

BIRDWATCHING AROUND KUNUNURRA

Kununurra has an excellent variety of areas that are easy to get to by 2WD with an exciting list of about 200 bird species including 11 finches, many waterbirds, raptors, honeyeaters and *summer migrants* (late September to early April), many of which are difficult to see elsewhere in WA.

A Kimberleyland Holiday Park and Lily Creek Lagoon

Look around the edge of Lily Creek lagoon and across from the boat ramp for White-browed Crake, Green Pygmy-goose, Osprey, Comb-crested Jacana, terns, waterbirds and White-breasted Woodswallow and in the reeds for finches (including Star Finch) and Pheasant Coucal. Clamorous Reed-warbler is common and *Oriental Reed-warbler* has been seen in the wet season.

B Kona Caravan Park and Golf Course

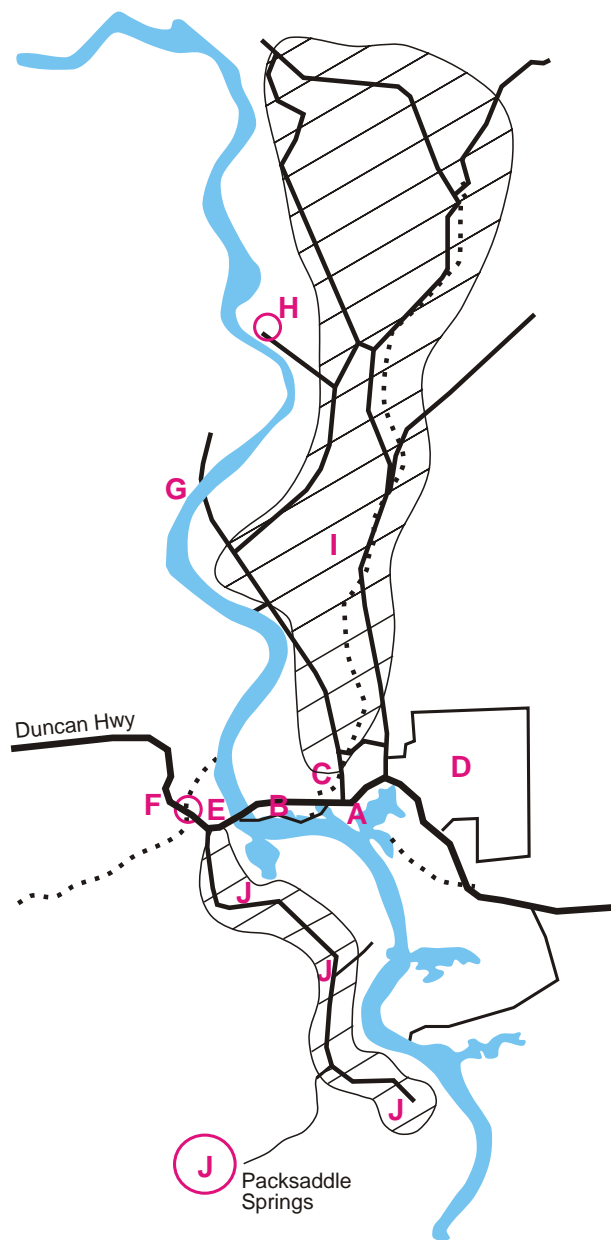
Check along the roadside and the lakeside vegetation for Yellow and Olive-backed Orioles, White-gaped Honeyeater, Brush Cuckoo and White-browed Robin. Check the ponds and irrigation channel for crakes, ducks and possibly Little and Black Bitterns. Blue-faced Honeyeater, White-browed Robin and Yellow Oriole can often be found near the clubhouse. Check the woodland and ponds around the golf course for finches, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Banded Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler, pardalotes, *Dollarbird*, *Common Koel*, White-browed Crake, *snipe* and *Yellow Wagtail*.

C Sewage Ponds

Access is by a track about 500 metres from Duncan Highway on the left along the road to Ivanhoe Crossing. Access is restricted but by walking around the fence you can look for finches (including Star Finch), ducks (including Radjah Shelduck) and other water birds (including Pied Heron), raptors and *waders*. In the wet season look in the surrounding scrub for Rufous Songlark and Red-chested Button-quail.

D Hidden Valley

Walk along the roads and marked trails and check side gullies for honeyeaters, White-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Northern Rosella and Peregrine Falcon.



E Diversion Dam and boat ramp

Look from both sides of the dam for Pied Heron, Comb-crested Jacana, White-browed Crake, cormorants, finches and raptors. Look near the boat ramp for orioles, kingfishers, White-breasted Woodswallow, Mistletoebird, Brush Cuckoo and *Common Koel*.

F Dunham River bridge

Look from the bridge for Bar-breasted Honeyeater, Shining Flycatcher, White-browed Robin and Black Bittern. Walk along the west bank looking for orioles, *Dollarbird*, *Channel-billed Cuckoo* and crocodiles!

G Ivanhoe Crossing

Look in the riverside vegetation for White-throated Gerygone, Northern Fantail and finches. Look in the irrigated fields at the start of the gravel road for Magpie Goose, Cattle Egret, Brolga and ibis.

H Kimberley Research Station

Look over the river at up to 30,000 Magpie Geese, Little Corella, Plumed Whistling-Duck plus White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Black-necked Stork. Look at any wet areas and drains along the road for waterbirds and *waders*.

I Weaber Plains

Drive along any of the roads, including Riverfarm Road. Look for Australian Bustard, Brolga and Australian Pratincole in the ploughed fields; Golden-headed Cisticola, Singing Bushlark and finches in the roadside vegetation; woodswallows and raptors on the power lines; mannikins and waterbirds along the irrigation channels and small swamps. Riverfarm Road and the area near the melon farm is usually the best area to find Yellow-rumped Mannikin and many other finches. Look at night for Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth, Barn Owl and Grass Owl.

J Packsaddle Plains

Drive along the main road and side roads to Zebra Rock Gallery. There are similar species to Weaber Plains, although there are more roadside trees. A 4WD side track to Packsaddle Springs is worthwhile for White-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Variegated Fairy-wren, finches, Blue-faced Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Grey Butcherbird, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Pacific Baza.

Other Locations

Other recommended excursions include a boat trip on Lake Kununurra, Lake Argyle, the Argyle homestead and a trip to Wyndham (see a separate brochure).

If you go on a boat trip, let them know that you are interested in the birds and you should expect to see many waterbirds, some waders (especially in the wet season), some terns, a good variety of raptors and good chances for Yellow Chat and Purple-crowned Fairy-wren.

Because of its size, Lake Argyle is large enough to have a number of species that are normally considered coastal, such as White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Osprey, Pied Cormorant, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull and Brahminy Kite.

On the drive to Lake Argyle look in the slopes with eucalypts for Little Woodswallow, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Jacky Winter, Grey Butcherbird and honeyeaters. Some of the creeks such as Fine Springs Creek and Matchbox Creek often have pools of water which attract birds. Dead Horse Springs is definitely worth a stop in the early morning for White-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Sandstone-Shrike-thrush, Brown Quail and finches (Painted Finch and Gouldian Finch have been seen).



Comb-crested Jacana

NOTES

WHAT IS BIRDS AUSTRALIA?

Birds Australia is a non-profit national organisation working for the enjoyment, study and conservation of Australia's birds. The WA group of Birds Australia has members statewide and offers a variety of activities for members, including conservation and research projects.

Activities and services include excursions, camp-outs, bird surveys and social activities. We also have a library, books for sale and information about birds.

To view our full range of bird guides and bird lists, visit our web site.

INTERESTED?

Contact us at:
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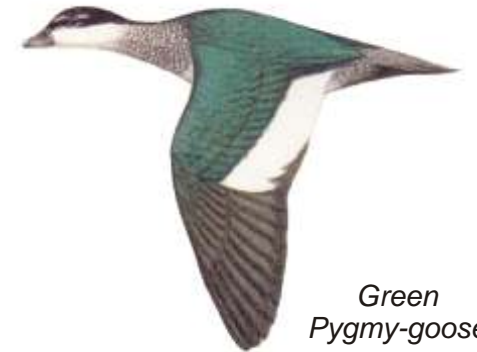
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Prepared by Birds Australia
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Number 02a in a series of
Bird Guides of Western Australia



*Green
Pygmy-geese*

