

Birds of the Junee Wetland



White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*
Paul Hackett 2002

White-Faced Herron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

This bird is very elegant with its tall (66-70cm) slim frame, grey body and yellow legs. It is often seen wading in the shallow water or perching on substrates. In some cases this bird has even been seen in garden fishponds.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

These are residents of the wetland that breed on site and can be seen throughout the year. They breed from August to March, building their nests from sticks, stems, bark and grasses in the rushes in or near the water, or on riverside stumps etc. They lay 7-10 eggs which are sandy in colour and blotched/spotted purplish brown.

With its brilliant purple head and chest this bird is a spectacular creature that although common, is only found in suitable habitat, and so indicates the significance of this wetland to bird-life in the area. The species likes thick rushes and builds its nest in these rushes, stamping down an area and building a bowl shaped nest. A social species with groups nesting cooperatively and each breeding hen laying 3-5 eggs. There is often aggression between groups with eggs and young being taken.



Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*
© Paul Hackett 2002

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

This slate grey bird with distinctive white bill has evolved specially flattened toes to assist them in swimming and diving. The species can be seen in pairs, parties or flocks and feeds largely on underwater vegetation.

Distinguishable by the thick black stripe through its eye and sometimes called the wild duck, the medium-sized Pacific Black Duck can be sedentary or nomadic.

The ducks can be seen foraging among wetland vegetation, grain stubbles or in wet pastures and are common visitors to farm dams.



Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

The Little (a tiny 13-15cm in length!) Grass Bird is a shy bird - rarely seen as it sneaks to the top of the bushes to view the intruder.

It is exclusive to wetlands and has a distinctive call sounding like "p-pee-pee" in a mournful tone. It is common where it occurs and has a wide geographic range but is limited by the availability of suitable wetland habitat.

Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Acrocephalus stentoreus

This small Olive-brown bird is often difficult to spot amongst the reeds. Its beautiful song may be the only sign that it is around.

It clings to the reed stems and feeds. It builds its elevated nest by weaving it around the ends of the reeds, laying 3-4 eggs from September to December.



The Little Black Cormorant is 58-64cm in length, and can often be seen perching on logs or diving for fish. Its oily feathers appear to shine in the sunlight as it dries its wings off by opening them to the breeze.

Altogether there are over thirty species known to appear at the wetlands, although some do so only rarely.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

The Junee Urban Landcare Group is trying to manage the Wetland site to allow people to view and enjoy the wildlife without infringing upon their habitat.

Please be mindful of this as you visit the wetland.