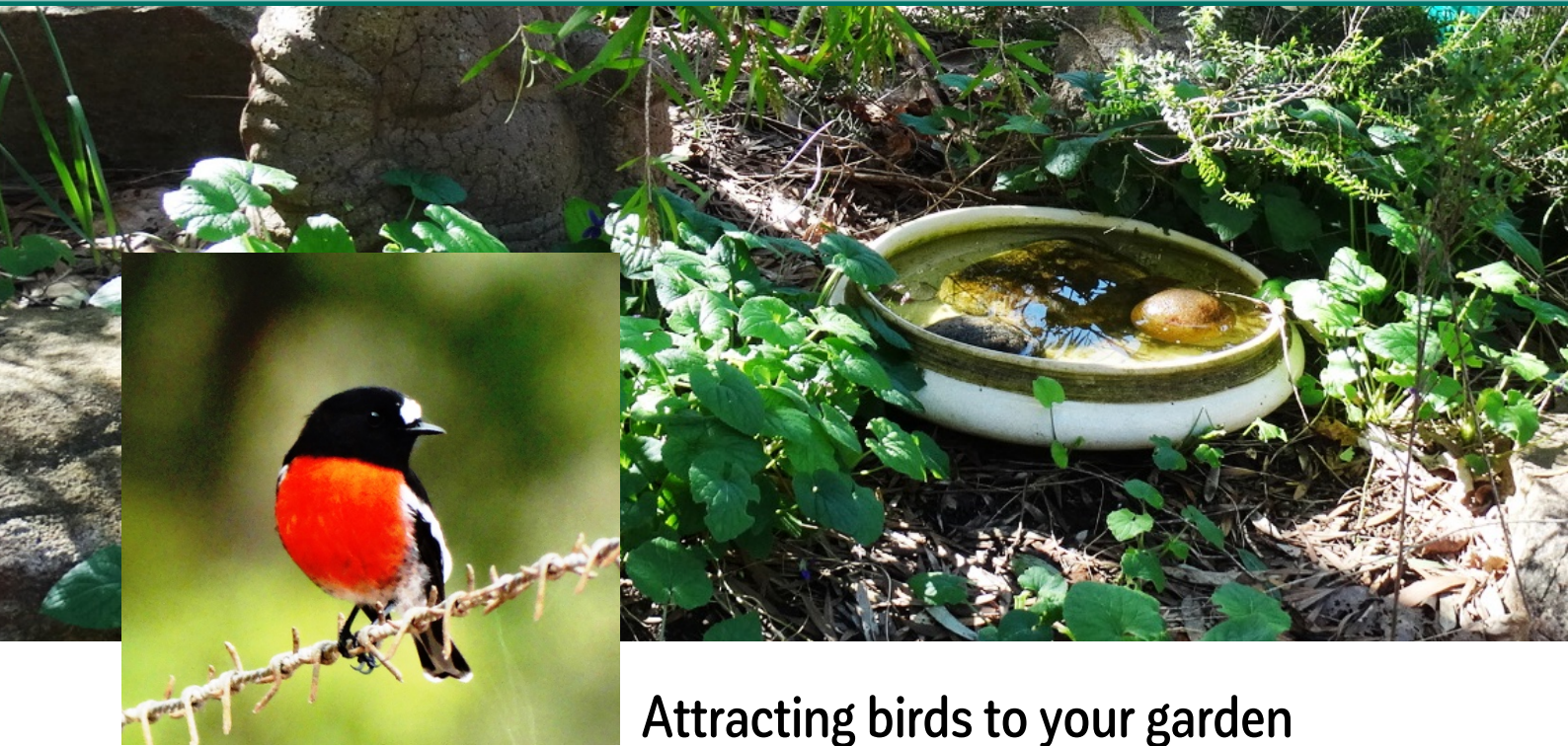


# GARDENS FOR BIRDS

## Nature Conservation Information Sheet



### Attracting birds to your garden

When it comes to birds, the structure of the garden is more important than the species used. Native gardens can attract and support a wide range of birds if they follow a few key design principles.

#### Creating Habitat

A range of habitats is really important. Try to provide as many of these features in your garden as possible.

- Warm, sunny spots with piles of rocks, mulch and logs for insect foraging
- Shady areas to provide relief in the heat of summer
- Quieter, bushy areas for nesting and sheltering smaller birds
- Trees as safe lookout spots and elevated nesting sites

If you are lucky enough to have any mature trees on your block try to preserve them as they provide a range of benefits for birds, especially those with hollows.

#### Providing Water

Bird baths are a vital addition to your native garden and provide endless entertainment.

- Placing your bird bath against a shrubby area will encourage the shier species
- A few rocks emerging from the water will help the smaller and younger birds to get in and out of the water safely.
- Dappled shade will keep the water cool in summer and remember to refresh the water regularly and keep them topped up.

Trial some different styles in various locations to see what your birds prefer – high, low, deep, shallow, large or small.

## Selecting Plants

Aim to have something in flower in the garden throughout the year and remember to cater for seed eaters, nectar lovers and insectivorous birds.

- Avoid the large red nectar filled grevilleas and bottle-brushes as these will attract the more aggressive honeyeaters who are likely to scare off other birds.
- Choose species with much smaller flowers as these are likely to attract the smaller, less territorial honeyeaters.
- If you want to attract the wrens, fantails, robins and whistlers, you need to plant insect attracting species. Most insects can't see red so make sure you plant plenty of blue, purple, white and yellow flowers to bring them in. See [Attracting Beneficial Insects](#) for more information.
- Plant species with abundant seeds to attract parrots, cockatoos, firetails and bronze wings.
- Resist the urge to provide food for birds. They are much healthier feeding on the flowers, seeds and insects in your garden.

### *What to plant for...*

#### *Nectar lovers*

Grevilleas (small flowered)  
Adenanthos  
Banksias  
Kangaroo paws

#### *Insect eaters*

Native daisies and everlastings  
Eucalypts  
Local wattles and native peas  
Tea trees and Melaleucas

#### *Seed eaters*

Rushes and sedges  
Eucalypts and peppies  
Wattles  
Native peas



## Installing Nest boxes

It takes a long time for trees to develop the hollows needed by some of the larger birds to nest. Consider installing a range of nest boxes in different sizes to cater for different species (see [www.birdsinbackyards.net/Nest-Box-Plans](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/Nest-Box-Plans)).

Don't tidy too much! Birds use twigs, grass, leaves and spiderwebs to create their nests. You could also leave out some materials for birds to line their nests such as untreated wool or pet hair.

## Resources

There is a vast amount of information available on the web. Follow these links to find out more....

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/places>

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/attracting-birds-to-your-garden/>

<http://www.birdlife.org.au/>



*This Information Sheet is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program*

*Photos provided by Dr Boyd Wykes and Katie Biggs*

