

UNDER THE FOREST CANOPY

The Eastern Yellow Robin and whipbirds prefer shady places under the forest canopy, usually with a layer of shrubs. They search for insects and spiders closer to the ground. The robin will often perch sideways on a trunk or branch to survey the area.



Eastern Yellow Robin – on lookout perch (P: Gail



Eastern Whipbird (Photo: Yager)

The loud whip-crack call of the Eastern Whipbird is easy to recognise. These territorial birds are hard to see as they prefer the dense undergrowth to scratch around for food.



Male Koel



Female Koel

SEASONAL VISITORS

Some birds migrate to or through the garden each year. The Koel flies in from

Asia and PNG to stay over summer. Like other cuckoos, the Koel lays eggs in the nests of other bird species to save the work of having to raise their large chicks!



Powerful Owl chick

The Powerful Owl, usually resident over the winter, and other nocturnal hunters like the Tawny Frogmouth, are active at night seeking insects and possums to eat.



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With acknowledgement to the Traditional Custodians,
the Gumbaynggirr people, and their elders.

Birds of the Botanic Garden

North Coast Regional Botanic Garden - Coffs Harbour



Nesting hollows in old trees are needed by the Rainbow Lorikeet

The botanic garden is a natural sanctuary for birds at the heart of Coffs Harbour city. The flowering plants, trees and ground cover vegetation provide vital wildlife corridors for birds and other animals to move around, search for food, and find safe nesting sites.

More than 99 bird species are seen in the garden – ask for the full list at the Information Centre. Many birds such as the fairy-wrens, yellow robins, and some honeyeaters are resident in the garden all year round.

Other birds such as the lorikeets move around locally following the flowers for nectar.

Migratory birds like the Sacred Kingfisher fly in at spring from northern areas to breed here, while dining out on insects, lizards, crabs and a few fish along the creek over the summer.

Discover how the birds specialise to live in different habitats with a variety of food sources in the botanic garden at Coffs Harbour.



*The Sacred Kingfisher.
Photo: Gail Yager*

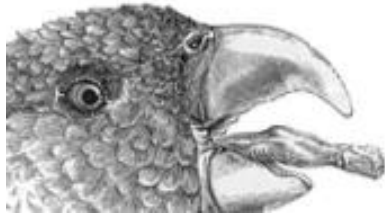
FOLLOWING THE FLOWERS

Many Australian plants produce an abundance of nectar. Australian birds such as the Rainbow Lorikeet and the wide variety of honeyeater birds have special tongues to lick up the nectar. During this process they help to pollinate the plants - a win-win for nature. The flowering of different trees and shrubs is spread out over the year so birds will move around to follow the flowering times.



Rainbow Lorikeet on coastal banksia

The Rainbow Lorikeet is a colourful and chirpy bird on the Coffs coast. Lorikeets descend in flocks onto trees in flower to lick deep into the flower bases with their muscular tongues.



Lewin's Honeyeater is a resident of the garden for much of the year. The scarlet honeyeater usually only visits in late winter and spring.



Scarlet honeyeater
(Photo: Gail Yager)

Honeyeater's have delicate brush like tongues to lick up nectar. They also eat insects and fruit. The garden is visited by over ten species of honeyeater.



Lewin's honeyeater
(Photo: Gail Yager)



Honeyeater's brush like tongues lick nectar

UP IN THE TREE CANOPY - SWOOPING DOWN TO THE GROUND

Kookaburras, currawongs and most forest birds, prefer the security of a high perch. With sharp eyesight they spot insects, spiders or lizards near the ground, swoop down to catch them and fly back up to the perch to eat. Magpies also hop along the ground to search out insects and larvae. The kookaburra laugh is a territorial call.



Laughing kookaburra – a member of the kingfisher family. Has a diet of insects, lizards and small snakes.



Magpie



Currawong (yellow eye)

JEWELS IN THE GROUND COVER

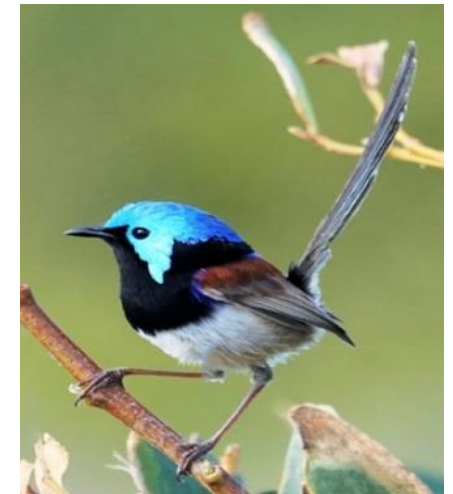
The ground covers and forest understorey are home to delicate fairy-wrens, scrubwrens and silvereyes seeking out insects and nectar. Small groups flit amongst the bushes. The colourful male fairy-wren is usually accompanied by a number of brown coloured females.



Silvereye
(Photo: Gail Yager)



Fairy-wren, female



Variegated Fairy-wren, male
(Photo: Gail Yager)



White-browed
Scrubwren

These little birds stay close to thick foliage and hide at any sign of danger to avoid becoming a snack for a larger bird.