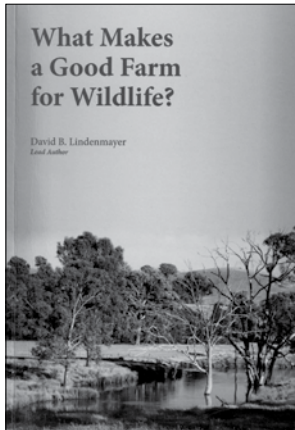


Maintain shrub cover over at least one third of the area within a patch of farm trees

- If planting, avoid too many nectar-producing shrubs which create a honey-pot for larger aggressive honeyeaters such as Noisy Miner

Maintain native vegetation around water

- For rivers, a buffer zone of at least 100m on either side is recommended
- Aim for at least 50m buffer along creeks and small gullies



Recommended Reading

What Makes a Good Farm for Wildlife?
(David Lindenmayer), CSIRO Publishing

Birds on Farms (Geoff Barrett)

Available at www.birdlife.org.au/education-publications/

Renaissance on Lanark (Graeme O'Neill)

Available at www.birdlife.org.au/education-publications/

About the Hunter Bird Observers Club

Aims of the Club

- To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat.
- To encourage bird observing as a leisure time activity.

Activities include

- Monthly evening meetings featuring informative talks and general discussion:
 - *Second Wednesday of each month (except January), 7:30 pm at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Road, Shortland*
 - *Visitors and members are most welcome, to hear interesting and informative guest speakers.*
- Monthly field outings, usually held on Tuesday and Sunday mornings, that cater for every range of expertise.
- Camps, mostly on private property, on Public Holiday long weekends.
- Regular surveys to record information about the local distribution of birds.
- These regular surveys include visits to targeted sites, counts of shorebird numbers, off-shore boat trips.
 - *Members also have opportunities to take part in occasional additional surveys.*



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

To find out how to join visit www.hboc.org.au

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc
PO Box 24, New Lambton, NSW 2305

ABN 62 415 889 446

Bringing back native birds on farms



Pallid Cuckoo



Superb Fairy-wren



Rufous Songlark



Hunter Bird Observers Club

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Local native vegetation coverage of at least 30% of total farm area

- Keeps farm trees healthy, halts salinity and soil deterioration problems
- Maintains optimum long-term productivity
- Over large areas of rural Australia less than 10% of original vegetation remains

Re-create local natural conditions

- Look at the vegetation in remnant patches and along roadsides for guidance
- Best strategy: protect existing remnant vegetation and allow natural regeneration
- If planting is necessary, choose a mixture of local native trees and shrubs

Exclude high-impact land uses from at least 30% of total farm area

- Manage this area in ways that are sympathetic to the local vegetation

Maintain native pastures and avoid heavy grazing

- More than 50% of the declining bird species in temperate Australia forage at least partly on the ground
- By avoiding heavy continuous grazing of an area, pasture and understorey diversity will be greater and bird diversity enhanced

Native vegetation in patches of at least 10ha and linked by strips at least 50m wide

- Large patches are less susceptible to impacts from the surrounding agriculture
- Smaller patches (e.g. for windbreaks) are more effective for bird diversity if they can be linked



Grey-crowned babbler



Zebra Finch



Manage at least 10% of the farm area for wildlife

- Including some of the “best” habitat on the farm
- Create as much habitat diversity as possible, considering the structure of the original vegetation

Maintain a range of tree ages

- Large old trees provide high quality opportunities for feeding and nesting
- The critical tree age for woodland dependent ground foragers is ~35 years

Leave fallen trees to break down naturally

- Fallen trees encourage shrubs to regenerate and leaf litter to build up – creating habitat for ground-foraging birds