



Wetland birds

of the NSW Murray–Riverina regions

Wetland Bird Species Key

We have a wonderful diversity of birds in the NSW Murray and Riverina regions, that rely on wetlands for at least part of their lifecycle and ultimately for their survival. Each wetland species requires a different range of habitats within wetlands to feed and breed, and each has their own ecological story. A single wetland or even a farm dam can provide many of these different habitats that will support a huge diversity of birds and other wildlife.

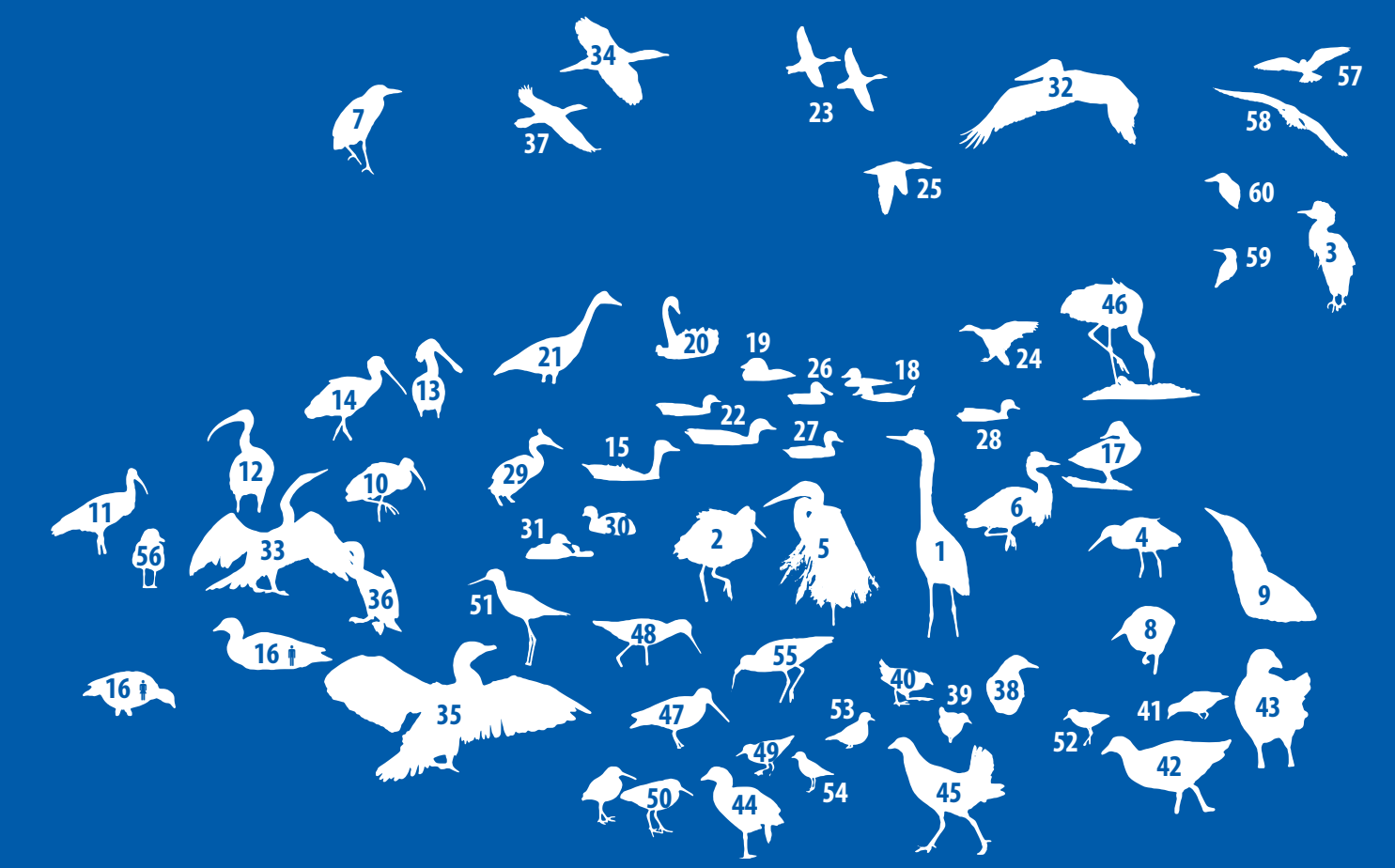
Tall trees over wetlands or flooded areas are important for birds such as Herons, Egrets and Ibis to breed. These species rely heavily on our River Red Gum forests and Black Box woodlands to reproduce, but prefer more **open wetland areas** to feed in.

Dense reed beds like cumbungi and phragmites are critical for species such as Bitterns to breed in, whereas Brolgas prefer **shallow wetland areas** with smaller waterplants like spike-rushes and cane-grass so they can maintain a panoramic view of their surrounds.

Areas of **mudflats** and **very shallow water** are key habitat for a wide array of shorebirds to feed on, such as Dotterels, Plovers and Snipe. Many of the Crakes, Rails and birds like the Swamp-hen and Moorhen also like shallow water and mud, in combination with **waterplants** and **reeds** to provide cover.

Open, deep water is where you'll find many of the waterfowl species such as Ducks, Cormorants, the Australasian darter and Australian Pelican. These species like to dive and pursue underwater prey like fish, yabbies and aquatic invertebrates.

Management of wetlands to protect and improve as many of these habitat elements as possible is critical to support these wetland bird species to feed, breed and live. Even small changes and actions made in our wetlands, floodplains and even dams can provide some or all of these habitat features and support a wide array of wetland birds.



- HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS**
1. White-necked Heron
 2. White-faced heron
 3. Cattle Egret
 4. Little Egret
 5. Great Egret
 6. Intermediate Egret
 7. Nankeen Night Heron
 8. Little Bittern
 9. Australasian Bittern
- IBIS AND SPOONBILLS**
10. Glossy Ibis
 11. Straw-necked Ibis
 12. Australian White Ibis
 13. Royal Spoonbill
 14. Yellow-billed Spoonbill

- WATERFOWL**
15. Plumed Whistling Duck
 16. Australian Wood Duck
 17. Freckled Duck
 18. Blue-billed Duck
 19. Musk Duck
 20. Black Swan
 21. Magpie Goose
 22. Australian Shelduck
 23. Hardhead
 24. Pacific Black Duck
 25. Australasian Shoveler
 26. Pink-eared Duck
 27. Grey Teal
 28. Chestnut Teal
 29. Great Crested Grebe
 30. Hoary-headed Grebe
 31. Australasian Grebe
 32. Australian Pelican

- CORMORANTS AND DARTER**
33. Darter
 34. Great Cormorant
 35. Little Black Cormorant
 36. Pied Cormorant
 37. Little Pied Cormorant
- CRAKES, RAILS, WATERHENS AND BROLGA**
38. Buff-banded Rail
 39. Spotted Crake
 40. Australian Spotted Crake
 41. Baillon's Crake
 42. Dusky Moorhen
 43. Australasian Swamp-hen
 44. Eurasian Coot
 45. Black-tailed Native Hen
 46. Brolga

- SHOREBIRDS, TERNS AND GULL**
47. Latham's Snipe
 48. Common Greenshank
 49. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
 50. Australian Painted Snipe
 51. Black-winged Stilt
 52. Red-kneed Dotterel
 53. Black-fronted Dotterel
 54. Red-capped Plover
 55. Masked Lapwing
 56. Silver Gull
 57. Whiskered Tern
 58. Caspian Tern
- KINGFISHER**
59. Azure Kingfisher
 60. Sacred Kingfisher