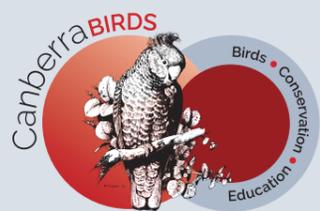


Canberra Birds encourages interest in the birds of the Canberra region, and promotes the conservation of native birds and their habitats.

We support ethical birding and promote bird watching and photography that show consideration of bird welfare and habitats.

canberrabirds.org.au/about-cog/ethical-birding-guidelines

Canberra Birds acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we bird.



Birding at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands

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- AUSTRALASIAN GREBE *Zac Flegg*
- NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER *Cedric Bear*
- PIED CORMORANT *Deb Ralph*
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Overview

Jerrabomberra Wetlands is Canberra's favourite bird-watching spot, with a range of wetland and woodland habitats. A total of 231 bird species have been recorded at the main eBird hotspot up to August 2025, and a visitor might expect to see 40 species in an hour. This brochure indicates some of the more common and interesting species and where they are likely to be found.

The wetlands lie on an old alluvial floodplain of the Molonglo River. The river flats were used seasonally by Aboriginal people, and more recently for cropping and dairying. The creation of Lake Burley Griffin then filled former river channels, and a silt trap was constructed on Jerrabomberra Creek to protect the lake from sedimentation. Habitats now include open water, riverside vegetation, grassland, floodplain, reedbeds, woodlands, and tree and shrub plantings.

Waterbird sightings depend on the amount of water: various ducks after a rainy period, herons and crakes in slightly drier conditions, and fewer waterbirds when Kellys Swamp is dry. Swampheens, grebes and cormorants can be seen at almost any time. Crakes and rails are possible when there are areas of exposed mud. Other species only occur seasonally, like Australian Reed-Warbler and Latham's Snipe; the latter nests in Japan and Russia during the northern summer, but spends the southern summer in Australia. Unusual species can be present when the wetlands are a refuge from dry conditions elsewhere.

The Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve is managed by the [ACT Parks and Conservation Service](#). The [Woodlands and Wetlands Trust](#) delivers educational and community programs in the reserve.

The wetlands can be accessed from Dairy Road, Fyshwick in the east, and from Eyre Street, Kingston in the west.



Jerrabomberra Wetlands

Commonly seen species

- Black Swan
- Australasian Grebe
- Australian Pelican
- Australasian Shoveler
- Australasian Darter
- White-faced Heron
- Grey Teal
- Little Pied Cormorant
- Australasian Swamphean
- Pacific Black Duck
- Great Cormorant
- Dusky Moorhen
- Hardhead
- Little Black Cormorant
- Eurasian Coot

Less commonly seen or seasonal species

- Freckled Duck
- Little Eagle
- Pied Stilt
- Pink-eared Duck
- Buff-banded Rail
- Black-fronted Dotterel
- Nankeen Night-heron
- Baillon's Crake
- Latham's Snipe
- Royal Spoonbill
- Australian Crake
- Australian Reed-Warbler
- Swamp Harrier
- Spotted Crake
- Little Grassbird

Jerrabomberra Wetlands



Most visits to the reserve begin at the carpark **A** off Dairy Road. Cattle Egrets are often seen among cattle on the floodplain to the north, and birds of prey such as Whistling Kite can be seen overhead. From the carpark a multi-use path goes west across the reserve to Eyre St, crossing a bridge over Jerrabomberra Creek. Take care as fast-moving cyclists also use this path.

Kellys Swamp



The carpark is also the starting point for a walk around Kellys Swamp **B** and the adjacent reedbeds. From four hides (**1, 2, 3** and **4**) some less common ducks might be seen, as well as feeding crakes. Cygnus Hide (**3**) gives a

view across the swamp between clumps of reed, with Australasian Shoveler and Hardhead often in sight. Views from Cygnus are better in the morning when the sun is behind the hide.

Further on, the path passes through eucalypt plantings **C** that attract honeyeaters. The view from the southern part of Kellys **D** can reveal Latham's Snipe, and in the warmer months sometimes Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Pied Stilts and other visitors.



Continue clockwise around Kellys past grassy areas where Brown Quail are possible, and turn right onto a boardwalk through reedbeds **E** where Golden-headed Cisticolas and Little Grassbirds can be heard seasonally.



Billabong Loop and Jerrabomberra Creek

The Billabong Loop **F** follows an original channel of Jerrabomberra Creek, which has been reconstructed as part of a water quality project. The area can also be viewed from the levee **G** which separates the silt trap on Jerrabomberra Creek **H** from the billabong. Keep an eye on the skies for cormorants and soaring birds of prey, and look for small birds that use the plantings. Black-shouldered Kites regularly use this area, and Australasian Darter and Australasian Grebe may be seen on the silt trap.



Woodland loop

Across Jerrabomberra Creek via the multi-use bridge is a network of smaller pathways, some making up a 'Woodland Loop' **I**. This area can also be accessed from the Kingston entrance. It attracts a range of bush birds, including New Holland Honeyeaters, and Rufous and Golden Whistlers.

Fulica Hide (**5**) has a view over the creek where it



broadens out into a shallow pond **J**, often with roosting Australian Pelicans. Look for Nankeen Night-Herons and cormorants roosting in the riverside willows towards Tadorna Hide (**6**).



Further west, the Eyre Street Wetland **K** is an expanse of grasses, rush and sedge with some small ponds.

Dairy Road

Interesting birds can also be seen in some areas outside the reserve. Look over the fence into the community

garden on Dairy Road **L** and the ponds of the Fyshwick Sewage Treatment Works **M**, but do not enter these areas as there is no public access. Walk north along Dairy Road or the multi-use footpath **N** to see woodland birds in the tree plantings, and a range of species in the turf farm to the east (to which there is no public access).

Shoveler Pond and the Molonglo River

After walking 500 m on Dairy Road, a vehicle track on the left heads back into the reserve, past an area that was used for trench warfare training exercises during World War I. Through a stand of poplars and over a gate is Shoveler Pond **P**, a depression in the floodplain where the water level is highly variable. Shoveler Pond is overlooked by a viewing blind (**7**), and can be home to large numbers of waterbirds, including occasional rarities. The dense tree growth along the nearby Molonglo River has been used by nesting darters and cormorants, while thornbills and scrubwrens are in the woodland areas.

Access to a refuge area in the north-western section of the floodplain is not permitted without authorisation.