

# Birds of the Mallee Parks

The Mallee Parks offer visitors the opportunity to see more than 300 species of birds, including rare and endangered species like the Malleefowl, Regent Parrot, Major Mitchell’s Cockatoo, Black-eared Miner and Mallee Emu Wren.

Use this checklist to help you identify and record the birds you encounter as you explore Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and adjacent Murray-Kulkyne Park, Kings Billabong Park, Lake Albacutya National Park, Murray Sunset National Park, Wyperfeld National Park, Little Desert National Park, and Big Desert Wilderness Park.

Some birds are resident year-round in the Mallee parks, and some are seasonal visitors or migrants. Others may be seen only when there is water present in the wetlands of Wyperfeld, Murray-Sunset, Hattah-Kulkyne, and Lake Albacutya National Parks.

Additional species may turn up from time-to-time in response to changing conditions. We recommend that keen birders refer to sources such as [Eremaea BirdLines](#) and [eBird Australia](#) for the latest records and to report unusual sightings. [BirdLife Australia](#) is a great resource for learning more about Australian birds.

## Key

⊙ Introduced

△ Accidental

Status of endangered birds in Victoria:

**CR** Critically Endangered

**E** Endangered

**V** Vulnerable

	Kings Billabong	Murray Sunset	Hattah-Kulkyne	Wyperfeld	Lake Albacutya	Big Desert	Little Desert
Emu		•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>V</b> Malleefowl		•	•	•	•	•	•
Stubble Quail		•	•	•	•	•	•
Brown Quail		•	•				•
Plumed Whistling-Duck				•	•		•
Wandering Whistling-Duck		•					
<b>V</b> Blue-billed Duck		•	•	•	•		•
<b>V</b> Musk Duck	•	•	•	•	•		•
<b>E</b> Freckled Duck	•		•	•	•		•
Cape Barren Goose							•
Black Swan	•	•	•	•	•		•
Australian Shelduck	•	•	•	•	•		•
Australian Wood Duck	•	•	•	•	•		•
Pink-eared Duck	•	•	•	•	•		•
<b>V</b> Australasian Shoveler	•	•	•	•	•		•
Grey Teal	•	•	•	•	•		•
Chestnut Teal	•	•	•	•	•		•
⊙ Mallard					•		
Pacific Black Duck	•	•	•	•	•		•
<b>V</b> Hardhead	•	•	•	•	•		•
Australasian Grebe	•	•	•	•	•		•
Hoary-headed Grebe	•	•	•	•	•		•
Great Crested Grebe	•		•	•	•		

	Kings Billabong	Murray Sunset	Hattah-Kulkyne	Wyperfeld	Lake Albacutya	Big Desert	Little Desert
⊙ Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	•	•	•	•	•		•
⊙ Spotted Dove	•						
Common Bronzewing	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brush Bronzewing		•	•				•
Crested Pigeon	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>V</b> Diamond Dove	•	•	•	•			•
Peaceful Dove	•	•	•	•	•		•
Bar-shouldered Dove			•				
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove			•				
Tawny Frogmouth	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Spotted Nightjar		•	•	•	•	•	•
Australian Owlet-nightjar	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>V</b> White-throated Needletail		•	•	•	•	•	•
Fork-tailed (Pacific) Swift		•	•	•	•		•
△ Wilson’s Storm-Petrel		•					
△ Short-tailed Shearwater		•					
Australasian Darter	•	•	•	•	•		
Little Pied Cormorant	•	•	•	•	•		•
Great Cormorant	•	•	•	•	•		•
Little Black Cormorant	•	•	•	•	•		•
Pied Cormorant	•	•	•	•	•		•
Australian Pelican	•	•	•	•	•		•
<b>CR</b> Australasian Bittern			•				•
<b>E</b> Australian Little Bittern	•		•				•
White-necked Heron	•	•	•	•	•		•
<b>V</b> Eastern Great Egret	•	•	•	•	•		•
<b>CR</b> Intermediate (Plumed) Egret	•		•				
Cattle Egret		•	•				•
White-faced Heron	•	•	•	•	•		•
<b>E</b> Little Egret	•		•		•		•
Nankeen Night Heron	•	•	•	•	•		•
Glossy Ibis			•	•	•		•
Australian White Ibis	•	•	•	•	•		•
Straw-necked Ibis	•	•	•	•	•		•
Royal Spoonbill	•	•	•	•	•		•
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	•	•	•	•	•		•
Black-shouldered Kite	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Letter-winged Kite		•		•	•		•
<b>V</b> Square-tailed Kite		•	•				•
Black-breasted Buzzard			•				

	Kings Billabong	Murray Sunset	Hattah-Kulkynne	Lake Albacutya Wyperfeld	Big Desert	Little Desert
<b>E</b> White-bellied Sea-Eagle	•	•	•	•	•	•
Whistling Kite	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black Kite	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brown Goshawk	•	•	•	•	•	•
Collared Sparrowhawk	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>E</b> Grey Goshawk	•		•			•
Spotted Harrier		•	•	•	•	•
Swamp Harrier	•	•	•	•		•
Wedge-tailed Eagle	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>V</b> Little Eagle	•	•	•	•	•	•
Nankeen Kestrel	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brown Falcon	•	•	•	•	•	•
Australian Hobby	•	•	•	•		•
<b>V</b> Grey Falcon		•	•	•		
<b>CR</b> Black Falcon	•	•	•	•		•
Peregrine Falcon	•	•	•	•		•
<b>E</b> Brolga			•			•
Purple (Australasian) Swamphen	•		•	•		•
<b>V</b> Lewin's Rail						•
Buff-banded Rail	•	•	•		•	•
Baillon's Crake			•	•	•	
Australian Spotted Crake	•		•			•
Spotless Crake	•					•
Black-tailed Native-hen	•	•	•	•		•
Dusky Moorhen	•	•	•	•		•
Eurasian Coot	•	•	•	•		•
<b>CR</b> Australian Bustard				•	•	•
<b>CR</b> Bush Stone-curlew	•		•	•	•	•
Black-winged (Pied) Stilt	•	•	•	•	•	•
Red-necked Avocet	•	•	•	•	•	•
Banded Stilt			•	•	•	•
<b>V</b> Grey Plover			•			
Red-capped Plover	•	•	•	•	•	•
Double-banded Plover			•			•
<b>V</b> Inland Dotterel		•		•		
Black-fronted Dotterel	•	•	•	•	•	•
Red-kneed Dotterel	•	•	•	•	•	•
Banded Lapwing		•	•	•	•	•
Masked Lapwing	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>CR</b> Plains-wanderer			•	•		•
Latham's Snipe	•		•			•
<b>CR</b> Black-tailed Godwit				•	•	
<b>V</b> Bar-tailed Godwit						•
<b>V</b> Common Sandpiper					•	
<b>E</b> Common Greenshank		•	•	•	•	
<b>V</b> Marsh Sandpiper		•	•	•		
<b>E</b> Ruddy Turnstone			•	•		
Red-necked Stint	•		•	•		
Pectoral Sandpiper					•	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		•	•	•	•	•
<b>CR</b> Curlew Sandpiper		•	•	•		
Red-backed Button-quail		•				
Painted Button-quail		•	•	•	•	•
Little Button-quail		•	•	•	•	•
<b>E</b> Gull-billed Tern	•		•	•		
<b>V</b> Caspian Tern	•	•	•		•	
Whiskered Tern	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-winged Black Tern			•			

	Kings Billabong	Murray Sunset	Hattah-Kulkynne	Lake Albacutya Wyperfeld	Big Desert	Little Desert
White-fronted Tern				•		
Crested Tern						•
Silver Gull	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>E</b> Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo						•
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo		•	•	•		•
<b>CR</b> Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	•	•	•	•	•	•
Galah	•	•	•	•	•	•
Long-billed Corella			•	•	•	•
Little Corella	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cockatiel	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rainbow Lorikeet	•		•			•
Musk Lorikeet	•		•	•	•	•
Little Lorikeet				•		•
Purple-crowned Lorikeet		•	•	•	•	•
<b>E</b> Superb Parrot				•		
<b>V</b> Regent Parrot	•	•	•	•	•	•
Crimson Rosella	•		•			•
Yellow Rosella (variant of Crimson)	•	•	•			
Eastern Rosella	•	•	•	•	•	•
Australian Ringneck	•	•	•	•	•	•
(Greater) Blue Bonnet		•	•	•	•	•
<b>CR</b> Swift Parrot				•		•
Red-rumped Parrot	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mulga Parrot	•	•	•	•	•	•
Budgerigar	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blue-winged Parrot	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>V</b> Elegant Parrot		•	•	•	•	•
Scarlet-chested Parrot		•	•			
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black-eared Cuckoo	•	•	•	•	•	•
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo		•	•	•	•	•
Pallid Cuckoo	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brush Cuckoo				•		
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>CR</b> Barking Owl		•	•	•		•
Southern Boobook	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>CR</b> Masked Owl		•				
Barn Owl	•	•	•	•	•	•
Azure Kingfisher			•	•		
Laughing Kookaburra	•	•	•	•	•	•
Red-backed Kingfisher		•	•	•	•	•
Sacred Kingfisher	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rainbow Bee-eater	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dollarbird	•	•				
White-throated Treecreeper						•
<b>V</b> White-browed Treecreeper		•	•	•		
Brown Treecreeper	•	•	•	•	•	•
Superb Fairy-wren	•	•	•	•	•	•
Splendid Fairy-wren	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-winged Fairy-wren	•	•	•	•		
Variiegated Fairy-wren	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>E</b> Mallee Emu-wren		•	•	•		
Rufous-crowned Emu-wren		•	•	•	•	•
Striated Grasswren		•	•	•	•	•
Shy Heathwren		•	•	•	•	•
Striated Fieldwren		•	•	•	•	•
Rufous Fieldwren		•	•	•	•	•

	Kings Billabong	Murray Sunset	Hattah-Kulkynne	Lake Albacutya Wyperfeld	Big Desert	Little Desert
E Redthroat		•		•		
Weebill	•	•	•	•	•	•
Western Gerygone	•		•	•		•
White-throated Gerygone						•
Striated Thornbill						•
Yellow Thornbill	•	•	•	•	•	•
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	•	•	•	•	•	•
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	•	•	•	•	•	•
Buff-rumped Thornbill	•	•	•	•	•	•
E Slender-billed Thornbill				•	•	•
Inland Thornbill	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brown Thornbill				•		•
Southern Whiteface	•	•	•	•	•	•
Spotted Pardalote	•	•	•	•	•	•
Striated Pardalote	•	•	•	•	•	•
Eastern Spinebill						•
Pied Honeyeater		•	•			
Yellow-faced Honeyeater						•
Singing Honeyeater	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-eared Honeyeater		•	•	•	•	•
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater				•		•
V Purple-gaped Honeyeater		•	•	•	•	•
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	•	•	•	•	•	•
E Grey-fronted Honeyeater		•	•			
Fuscous Honeyeater		•	•			•
White-plumed Honeyeater	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-fronted Honeyeater		•	•	•	•	•
CR Black-eared Miner		•	•	•		
Yellow-throated Miner	•	•	•	•	•	•
Noisy Miner	•	•	•	•	•	•
Little Wattlebird						•
Red Wattlebird	•	•	•	•	•	•
Crimson Chat		•	•	•	•	•
Orange Chat		•	•	•		•
White-fronted Chat	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black Honeyeater		•	•	•		•
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	•	•	•	•	•	•
New Holland Honeyeater		•	•	•	•	•
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black-chinned Honeyeater			•			•
Brown-headed Honeyeater	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-naped Honeyeater		•	•	•		•
Blue-faced Honeyeater	•	•	•	•		•
Noisy Friarbird			•			
Little Friarbird	•	•	•	•	•	•
Striped Honeyeater	•	•	•	•	•	•
V Grey-crowned Babbler		•	•			
White-browed Babbler	•	•	•	•	•	•
Chestnut-crowned Babbler	•	•	•	•		•
Chestnut Quail-thrush		•	•	•	•	•
Varied Sitella	•	•	•	•	•	•
E Ground Cuckoo-shrike			•	•		
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	•		•	•		•
White-winged Triller	•	•	•	•	•	•
Crested Shrike-tit	•		•	•		•
V Red-lored Whistler		•	•	•	•	•
Gilbert's Whistler	•	•	•	•	•	•

	Kings Billabong	Murray Sunset	Hattah-Kulkynne	Lake Albacutya Wyperfeld	Big Desert	Little Desert
Golden Whistler	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rufous Whistler	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grey Shrike-thrush	•	•	•	•	•	•
E Crested Bellbird		•	•	•	•	•
Olive-backed Oriole	•	•	•	•		•
White-breasted Woodswallow	•	•	•	•	•	•
Masked Woodswallow	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-browed Woodswallow	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black-faced Woodswallow	•	•	•	•		•
Dusky Woodswallow	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grey Butcherbird	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pied Butcherbird	•	•	•	•	•	
Australian Magpie	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pied Currawong			•			
Grey Currawong	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grey Fantail	•	•	•	•	•	•
Willie Wagtail	•	•	•	•	•	•
Australian Raven	•	•	•	•	•	•
Forest Raven						•
Little Raven	•	•	•	•	•	•
Little Crow		•	•	•		
Satin Flycatcher		•				•
Restless Flycatcher	•	•	•	•	•	•
Magpie-lark	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-winged Cough	•	•	•	•	•	•
V Apostlebird	•	•	•			
Jacky Winter	•	•	•	•		•
Scarlet Robin			•			•
Red-capped Robin	•	•	•	•	•	•
Flame Robin			•	•	•	•
V Hooded Robin	•	•	•	•	•	•
Eastern Yellow Robin			•			•
Southern Scrub-Robin		•	•	•	•	•
Horsfield's (Singing) Bushlark		•	•	•	•	•
⊙ Eurasian Skylark						•
Golden-headed Cisticola	•	•	•	•	•	•
Australian Reed-Warbler	•	•	•	•		•
Little Grassbird	•		•	•		•
Rufous Songlark	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brown Songlark		•	•	•	•	•
Silvereve	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-backed Swallow		•	•	•	•	•
Welcome Swallow	•	•	•	•	•	•
Fairy Martin	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tree Martin	•	•	•	•	•	•
⊙ Common Blackbird	•	•	•	•	•	•
⊙ Common Starling	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mistletoebird	•	•	•	•	•	•
Zebra Finch	•	•	•	•	•	•
V Diamond Firetail	•	•	•	•	•	•
⊙ House Sparrow	•	•	•	•	•	•
Australasian Pipit	•	•	•	•	•	•
⊙ European Goldfinch		•	•	•	•	•

The names and order of birds in this checklist follows Christidis, L; Boles, W. E. 2008. *Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds*. CSIRO Publications, Collingwood.

The status of endangered birds follows Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2021, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List*, Victorian Government, Melbourne.

Birds which have been recorded in the Mallee, but which are extinct or presumed to be aviary escapees, are not included in this list.

## Ethical birding

Sometimes our enthusiasm for birds can lead to unintended negative impacts. Please abide by the following good practice guidelines:

- Keep an appropriate distance from birds and avoid disturbing nests, nesting colonies, roosts, display areas and important feeding areas. Stay well back, and use binoculars, spotting scopes, or zoom camera lenses to get a better view.
- Exercise restraint during observation, photography, sound recording and filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and avoid using them to attract threatened or rare species and nesting birds.
- The wellbeing of the bird should always be the main concern. Photographers should avoid lingering too long to ensure the bird is not stressed or abandons a nest.
- Do not move dead branches, brush or tree limbs to view or photograph birds more clearly. Move yourself to find a better angle. Disturbing or removing native vegetation in national parks is prohibited and may result in a fine.
- Respect both the birds and other birders by keeping conversation to a minimum, turning off mobile phones and avoid using flash photography and artificial light sources.
- Spotlighting disturbs birds and animals which may be sleeping or resting. It may interfere with the night sight of nocturnal species or cause birds to abandon their nest or their young to fall out. Limit the time a bird is held in the spotlight to a minimum, and consider using lower intensity spotlights, red filters and directing the light to the side.
- Avoid deliberately flushing birds to get a view of parts of the bird that may be hidden. Repeatedly flushing can cause birds to use up vital energy needed for other activities.
- Never physically touch a bird without extreme cause. If you come across an injured bird or animal, please call Wildlife Victoria on (03) 8400 7300 (Mon-Fri: 7.30am to 7.00pm, Sat & Sun: 8.00am to 6.30pm), or Wildlife Rescue Australia on 1300 596 457 (24 hours).
- Please do not share the location of rare and threatened birds or their nests with anyone except conservation authorities. Avoid sharing geotagged photos on social media which can lead to a rapid increase in visitation, disturbance and poaching.
- Do not enter private property or restricted areas without permission, or climb over fences or barriers.
- Promote the welfare of birds and their habitat by supporting conservation organisations and efforts.

## Caring for the environment



Help us look after the Mallee Parks by following these guidelines:

- Please take rubbish away with you for recycling & disposal.
- Camp only in designated campgrounds or at least 20 metres from the water along lakes and rivers.
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted in national parks, including Big Desert Wilderness, Hattah-Kulkyne, Little Desert, Murray Sunset, and Wyperfeld National Parks.

- Dogs are permitted in Murray-Kulkyne Park but must be kept on a lead at all times.
- Dogs are permitted in Lake Albacutya Park, but must be kept on a lead in camping areas. In other areas of the park they are allowed off leash but must be under control at all times.
- All native plants & animals are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way.
- Feeding of wild birds and animals is prohibited.
- Vehicles, including motorcycles and bicycles, must not be driven off formed roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered.
- The use of chainsaws is prohibited in national parks.
- Firearms are prohibited in the Mallee Parks.
- Fires may only be lit in the fireplaces provided.

## Safety



For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000).

If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information on the marker to the operator. Mobile reception is patchy in the Mallee Parks. If you cannot get a signal, try calling 112 then select YES.

The Mallee Parks are in the Mallee and Wimmera fire districts. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au), on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days.

On Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days these Parks may be closed for public safety. Do not enter the Parks. If you are already in the Parks, leave the night before or as early as possible in the morning. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning. Check the latest conditions at [parks.vic.gov.au](https://parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963.

The Mallee Parks can become extremely hot during the day, especially between November and March. Carry plenty of water and a first aid kit, use sunscreen, and wear strong comfortable shoes and a shady hat. Avoid walking during the hottest part of the day.

Please stay on the tracks and don't get lost by wandering off.

Do not camp or rest under or near large trees. Branches may fall at any time and swing away from the tree.

## For further information

Call **Parks Victoria** on 13 1963 or go to [parks.vic.gov.au](https://parks.vic.gov.au)

For local tourist information, including accommodation, contact:

### Mildura Visitor Information Centre

Alfred Deakin Centre, 180-190 Deakin Ave, Mildura VIC 3500

Tel: (03) 5021 4424 or 1800 039 043

Email: [tourism@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:tourism@mildura.vic.gov.au)

Website: [visitmildura.com.au](https://visitmildura.com.au)

### Horsham & Grampians Visitor Information Centre

20 O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham VIC 3400

Tel: (03) 5382 1832 or 1800 633 218

Email: [tourism@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:tourism@hrcc.vic.gov.au)

Website: [visithorsham.com.au](https://visithorsham.com.au)