

Birds of Sweetwater Creek Nature Reserve



Common Bronzewing . Can be heard more often than seen, a low booming call, repeated at three minute intervals. Departs with a clatter of wings. Usually seen in pairs.

Named for the bronze sheen to its wings.

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Fan-tailed Cuckoo: blue-grey cuckoo with dull chestnut breast and yellow eye-ring.

Voice a far-carrying mournful trill with downward inflection – ph-ph-phew, ph-ph-phew. More commonly heard in spring.

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Eastern Yellow Robin: a sociable visitor when we are weeding, hoping for worms or insects to surface. A running, piping call.

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Grey Butcher Bird: smaller than a magpie but similar in appearance, with a dark grey head, dull grey back, white throat and greyish underparts.

Voice: beautiful, vigorous flute-like melodic piping.

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Grey Shrike-Thrush: An ordinary looking bird with an extraordinary song, very melodious; you will soon recognise its 'pip pip pip pip hoo-ee'.

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Eastern Rosella: White-cheeked rosella with red head and breast, yellow underparts, black and yellow mottled back, blue shoulders. Like the Rainbow Lorikeet, it nests in tree hollows. It eats fruit, nuts and seeds, often seen on lawns eating grass seed.

Voice: a bell-like 'pink, pink' and soft chattering.

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Golden Whistler: golden breasted with a white throat and black 'hood', olive back with yellow edges to wing feathers.

Voice: This is the Luciano Pavarotti of the woodland, with a lovely melodic whistle.

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New Holland Honeyeater: yellow and black wings and boldly-striped black and white breast, yellow and black tail feathers; slender curved black beak.

Voice: a loud 'tchlik' and a whistling 'pseet', shrill harsh chattering.

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Rainbow Lorikeet: Large blue-headed lorikeet with orange or red breast. Often seen at the entrance to a hole high in a tree trunk, where it makes its nest. They feed on eucalypt and Banksia blossoms often in noisy flocks.

Voice: a noisy screech while in flight, noisy chatter while feeding.

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Red-browed Finch: olive-backed with red 'eyebrow', grey underparts, red feathers at top of tail, then black. Commonly seen in a flock, often near water.

Voice: high-pitched 'pseet'.

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Shining Bronze-cuckoo: iridescent green bronze-cuckoo with bars on underparts extending to chin. Like the other cuckoos, heard but rarely seen.

Voice: a series of whistles with an upward inflection, as if summoning 'Here! Here!'

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Red Wattlebird: large wattlebird with yellow abdomen, small pendant red wattle below the ear; white tips on tail feathers. Swift flight, catching insects in mid-air.

Voice: noisy, 'chock a lock', like maniacal laughter!

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Silvereye: Tiny olive green bird with grey chest and a distinct 'silver' ring around its eyes. They feed on insects, nectar and fruit and usually move rapidly in flocks.

Voice: a loud 'tsee'.

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Spotted Pardalote: little bird, crown black with white spots, yellow throat and under tail. Digs a hole in an earth bank for a nest.

Voice: high clear 'sleep, peep' rising to 'deedee'.