

FRESHWATER BAY

The river and foreshore is a habitat that favours several birds not normally seen elsewhere in Claremont. In addition, the naturally-vegetated escarpment is important for bush birds. Australian Pelican, Eastern Osprey, and Australian Pied Oystercatcher are regularly seen, and Nankeen Night-Herons gather on the jetty, particularly in summer.

CORMORANT

Australasian Darter M, N

Darters have specially adapted vertebrae that allow them to thrust their necks forward to spear prey.



Cormorants

Four cormorants are common on the Swan Estuary. Their feathers are not water resistant and they hang them out to dry.

Great Cormorant R

Distinctive yellow facial skin

Little Black Cormorant U, Res

Often seen fishing in flocks

Pied Cormorant R

The largest black and white cormorant along the river.

Little Pied Cormorant C, Res

The smallest cormorant. Note its stubby yellow bill.



HERON, IBIS, ALLIES

Australian Pelican C, N

They provide a wonderful sight as they circle high over the river. Numbers vary when flooding occurs inland.



This guide has been prepared to introduce you to the wide variety of birds recorded at Freshwater Bay, the parks and gardens of Claremont and Lake Claremont.



Willie Wagtail



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BIRDS

in and around

CLAREMONT



Pink-eared Duck
David Free



birds are in our nature

PARKS AND GARDENS

Nankeen Night-Heron M, B
These herons hunt at dusk and dawn, and rest during the day.



RAPTOR

Eastern Osprey U, B
Often seen flying along the river, it plunges feet first to catch fish, then flies off holding the catch torpedo-like to a perch.



SHOREBIRD

Australian Pied Oystercatcher M, N
These attractive shorebirds prefer sandy beaches where they feed on molluscs.

Common Sandpiper U, Mi, IA, Sp - Au
Common Greenshank R, Mi, IA, Sp - Au
Usually solitary; haunting call.



NODDY, TERN, GULL

Fairy Tern U, N, T, Sp - Au
Less than 1600 pairs left in WA.
Caspian Tern M, N, IA
Distinctive heavy red bill.



Crested Tern C, N
They can often be seen flying in search of food for which they dive.

Silver Gull C, B, N

Many of the bush birds of Lake Claremont can also be seen in local parks and gardens. These areas are an important source of food, shelter and nesting sites. Planting of local native plant species and retention of remnant bushland is therefore encouraged.

PIGEON, DOVE

Rock Dove M, B, Res
Introduced from Europe
Laughing Dove C, B, Res
Introduced from Asia
Spotted Dove C, B, Res
Introduced from Asia

RAPTOR

Brown Goshawk M, B
They prefer woodland and watercourses with trees.



COCKATOO, PARROT

Galah C, B, Res
Colonised from Murchison.

Rainbow Lorikeet C, B, Res
Introduced from Vic / NSW.

Australian Ringneck C, B, Res
One of our most common birds. They have a wide range of calls.



OWL

Southern Boobook U, B, N, Wi - Au
During daylight hours they sit quietly in trees and hunt at night for insects and small animals.

Eastern Barn Owl U, N, Wi

KINGFISHER

Laughing Kookaburra C, B, Res
Introduced from Vic 1897.



HONEYEATER

Honeyeaters are important pollinators of Australian plants and are very active in their search for nectar and invertebrates. They have specially adapted tongues and bills for nectar gathering. Most are locally nomadic.



Singing Honeyeater C, B, Res
A common honeyeater of gardens, parks and reserves.

Western Wattlebird U, N
Smaller than Red Wattlebird. Rufous wing patch seen in flight.

Red Wattlebird C, B, Res
The largest of our honeyeaters; noisy and aggressive.

Brown Honeyeater C, B, Res/N
Tiny bird with several loud musical calls.

New Holland Honeyeater B, Res
Similar to White-cheeked Honeyeater (see Lake Claremont)



CUCKOO-SHRIKE, TRILLER

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike M, B, Res
Grey bird with undulating flight; shuffles wings on landing.

BUTCHERBIRD, CURRAWONG

Australian Magpie C, B, Res
Magpies live in groups in permanent territories where they feed, roost and breed. They are aggressive in the breeding season and may swoop on passers-by.



FANTAIL

Willie Wagtail C, B, Res
(see back cover) These bold, perky little birds defend their nesting territory vigorously.

Magpie-lark C, B, Res
Magpie-larks are territorial and the young form flocks after breeding. They have a musical call.



LAKE CLAREMONT



Lake Claremont and its adjoining bushland form Claremont's largest area of open space. The lake was formerly a swamp. Rising water levels caused the paperbarks to die and the trunks of some of these trees are still visible. The lake dries out most years in summer unless there has been significant rainfall.

Open water, muddy margins and reed beds allow a variety of waterbirds to find food, shelter and breeding habitat. Most are readily seen from the shores or the viewing platform.

Along the north and west sides of the lake significant bushland, including extensive areas of revegetation, provides habitat for bushbirds.

Friends of Lake Claremont are actively rehabilitating this Conservation Category wetland and Bush Forever site. The Town of Claremont has recently carried out major infrastructure improvements.

GREBE

Australasian Grebe

C, B, N Au - Wi
Watch them dive for small fish and water insects.

Hoary-headed Grebe M, N
Paler; finely streaked head pattern.



HERON, IBIS

Eastern Great Egret R, N, IA
Tall stately white bird; usually alone.

White-faced Heron C, B, N
Usually seen feeding singly on shallow wetlands.

Glossy Ibis R, N
Small dark Ibis

Australian White Ibis M, N
Colonised from the north 1952.



Straw-necked Ibis C, B, N
Colonised from the north 1976. Can be seen feeding in shallow flooded areas where insects are abundant. They breed in colonies.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill R, N
Colonised from the north 1954.



RAPTOR

Black-shouldered Kite U, N
Recorded mainly in winter and spring, they are usually seen in the early morning and evening.

Whistling Kite U, N
Collared Sparrowhawk R, N, Wi
Swamp Harrier R, N
Australian Hobby U, N
Little Eagle U, N
Nankeen Kestrel U, N



COCKATOO, PARROT

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo C, Mi, T, Su-Au
Long-billed Corella R
Aviary escapee

Little Corella M, B, Res
You should see a flock of Little Corellas - these started as cage escapees.



KINGFISHER

Sacred Kingfisher U, B, Mi, Sp - Au
A breeding visitor from September to March. Its main food is insects.

BEE-EATER, ROLLER

Rainbow Bee-eater R, Mi, IA, Sp - Au. Colourful migrant; excavates a tunnel for nesting.

SCRUBWRENS, ALLIES

Weebill U, Res
Australia's smallest bird.

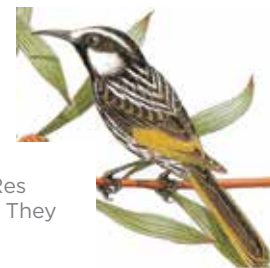


PARDALOTE

Striated Pardalote C, B, N, Wi - Sp.
Difficult to see in trees searching for bugs. Listen for its 'chip-chip' call.

HONEYEATER, CHAT

White-cheeked Honeyeater C, B, Res
Note their large white cheek patch. They feed in noisy active parties.



WATERFOWL

Musk Duck U, B, N

Sits low in water; prefers deeper water.

Black Swan C, B, N

Usually found in shallower water where they upend to feed on water plants.



Australian Shelduck C, B, N

These feed on plants and invertebrates. Nests are built in tree hollows, sometimes far from water.

Australian Wood Duck U, B, N
Pale duck with dark head; often seen grazing.



Pink-eared Duck C, B, N

(see cover illustration) They draw water into the bill where it is filtered for food.

Australasian Shoveler U, B, N

Shovelers are filter feeders that eat small aquatic insects.

Grey Teal C, B, N

A wide range of food is eaten while dabbling in shallow water.



Pacific Black Duck C, B, N

The most common duck.

Hardhead M, B, N

Dark brown duck; male has a white eye.



Blue-billed Duck U, B, N

They prefer deep water to dive for food. Only the male has a blue bill.



CRAKE, RAIL, ALLIES

Purple Swamphen C, B, Res

These birds can be seen stalking through the reeds, swimming, or feeding on nearby lawns. They build a platform for roosting and feed in family groups.



Buff-banded Rail U, N

Can sometimes be seen feeding among the rushes that fringe the lake.



Baillon's Crake R, N

Australian Spotted Crake U, N

Spotless Crake R, N

All three crakes are small, shy birds, usually seen in thick fringing vegetation.

Black-tailed Native-hen R, N

Small dark bantam-like bird.

Dusky Moorhen C, B, N

Dark waterbird with yellow-tipped red bill.



Eurasian Coot C, B, N

Eat mostly aquatic plants and also graze on the lake edges.

SHOREBIRD

Each autumn thousands of waders (Mi) arrive in Perth from their breeding grounds in northern Asia/Alaska. Very few visit Lake Claremont. Some waders do not leave Australia but are seasonally dispersive from coastal lakes.

Black-winged Stilt C, B, N

They walk through shallow water feeding on plants and small animals.

Red-necked Avocet R, N

Rusty head, long upturned bill



Black-fronted Dotterel C, B, N

These small birds prefer firm shorelines to feed on insects, crustaceans and seeds.

Red-kneed Dotterel R, N

Black hood and breastband.

BUTCHERBIRD, CURRAWONG

Grey Butcherbird C, B, Res

Live in permanent territories and have a loud piping territorial song.



FANTAIL

Grey Fantail C, Res, Mi, Au - Wi

Like a grey Willie Wagtail; friendly, curious

RAVEN, CROW

Australian Raven C, B, Res

OLD WORLD WARBLER

Australian Reed-Warbler C, B, N

Sedges provide a habitat for such species as the Little Grassbird and Australian Reed-Warbler,



Little Grassbird C, B, Res

Secretive; lives in dense reeds.

WHITE EYE

Silvewye M, Res/N

Small olive-green bird with white eye-ring.



SWALLOW, MARTIN

Welcome Swallow (above) C, B, Res, Mi

Tree Martin (left) C, B, Mi, Sp - Au

These aerial feeders are sometimes in mixed flocks. Can you pick out the difference?

Abundance	CODE	Season
	Status	
C - common	B - breeds in area	Sp - spring
M - moderately common	Mi - migratory	Su - summer
U - uncommon	N - nomadic	Au - autumn
R - rare	Res - resident	Wi - winter
	V - vagrant	
	T - threatened	
	IA - protected by international agreement	

Names of birds illustrated are in blue