



# Wetland birds

## of the NSW Murray–Riverina regions

We have a wonderful diversity of birds in the NSW Murray and Riverina regions, that rely on wetlands for at least part of their lifecycle and ultimately for their survival. Each wetland species requires a different range of habitats within wetlands to feed and breed, and each has their own ecological story. A single wetland or even a farm dam can provide many of these different habitats that will support a huge diversity of birds and other wildlife.

**Tall trees** over wetlands or flooded areas are important for birds such as Herons, Egrets and Ibis to breed. These species rely heavily on our River Red Gum forests and Black Box woodlands to reproduce, but prefer more **open wetland areas** to feed in.

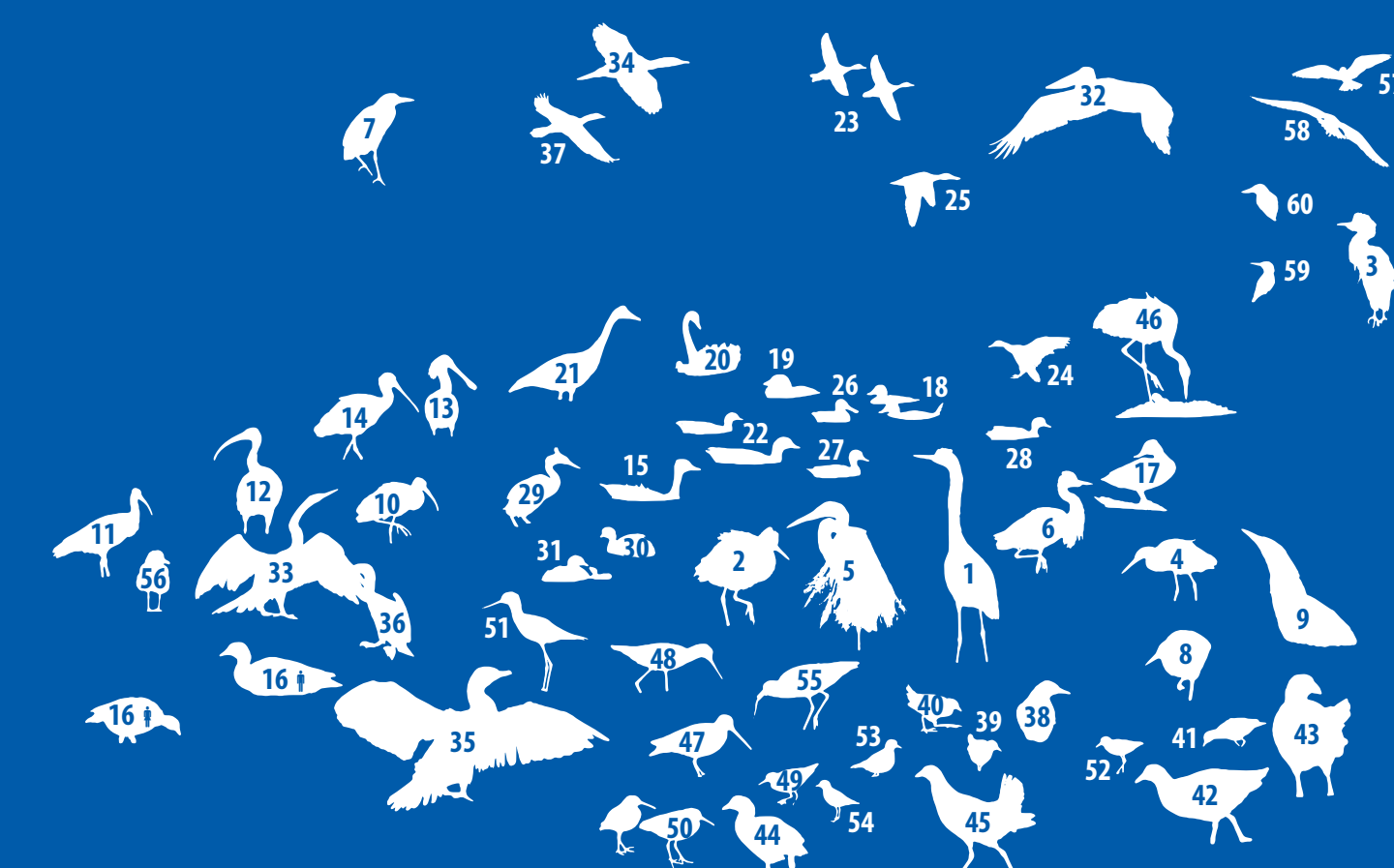
Dense reed beds like Cumbungi and Phragmites are critical for species such as Bitterns to breed in, whereas Brolgas prefer **shallow wetland areas** with smaller waterplants like Spike-rushes and Canegrass so they can maintain a panoramic view of their surrounds.

Areas of **mudflats** and **very shallow water** are key habitat for a wide array of shorebirds to feed on, such as Dotterels, Plovers and Snipe. Many of the Crakes, Rails and birds like the Swamphehen and Moorhen also like shallow water and mud, in combination with **waterplants** and **reeds** to provide cover.

**Open, deep water** is where you'll find many of the waterfowl species such as Ducks, Cormorants, the Australasian Darter and Australian Pelican. These species like to dive and pursue underwater prey like fish, yabbies and aquatic invertebrates.

Management of wetlands to protect and improve as many of these habitat elements as possible is critical to support these wetland bird species to feed, breed and live. Even small changes and actions made in our wetlands, floodplains and even dams can provide some or all of these habitat features and support a wide array of wetland birds.

### Wetland Bird Species Key



#### HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS

1. White-necked Heron
2. White-faced Heron
3. Cattle Egret
4. Little Egret
5. Great Egret
6. Intermediate Egret
7. Nankeen Night Heron
8. Little Bittern
9. Australasian Bittern

#### IBIS AND SPOONBILLS

10. Glossy Ibis
11. Straw-necked Ibis
12. Australian White Ibis
13. Royal Spoonbill
14. Yellow-billed Spoonbill

#### WATERFOWL

15. Plumed Whistling Duck
16. Australian Wood Duck
17. Freckled Duck
18. Blue-billed Duck
19. Musk Duck
20. Black Swan
21. Magpie Goose
22. Australian Shelduck
23. Hardhead
24. Pacific Black Duck
25. Australasian Shoveler
26. Pink-eared Duck
27. Grey Teal
28. Chestnut Teal
29. Great Crested Grebe
30. Hoary-headed Grebe
31. Australasian Grebe
32. Australian Pelican

#### CORMORANTS AND DARTER

33. Darter
34. Great Cormorant
35. Little Black Cormorant
36. Pied Cormorant
37. Little Pied Cormorant

#### CRAKES, RAILS, WATERHENS AND BROLGA

38. Buff-banded Rail
39. Spotless Crake
40. Australian Spotted Crake
41. Baillon's Crake
42. Dusky Moorhen
43. Australasian Swamphehen
44. Eurasian Coot
45. Black-tailed Native-hen
46. Brolga

#### SHOREBIRDS, TERNS AND GULL

47. Latham's Snipe
48. Common Greenshank
49. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
50. Australian Painted Snipe
51. Black-winged Stilt
52. Red-kneed Dotterel
53. Black-fronted Dotterel
54. Red-capped Plover
55. Masked Lapwing
56. Silver Gull
57. Whiskered Tern
58. Caspian Tern

#### KINGFISHER

59. Azure Kingfisher
60. Sacred Kingfisher