

Attracting birds to your garden

How to attract birds to your garden ...

Birds have three main requirements for survival in any habitat: water, shelter and food.

Water should be provided year-round for bathing and drinking. Bird baths, ponds or water features can supply this, but they must be inaccessible to cats, or situate them in an open area where the birds can see if a predator is approaching. Clean out bird baths regularly to provide fresh drinking and bathing water.



Dense shrubberies provide birds with shelter, protection from predators, and for nesting. Dense and prickly foliaged shrubs, and trees with hollows (both dead and living trees), provide nesting sites for birds. Many birds and other small mammals use hollows in dead trees for nesting and shelter. Therefore, it is best to assess whether or not you need to remove dead trees, otherwise simply leave them where they are.



Food is best supplied by planting nectar and seed producing trees, shrubs and grasses, which provide seasonal sustenance to birds. Try to provide different food sources, not just nectar, so that a range of bird species are attracted to your garden. Some birds will feed high up in the trees, and some will feed on the ground.



Bird feeders can be used to supplement other natural sources, however, remember that if you feed birds on a regular basis, they may become dependant on this food source. When you go on holiday or move, this food source is removed and some birds may starve. It is far better to provide an environment where birds can nest, breed and feed in your garden by providing the right environment and plants.



Plants that attract birds ...

The following is a selection of Australian native plants that may be used to attract birds to your garden and the reason why birds are attracted to them.

Trees

<i>Acacia</i> spp	Food source and nesting site
<i>Banksia</i> spp	Nectar and seed source, nesting site
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	Food source and nesting site
<i>Hakea</i> spp	Nectar and seed source
<i>Melaleuca</i> spp	Food and nesting site
<i>Leptospermum</i> spp	Food and nesting site

Shrubs

<i>Acacia</i> spp	Food source and nesting site
<i>Alogyne</i> spp	Nectar source
<i>Banksia</i> spp	Nectar and seed source, nesting site
<i>Correa</i> spp	Nectar source
<i>Calytrix</i> spp	Nectar and shelter
<i>Epacris</i> spp	Nectar and shelter
<i>Hakea</i> spp	Nectar and seed source
<i>Melaleuca</i> spp	Food and nesting site
<i>Leptospermum</i> spp	Food and nesting site
<i>Prostanthera</i> spp	Insect source
<i>Bursaria</i> spp	Insect source and shelter
<i>Grevillea</i> spp	Food source and shelter

Grasses

<i>Anigozanthos</i> spp	Nectar source
<i>Themeda</i> spp	Seed source
<i>Poa</i> spp	Seed source

Climbers

<i>Kennedia</i> spp	Nectar and insect source
<i>Hibbertia</i> spp	Insect source

Groundcovers

<i>Banksia</i> spp	Nectar and seed source, nesting site
<i>Kennedia</i> spp	Nectar and insect source
<i>Grevillea</i> spp	Food source and shelter

