



Brolga Report

Aussie Bird Count 2024 Results

City of South Perth (WA)



Thank you for supporting the Aussie Bird Count!

This report provides an overview of bird activity in your local area based on community participation during the 2024 Aussie Bird Count. These insights help inform bird conservation efforts and strengthen community engagement with birds and nature.

BirdLife Australia has been at the forefront of bird conservation for over 120 years. Established in 1901, we work with a vast network of volunteers, supporters, and stakeholders to protect Australia's native birds and biodiversity while educating and inspiring communities nationwide. [Learn more about our 2023–2032 Bird Conservation Strategy.](#)

The Aussie Bird Count began in 2014 as part of BirdLife Australia's National Bird Week and has since grown into one of the country's largest citizen science events. Each October, thousands of Australians—schoolkids, families, nature lovers, and bird curious—become citizen scientists, contributing valuable data to help monitor our bird populations.

With over 85% of Australians living in urban environments, the Aussie Bird Count offers a simple and rewarding way to connect with nature. Birdwatching is a fantastic hobby that promotes well-being, encourages outdoor activity, and fosters a deeper appreciation for the birds that share our backyards, parks, and cities.

Save the date – the next Aussie Bird Count will take place from 20 – 26 October 2025.

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This report is prepared without prejudice to any governmental or council applications or activities. The results published in this report are reflective only of the trends during the Aussie Bird Count as submitted by the public. Trends described in the report may therefore not be a true representation of actual bird trends within the area and are not a replacement for robust, long-term scientific datasets for decision-making within council boundaries. Please reach out to birddata@birdlife.org.au to organise a free data extract if you require scientific data for these purposes.

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Summary Snapshot



72

Birdwatchers



71

Species



57

Hours Birdwatching

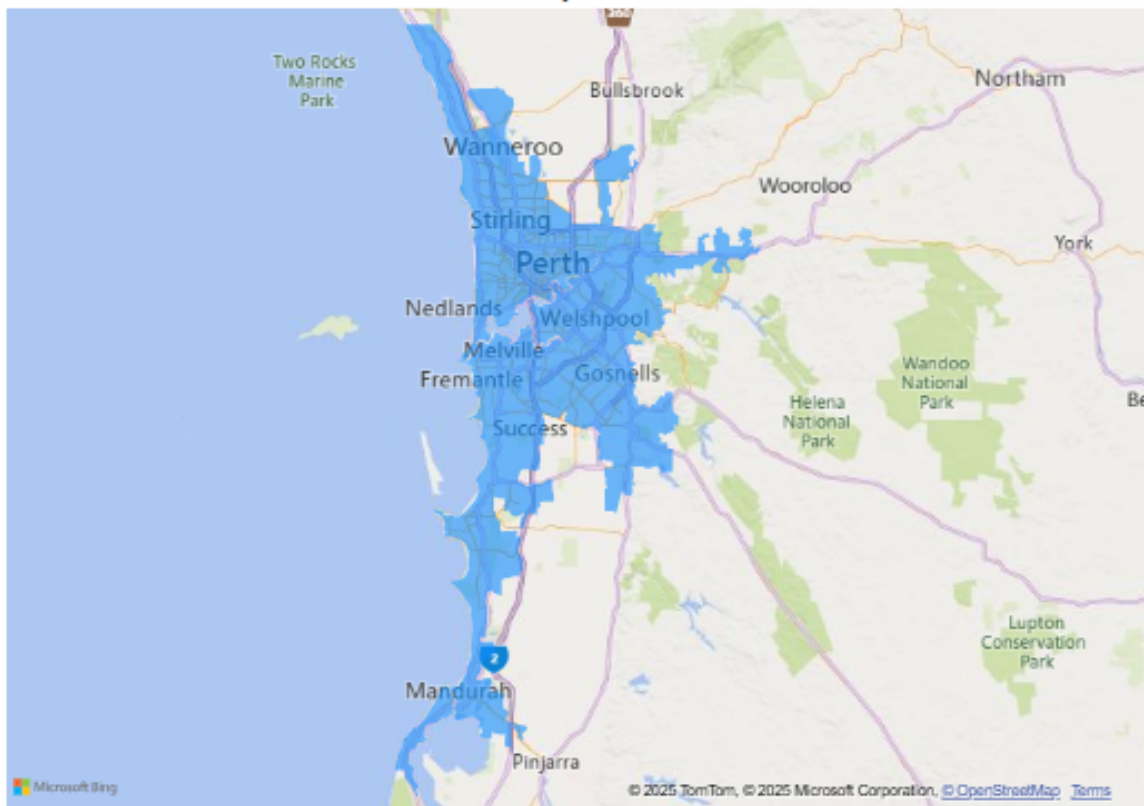


4599

Birds Counted

**The 'Birdwatchers' figure has been calculated by individual User ID and doesn't take into account additional observers. This means the figure shown may be lower than the actual participants present.*

Surveyed Area



***Survey Area' will show a larger or smaller area to the Council's boundaries. See 'Survey Locations' for count's conducted within the boundaries of the Council.*

Participant Overview



153

Surveys Submitted



72

Birdwatchers



23

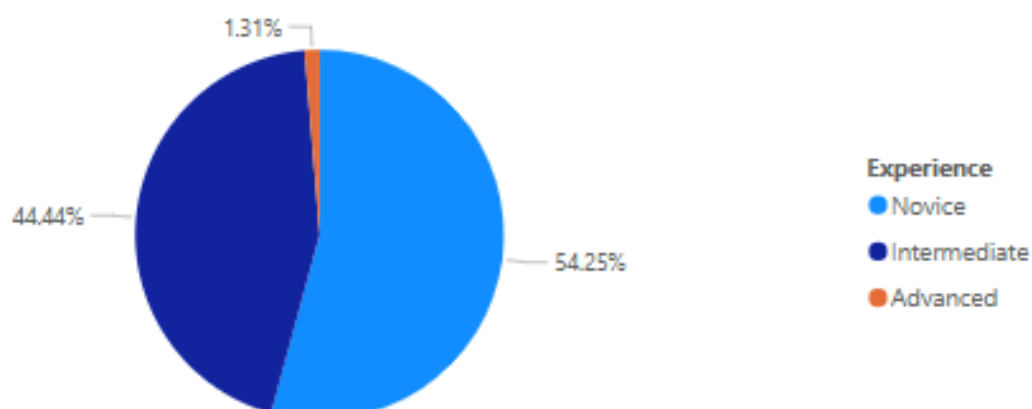
Average Mins Birdwatching Per Person



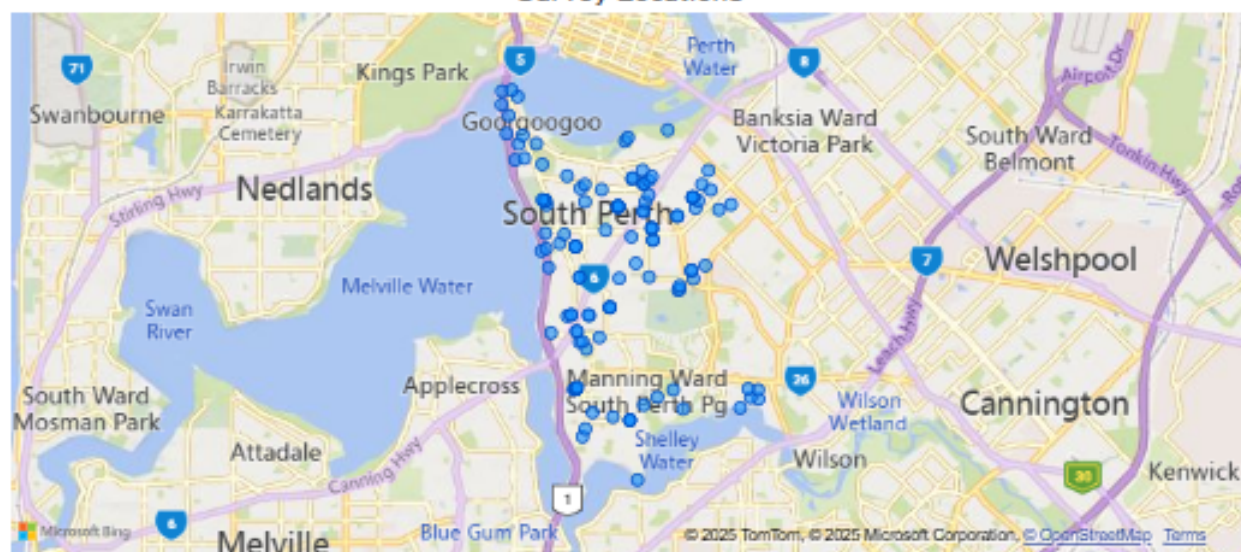
8

People In The Largest Group

Experience Category



Survey Locations



Bird Sightings Overview



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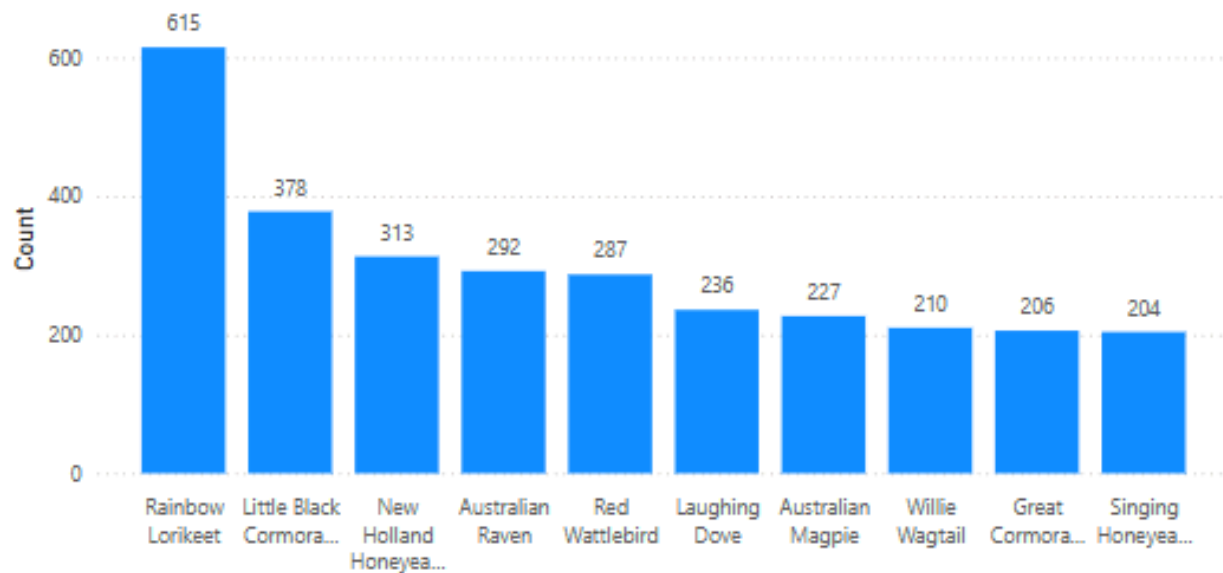
Birds Counted



71

Species Recorded

Top 10 Species



Total counts of all 71 bird species observed within the City of South Perth Council boundaries during the 2024 Aussie Bird Count. This list is based on BirdLife Australia's Working List of Australian Birds (Version 2), available here. [RS1] [AF2] RR (%) = reporting rate (percentage of all surveys submitted).

**Disclaimer: Species names might not match current taxonomy in all cases.*

Species	Count	RR %	Species	Count	RR %
Rainbow Lorikeet	615	0.5621	Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	20	0.0588
Little Black Cormorant	378	0.0392	Dusky Moorhen	18	0.0392
New Holland Honeyeater	313	0.4183	Hardhead	16	0.0261
Australian Raven	292	0.5817	Grey Teal	15	0.0131
Red Wattlebird	287	0.6078	Long-billed Corella	15	0.0065
Laughing Dove	236	0.3595	Little Pied Cormorant	13	0.0196
Australian Magpie	227	0.4575	Pink-eared Duck	12	0.0131
Willie Wagtail	210	0.4706	Australian Ringneck	10	0.0261
Great Cormorant	206	0.0261	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	8	0.0523
Singing Honeyeater	204	0.3595	Rock Dove	8	0.0131
Silver Gull	202	0.085	Australasian Grebe	6	0.0196
Galah	144	0.2026	Crested Pigeon	6	0.0196
Brown Honeyeater	109	0.2876	Mallard	6	0.0261
Black Swan	102	0.085	Rainbow Bee-eater	6	0.0196
Spotted Dove	93	0.1895	Silvereye	6	0.0196
Eurasian Coot	85	0.0784	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	5	0.0196
Australian White Ibis	77	0.268	Brown Goshawk	4	0.0261
Pacific Black Duck	77	0.098	Little Grassbird	4	0.0065
Welcome Swallow	72	0.1765	White-cheeked Honeyeater	4	0.0131
Magpie-lark	64	0.2614	White-faced Heron	4	0.0196
Great Pied Cormorant	61	0.0654	Australasian Shoveler	3	0.0131
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	61	0.0784	Blue-billed Duck	3	0.0196
Australian Pelican	49	0.0458	Great Egret	3	0.0131
Purple Swamphen	40	0.0523	Greater Crested Tern	3	0.0131
Australian Wood Duck	37	0.0392	Laughing Kookaburra	3	0.0131
Australasian Darter	30	0.0458	Pied Stilt	3	0.0065
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	29	0.0131	Red-capped Plover	3	0.0065
Little Corella	26	0.0458	Caspian Tern	2	0.0065
Australian Shelduck	23	0.0327	Little Eagle	2	0.0131
Western Wattlebird	22	0.0588	Nankeen Night-Heron	2	0.0065
			Osprey	2	0.0131

Species	Count	RR %
Straw-necked Ibis	2	0.0131
Tree Martin	2	0.0131
White-necked Heron	2	0.0065
Australian Hobby	1	0.0065
Black Duck-Mallard hybrid	1	0.0065
Common Greenshank	1	0.0065
Hoary-headed Grebe	1	0.0065
Little Egret	1	0.0065
Musk Duck	1	0.0065
Striated Pardalote	1	0.0065

Data limitations

An annual bird count in gardens, parks and other habitats across Australia has incredible value to engage people with nature and foster a shared sense of community. It also has the potential to be a valuable monitoring tool for Australian bird species and ecological communities.

While the results from the Aussie Bird Count provide an enticing snapshot of what people see in Bird Week each spring, caution must be taken when interpreting these results. Councils looking for robust long-term datasets on bird abundances in your region should reach out to our Birddata team directly at birddata@birdlife.org.au.

Some of the key limitations of this dataset are outlined below.

Counts are biased towards familiar and urban-adapted species

Most people do the Aussie Bird Count in their backyards, streets, or local parks. This means that easily recognisable birds common in human environments are most likely to turn up in people's counts. Conversely, species which rely on intact native habitats like dense forest and natural wetlands – as well as hard-to-ID species and shy birds that stick to dense cover – are likely to be under-reported. This is true even for species which are common in high-quality habitats within your Local Government Area, as well as seabirds for those councils that adjoin the open ocean.

For example, Variegated Fairy-wrens are common in dense bushland on the east coast, including in the Greater Sydney and Brisbane regions. However, there are few records of this species in the Aussie Bird Count. By contrast, the iconic Superb Fairy-wren, which is more resilient in suburban areas and degraded habitat, is reported in high numbers from most councils in these regions. Fuscous Honeyeaters are another example – very abundant in box-ironbark woodlands in QLD, NSW and VIC, but almost missing from the Aussie Bird Count in several regions where they occur.

A smaller problem to keep in mind is that some species are often misidentified as other, similarly-sized birds that do not occur in the place's participants count in. Where our expert vetters cannot determine exactly what species these are likely to be, the best option is to delete these records.

People may count the same birds several times

The total number of birds reported in your local Bird Count may be inflated, due to the potential for observers (particularly novices) to count the same bird/s multiple times over the course of their 20-minute survey period. Furthermore, counters who submit repeat counts from the same place over the week may be repeatedly submitting the same birds each day, and all these counts will form part of the final tally. This may be particularly noticeable in councils with small populations or low participation levels.

Counters have different levels of experience

Participants in Bird Week have a wide range of birding experience – from total beginners to life-long birdwatchers. While there is ID help available in the Bird Count app, and we edit and delete records that vetters deem to be made in error, a portion of incorrect records will always make their way through into the final dataset.

This is especially true for common birds, which we assume most people have correctly identified – some of these records will be other common species instead! For example, novice observers often mix up Eastern and Crimson Rosellas in Sydney, or Brown and Singing Honeyeaters in Perth.

Counts may be submitted with incorrect GPS coordinates

Most of the counts submitted in Bird Week will fall within about fifty metres of their true location. However, user error means a few surveys may be logged quite far away from the site a participant was counting, and this may affect some of the survey and sighting map pins for councils who have purchased a Brolga Report.

Counters may mis-click their location in the app, intentionally enter their home address even when counting elsewhere, or submit counts in scenarios where GPS access is poor: for example, near tall buildings, in a dense rainforest, or under heavy cloud cover. Where phones fail to pick up a GPS fix, they are forced to rely on mobile towers – this can reduce the accuracy of a count to a radius of 1+ km (particularly troublesome for smaller, urban LGAs). Counts submitted on the Bird Count website are also more prone to inaccurate locations, as most computers lack GPS functionality and participants must manually select a site for their counts.



Beyond the Aussie Bird Count: Other ways you can inspire your community to protect local birds

There are many ways councils can engage their communities in learning about and protecting local birdlife. From citizen science initiatives to habitat restoration projects, explore more ways you can help inspire your constituents to connect with and conserve the birds in your area.

Birds in Schools

Empower students to become young conservationists through this hands-on education program. Schools receive guidance on monitoring local bird species, creating bird-friendly habitats, and learning how urban environments impact bird populations. Councils can support schools in their area by promoting participation and providing resources.

Learn more: [Birds in Schools](#)

Birds in Backyards

Encourage residents to transform their outdoor spaces into thriving bird-friendly habitats. This program provides expert tips on creating gardens that support native bird species, as well as opportunities to contribute data to ongoing research. Councils can help by sharing resources and promoting the initiative to their communities.

Learn more: [Birds in Backyards](#)

Urban Birds Program

Engage urban residents in monitoring and protecting native bird species within city environments. This program offers resources and initiatives to help communities create bird-friendly urban spaces.

Learn more: [Urban Birds Program](#)

Birds on Farms

Collaborate with landholders to identify, appreciate, and manage bird habitats on their properties. This initiative supports sustainable land management practices that benefit both agriculture and native bird populations.

Learn more: [Birds on Farms](#)

Woodland Birds Program

Participate in conservation efforts targeting threatened and declining woodland bird species. Councils can support habitat restoration projects and community education to protect these vital species.

Learn more: [Woodland Birds Program](#)

Birddata

Help monitor bird populations by encouraging residents to submit their bird sightings through Birddata, BirdLife Australia's national bird monitoring platform. This valuable tool allows councils and community members to track changes in local bird populations and contribute to long-term conservation efforts.

Learn more: [Birddata](#)

Action Kit for Councils on Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs)

Rodent poisons containing second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) are lethal to birds of prey, causing widespread secondary poisoning. Councils play a vital role in reducing this threat by implementing SGAR-free pest control policies and educating their communities on safer alternatives. BirdLife Australia has developed an Action Kit for Councils to help local governments take action against these harmful poisons and protect Australia's birds.

Download the Action Kit: [SGARs Action Toolkit for Councils](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Encourage community members to volunteer in various capacities, from bird monitoring and habitat restoration to administrative support. Volunteering fosters community engagement and contributes significantly to bird conservation efforts.

Learn more: [Volunteer with BirdLife Australia](#)

H5 Bird Flu

At the time of writing, H5 bird flu, a virulent strain of avian Influenza that infects wild birds has not yet arrived in Australia. Councils can play a vital role in preparing for an outbreak of H5 bird flu at local beaches, lakes and waterways.

For up to date information refer to: [Avian Influenza](#)

Join Us Again for the 2025 Aussie Bird Count!

Thank you for being part of the 2024 Aussie Bird Count! Your council's participation has helped gather valuable insights into local bird populations while fostering community engagement with nature.

We'd love to have you on board again for 20–26 October 2025 to build on this success and continue inspiring your community to connect with their local birdlife. Stay tuned for more details on how your council can get involved—we look forward to working together again to make the next count even bigger and better!

In the meantime, if you already know that you're interested in participating in the Aussie Bird Count for 2025, please email us at birdweek@birdlife.org.au.

AUSSIE
BIRD
COUNT



Thank you

If you are interested in participating in the Aussie Bird Count for 2025, please email at birdweek@birdlife.org.au.

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