

BIRDWATCHING AROUND MANDURAH

Situated at the northern end of the Peel Inlet, Mandurah is renowned as a major seaside resort and a rapidly developing city. It is also the key point in a chain of lakes and estuaries from Perth to Bunbury. These expanses of open water are a habitat for up to 100 000 waterbirds. Localities such as the Creery Wetlands are recognised under International Agreements as key habitats for migratory waders. To the west is the Darling Range with its diverse Jarrah forest flora and habitat for native birds.

1 LAKE WELLARD

From Mandurah, travel on the Mandurah-Baldvis Road then east along Fifty Road and Zigzag Road. The lake, surrounded by woodland, was created by Alcoa Australia following clay excavation for their alumina plant. The planted trees and reeds provide an excellent habitat for waterbirds, crakes and Buff-banded Rail.

2 LAKE GOEGRUP AND BLACK LAKE

Follow Gordon Road to Lakes, Patterson and Dunkerton Roads. These lakes are important waterbird feeding and breeding areas. Red-necked Avocet are present throughout the year. Black Lake is a winter habitat for large flocks of Musk Duck.

3 MANDURAH HARBOUR AND DOLPHIN POOL

These are good areas to observe Caspian, Crested and Fairy Tern. In summer among the waders are Bar-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew, Ruddy Turnstone, Australian Pied Oystercatcher and Grey Plover.

4. MANDURAH ESTUARY

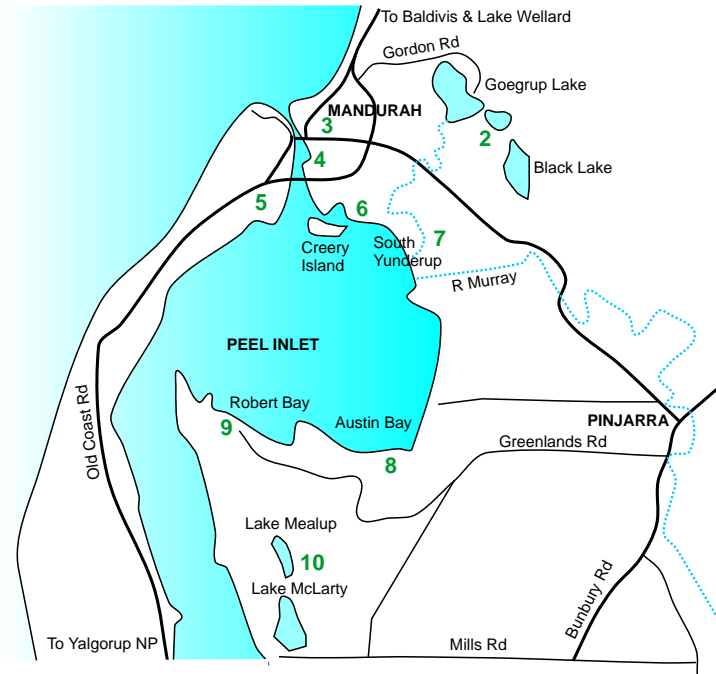
Between the two Mandurah bridges the shores, marshes and islands of Peel Inlet provide excellent opportunities to observe waterbirds feeding. Darter, cormorants, Yellow-billed Spoonbill (occasionally Royal Spoonbill) and Black-winged Stilt are usually present.

5 ERSKINE NATURE TRAIL

Along Bunbury Highway to Oakleigh Drive, Wattle Glen Avenue and Silverton Crescent and Glendart Circle. There is a two kilometre nature trail to Peel Inlet. Along the trail you should see Splendid Fairy-wren, Golden and Rufous Whistler.

6 COODANUP AND CREERY WETLANDS

Travel one kilometre east towards Pinjarra. Turn south along Wanjeep Road to Peel Inlet (Coodanup). From the shore one can see Boundary Island, a nesting place for Fairy Tern. The bay inshore of Creery Island supports large numbers of Bar-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew, Great Knot,



Banded Stilt and Pacific Golden Plover. Australian White Ibis and Yellow-billed Spoonbill come here to feed from nearby breeding colonies.

7 SOUTH YUNDERUP

Reached from a well signed turn-off to the west of Murray River Bridge (Ravenswood) via Yunderup Road. Yunderup is at the mouth of the Murray River and there is walking access to shallow water sites and mudflats upstream to search for waterbirds.

8 AUSTIN BAY (BOGGY BAY)

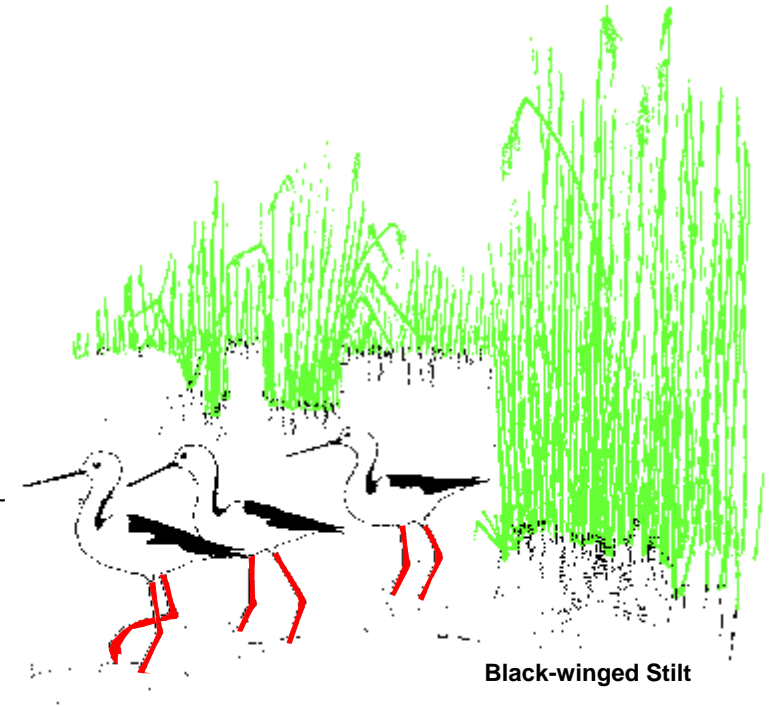
Turn right three kilometres east of Murray River Bridge along Beecham Road. Park at seven kilometres from the turnoff. Allow at least half a day to visit Austin and Robert Bays. Austin Bay is extremely rich in waterbird species (39). The samphire flats are the home of the Little Grassbird and the extensive mudflats are good for small and large waders. It is a good area for Whimbrel and Grey-tailed Tattler. Royal Spoonbill, Long-toed Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper and Ruff are also a possibility. A spectacular sight is to see a dense flock of birds scrambling for fish in the shallows.

9 ROBERT BAY

Follow Greenlands (south of Pinjarra) and Carrabanyup Roads. This area is readily accessible and gives excellent views of waterbirds feeding. A nearby large paperbark swamp is an important breeding ground for Little Pied and Little Black Cormorant. Dusky Moorhen and Eurasian Coot can be seen in the swamp and a White-bellied Sea-Eagle is often seen.

10 LAKE McLARTY

From the junction of the Old Bunbury Road and South-west Highway, travel along Old Bunbury Road to Mills Road (5 km) then right to the lake (11.5 km). Freshwater lakes such as McLarty and Mealup provide reed bed, mudflat and shallow habitat for thousands of waterbirds. You may find Wood Sandpiper, Long-toed Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper and Ruff. It is an excellent place to see herons and egrets feeding.

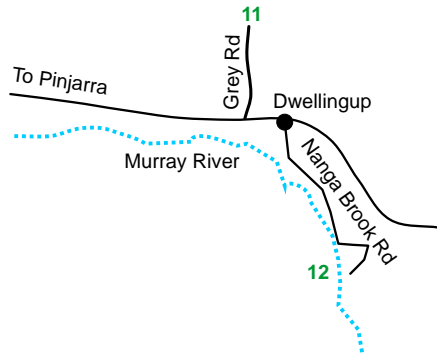


Black-winged Stilt

DARLING RANGE

11 MARRINUP

This is a Jarrah forest habitat in the Darling Range. Follow Dwellingup Road (20 km) to Grey Road, 3 km west of Dwellingup. Turn left to the forest. This is a good area for Scarlet and White-breasted Robin, Varied Sittella and perhaps Red-eared Firetail. Be sure to check fire season restrictions in this State Forest.



12 MURRAY RIVER

From Dwellingup take Nanga Brook Road to the river. Here you should see Rufous Treecreeper, Splendid and Red-winged Fairy-wren, Golden and Rufous Whistler.

YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK

Fifty kilometres south of Mandurah on the Bunbury Highway, turn west onto Preston Beach Road. The park is subject to a number of pressures; active recreation, groundwater extraction, future highway etc. This long, narrow reserve has delightful heath and woodland scenery with lakes and swamps. Western Grey Kangaroo, Western Brush Wallaby and Emu are present. Along Preston Beach Road is an information bay which provides clear directions to walks and other information.

13 WALK

This commences at the information bay and passes through Tuart forest to Lake Preston (2-3 hours return). The forest has many bushbirds including Brown Goshawk, Sacred Kingfisher, Rufous and Golden Whistler and honeyeaters.

14 MARTIN TANK

At the eastern end of the causeway on Preston Beach Road is the Ranger's house. Take the limestone road to the right to Martin Tank, where there is a lake and camping area. A 90-minute return walk will take you to Lake Pollard, a haven for hundreds of Black Swan.

NOTES

WHAT IS BIRDS AUSTRALIA?

Birds Australia is a non-profit organisation working for the enjoyment, study and conservation of Australia's birds.

The Western Australian members of Birds Australia are state-wide and are offered a variety of activities and services including conservation and research projects, excursions, camp-outs, bird surveys and social activities.

We also have a library, books for sale and information about birds.

To view our full range of bird guides and bird lists, visit our web site.

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FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS BROCHURE

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Caspian Tern



Birds Australia
CONSERVATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

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