



Birds of Roxby Downs

A total of 187 bird species have been recorded in the Roxby Downs region (within a 50km radius) over the past 23 years. Arid Recovery has recorded 98 species of birds since the reserve was established in 1997.

Nocturnal bird numbers inside the reserve (particularly Tawny Frogmouth, Boobook and Barn Owls) have increased over the last decade and this has been likely due to the increase in small mammal numbers inside the Arid Recovery Reserve.

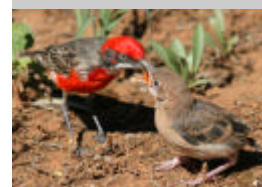
The bird list on the following page includes a column which indicates whether a bird is seen commonly, is uncommon or is rarely seen. There is also another column which indicates the habits of the bird including whether or not the bird is a resident (lives and breeds in the area), vagrant (sometimes seen in the area during good seasons) or migratory (migrate through the area). Resident and commonly observed birds in the area are Zebra Finches, Crested Pigeons, Black Kites, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Bluebonnets, Willie Wagtails, Little Crows, Australian Ravens, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Singing Honeyeaters.

Habitat plays a major part in the distribution of birds. Birds commonly seen on gibber plains and flat areas include the White-winged Fairy-wren and Richard's Pipit. Other species observed predominantly on sand-dunes and sand-plains include the White-browed Babbler, Splendid and Variegated Fairy-wrens, and Thornbills.

Common birds of the Mulga/Myall woodland areas include the Mulga Parrot, Bluebonnet, Crested Pigeon, Grey Butcherbird, Crested Bellbird, Thornbills and the Ground Cuckoo-shrike.

The time of year can play a major role with bird distribution. Many species move into the region at different times of the year. The White-winged Triller and the Rainbow Bee-eater visit each year during the spring and summer months. The Rainbow Bee-eater migrates from the north of Australia and New Guinea where it spends the winter. Rainfall can also have a huge impact on what birds are present. Following periods of high rainfall the lush vegetation can attract a whole host of birds into the area. These include the Brown and Rufous Songlarks, Budgerigahs, Cockatiels, Orange and Crimson Chats, Diamond Doves, Pied Honeyeaters and waterbirds.

The town and mine also influence the species of birds observed in the area, through increased water, roosting sites, food sources and amenity plantings. Some bird species, such as the White-plumed Honeyeater, colonised the town after the establishment of amenity plantings. Many waterbirds are attracted to the sewer ponds and other permanent water. Feral species have also moved into the area with the most abundant being the House Sparrow.



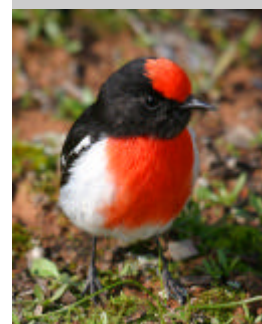
Crimson Chat

Photo: David Webb



Brown Falcon

Photo: Travis Gotch



Red Capped Robin

Photo: David Webb

Find Out More

Read, J.L. and Ebdon, R (1998). Australian Bird Watcher 17: 234-244

Read, J.L, Ebdon F.R. and Donohoe, P. (2000). S. Aust. Orn. 33: 71-83



