

# Woodland birds

Identification booklet for the Glenelg Hopkins area



birds are in our nature





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# Glenelg Hopkins Region



This booklet is designed to help identify woodland birds within the Glenelg Hopkins catchment area, so that farmers and local residents can monitor birds and identify their habitat requirements within an agricultural landscape. The variety and abundance of birds in rural areas can tell us about the health of remnant vegetation and sustainability of agricultural practices.

The Glenelg Hopkins catchment lies south of the Great Dividing Range in south western Victoria (see map). This region includes the cities and townships of Ballarat, Hamilton, Warrnambool, Ararat, Casterton, Mortlake, Port Fairy, Beaufort and Portland.

Approximately 81% of the Glenelg Hopkins region has been developed for agriculture; however pockets of woodlands still occur within this area, including woodland remnants on private property. These woodlands provide essential habitat for woodland birds (those which depend on woodlands for feeding and/or breeding), with 187 woodland bird species recorded in the Glenelg Hopkins area (Birdlife Australia's Atlas data).

## What are Woodland birds?



Woodlands are one of Australia's most familiar landscapes, and prior to European settlement woodlands covered 30% of the continent. Woodlands support a wide range of plants and animals. Over 33% of Australia's land bird species are associated with woodlands, and in Victoria, woodlands are well-known for their diverse range of bird life.

The types of birds found within woodlands include:

- Nectar feeders, which feed on nectar produced by flowers on trees or shrubs, such as honeyeaters, lorikeets and Swift Parrots.
- Ground foragers, which feed on insects amongst leaf litter and woody debris, such as White-browed Babblers, White-winged Choughs and Bush Stone-curlews.
- Seed eaters, which feed on seeds produced by native grasses, including pigeons, finches, Red-rumped Parrots and Painted Button-quails.
- Insect gleaners, which glean insects from the foliage of shrubs or trees, including thornbills, pardalotes and honeyeaters.
- Birds which glean prey from bark on tree trunks or branches, including treecreepers and sittellas.
- Birds which flit around plants and capture insects from the air, such as flycatchers and fantails.
- Pouncers, which capture prey (i.e. insects) by pouncing from a perch to the ground, including kingfishers and robins.
- Predatory birds, which eat insects, reptiles, small mammals and even other birds, such as eagles, ravens, currawongs, butcherbirds and owls.

Since European settlement, over 80% of woodlands in south-east Australia have been cleared, mostly for agriculture. Much of Victoria's woodlands now occur along roadsides and streams, or as remnant patches, which vary in size and quality. This historical widespread clearing of woodland habitat has resulted in the decline of many



woodland bird species, with some species amongst the most threatened in Australia.

The main reasons for the decline of many woodland birds include:

- The loss of mature (hollow-bearing) trees due to historical land clearing. Large, hollow-bearing trees provide critical nesting habitat for numerous woodland species (i.e. Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Brown Treecreeper). Introduced Common Mynas and Starlings also compete with native birds for tree hollows.
- The conversion of woodland to farmland and the reduction in quality of many woodland remnants; this has adversely affected ground feeding birds which rely on a diverse range of ground cover plants and productive soils (to promote insects).
- The reduction of Eucalyptus trees (the main overstorey species in Australian woodlands) which provide nectar and insects (on foliage and under bark) for woodland birds. The loss of these trees has negatively influenced insect and nectar feeding birds.
- The introduction of exotic species such as foxes and feral cats; woodland birds, especially those which nest on the ground (i.e. Bush Stone-curlew), are at risk of predation from these introduced species.
- The isolation and small size of many remaining woodland remnants, which are often below the critical size to sustain healthy populations of many bird species. To maintain viable populations, birds need networks of habitat throughout the landscape and many require remnants of a certain size to flourish.
- The overabundance of the native Noisy Miner, a social species which has thrived with changes to land management. Noisy Miners live in colonies of closely related individuals, and they are able to aggressively outcompete nearly all other woodland bird species for resources.



## Promoting Woodland Birds on Farms



In addition to national parks and conservation reserves, woodland habitat on private property is of critical importance for maintaining ecologically viable and functional populations of woodland birds.

Birds are important for enhancing overall biodiversity on farms and rural properties; they also play an essential role in seed dispersal and pollination. Birds are also important for controlling insects, such as agricultural pests, which can reduce the need for expensive pesticides.

There are a number of ways to promote birds on farms, and some of these include:

- Protecting and enhancing existing remnant vegetation – this provides the best habitat for wildlife and should be the first option considered.
- Increasing the total amount of habitat for wildlife by natural regeneration (fencing off areas to exclude grazing may be helpful) and strategic revegetation (using locally occurring trees or shrubs, including eucalypts). Local native vegetation can cover 30% of the total farm area without decreasing production (Glenelg Hopkins CMA, 2003).
- Promoting connectivity in the landscape by maintaining natural vegetation along creeks and streams, protecting remnant corridors (strips of trees which connect patches of vegetation) and stepping stones (scattered trees or small patches of trees which help promote connectivity), and building on existing remnant patches of woodland.
- Protecting old paddock trees – these trees provide important food and nest sites for species such as the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.
- Maintaining a range of tree ages and planting a variety of native shrubs and groundcover species to enhance plant diversity and re-create understorey structure (this can also deter Noisy Miner dominance of sites).
- Leaving fallen trees to break down naturally and allow leaf litter to build up – this provides habitat for ground foraging birds and a place to camouflage for species such as the Bush Stone-curlew.
- Control pests and predators such as rabbits, feral cats and foxes. Also confine pets, especially cats, which are major predator of native birds.

## Surveying Woodland Birds on Farms

Another way to help woodland birds in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment area is to monitor birds on your property. This information is useful in determining the population status of woodland birds (especially for endangered or threatened species), the benefits of environmental work or tree planting/regeneration for woodland birds, and for producing guidelines for increasing woodland bird diversity in rural areas.

### 2-ha Search

The '2-ha Search' is a standard bird survey technique used by Birdlife Australia. This technique is very simple and involves actively searching a 2 hectare area for birds for 20 minutes. It is encouraged that you survey your selected area once each season for at least one year. Any birds seen or heard within the area within the 20 minute survey are recorded, though special care is needed to avoid double counting!

Information obtained from these '2-ha Search' bird surveys can be submitted to the Atlas of Australian Birds database (Birdata) either electronically or through filling out a

survey form. For more information on the atlas and how to submit data see: <http://birdlife.org.au/projects/atlas-and-birdata> or <http://birdata.com.au>

## Notes about the Booklet

Bird calls are not described in this booklet, except for inconspicuous species that are best distinguished by their call (i.e. nocturnal birds). To listen to the calls of many of the species featured in this booklet visit: <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net>

Where there are obvious differences between sexes both the male and female are pictured.

The conservation status (within Victoria) is noted for species which are endangered, vulnerable or near threatened. It is also noted where species are listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG) or if they are a member of the FFG listed Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community (VTWBC). A few species in this booklet have national conservation status, this is also noted.



## Indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge of woodland birds

Aboriginal people from at least 11 distinct language groups or dialects have resided in the Glenelg Hopkins CMA (GHCMA) region for thousands of years. These groups include Dhauwurd Wurrung, Wooloowoorroong, Kirrae Wurrung, Kee Wurrung, Peek Wurrung, Kuurn Kopan Noot and Djargurtwoorrong (known collectively as Gunditjmara or Eastern Maar peoples and in this booklet referred to as 'Mara and Maar'); Djab Wurrung, Jardwadjali, Bunganditj and Wadawurrung (see map 2). The inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in this booklet provides an insight into Aboriginal people's knowledge of and relationship with woodland birds, which continues today. It also highlights the broader significance of woodland birds so as to help improve their conservation outlook into the future. The information in the booklet has come from a range of historical and contemporary sources, as well as from discussions with Traditional Owners today. A list of the key sources used are included in Appendix B.

It is clear that woodland birds were used by Aboriginal people of the region for food, their feathers were used for ornamentation and decoration, they feature in local astronomy and mythology, and their calls, presence or behaviours indicated weather conditions, good or bad news and embodied cultural and spiritual power. All of the language groups in the region have woodland birds as significant totems, or moieties. Many Aboriginal people in the region continue to associate meteorological events, death, danger, shape-shifting and unexplained phenomena with birds and their behaviour.

Despite the obvious importance of woodland birds to the people of the region, ecological and other cultural information could only be sourced for 20 of the 101 species featured in this booklet; though Aboriginal names for 50 species were identified. These names come from all of the languages and dialects listed above, and are presented within the booklet in relevant species profiles and in Appendix A. Some of

the bird names are onomatopoeic, meaning that they are an imitation of the call of the bird, whilst others refer to an aspect of the bird's behaviour or ecology. For consistency and ease of interpretation the majority of bird names are presented in the booklet using modern spelling systems devised by linguist Barry Blake and published in various dictionaries or wordlists. The original spellings of bird names from the historical sources and alternative orthographies are included in Appendix A.

Traditional Owners within the region have stressed that as most of the written sources used in this booklet were produced over 100 years ago by non-Aboriginal people with varying degrees of cultural and language expertise, the details should be read critically and not be regarded as definitive.

## Acknowledgments

Many thanks to Joel Wright and the Laka Gunditj Language Program who provided bird names and species identification information from their South West Aboriginal Languages Program database.

Thanks to the following Traditional Owner groups and organisations who gave permission to publish Indigenous knowledge of woodland birds and participated in reviewing and recording relevant local information:

- Barengi Gadjin Aboriginal Land Council
- Bunganditj Language Reclamation Committee
- Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
- Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Budj Bim Ranger group (Windamara Aboriginal Corporation), and
- Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation.

Please note that the Indigenous information presented within the booklet remains the property of relevant Traditional Owner groups and should not be republished without their permission.



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## Guide to Symbols

The following symbols are used for the birds in this booklet if they are likely to occur in revegetated areas or in areas with coarse woody debris (fallen dead trees and the remains of large branches):



Occurs in revegetated areas



Occurs in areas with coarse woody debris

## Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

**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.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** September – January

**Similar species:** Australian King-Parrot.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** These listed Aboriginal names were recorded by early ethnographers for a bird simply identified as either a 'Lorry Parraqueet' or 'Parrot'. While these names make it somewhat difficult to ascribe a specific species, the Djab Wurrung name *Purkil* recorded by Dawson (1881) is very similar to a name *Purukil* recorded for the 'Crimson Parrot' in the neighbouring and closely-related Dja Dja Wurrung language.

## Ngaluk marang, Purkil, Porrgil



## Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

**Size:** 30cm

**Appearance:** Red head, neck and breast, with distinctive white cheek patches. Yellow- green upperparts, yellow underbody, and a yellow-green to blue-green rump. The shoulders are bright blue. Females are usually similar to males, but sometimes duller.

**Habits:** Gregarious; seen singly, in pairs or small flocks. Often feed on the ground, retreating noisily into nearby trees when disturbed.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands, grasslands, farmlands and remnant bushland. Also found in urban habitats such as parks, gardens and golf courses.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** August – February

**Similar species:** Can be distinguished from other parrots by its red head and white cheek patches.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge (for parrots):** *Food, documented hunting methods, creation stories*

Parrots and cockatoos were a source of food. They were often hunted by either throwing boomerangs into moving flocks or by attracting birds into small cleared areas with scattered seeds before capturing them with a noose. Parrot nestlings were also taken from hollows and children would hold them upside down to extract the sweet stomach contents. A type of parrot called *Prutprut* (species not identified) features in a Bunganditj creation story regarding the origin of the kangaroo.

## Kuwitj-kuwitj, Kuitj kuitj



## Musk Lorikeet

*Glossopsitta concinna*

Yukuwitj, Yukap, Yukip



**Size:** 22cm

**Appearance:** Mostly green, with a yellow patch at the side of the breast. It has a blue crown and a bright-red forehead with a red band extending behind the eyes to the ear coverts.

**Habits:** Gregarious; in pairs or small groups, often in flocks of hundreds within the canopy flowering trees. They are active and noisy.

**Habitat:** Tall dry open forests and woodlands, mainly dominated by eucalypts. They are also seen in suburban areas, parks and street trees.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** August – March

**Similar species:** Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Swift Parrot, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread, driven by flowering trees, mainly in north and central parts of the catchment area.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** The above Aboriginal names were documented for the 'Crimson-fronted Parraqueet', 'Small Green Parrokeet' and 'Green Parrakeet', amongst other descriptive terms. The Musk Lorikeet is the most likely identification for this bird given that it is both small and green. It has also been known in the past as the 'Crimson-fronted Parakeet'.



## Little Lorikeet

*Glossopsitta pusilla*



Member VTWBC

**Size:** 17cm

**Appearance:** Bright-green lorikeet with diagnostic combination of red face, black bill and green underwing coverts. Females are slightly duller.

**Habits:** Gregarious; usually in small flocks. Forage in the upper canopy of eucalypts. Active, noisy and conspicuous.

**Habitat:** Mainly dry, open eucalypt forests and woodlands.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** June – January

**Similar species:** Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet, Swift Parrot, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy, driven by flowering trees.

## Purple-crowned Lorikeet

*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*



**Size:** 18cm

**Appearance:** Generally dark green above and pale blue below, with a distinctive head pattern comprising a dark-purple crown, a band of orange-yellow across the forehead and a prominent yellow-orange patch on ear coverts. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious; typically seen in small groups, but may congregate in large flocks (hundreds of birds) at flowering trees. Active, noisy and conspicuous. Forage in the tree canopy.

**Habitat:** Open, dry eucalyptus forests and woodlands.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** August – December

**Similar species:** Musk Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Swift Parrot, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy, driven by flowering trees.

**Rainbow Lorikeet**  
*Trichoglossus haematodus*

**Kalingayi, Kalingar,  
Kalingal, Kayingal, Nenit**



**Size:** 30cm

**Appearance:** The head is blue, which is separated from the bright-green upperparts by a narrow yellow-green collar. The underparts comprise an orange breast and a blue belly. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious. Often form loud and fast-moving flocks. Mostly forage on the flowers of shrubs or trees.

**Habitat:** A wide range of treed habitats, including rainforest and woodlands, and urban areas.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** August – November

**Similar species:** Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Northern and western regions of the catchment area.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** These Aboriginal names were recorded for the 'Mountain Parrot', 'Blue Headed Parrot' and the 'Blue Mountain Parraqueet' (all documented common names for the Rainbow Lorikeet). The Bunganditj names *Kalingal* and *Kayingal* were recorded for 'a Parrot' or 'Little Parrot'. Although these names are not very apt descriptions of this distinctly colourful bird, they most likely apply to this particular species given their similarity with names from neighbouring Aboriginal language groups.

**Red-rumped Parrot**  
*Psephotus haematonotus*

**Pirndirak, Linukur, Nginungu**



**Size:** 26cm

**Appearance:** Males are bright green, with a blue-green head, a red rump, and yellow shoulders and belly. The female is a duller, olive-green, with a green rump and a conspicuous pale underwing-bar.

**Habits:** Gregarious except when breeding; usually in pairs or family parties. Often seen perched in trees or foraging on the ground.

**Habitat:** Open grasslands or lightly timbered plains, as well as along watercourses and in farmland. Also found in urban areas with open grassy spaces.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** August – December

**Similar species:** Blue-winged Parrot.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** The listed Aboriginal names for this species were documented for a bird known to the recorders as 'Grass Parraqueet' or 'Swamp Parraqueet'. 'Grass Parrot', referring to the ground-feeding habits of this species, was a frequently used common name for the Red-rumped Parrot. Dawson (1881) recorded Aboriginal names for both the 'Grass Parraqueet' and the 'Swamp Parraqueet', the latter which is presumably the Ground Parrot.



## Blue-winged Parrot

*Neophema chrysostoma*

Tarut



**Size:** 21cm

**Appearance:** Olive-green above and yellow below, with green-blue upper tail and a dark blue patch on the wings. A yellow facial patch extends back to the eye, and a narrow, dark-blue band runs across the forehead. The female is duller than the male.

**Habits:** Usually seen in pairs or small parties. Forage mostly on the ground.

**Habitat:** Favour grasslands, saltmarsh, grassy woodlands and forests, often near wetlands. Can also be seen in altered environments such golf-courses and paddocks.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** October – January

**Similar species:** Red-rumped Parrot, Elegant Parrot.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly southwest, but also in the region surrounding the Grampians.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** The Aboriginal name *Tarut* was documented for a bird referred to as the 'blue parrot'. In the absence of any other obviously blue parrots in the region, it is most likely to be this species which has a large dark blue wing patch and a blue-green tail.

## Swift Parrot

*Lathamus discolor*



Endangered, Listed FFG, Member VTWBC  
Nationally Endangered

**Size:** 25cm

**Appearance:** Mostly bright green with a dark-blue patch on the crown, and a prominent red face, chin and throat, narrowly bordered with yellow. Sexes differ slightly; females are generally slightly duller.

**Habits:** Gregarious; usually in small parties, occasionally in large flocks. Typically seen feeding in the canopy of flowering trees. Often noisy, active and conspicuous, but can feed silently.

**Habitat:** Dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands, suburban parks and gardens and flowering fruit trees.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** September – January (breed in Tasmania). Occur on the mainland in winter.

**Similar species:** Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Within woodlands around Ararat and Stawell over winter.

## Long-billed Corella

*Cacatua tenuirostris*

**Size:** 40cm

**Appearance:** Has a distinctive long upper mandible to its bill. Mostly white, with a faint yellow wash on its tail and underneath its wings. Has orange-red splashes on its forehead, throat and an orange-red crescent across its upper breast. The eye ring is pale grey-blue. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** A gregarious species, often seen foraging in large flocks on the ground.



**Habitat:** Grassy woodlands and grasslands, including pasture land and urban parks.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** July – December

**Similar species:** Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Little Corella, Galah.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Significant totem, body adornment (feathers), creation stories, astronomy, meteorology*

‘White Cockatoos’ (either this species or the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo) are a significant totem or moiety ancestor for many language groups across the region. The red neck feathers of the Long-billed Corella were used in body adornments, including bridal head dresses. In a documented Djab Wurrung and Kirrae Wurrung creation story, a giant ancestor called *Markupang* had eight dingoes that could transform into different species of birds with diverse qualities, from watchful and noisy to swift and voracious. One of the pack could assume the form of a ‘White Cockatoo’. In another creation story from the west of the region, fire was first obtained from a Long-billed Corella (‘Cockatoo’) ancestor who had carried it in its crest. In Kee Wurrung astronomy, the Pleiades constellation is said to be *Kuurkeheear* or a ‘flock of cockatoos’ (Long-billed Corellas), while the pink to orange anti-twilight arch in the east at sunset is called *Kuurokeheear puuron*, or ‘white cockatoo twilight’.

## Galah

*Eolophus roseicapillus*



**Size:** 35cm

**Appearance:** Mostly grey above and deep pink on head, neck and underbody, with pinkish-white cap and short crest. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious; seen singly, in pairs or large flocks. Forage mainly on the ground, but also in foliage of trees. They are active, noisy and conspicuous.

**Habitat:** A variety of timbered habitats, usually near water.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** July – March

**Similar species:** Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Long-billed Corella, Little Corella.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.



## Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

*Cacatua galerita*

**Size:** 48cm

### Appearance:

Wholly white with a conspicuous yellow crest, also has a yellow wash on the underside of the wings. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious; seen in pairs, small parties and flocks of hundreds. Forage mainly on the ground. Usually active, noisy and conspicuous.



**Habitat:** Found in a variety of timbered habitats; common around human settlements.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** July – February

**Similar species:** Long-billed Corella, Little Corella, Galah, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Significant totem, body adornment (feathers), object decoration (feathers), indicator species (call indicates the approach of friends), creation stories*

The 'White Cockatoo' – either this species or the Long-billed Corella – is a significant totem or moiety ancestor for many language groups across the region. The crest and wing feathers of the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo were utilised in headdresses and to decorate objects. For Maar and Mara people, the call of the 'White Cockatoo' foretold the approach of friends. The cockatoo ancestor, *Maa*, features in a Bunganditj creation story regarding how fire was obtained, and in a Djab Wurrung and Kirrae Wurrung creation story, one of the dingoes in ancestor *Markupang's* pack assumed the form of a 'White Cockatoo' (see Long-billed Corella).

## Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

**Size:** 60cm

**Appearance:** Mostly black, with a yellow cheek patch and yellow panels on the tail. Sexes differ slightly, including larger yellow cheek patches on the female.

**Habits:** Gregarious; seen in pairs or small parties. Mainly occur in trees, only coming to the ground to drink or feed on fallen pine cones or larvae from the base of trees.

**Habitat:** Inhabits a variety of habitat types, but favour eucalypt or banksia woodlands and pine plantations.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** October – March

**Similar species:** Gang-gang Cockatoo, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Significant totem, names onomatopoeic, indicator species (call indicates the approach of friends), meteorology*

The 'Black Cockatoo' – either this species or the Red-tailed Black-cockatoo – is a significant totem or moiety ancestor for many language groups across the region. This ancestral being is known as *Kapatj/Gamadj*. The other listed names for this bird (*Wilan, Wotan, Wiran* and *Wila*) are an imitation of its call. For Maar and Mara people, the call of the black cockatoo foretold the approach of friends. Wadawurrung people continue to regard this species as a 'rain-bird'. In documented Kee Wurrung meteorology, the dark segment (blue-grey wedge) beneath the antitwilight arch (the sky's pink to orange glow in the east at sunset) is called *Kappihear puuron*, or 'black cockatoo twilight'.

**Wilan, Wotan, Wiran,  
Wirran, Wila,  
(Kapatj/Gamadj)**



## Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo

*Calyptorhynchus banksii*

Endangered, Listed FFG  
Nationally Endangered

**Size:** 58cm

**Appearance:** Males are mostly glossy black, with an erectile crest, and bright red or barred yellow panels in the tail. Females are generally duller, brown-black, and have a slightly paler underbody. Feathers of the head, neck and upperwings are covered in pale yellow spots.

**Habits:** Gregarious and conspicuous often in large flocks, but also seen in pairs and threes. Mainly arboreal, but also forage on the ground.

**Habitat:** Mostly occur in eucalyptus forest and woodland.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** October – May

**Similar species:** Gang-gang Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Western region of catchment area.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Significant totem, names describe behaviour or are onomatopoeic, indicator species (call indicates the approach of friends), meteorology*  
The 'Black Cockatoo' – either this species or the Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo – is a significant totem or moiety ancestor for many language groups across the region. This ancestral being is known as *Kapatj/Gamadj*. The first three listed Aboriginal names have been translated as 'eater of she-oak cones' and are descriptive of this species' feeding behaviour. Both the Bunganditj name *Triyn* and the Wadawurrung name *Djarriyn* appear to refer to the idiosyncratic call of this important bird. For Maar and Mara people, the call of the 'black cockatoo' foretold the approach of friends. In documented Kee Wurrung meteorology, the dark segment (blue-grey wedge) beneath the antitwilight arch (the sky's pink to orange glow in the east at sunset) arch is called *Kappihear puuron*, or 'black cockatoo twilight'.

Ponpon tirimot, Ponpon  
puramuk, Ponponturong, Triyn,  
Djarriyn, (Kapatj/Gamadj)



**Gang-gang Cockatoo**  
*Callocephalon fimbriatum*

**Miran, Mraa**



**Size:** 34cm

**Appearance:** Males have a scarlet head and crest, with the rest of the body slate-grey. Females have a dark-grey head and crest, with the feathers of the underparts edged pink and yellow.

**Habits:** Gregarious; usually seen in pairs or small flocks. Generally quiet and inconspicuous, they are usually located in food trees by the sounds of feeding and falling debris.

**Habitat:** Tall eucalypt forests and woodlands; occasionally in urban parks and gardens.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** October – January

**Similar species:** Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Flying birds seen against light could be mistaken for a Galah.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Grampians and southwest region of the catchment area.



## Painted Honeyeater

*Grantiella picta*



Vulnerable, Listed FFG, Member VTWBC

**Size:** 15cm

**Appearance:** Males have black upperparts and white underparts with some black streaks on the flanks, also has bright yellow panels in the wings and tail. Females are duller and lack streaks.

**Habits:** Seen singly, in pairs or in small groups, feeding in the canopy of eucalypts and mistletoe.

**Habitat:** Dry open forests and woodlands; sometimes also in urban parks and gardens.

**Nest:** A cup-shaped nest made from grass and fine roots, and bound with spider webs.

**Nesting season:** October – February

**Similar species:** New Holland Honeyeater.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Very uncommon but records around Ararat.

## New Holland Honeyeater

*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*



**Size:** 18cm

**Appearance:** Mostly black above with white streaks, and white below with black streaks, with a large yellow wing patch and yellow sides on the tail. It has small white patches on its head. Sexes are alike, but females are slightly smaller.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, in twos or small groups up to 10. Forage at all levels, but mainly in shrub layer. Active and pugnacious. Flight is fast and often erratic.

**Habitat:** Forests and woodlands, especially those with a dense shrub layer. Also found in urban parks and gardens.

**Nest:** Woven cup-shaped nest made from twigs, grass, strips of bark and other fine material.

**Nesting season:** Recorded all months, mostly July – September.

**Similar species:** Crescent Honeyeater, White-fronted Honeyeater, Painted Honeyeater.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

## Blue-faced Honeyeater

*Entomyzon cyanotis*



**Size:** 29cm

**Appearance:** Golden-olive above and white below, with a black head, neck and bib, and striking blue skin around the eye. Sexes are alike, but females are slightly smaller.

**Habits:** Noisy and gregarious, they are usually seen in pairs or small flocks, foraging mainly in trees, on bark and limbs, among foliage and at flowers.

**Habitat:** Mostly found in open forests and woodlands, close to water. Also seen in orchards, farmland and urban parks, gardens and golf courses.

**Nest:** A neat round cup of rough bark.

**Nesting season:** November – January

**Similar species:** Black-chinned Honeyeater.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Uncommon, mostly in north and far west regions of the catchment area.

## Brown-headed Honeyeater

*Melithreptus brevirostris*



**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.



## Black-chinned Honeyeater

*Melithreptus gularis*



Vulnerable, Listed FFG, Member VTWBC

**Size:** 15cm

**Appearance:** Olive green above, pale brown grey to off-white below. The head is black with a prominent white crescent across the back of the neck. It has a black chin bounded by white on each side, and a bright blue patch of skin above the eye. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious; occur in small groups. Usually forage in the upper canopy on the outermost flowers and foliage. Noisy, gregarious and active.

**Habitat:** Open eucalypt forests and woodlands, often along waterways, and is very occasionally seen in gardens and street trees.

**Nest:** A compact, cup-shaped nest formed from bark fibres and other fine materials. Has a felt-like appearance.

**Nesting season:** Breeding recorded in all months.

**Similar species:** White-naped Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly in and around Grampians, also in the west in low numbers.

## White-naped Honeyeater

*Melithreptus lunatus*



**Size:** 14cm

**Appearance:** Olive-green above, with a black cap, a white band across the back of the neck, and a bright-orange crescent above the eye. The underparts are white, with the flanks and sides of the breast washed grey brown. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious; usually in pairs or small groups, but also form large flocks. Usually feed in the canopy, among outer foliage of tall trees, but also in understorey. Noisy, active and acrobatic when foraging.

**Habitat:** Open forests and woodlands. Also found in urban gardens.

**Nest:** A small open cup made from grass, bark and spider webs.

**Nesting season:** October – January

**Similar species:** Black-chinned Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater.

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

## Singing Honeyeater

*Lichenostomus virescens*



**Size:** 19cm

**Appearance:** Upperbody is plain grey-brown and underbody is white to grey with dark grey-brown streaks. There is a distinctive black streak through the eye, bordered by a yellow streak below the eye. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Occur singly, in pairs or small groups. Pugnacious, sometimes chasing other birds. Forage in low trees and shrubs, also on the ground, where they hop actively.

**Habitat:** Found mostly in open shrublands and low woodlands, especially dominated by acacias. It is often seen in urban parks and gardens and around farmland.

**Nest:** Open cup-nest formed from matted grass.

**Nesting season:** July – January

**Similar species:** Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Crescent Honeyeater, White-fronted Honeyeater.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly occurs within coastal areas.

## Fuscous Honeyeater

*Lichenostomus fuscus*



Member VTWBC

**Size:** 15cm

**Appearance:** Olive-brown above, with a grey-brown breast and the remainder of the underparts off white with light grey-brown streaking. There is also a small yellow neck plume. Sexes are alike, but females are slightly smaller.

**Habits:** Usually seen in pairs or small flocks. Hop and flutter actively when foraging among foliage in trees and shrubs.

**Habitat:** Inhabit open dry eucalypt forests and woodlands with a shrubby understorey; sometimes found on farms and in gardens.

**Nest:** A delicate rounded cup made from grass, spider webs and bark.

**Nesting season:** August – March

**Similar species:** White-plumed Honeyeater.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly in and around the Grampians.



## Yellow-tufted Honeyeater

*Lichenostomus melanops*



**Size:** 19cm

**Appearance:** Olive-brown above, yellowish grey below, with a black face mask and bright-yellow ear tufts and sides of the throat. Sexes are alike, but females are slightly smaller.

**Habits:** Seen singly, in twos, or sometimes in groups of up to 10. Feed in the canopy of trees and shrubs.

**Habitat:** Found in open dry forests and woodlands dominated by eucalypts, often near water. They also sometimes visit gardens.

**Nest:** A tightly woven cup-shaped nest, which are hung in understorey shrubs.

**Nesting season:** July – May

**Similar species:** This species is much brighter and more conspicuous than other honeyeaters in the area.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly in and around the Grampians.

## Yellow-faced Honeyeater

*Lichenostomus chrysops*



**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).

## White-eared Honeyeater

*Lichenostomus leucotis*



**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.

## White-plumed Honeyeater

*Lichenostomus penicillatus*



**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.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.



## Eastern Spinebill

*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*



**Size:** 15cm

**Appearance:** Males have a grey-black crown, a contrasting white chin and a rufous throat patch. The upperparts are mainly dark grey, with a rufous collar. The underparts are mainly buff, though the throat and breast are white, with a black line on either side of the breast. Females are similar but with less distinct markings.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, in twos and small parties. Active and noisy; often seen darting rapidly and erratically through vegetation.

**Habitat:** Heathland, forest and woodland.

**Nest:** A small cup of twigs, grass and bark.

**Nesting season:** September – March

**Similar species:** Tawny-crowned Honeyeater.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Red Wattlebird**  
*Anthochaera carunculata*

**Kanak wurot, Kani yulong,  
Yangguk, Yanguu, Thiriri**



**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.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Names describes behaviour*

These listed Aboriginal names were recorded for a species of bird generically described as the 'Wattlebird', and could refer to either the Red or Little Wattlebird. The Djab Wurrung name *Kani yulong* and Kuurn Kopan Noot name *Kanak wurot* have both been translated as 'peck at tree', which aptly describes a foraging behaviour of wattlebirds. The Bunganditj and Peek Wurrung names, *Yanguu* and *Yangguk* respectively, appear to be onomatopoeic.

## Little Wattlebird

*Anthochaera chrysoptera*



**Size:** 28cm

**Appearance:** Mostly dark grey-brown above, with grey underparts, heavily streaked with white. The streaking is finer around the throat, becoming more blotched on the sides of the belly. Sexes are alike, though females can be slightly smaller than males.

**Habits:** Seen singly, in pairs or small parties. Active, noisy and conspicuous. Forage mainly in shrubs or lower canopy.

**Habitat:** Prefer dry and scrubby habitats such as banksia heaths, forests and woodlands; also urban parks and gardens.

**Nest:** A large cup of twigs and grass.

**Nesting season:** August – May

**Similar species:** Red Wattlebird, Noisy Friarbird.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly around the Grampians and coastal areas in the west of the catchment area.

**Noisy Miner**  
*Manorina melanocephala*

**Putj, Tuwitj, Purpur,  
Pirndiyn, Pirit, Birndayt**



**Size:** 26cm

**Appearance:** Mostly grey with a broad black band across the crown and dark-grey cheeks and prominent yellow skin behind the eye. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious, living in communal groups. They are conspicuous, noisy and aggressive. Forage in foliage from canopy to low shrub layer, and sometimes on the ground.

**Habitat:** Woodlands and open forests. They also occur in urban areas, where they are common in parks and gardens.

**Nest:** Cup-shaped nest made of loosely woven twigs and grass.

**Nesting season:** August – January

**Similar species:** Common Myna, similar size and features, but the Common Myna is mostly brown

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Creation story*

In a documented Djab Wurrung and Kirrae Wurrung creation story, one of the dingoes in ancestor *Markupang*'s pack assumed the form of a 'Soldier-bird' or Noisy Miner.



## White-fronted Chat

*Epthianura albifrons*



**Size:** 12cm

**Appearance:** Males have a white face, breast and belly, with a distinctive black band that extends from the crown and neck, down onto and across the breast. Females are largely grey above and whitish below, with a smaller and less distinct breast band.

**Habits:** Usually seen in twos or small parties. Active and conspicuous; often forage on bare or grassy ground.

**Habitat:** Saltmarsh and other damp areas with low vegetation, such as swampy farmland and roadside verges.

**Nest:** Deep cup-shaped nest woven from grass, twigs and plant fibre.

**Nesting season:** August – April

**Similar species:** Orange Chat, similar shape, but very different colouring.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Wetlands and floodplains, particularly southern part of the catchment area.

## Laughing Kookaburra

*Dacelo novaeguineae*

**Size:** 42cm

**Appearance:** Generally off-white below and brown on the back and wings. The tail is rufous with broad black barring. Has a conspicuous dark brown eye-stripe.

**Habits:** Usually in pairs or family parties. Forage by perching quietly for long periods then pouncing onto prey on the ground.

**Habitat:** Inhabit most areas where there are suitable trees for roosting and foraging.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** September – February

**Similar species:** Other Kingfishers, but the Laughing Kookaburra is larger in size.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Indicator species (influence on children's growth, danger), creation story*

In documented Bunganditj traditions, the call of the Laughing Kookaburra was seen to have an influence on a child's growth. According to contemporary Dhauwurd Wurrung beliefs, this bird is an indicator of danger and can alert people to the nearness of snakes. In a Bunganditj creation story, a kookaburra ancestor, *Quatang* joins in a fight to obtain fire from *Mar*, a cockatoo ancestor who previously had exclusive use of fire.

Kunith, Tharkuk, Kurng kurng,  
Kuru-kuru, Kuwatang, Kuwarrk



## Sacred Kingfisher

*Todiramphus sanctus*

**Size:** 21cm

**Appearance:** Turquoise blue cap and upperparts, buff-white underparts and a broad cream collar, with a broad black eye stripe extending from the base of its bill to the nape. Sexes are similar, although females are generally lighter in colour.

**Habits:** Seen singly, in pairs or family parties. Often seen sitting quietly on a branch, post or overhead wire while watching for prey on the ground.

**Habitat:** Inhabit woodlands, mangroves and paperbark forest, tall open eucalypt forest and melaleuca forest.

**Nest:** Tree hollows or hollows excavated in river banks.

**Nesting season:** September – March

**Similar species:** Azure Kingfisher, Red-backed Kingfisher.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Around Grampians and the southwest part of the catchment area. A summer migrant.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Names describe behaviour*

The Kuurn Kopan Noot name *Panpan kuna-mang* and Djab Wurrung name *Panpan yatjuk* have been translated as ‘catch fish’, obviously describing one of the key behaviours of kingfishers. Some of the listed names may apply to the Azure Kingfisher or to kingfishers generally.

**Turan, Tan-tan, Panpan kuna-mang,  
Panpan kunamil, Panpan yatjuk, Yulu**



## Rainbow Bee-eater

*Merops ornatus*



**Size:** 24cm

**Appearance:** The crown is golden and the chin and upper throat are orange-yellow, with a black band across the lower throat; there is a broad black eye-stripe. The upperparts are green, with the flight feathers coppery and black tipped. The breast is green and the lower abdomen is blue. The tail, which has long tail streamers, is black, often with a blue tinge. Sexes are similar, though females have shorter, thicker tail streamers.

**Habits:** Gregarious; usually in pairs or small flocks. Noisy and conspicuous. Often seen perching on fence posts or overhead wires from where they make dashing flights after flying insects.

**Habitat:** Open forest, woodland, shrubland and cleared areas, usually near water. Also occur on farmland with remnant vegetation.

**Nest:** A tunnel excavated into a sandy bank or roadside cutting.

**Nesting season:** November – January

**Similar species:** Sacred Kingfisher, Red-backed Kingfisher.

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



## Crested Pigeon

*Ocyphaps lophotes*

Warik, Wurep

**Size:** 33cm

### Appearance:

Mostly grey-brown, grading to pinkish brown on the underparts. The wings have black bars and glossy green and purple patches. Has a conspicuous thin black crest.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, in twos or small parties. Feed on the ground.



**Habitat:** Lightly wooded grasslands in rural and urban areas. Usually near water.

**Nest:** A delicate nest of twigs, placed in a tree or dense bush.

**Nesting season:** Usually August – March; can breed at any time.

**Similar species:** Spotted Dove, Peaceful Dove.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge (for pigeons):** *Food source, documented hunting methods*

Pigeons were an important food source. They were hunted in great numbers at waterholes using a brush fence corral and a noose on the end of a long stick. This stick is known as a *Parim* in Djab Wurrung and a *Patkiyang* in both Peek Wurrung and Kuurn Kopan Noot. Pigeons were also captured using snares.

**Common Bronzewing**  
*Phaps chalcoptera*

**Kuri, Taap, Kuren,  
Kurm, Ngurre**



**Size:** 33cm

**Appearance:** The head has a buff forehead (on males) and a brown crown; there is a pale stripe below and around the eye. The upperparts are olive brown, and the wings have iridescent bronze, purple and yellow spots. The breast is pinkish-brown and the belly is blue-grey. Females are similar but have a blue-grey forehead and are generally duller.

**Habits:** Normally seen singly, in pairs or small flocks. Feed on the ground. Cautious, rarely allowing close approach.

**Habitat:** Widespread in open dry sclerophyll forest and woodland with an open understorey of shrubs or grasses.

**Nest:** An untidy nest of sticks and twigs normally placed low down in a tree or shrub.

**Nesting season:** August – December

**Similar species:** Brush Bronzewing.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.

## Striated Pardalote

*Pardalotus striatus*



**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.

## Spotted Pardalote

*Pardalotus punctatus*



**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.



## Speckled Warbler

*Chthonicola sagittata*



Vulnerable, Listed FFG, Member VTWBC

**Size:** 11cm

**Appearance:** Dark-brown on the upperparts with buff streaks and a dark stripe on the crown and a prominent white eyebrow. The underparts are cream with bold black streaks. The tail has a black band with a white tip. Sexes are alike, though females have a chestnut stripe between the crown and the white eyebrow and males have a black stripe.

**Habits:** Gregarious; usually seen in pairs or small parties. Often forage on the ground, among leaf litter or beneath shrubs or trees.

**Habitat:** Dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands dominated by eucalypts.

**Nest:** Domed with a side entrance; made from grass, bark and other organic material. Nests are often built on the ground and are concealed among grass or low shrubs.

**Nesting season:** July – January

**Similar species:** Striated Thornbill, Striated Fieldwren.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly in and around the Grampians.

## Flame Robin

*Petroica phoenicea*

**Size:** 13cm

**Appearance:** Males have a dark-grey head and upperparts with a white patch on the lower forehead, and white wing bars and edges to the tail. The underparts are mostly bright orange-red, with a white lower belly. Females are mostly grey-brown with a pale buff wing stripe, and white edges to the tail.

**Habits:** Mostly seen singly, though form small flocks outside the breeding season.

Take prey from the ground, pouncing onto it from exposed perches, such as fences.

**Habitat:** Forest and woodland in breeding season, but at other times occur in more open habitats, including grassland, farmland and golf courses.

**Nest:** A cup-shaped nest made from grass, bark and spider webs.

**Nesting season:** August – January

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

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but seasonal (autumn/winter) and patchy.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Indicator event (signals coming of cool weather)*

It is difficult to confidently assign recorded Aboriginal names to either the Flame or Scarlet Robin as both are frequently referred to as the 'Robin Red-breast'. Dawson (1881) also used confusing descriptive names to distinguish these two species. He documented the Kuurn Kopan Noot name *Marn-marn-ngurat* for both this bird and the 'White-fronted Flycatcher' (probably the Restless Flycatcher). For some Maar people, the arrival of the Flame Robin heralds the coming of cool weather, when this species migrates from mountainous country to lower altitudes from Autumn onwards.

## Marn-marn-ngurat, Pilp nguniat



## Scarlet Robin

*Petroica boodang*

**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.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Mythology*

It is difficult to confidently assign recorded Aboriginal names to either the Flame or Scarlet Robin as both are frequently referred to as the 'Robin Red-breast'. Dawson (1881) also used confusing descriptive names to distinguish these two species. *Tatkana* the 'Robin Red-breast' ancestor features in a Bunganditj creation story regarding how fire was obtained from *Mar*, a cockatoo man who previously had exclusive use of fire. A documented version of this story tells that *Tatkana's* breast was singed red when he got too close to ancestor *Mar's* fire.

## Timon, Tjimp kirk, Tatkana



## Red-capped Robin

*Petroica goodenovii*



Member VTWBC

**Size:** 12cm

**Appearance:** Males are black above with a distinctive scarlet cap and white shoulders, with white edges to the tail. The underparts comprise a black throat, scarlet breast and white belly. Females are grey-brown above and off-white below, with a diffuse reddish cap, brown-black wings (barred buff to white), and some have a faint red smudge on the breast.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly or in twos. Usually rather quiet. Forage mostly on or near the ground, and sometimes in low shrubs.

**Habitat:** Dry habitats with tall trees or shrubs, such as eucalypt, acacia and cypress pine woodlands. Occasionally seen on farms with scattered trees and in vineyards and orchards.

**Nest:** Open, cup-shaped nest made from bark and grass.

**Nesting season:** August - January

**Similar species:** Scarlet Robin, Flame Robin, Pink Robin, Rose Robin, Mistletoebird.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Uncommon, mostly in northern parts of the catchment area.



## Hooded Robin

*Melanodryas cucullata*



Member VTWBC

**Size:** 16cm

**Appearance:** Males have a black hood, back and wings with a white shoulder bar and wing stripe; the underparts are white. Females are similar but greyer with a brown-grey head and a dark-brown wing with a white stripe.

**Habits:** Usually seen in pairs or small groups. Rather shy and quiet. They perch on low exposed sites such as dead branches, tree stumps or fence posts, pouncing onto the ground to capture their prey, and then returning to their perch.

**Habitat:** Lightly timbered woodland, mainly dominated by acacias or eucalypts.

**Nest:** A cup-shaped nest of leaves and bark.

**Nesting season:** August – January

**Similar species:** Female similar to Jacky Winter.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Very uncommon, in central-west parts of the catchment area and the Grampians.

## Eastern Yellow Robin

*Eopsaltria australis*

Pulun potj



**Size:** 16cm

**Appearance:** Grey above, with olive to yellow patch on rump, yellow below, with off-white chin. Sexes alike.

**Habits:** Usually seen in pairs, or occasionally in small family parties. Often seen perching on low branches from which they pounce onto the ground to capture their prey.

**Habitats:** A wide range of habitats, from dry woodlands to rainforests; also sometimes in urban parks and gardens.

**Nest:** A woven cup of bark, grass and other vegetation.

**Nesting season:** July – January

**Similar species:** White-throated Gerygone.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly Grampians and within woodlands in the southwest region of the catchment area.

## Mistletoebird

*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*



**Size:** 10cm

**Appearance:** Males have a glossy blue-black head, wings and upperparts, a bright-red throat and breast, a white belly with a central dark streak, and a bright-red undertail. Females are grey above, white below with a grey streak on the belly, and a paler red undertail.

**Habits:** Occur singly or in pairs. Usually seen high in the tree canopy, or flying swiftly and erratically.

**Habitat:** A wide variety of wooded habitats where mistletoe grows, especially eucalypt forests and woodlands.

**Nest:** A silky, pear-shaped nest with a slit-like entrance, made from matted plant down and spider webs.

**Nesting season:** October – February

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

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.

**Jacky Winter**  
*Microeca fascinans*

**Talundiya, Timkirn, Tjalunwir**



Member VTWBC

**Size:** 13cm

**Appearance:** Grey-brown upperparts and whitish underparts. There is a faint pale eye-line. The dark tail has prominent white outer feathers which are obvious when it lands. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly or in twos. Active and restless; often dart out from a low exposed perch to capture flying insects. When perched, it restlessly wags its tail from side to side.

**Habitat:** Open woodland with an open shrub layer and much bare ground. They are often seen in farmland and parks.

**Nest:** Small cup-shaped nest made from grass, bark and spider webs.

**Nesting season:** September – January

**Similar species:** Southern Whiteface, Western Gerygone.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** The three names were documented for the 'Grey Robin', which likely refers to this species but may also be the Rose Robin.



## Restless Flycatcher

*Myiagra inquieta*



**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.

## Willie Wagtail

*Rhipidura leucophrys*

**Size:** 20cm

### Appearance:

The upperparts are black and the underparts are mostly white, though the chin and throat are black. They have conspicuous white eyebrows. Sexes are alike.



### Habits:

Usually seen singly or in pairs, less often in small groups. Active and rarely still, continuously fanning and wagging its tail from side to side. Forage aerially, on the ground or from foliage, branches or the trunks of trees.

**Habitat:** Open habitats, especially open forests and woodlands. Often associated with watercourses and wetlands; common in urban areas.

**Nest:** A neatly woven cup of grass and spider webs.

**Nesting season:** August – February

**Similar species:** Restless Flycatcher, Satin Flycatcher, Leaden Flycatcher.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Names onomatopoeic, indicator species, restrictions on killing*

Even though not documented, the Aboriginal names are clearly an imitation of the alarm call of this species. In Maar and Mara traditions the Willie Wagtail belonged to both men and women and was never killed because it would attack dangerous snakes and warn of their approach. Mara now regard unusual behaviour of this bird as a harbinger of impending death.

## Grey Fantail

*Rhipidura albiscapa*

Timp-timp, Yeelpitj, Yilpilap



**Size:** 15cm

**Appearance:** Grey above, with white eyebrow, throat and tail edges. The underparts are largely cream-coloured. Sexes are alike. This species is easily recognised by its constantly fanned tail.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly or in twos. They are conspicuous, active and noisy, and forage by fluttering about the undergrowth and lower to mid levels of the canopy.

**Habitat:** A wide range of treed habitats including eucalypt forests and woodlands. Often in gardens.

**Nest:** A cup-shaped nest made with fine grass and spider webs.

**Nesting season:** September – February

**Similar species:** Willie Wagtail, Rufous Fantail.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** These three Aboriginal names were documented for the 'Wagtail Flycatcher' which most likely refers to this species given it is also known as the 'Land Wagtail'.

## Superb Fairy-wren

*Malurus cyaneus*

**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.



## Partpartitj, Tiriyr, Tjitjir



**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.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Name onomatopoeic, hunting lure, indicator species*

The documented Kuurn Kopan Noot name *Tiriyr* and Djab Wurrung name *Tjitjir* are imitations of the call of this species. This small, bright bird was used as a live lure (tied on the end of a long wand) when hunting emus, bustards and brolgas. For some Maar people, the appearance of the male blue wrens, when they begin to moult into breeding plumage in the spring, heralds the coming of warm weather.



## White-browed Scrubwren

*Sericornis frontalis*

**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.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Name onomatopoeic*

These three listed Aboriginal names were documented for a bird simply described as the 'Slate-coloured Wren'. This bird is most likely either the White-browed Scrubwren or the similar-looking Chestnut-rumped Heathwren. The apparently onomatopoeic name *Titjitj* is however a more apt imitation of the double-whistle call of the White-browed Scrubwren than the melodious song of the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren.

## Chestnut-rumped Heathwren

*Calamanthus pyrrhopygia*



Vulnerable, Listed FFG, Member VTWBC

**Size:** 14cm

**Appearance:** The head is dark brown with a narrow pale eyebrow; the upperparts are mostly dark brown, with a rich chestnut uppertail. The underparts are whitish with bold streaks in males, and buff with bold streaking in females.

**Habits:** Seen singly or in pairs, occasionally in small groups. Forage mainly on the ground beneath dense low vegetation, and sometimes also in low shrubs.

**Habitat:** Dense heathland or sclerophyll forests or woodlands with a dense understorey or ground layer.

**Nest:** Compact and domed with a side entrance built on or close to the ground.

**Nesting season:** July – December

**Similar species:** White-browed Scrubwren, Striated Fieldwren.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Uncommon, but found in the Grampians and central-west part of the catchment area.

## Brown Thornbill

*Acanthiza pusilla*



**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.

## Yellow-rumped Thornbill

*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

Ngarayn piyal



**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.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** The name *Ngarayn piyal* was documented for the 'Yellow-rumped Wren'. In the absence of any other yellow-rumped, 'wren'-like bird in the region, it most likely applies to this species.



## Striated Thornbill

*Acanthiza lineata*



**Size:** 10cm

**Appearance:** Greenish upperparts, off-white to cream underparts, a rufous-brown cap, bold dusky streaking on chin, throat and breast. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Usually in small groups or flocks of up to 20 birds. Arboreal; typically seen moving actively through the outer foliage of eucalypts.

**Habitat:** Eucalypt forests and woodlands, mallee shrublands, and riparian areas.

**Nest:** Oval, domed, with a hooded entrance. Made from bark, lichen, moss and spider webs (the nest is commonly covered with white material).

**Nesting season:** July – January

**Similar species:** Brown Thornbill.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

## Southern Whiteface

*Aphelocephala leucopsis*



**Size:** 11cm

**Appearance:** Grey-brown above with a blackish tail with a white tip, and creamy white below with a grey wash across the breast and on its flanks. The face is off-white. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious; typically seen in pairs or small parties. Forage mainly on the ground, turning over leaf litter and other debris with its bill.

**Habitat:** Woodlands and shrublands, with an understorey of grasses and shrubs.

**Nest:** Bulky and domed, with entrance in side or top.

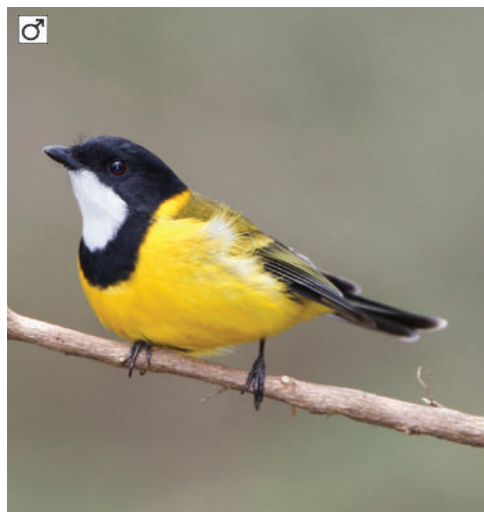
**Nesting season:** July – December

**Similar species:** Western Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, Jacky Winter.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Very uncommon, around Hamilton and Grampians.

## Golden Whistler

*Pachycephala pectoralis*



**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.

## Rufous Whistler

*Pachycephala rufiventris*



**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).



**Grey Shrike-thrush**  
*Colluricincla harmonica*

**Wiriwil kurak, Yayakula**



**Size:** 25cm

**Appearance:** Medium-large thrush-like bird. Grey with an olive-grey back, and pale grey-white cheeks and underparts.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly or in pairs or, after breeding, in small family parties. Forage on the ground and at all levels in vegetation (logs, tree-trunks, shrubs and canopy), mainly by gleaning.

**Habitat:** Forests and woodlands.

**Nest:** A cup-shaped structure of dried vegetation.

**Nesting season:** August – January

**Similar species:** Female Common Blackbird.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** The listed Peek Wurrung, Kuurn Kopan Noot and Djab Wurrung names were documented for the 'Shrike' and almost certainly refer to this species.

## Crested Shrike-tit

*Falcunculus frontatus*

**Wawilan**



**Size:** 17cm

**Appearance:** The head has striking black-and-white striped head and a small crest. The upperbody is olive green, and the underparts are striking yellow; the wings and tail are grey. Females have a smaller crest and an olive-green throat.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, in twos or small parties. Mostly occur in trees, where they occur at all levels up to the crowns of trees.

**Habitat:** Eucalypt forests and woodlands, often in forested gullies and along rivers. Sometimes seen in parks and gardens, and on farms.

**Nest:** Deep cone-shaped nest from dry grass and bark strips.

**Nesting season:** August – December

**Similar species:** This species has a very distinct black and white head, but has similar yellow underparts as the Golden Whistler, Eastern Yellow Robin and White-throated Gerygone.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy; mainly in older vegetation (woodland remnants).

**Aboriginal knowledge:** The listed Kuurn Kopan Noot name *Wawilan* was documented for a bird referred to as the 'Titmouse, Frontal Shrike Tit'. This is almost certainly the Crested Shrike-tit as 'Frontal Shrike-tit' is an antiquated common name for this species.

## Varied Sittella

*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*



**Size:** 11cm

**Appearance:** Largely greyish above and white below, with a black cap and a dark tail with a white tip. The upper wings are dark and the underwings have an orange-rufous bar. Sexes are similar, though females have a more extensive dark cap.

**Habits:** Gregarious; usually seen in flocks. They are noisy and conspicuous, moving swiftly between trees or foraging busily over branches or the trunk.

**Habitat:** Eucalypt woodlands and forests.

**Nest:** A deep open cup, like a cone, of bark and spider webs.

**Nesting season:** September – January

**Similar species:** Southern Whiteface, Western Gerygone.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.

**Australasian Pipit**  
*Anthus novaeseelandiae*

**Tirpartayi, Wawakiyt,  
Tirtiyn tjaruk**



**Size:** 16cm

**Appearance:** Mostly brown above and whitish below, boldly streaked above and on the breast and flanks. It has pale creamy- white stripes on the eyebrows and below the cheeks. The tail is dark brown with white edges. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, but sometimes in twos or small flocks. Usually cryptic and unobtrusive, often perching seen on the ground, or on rocks, stumps or fence posts.

**Habitat:** Occupy a large range of open habitats with few or no trees, including clearings in open woodland.

**Nest:** A depression in the ground which is sometimes sheltered by a grass tussock, stone or piece of wood.

**Nesting season:** July – March

**Similar species:** Eurasian Skylark.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** These three names were documented for the 'Native Lark' or 'Pipit'.



## Silvereye

*Zosterops lateralis*



**Size:** 12cm

**Appearance:** The head is olive green with a conspicuous ring of white feathers around the eye and a pale lemon yellow chin and throat. The back is grey and the wings are olive-green, with pale-buff flanks and a white undertail.

**Habits:** Often in small flocks. Continually move about in vegetation, gleaning from leaves and branches; very occasionally forage on the ground.

**Habitat:** Occur in most wooded habitats, including orchards and urban parks and gardens.

**Nest:** A small, neatly woven cup of grasses, hair and other fine vegetation.

**Nesting season:** September – February

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

## White-browed Babbler

*Pomatostomus superciliosus*



**Size:** 19cm

**Appearance:** Dark brown-grey above with mostly white underparts. It has a pointed, curved bill, a distinct white eyebrow and dark eye-stripe. The tail is long with a white tip. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious; often in groups of up to 15 birds. Active and noisy, and forage mostly on the ground among leaf litter and vegetation.

**Habitat:** Dry sclerophyll woodlands with a shrubby understorey.

**Nest:** A domed stick nest, with a hooded side entrance.

**Nesting season:** May – January

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

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly in northeast, around Grampians and woodlands near Ararat.

**Red-browed Finch**  
*Neochmia temporalis*

**Panditayi, Yuloyn kiyar,  
Wuriwil kurrk**



**Size:** 11cm

**Appearance:** Upperparts are olive green, and the underparts are grey; the tail is black; has a conspicuous bright-red eyebrow, rump and beak. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Often in pairs or small flocks. Forage on the ground, sometimes perching on grass stems.

**Habitat:** Found in grassy areas interspersed with dense understorey vegetation, often along creeks.

**Nest:** Large and domed, with a side entrance, roughly constructed from twigs and grass.

**Nesting season:** September – April

**Similar species:** Diamond Firetail, European Goldfinch, Zebra Finch.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Creation story*

This bird features in a creation story for the southern Grampians regarding how fire was obtained for the Jardwadjali and Djab Wurrung people. In the story, *Yuloyn kiyar*, the Red-browed Finch, carries on its tail a fire stick that it stole from the crows explaining why this little bird has a red spot on its tail today (see also Brown Falcon). A Kulin fire myth gives a similar account of how the Red-browed Finch gained its red rump.

## Common Greenfinch

*Chloris chloris*



### Introduced species

**Size:** 16cm

**Appearance:** Olive green with brighter yellowish green on the lower back and rump, and yellow in the wings and tail. Sexes are similar, but females are duller.

**Habits:** Usually occur in small flocks, but sometimes form larger congregations in winter. Forage mainly on the ground, but sometimes in vegetation.

**Habitat:** Usually occur in areas with exotic trees or modified habitats such as farmland and urban parks and gardens.

**Nest:** Untidy cup-shaped nest made from twigs and grass.

**Nesting season:** October – January

**Similar species:** House Sparrow.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly coastal regions.



## European Goldfinch

*Carduelis carduelis*



**Introduced species**

**Size:** 12cm

**Appearance:** Has a red face, a black crown, and the sides of the head are white. The upperparts and flanks are brown, the abdomen and rump are white. The wings are black with conspicuous yellow bars, and the tail is black, tipped with white. Females are similar to males but have less red in the face.

**Habits:** Often found in small groups. Forage on the ground, in low vegetation and occasionally in trees.

**Habitat:** Urban or modified areas such as farmland, roadsides, railway lands and industrial areas; sometimes parks and gardens.

**Nest:** A cup-shaped nest of grass and twigs.

**Nesting season:** September – February

**Similar species:** Red-browed Finch, Diamond Firetail, Zebra Finch.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

## Diamond Firetail

*Stagonopleura guttata*



Near Threatened, Listed FFG, Member VTWBC

**Size:** 12cm

**Appearance:** Ash brown upperparts, white underparts, a grey crown, forehead and neck, and a crimson rump. There is a black band across its neck which continues down the flank to be dotted with white. The female is similar but sometimes smaller.

**Habits:** Occur singly or in pairs during the breeding season, or in small flocks. Forage mainly on the ground, close to trees or other vegetation.

**Habitat:** Open grassy woodland, heath and farmland or grassland with scattered trees.

**Nest:** A bottle shaped or spherical nest with entrance tunnel made from green grass.

**Nesting season:** October – January

**Similar species:** Red-browed Finch, European Goldfinch, Zebra Finch.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly north and northeast regions of the catchment area.

## House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*



**Introduced species**

**Size:** 15cm

**Appearance:** Males have a conspicuous grey crown, black face and throat, with black-and-brown upperparts and pale grey-brown underparts. When breeding, the black of the throat extends to the chest and upper belly. Females are paler than males and lack the grey crown and black face, having a pale-buff eye stripe instead.

**Habits:** Gregarious; seen in small flocks and large flocks in autumn-winter. Mainly forage on the ground, but sometimes forage in shrubs and trees; they are attracted to artificial sources of food.

**Habitat:** Mainly occur around human habitation, but are sometimes occur in grassland, woodland or forest away from settlement.

**Nest:** A large, untidy ball of grass and feathers, usually in roof voids and wall crevices of buildings or under bridges, as well as in thick bushes or tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** October – January

**Similar species:** Horsfield's Bushlark, Common Greenfinch.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

## Welcome Swallow

*Hirundo neoxena*

Wiyt-wiyt, Wiwitj,  
Buwiwitj, Wiwitj



**Size:** 15cm

**Appearance:** Metallic blue-black above. The forehead, throat and upper breast are all rusty-reddish, and the lower breast and belly are light grey. It has a long forked tail with a series of small white spots. Sexes are similar, but females have a slightly shorter tail.

**Habits:** Gregarious. They catch prey in flight using acrobatic flying skills and are often seen perched on overhead wires, fences or bare branches.

**Habitat:** A wide variety of habitats except in dense forests and dry inland areas.

**Nest:** An open cup of mud and grass attached to a vertical rock wall or building.

**Nesting season:** August – March

**Similar species:** Tree Martin, Fairy Martin.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Names onomatopoeic*

The documented names for this species are clearly an imitation of its call.



## Tree Martin

*Petrochelidon nigricans*



**Size:** 12cm

**Appearance:** Upperparts are metallic blue-black, with a dull-white rump, and the underparts are off-white with fine dark streaks. Has a short, slightly forked tail. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Usually occur in flocks of up to 20–30. Forage in the air, either high above the tree canopy or low over water or grass. Often perch on overhead wires or fences.

**Habitat:** Occur within a variety of habitats, especially near water, including open grassy areas, low shrublands, woodlands and forests.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** September – January

**Similar species:** Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

## Black-eared Cuckoo

*Chalcites osculans*

**Size:** 19cm

**Appearance:** Brown-grey upperparts with a pale rump. Underparts are creamy-buff and the tail is dark with a prominent narrow white tip. The face is creamy-white, with an obvious black eye-stripe. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, occasionally in twos or small parties. Forage mainly on the ground, but also in the foliage of trees and shrubs.

**Habitat:** Mainly open vegetation, especially woodlands and shrublands.

**Nest:** This species is a parasitic breeder (lays its eggs in the nests of other birds) and chooses the domed or enclosed nests of species such as the Speckled Warbler.

**Nesting season:** August – December

**Similar species:** Pallid Cuckoo; also has similar face pattern to the White-browed Babbler and White-browed Scrubwren.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Very uncommon, but possible across all of the catchment area.



## Fan-tailed Cuckoo

*Cacomantis flabelliformis*

**Size:** 26cm

**Appearance:** Generally dark slate-grey back and wings. Pale rufous below, with a bold black-and-white barred undertail; has a distinctive yellow eye ring. Sexes differ slightly; females usually paler below.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, occasionally in twos or small groups. Forage mainly on the ground but often encountered sitting quietly on a branch, stump or other perch.

**Habitat:** Well-treed areas with well-developed understorey or ground-layer.

**Nest:** This species is a parasitic breeder (lays its eggs in the nests of other birds) and chooses the domed or enclosed nests of species such as the Brown Thornbill.

**Nesting season:** August – March

**Similar species:** Pallid Cuckoo.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.



## Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

*Chalcites lucidus*



**Size:** 15cm

**Appearance:** Iridescent green upperparts, white underbody with bold dark barring and a white face with fine dark mottling. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Seen singly or in twos, occasionally in small groups. Normally inconspicuous when among foliage, but more obvious during the breeding season when they call from high perches.

**Habitat:** A wide variety of wooded habitats, from lightly wooded country to rainforest.

**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 the Brown Thornbill or Yellow-rumped Thornbill.

**Nesting season:** July – January

**Similar species:** Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy and uncommon.



## Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo

*Chalcites basalıs*



**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.

## White-throated Treecreeper

*Cormobates leucophaea*

Tirn-tirn, Tirti-iyar

**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.

**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.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Name onomatopoeic*

The documented Djab Wurrung, Kuurn Kopan Noot and Dhauwurd Wurrung name *Tirn-tirn* is an imitation of the distinctive piping call of this bird.



## Brown Treecreeper

*Climacteris picumnus*

**Size:** 17cm

**Appearance:** Upperparts are brown and underparts are strongly streaked with black and buff. Has distinct dark-streaking on the ear coverts. Sexes are similar, though females have rufous edges to the feathers of the upper breast, while in the male, these edges are black.

**Habits:** Gregarious; usually in pairs or small groups. Active, noisy and conspicuous. They hop across ground and spiral up tree trunks.

**Habitat:** Dry open forests and woodlands.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** July – February

**Similar species:** White-browed Treecreeper, White-throated Treecreeper.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Woodlands in the northern section of the catchment area.



## Painted Button-quail

*Turnix varius*

Member VTWBC

**Size:** 20cm

**Appearance:** Generally grey with large white spots and streaks. The upperparts have black blotches and rufous-brown barring, and the underparts are grey with tear-shaped buff spots. The face has small black-edged white spots with a white eye-brow. Sexes are similar, but the female has bolder spotting on the head and more rufous-brown coloration on the upperparts.



**Habits:** Usually seen in pairs or small family parties. Forage on the ground. Most active during the evening, night and early morning.

**Habitat:** Forest and woodland, usually with closed canopy with some understorey and leaf litter on the ground.

**Nest:** A domed nest made from leaves, sticks and grasses, placed beneath a tussock of grass or against a rock or sapling.

**Nesting season:** August – February

**Similar species:** Stubble Quail, Brown Quail, Little Button-quail, Red-chested Button-quail.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy and uncommon.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Food, documented hunting methods, totem*

Quail were a source of food and were captured using a brush shield to hide behind and long stick with a noose to snag the birds (see Crested Pigeon). They were hunted during the breeding season when they could be lured by call imitation. Quail (species not stipulated) have been documented as totem birds for many of the language groups across the region.



## Bush Stone-curlew

### *Burhinus grallarius*

Endangered, Listed FFG,  
Member VTWBC

**Size:** 56cm

**Appearance:** Mostly grey-brown above, streaked with black and rufous, and whitish below with bold black streaks. The forehead, chin and throat are white, and there is a prominent white eyebrow. The eye is large and yellow. Sexes are alike. The call is a drawn-out, mournful wer-loooo often heard at dusk and during the night.



**Habits:** Occur singly or in pairs. Nocturnal, and often difficult to observe during the day, as they are well camouflaged. Forage on the ground.

**Habitat:** Inhabit open, lightly timbered forest and woodland, often with fallen timber and much leaf litter.

**Nest:** A shallow scrape on the ground.

**Nesting season:** August – January

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Very rare, in area around Ararat.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Names onomatopoeic, indicator species*

The documented Kuurn Kopan Noot and Peek Wurrung name *Wiruk* and the Djab Wurrung name *Kuriwirp* are imitations this species' call. Mara and Maar people believed that if the curlew flew low over their camp emitting its cry, then someone would die. Killing this bird is still seen as bad luck. For Wadawurrung people, the call of the Bush Stone-curlew was also associated with a mythical being or 'ghost' (called *Moorabool*) that warned children to stay away from certain areas.

## Common Blackbird

*Turdus merula*



**Introduced species**

**Size:** 25cm

**Appearance:** The male is entirely black, with deep orange to yellow bill and a narrow yellow eye-ring. The female is brown, with some streaks or mottling, and with a dark bill.

**Habits:** Often singly or in pairs, sometimes in small groups. Mainly forage on the ground, but also in trees and shrubs.

**Habitat:** Most often found in urban areas, but has successfully moved into bushland habitats. It is often seen in orchards, vineyards and gardens.

**Nest:** A cup-shaped nest of dried grass, bound with mud.

**Nesting season:** August – February

**Similar species:** Common Starling.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

## Common Starling

*Sturnus vulgaris*



Introduced species

**Size:** 21cm

**Appearance:** In autumn, they are glossy black, with a purple-and-green sheen, and the tips of the body feathers have large white spots. With wear, they lose the spots and are just glossy-black. Sexes are similar, though the females are less glossy.

**Habits:** Gregarious, often forming large flocks, sometimes comprising hundreds or thousands of birds. Forage mostly on the ground.

**Habitat:** Built-up areas and farmland with trees and open grassy areas; sometimes recorded in open forests or woodlands.

**Nest:** Tree hollows or artificial structures (e.g. cavities in buildings).

**Nesting season:** July – January

**Similar species:** Common Blackbird.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

## Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

*Coracina novaehollandiae*

Wirng



**Size:** 33cm

**Appearance:** The upperparts are blue-grey, and the underparts are white. The face and throat are black. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Usually occur singly or in twos. Forge mostly in the tree canopy or sometimes close to the ground, swooping down to capture prey. They shuffle their wings upon landing on a perch.

**Habitat:** Found in almost any wooded habitat, with the exception of rainforests. Also found in urban areas.

**Nest:** A small shallow saucer of sticks and bark.

**Nesting season:** October – February

**Similar species:** White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Masked Woodswallow.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** This Kuurn Kopan Noot name was documented for the 'Black-faced Summerbird', a poetic English common name ascribed to this species for its partly migratory habits.



## White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike

*Coracina papuensis*



**Size:** 27cm

**Appearance:** Grey above and paler grey to whitish below, with a distinct broad black eye stripe and conspicuous partial white eye-ring. Sexes are similar.

**Habits:** Usually occur singly or in twos. Forage mainly in trees, at all levels of the canopy.

**Habitat:** A wide variety of sclerophyll forests and woodlands.

**Nest:** A shallow, flat cup made from twigs, bark and grass.

**Nesting season:** August – March

**Similar species:** Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy and uncommon.

## Dusky Woodswallow

*Artamus cyanopterus*



**Size:** 18cm

**Appearance:** Mostly smoky dark grey-brown, with dark blue-grey upperwings. The tail is black with a broad white tip. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Gregarious; occur in flocks of up to 30 birds. Usually noisy and conspicuous, capturing their prey on the wing, but they very occasionally forage on the ground or among foliage.

**Habitat:** Open forests and woodlands; also along roadsides and on golf courses.

**Nest:** A loose bowl of twigs, grass and roots.

**Nesting season:** September – February

**Similar species:** Masked Woodswallow, White-breasted Woodswallow.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.

## Australian Magpie

*Cracticus tibicen*

Kiri, Kuri, Kurruk, Tuwal, Karrak,  
Parrwang/Barraworn



**Size:** 41cm

**Appearance:** Black and white. Males have a black head and the underbody and a white upperbody from the nape down to the upper tail, and white shoulder patches. On females, the upperbody and the shoulder patches are grey rather than white.

**Habits:** Common, conspicuous and gregarious, often in small groups. Mostly forage on the ground, searching for insects and their larvae.

**Habitat:** Wherever there are trees and adjacent open areas, including urban parks. Usually absent from dense forests and arid deserts.

**Nest:** A platform of sticks.

**Nesting season:** July – December

**Similar species:** Pied Butcherbird, Magpie-lark.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Creation stories*

In a documented Djab Wurrung and Kirrae Wurrung myth, one of the dingoes in ancestor *Markupang*'s pack assumed the form of a magpie (see also entry for Long-billed Corella). The magpie also features in a Wadawurrung creation story regarding the lifting of the sky for the first sunrise. In other creation stories giant ancestral magpies created whirlwinds when they flapped their wings.

## Grey Currawong

*Strepera versicolor*

**Size:** 52cm

**Appearance:** Dark grey with a white undertail and white tip to the tail.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, in twos or in small parties. Shy, wary and difficult to approach. Forage mainly on the ground, and less often in trees or shrubs.

**Habitat:** A wide range of habitats, including forests, woodlands, mallee and heathland. Also farmland, orchards and suburban areas.

**Nest:** A large shallow bowl-shaped nest of sticks.

**Nesting season:** August – December

**Similar species:** Pied Currawong, White-winged Chough, Raven species.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Mainly Grampians and within woodlands in the southwest section of the catchment area.





## Pied Currawong

*Strepera graculina*

**Size:** 48cm

**Appearance:** Mostly black with small patches of white under the tail, on the tips and bases of the tail and on the tip of each wing (visible in flight). Sexes are similar, though females are slightly smaller.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, in twos or in small flocks in spring–summer and large flocks in autumn–winter. Forage at all levels from the ground to the tree canopy.

**Habitat:** Forests and woodlands; well adapted to suburban areas.

**Nest:** A large, bowl shaped nest made from twigs and sticks.

**Nesting season:** October – January

**Similar species:** Grey Currawong, White-winged Chough, Raven species.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Grampians and southwest region of the catchment area.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Indicator species, creation stories*

In the traditions of Mara and Maar people the whistle of the 'Black Jay' (either this species or the White-winged Chough) signified the coming of bad weather. In neighbouring Kulin territory a currawong ('Jay') ancestor released great winds from the numerous bags that he carried around. The currawong also features in a Bunganditj myth regarding *Tennateona* or 'the devil'. In Djab Wurrung and Kirrae Wurrung creation stories, one of the dogs in ancestor *Markupang's* pack assumed the form of a 'Black Jay' – again either this species or possibly the White-winged Chough.

## Kilin, Kilin-kilin, Kilthen, Kilirn



## Little Raven

*Corvus mellori*

**Size:** 49cm

**Appearance:** Wholly black. Sexes are similar, although females are slightly smaller. This species' call is a series of rapid, harsh and low calls: *aark-aark-aark-aaaaark*.

**Habits:** Mostly seen in small to large flocks (hundreds and sometimes thousands); also seen in pairs, mainly when breeding. Noisy and conspicuous, especially when in flocks. Often forage on the ground in open habitats.

**Habitat:** Common in grasslands and other open habitats such as pastures. Breed and roost in forest and woodlands. Often occur in urban areas.

**Nest:** A large bowl made from sticks and twigs.

**Nesting season:** June – November

**Similar species:** Also similar in appearance to the White-winged Chough, Grey Currawong and Pied Currawong.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Significant totem/totem, creation stories, astronomy*

To the Wadawurrung, *Waa* ('Crow') is a significant totem or 'moiety' ancestor and is considered the Law-giver. In a creation story regarding how fire was obtained for the Kulin people, *Waa* is burnt after stealing fire from the *Karatgurrk* ancestors, explaining why all crows are black today. 'Crows' feature in numerous creation stories for other groups across the region including: a fire myth from the Grampians in which the Red-browed Finch steals a fire stick from the crows, who until that time had exclusive ownership of fire; the 'Pleiades' tradition recorded for the Pirt Kopan Noot dialect of Djab Wurrung (see also Wedge-tailed Eagle); the 'Monster Emu Myth' in which a giant emu ancestor pursued *War* the crow and with the strike of her foot created some of the gaps in the Grampian ranges; and the *Markupang* creation story whereby one of the dingoes in this giant ancestor's pack assumes the form of a crow. According to Dhauwurd Wurrung traditions it was the crow who sent the first rains, and in Kee Wurrung astronomy, the star Canopus is the ancestral being *Waa*.

**Note:** This species is similar in appearance to the other two *Corvus* species which occur in the area, the Forest Raven (*Corvus tasmanicus*) and the Australian Raven (*C. coronoides*). The Australian Raven has longer feathers on the throat (hackles) than other species, and has a long, draw-out, high-pitched wailing call. The Forest Raven can be distinguished from other ravens by its deep, gravelly call (*korr-korr-korr*).

## Waa, Wa, War, Waang, Patiti



## White-winged Chough

*Corcorax melanorhamphos*

## Manyyukil, Munyukil



**Size:** 45cm

**Appearance:** Entirely black except for a prominent red eye and a large white wing patch, visible in flight. It has a curved bill. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Highly social; occur in sedentary, co-operatively breeding groups of up to 20 birds throughout the year. Noisy, active, conspicuous and easily observed. Usually seen on the ground, sometimes covering large distances each day.

**Habitat:** Open forests and woodlands, near permanent water such as streams or farm dams.

**Nest:** A large bowl-shaped nest made from mud, built on a horizontal branch.

**Nesting season:** August – January

**Similar species:** Pied Currawong, Grey Currawong, Raven species.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread in woodlands across the catchment area.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Indicator species, creation stories*

In the traditions of Mara and Maar people the whistle of the 'Black Jay' (either this species or the Pied Currawong) signified the coming of bad weather. In a documented Djab Wurrung and Kirrae Wurrung creation story, one of the dogs in ancestor *Markupang's* pack assumed the form of a 'Black Jay'.

**Magpie-lark**  
*Grallina cyanoleuca*

**Tjulip, Tjulimp, Tjirrmp-tjirrmp,  
Prit-prit**



**Size:** 28cm

**Appearance:** Distinctively marked in black and white. Males have a white eyebrow and black face, and females have an all-white face with no white eyebrow.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly or in twos. Mostly forage on the ground and will wade at the edges of dams, rivers and ponds.

**Habitat:** A wide variety of open and lightly timbered habitats and grasslands, almost always near water. Also common in urban areas.

**Nest:** A bowl-shaped nest made with mud, feathers and grass.

**Nesting season:** August – April

**Similar species:** Australian Magpie.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Restrictions on killing, indicator species, creation stories, astronomy*

In the traditions of Maar and Mara people, children were not allowed to kill the Magpie-lark as it made their hair prematurely grey. The call of this species also heralded the coming of bad weather. In a creation story recorded from the SW of the region, the Magpie-lark and a Brolga fly across the country and create the first waterholes by flapping their wings. Wadawurrung people consider this bird the 'Gossip of the Bush' as it is said to spread stories. In documented Kee wurrung astronomy Centauri (the pointers) are Magpie-larks.



## Whistling Kite

*Haliastur spheonurus*



## Tikok, Titja wumbitj, Tjaktjak powang



**Size:** 55cm

**Appearance:** Light brown head and underparts, with pale streaks, and dark sandy-brown wings with paler undersides. The underwings have a characteristic pale 'M' shape when open. The tail is rounded and the wings are long (wingspan: 120–145 cm) and well-rounded. Sexes are alike, but females are larger.

**Habits:** Solitary or gregarious. They are often seen near water or around farms, soaring in a lazy circling flight pattern.

**Habitat:** Woodlands, open country and wetlands. Also common around farmland.

**Nest:** A bulky platform of sticks built in a tall tree.

**Nesting season:** July – January

**Similar species:** Square-tailed Kite, Brown Falcon.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Name describes behavior*

The documented Kuurn Kopan Noot name *Titja wumbitj* and Djab Wurrung name *Tjaktjak powang* have been translated as 'eater of carrion', an apt description of this bird's feeding behaviour. An older English vernacular name for the Whistling Kite was similarly the 'Carrion Hawk'.

## Black-shouldered Kite

*Elanus axillaris*

## Warn-warnitj yakir, Milama



**Size:** 35cm

**Appearance:** Mostly pale grey above, with a pure-white head, body and tail and black shoulder patches. The wings are white underneath, with black wing tips (wingspan: 80–100 cm). The eye is red with a comma-shaped black patch that extends behind it. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Solitary or gregarious. Hunt by hovering, then dropping feet-first onto prey. Typically perch conspicuously on telephone poles and trees.

**Habitat:** Found in treed grasslands, farms, vacant lots in urban areas, and along roads.

**Nest:** A large untidy shallow cup of sticks.

**Nesting season:** March – November

**Similar species:** Grey Goshawk.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread

## Square-tailed Kite

*Lophoictinia isura*



Vulnerable, Listed FFG

**Size:** 53cm

**Appearance:** Has a white face, rufous head, thick black streaks on the crown and more finely streaked elsewhere. The back and upper wing coverts are reddish brown-black, the underbody is predominantly chestnut or rufous with black streaks. Underwings are rufous and narrowly streaked black. The tail is long and square shaped. Sexes are alike.

**Habits:** Usually seen singly, but occasionally in pairs or small groups. They soar slowly just above and through the tree canopy, and sometimes also skim over grass or heath.

**Habitat:** Mainly in open forests and woodlands.

**Nest:** Large bowl or platform of sticks.

**Nesting season:** July - February

**Similar species:** Whistling Kite, Brown Falcon.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Very uncommon, in north and far west regions of the catchment area.

## Brown Falcon

*Falco berigora*



**Size:** 45cm

**Appearance:** Upperparts are generally dark brown and the underparts are pale buff or cream. The sides of the head are brown with a characteristic tear-shaped stripe below the eye. The tail is rounded; wings are broad and rounded in flight. Sexes are alike, but females are larger.

**Habits:** Solitary or loosely gregarious. When hunting, often wait on a perch, then glide to the ground in pursuit of prey.

**Habitat:** Found in a range of wooded habitats, but prefer open grassland and agricultural areas with scattered trees.

**Nest:** Use stick nests of other hawks or crows and ravens.

**Nesting season:** June – December

**Similar species:** Square-tailed Kite, Whistling Kite, Nankeen Kestrel.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Name onomatopoeic, creation story*

The documented Kuurn Kopan Noot and Peek wurrung name *Tarakak* is an imitation of the cackling cry of this species. This falcon features in a creation story for the southern Grampians in which *Yuloyñ kiyar*, the Red-browed Finch, steals a fire stick from the crows (who had exclusive possession of fire) and passes it to *Tarakak* who set the whole country alight. This falcon ancestor therefore gave the Jardwadjali and Djab Wurrung people access to fire.

## Tarakak, Tjarak, Tyarra





**Nankeen Kestrel**  
*Falco cenchroides*

**Mimit, Kuyong-kuyong, Kalwerrk**



**Size:** 34cm

**Appearance:** Upperparts are mostly rufous, with some dark streaking. Wings are tipped with black. The underparts are pale buff and streaked with black. The undertail is finely barred with black, with a broader black band towards the tip. Females tend to be more heavily marked and have more rufous on the crown and tail. Males tend to have a greyish crown and tail. Females are larger than males.

**Habits:** Solitary or in pairs or family parties. Often seen hovering over paddocks and roadsides. Perch conspicuously.

**Habitat:** Lightly wooded areas and open agricultural regions; also in urban areas.

**Nest:** Use a variety of structures including tree hollows, caves and ledges on the outside of buildings. Can also use stick or mud nests which have been abandoned by other birds.

**Nesting season:** August – December

**Similar species:** Brown Falcon, Australian Hobby.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Name onomatopoeic*

The documented Kuurn Kopan Noot and Djab Wurrung name *Kuyong-kuyong* is evidently an imitation of the call of this species.

## Brown Goshawk

*Accipiter fasciatus*



**Size:** 46cm

**Appearance:** Upperparts are slate-grey to brown with a red-brown collar. The head is brown. The underparts are finely barred red-brown and white. The rounded wings are dark brown to grey above and buff to reddish brown below, with darker tips. The long, rounded tail is grey with dark barring. Females are larger than males.

**Habits:** Solitary and secretive. Typically glide or dash out from cover to take prey from the ground.

**Habitat:** Most wooded habitats, including farmland and urban areas.

**Nest:** Large stick nest on a horizontal limb of a tall tree.

**Nesting season:** September – December

**Similar species:** Collared Sparrowhawk.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Creation story*

In a documented Djab Wurrung and Kirrae Wurrung myth, one of the dogs in ancestor Markupang's pack is said to have assumed the form of a 'Quail Hawk' – an English vernacular name applied to some members of the *Accipiter* genus, but most likely the Collared Sparrowhawk.

## Swamp Harrier

*Circus approximans*

Pirwiyn, Tjurk



**Size:** 55cm

**Appearance:** A large, slim-bodied raptor, with a long tail, rounded at the tip. It is mainly dark brown above with a prominent white rump. The wings are long and broad, with five fingers on the wing tips in flight. Females are larger with rufous underparts, while the smaller male is lighter underneath.

**Habits:** Solitary or sometimes gregarious, migrating in groups; roost communally on the ground. Perch on ground or on low posts, stumps or swamp vegetation. Search for prey systematically by gliding low above the ground or water.

**Habitat:** Found in terrestrial wetlands and open country.

**Nest:** Raised mound of straw and grass.

**Nesting season:** September – February

**Similar species:** Spotted Harrier.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Name onomatopoeic*

The documented Kirrae Wurrung, Kuurn Kopan Noot and Peek Wurrung name *Pirwiyn* is apparently an imitation of the high-pitched whistling call of this species.

## Wedge-tailed Eagle

*Aquila audax*

**Size:** 96cm

**Appearance:** Has long wings (wingspan: 2.3 m), fully feathered legs and a characteristic wedge-shaped tail. Adults are mostly dark blackish-brown. Sexes are very similar, but females are generally larger and paler than males.

**Habits:** Solitary or gregarious, often gathering at carrion. Typically perch on dead trees, telephone poles or on the ground.

**Habitat:** Wooded and forested land and open country.

**Nest:** A large structure of dead sticks.

**Nesting season:** April – September

**Similar species:** Is distinct from other raptors due to its large size. The White-bellied Sea-Eagle is also large in size, but is much lighter in colour.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Significant totem and creator being, indicator species (diving displays herald the coming of heat and fine weather), creation stories, astronomy*

*Bunjil* the Wedge-tailed Eagle is perhaps one of the most well-known creation ancestors in Victoria. Most groups in the region regard him as a supreme creator being, bringing forth the land, the people, their languages and laws. Amongst the numerous creation stories that tell of the deeds of this great being, Wadawurrung traditions describe how *Bunjil* created the first men out of clay which he had gathered from *Kareet Bareet* or 'Black Hill', near Gordon. *Bunjil* is also a significant totem or 'moiety' figure to the Wadawurrung and other Kulin peoples – the other being *Waa*, the crow. For some Maar people, the Wedge-tailed Eagle, as *Bunjil*, continues to be associated with shape-shifting, and giant eagles can sometimes appear at funerals. Maar and Mara people referred to the diving displays of the Wedge-tailed Eagle as *warroweean*, and considered this behaviour as an indication of impending heat and warmer weather. A Wedge-tailed Eagle ancestor also features in the Djab Wurrung and Kirrae Wurrung creation story, where one of the dogs in the ancestor *Markupang's* pack assumed the form of an 'Eagle-hawk'. For Pirt Kopan Noot (a dialect of Djab Wurrung), Sirius, the Dog Star represents *Gneeangar*, a Wedge-tailed Eagle as the Queen of the Pleiades, who was carried off by *Waa* (Canopus). Kee Wurrung astronomy considers Fomelhaut

**Ngiyanggar, Pirpil, Ngiri, Werpil,  
Ngarayl, Winjeel, (Bunjil/Bundjil)**





## Barking Owl

### *Ninox connivens*

Endangered, Listed FFG,  
Member VTWBC

**Size:** 40cm

**Appearance:** Grey-brown above, with bold white spots on the wings. White underbody with coarse, grey-brown streaking. The head is grey-brown with an indistinct mask and large yellow eyes. Sexes are alike. Has a dog-like (*woof-woof*) call.

**Habits:** Typically seen singly or in pairs; very occasionally in family groups. Nocturnal, but occasionally seen hunting during daylight. Prey is located from the air or from an exposed perch.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands and the edges of forests, often adjacent to farmland.

**Nest:** Tree hollows.

**Nesting season:** July – December

**Similar species:** Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Very uncommon, records west of Heywood and near Hall's Gap.



### Wedge-tailed Eagle (continued)

(one of the brightest stars in the spring sky) as being representative of *Bunjil*, when he finally ascends into the sky. For the Wadawurrung, Altair represents *Bunjil's* presence in the night sky after he ascended to the heavens from his final earthly resting place at Lal Lal Falls.

## Southern Boobook

*Ninox novaeseelandiae*

**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.

**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.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Indicator Species (associated with death and the spirit world), creation stories*

It is difficult to confidently assign recorded Aboriginal names to either the Southern Boobook or Tawny Frogmouth as both are frequently referred to in English vernacular as 'Mopoke'. Some of the names listed may refer to the Tawny Frogmouth. Other names, recorded simply for 'Owl', may even relate to the Barking Owl. Owls are all generally considered birds of evil omen, as their survey of the country at night and their conspicuous calls inform bad spirits of the whereabouts of people. Boobook owls in particular are regarded as 'Devil Birds' by Gunditjmara people, and are said to signify danger and death. Some Maar people consider that possessing ornaments or jewelry in the image of owl is bad luck. In a documented Djab Wurrung and Kirrae Wurrung myth, the spirit of the giant ancestor *Markupang*, after being besieged in a cave with its entrance blocked by a fire, 'flew out through the blaze and became a mopoke... a bird which goes about at night' (Mathews 1907).

**Mamkatj, Mamkayt, Mulup,  
Kartuk, Kartu, Wapuk, Yip-yip,  
Waanawal/Wongongal**



## Tawny Frogmouth

*Podargus strigoides*

Size: 44cm

**Appearance:** Silver-grey above and slightly paler below, they are streaked and mottled with black and rufous. Sexes are similar in appearance. Call: A soft, deep, continuous, 'ooo-ooo-ooo'.

**Habits:** Typically seen singly, in pairs or small family groups. Tawny Frogmouths are nocturnal birds. During the day, they perch on branches, camouflaged as part of the tree.

**Habitat:** Most wooded habitats with clearings or areas of open ground. Often seen in urban parks, gardens and street trees.

**Nest:** A loose platform of sticks, usually on a horizontal forked tree branch.

**Nesting season:** August – December

**Similar species:** Southern Boobook, Barking Owl.

**Distribution within Glenelg Hopkins:** Widespread but patchy.

**Aboriginal knowledge:** *Indicator species (connected with death and the spirit world), creation stories*

It is difficult to confidently assign recorded Aboriginal names to either the Southern Boobook or Tawny Frogmouth as both are frequently referred to in English vernacular as 'Mopoke'. Some of the names listed may therefore refer to the Boobook Owl. Mara and Maar peoples associate the Tawny Frogmouth with death and bad spirits.

Kuramiyt, Tuni-tinitj,  
Thuni-thunitj, Tjuni-tjuni,  
Waanawal/Wongongal



This list includes Aboriginal names for 50 of the bird species profiled in this booklet. Though most, if not all, species in the GHCMa region would have had their own name or names, language loss and sporadic recording of languages has meant that many of these names have been lost to current generations. As such, it has not been possible to associate all of the Aboriginal bird names found in the historical literature with particular bird species.

In the following table, common names for birds are presented in the first column. The names in bold are where there has been substantive evidence to assign the Aboriginal name. The names in italics are those that have inconclusive evidence to associate a particular species with historically documented English names.

The 'Dhauwurd Wurrung, Kirrae Wurrung and dialects' are referred to as the south west languages. These languages/dialects are identified in the table using the following abbreviations:

- P = Peek Wurrung
- KR = Kirrae Wurrung
- KE = Kee Wurrung
- K = Kuurn Kopan Noot
- T = Dhauwurd Wurrung
- W = Wooloowoorroong
- TY = Djargurtwoorroong

The list shows the spelling of each bird name in each language or dialect from both the historical source documents and from the modern devised spelling systems, or orthographies (bold). This information was taken mainly from the following sources:

- South West Victorian Aboriginal Languages Database (Laka Gunditj Language Program)
- The Warrnambool Language Dictionary (Blake 2003)
- Dictionary of Keeraywoorrung and related dialects (Krishna-Pillay 1996)

- Dialects of Western Kulin, Western Victoria Yartwatjali, Tjapwurrung, Djadjawurrung (Blake 2011)
- The Bunganditj (Buwandik) language of the Mount Gambier Region (Blake 2003a)
- Wathawurrung and the Colac language of southern Victoria (Blake 1998)



## Dhauwurd Wurrung, Kirrae Wurrung and dialects

Species	Jardwadjali	Djab Wurrung	Bunganditj	Wadawurrung
<i>Crimson Rosella</i>	naluuk marrang (P,K) <b>ngaluk marang</b> or <b>ngalook marrang</b>	porkill <b>purkil</b>		pro-gel, borgil <b>porrgil</b>
<b>Eastern Rosella</b>	kueetch kueetch (P,K) kootch kootch (K) kurtkurty (T) <b>kuwiti-kuwiti</b> or <b>kooyt kooyt</b>	kueetch kueetch <b>kuitj kuitj</b>		
<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	yuu-kuitch (P) yuukuitch (K) yoo'kootch (K) yukuty (T) yoo_koity (W) <b>yukuwiti</b> or <b>yookooyt</b>	yuu-kap <b>yukap</b>		yookeep, yo-kep <b>yukip</b>
<b>Rainbow Lorikeet</b>	kalling'ii (P) kallingi (KE) kallang'ii, cullennut, kallang'igh (K) kalingai (T) kal-in-yay (W) cul-lin-i (TY) <b>kalingayi</b> or <b>kaleenyay</b>	kulling'arr, naenett <b>kalingar, nenit</b>	ka-ingal, gai- ing-al, king nal, <b>kalingal,</b> <b>kayingal</b>	kullingar, callingur, kol- ling-ar <b>kalingarr</b>
<b>Red-rumped Parrot</b>	pirndaerakk (P) laenokuur (K) <b>pirndirak</b> or <b>peerrnteerrak, linukur</b>	gnaeno'gnor <b>ngningu</b>		
<i>Blue-winged Parrot</i>	turroot (W) <b>tarut</b> or <b>toorot</b>			
<b>Long-billed Corella</b>	kuuruukeetch (P) koorakith (KE) kuurakeetch, cor-re-coit (K) kurogity (T) karrakeet, korokeitch, kraw-kity (W) correergeet, kurrer gurrer, coHo-keet (TY) <b>kurukiti</b> or <b>koorrakeeyt</b>	katchahker, kaiyekker, caarheckur, karuupka <b>katjakarr,</b> <b>karupka</b>	boort karual, boorte kara-al, karaal, kar-a-al, kurogity <b>kara'al, kurukiti</b>	
<b>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</b>	nayuk (KR), ngayuk, na nuk, ni-yoke, ngaijuk, gniyuuk (P) ngaiook, gniyuuk (P,K) i'yook, adoke (K), ngaiyuuk (T), mruck (W) hy-yoke, i-yoke (TY) <b>ngayuk</b> or <b>ngayook/nayuk, mrak</b>	chinyap, chinupp, chinyap, gyniap ngaiook <b>tjinyap, ngayuk</b>	maa, mar <b>maa, mar</b>	dyirnap, kinnap, dyinap, dyin-ap, nayook <b>djirnap, ngayuk</b>

<b>Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo</b>	wodan (KR), wilan (P) wilann (P,K) willan (K,T) willam (K), wee-lang (W), kappatch (K) <b>wilan or weelan, wotan or wotan, kapatj</b>	wirann <b>wiran</b>	boort willer, boorte willer, wil-er <b>wila</b>	<b>wirran</b>
<b>Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo</b>	bonbonpuuramuuk (P) bonbontaeraemot (K) kappatch (K) <b>ponpon puramuk or ponponpooramook, ponpon tirimot, (kapatj)</b>	bonbonturong <b>ponponturong</b>	treen <b>triyin</b>	dyeing, tyering, dar-en, deren <b>djarriyn</b>
<b>Gang-gang Cockatoo</b>	mirrann, maerii (P) merann, merran (K) <b>miran or meerran</b>	mirrann <b>miran</b>	meran, mra, mir-an, mirm, mirh <b>miran, mraa</b>	
<b>Red wattlebird</b>	yungkukk (P) kanakk wuurot, kannak woort (K), thereri (KR/TY) <b>yangguk or yangkak, kanak wurot, thiriri</b>	kannee yuulong <b>kani yulong</b>	yongo <b>yanguu</b>	
<b>Noisy miner</b>	poatch (P) puutch, pootch, poech (K) do-ity (W) <b>putj or pooyt, tuwitj or toyt</b>	pur-pur, pirndeem <b>purpur, pirndiyn</b>	pirr-inrt, birrit <b>pirit</b>	birn-dait <b>birndayt</b>
<b>Laughing Kookaburra</b>	koonitthe (KR) konet (P,K) ko-net, kunatth, kuunit (P) thurkook, go net (KE) koonett, kuunit, koonet (K), gun it (T), tarakook, jahr-kok (W) <b>kunith or kooneeth, tharkuk or tharrkook</b>	grong-grong, krong-krong, koorookooroo, krorkor <b>kurg, kuru-kuru</b>	koadda, koaddang, koartang, go-aht-ang, koo-art-ang, gwaddung, koo-a-da <b>kuwatang</b>	koo-art-ung, koo-goo-ark, kowaruk, kuark <b>kuwarrk</b>
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b>	tuuran (P) tarn-tarn (K,TY) ban ban kuunamang, banbankoonamill (K) bunbungwarpit (T) <b>turan or toorran, tan-tan, panpan kuna-mang, panpan kunamil</b>	kuurnk kuurnk, korn-korn, krookroong <b>kurng kurng</b>	kuurnk kuurnk, korn-korn, krookroong <b>kuwatang</b>	kuurnk kuurnk, korn-korn, krookroong <b>kuwatang</b>
<b>Crested Pigeon</b>	waraeak (K) <b>warik or warreek</b>	bunbun yuchhuuk <b>panpan yatjuk</b>	julu <b>yulu</b>	
<b>Common Bronzewing</b>	kuura, kirrae buunong (P) koree (KE) kuuree, kooray (K) <b>kuri or koorray</b>	uuraeap <b>wurep</b>	gnura, ngoore, gnorai, ngure <b>ngurre</b>	

<i>Speckled Warbler</i>	ty-moeng (K) <b>tayi-moweng</b> or <b>tymoyn</b>	
<i>Flame Robin</i>	kombeem (P), murn murn gnuurratt (K) <b>kombeem, marn-marn-ngurat</b> or <b>manman ngoorrat</b>	pilp gnuueneart <b>pilp nguniat</b>
<i>Scarlet Robin</i>	chump kaaen (P) timmon (K) tolorim (TY) <b>timon</b> or <b>teemon, tolorim</b>	chimp kirk <b>tjimp kirk</b>
<i>Eastern Yellow robin</i>	puuluun buitch (K) <b>pulun potj</b> or <b>pooloon booyt</b>	
<i>Jacky Winter</i>	temkirn (P) taluundeaar (K) <b>timkim</b> or <b>temkeen, talundiyar</b>	chaluunwaer <b>tjalunwir</b>
<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	praen paen (P) prien prien (K) <b>prin-prin</b> or <b>prayn prayn</b>	cherrup cherrup <b>tjirap tjirap</b>
<i>Grey fantail</i>	timpimp (P) yelhelpeetch (K) <b>timp-timp</b> or <b>temptemp, yelepiti</b>	yellpillup <b>yilpillap</b>
<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	purtpurteeteh (P) taeraaer (K) <b>partpartij</b> or <b>pootpooteeyt, tiriyr</b>	cheecheer <b>tjitjir</b>
<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	tee'cheeteh (P) mirnam mirnam (K) <b>tititij</b> or <b>teetyeeyt, mirnam-mirnam</b>	teupeetch teupeetch <b>tjupitj tjupitj</b>
<i>Yellow-rumped Thornbill</i>	gnarriin beaal (K) <b>ngarayn piyal</b> or <b>ngarreenepeyal</b>	
<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	wirraewill kurakk (P) yaya kuula (K) <b>wiriwil kurak</b> or <b>weerreeweel karrak, yaya kula</b>	yaya kuula <b>yayakula</b>
<i>Crested Shrike-tit</i>	waawelann (K) <b>wawilan</b> or <b>waweelan</b>	
<i>Australasian pipit</i>	tirpurtii (P) warwharkeet (K) <b>tirpartayi</b> or <b>teepayt, wawakiyt</b>	tirteen charuuk <b>tirtiyn tjaruk</b>

<b>Red-browed Finch</b>	pundit tii (P) yuloinkeear (K) <b>panditayi</b> or <b>pantetee</b> , <b>yuloyñ kiyar</b>	woreewill kuurk <b>wuriwil kurrk</b>	
<b>Welcome Swallow</b>	weewheetch (P,K) wee-which (K) weet-weet (W) waigh week (KR/TY) <b>wiyt-wiyt</b> or <b>weeweeyt</b>	weewheetch <b>wiwiitj</b>	bo-ee-wiyt, wi wait <b>buwiwiitj, wiwiitj</b>
<b>White-throated Treecreeper</b>	tirn tirn (K) dindeen (T) tirtaeheaar (P) <b>tirn-tirn</b> or <b>teenteen</b> , <b>tirti-iyar</b> or <b>teetayarr</b>	tirn tirn <b>tirn tirn</b>	
<b>Painted Button-quail</b>	kuunamilan (P) kuunaemit (K) <b>kunamilan</b> or <b>koonameelan</b> , <b>kunamit</b>	nib nib <b>nip nip</b>	
<b>Bush Stone-curlw</b>	wirruuk (P) wirruuk (K) wiruk (T) <b>wiruk</b> or <b>weerrook</b>	wale <b>wale</b>	moorabool <b>moorabool</b>
<b>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</b>	wirng (K) <b>wirng</b> or <b>weeng</b>		
<b>Australian Magpie</b>	kirraeae (P,K) ker-re (P) qudree, koorie (K) kirree (T) karree, kay-ray (W) kore (TY) <b>kiri</b> or <b>keerree</b> , <b>kuri</b>	kuuruuk <b>kurruk</b>	barwang, pardwang, par-a-wong, parawarag <b>parrwang</b>
<b>Pied Currawong</b>	killirn (P) gillirn gillirn (K) kilthen (K) <b>kiliin</b> or <b>keeleen</b> , <b>kiliin-kiliin</b> , <b>kilthen</b>	killirn <b>kilirn</b>	kill-en, gillen <b>kiliin, kiliin-kiliin</b>
<b>Little Raven</b>	wah (KR,P) waa (P,K) waugh (K) waang (P,KE,K) wang (P,K,T) warn, warl (P) waak, wang (K) wauang, wang, bah-teity (W) <b>waa</b> or <b>wa</b> , <b>waang</b> or <b>wang</b> , <b>patij</b>	wa, waa, waagh, wahrr, wah <b>waa, war</b>	wah-ah, waa, wa, boorte wa, boort wa <b>waa, wa</b>
<b>White-winged Chough</b>	muunyukill (P,K) munyukil (T) <b>manyuyukil</b> or <b>moonyakeel</b>	muunyukill <b>munyukil</b>	
<b>Magpie-lark</b>	tuulip (P) tuulirmp (K) thulirm (T) <b>tjulimp</b> or <b>thooleemp</b> , <b>tjulip</b>	chirmp chirmp <b>tjirrm-p-tjirrm-p</b>	<b>prit-prit</b>
<b>Whistling Kite</b>	tikkok (P) taeteha wuumbeeteh (K) <b>tikok</b> or <b>teekok</b> , <b>titja wumbitj</b>	chukkchukk bo'ang <b>tjaktjak powang</b>	



<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b>	warn warneetchyakerr (K) <b>warn-warnitj yakir</b> or <b>wallwalleetyakarr</b>	millamar <b>milama</b>	
<b>Brown Falcon</b>	tarrakekk (P) tarrakukk (K) <b>tarakak</b> or <b>tarrakak</b>	charrak <b>tjarak</b>	tyarrar, tar-ar <b>tjarra</b>
<b>Nankeen Kestrel</b>	maemit (P) kuyong kuyong (K) <b>mimit</b> or <b>maymeet</b> , <b>kuyong-kuyong</b>	kuyong kuyong <b>kuyong kuyong</b>	kol-wark, calwerk <b>kalwerrk</b>
<b>Swamp Harrier</b>	paeween (P) pirrween (K) <b>pirwiyn</b> or <b>payween</b>	chuurk <b>tjurk</b>	
	neeungura (KR) eanger, gneeangar, neunghur, ngianggar (P) eanga (KE) kneeangar, keroolet (K) ngianggara (T) e-ung-garra, neeyangarra, yang-garra (W) <b>ngiyanggar</b> or <b>ngeeyangkarra</b> , <b>kerulet</b> or <b>kerrooleet</b>	wrappel, wrapel, rare-pill, rappil, yannul, rapel, rappell, pirrpil gnarraille <b>werpil, ngarayl</b> <b>werpil, yanal, pirpil</b>	ngere, ngirri, ngee-re, nirree, ereng balam; ngidia, ngidi <b>ngiri, ngirri</b> <b>winjeel</b> boondyill <b>bundjil</b>
<b>Wedge-tailed Eagle</b>	boonjil, buunjil <b>punjil</b> or <b>bundjil</b>		
	kookok (P) cocock, markupar (K) <b>kukuk</b> or <b>kookok</b> , <b>markupar</b>	cartook, warpoke, yib-yib, muuluup, peepniya <b>kartuk, wapuk,</b> wintak, kartouk, wah-pook <b>kartuk, wapuk</b> <b>kartuk, wapuk</b> <b>pipniya</b>	cardoke <b>kadok</b> waanwanal, wong-ong-ul <b>waanawal,</b> <b>wongongal</b> winta, kur-to <b>winta, kartu</b> <b>wongongal</b>
<b>Boobook Owl</b>	munnkiit; munnkight (P) munnkeith (KE) munnkiit (K) mumgaty (T) marn-geity (W) <b>mamkatj</b> or <b>mamkeeyt</b> , <b>mamkayt</b> or <b>mamkeeth</b>		
<b>Tawny Frogmouth</b>	coorameet (P) tooney toonitch (K) doorreedoonit (W) <b>kuramiyt</b> or <b>koorrameet</b> , <b>tuni-tunitj</b>	jooneeh-jconeh <b>tjuni-tjuni</b>	waanwanal, wong-ong-ul <b>waanawal,</b> <b>wongongal</b> dhuni-dhunity <b>thuni-thunitj</b>

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**Note:** This list includes all of the woodland bird species recorded within the Glenelg Hopkins area, 102 of these feature in this booklet.

Australasian Pipit	Anthus novaeseelandiae	72	
Australian Bustard	Ardeotis australis		
Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis		
Australian King-Parrot	Alisterus scapularis		
Australian Magpie	Cracticus tibicen	95	
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Aegotheles cristatus		
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides		
Azure Kingfisher	Ceyx azureus		
Barbary Dove	Streptopelia roseogrisea		
Barking Owl	Ninox connivens	109	
Bassian Thrush	Zoothera lunulata		
Beautiful Firetail	Stagonopleura bella		
Black Falcon	Falco subniger		
Black Honeyeater	Sugomel niger		
Black Kite	Milvus migrans		
Black-chinned Honeyeater	Melithreptus gularis	29	
Black-eared Cuckoo	Chalcites osculans	82	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	92	
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus axillaris	102	
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Entomyzon cyanotis	27	
Blue-winged Parrot	Neophema chrysostoma	17	
Brown Falcon	Falco berigora	104	
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus	106	
Brown Quail	Coturnix ypsilophora		
Brown Songlark	Cincloramphus cruralis		
Brown Thornbill	Acanthiza pusilla	63	
Brown Treecreeper	Climacteris picumnus	87	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Melithreptus brevirostris	28	
Brush Bronzewing	Phaps elegans		
Brush Cuckoo	Cacomantis variolosus		
Budgerigar	Melopsittacus undulatus		
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza reguloides		
Bush Stone-curlew	Burhinus grallarius	89	
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Calamanthus pyrrhopygia	62	
Cicadabird	Coracina tenuirostris		
Cockatiel	Nymphicus hollandicus		
Collared Sparrowhawk	Accipiter cirrocephalus		
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	90	
Common Bronzewing	Phaps chalcoptera	46	
Common Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	76	
Common Myna	Sturnus tristis		
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	91	
Crescent Honeyeater	Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus		
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	45	
Crested Shrike-tit	Falcunculus frontatus	70	
Crimson Rosella	Platycercus elegans	10	



Diamond Firetail	Stagonopleura guttata	78	
Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis		
Dusky Woodswallow	Artamus cyanopterus	94	
Eastern Barn Owl	Tyto javanica		
Eastern Grass Owl	Tyto longimembris		
Eastern Koel	Eudynamys orientalis		
Eastern Rosella	Platycercus eximius	11	
Eastern Spinebill	Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris	37	
Eastern Yellow Robin	Eopsaltria australis	54	
Elegant Parrot	Neophema elegans		
Emu	Dromaius novaehollandiae		
Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis		
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	77	
Fairy Martin	Petrochelidon ariel		
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis	83	
Flame Robin	Petroica phoenicea	50	
Forest Raven	Corvus tasmanicus		
Fuscous Honeyeater	Lichenostomus fuscus	32	
Galah	Eolophus roseicapillus	20	
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Callocephalon fimbriatum	24	
Golden Whistler	Pachycephala pectoralis	67	
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus		
Grey Currawong	Strepera versicolor	96	
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa	59	
Grey Goshawk	Accipiter novaehollandiae		
Grey Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla harmonica	69	
Ground Parrot	Pezoporus wallicus		
Hooded Robin	Melanodryas cucullata	53	
Horsfield's Bushlark	Mirafra javanica		
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Chalcites basalis	85	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	79	
Jacky Winter	Microeca fascians	56	
Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae	42	
Leaden Flycatcher	Myiagra rubecula		
Little Button-quail	Turnix velox		
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea		
Little Eagle	Hieraaetus morphnoides		
Little Lorikeet	Glossopsitta pusilla	13	
Little Raven	Corvus mellori	98	
Little Wattlebird	Anthochaera chrysoptera	39	
Long-billed Corella	Cacatua tenuirostris	19	
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	100	
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Lophochroa leadbeateri		
Masked Owl	Tyto novaehollandiae		
Masked Woodswallow	Artamus personatus		
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	55	
Musk Lorikeet	Glossopsitta concinna	12	
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides	105	
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae	26	

Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>	
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanoccephala</i>	40
Olive Whistler	<i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>	
Olive-backed Oriole	<i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>	
Orange Chat	<i>Epthianura aurifrons</i>	
Orange-bellied Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	
Painted Button-quail	<i>Turnix varius</i>	88
Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	
Pallid Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis pallidus</i>	
Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>	
Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>	97
Pied Honeyeater	<i>Certhionyx variegatus</i>	
Pink Robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i>	
Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>	
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>	14
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	44
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	15
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	38
Red-backed Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus pyrrhopygius</i>	
Red-browed Finch	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>	75
Red-capped Robin	<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>	52
Red-chested Button-quail	<i>Turnix pyrrhotorax</i>	
Red-rumped Parrot	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>	16
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptrorhynchus banksii</i>	23
Restless Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>	57
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Rose Robin	<i>Petroica rosea</i>	
Rufous Bristlebird	<i>Dasyornis broadbenti</i>	
Rufous Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	
Rufous Songlark	<i>Cincloramphus mathewsi</i>	
Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>	68
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	43
Satin Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>	
Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>	51
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites lucidus</i>	84
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	73
Singing Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>	31
Southern Boobook	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>	110
Southern Emu-wren	<i>Stipiturus malachurus</i>	
Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	66
Speckled Warbler	<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	49
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>	
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	
Spotted Harrier	<i>Circus assimilis</i>	
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	48
Spotted Quail-thrush	<i>Cinclosoma punctatum</i>	
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	103

Striated Fieldwren	Calamanthus fuliginosus	
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	47
Striated Thornbill	Acanthiza lineata	65
Stubble Quail	Coturnix pectoralis	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita	21
Superb Fairy-wren	Malurus cyaneus	60
Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans	107
Swift Parrot	Lathamus discolor	18
Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides	111
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Glyciphila melanops	
Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans	81
Varied Sittella	Daphoenositta chrysoptera	71
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Aquila audax	108
Weebill	Smicronis brevirostris	
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	80
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca	
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus	101
White-backed Swallow	Cheramoeca leucosterna	
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina papuensis	93
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster	
White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorhynchus	
White-browed Babbler	Pomatostomus superciliosus	74
White-browed Scrubwren	Sericornis frontalis	61
White-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris affinis	
White-browed Woodswallow	Artamus superciliosus	
White-eared Honeyeater	Lichenostomus leucotis	35
White-fronted Chat	Epthianura albifrons	41
White-fronted Honeyeater	Purnella albifrons	
White-naped Honeyeater	Melithreptus lunatus	30
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	36
White-throated Gerygone	Gerygone albogularis	
White-throated Treecreeper	Cormobates leucophaea	86
White-winged Chough	Corcorax melanorhamphos	99
White-winged Triller	Lalage sueurii	
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	58
Yellow Thornbill	Acanthiza nana	
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Lichenostomus chrysops	34
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus ornatus	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	64
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Calyptrorhynchus funereus	22
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Lichenostomus melanops	33
Zebra Finch	Taeniopygia guttata	
Bush Stone-curlew	Burhinus grallarius	











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## **Further Information**

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