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Cover images

Front cover: Wetlands provide important habitats for waterbirds, such as this adult great egret (Ardea modesta) at Leichhardt Lagoon in Queensland (© Copyright, Brian Furby)

Back cover: Inland wetlands, like Narran Lakes Nature Reserve Ramsar site in New South Wales, support high numbers of waterbird breeding and provide refuge for birds during droughts (© Copyright, Dragi Markovic)

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Introduction to *Wetlands Australia*

August 2014

Waterbirds depend on wetlands. Biologically productive wetland habitats support a variety of life cycle stages, including feeding, breeding, nesting and moulting, for many resident and migratory waterbirds.

This edition of *Wetlands Australia* will highlight the important role wetlands play in supporting waterbirds. It includes stories of successful wetland restoration and conservation works, waterbird monitoring and research programs and community projects within wetlands that benefit waterbirds.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of *Wetlands Australia*, please contact wetlandsmail@environment.gov.au



Coastal estuaries, such as Moulting Lagoon Ramsar site in Tasmania, provide important staging areas for waterbirds. The name Moulting Lagoon is derived from when black swans (Cygnus atratus) shed their flight feathers which can be seen piled up along the shoreline (© Copyright, Michelle McAulay)



Pied heron at Marlgu Billabong on the Ord River Floodplain, Western Australia (© Copyright, Jim Mollison)