

Reservoirs FOR NATURE.



Bird foraging and habitat at Myponga Reservoir Reserve

Reservoirs for Nature connects people with nature while restoring habitats, enhancing biodiversity and offsetting carbon emissions.



Myponga
Reservoir
Reserve

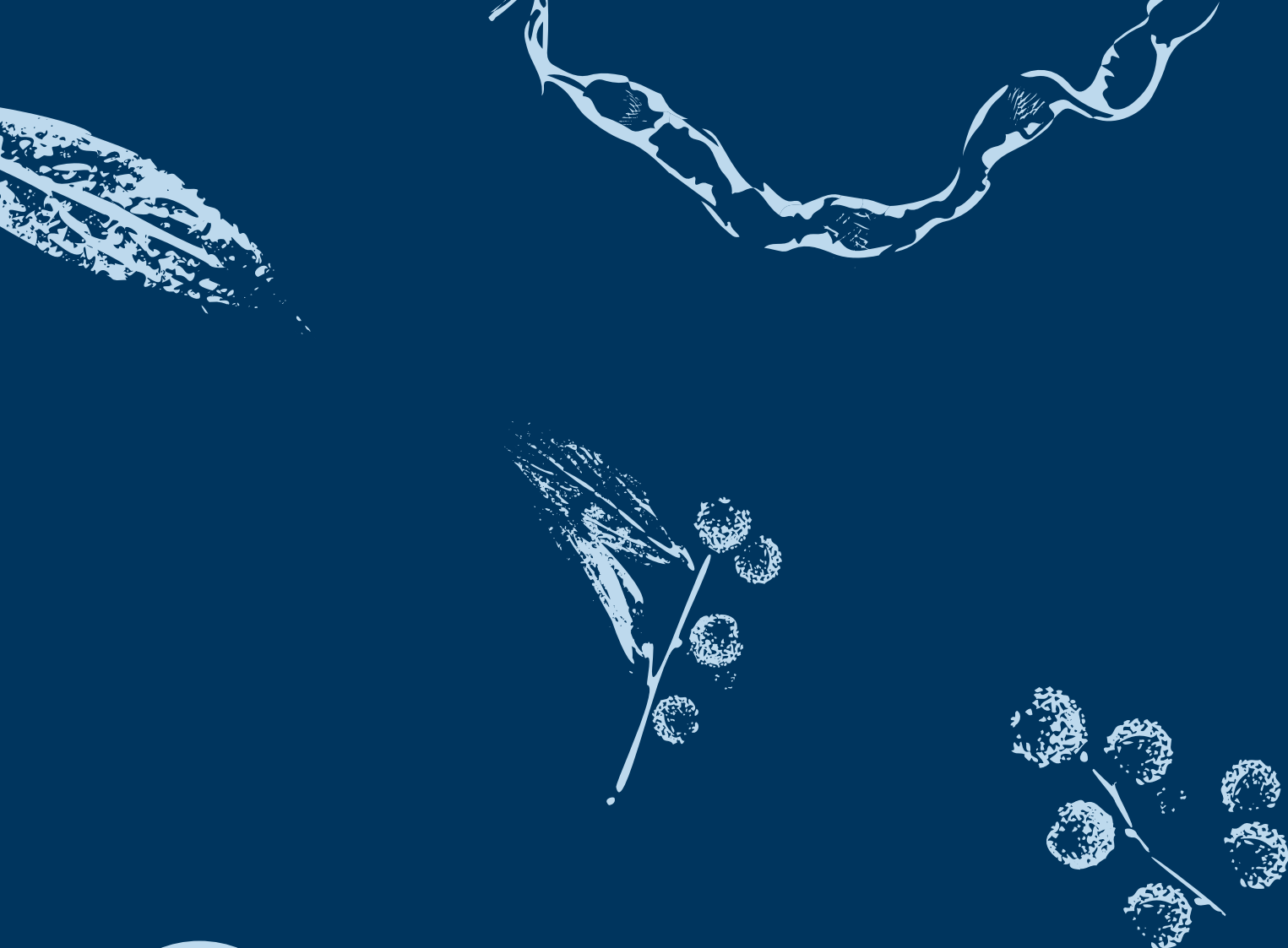


Together with



Government of
South Australia





We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout South Australia. We recognise their unique and continuing connection to lands and waters. We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples visiting or living in South Australia.

All illustrations in this booklet were created by Jason Tyndall, Nature Play SA

How foraging guilds reveal the ways birds find food and use their habitat

The way a bird feeds, moves, nests and finds shelter can tell us a lot about its habitat. What it eats and where it finds its food are closely connected to the plants, insects and other living things around it.

A *foraging guild* is a way of grouping birds by how they find their food. Some catch insects in the air, others search through bark, foliage or leaf litter, while others feed on seeds, fruit or nectar. These different feeding behaviours are part of what makes an ecosystem so interconnected.

Plants provide food and habitat for insects, while some birds help pollinate plants and disperse seeds. The birds we find, and how they feed, can tell us something about the food and habitat available across a landscape.

Through Reservoirs for Nature, native vegetation and habitat are being restored at Myponga and other reservoir reserves. As native vegetation recovers, it can provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife.

Here are some of the foraging guilds found at Myponga Reservoir Reserve. While birds may use more than one way to find and collect food, they have been grouped here according to their main feeding behaviour.

Aerial Sweepers

Catch flying insects while moving through the air, often making quick turns and changes of direction as they pursue their prey. At Myponga, this includes Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins.

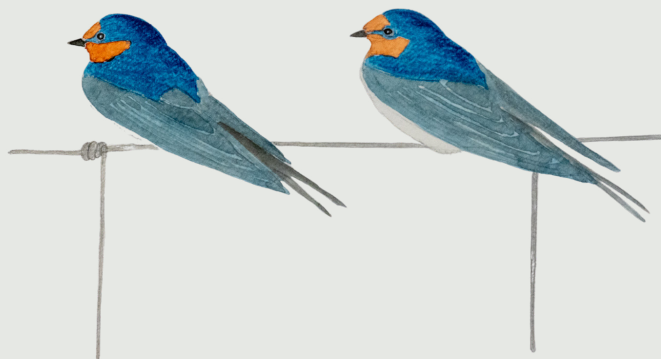
Aerial sweepers make quick flights through and alongside vegetation, catching insects as they move. Rather than searching through leaves or bark, they take their prey in the air, sometimes catching insects disturbed by the movement of other animals.

What they tell us:

Sweepers are closely connected to the insects and vegetation around them. Their presence can provide clues about insect availability and the condition of the habitat that supports it.

Welcome Swallow

(*Hirundo neoxena*)



Ground Pouncers

Watch from a perch before making a quick dash to catch prey. At Myponga, this includes Scarlet Robins and Laughing Kookaburras.

Pouncers watch from a perch before making a quick dash to catch prey on the ground or in nearby vegetation. Their short, directed flights allow them to hunt without constantly moving through the habitat.

What they tell us:

Pouncers rely on both good places to perch and prey in the ground and lower vegetation layers. They can provide clues about the structure and complexity of the habitat.

Scarlet Robin

(Petroica boodang)

Rare, SA



Bark Probers

Search the bark of trees for insects hidden in cracks and crevices. At Myponga, this includes White-throated Treecreepers and Eastern Shrike-tits.

Bark probers use their bills to explore bark, cracks and crevices on trunks and branches, reaching insects that are hidden from view. Their specialised foraging connects them closely with mature trees and the life living within their bark.

What they tell us:

Bark probers can provide clues about the presence of mature trees with intact bark and the invertebrate life they support.

White-throated Treecreeper

(Cormobates leucophaea)



Frugivores

Feed on fruit and help carry seeds from one place to another. At Myponga, this includes Mistletoebirds.

Frugivores feed mainly on fruit and other fleshy plant material. As they move between plants, the seeds they swallow can pass through their digestive system and be deposited elsewhere.

What they tell us:

Frugivores are closely linked to fruiting plants and seed dispersal. They can provide clues about the plants producing fruit and the processes that support regeneration.

Mistletoebird

(*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*)



Granivores

Feed mainly on seeds, often searching the ground or low vegetation. At Myponga, this includes Elegant Parrots, Common Bronzewings and Crested Pigeons.

Granivores rely on seeds as a major part of their diet, often finding them on the ground or among low vegetation. Their movements are closely tied to where and when plants produce seeds.

What they tell us:

Granivores can provide clues about seed availability and the condition of the ground layer. Changes in their numbers may reflect changes in plant communities or grazing pressure.

Elegant Parrot

(*Neophema elegans*)

Rare SA



Nectarivores

Feed on nectar from flowering plants and sometimes insects. At Myponga, this includes Eastern Spinebills, Musk Lorikeets and Rainbow Lorikeets.

Nectarivores feed primarily on floral nectar, often supplementing their diet with insects. Their movements follow the flowering of plants, particularly eucalypts and other nectar-producing species.

What they tell us:

Nectarivores are closely connected to flowering plants and seasonal changes in flowering. They can provide clues about the availability and productivity of important food plants.

Rainbow Lorikeet

(Trichoglossus moluccanus)



Ground Foragers

Search through the ground layer for insects, spiders and other small prey. At Myponga, this includes Superb Fairywrens, Magpie-larks, and Yellow-rumped Thornbills.

Ground foragers feed on or close to the ground, finding prey by walking, running, probing or moving through leaf litter. Their feeding brings them into close contact with the ground cover and understorey.

What they tell us:

Ground foragers can provide clues about the condition of the ground layer, including leaf litter, fallen timber, understorey cover and the prey living within it.

Superb Fairywren

(Malurus cyaneus)



Foliage searchers

Move through leaves and branches, searching for insects and other small invertebrates. At Myponga, this includes Brown Thornbills, Striated Pardalotes and White-naped Honeyeaters.

Foliage searchers work their way through shrubs and trees, systematically searching leaves, twigs and fine foliage for insects and other invertebrates. Their movements can take them through different layers of vegetation.

What they tell us:

Foliage searchers can provide clues about the condition of shrub and canopy vegetation and the insects living among it.

Brown Thornbill

(*Acanthiza pusilla*)



For more information on our Reservoirs for Nature program please scan the QR code or visit sawater.com.au

