

Friday 18 March 2016

KEEPING TRACK OF BIRDS IN OUR BACKYARDS

They are described as ‘eagle eyed’, ‘happy as larks’ and they sometimes ‘get in flap’. They are the 113 local observers (aka ‘twitchers’) who took part in the nation-wide Aussie Backyard Bird Count that helps to keep track of bird populations on a massive scale.

The Ryde twitchers were part of a 42,000 strong army of nature-loving Australians who took time out of their busy schedules to enjoy and register the birds around them, resulting in a total of 3,152 birds and 82 bird species recorded in the City of Ryde in one week.

Ryde’s Top 3 most common bird species reflected the rest of the nation, with the Rainbow Lorikeet taking out the number one spot with 865 local sightings.

Two of the country’s most vulnerable birds, the Powerful Owl and the Brown Treecreeper, were spotted in the Ryde environs, as was the endangered Australasian Bittern.

Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Ryde is a natural for bird-watchers. “The great thing about Birds in Backyards is it’s happening right on our doorstep.

“Our city is known for its beautiful parks, leafy glades, open spaces and beautiful bushland areas and we see the benefit of protecting our natural environment in our own backyards.

“We also have strong environmental policies in addition to the maintenance of local parks, open spaces and tree planting programs. These include initiatives that help our bird life flourish such as bushcare programs, the Spring Garden Competition, which includes a new Native & Habitat-friendly section, and the recent Corridor-to-Corridor project that helped to create bird-friendly spaces in gardens and local communities. The Council also coordinates the Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN) through our schools community.”

City of Ryde Council will conduct a Flora and Fauna Survey later this year. The Aussie Backyard Bird Count will be back again in October 2016, so stay tuned to the Council website for event details.

For the Ryde Aussie Backyard Bird Count 2015 Results www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/backyardbirdcount
For the National Aussie Backyard Bird Count 2015 Results www.aussiebirdcount.org.au/results

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