



Small Birds



How to create a small-bird haven:

Checklist

- Densely planted thicket
- Include a range of prickly plants that shelter small birds from predators
- Provide multiple food sources with a mix of seeding, nectar and insect attracting plants
- Plant in layers
- Water source at multiple levels and amongst shrubs for protection
- Keep your cats enclosed inside the house or in a cat run and adhere to local cat curfew laws - cats take a considerable toll on wildlife, particularly birds
- Avoid feeding local birds and using chemicals in the garden
- Avoid netting trees. If you must, net responsibly. Keep all netting taut on a frame or only net individual fruit

Birds are beautiful creatures that are a joy to watch in any garden. With increasing urban development, small birds have suffered a decline in population. Whilst being pretty to look at, lovely to listen to and cheeky to watch, birds play various important roles in our landscape. They act as pollinators to many plants, assist in seed dispersal and keep insect populations in balance. Urban landscapes tend to favour bossy large birds but you can create a small-bird haven in your garden.




Please be mindful when planting trees of how they will grow and mature as this could affect the structure of your house.



Some small bird species found in Whitehorse






Superb Fairy-wren
Malurus cyaneus

-  **Size:** 14cm
-  **Call:** Series of high pitched trills
-  **Eats:** Insects and small arthropods






Eastern Spinebill
Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris

-  **Size:** 16cm
-  **Call:** Short, repeated, high pitched piping
-  **Eats:** Nectar and insects



Brown Thornbill
Acanthiza pusilla

-  **Size:** 10cm
-  **Call:** Rich, musical warbles
-  **Eats:** Insects and sometimes seeds, nectar or fruit

Suggested plants:

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Trees | 1 | Silver Banksia (<i>Banksia marginata</i>) |
| | 2 | Prickly Currant Bush (<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>) |
| Medium Shrubs | 3 | Sweet Bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>) |
| | 4 | Prickly Moses (<i>Acacia verticillata</i>) |
| Small Shrubs | 5 | Hop Goodenia (<i>Goodenia ovata</i>) |
| | 6 | Correa (<i>Correa spp.</i>) |
| Scrambler | 7 | Common Apple-berry (<i>Billardiera mutabilis</i>) |

