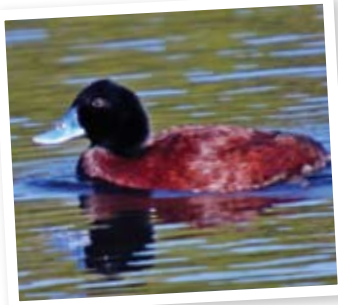


Town of Vincent Birds

Pacific Black Duck (Anas superciliosa)

It is a very common duck that is often seen resting during the day. It is a brown duck with each feather tipped buff, giving the plumage a lacy scalloped effect. It has a black line through its eye with a white line above and below it. They have olive-yellow legs and a grey beak. Males and females are similar in appearance. They have a bright green patch, called a speculum, on the wings that is iridescent, turning purple at some angles. They appear to stand on their heads in the water while feeding. They feed on seeds and vegetation.



Blue-Billed Duck (Oxyura australis)

These birds are found only in Australia. They are rarely seen on land and are very good divers searching for plants, larvae and invertebrates. The tail feathers are stiff, pointed and black, sometimes submerged or fan-like. The female has dark brown plumage with lighter brown flecks and a grey bill. The male is chestnut with a black head and blue bill. When breeding the bill of the male becomes a much brighter blue. Its courtship display is very distinctive - the male splashes back with both feet and almost stands on its tail.

Eurasian Coot (Fulica atra)

The coot has a slate grey to black body, easily distinguished by its white frontal shield. It has lobed toes for swimming. Usually lives in flocks. It dives for aquatic plants or feeds on lawns. The nest is made of sticks, grass and reeds, either free-floating or on a small low-lying island. They are the main food source of the Swamp Harrier. Immature coots have grey bills. They rest in the paper barks.



Darter (Anhinga melanogaster)

It has a small head with a stiletto like bill on the end of a long neck. It looks a bit like a snake in the water when it spears its fish, 'snake bird'. Females have buff coloured underparts compared to the male that is a richer chestnut colour with a darker body. It holds out its wings to dry after diving as they become saturated with water.

Dusky Moorhen (Gallinula tenebrosa)

They usually live on swamps with reeds. This bird has a slate grey to black body. They often flick their tails and show their white undertail. They have a red shield and beak that is tipped with yellow.



Great Egret (Ardea alba)

It is a very graceful, white bird with a yellow bill often seen wading through reeds or amongst fringing vegetation along the edges of wetlands looking for food. During breeding they develop long plume feathers and their bills turn black. Often it stands still in water with its neck in a 'question mark' position.

Town of Vincent Birds

Intermediate Egret (Ardea intermedia)

This is a white bird with yellow bill. During breeding its bill turns an orange-red and its dark legs turn reddish to the knees. It often stands still in water with its neck straight.

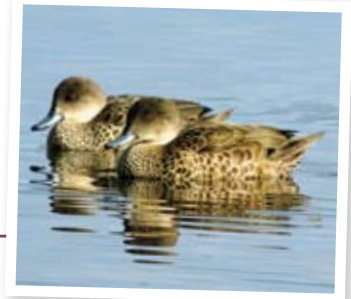


Australasian Grebe (Tachybaptus novaehollandiae)

Rarely seen ashore, this small, brownish, dumpy bird has a dark head and neck, yellow eye and with a pale yellow face spot and a chestnut stripe at the side of its neck when breeding. It dives well and has waterproof feathers and lobed toes. It eats frogs and insects and sometimes feathers, which is thought to help its digestion.

Grey Teal (Anas gibberifrons)

They are a small grey coloured duck with a pale neck area and red eye. Their body feathers are a bit similar to a black duck but lighter. They show a distinctive white pattern on their wings when they fly.



Australian White Ibis (Threskionis molucca)

Also known as Sacred Ibis with Egyptian heritage. It has a white body with a black head. They use their long, curved beak to feed on crustaceans, insects and molluscs. They are increasing in numbers and taking over nesting cormorant colonies.

Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)

These large ducks have yellow bills with dark green heads, a narrow white collar and brownish breast. Native to North America they were brought to Australia in 1871 to be "ornamental" ducks. They are a close relative of the Pacific Black Duck and the two can interbreed and produce fertile offspring. Mallards are more aggressive and could damage Pacific Duck populations.



Musk Duck (Bizura lobota)

This duck looks very strange and rarely goes on land. When swimming its body and tail are partially submerged, at other times its stiff, pointed tail feathers are fan-like. They are very good divers and are usually seen in deeper water diving for shellfish. The male has a very distinctive flap of skin, or wattle, that hangs from its bill. It becomes larger during the breeding season. Its display, early in the morning, includes splashing water into the air and making a 'plonk' noise followed by a sharp whistle. They usually fly only at night.

Town of Vincent Birds

Purple Swamphen (Porphyrio porphyrio)

This hen is the largest of Australia's crane species. Their impressive red shield, bill and forehead is used to cut reeds, grass and dismember crustaceans and other prey. They nest among the reeds. It has a deep blue to purple neck and breast with a white undertail. It feeds amongst the trees and nearby lawns. It has long, slender toes for walking on the vegetation and sometimes for holding its food while it tears it apart. It does not fly very well.



Black Swan (Cygnus atratus)

The black swan really surprised the early settlers as they were used to white swans. They are black birds with white wing tips and red bills with a white line at the end. Females have shorter necks and have eyes and bills that are lighter in colour. Their young, cygnets, are the original 'ugly ducklings'.

Willy Wagtail (Rhipidura leucophrys)

Its common name is due to the habit they have of holding their tails upright and fanned, and moving them constantly from side to side. They are often seen on lawns and parks as they are very bold and active. They defend their territory aggressively when nesting. They build a cup-shaped nest of grass and cobwebs. They have a harsh, chittering alarm call as well as other musical calls.



Australian Wood Duck (Chenonetta jubata)

They are usually nomadic but will remain in an area if there is plenty of food. They require little water and enjoy lawn grass. They resemble miniature geese and are often called 'maned geese'. Both male and female have exquisite brown and grey tonings. Males have dark brown heads and white sides but females have a white line above and below their eyes and their flanks are speckled with brown.