

Gardens for wildlife

Nectar plants

Honeyeaters and lorikeets have long brush tipped tongues to access nectar from a broad selection of trees and shrubs: banksias, hakeas, eucalypts, paperbarks, bottlebrushes, tea trees and correas. Eating too much seed wears down the fine hairs on the tongues and prevent them accessing nectar.

To attract many species of nectar feeding birds, both large and small, to your garden plant a variety of native shrubs and trees to produce flowers at different times of the year. Shrubs like correas that produce flowers all over their branches and not just at their tips are particularly attractive to small honeyeaters as the foliage provides protection as the small birds feed.

Different species of flowering plants will attract a diversity of nectar feeding insects, which is a boon, as even honeyeaters need to eat copious amounts of insects and many birds rely on insects to feed their chicks.

Avoid using just hybrid grevillea varieties as their constant supply of large nectar laden flowers encourages dominance by larger honeyeaters and miner birds that, with their territorial behaviour, chase away other smaller birds.



A banksia is a rich source of nectar. It also provides seeds and attracts insects. No matter what the dietary requirements, a banksia should cater for most native birds!

Photo: Banksia Marginata by Kevin Sparrow, Natureshare

Wrens, thornbills and pardalotes eat insects. Small honeyeaters eat insects and well as nectar. Finches eat seeds and insects. The number of small birds in our gardens is unfortunately decreasing.



Plants to attract small honeyeaters

- Common Correa (Correa reflexa)
- White Correa (Correa alba)
- Hairpin banksia (Banksia spinulosa)
- Silver Banksia (Banksia marginata)
- Mountain Grevillea (Grevillea alpina)
- Furze Hakea (Hakea ulicina)
- Yellow Hakea (Hakea nodosa)
- Scented Paperbark (Melaleuca squarrosa)
- Swamp Paperbark (Melaleuca ericoides)

Photo: Common Correa by Chris Clarke, Natureshare



Photo: Eastern Spinebill by Chris Clarke, Natureshare

