

Common Bush Birds of the Kongwak Region — all photos courtesy of Robyn Bolding Photography unless otherwise stated.

● Nest box user

Red Wattlebird

35cm

Noisy, aggressive, grey and streaked honeyeater with red wattles hanging from cheeks.

Usually found in gardens and open parks.



Spotted Pardalote

● 9cm

Tiny, brightly coloured bird with tiny white spots. Usually heard rather than seen.

Often high in the tree canopy.



Eastern Spinebill

15cm

Long, down curved bill. Black and white markings and chestnut belly. They have a high-pitched repetitive call and you may hear the distinctive 'flip flap' sound of their wings as they fly.



Grey Fantail

15cm

Small, active bird with a dark grey body and white face markings. Almost constantly fanned tail.



Crimson Rosella

● 35cm

Bright red and blue parrot, with blue cheek patches. Juveniles are a scruffy/mottled green.



Photo by JT

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

15cm

Greyish-brown honeyeater with yellow stripe running under the bird's eye.

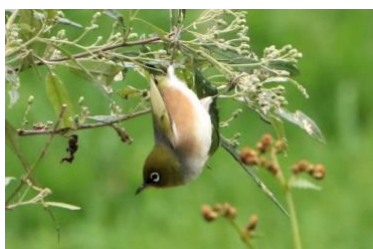
Seen more often in summer months and calls often.



Silvereye

12cm

Olive-green bird often with rust-colour on sides of belly and a bright, white eye ring. Usually in flocks.



White-throated Treecreeper

● 15cm

Mostly brown bird with a white throat. Often flies to the base of a tree where it

moves upwards, clinging to the bark, looking for insects. High pitched call.



Eastern Yellow Robin

15cm

Grey back, yellow front. Often quietly perched on a vertical branch where it pounces on its meals.



Eastern Rosella

● 30cm

Mostly bright red and yellow parrot, with white cheek patches. More often seen in open bush and paddocks in pairs or small groups.



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Brown Thornbill

10cm

Tiny, plain brown bird with streaks on its throat. Often in small feeding flocks. Feeds mostly in trees and shrubs.



Grey Shrikethrush

● 22cm

Drab grey, medium-sized bird with coppery-brown back. Beautiful song. these birds are usually alone or in a pair.



Superb Fairy wren

14cm

Small, distinctive 'Blue Wren' with vertical tail. Males have bright blue markings while females are brown with a light throat.



BirdLife Bass Coast: includes South Gippsland and runs regular outings and projects. They are helpful with ID questions. birdlifebasscoast@gmail.com

Jane Taylor: email me any bird photos that need identifying. taylor.janea@gmail.com

Some other resources and information

Birdata app and eBird app: Available as free apps or websites, these are databases of bird information from across Australia and the world. You can explore the species recorded at a specific area e.g. Pioneer Reserve, Kongwak, look up distribution of specific species e.g.: Silvereye AND complete your own surveys using the app. This is a great way to keep track of your sightings and create replicable surveys to track changes in the birds on your property over time.

Xeno canto (<https://xeno-canto.org>)

A database of bird calls. If you want to double-check or familiarise yourself with a local bird call, type the species into the search bar and press play on a recording. Each recording of a bird will show the location the recording, try to get as close to your local area (or state) as possible as bird calls can vary like accents across the country.

When you're identifying a new bird, ask yourself:

What is its shape?	Plump like a dove/ sleek like a heron/ solid like a magpie
How big is it?	Compare to a bird you know well e.g: is it bigger than a Willie Wagtail?
Flight Pattern	Some birds fly direct (like magpies) while others twist and turn (Galah)
What is the colour of its bill and legs?	
How is it feeding or acting?	Is it in the canopy? Hopping on the ground? Pouncing on its prey or hovering.

Take a recording of the birds call in your 'voice memo' app in your phone or a video.

The Australian Bird Guide (Second Edition) is about \$50. There is an index in the front, so if you aren't sure what bird you're looking for, find a species that just looks similar and the corresponding page number should put you in the right area.

Morcombe's Bird's of Australia (app)

You can download this app for about \$30. It's easier to carry around than a whole field guide but is not as comprehensive. The calls on this app are very useful.

Local plants to encourage birds: Prickly Moses, Hazel Pomaderris, Narrow-leaf Peppermint (*Eucalyptus radiata*) Messmate Gum (*E. obliqua*) Manna Gum (*E. viminalis*), Lomandra, Dianella, Hope Goodenia