

## Birdlife of Wellington Park



Owing to the great diversity in habitat, a large proportion of Tasmanian birdlife can be seen in Wellington Park. Sixty-seven species have been recorded, of which at least fifty-five are reasonably common.

Many species migrate, some (eg Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*) to the Northern Hemisphere, others (like the Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*) shift their altitudinal range, spending summer at higher altitudes, feeding on alpine flowers. In contrast, some honeyeaters are more common on the upper slopes of the Park during winter than in summer when urn gum *Eucalyptus urnigera* is in flower.

Eleven of Tasmania's twelve endemic species have been seen in the Park. The Green Rosella (*Platycercus caledonicus*) with its 'cossick' call can be seen in the foothills and on the slopes along with the Yellow Wattlebird (*Anthochaera paradoxa*), Australia's largest honeyeater. Other endemic honeyeaters present in Wellington Park include the Yellow-throated Honey-eater (*Lichenostomus flavicollis*), Black-headed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus affinis*) and Strong-billed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus validirostris*). The Black Currawong (*Strepera fuliginosa*) has a broad range from the foothills to the alpine zone and is an important contributor to the dispersal of native seed. The Tasmanian Thornbill (*Acanthiza ewingii*) prefers dense thickets and low shrub to heavily timbered areas. The Tasmanian Scrubwren (*Sericornis humilis*) is usually seen on the forest floor quickly hopping under scrubs and undergrowth. The Scrubtit (*Acanthornis magnus*) is often seen foraging on tree trunks and branches in and around wet ferny gullies in the lower foothills. The Dusky Robin (*Melanodryas vittate*) prefers lightly timbered environments where it can be seen singly, in pairs or in small family parties. The Tasmanian Native Hen (*Gallinula mortierii*) can occasionally be seen on the fringe of the Park near wetland areas. Often in a hurry, they can reach speeds of 50km/hr.

Three threatened bird species are found in Wellington Park. The unique sub-species of Wedge-tailed Eagle only occurs in Tasmania, including the large offshore islands. It is estimated that there are only 80 pairs remaining in Tasmania. The species is

considered vulnerable under Tasmania's Threatened Species Protection Act 1995. The Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) migrates between Tasmania and the south-east of mainland Australia.

Between August and March the species may be seen in Wellington Park mostly in the vicinity of Tasmanian blue gum *Eucalyptus globulus*, an important food source. Swift parrots may be seen from sea level to 800m during the breeding season, often nesting in forests above the main feeding locations. It is estimated that the total population is 1000 pairs. The Swift Parrot is listed as vulnerable. The Grey Goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*) is occasionally seen in Wellington Park and is considered rare with only approximately 110 breeding pairs. It hunts and nests in wet forests including rainforests. Grey Goshawks hunt from a perch in the forest canopy and eat other birds, rodents and small marsupials.

Wellington Park offers vital habitat to a huge array of native Tasmanian birdlife. The following table introduces species recorded in Wellington Park. Further information including species descriptions and bird voices can be sourced in Tasmanian bird guide books.

Sourced from:

- D.A. and A.V. Ratkowsky, Mount Wellington Walk Map 2004;
- Field Guide to Tasmanian Birds, Watts 1999;
- Tasmanian Threatened Species Handbook, Bryant and Jackson 1999;
- On the Mountain, Kirkpatrick 1996; and
- pers comms Denis Abbott, 2006.



|                                       | Latin name                       | Endemic | Threatened | Introduced | Notes  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|------------|------------|--|
| <b>Birds of Prey</b>                  |                                  |         |            |            |  |
| Grey Goshawk                          | <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i> |         | *          |            | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park. Rare   |
| Brown Goshawk                         | <i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>       |         |            |            | Seen sporadically in summer, not necessarily in any particular environment in Wellington Park  |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle                    | <i>Aquila audax</i>              |         | *          |            | Seen sporadically in summer, not necessarily in any particular environment in Wellington Park. Probably only 80 pairs remain in Tasmania. Listed as vulnerable |
| White-bellied Sea Eagle               | <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>    |         |            |            | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park   |
| Peregrine Falcon                      | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>          |         |            |            | Seen sporadically in summer, not necessarily in any particular environment in Wellington Park  |
| Brown Falcon                          | <i>Falco berigora</i>            |         |            |            | Seen sporadically in summer, not necessarily in any particular environment in Wellington Park  |
| Swamp Harrier                         | <i>Circus approximans</i>        |         |            |            | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park. Absent during winter   |
| Nankeen Kestrel                       | <i>Falco cenchroides</i>         |         |            |            | A rare visitor to Tasmania, and very occasionally seen in Wellington Park  |
| <b>Rails, Waders, Gulls and Terns</b> |                                  |         |            |            |  |
| Latham's Snipe                        | <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>      |         |            |            | Occasionally seen during late dusk in summer flying over the swamps on the Mountain Plateau. Migrates to the Northern Hemisphere for winter                    |
| Lewin's Rail                          | <i>Rallus pectoralis</i>         |         |            |            | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park   |
| Tasmanian Native Hen                  | <i>Gallinula mortierii</i>       |         |            |            | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park near wetland areas, particularly in the Collinsvale area. Often seen around the fringe of the Park.                       |

| <b>Pigeons, Parrots, Owls and Kingfishers</b> |                                  |   |   |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Owlet Nightjar                                | <i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>      |   |   | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park  |
| Southern Boobook                              | <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>     |   |   | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park  |
| Laughing Kookaburra                           | <i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>       |   | * | Occur in dry sclerophyll forests  |
| Tawny Frogmouth                               | <i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>      |   |   | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park  |
| White-throated Needle-tail                    | <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>     |   |   | Large flocks occasionally seen over Wellington Park before a thunderstorm on a humid day, usually during late summer - autumn                                 |
| Fan-tailed Cuckoo                             | <i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i> |   |   | Ubiquitous throughout Wellington Park in summer   |
| Blue-winged Parrot                            | <i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>      |   |   | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park. A summer migrant to Tasmania  |
| Ground Parrot                                 | <i>Pezoporus wallicus</i>        |   |   | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park  |
| Green rosella                                 | <i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>   | * |   | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper woodland regions. Increase range during winter                            |
| Swift Parrot                                  | <i>Lathamus discolor</i>         |   | * | Occur in wet and dry sclerophyll forests to 800m, prefers <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> . Absent during winter when it flies to mainland via Bass Strait islands |
| Pallid Cuckoo                                 | <i>Cuculus pallidus</i>          |   |   | Occur in wet and dry sclerophyll forests. Absent during winter but relatively common during spring and summer   |
| Shining bronze cuckoo                         | <i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>      |   |   | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper woodland regions. Absent during winter                                    |
| Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo                     | <i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>      |   |   | Occur in dry sclerophyll forests, less frequent in wet sclerophyll. Absent during winter  |
| Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo                  | <i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>  |   |   | Occur in wet and dry sclerophyll forests. Increase range during winter  |

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| Common Bronzewing                    | <i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>            |   |  | Occur in dry sclerophyll forests, less frequent in wet sclerophyll   |
| <b>Wrens, Honeyeaters and Robins</b> |                                     |   |  |  |
| Striated Fieldwren                   | <i>Calamanthus fuliginosus</i>      |   |  | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park   |
| Tasmanian Scrubwren                  | <i>Sericornis humilis</i>           | * |  | Present in woodlands and forest. Rare or absent in dry sclerophyll forests on dolerite ridges  |
| Superb Fairy Wren                    | <i>Malurus cyaneus</i>              |   |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Rare or absent only in the marshes above 900m. Common in areas cleared for power-lines, fire breaks etc<br>Smaller range during winter  |
| Brown Thornbill                      | <i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>            |   |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Rare or absent only in the marshes above 900m. Rarely seen at higher elevations during winter months  |
| Eastern Spinebill                    | <i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i> |   |  | Rarely seen in summer but increases range during winter months to become widespread and common in woodlands and forests  |
| Yellow-throated Honeyeater           | <i>Lichenostomus flavicollis</i>    | * |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Rare or absent only in the marshes above 900m. Rarely seen at higher elevations during winter months  |
| Strong-billed Honeyeater             | <i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>   | * |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper woodland regions   |
| New Holland Honeyeater               | <i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i> |   |  | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park   |
| Yellow Wattlebird                    | <i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>         | * |  | Occurs at various altitudes in winter but generally absent from the Park in summer   |
| Crescent Honeyeater                  | <i>Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera</i>     |   |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Rare or absent only in the marshes above 900m. Altitudinal migrant leaves the lowlands late Sept – Nov for the high country for breeding and to feed on alpine flowers. Return to foothills (and suburban gardens) in March |

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| Black-headed Honeyeater                           | <i>Melithreptus affinis</i>  | * |   |   | Occur in wet and dry sclerophyll forests  |
| Yellow-rumped Thornbill                           | <i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i> |   |   |   | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park  |
| Spotted Pardalote                                 | <i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>  |   |   |   | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Rare or absent only in the marshes above 900m  |
| Striated Pardalote                                | <i>Pardalotus striatus</i>   |   |   |   | Generally occur in dry forest. Rare or absent only in the marshes above 900m. Absent during winter  |
| Scarlet Robin                                     | <i>Petroica multicolor</i>   |   |   |   | Occur in dry sclerophyll forests, less frequent in wet sclerophyll. Increase range during winter  |
| Dusky Robin                                       | <i>Melanodryas vittata</i>   | * |   |   | Occur in dry sclerophyll forests and less frequently in wet sclerophyll. Also common in cleared areas, or trees and shrubs bordering on cleared areas   |
| Pink Robin  | <i>Petroica rodinogaster</i> |   |   |   | Occur in wet forest areas and gullies. Increase range during winter   |
| Flame Robin                                       | <i>Petroica phoenicea</i>    |   |   |   | Ubiquitous throughout Wellington Park in summer. Restricted to mainly cleared land and dry sclerophyll forest (lower altitude) in winter. An altitudinal migrant in Wellington Park, some also migrate across Bass Strait |
| Scrubtit  | <i>Acanthornis magnus</i>    | * |   |   | Occur in and around wet forest areas and gullies. Often seen foraging on tree trunks and branches   |
| Tasmanian Thornbill                               | <i>Acanthiza ewingii</i>     |   | * |   | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper woodland regions  |
| Spotted Quail-thrush                              | <i>Cinclosoma punctatum</i>  |   |   |   | Mainly found in Tasmania in the East Coast tiers. Rarely seen in Wellington Park  |
| <b>Whistlers, Woodswallows, Crows and Finches</b> |                              |   |   |   |   |
| Common blackbird                                  | <i>Turdus merula</i>         |   |   | * | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper woodland regions. Common in areas cleared for power-lines, fire breaks etc  |
| Forest Raven                                      | <i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>     |   |   |   | Ubiquitous throughout Wellington Park   |

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Grey Fantail              | <i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>     |   |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper woodland regions. Partial Bass Strait migrant, so fewer birds seen in winter                 |
| Grey Shrike-thrush        | <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>  |   |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Rare or absent only in the marshes above 900m<br>Rarely seen at higher elevations during winter months                |
| Olive Whistler            | <i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>    |   |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper woodland regions   |
| Golden Whistler           | <i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>  |   |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper woodland regions   |
| Tree Martin               | <i>Hirundo nigricans</i>        |   |  | Occur in dry sclerophyll forests, less frequent in wet sclerophyll. Absent during winter   |
| Silvereye                 | <i>Zosterops lateralis</i>      |   |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper regions. Large flocks occasionally seen in upper woodlands in late summer                    |
| Grey Currawong            | <i>Strepera versicolor</i>      |   |  | Usually seen in drier forest and at a lower altitude compared to the Black Currawong   |
| Black Currawong           | <i>Strepera fuliginosa</i>      | * |  | Present in woodlands, forest and alpine zones playing an important role in dispersal of alpine and subalpine seeds. Rare or absent in dry sclerophyll forests on dolerite ridges |
| Satin Flycatcher          | <i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>       |   |  | Occur in wet and dry sclerophyll forests. Absent during winter   |
| Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike | <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i> |   |  | Occur in wet and dry sclerophyll forests. Absent during winter   |
| Dusky Woodswallow         | <i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>      |   |  | Occur in dry sclerophyll forests, less frequent in wet sclerophyll. Absent during winter   |
| Grey Butcherbird          | <i>Cracticus torquatus</i>      |   |  | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park   |
| Beautiful Firetail        | <i>Stagonopleura bella</i>      |   |  | Generally occur in woodland, forest areas and wet gullies. Less common in the upper woodland regions. Common in areas cleared for power-lines, fire breaks etc                   |



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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| European Greenfinch                   | <i>Carduelis chloris</i>      |   |   | * | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park                           |
| European Goldfinch                    | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>    |   |   | * | Can be seen at all elevations even in cold inclement weather   |
| Bassian Thrush                        | <i>Zoothera lunulata</i>      |   |   | . | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park                           |
| Welcome Swallow                       | <i>Hirundo neoxena</i>        |   |   | . | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park, but absent during winter |
| Richard's Pipit                       | <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i> |   |   | . | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park                           |
| <b>Quail, Ducks, Geese and Grebes</b> |                               |   |   |   |  |
| Brown Quail                           | <i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>   | . | . | . | Occasionally seen in Wellington Park                           |