

## BIRDWATCHING IN THE CENTRAL WHEATBELT

### Cunderdin

**A** Located between Meckering and Tammin, **Cunderdin** provides several good birding opportunities. Close to the town, areas worth birding are the golf course and Cunderdin Hill. The railway reserve corridors east and west of the town are important habitats and migratory corridors for local bird species.

**B** **Bulgin Rock Reserve** is a turning off the Great Eastern Highway, approximately 3 km west of Cunderdin. Turn into Doodenanning, Coleman and finally Bulgin Road. This is a granite outcrop set in sheoak woodland. It is a pleasant picnic spot with a variety of birds and wildflowers.

**C** **Kadjarri Flora Reserve** is a small privately owned area, approximately 3 km west of Cunderdin (and 4 km along Doodenanning Rd) on the way to Bulgin Rock. Make sure that you close the gates off the laneway.

**D** **Kennedy Reserve** is located at the corner of the Cunderdin-Quairading Road and Mills Road, 11 km from Cunderdin. Visitors should ring Mr and Mrs Kennedy on 9635 3226 before visiting this private property. The reserve is unusual breakaway country with orchids and wildflowers in spring and a variety of bird species.

### Tammin

**E** **Yorkrakine Rock** is located 25 km north of Tammin on Yorkrakine Road. It is a spectacular large granite outcrop surrounded by largely untouched wheatbelt woodland. There is a well maintained access road to the base of the rock and picnic facilities. Over ninety species of birds have been recorded here. The rock is one of the few remaining large tracts of vegetation in the central wheatbelt and species that are rare in other parts of the wheatbelt can be seen here. Species include Common Bronzewing, Red-capped Robin, White-eared Honeyeater, Grey and Pied Butcherbirds, Grey Shrike-thrush and White-browed Babbler.

**F** **Hunt's Well/Tammin Railway Dam**. Located south-east of Tammin on Goldfields Rd, this is one of the historic wells sunk by the early settler Hunt on his expeditions into the wheatbelt at the turn of the century. The site consists of heathland surrounding a small granite outcrop. Species include Weebill, Yellow-throated Miner, Yellow-rumped Thornbill and Common Bronzewing. The wildflowers are a worthwhile sight in spring.

**G** **Charles Gardner Reserve**. Located 16 km south on Ralston Road, this DEC flora reserve has large amounts of low heathland. Notable birds are Chestnut-rumped and Yellow-rumped Thornbill and White-fronted Chat.

### Kellerberrin

**H** The town of **Kellerberrin** located on the Great Eastern Highway offers good opportunities for Yellow-throated Miner, foraging in the Eucalypts of the car park

Red-capped Robin



Artist: Judy Blyth

opposite the supermarket. Just north of the town, **Kellerberrin Hill** offers a great vantage point of the surrounding area and good birding opportunities. Take the road past the cemetery, off the Kellerberrin-Trayning Rd.

**I** **Woolerrin Reserve** is located approximately 10 km north of Kellerberrin on the Kellerberrin-Trayning Road. A wander through this extensive reserve will produce many interesting birds including Grey Fantail, Jacky Winter, Red-capped Robin, Western Yellow Robin (with a lot of luck!), White-browed Babbler, Rufous Whistler and Mulga Parrot to name a few. Look out for orchids in spring.

**J** **Kodj Kodjin Reserve** is located on the corner of Maley Rd and Mission Rd and can be accessed by turning off either Mission Rd or Kellerberrin-Trayning Rd and parking off Maley Rd. This is a spectacular reserve of remnant vegetation and includes many different ecotypes ranging from dense melaleuca scrub to open grassland and dense woodland. The key bird here is the Western Yellow Robin with at least one family group occurring. Also look out for Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Jacky Winter, Red-capped Robin and Rufous Fieldwren. This reserve is also the last locality record of Grey Currawong in the shire.

**K** **Durokoppin Reserve** is another DEC reserve located to the north of Kodj Kodjin. Its southern boundary occurs on Harvey Road and it is spread between Mission Rd and the Kellerberrin-Trayning Rd. This is an extensive reserve and one of the largest in the wheatbelt. There are many different vegetation types ranging from Salmon Gum woodland to heathland. Common species include Weebill, Grey

Fantail, Red-capped Robin, White-browed Babbler, Mulga Parrot, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Goshawk, Yellow-rumped Thornbill and White-eared Honeyeater. Because of its size, this reserve offers opportunities for rare wheatbelt species including Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, Western Yellow Robin, Malleefowl (last known locality for this species – now presumed extinct in the shire), Rufous Fieldwren and Purple-crowned Lorikeet (presumed extinct in the shire).

**L Bandee Lakes** are 21 km east of Kellerberrin. In years of high rainfall, these lakes are home to a great diversity of waterbirds including Red-necked Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Banded Stilt, Black-tailed Native-hen and perhaps even a Hooded Plover.

### Traying

**M Billyacatting Rock** is the largest nature reserve in the WA wheatbelt. With its towering rock and expanse of undisturbed bush it is an impressive sight. It can be accessed by travelling from either Nungarin or Kununoppin on the Wyalkatchem Rd. Take Kwelkan North Rd and turn onto Billyacatting Rd which skirts the entire reserve. The reserve is a good place to see Emu, Malleefowl, Redthroat, Mulga Parrot, the wheatbelt race of the Western Rosella (one of the last localities for this species in the central wheatbelt), Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Western Yellow Robin, Crested Bellbird, White-eared Honeyeater and more.

### Merredin

There are a large number of nature reserves around Merredin and the DEC regional office can be of assistance in providing more information. Some localities are as follows:

**N** Located just north of Merredin on the Chandler Merredin Rd, **Hunt's Dam** is a small nature reserve and popular local picnic spot. Although degraded in parts, it provides easy birding opportunities for common wheatbelt species such as Weebill, White-eared Honeyeater, Rufous Whistler, Red-capped Robin, Grey Shrike-thrush and White-browed Babbler. Stubble Quail have also been seen.

**O Totadgin Rock** located 11 km south of Merredin on Bruce Rock Rd (junction with Bell Rd) is a small reserve comprising woodland and heathland surrounding a large granite outcrop. Species include Southern Boobook, White-eared Honeyeater, Weebill and Chestnut-rumped Thornbill.

**P Maugham Nature Reserve** is a DEC reserve located on Last Road which can be found by travelling Teasdale Rd from Totadgin Rock. This reserve contains dense mallee and heath and is a good spot for Southern Scrub-robin.

**Q Lake Champion Nature Reserve** is located 41 km NNE of Merredin on the Chandler-Merredin Rd. There are large numbers of waterbirds in good seasons, including Banded Stilt, Hoary-headed Grebe, Australian Shelduck, Red-necked Avocet and Common Greenshank.

### Westonia

Accommodation at Westonia is available in the motel or the caravan park.

**R Sandford Rocks Nature Reserve** is found 11 km NE of Westonia on Boodarockin Rd. Over 90 species have been recorded here and a copy of the nature trail guide is available from the Westonia Shire office. Species seen include several raptors, Regent Parrot, Mulga Parrot, Elegant Parrot, Black-eared Cuckoo, Southern Boobook, Crested Bellbird, Redthroat and Rufous Fieldwren. Southern Scrub-robin has been seen on the eastern side of the rock. There are parking and picnic facilities available.

**S Burracoppin Nature Reserve.** This DEC reserve has a wide range of habitats ranging from woodland to heathland and consequently a variety of different bird species.

**Further Information** - Department of Environment and Conservation in Merredin 9041-2488

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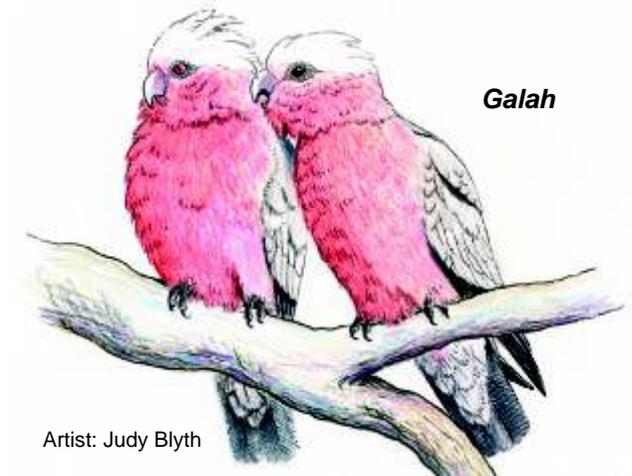
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CUNDERDIN - WESTONIA

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Galah

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