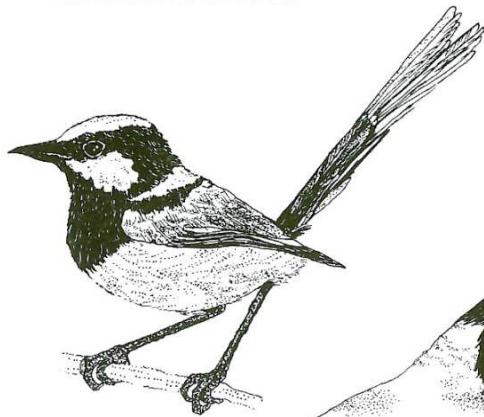
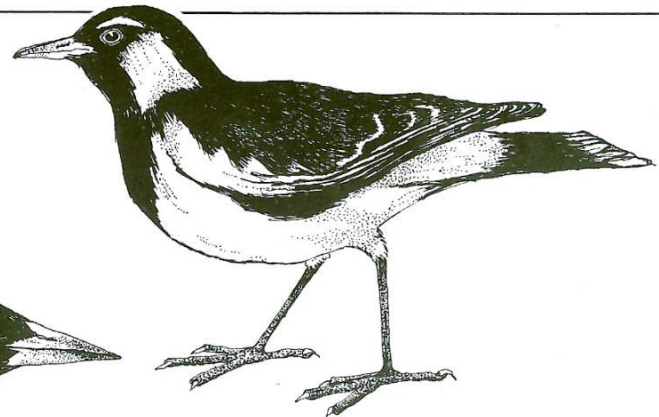


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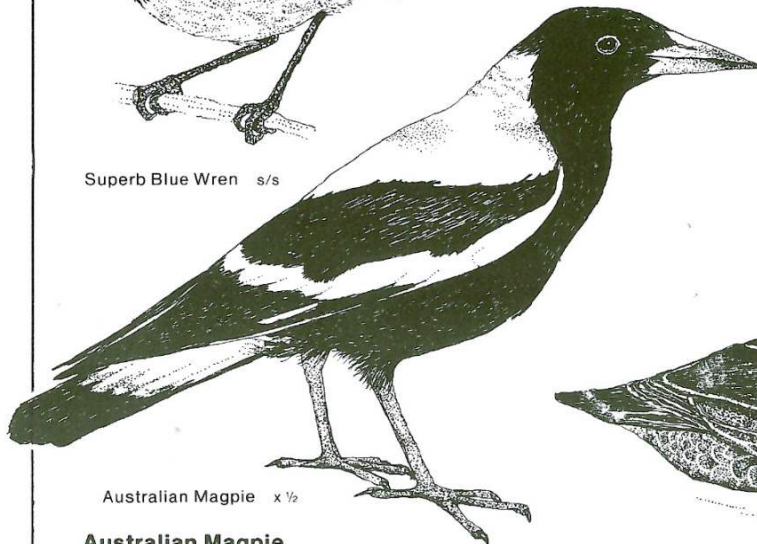
PARKS AND RESERVES



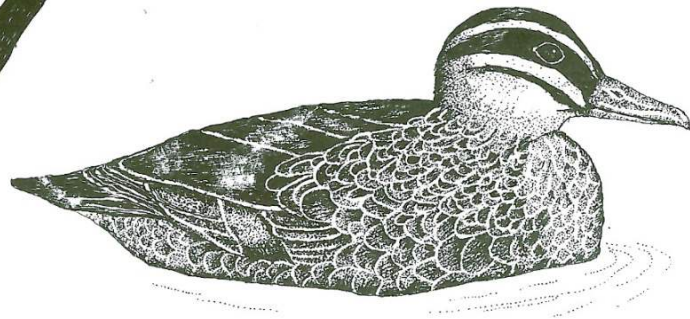
Superb Blue Wren s/s



Australian Magpie Lark x 1/2



Australian Magpie x 1/2



Black Duck x 1/2

Australian Magpie

The Australian magpie is found throughout most of Australia and has been introduced into New Zealand. A ground feeding bird, it may live in one of a variety of family groupings of up to ten or more birds. In those groups which attempt nesting, all participate in the defence of the territory. Although several females may build nests, usually only one dominant male fathers their brood, and because of the sociological pressures, only one quarter of the females will ever achieve breeding. Many of the young that hatch are killed by cars on roadways.

Australian Magpie Lark

The magpie lark, sometimes called the mudlark or the pee-wee, is common in city parks and gardens when there is a constant supply of water. The male and female build a nest of mud and plant material, usually on a horizontal branch, and may defend their territory from neighboring birds. It feeds mainly on insects, foraging on the ground and puddling in shallow water.

Willie Wagtail

The willie wagtail is well-known around parklands and cities, being easily recognized by its conspicuous white eyebrows and constant movement even when perching. It flits about restlessly, darting after insects, and feeding on spiders and occasionally worms. It is aggressive when breeding and can sometimes be seen driving away birds much larger than itself.

Nankeen Night Heron

The nankeen night heron, while not common in our cities, can sometimes be seen roosting in colonies during the day in tall thickly foliated trees near ponds in municipal gardens. Cinnamon-colored, with a white breast and black head, it feeds at night on insects, yabbies, amphibians and fish. It has a shorter neck and shorter legs than other herons, giving it a squat, hunched-up appearance.

Superb Blue Wren

The superb blue wren usually lives in small family groups and seems at home in parks and gardens. After the mating season of September to March, the young male bird moults back to a brown winter plumage, more like the female. A pair may breed several times in succession during a season, with members of earlier broods helping in feeding the young. It eats a variety of insects, either while hopping over a clearing, or while flying low above the ground.

Mountain Duck

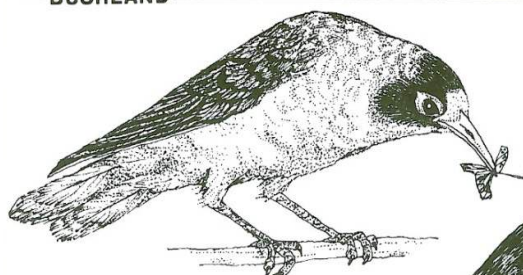
The mountain duck congregates on large lakes and estuaries in summer, leaving with its mate in autumn and winter to return to the same nest site year after year. It grazes on land and in shallow water, feeding on grass, water-weeds, insects and molluscs. The male has a white neck-band and the female a white eye-ring.

Black Duck

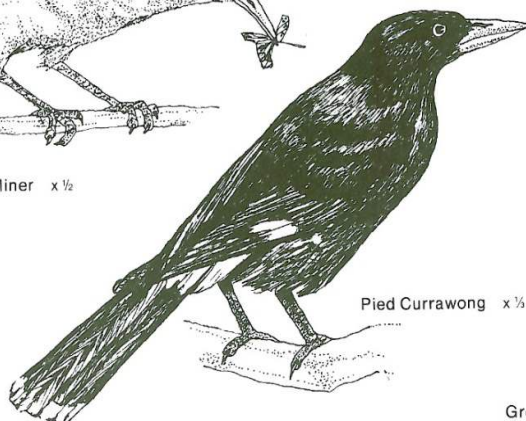
The black duck is common and widely distributed, and can be recognized by the pale lines above and below its eyes. It is a surface-feeding duck, dabbling and then upending in the water to feed on water-plants and seeds, as well as aquatic insects. Pairs generally breed in spring, but the male leaves the female once the eggs are laid to join flocks of other males.

Mallard

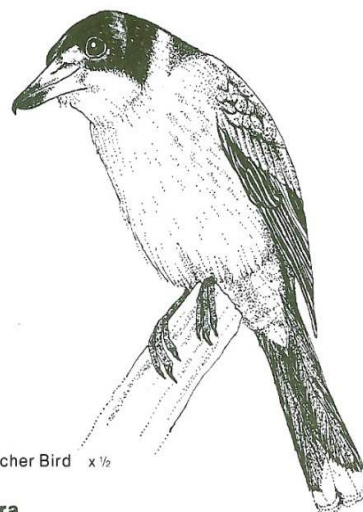
The mallard is a large surface-feeding European duck introduced to our city parkland lakes. The breeding male has a dark green head with a white collar at the base of the neck, a curled tail feather, and like the female, a purple-blue wing stripe. It is often seen intermingled with flocks of black duck, with which it competes successfully and threatens through inter-breeding and hybridisation.



Noisy Miner x 1/2



Pied Currawong x 1/2



Grey Butcher Bird x 1/2

Rosellas

The crimson rosella and the eastern rosella are often seen feeding together on grass seeds, or the seeds of wattles and eucalypts, as well as blossoms, nectar and insects. Both breed from August to January, nesting in a hole in a tree. The young stay with their parents for two months or so. The crimson rosella prefers densely-wooded hill slopes, and immature birds, recognized by their dull olive-green coloring, commonly gather in flocks.

Eastern Spinebill

The eastern spinebill can be recognized by its long thin bill, and the distinctive clapping sound of its wings in flight. It feeds primarily on the nectar of tubular flowers, hovering to feed, but also catches insects in flight. During the breeding season from August to March, pairs will defend their small territories. They visit suburban gardens regularly and are exceptionally tame and inquisitive.

Noisy Miner

The noisy miner is a raucous, scolding honeyeater, having a black face with a yellow eye-patch and yellow bill. It thrives in loose, often large colonies in open dry woodland areas, and in smaller, less obvious groups in some suburbs. It feeds communally on insects and the nectar from flowering trees and plants, and will mob and noisily attack predators and other species of birds entering their territory. Males outnumber females and will participate in feeding the young.

Brown Thornbill

The brown thornbill is common and widely distributed in parks and wet forests throughout eastern Australia. Although not a conspicuous bird, it is inquisitive, coming to look at anyone making squeaking sounds. It feeds on insects in low scrub, either singly or in pairs, and occasionally in very small flocks, sometimes joining mixed feeding flocks in winter. Breeding from June to December, it builds a domed nest close to the ground.

Pied Currawong

The pied currawong is distinctive with its bright yellow eyes, and black and white plumage. It nests in the tall forests of the Great Dividing Range, forming large nomadic flocks that move towards cities and towns in winter. It will eat almost anything, from berries and insects to carrion and nestlings, and is particularly useful in controlling some species of stick insects in eucalypt forests.

Laughing Kookaburra

The laughing kookaburra favors woodland and open forest along the east coast, and has been introduced into Tasmania and south-western Australia. It feeds mainly on insects, as well as lizards, rodents, occasional small birds and snakes, and may stay in the same area for twenty years or so. Pairs mate for life, and young birds may stay with the family for about four years, helping their parents with the further offspring and chorusing together to advertise their territory.

Grey Shrike-thrush

The grey shrike-thrush, sometimes wrongly called the grey thrush, lives in all types of relatively undisturbed wooded country throughout most of Australia, but will frequent suburban gardens. It can be seen hopping along the ground or branches of tall trees, searching for insects, lizards and occasionally small mammals and nestlings. It will build its nest anywhere from hollow stumps to on the ground, and can become well accustomed to humans.

Grey Butcherbird

The grey butcherbird is known for its clear, musical song, often singing alternately with its partner. It feeds on small birds, insects, lizards, mice and some seeds and fruit, flying down to seize its prey on the ground. It nests in much the same places each year, preferring wooded areas such as reserves, and fiercely defends its nest against intruders.

Golden Wattle

The golden wattle is regarded as so typically Australian that it has been chosen as our floral emblem. A fast-growing and showy tree, it reaches 10 metres in height, with bright green, sickle-shaped phyllodes (or leaf-stems) which act as leaves. It produces large golden ball-shaped flowers in spring, and grows readily in a well-watered, well-drained, sunny position.

Crimson Bottlebrush

The crimson bottlebrush is one of the most popular callistemons, with beautiful flower spikes up to 10 cm. long and 5 cm. in diameter. It is a hardy shrub in both wet and dry positions, growing to about 4 metres high with lance-shaped leaves up to 7 cm. long, and with woody fruits crowded in cylindrical clusters. It responds well to pruning after the early summer and the autumn flowering seasons, and will attract native birds.

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