

Birds of Cumberland State Forest

Forests NSW Community Programs

Habitat

Cumberland State Forest is a rich and extremely valuable habitat for birds, since it is on fairly fertile soil. Cumberland is unlike the great majority of reserved bush near Sydney which is on infertile soil and comparatively poor habitat for most bird species.

Diversity

Over 100 species of birds have been recorded in this forest, of which 50-60 are likely to be regularly seen. The area is a stronghold for uncommon species in Sydney, such as the musk lorikeet, bell-miner and yellow-tufted honeyeater. It is noted as a good place to see tawny frogmouths and satin bowerbirds. In season, migrant species such as cicada-birds, scarlet honeyeaters and dollar-birds turn up. Occasionally, comparative rarities like white goshawks, powerful owls and crested hawks have been recorded.

Cumberland is an island

This area is a genuine refuge, since almost all similar tall blue gum/blackbutt forest in northern Sydney has been cleared for agriculture or (more recently) housing. Of an original 46,000 ha, probably less than 0.5% remains and this forest is one of the largest patches. Over the past few years, it has become a virtual island of habitat as adjoining forest and semi-rural land has been built over, with effectively total removal of natural vegetation. This has meant the loss of large areas of bird habitat, and increased other problems impacting on the forest, such as weed infestation, siltation of creeks, and invasion by Indian mynas and noisy mynas.

Species list

Herons and allies

Heron, white faced

Ducks/Swans

Duck, Pacific black

Duck, wood

Birds of Prey

Goshawk, brown

Rails and allies

Moorhen, dusky

Swamphen, purple

Pigeons and Doves

Pigeon, crested

Pigeon, domestic

Turtle - dove, spotted

Cockatoos and Parrots

Cockatoo, sulphur-crested

Cockatoo, yellow-tailed black

Galah

Lorikeet, musk

Lorikeet, rainbow

Lorikeet, scaly breasted

Parrot, king

Rosella, crimson

Rosella, eastern

Cuckoos

Cuckoo, channel billed

Cuckoo, shining bronze

Koel, Indian

Owls

Owl, boobook

Owl, powerful

Frogmouths and Nightjars

Frogmouth, tawny

Kingfishers and allies

Dollarbird

Kingfisher, sacred

Kookaburra, laughing

Swallows and allies

Martin, tree

Swallow, welcome

Swift, spine-tailed

Cuckoo-shrikes

Cicada-bird

Cuckoo-shrike, black-faced

Bulbuls

Bulbul, red-whiskered

Flycatchers and allies

Blackbird, English

Fantail, grey

Fantail, rufous

Flycatcher, leaden

Flycatcher, restless

Monarch, black-faced

Robin, eastern yellow

Robin, rose

Shrike-thrush, grey

Shrike-tit, crested

Wagtail, willy

Whistler, golden

Whistler, rufous

Chowchillas and allies

Whipbird, eastern

Wrens, Australian

Wren, superb blue

Wren, variegated

Australian Warblers

Scrub-wren, white browed

Thornbill, brown

Thornbill, striated

Thornbill, yellow

Warbler, brown

Warbler, white throated

Sittellas and Treecreepers

Sittella, varied

Treecreeper, whitethroated

Honeyeaters

Friar-bird, noisy

Honeyeater, Lewin

Honeyeater, New Holland

Honeyeater, scarlet

Honeyeater, white-cheeked

Honeyeater, white-napped

Honeyeater, yellow-tufted

Miner, bell

Miner, noisy

Spinebill, eastern

Wattlebird, little

Wattlebird, red

Flower-peckers/Pardalotes

Mistletoe-bird

Pardalote, spotted

Pardalote, striated

White-eyes

Silvereye

Finches and Weavers

Finch, red-browed

Goldfinch, European

Mannikan, nutmeg

Sparrow, house

Starlings and Mynas

Myna, common

Starling, common

Orioles and Figbirds

Oriole, olive-backed

Bowerbirds

Bowerbird, satin

Mud-nesters

Magpie-lark

Wood-swallows

Wood-swallow, dusky

Butcherbirds

Butcherbird, grey

Currawong, Magpies

Currawong, pied

Magpie, Australian

Crows and Ravens

Raven, Australian

Species list compiled from information supplied by Cumberland Bird Observers Club.

Bird-watching and other hosted activities are run within Cumberland State Forest. Enquire at the Information centre for dates and times.

Further information

For further information about State forests please contact:

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