BIRD ROUTES OF COWRA DISTRICT

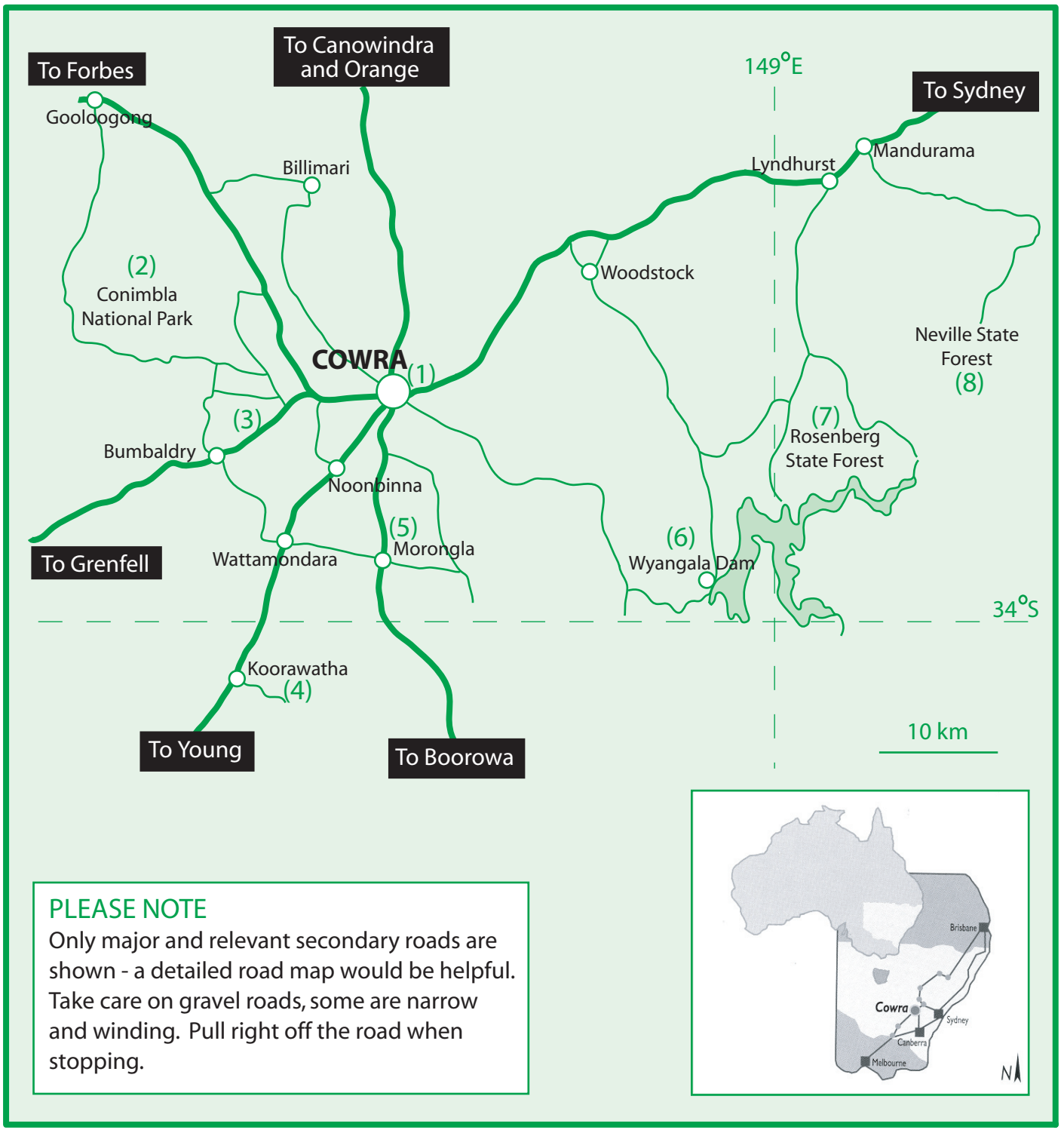
1. The Japanese Garden and the Common

From the town, follow the signs via Scenic Drive to Japanese Gardens and Cultural Centre (admission fee). The beautiful Kaiyushiki (strolling) Garden represents the landscapes of Japan and is mainly planted with exotics – it does however attract a number of birds, especially when the white box is flowering in autumn. To continue to the Common, turn from the car park to Sakura Avenue and follow the POW Camp signs to the Common.

The Common, situated in a prominent position of the Cowra city landscape, comprises a rocky granite ridge with large granite boulders supporting remnants of a highly modified grassy White Box Woodland community. The granite outcrop towards the northern end contains the highest density of mature white box, and is frequented by a good array of birds – Rufous Songlarks, Superb Fairy-wrens, Double-barred and Red-browed Finches, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes, Dusky Woodswallows, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Red-rumped Parrots and Eastern Rosellas. Look for Superb Parrots in spring and summer. Continue through the Common, past the historic POW camp and turn left on Evans St to return to town.

2. Conimbla National Park

Yambira Mountain and its surrounding forested ranges rise nearly 500 m above the plains forming one of the "bush islands" in the heavily farmed central west. It has a good variety of bird species – including both those which are mainly found along the tablelands and coast as well as those of the drier inland. These include Painted Button-quails, Common Bronzewings, Shining Bronze-Cuckoos, Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens, Diamond Firetails, White-browed Babblers, Golden and Rufous Whistlers, Buff-rumped Thornbills, both Brown and White-throated Treecreepers, Speckled Warblers, Striped, Black-chinned and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters. The Park consists of two sections and to reach the main section turn off the Grenfell Road (Mid Western Highway) into Barryrennie Rd, 9 km west of Cowra. The Wallaby Picnic Area (28 km) is a good spot for birds. There are two walking tracks: the Wallaby Walking Track (4 km return) linking the Wallaby Picnic Area and Ironbark Carpark.



PLEASE NOTE

Only major and relevant secondary roads are shown - a detailed road map would be helpful. Take care on gravel roads, some are narrow and winding. Pull right off the road when stopping.

The track climbs gently through an interesting variety of trees (ironbarks, scribbly gums, stringybarks and cypress pines) which provide good habitat for a number of species – Golden and Rufous Whistlers, Speckled Warblers and Buff-rumped Thornbills are quite common. The Ironbark Walking Track (6 km return) winds its way to a broad plateau overlooking Cherry Creek Gully – the eucalypts and heathlands are home to a variety of bush birds such as the Eastern Yellow Robin, Weebill and White-throated Treecreeper - and links up with a management trail for the return section to Ironbark Carpark. Return by retracing the route or continue along Barryrennie Rd to Gooloogong and Forbes Road (Lachlan Valley Way) to Cowra. There are several TSRs along the Forbes Rd and although most are degraded it is worth having a look, especially when the eucalypts are in flower. About 13 km from Gooloogong where the road to Billimari crosses the Lachlan River at Merriganowry Swamp is a small reserve good for a variety of bush birds near the crossing and a colony of Fairy Martins have been nesting under the bridge.

3. Back Creek TSR

Follow the Grenfell Road (Mid Western Highway) past the aerodrome and immediately after the Forbes Rd turnoff (on your right) turn left into Chiverton Rd. After 2 km take the first road (gravel) on your right and follow it to the creek (fording the creek without a 4WD is not recommended). The Back Creek TSR is about 6 ha in size with a good number of mature yellow box. Look for Brown Treecreepers and Black-chinned Honeyeaters in spring. Return the same way to Grenfell Rd and continue for ~2 km to Back Creek Reserve Rd just past Barryrennie Rd (Conimbla NP turnoff). Park outside the Seed Orchard TSR. A walk along the Back Creek Reserve Rd can yield Diamond Firetails, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Crested Shrike-tits, Grey-crowned Babblers and Apostlebirds. Return to Cowra via Grenfell Rd.

4. Koorawatha Nature Reserve

Take the Young Rd (Olympic Way) to Koorawatha (26 km), turn left at the pub, signposted "4 Koorawatha Falls". After ~300 m the road becomes gravel, follow this to the ford (road unsuitable for caravans after the ford) – look for Speckled Warblers, Flame and Red-capped Robins, Restless Flycatchers and Rufous Songlarks (summer). After crossing the ford it is 4.2 km to a small picnic area with tables and a barbeque. A track leads you to the Falls (a favourite local swimming spot in summer!). River red gums line Bang Bang Creek with mixed open woodland on the ridges and slopes - Southern Whitefaces, Buff-rumped Thornbills and Brown Treecreepers may be seen. Return to Koorawatha and for a good spot for Superb Parrots in summer, turn left towards Young and continue for 6 km to a roadside reserve (Crowther TSR) on the left hand side just before the Crowther Roadhouse. Return the same way or turn right and drive through the village of Wattamondara to **Morongla Cemetery (5)**.

5. Morongla Cemetery

Follow Boorowa Rd (Lachlan Valley Way) out of town – after 2.9 km there is a riverside reserve on the left hand side, with some good yellow box and red river gums. Stop to look for Rainbow Bee-eaters in summer and a variety of honeyeaters if the eucalypts are in flower. After 5 km turn left into Reid's Flat Rd, a pleasant wide tree-lined road, and continue for about 6 km to Badgery TSR on your left - Grey-crowned Babblers, Brown Treecreepers and Painted Button-quails are often sighted. Continue for about 6 km , turn right into Morongla Rd and after 6.2 km, turn left into Boorowa Rd. Morongla Creek TSR with good yellow box is 3.5km further on near the creek beside a little bridge. Return to Morongla Rd and the village of Morongla, turn left and drive towards Wattamondara for 1.2 km to the Morongla Cemetery. Apostlebirds are commonly seen along the road. The reserve adjacent to Morongla Cemetery is a great spot for birding – mostly grey box with a understorey of shrubs such as hopbushes which attract flocks of Superb Parrots in summer. Continue along Morongla Rd through Wattamondara until you reach Young Road (Olympic Way) and return to Cowra. A stop at a small reserve (with good white box and cypress pine) in Noonbinna Road can be worthwhile and may yield Black-chinned Honeyeaters, Diamond Firetails and Brown Treecreepers.

6. Wyangala State Recreation Area

From the centre of town travel towards Sydney and turn right into Fitzroy St (following the signs to Wyangala Dam) then left to Brougham St which becomes Darbys Falls Road. Darbys Falls River Reserve (24 km) is a pleasant spot for a break – and may produce some interesting bush birds. Continue for another 12 km to Wyangala Dam. There are many possibilities here: drive through the Wyangala village to the Lachlan River and the adjoining white box woodland with some cypress pine on the hillside. Look for the Threatened Black-chinned Honeyeaters and Speckled Warblers, as well as several Declining species such as Buff-rumped Thornbills, Crested Shrike-tits, Rufous Whistlers, Eastern Yellow Robins and Restless Flycatchers. There are several walking tracks (from 1 to 5 km in length) in the area (mudmaps available from the Wyangala Waters SP Information Office) which are worth investigating. Follow the signs to Woodstock and return via Reg Hailstone Way or continue on to explore the Wyangala Backwater and/or the **Rosenberg State Forest (7)**.

7. Rosenberg State Forest

Take the Sydney Rd (Mid Western Highway) to Lyndhurst (48 km), turn right into Garland Rd and follow signs to Garland (5) and Wyangala Backwater. The Rosenberg SF (15.2 km) is mainly grey box and red stringybark with a good understorey including grass trees and tussock grasses and supports an excellent variety of bush birds. To combine this route with (6), continue for a further 11.3km along Garland Rd to an entrance to the Wyangala Waters State Park. There are several tracks which lead to picnic and camping areas in the Wyangala Backwater and good birding - please note that some of the tracks are only suitable for 4WD.

8. Neville State Forest

From Mandurama (52 km) take the road to Neville (17 km). Continue straight through the village onto Kentucky Rd and follow the winding gravel road for 4 km to the boundary of Neville SF. This small but diverse forest is at a higher elevation than the Rosenberg SF and comprises grey and yellow box, snow and manna gums and stringybarks with a ground cover of tussock grasses and shrubs. Good variety of bush birds including several Declining and Threatened species - your birdlist would be appreciated!

The **Cowra Woodland Birds Program** (CWBP) comprises a number of projects developed by Birds Australia Southern NSW and ACT (BASNA) group. It was initiated by concerned local landholders and BASNA members to reverse the decline of woodland birds in the region. Quarterly bird surveys, started in May 2002, are being carried out on more than 70 sites in the Shire to assess the quality and diversity of remnant vegetation and their associated birds. Several habitat restoration projects have been carried out both on Cowra Common and private properties.

New volunteers for bird surveys and tree plantings are always welcome - please contact BASNA office.

COWRA WOODLAND BIRDS
A PROGRAM OF BIRDS AUSTRALIA

The **Birds Australia** mission is to conserve native birds and biological diversity, through the study and management of birds and their habitats, and the education and involvement of the community.

Birds Australia
CONSERVATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

CONTACTS

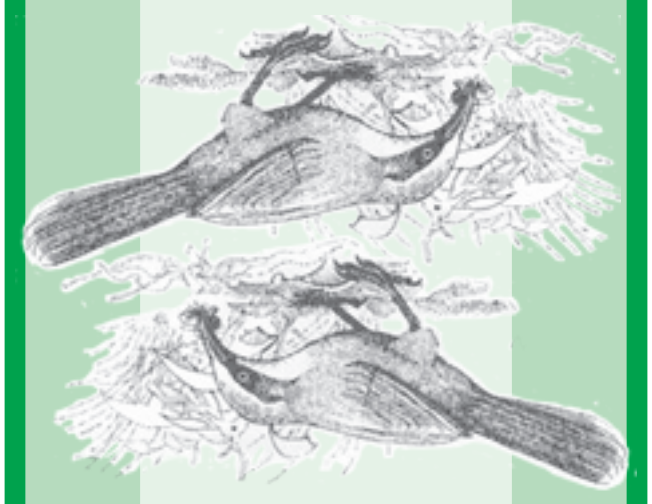
Cowra Visitor's Centre
Olympic Park
Mid Western Highway (PO Box 34)
Cowra NSW 2794
Phone: 02 6342 4333
Fax: 02 6342 4563
Email: tourism@cowra.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.cowratourism.com.au

Cowra Woodland Birds Program
BASNA
WEB: www.birdsaustralia.com.au
Email: roselle63@bigpond.com

The landscape of Cowra Shire varies from the rich agricultural river flats to slopes and rolling hills of the Lachlan Valley. Relatively untouched native vegetation is found in Conimbla National Park, Koorawatha Nature Reserve and the Rosenberg and Neville State Forests. Small remnants are also found in Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR) such as the Back Creek TSR. These are the best places to look for woodland birds although well-treed roadside verges can also be worthwhile.

In the Cowra region, Threatened species include Superb Parrot, Swift Parrot, Barking Owl, Brown Treecreeper, Speckled Warbler, Black-chinned Honeyeater, Hooded Robin, Grey-crowned Babbler, Diamond Firetail.

Bird Routes of Cowra District



Grey-crowned Babblers

COWRA DISTRICT BIRD LIST

- ☐ Stubble Quail
- ☐ Brown Quail

- ☐ Musk Duck
- ☐ Black Swan
- ☐ Australian Wood Duck
- ☐ Pacific Black Duck
- ☐ Australasian Shoveler
- ☐ Grey Teal
- ☐ Chestnut Teal
- ☐ Pink-eared Duck
- ☐ Hardhead

- ☐ Australasian Grebe
- ☐ Hoary-headed Grebe

- ☐ Darter
- ☐ Little Pied Cormorant
- ☐ Pied Cormorant
- ☐ Little Black Cormorant
- ☐ Great Cormorant
- ☐ Australian Pelican

- ☐ White-faced Heron
- ☐ White-necked Heron
- ☐ Great Egret
- ☐ Intermediate Egret
- ☐ Cattle Egret
- ☐ Nankeen Night Heron
- ☐ Australasian Bittern
- ☐ Australian White Ibis
- ☐ Straw-necked Ibis
- ☐ Royal Spoonbill
- ☐ Yellow-billed Spoonbill

- ☐ Black-shouldered Kite
- ☐ Square-tailed Kite (T)
- ☐ Black Kite
- ☐ Whistling Kite (D)
- ☐ Spotted Harrier
- ☐ Swamp Harrier
- ☐ Brown Goshawk
- ☐ Collared Sparrowhawk
- ☐ Wedge-tailed Eagle
- ☐ Little Eagle
- ☐ Brown Falcon

- ☐ Australian Hobby
- ☐ Peregrine Falcon
- ☐ Nankeen Kestrel

- ☐ Purple Swamphen
- ☐ Dusky Moorhen
- ☐ Black-tailed Native-hen
- ☐ Eurasian Coot

- ☐ Painted Button-quail (D)
- ☐ Little Button-quail

- ☐ Latham's Snipe
- ☐ Black-fronted Dotterel

- ☐ Banded Lapwing
- ☐ Masked Lapwing
- ☐ Silver Gull

- ☐ Rock Dove*
- ☐ Common Bronzewing
- ☐ Crested Pigeon
- ☐ Diamond Dove
- ☐ Peaceful Dove

- ☐ Glossy Black-Cockatoo (T)
- ☐ Galah
- ☐ Little Corella
- ☐ Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- ☐ Cockatiel

- ☐ Little Lorikeet
- ☐ Superb Parrot (T)
- ☐ Crimson Rosella
- ☐ Eastern Rosella
- ☐ Swift Parrot (T)
- ☐ Red-rumped Parrot
- ☐ Budgerigar
- ☐ Turquoise Parrot (T)

- ☐ Pallid Cuckoo
- ☐ Fan-tailed Cuckoo
- ☐ Black-eared Cuckoo
- ☐ Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
- ☐ Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

- ☐ Barking Owl (T)
- ☐ Southern Boobook
- ☐ Barn Owl

- ☐ Tawny Frogmouth
- ☐ Australian Owlet-nightjar

- ☐ White-throated Needletail

- ☐ Azure Kingfisher
- ☐ Laughing Kookaburra
- ☐ Sacred Kingfisher
- ☐ Rainbow Bee-eater
- ☐ Dollarbird

- ☐ White-throated Treecreeper
- ☐ Brown Treecreeper (T)

- ☐ Superb Fairy-wren
- ☐ Variegated Fairy-wren

- ☐ Spotted Pardalote
- ☐ Striated Pardalote

- ☐ White-browed Scrubwren
- ☐ Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (D)
- ☐ Speckled Warbler (T)
- ☐ Weebill
- ☐ Western Gerygone
- ☐ White-throated Gerygone
- ☐ Brown Thornbill
- ☐ Inland Thornbill
- ☐ Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (D)
- ☐ Buff-rumped Thornbill (D)
- ☐ Yellow-rumped Thornbill
- ☐ Yellow Thornbill
- ☐ Striated Thornbill
- ☐ Southern Whiteface (D)

- ☐ Red Wattlebird
- ☐ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
- ☐ Striped Honeyeater
- ☐ Noisy Friarbird
- ☐ Little Friarbird
- ☐ Blue-faced Honeyeater
- ☐ Noisy Miner

- ☐ Yellow-faced Honeyeater
- ☐ White-eared Honeyeater
- ☐ Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
- ☐ Fuscous Honeyeater
- ☐ White-plumed Honeyeater
- ☐ Black-chinned Honeyeater (T)
- ☐ Brown-headed Honeyeater
- ☐ White-naped Honeyeater
- ☐ Eastern Spinebill
- ☐ White-fronted Chat

- ☐ Jacky Winter (D)
- ☐ Scarlet Robin (D)
- ☐ Red-capped Robin (D)
- ☐ Flame Robin (D)
- ☐ Hooded Robin (T)
- ☐ Eastern Yellow Robin (D)

- ☐ Grey-crowned Babbler (T)
- ☐ White-browed Babbler (D)

- ☐ Spotted Quail-thrush (D)

- ☐ Varied Sittella (D)

- ☐ Crested Shrike-tit (D)
- ☐ Gilbert's Whistler (T)
- ☐ Golden Whistler
- ☐ Rufous Whistler (D)
- ☐ Grey Shrike-thrush

- ☐ Leaden Flycatcher
- ☐ Restless Flycatcher (D)
- ☐ Magpie-lark
- ☐ Grey Fantail
- ☐ Willie Wagtail

- ☐ Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
- ☐ White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (D)
- ☐ Ground Cuckoo-shrike
- ☐ White-winged Triller

- ☐ Olive-backed Oriole

- ☐ Masked Woodswallow
- ☐ White-browed Woodswallow (D)

- ☐ Black-faced Woodswallow
- ☐ Dusky Woodswallow (D)

- ☐ Grey Butcherbird
- ☐ Pied Butcherbird
- ☐ Australian Magpie
- ☐ Pied Currawong

- ☐ Australian Raven
- ☐ Little Raven

- ☐ White-winged Chough
- ☐ Apostlebird

- ☐ Singing Bushlark
- ☐ Richard's Pipit

- ☐ House Sparrow*
- ☐ Eurasian Tree Sparrow*
- ☐ Zebra Finch
- ☐ Double-barred Finch
- ☐ Red-browed Finch
- ☐ Diamond Firetail (T)
- ☐ European Goldfinch*

- ☐ Mistletoebird
- ☐ White-backed Swallow
- ☐ Welcome Swallow
- ☐ Tree Martin
- ☐ Fairy Martin

- ☐ Clamorous Reed-Warbler
- ☐ Rufous Songlark
- ☐ Brown Songlark
- ☐ Golden-headed Cisticola
- ☐ Little Grassbird

- ☐ Silvereye

- ☐ Common Blackbird*

- ☐ Common Starling*

Species not listed above

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(T) Threatened Species
(D) Declining Species

13 species of the birds listed as Threatened in NSW under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* are found in the Cowra Region, another 20 species are considered as Declining.

*** Introduced Species**

A copy of your bird list with locations, dates and contact details would be appreciated by the CWBP. Please send to:
John Rankin
"Warrawong"
Forbes Road
Cowra NSW 2794

Location:.....

Date:.....

Name & email/address:
.....
.....