

Birds of Goonoo Forest Annotated List

This list contains the bird species reported from the Goonoo Forest since the first known survey in 1952 as at June 30th, 2026. Goonoo Forest is defined as including all of the following; Goonoo National Park, Goonoo State Conservation Area & Coolbaggie Nature Reserve - Eastern Section. Prepared by Ken Klippel, ken.klippel@gmail.com.

Column A = current status in Goonoo Forest, Column B = current status in Dubbo region.

C = Common, U=Uncommon, R=Rare.

NSW Threatened Species Status: E=Endangered, V=Vulnerable.

A	B	COMMON NAME	NOTES
C	U	Emu	Common on trails and surrounding farmland. Declining on western slopes.
R	R	Malleefowl (E)	Only known location where this species builds mounds in forest habitat. Population collapse since early 21 st C fires. Active mound reported in 2025.
		Waterbirds, shorebirds	
U	C	Maned Duck	Dams and seasonal waterholes
U	C	White-necked (Pacific) Heron	Occasional visitor to dams only
U	C	Pacific Black Duck	Occasional visitor to dams and seasonal waterholes.
R	C	Australasian Grebe	Rare visitor to dams only. Last record 2023.
R	C	Little Pied Cormorant	Rare visitor to dams only. Last record 2010.
R	C	Masked Lapwing	Rare visitor. Prefers open grassy country. Last record 2026.
R	C	Little Black Cormorant	Rare visitor to dams only. Single record from 2010.
R	C	White-faced Heron	Rare visitor to dams only. Last record 2023.
R	C	Black-fronted Dotterel	Rare visitor to dams only. Single record from 2020.
R	C	Grey Teal	Rare visitor to dams only. Single record from 2021.
R	U	Great Cormorant	Rare visitor to dams only. Last record 2025.
R	U	Nankeen Night Heron	Rare visitor to dams and seasonal waterholes. Last record 2025.
		Pigeons, doves	
C	C	Common Bronzewing	Throughout forested areas, often on ground.
U	C	Crested Pigeon	Open grassy areas and surrounding farmland.
U	C	Peaceful Dove	Always near water. Ground feeder.
R	R	Diamond Dove	Rare visitor. Always near water. Ground feeder. Last record 2024.
		Kites, hawks, eagles, falcons	
U	C	Nankeen Kestrel	Feeds on large invertebrates and small vertebrates.
U	U	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Primarily along forest/farmland boundary. Opportunistic hunter & scavenger.
U	U	Brown Goshawk	Forest canopy hunter. Often disturbed on ground.
U	R	Square-tailed Kite (V)	Feeds on foliage birds and insects. Two breeding pairs reported 2025. Declining on western slopes.
R	C	Whistling Kite	Rare visitor. Opportunistic hunter & scavenger. Last record 2026.
R	C	Black Kite	Rare visitor. Opportunistic hunter & scavenger. Last record 2022.
R	C	Black-shouldered Kite	Rare visitor. Prefers open country. Feeds on rodents, insects and small lizards. Last record 2022.
R	C	Brown Falcon	Rare visitor. Opportunistic feeder preferring open country. Last record 2023.
R	C	Australian Hobby	Rare visitor. Open country feeder, captures aerial prey including small birds. Last record 2021.
R	U	Collared Sparrowhawk	Forest canopy hunter. Occasional visitor. Last record 2024. Possibly under-reported.
R	U	Little Eagle (V)	Last record 2025, dark morph nesting.
R	R	White-breasted Sea-Eagle	Single record from 2026 at Paddy's Dam.
		Quails, button-quails	
U	C	Brown Quail	Bird of open agricultural land. Irruptive in wet seasons.

Birds of Goonoo Forest Annotated List

U	U	Painted Button-quail	Common during wet seasons. Produces distinctive round scrapes in leaf litter when feeding. Declining on western slopes.
R	R	Red-chested Button-quail	Only recorded in 2021/22 wet season.
R	R	Little Button-quail	Possibly under-reported. Last record 2023.
		Cockatoos, parrots, lorikeets	
C	C	Galah	Small flocks only.
C	C	Eastern Rosella	Seen in pairs or small groups throughout forest.
C	C	Australian (Mallee) Ringneck	Seen in pairs or small groups throughout forest.
C	C	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Noisy, conspicuous. Seen in smaller flocks than urban/agricultural land.
C	U	Glossy Black-Cockatoo (V)	Feeds exclusively on casuarina nuts. Populations vary according to conditions. Generally seen in pairs with young, coming together at dusk to water at dams.
U	C	Red-rumped Parrot	Occasional visitor. Generally bordering farmland.
U	R	Turquoise Parrot (V)	Seen in pairs or small groups particularly along western creeks.
R	C	Cockatiel	Rare visitor. Last record 2001.
R	C	Rainbow Lorikeet	Rare visitor. First record from 2025.
R	U	Little Lorikeet (V)	Historical records from 1959, 1963 & 1972. Last record 2024.
R	U	Superb Parrot (V)	First record from 2025 at Riley's Dam.
R	U	Musk Lorikeet	Rare visitor. Last record 2024.
R	U	Australian King Parrot	Rare visitor. Small groups. Last record 2026.
R	U	Red-winged Parrot	Rare visitor. Last record 2015.
R	U	Bluebonnet	Rare visitor. Last record 2023.
R	R	Crimson Rosella	Single record from 2021.
R	R	Budgerigar	Single record from 2021.
		Cuckoos	
C	U	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Host species; fairy-wrens & thornbills. Only cuckoo found all year round in forest, possibly more common in winter.
U	C	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Summer visitor. Host species; fairy-wrens and thornbills.
U	U	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Summer visitor. Host species; fairy-wrens and thornbills, particularly yellow-rumped.
U	U	Pallid Cuckoo	Summer visitor. Host species; honeyeaters, robins & woodswallows.
U	R	Black-eared Cuckoo	Summer visitor. Host species; fairy-wrens, thornbills & Speckled Warblers. Last record 2025.
R	U	Eastern Koel	Summer visitor. Host species; magpie-lark, large honeyeaters. Single record from 2021.
R	R	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Summer visitor. First recorded 2025. Host species; ravens & currawongs.
		Night birds	
U	C	Tawny Frogmouth	Possibly under-reported.
U	U	Australian Owlet-nightjar	Possibly under-reported.
U	R	White-throated Nightjar	Possibly under-reported.
R	U	Australian Boobook	Possibly under-reported. Last record 2026.
R	U	Eastern Barn Owl	Possibly under-reported. Last record 2026.
R	R	Barking Owl (V)	Possibly under-reported. Single record from 2023.
R	R	Spotted Nightjar	Rare visitor. Migratory. Possibly under-reported. Declining on western slopes. Recorded 1952 & 2025.
		Kingfishers	
C	C	Laughing Kookaburra	In forested areas.
U	C	Sacred Kingfisher	Summer visitor. Often seen away from water.
		Bee-eater, dollarbird, treecreepers	
C	C	White-throated Treecreeper	Dominant in all wooded habitats
C	U	Brown Treecreeper (V)	Primarily in Box woodland along creeks, particularly in western parts of forest. Declining on western slopes.
C	U	Varied Sittella (V)	Feeds from top of trees. Declining on western slopes.

Birds of Goonoo Forest Annotated List

U	C	Rainbow Bee-eater	Summer visitor. Primarily along forest/farmland edge.
R	C	Oriental Dollarbird	Rare summer visitor. Last record 2026.
		Babblers, quail-thrush, cuckoo-shrikes	
C	C	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Commonly seen and heard in upper canopy of forest trees.
C	C	Grey-crowned Babbler (V)	Communal nest builder. Declining on western slopes.
C	U	White-browed Babbler	Communal nest builder. Declining on western slopes.
U	R	Spotted Quail-thrush	Only in areas with thick leaf litter. Possibly under-reported.
R	U	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Prefers open country and margins of farmland. Last record 2023.
		Small bush birds	
C	C	Superb Fairy-wren	Common wherever there is a patch of dense understory.
C	C	Silvereye	Small active bird found in most habitats.
C	C	Mistletoebird	Generally high in canopy
C	C	Spotted Pardalote	Commonly nests in earth banks along trails. Canopy feeder.
C	C	Striated Pardalote	Canopy feeder.
C	C	Weebill	Feeds mainly in she-oak and native pine areas with thick shrubby understory.
C	C	Western Gerygone	Migratory.
C	U	White-throated Gerygone	Summer visitor. Forages in forest/woodland foliage often in high canopy. Migratory.
C	U	Speckled Warbler (V)	Ground feeder, particularly in Casuarina or Callitris groves. Declining on western slopes.
U	U	Purple-backed Fairy-wren	Shyer than Superb species, dense understory only.
U	U	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Only in mallee and thick low shrubby areas. Possibly under-reported.
		Thornbills	
C	C	Yellow Thornbill	Feeds in foliage of large shrubs, small trees, particularly she-oaks and native pine.
C	C	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Mainly ground feeder particularly on forest edges bordering farmland.
C	U	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Prefers woodland with open grassy or leaf litter understory. Feeds on ground and all heights.
C	U	Inland Thornbill	Prefers shrubland and woodland with dense understory.
R	R	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Generally only in mallee and thick low shrubby areas. Declining on western slopes. Last record 2025.
R	R	Striated Thornbill	Feeds in upper canopy of eucalypts. Single record from 2021.
R	R	Brown Thornbill	Rare visitor. Last record 2026.
		Honeyeaters	
C	C	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Migratory honeyeater. Aggressively defends feeding and watering sites.
C	C	White-eared Honeyeater	Dominant honeyeater in forest. Feeds in loose bark.
C	C	White-plumed Honeyeater	Often near water.
C	C	Striped Honeyeater	Omnivore that aggressively protects breeding territory.
C	C	Noisy Miner	Expanding species. Aggressively defends territory.
C	C	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Aggressive omnivore in small groups.
C	C	Red Wattlebird	Aggressive bird protective of food sources. Feeds mostly in canopy.
C	C	Noisy Friarbird	Forms large noisy flocks to feed on flowering gums.
C	U	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Fast moving canopy feeder.
U	C	Yellow-throated Miner	Possibly under-reported due to similarity with Noisy Miner.
U	C	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Aggressive omnivore feeds on tree trunks, ground and insects in flight.
U	C	Little Friarbird	Sometimes seen with flocks of Noisy Friarbirds.
U	R	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Only in mallee areas. Common in Coolbaggie NR East.
R	U	Fuscous Honeyeater	Rare woodland visitor. First record from 2025. Possibly under-reported due to similarity to Yellow-plumed Honeyeater.
R	C	Brown Honeyeater	First record in 2025.
R	R	Singing Honeyeater	Prefers more open arid habitats. Last record 2026.
R	R	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Prefers more closed forests to the east. Single record from 2016.

Birds of Goonoo Forest Annotated List

R	R	Black Honeyeater	Rare Summer visitor to mallee areas. Last record 2025.
R	R	White-naped Honeyeater	Rare visitor from east and south. Last record 2024.
R	R	Painted Honeyeater (V)	Rare Summer visitor. Known from areas to north and west of forest. Last record 2025 (heard).
R	R	White-fronted Honeyeater	Rare visitor. First record from 2025.
R	R	Crimson Chat	Prefers more open arid habitats. Small flock seen 2023. Last record 2024.
R	R	White-fronted Chat	Prefers more open arid habitats. Recorded 1982 & 2026.
		Medium bush birds	
C	C	Grey Shrike-thrush	Vocal forest woodland bird.
C	C	Rufous Whistler	Vocal forest woodland bird. Declining on western slopes.
C	C	White-winged Triller	Summer visitor
C	C	Rufous Songlark	Vocal Summer visitor.
C	U	Golden Whistler	Winter visitor
U	U	Olive-backed Oriole	Summer visitor, particularly along creeks.
R	C	Australasian Pipit	Prefers grassy open farmland. Last record 2026.
R	U	Crested Shrike-tit	Rare visitor. Feeds along creeks on gums with shedding bark. Last record 2026. Declining on western slopes.
R	U	Brown Songlark	Summer visitor. Prefers open areas along forest/farmland edges. Last record 2023.
R	R	Gilbert's Whistler (V)	Inhabits mallee and thick low shrubby areas only. Last record 2006.
		Woodswallows	
C	U	Dusky Woodswallow (V)	Only woodswallow present all year round. Declining on western slopes.
U	C	White-browed Woodswallow	Summer visitor. Visiting population varies according to conditions. Declining on western slopes.
U	U	Masked Woodswallow	Summer visitor. Visiting population varies according to conditions. Sometimes 1-2 birds with other Woodswallows.
R	U	White-breasted Woodswallow	Summer visitor. Visiting population varies according to conditions. Last record 2026.
R	R	Little Woodswallow	Rare Summer visitor. Possibly under-reported due to similarity with Dusky. Last record 2025.
		Butcherbirds, magpie, ravens, currawong	
C	C	Grey Butcherbird	Forested areas.
C	C	Pied Butcherbird	Forested areas.
C	C	Australian Magpie	Forested areas.
C	C	Magpie-lark	Mud nester present throughout forest.
C	C	Pied Currawong	Large omnivore that feeds at all levels
C	C	White-winged Chough	Communal mud nester forming large vocal flocks.
C	C	Australian Raven	All areas.
U	C	Apostlebird	Occasional visitor particularly on forest edges.
U	C	Little Raven	Possibly under-reported.
R	C	European Starling	Prefers urban and agricultural areas. Last record 2023.
R	R	Torresian Crow	Possibly under-reported. Last record 2017.
		Flycatchers	
C	C	Grey Fantail	Perch feeder from ground and lower canopy.
C	C	Willie Wagtail	Perch feeder from ground and lower canopy.
U	U	Leaden Flycatcher	Summer visitor. Generally only near water.
R	U	Restless Flycatcher	Rare visitor to forest edges from farmland. Declining on western slopes. Last record 2025.
A	B	Robins	
C	C	Eastern Yellow Robin	Inquisitive bird in most wooded and forest types. Declining on western slopes.
C	C	Red-capped Robin	Particularly along trails and feeding from fencelines. Declining on western slopes.
C	U	Jacky Winter	Perch feeder from ground and lower canopy. Declining on western slopes.

Birds of Goonoo Forest Annotated List

R	R	Hooded Robin (E)	Primarily along forest/farm interface. Declining on western slopes. One breeding pair known 2020-2026.
		Swifts, swallows, martins	
U	C	Welcome Swallow	Often feeds around dams.
U	C	Tree Martin	Often feeds around dams. Requires tree hollows for breeding.
U	U	White-throated Needletail (V)	Summer visitor. Usually very high above ground. Probably under-reported.
R	C	Fairy Martin	Often feeds around dams. Last record 2025.
R	R	Pacific (Fork-tailed) Swift	Summer visitor. Usually very high above ground. Probably under-reported. Last record 2025.
		Finches	
C	C	Double-barred Finch	Grassy areas near water.
U	U	Red-browed Finch	Grassy areas near water.
U	R	Diamond Firetail (V)	Grassy areas near water. Occasionally 1-2 with other finches. Declining on western slopes.
R	U	Zebra Finch	Prefers drier more open habitats. Single record from 2024.
R	R	Plum-headed Finch	Rare visitor, particularly in northern parts of forest. Last record 2022.

Historical, Vagrant & Un-verified Records

A	B	COMMON NAME	NOTES	LAST SEEN
R	R	Red-backed Kingfisher	Historical record.	1959
R	R	Bush Stone-curlew (E)	Historical record. Declining on western slopes. Prefers open grassland.	1959
R	U	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	Historical record. Declining species. Prefers open grassland.	1963
R	R	Flame Robin (V)	Historical record.	1981
R	U	Banded Lapwing	Historical record. Prefers open grassland.	1982
R	C	Straw-necked Ibis	Historical record.	1982
R	R	Crested Bellbird	Historical record. Prefers drier open country.	1982
R	R	Southern Whiteface (V)	Historical record. Declining on western slopes. Prefers grassy Box areas.	1988
R	C	Rock (Feral) Dove	Historical record. Possibly under-reported.	1988
R	C	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Historical record.	1991
R	R	Black-chinned Honeyeater (V)	Historical record. Declining species.	1991
R	R	Little Wattlebird	Vagrant or mis-identification. Out of range.	1997
R	C	Hardhead	Probable mis-allocation to Goonoo	2008
R	C	Australasian Darter	Probable mis-allocation to Goonoo	2008
R	C	Australian Pelican	Probable mis-allocation to Goonoo	2008
R	C	Australian White Ibis	Probable mis-allocation to Goonoo	2008
R	U	Pied (Black-winged) Stilt	Probable mis-allocation to Goonoo	2008
R	C	Australian Reed-Warbler	Probable mis-allocation to Goonoo	2008
R	R	Rose Robin	Vagrant. Out of range. Single record only.	2022
R	R	Satin Flycatcher	Vagrant. Out of range. Single record only.	2025

Sources

- Collected papers of Keith Hindwood, ca 1930-1971. Unpublished bird lists from Goonoo state forest, 1952,1959,1963. Held at State Library of NSW.
- eBird records as at Nov 16 2025
- Bennett, AF., Haslem, A., Garnett, ST., Loyn, RH., Woinarski, JCZ., Ehmke, G. (2024) Declining but not (yet) threatened: a challenge for avian conservation in ?Australia., Emu – Austral Ornithology; 124(1), 123-145.
- Dubbo Field Naturalist and Conservation Society. (2024), Bird List of the Dubbo Area.
- Heron, S.J. (1973). Birds of Goonoo State Forest, NSW. Emu – Austral Ornithology; 73(3), 119-123.

Birds of Goonoo Forest Annotated List

- Hosking, T., Hosking, J., & Geering, D. (2015). "Birds" In "Plants and Animals of the Dubbo Region". Dubbo Field Naturalists and Conservation Society.
- Morris, A.K. (1984). "Birds" In "The Dubbo Region: A Natural History". Dubbo Field Naturalists and Conservation Society.
- Paull, D. on behalf of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. (2002). Community Data Search & Biodiversity Survey of the Brigalow Belt South.
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) (NSW). Section 178.

30 June 2026