

BIRDWATCHING AROUND AUGUSTA & MARGARET RIVER

Augusta Margaret Shire provides opportunities for impressive coastal scenery and walks through Karri / Jarrah forests with a wide range of birdlife, including 11 species endemic to WA. The world-renowned Cape to Cape Track is accessible from many points and offers access to beaches, cliffs and dune vegetation, as well as areas of forest, much of it within Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park. Wineries, local food and caves offer alternative pursuits.



Supported by Shire of Augusta – Margaret River
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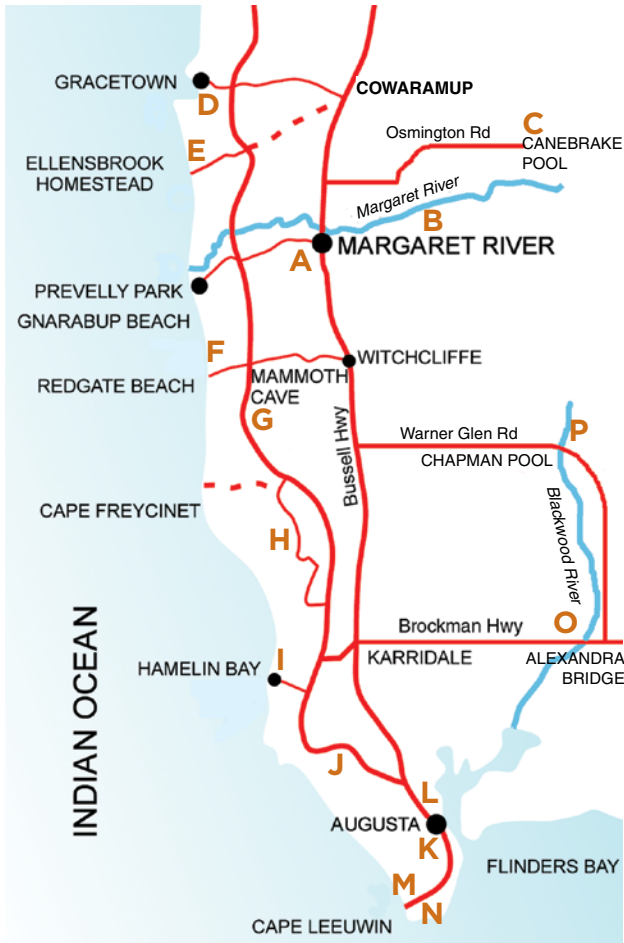
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Birdwatching Around Augusta & Margaret River

White-breasted Robin by Tony Watts



birds are in our nature



A Rotary Park

Near the bridge at the northern end of Margaret River township is a shaded walk along the river to the main weir on the eastern side of town. Underneath the bridge, on the opposite side of the road, you will find a series of walk trails. Look for Western Rosella, Red-capped Parrot, Splendid and Red-winged Fairy-wren, White-breasted Robin, Western Golden Whistler and other bush birds. Crested Shrike-tit has been seen here and there are wildflowers in spring. The Rail Trail walk to Cowaramup is another walk option. It follows part of the old railway line which once connected Busselton and Augusta.

B Ten Mile Brook Dam

This picnic site is part of Bramley National Park and can be reached by a walk trail from Rotary Park in Margaret River (approx 15km return) or by driving just south of town and turning left into Rosa Brook Road. After 2.5 km look for the signpost on the left to the dam. Follow the gravel road to the car park. There are several tracks to the river and the dam. Look for Western Rosella, Western Spinebill, White-breasted Robin and many other species.

C Canebrake Picnic Area

A picnic and swimming area on the Margaret River. Follow Osmington Road, crossing Jindong-Treeton Road until Canebrake Road (gravel road) is on the left (approx. 16 km). Travel approximately 6 km north to the picnic area turnoff on the right. The surrounding bush and tracks are worth exploring for Red-winged Fairy-wren, Red-eared Firetail and three species of black cockatoo.



Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo

D Gracetown, Cowaramup Bay

Take Cowaramup Bay Road (see sign just south of Cowaramup) to a sandy beach near the township of Gracetown. Hooded Plover are quite often seen here. On the opposite side of the road to the beach car park is a culvert and entry to a walk from Grace Bussell Memorial Park (sign may be hidden). Follow the path along the Cowaramup Brook and up the low gradient hill under shady Peppermints. Further along there are Karris alongside the brook. This is an opportunity to see many birds at close range including Brush Bronzewing, Grey Fantail, Red-eared Firetail, Red-winged Fairy-wren, Western Golden Whistler and sometimes Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Baudin's Black-Cockatoo. In the bushes near the bridge Southern Emu-wren can usually be seen.

E Ellensbrook Homestead

This is a lovely picnic spot, worth a visit for birds such as Red-eared Firetail and White-breasted Robin. The Meekadarrabee Walk beyond the house is also well worthwhile. Travel Ellen Brook Road from Caves Road to the Homestead.

F Redgate Beach

Follow Redgate Road to the beach. Australasian Gannet, Eastern Reef Egret, Eastern Osprey and Hooded Plover are worth looking for. In the vegetation near the beach look for Southern Emu-wren, Rock Parrot, Australian Hobby, Nankeen Kestrel and Baudin's and Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos (not on every visit).

G Mammoth Cave

Look for the signpost on the left of Caves Road several kilometres south of Redgate Road. There are tall Karri trees and understorey. Around the parking area and along the track beside the power-lines look for Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Sacred Kingfisher, Scarlet Robin and many other species. Crested Shrike-tit has been seen in the car park.

H Boranup Scenic Drive

Look for the sign on Caves Road, south of the Lake Cave tearooms. Drive or walk through Boranup Karri forest to see Rufous Treecreeper, Splendid and Red-winged Fairy-wrens, White-breasted Robin, Crested Shrike-tit, Grey Currawong and many other species.

I Hamelin Bay & Cosy Corner

Hamelin Bay car park is 38 km south of Margaret River and a short drive off Caves Road. Walk to the freshwater lake near the caravan park for waterbirds. Visit the beach for possible sightings of Hooded Plover and Rock Parrot and Southern Emu-wren in dune vegetation.

Cosy Corner is a short distance south of Hamelin Bay, again off Caves Rd. Bridled Terns may be seen flying around off-shore islets in summer. Hooded Plover and Rock Parrot are also possible on the beach here.

J Jewel Cave

Further south on the right off Caves Road is the turnoff to Jewel Cave. Walk the Karri Walk for White-breasted Robin, Western Rosella and Spotted Pardalote. Cockatoos are often seen in the area around the cave.

K Augusta

Hardy Inlet and the Blackwood River are excellent for boating and canoeing. Look for migratory waders (November to March) when the tide is low. Many other bird species found including Eastern Reef Egret, Caspian Tern, Australasian Darter and Sooty Oystercatchers. You may be very lucky to see a Black Bittern along the Blackwood River.

L Donovan St Reserve

This 83ha site on the shores of Hardy Inlet is close to, and easily accessed from, the northern end of the township of Augusta via Donovan St, then left into Blackwood Ave and right into Pelican Rise. Park at the end. There is a pleasant walk into town to the right, but walk left for the reserve. A range of habitats includes riparian vegetation, low heath in shallow soils on granite outcrops, Marri/Jarrah woodland and damper understorey areas. Look for White-naped Honeyeater, Spotted Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Red-winged Fairy-wren, Western Golden Whistler & Grey Shrike-thrush. A variety of waterbirds can be found along the river margins.



Red-eared Firetail

M Cape Leeuwin

Take a drive from Augusta to Cape Leeuwin to visit the lighthouse and old waterwheel. This area is a favourite haunt of the Rock Parrot, sometimes feeding on the grass in front of the café.

Cape Leeuwin is an excellent place to go sea birding in winter. Southern and Northern Giant-Petrel, Cape and Great-winged Petrel, Black-browed, Shy and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross, Wilson's Storm-Petrel and Australasian Gannet have all been sighted here. The new Augusta Boat Harbour, about half way between the town and Cape Leeuwin, may also offer opportunities for seabirds.

N The Islands

St Alouarn Islands approx. 7km south-east of Cape Leeuwin are reserves for breeding seabirds. Little Penguin, Flesh-footed and Little Shearwaters and Bridled and Crested Terns form colonies here.

O Alexandra Bridge

Travel 14km north of Augusta along Bussell Hwy (or 27km south of Margaret River), then east on Brockman Hwy for 11km.

This is a popular picnic, camping, canoeing area in the summer but worth a visit for White-breasted Robin, Spotted Pardalote and fairy-wrens. Along the river there should be Dusky Moorhen. Black Bittern is also a possibility.

P Chapman Pool

This is 8km from the Bussell Highway. This Blackwood River pool is within Forest Grove National Park. Look for Splendid Fairy-wren, Scarlet Robin and Southern Boobook if you camp there.

Codes

C	Common		
M	Moderately common	Sp Su Au Wi	Season/s present
U	Uncommon		
R	Rare		
	*Introduced	OSP	Other specially protected for peregrine
N	Nomadic		
T	Threatened		
IA	Protected by international agreement		WA endemics are shown in bold
Mi	Migratory		

PENGUIN

Little Penguin C
Breeds on islands off Cape Leeuwin.

GANNET, BOOBY

Australasian Gannet M *Most common in winter*

CORMORANT

Australasian Darter M
Little Pied Cormorant C
Great Cormorant M
Little Black Cormorant M
Pied Cormorant C

HERON, IBIS, ALLIES

Australian Pelican C
Australasian Bittern Ra T
Little Bittern Ra
Black Bittern Ra
Blackwood & Margaret Rivers/creeks
White-necked Heron U
Eastern Great Egret M IA
White-faced Heron C
Little Egret Ra
Eastern Reef Egret U IA
Nankeen Night-Heron M
Glossy Ibis Ra IA
Australian White Ibis C
Straw-necked Ibis C
Yellow-billed Spoonbill U
Hardy Inlet, ephemeral pools

RAPTOR

Eastern Osprey M
Black-shouldered Kite U N
Square-tailed Kite M Mi Su
White-bellied Sea-Eagle M IA
Whistling Kite U
Brown Goshawk M
Collared Sparrowhawk M
Swamp Harrier M
Wedge-tailed Eagle M
Little Eagle M
Nankeen Kestrel C
Brown Falcon M
Australian Hobby M
Peregrine Falcon M OSP

CRAKE, RAIL, ALLIES

Purple Swamphen M
Buff-banded Rail U
Baillon's Crake U
Australian Spotted Crake U
Spotless Crake U
Black-tailed Native-hen Ra
Dusky Moorhen U
Eurasian Coot M
Rock Parrot U

CUCKOO

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo M Mi Sp-Su
Pallid Cuckoo U Mi Sp-Su
Fan-tailed Cuckoo M Mi Sp-Su

OWL

Barking Owl Ra
Southern Boobook M
Masked Owl U
Eastern Barn Owl U

KINGFISHER

Laughing Kookaburra C *
Sacred Kingfisher M Mi Su

BEE-EATER, ROLLER

Rainbow Bee-eater M IA Mi Su

TREE-CREEPER

Rufous Treecreeper M

FAIRY-WREN, GRASSWREN

Splendid Fairy-wren C
Red-winged Fairy-wren C
Southern Emu-wren M

SCRUBWREN, ALLIES

White-browed Scrubwren C
Western Gerygone C
Yellow-rumped Thornbill C
Western Thornbill U
Inland Thornbill C

PARDALOTE

Spotted Pardalote C
Striated Pardalote C

HONEYEATER, CHAT

Western Spinebill M
Western Wattlebird U N
Red Wattlebird C N
White-fronted Chat M
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater U
Brown Honeyeater M N
New Holland Honeyeater C
White-cheeked Honeyeater R
Brown-headed Honeyeater R
White-naped Honeyeater C N

BABBLER

White-browed Babbler R

QUAIL-THRUSH, ALLIES

Varied Sittella M

EMU

Emu C

QUAIL, PHEASANTStubble Quail U
Brown Quail U
Indian Peafowl * *In gardens***WATERFOWL**Musk Duck M
Black Swan M
Australian Shelduck M N
Australian Wood Duck C
Pink-eared Duck R
Australasian Shoveler R
Grey Teal M N
Chestnut Teal U N
Pacific Black Duck C N
Hardhead M
Blue-billed Duck U**GREBE**Australasian Grebe M
Hoary-headed Grebe M
Great-crested Grebe U**PIGEON, DOVE**Common Bronzewing C
Brush Bronzewing U
Crested Pigeon U**FROGMOUTH, NIGHTJAR**Tawny Frogmouth M
Australian Owlet Nightjar M**SEABIRD***Most likely in autumn, winter or in strong winds*Wilson's Storm-Petrel U IA Au, Sp
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross U T IA Wi
Southern Giant-Petrel U Wi
Most are juveniles or immatures
Northern Giant-Petrel U IA Wi
Cape Petrel U IA Wi
Great-winged Petrel M*Passage migrants in Au*Flesh-footed Shearwater C IA
Breeds on islands off Cape Leeuwin
Wedge-tailed Shearwater M IA
Overlaps with Flesh-footed at the Capes.
Hutton's Shearwater R IA *Most likely Wi-Sp*
Little Shearwater M
Breeds off south & west coasts
Soft-plumaged Petrel M Wi
White-headed Petrel R IA
Sometimes visible from Capes
Great-winged Petrel M IA *Most common Wi-Sp.***SHOREBIRD**Australian Pied Oystercatcher M
Sooty Oystercatcher M
Black-winged Stilt U N
Banded Stilt U N
Red-necked Avocet U N
Pacific Golden Plover Ra
Grey Plover U T IA
Red-capped Plover C
Lesser Sand Plover U T IA
Greater Sand Plover U T IA
Black-fronted Dotterel M
Hooded Plover M T
Banded Lapwing U
Black-tailed Godwit U IA
Bar-tailed Godwit U T IA
Whimbrel U IA
Eastern Curlew U T IA
Terek Sandpiper U IA
Common Sandpiper U IA
Grey-tailed Tattler U IA
Common Greenshank U IA
Marsh Sandpiper U IA
Wood Sandpiper U IA
Ruddy Turnstone U IA
Great Knot R T IA
Red Knot R T IA
Sanderling U IA
Red-necked Stint U T IA
Long-toed Stint R IA
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper U IA
Curlew Sandpiper U T IA**BUTTON-QUAIL**

Painted Button-quail U

TERN, GULLBridled Tern U IA *Breeds on islets*
Caspian Tern M IA
Crested Tern C
Pacific Gull C
Silver Gull C**COCKATOO, PARROT**Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo U T
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo U T
Baudin's Black-Cockatoo U T
Galah M
Little Corella U
Purple-crowned Lorikeet M N
Regent Parrot U
Western Rosella C
Australian Ringneck C
Red-capped Parrot C
Elegant Parrot M**CUCKOO-SHRIKE, TRILLER**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike C
White-winged Triller U Mi Su**WHISTLER, SHRIKE-THRUSH**Crested Shrike-tit U
Western Golden Whistler C
Rufous Whistler M
Grey Shrike-thrush C**WOODSWALLOW**Black-faced Woodswallow M Mi Sp-Su
Some present all year
Dusky Woodswallow C**BUTCHERBIRD, CURRAWONG**Grey Butcherbird M
Australian Magpie C
Grey Currawong M**FANTAIL**Grey Fantail C
Willie Wagtail C**RAVEN, CROW**

Australian Raven C

FLYCATCHER, MONARCHRestless Flycatcher R
Magpie-lark M**ROBIN, SCRUB-ROBIN**Scarlet Robin C
Western Yellow Robin C
White-breasted Robin C**OLD WORLD WARBLER**Australian Reed-Warbler R
Little Grassbird R
Rufous Songlark U Mi *Irregular migrant*
Brown Songlark U Mi *Irregular migrant***WHITE-EYE**

Silvereye C N

SWALLOW, MARTINWelcome Swallow C Mi Sp-Su
Some present all year
Tree Martin C Mi Sp-Su
*Some present all year***FINCH****Red-eared Firetail** C**PIPIT**

Australasian Pipit M