

# Backyard Species Discovery – Weekly Challenge

## Week 8

### The early BIRD catches the worm

The Backyard Species Discovery project is a virtual expedition to continue adding to our knowledge of Australian biodiversity while field work is still difficult due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

While we can't promise you'll find a new species, you will discover some amazing plants and animals living in your own backyard, learn to identify them with the help of Bush Blitz scientists and contribute valuable data to the Atlas of Living Australia.

The diversity of Australia's birdlife is incredible, with over 800 described species. Over the past 12 months, parts of Australia have experienced disastrous bushfires, floods and droughts which have greatly impacted on birds. You may have noticed different species in your local area. Documenting and recording these species is important to help scientists and land managers get a better understanding of species distribution, abundance and behaviour. The most observed species in our project are birds. Magpies are leading the way with over 600 observations.

### Here is your challenge:

Photograph at least three bird species that are living in the wild. Upload your images to the Backyard Species Discovery project on iNaturalist. Send us links to your iNaturalist observations as evidence that you have successfully completed the challenge. There are extra points for photos of rare or unusual species. Happy Birding!

### Important:

- Only ever add birds to iNaturalist if they are living wild – never add birds that are in aviaries or domestic pets.

### Tips:

- Many birds live in and visit backyards (large or small, urban or rural) and local parks.
- You may think capturing a good image of a bird is easy, but it can be very tricky! Here are a few tips to help you take photos of birds: Be silent and still when approaching birds, put the sun at your back where possible, focus your camera on the bird, take lots of photos. Important features to capture include colour of plumage (feathers), beak (shape/size) and size of bird.
- Take photos of the whole bird making sure photos are in focus. After uploading your photos, combine them into one observation. For more advice on [uploading images to the Backyard Species Discovery project](#), [making your observations count](#) and [Birding guides & apps](#) see our website.

### Due date:

Email your entry with your name (or group name) to [bushblitz@awe.gov.au](mailto:bushblitz@awe.gov.au) by midnight AEST on Wednesday 5 August.

Applications will be judged by a panel and the winning entry will be announced on Friday 7 August, on the Bush Blitz website and social media platforms.