo team undertook training** with local NRMs, the community and Indigenous groups to upskill the participants in the ethical monitoring of breeding by black-cockatoos.

**Webinars throughout the year drew hundreds of** attendees to each session on topics including H5 bird flu, BirdLife Australia's seabird program, Regent Honeyeater program and our rodenticides campaign.



**BirdLife Australia's Woodland Birds experts** joined BirdLife Southern NSW at the Capertee Valley Bird Festival, promoting key conservation messages in this biodiversity rich landscape of over 240 species of birds, and important Regent Honeyeater breeding habitat.

White-breasted Woodswallows by Stephanie Jones  
Insets, from left: Habitat gardening course. Photo by Isis St Pierre  
Beach-nesting birds workshop. Photo by Mel Sheedy

# Spotlights

## A busy month for bird lovers

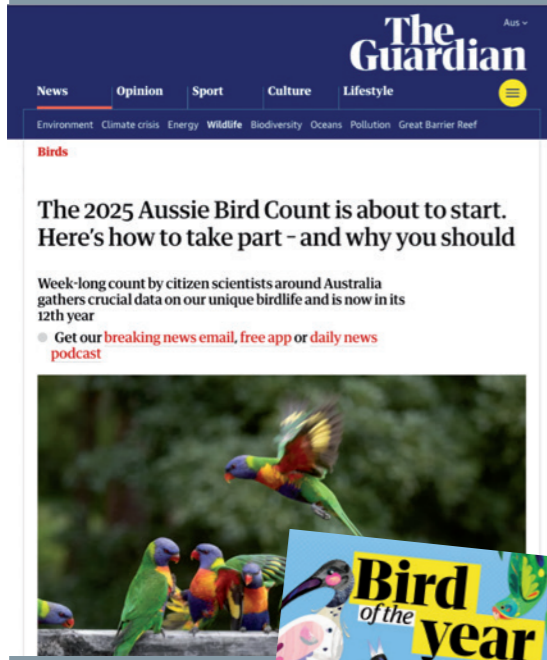
Helping Australians get excited about birds is key to building a society that cares. October was one of the biggest months in our recent history for doing just this!

It kicked off with the **Bird of the Year (BOTY)** competition, run in partnership with *The Guardian*. Over two weeks, more than 313,000 people cast their votes and championed the birds they love—including politicians advocating for their favourites in Parliament. Gradually, the poll was whittled down to just one winner—the Tawny Frogmouth, finally crowned as Australia's favourite bird after two years as runner-up.

A week later, the 12th annual **Aussie Bird Count** took flight with 64,000 people from all corners of the country conducting over 150,000 surveys while taking time to discover the birds around them. News of the event was widely covered in the media and was all over social media too, with ambassadors sharing funny and heartfelt videos. Since it was established in 2014, this people-friendly event has grown in popularity, and is now Australia's biggest—and favourite—citizen science event.

Then, at the end of October, the winners of Australia's most prestigious bird photography award, the **BirdLife Australia Photography Awards**, were announced. With a record number of entries, this award continues to highlight the beauty and appreciation of Australia's unique birdlife, suffused with a strong conservation message. A selection of breathtaking images was published in *The Guardian*.

With birds seemingly everywhere we looked, we topped off a hugely successful month with a matched-giving fundraising appeal which saw generous donors double the tally targets. It was a fitting end to an exciting time as bird fans around the country gave generously to support the birds they had celebrated all month long.



For over 10 years, *Australian Birdlife* has been delivering fascinating articles on birds, birdwatching and bird conservation in Australia to our members across the country. Filled with stunning photographs, the beloved magazine has won multiple Whitley Awards for Best Publication. Now being mailed to around 6,000 households every quarter, and many thousands more readers accessing digital editions, our *Australian BirdLife* editor, Natasha Harris, says the publication plays a powerful role in nurturing a united community of bird lovers.

## Australian Birdlife magazine, Natasha Harris

"The magazine is a way to inspire, inform and celebrate Australian birds and the people who love them. We try to have something for everyone in the magazine, whether you're a long-time twitcher or have just started noticing the birds around you. So many impressive stories of a life dedicated to conservation start with a single bird. So who knows which story or picture might inspire someone?"

"I think of the magazine as a way we can give back to our members. They give us so much, and the magazine is a way of celebrating them. I'm still moved by the stories we publish. In every issue, there will be a volunteer story or a great project outcome that really demonstrates how wonderful and dedicated our supporters are.

"We're excited about the future. We're looking at how to keep expanding the reach of *Australian Birdlife* to bring a whole new readership to the magazine. We need to spread the bird word!"



Pink Cockatoos by Beverly Oliver.  
Inset: photo by Noah Pearsall

# Our network

The beating heart of our organisation is our organic network of 32 local branches and four special interest groups across Australia. These groups bring people together through a shared love of birds and nature and are a foundation of the bird conservation movement.

Local groups carry out long-term projects that simply couldn't happen without the dedication of volunteers. They also offer passionate bird lovers a community to connect with, to nurture a lifelong passion for Australia's birds.

See page 32 for a full list of our branches and Special Interest Groups, and page 34 for our distinguished service award recipients and honorary life members.



# Network Spotlights

## BirdLife WA

BirdLife WA launched a Guide for Citizen Advocates, empowering Western Australians to speak up for birds and their habitats. They also brought together 40+ participants for a citizen advocacy workshop, identifying priorities for protecting native habitats. Working alongside the community, BirdLife WA is providing a stronger, more effective voice for native vegetation, leveling the playing field for WA's birds.



## BirdLife Top End

BirdLife Top End continued to defend threatened bushland at Lee Point/Binybara, conducted monthly shorebird surveys and ran a Save Our Shorebirds campaign. To enhance community engagement, BirdLife Top End ran 'Farewell to Shorebirds' and the Darwin-Garramilla Shorebird Festival, as well as stalls at the Seabreeze Festival and EcoFair. We also developed the Birds in Schools Top End program, to be rolled out soon.

## BirdLife Castlemaine

BirdLife Castlemaine partnered with Coliban Water to build a bird hide at their reclamation plant, just outside Castlemaine, offering expert guidance about the best site to build the hide, as well as providing information about the birds most likely to be seen. In the short time it's been there, the bird hide has already raised awareness about Castlemaine's birds among the local community.

## BirdLife Southern NSW

BirdLife Southern NSW helped plan and deliver the inaugural Capertee Valley Bird Festival at Glen Alice to engage the community and inspire conservation efforts. At this immersive, nature-focused experience, we conducted guided walks to share our rich local birdlife with the community and gave expert talks about the region's many special woodland birds. Months in the making, the festival was an overwhelming success.



## Australasian Wader Studies Group

In 2025, the AWSG contributed expertise to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership's 12th Meeting of Partners, held in Cebu, in the Philippines. The group's North West Australia Wader and Tern Expedition—which monitors shorebirds' annual breeding success—attracted 29 participants and banding 11 target species. AWSG volunteers also took part in the Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia counting program as part of the International Waterbird Census.

Curlew Sandpipers by Chris Firth  
Insets, from top: Darwin-Garramilla Bird Festival.  
Judy Harrington and Barry Walsh at the Capertee Valley Festival.

# Repairing the system

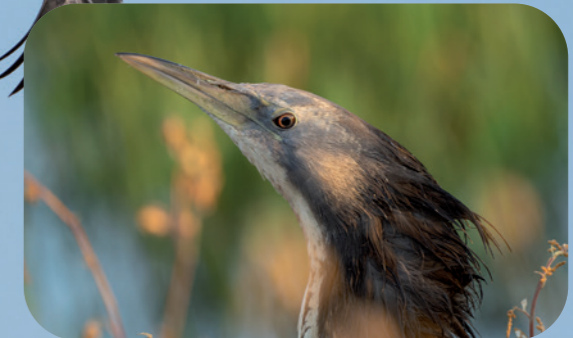
**To stop bird extinctions and put nature on the path to recovery, we must change the system.**

**As leaders in bird conservation in Australia, our team of experts advocate for and advise on policy reform to address the economic, systemic and social drivers of declines in populations of birds, both nationally and internationally. We designate Key Biodiversity Areas to help ensure effective conservation action for species and ecosystems these sites support. 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

**BirdLife Australia welcomed the addition of the first marine Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in southern Australia—the Western Bass Strait KBA—which is estimated to protect 33% of the global population of Shy Albatrosses. Designating a site as a KBA can help to ensure effective conservation action for the site and the species and the ecosystems that they support.**

**We provided a clear summary of bird-focused policies and programs to MPs in the lead up to the federal election that was used to lobby MPs on key issues, followed by public and targeted advocacy for birds as the EPBC Act was reformed under a new Federal Environment Minister. Our consultation was acknowledged in a speech by Minister Murray Watt when the laws passed. The reforms closed some damaging loopholes and introduced positive steps toward an independent EPA. We are continuing to advocate for strong species recovery commitments and speaking out against problematic offset laws.**



**We were successful in tendering for the Federal Government DCCEEW initiative 'Understanding Australian bird and bat overland flight paths' (in collaboration with Alluvium consulting), which will inform the future positioning of windfarms and other renewables.**

**We continued to engage with DCCEEW in the development of EPBC Guidelines for clearing of native habitat on Tasmania's King Island, underpinned by the King Island Threatened Birds Conservation Action Plan with the King Island Threatened Birds Recovery Team.**



**We made expert submissions and provided testimony to the Kentbruck Green Power Hub Inquiry and Advisory Committee, in south-western Victoria, to highlight concerns about its impacts on the Endangered Australasian Bittern and South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, the Vulnerable Blue-winged Parrot, White-throated Needletail, Fork-tailed Swift and Brolga, and migratory shorebirds listed under the EPBC Act.**

**Our Birds in Plantations project, a partnership with PF Olsen, progressed to the second round of the Banksia Environmental Awards and participated in a case study designing state of nature metrics for the global Nature Positive Initiative.**

**We also continued to engage with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action in Victoria to develop handbooks and guidance for biodiversity regarding the impacts of renewable energy projects and infrastructure. BirdLife Australia provided expert review of national guidelines for potential impacts on Australasian Bitterns by renewables, and worked with the South-eastern Red Tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team to provide specific guidance in this regard.**

**We lodged a detailed submission strongly opposing Alcoa's proposed bauxite mine expansions within the Northern Jarrah Forests in WA due to unacceptable and irreversible impacts on nationally threatened species—particularly Baudin's Black-Cockatoo, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo and Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.**

**We commenced development of a decision pathway to enable a consistent and considered response to engagement requests from renewable energy corporations, consultants and project teams that considers a range of engagement types, risk and policy, and positioning.**

**We provided expert advice to governments in SA and Vic on ways to combat coastal erosion and help identify habitat protection measures for shorebirds and seabirds while mitigating impacts of major beach management works.**

From left: Nankeen Kestrel by Sally North  
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos by Jane Putland  
Insets, from top: Australasian Bittern by Michael Hamel-Green  
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo by Keith Lightbody

# Spotlights

The Avian Sensitivity Tool for Energy Planning (AVISTEP) was launched in Perth at the Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC) in November.

Powered by Birddata and other high-quality datasets, AVISTEP provides an estimate of how sensitive local birds may be to new or existing infrastructure at a location to support sensible placement and mitigation decisions.

## AVISTEP

It displays predicted levels of bird sensitivity to windfarms, solar facilities, and associated powerline infrastructure on land across Australia. This new resource for Australia is a result of BirdLife Australia's collaborations with BirdLife International, which founded AVISTEP, and Fortescue, which supported the project.

BirdLife Australia CEO Kate Millar says turning data into tools for change is a key component of BirdLife Australia's mission. "Nature needs renewable energy. Climate change is a major threat to Australian birds. Australia is home to an incredible diversity of birds, many of which are found nowhere else. At BirdLife Australia, we support a rapid transition to renewable energy using the best available evidence to make smart site choices to protect birds and nature. The AVISTEP tool, which uses high-quality data including that collected by thousands of BirdLife Australia's citizen scientists, makes it easier to plan and operate renewable energy infrastructure in ways that further reduce impacts to birds, supporting a faster, lower cost roll-out of the infrastructure that people and nature need."



Wedge-tailed Eagle by Tess Poyner  
Inset: Avistep launch by SoCo Studios

## Key Biodiversity Areas

When BirdLife Australia took the initiative to champion Key Biodiversity Areas in Australia, it came from a long understanding that protecting birds benefits all biodiversity. As a scientist with a research background in invertebrates, this is especially important to Anna McCallum, our Key Biodiversity Area Project Coordinator.

"Working collaboratively to identify the most important sites for birds and other biodiversity deepens our understanding of an area's ecological value and provides greater leverage for protecting birds and nature.

"In 2025, we led an update of the Christmas Island KBA in collaboration with Parks Australia managers. The island is the only nesting site on Earth for the Abbott's Booby, but in addition to recognising the many significant birds, the Christmas Island KBA now lists mammals, reptiles, plants and invertebrates such as the threatened Christmas Island stick insect. In 2025 we also welcomed the addition of the first marine KBA in southern Australia—the Western Bass Strait KBA—which provides a crucial foraging area for the Shy Albatross.



"Looking ahead, I see significant potential for KBAs to inform both global and national conservation planning. One strength of KBAs lies in their standardised, quantitative approach. With the new federal nature laws, KBAs can play a critical role informing decision-making to prevent further declines of biodiversity, including the identification of Conservation Areas or 'no-go' zones where development should be avoided. KBAs can also help Australia meet its obligations under Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly the 30x30 target. It's essential that new protected areas include the places that are most important for biodiversity, not just the areas that are easiest to protect. KBA identification does not confer protection—BirdLife Australia relies on a network of KBA Guardians, often comprising members of our branches or conservation projects, to gather the long-term data to track how birds are faring at KBAs across Australia. Beyond birdwatching, many of these local communities are the most effective advocates who can speak up to protect the places they feel connected to."

**Anna McCallum, Key Biodiversity Area Project Coordinator**



Shy Albatrosses by Christopher Young  
Inset: Anna McCallum by Anna McCallum

# Caring for Country

Conservation is collaboration, and partnerships are at the heart of our bird conservation work. In recognition of the vital role that First Nations peoples 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.

BirdLife Australia's partnerships with Indigenous Rangers across Australia have demonstrated measurable conservation benefits, combining science and cultural knowledge on Country.

## Highlights

**The 2025 BirdLife Australia Indigenous Grant** was awarded to Arafura Rangers Aboriginal Corporation. (See spotlight on p23.)

**The 'Birds on Country: Indigenous knowledge and conservation of birds' symposium** at the Australasian Ornithological Conference in Perth was a huge success; five Indigenous Ranger groups from across Australia co-presented on their bird conservation work on Country.

**Our Orange-bellied Parrot recovery coordinator** initiated monitoring methods training workshops and field trips with Indigenous Ranger groups across the species distribution as part of ongoing partnerships monitoring the critically endangered species.



**Migratory Shorebird and Wetland Bird** staff attended the 2025 Northern Australia Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Forum, which brought together 170 Indigenous Rangers, providing key expertise on H5 bird flu and building relationships.



**The Beach-nesting Birds Team formed a new connection** with the IPA Development Coordinator from Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC) leading to a successful training event with Sea Country rangers from Gunditj Mirring and Eastern Maar later in the year. The Coastal and Wetlands Birds team has also continued working closely with the Binalup Rangers in the Cape to Cape Region and Bunurong Rangers in Gippsland, offering training opportunities which, in turn, increased monitoring and nesting site protection.

**We participated in a workshop on Restoring Spirit** (Lawan/Lowan/Malleefowl) hosted on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, sharing stories and knowledge about the species to build a common understanding to assist in restoring Malleefowl populations and the Malleefowl's role on Country.

**We continued to participate in Noisy Scrub-bird** recovery work on the Western Australian South Coast, which involves multiple teams of Traditional Owners and Indigenous Rangers, through the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions led WA South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team.



**We worked with Indigenous Rangers on the** Western Australian South Coast to expand skills for locating and monitoring Sandhill Grasswrens in the Wanjarrie Indigenous Protected Area.

**The Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council** was engaged through the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Team and involved in captive releases and monitoring actions on Wonnarua Country in the Tomalpin Woodlands, NSW.

**BirdLife Australia's Coastal & Wetlands Birds** team secured funding to co-deliver work alongside the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation to improve the habitat of Fairy Terns and Hooded Plovers, and their breeding outcomes, in the Coorong.

**Black-Cockatoo staff in Western Australia** undertook on-Country training in monitoring breeding with the Badgeup Rangers to boost collective knowledge of their breeding habitat.

**BirdLife Australia staff exchanged knowledge** on Red Goshawks and supported Indigenous Rangers with new tools to survey and monitor Red Goshawks across northern Australia. A film is also in development to highlight the conservation efforts led by Indigenous Rangers across the Red Goshawk's range.

**Staff from BirdLife Australia provided** engagement and training, and exchanged knowledge about wetland birds, shorebirds and the Orange-bellied Parrot in Gippsland with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation.

Australian Emu by Mark Lethlean  
Insets, from top: Red Goshawk surveys with Batchelor Rangers. Photo by Creative Trade Media Left: OBP surveys with Gunaikurnai Rangers. Photo by Sam Monks

# Spotlights

## Red Goshawks in northern Australia

BirdLife Australia is working with Indigenous Rangers and Traditional Owners in remote northern Australia to locate and monitor breeding Red Goshawks and protect their habitat on Country.

“Working alongside the Dambimangari and Wiltingin Ranger groups has reshaped how we study and protect the Red Goshawk... combining scientific insights with cultural knowledge,” said Jess Rooke, BirdLife Australia Red Goshawk project coordinator.

“The sharing of knowledge about how healthy Country is maintained... has deepened our understanding of what Red Goshawks need to survive.”

“My highlight for 2025 would have to be travelling to the Northern Territory to talk with Indigenous Rangers about the Endangered Red Goshawk and how we might best protect them going forwards.

“During these trips we undertook training and field surveys for breeding Red Goshawks in Litchfield, Kakadu and on the Tiwi Islands—some of the most spectacular landscapes in the world. I feel so grateful to have the opportunity to dedicate time to working on solutions to protect and restore populations of this wonderful bird.

“These trips to talk to people, face-to-face and on country, remind me how real change can be effected—by working with people. To have the opportunity to meet with and talk to Rangers is a huge privilege and the two-way-learning that results is where true collaboration is born. As a result, 2025 feels like a significant step forward in recovery efforts for Red Goshawk—a bird very close to my heart.”

– Dr. Richard Seaton, Director Terrestrial Birds

The benefits of this partnership and ongoing stewardship will continue long into the future, with Rangers managing and monitoring goshawk nesting sites throughout the year, applying their deep understanding of fire, seasons and landscape change to protect the birds and their habitat.

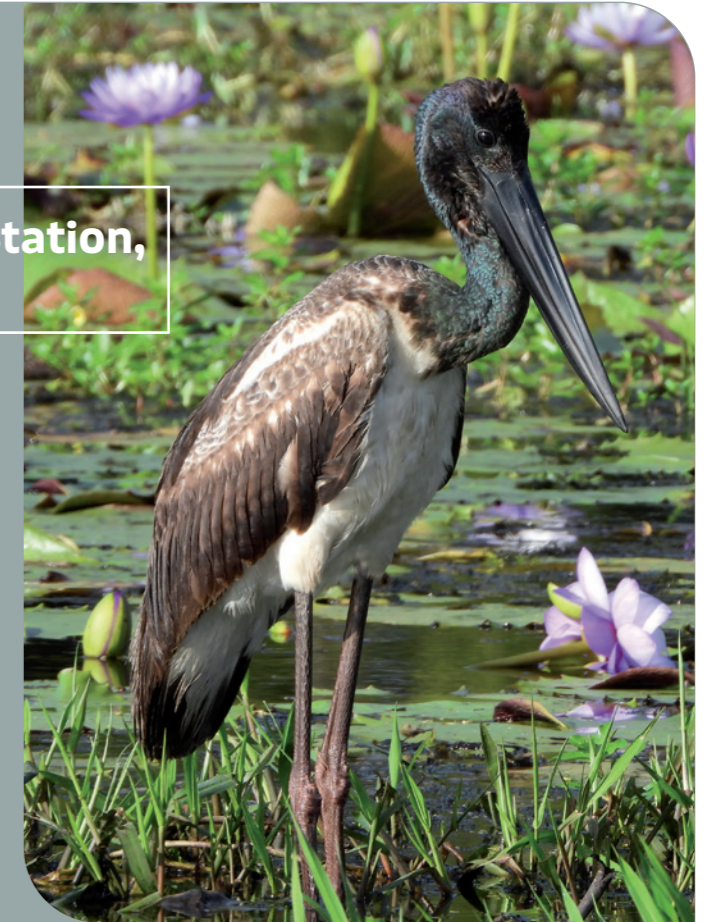


Red Goshawk by Tim Henderson  
Inset: Dr Richard Seaton. Photo by Creative Trade Media

## Waterbirds at Mungalla Station, Far North Queensland

After an absence of nearly 50 years, the Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation and its parent body, the Nywaigi Aboriginal Land Corporation were granted title over Mungalla Station in 1999. Since then, they have formed a number of partnerships to develop and implement a management plan to bring Mungalla's wetlands back to life.

BirdLife Australia's association with the Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation began in 2018, when Simon Kennedy, BirdLife Australia's Wetland and Coastal Birds coordinator, joined the project to help monitor the impact of their wetland management and restoration efforts on Mungalla's waterbirds. Together with the Traditional Owners, Simon has recorded a remarkable turnaround in the fortune of Mungalla's birdlife, recording the return of many species that had been lost from the wetlands for decades.

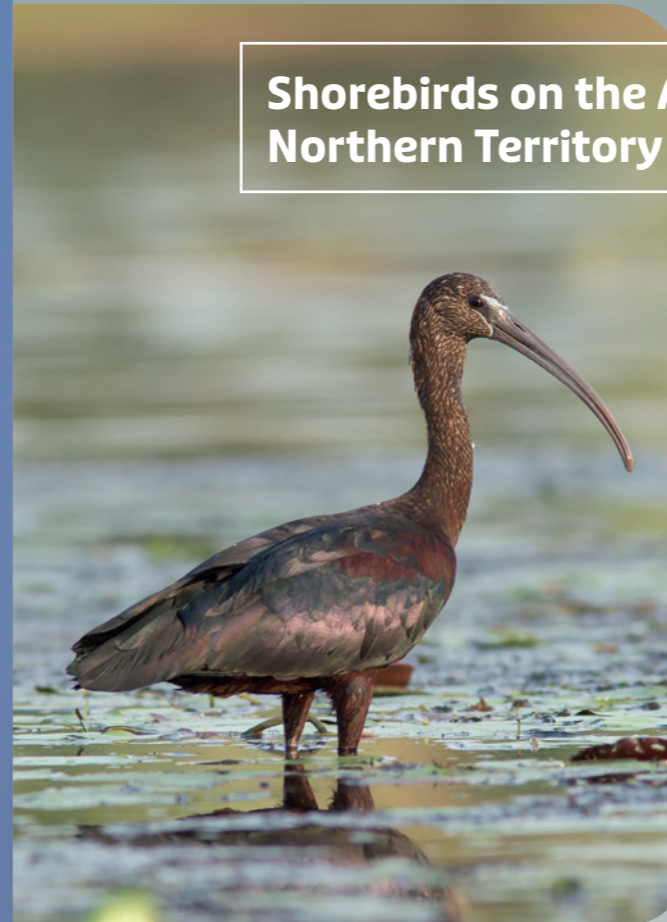


## Shorebirds on the Arafura Coast, Northern Territory

The Arafura Rangers Aboriginal Corporation was awarded the 2025 BirdLife Australia Indigenous Grant. Based in the Arafura Swamp KBA, the Rangers will use

the grant to enhance their ability to monitor the populations of shorebirds and waterbirds which inhabit the swamp and its catchment, as well as in the adjacent sea country. The funds will be used to purchase optical equipment and to conduct shorebird and waterbird identification workshops, furthering their ability to accurately identify the many species of threatened migratory shorebirds which inhabit the Arafura Swamp.

Their strategic location means that the population monitoring activities undertaken by the Arafura Rangers put them at the forefront of detecting the possible arrival of H5 bird flu in northern Australia, as well as other exotic biosecurity threats to our native wildlife.



Top: Black-necked Stork by Simon Kennedy  
Glossy Ibis by Chris Purnell

# 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 risk of extinction. They guide communities and partners to protect, restore and enhance critical habitats, working with landholders and empowering nature lovers at home to plant their own bird-friendly gardens. We're helping bring priority threatened species back from the brink by monitoring their wild populations and improving their breeding success through protecting nest sites and supplementing breeding habitat.**

## Highlights

### **The 2024 Hooded Plover Biennial Population**

Count report was completed, with 88 per cent of the 2,770 km of Hooded Plover habitat surveyed, and 1,642 Hooded Plovers counted. South-western Western Australia was included in the survey for the first time, with 67 Hooded Plovers counted across 117 kilometres of ocean beach habitat. This is helping us better understand the difference we are making to overall population numbers and enables us to evaluate and improve our efforts.

### **We're helping Victoria's Office of the Conservation**

Regulator improve the impact of authorised patrols on beach nesting birds. This was made possible through consolidating data from the Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria and data collected by BirdLife Australia teams, as part of Operation SoHo (Save Our Hoodies).

### **In response to worrying signs of significant**

declines in WA's Hooded Plover population, we're further improving knowledge of Hooded Plovers by leg-banding 21 birds in southern Western Australia. This will enable the collection of demographic and ecological data regarding site use, longevity and dispersal.

### **Further building our understanding of Bar-tailed**

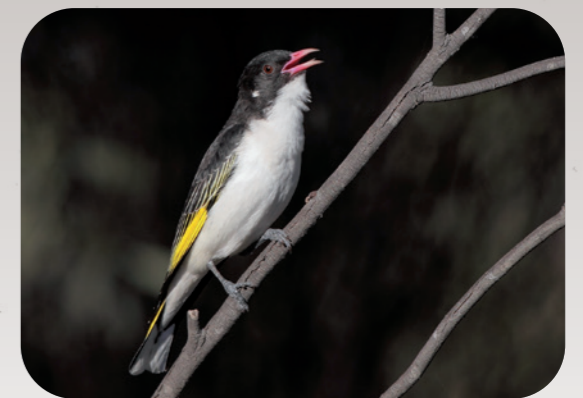
Godwits through satellite tracking data from birds fitted with trackers in the Exmouth Gulf. Data from re-sightings of 125 flagged shorebirds in Exmouth Gulf was also collected. While banding new birds, we undertook avian influenza surveillance in partnership with Deakin University by swabbing to detect the presence of avian influenza viruses, particularly H5 bird flu which is a crucial action for early detection of potential outbreaks.

### **We improved Orange-bellied Parrot survey**

methods and coverage by standardising a network of 189 targeted survey sites, designing and implementing new tools for survey coordination to identify gaps and reduce overlap, and train, support and seek feedback on efficacy and user experience with the survey

### **A new project was launched—the Illawarra Grassy**

Woodlands project—to monitor birds in remnant patches of habitat and document avian communities inhabiting peri-urban fringes as well as their responses to habitat conservation actions.



### **Monitoring of the Critically Endangered**

Painted Honeyeater was significantly improved with the launch of a new Acoustic Monitoring project, including the establishment of 54 acoustic monitoring sites to determine the range and annual movements of this species across eastern Australia.

### **Targeted weed removal work prepared for**

important Hooded Plover sites along the Victorian coastline where invasive weeds have reduced the availability of nesting habitat.

### **Our Bitterns on Farms project is restoring wetland**

habitat on private farmland including reed-bed restoration and restoring diverse native vegetation to revitalise wetlands and provide critical habitat for wetland birds, especially the Endangered Australasian Bittern.



Plumed Whistling-Duck by Jane McMenamin  
Insets, from top: Painted Honeyeater by Andrew Silcocks  
Lindall Kidd with Bar-tailed Godwit. Photo by Dan Lees

## Highlights

**The already-successful Birds on Farms program** continues to create new habitat for birds on private land. In 2025, the program expanded into southern Queensland, enabling increased impact and engagement across the full range of temperate woodland habitats in eastern Australia. In the first year, 50 landholders registered their interest in the new program area. Across other parts of the program, Habitat Restoration Plans, created with landholders, grew to create another 42 hectares of woodland habitat, reconnecting fragmented habitat and increasing suitable habitat for woodland birds. This includes 30 hectares of new woodland habitat to be created through Birds on Farms collaborations with Greening Australia, the Yarra Ranges Council and Melbourne Water to fund the partial implementation of some of these plans.

**The Birds on Farms: Yarra-to-Yea team also signed** a 10-year Voluntary Management Agreement with a landholder, covering 10.8 hectares of new woodland habitat.

**Key nesting areas used by Fairy Terns were** protected from disturbance from vehicles and walkers at the Mouth of the Murray River in South Australia with a 1.2-kilometre length of fencing and signage installed, together with the Ngarrindjeri Community and National Parks.



Ngarrindjeri women monitoring Fairy Terns.  
Photo by Kerri Bartley

**We improved knowledge of signage methods** by trialling 'chicks on the beach' signage in the intertidal zone of 15 beaches in eastern Victoria, accompanied by surveys of beach users to evaluate their effectiveness. These findings provide important practical learnings about maintenance, placement and materials that will help land managers improve habitat protections in these dynamic environments.

**The Priority Threatened Birds Team is assisting** the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in Western Australia to implement priority actions to support the recovery of the Critically Endangered Western Ground Parrot, including population monitoring and feral cat control.

**We secured investment, through the South** Australian Government, to deliver priorities for bird conservation on Kangaroo Island, including expanding the Fixed Site Network and monitoring of post-bushfire monitoring sites (with Birds SA), coordinated surveillance and engagement regarding H5 bird flu, and the development of a Kangaroo Island Threatened Birds Conservation Action Plan.

**Habitat restoration work on Bruny Island for** Swift Parrot and other threatened woodland birds was implemented by the Woodland Birds team working with the Bruny Island Environmental Network.

**BirdLife Australia played a key role in** strengthening national recovery efforts by establishing and supporting coordinated Recovery Teams for priority threatened species, including the Swift Parrot, Regent Honeyeater and Red Goshawk to lead strategic, collaborative and effective conservation action.

## Spotlight

### Beach-nesting Birds in the Coorong

BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds Program has been working to conserve and protect habitat for threatened beach-nesting birds along Australia's southern coast for 20 years. Working largely along the Victorian, South Australian and Western Australian coastline, the program aims to educate beachgoers about the needs of nesting birds, protect the birds through their breeding season and influence policy around the responsible shared use of Australian beaches.

Fairy Terns and Hooded Plovers of the Coorong in South Australia, are forced to contend with invasive predators, habitat degradation and human disturbance in the form of dogs, people and vehicles. Coastal Project Coordinator Kerri Bartley and her team have developed an important partnership with the local Yarlular Ruwe Rangers, involving knowledge-sharing and collaboration to better protect the tiny birds that call the Coorong home.

"Helping beachgoers to share these beautiful places with breeding shorebirds and seabirds is critical to the future of these species," Kerri said. "While driving is permitted, we've installed signage to make it as clear as we can which areas must be avoided to protect nests, chicks and fledgling shorebirds and seabirds."

In 2025, BirdLife Australia and the Yarlular Ruwe Rangers installed 1.2 kilometres of temporary protective fencing and interpretive signage around nesting colonies of Fairy Terns. We also increased our on-ground presence around the colony to monitor the numbers and success of breeding terns, and assisted with effective, targeted pest control actions to reduce the impacts of foxes. The collaboration dramatically improved the terns' breeding outcomes: 83 chicks fledged from 141 nests—a significant increase on the previous year, when just 10 fledged from 15 nests.

This work was funded by the Australian Government, implemented by the Government of South Australia, through the Shorebird and Wetland Habitat project.

"It's a privilege to be working alongside the Yarlular Ruwe rangers. The Coorong is a beautiful part of the world and we want to make sure this special area of nature is protected for everyone to enjoy."

**- Kerri Bartley, BirdLife Australia Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife coordinator**



Hooded Plover by Daniel Venema  
Inset: Kerri Bartley

# 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 Birddata 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 coordinated the establishment** of new national Recovery Teams for the Australasian Bittern, Eastern Hooded Plover, Far Eastern Curlew and King Island Threatened Birds (an evolution of the Conservation Action Plan for King Island). This work was funded by the Australian Government's Saving Native Species program.

**We helped the forestry industry improve** management practices to benefit conservation with an 11th year of surveys as part of the Birds in Plantations program. This is building a powerful database of the bird communities in plantation forests across four landscapes, with a total of 2,700 surveys counting 27,500 birds since 2014.

**Through our Powerful Owl Project, we continued** to expand our understanding and conservation of Powerful Owls, with more than 140 territories monitored in Greater Sydney and over 30 in south-eastern Queensland, to inform key habitats for conservation, and identify and mitigate local urban threats to this species.

**2025 saw an expansion of Birddata data sharing** partnerships with: the Atlas of Living Australia; the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water (DCCEEW) as well as state departments in Tasmania, Western Australia and Queensland to assist with populating the new Biodiversity Data Repository (BDR); and eBird.



**Over 3 million records of breeding seabirds** on BirdLife Australia databases were vetted, revealing around 20,000 breeding records, which now comprise a key part of the National Seabird Breeding Colony Register, being developed through to 2026 with DCCEEW as the most comprehensive seabird breeding database in Australia. It will be crucial for the national H5 bird flu planning and response.

**In partnership with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW),** we developed a powerful, contemporary evidence base to guide the protection of migratory shorebirds in Australia. The updated Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat uses 15 years of national monitoring data and provides a comprehensive directory identifying sites of national and international significance for migratory shorebirds across Australia. This was launched with an interactive spatial tool, and updated population estimates for 37 species of migratory shorebirds across the world's most threatened migratory routes, the East Asian–Australasian Flyway.

**The AviFluMap (H5 Bird Flu Model Tool for Australia's Wild Birds)** was completed. Powered by Birddata and other bird databases, this online tool was developed by researchers from BirdLife Australia, Deakin University and the Alfred Wegener Institute, and supported by the One Health Investigation Fund from Wildlife Health Australia to inform national planning and preparedness. **(See spotlight p31.)**

## Highlights

**A new Chief Editor for our flagship journal, *Emu–Austral Ornithology***—Professor Mike Cherry from the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa—was appointed.

**Building on the H5 Bird Flu Risk Mapping Tool**, BirdLife Australia commenced development of an Avian Influenza Species Susceptibility Assessment for DCCEEW, applicable to both birds and mammals.

**A new Bird Impact Tracker feature was launched** in Birddata to support monitoring of dead, sick and injured birds. Funded by the Australian Government, it will be a critical resource for tracking the impact of H5 bird flu.

**BirdLife Australia and the Australian Wader Study Group** had strong representation and played a leading role at the 12th Meeting of Partners (MOP12) of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) in the Philippines, attended by over 300 delegates from around the world.

**The Priority Threatened Birds Team**, in collaboration with the Queensland University of Technology and the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water, has developed acoustic monitoring tools suitable to recognise the calls of two Critically Endangered grasswrens—the Grey Range Thick-billed Grasswren and Mukarrthippi Grasswren—which will play a vital role in informing conservation strategies for these cryptic and threatened birds.



Mukarrthippi Grasswren by Mick Todd

**The Woodland Birds team is developing a Noisy Miner decision support tool** for landholders to effectively manage Noisy Miners on their properties (consistent with the Noisy Miner Threat Abatement Plan, and threats to other woodland species), to be supported by landholder workshops and released early 2026.

**A new Regent Honeyeater and Red Goshawk module** was launched in Birddata. The information in these modules will help experts from BirdLife Australia's team, partners and First Nations to track and monitor these threatened species across their range.

**Teams worked closely with Birdlife Australia's Research and Conservation Committee** to review governance and support to sub-committees, contribute to our Key Biodiversity Area sites review and consultation, progress a conservation framework and decision tools, and data management needs.

## Spotlight

### AviFluMap

BirdLife Australia scientists have played a key role in H5 bird flu preparedness efforts by providing expert advice on Australia's wild birds, their ecology, movements and where they congregate.

Australia has been uniquely well positioned to create a valuable decision-support tool ahead of the virus's arrival. AviFluMap is an H5 Bird Flu Model Tool for Australia's Wild Birds which models the susceptibility of Australian birds to H5 bird flu and pinpoints hotspots where the virus may be more likely to occur, based on bird migrations and movements.

AviFluMap draws upon decades of bird monitoring data to provide contemporary information on waterbird, seabird and shorebird populations. This data is a vital part of effective planning, as after an incursion of H5 bird flu, the risk of establishment and a further spread of the virus is not only determined by the species susceptible to infection but, importantly, also where these birds come together in large numbers.

Effective planning for future outbreaks requires a coordinated One Health approach, combining aspects of wild bird ecology, epidemiology, biosecurity and animal husbandry. In 2025, conservation, livestock and health practitioners within and outside government used AviFluMap to inform preparedness planning for threatened species and important sites.

BirdLife Australia's data and expertise has been critical to the creation of AviFluMap. The tool is the result of extensive cross-sector collaboration between Wildlife Health Australia (WHA), Deakin University and BirdLife Australia, supported by funding from the Federal Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The project also drew on international expertise, with key input from the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany.

The tool also demonstrates how rigorous, long-term data collected by citizen scientists can be used to address not only biodiversity issues but the increasing intersection with human health and agriculture.

"We all know how catastrophic zoonotic epidemics can be. The health and agricultural sectors need ecological context to respond effectively. Conservation managers need epidemiological context. Our collective bird data provides that... at scale! And it's getting used daily to assess risk and plan response. Gee, counting birds is powerful!"

— **Chris Purnell, Manager Wetland and Migratory Shorebirds, BirdLife Australia.**

Australian Pelican by Sue Harper  
Inset: Chris Purnell

## 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.

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**BirdLife Ballarat**  
**BirdLife Bass Coast**  
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**BirdLife Photography Group**  
**Australasian Seabird Group**  
**Australasian Wader Studies Group**



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Max Burrows	Ray Flanagan	Sylvia Nixon	Gordon Wilkinson
Ian Cordiner	Samantha Greiner	Rosemary Payet	Valmai Wootton
Henry Dee	Dr David Hollands OAM	Dr Ellen Tulip	
Lillian Durran	Joan McDowall	David Venning	
Rex Ellis	Lloyd Nielsen OAM		

Orange-bellied Parrot by Stephen Risson

## Government

- (Federal) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- (NSW) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Barwon Coast
- Barwon Coast Shire
- Bass Coast Shire
- Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management
- Canning River Eco-Education Centre
- Central Tablelands Local Land Services
- Central West Local Land Services
- City of Greater Geelong
- City of Mandurah
- City of Melbourne
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- Cradle Coast Authority
- Department for Environment and Water (National Parks and Wildlife)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
- Goulburn-Broken CMA
- Great Ocean Road Authority
- Green Adelaide (SA)
- Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
- Hunter Local Land Services
- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Lane Cove Council
- Leschenault Catchment Council
- Limestone Coast Landscape Board
- Melbourne Water
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
- North East Catchment Management Authority
- North Sydney Council
- Northern & Yorke Landscape Board
- NRM North (Tasmania)
- NSW Government - Environmental Trust
- NSW Government - Saving our Species Program
- Parks Victoria
- Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
- Perth NRM
- Riverina Local Land Services
- South Coast NRM
- South West Catchment Council
- Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Services
- Vic Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
- Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management
- Willoughby City Council
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority



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 Binalup Rangers  
 Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation  
 Crocodile Island Rangers  
 Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation  
 Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation  
 Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation  
 Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Corporation  
 Karri Karrak Rangers from the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation  
 Mandubarra Land and Sea  
 Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council  
 Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation  
 Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (Yarlumar Ruwe Rangers)  
 Nyangumarta and Karajarri Rangers  
 Point Peace Aboriginal Corporation  
 Undalup Rangers from the Undalup Association Inc.  
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 Yawuru Rangers

Pale-headed Rosella by Michael Chay

## Supporting and research partners

Arthur Rylah Institute	Plains Wanderer Recovery Team
Atlas of Living Australia	Queensland University of Technology
Australasian Bittern National Recovery Team	Red Goshawk National Recovery Team
Australian National University	Regent Honeyeater National Recovery Team
Australian Research Data Commons	RMIT University
Bellarine Bayside Coastal Management	South Gippsland Landcare Network
BioLinks Alliance	South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team
BirdLife International	South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo National Recovery Team
Black-Cockatoos Recovery Team	Swift Parrot National Recovery Team
Bush Heritage Australia	Taronga Conservation Society Australia
Charles Darwin University	Trees for Life
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Deakin University	University of Queensland
Denmark Environment Centre Inc	University of Western Australia
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership	Western Australian Marine Science Institution
Edith Cowan University	Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee
Far Eastern Curlew Recovery Goup	WIRES
Friends of Kings Park	Zoos South Australia
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Black Falcon by Mal Whitehead

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 Bruny Island Environment Network  
 Denmark Bird Group  
 Esperance Bird Observers Group  
 Friends of the Hooded Plover Mornington Peninsula Inc  
 Friends of Western Ground Parrot  
 Geelong Field Naturalists Club Inc.  
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Red-capped Robin  
by Deepak Kumar

## Wildbird Protectors

We sincerely thank our 2635 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 Lesley Helena Bennett	Curwen-Walker Foundation
Estate of Jennifer Mary Di Blasi	Estate of Annette May Holland
Estate of Rae Flora Blesing	Estate of Cheryl Kate Kohlman
Estate of Glenn Anthony Crane	Estate of Julia Mary Lewis
Estate of Ronald Dibbens	Estate of Graham Houston Matheson
Estate of Thelma Jean Dreger	Estate of Kevin Edward Maynard
Estate of Lillian Durran	Estate of Veronica Joan Mees
Estate of Ray Flanagan	Estate of Shirley Poole

### Legacy

We are extremely grateful to our 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.

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	Lisa Cochrane and Scott Hipkins	Vicki Perrett
	Michael Tichbon OAM	19 Anonymous Major Donors
	Nick Butcher	
	Pamela Knight	

### Trusts and Foundations

Equity Trustees	Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation - Jenny Donald and Family
Perpetual Foundation	1 Anonymous Foundation
Australian Communities Foundation - Curlew Fund	
Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation - Sweetpea Fund	

### Business Donors

AlkaWay  
 Hesperia  
 Birrus Matting Systems

## 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), FRS, FAA, FNAS, Research Professor (University of Queensland), member Finance & Audit Committee/Australian Bird Fund 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 until May 2025.



**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, member Development Committee.



**Penny McMullin**  
**Appointed May 2023**

BCom (Accounting & Business Law), Chartered Accountant, ANZ, financial and marketplace analyst, member Finance & Audit Committee/Australian Bird Fund 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), GAICD, Australian Legal Practitioner, Chair Governance Committee.



**Jarrod Pittson**  
**Appointed March 2020**

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



**Pamela Sutton-Legaud**  
**Appointed July 2017**

MBA, GAICD, Board member Inner West Community Enterprises/Seddon Community Bank, Director of the Western Melbourne Tourism Board, Chair Hobsons Bay Community Fund and Chair Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre.



**Gillian Jervis**  
**Appointed May 2024**

BCom, M Applied Finance, Grad Dip Business (Governance), Certified Practising Accountant, 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 University), Senior Governmental Consultant and Conservation Officer, editor of *Action Plan for Australian Birds*, member Governance Committee.

	Attended	Held/Eligible
Mandy Bamford	5	5
Hugh Possingham	5	5
Judith Hoyle	5	5
Penny McMullin	4	5
Tuanh Nguyen	5	5
Gillian Gervis	3	3
Jarrod Pittson	4	5
Pamela Sutton Legaud	3	5
Gary Nelson	3	4
Gerard Early	2	2
Stephen Garnett	5	5

### Meetings Attended

## 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
Mandy Bamford	1	1
Tuanh Nguyen	4	5
Jarrold Pittson	1	5
Pamela Sutton Legaud	4	5
Gerard Early	3	4
Stephen Garnett	5	5
Brendan Sydes	2	5
Tim Bawden	2	5

### Development Committee

The Development Committee assists the Board to discharge its responsibility in relation to fundraising and financing activities to assist in resourcing BirdLife Australia's bird conservation programs.

Meetings Attended	Attended	Held/Eligible
Jarrold Pittson	2	4
Judith Hoyle	4	4
Pamela Sutton Legaud	2	4
Alec Brennan	4	4
Peter Sainsbury	3	4
Alison Street	3	4
Michael Martin	3	4

### 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
Hugh Possingham	3	4
Penny McMullin	4	4
Gillian Gervis	4	4
Gary Nelson	4	4

### 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
Mandy Bamford	1	3
Hugh Possingham	3	3
Judith Hoyle	2	3
Stuart Cooney	1	3
Sarah Knoll	1	3

### 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
Hugh Possingham	2	2
Brendan Sydes	3	4
Shandiya Balasubramaniam	2	2
Georgia Garrad	2	4
Birgita Hansen	4	4
Steve Murphy	0	2
James Trezise	2	2
James Watson	4	4
Lauren Arabena	2	2
Chris Watson	1	2
Chris Lamont	2	2

# BirdLife Australia Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

## Statement of Profit or Loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Project income	6,233,490	3,915,174
Donations	6,024,988	5,723,204
Bequests	1,773,155	1,834,812
Subscriptions	472,117	508,953
Sales, courses, and fees	1,459,819	1,140,322
Finance income	653,286	791,576
Other income	45,144	17,609
Net gain/(loss) in revaluation of financial assets at fair value through Profit or Loss	536,434	997,272
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>17,198,433</b>	14,928,922
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Employee costs	13,461,387	13,120,506
Printing, stationery, and magazine costs	521,727	531,133
Finance and administration costs	1,704,478	1,682,901
Project non-employee costs	2,428,398	1,967,417
Occupancy expenses	535,182	291,457
Travel expenses	462,445	341,315
Subscriptions	49,634	69,880
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>19,163,251</b>	18,004,609
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(1,964,818)</b>	(3,075,687)
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>(1,964,818)</b>	(3,075,687)

### 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 2025. 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/annual-general-meeting>

## Statement

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2025

	Consolidated	
	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,896,200	3,702,730
Trade and other receivables	737,503	1,092,883
Other financial assets	887,981	657,188
Other assets	71,388	36,485
Contract Assets	496,098	224,666
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>5,089,170</b>	5,713,952
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Investments	8,875,517	11,308,224
Right of use assets	275,695	26,245
Property, plant & equipment	1,557,581	1,593,660
Intangible assets	171,972	216,992
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>10,880,765</b>	13,145,121
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>15,969,935</b>	18,859,073
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	872,274	1,375,165
Lease liability	121,130	21,951
Provisions	1,805,970	1,674,692
Contract Liabilities	1,434,986	2,263,266
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,234,360</b>	5,335,074
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provisions	192,295	171,591
Lease liability	164,363	8,673
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>356,658</b>	180,264
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>4,591,018</b>	5,515,338
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>11,378,917</b>	13,343,735
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained surplus	11,378,917	13,343,735
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>11,378,917</b>	13,343,735



**RSM Australia Partners**

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**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 2025, 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 2025 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 2025, 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](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

*Rsm*  
**RSM Australia Partners**

*K J Dundon*  
**K J Dundon**  
Partner

Dated: 1 May 2026  
Melbourne, Victoria

**THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD**  
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING

RSM Australia Partners is a member of the RSM network and trades as RSM. RSM is the trading name used by the members of the RSM network. Each member of the RSM network is an independent accounting and consulting firm which practices in its own right. The RSM network is not itself a separate legal entity in any jurisdiction.

RSM Australia Partners ABN 36 965 185 036

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



**Financial Performance**

**Financial Performance 2025**

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.

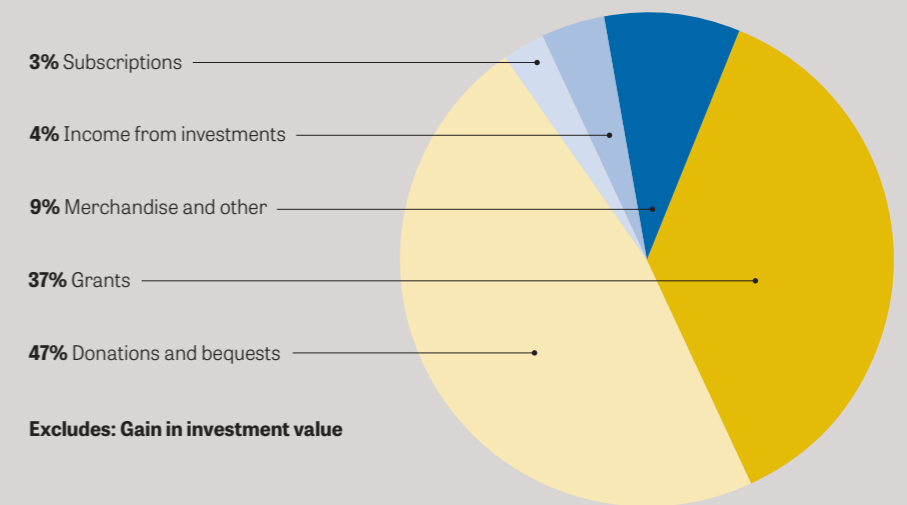
Our Total Revenue in 2025 increased to \$17.2m compared to \$14.9m in 2024. Of this \$2.3m increase; \$2.3m resulted from increased grant income, \$0.3m from an increase in donations and \$0.3m increase in sales compared with 2024. This was offset, however, by lower income from investments (\$0.5m) and lower bequests (\$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 reduced to 16% of overall 2025 expenditure (v 17% 2024).

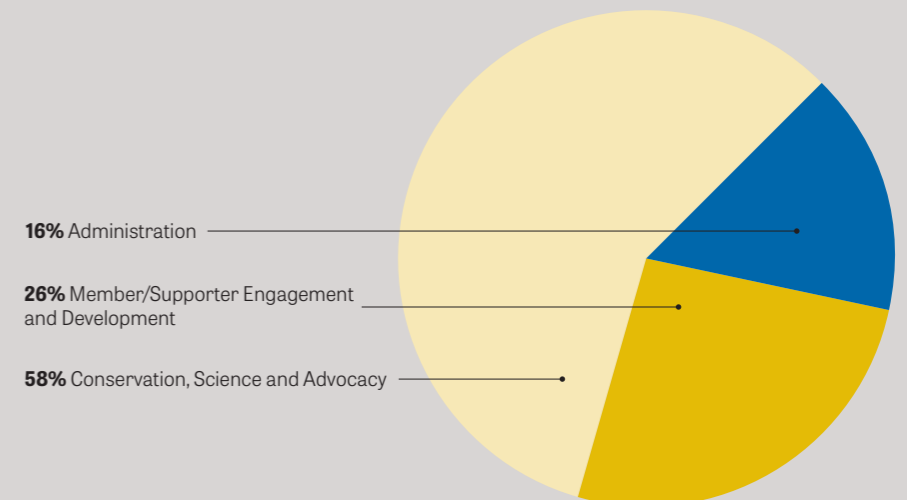
The overall (\$1.9m) deficit (v \$3.1m deficit 2024) is supported by strong cash reserves which are being monitored and applied in a strategic manner to support the delivery of the ambitious Bird Conservation Strategy.

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.

Revenue 2025



Expenditure 2025





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](http://birdlife.org.au)**



Crimson Chat  
by Donald Chin