



reach the numbered spots). Close to the gate, watch out for Australian Hobby and Noisy Miner. At **1** look through the fence to the Old Mugga Zoo site for Double-barred and Red-browed Finch, Speckled Warbler and Superb Fairy-wren. Australasian Grebe breed on the dam. Proceed to the dam at **2** where finches, Scarlet and Flame Robin and honeyeaters may be seen drinking, and Little Pied Cormorant perching. Continue south, watching out for raptors including Wedge-tailed Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Brown Goshawk. The gully at **3** may yield White-plumed, Yellow-faced and White-naped Honeywater, as well as Speckled Warbler, Grey Fantail and Yellow-rumped and Buff-rumped Thornbill. White-eared Honeyeater may be found in the winter months. In the spring/summer, Leaden Flycatcher and Sacred Kingfisher will usually be seen and sometimes Red-

capped Robin. Be alert around November/December as the Brown Goshawks will likely be nesting and are known to swoop. On and close to the fenceline at **4** watch for Jacky Winter and, in autumn and winter, Scarlet and Flame Robin. Diamond Firetail, Southern Whiteface and Dusky Woodswallow. Site **5** gives good views over the surrounding countryside and is a vantage point to watch for raptors. Continue to **6**, watching for Brown Quail on the way. Along the fenceline at **6**, mixed feeding flocks of Flame and Scarlet Robin, Speckled Warbler, Jacky Winter and Double-barred Finch can be seen in winter, and Dollarbird in summer. At **7**, Little and Long-billed Corella, Striated Pardalote, Willie Wagtail, White-plumed Honeyeater and Nankeen Kestrel are resident, and summer visitors include White-winged Triller, Dollarbird and Dusky Woodswallow, as well as several species of cuckoo. In spring/summer, watch for Striated Pardalote nesting in the banks of the gully. The gully drains into a farm dam just outside the reserve, and is worth checking for ducks.

Return to the entry gate. This bird route ends at Callum Brae Nature Reserve.

Other brochures on the Canberra region are available from www.canberrabirds.org.au.



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COG meets at 7.30pm every second Wednesday of the month (except December) at Canberra Girls Grammar School, Gawler Street, Deakin ACT. Enter the school grounds via Gabriel Drive.

CANBERRA AND THE ACT BIRD ROUTE • TWO

WESTERN END OF LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN AND CALLUM BRAE NATURE RESERVE

 Total driving distance • 19.1 kilometres (1 way)



Photo: Geoffrey Dabb



This bird route covers four different sites, the Australian National Botanic Gardens, two sites beside Lake Burley Griffin (Acacia Inlet and Warrina Inlet) and Callum Brae Nature Reserve, an area of Yellow Box/Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland. It could be covered in half a day or could occupy a more relaxed full day. A Canberra street directory may be useful, or use Maps 58, 68 and 69 in the front of the Yellow Pages.

The bird route begins at the **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS** **A** in Clunies Ross Street, Acton. Collect a free 'Visitor Guide and Map' from the Visitors' Centre. Using the map, follow the Main Path in a clockwise direction through the Rainforest Gully. Regular birds seen include Grey Fantail, White-browed Scrub-wren, Eastern Yellow Robin and Crimson Rosella, and, in spring and autumn, Rufous Fantail. The Main Path passes through the Rock Garden and Northern Eucalypt Lawn, where the creaking gate call of the Gang-gang Cockatoo may be heard. Spend some quiet time in the Sydney Region Flora and look for Satin Bowerbird, Bassian Thrush and Common Bronzewing. The path then passes through the Grevillea and Proteaceae sections, where New Holland Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills are common all year while other honeyeater species such as Yellow-faced and White-naped abound in spring, and Crescent Honeyeater appear in winter. Parties of Superb Fairy-wrens and White-winged Choughs are common throughout the gardens. The Main Path passes the café just before the carpark. If you have time to walk uphill on the asphalt road behind the café to the top of the gardens where it merges into native bushland, Leaden Flycatcher (spring/summer), Buff-rumped Thornbill, Rufous Whistler and White-throated Treecreeper are often found.

Distances are taken from the main gateway of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Set your odometer to zero. Turn right into Clunies Ross Street, which at traffic lights at 0.6km becomes Lady Denman Drive. At 2.7km, stop on the left beside a gate to **ACACIA INLET** **B** which is open on weekends and public holidays but closed on weekdays. Drive in, or



park well off the road if the gate is closed. Continue past the public toilets to the water's edge and the boat ramp. Australian Reed-warbler and Little Grassbird inhabit the reeds. A walk along the reed-lined bank to left and right may flush Little Bittern. On the lake, Eurasian Coot, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Darter, Great and Little Pied Cormorant and rafts of Little Black Cormorant may be seen. In summer, Great Crested Grebe sometimes visit.

Return to your car. Distances are measured from the gate so if you drove into the carpark, add 0.3km to all subsequent distances. Drive westwards on Lady Denman Drive, crossing Scrivener Dam until you reach a roundabout at 7.0km. Turn left into Cotter Road. At 7.5km turn left at the sign, Dunrossil Drive Government House. The road passes through an avenue of elm trees, under which Common Bronzewing and White-winged Chough often feed. Park at the end of the road at 8.9km, and walk about 50 metres back to the walking and cycle path. Grey Butcherbirds are often seen in this area. Follow the

path northeast for about 300 metres where a wooden bridge crosses **WARRINA INLET** **C**. Watch for Purple Swamphen, Eurasian Coot, Australian Wood Duck, Masked Lapwing, Australian Reed-warbler and Little Pied Cormorant in the inlet or on the adjacent golf course. Further out on the lake in summer, Great Crested Grebe may be seen.

Cross the wooden bridge and walk for another 300m through part of **WESTBOURNE WOODS** **D**, an arboretum of native and exotic trees and shrubs. Satin Bowerbird, Grey Shrike-thrush, Eastern Yellow Robin, Grey Fantail, Brown Thornbill, White-browed Scrub-wren and Superb Fairy-wren inhabit this area and Gang-gang Cockatoo feed on the fruit of the exotic hawthorn. Return to the carpark.

Drive back along Dunrossil Drive and at 10.3km, turn left into Cotter Road. Continue through the traffic lights until at 11.0km, Cotter Road meets Adelaide Avenue. Stay in the left lane and at 11.8km, take the exit to the left. At the end of the exit ramp at 12.1km, turn right into Hopetoun Circuit, Deakin. At a roundabout at 12.8km where Hopetoun Circuit meets Stonehaven Crescent, continue straight. Pass straight through another roundabout at 13.3km. Soon after, Stonehaven Crescent becomes Mugga Way. Continue on Mugga Way until 16.6km, then turn right into Tamar Street, which then veers to the left. Stop at 16.9 km before turning left onto the very busy Hindmarsh Drive. Move into the right lane as soon as it is safe to do so. At the traffic lights at 18.0km, turn right into Mugga Lane and then at 18.6km, turn left into Narrabundah Lane. On the right at 19km, there is a new sign 'Callum Brae Nature Reserve'. Drive past this and park near the gate and another older sign at 19.1km.

Callum Brae Nature Reserve has seven dams, six of which always have water. All are worth checking for ducks, including Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck and Hardhead, as well as Australasian Grebe and Australian Reed-warbler. Follow the anti-clockwise route on the map below. (If the grass is tall, it is easiest to follow the vehicle tracks within the reserve and deviate from the track as needed to