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Lineup of 'Chief Counters' announced for 2019 Aussie Backyard Bird Count

- BirdLife Australia presents the 2019 Aussie Backyard Bird Count during National Bird Week, 21-27 October
- A group of famous Australian comedians, journalists and gardening personalities, who all share a passion for birds, will help count more than 3 million birds using the #AussieBirdCount app
- Register now at aussiebirdcount.org.au and join a diverse group of Australians in the backyard

A group of famous Australian bird lovers have been named as Chief Counters for BirdLife Australia's Aussie Backyard Bird Count to help count more than 3 million birds in 7 days when the count begins later this month.

Leading the diverse group of Australians who share a passion for birds and are supporting the 2019 Aussie Backyard Bird Count:

- **journalist Chris Bath** who loves birdwatching with her son
- **radio announcer Myf Warhurst** who adores the Superb Fairy Wren
- **actor William McInnes** who sees the power in how birds bring people together
- **horticulturalist Jane Edmanson** who understands the important link between plants and birds
- **musician John Williamson** with a passion for the sounds of Aussie birds
- **comedian Alex Lee** who finds the humour in the sights, sounds and names of Aussie birds.

Like the thousands of Australians who will participate in BirdLife Australia's Aussie Backyard Bird Count, the Chief Counters bring a range of experiences to the count and have varying levels of birdwatching knowledge.

"BirdLife Australia is delighted to have the support of so many Australians across the country including our Chief Counters who will play a key role in promoting the importance of the bird count to their communities," Chief Bird Nerd Sean Dooley said.

"Like the diversity of bird species in Australia, the mix of Chief Counters highlights the range of people who share a passion for birds. We are excited that our unique birdlife has been able to bring together comedians, journalists, gardening gurus and musicians," he added.

Australians are encouraged to join Chief Counters across the country and get involved in the Aussie Bird Count from 21-27 October.

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

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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Quotes attributable to the 2019 Chief Counters

- **Chris Bath** - "Birdwatching, or "birdnerding" as we call it, is a family affair for me. My son's endless enthusiasm for birds has spread to family and friends. It's a wonderful way to spend time together and get out and see our beautiful country. As a Chief Counter for BirdLife Australia's Aussie Bird Count I'll be celebrating the amazing birds of Australia alongside him this October."
- **Myf Warhurst** - "Australian birds are a truly colourful bunch, much like the variety of people who enjoy spending time with them in nature. I am proud to be a Chief Counter for the 2019 Aussie Bird Count and hoping to see more of my favourite bird, the sexy Superb Fairy Wren."
- **William McInnes** - "The best part about bird watching is that anyone can get involved, which is why I'm excited to be a Chief Counter for the 2019 Aussie Backyard Bird Count. Head out into nature and see the birds that share our backyards and meet other people who share your passion for local birds"
- **Jane Edmanson** - "There is such a strong connection between gardening and birdlife, which is why I'm delighted to become a Chief Counter for BirdLife Australia's Aussie Backyard Bird Count. There are so many simple ways we can help attract more birds to our backyards."
- **John Williamson** - "Birds are a quintessential part of the Australian soundtrack. As a Chief Counter for BirdLife Australia's Aussie Backyard Bird Count, I will be encouraging all Australian bird watchers to tune into the chorus of Aussie birds that surrounds them."
- **Alex Lee** - "Ever since I got my first birdwatching book in my early teens, I always loved spotting birds around my neighbourhood. I even attempted some bird calls. Even though the birds, like the boys, never returned my calls. Now I'm looking forward to seeing how many birds I can count during the Aussie Backyard Bird Count and encouraging other Australians to get involved."