

BIRDWATCHING AROUND MARGARET RIVER

Margaret River is an excellent centre from which to visit the coastal scenery and walks through the Karri/Jarrah forests. It is also an opportunity to explore the region's wineries and to visit some of its famous caves.

A Rotary Park and The Old Settlement

Near the bridge at the entrance to the town of Margaret River is a shaded walk along the river. Look for Western Rosella, Red-capped Parrot, Splendid Fairy-wren, White-breasted Robin, Golden Whistler and other bush birds.

There are wildflowers in spring.

B Gracetown, Cowaramup Bay

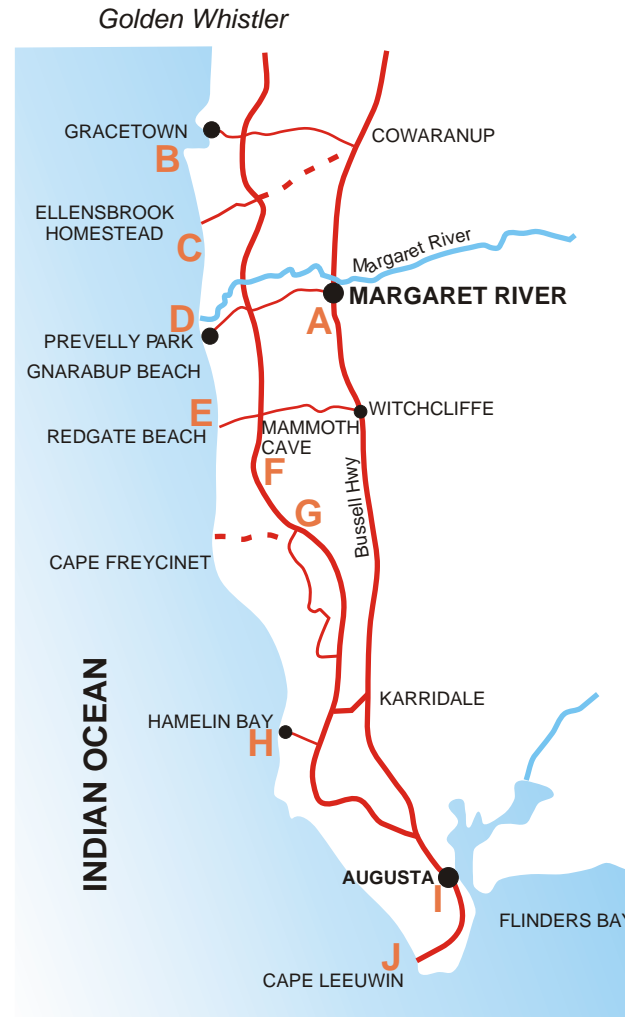
Take Cowaramup Bay Road (see sign just south of Cowaramup) to a sandy beach near the township. Twenty metres on find a culvert over the brook. Follow the path along the brook and up the low gradient hill under the shady peppermints. This is an opportunity to see many birds at close range including Brush Bronzewing, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Long-billed Black-Cockatoo and Red-eared Firetail.

In the bushes near the bridge Southern Emu-wren can usually be seen.

C Ellensbrook Homestead

Travel Ellensbrook Road from Caves Road to the Homestead in a grassy clearing beside the brook. Look for Elegant Parrot, Grey Butcherbird and Black-faced Woodswallow.

This is a lovely picnic spot with orchids and other flowers.



MARGARET RIVER BIRDWATCHING SITES

D Gnarabup Beach

Take Prevelly Park Road from Margaret River. Look for Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Sooty Oystercatcher and Crested Tern. The bush nearby is good for Southern Emu-wren and White-browed Scrubwren.

E Redgate Beach

Go down Redgate Road to the beach. Australasian Gannet, Eastern Reef Egret, Osprey and Hooded Plover are worth looking for. In the vegetation near the beach look for Rock Parrot. Little Eagle, Australian Hobby and Nankeen Kestrel have been seen here.

F Mammoth Cave

Look for the signpost on the left of Caves Road several kilometres south of Redgate Road. There are tall Karri trees and bush understorey. Around the parking area and along the track beside the power lines look for Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Sacred Kingfisher, Scarlet Robin and many other species.

G Boranup Scenic Drive

Look for the sign on Caves Road, south of the Lake Cave tearooms. Drive or walk through Boranup Karri forest to see Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Splendid Fairy-wren, White-breasted Robin, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden Whistler and many other birds.

H Hamelin Bay

Hamelin Bay is 38 km south of Margaret River and a short drive off Caves Road. Walk to the freshwater lake near the caravan park. Waterbirds include Grey Teal, Purple Swamphen and grebes. Collared Sparrowhawk and Little Eagle sighting have been seen here. Visit the beach for possible sighting of

Hooded Plover. In summer Sanderling and Bridled Tern are visitors.

I Augusta

Hardy Inlet and the Blackwood River are excellent for boating and canoeing. Look for migratory waders (November to March), Darter and Caspian Tern. You may be very lucky and see a Black Bittern along the Blackwood River.

J Cape Leeuwin

Take a drive from Augusta to Cape Leeuwin and visit the lighthouse and old waterwheel. This area is a favourite haunt of the Rock Parrot.

The Cape is an excellent place to go sea birding in winter. Southern and Northern Giant-Petrel, Cape and Great-winged Petrel, Black-browed, Shy and Yellow-nosed Albatross, Wilson's Storm-Petrel and Australasian Gannet have all been sighted here.

K The Islands

The small islands just off the coast are reserves for breeding sea birds. Little Penguin, Flesh-footed and Little Shearwaters and Bridled and Crested Terns form colonies here.



Rock 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.

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Prepared by Birds Australia
Western Australia Inc.

BIRDWATCHING around MARGARET RIVER

Number 23a in a series of
Bird Guides of Western Australia



Southern
Emu-wren



Nov 2005