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## States in race to become Australia's top bird counters

- Day 1 of Aussie Backyard Bird Count & National Bird Week, 17-23 October
- Australians need to get in early to help count 1.5 million birds in 7 days
- Anyone can count – anywhere there are birds, anytime of the day or night, as many times as they like, using Aussie Bird Count app
- NSW claimed the top spot in 2015 by submitting more than 9,500 checklists while Queensland spotted the most variety recording 426 different species

With less than 7 days to count 1.5 million birds for the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, Australians have already been getting out into their backyards in their quest to help their state become Australia's top counters.

But we will need everyone from Broome in WA to Cradle Mountain in Tasmania to join the count in order to beat the record set in 2015, where more than 42,000 people joined in the fun across the country.

Australians are also curious to see if the Rainbow Lorikeet, which was the most counted bird in 2015, will keep its top spot or if another bird will knock it off its perch.

Whether you count in your own backyard, local park or botanic gardens, in a group, with a friend or by yourself, everyone who joins the count will help BirdLife Australia reach its target of counting 1.5 million birds in 7 days.

Seeing what birds share your backyard can be a real eye-opener and a lot of fun, but it has a bigger purpose: the Aussie Backyard Bird Count provides a snapshot of how Australian birds are faring across the country.

Holly Parsons, Manager of BirdLife Australia's Birds in Backyards Program said, "We actually know very little about how some of our most common birds are faring. The Aussie Backyard Bird Count is an opportunity for Australians to check on the state of their backyard birds and gives us a great indication of the health of our local environment."

No matter where you are, there are birds all around you. It doesn't matter if you live in the suburbs, in the city, by the sea or in the country; Australian birds live in all different types of habitats. Sometimes you just need to look up!

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count really is for everyone, and anyone can take part anywhere in Australia.

**Download the free app or join the count at [aussiebirdcount.org.au](http://aussiebirdcount.org.au). It's easy!**

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### MEDIA CONTACT ONLY

Contact Jack Walden on [jack@thecword.com.au](mailto:jack@thecword.com.au) or 0428 300 090 to arrange an interview or for high quality images, sounds and video. Request the Bird Week media kit with more story ideas and images.

Visit the **#AussieBirdCount Media Centre** at <http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/media>

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