



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

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South-West Endemics Birding Tour - 7 days

Dates of tour: 23 – 30 November 2022



This tour of the South West of Western Australia began with a leisurely walk through part of the vast woodland that is Kings Park, perched on top of the scarp overlooking Perth and the Swan River. Red-tailed Black Cockatoos made themselves evident with their raucous screeching and the discordant sound of Western Gerygones was heard throughout. Nearby Herdsman and Monger Lakes proved highly productive with a broad array of waterfowl present including eight species of duck and all three grebes. An added bonus was a family of roosting Tawny Frogmouths seen and photographed well almost down at eye level.

The extensive Dryandra Woodlands, now a National Park, provided a whole host of new species for us. Including our first looks at some of the SW endemics such as Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Western Rosella and Red-capped Parrot. Other specialties such as the near endemic Rufous Treecreeper, Western Yellow Robin and Blue-breasted Fairywren also showed well. An evening spotlighting was rewarded by an Eastern Barn Owl that flew over our heads calling to another nearby.

In the Stirling Ranges, a couple of hours drive further south, a furtive Western Fieldwren was found and a couple of the newly split Western Shrike-tits put on a performance near or accommodation while an Australian Owlet-nightjar peeped out from his hollow. A number of honeyeaters are found here including the common Yellow-plumed and New Holland Honeyeaters, and the ubiquitous Red Wattlebird. Of more interest was the endemic Gilbert's Honeyeater, seen in eucalypts here and more commonly as we travelled deeper into the SW. Enroute to the South Coast we detoured to Corackerup Nature Reserve, a large patch of mallee vegetation, where Purple-gaped Honeyeaters abounded and Southern Scrub Robins skulked in the dense shrubs.

The heathlands around Cheynes Beach on the south coast are home to three notorious skulkers, all three of which were seen during our two day stay. Also here, other SW endemics namely Red-winged Fairywren, White-breasted Robin, Red-eared Firetail, Western Spinebill and Western Wattlebird were also found relatively easily. Further westwards we explored the taller forest country around Lake Muir and Manjimup, picking up two more endemic cockatoos in the form of Baudin's Black Cockatoo and the range-restricted nominate race of Western Corella.

Cape Leeuwin lies at the very south western tip of Western Australia and a quick visit to the lighthouse here yielded a little flock of amazingly tame Rock Parrots. A colony of Bridled Terns could be seen offshore at nearby Cape Hamelin where various species of stingrays swam in the shallows. Our final day saw us making the long drive back to Perth but stopping on the way to visit the Coodanup Foreshore where tiny Fairy Terns loafed with their larger cousins, Crested and Caspian Terns. Finally a short ferry ride across to Penguin Island, too early to see penguins in the wild but plenty of Bridled and Crested Terns and huge breeding colonies of Pelicans to entertain us.

With two of the group electing to stay on for the Rottnest Island extension we bid our farewells to the other seven and took an early ferry from Fremantle next morning. The island is a very popular holiday destination, particularly for viewing the ever present Quokkas, but it is still possible to get away and find interesting birds. Baghdad Lake was a haven for hundreds, if not thousands of Banded Stilt as well as Red-necked Avocet and such migratory waders as Red-necked Stint and Ruddy Turnstone while the off-shore rock stacks were home to stunning Roseate Terns. Around the salt lakes we found small flocks of White-fronted Chats and hidden away near the golf course, a pair of Red-capped Robins.

In summary, we recorded a total 142 species on the main tour, three of which were heard only, and a further seven species were seen only on the Rottnest Island extension. All 17 SW endemics, including the recently split Western Shriketit, were seen well as were all the near endemics (Rufous Treecreeper, Western Yellow Robin, Blue-breasted Fairywren, Spotted Scrubwren).

By Peter Taylor (guide)





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Emu
Musk Duck
Black Swan
Australian Shelduck
Australian Shoveler
Australian Wood Duck
Pink-eared Duck
Grey Teal
Pacific Black Duck
Blue-billed Duck
Brown Quail
Stubble Quail
Black-browed Albatross
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
Flesh-footed Shearwater
Australasian Grebe
Hoary-headed Grebe
Great Crested Grebe
Australian White Ibis
Straw-necked Ibis
Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Great Egret
White-faced Heron

Dromaius novaehollandiae
Biziura lobata
Cygnus atratus
Tadorna tadornoides
Anas rhynchotis
Chenonetta jubata
Malacorhynchus membranaceus
Anas gracilis
Anas superciliosa
Oxyura australis
Coturnix ypsilophora
Coturnix pectoralis
Thalassarche melanophris
Thalassarche carteri
Ardenna carneipes
Tachybaptus novaehollandiae
Poliiocephalus poliocephalus
Podiceps cristatus
Threskiornis molucca
Threskiornis spinicollis
Platalea flavipes
Ardea modesta
Egretta novaehollandiae

Little Egret
Australian Pelican
Australasian Gannet
Little Pied Cormorant
Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Pied Cormorant
Australasian Darter
Eastern Osprey
Square-tailed Kite
Whistling Kite
Collared Sparrowhawk
Spotted Harrier
Swamp Harrier
Australian Swamphe
Dusky Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Bush Stone-curlew
Australian Pied Oystercatcher
Sooty Oystercatcher
Pied Stilt
Red-necked Avocet
Banded Stilt
Red-capped Plover
Bar-tailed Godwit
Common Sandpiper
Red-necked Stint
Fairy Tern
Caspian Tern
Roseate Tern

Egretta garzetta
Pelecanus conspicillatus
Morus serrator
Microcarbo melanoleucos
Phalacrocorax carbo
Phalacrocorax sulcirostris
Phalacrocorax varius
Anhinga novaehollandiae
Pandion cristatus
Lophoictinia isura
Haliastur spheurnus
Accipiter cirrocephalus
Circus assimilis
Circus approximans
Porphyrio melanotus
Gallinula tenebrosa
Fulica atra
Burhinus grallarius
Haematopus longirostris
Haematopus fuliginosus
Himantopus leucocephalus
Recurvirostra novaehollandiae
Cladorhynchus leucocephalus
Charadrius ruficapillus
Limosa lapponica
Tringa hypoleucos
Calidris ruficollis
Sternula nereis
Hydroprogne caspia
Sterna dougallii

Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	Red-capped Parrot	<i>Purpureicephalus spurius</i>
Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Regent Parrot	<i>Polytelis anthopeplus</i>
Pacific Gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>	Elegant Parrot	<i>Neophema elegans</i>
Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>	Rock Parrot	<i>Neophema petrophila</i>
Rock Dove	<i>Columbia livia</i>	Noisy Scrub-bird	<i>Atrichornis clamosus</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Rufous Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris rufa</i>
Spotted Dove ¹	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus pulcherrimus</i>
Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	Splendid Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus splendens</i>
Brush Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>	Red-winged Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus elegans</i>
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	Southern Emu-wren	<i>Stipiturus malachurus</i>
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites basalis</i>	Western Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus superciliosus</i>
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites lucidus</i>	Singing Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>	Purple-gaped Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga cratitia</i>
Eastern Barn Owl	<i>Tyto javanica</i>	White-eared Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus leucotis</i>
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus ornatus</i>
Australian Owlet-nightjar	<i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>	Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguinae</i>	Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	Western Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera lunulata</i>
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	White-fronted Chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>
Nankeen Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	<i>Glyciphila melanops</i>
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>	New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>	White-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris niger</i>
Carnaby's Black Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>	Brown-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>
Baudin's Black Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus baudinii</i>	Gilbert's Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus chloropsis</i>
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>	Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>
Western Corella	<i>Cacatua pastinator</i>	Western Bristlebird	<i>Dasyornis longirostris</i>
Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>	Spotted Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis maculatus</i>
Western Rosella	<i>Platycercus icterotis</i>	Western Fieldwren	<i>Calamantus montanellus</i>
Australian (28) Ringneck	<i>Barnardius zonarius semitorquatus</i>	Weebill	<i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>

Western Gerygone
Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Inland Thornbill
Western Thornbill
White-browed Babbler
Black-throated Whipbird
Grey Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Grey Currawong
Dusky Woodswallow
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-winged Triller
Varied Sittella
Crested (Western) Shrike-tit
Western Whistler
Rufous Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush
Crested Bellbird
Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Restless Flycatcher
Magpie-lark
Australian Raven
Jacky Winter
Scarlet Robin
Red-capped Robin
Western Yellow Robin
White-breasted Robin
Southern Scrub-robin
Welcome Swallow
Tree Martin

Gerygone fusca
Acanthiza chrysorrhoa
Acanthiza apicalis
Aphelocephala inornata
Pomatostomus superciliosus
Psophodes nigrogularis
Cracticus torquatus
Cracticus tibicen
Strepera versicolor plumbea
Artamus cyanopterus
Coracina novaehollandiae
Lalage sueurii
Daphoenositta chrysoptera
Falcunculus frontatus leucogaster
Pachycephala occidentalis
Pachycephala rufiventris
Colluricincla harmonica
Oreoica gutturalis
Rhipidura albiscapa
Rhipidura leucophrys
Myiagra inquieta
Grallina cyanoleuca
Corvus coronoides
Microeca fascinans
Petroica boodang
Petroica goodenovii
Petroica griseogularis
Eopsaltria georgiana
Drymodes brunneopygia
Hirundo neoxena
Petrochelidon nigricans

Australian Reed-Warbler
Rufous Songlark
Silvereye
Red-eared Firetail
Australasian Pipit

Acrocephalus australis
Cincloramphus mathewsi
Zosterops lateralis
Stagonopleura oculata
Anthus novaeseelandiae