

Increasing Species

List of Increasing 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 increase, with the species increasing most at the top or the list.

This list does not include species recorded infrequently in gardens.

Species	Over all 27 years of survey	Over last 10 Years
Crested Pigeon	Large steady increase	Large steady increase
Little Corella	Small upward trend until 2001	Strong upward trend since 2003
Pacific Black Duck	Large variations - upward trend	Large variations – downward trend
Australian Wood Duck	Small upward trend until 2001	Variable but strong upward trend since 2001
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Variable upward trend	Variable upward trend
Common Myna	Large steady increase	Very large decline since 2005
White-browed Scrubwren	Moderate increase	Peak in 2001, then strong downward trend
Australian King-Parrot	Large steady increase	Peak in 2002, then downward trend
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Moderate steady increase	Peak in 2001, then downward trend
Brown Thornbill	Large steady increase	Peak in 2001, then downward trend
Noisy Miner	Stable until 2001	Large increase since 2001
Australian Raven	Steady increase since 1987	Slight increase until 2005 then stable
Red Wattlebird	Moderate steady increase	Slight increase until 2004 then stable
Superb Fairy-wren	Moderate steady increase	Moderate steady increase
White-winged Chough	Steady with little increase	Moderate increase since 1997
Crimson Rosella	Moderate steady increase	Small steady increase
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Steady increase since 1988	Small steady increase
Magpie-lark	Small upward trend until 1999	Moderate decrease since 2001
Australian Magpie	Small steady increase	Slight increase until 2004 then stable
Galah	Increasing slowly until 2003	Slight decrease since 2003

The numbers of species in an area depends primarily on the suitability and quality of the habitat for that species in terms of providing shelter and food. The suburban habitat in the older suburbs of Canberra does this for quite a wide variety of birds. It is diverse with mature gardens with complex vegetation structure, patches of woodland, and grassy open spaces, some of which are irrigated. The practice of putting out food and water for birds further enriches the habitat. On the other hand, the more recently developed suburbs have much smaller block size and larger houses, leaving little room for an inviting bird habitat to develop.

The two birds that have increased in numbers most rapidly, are the Common Myna (deliberately introduced in several batches from November 1968) and the Crested Pigeon. The Crested Pigeon, a native of more western areas, has extended its range east. Both species are obviously very much at home in the urban/suburban landscape as the population explosion indicates. Two other species of note are the Australian King-Parrot and the Satin Bowerbird. Both these species have stable populations in wet habitats in the ranges west of Canberra, and are steadily moving into the suburbs.



Julian Robinson

Crested Pigeons have moved in from the west, thriving in Canberra's suburban environment



Graham Stephinson

Common Mynas enjoy dog and cat food, and love a splash in the nearest available bird bath