

Booderee National Park

environment.gov.au/parks/booderee



Birdwatching

Booderee is rich in bird life with over 200 species recorded. A vast range of habitats are found in the area - coastal cliffs and heaths, sandy beaches and rock platforms, mangroves and ocean, swamps, lakes and forests. Many birds are residents, others are travellers passing through and some are of special significance to the traditional owners of the park.

The best time to see birds is early in the morning. Being quiet and patient is the key to success - you may well hear a bird before you see it.

Booderee Botanic Gardens are an excellent place to observe birds close at hand. Many species including the satin bowerbird and eastern whip bird can be seen by the quiet observer. On Lake McKenzie freshwater birds often gather in large numbers. A comprehensive bird list is available at the Visitor Centre.

Please do not feed the birds in Booderee. Wild birds find their own natural foods like insects, plants, small mammals and fish. Eating other things can make them sick and dependent on people for food. During winter, when there are fewer visitors, birds can starve.

Download the Booderee birds iPhone app now

The app contains all the information below plus a whole lot more - take your iPhone to Booderee next time you visit and you will have a handy field guide for Booderee's birdlife.



[Download the app from the iTunes store now](#)

Sea birds

White-bellied sea eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

The white bellied sea-eagle is a particularly special bird at Booderee as it is the guardian of the Aboriginal people of Wreck Bay and features on the Booderee National Park logo. This spectacular eagle has a white head, rump and underparts, dark or slate-grey back and wings and an awe-inspiring wingspan of up to 2.2 metres.

Where:

At Booderee you'll often be lucky enough to sight it soaring over the



Photo: Marj Kibby

beach and sea or perched high in trees. Jervis Bay is a stronghold for the sea eagle with large numbers of juvenile birds entering the bay during autumn.

Feeding:

The white-bellied sea eagle hunts mainly aquatic animals, grasping fish from the surface of the water. An expert hunter, when fishing on sunny days, it will often fly directly into the sun or at right angles to it to avoid casting shadows over the water and hence alerting potential prey. It will also take birds such as little penguins and shearwaters, as well as small mammals. Look out for it harassing smaller birds, forcing them to drop any food that they are carrying.

Breeding:

Nests are made up of large piles of sticks in trees or sometimes on the ground on Bowen Island. The female carries out most of the incubation of the white eggs, but the male performs this duty from time to time.

Sounds:

A loud gooselike honking.

Australasian gannet *Morus serrator*

The beautiful Australasian gannet has a stunning white body and delicate yellow head.

A large bird with an impressive wingspan of up to 95 centimetres, it can be distinguished by its smudgy yellow head and pale blue-grey bill. It has a white body and sharply contrasting black wingtips on the flight feathers and central tail feathers.



Photo: Duncan

Where:

Gannets are most often seen in Booderee in winter when their brilliant white plumage stands out against the deep blue sea. Look for them anywhere along the Booderee coast.

Feeding:

Gliding on long pointed wings, the gannets herd fish into dense shoals before plummeting at high speeds into the sea to catch their prey. They are cushioned against the impact with the water by air filled sacks under the skin.

Breeding:

Gannets nest on the ground in large colonies on offshore islands in Bass Strait and New Zealand. Breeding pairs produce one egg.

Sounds:

A high, rapid screech.

Little pied cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

The slightly straggly little pied cormorant is a small cormorant measuring up to 58 centimetres long. The bird is entirely black above and white below with a bright yellow bill and a small black crest. It is often seen with its wings spread out to dry in the sun.



Photo: Richard Ashurst

Where:

Happy alone or in flocks, these cormorants prefer freshwater estuaries to unsheltered marine areas. At Booderee you'll often see them in St George's Basin.

Feeding:

Their diet consists of a wide variety of aquatic animals with crustaceans being a favourite. You'll also regularly see them swooping for fish.

Breeding:

The little pied cormorants breed either in colonies or, less commonly, in single pairs. The nest is a flat platform of sticks, lined with green leaves and is usually placed in a tree. Both adults share in egg incubation and care of the young.

Sounds:

Listen for a croaking 'tuk-tuk-tuk'. While nesting in trees over water, they softly 'oo-oo'.

Short-tailed shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris*

Completely dark brown in plumage, the short-tailed shearwater (or mutton bird) occasionally shows traces of white in the centre of the underwing. It grows up to 43 centimetres long, with a rounded tail. In flight the dark grey feet can be seen trailing slightly behind.

Where:

Keep an eye out for these around Bowen Island, where a nesting colony exists.



Photo: Gavin Johnstone

Feeding:

In the summer months you'll see these shearwaters gliding at speed, just above the water, executing breathtaking banking turns as they swoop and dive for a meal of krill, small fish and small marine creatures. The waters off Bowen Island are a good place to watch for them on the hunt for dinner.

Breeding:

In summer the shearwaters breed in their millions on islands off southern Australia foraging as far south as Antarctic waters. Once the chicks have reached adult size the parents depart for the world's richest fishing ground in the Bering Sea off Alaska! When they return to Australia in early summer many are battered by storms and some are so exhausted they die and wash up on beaches. As shown, the shearwaters nest by lining burrows and producing one white egg. A nesting colony exists on the northern tip of Bowen Island.

Sounds:

This bird often calls with its breeding partner to warn birds away from the nest. The sound is a low, mournful 'ooaaaw'.

Masked lapwing *Vanellus miles*

A long-legged wading bird, the masked lapwing is well-named, and easy to identify, thanks to its brilliant yellow facial wattle which looks just like a mask. It is mainly white below with brown wings and a black cap.

Where:

The masked lapwings love nothing more than spending the day picking through marshes, mudflats, beaches and grasslands. You'll see them in many areas of Booderee including Greenpatch camping and picnic areas.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Feeding:

The masked lapwings are not terribly fussy about who they eat with, or where. You'll see them happily feeding alone, in a pair or a small flock, grabbing insects, larvae and worms.

Breeding:

Nests are a careless structure - a patch of ground scraped clear and sparsely lined with droppings, rocks or twigs. Both sexes incubate the eggs and care for the young birds, who are born with a full covering of down and are able to leave the nest a few hours after hatching. However, the parents vigorously defend the nests, swooping and dive bombing any intruder.

Sounds:

Calls can be a quick 'keer-kik-ki-ki' and they sometimes trill 'krrr' upon landing.

Silver gull *Croicocephalus novaehollandiae*

The silver gull or seagull is distinguishable by its white body, pale silver-grey wings and red legs and beak. It ranges up to 45 centimetres in size. The juvenile has black legs and a black beak and some white striping on its wings.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Where:

You'll see these gulls all over the park - hovering to snatch your food scraps and eyeing off fishers and boats for discarded catch.

Feeding:

The gulls' natural diet includes worms, fish, insects and crustaceans. Please don't feed these birds as they become dependent on humans for food and then suffer in winter when fewer people are visiting.

Breeding:

Silver gulls nest in colonies on islands, lining the ground with seaweed or gathering in dead trees. Both parents share nest building, incubation and feeding duties.

Sounds:

A sharp voice consisting of a variety of calls - the most common is a harsh 'kwee-aarr'.

Black-browed albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

Named after its distinctive black eyebrows, this nationally vulnerable bird has a white body, black wings and an orange-yellow bill. Despite an impressive wingspan of 240 centimetres, it is one of the smaller albatrosses.



Photo: Marj Kibby

Where:

You'll often see the black-browed albatross from Booderee's cliffs in winter, gliding over the ocean in search of squid and fish. This fascinating bird lives up to 70 years and spends much of its life at sea.

Feeding:

In spite of its size it's an incredibly skillful bird in the air and will seize prey from the surface or dive several metres to catch fish. You may also see it following fishing boats in the hope of collecting discarded fish.

Its large wingspan allows it to follow air currents for long periods of time, soaring on strong winds and resting on the ocean, often in colonies, migrating great distances every year.

Breeding:

The black-browed albatross breeds each year on the cliffs or steep slopes of Antarctic or sub-Antarctic islands such as Macquarie and Heard Islands.

Sounds:

The black browed albatross makes a series of guttural grunting sounds.

Crested tern *Thalasseus bergii*

The crested tern has a quirky black cap and crest, a long, pointed yellow beak, white neck, and slender grey wings and back.

Where:

A real beach lover! You'll see the tern along any beach at Booderee, gracefully wheeling in the air, diving for food or standing on the shore.

Feeding:

Crested terns feed mainly on small fish but also occasionally take prawns and squid. You'll often see them 'skimming' the water with fish in their bills possibly cleaning them - or look for them stealing food from other crested terns. Anglers often look for flocks of feeding terns to locate shoals of fish.

Breeding:

A scraped area of sand is home to one or two eggs. Both parents incubate the eggs and care for the young in small, tightly knit, noisy colonies.

Sounds:

Most common calls are a raspy 'kirrick' or 'krow'.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Pied oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

The pied oystercatcher is easily recognised by its long orange-red bill which grows to between five and eight centimetres. It has slender pink legs and black and white plumage.

Where:

You'll see these oystercatchers foraging in a pair or small group along muddy shorelines such as Bherwerre Beach. They are shy birds and will seldom allow close approach.

Beach users and foxes are among the threats to this bird. It has declined throughout southern Australia and is declared an endangered species in NSW.

Feeding:

Look for these waders using their long, blade-like beak to pry open molluscs or stab beach worms.

Breeding:

Pied oystercatchers breed in pairs, building simple nests in a scrape in the sand, often amongst seaweed, shells and small stones. Both sexes share parenting duties and defending the breeding territory.

Sounds:

They utter a loud 'pita-peep' and can also be heard piping while in flight.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Sooty oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

The aptly named sooty oystercatcher is Australia's only all black shorebird, easily distinguished from the pied oystercatcher by its all-black plumage, long red bill and bright red eyes.

Where:

At Booderee, you'll frequently see sooty oystercatchers foraging around rocky shoreline areas like Murray's Beach.

They are declared a vulnerable species in NSW.

Feeding:

Unlike their pied relatives, they prefer rocky shorelines where they hunt for molluscs, crabs and other crustaceans, marine worms, sea urchins and even starfish. Look for them using their long bills to stab at prey or to hammer open food.

Breeding:

Sooty oystercatchers regularly nest on Bowen Island, breeding in pairs, sharing the parenting duties and defending their breeding territory.

Sounds:

Like the pied oystercatchers, they utter a loud 'pita-peep' and can also be heard piping while in flight.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Eastern reef egret *Egretta sacra*

The eastern reef egret is a rare resident of Booderee, and on top of that it's also hard to spot. Although it's a large bird, growing up to 70 centimetres long, its beautiful charcoal grey plumage makes it difficult to spot against the dark rocks.

Where:

This beautiful, charcoal grey bird is a rare resident at Booderee. You may spot it near rocky headlands in the park but it is well camouflaged against its landscape.

Feeding:

Rather than actively chasing its prey the egret tends to sit and observe when hunting. Keep your eyes peeled to spot it around the park's rocky headlands. You're most likely to see it hunting stealthily, by day or night, crouching low over shallow water and rock pools to snatch small fish, crustaceans and insects.

Breeding:

The egrets generally build a stick platform in trees to nest in, but will nest on the ground under shrubs or rock ledges if no trees are available. They breed throughout the year, nesting in single pairs or in small colonies. Both sexes incubate the eggs and the young remain in the nest for up to six weeks.

Sounds:

Listen out for their calls - a loud croaking sound.



Photo: June Andersen

Little penguin *Eudyptula minor*

Booderee's little penguin - or fairy penguin - provides one of the park's great wildlife experiences. The little penguin is the smallest species of penguin, growing to just 30 centimetres in height. Its head and upperparts are blue-grey and its underparts are white.

Where:

At Murray's Beach an hour before dusk, from September to December, sit back and delight in the magical sight of huge groups of little penguins swimming back to Bowen Island and making their ritual march back to their burrows. There's nothing like it!

Feeding:

Booderee means 'bay of plenty', and unlike populations elsewhere, Booderee's little penguins generally forage in the bays close to shore, probably because the pickings are so rich there is no need to travel kilometres in search of food. From dawn to an hour before dusk, swimming with their flippers and using their tails for guidance, they feed on small fish, squid and other small sea animals captured and swallowed underwater.

After feeding, the little penguins remain offshore in a tight group until dusk, when they come ashore and head to their burrows on Bowen Island.

Here they burrow in *Lomandra longifolia* tussocks or find shelter under overhanging rocks and dense vegetation.

Breeding:

While the little penguin is found around the southern coasts of Australia, Bowen Island is one of the most successful breeding colonies with around 5,000 breeding pairs.

After a courtship ritual of strutting and calling, these birds mate for life. Both parents help to build the nest which may vary from a thick mat of grass to a few strands, usually collected within a few metres of the burrow entrance.

The parents aggressively defend a small area around the burrow entrance, posturing and calling and sometimes pecking, shoving and slapping other birds with their flippers. Young birds wandering out of their parents' territory will be attacked by other adults.

Both parents incubate the eggs and tend to the young, with the parents alternately foraging and guarding for the first few weeks.

Sounds:

A short, sharp bark when at sea; a variety of throbbing growls and hoarse whoops when attracting a mate; and a sharp, snorting yelp when disturbed.



Photo: Liz Lawley

Freshwater birds

Black swan *Cygnus atratus*

With its long, graceful neck, and large, ruffle-feathered body, the black swan is often a favourite. The adult black swan has broad white wing tips which are visible in flight while the juvenile is much greyer in colour. The bill is a deep orange-red, paler at the tip, with a narrow white band towards the end.



Photo: Marj Kibby

Where:

The black swan is a nomadic bird and not common in Booderee but you will see it occasionally, nesting at Ryans Swamp.

Feeding:

The black swan is vegetarian and feeds on algae and water weeds by plunging its long neck underwater, although it can also be seen up-ending to reach food in deeper water.

Breeding:

Male swans (known as cobs) and female swans (known as pens) both help in raising the young. They build a large pile of water plant material then line it with down to nest in, laying anywhere between four and 10 eggs. Cygnets start out fluffy and grey, slowly darkening as they mature.

Sounds:

The black swan utters a musical and far reaching bugle-like sound, calling either on the water or in flight, as well as a range of softer crooning notes. It can also whistle, especially when disturbed while breeding and nesting.

Australian wood duck *Chenonetta jubata*

The elegant Australian wood duck is a goose-like grey duck with brown speckles on its chest, a dark brown head, two black stripes along the back and a short bill.

Where:

These wood ducks have become more common with land-clearing along the coast as they prefer open pastures to graze on. At Booderee they are found only around the campgrounds, picnic areas and open areas of the Botanic Gardens where they can find short grass.

Feeding:

Wood ducks eat grasses, clover and other herbs, and occasionally, insects.

Breeding:

The wood ducks line a tree hollow with down and produce seven to 10 eggs. Hatchlings are born with a covering of waterproof down that enables the young to enter the water almost immediately.

Sounds:

The most common call is a loud, rising 'gnow' sound. The male call is shorter and higher than the female. Listen also for staccato chattering when the wood ducks gather in flocks.



Photo: Kate's Photo Diary

Pacific black duck *Anas superciliosa*

This is the most commonly seen duck on Booderee's lakes and is very easy to identify. Just look for the dazzling, metallic teal-coloured patch on its secondary flight feathers. It is mostly mid-brown in colour, with a distinctive dark brown line through the eye as well as its shiny teal 'mirror'.

Where:

Visit lakes such as Windemere and McKenzie to see these ducks swimming about, feeding on insects, seeds and other vegetation above or below the water surface. You may also see them grazing in flocks near the water's edge.

Feeding:

This duck is mainly vegetarian, feeding on seeds of aquatic plants, supplemented by small crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic insects. Food is obtained by 'dabbling'. Look for the bird plunging its head and neck underwater and upending, raising its rear end vertically out of the water.

Occasionally you'll see it searching for food in damp grassy areas.

Breeding:

The black ducks nest in down-lined tree hollows, grassy cups or reed beds.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Sounds:

The female makes a loud 'quack quack quack' sound while the male has a varied range of calls ranging from a soft 'hiss' to a long 'quack'.

Heath birds

Beautiful firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

The beautiful firetail is named for its stunning crimson rump peaking from beneath its grey-brown plumage. A small stocky finch, it is about 13 centimetres long, with a black mask and white eye ring, a red beak, and exquisite, fine barring on the feathers.

Where:

The beautiful firetail has been seen around Booderee's swamp and heath areas, such as Blacks Waterhole and Ryans Swamp. However it is one of our rarer birds so please do let us know if you see one!

Feeding:

Beautiful firetails love moist vegetation and make their homes in heath and scrub - never far from water. Usually seen in pairs or small family groups, they mainly eat seeds of the casuarinas and tea trees but will also eat small insects and snails.

Breeding:

The nest of the firetail is shaped like a bottle lying on its side, with a long tunnel leading to a round egg chamber. Both parents build the nest in dense foliage near the ground, lining thin grass stems with feathers and the parents share incubation of the eggs and care of the young fledglings.

Sounds:

Listen for their calls - an undulating 'whee-ee-ee' and a soft 'chrrt'.



Photo: David Cook Wildlife Photography

Southern emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

This gorgeous little wren gets its name from the long, stiff, sparsely bristled tail feathers that resemble an emu's plumes.

It is a particularly small bird at up to only 19 centimetres long, with its tail being over half of that length! The male is a streaky grey-brown in colour, with a pretty, pale powder blue throat and eye streak. The female is similar but lacks the blue colouration.



Photo: Marj Kibby

Where:

Emu-wrens love moist vegetation and make their homes in heath and scrub, scrambling through dense heath and vegetation - never far from water. They are feeble fliers and prefers to scramble through the dense heath and vegetation, looking almost like mice! You'll need to be patient and still to see them as they rarely appear on the ground or above the shrub canopy. Look for them around Booderee's swamp and heath areas, such as Blacks Waterhole and Ryans Swamp.

Feeding:

Emu-wrens eat insects and spiders from the thick foliage. Foraging parties of up to 40 birds may form outside the breeding season.

Breeding:

Southern emu-wrens build small oval shaped nest of grass and twigs, hidden low in dense vegetation. The male

defends a small territory with regular bursts of song. The female incubates the eggs and both parents feed the young, which remain with them for up to two months after fledging.

Sounds:

Listen for very high-pitched trills.

Eastern spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

Easily distinguished by its long, very finely curved bill, the spinebill is around 15 centimetres long and has a dark grey-brown head and back, a predominantly white bib and a chestnut underside.

Where:

You'll see the spinebill in the park throughout the year, on any walk in forest, woodland or heath.

Feeding:

Eastern spinebills love to feast on the nectar of grevilleas and other long, tubular flowers where they perch or hover as they eat. Like all nectar feeding birds, they especially love red flowers.

Breeding:

Nests can be hard to spot - they are small constructions of grass, moss, hair and cobwebs, built in a tree fork. The female builds the nest and incubates the eggs, but both parents feed the young.

Sounds:

Listen for short, quick piping, or softer cheeping.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Brush bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

The brush bronzewing is a small and colourful pigeon, around 30 centimetres long. It has a blue-grey underside, a rich red-brown back and glistening, metallic feathers on the wing.

Where:

The brush bronzewing is a shy bird, often well hidden in dense shrubbery. However you may be lucky enough to spot this bird alone or in a pair, in any of Booderee's thick shrub growth or even foraging by the roadside next to dense heath.

Feeding:

The brush bronzewing feeds on the seeds of various plants, moving around alone or in small groups, usually not far from fresh water.

Breeding:

The nest of the brush bronzewing is the usual flimsy, flat structure characteristic of pigeons. The female builds the nest on the ground, in trees or more commonly in dense brush.

Sounds:

Its call is a low repeated 'hoop' or 'whoo' which can continue for some time.



Photo: Benjamin T

New holland honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

This small, black and white streaked bird with a yellow wing patch is common in the park all year round.

Where:

These honeyeaters are the birds you're most likely to see in the heath areas where grevilleas and banksias grow. They are quite bold and inquisitive and may even occasionally approach you.

Feeding:

The honeyeaters are very active feeders, busily gobbling nectar, fruit, insects and spiders. They may feed alone, but normally gather in large groups.

Breeding:

The honeyeater's nest is usually a small, messy cup of grass and twigs hidden in low and prickly bushes. Both sexes feed the chicks and a pair of adults may raise two or three broods in a year.

Sounds:

This is a noisy bird and its calls have a hissing tone that sounds like 'swist ' or 'sw-swist '



Photo: Oystercatcher

Eastern bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus*

This small, nationally endangered bird, around 21 centimetres long, is grey-brown in colour with a bright red eye, a long tail and strong bristles at the base of the bill.

Where:

You'll find eastern bristlebirds in Booderee's dense coastal heath. Our population of endangered bristlebirds has responded well to our intensive fox control - so much so that they are now among the more commonly observed birds in the heath.

You may see these shy birds near the Cape St George Lighthouse area or running across park roads - you'll rarely see them flying.

You may also see them in other park habitats where there is a dense understorey vegetation.

Feeding:

Eastern bristlebirds feed on a variety of insects and particularly loves ants.

Breeding:

The birds nest in domes of loose grass clumped in grass or heathland, laying two eggs from August to February.

Sounds:

A variety of musical calls, ranging from loud melodic song to a harsh sharp alarm call: 'it-wooa-weet-sip', 'zip' and 'tuck'.



Photo: David Cook Wildlife Photography

Little wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

Unlike most wattlebirds this bird lacks the visible wattles hanging from its cheeks. It is about 30 centimetres long, with blue eyes, mostly dark grey-brown above with white streaks, and a paler grey with white streaks below.

Where:

Although not the most colourful of birds themselves, little wattlebirds love colourful flowers so they are easy to find. Look for them



Photo: David Cook Wildlife Photography

amongst banksia and grevilleas in heath thickets. Good places to spot them are on the headland walks and near the Cape St George lighthouse.

Feeding:

Little wattlebirds feed mainly on nectar, probing deep into the flowers with their long brush-tipped tongues. You may also see them perching to grab berries and seeds or occasionally catching insects in mid-air.

Breeding:

Normally the female builds the nest, messily constructed from twigs, grass and down and concealed in a tree fork. She incubates the nest alone, but both sexes care for the young chicks.

Sounds:

Like most wattlebirds, little wattlebirds are quite noisy with a loud 'chock' and a distinctive 'good tackle good tackle' call.

Red wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

The red wattlebird has a fleshy, red neck wattle, grey brown body and white streaks and long tail. The juvenile bird does not have the red wattle, but can be distinguished from the little wattlebird by its yellow belly.

Where:

The harsh 'yakauyak' call will help you locate this large honeyeater. Red wattlebirds are noisy, aggressive birds, constantly moving and often found in groups.

At Booderee you'll see large numbers of red wattlebirds in autumn and winter when birds migrate from higher country to feed on the flowering heath. The various headland walks offer good opportunities to see them.

Feeding:

Like other honeyeaters, red wattlebirds feed mainly on nectar, usually on heath plants with tubular red or pink flowers such as the grevillea. They also eat insects and berries.

Breeding:

Nests are a weak construction of bark, twigs and grass, built in bushes or tree forks. Red wattlebirds raise one or two broods in a season, with the female often incubating alone but both parents feeding the young.

Sounds:

A harsh 'yakauyak'.



Photo: Lip Kee

Ground parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

The eastern ground parrot, listed as vulnerable in NSW, looks a little like the native budgerigar. It is yellowish-green all over with darker green barring - and a red patch above its beak. A medium sized parrot, it grows to around 30 centimetres.

Where:

The shy and elusive ground parrot is rarely seen unless it is disturbed from the heath - you're unlikely to see it in flight as it prefers to run away through the dense undergrowth.

At Booderee you're most likely to see this parrot in heath land or dense low vegetation near swamps - so near Ryans Swamp or Blacks Waterhole.



Photo: Brent Barrett
(subspecies *Pezoporus wallicus flaviventris*)

Feeding:

As its name suggests, the ground parrot spends most of its time on the ground where it forages for the seeds of grasses and herbaceous shrubs. It is usually well hidden in low vegetation and may be easier to hear than see.

Breeding:

Ground parrots construct nests lined with chewed grass stems, hidden under low bushes or hollow grass tussocks. The female incubates the eggs and broods the young, with the male parrot feeding the female and the young hatchlings.

Sounds:

Listen for the green parrot's call at sunrise and sunset: a high pitched 'tsee-tsee-tsee-tsit'.

Forest birds

Laughing kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Australia's iconic kookaburra has a predominantly white head, white underside with a brown mask, blade-like bill, brown wings with distinctive blue spots and a brown tail with paler brown to white stripes on the tail feathers.

**Where:**

You'll easily spot or hear kookaburras anywhere there are large trees in Booderee.

Photo: June Andersen

Feeding:

The kookaburra uses its strong dagger-like bill to catch a wide variety of prey, including fish, small snakes, lizards, rodents, worms, beetles and other insects. It swoops on its prey from a perch, eating small animals whole but bashing larger animals against the ground or a tree branch. From time to time kookaburras at the park will attempt to join your picnic - please don't feed them as they become dependent on humans for food and then suffer in winter when fewer people are visiting.

Breeding:

Kookaburras usually mate for life. The pair nest in tree hollows and the young of previous clutches assist their parents in rearing their younger brothers and sisters. This kind of cooperative nesting behaviour is quite common in Australian birds.

Sounds:

The kookaburra can be heard at any time of day but most frequently shortly after dawn and from sunset to dusk.

Its characteristic 'laugh' is used to establish territory amongst family groups. One bird starts with a low, hiccuping chuckle, then throws its head back in raucous laughter: often several others join in. The cackle is not really a laugh, but a warning for other birds to stay away.

Crimson rosella *Platycercus elegans*

This striking Australian native parrot has bright crimson and blue plumage, a pale grey bill and dark brown eye, growing to about 35 centimetres. The youngster has a mix of green and red coloured feathers.

**Where:**

Crimson rosellas are commonly found in Booderee's woodland areas.

Photo: JJ Harrison

You'll often see them in groups foraging along the ground in the tall blackbutt forests around Green Patch. Look out for them also in the evening, roosting on tall trees.

Feeding:

These birds feed mainly on tree seeds - though they also forage for berries, nuts and insects. In autumn and winter, look for youngsters noisily congregating in feeding parties.

Breeding:

Crimson rosellas nest in deep tree hollows high above the ground. The female selects the nesting site and then it is lined by the mating pair who gnaw and shred the hollow with their beaks. The rosella pair guards ownership of the tree, chattering to repel other rosellas and guarding a buffer zone of several trees radius so no bird nests nearby. During the breeding season it is common for rosellas to fly to other nests and destroy the eggs.

Sounds:

The crimson rosella has a range of calls, the commonest being a two-syllabled 'cussik-cussik'. It also has a range of harsh screeches and metallic whistles. Listen for a musical 'psit-a-see'.

Rainbow lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

This medium sized parrot grows to 30 centimetres and is easily identified by its bright multi-coloured markings - bright green on the back with a blue head, red bill, yellow to red chest and blue belly.

Where:

Rainbow lorikeets tend to follow flowering trees around the countryside and can appear at Booderee - and disappear again! - depending on what trees are flowering. You'll often see these noisy raucous parrots hurtling past like rockets in loud, fast-moving flocks.

They may be found anywhere in the park with large established trees. They are quite tame and may approach you.

Feeding:

The lorikeets' piercing screech in flight is replaced by a gentler chattering as they feed on nectar, pollen, fruits, and seeds. These savvy feeders are adept at finding flowering trees - so we ask that you don't feed them as they will then become dependent on humans for food, suffering in winter when fewer people are visiting.

Breeding:

Rainbow lorikeets prefer to nest fairly high up in tree hollows. Both sexes prepare the nest cavity and feed the young, but only the female incubates the eggs.

Sounds:

The call is commonly screeching and chattering. They are also known to talk and imitate.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Australian king parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

The king parrot is a large elegant bird, measuring about 43 centimetres. The handsome male is brilliant scarlet with a bright green 'cloak' on his wings and back, and a blue rump. The female is striking too, with her green head and back, blue rump, red belly and legs.

Where:

Look for king parrots in Booderee's eucalypt forests, high up in the larger trees or gathering in small groups on the ground beneath.



Photo: Andy Mc

Feeding:

King parrots mostly forage in trees for seeds and fruit.

Breeding:

These birds nest high up in the hollows of the larger trees. In the unlined tree hollows, females produce three to five eggs.

Sounds:

Listen for a metallic 'chack' and a whistling 'sweee' rather like the hinge of a squeaky gate.

Noisy friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

It's easy to recognise the noisy friarbird. This knob-billed honeyeater has a distinctive featherless dark grey head and a strong bill with a prominent casque (bump) at the base. It is a conspicuous bird of up to 36 centimetres, grey on top with a whitish underside.

Where:

You'll often see these friarbirds feeding in noisy flocks, sometimes with other honeyeaters such as the red wattlebird. Look for them in forested and heathland areas - the forested sections of the headlands walks are a good place to start. They are mainly seen in small groups, usually up in trees. You may hear these noisy birds before you see them.

Feeding:

The noisy friarbirds spend most of their time feeding on nectar high up in trees, only coming down to the ground occasionally to feed on insects.

Breeding:

The noisy friarbirds form long-term pairs, with both parents defending the nest and surrounds. Often nesting in horizontal tree forks, the female meticulously builds a deep nest, lining it with leaves and wool and incubating the eggs alone. At Booderee the noisy friarbirds tend to nest in forests, with both parents feeding the young.

Sounds:

Many loud, harsh calls which sound like 'four o'clock' and 'p'chok'.

Brown-headed honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

This small, green-backed and brown-headed honeyeater measures up to just 15 centimetres. It is a predominately soft brown colour above and off white below, with a creamy yellow to orange eye-ring and a short slender bill.

Where:

Look for these small honeyeaters in forested and heathland areas - try the forested sections of the headland walks. You'll often see flocks of these birds moving like acrobats through the heath, searching for insects and nectar.

Feeding:

Whilst these birds belong to the honeyeater family, they are predominantly insect eaters. Look for groups of five or more picking insects from tree branches, leaves and flowers and under bark. Look also for flocks foraging high in the tree canopy.



Photo: Oystercatcher



Photo: David Cook Wildlife Photography

Breeding:

The nest is a fairly deep construction of grass, bark and hair or fur from live animals and can be found in the outer foliage of trees. The brown-headed honeyeater will breed cooperatively if helpers are available, with up to five birds helping the breeding pair to incubate the eggs and feed the young. Young birds will probably remain with the family group from year to year.

Sounds:

Calls include a cheeping while in flight, and a 'ti ti ti' alarm call. It also makes a scratchy 'chwik-chwik-chwik' call.

Yellow-faced honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavicollis*

This slender honeyeater has a distinctive yellow strip under the eye on each side of its face, giving it its name. If you look closely, you'll notice the yellow flash is framed with a band of black and the bird has blue eyes. Growing up to 17 centimetres, the bird is typical of honeyeaters, with a brown back and paler mottled-brown underneath.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Where:

You are most likely to notice yellow-faced honeyeaters in autumn when they travel in large flocks from the mountains to the coast. During this time they can be seen and heard throughout Booderee's forests.

Feeding:

Yellow-faced honeyeaters feed on nectar, pollen, fruit, seeds and insects, foraging in the flowers and foliage of trees and shrubs. You will rarely see them on the ground.

Breeding:

Nests can be found in narrow branch forks, made from bark and grass and lined with moss. Two or three eggs per breeding pair is common.

Sounds:

These honeyeaters are quite noisy - their calls include a 'chick-up' and a 'pirrup pirrup pirrup'.

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

This common small bird has a conspicuous ring of white feathers around the eye. Growing up to only 13 centimetres, it has a green head and wings, with the rest of the body a greyish colour, with grey legs and feet. During winter you may see individuals with reddish sides which are migrants from Tasmania.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Where:

Look for the silvereyes hopping around either singly or in small groups in any areas with trees or heath. In winter you'll see these birds in large flocks. Although they are among Australia's smallest birds, the silvereyes are capable of travelling great distances during migration.

Feeding:

Silvereyes feed on insects, nectar and fruit.

Breeding:

Nests are small, neatly woven cups of grass bound with hair and cobwebs found in low forks of vines or trees. Both

sexes construct the nest and incubate the bluish-green eggs. Two to three clutches may be raised in a good season and will be actively defended.

Sounds:

The silvereve has a variety of calls, ranging from a loud 'tsee' to warbling and giggling. Sometimes the call includes mimicry.

Common bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

This large, plump, grey-brown and very common pigeon with a metallic sheen on its wings grows up to 36 centimetres. Males of the species have pale yellow foreheads, and pink breasts and both sexes have pretty metallic patches of red, blue and green on their wings.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Where:

You'll see the common bronzewings feeding in almost every habitat at Booderee. The birds like to drink frequently, and visit waterholes during day or night - so you are most likely to see them near fresh water waterholes at the Botanic Gardens or the water holes on the headland walks.

They are shy and wary birds - the clatter of departing wing beats is often all you'll hear as they swiftly fly away, keeping low to the ground.

Feeding:

Common bronzewings feed on seeds and other vegetable matter on the ground, either alone or in small parties.

Breeding:

To nest, the bronzewing create a small twig platform, either under a bush on the ground or in a low bush or tree. Both parents incubate the creamy-white eggs and share the care of the naked and helpless young birds. Like other pigeons, the bronzewings secrete a special milk-like substance from their crop, which is fed to the young chicks.

Sounds:

Listen for a low thrumming 'oom oom' which carries quite a distance.

Pied currawong *Strepera graculina*

The pied currawong looks a lot like a black raven, but you can spot the difference by the currawong's bright yellow eyes and white patches on the wings and tail. It is a medium sized bird growing up to 48 centimetres.



Photo: John Powell

Where:

Look for the pied currawongs in flight - they beat their wings in a slow, looping fashion, often folding them in entirely to glide between beats. During winter, they gather in large flocks of up to 100 birds.

You're most likely to see them in forested areas of the park, foraging, nesting or sitting a few metres up in the trees. They are bold birds and can sometimes be caught foraging scraps from picnic spots quite close to people or even watching picnics waiting for food to be forgotten or left behind.

Feeding:

Pied currawongs feed mainly on insects and fruit but will steal eggs and nestlings from other birds - and your food if you leave it lying around.

Breeding:

The nest is a bowl of sticks, lined with grasses and soft material, built by the female high up in a tree fork. The female incubates the eggs, while the male gathers food for her to feed the chicks in the first weeks after hatching.

Sounds:

The pied currawong can be quite vocal, and is noisier early in the morning, in the evening before roosting, and just before it rains. Its call is a 'caddow caddang' sound.

Australian raven *Corvus coronoides*

Often called a crow, the Australian raven is a large black bird, growing up to 53 centimetres, with a white eye and long feathers under its throat. It is a highly intelligent bird, with some scientists believing it is almost as intelligent as the great apes.

Where:

Ravens can be found in any area of the park but are possibly most easily seen around campsites and picnic areas where the cleared areas make it easy to keep an eye out for possible food.

Look for them on the ground or up high, extending their throat feathers or hackles when calling while holding their bodies and heads in a horizontal position.

Feeding:

The ravens are mainly carnivorous, feeding on carrion, insects, small reptiles, nestlings, eggs and some seeds and fruit. Ravens typically hunt in pairs.

Breeding:

Ravens build a stick nest in a fork high up the tree. Once reaching adulthood, these birds defend their territory from other ravens throughout the year.

Sounds:

A wary bird with a slow mournful call - 'aah-aah-aaaah'.



Photo: John Powell

Gang-gang cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

This small dark grey cockatoo grows up to 35 centimetres and is usually seen in a pair. The male gang-gang has a distinctive bright red head and short curly crest, and is known for his 'creaky gate' call. This bird is listed as vulnerable in NSW.

Where:

You're most likely to see gang-gang cockatoos high up in the trees - look for falling twigs and chewed seed pods when you are walking through forested areas. Listen for their calls as they feed in tall trees or fly over at Green Patch.

Feeding:

Gang-gang cockatoos chew apart seeds, berries, fruits and nuts and sometimes take insects and their larvae. They come to the ground only to drink and to forage among fallen fruits or seeds.

They favour eucalypts and the introduced hawthorn *Crataegus*. Outside of the breeding season they feed in flocks of up to 60 birds.

Breeding:

The gang-gangs form a close, monogamous pair. The female chooses a deep nest hollow in a tall tree and both



Photo: June Andersen

sexes prepare the nest for egg-laying, lining it with wood-chips and dust. Together they incubate the eggs and care for the young - look for family groups feeding together in the breeding season. Sometimes when several pairs have nested close together, their young will roost together in the same tree while their parents are foraging.

Sounds:

Listen for a 'rusty hinge' or 'creaky door' call.

Satin bowerbird *Ptilinorhynchus violaceus*

The handsome male satin bowerbird is a glossy blue-black while the female is green and brown. It grows up to 35 centimetres and both male and female have bright blue eyes.

Where:

You'll see satin bowerbirds in Booderee foraging on the ground or in trees in any treed or sheltered area.

Feeding:

Satin bowerbirds eat mainly fruits, supplemented by leaves in winter and insects during the summer breeding season.

Breeding:

The male satin bowerbird is famed for his elaborate courtship ritual. During the breeding season, he builds a small avenue of twigs, the 'bower', and decorates it with bright blue coloured objects such as parrot feathers, flowers, bottle tops, wrappers, drinking straws - whatever he can find.

He paints the walls of the bower with a mixture of chewed vegetable matter and saliva and meticulously maintains it throughout the year.

In this courtship arena, the male displays himself to an approaching female, strutting, bowing, calling and mimicking.

If impressed by the ritual, the female moves into the bower avenue for mating and then leaves to perform the nesting duties on her own, while the male readies himself for courting again. The female then builds a small, shallow nest from twigs and leaves in trees and vines.

Sounds:

A wide variety of calls include loud harsh, grinding, and wheezy notes and also a rapid 'tzzar-tzzar-tzzar-tzzar-tzzar-tzzar'.



Photo: Oystercatcher

White-throated treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea*

This small bird of up to 17 centimetres is predominantly a dark greyish brown on top and white underneath, with a black bill and legs.

Where:

As the name suggests, white-throated tree-creepers are most commonly seen spiralling up tree trunks - usually eucalypts with rough fibrous bark. They tend to prefer trees with rough barks over smooth so keep an eye out for these types of trees as the birds' camouflaged plumage can make them hard to see.



Photo: Marj Kibby

Feeding:

The white-throated treecreeper feeds mainly on ants which it snatches in its beak while travelling up and down the bark of tree trunks, but it will also eat other insects and nectar.

Breeding:

The female builds the nest from bark lined with fur and feathers in hollow, upright branches. She incubates the eggs, but both sexes care for the young. Two broods may be raised in a season.

Sounds:

Listen for a loud 'peet-peet-peet' call that carries for a long distance. It is one of the most evocative calls of the tall forest at Booderee.

Yellow-tailed black-cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

This big black bird is the largest of Australia's parrots and grows up to an impressive 65 centimetres. It features black feathers contrasting with a distinctive yellow spot on the cheek and bright yellow under-feathers on a long tail.

**Where:**

You will most likely spot these cockatoos in Booderee's cleared woodland areas such as Green Patch camping and picnic areas. They are generally more common in the park during winter, joining birds who come for the milder weather.

Listen for their slow wing beats and look out for them flying overhead. Note the long tails, blunt heads and wailing call - frequent calling while flying in small flocks helps them maintain contact.

Feeding:

Yellow-tailed cockatoos feed in noisy flocks in eucalypts, devouring tree-boring grubs, or on lower seedbearing plants such as banksias. Sometimes the best way to find them is by looking for twigs and chewed seed pods falling from the trees in forested areas.

Breeding:

These cockatoos have a long breeding season. They find large tree hollows to nest in and produce one to two eggs per breeding pair. The female incubates the eggs, while the male supplies her with food. Usually only one chick survives, and this will stay in the care of its parents for about six months.

Sounds:

The usual call is an eerie high-pitched wailing contact call, 'kee-ow ... kee-ow ... kee-ow'.

Glossy black-cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

This is the smallest of the black-cockatoos, growing up to 50 centimetres, and is identifiable by its red or orange-red under-tail feathers. Male birds are a dark glossy black and females are usually softer in colour with yellow patches on their heads.



Photo: Richard.Fisher

Where:

In Booderee you are most likely to see glossy black-cockatoos feeding in small groups or pairs in clumps of the black she-oak *Allocasuarina littoralis*. Look for falling twigs and chewed seed pods at the base of the tree and listen for the clicking of their beaks as they snap off food.

Feeding:

These cockatoos are unusual - they feed almost exclusively on she-oak seeds, occasionally eating wood-boring

larvae. This dependence has led to their decline in many built-up and farmed areas where their habitats have been destroyed.

Breeding:

The glossy black-cockatoo mates for life, with pairs maintaining their bond all year round. The female prepares the nest in a dead tree hollow and incubates the eggs, with the male bringing her and then her hatchlings food until the end of the brooding period. Once fledged, the young bird is fed by both parents for up to four months and remains with them until the next breeding season.

Sounds:

A relatively soft call compared with other cockatoos - a soft 'tarred' grating call is its mark.

Eastern whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

The secretive eastern whipbird has a blackish-green back, tail, head and crest, with a white belly and cheek patches, and a long tail. It is a medium sized bird growing to about 30 centimetres.

Where:

Eastern whipbirds often hide in dense undergrowth in areas where there is thick, moist vegetation - look for them in areas near freshwater such as the Telegraph Creek walk at Green Patch. While they are secretive birds they are also quite curious - so be patient!

You're most likely to locate these birds by quietly listening - the male has a distinctive loud whip crack call often followed by the female with a quiet chuckling 'chew-chew'.

Feeding:

The eastern whipbird tends to feed alone or in small family groups on insects and other small invertebrates caught on the ground.

Breeding:

The female bird builds the nest in low shrubs or vines from grass, twigs and fern fronds. She incubates the eggs, but both parents feed the young, sometimes raising two breeds in a season. A breeding pair of eastern whipbirds occupies a territory, which is defended year round, with the mates staying together for many years.

Sounds:

A distinctive loud whip crack call from the male often followed by the female with a quiet chuckling 'chew-chew'.



Photo: pouliquin

Red-browed finch *Neochmia temporalis*

The pretty red-browed finch is a tiny bird, growing only to about 12 centimetres. It is easily identified by its red eyebrows, beak and rump. Aside from its red highlights it is predominantly grey, with olive-green wings.

Where:

Look out for red-browed finches in grassy areas near water but close to shrubs and vegetation so they can hide quickly. You may also spot them perched on grassheads or feeding in the grass along the sides of roads and walking trails. They are common in the park at any time of year.

Feeding:

Red-browed finches feed on grass seeds and insects, often in a group of 10 or more.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Breeding:

The nest is a small ball of grass with a side entrance, often found in a clump of leaves or in vines or saplings one or two metres above the ground. Both parents share nest-building, incubation of the eggs and feeding of the young hatchlings.

Sounds:

A high-pitched 'pseett'.

Scarlet honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

The tiny but beautiful scarlet honeyeater grows to only 11 centimetres. The male has a bright red head set against black wings and a white belly, while the female is dull brown with a white belly.

Where:

The small scarlet honeyeaters are hard to spot as they inhabit the tops of the highest trees, following the unpredictable flowering of eucalypts. You're most likely to see them in winter or spring when there are lots of flowering plants. If you are lucky you might also see them lower to the ground on flowering grevilleas and banksias.

You may hear the scarlet honeyeater before you see it - the call is a musical, tinkling 'chwip, swit-sweet-switty-switty-switty'.

Feeding:

Scarlet honeyeaters feed mainly on nectar and sometimes on fruit and insects, generally foraging high up in the canopy.

Breeding:

The scarlet honeyeater breeds in pairs, with the more conspicuous male calling and displaying to the quieter females. Nests are a flimsy construction of bark and grass bound together with cobwebs, found in viney foliage.

The female incubates the eggs - commonly two or three eggs for a breeding pair - and both sexes feed the young. Up to three broods may be produced each season.

Sounds:

A musical, tinkling 'chwip, swit-sweet-switty-switty-switty'.

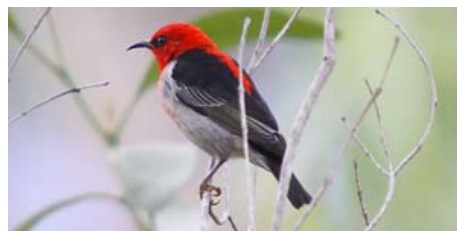


Photo: Marj Kibby

Eastern yellow robin *Eopsaltria australis*

The pretty little eastern yellow robin is a medium sized robin, growing to 16 centimetres. It has a grey head, back, wings and tail and a bright yellow underbelly and rump.

Where:

Eastern yellow robins can be found in most areas of the park but you are more likely to see them close to freshwater areas. They are often among the first birds to start singing before dawn.

Feeding:

The eastern yellow robin hunts by waiting quietly, perched on low branches and then swooping down to the ground to catch insects and spiders. It normally feeds alone, but sometimes you'll see it in a pair or small group. It is a bold bird and may come up quite close to you to see what is going on.

Breeding:

The female robin builds a nest high up in an upright tree fork. She weaves a cup of bark and lichen strips, bound



Photo: Oystercatcher

with cobwebs and lined with finer soft material and leaves. She incubates the eggs, but both parents - and sometimes other helpers - care for the young. Breeding pairs may lay up to three clutches of eggs.

Sounds:

A simple whistling 'tewp tewp' in the morning and commonly a plain piping in the late afternoon and evening.

Night birds

Tawny frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

The tawny frogmouth is a bulky owl-like bird growing to a 53 centimetres. It has silver-grey plumage, slightly paler below, streaked and mottled with black and rufous red, yellow eyes and a wide, heavy olive-grey to blackish bill.

Where:

You'll have to look carefully to see a tawny frogmouth as its heavily streaked feathers give it great camouflage in the trees. During the daytime it spends most of its time sitting statue-like to resemble a branch stump. They can be found in almost any treed area in Booderee.

Feeding:

Tawny frogmouths are night hunters, swooping down from the trees to capture lizards, frogs, insects, worms, slugs, snails and even small mammals.

Breeding:

Look for poorly constructed stick platforms in trees for their nesting sites. Both sexes incubate the eggs, with the male sitting during the day and both sexes sharing sitting at night.

Sounds:

Their beaks make loud clacking sounds and a soft 'oom-oom' call is replaced by a louder 'grr-er' when disturbed.



Photo: June Andersen

Powerful owl *Ninox strenua*

At 60 centimetres on average, this majestic bird is the largest Australian owl and one of the largest owls in the world. It has yellow eyes set in a dark grey-brown facial mask, and is dark grey to dark grey-brown above, with white barring, and off-white below with distinctive brown v-shaped chevrons and feathered legs. It has massive yellow to orange feet with sharp talons.

Where:

Powerful owls are listed as vulnerable in NSW. Look out for them during the day in Booderee, perching silently close to the trunks of large, leafy trees in areas of tall trees.

Feeding:

The powerful owl is a carnivore, hunting at night for larger marsupials such as possums and gliders - you may see one at night with a half eaten possum clutched in its talons.

It forages mainly in trees, swooping down and taking prey with its feet. The powerful owl is capable of virtually eliminating gliders from a patch of forest before moving on to more productive hunting grounds.

Breeding:

Powerful owls mate for life and pairs defend an all-purpose territory year-round.



Photo: Greg Sharkey

The male prepares the nest, usually a vertical hollow in a large old tree, and provides the female and young with a constant supply of food during the early part of the nesting period. The breeding pair produces one or two eggs, with the female incubating the eggs and brooding the young, emerging later in the nesting period to hunt for food as well. Young birds remain with the parents for several months and may stay within their parents' territory for over a year.

Sounds:

A loud 'hoo-hooo' which is louder than most other owls.

Boobook owl *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

Young boobooks are almost entirely white below with conspicuous dark brown facial discs. The adult has dark brown plumage above and rufous-brown below, heavily streaked and spotted with white and it has large yellowish eyes.



Photo: Oystercatcher

Where:

You are most likely to hear rather than see the boobook. If you are camping at Booderee, boobooks can be heard in any of the park's campsite areas. Sometimes known as the mopoke, it is the smallest and most common owl in Australia.

Feeding:

Boobooks feed on insects, other invertebrates and small mammals such as mice. They hunt mainly at night but you may see them searching for food on a dull morning or late afternoon. Look for these owls sitting on a perch, listening and watching - and then flying to seize a moth or a small bat in mid-air or pouncing on ground-dwelling prey.

Breeding:

Like most owls, the boobooks nest in tree hollows. Breeding pairs are known to produce two to three white eggs each season. The female alone incubates the eggs, but both sexes, and sometimes a second female helper, feed the young.

Sounds:

Its common names comes from its night time calls - 'mo-poke' or 'book-book'.

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