

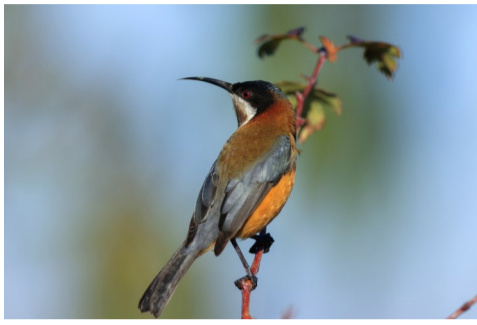


# The WONDER WEEKLY

Published by the Peter Underwood Centre

March 30, 2020

Backyard  
birdwatchers  
to take flight:  
Page 2

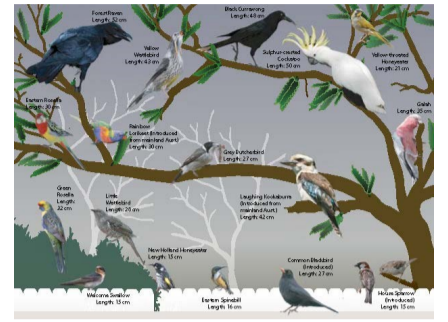


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Birds of  
Tasmania  
bonus poster:  
Page 3-4



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Email: [UnderwoodCentre.Enquiries@utas.edu.au](mailto:UnderwoodCentre.Enquiries@utas.edu.au)

BE CREATIVE: Every board game needs a theme. It could be a space theme, like the game above; or your favourite sport, book or movie.

## IT'S GAME TIME

PLAYING board games is fun and great exercise for your brain.

Board games originated thousands of years ago in ancient civilisations.

Artefacts from important historical sites reveal evidence of board games that were played as far back as 3500BC.

And while a lot of people like playing video games, board games have increased in popularity in recent years.

There are many varieties.

Some games like Chess are decided by player skill, while others like Snakes and Ladders depend entirely on luck.

There are also games like Monopoly, where luck and strategy have a role to play.

Have you ever made your own board game?

It is a lot easier to do than you might think.

Start with a theme; any theme you like.

For example, the person who designed the board game pictured above has used a space theme.

Think about games you have played before, and what you might need?

**Continued page 2**

"Education perhaps more than anything else is a passport to a better life." - Peter Underwood AC

# Anyone for a spot of birdwatching?

## STEM fun and advice for senior students

WOULD you like to be a citizen scientist?

BirdLife Tasmania would like to recruit you to keep an eye on the birds in your backyard.

Birdwatching is a favourite pastime of millions of people around the world.

In Tasmania we are lucky enough to have lots of birdlife around us.

Tasmania has 12 endemic species.

They are: the Tasmanian native hen, the green rosella, the dusky robin, the Tasmanian thornbill, the scrubtit, the Tasmanian scrubwren, the yellow wattlebird, the yellow-throated honeyeater, the black-headed honeyeater, the strong-billed honeyeater, the black currawong and the forty-spotted pardalote.

Endemic means restricted to a certain place, so these birds are found nowhere else on earth.

Tasmania also has many native birds that are found elsewhere, as well as introduced birds, and BirdLife Tasmania are interested in all of them.

The most spotted bird in Tasmania in the BirdLife Australia [2019 Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#) was the house sparrow.



Masked lapwings, commonly known as plovers, nest on the ground and are known to swoop on intruders to defend their young, so it is best to stay out of their territory.

**NATIVES:** A house sparrow, inset above, a masked lapwing, main picture, and a rare forty-spotted pardalote, right.

**Your challenge** is to take notice of the birds in your backyard, and record your observations in a simple table.

The table should comprise the date, location, species (type of bird), number and behaviours you observe.

If birdwatching becomes a passion you could keep records over months, and track seasonal changes in your backyard.

If you do, BirdLife Tasmania would like you to contribute your findings to their state database.

Email: [tasmania@birdlife.org.au](mailto:tasmania@birdlife.org.au)  
Postal Address:  
BirdLife Tasmania  
GPO Box 68  
Hobart, TAS, 7001

To assist you BirdLife Tasmania have supplied us with the Birds in Backyards poster on page 3-4 of *The Wonder Weekly*.

You might like to present your findings in a creative way, or if you have a camera, take a photo of the bird in your garden.

Some of you will have more luck than others (e.g. Westerway is considered a hotspot for birdwatching).

Children's University Tasmania members can earn hours in their passports for their birdwatching activities.

THE Enterprise + STEM website has a number of resources targeted at Year 7-10 students.

Created as part of a collaboration by the University of Tasmania, Griffith University and Swinburne University the site also features profiles of five women who launched an entrepreneurial venture using their STEM skills.

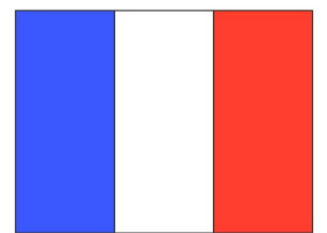
A video detailing each of their stories offers advice for students considering STEM careers.

The website address is: [www.enterpriseandstem.online/](http://www.enterpriseandstem.online/)

Five entrepreneurship activities can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseandstem.online/enterprise-stem-activity-sheets-for-your-classroom>

### Guess the country?



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## Game time for those who accept the challenge

### From Page 1

**Your challenge** is to use items you have around the house to design and construct your game.

A piece of paper - the larger the better - and some textas (or pencils) are a good start.

You will need to find or construct some game pieces.

You could maybe draw a character on a post-it note and stand it up with a bulldog clip.

Every board game needs a set of rules of course - challenges and rewards for landing on certain squares.

For example, in a space game you could land on a square where an alien is waiting to send you back three spaces.

If you need dice for your game, you might be able to borrow some from another game you have at home, or you could come up with an alternative.

If you have access to online, the National Museum of Australia has lots of tips to assist you to make your own board game.

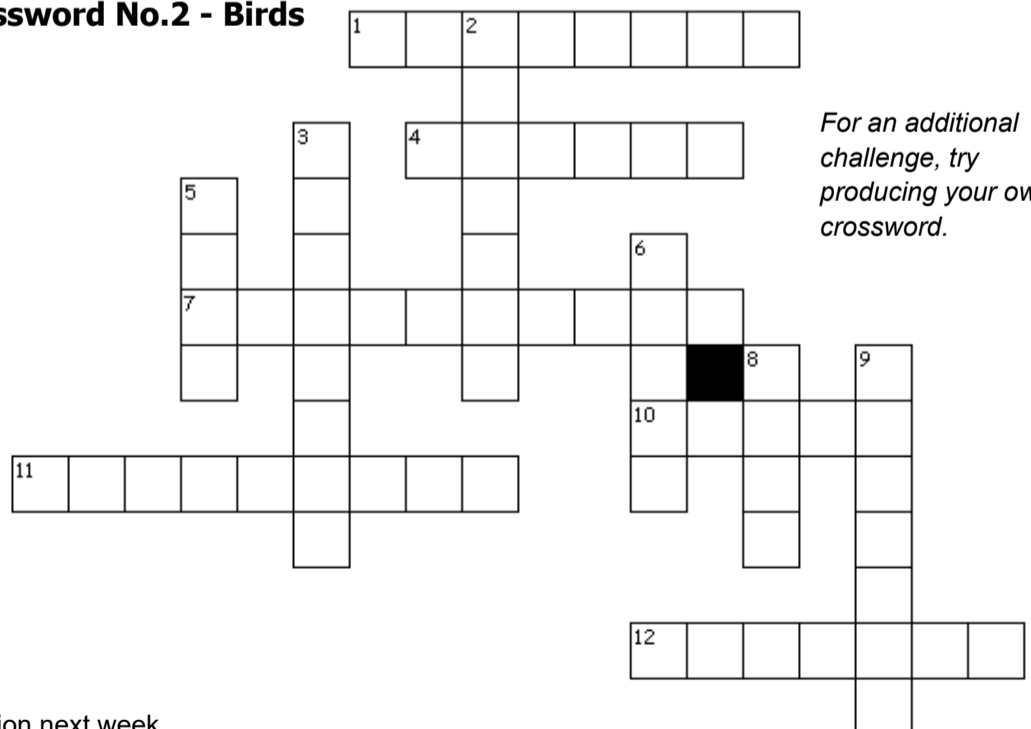
Follow the link below to find out more:

[https://www.nma.gov.au/learn/diy/board\\_games](https://www.nma.gov.au/learn/diy/board_games)

### Crossword No.1 solution (check your answers)

- |               |             |               |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Across</b> | 9. TMAG     | 3. Arthur     |
| 1. Gum        | 10. Tasman  | 4. Launceston |
| 4. lutruwita  | 11. Derwent | 5. Tiger      |
| 6. Warner     | <b>Down</b> | 8. Paine      |
| 7. Freycinet  | 2. Matthew  |               |

### Crossword No.2 - Birds

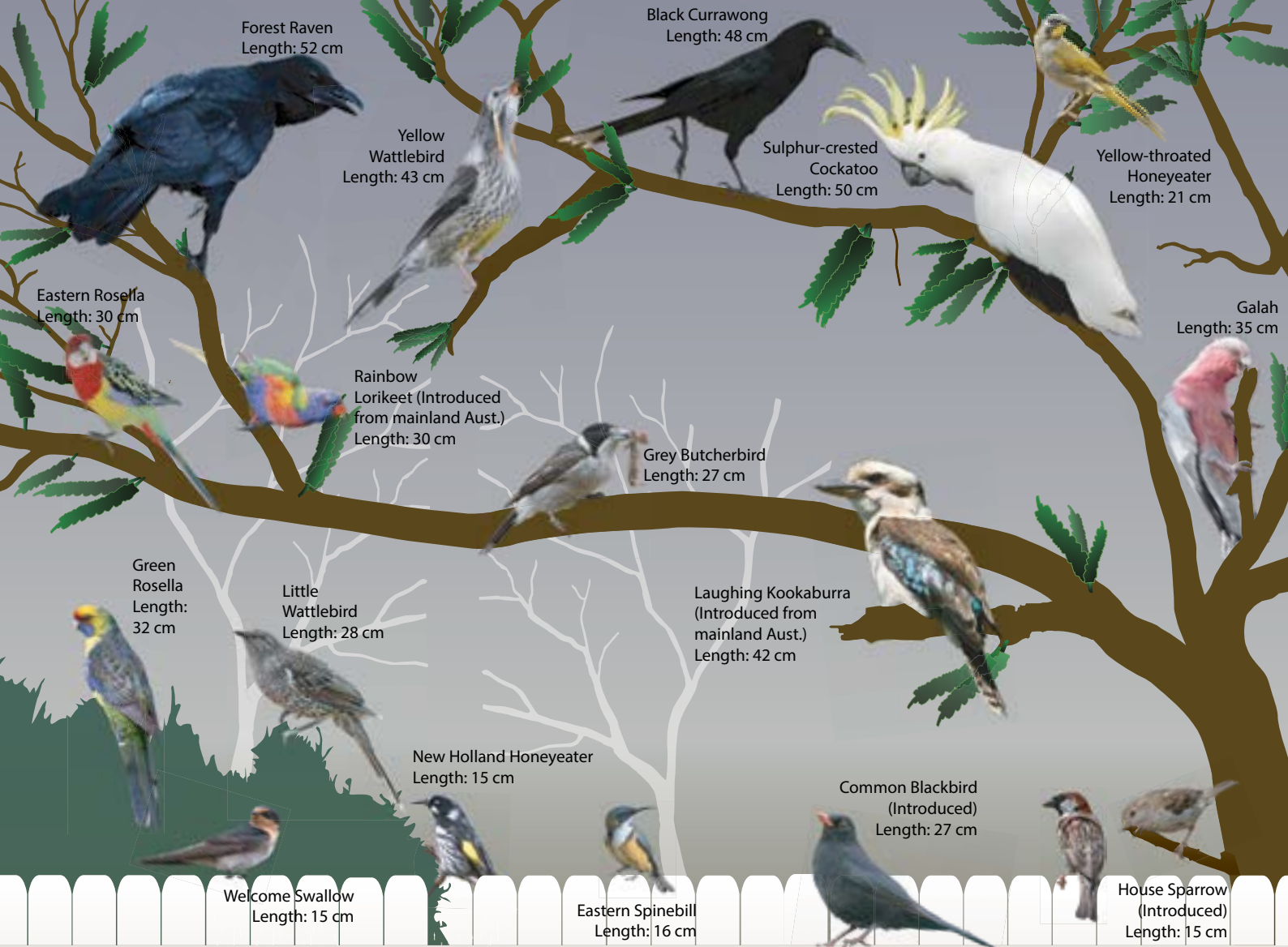


For an additional challenge, try producing your own crossword.

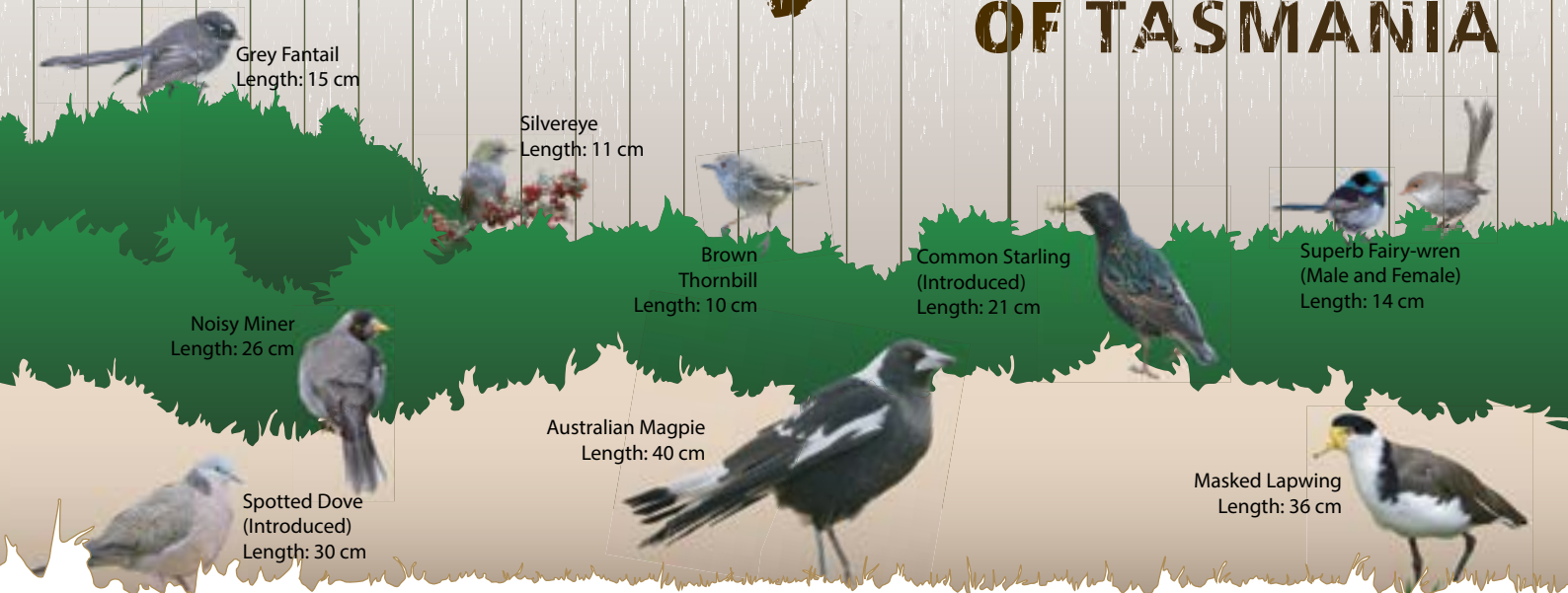
Solution next week.

- Across**
- Baby duck
  - Bird used by people to carry messages
  - Tasmania's unofficial bird emblem - the yellow ...
  - The Wedge-tailed...
  - Large seabird

- Down**
- The world's largest bird
  - The world's most common species of bird
  - Birds are the only animals that have ...
  - Flightless bird from New Zealand
  - Swift parrots are mainly this colour
  - Birds lay ...



# backyard birds OF TASMANIA



For inquiries about birds and domestic gardens, contact:

BIRDS IN BACKYARDS  
BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA

[www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)  
[www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)



# Birds in Your Garden

## How to bring back the little ones...

Australia-wide, populations of many of our woodland bird species are decreasing. Once common birds such as thornbills, fairy-wrens, silvereyes and small honeyeaters are becoming rare or, in some places, are no longer seen at all. There are many reasons for this, the biggest being the loss of places for them to live (habitat).

The decreases are widespread: from peri-urban and urban areas; from big cities to rural townships. All of us can contribute towards saving our woodland birds irrespective of where we live or how big our gardens are.

## Small changes for a big difference...

### Garden design and structure:

Simple open gardens provide little shelter or food for birds. We need to plant:

- dense shrubs close together so they form protective thickets.
- shrubs that provide a range of foods: nectar, seeds, fruit and habitat for insects.
- local plants that provide what the birds in our local areas need.
- below trees, creating a dense protective understory.
- less grass for mowing, but rather use native grasses that can seed and only need cutting occasionally.

### We should:

- avoid using chemical sprays or applying chemical fertilizers.
- use lawn clippings and leaf litter on garden beds as mulch.

## Providing water:

Birds need fresh water, but they are vulnerable when they are drinking or bathing and need to feel safe.

We should:

- place birdbaths beyond the reach of cats, and in dappled shade.
- grow plants close to birdbaths so birds can perch and observe the area first.
- replace the water and clean the water container regularly.
- ask a neighbour to add water when we're away, so the birds don't lose their water supply.

## Provision of supplementary food:

It is much healthier for birds to obtain natural food from our gardens than to be fed directly by people. However, many people enjoy the contact they have with birds. If you want to provide extra food for birds in your garden, make sure that

- the feeding area is kept really clean.
- you don't feed meat-eating birds - encourage the small birds that are declining, not their predators.
- only provide good quality natural foods, e.g. finch seed rather than bread.

## Be a responsible pet owner:

Keep your cat or dog inside or within an outside enclosure. This is safer for the cat as well as other wildlife.

- De-sexing prevents unwanted kittens or pups.
- Deter other cats from entering your yard by spraying them with water.

To find out more about the birds in your area, creating gardens and habitat for birds at home, in school grounds or any open spaces, or undertaking bird surveys in your own garden or local area, see the Birds in Backyards website [www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)

**Photo credits:** Hayley Alexander (Male Superb Fairy-wren), Richard Barton (Common Blackbird), William Betts (Yellow Wattlebird), Doug Castle (Eastern Rosella, Silvereye, Female Superb Fairy-wren), Anthea Fleming (Spotted Dove), Stephen Garth (Galah), Bill Harding (Brown Thornbill, Eastern Spinebill), Gary King (Masked Lapwing), Anna Lanigan (Sulphur-crested Cockatoo), Wilson Lennard (Rainbow Lorikeet), Roy Peachey (Common Starling), George Pergaminelis (Male House Sparrow), Glenn Pure (Australian Magpie), Bronwyn Scanlon (Welcome Swallow), David Seymour (Green Rosella), Carol Trevanion (New Holland Honeyeater), Sonja Ross (Noisy Miner), Shane Walker (Grey Fantail, Laughing Kookaburra), Ian Wilson (Forest Raven, Grey Butcherbird, Female House Sparrow, Yellow-throated Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird), Diana Womersley (Black Currawong)

## Australia's voice for birds since 1901

BirdLife Australia is dedicated to achieving outstanding conservation results for our native birds and their habitats.

With our specialised knowledge and the commitment of an Australia-wide network of volunteers and supporters, we are creating a bright future for Australia's birds.

[birdlife.org.au](http://birdlife.org.au)

## Add your voice



Enjoy the rewards of membership, making a real difference for our native birds



Contributing your time is one of the most effective ways to help



Help us create positive outcomes for birds and their habitats

BirdLife Australia

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