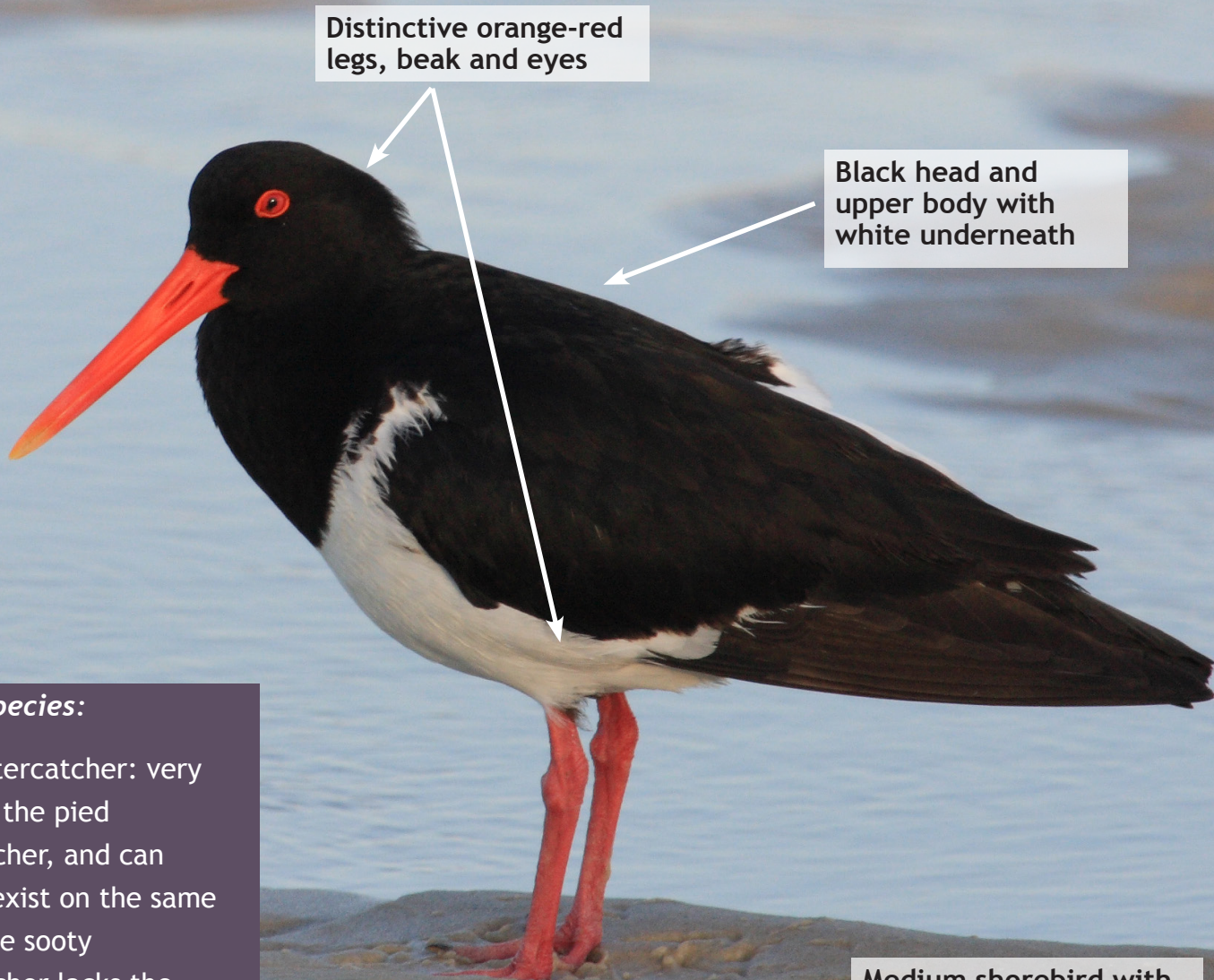


## Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

### Where to look:

*Mudflats, sandbanks and sandy ocean beaches*



Distinctive orange-red legs, beak and eyes

Black head and upper body with white underneath

### Similar species:

Sooty oystercatcher: very similar to the pied oystercatcher, and can often co-exist on the same beach. The sooty oystercatcher lacks the white feathers and although their beaks and legs are dark red their bodies are completely black

Medium shorebird with long skinny legs and a long beak

Size: 50cm

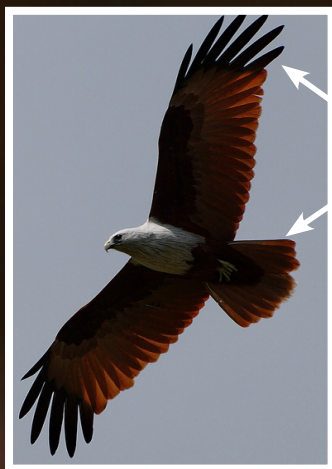
*Images courtesy of Flickr user Michale Dawes, Sept 2007*



## Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

### Where to look:

*Above sand dunes, coastal waters, and mangroves*



Relatively short tail  
and dark finger-like  
wing tips

(Adult) white head  
and chest, chestnut  
brown coloured body

Dark eyes, strongly  
hooked, yellow beak

Size: up to 51cm with  
a 120cm wingspan

*Images courtesy of ClimateWatch users  
Shanin Olakara and N.Costa*

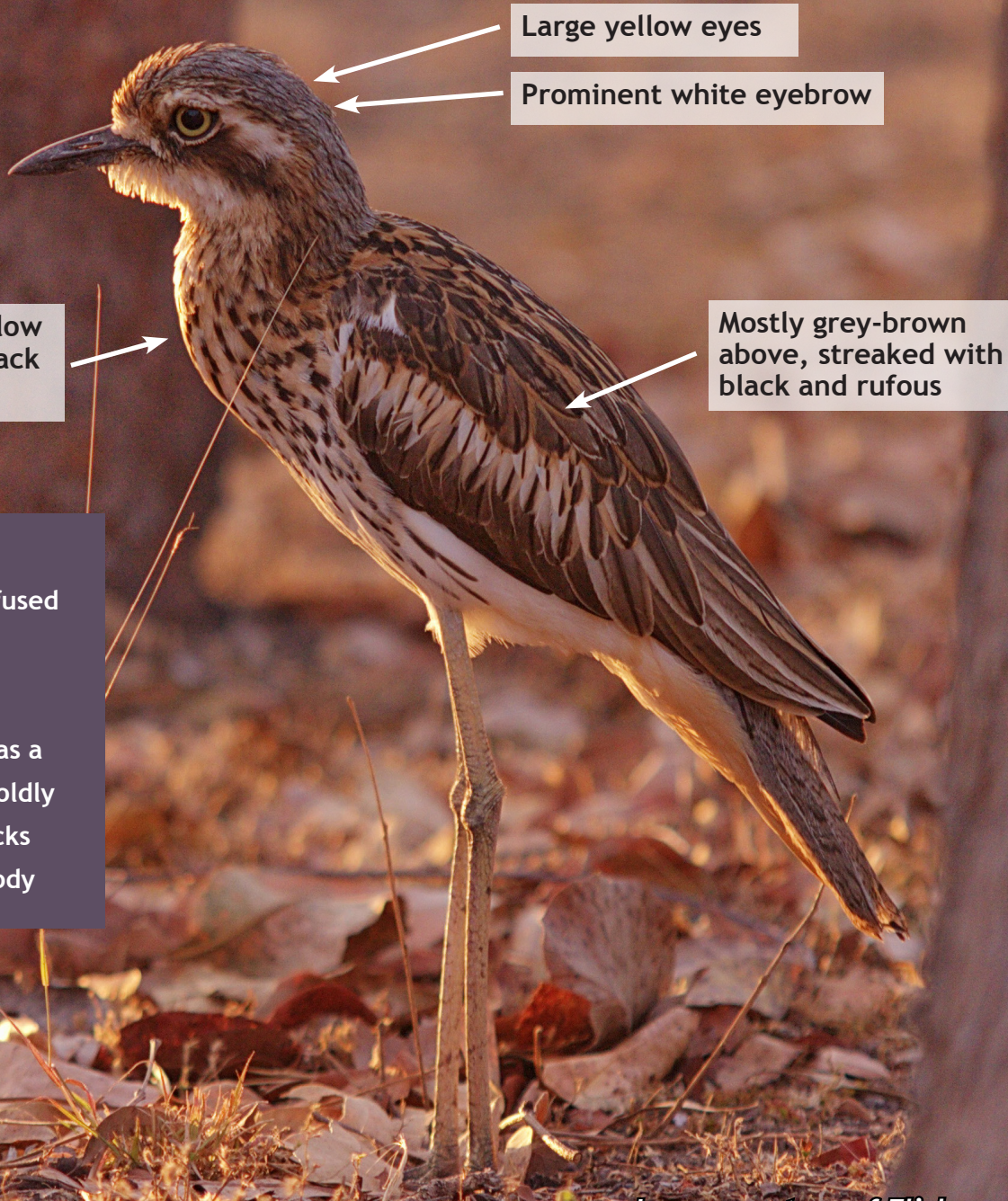
### *Similar species:*

Juvenile brahminy kites are easy to confuse with many other birds of prey, so record only on adults. Ospreys, whistling kites and black-breasted kites can look similar when on the wing; however, brahminy kites can be distinguished by their dark 'fingered' wingtips, chestnut brown wings and body that is half white and half brown



## Bush Stone-Curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

When to look:  
*July to January*



Large yellow eyes

Prominent white eyebrow

Buff-whitish below  
with vertical black  
streaks

Mostly grey-brown  
above, streaked with  
black and rufous

### *Similar species:*

It is unlikely to be confused  
with any other bird in  
Australia.

Beach Stone-curlew: has a  
large bill and a more boldly  
marked face. It also lacks  
bold streaking on its body

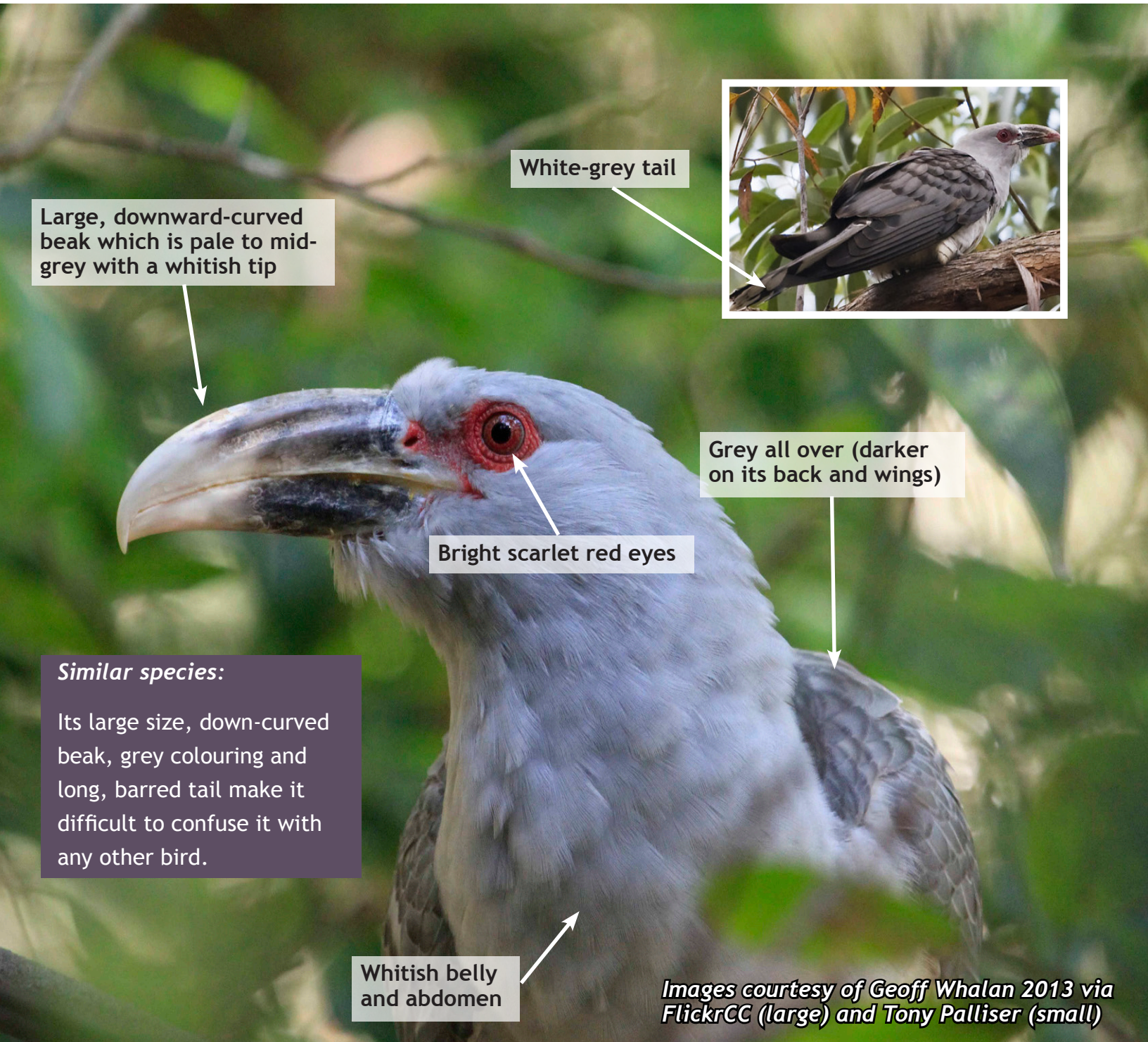
*Image courtesy of Flickr user  
pattfwi, August 2010*



## Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

### When to look:

August to March,  
breeding behaviour can be  
seen from August to October



Large, downward-curved  
beak which is pale to mid-  
grey with a whitish tip

White-grey tail

Grey all over (darker  
on its back and wings)

Bright scarlet red eyes

### Similar species:

Its large size, down-curved  
beak, grey colouring and  
long, barred tail make it  
difficult to confuse it with  
any other bird.

Whitish belly  
and abdomen

Images courtesy of Geoff Whalan 2013 via  
FlickrCC (large) and Tony Palliser (small)



## Eastern Koel (formerly Common Koel)

*Eudynamys orientalis*

When to look:

*September to March*

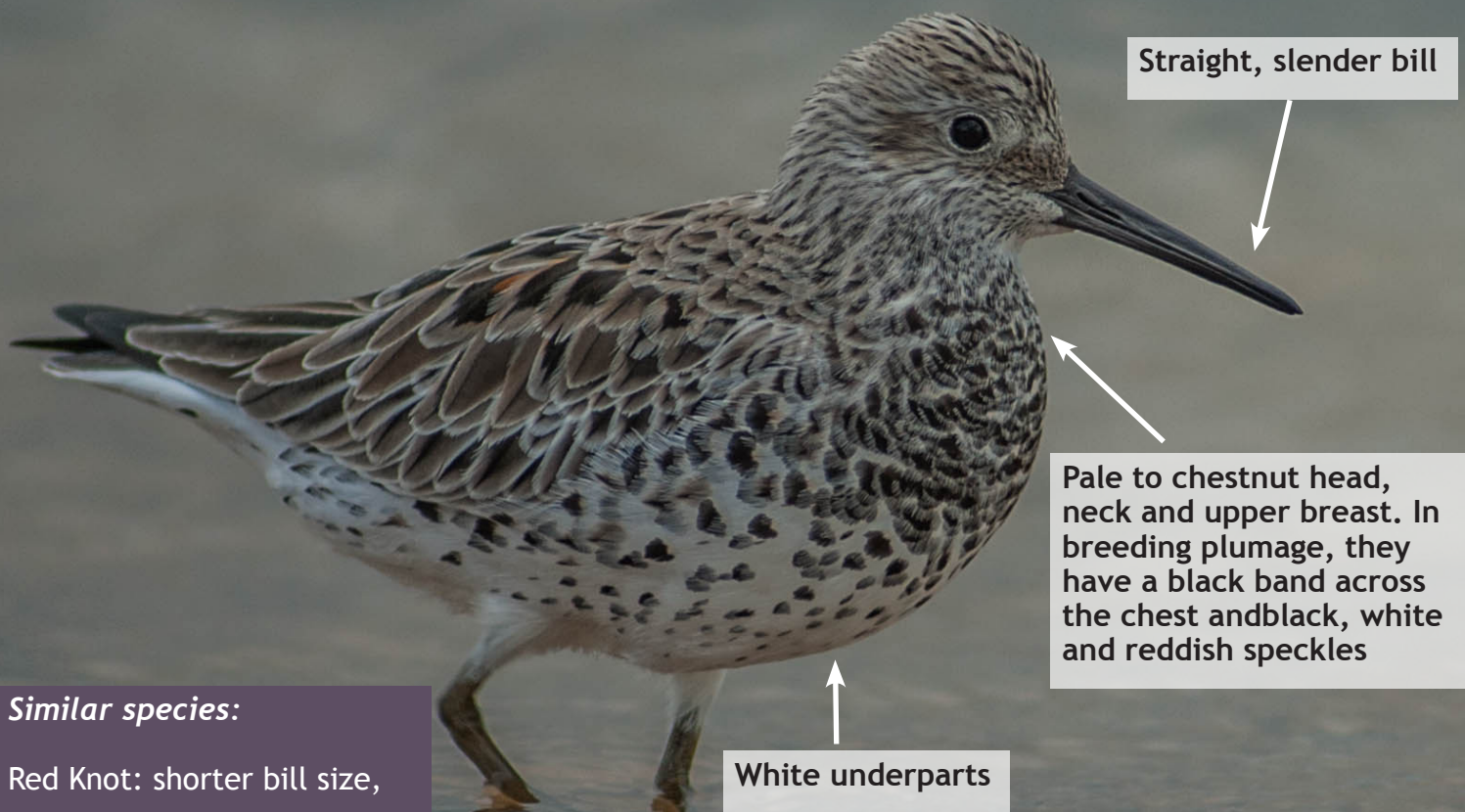




## Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

### When to look:

Year-round. Migration from  
September-March



### Similar species:

Red Knot: shorter bill size, distinct dark eyeline with white eyebrow

Asian Dowitcher: much longer bill size

Curlew Sandpiper: smaller body size and has a down-curved bill

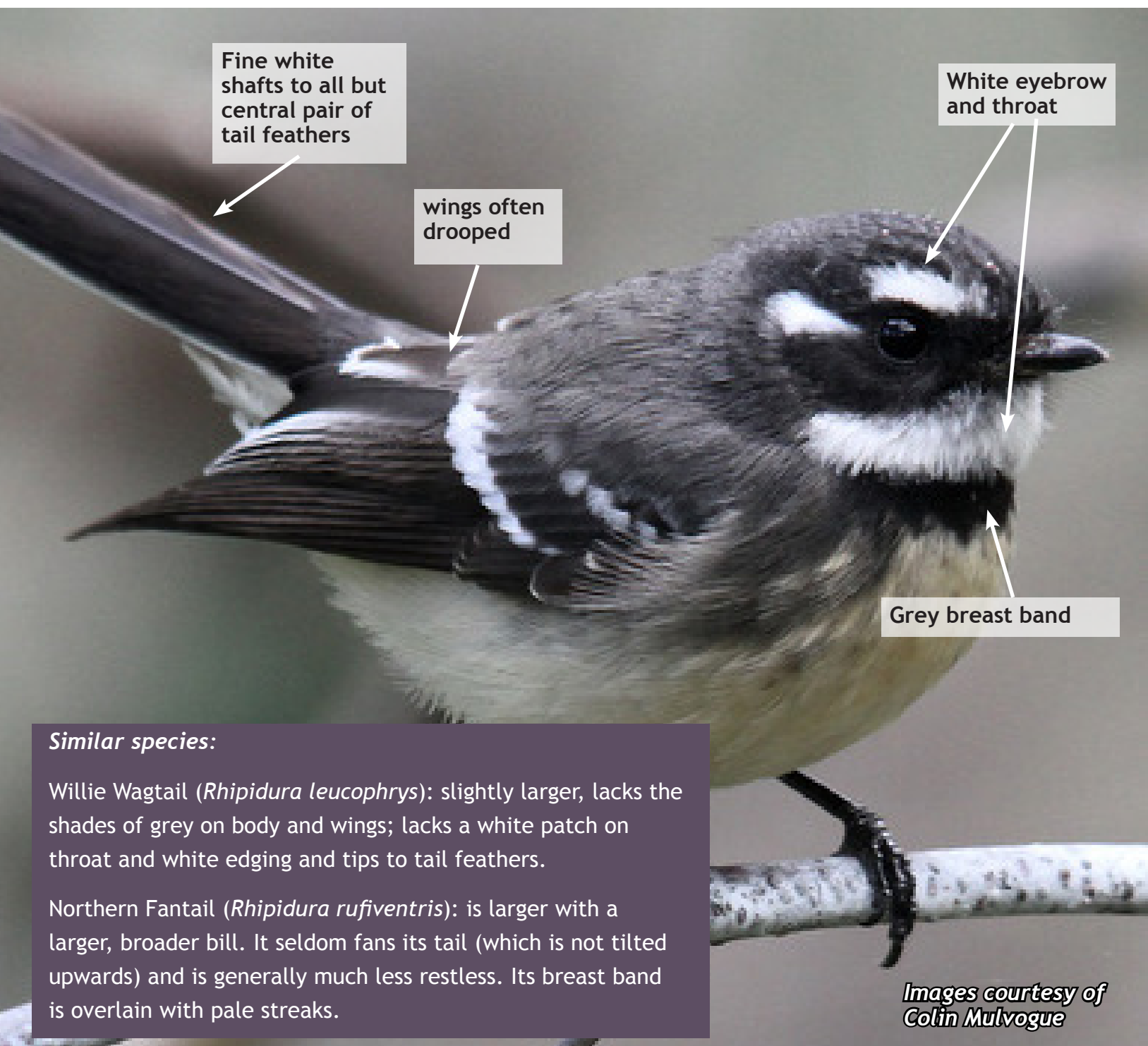
*Image courtesy of Flickr user ken 2008*



## Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa*

### When to look:

Some migrate north during winter; nests Jul to Jan



### Similar species:

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*): slightly larger, lacks the shades of grey on body and wings; lacks a white patch on throat and white edging and tips to tail feathers.

Northern Fantail (*Rhipidura rufiventris*): is larger with a larger, broader bill. It seldom fans its tail (which is not tilted upwards) and is generally much less restless. Its breast band is overlain with pale streaks.

*Images courtesy of  
Colin Mulvogue*



## Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

### When to look:

Throughout the year;  
breeding is opportunistic

### Similar species:

Australian Magpie (*Cracticus tibicen*): is almost twice as large (36 - 44 cm long) with a heavier beak, and wholly black underbody (the Magpie-lark is mostly white below).

Pied Butcherbird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*): has a completely black head and bib, separated from its black back by a white collar.

Another black-and-white bird: won't have the thin whitish bill and pale eye.

Horizontal black line through pale eye; whitish bill

Males will lack white throat

Call: a ringing 'pee-o-wit' or 'pee-wee', often sung by two birds together, giving rise to its venacular name of 'Peewee'

Images courtesy of  
Angel Oo





## Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

### When to look:

*Throughout the year;  
breeding is opportunistic*

Black on top of head

Brown and  
black wings

Yellow bill and  
wattle from  
forehead to  
behind its eye  
hangs beside chin

White neck and  
underparts

### Similar species:

Banded Lapwing (*Vanellus tricolor*): is smaller (25 - 29 cm long) with much more black on the head and lower breast, with a distinct white eye-stripe and white throat and upper breast, forming a white 'bib'. There is also a distinctive red patch at the base of its bill.

*Image: Earthwatch*



## Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*

**When to look:**  
*Often active at night.*  
*Breeds July - March*





## Pied Butcherbird

*Cracticus nigrogularis*

When to look:

August to November in  
southern Australia,  
May to June in the tropics

Black head and  
dark brown eyes

Thick hooked bill

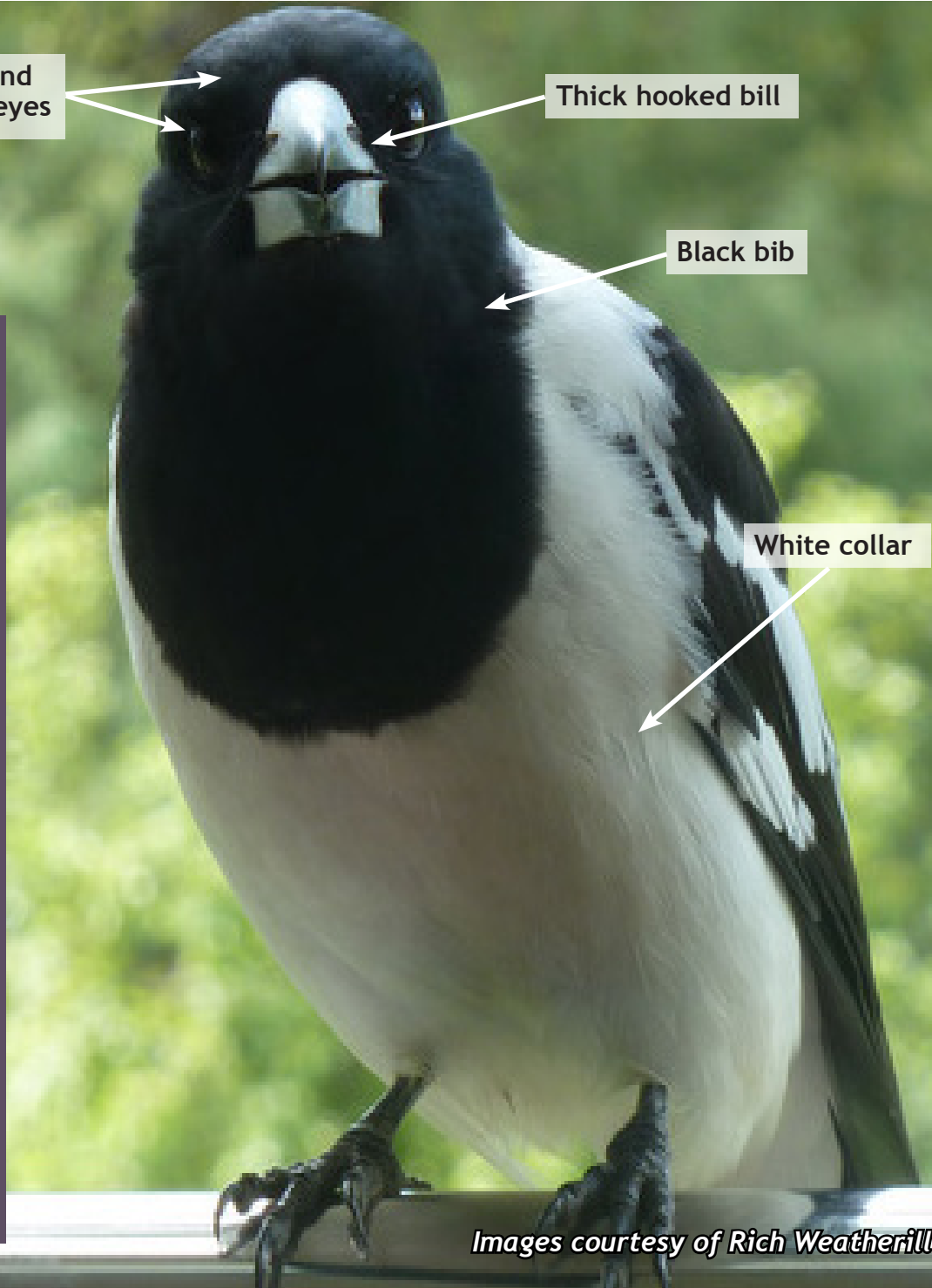
Black bib

White collar

### *Similar species:*

The Pied Butcherbird is larger and more boldly marked than the Grey Butcherbird and can be separated from both this species and the Black-backed Butcherbird of Queensland by its distinct black bib.

It can be distinguished from other black and white birds, (i.e. Australian Magpie and the Magpie-lark) by the black head and bib separated from the black back by a complete white collar and underparts. The bill is much larger than that of the Magpie-lark.



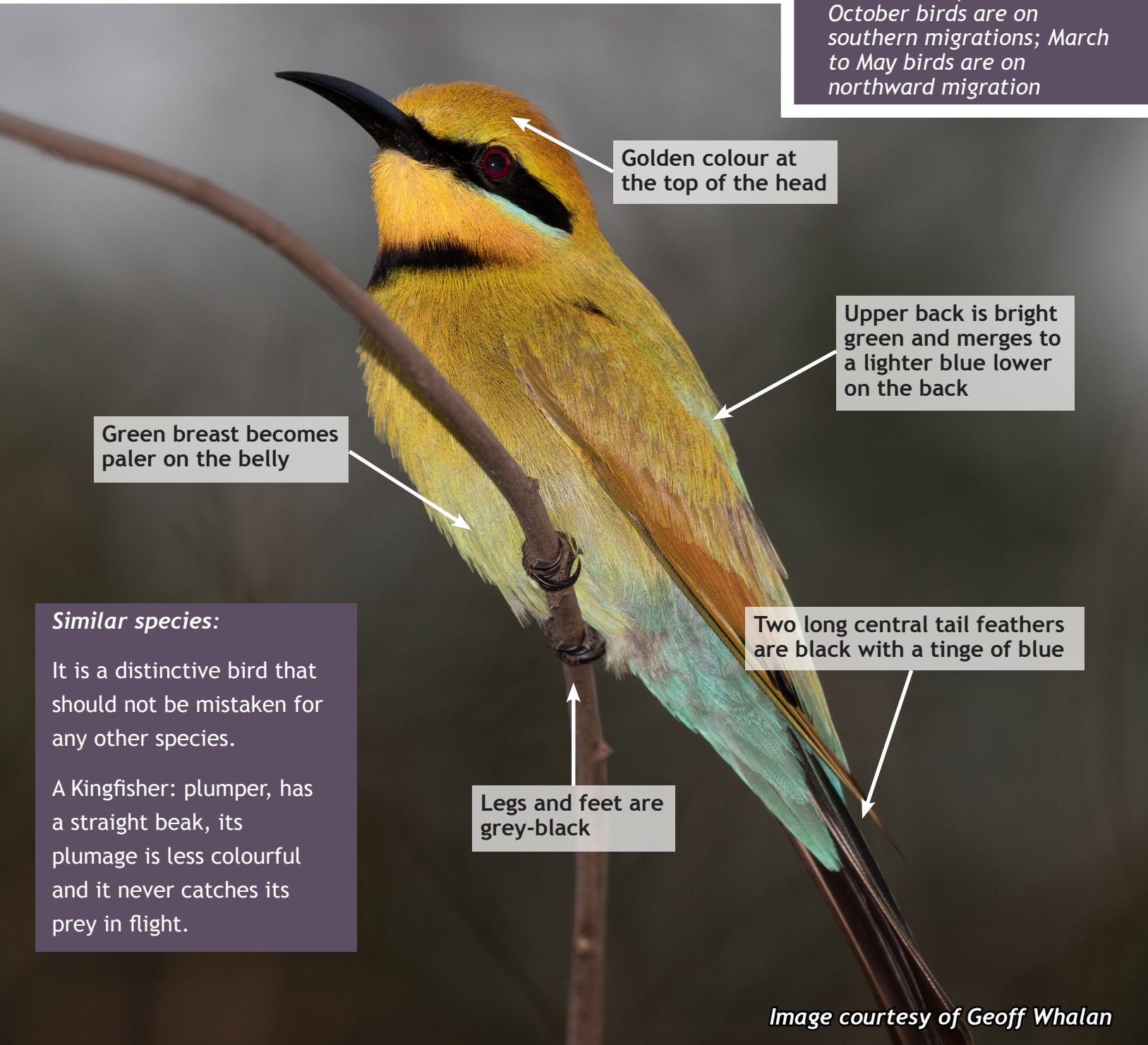
*Images courtesy of Rich Weatherill*



## Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

### When to look:

November to January in southern Australia; August to January in northern Australia; September to October birds are on southern migrations; March to May birds are on northward migration



Golden colour at the top of the head

Upper back is bright green and merges to a lighter blue lower on the back

Green breast becomes paler on the belly

### Similar species:

It is a distinctive bird that should not be mistaken for any other species.

A Kingfisher: plumper, has a straight beak, its plumage is less colourful and it never catches its prey in flight.

Two long central tail feathers are black with a tinge of blue

Legs and feet are grey-black

Image courtesy of Geoff Whalan



## Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

### When to look:

Late August to mid-April,  
some birds remain in  
Australia year round

Pale eye-stripe

Brown and grey-  
brown upperparts

Black rump and tail

Decurved bill and  
short legs are black

Pale wing-stripe in flight

### Similar species:

The Little Stint is very similar in size, shape and plumage; however, they have longer legs, a blunter rear end, and are dumper. They also have a different call. The Little Stint is rarely encountered in Australia.

The Broad-billed Sandpiper is larger and has a longer, differently shaped bill.



Images courtesy of Aaron  
Maizlish 2016 via FlickrCC



## Ruddy Turnstone

*Arenaria interpres*

When to look:

Year round. Migrates  
August - April

Stocky, medium-sized shore-bird. Back, head and upper chest marked with black-brown and pale areas (tortoise-shell like)

Short black edge-shaped bill, slightly up-tilted

White breast

Short orange legs

### Similar species:

Similar to other Sandpipers including the Red Knot that is distinguished by the robin-red colour on its chest. The Ruddy Turnstone's characteristic behaviour of turning over stones while foraging can help distinguish species.

Image courtesy of Flickr user Corine Bliek 2018

## White-faced Heron

*Egretta novaehollandiae*

### When to look:

Throughout year; breeds  
October to December

White face and  
pointed grey bill

Low,  
bouncing  
flight



Size: 60-70cm

Light blue-  
grey colour

### Similar species:

The White-necked Heron (*Ardea pacifica*) is a large heron with a white head and a long white neck with a double line of black spots running down the front. The Pied Heron (*A. picata*) is a similar slate-black heron with contrasting white throat and neck, but it is a much smaller (43 cm - 52 cm) bird, with a crested dark cap that extends below the eyes, yellow legs, and a bill that is mostly yellow.

Dull yellow legs

Images courtesy of Marj K.



## Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

### When to look:

Throughout year; usually  
nests Aug to Feb



### Similar species:

Restless Flycatcher (*Myiagra inquieta*): has a black head crest which makes it look more angular, and lacks the white eyebrow. Its chin and throat are white, instead of black, and its tail is less rounded and doesn't wag.

Any other black-and-white fantail or flycatcher generally won't have the black throat and white eyebrows.

Images courtesy of Emily Fosbery



## Australian Ebony *Diospyros compacta*

When to look:

*Year-round*

*Flowers during Feb,  
Oct and Nov*

*Fruits from Jan -  
May and Oct-Dec*

Berries that become  
red when ripe

Thick leathery leaves  
(approx. 7-9cm)

Small tree (approx.  
11 metres) that can  
be dark, mottled grey  
to black bark on  
the trunk body

### *Similar species:*

Black Ebony (*Diospyros humilis*) is similar in appearance, however can be distinguished by its smaller and more bladed leaves. Dead bark is often quite dark, almost black and layered with brown brittle stripes in the blaze.



*Images courtesy of Hartleys Creek Feb 2017*



## Grey Mangrove *Avicennia marina*

Tall to small tree or shrub to 25m height, commonly 5m.

### When to look:

*Year-round. Flowering occurs mid to late summer. Seeds may fall year-round*

Pneumatophores (aerial roots specialised for gaseous exchange) are numerous and project from shallow lateral roots



Leaves leathery, glossy green, oval, pointed, grey underside

Dense clusters of yellow-orange or golden flowers



Fruit pod pale green, flattened, germinating before fruit falls. Pubescent seed coat encloses a solitary propagule with two large fleshy seed leaves.

*Images © Geoff Lay (tree), Neil Walsh (leaves and flowers) Nadiah Roslan (germinating seed)*

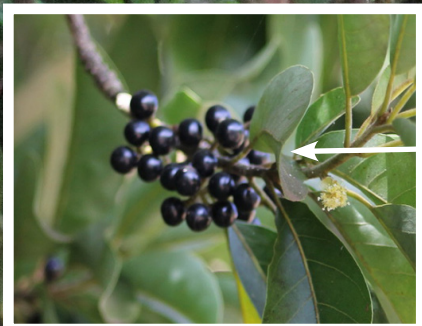


## Litsea

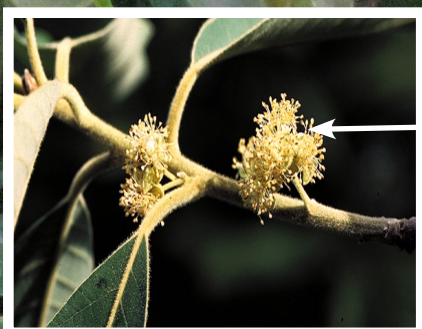
### *Litsea glutinosa*

#### When to look:

Year-round. Flowers  
March - June. Fruits  
September - October



Rounded black  
fruits, approx.  
8mm in diameter  
that bear seeds



Clusters of  
cream to yellow  
flowers

Oblong shaped leaf  
blades that are covered  
in white erect hairs

#### Similar species:

*Litsea glutinosa* is  
native to the Northern  
Territory and can be  
distinguished by its  
rounded black fruits and  
clusters of cream to  
yellow flowers.

Keep an eye out for Atlas  
Moth larvae and enter any  
sightings in 'comments'



Images courtesy of CSIRO and Flickr users  
Edward Steven 2017 and guzhengman 2007



## Lady Apple *Syzygium suborbiculare*

### When to look:

Year-round. Flowering July to October in northern Australia. Fruit ripens October - December



Large cream flowers with long stamens

Large globular pink to red fruits, often conspicuously ribbed, 30-70 mm long

### Similar species

No other *Syzygium* will have large globular red fruits that are conspicuously ribbed.

Large tree up to 14 m height. Leaves variable, oblong or spear-shaped



Images courtesy of Flickr; Paul Asman and Jill Lenoble (flowers), Tim Dickson (fruits)



## Northern Black Wattle

*Acacia auriculiformis*

When to look:

Year-round. Flowers  
February - August



Pods stripey, flat but strongly coiled, brown, linear to oblong that contain shiny black seeds

Grouped yellow flowers in a spike (up to 8 cm)

### Similar species:

Other wattle species; *Acacia polystachya* can be distinguished by smaller bladed leaves that have a red or pink gland visible on the upper side. Flowers are also spiked, but are sparse and white, with pods that are usually twisted, curved or coiled to some extent.

*A. auriculiformis* shares the same common name (Black Wattle) as *A. mearnsii* which is unrelated and found in all states except Northern Territory.

Long slightly curved leaves (approx. 10-20cm)

Images courtesy of Flickr user Nagraj Saliyan 2007 and NT Flora; B.M. Stuckey (pods)



## Yellow Flame Tree

*Peltophorum pterocarpum*

When to look:

*Year-round*

*Flowers March - June  
and Sept - Nov*



Bright yellow flowers  
with orange stamens

Black seed pods that  
ripen to a dark red

### *Similar species:*

Poinciana (*Delonix regia*) will look similar in appearance when not in flower. Poinciana will have dark-brown flattened seed pods 20-70 cm long that remain on the tree for most of the year.

Long strips of small leaves  
approx. 30-60cm long

*Images courtesy of CSIRO and Flickr users  
Dinesh Valke 2007 and Ria Tan 2017*



## Cane Toad *Rhinella marina*

### When to look:

Year-round. Adults readily seen during the night

Tough leathery skin that has a distinctive warty appearance

Pronounced bony ridge above nostril and venom producing gland behind the ear

Adult size: 10-15 cm

Pale underbelly

### Similar species:

Toads can be distinguished by their bumpy skin, short forelimbs and poison glands behind their eyes. Many toad species also crawl rather than hop.

The Giant Frog (*Cyclorana australis*) is most likely confused with the exotic Cane Toad in western Queensland and northern Western Australia but the Giant Frog lacks prominent brow ridges and is a burrowing species.

Shiny black tadpoles. Eggs lain in long strings of transparent jelly



Images courtesy of Flickr user Mark Yokoyama 2017



## Atlas Moth *Atticus Wardi*

### When to look:

*Year-round. Adults prominent during the wet season (Jan-March)*

Rusty-brown in colour with a double white band

Large white spot on each wing

White spherical eggs

Wing span: approx 17 cm

### Similar species:

The Hercules Moth is similar in appearance and pattern, however its range is restricted to Far North Queensland and Papua New Guinea. The Hercules Moth can be distinguished by an extended tail on each hindwing and overall larger size.

Caterpillar with floppy spines

*Images courtesy of Flickr users Nieminski 2017, Garrys1 2015 and Jim Tuttle*





## Honey Bee *Apis mellifera*

When to look:

Early spring, from  
temperature 13C

Hairy abdomen with  
black and brown (or  
yellow or orange)  
stripes.

Black head, upper  
body and legs

### *Similar species:*

A wasp: has yellow legs,  
brighter yellow bands on  
its abdomen and lacks the  
hairiness of the Honey Bee.  
Native Australian Bees:  
while it is difficult to see,  
native bees don't have  
hairy eyes like the Honey  
Bee. Also a Honey Bee  
usually has obvious  
"baskets" full of pollen on  
its legs.



*Images courtesy of ClimateWatch users  
Luca Cav and Nicola Storey 2016*





## Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*

### When to look:

*Throughout the year in tropical regions, Late spring to summer in Brisbane*

About 10 cm in length  
(including tail)

The tail has small spines  
and can have a slightly  
flattened appearance

Bulging eyes  
with no eyelids

Fawn to grey body  
with some mottling

Its call is a  
distinctive clicking  
“chuck, chuck,  
chuck...”

### *Similar species:*

Another gecko: some won't have spines on their tails, but all will have a softer and less frequent call.

*Image courtesy of Oliver Bradshaw*



## Frill-necked Lizard *Chlamydosaurus kingii*

When to look:

Sept to Mar, hatchlings  
emerge around Feb

70-95 cm in length,  
about two-thirds of  
length is tail



The frill around its  
neck ranges from  
yellow to black mixed  
with orange and red

### *Similar species:*

Common or Eastern  
Bearded Dragon (*Pogona  
barbata*): usually shorter  
than the Frill-necked  
Lizard, and doesn't have  
the large loose frill sitting  
around its neck (rather it  
has a throat membrane  
which it inflates if  
threatened). It is also only  
found in eastern Australia,  
excluding Cape York  
Peninsula and the cooler  
regions of the south-east.

Grey-brown to  
orange-brown body

Males have a  
black belly

Images courtesy of Josh Freeman 2014 (full  
body) via FlickrCC and B.G. Thomson (head)  
via [www.auswildlife.com](http://www.auswildlife.com)



## Carpet Python *Morelia spilota*

### When to look:

Year round. Look during the day when the sun is out to catch them basking

Variable in colour and pattern, however often have pale, dark-edged blotches, stripes or cross bands). Seven geographical subspecies recognised

Size: up to 3 metres

Small scales present on top of head; more than 3 scales between the eyes

A row of deep heat-sensing pits along the lower jaw

### Similar species:

In Northern Territory: Children's python - similar markings but significantly smaller (75cm). Banded tree snake (Night tiger) distinctive brown/red bands (hence "tiger"), slender body with bulging eyes. Black headed python - distinctive banded pattern and black head.

In Queensland: Amethystine Python (Scrub Python) have larger scales on their head and an iridescent purple sheen. Spotted Python are much smaller (100 - 140 cm)

Image of *M. s. mcdowelli* and *M. s. cheynei* (inset)  
courtesy of Stephen Zozaya



## Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

**When to look:**

*Year-round for adults  
and young*

Body length 80 cm; tail  
length 77 cm, Yellowish-  
brown coat

Prominent white  
face stripe leading  
back from upper lid  
to under eye

### *Similar species:*

Similar to the Red-necked Wallaby and Black-Striped Wallaby, but the range of the latter does not extend to the Bay islands (QLD). No other wallabies will have the prominent white face stripe leading back from upper lid to under eye and a white thigh stripe

Prominent white  
stripe on thigh

*Images courtesy of Flickr CC,  
Geoff Whalan 2014 and 2016*





## Giant Golden Orb *Nephila pilipes*

When to look:  
*Summer to Autumn*

### *Similar species:*

Pirate spider (commonly called Quicksilver Spider): may be mistaken for a male orb spider, it has a conical-shaped abdomen (body).

Coastal Golden Orb Spider (*Nephila plumipes*): doesn't have the red colouring on its palps and has yellow bands near the end of each leg segment (the Giant Golden Orb Spider has discrete patches of bright yellow only on the underside of its leg joints).

Golden Orb Weaver (*Nephila edulis*): Same differences as with the Coastal Golden Orb, and it has black "brushes" or hairs along its legs which the Giant Orb lacks.

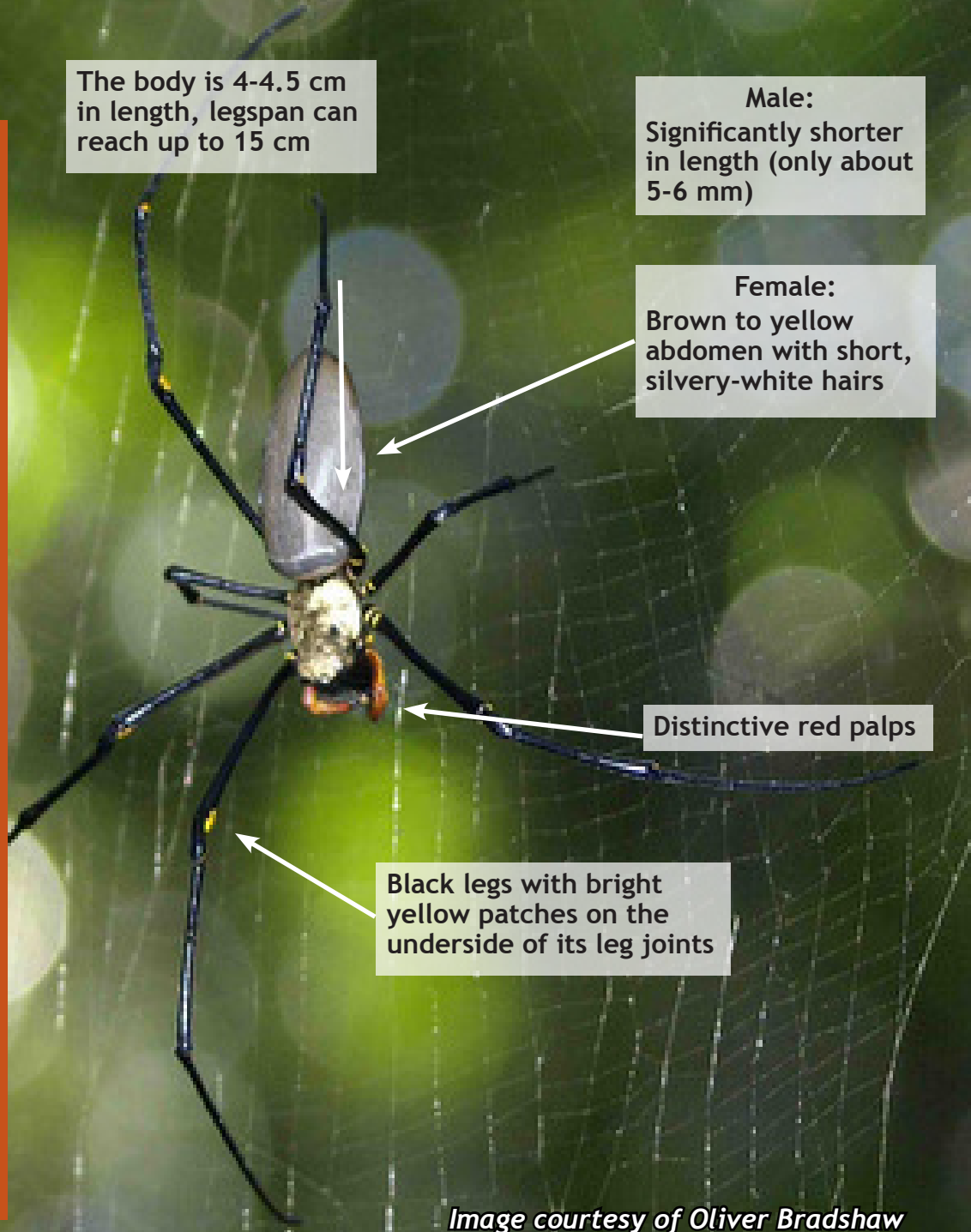
The body is 4-4.5 cm in length, legspan can reach up to 15 cm

Male:  
Significantly shorter in length (only about 5-6 mm)

Female:  
Brown to yellow abdomen with short, silvery-white hairs

Distinctive red palps

Black legs with bright yellow patches on the underside of its leg joints



*Image courtesy of Oliver Bradshaw*



## St Andrew's Cross Spider *Argiope keyserlingii*

When to look:  
*Summer and autumn*

### *Similar species:*

Painted Orb Weaver (*Argiope picta*): less common than the St Andrew's Cross Spider and doesn't normally produce a complete X pattern on its web.

Banded orb-weaving spider (*Argiope trifasciata*): has yellow, white and black bands on its abdomen, and dark brown and pale yellow bands along the entire length of its legs.

Often sits with legs in pairs, forming cross pattern.

It weaves zigzag patterns into its web, forming an X

Silver, yellow, red and black bands across abdomen

Females have a silvery head and dark brown legs with 1 or 2 yellowish bands, while males and juveniles will have brown and cream body and brown legs

*Images courtesy of Volker Fremenau*