

Spring into the Aussie Backyard Bird Count

- Only 7 weeks until BirdLife Australia's National Bird Week, 23-29 October
- Aussie Backyard Bird Count is a major part of Bird Week celebrations
- Target of 1.5 million birds for fourth #AussieBirdCount
- Register now at aussiebirdcount.org.au and join the fun

As spring begins to bloom across Australia, BirdLife Australia is busy preparing for National Bird Week—23-29 October—which will include the fourth Aussie Backyard Bird Count.

National Bird Week—a tradition dating back nearly 100 years—celebrates the incredible variety of beautiful birds found in Australia, and the Backyard Bird Count is an ideal way for bird lovers to experience them by taking part.

Last year's Aussie Backyard Bird Count saw a record 61,000 nature-loving Australians take time out from their busy schedules to count more than 1.4 million birds. BirdLife Australia is calling on all Australian bird lovers to join in the count again this October. Anyone who is interested in birds can join in.

With only 7 weeks until the Aussie Bird Count begins, BirdLife Australia is encouraging everyone to begin planning when and where they will start counting. You can register your interest by heading to the official website at www.aussiebirdcount.org.au.

Whether you take part by yourself or in a group, every bird counted will help BirdLife Australia reach its target of 1.5 million birds counted in 7 days to smash last year's record.

With three years of data from the counts already collected by Australian birdwatchers, BirdLife Australia's Sean Dooley says the results provide a picture of how our birds are faring, both locally and across Australia.

"We are fortunate to have a wonderful array of birds in Australia, many that can't be found anywhere else in the world," Mr Dooley said. "The information we collect from the Backyard Bird Count each year not only shows how much Australians care about birds, but also provides clues to what's happening with different bird species."

In 2016, Australian birdwatchers recorded more than 583 species, with the Rainbow Lorikeet, Noisy Miner and Australian Magpie topping the list of Australia's most counted birds.

The new, updated Aussie Bird Count app (available for you to download on 1 October) allows you to take part anywhere—not just backyards, but in local parks, botanical gardens, schoolyards or beaches—wherever you might see some birds.

Download the app on 1 October and join the count at aussiebirdcount.org.au. It's easy!

The national total will be updated in real time, and the app allows you to see which species are being seen in your local area.

Start spreading the word with #AussieBirdCount.

For events and activities during National Bird Week visit aussiebirdcount.org.au.

MEDIA CONTACT ONLY

Contact Jack Walden on jack@thecword.com.au or 0428 300 090 to arrange an interview or for high quality images, sounds and video, and the media kit.

Visit the #AussieBirdCount Media Centre: aussiebirdcount.org.au/media

Subscribe to media updates: <http://eepurl.com/c2UTeD>

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