

Backyard birdwatchers on the brink of new Aussie Bird Count record

- Final 2 days of Aussie Bird Count and National Bird Week, ends 23 October
- In the first 5 days, 35,472 Australians have submitted 26,231 checklists to help BirdLife Australia count more than 1,000,000 birds across the country
- To become Australia's top counters, each state needs everyone from novice to experienced bird watchers to download the FREE Aussie Bird Count app and join the count

Australians have come out in droves for the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, closing in on the ambitious target of 1.5 million birds being counted around the country. Old and young, novices and experts have joined in the fun of stepping outside into nature in their very own backyards to help BirdLife Australia count more than 1,000,000 birds during the first five days of counting, surpassing the total set in the 2015 Aussie Backyard Bird Count.

With more than 50 per cent of counters registering as novices during National Bird Week, it is clear that anyone, no matter their bird watching experience, can head into their backyards and contribute to this important citizen science project.

The counters have been rewarded with a large number of birds coming out to be counted including the Rainbow Lorikeet which leads the count in Australia out of a total of 624 species counted to date.

BirdLife Australia's Holly Parsons believes the number of first time counters is an extremely positive sign of how Australians feel about their local birds and their data will provide BirdLife Australia with a clearer picture of what's occurring to Australian birds across the country.

"Bird watching is an activity that can be enjoyed by everyone, no matter how much they know about birds." Holly Parsons said.

"To get as accurate a snapshot of our bird numbers as possible, we need everyone in Australia to download the app and take 20 minutes this weekend to join the count and help us reach our target of counting 1.5 million birds by the end of Sunday".

With 48 hours left to count, Australians can still help their state become Australia's top counters by downloading the app and heading to their favourite outdoor space to count the birds they see.

Counts can be submitted via the smartphone apps or via the website at aussiebirdcount.org.au.

Download the free app today or join the count at aussiebirdcount.org.au. It's easy!

MEDIA CONTACT ONLY

Contact Jack Walden on 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>

BirdLife Australia
Suite 2-05
60 Leicester Street
Carlton VIC 3053
T 03 9347 0757
F 03 9347 9323
info@birdlife.org.au
birdlife.org.au