

## Australian Magpie leads national bird count

– Australians have counted 400,000 birds in first 48 hours

- Day 3 of Aussie Backyard Bird Count & National Bird Week, 17-23 October
- In first 48 hours, 10,874 checklists have been submitted helping BirdLife Australia count more than 400,000 birds across the country
- Anyone can count – anywhere there are birds, anytime of the day or night, as many times as they like, using the Aussie Bird Count app

After only 48 hours of counting, the Australian Magpie has swooped in and taken the lead in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count with Australian bird watchers helping count more than 400,000 birds across the country including 543 species.

Using the free Aussie Bird Count app, which began trending in Apple's iTunes store on the second day of counting, Australians have already submitted more than 10,000 bird counts with the Australian Magpie leading the count followed by the Rainbow Lorikeet and Noisy Miner.

"By swooping in and taking the lead, the Australian Magpie clearly demonstrates the scientific value of the Aussie Backyard Bird Count and how it adds to data collected by our other programs such as the State of Australia's Birds report," BirdLife Australia's Sean Dooley said.

"While the State of Australia's Birds report indicated that Magpies were in decline in some parts of Australia, that data tended to have been collected from rural and bush areas and conservation reserves. It will be interesting to see how the large numbers of sightings of the Magpie in urban areas through the Aussie Bird Count compares to what is going on elsewhere in the country".

"The combination of data from scientific surveys such as the State of Australian Birds and the Bird Atlas as well as citizen science projects such as the Aussie Bird Count give us a clearer picture of what's happening across the country, including in our urban areas like backyards," Dooley said.

With only 5 days left to count 1.5 million birds for the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, counters across the country are encouraged to stay in their backyards if they want their state to become Australia's top counters.

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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