

BIRDWATCHING AROUND WALPOLE

Bird watchers will find a fascinating variety of habitats to explore in the Walpole-Nornalup area. It is possible to visit Karri and Tingle forests, the shoreline and shallows of the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets, the Frankland and Deep Rivers, the Southern Ocean coastline, aeolian dunes, heathlands, granite outcrops and swamp areas. Due to the mosaic nature of the vegetation and the high mobility of most bird species there is a considerable overlap in the species richness between all these landforms.

As an introduction to the area, the following sites are recommended.

WALPOLE TO COALMINE BEACH

This area is excellent for bird-watching with its mosaic of habitats - heath, Jarrah-Karri forest, coastline of the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets and peppermint groves.

1 THE KNOLL

Walk or drive this 4 kilometre sealed road. You should see Red-tailed and Baudin's Black Cockatoos, Crested Shrike-tit, Varied Sitella, Rufous Treecreeper and Yellow-rumped Pardalote and many other species.

At Coalmine Beach, Osprey and White-bellied Sea-eagle can usually be seen over the inlet.

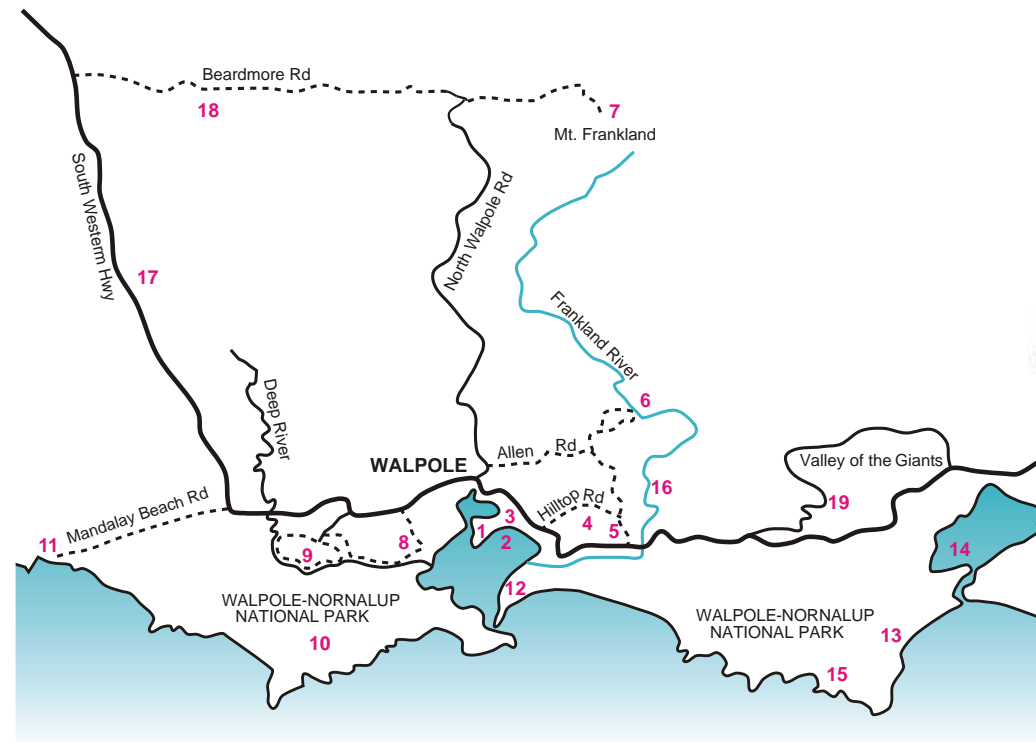
Within the Peppermint groves in and around the caravan park (2) can usually be seen several endemic species - Western Rosella, Red-winged Fairy-wren, White-breasted Robin and Red-eared Firetail. Many other species include Common and Brush Bronzewing, Tawny Frogmouth and Scarlet Robin.

3 COALMINE BEACH HERITAGE TRAIL

The trail is 3 kilometres between Walpole and Coalmine Beach. From October to December, look for orchids and in August Brown Boronia (*Boronia megastigma*). Many birds can be met including several raptors, Southern Emu-wren, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Red-eared Firetail.

4 HILLTOP LOOKOUT 5 GIANT TINGLE TREE

A one-way circular drive along Hilltop Road enables you to see spectacular views from Hilltop Lookout and to visit the largest buttressed eucalypt in the world, the giant Tingle tree (*Eucalyptus Jacksonii*). Birds to be seen include White-breasted Robin and Red-eared Firetail.



Red-eared Firetail

6 CIRCULAR POOL

Further along the one-way route is Circular Pool - the Black Bittern has been heard calling here. As you travel through dairy farming areas watch out for birds of the open fields including Straw-necked and Australian White Ibis.

7 MOUNT FRANKLAND

Situated in the Mt. Frankland National Park, 32 km along the North Walpole Road, the granite dome of Mt. Frankland rises above the forest floor. There are two beautiful walks:

Summit Walk with 360 degree views over thousands of hectares of forest country and across to the Stirling Range, the Southern Ocean and Broke Inlet.

Rockwood Trail around the base of the granite dome taking you under rocky overhangs with moss and ferns and through beautiful surrounding forest.

Look for Wedge-tailed Eagle, Long-billed Black-Cockatoo, Rufous Treecreeper, White-breasted Robin, Red-winged Fairy-wren and White-naped Honeyeater. You may be lucky and see a Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

8 DELTA ROAD 9 SHEDLEY DRIVE

These two roads follow the Deep River through the beautiful Karri and Tingle forest. They are often closed in the winter months so check at the CALM office before proceeding.

Start off at Isle Road, 4 km west along the SW Highway. At the mouth of Deep River are Pelican, White-faced Heron, Osprey and Black-shouldered Kite. Continue along Delta Road, Tinglewood Road and Shedley Drive. Along the way look out for Striated Pardalote, White-browed Babbler, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden Whistler, and Red-eared Firetail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CALM

(08) 9840 1027

10 NUYTS WILDERNESS

Vehicles must be left at Trailhead on Shedley Drive; register before commencing the walk. The 14 km trail commences at the swing bridge which crosses Deep River. Look for Sacred Kingfisher and Purple-crowned Lorikeet. You will pass Karri forest, Casuarina thickets and heathland, to the coastal dunes and granite headlands. Along the way look for Red-capped Parrot, Fantailed Cuckoo, Scarlet Robin and Restless Flycatcher.

On the heathlands you should see Wedge-tailed Eagle and other raptors, Splendid Fairy-wren, perhaps the shy Southern Emu-wren, Western and Inland Thornbill and New Holland Honeyeater. On the beach look for Sooty Oystercatcher, Hooded Plover, Caspian Tern and Rock Parrot .

11 MANDALAY BEACH

The Mandalay Beach Road commences at Crystal Springs and winds through peppermint and banksia woodland, heathland and stands of Yate (*Eucalyptus cornutas*) to coastal dunes. This is a great place for orchids in summer.

Along the trail are Long-billed Black-Cockatoo, Western Rosella, Splendid Fairy-wren, Western Thornbill and Western Spinebill. At the beach look for Caspian and Crested Tern: Hooded Plover may be seen among beach detritus. At sea, Flesh-footed Shearwater, Yellow-nosed Albatross and Australian Gannet are commonly sighted.

12 MOUTH OF NORNALUP INLET (boat access only)

The inlet is permanently open to the sea with granite outcrops to the west, sand dunes and Bellanger Beach to the east. Inside the entrance is a good site for gulls, terns and waders, including Bar-tailed Godwit and Hooded Plover. Osprey and White-bellied Sea-eagle are usually seen. In the surrounding bushland look for Western Rosella and Western Spinebill.

OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

The following are well worth a visit and are quite accessible:

- 13 Peaceful Bay
- 14 Irwin Inlet
- 15 Conspicuous Cliff
- 16 Monastery Landing (check with CALM if the road is open)
- 17 Mt. Burnett
- 18 Fernhook Falls
- 19 Valley of the Giants

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.

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Crested Shrike-tit

