

# Australia

Perth & the Wild Southwest

Sun 15th-Tue 31st October 2017



Trip photos (clockwise from top left): Tawny Frogmouth and chick • Blue-breasted Fairywren • Yellow-billed Spoonbill • Common Bronzewing • Hoary-headed Grebe • Australian Sealion. © tour leader Peter Taylor/Limosa Holidays

**Report compiled by tour leader:  
Peter Taylor**

## Australia | Perth & the Wild Southwest

**Tour Leader: Peter Taylor**  
**With Ben Olewine and Mervyn Wiles**

The South West corner of Australia is one of the most remote and consequently biodiverse regions of the planet and this was our sixth visit since we first ventured here in 2009. Once we had all met up, we wandered over the road from our Perth hotel to a pleasant wetland where Australasian Darters and a mixture of Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants were nesting. Australasian Grebes, Pacific Black Ducks and a Nankeen Night Heron appeared on cue as did a couple of Black Swans.

The crossing to Rottnest Island was unusually rough this year, the upside of which was the excellent views we had of Australian Gannets diving into the ocean as we sped by! Smiling Quokkas were everywhere as we strolled around the eastern end of the island, the bolder ones foraging nonchalantly, undeterred by our presence. Banded Lapwings and Pied Oystercatchers patrolled the fairways on the island's golf course while a lone Rock Parrot near the Settlement provided some excitement as it flushed from long grass.

Two of Perth's inner suburban jewels, King's Park and Herdsman Lake, turned up a daunting range of bird species as well as other strange creatures such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot, an odd marsupial that seems to run and hop at the same time, and the deadly Tiger Snake, intent on escaping the clutches of a Red Wattlebird that was bravely dive-bombing it. Variegated Fairywrens, the first of five fairywren species, were spotted in the undergrowth at King's Park while Blue-billed and Musk Ducks were seen at close quarters at Herdsman. Another highlight here was a Tawny Frogmouth seen sitting on a nest with two chicks, in full view of passing walkers.

The Dryandra Woodlands were impressive as always, not just because of their extent, but for the fine array of bird species that awaited us. Our second fairywren, this time a Blue-breasted male in full breeding plumage, and a male Red-capped Robin enchanted as did a Crested Shrike-tit and the uncommon Square-tailed Kite. We recorded an amazing four cuckoo species here and an even more impressive selection of honeyeaters.

Heading out into the drier agricultural areas we stopped at Lake Yealering, surprisingly full for this time of year but hosting a huge number of Grey Teal. On the adjoining golf course we watched a flock of Regent Parrots that came in to join the rowdy pink and grey Galahs. At Corrigin the wildflowers were spectacular and we added yet more honeyeaters to the list while at Merredin Peak we found our fifth and final cuckoo, this time an obliging Black-eared which posed for us, and had great views of a Red-backed Kingfisher, more usually found in arid country. An early morning visit to Maughan Nature Reserve before breakfast next day was an absolute delight. As we watched a pair of brightly coloured Mulga Parrots feeding on the roadside, two budgerigars appeared seemingly out of nowhere and landed right next to the vehicle! Curiously for a highly nomadic species, this was at almost the same spot we had seen budgies a couple of years ago. Here too we saw our first Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australia's largest flying bird, flying low over the heathland being chased off by an indignant Australian Magpie. Later that morning, after a sumptuous breakfast, we encountered another pair of Red-backed Kingfishers at Sandford Rocks then a bird that we had never recorded on this trip, a lone Little Button-quail, which was spotted hunched down on the road. As we screeched to a halt and turned the car around it suddenly realised the perilous spot it had chosen to roost and skittered off into the bush, sadly before we could grab a photo! As the day warmed up we began to see more and more Bobtailed Lizards basking on the road, risking life and limb with the (fortunately sparse) traffic.

Our day in the arid woodlands north of Kalgoorlie was marred by hot and windy conditions and threatening thunderstorms but despite this we persisted and were rewarded with great views of a male Gilbert's Whistler and a handful of Zebra Finches. However, the best was saved to last when we were about to exit Goongarrie Station, a former sheep property now reserve, and a Malleefowl wandered out on to the track right in front of the vehicle - a rare sight indeed! A birding trip wouldn't be complete without a visit to some sewage ponds and the Kalgoorlie treatment plant provided the ideal destination! However the star bird here wasn't a waterbird or shorebird (despite there being plenty) but a party of White-winged Fairywrens foraging through nearby saltbushes.

Golf courses often feature well on this tour and the Esperance course is famous for often hosting a flock of grazing Cape Barren Geese. None on this occasion but we had great early morning views of Buff-banded Rails with a chick in tow spotted by Ben then not to be outdone, Mervyn spotted a perched Australian Hobby. A pair of Masked Lapwing and a couple of Chestnut Teal added to the tally before we moved on to Lake Warden. Here the banksias were in full bloom and full of squabbling Western Wattlebirds, a highly nomadic nectar feeding honeyeater. A surprise find here was a pair of tiny Southern Emuwrens, their high-pitched squeaking giving away their location in the undergrowth. Lots of Australian Pelicans here also as well as large numbers of Great Egret.

Around the other side we found a group of eight Cape Barren Geese feeding in an adjoining horse paddock while a pair of Sacred Kingfishers perched above. No muddy margins at Lake Warden meant we had to try nearby Pink Lake, also a source of mined salt, if we were to find any Hooded Plovers. A quick scope scan of the mudflats and bunds and we had discovered at least ten of Australia's rarest shorebird within minutes. Monjingup Nature Reserve, a short drive from Esperance itself, had been severely burnt in a bushfire a few years ago but has now recovered sufficiently to again provide a variety of species with usable habitat and food resources. Wildflowers were spectacular, especially the myriad of young banksias, which attracted various honeyeaters and an attendant retinue of cuckoos, four species of which we were able to observe well. Here also we had our first encounter with Red-capped Parrots, an amazingly gaudy endemic to the South West, and a specialist of marri woodland. Another surprise here, although we could see neither in the dense grass, were both Australian Spotted and Spotless Crakes heard calling from cover.

Our final experience at Esperance was a morning Island cruise, and was an utter delight. Before we had even walked the short distance to the wharf we spotted a pair of Rock Parrots in the carpark itself! The Old Tanker Jetty, now closed because of storm damage had been taken over by Black-faced Cormorants and we were able to watch them up close as we drifted by. Out on the islands we saw Sooty Oystercatchers, Pacific Gulls and White-bellied Sea Eagles that flew in for a free feed of fish. There were also more Cape Barren Geese, feeding around the sparsely vegetated rocky outcrops and great views of Flesh-footed Shearwaters as we sped between islands. Australian Sea lions and a lone New Zealand Fur Seal loafed on rocky islets while Common Bottle-nosed Dolphins cruised in the quiet waters of the bay and the more adventurous Common Dolphins surfed our boat's bow wave out in the deeper ocean waters.

After lunch we began our drive west towards the Fitzgerald River National Park where groups of Western Grey Kangaroos and their smaller cousins, Western Brush Wallabies came out to feed on the lush roadside grass. Here also we encountered our first emus, a mob of at least 30 birds racing across a local paddock. A mystery raptor turned out to be a Brown Falcon then it was time for our lodgings at the one-horse town of Jerramungup.

Next day, we were greeted at the famous Cheynes Beach with wet and windy conditions but this never seems to deter the birds. In between showers we watched patiently before a male Noisy Scrub-bird, the ultimate skulker, ran Roadrunner-like across the track in front of us. We added our final two fairywren species to the list, both the Splendid and endemic Red-winged found easily around the chalets, along with two more endemics in White-breasted Robin and the gorgeous Red-eared Firetail. An Osprey was seen fishing in the bay and a lone Brush Bronzewing patrolled the caravan park along with several Common Bronzewings. Next day, with an improvement in the weather, we had great views of another skulker, the Western Whipbird, which even posed long enough to allow scope views! Western Bristlebirds were less confiding, probably because they were feeding young, but did show briefly to complete the trio.

Enroute to Pemberton we detoured via the imposing Stirling Ranges where we found the secretive Western Fieldwren and a pair of Little Eagles. Chillinup Swamp had a few Red-necked Avocets feeding but an inordinate number of mosquitoes, which sent us running back to the safety of the car. Unfortunately rather a lot of them decided to join us for the next part of the trip! At Rocky Gully we found two more South West endemics, the raucous Western Corella with its long upper mandible giving it a permanent grumpy look, and the equally long billed Baudin's Black-Cockatoo which somehow manages to have a permanent smile!

In the little town of Pemberton we joined local operators, Pemberton Discovery Tours, for a 4x4 trip over the Yeagarup Dunes to the mouth of the Warren River, where we found a small flock of Fairy Terns and off in the distance over the Southern Ocean we scoped some Flesh-footed Shearwaters. Still, we hadn't found a single Western Rosella, a small red and green parrot with a yellow cheek patch and our final endemic, and it was getting towards the end of the tour. Scouring the gardens of Pemberton we drove back and forth then suddenly, not 100m from the hotel there were two of them feeding on the roadside verge in full view. They seemed to look up questioningly as if to ask what the fuss was all about!

Our last full day took us further west to Cape Leeuwin, the most south westerly point of Australia where the Southern and Indian Oceans meet. At Karridale we stopped by a pine plantation and watched a flock of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos feeding on pine cones, a food source they have adapted to after the loss of so much of their natural habitat to land clearing. Previously we had only had brief views so it was good to be able to see these magnificent birds in the scope and appreciate the difference between them and the very similar Baudin's. A single Rock Parrot was the highlight at the Lighthouse then lunch at a café in the renowned Margaret River before it was time to turn northwards for Busselton and the Ramsar-listed Vasse-Wonnerup Wetlands. Another duck, this time Pink-eared with their weirdly shaped bill was added to the list when we paused by an ibis rookery. Little Grassbirds flitted between tufty grass clumps and two Swamp Harriers cruised over the reed-beds before an Australian Hobby shot by and a couple more Buff-banded Rails darted briefly out on to the grassy track.

Our final morning saw us heading towards Perth but with one final but brief stop at the Coodanup Foreshore Reserve on the Peel Estuary. A few shorebirds here including one final addition to the list in a lone Greater Sand Plover then it was off to the airport.

### SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

(Total number of species recorded by the group – 184 including 5 heard only)

#### **Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae***

At least 30 were seen in a paddock abutting the Fitzgerald River NP and another 2 or 3 after we left Pemberton enroute to Cape Leeuwin.

#### **Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae***

We first saw a group of eight birds in a roadside paddock near Lake Warden, Esperance then at least double that on various islets on the cruise.

#### **Black Swan *Cygnus atratus***

A pair was first seen at John Oldham Park opposite our hotel also nesting on a roadside lake between Narrogin and Wagin. Seen at several locations over subsequent days and in especially big numbers at Mullet Lake near Esperance.

#### **Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides***

A few were seen on our first full day when we visited Rottnest Island Fairly common, seen in moderate numbers most days.

#### **Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus***

At the Vasse estuary wetlands near Busselton, one pair with 4 young was spotted plus two other singles, our only record of this strange-looking duck.

#### **Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata***

Common duck of farm dams and ponds, mostly on the south coast but several also seen with young at Herdsman Lake in Perth.

#### **Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa***

Common wetland species, seen widely.

#### **Australian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos***

Two seen at a roadside lake stop between Narrogin and Wagin then another two also at a roadside stop by a flooded paddock south of the Stirling Ranges and finally two more at the Vasse-Wonnerup Wetlands.

#### **Grey Teal *Anas gracilis***

Reasonably common, first seen on Rottnest Island then frequently throughout the trip.

#### **Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea***

Two were seen first at the Esperance Golf Course then up to eight more flying at Lake Warden.

#### **Hardhead *Aythya australis***

A male and a female were seen in a flooded roadside paddock south of the Stirling Ranges along with two Australian Shovelers, some Black Ducks and a Grey Teal. Very common at the Vasse Wetlands.

#### **Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis***

A single male and a female at Herdsman Lake.

#### **Musk Duck *Biziura lobata***

There were two females and a male firstly at Herdsman Lake. Single birds were sighted later in the trip at Rowles Lagoon, Kalgoorlie Sewage Ponds and Monjingu Nature Reserve.

#### **Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata***

Great close up views from the vehicle of an individual walking across the track at Goongarrie Station.

#### **Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis***

Heard calling in roadside paddocks on a couple of occasions.

#### **Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora***

Heard calling at Waychinicup Nature Reserve behind the Cheynes Beach caravan park.

#### **Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes***

Several were seen from the boat as we cruised the islands from Esperance and at least four more from Warren Beach near Pemberton.

#### **Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae***

At the little lake across the road from our Perth hotel on our first evening. There were also quite a few at Herdsman Lake.

#### **Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus***

First seen at a roadside lake stop between Narrogin and Wagin then in large numbers at Rowles Lagoon and the Kalgoorlie Sewage Ponds in particular.

#### **Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

Only seen at Herdsman Lake in Perth where they were quite numerous.

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca*

Recorded at several wetlands, including Herdsman Lake and the Vasse-Wonnerup estuary.

**Straw-necked Ibis** *Threskiornis spinicollis*

A single bird first seen at Herdsman Lake and another at the Esperance Golf Course. More common along the south coast from Esperance back to Busselton.

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill** *Platalea flavipes*

Two birds were seen at Herdsman Lake and one more at Monjigup Nature Reserve.

**Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

One was first seen in the wetland outside our hotel in Perth and another three were at Herdsman Lake.

Strangely, one was also seen near the Esperance wharf as we waited to leave the harbour on our cruise!

**White-necked Heron** *Ardea pacifica*

A single bird was seen flying low overhead at Herdsman Lake then at least five in flooded roadside paddocks south of the Stirling Ranges.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Three individuals were sighted at Herdsman. There were at least twenty at Lake Warden near Esperance and several more on our last morning at the Vasse Wetlands.

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae*

We had several sightings of this graceful heron with a highest count of eight at Lake Warden near Esperance.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Two individuals seen at Herdsman Lake and another at Coodanup Foreshore, our last stop for the trip.

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Seen first flying at Herdsman Lake Warden but plentiful also at Mullet Lake near Esperance and at the Vasse Estuary Wetlands.

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*

Two birds seen fishing as we travelled over to Rottnest Island and another on our Esperance Islands cruise.

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*

Fairly common in small numbers at a number of wetlands. Many seen on our first afternoon across the road from our hotel in Perth.

**Black-faced Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*

At least 30 were seen on the old Tanker Jetty at Esperance from our cruise.

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Fairly common in small numbers, more so at Herdsman Lake and the Vasse Estuary. .

**Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius*

A coastal species seen firstly at Rottnest Island then later in the trip at Esperance and Cape Leeuwin.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Two seen firstly at Herdsman Lake then another at the end of the old Tanker Jetty in Esperance.

**Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*

Several nests with chicks were seen at the little lake across the road from our hotel in Perth. A couple more were seen on our last morning at the Vasse Wetlands.

**Eastern Osprey** *Pandion cristatus*

We observed a single bird fishing at Cheynes Beach on both days there. Another was seen at the Vasse Estuary and then another two birds at the Coodanup Foreshore on our final morning.

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus axillaris*

Singles seen on three occasions at Kalgoorlie Sewage Ponds, Esperance and near the Stirling Ranges and a pair was also observed along the Old Ongerup Rd on the edge of the Fitzgerald River NP.

**Square-tailed Kite** *Lophoictinia isura*

Surprisingly, we had three individual sightings of this uncommon species in three very different habitats, one at Dryandra, another at Goongarrie Station north of Kalgoorlie and a third at Corackerup Nature Reserve.

**Little Eagle** *Hieraetus morphnoides*

A light morph female was seen near the Bluff Knoll Café in the Stirling Ranges where we had lunch.

**Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax*

Pairs of these huge raptors were seen on a number of occasions, including firstly at Maughan NR near Merredin. At least three were seen soaring over Fitzgerald River National Park.

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

Only one record this year of two birds at the Dryandra Woodlands.

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*

Good views of two at Herdsman Lake and another two at the Vasse Estuary Wetlands on our last morning.

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*

Two were seen at Herdsman then several other sightings including four at the Vasse Wetlands on our last day.

**White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

A spectacular display put on by a several birds on the Esperance Islands cruise as they came in for free fish!

**Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis***

A brief view of a single bird foraging was had first at Herdsman Lake. Another three, including a juvenile bird, were seen at the Esperance Golf Course and two more on our last morning at the Vasse Estuary in Busselton.

**Australian Crake *Porzana fluminea***

Heard only at Lake Monjingup Reserve near Esperance and again in dense grass alongside the path at the Vasse Estuary.

**Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis***

Heard only at Lake Monjingup Reserve near Esperance and again at the Vasse Estuary, on both occasions giving their characteristic "machine-gun" rattle call!

**Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus***

Very common at Herdsman Lake but also seen on our last morning at the Vasse Wetlands.

**Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa***

Common around Herdsman Lake, and also in the little lake across the road from our hotel in Perth. Also seen at the Vasse Wetlands.

**Black-tailed Nativehen *Gallinula ventralis***

Three were seen briefly behind the Wagin Sewage Ponds.

**Common Coot *Fulica atra***

Common at a number of lakes including Herdsman, and particularly so at Lake Yealering, and the Kalgoorlie Sewage Ponds.

**Little Buttonquail *Turnix velox***

A single bird was seen sitting in the road as we drove north from Sandford Rocks then ran off into scrub after we turned around. This was a first record of this species for this tour.

**Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris***

At least ten seen on Rottnest Island and another on our last morning at the Coodanup Foreshore near Perth.

**Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus***

Many were seen during the Esperance Islands cruise and two more on rocks at Cape Leeuwin.

**White-headed (Pied) Stilt *Himantopus himantopus***

A single bird was spotted at Herdsman Lake and another at a roadside pond between Narrogin and Wagin.

**Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae***

A distant flock of about 30 birds was spotted at Chillinup Lake Nature Reserve where we filled the vehicle up with mosquitoes!

**Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor***

Fairly common on Rottnest Island where we saw at least nine individuals.

**Masked Lapwing *Vanellus novaehollandiae***

A pair at the Esperance Golf Course then five seen around Mullet Lake near Esperance.

**Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

Rottnest recently arrived with their black bellies still apparent

**Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus***

Common resident wader found on both Rottnest Island and at the Coodanup Foreshore.

**Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii***

A single bird was spotted at the Coodanup Foreshore Reserve on our final morning.

**Hooded Dotterel *Thinornis rubricollis***

With Lake Warden full to overflowing we found ten including four or five young at Pink Lake Esperance.

**Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyornis melanops***

Three birds were seen at the Wagin Sewage Ponds.

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

Three of these migratory waders seen at the Kalgoorlie Sewage Ponds.

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

One single bird was seen at the Kalgoorlie Sewage Ponds.

**Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

Four birds were seen feeding in a shallow salt lake on Rottnest Island.

**Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis***

Very common on Rottnest Island, and at Coodanup Foreshore on our last morning.

**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***

A lone bird was seen feeding with Red-necked Stints on Rottnest Island.

**Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae***

The ubiquitous, common gull of Australia!

**Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus***

Seen firstly at Esperance and on the islands of the Recherche Archipelago where they were quite numerous. A single bird was also seen at Cheynes Beach.

**Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia***

Three were seen on Rottnest Island and another two on our Esperance Islands cruise.

**Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii***

Common at several locations around the coast and particularly around Rottnest Island.

**Fairy Tern *Sternula nereis***

Four were spotted on Rottnest Island then another five of these tiny, graceful terns were seen on Warren Beach during our Yeagarup Dunes trip.

**Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia***

Feral species in Australia, seen mainly in cities such as Esperance and Busselton.

**Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis***

One heard on Rottnest Island and another seen opposite our hotel in Perth.

**Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis***

Common introduced dove, seen mainly in and close to towns and on Rottnest Island.

**Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera***

First seen in the Dryandra Woodlands then most days thereafter.

**Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans***

One in the carpark at Cheynes Beach. Only one other sighting, which was on our Yeagarup dune tour.

**Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes***

Common, seen most days away from Perth and the forest country.

**Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis***

Heard on several occasions but we did get a couple of good sightings at both Dryandra Woodlands and Monjigup Nature Reserve near Esperance.

**Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans***

A single bird was seen well at Merredin Peak.

**Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus***

One of these migratory cuckoos was first seen in the Dryandra Woodlands and two more were seen very well at Monjigup Nature Reserve near Esperance.

**Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis***

Two were seen well at Dryandra Woodlands and another at Monjigup Reserve. Heard more often than seen!

**Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus***

Single records from both Dryandra Woodlands and Monjigup Reserve.

**Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides***

Fantastic views of a male on the nest with two fluffy chicks and a female sitting close by with last year's youngster at Herdsman Lake.

**Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae***

Introduced Kookaburra to the south west, now well established in the forests and seen on a number occasions

**Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus***

Three were at a couple of lakes near Esperance and another near the Malbup Bird Hide at Vasse-Wonnerup.

**Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius***

A single bird was seen well at Merredin Peak then two more the next day at Sandford Rocks.

**Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus***

Seen first at Kings Park, then frequently after that at Dryandra, Merredin, Goongarrie and Esperance.

**Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides***

Fairly common, seen most days as we drove through the agricultural lands.

**Brown Falcon *Falco berigora***

Just three records of single birds, one on the roadside between Narrogin and Wagin, another near Merredin and a third on the edge of the Fitzgerald River National Park.

**Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis***

Single birds were seen at Herdsman Lake and near Sandford Rocks. A further one was spotted by Mervyn at the Esperance Golfcourse and another at the Vasse-Wonnerup Wetlands.

**Long-billed (Baudin's) Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus baudinii***

A flock of 40-50 birds was seen in roadside trees alongside the Muir Highway enroute to Pemberton. Another flock of 17 appeared over the main street of Pemberton as we waited to go on our dune tour and still more were seen later on during the tour.

**Short-billed (Carnaby's) Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris***

After a brief view of five or six birds in the Fitzgerald River, we had superb, close-up views of a flock of 20-30 birds in a pine plantation near Karridale on our way to Cape Leeuwin.

**Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus***

Common, seen most days.

**Western Corella *Cacatua pastinator***

A small flock of seven birds was seen feeding in a roadside paddock near Rocky Gully enroute to Pemberton.

**Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea***

Common at Herdsman Lake where there were at least 25 seen then a few sightings around Perth and the agricultural areas.

**Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus***

A flock of a dozen or so next to the golf course at Lake Yealering. Others seen near Merredin and Busselton.

**Mulga Parrot *Psephotus varius***

A male and female were seen near Maughan Nature Reserve.

**Red-capped Parrot *Purpureicephalus spurius***

A juvenile of this gaudy endemic was first seen at Dryandra Woodlands. Seen fairly frequently along the south coast, and particularly well at Monjingu Nature Reserve near Esperance.

**Western Rosella *Platycercus icterotis***

We were beginning to think we were going to miss out on seeing this colourful endemic parrot and it wasn't until we reached Pemberton that we finally found a pair feeding on the road verge not 100 metres from the hotel! Next day we did see more at the Gloucester Tree.

**Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius***

Common, seen most days.

**Elegant Parrot *Neophema elegans***

Fairly common at Dryandra but just one was seen near the Stirling Range Retreat and another three at the Vasse-Wonnerup Wetlands.

**Rock Parrot *Neophema petrophila***

One bird was observed on Rottneest Island near the Settlement. Two more were seen at the wharf before we boarded our Esperance Islands cruise then just one at Cape Leeuwin near the lighthouse.

**Purple-crowned Lorikeet *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala***

Alerted first by their rasping screech, we found flocks of these tiny lorikeets first off in the Great Western Woodlands between Goongarrie and Rowles Lagoon. They were also very common in flowering eucalypts, around Pemberton.

**Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus***

Common introduced lorikeet to Perth.

**Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus***

Two birds were seen sitting on a fence near Maughan Nature Reserve then flew right next to the car! A couple of flocks of up to a dozen or so were also spotted in flight at Goongarrie and near Rowles Lagoon.

**Noisy Scrub-bird *Atrichornis clamosus***

A male crossed the famous "Scrub-bird Track" at Cheynes Beach just before the next downpour!

**Rufous Treecreeper *Climacteris rufus***

Very common at Dryandra. Also noted when we pulled over for lunch in woodlands between Goongarrie Station and Rowles Lagoon.

**Variiegated Fairywren *Malurus lamberti***

Seen on just the one occasion at Kings Park, we spotted at least four birds including a brilliant breeding plumaged male.

**Blue-breasted Fairywren *Malurus pulcherrimus***

A brilliantly coloured male and his mate seen at Dryandra, then great views at Maughan Nature Reserve near Merredin, in heathland near Peak Charles and at Mt Ridley Nature Reserve near Esperance.

**Red-winged Fairywren *Malurus elegans***

Two males put on a display for us while we waited for the Noisy Scrub-bird to cross the track at Cheynes Beach! We also had good views at Big Brook Dam and the Gloucester Tree near Pemberton.

**Splendid Fairywren *Malurus splendens***

Brilliant views of a coloured male and his mate were had firstly at Cheynes Beach. Many also around the Vasse-Wonnerup Wetlands near Busselton.

**White-winged Fairywren *Malurus leucopterus***

At least four uncoloured birds were seen at the Kalgoorlie Sewage Ponds.

**Southern Emuwrren *Stipiturus malachurus***

Excellent views were had of both a male and a female with their long, filamentous tails at Lake Warden. Two more also in the heathland at Cheynes Beach.

**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Glyciphila melanops***

First seen at Dryandra then in heathland enroute to Esperance and also at Cheynes Beach.

**Western Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus***

A single male was spotted at Dryandra then others at Lake Warden near Esperance.

**Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta***

Common, seen or heard most days

**New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae***

The most common honeyeater over southern Australia, seen frequently throughout the tour.

**White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger***

At least six were seen at Dryandra then subsequently at Merredin and in heathland around Cheynes Beach.

**Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris***

Several sightings of this species in small numbers in dry woodland locations from Dryandra to Corackerup.



**Gilbert's Honeyeater *Melithreptus chloropsis***

First seen near Lake Warden at Esperance then again around Big Brook Dam at Pemberton.

**White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis***

Very common at Corrigin Nature Reserve and Merredin Peak then a couple of sightings at Maughan Nature Reserve near Merredin and in the Great Western Woodlands south of Norseman.

**White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons***

At least ten were seen on the golf course on Rottnest Island and our only other sighting was of seven birds at the Kalgoorlie Sewage Ponds.

**Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis***

Common at Goongarrie Station and also Binaronca Nature Reserve enroute to Norseman.

**Western Wattlebird *Anthochaera lunulata***

Very common in banksias around Lake Warden, Esperance but surprisingly not seen anywhere else.

**Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata***

Common, seen almost every day.

**Purple-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus cratitius***

The common honeyeater at Corackerup Nature Reserve.

**Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula***

Common honeyeater of the agricultural areas, and around Esperance in particular.

**White-fronted Honeyeater *Purnella albifrons***

More associated with arid areas we had sightings of this honeyeater at a number of places in the Great Western Woodlands.

**Singing Honeyeater *Gavicalis virescens***

Fairly common away from the south coast seen, firstly on Rottnest Island.

**Yellow-plumed Honeyeater *Ptilotula ornata***

Common honeyeater of the open woodlands, particularly Dryandra and the Stirling Ranges.

**Western Bristlebird *Dasyornis longirostris***

One seen well in the morning at Cheynes Beach, as it scuttled through a small clearing and across the track.

**Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus***

A single male of the yellow-rumped race was seen very well at Mt Ridley Nature Reserve. Also heard on a number of occasions high in the karri forest near Pemberton.

**Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus***

Commonly heard throughout but often difficult to spot as they forage in tree canopies.

**Shy Heathwren *Calamanthus cautus***

Great views of two birds in heathland along the edge of Kumarl Rd south of Norseman.

**Western Fieldwren *Calamanthus montanellus***

Good views of a single bird in heathland in the Stirling Ranges National Park despite the blustery wind!

**Redthroat *Pyrrholaemus brunneus***

At least three were seen in very blustery conditions at Goongarrie Station, north of Kalgoorlie then another two at Binaronca Nature Reserve south of Kalgoorlie.

**White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis***

First seen on Rottnest Island. A fairly common bird at various spots throughout.

**Weebill *Smicronis brevirostris***

Common though easily overlooked, Australia's tiniest bird was recorded in dry woodlands on several days.

**Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca***

Its discordant song heard more often than the bird was seen, we did get several sightings particularly on Rottnest Island where we saw at least four individuals.

**Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis***

Seen firstly at Maughan NR then again at several locations including the Goldfields Woodlands and Big Brook Dam near Pemberton.

**Chestnut-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza uropygialis***

The common thornbill of drier areas, such as Merredin Peak, Sandford Rocks and the Goldfields Woodlands.

**Western Thornbill *Acanthiza inornata***

At least two were seen at Dryandra Woodlands and another three in the Stirling Ranges National Park.

**Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa***

A few of these generally ground feeding thornbills were firstly seen at Herdsman lake then in various diverse habitats throughout the tour.

**White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus***

We came across small flocks of these gregarious yet often shy birds at a number of locations beginning with Dryandra then also at Merredin, Goongarrie, Corackerup and the Gloucester Tree near Pemberton.

**Western Whipbird *Psophodes nigrogularis***

Great views at Cheynes Beach of a single male perched up in heathland behind the caravan park

**Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus***

Commonly seen on power lines and fence posts in the drier agricultural areas from Merredin to Kalgoorlie.

**Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus***

Many birds seen around Dryandra and fairly common in the Goldfields Woodlands and the Pemberton region.

**Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen***

Common, seen nearly every day.

**Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus***

Fairly common throughout the tour, first seen near Wagin along the Wait-jen Trail.

**Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis***

Three were first seen near Sandford Rocks after we left Merredin. Another was observed later near the homestead at Goongarrie Station north of Kalgoorlie.

**Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor***

Individuals were seen fairly regularly at a number of locations, often along roadsides as we were driving.

**Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae***

Fairly common throughout, usually seen in ones and twos.

**White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor***

We saw a male and female enroute to Dryandra then another male near Merredin.

**Varied Sittella *Neositta chrysoptera***

A party of six was seen in Dryandra then another six at Merredin Peak and a further five at a brief stop in the Goldfields Woodlands National Park.

**Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis***

Heard only at several places between Merredin and Kalgoorlie.

**Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus***

A single male was seen well foraging in eucalypts near the Ochre Trail at Dryandra.

**Gilbert's Whistler *Pachycephala inornata***

Good views of a male at Goongarrie, despite the blustery conditions!

**Western Whistler *Pachycephala occidentalis***

Two males were first seen at Dryandra then a single female at Monjingup Nature Reserve near Esperance.

**Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris***

Good views of a male at Herdsman Lake then others at Dryandra and Maughan Nature Reserve.

**Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica***

Individuals of this pleasant songster were seen or heard at a number of locations including Dryandra, Merredin, Goongarrie and Big Brook Dam.

**Willie-wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys***

Common, seen most days.

**Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa***

Common in woodland and forest areas particularly along the south coast.

**Magpielark *Grallina cyanoleuca***

Common, seen most days.

**Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta***

Two birds were seen at the Dryandra Woodlands.

**Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides***

Common, seen every single day!

**Western Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria griseogularis***

At Dryandra we saw a pair feeding a very young bird then spotted another two individuals near the Stirling Range Retreat.

**White-breasted Robin *Eopsaltria georgiana***

One seen first at the Cheynes Beach Caravan Park then fairly common in the SW corner of the state, especially at Big Brook Dam and the Gloucester Tree, Pemberton.

**Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata***

A single male was observed at the entrance to Rowles Lagoon.

**Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans***

A pair were seen hunting from low perches at Dryandra.

**Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang***

A female then a male were seen at Dryandra.

**Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii***

Our first sighting was of a female on the golf course at Rottnest Island then a male at Dryandra. Good views also at Merredin Peak, where we counted at least five individuals, and Sandford Rocks.

**Southern Scrub Robin *Drymodes brunneopygia***

Excellent views of several birds firstly at Maughan Nature Reserve near Merredin then plentiful at Corackerup Nature Reserve where they seemed to be calling everywhere.

**Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena***

Common, seen most days.

**Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans***

Common, seen most days.

**Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis***

Good views of one at Herdsman Lake and again at Vasse Estuary on our last morning.

**Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi***

We managed to get one in the telescope at a roadside lake stop between Narrogin and Wagin then had much closer views of two more near Lake Warden at Esperance.

**Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus***

At least two were seen in the samphire at the Vasse Estuary on our last morning.

**Silver-eye *Zosterops lateralis***

Common, seen most days.

**Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum***

A male was seen along the Wait-jen Trail walk near Wagin.

**Red-eared Firetail *Stagonopleura oculata***

Seen at Cheynes Beach after one was heard calling. Possibly the same bird was seen again the next morning.

**Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata***

Four or so were seen at Goongarrie Station.

**Australian Pipit *Anthus australis***

Fairly common throughout the agricultural zones.

**MAMMALS**

Quokka *Setonix brachyurus*

Red Kangaroo *Macropus rufus*

Western Grey Kangaroo *Macropus fuliginosus*

Western Brush Wallaby *Macropus irma*

Australian Sealion *Neophoca cinerea*

New Zealand Fur Seal *Arctocephalus forsteri*

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Southern Brown Bandicoot *Isodon obesulus*

**REPTILES**

Bobtail Lizard *Tiliqua rugosus*;

Gould's Monitor *Varanus gouldii*;

Southern Heath (Rosenberg's) Monitor *Varanus rosenbergi*

Tiger Snake *Notechis scutatus*