

Centre for Continuing Education

Creating a wildlife friendly garden

Robin Villiers-Brown

Want a garden full of birdsong and butterflies? This course shows you how to create an easy-to-maintain garden that's a haven to be enjoyed by both yourself and wildlife. It shows you not only how to attract birds to your garden, but other creatures, such as butterflies and frogs. Your garden can become a home for a myriad of beautiful birds and other creatures.

- Week 1** Overview. Designing an environmentally friendly garden
- Week 2** Birds in your garden
- Week 3** Butterflies and other small wildlife
- Week 4** Water in your garden; frogs in the garden (includes how to build a pond and landscaping around the pond)
- Week 5** Possums and other mammals. Pets as pests, and wildlife as pests
- Week 6** Further discussion – based upon the course participant's requests.

It is preferred (ie. optional but not mandatory) that you try to get a copy of "Birds of Canberra Gardens". All other information will be provided in the course.

Robin holds a BA in Environmental Sociology from the University of Queensland and a MPhil (sociology) from ANU. She has worked for environment groups, mainly in Queensland, since 1969. Robin has given workshops on a range of environmental topics since 1991 and has produced a number of educational leaflets to help people create wildlife friendly gardens.

DATES/TIMES: 6-8pm on 6 Wednesdays from 5 August

FEE: \$210

COURSE LOCATION: The venue for this course can be found on your tax invoice/receipt (under "Course Information"). Please allow enough time to locate the venue on the first evening.

"The views expressed in this course/activity are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University"

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The definition of a bird; ancestors and evolution

Definition

Ancestors

Evolution of the Australian avifauna

1. *Bird-watching techniques and tools*

Field Guides

Reference books and tapes

Binoculars

Telescopes

Techniques

2. *Basic adaptations*

Minimum size – temperature control

Maximum size – mechanics

Feathers

Skeleton and musculature

Wing shape

Respiration and circulation

Digestive tract and feeding; excretion

Reproduction, nests and eggs

Senses and vocalisations

Swimming

The flightless option

3. *Australian bioregions and habitats*

Bioregions

Habitats

4. *Bird ecology and behaviour*

Community and population ecology

Migration and nomadism

Territory

Reproductive strategies

- r vs K strategies
- monogamy vs polygamy
- seasonality vs opportunism
- co-operative breeding

Courtship

Feeding strategies

1. *Brief introduction to taxonomy and DNA hybridisation theory*

Purpose of taxonomy

DNA hybridisation method

2. *The Australian bird fauna – an outline*

Considers all the Australian bird families in order, with mention of, and some detail about, all local species. This where we apply all the above.

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