

BIRDWATCHING AROUND KALBARRI

The Murchison River, running through the coastal sandplain to Kalbarri, provides a wide range of habitat that includes eucalypt woodland, river flats, mallee heathland, deep river pools and a broad estuary. With beaches and reefs, they support about 200 bird species.

The park heathlands are noted for their wildflowers. Banksias, grevillias, hibiscus and verticordia provide blooms of every colour. Honeyeaters feature predominantly among the bush birds in the heath. Black and Pied Honeyeater which are resident and breed in the park are especially active in the spring when the emu-bushes, *Eremophila*, are in flower.

The Estuary

Visit the estuary to see the Osprey. There will also be many other birds present, including gulls, terns, cormorants, pelicans. You may also see the White-bellied Sea-eagle flying above the water.

Kalbarri to Red Bluff

This road crosses Wittecarra Creek which, after rain, has a flood area where ducks, grebes and waders breed. Spend some time along the creek near Red Bluff Caravan Park where you should see and hear a Southern Scrub-robin.

Red Bluff to old airstrip

Along the road can be seen Splendid, White-winged and Variegated Fairy-wren and Redthroat. Chats are common in this area. At the disused gravel pit, honeyeaters and Rock Parrot can be seen.

The River Tracks

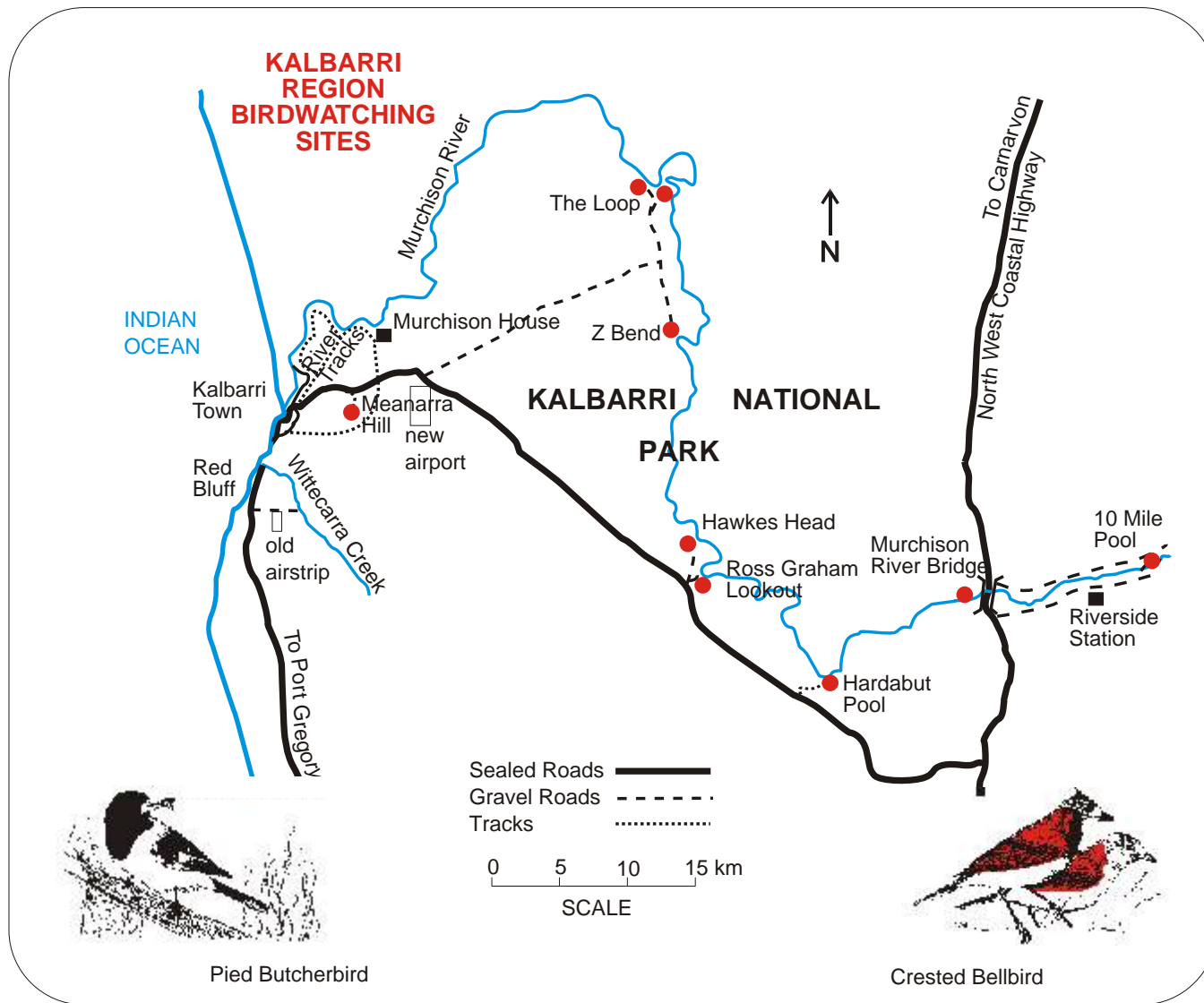
These follow the river upstream and can be rough at times. The area has a large variety of birds: ducks, raptors and both butcherbirds can be present. Look out for doves, parrots, cockatoos and cuckoos.

Meanarra Hill

On an early morning visit there are magnificent views of the area, which can provide whistlers, thornbills, Redthroat, fairywrens and honeyeaters.

The River Gorges

Look out for Bustard and Emu along the road. The scenery at all four gorges is spectacular. Fairy Martin nest in the cliff sides and raptors are abundant, with Peregrine Falcon at Hawkes Head. Both Pied and Black Honeyeater have been



seen at the Loop and Z Bend. If you are reasonably fit, take your lunch and spend a pleasant day walking around the Loop. Fan-tailed, Black-eared, Horsfield's and Shining Bronze Cuckoo are all present with their host species. Short-billed Black-Cockatoo may be seen.

Murchison River Bridge

Excellent birding country exists between the bridge and 10 Mile Pool. Camping is allowed with good tracks on both sides of the river. In the larger pools are Blue-billed Duck,

Australian Shelduck and Hardhead Duck. Diamond and Peaceful Dove are numerous, also Common Bronzewing, and in the drier areas Splendid and Blue-breasted Fairy-wren. At least 80 species are here for the ticking!

LOCAL CONTACTS

Don & Barbara Bellairs, Kalflora (08) 9937 1229
 Judy Taylor (08) 9937 1279

NOTES



Regent Parrot

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:
Birds Australia Western Australia Inc.
167 Perry Lakes Drive
Floreat WA 6014 Weekdays 9.30 - 12.30 pm

Phone: (08) 9383 7749
Fax: (08) 9387 8412
Email: mail@birdswa.com.au
Web: www.birdswa.com.au



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