



### What Makes a Good Farm for Wildlife?

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*Lead Author*



*Removing willows and excluding stock allows native reeds and rushes to recolonise – dramatic increases in number of insects, frogs and birds.*

## 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](http://www.hboc.org.au)*

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# Farm Dams and Waterways



Rainbow Bee-eater



Spotted Pardalote



Red-rumped Parrot



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White-necked Heron

## Attributes of well-managed streams and natural drainage lines

- Well-developed areas of riparian vegetation
  - No extensive areas of bare banks
  - Vegetation extending from drier areas, into the water
  - These are places for insects, animals and birds to forage and to breed
- Areas of slow-moving water
  - A good waterway includes deep pools and chains of ponds as well as shallow areas of fast-flowing water (ripple zones)
  - Habitat for fish and frogs – food for birds

## Attributes of a good farm dam

- Has an island/islands – safer places for waterbirds to nest and roost
- Partially submerged logs – a roost for waterbirds, and a launching pad for insect-eaters
- Aquatic vegetation
- Areas of shallow water
- Fenced riparian section



Purple Swamphen

## Bird diversity is often higher around dams and waterways

- The bird assemblages are different from those in the rest of the landscape
- Species such as Rainbow Bee-eater, Fairy Martin and Spotted Pardalote breed in exposed earth banks around waterways
- Numbers and diversity of insects, reptiles, mammals also increase – food for birds



Peron's Tree Frog

*The presence of frogs does not necessarily mean that the habitat is healthy. Some frogs are very adaptive and can live in quite polluted areas.*

