

INTRODUCTION

The City of Melville is fortunate that many areas of bushland have been retained as a refuge for our native plants and animals and for their enjoyment by people of all ages who are residents of or visitors to our city.

We hope that you will find this brochure of some help in understanding and enjoying the many native birds and their habitats in the City of Melville.

Information prepared by members of Birds Australia Western Australia.

1. BLACKWALL REACH and POINT WALTER

These are two adjoining areas of natural beauty.

The natural vegetation is of Jarrah, Marri and Tuart woodland with banksia and dryandra (Parrot Bush) and thick undergrowth of Grasstree and other native plants.

Blackwall Reach is 14 hectares of Class A reserve vested in the City of Melville. It was once the home of the Aboriginal Whadjung tribe. There are walk trails through the reserve. From the limestone paths you may see an Australasian Darter drying it's wings. Cormorants and terns will be busy feeding in the estuary.



Australasian Darter
Anhinga melanogaster



Point Walter Spit

At Point Walter there is a restaurant, shaded lawns and a parking area. When the tide is out, waders and other birds can be seen near the spit.

The Red-capped Plover is one of the many waders.



Red-capped Plover
Charadrius ruficapillus

A walk along the trails will reward you with many birds. The Red-capped Parrot is often seen feeding on Marri nuts and Parrot Bush.



Red-capped Parrot
Purpureicephalus spurius



Inland Thornbill
Acanthiza apicalis

Yellow-rumped and Inland Thornbill are common. Watch out for a feeding party through the bushes. Western Thornbill are also present.

2. ALFRED COVE

This area is remarkable in that it offers such a diversity of habitats and native birds adjacent to housing areas. Parking is at Troy Park.



Black-winged Stilt
Himantopus himantopus

The mud flats are the main feeding area for waders on the lower Swan Estuary. During summer over 48 species have been recorded as visitors to the mud flats, many of which have come from Northern Asia/Alaska in their annual migration.

A pocket of natural estuarine marshland is the home and breeding area for 31 species, including the Buff-banded Rail, Spotless Crake and Black-winged Stilt.



Common Greenshank
Tringa nebularia



Striated Pardalote
Pardalotus striatus

Many raptors visit the area. You should see an Eastern Osprey when you visit. Many birds can be seen on or over the open water - ducks, terns and cormorants.



Eastern Osprey
Pandion haliaetus



BIRDWATCHING AROUND MELVILLE

A guide to some of our city parks and reserves



Rainbow Bee-eater

Prepared by members of
Birds Australia Western Australia

Paintings of scenes are by Charles Smith. Bird illustrations by Judy Blyth, Pam Free, Pam Agar and Susan Tingay.

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3. WIRELESS HILL



Wireless Hill is a valuable urban bushland reserve managed by the City of Melville. This remnant Jarrah and banksia woodland is representative of the vegetation community that once existed on the Swan Coastal Plain before urban development. There are many walk trails and Wireless Hill is well known for it's range of wildflowers, including 19 species of orchids.



Magpie-lark
Grallina cyanoleuca

There are 40 hectares of reserve with a two hectare area of grassed parkland, picnic areas and a telecommunications museum.

In spring this is a good area to see the Rainbow Bee-eater, which breeds in underground tunnels (see cover).



Nankeen Kestrel
Falco cenchroides



Singing Honeyeater
Lichenostomus virescens

You should see raptors such as the Collared Sparrowhawk or Nankeen Kestrel, which hovers above in it's search for lizards and insects.

Several honeyeaters are present among the flowering banksias and heath.

4. THE LAKES

A series of interdunal wetlands lie between two dune systems and stretch from Blue Gum Lake to Thomson's Lake in the south. The soils around the lakes support a wide diversity of plant and animal life. Many birds use these semi-permanent wetlands as refuges when inland lakes become dry.

4A. BLUE GUM LAKE

Until recently, Blue Gum was a marshy, fresh-water swamp and only a fraction of it's present size. Today it is an important refuge and breeding area for birds. Parking is available just off Canning Avenue.



Pacific Black Duck
Anas superciliosa

The northern area has been developed into shaded parklands and lawns. Open water of the lake provides good viewing of ducks, including Pacific Black Duck and Grey Teal.

Many birds feed along the edge of the water and on the lawns.



Purple Swamphen
Porphyrio porphyrio



Grey Butcherbird
Cracticus torquatus

The southern side of the lake has been retained as a banksia woodland with walk trails. The woodland is the permanent home of many birds, such as the Grey Butcherbird.

4B. BOORAGOON LAKE



Unlike most metropolitan lakes, Booragoon Lake is closely surrounded by natural vegetation of Flooded Gum and paperbarks and dense undergrowth. This is an ideal breeding area for water and bush birds. Parking is in Lang Street.



Little Pied Cormorant
Phalacrocorax melanoleucos

The open water will show many birds feeding and bathing in the lake.



Musk Duck
Biziura lobata



Dusky Moorhen
Gallinula tenebrosa

Take a walk along the boardwalk to see cormorants, ibis, swans, grebes and other birds breeding in the melaleuca thickets.

Take a walk along the path to the right to see ducks, coots and moorhens feeding among the reeds and trees.

You will come to a weir where you may see a Eastern Great Egret or Blue-billed Duck.



Nankeen Night-Heron
Nycticorax caledonicus

Look among the trees for bushbirds as you walk around the lake and back to your car. A family of Nankeen Night-Heron live in the eastern woodland.

4C. PINEY LAKES

The reserve is dominated by a melaleuca woodland, lake and bushland on the higher northern section. Entry to the reserve and parking area is from Leach Highway.



Splendid Fairy-wren
Malurus splendens

The bushland supports several families of Splendid Fairy-wren. Brown and Singing Honeyeater and Red Wattlebird are common.

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo are often present feeding on the pine cones.



Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo
Calyptrorhynchus latirostris



White-faced Heron
Egretta novaehollandiae

Near the lake a variety of waterbirds can be seen, including Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Australian White Ibis, White-faced Heron and Purple Swamphen.

5. BULL CREEK

A series of parks run along the west bank of Bull Creek Estuary and along the creek south of Leach Highway.



Black Swan
Cygnus atratus

5A. BULL CREEK ESTUARY

From Thomas Middleton Park and Bateman Park there are good views of the estuary with many waterbirds. You may see a Buff-banded Rail feeding. The old Bateman Homestead, 'Grasmere', built in 1886, still stands on a hill overlooking the swampy ground. A sign-posted boardwalk will take you to Yagan Park.



Buff-banded Rail
Gallirallus philippensis

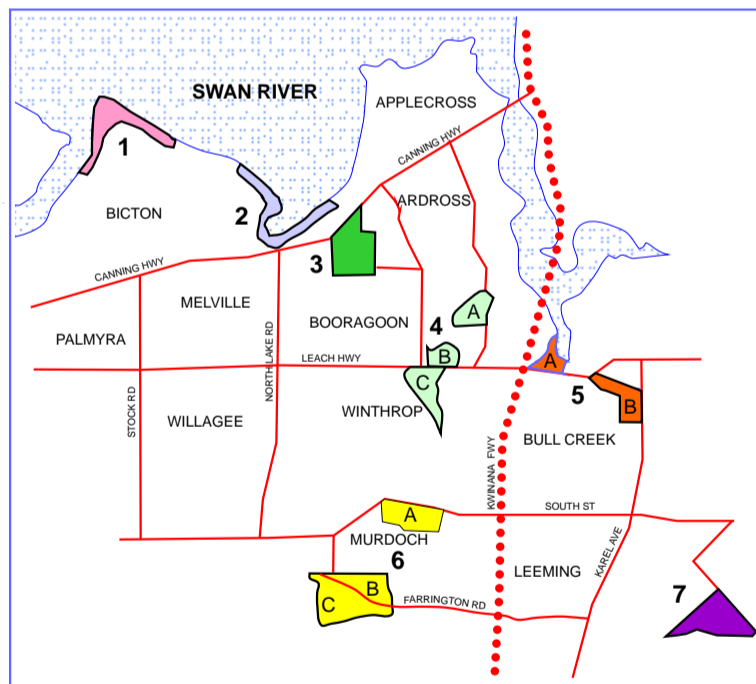
5B. BULL CREEK PARK



Bull Creek Park follows the creek to the headwaters at Brockman Avenue. The park is south of Rossmoyne Senior High School. The Flooded Gums and low bushland along the creek provide refuge for many birds, including White-faced Heron, Brown Goshawk, Rufous Whistler and Grey Butcherbird.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Coracina novaehollandiae

For more information on the parks, reserves and wildlife of the City of Melville, contact the city on 9364 0666 or www.melville.wa.gov.au



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.

INTERESTED?

Contact us at:

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6. MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

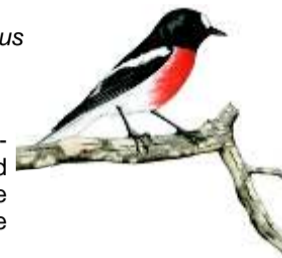
Murdoch has the largest university campus in Australia and much of its original bushland has been retained, providing a refuge for birds, some now rare in Perth. Parking is available off South Street near the main university buildings, but is often limited on weekdays.



Western Spinebill
Acanthorhynchus superciliosus

A. The gardens contain an abundance of native flowering species which attract birds absent from suburban gardens, such as Western Spinebill and Splendid Fairy-wren.

B. In the bush at the south-west corner are resident and migratory species. This is one of the few areas in Perth to see Scarlet Robin.



Scarlet Robin
Petroica multicolor



Hoary-headed Grebe
Poliiocephalus poliocephalus

C. Across Farrington Road is North Lake. It's fringing reed-beds and thick vegetation is an ideal place for waterbirds and bushbirds. Look for swamphens, ducks and White-faced Heron.

Welcome Swallow nest in the university buildings, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo feed in the pine trees, and the open paddocks attract Australian Ringneck and Red-capped Parrot.



Australian Ringneck
Barnadius zonarius

7. KENHURST PARK

This native bushland park adjacent to areas of similar bushland is an important habitat for Grey Kangaroo, Western Brush-Wallaby and Short-nosed Bandicoot.



Shining Bronze-cuckoo
Chrysococcyx lucidus



Painted Button-quail
Turnix varia

It is one of the few reserves on the Swan Coastal Plain with Painted Button-quail.

The Grey Shrike-thrush, which has disappeared from most metropolitan reserves, can still be found here.

The most abundant honeyeaters are the Singing, Brown and White-cheeked Honeyeater. Flowering banksias and other shrubs provide a continuous source of food for six species of honeyeaters.



White-cheeked Honeyeater
Phylidonyris nigra



It is one of the few reserves to be able to see the Black-faced Woodswallow.

Black-faced Woodswallow
Artamus cinereus