The background of the cover is a photograph of a large, mature tree with a thick, textured trunk. Two red birds are perched on a branch in the middle ground. The sky is visible through the green leaves. The title 'Birds of Bowman Park' is overlaid in a white, serif font with a drop shadow.

Birds of Bowman Park

2015 Bird survey conducted by Dave Potter
as part of the *Natural Resources Northern & Yorke Four Rivers Catchment project*

Bowman Park Management Committee



Birds of Bowman Park

Australian Magpie (*Cracticus Tibicen*),

A glossy black and white bird with a black tipped white beak and chestnut eyes (in adults). The nape, upper tail and shoulder are white in males and grey in females. Described as an accomplished songbird with the distinct flute-like carolling and yodelling sound. Adult males may become aggressive during breeding season and swoop to attack to protect their nest.

Size: 36 to 44cm

Sound: A distinct flute-like carolling and yodelling



Photo: Debbie Gray

Australian Ringneck (*Barnardius Zonarius*),



Photo sourced on: Wikipedia

Is a large parrot, differing in size and plumage in different regions. There are four subspecies, in two main groups. Members of the Mallee group have a mainly green head and neck. The Mallee Ringneck, subspecies *barnardi*, has a more varied green and blue body, with more yellow underneath and a red frontal band. The Cloncurry subspecies *macgillivrayi* has much more yellow and pale turquoise around the face. The Port Lincoln group all have dark hoods and are mainly green. The Twenty Eight Parrot, subspecies *semitorquatus*, has a red frontal band and is all green underneath. The Port Lincoln Parrot, subspecies *zonarius*, is green and yellow underneath.

Size: 30 to 43cm

Sound: 'kwink-kwing-kwink-kwing'

Common Blackbird (*Turdus Merula*),

The male is the 'black' bird, with deep orange to yellow bill, a narrow yellow eye-ring and dark legs. The female is a brown bird, with some streaks or mottling, and has a dark bill and legs. Immature birds are similar to the female with lighter underparts. The common blackbird is often viewed as a pest.

Size: 25 to 28cm

Sound: 'tchook' call and melodius, warbling sound



Photo sourced on: Wikipedia

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*),



Photo sourced on: Wikipedia

Has a wide variation in plumage. Both sexes are similar, although the female is less glossy than the male. In autumn, when the plumage is new, birds are glossed black, with a purple and green shine, and the tips of the body feathers have large white spots. At this time the bill is dark and the legs are brown. With wear, the white spots are lost, while the bill and legs turn yellow. During the breeding season adults become glossy-black without any spots. Young birds are dull grey-brown. They are often seen at dusk flying in flocks circling in large circles looking for a place to spend the night.

Size: 20 to 22cm

Sound: Wheezy whistles, clicks and scratching sounds and some mimic other birds



Crimson Rosella (*Platycercus elegans*),

There are several colour forms of the Crimson Rosella. The form it is named for has mostly crimson (red) plumage and bright blue cheeks. The feathers of the back and wing coverts are black broadly edged with red. The flight feathers of the wings have broad blue edges and the tail is blue above and pale blue below and on the outer feathers. The 'Yellow Rosella' has the crimson areas replaced with light yellow and the tail more greenish. The 'Adelaide Rosella' is intermediate in colour, ranging from yellow with a reddish wash to dark orange. Juveniles have the characteristic blue cheeks and green-olive to yellowish olive (occasionally red in some areas) plumage.

Size: 30 to 45cm

Sound: 'cussik-cussik' & harsh streeches and metallic whistles



Photo: Geoff Hargrave

Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*),



Photo sourced on: Birdlife Aust

Described as one of the most stunningly coloured birds of the finch family. The top of its body is ash brown with crown, forehead and neck grey. The under feathers are white with a crimson rump. There is a black band across its neck which continues down the flank to be dotted with white. The bill and eye ring are coral, and the legs and feet are dark grey. The female is similar to the male although sometimes smaller. Juvenile have a black bill and is duller in colour. They fly low and flocks travel in long lines. This species may also be called the Diamond Finch or Java Sparrow.

Size: 10 to 13cm

Sound: A mournful double whistle 'twooo-hee'

Dusky Woodswallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*),



Photo: Geoff Hargrave

A smoky deep brown to grey bird. The wings are dark blue grey, edged white, the tail is black with a broad white tip and the underwings are silvery-white. The bill is blue tipped black and the eye is dark brown. Young birds are grey-brown, streaked and mottled buff to cream. They move in flocks of 10 to 30 birds, which cluster together to roost and are known to spontaneously wag or swivel their tails fervently, a trait which is common among many other species of woodswallow.

Size: 18cm

Sound: 'chirp-chirp', 'peert-peert' while in flight or at rest

Galah (*Eolophus roseicapillus*),

Has rose pink head, neck and underparts with a paler pink crown, pale to mid grey back, wings, undertail and grey legs. The beak is bone coloured and the bare skin of the eye rings is carunculated. Adult birds differ in irises colour, the male has very dark brown irises and females have reddish irises. Juvenile birds have greyish chests, crowns and crests and they have brown irises and whitish bare eye rings, which are not carunculated. The Galahs have a bouncing acrobatic flight, but spend much of the day sheltering from heat in the foliage of trees and shrubs. Galahs kept in captivity can be trained to talk.

Size: 35 to 36cm

Sound: High-pitched screech, 'chi-chi'



Photo: Geoff Hargrave



Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*),



Photo sourced on: Wikipedia

Is closely related to the Butcherbirds and Australian Magpie of the family Artamidae. Has a dark grey plumage with white in the wing, undertail coverts, the base of the tail and most visibly, the tip of the tail. It has yellow eyes, the orbital (eye-ring), legs and feet are black, whereas the bill and the inner mouth (gape) ranges from greyish black to black. The Grey Currawong spends time foraging on the ground and build their nests high in the trees.

Size: 44 to 57cm

Sound: Loud distinctive ringing or clinking call, 'prink, clink, cling, ker-link or tullock'

Grey Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*),

Is considered to be one of the best songbird in Australia. The Grey Strike Thrushers are notorious predators at nests, regularly eating eggs and nestlings. The birds are mostly grey in east, with an olive grey back and pale grey-white cheeks and underparts. In the north, the plumage is predominantly brown, and western birds are grey with buff underparts. Adult males are browner on the mantle than the female and young birds have varying amounts of rufous on the cheeks and wings.

Size: 24cm

Sound: 'joe-witt-ee'



Photo: Geoff Hargrave

Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*),

The name 'Laughing Kookaburra' refers to the bird's laugh, which it uses to establish its territory amongst family groups. It can be heard any time of the day but most frequently shortly after dawn and after sunset to dusk. The Kookaburra is stocky bird with a large head, prominent brown eyes and large heavy black bill on the top and bone coloured on the bottom. They have a white or cream coloured body and head with a dark stripe through each eye and more faintly over the top of the head. The wings and back are brown with sky blue spots on the shoulders. The tail is rusty reddish-orange with dark brown bars and white tips on the feathers. The Female averages larger and has less blue to the rump than the male.



Photo: Geoff Hargrave

Size: 40 to 45cm

Sound: Hiccupping chuckle to a loud laughter of 'koo-koo-koo-koo-koo-kaa-kaa-kaa' and a shorter 'Kooaa' normally when accompanied by other members of its family group.

Little Raven (*Corvus mellori*),

Has black plumage, beak and legs and white iris. The eye colour varies with age, nestings up to three months old have blue-grey eyes, juveniles aged from three to eleven months have brown eyes, and immature birds have hazel eyes with blue eyerings around the pupil until age one year and eleven months.

Is a social species often forming large flocks that roam freely over wide areas in search for food.

Size: 48 to 50cm

Sound: A harsh, guttural 'kar-kar-kar-karr' or 'ark-ark-ark-arrk'



Photo sourced on: Wikipedia



Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*),



Photo sourced on: Birdlife Aust

Known as a 'Murray Magpie' in South Australia, 'Mudlark' in Victoria and Western Australia, and a 'Peewee' in New South Wales and Queensland. The distinctive black and white markings and thin whitish bill and pale iris separate it from other similarly coloured species. The adult male has a white eyebrow and black face, while the female has an all-white face with no white eyebrow. Juveniles have a black forehead, white eyebrow and throat. The Magpie-Lark builds robust nests made from mud and rootlets, and the male birds sometimes can be aggressive during breeding season

Size: 26 to 30cm

Sound: Sings in duet, 'peewee' or 'peewit'

Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia striata*),

Normally found in pairs, groups and flocks, the Peaceful Dove has a pink-grey breast with chequered grey-brown wings. Thin striations of black appear around the neck and nape area and descend down the back. The eye is greyish-white and a blue-grey ring surrounds the eye that tapers off and joins the beak/cere. The juveniles are paler and less striated, and have a duller eye ring. The doves fly in a rapid, undulating motion. The wings make a flushing "frrr" noise when the birds are in flight.

Size: 19 to 21cm

Sound: High-pitched "doodle-doo", "co-co-coo" and "croorrr!"



Photo sourced on: Wikipedia

Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*),



Photo sourced on: Wikipedia

Is the second largest honeyeater in Australia, as they have highly developed brush-tipped tongues adapted for nectar feeding.

They have a distinctive reddish wattle on the side of the neck. The plumage is grey-brown on the body, prominent white streaks on the chest and belly which reveals a yellow patch towards the tail. The face is pale, red eyes and the tail is long with a white-tip. Juveniles are generally less flamboyant, with less prominent wattles and browner eyes. They can display domineering and often aggressive behaviour towards other birds intruding on their territory.

Size: 34 to 36cm

Sound: Several distinctive but unmusical calls including coughs, a harsh 'yac a yac' and a loud 'chok'

Red-rumped Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*),

A medium-sized, slender parrot. The adult male is emerald-green, with a blue-green head, blue highlights on the wings and upper back, a red rump, a yellow belly and a dark beak. The female is less vibrant with pale olive-green, with a green rump and faint yellow or light green scales on the belly. The characteristic red rump is only found in the male. They feed in pairs or small flocks on the ground, preferring seeds and leaves of grasses. They also will feed on fruits and flowers in trees.

Size: 28cm

Sound: 'chee chillip chee chillip'



Left: MALE Right: FEMALE
Photo: Debbie Gray



Sacred Kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*),

Is a medium sized kingfisher. It has a turquoise back, turquoise blue rump and tail, buff-white underparts and a broad cream collar. There is a broad black eye stripe extending from bill to nape of neck. Both sexes are similar, although the female is generally lighter with duller upper parts. Young birds are similar to the female, but have varying amounts of rusty-brown edging to feathers on the collar and underparts, and buff edges on the wing coverts.

Size: 19 to 23cm

Sound: A loud 'ek-ek-ek-ek' during the breeding season, and 'kee-kee-kee' when they are excited. A series of chirring, scolding notes when they are alarmed



Photo sourced on: *Birds in backyards*

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*),



Photo sourced on: *Birdlife Aust*

Have a grey crown scalloped brown, a mottled grey-brown back, a white cheek with spiny bristles to below the ear, and an orange-brown throat and chest. The underparts are white, streaked brown, the wings are grey, with white-edged feathers, and the long tail is dark grey-brown with white tips. The pale blue-grey eye is surrounded by bare pinkish skin and a pink black tip bill. Young birds are browner and have yellow cheek spines. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters are sociable and aggressive, and are often seen or heard in large flocks, foraging high in trees.

Size: 22 to 27cm

Variegated Fairy-wren (*Malurus lamberti*),

The breeding male has lilac-blue crown and electric-blue elongated ears (ear coverts). The beak, face, neck and breast is black. The back has a small purple patch with rich chestnut down over the shoulder, a black patch at the base of long blue-green, white tipped tail and white underparts. The female has grey-brown with chestnut patch around the eye, orange-brown beak, blue tail and white underparts. Non-breeding males retains a black beak and black between the beak and the eye. Juveniles resemble the females.

Size: 14 to 15-cm

Sound: A mechanical 'triri-tiririt-tirit-trit-tirrririt-trit-tirrit' call only in the breeding season



Photo sourced on: *Wikipedia*

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*),



Photo sourced on: *Birdlife Aust*

Is metallic blue-black above, light grey below on the breast and belly, and rust on the forehead, throat and upper breast. It has a long forked tail, with a row of white spots on the individual feathers. The outer tail feathers (streamers) are slightly shorter in the female. Young Welcome Swallows are buffy white, instead of rusty, on the forehead and throat, and have shorter tail streamers. Fast flying in a circular pattern with swift darting motions.

Size: 15cm

Sound: Mixture of twittering and soft warbling notes, and a sharp whistle in alarm



White-plumed Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus penicillatus*),

Their front is grey, the back is olive- grey. The flight feathers have wide olive-green leading edges, which make the folded wings look all olive-green. The uppertail is olive-grey, the undertail is grey. An area around the eyes and the ear coverts are yellow-olive, with a very thin black and a broader white plume, giving the bird its name. The irises are dark. The slightly down-curved bill is black, while the legs and feet are grey. Juveniles have a less conspicuous black plume and a yellow bill. Usually gregarious and seen constantly moving from tree to tree with rapid darting movements. They are aggressive birds and fiercely defend their territories.

Size: 15 to 19cm

Sound: Alarm call is a raucous, nasal "cak - ak - ak - ak - ark". Clear, sharp 'whitch - a whee', "whitch - a - whi", "whit - a - wheee", "whit - a - wheet". A cheery "do-wheet"



Photo: Debbie Gray

White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*)



Photo: Debbie Gray

Is a large, almost completely black bird. It has a curved beak, red eyes, which becomes swollen and brighter in colour when the bird is excited, a large white wing patch, which is seen when the bird is in flight. The bill and legs are black. Both male and female share the same plumage pattern. Juveniles start off dusker than the adults, and the eye is brown. They do not reach sexual maturity until four years of age and, during this time, the eye changes from brown to orange and then to red, and the plumage darkens.

Size: 45cm

Sound: Alarm call and a descending piping call. The latter call is diagnostic for the bird in the wild, being significantly different in timbre and melody to that of other birds sharing their habitat

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*),

Are the largest, and most well-known, of the Australian fantails. The head, throat, wings and tail are glossy black. The lower chest to the undertail coverts are white. The eyebrows and tiny spots from the lores to the underside of the ear coverts are also white. The thin, straight bill is black; the legs and feet are dark-grey and the eyes have dark irises. Juveniles resemble the adults, but have paler, slightly rusty edges to the feathers of the wings. The name wagtail stems from the constant sideways wagging of the tail, they can be aggressive and territorial and will often harass much larger birds.

Size: 19 to 22cm

Sound: A rapid 'chit-chit-chit-chit'



Photo: Geoff Hargrave



Yellow-throated Miner (*Manorina flavigula*),



Photo sourced on: Birdlife Aust

Is a medium-sized honeyeater, grey above from the crown to the tail, pale grey below with light brown scalloping on the breast to the white rump, with a black face, distinctive yellow forehead and sides of throat. The bare eye skin, bill, legs and feet are also yellow. The wings and tail edges are washed yellow, and the tail tips are white. This species is noisy and sociable, and may be aggressive towards other birds.

Size: 26 to 28cm

Sound: 'wit-wit-wit-wit'

Other birds seen at Bowman Park, Crystal Brook SA

New Holland Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*),

The New Holland Honeyeater is mostly black and white, with a large yellow patch on the wing and sides of the tail. Has white eyes, a small white ear patch, and a thin white whisker at the base of the bill. The females are slightly smaller in size and young birds are browner and have grey eyes

Size: 18cm



Photo: Geoff Hargrave

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*),

Is commonly mistakenly called a *topknot pigeon*.

The Crested Pigeon is a stocky pigeon with a conspicuous thin black crest. Most of the plumage is grey-brown, becoming more pink on the underparts. The wings are barred with black, and are bronzed decorated with glossy green and purple patches. The head is grey, with an pinkish-red ring around the eye and orange legs & feet. Juvuniles have duller colours with no bronzing on the wings. If startled, this pigeon takes to the air with a characteristic whistling flight, and glides with down turned wings. The whistling sound is produced by the air passing over a modified primary feather on the wing. Upon landing, the pigeon swings its tail high in the air.

Size: 30 to 35cm



Photo: Geoff Hargrave

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*),

Is mainly dusky black above, with a broad dark blue collar, and dark blue to purple below and white undertail. The bill is red and robust and orange-red legs and feet. They are accomplished fliers and will readily take to the air to escape danger. In flight, the long legs and elongated toes trail behind or hang underneath the body. Purple Swamphens are proficient swimmers, but prefer to wander on the edges of the water, among reeds and on floating vegetation.

Size: 44 to 48cm

Sound: A loud, penetrating 'kee-ow', as well as some softer clucking between members of a group while feeding



Photo: Geoff Hargrave



Peafowl

India Blue Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*)

There are 3 species of Peafowl, Indian (or blue), Green and congo Peafowl.

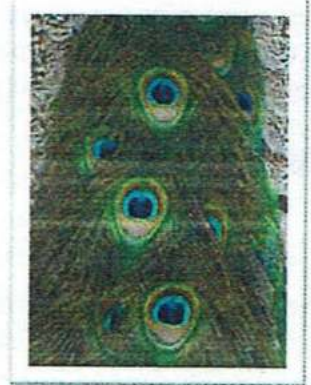
The male Peafowl is called a Peacock, Females are Peahens and Juvenilles are Peachicks.

Mr Pea the local resident of Bowman Park is a male Indian Blue Peafowl.

The male Indian Blue Peacock has iridescent blue and green plumage and a metallic blue crown. The fan-shaped crest on the head is made of feathers with bare black shafts and tipped with bluish-green webbing. A white stripe above the eye and a crescent shaped white patch below the eye are formed by bare white skin. The sides of the head have iridescent greenish blue feathers, the back has scaly bronze-green feathers with black and copper markings. The shoulder and wings are buff and barred in black, the primaries are chestnut and the secondaries are black. The underparts is dark glossy green shading into blackish under the tail and buff coloured thighs. They have metatarsal spurs or 'thorns' on their legs that they use during intraspecific territorial fights.



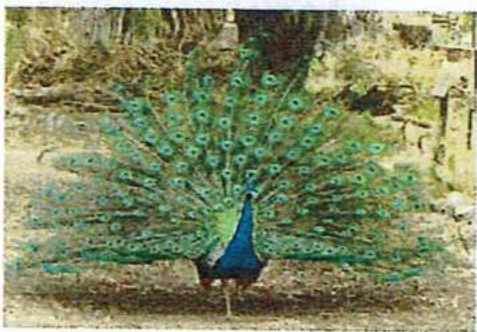
The tail spreads out into a distinctive train that is more than 60 percent of the bird's total body length and is made up of elongated upper tail coverts with eye like spots called 'ocelli' surrounded with blue, red, green, gold hues. The train is used for defence purposes and mating rituals. The peacock arches his tail into a magnificent fan that reaches across the bird's back and touches the ground on either side, to make himself look bigger to intimidate approaching predators. To attract a female, the male performs a dance to flaunt his impressive display of raised stiff elaborate feathers. The beautiful & colourful tails are characteristics of males only.



The female Peahens have the same facial skin and crest shape as the male, but the crest is brown and their plumage is duller. The throat is white, breast and back of neck is green, the abdomen is pale buff to cream and the rest of body dull brownish-grey. The females are smaller than the male and lack the beautiful train. The Female chooses her mate according to the length, width and colouration of the tail.

Peacocks are omnivores and eat both plant and animals.

Sound: A loud *pia-ow* or *may-awe*. A rapid series of *ka-aan..ka-aan* or a rapid *kok-kok*. They often emit an explosive low-pitched *honk!* when agitated



The fastest recorded running speed of a Peacock is 16km/h (10mph)



All Birds in this document have been spotted at Bowman Park, Crystal Brook.

A bird survey was conducted by Dave Potter as part of the Natural Resources Northern & Yorke Four Rivers Catchment project.

Information & pictures sourced:

<i>Birdlife Aust</i>	www.birdlife.org.au
<i>Birds in the backyard</i>	www.birdsinbackyards.net
<i>Australian Museum</i>	www.australianmuseum.net.au
<i>Wikipedia</i>	www.wikipedia.org

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