

## Decreasing Species

### List of decreasing species

#### Status of birds frequently recorded in the survey

(An asterisk \* indicates a summer migrant species)

The birds in this list are ranked in order of the size of the decrease, with the species decreasing most at the top of the list.

This list does not include species recorded infrequently in gardens.

Species	Over all 27 years of survey	Over last 10 Years
<b>Varied Sittella</b>	Moderate irregular decrease until 1997	Stable at low numbers since 1997
<b>Fan-tailed Cuckoo *</b>	Large irregular decrease since 1984	Slight increase since 2003
<b>Scarlet Robin</b>	Irregular rise and fall 1981 to 2001	Stable at very low numbers
<b>Rufous Whistler *</b>	Irregular decrease 1981 - 2002	Slight increase since 2003
<b>European Goldfinch</b>	Large irregular decrease since 1981	Continuing decline
<b>Nankeen Kestrel</b>	Large decrease until 1991	Stable at very low numbers
<b>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</b>	Irregular decrease	Sharp decline then sharp rise
<b>Satin Flycatcher</b>	Moderate irregular decrease at low numbers	Continuing decline
<b>Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *</b>	Irregular decrease at very low numbers	Stable at very low numbers
<b>White-naped Honeyeater</b>	Irregular decline	Declining at very low numbers
<b>White-throated Gerygone</b>	Irregular decrease at very low numbers	Slight irregular increase since 2002
<b>Common Starling</b>	Large steady decrease since 1981	Continuing decline
<b>Restless Flycatcher</b>	Very irregular, declining until 2003-04	Small sharp recovery then decline
<b>White-winged Triller</b>	Declining almost to zero	Some recovery
<b>Pallid Cuckoo *</b>	Large irregular decrease until 1997	Stable at very low numbers
<b>Fuscous Honeyeater</b>	Large irregular decrease since 1981	Continuing decline
<b>Crescent Honeyeater</b>	Irregular but stable	Irregular, low numbers since 2001
<b>Brown Falcon</b>	Stable at very low numbers until 2001	Sharp decline since 2001-02
<b>Dollarbird *</b>	Moderate irregular decrease until 1993	Stable at low numbers
<b>House Sparrow</b>	Large steady decrease since 1985	Continuing decline
<b>White-plumed Honeyeater</b>	Moderate irregular decrease until 2002	Slight irregular increase since 2002
<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b>	Irregular decrease since 1983	Continuing decline
<b>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *</b>	Large irregular decrease since 1981	Slight increase since 2003
<b>Flame Robin</b>	Irregular decrease at very low numbers	Continuing decline
<b>Double-barred Finch</b>	Stable at low numbers	Declining to very low numbers
<b>Sacred Kingfisher*</b>	Fairly steady decline	Increasing since 2001
<b>Tree Martin*</b>	Very irregular, declining	Some recovery
<b>Noisy Friarbird *</b>	Large steady decrease since 1981	Continuing decline
<b>Willie Wagtail</b>	Moderate irregular decrease until 2001	Slight increase since 2002
<b>Laughing Kookaburra</b>	Moderate irregular decrease until 2000	Slight increase since 2001

The large number of bird species apparently in decline is a matter for concern. This number has grown since the previous edition of Birds of Canberra Gardens ten years ago. Bird populations in a region could decrease for any number of reasons, although the most obvious one is habitat destruction. Bird species that have been officially declared endangered or vulnerable in the ACT and Region include: Regent Honeyeater, Painted Honeyeater, Superb Parrot, Swift Parrot, Brown Treecreeper, Little Eagle, Varied Sittella, White-winged Triller and Hooded Robin. Others that are being monitored include: Flame Robin, Crested Shrike-tit, Dusky Woodswallow, Jacky Winter and Diamond Firetail.

It is not possible, without considerable research, to explain the cause of the decrease in the number of records of any species in the Garden Bird Survey.

Possible causes of decrease in number of bird records are:

- Destruction or modification of habitat in the local area
- Destruction or modification of habitat in distant areas
- Predation
- Competition for nesting sites
- Competition for food
- Disease
- Changes in suburb design (increased housing density).

Many of the birds with declining records are summer migrants to Canberra. Others are resident in the region. There are few, if any, winter migrant species in the list of decreased species.