

# Birdlife in the hills

Key species and  
how backyard birding makes happy landowners

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birds are in our nature



# Today's programme

- Birds in the hills
- How birds see the landscape
- Measuring change
- People and birdwatching
- Becoming a citizen scientist



# Looking at the Perth Hills



- How are birds using the landscape?
- The birds we see tell us about the landscape

# Birds we love seeing in the Hills

- Birds that use tree hollows





# Birds we love seeing in the Hills

- Territorial species



Inland Thornbill

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Red-winged Fairy-wren



Western Yellow Robin

# Birds we love seeing in the Hills

- Birds that are declining in the Perth area



Red-capped Parrot



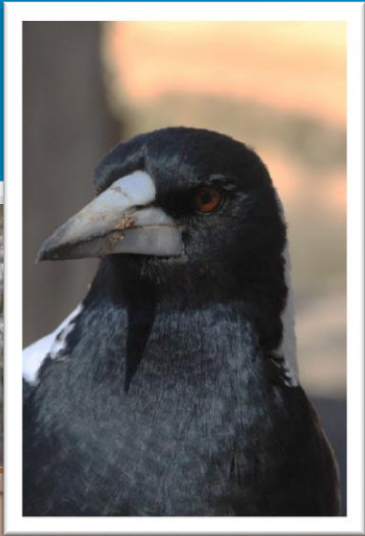
Western Whistler



Western Spinebill



# How birds see the landscape



Where I can look for food from

Where food is



# How birds see the landscape



Difficult to escape

Where predators sit?

Nowhere to hide!



# How birds see the landscape



- A - Hawk: catches insect prey on the wing
- B - Seed-eater: cracks seeds from grass, shrubs and/or tall trees
- C - Nectar-feeder: drinks nectar from the flowers of shrubs and trees
- D - Insect-eater: looks for insects in shrubs and trees
- E - Meat-eater: hunts for prey like lizards, frogs and other birds throughout the garden
- F - Pouncer: pounces on its insect prey from a height
- G - Ground forager: hunts for its food (like invertebrates or seeds) on the ground in grass or mulch
- H - Sallier: flies into the air to catch prey
- I - Introduced: found around man-made structures
- J - Bird of Prey

A bird-friendly garden is one where there is lots of food to eat and places to hide. Different birds eat different things including seeds, flowers, insects and even other birds. When building your garden try and include three layers of plants (tall trees, shrubs and ground covers), and plant them densely to create thickets. This will ensure you have plenty of food and shelter. Providing water is also important, but it is best placed out of the reach of predators such as cats, and while nest boxes can give hollow-nesting birds a place to raise young, you need to put up different shaped boxes for different birds and make sure you maintain them so introduced birds don't move in and take over. For more information read the step-by-step bird-friendly gardening guidelines on the Birds in Backyards website.

# “Birding makes happy landowners”???

Two arguments:

- Humans believe things more when they measure them
- Connecting with nature makes us better humans



Australian Ringneck



# Connecting with nature, appreciating our efforts



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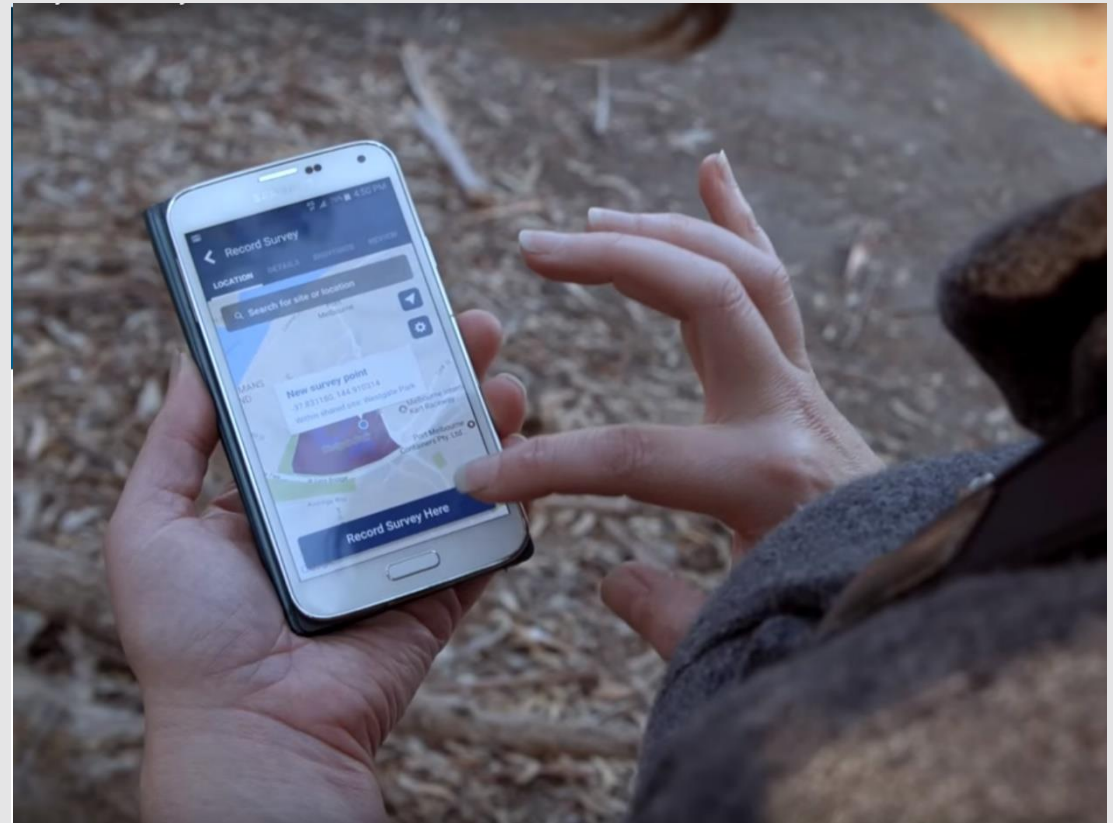


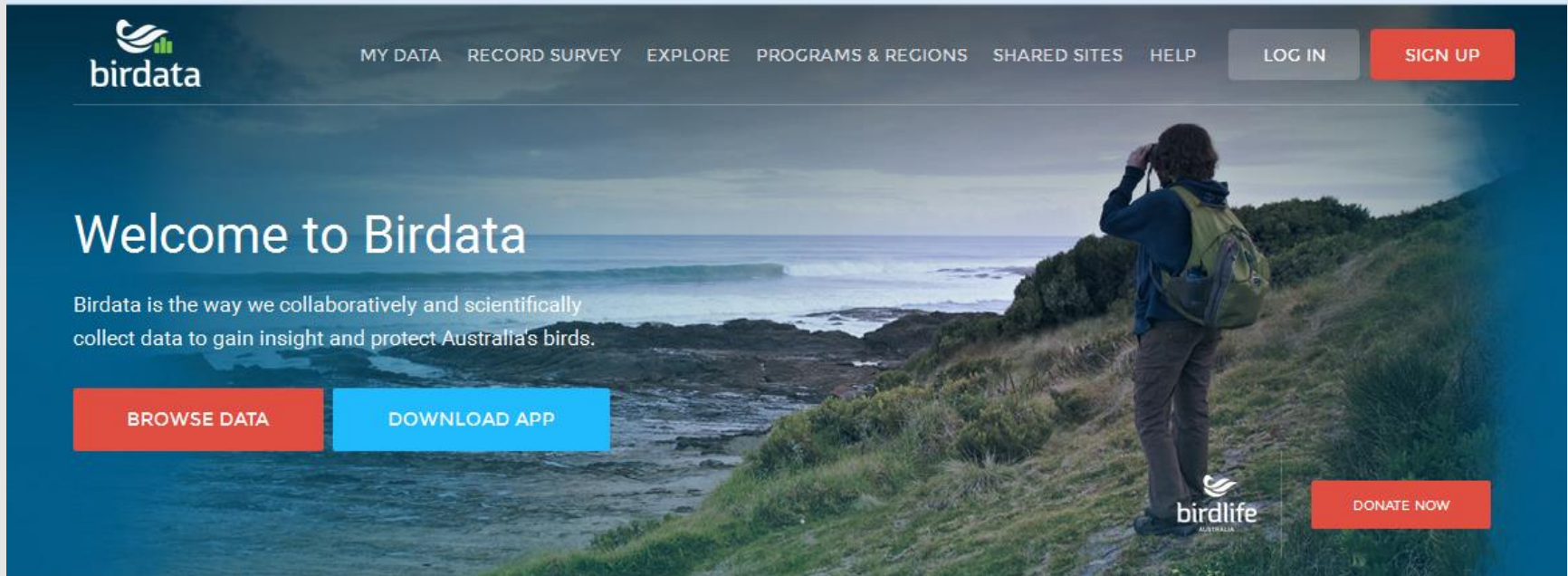
# Tracking your property's progress



Scarlet Robin

- Web portal and app to collect data on birds





**birdata**

MY DATA RECORD SURVEY EXPLORE PROGRAMS & REGIONS SHARED SITES HELP

LOG IN SIGN UP

## Welcome to Birdata

Birdata is the way we collaboratively and scientifically collect data to gain insight and protect Australia's birds.

BROWSE DATA DOWNLOAD APP

birdlife AUSTRALIA

DONATE NOW

## Birdata Basics



### Get started

Welcome to BirdLife Australia's new Birdata web portal. Here's a few things you need to know to make your birding count.

[MORE >](#)

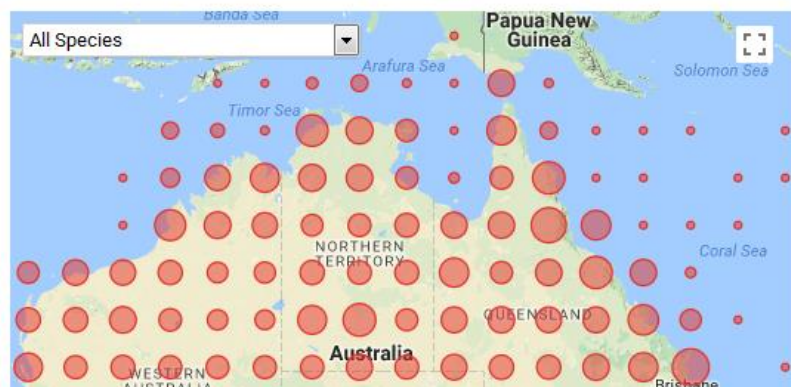


### Keen Observers

The Perils of Birdwatching: Going birdwatching sometimes needs a little forward planning, but as John Peter discovered, the birds don't always cooperate.

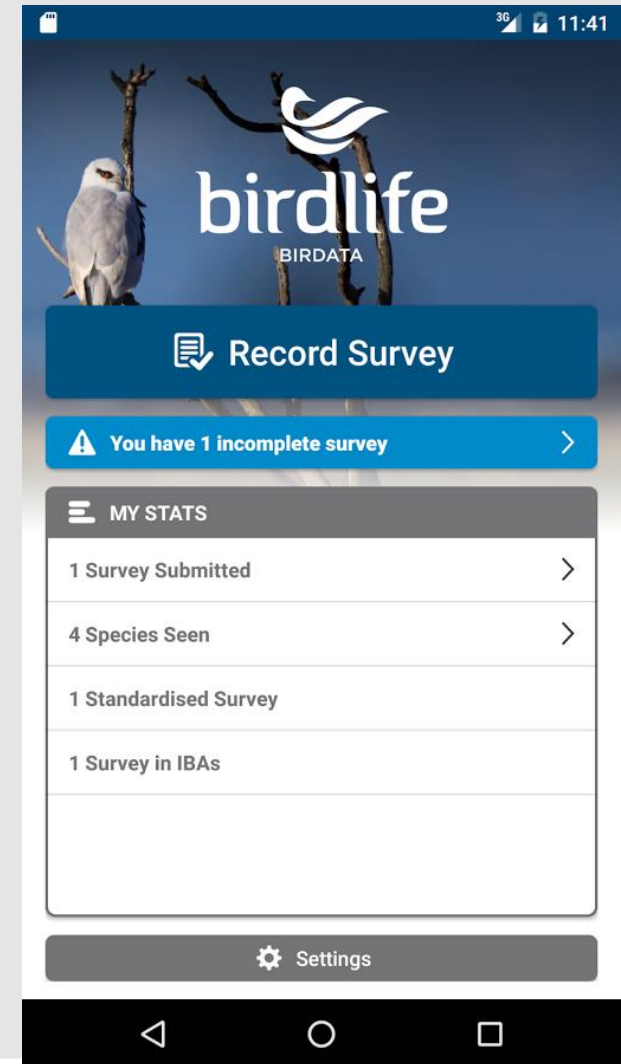
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## Live Map Data



# Birdata app

- Available for Android and iPhone
- Free download
- Login once
- Easy to use
- Doesn't need phone reception to work
- Can be edited/added to later on from your computer





# Birds in Backyards program

- Record the changes in your property
- Record the changes in the birds that live there



New Holland Honeyeater

# How else can Birdata be used?

- To explore an area
- To learn about species
- To upload and store your surveys from multiple locations
- To join a survey project



Baudin's Black-Cockatoo



# Why does BirdLife like surveying for birds so much?

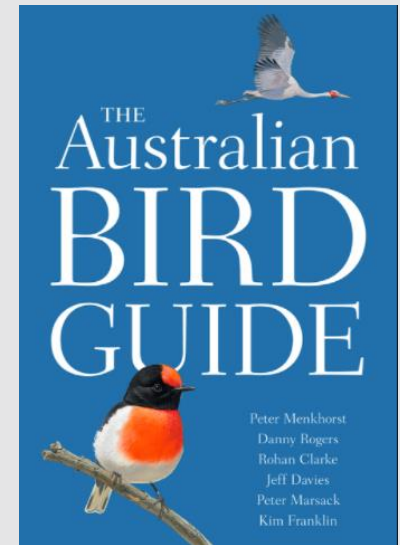


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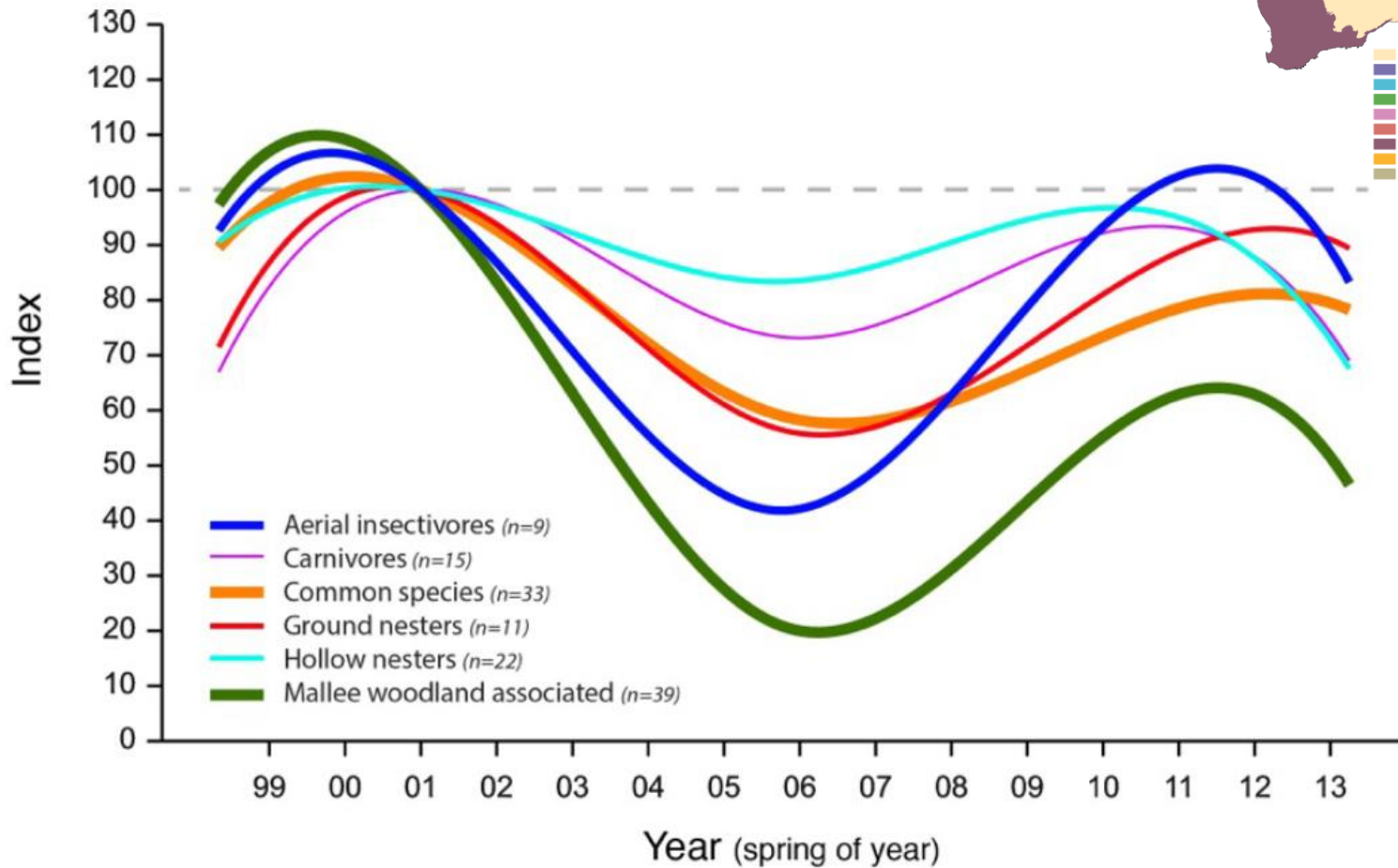
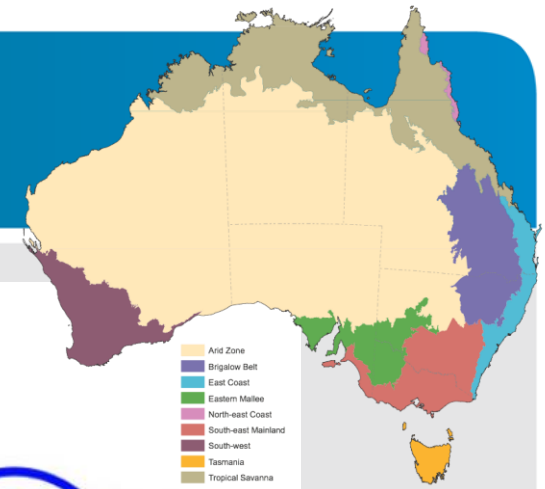
# How data are used

- By BirdLife:
  - Species tracking by trend analyses, distribution changes
  - *State of Australia's Birds* reports
    - A conservation report to Australia's decision makers
- Available to external sources



Tree Martin

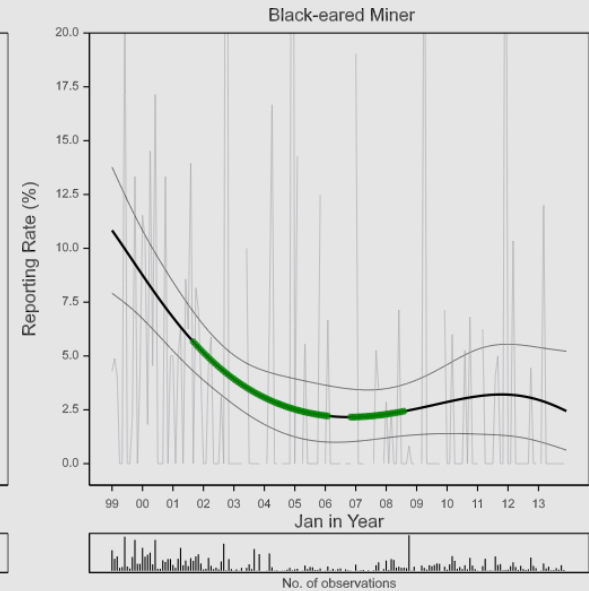
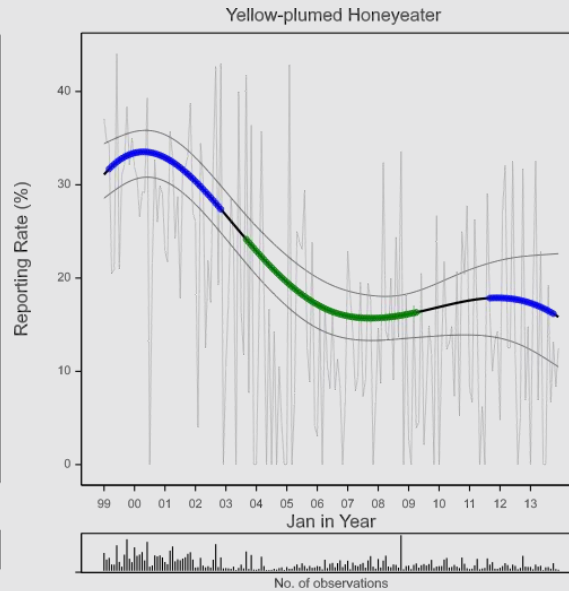
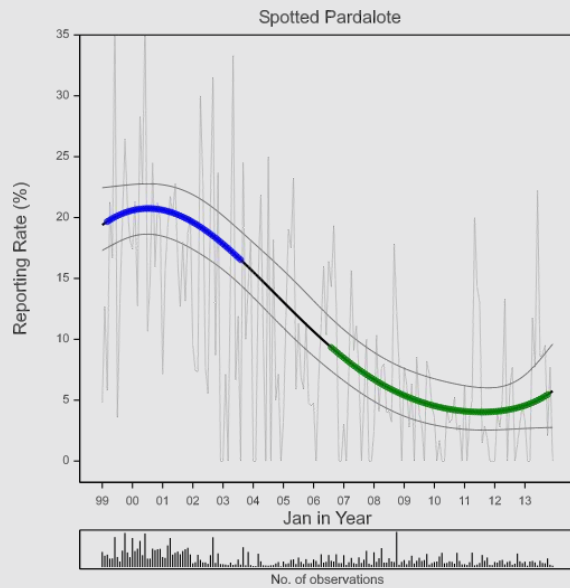
# Regional Bird Indices – for bird guilds



# Eastern Mallee



Can provide info  
on individual  
species





# The legacy of a long-term project

- 40+ years of bird monitoring
- Driven by citizen scientists
- Getting results for our birds



Grey Fantail

# How can BirdLife help you?

- Training and troubleshooting
- Direct you towards projects you might like to join
- Help your community group design a bird monitoring program
- Introduce you to the Birddata community (Birddata group on Facebook)

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Australian Raven



# The Great Cocky Count

- Annual event from 2010
- Citizen science driven
- Scientific framework
- Vital tool for recovery plan
- Evolved over time



# The Great Cocky Count

- Sunday **April 8 2018** at sunset
- Registrations close **March 18**
- Don't leave us hanging, enrol now please!





# Next steps

- Try it out!
  - Sign up for Birdata
  - See what it can do
- Commit to participating – how about the Great Cocky Count?
- Join the Facebook Birdata community
- Get in touch with later questions

Splendid Fairy-wren





# MAKE YOUR BIRDING COUNT

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Photos by Tegan Douglas, Keith Lightbody, Georgina Steytler, Dan Weller