

Learning your first 20 Woodland Birds

A companion guide to the
Woodland birds booklet



Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



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Marc Anderson, XC334447. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/334447
Marc Anderson, XC244290. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/244290.

Size: 35cm

Appearance: The plumage is grey-brown, with prominent white streaks and a yellow belly. The face is paler and the long tail has a white-tip. Has fleshy red wattles on sides of the neck. Sexes are alike.

Habits: Seen singly, in pairs, family groups or small parties. Active, noisy and conspicuous. Forage mainly in the upper and outer canopy, though sometimes in low shrubs.

Habitat: Forests, woodlands and urban parks and gardens.

Nest: A flat or cup shaped structure made from sticks, grass and leaves.

Nesting season: May – March

Similar species: Little Wattlebird, Noisy Friarbird.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.

Honeyeaters

Brown-headed Honeyeater



Marc Anderson, XC244290. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/244290

Size: 14cm

Appearance: Plain olive green above and pale grey to buff below. It has a brown head with a pale line across the nape and a creamy yellow eye-ring which encircles the eye. Sexes are alike.

Habits: Usually seen in small flocks, foraging high in the tree canopy. Their flight is acrobatic, and they are always on the move.

Habitat: Prefer open eucalypt forests and woodlands, and sometimes seen in parks and gardens.

Nest: A small deep cup made from fine bark, grass and hair.

Nesting season: August – February

Similar species: White-naped Honeyeater, but the Brown-headed Honeyeater is duller in colour.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread but patchy.

Honeyeaters

White-plumed Honeyeater



David Stewart - <http://www.naturesound.com.au>

Size: 16cm

Appearance: Yellowish-olive above and pale brown-grey below, with a yellowish head and a distinctive white neck-plume. Sexes are alike, but females are slightly smaller.

Habits: Usually gregarious. Often feed in the canopy and outer branches of trees, constantly moving from tree to tree with rapid darting movements.

Habitat: Open forests and woodlands, often near wetlands. Also in remnant bushland in urban areas, as well as parks and gardens.

Nest: A small cup-shaped nest made from grass and spider webs.

Nesting season: Breed throughout the year, with eggs recorded July – November. Similar species: Fuscous Honeyeater.

Similar species: Fuscous Honeyeater.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.

Honeyeaters

White-eared Honeyeater



David Stewart - <http://www.naturesound.com.au>

Size: 20cm

Appearance: Olive-green above with lighter green underparts. It has a grey cap and a black face, with black extending down onto the upper breast and a distinctive white ear-patch. Sexes are alike, but females are slightly smaller.

Habits: Usually seen singly, in pairs or small groups, and are quite noisy and conspicuous. Mainly forage in eucalypts, probing for insects under bark.

Habitat: Found mainly in dry eucalypt forests and woodlands, with a well-developed understorey. Also occur in heathland and scrub, as well as gardens, orchards and vineyards.

Nest: A deep, thick-walled, open cup.

Nesting season: August – February

Similar species: White-fronted Honeyeater.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.

Honeyeaters

Yellow-faced Honeyeater



Marc Anderson, XC340209. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/340209

Size: 16cm

Appearance: Dark grey-brown above and paler below with lighter streaks. There is some brown streaking on the head, and a distinctive, broad yellow face-stripe, bordered with black. Sexes are alike, but females are slightly smaller.

Habits: Occur singly, in twos, or small to large loose flocks. Usually forage in foliage or flowers of trees, shrubs and mistletoe.

Habitat: Found in open forests and woodlands.

Nest: A neat, woven cup from grass, and some may be covered with moss.

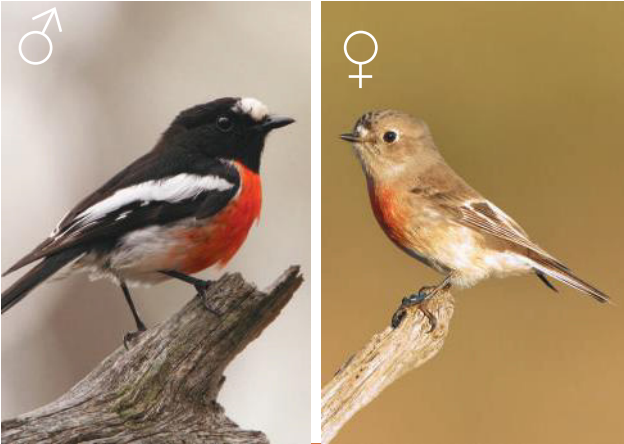
Nesting season: September – February

Similar species: Singing Honeyeater, Crescent Honeyeater, White-fronted Honeyeater.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread but seasonal (spring/summer).

Robin

Scarlet Robin



Andrew Spencer, XC329679. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/329679

Size: 13cm

Appearance: Males have a black head, neck and upperparts with a conspicuous white patch above the bill. The breast is scarlet and the lower underparts are white. Females are brown above with a white patch above the bill and an orange-red breast, brown wings and white underparts.

Habits: Usually seen singly or in twos. Forage mainly on the ground and less often in the shrub layer or tree canopy.

Habitat: Open forests and woodlands. During winter, visit more open habitats such as grasslands, farmland and urban parks and gardens.

Nest: A compact and open cup made from bark, grass and twigs.

Nesting season: July – November

Similar species: Mistletoebird, Red-capped Robin, Scarlet Robin, Flame Robin, Pink Robin, Rose Robin.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread but patchy.



Marc Anderson, XC334416. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/334416

Size: 10.5cm

Appearance: White-streaked crown, nape and ear-coverts, light-brown rump, red or yellow wing spot and white stripe on folded wing. Sexes are alike.

Habits: Seen singly or in pairs during the breeding season; during the non-breeding season (autumn–winter), often in flocks, sometimes of hundreds. Mainly arboreal; usually forage high in the tree canopy on upper and outer foliage.

Habitat: Eucalypt forests, woodlands or shrublands.

Nest: Usually in a tree hollow, tunnel excavated in an earthen bank or small openings in human-made objects.

Nesting season: August – March

Similar species: Spotted Pardalote.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.

Pardalotes

Spotted Pardalote



Ding Li Yong, XC201548. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/201548
Eliot Miller, XC104894. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/104894

Size: 9cm

Appearance: The head, wings and tail are black and covered with small white spots. It has a white eyebrow and a yellow throat and a red rump. Females are similar, but have less-distinct markings.

Habits: Usually occur singly or in pairs, but in autumn–winter they often form small to large flocks (up to several hundred birds). Active but inconspicuous, they forage high in the tree canopy. Readily identified by its call: a repeated three-note whistle, the second two notes higher than the first.

Habitat: Eucalypt forests and woodlands; also parks and gardens with well-established eucalypts.

Nest: A narrow tunnel excavated in an earth bank (creek or roadside cutting); very occasionally in a tree hollow or artificial structure.

Nesting season: July – March

Similar species: Striated Pardalote.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.

Bronze Cuckoos

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo



David Stewart - <http://www.naturesound.com.au>

Size: 16cm

Appearance: Bronze-green upperparts with pale scaling and a bronze to green sheen on the back and uppertail. It has a prominent dark-brown eye stripe, and the underbody is off-white with incomplete dark barring. Sexes are alike.

Habits: Seen singly, in twos or very occasionally in loose flocks. They forage mostly in low vegetation, and are generally quiet and unobtrusive.

Habitat: Found in many wooded habitats, such as open and dry woodland and forest. Also found in farmland, orchards, vineyards and urban parks and gardens.

Nest: This species is a parasitic breeder (lays its eggs in the nests of other birds) and chooses the domed-shaped nests of species such as fairy-wrens and thornbills; it may also parasitise the open-cup nests of species such as the White-fronted Chat.

Nesting season: July – February

Similar species: Shining Bronze-Cuckoo.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread but patchy.

Thornbill

Yellow-rumped Thornbill



Greg McLachlan, XC354591. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/354591

Size: 11cm

Appearance: Has a striking yellow rump. It is mainly grey-olive to grey-brown above and cream below, with a white-spotted black crown and a dark eye-stripe. The tail is black, with a white tip. Sexes are alike.

Habits: Gregarious; usually encountered in small flocks. Mainly forage on the ground. Sometimes breed co-operatively.

Habitat: Open habitats, including open woodlands and forests, shrublands and modified habitats (agricultural land, roadsides, urban parks and gardens).

Nest: Large and untidy structure of grass and bark with two parts: an upper cup-shaped nest and a lower, domed, nest-chamber.

Nesting season: May – February

Similar species: Buff-rumped Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.



Marc Anderson, XC140215. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/140215

Size: 10cm

Appearance: Olive-brown upperparts, with a warm reddish-brown forehead. The rump has a reddish-brown patch, the tail is grey-brown with a pale tip, and the underparts are off-white, streaked blackish on the chin, throat and chest. Sexes are alike.

Habits: Can be seen singly, in pairs or in small family parties. Restless, active and noisy. Mainly forage by gleaning insects from foliage, trunks and branches of shrubs and small trees.

Habitat: Wet and dry forests, woodlands, shrublands, heathlands and rainforests, as well as along watercourses. Parks and gardens in urban areas.

Nest: Small oval, domed nest with a partially hooded entrance near the top, made of grass, bark and other materials.

Nesting season: August – January

Similar species: Buff-rumped Thornbill, Striated Thornbill.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.

Treecreeper

White-throated Treecreeper



Size: 15cm

Appearance: Dark brown, with a distinctive white throat and chest, and white streaks on the flanks, edged with black. The wings have a red bar that is visible in flight and the undertail is barred. Sexes are similar, except females have a small rufous spot on their cheeks.

Habits: Usually seen singly, sometimes in pairs. Active, foraging mainly on the trunks and larger branches of trees.

*Nigel Jakkett, XC92368. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/92368
Marc Anderson, XC201491. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/201491*

Habitat: Forests, woodlands and timbered river areas.

Nest: Tree hollows.

Nesting season: August – January

Similar species: White-browed Treecreeper, Brown Treecreeper.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.

Rosella

Crimson Rosella



Size: 34cm

Appearance: Mostly crimson plumage, with bright blue cheeks, blue shoulder patches and mostly blue tail. Sexes are similar, but females are duller.

Habits: Occur in pairs, family parties or small flocks, feeding in trees and shrubs and on the ground.

Habitat: Commonly associated with tall eucalypt and wetter forests. Often in parks and gardens.

Marc Anderson, XC284381. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/284381
Andrew Spencer, XC329812. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/329812

Nest: Tree hollows.

Nesting season: September – January

Similar species: Australian King-Parrot.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.

Fairywren

Superb Fairy-wren



Patrik Åberg, XC98476. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/98476.

Size: 14cm

Appearance: Males have rich blue-and-black plumage above and on the throat; the belly is grey-white. Females are mostly brown above with a dull red-orange area around the eye; they may also have a pale-greenish gloss on the tail.

Habits: Gregarious; typically seen in pairs or small groups. Active, noisy and conspicuous. Forage mostly on the ground or low in the understorey or lower canopy of trees and shrubs. Move briskly through foliage and across open ground.

Habitat: Inhabit dense understorey vegetation in almost any type of sclerophyll forest or woodland; often in urban areas.

Nest: A dome-shaped structure of grass and other fine material, usually placed in a low bush.

Nesting season: October – January

Similar species: Southern Emu-wren, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (similar to female Superb Fairy-wren).

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.



Scrubwren

White-browed Scrubwren



Marc Anderson, XC171966. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/171966

Size: 12cm

Appearance: Mostly dark olive-brown above, with a buff-grey throat and dull-rufous flanks, belly and rump. They have a white line above and below the eye. Males and females alike, but females are slightly duller, particularly on the face.

Habits: Can be seen singly, in pairs or in small family parties. Usually found in dense undergrowth and lower levels of trees. Typically seen hopping briskly on ground or logs.

Habitat: Occupy a diverse range of habitats, including rainforest, open forest, woodland and heaths; often in gullies and near watercourses.

Nest: A large ball of grasses and other plant material, with a side entrance.

Nesting season: August – January

Similar species: Similar face pattern to the White-browed Babbler and Black-eared Cuckoo.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Mainly Grampians and in the southern part of the catchment area.

Whistler

Golden Whistler



Greg McLachlan, XC345116. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/345116

Size: 17cm

Appearance: Males are bright yellow underneath, with an olive-green back and wings, and a black head. The throat is white, separated from the yellow chest by a broad black band. Females are grey above, with a pale-olive tinge, and paler grey below.

Habits: Seen singly or in pairs. Mainly forage in canopy of trees or within shrubs.

Habitat: Almost any wooded habitat, from rainforest to mallee, but prefer denser habitats. Sometimes in gardens.

Nest: A shallow bowl of twigs, grass and bark.

Nesting season: September – January

Similar species: Rufous Whistler, White-throated Gerygone.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread.

Whistler

Rufous Whistler



Greg McLachlan, XC355073. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/355073

Size: 16cm

Appearance: Males are dark-grey above, with a white throat patch, black breast-band, a rufous underbody and a conspicuous black mask. Females are dull grey to brown, with streaked underparts.

Habits: Seen singly or in pairs, occasionally in small groups. Forage in trees and shrubs, where they glean insects from foliage and branches; rarely seen on the ground.

Habitat: Forests, woodlands and shrublands, with a shrubby understorey.

Nest: Cup-shaped, made from twigs, grass, vines and other materials.

Nesting season: September – March

Similar species: Golden Whistler.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread but seasonal (spring/summer).

Flycatcher

Restless Flycatcher



Paul Jacobson, XC44283. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/44283
Frank Lambert, XC366869. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/366869

Size: 20cm

Appearance: Has a glossy blue-black head, with a small crest. The back, wings and tail are dark grey, and the underparts are white, though there may be a slight orange brown tint on the breast. Sexes are similar.

Habits: Usually seen singly or in pairs. Active, noisy and conspicuous, even when perched. Extremely mobile and able to hover while feeding.

Habitat: Open forests and woodlands, and frequently seen in farmland.

Nest: A small cup-shaped nest of bark and grass.

Nesting season: August – January

Similar species: Willie Wagtail, Satin Flycatcher, Leaden Flycatcher.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread but patchy.



Size: 30cm

Appearance: Dark chocolate-brown above and rufous-brown below, they are heavily streaked and spotted with white. The facial disc is dark chocolate-brown and the eyes are large and yellow. Sexes are alike.

Call: A distinctive 'boo-book' or 'mo-poke'.

Habits: Typically seen singly, in pairs or small family groups. Like other owls, the Southern Boobook is nocturnal. They are often observed perched on an open branch or tree-top.

Fernand Deroussen, XC155097. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/155097

Habitat: Seen in a variety of timbered habitats from dense forest to open desert.

Nest: Tree hollows.

Nesting season: October – December

Similar species: Barking Owl, Tawny Frogmouth.

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread but patchy.



Size: 39cm

Appearance: A medium-sized owl with a white 'heart-shaped' facial disc. The body is sandy orange and light grey above, and white to cream underneath. Both the back and breast are evenly spotted with black. Young birds are like adults in plumage and females are slightly larger than males.

Habits: Mainly seen at night as it is a nocturnal bird. It uses its exceptional hearing to search for prey on the ground. It feeds on small mammals, birds, frogs, lizards and large insects. It is generally a quiet bird. Its common call is a 12 second rough, hissing screech, but will sometimes give a whistling, wheezing call and some snapping and bill clacking during mating and threat displays.

Marc Anderson, XC287355. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/287355

Habitat: The Eastern Barn Owl prefers open, dry country, such as farms, grasslands, heath and lightly-wooded forest. One of the world's most widespread species of owls and found Australia-wide. They are usually in pairs, but can occur in high densities where food is abundant.

Nest: Eucalyptus tree hollows, concealed tree branches or caves. The female will lay 3-9 eggs, and while she broods the nestlings, the male will hunt for food to feed them.

Nesting season: Spring

Similar species: Masked Owl

Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins: Widespread



Further Information

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