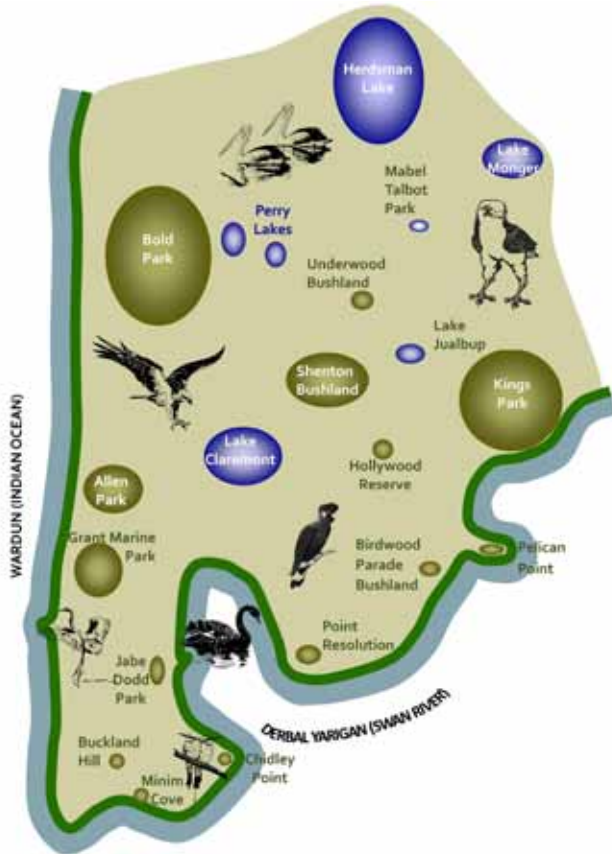


## Parks and wetlands in the Western Suburbs



### Australian Pelican

Found on coastal bays, rivers, lakes. Uses massive bill to catch fish. Sometimes fishes collectively. Soars to great heights on thermals. Breeds in colonies, often well inland after significant rain events.



### Make the most of your walk

Enjoy the birdlife while walking in the parks and reserves or along Whadjuk Trails. Individual maps for the walking trails are available at [www.whadjukwalkingtrails.org.au](http://www.whadjukwalkingtrails.org.au) More specific bird guides are also available for a number of areas along the trails. See [www.birdlife.org.au/birdlife-western-australia/bird-guides](http://www.birdlife.org.au/birdlife-western-australia/bird-guides)

Many species can be seen all year round, but others are present only for a few months of the year, such as some shorebirds and migrants like cuckoos, kingfishers and bee-eaters.

For injured wildlife call 9474 9055

### Acknowledgements

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Photographs by: John Anderson, Robin Ashford, Alan Collins, John Tucker.

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Published May 2015

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# Birds in Perth's Western Suburbs

Australian Pelican by Jennie Stock



Sponsored by the Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

birds are in our nature



## Oceans, beaches, reefs

### Caspian Tern

Largest of our terns. Heavy red bill is diagnostic. Patrols rivers, lakes on easy wingbeats. Plunges for prey. - IA



### Crested Tern

Note yellow bill and shaggy black fringe on back of head. Also plunges spectacularly.

### Pacific Gull

Larger than well-known Silver Gull. Massive red-tipped yellow bill. Flies along tidelines. Juveniles are dark brown, become mottled and eventually acquire adult colouring. Flies at heights over rocks and drops molluscs to break the shell



### Nankeen Kestrel

Prefers open areas; also found along cliffs / beaches. Usually solitary, hovers on flat wings before dropping on prey.

### White-winged Fairy-wren

Though not a beach species, this fairy-wren is only found in a narrow strip along the coast in the metro area. It inhabits the dunes behind City and Floreat Beaches; also recorded at Allen Park.



## Swan River and margins



### Black Swan

Large birds which use their long necks to reach underwater plants and need open water for take-off.

### Australian Darter

Long pointed bill and specially jointed neck allow it to stab prey under water with a sudden thrust. Often seen drying wings on posts, jetties.



### Little Pied Cormorant

Stubby yellow bill; usually fishes alone. Often perches on dead trees, logs to dry wings.

### Little Black Cormorant

Similar but all black. Sometimes seen fishing in flocks.

### Pied Cormorant

Largest black and white cormorant along the river and beaches. Bill horn-coloured, longer and finer than Little Pied.

### Great Cormorant

Large black bird with conspicuous yellow facial skin.



### White-faced Heron

Wades in shallow waters or on grassy banks. Feeds on frogs, fish, insects and small crustaceans.

## Swan River - continued

### Nankeen Night-Heron

Stocky, hunched posture. Feeds at dawn, dusk; roosts in trees during day; often goes unnoticed.



### Eastern Osprey

Large raptor whose diet is fish. Numbers have gradually increased in metro area in recent years. Nests along the river.

### Pied Oystercatcher

Prefers sandy beaches, sandbanks and flats along river. Feeds on molluscs. Like all shorebirds, often active at night.



### Common Greenshank

Usually solitary, wanders along water margin searching for insects and molluscs. Call is a haunting two or three note 'tew-tew-tew'. - IA, Mi-Su

### Fairy Tern

Tiny tern with yellow bill and legs. Feeds over shallow waters. Estimated to be less than 1600 pairs left in WA. - T



## Lakes and wetlands

### Australian Shelduck

Large, boldly marked duck. Common on fresh or salt water. Feeds by grazing or by sifting food from water. ~ **N**



### Pacific Black Duck

Most common of Perth ducks. Feeds by upending in shallow water. Often nests in a stump or tree hollow near water. ~ **N**



### Australasian Shoveler

Filter feeders, which enjoy small aquatic animals. Conspicuously large bill. Prefers well-vegetated wetlands.



### Great Crested Grebe

Specialized aquatic species which dives for food; rarely seen in flight. Small young are boldly striped.



### Straw-necked Ibis

Feeds in grasslands or shallow wetlands; flocks circle high or fly in V formation or long undulating lines.



## Bushland

### Common Bronzewing

Iridescent wing patch. Wary; feeds on the ground. Voice is a deep 'oom oom'. More easily seen early morning / late afternoon.



### Brown Goshawk

Yellow eyes. Heavy brow gives it a 'glaring' expression. Flies through trees to ambush prey. Looks similar to Collared Sparrowhawk. Goshawk has longer, rounded tail, less slender legs.

### Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo

Endemic to WA. Breeds in wheatbelt. Moves to coastal areas in late summer. Declining due to loss of habitat. ~ **Mi, Su - Au, T**



### Variegated Fairy-wren

Territorial while breeding but forages widely otherwise. Note male's chestnut shoulders in breeding plumage.

### Galah

Has expanded its range south from Murchison. Nests in tree hollows; feeds mainly on the ground.



## Parks and gardens



### Little Corella

One of three species in Perth area. All have been bolstered by aviary escapes. Flocks may be large, noisy and highly mobile. This is the smallest and plainest with shortest bill.

### Rainbow Lorikeet

Introduced; derived from aviary escapes in 1960s. Now occurs all over metro area and beyond. Varied diet of blossom, seeds, fruit and insects. ~ **N**



### Red Wattlebird

Largest of the local honeyeaters with fleshy red neck wattles. Noisy; aggressive to other birds. ~ **N**

### Brown Honeyeater

Smallest, plainest local honeyeater with a long curved bill. It has a number of musical calls. ~ **N**



### White-cheeked Honeyeater

Boldly marked with distinctive large white cheek patch. The similar New Holland Honeyeater has a white eye and small white ear tuft only.

## Lakes and wetlands - continued



**Purple Swamphen**  
Usually seen on margins of swamps and rivers. Feeds on tender reed stems and grassy areas. Voice is a rasping screech.

### Eurasian Coot

Occurs in both fresh and salt water. Has flattened lobed toes; feeds on land or in water. Call is a loud sharp 'kyik'.



**Black-winged Stilt**  
Searches shallow water for aquatic plants and insects. Breeds at Lake Claremont; sometimes breeds in huge numbers on inland lakes when conditions are right. - **N**

### Black-fronted Dotterel

Feeds on mudflats. Nests on ground, relying on cryptic colouring and distraction displays for protection.



**Australian Reed Warbler**  
Lives and nests among tall freshwater reeds and rushes. Rich, strong varied call in spring - summer.

## Bushland - continued

### Australian Ringneck

Enjoys fruit, seeds, insects and larvae. Call is the well-known 'twenty-eight'.



### Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

Parasitic; lays eggs in nests of small birds. The three-note call is similar to someone whistling up a dog. Note unbroken breast bars. - **Mi Wi-Sp**

### Rainbow Bee-eater

Eats bees and other insects caught in flight. Excavates a nesting tunnel in sandy areas. - **IA Mi Su**



### Striated Pardalote

Tiny colourful bird. Searches for insects among eucalypt foliage. Strong, two note 'chip-chip' call.

### Grey Butcherbird

Territorial song is a mellow piping. Sits quietly before diving on prey of insects, lizards or small birds.



## Parks and gardens - continued

### Black-faced Cuckooshrike

Undulating flight; shuffles wings on landing. Feeds on insects, berries and seeds.



### Grey Fantail

Inquisitive and friendly; fans tail. Uses energetic, acrobatic movements to catch insects in flight.

### Magpie-Lark

Mud-nest builders which retain the same mate and territory for life. They forage on the ground.



### Tree Martin

Distinguished from swallows by pale rump and only slightly forked tail. Both take insects in flight. Most abundant in summer. Nests in tree hollows.



### Codes

<b>T</b>	Threatened	<b>Mi</b>	Migratory
<b>IA</b>	Protected by international agreement	<b>N</b>	Nomadic
<b>♂</b>	Male	<b>Sp, Su, Au, Wi</b>	Season/s present
		<b>♀</b>	Female