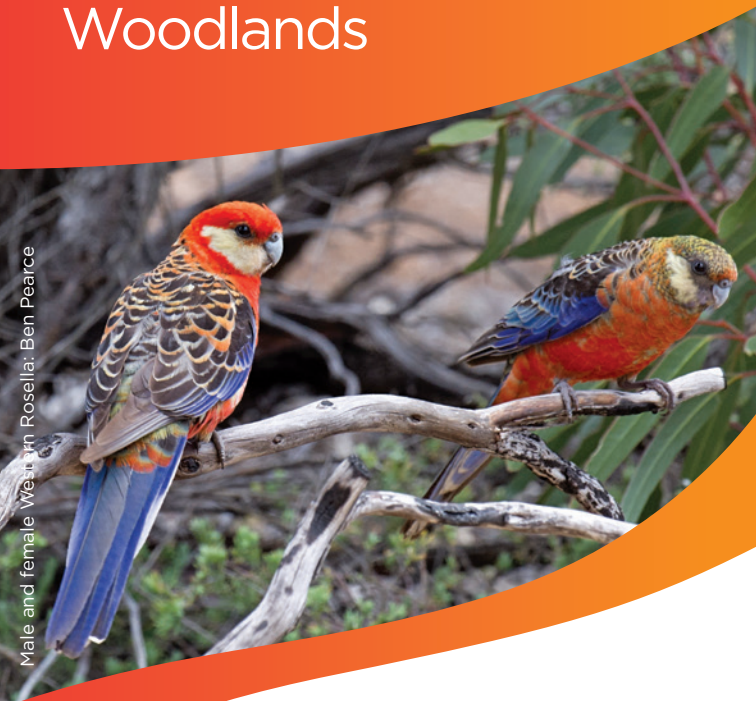


# Bird Guide for the Great Western Woodlands

Male and female Western Rosella: Ben Pearce



**PART 2.**  
**SOUTHERN**  
Hyden  
Norseman  
Balladonia



birds are in our nature

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AUSTRALIA

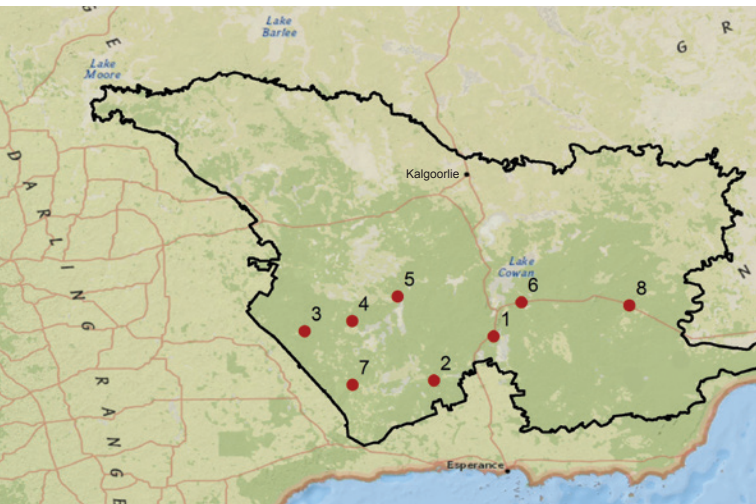
# Introduction

The birds and places of the southern half of the Great Western Woodlands are presented in this booklet. It is an area made up of eucalypt woodlands, mallee and heath. There are also granite outcrops, natural salt lakes and the occasional freshwater lake. In the most southern areas, the rainfall pattern tends towards a Mediterranean climate, supporting some of the South West WA birds such as the Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and Brush Bronzewing. This is in contrast to a semi-arid climate elsewhere in the Great Western Woodlands.

## The Great Western Woodlands

At 16 million hectares, the Great Western Woodlands (GWW) is over twice as big as Tasmania and is the largest remaining intact area of temperate woodland in the world. It is located between the Western Australian Wheatbelt and the Nullarbor Plain.

BirdLife Australia and The Nature Conservancy joined forces in 2012 to establish a long-term project to study





the birds of this unique region to determine how we can best conserve our woodland birds.

Groups of volunteers carry out bird surveys each year in spring and autumn to find out the species present, their abundance and to observe their behaviour.

If you would like to know more visit

<http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/great-western-woodlands>

If you would like to participate as a volunteer contact [gww@birdlife.org.au](mailto:gww@birdlife.org.au). All levels of experience are welcome.

**The following six pages present 48 bird species that typically occur in four different habitats of the southern half of the GWW, although they are not restricted to these habitats. Eight places to visit are then described.**

*At least 215 bird species have been recorded in the Great Western Woodlands, with 181 of those recorded during surveys from 2012 to 2014.*



Map: Showing sites to visit in the southern half of the Great Western Woodlands.

#### KEY

1. Dundas Rocks
2. Peak Charles
3. Lake Cronin
4. The Breakaways
5. McDermid Rock
6. Buldania Rocks
7. Frank Hann
8. Newman Rock

# BIRDS OF THE WOODLAND



Weebill



Spotted  
Pardalote



White-eared Honeyeater



Yellow-plumed  
Honeyeater



Purple-crowned Lorikeet



Black-faced  
Cuckoo-shrike



Rufous Treecreeper



Grey Butcherbird

## WOODLAND BIRDS continued



White-fronted  
Honeyeater



Spiny-cheeked  
Honeyeater



White-browed  
Babbler



Silveryeye



Golden Whistler



Crested Bellbird



Chestnut Quail-thrush



Gilbert's Whistler

# BIRDS OF THE TOWNS



Australian Ringneck



Red Wattlebird



Yellow-throated Miner



Singing Honeyeater



Australian Magpie



Grey Currawong



Australian Raven



Willie Wagtail

# BIRDS OF THE SKY



Welcome Swallow



Tree Martin



Black-faced Woodswallow



Wedge-tailed Eagle



Dusky Woodswallow



Rainbow Bee-eater



Nankeen Kestrel



Brown Falcon

# BIRDS OF THE MALLEE AND HEATH



New Holland  
Honeyeater



Purple-gaped Honeyeater



Tawny-crowned  
Honeyeater



Blue-breasted  
Fairy-wren



Redthroat



White-browed Scrubwren



Inland Thornbill



Southern Scrub-robin



# OTHER GREAT WESTERN WOODLANDS BIRDS



Galah



Pied Butcherbird



Yellow-rumped  
Thornbill



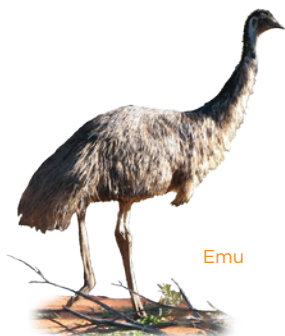
Common  
Bronzewing



Australasian Pipit



Magpie-lark



Emu



Australian Bustard

## DUNDAS ROCKS

The granite boulders of Dundas Rocks are located on the Dundas Heritage Trail, south of Norseman. Following the original Cobb and Co. route, the Old Coach Road Dundas Trail runs through eucalypt woodland, alongside salt pans, past the old Dundas town site, heritage site and Lone Grave. The hardship and despair faced by early pioneers lends an eerie light to this calm, tranquil eucalypt woodland.

A man-made dam encourages dense shrubby vegetation where insectivores such as Redthroat, White-winged Fairy-wren, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren and several thornbill species (Inland, Chestnut-rumped and Yellow-rumped Thornbills) can be found.

The turnoff to Dundas Rocks is 23 km south of Norseman, east of the Coolgardie- Esperance Highway, and marks the beginning of an alternative 24km route into Norseman (from Esperance) on the Old Coach Road Dundas Trail with excellent birding potential along the way.

White-winged  
Fairy-wren



Dundas Rocks has barbecue and camping facilities. The Dundas Trail is navigable by 2WD under dry (not wet) conditions. Care needs to be taken to drive to the conditions.



## PEAK CHARLES National Park

The granite summit of Peak Charles dominates the horizon of this National Park. The area reflects the diversity of the Great Western Woodlands, containing woodland, mallee and granite outcrops supporting a diversity of orchids and birds. Southern Scrub-robins are present and provide much delight with their territorial calling and antics on the ground.

The woodlands include areas of Salmon Gum supporting the eastern subspecies of the Western Rosella and Australian Ringneck. The shrubland is home to the Malleefowl and the dense vegetation near the base of the granite is suitable for White-browed Scrubwren and Rufous Fieldwren. Purple-crowned Lorikeets can be abundant here in summer when there is eucalypt in flower.



Malleefowl

Access is via the Lake King Norseman Road 22km west of the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway. The road can be closed after heavy rains.

There is a campsite located at the base of Peak Charles and a marked walk trail to the summit. Peak Charles is popular with rock climbers and nature enthusiasts. Access into the National Park is 4WD only.



## LAKE CRONIN Nature Reserve

Lake Cronin Nature Reserve includes a semi-permanent freshwater wetland with its catchment mostly intact and is listed as a nationally important wetland.

When the lake occasionally fills with water there can be large numbers of Grey Teals, Pink-eared Ducks,

Australian Shelducks and Black-tailed Native-hens.

The adjacent vegetation is

varied and supports a great variety of birds

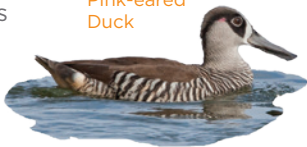
including the Western

Rosella, Striated

Pardalote and Blue-

breasted Fairy-wren.

Pink-eared  
Duck



Lake Cronin is 88km east of Hyden. Access is from Forrestania Road, either from the south via the Hyden-Norseman Road (32km east of the State Barrier Fence) or from the north via Great Eastern Highway east of Yellowdine.

There is no camping at Lake Cronin. Picnic tables and toilets are provided for day visitors.

**Black-tailed Native-hens** are a nomadic species, and can 'turn up' in reasonable numbers in the semi-arid areas of the Great Western Woodlands when there is surface water and a low cover of shrubs or sedges.

Black-tailed Native-hens



## THE BREAKAWAYS

The Breakaways is a stunning formation, standing about 5m high, it has a hard ironstone cap and soft rock below that is eroded by winds and rains revealing colours of white, pink, orange and purple. Nestled in amongst eucalypt woodlands, a wide range of birds can be seen here. Among these are the small woodland birds such as the Jacky Winter, Red-capped Robin, Hooded Robin, Western Yellow Robin, Spotted Pardalote and Striated Pardalote. The Spotted Nightjar, Rainbow Bee-eater and White-backed Swallow also occur here.

The Breakaways is located on the Hyden-Norseman Rd, 137km east of Hyden. The Norseman-Hyden Road can be closed following rains. The road in to The Breakaways is gravel and suitable for all vehicles under dry weather conditions, however, is subject to closures (check with Kondinin and Dundas Shires) due to rain, damage or fires.

There are designated campsites with firepits, picnic tables, barbecues and toilets. It is a popular campground.



Western  
Yellow Robin



Hooded  
Robin

The Breakaways



## McDERMID ROCK

McDermid Rock is a wave-shaped granite formation similar to its big cousin Wave Rock, at nearby Hyden. Watching sunrise from the top of the rock is a stunning experience, standing high in the landscape with 360 degree views. From this height you can also see how the dense vegetation at the base of the rock suddenly changes 100m or so away from the rock. Purple-gaped Honeyeater is common at this rock as are Crested Bellbird, Jacky Winter and Striated Pardalote. Other birds that can be seen at or near the rock include the White-eared Honeyeater, Southern Scrub-robin, Gilbert's Whistler, Mistletoebird, Varied Sittella, Redthroat, Rufous Treecreeper and Brown Falcon.



The turn-off to McDermid Rock is on Victoria Rock Road, 5km north of the Hyden-Norseman Road, approximately 100km west of Norseman and 200km east of Hyden.

McDermid Rock has a campsite, barbecues, toilets and picnic facilities. There is a walk trail to the summit

as well as interpretive signage describing the geology and ecology of the area. Under dry conditions, 2WD and 4WD can access the camping ground, however, travelling on other tracks, such as to Cave Hill, is recommended as 4WD only.



## BULDANIA ROCKS

Buldania Rocks is a granite outcrop nestled amongst the surrounding eucalypt woodland of the Fraser Range. The outcrops sport several gnamma holes, naturally storing water in cavities in the rock.

Like all granite outcrops, the vegetation surrounding the outcrop benefits from the additional rainfall run-off from the outcrop, and the birds like it too, including White-fronted Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Western Rosella (eastern subspecies), Australian Ringneck, Redthroat and Inland Thornbill.



Brown-headed  
Honeyeater

Buldania Rocks is hidden from the road, just north of the Eyre Highway. The turn-off is 36km by road, east of Norseman, at a white metal sign indicating 'water'.

There is a basic rest area and free camping area with no additional facilities.

**Male Redthroat** has a red throat, which is absent in the female. This species is a small sedentary insectivore with a distinctive call, it prefers dense shrublands and mallee vegetation.



Male Redthroat

# FRANK HANN National Park

Frank Hann National Park (named after the explorer who visited in 1901) provides a splendorous wonder of flowering plants within its diverse heathlands and mallees each spring, especially following good winter rains. It is because of this diversity that the area was made a national park.

Bird species occur in this park that are not found further north in the more arid GWW and include the Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Purple-gaped Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater and Brush Bronzewing.

Among many other bird species there are the Rufous Fieldwren, Shy Heathwren and White-winged Triller.

Located 31 km by road east of Lake King, the Frank Hann National Park sits on the Lake King-Norseman Road. Frank Hann starts at the State Barrier Fence and continues along the Lake King-Norseman Road for 80km. It is then at least another 85km to reach the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway.

There are no camping facilities provided within Frank Hann. Access is recommended as 4WD only. Road can be closed under wet conditions.



White-winged  
Triller



White-cheeked  
Honeyeater

Extensive heaths in flower at Frank Hann





## NEWMAN ROCK

The beautiful, extensive granite of Newman Rock is situated on the edge of the Nullarbor. From on top of the rock there are views of big skies and open plains, a special place to see sunsets and the night sky. The outcrop sports several gnamma holes, naturally storing water in cavities in the rock. There is also a man made dam at the base of the rock.

Like all granite outcrops, the vegetation surrounding the outcrop benefits from the additional rainfall run-off from the outcrop, supporting flowering plants fed on by honeyeaters. Birds of the sky such as Tree Martin, White-



White-backed Swallow

backed Swallow, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australian Kestrel and Brown Falcon are attracted to this granite outcrop flying on the up currents.

Newman Rock is one kilometre north of Eyre Highway, 73km west of Balladonia and 119km east of Norseman.

Free camping is available at Newman Rock 1km north of the highway, as well as a turnaround and rest area with good shady trees 500m north of the highway. There are picnic tables and bins. Under dry conditions this area can be accessed by 2WD.

**Shy Heathwren** is moderately common in the south-west Great Western Woodlands, although difficult to spot.

Shy Heathwren



## Birds recorded at the eight sites to visit

Site 1 – Dundas Rocks

Site 2 – Peak Charles

Site 3 – Lake Cronin

Site 4 – The Breakaways

Site 5 – McDermid Rock

Site 6 – Buldania Rocks

Site 7 – Frank Hann

Site 8 – Newman Rock

### KEY TO STATUS IN THE SOUTHERN GWW:

**Bird species that can always be found in the southern GWW**

LR Locally Resident (holds a home range or territory at one site throughout the year)

RR Regionally Resident (can move from place to place in response to changes in food availability, season or conditions)

**Bird species that are not always found in the southern GWW**

M Migratory or nomadic (only occurs in the GWW in certain seasons or conditions)

V Vagrant (occasional or rare visitor to the southern region of the GWW)

**Bird species listed as threatened or in need of special protection**

T Threatened species (EPBC Act)

P Specially Protected (Wildlife Conservation Act, WA)

In both the **Common** and **Brush Bronzewings**, the male and female can be distinguished by differences in the markings on the forehead.



Bird Species	Status	1. Dundas Rocks	2. Peak Charles	3. Lake Cronin	4. The Breakaways	5. McDermid Rock	6. Buidania Rocks	7. Frank Hann	8. Newman Rock
<b>Emu, Mound Builder</b>									
Emu	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Malleefowl	LR, T		•	•		•		•	
<b>Duck</b>									
Musk Duck	M			•					
Australian Shelduck	M			•					
Australian Wood Duck	M			•					
Grey Teal	RR			•					
Chestnut Teal	M			•					
Pacific Black Duck	RR			•					
Australasian Shoveler	M			•					
Pink-eared Duck	M			•					
Hardhead	M			•					
Freckled Duck	V			•					
<b>Cormorant</b>									
Little Pied Cormorant	M			•					
<b>Heron, Ibis</b>									
Nankeen Night Heron	M			•					
Australian White Ibis	V			•					
Straw-necked Ibis	V			•					
White-faced Heron	M			•					
White-necked Heron	M			•					
<b>Grebe</b>									
Australasian Grebe	RR			•					
Great Crested Grebe	M			•					
Hoary-headed Grebe	M			•					
<b>Pigeon, Dove</b>									
Brush Bronzewing	RR	•	•	•	•			•	•
Common Bronzewing	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Crested Pigeon	RR	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
<b>Frogmouth</b>									
Tawny Frogmouth	LR		•	•		•			•
<b>Nightjar</b>									
Australian Owlet-nightjar	LR		•	•	•	•		•	•
Spotted Nightjar	RR	•	•		•			•	
<b>Raptor</b>									
Square-tailed Kite	RR		•				•	•	•
Whistling Kite	RR		•			•	•		•

Bird Species	ST	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Black-shouldered Kite	RR								•
Brown Goshawk	RR		•			•		•	•
Collard Sparrowhawk	RR			•					•
Spotted Harrier	RR							•	•
Wedge-tailed Eagle	RR		•	•		•		•	•
Little Eagle	RR		•	•		•			•
Brown Falcon	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Peregrine Falcon	RR, P		•	•				•	•
Australian Hobby	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Nankeen Kestrel	RR		•	•				•	•
<b>Native-hen, Coot</b>									
Black-tailed Native-hen	M			•					
Eurasian Coot	M			•					
<b>Bustard</b>									
Australian Bustard	RR		•						
<b>Shorebird</b>									
Black-winged Stilt	M			•					
Red-necked Avocet	M			•					
Black-fronted Dotterel	RR			•					
Banded Lapwing	M								•
<b>Button-Quail</b>									
Painted Button-quail	RR		•	•		•			
<b>Cockatoo, Parrot</b>									
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	M		•					•	
Galah	RR		•	•		•		•	•
Cockatiel	M			•					
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	M	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Western Rosella	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Australian Ringneck	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Regent Parrot	RR		•	•			•	•	•
Budgerigar	M		•	•					•
Elegant Parrot	M		•	•				•	
Mulga Parrot	RR	•	•		•				•
<b>Cuckoo</b>									
Pallid Cuckoo	M	•	•	•	•			•	•
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	M	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black-eared Cuckoo	M		•			•	•	•	•
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	M	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	M	•	•	•	•			•	•
<b>Owl</b>									
Eastern Barn Owl	RR		•						

Bird Species	ST	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Southern Boobook	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Kingfisher</b>									
Red-backed Kingfisher	RR	•		•	•	•			•
Sacred Kingfisher	M		•	•				•	•
<b>Bee-eater</b>									
Rainbow Bee-eater	M	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
<b>Treecreeper</b>									
Rufous Treecreeper	LR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Fairy-wren</b>									
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	LR	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Splendid Fairy-wren	LR		•	•				•	
White-winged Fairy-wren	LR	•		•	•		•		
<b>Scrubwren, Thornbill &amp; Allies</b>									
White-browed Scrubwren	RR		•	•		•		•	•
Shy Heathwren	RR	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Rufous Fieldwren	RR		•	•				•	
Redthroat	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weebill	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Western Gerygone	RR		•	•		•	•	•	
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	RR	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Inland Thornbill	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Slender-billed Thornbill	RR								•
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Southern Whiteface	RR		•	•				•	
<b>Pardalote</b>									
Spotted Pardalote	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Striated Pardalote	RR	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
<b>Honeyeater, Chat</b>									
Red Wattlebird	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Western Wattlebird	RR			•					
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Yellow-throated Miner	RR		•	•		•		•	•
Singing Honeyeater	LR	•	•	•		•		•	•
White-eared Honeyeater	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brown Honeyeater	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brown-headed Honeyeater	RR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Purple-gaped Honeyeater	RR			•		•		•	
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	RR	•	•	•	•			•	•
New Holland Honeyeater	RR	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
White-cheeked Honeyeater	RR		•					•	



Bird Species	ST	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hooded Robin	LR	•	•		•			•	
Red-capped Robin	LR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Western Yellow Robin	LR	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Southern Scrub-robin	LR		•	•		•		•	•
<b>Old World Warbler</b>									
Brown Songlark	RR			•					
Rufous Songlark	RR			•					•
<b>White eye</b>									
Silvereye	M	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
<b>Martin, Swallow</b>									
Fairy Martin	M			•					
Tree Martin	RR	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Welcome Swallow	RR		•	•				•	•
White-backed Swallow	M	•			•	•			•
<b>Flowerpecker</b>									
Mistletoebird	RR		•			•		•	•
<b>Finch</b>									
Zebra Finch	M			•					•
<b>Pipit</b>									
Australasian Pipit	RR		•	•		•	•	•	•



### Western Rosella

**(eastern subspecies)** differs from the western subspecies by having no green colour on its back and a much paler yellow cheek patch. The stronghold for the eastern subspecies of the Western Rosella is in the Great Western Woodlands, as declines have been observed in the Wheatbelt.

There is still much more to be learned to determine if the eastern subspecies of the Western Rosella has a stable population in the Great Western Woodlands.

The Western Rosella is endemic to Western Australia.

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**Silhouette Photos:** John Anderson: White-winged Fairy-wren (male). Pauline Arnold: Wedge-tailed Eagle. Mark Binns: Pied Butcherbird, Redthroat (male), Yellow-throated Miner. Alan Colins: Blue-breasted Fairy-wren. Jenny Knox: Australasian Pipit. Michael Morcombe: Chestnut Quail-thrush. Frank O'Connor: Malleefowl, White-eared Honeyeater. Ben Pearce: Western Rosella (eastern subspecies, male). Paul Setchell: Emu. Georgina Steytler: Australian Bustard, Crested Bellbird, Dusky Woodswallow, Pink-eared Duck, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater. Eric Tan: Hooded Robin, Weebill. Chris Tzaros: Southern Scrub-robin, Gilbert's Whistler (male). John Vogel: Brown Falcon.

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