

BIRDWATCHING IN THE SOUTHERN REGIONS OF PERTH

This brochure will introduce you to three different bird habitats to the south of Perth - the wetlands, seashore and the Darling Range.

THE WETLANDS

The wetlands play an important part of Perth's pleasant lifestyle and are very important refuges for our wildlife and for our native plants and wildflowers. Each year about 30 species of migratory waders come to these wetlands from the cold northern winter of Asia.

1 KOGOLUP LAKE

There is a small parking strip off Beelihar Drive and the lake is only a short distance from the road.

There is only a small area of native bush, but there are usually several species of waterbirds and among the reeds and among the mudflats several very interesting species have been recorded, including Cattle Egret, Little Ringed Plover, Painted Snipe, Pectoral Sandpiper and Long-toed Stint.

2 THOMPSON'S LAKE

Thompson's Lake is a 509 hectare reserve significant for its great variety of birds and relatively undisturbed sample of coastal plain vegetation.

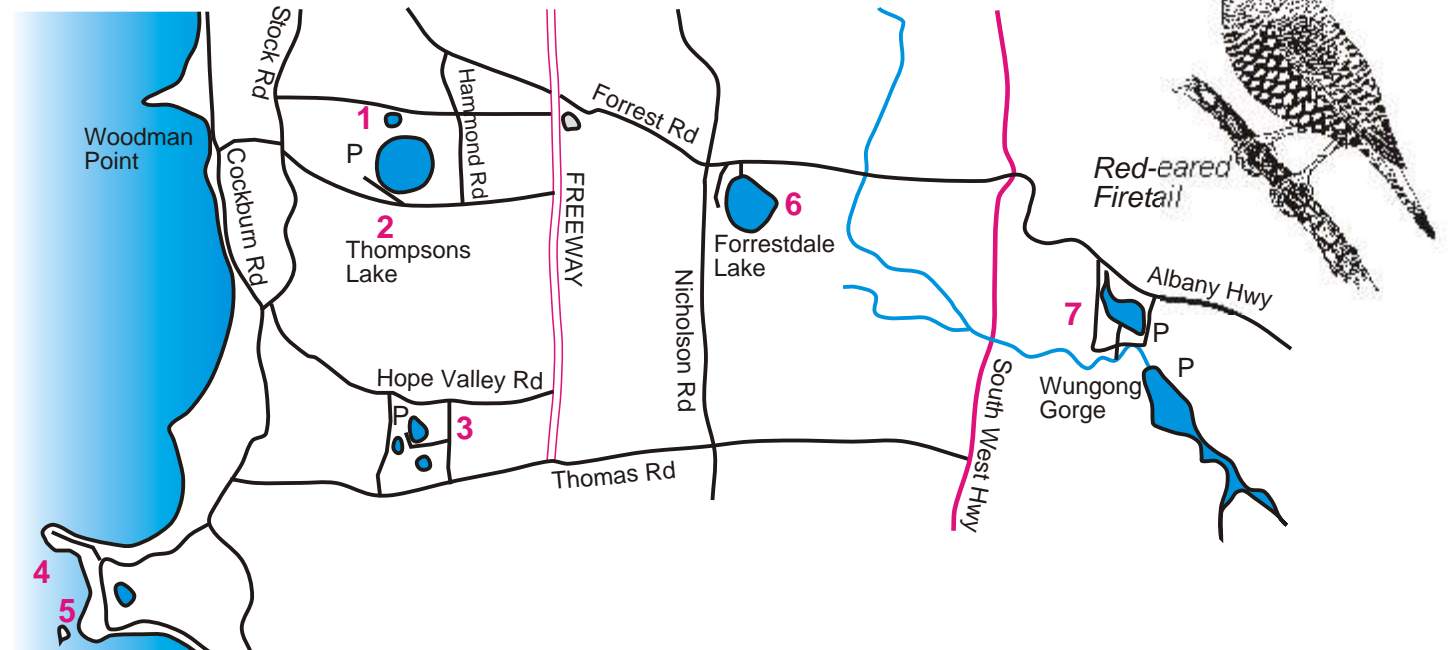
It is the second most significant wetland in the south-west of Western Australia for the number of waterbirds that use the reserve. Over 60 species have been recorded.

The area is excellent to search for crakes, rails and bitterns. Among the thousands of waders in summer are Long-toed Stint and Pectoral Sandpiper.

The fringing bushland supports many bushbirds including Red-capped Parrot, Rainbow Bee-eater, Splendid Fairy-wren and Little Wattlebird.

3 THE SPECTACLES

Enter the car park from McLaughlan Road. The Spectacles is so named because it is comprised of two wetlands joined by a drain. It is the most southern of the Beelihar chain of freshwater lakes on the Swan Coastal Plain.



THE SEASHORE

4 CAPE PERON AND OFFSHORE ISLANDS

As well as being a popular holiday resort the area is an ideal place for seabirds because of the large shoals of fish and squid and calm waters inside the shelter of the islanus, which are important breeding habitats.

The Rockingham offshore islands and Cape Peron have a rich diversity of native species of plants and animals. Over 126 have been recorded including Little Penguin, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Australian Gannet, Eastern Reef Egret, Arctic Jaegar and Rock Parrot. During the summer months there are many waders. A number of species breed in the area including Little Penguin, Caspian, Bridled and Fairy Tern.

5 PENGUIN ISLAND

For day visitors, a ferry runs each hour (10am - 3pm) from the Mersey Street jetty (closed 1 June - 10 Sept. during the Little Penguin breeding season). As well as being a sanctuary for Little Penguin, other birds present include Bridled Tern which breed on the island. An Arctic Jaegar may be seen on the ferry trip. The ferry also provides a cruise of the bay and to Seal Island.

The wetland is very important because of its extensive cover of paperbark trees providing a refuge and breeding area for many waterbirds including a colony of Nankeen Night Heron and Freckled Duck.

ALCOA with CALM, the Kwinana Town Council and community groups are at present active with the development, management and rehabilitation of this important area. At this stage there are picnic areas, walk and bike tracks and an excellent boardwalk winding through the paperbarks to a hide in the lake.

A nature trail through the Banksia woodland is rich in plant species and birds which include Collared Sparrowhawk, Common Bronzewing, Scarlet Robin, Golden Whistler and Western Spinebill. You may be lucky and see a bandicoot.

There is a walk/bike track along the edge of the wetland well worth exploring. An extensive revegetation program is under way along this track, which has a wide variety of birds and plants.

6 FORRESTDALKE LAKE

Forrestdale Lake satisfies one of the criteria for listing as Wetland of International Importance and ranks as one of the most important wetlands in the South-West of Western Australia. Sixty-three species have been recorded (18 breeding).

The lake supports 10 000 waterfowl at its peak including 12 species of ducks. Nineteen species of waders include Red-necked Stint, Black-winged Stilt, Curlew Sandpiper and Red-capped Plover as the most common. Among the more uncommon look for Lesser Golden Plover, Broad-tailed Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit and Little Stint.

Turn into Weld Street to the left parking area or right into Commercial Road, which is a good place for waders.

THE DARLING RANGE

The Darling Range, although little more than four hundred metres high, is dissected by deep and scenic creeks and rivers. There are open Jarrah - Marri woodlands on the uplands between the creeks.

7 BUNGENDORE PARK AND WUNGONG GORGE

From Armadale drive along Albany Highway to Admiral Road. Turn right to the parking area. This is an excellent birding area where 8 of the 11 species endemic (E) to the South-West of Western Australia can be seen.

The Jarrah - Marri woodland has a low shrub layer. The creek bank vegetation is an outstanding feature with low Moonah Paperbark, Swamp Banksia and stands of Kingia. In the woodland look for Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Long-billed Black-Cockatoo (E), Red-capped Parrot (E), Western Rosella (E), Western Yellow Robin (E), Rufous Treecreeper (E) and Western Spinebill (E).

Along Wungong Gorge look for Wedgetail Eagle, Scarlet Robin, Red-winged Fairy-wren (E), White-naped Honeyeater and Red-eared Firetail (E). Continue along Admiral Road to the picnic area at Wungong Dam, where many birds can be seen on the lawn and in gardens.

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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BIRDWATCHING SOUTH OF PERTH

WOODMAN POINT TO WUNGONG
GORGE

Number 60a in a series of
Bird Guides of Western Australia



*Red-tailed
Black-Cockatoo*

