



Brolga Report

Aussie Bird Count 2024 Results

Mid-Western Regional Council (NSW)



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



74
Birdwatchers



147
Species



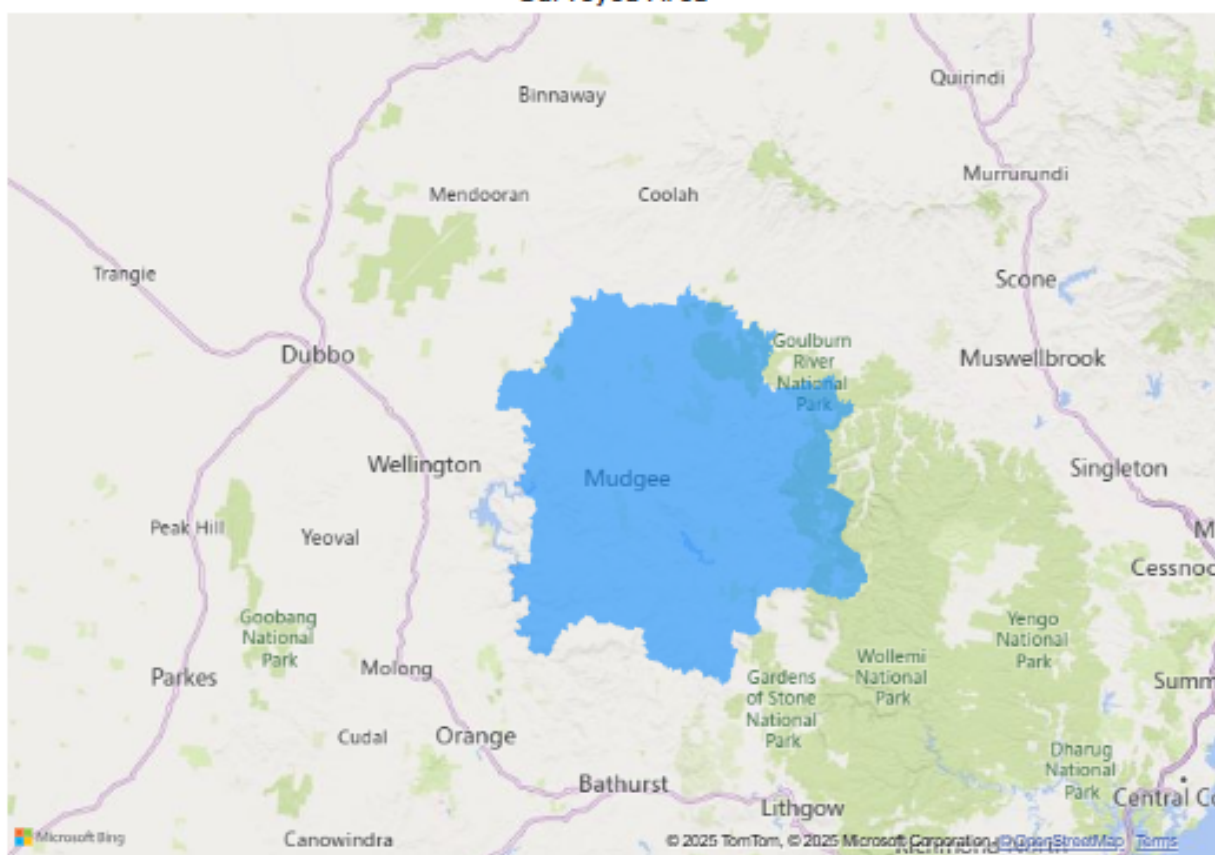
83
Hours Birdwatching



6875
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' may 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



220

Surveys Submitted



74

Birdwatchers



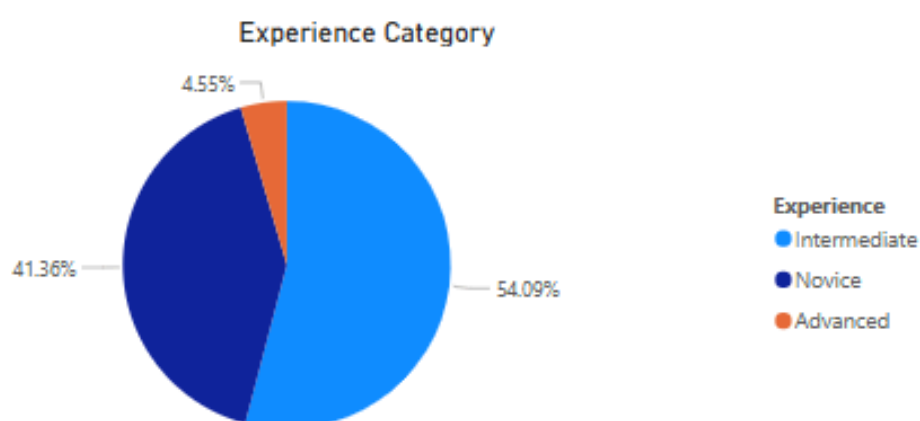
24

Average Mins Birdwatching Per Person

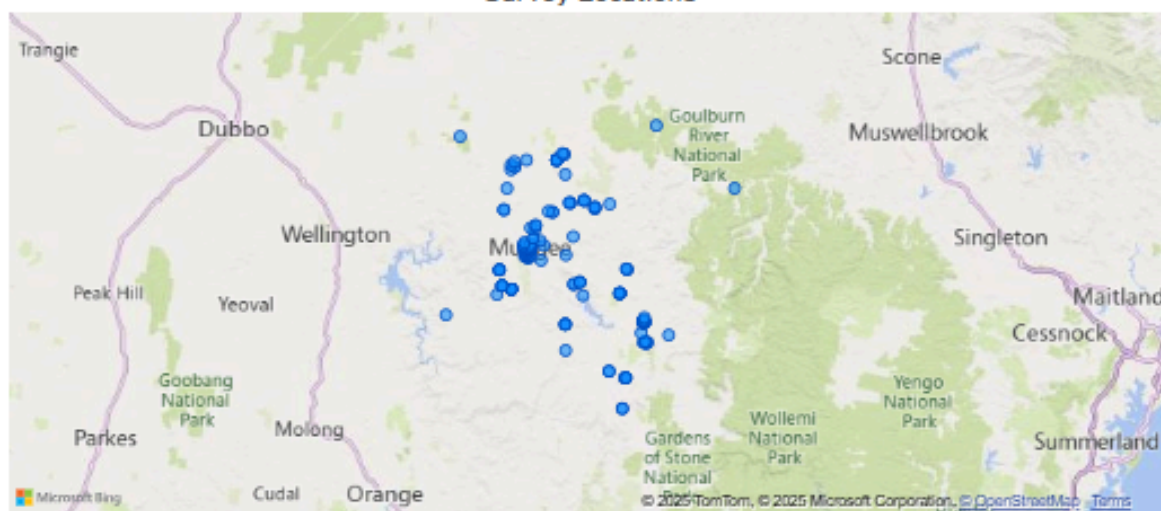


3

People In The Largest Group



Survey Locations



Bird Sightings Overview



6875

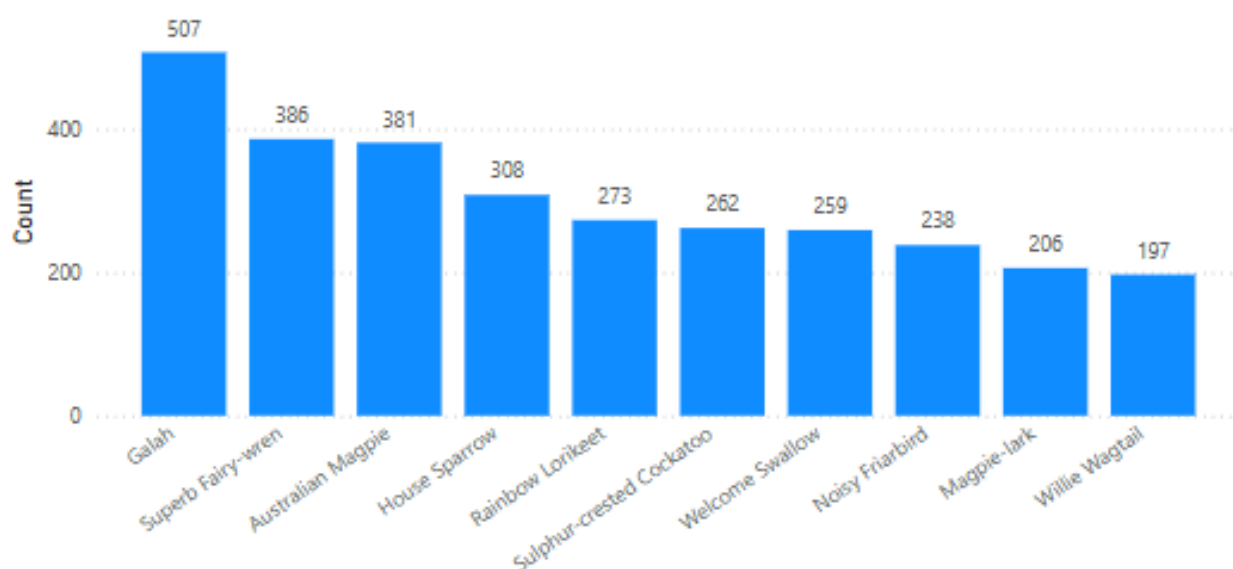
Birds Counted



147

Species Recorded

Top 10 Species



Total counts of all 147 bird species observed within the Mid-Western Regional 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 %
Galah	507	0.5636
Superb Fairy-wren	386	0.4591
Australian Magpie	381	0.5591
House Sparrow	308	0.2682
Rainbow Lorikeet	273	0.2227
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	262	0.3273
Welcome Swallow	259	0.2682
Noisy Friarbird	238	0.3591
Magpie-lark	206	0.4136
Willie Wagtail	197	0.4045
Eastern Rosella	182	0.3364
Common Starling	169	0.1773
Red Wattlebird	167	0.3227
Red-rumped Parrot	167	0.1227
Pied Currawong	165	0.3636
Noisy Miner	155	0.1909
Crested Pigeon	149	0.3318
Red-browed Finch	146	0.1273
Double-barred Finch	142	0.1136
Australian Wood Duck	128	0.0727
Common Myna	128	0.0818
White-winged Chough	125	0.0909
Australian King-Parrot	122	0.2455
Australian Raven	104	0.2045
Laughing Kookaburra	97	0.2273
Musk Lorikeet	86	0.0727
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	76	0.0818
Common Blackbird	64	0.1227
Fairy Martin	62	0.0318
Crimson Rosella	61	0.0727
Masked Lapwing	59	0.1227

Species	Count	RR %
Striated Pardalote	59	0.1091
Eastern Spinebill	58	0.0955
Little Corella	57	0.0682
Straw-necked Ibis	54	0.0318
Yellow Thornbill	48	0.0409
Pacific Black Duck	42	0.0409
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	41	0.1136
Blue-faced Honeyeater	40	0.0818
White-plumed Honeyeater	38	0.0545
Grey Fantail	37	0.0773
Diamond Firetail	35	0.05
Satin Bowerbird	33	0.0773
Common Bronzewing	31	0.0591
Spotted Pardalote	31	0.0636
Brown Songlark	29	0.0318
White-browed Scrubwren	27	0.0545
Grey Shrike-thrush	26	0.05
Wedge-tailed Eagle	26	0.0591
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	24	0.0318
Apostlebird	23	0.0182
Rufous Whistler	23	0.0864
Silvereye	23	0.0364
Rock Dove	22	0.0455
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	20	0.05
Black Duck-Mallard hybrid	17	0.0409
Eastern Koel	15	0.0636
Striated Thornbill	15	0.0182
Peaceful Dove	14	0.0227
Little Friarbird	13	0.0273
Rufous Songlark	13	0.0273

Species	Count	RR %
White-necked Heron	13	0.0545
Dusky Woodswallow	11	0.0182
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	11	0.0136
New Holland Honeyeater	11	0.0182
Zebra Finch	11	0.0182
Crow & Raven spp	10	0.0273
Nankeen Kestrel	10	0.0273
Olive-backed Oriole	10	0.0455
Brown Treecreeper	9	0.0273
Grey Butcherbird	9	0.0364
Rainbow Bee-eater	8	0.0136
Sacred Kingfisher	8	0.0227
Tawny Frogmouth	8	0.0273
Variegated Fairy-wren	8	0.0045
Australasian Darter	7	0.0091
Brown Honeyeater	7	0.0273
Superb Parrot	7	0.0091
Brown Thornbill	6	0.0273
Brush Cuckoo	6	0.0136
Little Raven	6	0.0136
Musk Duck	6	0.0045
Pied Butcherbird	6	0.0273
Singing Honeyeater	6	0.0136
Weebill	6	0.0182
White-faced Heron	6	0.0273
White-throated Gerygone	6	0.0273
Australasian Grebe	5	0.0091
Australian White Ibis	5	0.0091
Gang-gang Cockatoo	5	0.0136
Little Button-quail	5	0.0136
Oriental Dollarbird	5	0.0227

Species	Count	RR %
Pink-eared Duck	5	0.0045
Superb Lyrebird	5	0.0227
White-winged Triller	5	0.0136
Australian Pelican	4	0.0091
Black-chinned Honeyeater	4	0.0091
Channel-billed Cuckoo	4	0.0136
Mistletoebird	4	0.0182
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	4	0.0091
Whistling Kite	4	0.0136
White-eared Honeyeater	4	0.0136
White-throated Treecreeper	4	0.0182
Brown Quail	3	0.0091
Buff-rumped Thornbill	3	0.0091
Common Cicadabird	3	0.0136
Eastern Whipbird	3	0.0091
Grey Teal	3	0.0045
Jacky Winter	3	0.0045
Little Black Cormorant	3	0.0091
Red-capped Robin	3	0.0045
Rockwarbler	3	0.0136
Rufous Fantail	3	0.0091
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	3	0.0091
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	3	0.0045
Wonga Pigeon	3	0.0136
Australasian Shoveler	2	0.0045
Azure Kingfisher	2	0.0091
Bell Miner	2	0.0091
Black-faced Woodswallow	2	0.0091
Brown Goshawk	2	0.0091
Dusky Moorhen	2	0.0045

Species	Count	RR %
Golden Whistler	2	0.0091
Hardhead	2	0.0045
Little Lorikeet	2	0.0045
Peregrine Falcon	2	0.0045
Purple Swamphen	2	0.0045
Red-browed Treecreeper	2	0.0045
Square-tailed Kite	2	0.0091
Striped Honeyeater	2	0.0045
Stubble Quail	2	0.0091
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	2	0.0045
Australian Hobby	1	0.0045
Banded Lapwing	1	0.0045
Black Swan	1	0.0045
Black-shouldered Kite	1	0.0045
Brown Falcon	1	0.0045
Crested Shrike-tit	1	0.0045
Eurasian Coot	1	0.0045
Flame Robin	1	0.0045
Great Pied Cormorant	1	0.0045
Grey-crowned Babbler	1	0.0045
Indian Peafowl	1	0.0045
Leaden Flycatcher	1	0.0045
Little Eagle	1	0.0045
Rose Robin	1	0.0045
Scarlet Robin	1	0.0045

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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National Engagement Coordinator
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