

BALLARAT **BOTANICAL** GARDENS



A GUIDE TO THE MOST COMMON LAKE WENDOUREE BIRDS

Lake Wendouree is located close to the centre of Ballarat and covers an area of 238 hectares. Valued for a wide variety of aquatic recreation activities, over a third of the Lake is dedicated to natural habitat for flora and fauna. Preservation of this habitat supports a large number and diverse range of birdlife species. This is a guide to some of the most common birds of Lake Wendouree.



EURASIAN COOT

Fulica atra (Native)

- Description:** Grey with white bill and forehead shield.
Food: Mostly aquatic plants and food scraps.
Breeding: Breed in summer.



PACIFIC BLACK DUCK

Anas superciliosa (Native)

- Description:** Mid – brown feathers. Dark brown line through eye with cream stripe above and below.
Food: Mostly aquatic plants, also crustaceans, molluscs, aquatic insects.
Breeding: Two clutches per year. Up to 16 eggs per clutch.



BLACK SWAN

Cygnus atratus (Native)

- Description:** Adult black with white wing tips visible in flight. Average adult size: 131cm high. Younger birds are grey.
Food: Algae and aquatic plants
Breeding: June to September. Birds pair for life. Nest built on islands or in reeds.



SILVER GULL

Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae (Native)

- Description:** White head tail and breast, light grey back and black tipped wings. Average size: 42cm high.
Food: Worms, fish, insects, crustaceans and human food scraps
Breeding: August to November. Three eggs.



LITTLE PIED CORMORANT

Microcarbo melanoleucos (Native)

- Description:** Black above and white below.
Average size: 58cm high.
- Food:** Insects, fish and yabbies.
- Breeding:** Nests in trees.



AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK

Chenonetta jubato (Native)

- Description:** Dark brown head and pale grey body with two black stripes along black.
- Food:** Grasses and insects.
- Breeding:** Nests in tree holes.



PURPLE SWAMP HEN

Porphyrio porphyria (Native)

- Description:** Black back with dark blue/ purple below. Red beak and shield. Average size: 46cm.
- Food:** Reed shoots, frogs, snails, other bird eggs and food scraps
- Breeding:** Nest is a platform of trampled reeds.



WELCOME SWALLOW

Hirundo neoxena (Native)

- Description:** Blue-black metallic back. Light grey below. Rust coloured face and breast. Average size: 15cm high.
- Food:** Insects (caught in flight)
- Breeding:** August to February. Nest of mud and grass attached to a rock wall or structure. Nest lined with feathers and fur. Two broods per season. 3 - 5 eggs per clutch.



COMMON STARLING

Sturnus vulgaris (Introduced from Europe)

- Description:** Glossy black with or without white spots.
Average size: 21cm high.
- Food:** Seeds, insects, spiders, worms and human scraps.
- Breeding:** Usually August to January. Nests consist of grasses, twigs and human rubbish in any hollow. 4 to 8 eggs per clutch. Can be two broods year



MAGPIE - LARK

Grallina cyanoleuca (Native)

- Description:** Black and white.
Average size: 28cm high.
- Food:** Insects, larvae, earthworms and aquatic invertebrates.
- Breeding:** 3 to 5 eggs per clutch.
Both parents incubate the eggs and feed the young.



MUSK DUCK

Biziura lobata (Native) Vulnerable species in Victoria

- Description:** Dark brown with lighter brown lines on body. Pale below. Has a large lobe of skin hanging under its bill. Male larger.
Average size: 60cm high.
- Food:** Aquatic insects, crustaceans, snails, yabbies, fish and frogs.
- Breeding:** September to December.
2 to 3 eggs per clutch. One clutch per year.

An annual survey of the Lake Wendouree birds is undertaken by The Field Naturalists of Ballarat and BirdLife groups.
For further details on the bird surveys, Lake Wendouree and the North Gardens Wetlands,
please contact the Gardens Education Officer at 5320 5537

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/lae/gardens
Call the Gardens Education and Collection Officer on 5320 5537



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References:

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat
BirdLife Ballarat
www.birdsinbackyards.net