

1. VICTORIA ROCK NATURE RESERVE

Located 45 km south of Coolgardie on Victoria Rock Road and accessible by 2WD vehicles. The Reserve features an impressive granite outcrop, fringing teatree thicket and Salmon Gum, York Gum and Sheoak woodland. Birds include several south-west species such as Western Rosella, Shy Heathwren and Western Yellow Robin. Facilities include BBQ, toilets, information panel and walktrail. Camping is permitted.

2. BOORABBIN NATIONAL PARK

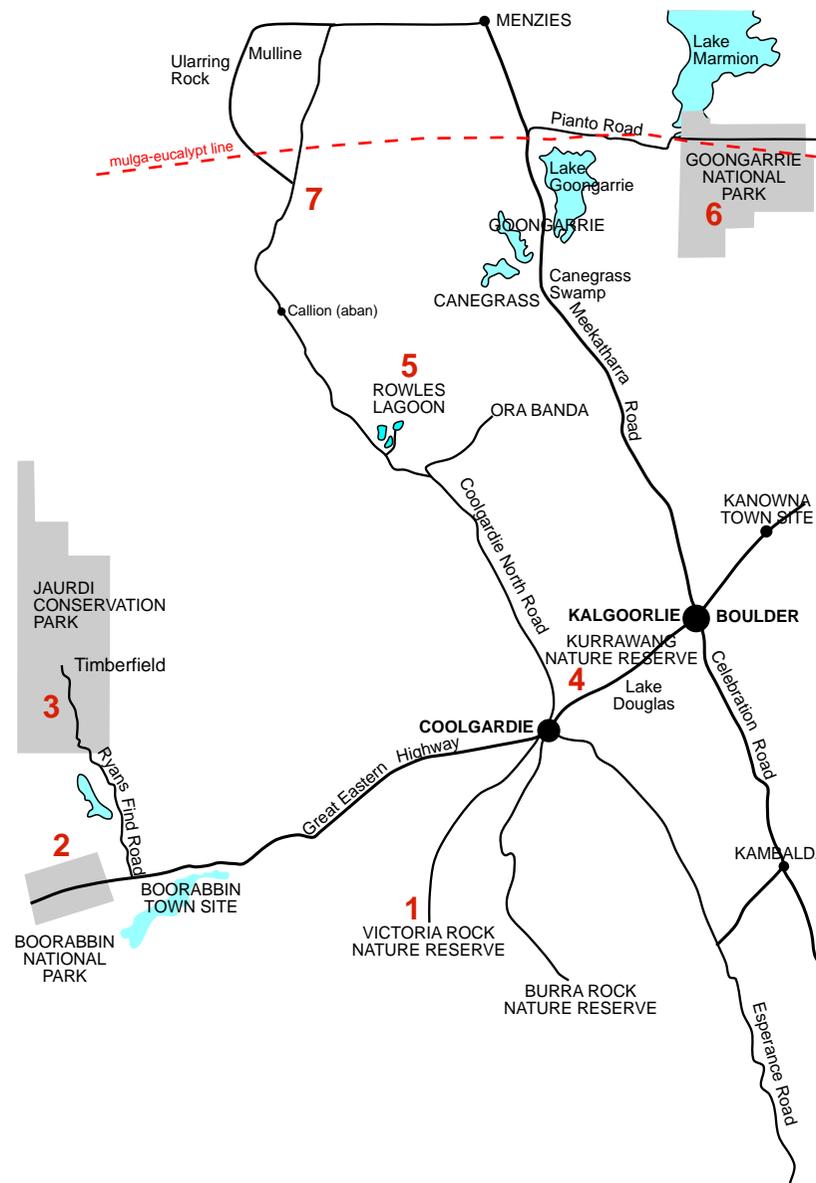
This is an interesting area extending for 25 km with a width of 5 km on each side of the Great Eastern Highway. It is mainly high sandplain heath. There is an extensive salt lake system to the south and east and several granite rock areas, the largest being Boorabbin Rock.

The flora and fauna have been well documented and include three species of semi-arid zone banksia. Flowering Kwongan heaths attract many honeyeaters including Tawny-crowned Honeyeater. Included among the 75 recorded species are Blue-breasted Fairy-wren and Shy Heathwren.

3. JAURDI CONSERVATION PARK

The former Jaurdi pastoral lease, purchased for conservation in 1989, is now proposed as a conservation park. Access is by Mt Walton Road which heads north from Great Eastern Highway at the old Boorabbin townsite. Only in dry weather is the area suitable for conventional vehicles. Jaurdi is the prime birding site in the southern Goldfields because of its large size, diversity of landforms, vegetation types and good internal access. It has uncut woodland, saltlakes, granite outcrops, breakaways, ironstone and greenstone ranges and hills.

The birdlist includes Golden Whistler, Southern Scrub-Robin, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, numerous arid woodland species and some waterfowl. Some accommodation may be available. Apply to Kalgoorlie DEC office, Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie. Tel: (08) 9080-5555



4. KARRAWANG NATURE RESERVE

Located between 13 and 17 km southwest of Kalgoorlie and north of Great Eastern Highway, signposted access is off the road to Kurrawang Emu farm. The Reserve features regrowth woodland after felling about 1910. It is of particular interest because Guy Shortridge, a collector for the British Museum, recorded the species present in 1904-5 before the impact of European settlement.

Bird fauna is typical of regrowth Goldfields woodland such as Purple-crowned Lorikeet and Rufous Treecreeper. Mallee-scrub birds include Chestnut Quail-thrush, Redthroat and Southern White-face. Redthroat is found in denser thicket-like patches.

Kurrawang Nature Reserve can be combined with a visit to LAKE DOUGLAS, a man-made wetland and picnic site south of the Great Eastern Highway, approximately 13 km from Kalgoorlie. Thirteen waterbird species have been recorded here, including Yellow-billed Spoonbill.

5. ROWLES LAGOON CONSERVATION PARK

Located 70 km north of Coolgardie, signposted off Coolgardie North Road. Rowles Lagoon is the largest and deepest of four freshwater lakes. It is a lake of national significance. Dense thickets of melaleuca are ideal nesting sites for many of the 16 species of waterbirds that breed here, including the Freckled Duck. The 41 waterbird species recorded is more than for any other wetland in the temperate arid interior.

Species recorded are Grey Plover, Black-tailed Godwit and Ruddy Turnstone. Raptors include Whistling Kite, Little Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Spotted Harrier.

Camping facilities are provided.

6. GOONGARRIE NATIONAL PARK

This park, south-east of Menzies, is accessed from Pianto Road which leaves the Meekatharra Road 30 km south of Menzies. Situated on the

mulga-eucalypt line it comprises pristine eucalypt and acacia vegetation, granite outcrops, salt lakes, claypans and the associated vegetation of Lake Marmion. Arid-zone woodland and mulga species and some waterbirds dominate the avifauna. Look out for White-browed Treecreeper and Budgerigar.

While in the area visit CANEGRASS SWAMP, an ephemeral freshwater swamp. Eleven kilometres south of the Goongarrie townsite turn east towards 'Camperdown'. Several waterbird species have been recorded

7. ROWLES LAGOON TO ULARRING ROCK

The area to the north of Rowles Lagoon is easily accessed for an interesting drive along the Coolgardie North Road. At Davyhurst, take the Davyhurst-Mulline Road. As Ularring Rock is approximately 12 km south of the Evanston Menzies Road, it could be combined with a trip to Menzies (with eventual return to Kalgoorlie) or Hospital Rocks (with eventual return to the Great Eastern Highway through Bullfinch and Southern Cross).

At some point on the Coolgardie North Road, the Goldfields woodland habitats give way to mulga (the 'mulga-eucalypt line'). The edge of range of many arid-zone and woodland bird species is crossed while traversing this route. Interesting local history points along the route include the abandoned townsite and dam at Callion and the abandoned townsite of Mulwarrie. Ularring Rock was one of the watering places for the explorer Ernest Giles and Cobb & Co coaches.

Gilbert's Whistler can be seen along the route and at Ularring Rock. Woodland birds include Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Rufous Treecreeper, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Jacky Winter and Dusky Woodswallow. Look for Blue-breasted Fairy-wren and Shy Heathwren in shrubland and mallee shrubland in the southern part of the route.

ABOUT THE REGION

The Eastern Goldfields region covered in this bird guide comprises an area south of the mulga eucalypt line and bordered by the south-western region. The climate is mostly arid and semi-arid with an average annual rainfall of 200 mm, which decreases slightly from south and west to north and east.

Vegetation ranges from eucalypt woodland to shrubland. Red clays and loams support eucalypt woodlands mainly of Salmon Gum, Gimlet, Morrell and Blackbutt, with areas of scrub-mallee. As we approach the mulga-eucalypt line, vegetation changes to acacia and casuarina, with elements of eucalypt and scrub-mallee.

The mulga-eucalypt line at Goongarrie marks the limit of dry-land birds such as White-browed Treecreeper.

Southern birds like the Southern Scrub-robin and Gilbert's Whistler do not transgress the mulga-eucalypt line.

Arid zone species, such as Mulga Parrot and Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, have extended their range into the southwest.

Another group of south-west species is recorded only in the south and west sites in this guide e.g. Shy Heathwren and Western Yellow Robin.

KALGOORLIE ARBORETUM

The Arboretum was established in 1954 to evaluate the Goldfields' trees for use in the Kalgoorlie area.

The area provides passive recreational activities such as picnics, walks and short drives. A shady walk trail meandering through the Arboretum allows visitors to identify single trees from marked signs. The bird life is extensive, probably because of the permanent water and different flowering times of tree species.

BIRDWATCHING AROUND KALGOORLIE- BOULDER AND COOLGARDIE

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