BIRDS IN BACKYARDS - HABITAT GARDENING



Spotted Pardalote. Credit: G.Gall

BirdLife Plant Tag Program

Woodland birds such as whistlers, warblers, spinebills, and fairywrens are disappearing across gardens in Australia. Specific plant species particularly support these birds, especially against bully birds such as Noisy Miners, and we want to help customers at nurseries find these plants. Likewise, we want to help councils and landcare groups best support these birds in decline.

1 How does it work for your patrons?

- Choosing plants can be overwhelming. Our tags make it easy to spot plants that support small birds in their area.
- Tagged plants are selected by local bird+plant experts from the plants you already grow.
- There's no price premium. Tagged plants are your regular stock at your regular prices.
- Customers can take home a flyer with a QR code linking to more information and a free habitat gardening course.

2 Benefit your nursery, council, or landcare group

- Listing as a participating group on the BirdLife Australia website and Habitat Gardening course, so we send bird-minded gardeners your way.
- Promotion through Birds in Backyards social media and newsletters.
- A ready-made conservation story for your own newsletter
- Confident answers for staff when customers ask "what will bring birds into my garden?"
- A link to one of the fastest-growing interests in home gardening.



BirdLife Plant Tag on display in SE Qld.

3 What do you have to do?

- Meet with us three times: a kick-off, signing off your plant list, and a review after three months.
- Work with BirdLife to create an expert-elicited plant list for your nursery/area.
- Print and laminate the plant labels (e.g. around 12 for nurseries).
- Keep the tags on the right plants. Move tags as stock changes, using the checklist we provide (with scientific names) of approved species. This takes about 10–15 minutes a week.
- Check in every few months by phone or email. We'll ask three questions: what's selling, what customers are saying, and whether anything needs changing.

Thinking of joining the program? **Fill the form in on the Plant Tag homepage!**

4 What does it cost?



Variegated Fairywren. Credit: CNZdenek

- Nothing to join.
- About 4 hours of staff time across three meetings.
- Printing of plant tags and flyers.
- About 10–15 minutes a week to move tags and restock flyers.
- Plant lists are developed with a local bird+plant expert. If your area already has a list, there's no cost. If it doesn't, BirdLife covers the cost where funding allows. Otherwise, we may ask for a contribution of around $200–300 towards the expert's time. We'll always talk this through with you before anything is agreed.

Commercial nursery? We'd love to talk about partnership and sponsorship opportunities.

Plant lists are developed with local experts, guided by the Australian Government's Threat Abatement Advice on aggressive exclusion of birds by over-abundant Noisy Miners.

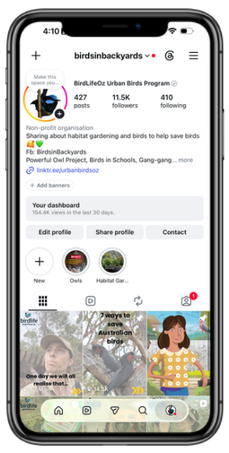
5 What does BirdLife provide?

- Assistance with creating an expert-selected plant list for your area, with scientific names so the right plants get tagged, and a note on what each plant offers birds: nectar, insects, seeds or shelter.
- Digital files for print-ready plant tags and flyers to hand out at events
- A staff cheat sheet with quick answers to common questions, such as "what attracts small birds?", "should I feed birds?" and "how do I deal with Noisy Miners?"
- Free access to our online course, Habitat Gardening for Birds, for your staff and volunteers.
- Your listing on the BirdLife website and in the Habitat Gardening for Birds course.
- Direct access to our Urban Birds team for questions as they come up, plus a regular check-in to see how things are going.



Habitat Garden in Whiterock, SE Qld. Credit: CNZdenek

Once the program is live at your place, you can invite @BirdsInBackyards for a 'collab' on insta!



FREE ONLINE COURSE:
Habitat Gardening for Birds

https://birdlife.org.au/habitat-gardening-for-birds-online

Woodland Birds in decline



Golden Whistler. Credit: N.Dyster

Here are the Woodland Bird species negatively impacted by Noisy Miners, derived from Mac Nally et al. 2012., listed in: “Threat Abatement Advice for aggressive exclusion of birds from potential woodland and forest habitat by over-abundant noisy miners”, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

1. Regent Honeyeater (Anthochaera phrygia) [EPBC Act Status: Critically Endangered]
2. Forty-spotted pardalote (Pardalotus quadragintus) [EPBC Act Status: Endangered]
3. Swift Parrot (Lathamus discolor) [EPBC Act Status: Critically Endangered]
4. Speckled Warbler (Chthonicola sagittata)
5. Varied Sittella (Daphoenositta chrysoptera)
6. Painted Honeyeater (Grantiella picta)
7. Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies) (Melithreptus gularis gularis)
8. Gilbert’s Whistler (Pachycephala inornata)
9. Flame Robin (Petroica phoenicea)
10. Diamond Firetail (Stagonopleura guttata)
11. Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (Climacteris picumnus victoriae)
12. Little Lorikeet (Glossopsitta pusilla)
13. Hooded Robin (south-eastern form) (Melanodryas cucullata cucullata)
14. Turquoise Parrot (Neophema pulchella)
15. Scarlet Robin (Petroica boodang)
16. Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies) (Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis)
17. Fuscous honeyeater (Lichenostomus fuscus)
18. Dusky woodswallow (Artamus cyanopterus)
19. Southern Whiteface (Aphelocephala leucopsis)
20. Brown Honeyeater (Lichmera indistincta)
21. Buff-rumped Thornbill (Acanthiza reguloides)
22. Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (Acanthiza uropygialis)
23. Eastern Yellow Robin (Eopsaltria australis)
24. Golden Whistler (Pachycephala pectoralis)
25. Grey Fantail (Rhipidura albiscapa)
26. Grey Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla harmonica)
27. Inland Thornbill (Acanthiza apicalis)
28. Jacky Winter (Microeca fascinans)
29. Lewin’s Honeyeater (Meliphaga lewinii)
30. Mistletoebird (Dicaeum hirundinaceum)
31. Rufous Whistler (Pachycephala rufiventris)
32. Silvereye (Zosterops lateralis)
33. Singing Honeyeater (Lichenostomus virescens)
34. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (Acanthagenys rufogularis)
35. Striped Honeyeater (Plectorhyncha lanceolata)

Which species may live in your area?



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike eats a moth. Credit: P. Jarvis

(cont’d...)

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Woodland Birds in decline

...continued...

36. Superb Fairy-wren (Malurus cyaneus)
37. Variegated Fairy-wren (Malurus lamberti)
38. White-throated Treecreeper (Cormobates leucophaea)
39. Willie Wagtail (Rhipidura leucophrys)
40. Yellow-rumped Thornbill (Acanthiza chrysorrhoa)
41. Yellow Thornbill (Acanthiza nana)
42. Yellow-tufted Honeyeater (Lichenostomus melanops)
43. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina novaehollandiae)
44. Western Gerygone (Gerygone fusca)
45. Hooded Robin (Melanodryas cucullata)
46. White-winged Triller (Lalage sueurii)
47. Red-capped Robin (Petroica goodenovii)
48. White-browed Woodswallow (Artamus superciliosus)
49. Brown Thornbill (Acanthiza pusilla)
50. Yellow-faced Honeyeater (Lichenostomus chrysops)
51. Striated Thornbill (Acanthiza lineata)
52. Leaden Flycatcher (Myiagra rubecula)
53. Zebra Finch (Taeniopygia guttata)
54. Red-browed Pardalote (Pardalotus rubricatus)
55. White-breasted Woodswallow (Artamus leucorynchus)
56. Welcome Swallow (Hirundo neoxena)
57. Rainbow Bee-eater (Merops ornatus)
58. Double-barred Finch (Taeniopygia bichenovii)
59. Cicadabird (Coracina tenuirostris)
60. White-throated Gerygone (Gerygone albogularis)
61. Red-backed Fairy-wren (Malurus melanocephalus)
62. Brown-headed Honeyeater (Melithreptus brevirostris)
63. White-naped Honeyeater (Melithreptus lunatus)
64. Black-chinned Honeyeater (Melithreptus gularis)



Restless Flycatcher. Credit: P. Jarvis

Which species may live in your area?



White-throated Tree-creeper. Credit: A.Silcocks



A habitat garden in Whiterock, southeast Qld, featuring many habitat features to support Woodland Birds, including hollow logs, water, 143 species of layered plants, and 401 plants in total, 97% of which are locally-native. Credit: CNZdenek

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