

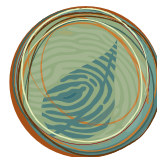


# Birds of the Avon River Basin



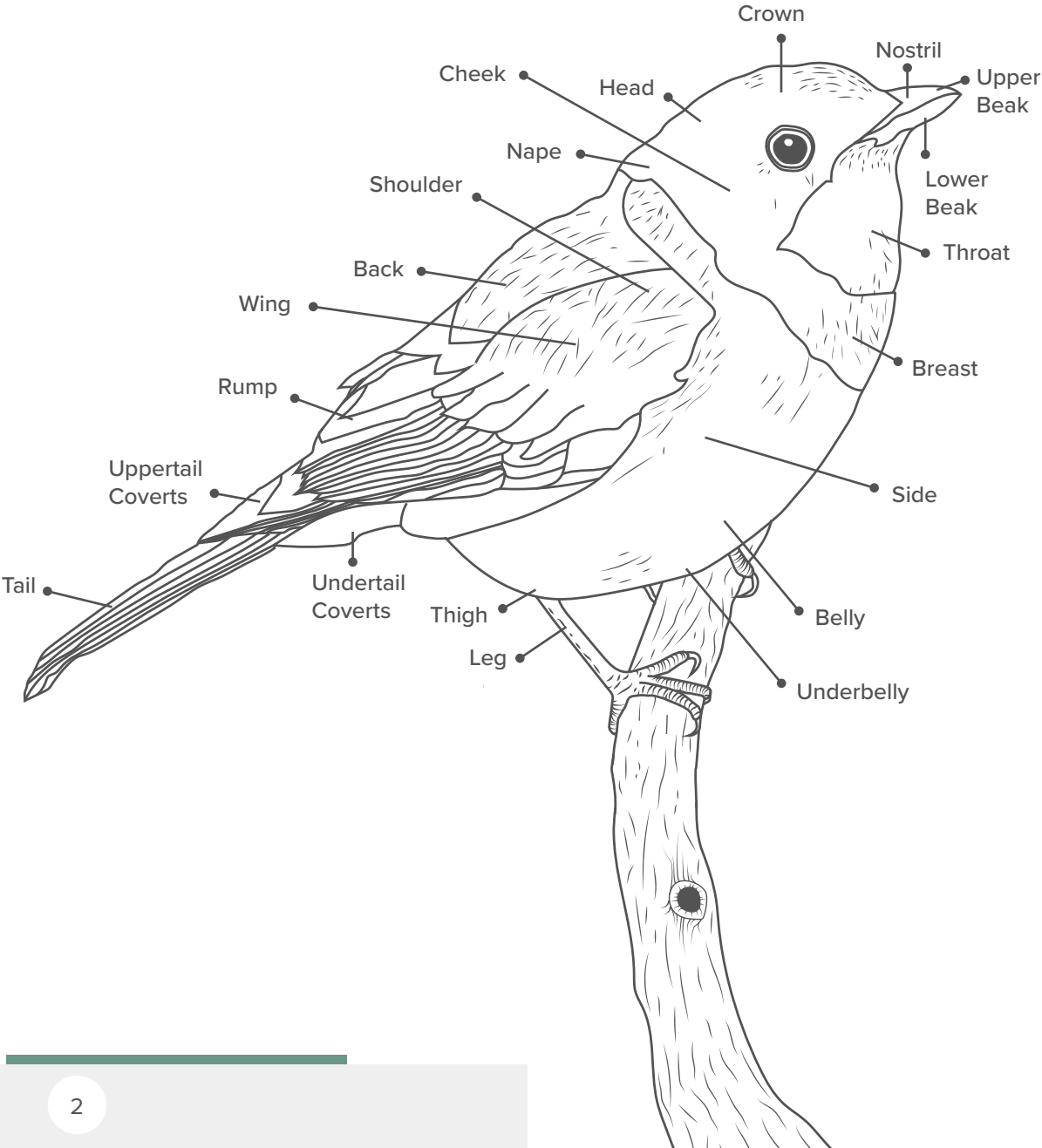
Australian Government

National  
Landcare  
Program



wheatbelt  
natural resource  
management

# Anatomy of a bird



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# Introduction



**Figure 1: Avon River Basin Map**

Australia has an incredible diversity of bird species, with 898 recorded, including vagrants or accidental visitors and introduced species. Of this total, Western Australia has 550 species, 17 of which are found only in Western Australia. The Avon River Basin (see Figure 1) has a remarkable 224 recorded species- over 25 percent of the national total.

Extensive land clearing, continued disturbance and the introduction of exotic species have a direct impact on birds in Western Australia, while competition from weeds, climate change and inappropriate fire regimes threaten their habitat and food supplies. The fragmented nature of remnant native vegetation in the Avon region compounds these threats as it compromises

the natural gene flow between populations of native birds. Remaining populations are left vulnerable to disease and predation due to the lack of suitable habitat. It is important to observe and record changes taking place in bird populations to ensure species are not declining further in the Avon River Basin.

This aim of this book is to provide a resource to community members, landholders, managers and visitors alike, to raise awareness of the diversity of bird species within the Avon River Basin. This book has detailed descriptions for identifications, calls and behaviours of 188 species regularly found and seen in the Avon River Basin. It also includes a comprehensive checklist of all 224 recorded species.

Every effort has been made to source photos that show the distinguishing features of each of the 188 species and the differences between a) adults and juveniles and b) females and males, which are represented where required.

### History of land use

The original inhabitants of south-west Western Australia are the Noongar people. They have lived in the region for about 40,000 to 50,000 years and they have had a close association with the land. The first European explorers reached what is called the Avon region in the 1830s, with the first pastoralists expanding out from the Swan River Colony between the 1830s and 1840s. It was not until the late 1890s, when the eastern railway opened to Southern Cross and enabled grain to be readily transported, that agricultural settlement accelerated. Land clearing for agriculture increased in

the Avon after the Second World War and peaked in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Sandalwood cutters initially opened up the southern Avon region and were followed by Brown Mallet cutters. The bark of the Brown Mallet was used for tanning leather and was highly sought after. Once the area had been opened up, settlers moved in with their livestock and started to clear land to make way for pastures and crops. The area is now used extensively for the production of cereal crops and livestock.

### Geology, landforms and soils

The granite outcrops scattered throughout the Avon region are an indicator of its origins. These outcrops are more than 2,500 million years old and comprise a visible expression of the part of the earth's crust known as the Western Shield. The soils of south-west Western Australia have been created by the interplay of water and wind erosion, plants and animals, with exposed surface rock, which has been leached of minerals over millions of years.

High rates of weathering, when the climate was more temperate to tropical, have resulted in a landscape with low relief and a laterite profile of strongly weathered material.

The soils of the Avon region are best described by their position in the landscape. Infertile sandplains and lateritic soils are found high in the landscape, mid slopes are dominated by sandy and gravelly loams, while valleys consist of loams, saline loams and often, salt lakes.

## Climate

The climate of the Avon region can be described as extra-dry Mediterranean, where winter rainfall dominates and summer is long, hot and dry. The average rainfall decreases from 700 mm to 325 mm in a west to east direction. During summer, there are occasional erratic rainfall events associated with low pressure systems and thunderstorms that can bring heavy rain. Lightning strikes from these storms often trigger wildfires that can affect landscape dynamics, both in the short and long term.

The ability of native fauna to cope with climatic stress depends upon many factors, including their ability to access and conserve water. A number of species are able to use and conserve water metabolically through food resources, however, many species are dependent on seasonal rainfall for their survival and ability to reproduce, which can lead to a greater reliance on unnatural food and water sources, such as crops and dams. This creates an undesirable and unsustainable situation for both the native species and landowners.

## Vegetation

The Avon region lies within the South-west Botanical Province. Within this area, there is an unusually high diversity of species within the Proteaceae (Banksia, Hakea, etc) and Myrtaceae families (Eucalyptus, Melaleuca and Callistemon). Sixty per cent of the plants found in the Avon region are thought to occur nowhere else in the world.

Erosion has leached ancient soils of their nutritive value and flora has adapted to the nutrient-poor soils of the region. The flora

comprises a complex mosaic of integrated plant communities closely related to the interspersed patterns of clay, loam, sandplains and laterite soils.

The presence of granite outcrops, banded ironstone formations and lateritic breakaways restricted clearing for agriculture, therefore small islands of unique flora species and communities throughout the landscape remain.

It is estimated that less than ten percent of pre-European native vegetation remains in the Avon region. Vegetation that remains is restricted to conservation reserves, crown reserves, unallocated crown land, road verges and areas of uncleared private land.

## Habitat types of the Avon River Basin used in this book

There are numerous vegetation associations in the Avon River Basin. A total of 123 types were identified in Shedley (2007) as present in the Avon Wheatbelt pre-European settlement. For the purposes of this book, they have been grouped into the following categories, with the addition of two habitats associated with human use and development:



## Woodlands

These include habitats that have single-stemmed trees of over 10 m in height and where the canopy of each of the trees are slightly to widely separated. The woodlands within the Avon are known for their high floristic diversity. Major woodland types include the Salmon Gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), Wandoo (*E. wandoo*), Powderbark Wandoo (*E. accedens*), York Gum (*E. loxophleba*) Gimlet (*E. salubris*), Kondinin Blackbutt (*E. kondininensis*) and Yate (*E. occidentalis*) and also includes low woodlands of Rock Sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*) mixed with Jam (*Acacia acuminata*). The latter vegetation type is usually found on deeper soil pockets around the base of granite rocks.



## Mallee

This habitat type is dominated by *Eucalyptus* species with multiple stems, which is usually less than 10 m in height and has a canopy cover of 10-30 percent. Species, forming mallee communities, include *E. oleosa*, *E. eremophila*, and *E. pleurocarpa*. Mallee communities usually have a diverse understorey of mixed shrub species.



## Shrubland

Shrubland habitat is dominated by *Melaleuca*, *Acacia*, *Allocasuarina* and *Grevillea* species and has high species diversity, although areas can form monocultures, especially *Melaleucas* which form a single-layered, dense thicket. These species are also found in association with woodlands and mallees.



## Heathland

Heathland habitats of the Avon River Basin have a rich species diversity with limited dominance and form a dense, single layer, generally below 1 m in height. Communities are characterised by the presence of *Hakea*, *Dryandra*, *Grevillea*, *Xanthorrhoea*, *Allocasuarina*, *Melaleuca*, and in some areas, *Banksia* species.



## Grassland

Grasslands only form a small proportion of the habitats found in the Avon River Basin, however, they provide important feeding and nesting areas for our smaller granivorous and insectivorous birds. Grassland may stand alone in small areas or form part or all of an understorey in woodlands, open shrublands, heathlands, granites, saline and freshwater wetlands and riverine communities. European Explorers to the region described extensive areas of native grassland, although today they are greatly reduced through clearing. Grasslands are generally less than 1.5 m high and can vary from low open (10-20% cover) to dense (90-100% cover) vegetation. Stipa or Speargrass (*Austrostipa* species) and Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma* species) were the most common grasses, although around 140 species occur in the south-west of Western Australia. In addition to the native species, there are a large number of introduced species that, in some cases, are becoming invasive into native bushland and farmland.



## **Granite Outcrops (including ironstone ridges and laterite breakaways)**

Rocky outcrop habitats have a diverse range of vegetation types associated, which include all habitats described in this section of the book. In particular, granites which contain gnammas (freshwater pools) maintained by the Noongar people of the South-West, which provide valuable sources of fresh water for bush birds and the hawks and eagles that feed on them.



## Freshwater Wetlands

These habitats include freshwater to brackish (depending on seasonal changes due to rainfall), rivers and lakes and the associated vegetation communities fringing these locations. Vegetation types in these areas may include woodland, shrubland and to a lesser extent mallee and are dominated by *Eucalyptus*, *Allocasuarina*, *Melaleuca* and various sedge species. Often, these plant communities provide suitable nesting habitat for the birds using the wetlands.



## Saline Wetlands

These habitats include brackish to saline lakes and rivers, and the surrounding vegetation communities. Fringing habitats may include woodland, shrubland and, to a lesser extent, mallee, but are communities dominated by saltbush and samphire species. Often, these plant communities provide suitable nesting habitat for the birds using the wetlands.



## Roadsides

Roadside vegetation remnants provide valuable corridors between larger patches of remnant bushland in the Avon River Basin and provide roosting and nesting sites in agricultural-dominated landscapes.

The above remnant vegetation types that remain in the Avon River Basin provide an essential resource to specialist species, adapted to the natural environment. However, these species are generally declining.



## Agricultural Land

The highly modified agricultural landscape of the Avon River Basin, focusing on grain and sheep production, has benefited the bird species specialising in feeding on grain, rodents, rabbits and carrion, which have flourished, multiplied and expanded their range.



## Urban

The term 'urban' in this book relates to townscapes, human habitation and structures. Generalist bird species have adapted to man-made environments which have maintained and sometimes, expanded their range and abundance to utilise these environments and potential food resources.

## Benefits of conserving natural biodiversity in the Avon region

It is often asked why resources should be contributed to wildlife conservation. There is no single reason to conserve wildlife, but several reasons exist, depending on your values, attitudes and previous interactions with wildlife. These reasons include:

**Responsibility** - The principal factors that have resulted in the reduction of biodiversity in Australia can be traced back to human interference. This includes both directly hunting wildlife and removing their habitats, to indirect interference by introducing predators, such as the feral cat and fox. Many individuals feel a responsibility to conserve nature and address the impact humans have had on the ecosystem.

**Production** - Many products used by people today are sourced from nature. A local example of this is the use of sandalwood for fragrance.

**Aesthetics** - Many people enjoy the visual splendour of nature. Bushwalking is a popular activity, as people have an opportunity to exercise in a natural setting and see the many aspects of an ecosystem. Intrinsic and spiritual - many cultures have a spiritual bond with nature, particularly local Aboriginal people.

**Benefits to human interests** - Functioning native ecosystems assist agriculturalists by keeping the water table down, thus reducing the risk of salinity, erosion and waterlogging, which can damage crops. Protecting the habitat where insectivorous animals occur may help to control

agricultural pests, lessening the reliance on pesticides.

## Threats facing birds in the Avon region

Birds in the Avon region are facing a number of challenges that threaten their continued survival and reproduction within this highly fragmented natural environment.

Bird species have fared particularly badly since early settlement. In many cases, birds are threatened by more than one process, often with disastrous results. Major threats to natural biodiversity in the Avon region are discussed below.

### Altered biogeochemical processes

On average 70% of the Avon River Basin has been cleared and in some shires less than 10% of native vegetation remains. Without the deep-rooted perennial vegetation to use up groundwater, the water table rises, bringing salt water to the surface. Once an area becomes saline, only salt-tolerant native plants will grow, so in areas of remnant vegetation that become saline, some species of plants die out, which changes the natural balance and reduces the range of foods available for animals. Naturally saline areas of the Avon region provide highly biodiverse habitat and are a valuable resource, refuge and corridor for birds.

Changes in nutrient levels in soils and water bodies also affect plants and animals living in the area. In areas where erosion has removed the topsoil, nutrient levels can be reduced, resulting in lower quality feeding opportunities for birds. In areas where fertilisers have been used to grow

crops, nutrient levels in adjacent bushland areas can increase, encouraging the growth of weeds. If fertilisers drain or leach into wetland areas, they can become choked with algae. The algae blocks light from other water plants and uses up all the available oxygen in the water, killing aquatic animals. In some cases, the algae are toxic to animals that drink water from the wetland.

Climate change is predicted to have a huge effect on native birds living in the Avon. Many bird species have specific requirements for food, triggers for breeding and, in the case of some birds, seasonal movement (for example, Purple-crowned Lorikeet). Climate change can influence rainfall, food availability, breeding success and seasonal movements.

### Impacts of introduced plants and animals

The introduction of plants or animals to an area almost inevitably causes changes to occur in the populations of native species. In the Avon region, numerous species have been introduced. Weeds, such as Veldt Grass, place stress on native vegetation communities by competing for available resources such as nutrients and water. They also change the structure of the ecosystem, resulting in altered and more dynamic fire behaviour. Many bird species begin to decline in weed-infested areas as their food plants become less common and their desired shelter is depleted.

Feral animals also disturb ecosystems. Feral herbivores such as rabbits and goats destroy native vegetation by overgrazing. These animals also compete with native species for food. The introduced honey bee can also cause problems, because they favour hollow

trees as hive sites, thereby competing with native birds such as cockatoos, parrots and owls for habitat. Introduced predators, such as foxes and feral cats, are a major threat to native birds which have not evolved to avoid these efficient hunters and are easy prey, especially in small, remnant patches of bush with limited places to hide.

### Impacts of problem native species

Changes to the balance of the natural ecosystem in the Avon region have benefited some native birds at the expense of others. Some parrots have increased in number in agricultural lands because of water supplied for stock and larger grassland areas for feeding. Large numbers of corellas roost in remaining large trees, damaging mature plants. Grain-eating birds, such as the Australian Ringneck and Galahs, have also increased in cleared areas and are destructive to bush remnants. These birds not only strip leaves and shoots of off plants, but also use up all the available nest hollows preventing other less common birds from breeding. Galahs often damage the hollows by chewing them so that they no longer provide shelter for other species. Overgrazing can reduce the diversity of plants in a remnant, making it harder for honeyeaters, which require a range of flowering shrubs year-round to survive.

### Impacts of disease

Plants and animals that are under stress are prone to disease. In the Avon region, the introduced plant pathogen, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, causes dieback in banksia and other plant species in degraded bushland remnants. The Armillaria fungus attacks susceptible species such as Wandoo (*E. wandoo*), affecting food sources for bird species.

Disease can also affect animal populations. Toxoplasmosis, which is carried by feral cats, has been identified as a cause of death in many native bird species.

Degraded bushland habitat and limited food supplies can lead to malnutrition in birds, making them prone to disease.

### Detrimental physical disturbance events

Before the early settlers arrived in Australia, Aboriginal people had, for many thousands of years, maintained a mosaic of different ages of vegetation by 'patch burning' to drive out animals which were then captured for food.

Fire also promoted regrowth, resulting in birds that were adapted to areas of long-unburnt vegetation and small patches of recently burnt plants. As traditional hunting methods disappeared with the movement of Aboriginal people to cities and towns, the fire regime changed to one of infrequent summer wildfires that burnt large areas. Many birds were unable to escape the fire front and those that survived had no food or shelter and so became easy prey to native and introduced predators. In addition, fragmentation of the bush meant that smaller birds from other areas could not move in as the vegetation recovered, leading to local extinction of many species in remnants following wildfire.

Some bird species, such as the Malleefowl, rapidly reduced in numbers in the Avon River Basin once European settlement began, probably as a result of changed fire regimes, in combination with hunting and predation by foxes or cats and land clearing. Other species, which shelter in tree hollows,

such as Carnaby's Cockatoo, disappear from areas which experience wildfire. This is because their already diminished habitat is destroyed, along with the dense shrub layer, which is vital in providing the necessary food species. This means that adult birds are forced to spend too much time flying between food sources and nesting sites for successful breeding. Remaining populations of Carnaby's Cockatoo survive in areas which are long-unburnt and still have an abundance of large hollows over 400 mm in diameter and sufficient heathland within 15 km of nest sites to support feeding.

Cyclones and drought are other physical processes which affect remaining populations of native species. Their impact is especially great in the fragmented landscape of the Avon region where natural recolonisation from other areas is difficult or impossible, resulting in local extinction. Smaller species, such as wrens, are particularly susceptible to a succession of bad seasons as they are unable to reproduce successfully, causing their numbers to decline significantly. In some cases, localised extinction occurs.

### Impacts of pollution

Pesticides and herbicides are a threat to native species, unless they are used with care near bush remnants. Pesticides can reduce the diversity of native invertebrates, reducing available prey species for insectivorous species. Birds that hunt over farmland may ingest contaminated insects and are at risk. Pollution from chemical spills can affect waterways and birds can become entangled in rubbish.

## Impacts of competing land uses

Within remnant patches of native vegetation, competing landuses can have the potential for degradation which can reduce plant and animal biodiversity. Unsustainable levels of wildflower and timber cutting can be detrimental to bush remnants. Agricultural practices such as grazing of remnants by stock can have an effect, as can mines, quarries and unmanaged rubbish tips in bushland areas. Poorly managed recreational activities can cause degradation of valuable areas. In the Avon, fragile areas such as granite outcrops, can be degraded by uncontrolled vehicle access, resulting in trampling, reduction in habitat and weed introduction. The removal of any naturally occurring material such as loose granite for 'moss rock' in gardens is also detrimental, as it reduces habitat for lizards, frogs, invertebrates and small mammals that rely on it for shelter, thus reducing potential food sources for some birds.

## Insufficient resources to maintain viable populations

Even if the above threats are held constant, biodiversity will only be maintained if there are enough natural resources to ensure that viable populations can persist. In their environment, animals need to have enough food, water, oxygen, shelter, access to mates and favourable conditions for them to breed, or their species will not survive in the long term. There must be sufficient individuals to maintain genetic diversity. There must also be sufficient space for populations to occur in more than one area. In this way, if one of the many threatening processes affects one area, the species

will survive in other areas and can become re-established.

## Habitat Fragmentation

Research has shown that in some populations of small-to medium-sized birds, the area and connectivity of habitat becomes the factor which limits population size. Habitat fragmentation is a major threat to many bird species especially those with large home ranges such as the Malleefowl.

### What is being done to address these threats?

#### Control of Introduced predators and competitors

Control of introduced predators, particularly foxes, cats and rabbits, is having an impact on the survival of some bird species in the Wheatbelt. These introduced species are baited with 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate), a poison similar to a chemical that occurs naturally in some species of plants (particularly in the genus *Gastrolobium*), in the south-west of Western Australia. A coordinated approach of baiting, trapping and shooting by land managers has the greatest impact on introduced species. Many native birds have a high tolerance to 1080, having evolved in the presence of the naturally occurring toxin. As a result of coordinated landholder programs to control introduced species, populations of animals, such as Malleefowl, are recovering in parts of their former range.

Care should always be taken to ensure that the impact of non-target native species is minimised. Authorities should be contacted to determine that all necessary permits

and notifications are made before control programs are undertaken.

### Habitat management

Sometimes, management of bushland areas is required to help native birds to survive. In some large areas of remnant vegetation, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) officers have begun a regime of patch burning, similar to that carried out by traditional Aboriginal people, to try to recreate the mosaic pattern of vegetation ages to which native birds are adapted. Some bird species, such as the Black-shouldered Kite, respond well to patch burning, in combination with fox control. In the Avon River Basin, DBCA, Wheatbelt NRM and community groups have worked closely to develop best practice habitat management, which includes the modification of agricultural practices to benefit both the natural environment and the farmer. The planting of native species such as brushwood and sandalwood, or alternative crops such as perennial lucerne, has been trialled with the aim of helping to protect areas at risk of becoming saline and increasing the habitat available for wildlife. In doing this, farm viability on marginal land may also improve.

Revegetation of degraded areas and linkage of bush remnants using corridors of vegetation are important management activities, which assist the survival of bird species including birds in the Avon region. Wheatbelt NRM, DBCA and community groups are working closely with landowners to encourage the development of corridors on private property.

### Protection of habitat

Protection of habitat can include fencing of bush remnants and reserves to exclude stock. Areas can also be protected by the construction of fire-breaks and maintenance of strategic burnt buffer zones to provide protection for larger, long-unburnt vegetation.

### Species-specific conservation plans

Some species of birds are threatened with extinction and require specific management to ensure their survival. Specific conservation and recovery plans have been prepared, summarising the available information about the species and proposing the most effective ways to conserve it. Often these plans are developed jointly by both state and federal government departments and interested community groups, who work together for the protection of the species. Populations of birds, such as the Malleefowl, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, are being managed with the help of recovery plans within the Avon River Basin.

### Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs)

A number of TECs are also given special recognition and protection through DBCA and the Australian Government's Department of Environment and Energy, the latest being the '*Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt*' which is classified as Priority 3(iii) Critically Endangered. The TECs 'Eucalypt woodlands in the Western Australian Wheatbelt' are

defined primarily by their structure as woodlands. The presence in the canopy layer of eucalypt trees - most commonly Salmon Gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), York Gum (*E. loxophleba*), Red Morrel (*E. longicornis*) or Gimlet (*E. salubris*) defines the TEC. Several other emergent eucalypt species (e.g. Kondinin Blackbutt (*E. kondininensis*), *E. myriadena*, Salt River Gum (*E. sargentii*), Silver mallet (*E. ornata*) and Mallet (*E. singularis*)) may be present as defining species in a TEC woodland if they are located in the Western Australian Wheatbelt. Threats include altered hydrology, grazing, altered fire regimes, vegetation clearing, exotic species, soil cultivation and fertilization, and herbicide drift. There are other TECs within the Avon Wheatbelt. For more information, contact DBCA.

For more information, please go to the DBCA website and search on Threatened Ecological Communities or/and the Australian Government Environment and Energy website, searching Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt.

### Community education

The support of the community is essential for biodiversity conservation to succeed. Community education aims to promote an awareness of wildlife and the value of biodiversity. Workshops, websites, displays and publications are produced by government departments, community organisations and individuals to encourage the community to be active in supporting the conservation of biodiversity and become involved in conservation projects in the Avon. If everyone works together,

the outcomes for conservation can be exceptional.

### What can I do?

Whether you are a landowner, or are just interested in helping native birds to survive in the Avon, there are many opportunities to help. Here are some suggestions:

- Become a volunteer or join a community organisation that focuses on fauna conservation. Conservation activities are most successful if people work together. Partnerships between government agencies, community organisations and individual landowners can produce enormous benefits for communities and biodiversity conservation. To find your nearest environmental community organisation, contact Wheatbelt NRM on (08) 9670 3100, email [info@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:info@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) or visit [www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au](http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au).
- If you are a landowner and wish to protect conservation values on your land, you can join the DBCA Land for Wildlife program. For advice on how to manage habitats, such as granite outcrops and remnant woodland on your property so they provide a range of habitats for fauna, you can contact Wheatbelt NRM, DBCA and other agencies, such as WWF Australia. Remnant bushland areas and granite outcrops are vitally important for the survival of native birds in the Avon region, potentially providing vital sources of water. Simple measures, such as fencing to exclude stock and controlling foxes, can help to conserve these fragile areas.

- If you live within a town, you can plant local native plants to provide food for bird species, ensure pets are controlled and don't roam and disturb birds in the local area. Help manage and maintain health of local vegetation and resources.
- Landowners can create buffer strips on their properties, widen existing corridors and create new ones to link remnants, both within and between private properties and reserves. Corridors increase the value of remnants enormously by allowing birds like honey-eaters and wrens to move between remnants, making their populations more resistant to local extinction after fire or other disturbances, and increasing the gene flow. Corridors may be designed to act as shelter-belts, to reduce waterlogging and control salinity in addition to helping wildlife.
- You can report both recent and historical sightings of threatened birds to your nearest DBCA office. Your information is vital to ensuring efforts in conserving threatened species can focus on areas of known habitation.
- Become a Wildlife Carer and help to rehabilitate injured wildlife for release back into the bush. For more information, you can approach your local DBCA office.
- Volunteers can assist landowners, land managers, community organisations and shires to create and manage a network of corridors for the benefit of a variety of native fauna, including birds. By working together, these groups can help to maintain the viability of populations of birds and other animals while enhancing opportunities for communities, agriculture and other commercial interests. Become a volunteer and help save the biodiversity of the Avon River Basin!
- It is important to monitor the health of populations to ensure that management is helping to maintain and enhance the survival of birds in the Avon. Monitoring helps researchers to understand more about species and their requirements, and allows them to detect if animals are losing weight or becoming diseased, or if they are thriving and breeding. For example, populations of Malleefowl have been monitored following fox and cat control and were found to have increased, suggesting that fox control is a useful tool in the management of this species.
- Bird surveys are carried out to determine which species occur in an area and how common they are. Surveys for determining the presence or absence of birds should be conducted using experienced ornithologists and volunteers. Information collected should be accurately recorded and results submitted to Birdlife WA or DBCA.

## Using this book

As indicated above, this book has been developed for the general public to readily use, with birds being grouped according to where they are likely to be observed. The order largely follows that used in *The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds* (2003) and includes water birds, ground birds, birds of prey, owls and then bush birds.

### Photographs:

In most cases, where two photographs are shown for each species, the female is to the left and male to the right.

In some instances, where one of the images depicts a bird in flight, it is purely to show this species in action, not to compare the sexes.

Descriptions of each species include:

**Common name:** Those used are recommended by Birdlife Australia in their Working List of Australian Birds v2.1, current as of May 2018.

**Scientific Name:** Those used are recommended by Birdlife Australia in their Working List of Australian Birds v2.1, current as of May 2018.

For more information, please visit the Birdlife Australia website and look under the Science and Conservation Banner then click on the Working List of Australian Birds.

### Display Icons:

**Conservation Status**, **Feeding and Ecology**, **Preferred Habitat and Breeding** and **Nesting**. Descriptions can be found on pages 26 and 27.

### Category box:

This coloured box highlights different groups of birds distinguished by their preferred habitat, food types and activity patterns.



## Common Name | Scientific Name



### General description includes:

**Size:** In centimetres or metres depending on the size of the bird.

**Wingspan:** In centimetres or metres again depending on the size of the bird and if it is readily seen in flight.

### Description of distinguishing features:

Colour, shape, its prevalence and its movement patterns in the Avon River Basin. In some cases, descriptions of male, female, juvenile and non-breeding plumage are given if the species displays distinct differences.

**Behaviour:** Where species are found, seen, their activity and feeding patterns, nesting habits and their movements through the landscape.

**Voice:** Written descriptions are given of the calls. It should be noted that it is difficult to reproduce bird calls in a written form. Tonal qualities and regional variations

are not easily captured in words, so the descriptions should be used only as a guide to identification. There are phone apps that can be downloaded to help identify birds by their calls. Some of these are listed at the back of the book under Useful Information.

### Environmental & agricultural impact:

These are only described for species that may cause problems. i.e. introduced species causing environmental problems and known agricultural pests.

### Noongar name and significance:

Please note that the Noongar language and cultural knowledge shared in this resource is specific to Ballardong Boodja (country) and will be updated in future prints as more information becomes available.

# Fauna conservation rankings and codes used in this book

## Conservation status



**Endangered:** Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.



**Vulnerable:** Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.



**PRIORITY 4:** Rare species that have been adequately surveyed and are considered not currently threatened.



**PRIORITY 3:** Species that are known from several, possibly widespread, locations that do not appear to be under imminent threat, are in need of further survey and known threatening processes exist.



**PRIORITY 2:** Poorly known species that are from one or a few locations and are in urgent need of further survey.



**Other specified protected fauna:** Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation.



**Introduced species:** Notify relevant Department if seen.

## Feeding and ecology



Seeds



Invertebrates



Fruit



Nectar



Small  
Mammals



Carrion



Aquatic  
Invertebrates



Aquatic  
Vegetation



Cereal  
Crops



Frogs



Reptiles



Small  
Birds



Grasses  
and Herbs



Fish

## Preferred habitat



Woodland



Mallee



Shrubland



Heathland



Grassland



Granite & Rocky Outcrops



Freshwater Wetland & Creeks



Saline Wetland



Roadside: Verge



Agricultural Land



Urban Areas



Landscape Generalist - occurs over wider landscape



In Flight



Night / Nocturnal Species

## Breeding and nesting. Nest sites are shown by :



In forked branches



In outer foliage or upper canopy



In hollow tree trunk



In low bush



On man-made structures



In low, dense vegetation



In Wetland Fringing Vegetation



On Ground

*For full definitions refer to the DBCA website and search for Conservation Code Definitions.*



## Little Pied Cormorant

*Microcarbo melanoleucos*



**General description:** Size 55-65 cm, wingspan: 84-92 cm. Smallest of Australia's cormorants. Distinguished from other cormorants by a short orange-yellow bill and long wedge-shaped tail. Glossy black head and upper body. White face and lower body (although may be stained rusty) without black thigh stripe. Black stripe leading from eye towards bill creates white eyebrow. Small black crest above bill. Neck evenly separated into black and white. No bare skin on throat. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Same as adult, but dusky brown crown extends below eye and has a mottled edge. Dull upper body. Black thigh stripe. Brown bill with yellow sides.

**Behaviour:** Found in range of saline and freshwater habitats. Often alone, will gather in small groups to roost. Often roosts or nests with Little Black Cormorant. Commonly seen perching in trees near water to dry out their wings. Unlike other cormorants, rarely flies in lines or V-formation, but will soar in thermals. Builds nest in a tree or bush over water. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Mostly silent. May make croaking 'tuk tuk tuk' or 'uk-uk-urk' calls, particularly male at nest. Soft cooing 'keh-keh-keh' at nest.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** None, although can impact some Avon River Basin aquaculture activities.



## Little Black Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*



**General description:** Size: 55-65 cm, wingspan: 1 m. Second smallest of Australian cormorants. Completely black plumage with a green-bronze sheen. Breeding adults have spotted white heads with short white plumes. Black facial skin. Blue-green eye. Slender dark grey bill. Slim-bodied. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Plumage is dull. Throat pink-brown. Bill is dull yellow-grey.

**Behaviour:** Found in a range of saline and freshwater habitats, but prefers freshwater. Often seen in larger groups than other cormorants. Often roosts or nests with Little Pied Cormorant. Commonly seen perching in trees near water to dry out their wings. Will fly in V-shaped formation as a group. May work with other birds, such as Australian Pelican and Little Pied Cormorant, to cooperate and drive fish schools during feeding. Will gather where people fish. Builds nest in a tree over water. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Mostly silent. Guttural croaks, male makes whistling and ticking sounds at nest.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** None, although can impact some Avon River Basin aquaculture activities.



## Australasian Darter

*Anhinga novaehollandiae*



**Male plumage:** Dark brown to black body with rusty-coloured breast patch. Long white stripe extending from bill to neck. Bill greyer on top than in female. Facial skin yellow-green.

**Female plumage:** Grey-brown body with white-buff neck and underbelly. White stripe, extending back from bill, has black edging.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female, but paler. Less obvious neck stripe.

**Behaviour:** Found in large shallow waters, either fresh or saline. Usually seen alone, often perching in trees near water to dry out their wings. May form loose breeding colonies with other species. Distinctive cross-like shape to wings and body during flight, with long wide wings, widely-spread tail and long thin neck and head. May be seen soaring high in the sky. Swims low in water, sometimes with only head and bill out of the water. Dives deeply to catch fish, using its bill as a spear. Builds nest in a tree over water. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud, ratchet-like clicking and rattling 'kar, kar, ka, ka-ka-kakaka' that starts slow and becomes more rapid before fading. Brassy clanging and cackling, more by male at nest.

**General description:** Size: 86-94 cm, wingspan: 1.2 m. Large bird with long, thin neck and bill. Neck appears snake-like. Pale streaks and spots across wings. Dull yellow bill. Tail is long, broad, and rounded at the end. Pale legs and feet unlike other cormorants. Uncommon, widespread on rivers and waterways.



## Silver Gull | *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*



**General description:** Size: 38-44 cm, wingspan: 94 cm. Light grey upper body. White head, neck, breast and underbelly. Black and white tipped wings when folded. White eye with red eye-ring. Red bill. Red legs. In flight, upperwing is pale grey, black wingtips with small white patches, white tail, underwing similar but darker grey. Common, widespread, locally prolific depending on food availability.

**Juvenile plumage:** Mottled brown-grey upper body and patch behind eye. Dark-tipped tail. Black eye. Black bill. Black legs.

**Behaviour:** Forms large breeding colonies on offshore islands, also on lakes. Frequents urban areas, including rubbish tips and fishing centres, forming large flocks. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Guttural 'korr' or 'keow'. Harsh, noisy 'karr-karr-karr' or 'kwe-aar'. Juveniles trill or wheeze.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** None, although can cause problems in and around town dumps.



## Red-capped Plover

*Charadrius ruficapillus*



**Male plumage:** Rufous-chestnut brown crown of head extends down back of neck and partially towards breast, edged with black around face and breast.

**Female plumage:** Brown crown of head extends down back of neck and partially towards breast. Eye stripe is wider below eye than on male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Very pale grey-brown upper body with buff edges to feathers. Grey-brown stripe passes from bill through eye.

**Behaviour:** Prefers shallow saltwater lakes, marshes and mudflats, but also found in freshwater habitats. Usually seen alone or in pairs running in short bursts along water's edge. Will form groups and fly with other wading birds. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Sharp 'wit' or 'tik!' or 'twink', alone or becoming a rapid buzz. Piping, fluty 'weet' or 'poo-eet'. In flight, calls 'prrt'.

**General description:** Size: 14-16 cm. Pale grey-brown upper body. White face and lower body. Black stripe passes from bill through eye. Black eye. Short black bill. Black legs. In flight, thin diagonal white stripe on upperwing separates body from black wingtips, dark grey tail with white sides, underwing white with black wingtips. May be confused with Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterels. Uncommon, widespread.



## Hooded Plover | *Thinornis cucullatus*



**General description:** Size: 19-23 cm. Pale grey-brown upper body. White neck, breast and underbelly. Black head. Black stripe running over shoulders and back of neck, partially extending towards breast and head and across back. Large black eye with red eye-ring. Short red bill with black tip. Pink legs. In flight, upperwing is black with white stripe from body to wingtips, dark grey tail with white sides.

**Juvenile plumage:** Very pale grey-brown upper body, including head, shoulder stripe and stripe passing from bill through eye forming a patch beyond eye. Body feathers have pale edges. Short reddish-pink bill with black tip. Pale yellow legs.

**Behaviour:** Western Australia subspecies *Thinornis cucullatus tregallasi* is commonly found on inland salt lakes. Usually seen in pairs or family groups, will form large flocks. Bobs head when looking for prey, runs and stops frequently. Easily disturbed during nesting by people and their activities on beaches and salt lakeshores, nests either being destroyed or left unprotected from the sun. Resident.

**Voice:** Short piping 'peet-peet...' or 'pert peet' or 'pee-oo' or 'prip, prip'. Barked 'fow-fow' or 'kew kew' or 'kep, kep, kep' or 'chook'.



## Red-kneed Dotterel | *Erythrogonyx cinctus*



### **General description:** Size: 17-19 cm.

Grey-brown upper body. White neck and underbelly. Black crown extending below eyes. Black breast extending to back of neck and becoming chestnut stripe on sides. Undertail is streaked brown. Red bill with black tip. Legs have red knees and blue-grey lower leg and feet. In flight, upperwing has white lower edge and black wingtips, dark grey tail with white sides, underwing is white with long black wingtips and black shoulder patches. May be confused with Black-fronted Dotterel and Banded Lapwing. Uncommon, widespread.

**Voice:** Liquid, mellow 'chet-chet' or 'wit-wit' becoming rapid when flying or alarmed. Trilled 'prrrp prrrp' or 'prrr prip prip'.

**Juvenile plumage:** Brown crown of head and upper body. White neck, breast and underbelly, later developing grey-brown breast. Grey legs.

**Behaviour:** Found on mudflats of large shallow freshwater lakes and wetlands. Usually seen alone or in pairs, will form large flocks. Feeds with legs deep in water or swimming. Stands still, bobbing head and body horizontal, with occasional runs to catch prey. In flight, trailing feet extend beyond tail and wingbeats are swift and shallow. Nomadic.



shoulders, tail is rufous-chestnut, long and pointed with black edging, underwing is white with dark grey-brown lower edge up to wide wingtips. May be confused with Red-kneed Dotterel, Hooded Plover and Banded Lapwing. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** White stripe passing from bill above eye curving down to back of neck. No band on breast. Reddish wings. Dull pink eye-ring.

**Behaviour:** Prefers dry edges of shallow freshwater wetlands, lakes, dams, sewage ponds and waterways. May form small flocks. Bobs head when looking for prey, runs and stops frequently. Flies in a jerky manner with slow, deep wingbeats. Will often run and fly short distances when disturbed. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** High metallic 'tink-tink' or 'pink'. Rapid 'tik-ik-ik-ik...' or 'tip-tip-tip'.

## Black-fronted Dotterel

*Elseyornis melanops*



**General description:** Size: 16-18 cm. Brown upper body and crown of head. Chestnut shoulder patch. Wings streaked with white. White neck and underbelly. Wide black stripe passing from bill, through eye, downwards to back of neck then forming a band across breast, with small extension onto forehead. Large black eye with red eye-ring. Short red bill with black tip. Pale pink legs. In flight, upperwing is dark with white stripe passing from body towards



## Australian Painted Snipe

*Rostratula australis*



**General description:** Size: 22-30 cm. Female is larger. White eye-ring extends back towards neck to form a wide point like a comma. White underbelly. Long, slightly downward-dropping, pink-orange bill with swollen tip. Olive-grey legs. In flight, underwing is mottled brown with thick white stripe from body towards wingtips. Rare nomad in the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Finely streaked grey-brown head, throat and breast. Grey-brown wings and upper body with bands of buff spots. Thin buff stripe passes around shoulder and partially down back. Buff stripe on crown.

**Female plumage:** Greenish-bronze wings finely barred. Chestnut-black head, neck and breast. Broad buff-white stripe passes around shoulder and partially down back. White-buff stripe on crown.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to male, wings more mottled than spotted and neck more heavily streaked. Shorter bill.

**Behaviour:** Population is declining across whole range. In WA has more coastal distribution, but has been sighted in Wongan Hills. Prefers freshwater and brackish wetlands with open mud, shallow water and thick vegetation. Nests only in temporary freshwater wetlands. Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Rests amongst vegetation during day. Feeds at night. Male mostly raises the young. When disturbed, will freeze rather than fly. Flies fast and low, with slow wingbeats, rounded wings and legs dangling. Nomadic

**Voice:** During breeding season, most calls from female at dusk and dawn. Musical 'booo' or 'koo-oo koo-oo...' like blowing across the top of a bottle. Penetrating 'cook-cook-cook...' or booming. Buzz or 'kek!' or 'kak' or 'kit' when alarmed.

**Notifiable status:** Report sightings to Birdlife Australia



## Australasian Grebe | *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*



**General description:** Size: 23-26 cm. Small diving waterbird with plump appearance. Black head and throat with chestnut back of neck. Dark brown body and wings, rufous tinge to sides. Silver-grey underbelly. White rump. Yellow eye. Short dark bill with cream tip. Yellow bare skin at corner of bill almost reaches eye. Common, widespread on farm dams and lakes.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to non-breeding plumage, but streaked black and white head. White stripe above eye.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Both male and female appear dull brown with white neck, the dark crown passing through the eye. White skin at corner of bill. May be confused with Hoary-headed Grebe.

**Behaviour:** Usually in pairs on water, rarely seen on land or flying. Small groups in non-breeding season. Constantly diving to feed on fresh waterbodies, can stay under for long periods of time. Dives when frightened. Builds nest from floating vegetation anchored to an underwater reed or stick. Chicks will ride under parents' wings. Resident to partially nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud, rapid trilling or chittering day and night 'tititititi'. Chittering calls between pairs. Alarm call 'tik' or 'pit'. Resonant 'diyg-diyg-diyg' when fighting or threatening.

**Noongar name:** Ngoonun



## Hoary-headed Grebe | *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*



**General description:** Size: 27-30 cm. Pale grey-brown body, darker above. Pale buff breast. Pale whitish underbelly. Breeding bird has black head with white plumes lying over it, giving a streaked appearance and making head appear large. May be confused with non-breeding Australasian Grebe, but dark head blends well into neck and has a dark eye. Broad white stripe in wings visible during flying. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to non-breeding plumage, but streaked black and white head. Broad white stripe above eye.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Head loses colour and plumes. Both male and female appear pale grey with white neck, the dark crown passing below the eye.

**Behaviour:** Preferring large open waters in fresh or brackish habitats. Dives frequently to feed. Tends to fly away when frightened. Long splashing take-off from water. Rarely comes to shore or seen flying by day. Builds nest from floating vegetation anchored to an underwater

reed or stick, well offshore. May form breeding colonies with hundreds of floating nests joined together. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Usually silent, otherwise soft churring near nest or guttural 'hrrow'.



## Great Crested Grebe

*Podiceps cristatus*



**General description:** Size: 48-61 cm. Male is slightly larger. Medium-large slender waterbird. Dark double-crested head on long neck. White face with black line from bill to eye. Chestnut upper neck has ruff edges with black that expands during courtship display. Dark brown upper and light chestnut-buff sides. White neck and underbelly. Red eye. Long pointed bill. Feet are dark olive-green. Large white patches on wings visible during flying. Uncommon, widespread on open deep wetlands.

**Juvenile plumage:** Striped black and white head. Immature adult has dark crown not extending to eye, pale brown-grey with white neck.

**Non-breeding plumage:** White face without neck ruff. Dull brown body with whitish sides, otherwise similar to breeding plumage.

**Behaviour:** Prefers deep open freshwater lakes, but also found in saline habitat. Extensive courtship rituals. In the 'penguin dance' before egg-laying, the birds stretch their necks upwards, rise out of the water with their feet paddling vigorously and their breasts touching and present water plants to each other with shaking heads. Aggressive displays between males during breeding season involve lowering the head and extending the crests and ruffs. Builds nest from floating vegetation and mud anchored to an underwater reed or stick near shoreline plants. May form loose breeding colonies. Short frequent dives to hunt or when threatened. Rarely seen on land. Flies low with neck outstretched but hanging low, back humped. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Usually silent except during courtship displays and territory defence. Various harsh guttural, barking, croaking, rattling, trumpeting, moaning and whirring calls including: throaty, gurgling, rolling 'quarr-r, quarr-r, quarr-r'; rapid, rattling, frog-croaking or barking 'rhag-rhag-rhag'; guttural, growling 'ghorr-r' or 'kar-arr'; and shrill 'er-wick'.



## Australian Shelduck | *Tadorna tadornoides*



**General description:** Size: 55-74 cm, wingspan: 1-1.3 m. Male is larger. Wings have white shoulders, obvious during flight, with chestnut and green patches. White ring around base of neck. In flight, white underwing. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Glossy black head and body with green tinge. Dark buff to chestnut breast feathers.

**Female plumage:** Breast plumage deep chestnut colour. White eye-ring and white base of bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller than adults, less obvious neck ring, white flecking on front of head.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male breast plumage is paler and neck ring less obvious during non-breeding season.

**Behaviour:** Can be found in shallow waters, both saline and fresh, but prefers freshwater. Flies in V-formation or long lines unlike other ducks. Resident to locally migratory.

**Voice:** Loud 'ang-ownk' or 'qua-quaarrk'. Separate buzzing call. Female can make strident 'ow ow ow ow' call. Male can make low, wavering honk.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** None, although can impact some Avon River Basin aquaculture activities.

**Noongar name:** Kooruk



## Black Swan | *Cygnus atratus*



**General description:** Size: 1-1.4 m tall, wingspan: 1.6-2 m. Male is slightly larger. Tall, long-necked, black waterbird with white wingtips, particularly visible in flight. Black feathers have paler edge. Red bill with white bar near tip. Uncommon, widespread, can be found on larger lakes and wetlands throughout the Avon River Basin after substantial rains.

**Juvenile plumage:** Cygnet is pale, fluffy grey, becoming grey-brown with pale edges on feathers. Dull red bill.

**Behaviour:** Common on urban lakes and waterways in both freshwater and saline habitats. Does not fly when moulting after breeding, often forming large flocks on waterbodies. Groups fly in long lines with neck extended. Resident to partially nomadic.

**Voice:** Musical bugling or trumpeting, soft crooning. Aggressive warning hiss.

**Noongar name:** Kooljak



## Freckled Duck | *Stictonetta naevosa*



**General description:** Size: 48-59 cm. Dark brown-black plumage with even, pale buff or white freckling. Peak at back of head. Grey bill is scoop-shaped. In flight, appears all-black with a coppery sheen, paler underneath with no prominent white patches. May be confused with Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead and Musk Duck. Uncommon, found mainly in the western and southern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Base of bill turns red in breeding season.

**Female plumage:** Plumage paler than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Lighter brown with buff freckling.

**Behaviour:** Forms large flocks on open water. Mostly feeds at night. Rests in groups by day in trees or on sand spits, shoreline or tree stumps. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Rarely heard. Soft fluting 'see-you' or 'whee-you'. Males have a short grunting sniff/snort. Females make a loud discordant quack.



## Australian Wood Duck

*Chenonetta jubata*



**General description:** Size: 44-50 cm, wingspan: 80 cm. Small duck with goose-like body shape and long neck. Brown head and neck with pale speckled body. At rest, black wingtips form a stripe on pale grey wings. Very short bill. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Darker chestnut-brown head with small mane. Pale body with dark brown spots. Upper wings and body pale grey, finely patterned, with small green wing patches. Black underbelly.

**Female plumage:** Pale stripes above and below eyes on ginger-brown head. Pale body with dark brown spots becoming larger on lower body. White underbelly.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to adult female but paler.

**Behaviour:** Forms small groups while walking and grazing. Walks very upright. By day, rests on edge of fresh waterbodies, in trees or on tree stumps and dead branches. When flying, the dark wingtips and bar of white secondary feathers distinguishes them from other ducks. Common in urban areas such as garden parks and golf courses. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Nasal 'waaah?' or 'now?', or double-noted 'wee-ow', female more drawn out and rising. Low chattering call in walking groups. 'di-di-di-di-did' courting call. Aggressive hissing when guarding chicks.



## Hardhead | *Aythya australis*



**General description:** Size: 41-60 cm, wingspan: 70 cm. Mahogany-brown body, darker above, especially on head. Head has a high crown. Dark, scooped bill with white patch before dark tip. White undertail. In flight, prominent white underwing with brown border, large area of white on upper wings and pale underbelly. Uncommon, widespread on rivers and wetlands.

**Male plumage:** White eye. Bill patch is blue-white.

**Female plumage:** Dark eye. Paler brown. Bill is blue-grey.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dark eye. Yellow-brown plumage.

**Behaviour:** Found on deep freshwater lakes and dams. Dives deeply to feed. Rests in groups on water or on low branches or stumps near water. Walks clumsily. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Male has soft wheezy whistle. Female has harsh rattle. Courtship call 'brrk'.



## Pacific Black Duck | *Anas superciliosa*



**General description:** Size: 47-61 cm, wingspan: 80-94 cm. Very common duck. Strong dark stripe passes across eye over a pale face, with another stripe passing back from the lower bill. Head has dark crown. Brown body with large speckled, mottled pattern. Feathers have paler buff edges. Green patch on upper wings is edged with black and most obvious when flying. Dark grey bill. Legs and feet grey-yellow-green, becoming more orange in breeding season. In flight, white underwing. Common, widespread on rivers and wetlands.

**Noongar name:** Gwinnen

**Female plumage:** Crown of head is more brown than black. Feathers have paler buff edges than in male.

**Behaviour:** Gathers in pairs or small groups. Common in urban parks with freshwater lakes and urban waterways. Ritual displays used in courtship include preening, bobbing and wing-flapping. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud typical duck 'quack', either singular or in falling 'quaak, quaak, quak-quak-quak', more obvious in the female. Male quiet quick 'rhaab-rhaab'.



## Australasian Shoveler | *Spatula rhynchotis*



**General description:** Size: 45-55 cm, wingspan: 70-83 cm. Long body compared to other ducks. Forehead slopes down into broad, spatula-like, black bill. Blue-grey patch on shoulder more obvious in flight. In flight, white underwing. Uncommon, widespread on rivers and wetlands.

**Male plumage:** Blue-grey head with vertical, crescent-shaped white stripe between bill and eye. Chestnut mottled underbelly. White patch on side towards rear. Yellow eye. Legs and feet bright orange.

**Female plumage:** Mottled brown body with pale chestnut underbelly. Dark bill. Brown eye with pale ring. Legs and feet yellow-brown.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female, but warmer, paler brown.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male loses colour and resembles female, except for orange feet.

**Behaviour:** Can be seen swimming out far, shoulders hunched and bill in water, sometimes

in V-formation. Float low in water. In flight, bill and neck carried very long and straight, wings are very pointed and make a whirring, whistling sound. Builds nest on ground in thick vegetation or in a hollow in a tree or stump standing in water. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Male soft 'took-it' or 'took took'. Female louder double-quack or rapid falling quacks, soft chatter when flying.



## Grey Teal | *Anas gracilis*



**General description:** Size: 37-47 cm, wingspan: 60-67 cm. Mottled grey-brown head and body with pale whitish neck and lower face. Pale edges to feathers. Rounded head. Short bill. Red eye. White triangle in underwing and green patch with white edge on upper wings are visible during flight. Interbreeds with Pacific Black Duck and Chestnut Teal and may be confused with them. Juvenile plumage: Paler than adult. Common, widespread on rivers and wetlands.

**Behaviour:** Prefers saltwater swamps, marshes and mudflats, but also uses freshwater swamps and wetlands. Feeds in small to large flocks, often with Chestnut Teal. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Female loud 'kwark kwark' and laughing falling chuckle, often at night-time. Male high-pitched 'pip' or 'peep', grunting whistle 'gdeeo' or 'gedg-ee-oo'.



## Chestnut Teal | *Anas castanea*



**General description:** Size: 38-48 cm, wingspan: 60-67 cm. Mottled grey-brown head and body. Pale edges to feathers. Pale brown throat and lower face. Rounded head. Short bill. Red eye. White triangle in underwing and green patch with white edge on upper wings are visible during flight. Uncommon widespread on rivers and wetlands.

**Male plumage:** Dark green-black glossy head and patch on upper wings. Chestnut breast and underbelly. Darker brown back than female. Black rump.

**Female plumage:** Female may be confused with Grey Teal, but has darker face and throat, heavily speckled.

**Juvenile plumage:** Immature male has dark patchy pattern on head and an oily look. Dark blotchy pattern on body.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male similar to immature male.

**Behaviour:** Feeds in small to large flocks, often with Grey Teal. Prefers saline habitats, but can be found in freshwater lakes and swamps. Builds nest in hollow tree in water or in grassland near water. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Female loud 'kwark kwark' and laughing falling chuckle, higher and shorter than Grey Teal. Male high-pitched 'pip' or 'peep', grunting whistle 'gdeeo' or 'gedg-ee-oo'.



## Pink-eared Duck | *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*



**General description:** Size: 36-45 cm, wingspan: 58-72 cm. Broad, spatula-like, grey bill with leathery flap at end used to filter food from water. Zebra-like, dark brown, vertical stripes on pale body. White face with fine bars behind ear and down neck. Large brown patch over eye with white eye-ring. Small pink spot behind ear, not easily seen. Brown upper body and wings. Buff undertail. In flight, white upper rump and narrow white band to underwing are visible. Juvenile plumage: Paler with less distinct ear patch. Uncommon, widespread on rivers and wetlands

**Behaviour:** Prefers shallow temporary waters. Can form large flocks while feeding, sometimes in V-formation or in locked, rotating pairs. Perches on logs and branches, rarely on ground. In flight, head held up and beak pointed down. Builds nest in tree hollow or on stump above water, or in an old Eurasian Coot or Black-tailed Native Hen nest. Nomadic.

**Voice:** 'Chirrup' or 'chirring'. Sharp high-pitched 'ee-jik' or 'ti-wit' alarm call.



## Blue-billed Duck | *Oxyura australis*



**General description:** Size: 35-44 cm, wingspan: 60 cm. Dark, compact, diving duck with rounded head. Uncommon, found in the south-western part of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Distinct, scooped, light blue bill. Deep chestnut plumage with black head and upper neck. Underbelly orange-brown to white. Dark, stiff tail with pointed feathers is held flat against water, but lifted during breeding display.

**Female plumage:** Black-brown feathers barred with narrow light brown bands giving freckled appearance. Lower face and throat speckled black. Dark head with pale line passing back from eye. Upper tail black. Grey-blue to grey-green bill. May be confused with Musk Duck.

**Juvenile plumage:** More dull and pale than adult.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male becomes darker with more obvious pale edge to feathers, like the female, and grey-green to dark grey bill.

**Behaviour:** Found on deep freshwater lakes and dams, particularly during non-breeding season. Seldom seen on land. Laboured, long pattering take-off to flight, then rapid wingbeat with tail hanging low. Dives to feed. Often solitary but can form large non-breeding flocks on open fresh water in autumn. Courtship display involves bobbing with bill dipping into water. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Male low-pitched rattle or drumming becoming rapid 'dunk, dunk, dunk-dunk-dunk', shrill soft 'chi-chi-chi'. Female soft 'quack' or 'squark-wak' or 'tet-tet-tet'.



## Australian Pelican | *Pelecanus conspicillatus*



**General description:** Size: 1.5-1.9 m, wingspan: 2.4-2.6 m. Male is larger. Unmistakeable, very large, white bird with black wings. Often greyish head and back of neck. Large white patch on upper wings obvious during flight, along with V-shape on upper tail. Long, bright pink bill has an expandable throat pouch. During breeding season, throat pouch becomes red, skin near bill turns yellow, and parts of bill turn blue with a black stripe. Yellow eye. Dark grey short legs and large feet. In flight, underwing is white with black stripe. Uncommon, widespread, although can be found in large flocks in the right conditions.

**Juvenile plumage:** Grey-brown wings. Cream-brown head and back of neck.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Bill and throat pouch are pink during non-breeding season.

**Behaviour:** Found in a range of fresh and saline habitats and will breed in flooded inland salt lakes. Slow and clumsy to take off, but often seen soaring high and far or gliding low over water. Flies with head drawn back towards body.

May fly in lines or V-formation with others. Swims alone or in flocks. Will scavenge fish from humans and can become tame. Throat pouch can hold up to 13 litres, but is used for only short-term storage of food, acting more like a net. May work with other birds to cooperate and drive fish schools during feeding. Breeds in large colonies, with chicks eventually leaving nest and forming a creche. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Grunting, gruff croaks.



## White-necked Heron | *Ardea pacifica*



**General description:** Size: 75-106 cm, wingspan: 1.6 m. Glossy slate-black upper body with blue-green tinge. White head and neck. White patch on front edge of wings, more obvious during flight. Plum-maroon plumed feathers on back and breast. Brown underbelly streaked white. Green eye. Facial skin is blue or yellow. Shorter bill than other herons, dark grey. Long dark grey legs and feet. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dull plumage with heavily-spotted neck. No white patch on front of wings.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Neck has line of brown-black spots. No maroon plumed feathers on back.

**Behaviour:** Prefers shallow freshwater habitats, including dams and flooded pastures. Builds nest in tree over water. Forms loose breeding groups up to a dozen pairs. Flies with head drawn back towards body. Looks large and dark while flying, slow wing beats. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Usually silent. Guttural croaking 'argh, aargh' when flying or alarmed. Loud deep 'oomph!' at nest and during courtship.



## Nankeen Night-Heron | *Nycticorax caledonicus*



**General description:** Size: 55-65 cm, wingspan: 1.1 m. Male is larger. Large head and short neck. Black crown to head with two or three long white plumes. Upper body rufous to cinnamon brown. Underbelly white to buff. Dark green-black bill. Short stubby tail. Short legs. Uncommon, on western and some central Avon River Basin wetlands and waterways.

**Juvenile plumage:** Teardrop pattern of white spots in rows across rufous-brown back and wings. White-buff neck and breast has streaked dark brown spots. Becomes mottled rufous with age. No plumes on head. Green facial skin. Yellow-black bill. May be confused with Australasian Bittern (RHS Photo).

**Non-breeding plumage:** No plumes on head.

**Behaviour:** Found in shallow freshwater or saline wetlands, preferring freshwater. May roost in large groups. Usually feeds at night and may fly out in groups from the roost. Wades to catch prey. In daytime, can be seen sitting hunched in trees or amongst vegetation. Builds nest in tree over water. Nests colonially, often

with other species, including egrets, cormorants and herons. When disturbed, will fly rapidly in a circle, neck hunched towards body. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Deep croaks. Loud hoarse 'skeowk' or 'ow-uk' or qwu-ok' or 'kyok!' when disturbed or at night. At nest and roost, nasal 'auk-auk-ak'.



## White-faced Heron | *Egretta novaehollandiae*



**General description:** Size: 65-70 cm, wingspan: 1.06 m. Blue-grey body. White face. Pale brownish feathers on breast. Lacy grey plumes across back. Pale grey underbelly. Long, dark brown bill. Long yellow-green legs. In flight, dark grey-brown feathers visible on outer edge of pale grey underwing. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Face greyer. Brownish tinge to grey plumage. Pale underbelly. Paler legs.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Reduced plumes on back and breast less brown. Facial skin green-yellow.

**Behaviour:** Found in both freshwater and saline habitats. Often seen wading or standing in water to hunt food. Will perch on trees, stumps and posts. Builds nest in tree over water. In flight, wings beat slowly and heavily, head is folded back towards body. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Various croaking and grunting calls – 'urrrk-urrrk-urrrk', 'arrgh, arrgh, arrgh', 'graaow', 'urgk-urg-urgh', 'ooooark'. May call in flight, at nest, in alarm or when landing.



## Great Egret

*Ardea alba*



**General description:** Size: 75 – 103 cm, wingspan: 1.5 m. White body. Lacy white plumes over upper body. Very long neck, 1.5 times length of body, with an obvious kink. Flat crown of head. Long bill is dark. Green facial skin. Yellow eye. Long dark legs, upper is paler to reddish. Uncommon, widespread.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Yellow bill. Facial skin is yellow and extends back past eye. Few plumes over body. Legs darker.

**Behaviour:** Found in both freshwater and saline habitats. Usually feeds alone, stalking through water. May stand still for long periods of timing before thrusting bill into water to hunt. Holds neck in a question-mark shape. Builds nest in tree over water. Nests colonially, often with other species, including herons and cormorants. In flight, legs trail far beyond tail, wings beat slowly and heavily, head is folded back towards body. Nomadic to migratory.

**Voice:** Alarmed or in flight has a low croaking 'argh-argh-arrgh-arrgh'. At nest, makes guttural croaking sounds including 'grok-grok-grok-grok-grok'.



## Yellow-billed Spoonbill | *Platalea flavipes*



**General description:** Size: 76-92 cm, wingspan: 1.3 m. White body but may be dirty. Short, stiff, white plumes on breast. Small black plumes on upper wings towards rear. Facial skin grey with black edging. Long yellow bill with wide spoon-shaped tip, red crescents near face and narrow dark bars. Pale yellow or blue eye. Long yellow legs. Uncommon, widespread.

**Voice:** Usually silent. Soft nasal grunt or cough. Deep reedy grunt. Clatters bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Black wingtips in flight. No bars or red colour on bill. Facial skin blue-white without black border.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Reduced plumes on back and breast less brown. Facial skin green-yellow.

**Behaviour:** Prefers freshwater habitats. Walks through water swinging bill from side to side to sift for food. The sensitive bill tip allows the bird to feel food without seeing it. May form small to large groups. Builds nest in tree over water. Usually nests alone. Flies with neck stretched out and steady shallow wingbeats. Will soar high. Resident to nomadic.



## Australian White Ibis | *Threskiornis moluccus*



**General description:** Size: 65-76 cm, wingspan: 1.25 m. White body, though often dirty. Stiff white-cream plumes on breast. Lacy black plumes covering rear. Upper tail has yellow tinge. Dark-skinned head and upper neck without feathers. Pink-red skin across back of head. Long, black, curved bill. Dark legs. In flight, pink skin is visible at the top of the underwing and wingtips are black. Uncommon, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Shorter bill than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Head and neck has dusky dark-grey feathers flecked with white. Shorter bill than adult.

**Non-breeding plumage:** No breast plumes. Upper tail is white. Pink skin of underwing and back of head less bright. Reddish-brown legs.

**Behaviour:** Found in freshwater and saline habitats. Common in urban areas, including wetlands, rubbish tips and bins. Strong, rapid wingbeats with periods of gliding. Will soar in high-flying circles. Flies as a group in V-formation or wavy lines. Builds nest in tree over water or

in reeds at water's edge or on an island. Nests in colonies, often with other ibis. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Hoarse barks and shouts. Deep grunted 'urrrk'.



## Straw-necked Ibis | *Threskiornis spinicollis*



**General description:** Size: 58-76 cm, wingspan: 1-1.2 m. Glossy iridescent blue-green-purple black upper body. White underbelly. Stiff cream-yellow plumes on breast like straw. Dark-skinned head and upper neck without feathers. Long, black, curved bill has corrugations. Dark legs. In flight, dark underwing with white bar extending into wings from body. Yellow skin may be visible at top of underwing. Uncommon, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Has black band around breast. Shorter bill than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Upper body iridescent but not glossy. Head and neck has dusky dark-grey feathers flecked with white. No breast plumes. Shorter bill than adult.

**Non-breeding plumage:** No breast plumes. Upper tail is white. Pink skin of underwing and back of head less bright. Reddish-brown legs.

**Behaviour:** Prefers freshwater wetlands and wet pastures, rarely visits saltmarshes. Will soar in high-flying circles. Flies as a group in

V-formation or wavy lines. Builds nest in tree or reeds over water or on an island. Nests in colonies, often with other ibis. Resident to nomadic

**Voice:** Hoarse barks, coughs and grunts.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** None, although is known to flock on crops/paddocks to feed on insects, so may be of benefit to agriculture.



**Black-winged Stilt | *Himantopus himantopus***



**General description:** Size: 33-38 cm. Tall black and white wading bird. Glossy black upper body and underwing. White head, neck, breast and underbelly. Black back of neck extending towards front where it meets body. Red eye. Long, thin, black bill. Pink, long, thin legs. In flight, all-black upperwing, underwing with white upper edge. Uncommon, widespread, can be seen in large numbers on wetlands if food is available.

**Female plumage:** May appear browner than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Mottled brown upper body, mottling lessens with age. Brown-grey head and back of neck, sometimes with smudged-looking dark eye patch.

**Behaviour:** Found in freshwater and saline lakes, rivers, marshes and mudflats. Nest in small colonies. Usually seen wading in pairs or small groups. In flight, long legs trail far beyond white tail. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Puppy-like yelping or yapping 'ap, ak, ap-ap, ak, ap, ap, ak-ap' or 'kek' or 'boo'. Plaintive call if disturbed at nest 'care-air-er'.



## Banded Stilt | *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*



**General description:** Size: 35-45 cm. White body with black wings. Chestnut breast band becomes darker on underbelly. Long, thin, black bill. Brown eye. Pink-orange thin legs. May be confused with Black-winged Stilt. Uncommon to Rare, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** White body with grey-brown wings. No chestnut breast band.

**Non-breeding plumage:** No or mottled chestnut breast band.

**Behaviour:** Prefers shallow saltwater lakes, marshes and mudflats. Feeds by wading through water, swinging head side-to-side or probing into mud. Forms huge flocks, swimming or wading, often with other wading birds. Nesting rarely observed, but can form very large colonies. Young will walk long distances after lakes dry up. Quick flying. Nomadic to partly migratory.

**Voice:** Puppy-like bark 'ohk' to 'chowk' to 'chowk-ok'.



## Red-necked Avocet | *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*



**General description:** Size: 40-48 cm. Plump white body with black wings and black stripes on back. Small chestnut head and neck with white eye-ring. Long, thin, dark bill that curves upwards. Long blue-grey legs and webbed feet. In flight from above, upper wing has distinct pattern of black tips, black diagonal band and two black stripes down length of body. From below in flight, underwing is white with dark grey tips. Uncommon to Rare, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Female has slightly shorter, more upturned bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** White body with brown wings and back stripes.

**Behaviour:** Prefers shallow saltwater lakes, swamps and mudflats, but also found in freshwater habitats. Sweeps bill back and forth through water to catch prey. Often swims. In flight, legs trail beyond tail. Forms loose colonies when breeding. Mixes in flocks with other wading birds, particularly stilts. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Musical 'toot' or 'klute' when flying. Nasal 'aik, airk airk, airk, aik, aik'.



## Dusky Moorhen | *Gallinula tenebrosa*



**General description:** Size: 35-42 cm. Dark grey-black body, browner above. May have faint white markings on sides. Black tail with white feathers in undertail. Red facial skin above bill. Olive-green eye. Red bill with yellow tip. Red legs above knee, red-green below. May be confused with Eurasian Coot. Uncommon, more common in the western parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Plumage grey-brown. Bill and legs greenish-orange. Hatchling is fluffy, black with white chin and throat markings and red facial skin.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Facial skin less red. Legs green below knee.

**Behaviour:** Found in freshwater lakes and wetlands, including in urban parks. Usually seen swimming or feeding on land. Tail spreads and flicks while feeding on land or alarmed, flashing white tail feathers. Runs with flapping wings. Flies with legs trailing. Forms small breeding group of 2-7 birds, all of whom defend the territory, build the nest and raise the young. Builds nest of sticks, grass and reeds in reeds,

stump or low shrub just about waterline. Often fight and chase each other. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud, repeated 'krek' or 'kok' or 'kook'. Territorial abrupt 'krurk!' or 'krruk-uk-uk'. Shrill 'cheeah'. Nasal 'tuk tuk'. Low honks.



## Eurasian Coot | *Fulica atra*



**General description:** Size: 32-42 cm. Dark grey-black, round-looking body. White facial skin. Red eye. White bill. Short tail. Grey legs with large feet and lobe-fringed toes. May be confused with Dusky Moorhen. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Hatchlings are fluffy black tipped with yellow-orange, red head and yellow-red bill. Immature birds are grey-brown above, pale grey below.

**Behaviour:** Found in freshwater lakes and wetlands, including in urban parks, occasionally in saline habitats. Forms large flocks on water. Dives deeply to find food. Runs across water, sometimes leading to take-off. Flies with fast, shallow wingbeats. Builds nest of reeds and other water plants, which floats or is on ground in shallow water on a stump, log or island. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Very vocal bird. Harsh 'kyik!' or 'kyok!' or 'tok' or 'krarrk' or 'kriak'. Contact call 'pip-pip-pip'. Territorial 'kratack-krat-krat-krat'. Nasal 'nerdip'. Screeches.



## Black-tailed Native-hen | *Tribonyx ventralis*



**General description:** Size: 30-38 cm. Blue grey face. Dark olive-brown above and wings. Blue grey face neck extending down to black belly and undertail. Black tail held erect and bantam-like. Pear shaped white spots/streaks on flank. Apple green bill with scarlet on lower mandible. Coral red legs and feet. Yellow eye. May be confused with Dusky Moorhen. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Hatchlings are fluffy black with white tipped pale pink bill. Juveniles are muted and paler. Less spotting on flank. Pale pink legs dark bill and eye.

**Behaviour:** Found near freshwater lakes and wetlands, occasionally in saline habitats. Forms large flocks near water after flooding events. Runs rapidly as flocks when disturbed and occasionally takes flight after short run up, flight strong and purposeful with red legs trailing behind. Frequents flooded vegetation on inland floodplains. Resident to nomadic with populations irruptive after heavy rainfall and flood events.

**Voice:** Quiet cackle, loud sharp chi-quik, with urgent eeip-eeip- eeip-eeip or explosive tiip or tiup and ehk or ehk-ek oft repeted.



## Emu | *Dromaius novaehollandiae*



**General description:** Size: 1.5-2 m. Female is slightly larger. Australia's largest flightless bird and our national bird. Thick, drooping, grey-brown to dark-brown feathers on body. Feathers are generally darker in Western race *D. n. rothschildi*. Long neck. Bare skin on head is whitish to blue with short 'hairy' feathers towards front of head. Long, dark grey legs with three large forward-pointing toes, central toe is longer. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** More bare skin on neck than female.

**Female plumage:** Darker during breeding season.

**Juvenile plumage:** Chicks have spotted head and dark brown-black stripes on cream body. Immature adult is darker than adult with dusty black head and neck and dark grey skin.

**Behaviour:** Usually day-active, particularly dawn and dusk. Runs in bouncing, swaying manner. May be found solitary or in small or large groups, often as male/female pairs, until

eggs are laid. Male incubates eggs and raises young up to 18 months. Resident, but partially nomadic to migratory.

**Voice:** Usually silent unless alarmed or defending territory. Deep guttural grunts (male), sequences of booming drumming (female), whistling peeps (juveniles).

### **Environmental & agricultural impact:**

Localised impacts to agricultural production can occur when Emus build up in numbers.

**Noongar name:** Waitj



## Malleefowl | *Leipoa ocellata*



**General description:** Size: 55-61 cm. Only large ground bird found in dry forest and mallee woodland. Beautiful brown and black eye-like patterns and fine barring on upper wings. Grey head, neck and breast with black stripe on breast. Dark crown from head to lower neck with small crest. White line under eye. Obvious ear hole. Cream-brown throat. Pale cream underbelly. Long broad tail. Short grey bill on small head. Dark grey legs with large feet. Uncommon, in the central and eastern Avon River Basin it is most often seen on roadside feeding on spilt grain.

**Juvenile plumage:** Barred, dull brown plumage. Immature adult has blue eye-line.

**Behaviour:** Prefers habitat that has not been regularly burnt. Walks singly or in pairs, rarely flying and then only for short distances. Builds a mounded nest up to 5 m across and 1.5 m high, made from leaves, twigs, bark and sand. Males remain near mounds, tending daily during breeding season and monitoring temperature. Females roam more. Chicks are independent after hatching. Resident.

**Voice:** Male has loud, booming, 3-note call 'uh-uh-uh oom-oom-oom' with head held to breast. Female makes a high-pitched crow, often in response to male. Soft 'oom' calls between pair.

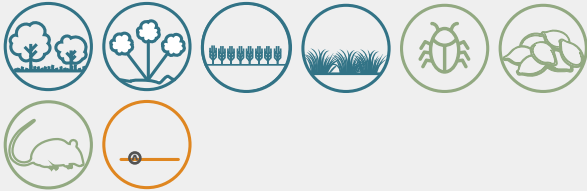
**Notifiable status:** Sightings of birds and mounds should be reported to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

**Noongar name:** Ngawoo



## Bush Stone-curlew

*Burhinus grallarius*



**General description:** Size: 54-59 cm, wingspan: 0.8-1.05 m. Ground bird with slim body and long legs. Upper body is mottled grey-brown. Brown-black streaks on white shoulders. White neck, breast and underbelly finely streaked with brown. White eyebrow extends from bill, above eye and down neck, upper edge may be dark brown. Dark stripe passes from bill below eye and down neck beyond eyebrow. Long barred tail. Large yellow

eye. Short, pointed, grey bill. Yellow-grey legs. Uncommon to Rare, can be found more commonly in the northern and eastern Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler brown body.

**Behaviour:** Feeds at night. Walks alone or in large loose flocks. During daytime will lay flat on ground or 'skulk' away or freeze to avoid notice. Elaborate courtship dance with birds standing with outstretched wings, tails up, necks stretched slightly forwards. They stamp feet and constantly call. Ritual may last an hour or more. In flight, legs trail beyond tail, and wingtips from above are dark with two white patches. Resident to nomadic.

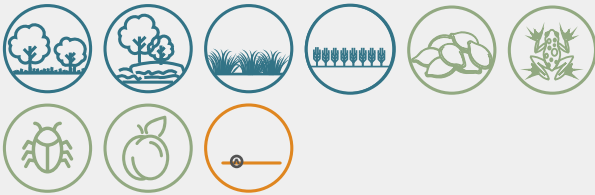
**Voice:** Far-carrying, eerie, mournful, night-time wailing 'wee-loo' or 'weer-lo' or 'wee-eeer' to 'will-aroo, will-aroo'. Call rises and becomes faster then trails away, sometimes performed in chorus with several birds and ending in a jumble of notes. Alarm call shrieks and growls.

**Noongar name:** Weerlo



## Australian Bustard

*Ardeotis australis*



**General description:** Size: 0.75-1.5 m, wingspan: 1.6-2.1 m. Male is larger. Ground bird with long thick neck, heavy body and long tail. Head has dark crown and white stripe extending from bill above eye to crown. Upper body and tail brown. Shoulders have black and white pattern. Head, neck, breast and underbelly pale grey. Long, pale yellow legs with three toes. Uncommon, widespread, although mostly seen

in the eastern and northern part of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Crown of head is black. Neck and lower body separated by dark brown-black band. Cream-white underbelly. Extendable sacs on throat and breast used in breeding displays, swinging the breast sac back and forth, tail fanned over back, while calling with bill pointed to sky.

**Female plumage:** Much smaller than male with narrow body. Crown of head is brown. Neck and breast greyer with less obvious neck band. Less black and white to shoulders. Faint blotches on upper body.

**Juvenile plumage:** Upper body grey-brown with pale spots. Faint black and white shoulders. No neck band. Pinkish bill and legs. Hatchlings have obvious brown-black and white stripes.

**Behaviour:** Feeds in evening. Walks in a stately manner with head and bill held up high, singly or in small groups. Large groups form when insect or mouse numbers are high. Will crouch on ground to hide or when resting. Runs into wind to take off. Flies with slow powerful beats of broad wings, relatively low to ground, with legs trailing behind. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Usually silent. Male makes guttural roar or deep booming during breeding season 'huhh!, huhh!, -aa-a-r-r-rgh, aa a-r-r-rrrgh'. Alarm call, a harsh bark. Croaks during feeding.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** None, although will be seen during insect and mouse plagues.

**Noongar name:** Koanyill



## Banded Lapwing | *Vanellus tricolor*



### General description: Size: 25-29 cm.

Grey-brown upper body. Black head leads down back of neck into U-shaped black band across breast. White neck and underbelly. White stripe passes from bill through eye and curves down to back of neck. Red skin wattles at base of bill. Yellow eye and eye-ring. Yellow bill. Pink-grey legs. In flight, diagonal white stripe on upperwing separates body from black wingtips, white tail with broad black band, underwing white with black wingtips. May be confused with Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterels. Uncommon, widespread.

### Juvenile plumage: Crown of head is brown.

Head, breast band and upper body are brown with buff-edged feathers giving a flecked appearance. Red wattle at bill, small or missing.

**Behaviour:** Feeds on land, chasing and darting to catch prey. Will defend nest from intruders, including people, by flying and calling at them. Usually seen in pairs or small groups, sometimes large flocks, often far from cover. Flies with quick clipped wingbeats and loud calls, often at night. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Plaintive, metallic, ringing 'er-chill-char' or 'e-chi-chi-chi' or 'quirrrk-quirrrk-quirrrk'. Strident 'kew-kew-kew' or 'kerr-kerr-kerr-kerr'.



## Little Button-quail | *Turnix velox*



**General description:** Size: 12-16 cm. Female is larger. Upper body has scalloped appearance from light brown feathers edged with black and white. White throat. Light-brown head, back of neck and extending towards breast. Buff-brown breast. White underbelly. White eye. Blue-grey bill. Pale pink legs. In flight, upperwing and upper body is rufous out towards shoulders, becoming dark grey-brown towards wingtips, white sides to body below tail are obvious. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Sides of neck have scalloped appearance from pale-edged feathers. Head more heavily patterned.

**Female plumage:** More cinnamon-brown head, back of neck and upper body.

**Juvenile plumage:** Breast more heavily scalloped.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Female has faintly mottled head, back of neck and breast.

**Behaviour:** Walks alone or in loose flocks. Feeds at night. Will fly fast and low for short distance if disturbed, otherwise squats and scurries away. Nomadic.

**Voice:** High-pitched, musical 'oom, oom' or 'woop woop' or deeper 'hoo-oo'. Fast 'chek chek' or 'chip' when startled.

**Noongar name:** Kooradong



## Painted Button-quail | *Turnix varius*



**General description:** Size: 17-23 cm. Female is larger. Upper body heavily mottled and streaked black and white over rufous-brown and grey-brown. Grey neck and breast has white-buff spots edged with black, fading to underbelly. Red-brown shoulder patch extends towards back of neck. Dark crown of head extends down back of neck. White stripe above eye and down towards back of neck. Small white spots on head. Buff underbelly. Red eye. Short slender bill. Dark yellow legs. Uncommon, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Shoulder patch is more chestnut and upper body more clearly marked and rufous.

**Juvenile plumage:** Shoulder patch not obvious. Barred breast. Eye pale orange.

**Behaviour:** Feeds at night. Spins on one leg, using the other to forage through leaf litter, leaving a depression of bare ground about 15 cm across. Usually seen in pairs or family groups, sometimes alone. Male incubates eggs and cares for chicks for 7-10 days. Will fly fast for some distance if disturbed, otherwise walks away fast or freezes. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Female makes deep 'oom' that becomes faster and rises for 10-30 calls. Rapid soft drumming sound.



## Brown Quail | *Coturnix ypsilophora*



**General description:** Size: 16-22 cm. Female is larger. Australia's largest native quail. Highly variable plumage, but always with fine V-shaped bars on underbelly and fine white to silver streaks on upper body. Plain brown face. Red eye. Dark ear spot. Appears dark brown when flying with round, broad wings. May be confused with Stubble Quail. Uncommon, widespread.

disturbed and only for short distances before diving into cover. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Rising whistle 'be-quick, be-quick' or 'ph-phweeeep' or 'tu-weeeeee', usually in morning or evening. Fluty chatter or sharp 'chirp' when disturbed.

**Male plumage:** Plumage varies from grey to grey-brown to rufous brown. Brown form more finely barred than female with white streaks through plumage.

**Female plumage:** Less brown in plumage, more black and white. No rufous colouring.

**Juvenile plumage:** Like female, but with brown eye and less distinct markings. More spotted breast.

**Behaviour:** Walks singly, in pairs or small groups. Forms large flocks in non-breeding season. Runs with neck stretched out. Jumps up high and scatters when disturbed, wings making a whirring noise. Flies low to ground when



## Stubble Quail | *Coturnix pectoralis*



**General description:** Size: 16-20 cm. Female is larger. Grey-brown upper body with cream streaks and flecking of dark brown, buff and grey. Cream underbelly with black streaks. Red eye with white stripe above. Pale orange legs and feet. Appears grey-brown with white streaks when flying, with less rounded wings than Brown Quail. Common, widespread.

**Voice:** High whistling 'titch-u-wip' or 'tutchchewup' or sharp 'pippy-wheat'. Chirping 'kek-kek'.

**Male plumage:** Orange to chestnut face and throat with black border. Black breast patch.

**Female plumage:** White throat and fine streaks on breast and sides, paler than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler, more spotted breast than juvenile Brown Quail. Immature male has white streaks within the black breast patch and paler face.

**Behaviour:** Walks singly, in pairs or small groups. Flies rapidly when flushed from ground with wings making a whirring sound. Lands more wings-back, feet-first into cover than Brown Quail and will fly a further distance. Nomadic to partially migratory.



## Black-shouldered Kite | *Elanus axillaris*



**General description:** Size: 33-38 cm, wingspan: 90 cm. Female is slightly larger. Pale grey upper body. White face, breast and underbelly. Black eye patch forms an eyebrow-like stripe beyond eye. Obvious black shoulder when sitting or flying. Dark grey wingtips. In flight, dark wingtips to white wings with small black patch at bend in wings. Red eye. Yellow feet and base of bill. Distinguished from Letter-wing Kite which has distinct wavy black bar under wings and a faster wing beat. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Pale brown to rufous head, breast and upper body, may be spotted or streaked on breast. Pale face. Darker brown back and shoulders with buff-edged feathers. Grey wings with white wingtips. White underbelly. Dull yellow legs.

**Behaviour:** Hovers to search for prey with wings held up in a V-shape and tail and legs hanging below. Fast wing beats. Often hunts at dawn and dusk. Will perch obviously on roadsides and in paddock trees to search for prey. Sometime confused with the Letter-wing Kite which is a rare vagrant in the Avon River Basin. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** At nest or when alarmed, strong 'kik kik kik'. Repeated 'chee' followed by a sob, whistling 'chep', or piping, worried-sounding 'siep'. Husky, scraping 'skairr!' or wheezing 'kar'. Contact call 'chek-chek-chek' or 'scree-scree-scree'.



## Spotted Harrier | *Circus assimilis*



**General description:** Size: 50-62 cm, wingspan: 1.2 m. Female is larger. Blue-grey upper body and back of head with rufous shoulder patch. Chestnut-rufous breast and underbelly, heavily spotted with white. Hood on head is chestnut with grey edge. Yellow eye. Legs are long and yellow. In flight, underwing has brown upper edge, black lower edge and strongly barred grey in middle. May be confused with Swamp Harrier, but tail is heavily-barred and slightly longer and wedge-shaped, wings have dark, non-barred, deeply fingered tips, underbelly is streaked not spotted, and no white patch on rump. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Very different to adult. Heavily mottled, reddish-brown to dark grey-brown upper body. Buff neck and underbelly streaked with brown. Hood on head is edged with black. Pale buff band across shoulder in flight.

**Behaviour:** When hunting, they 'quarter', flying low over ground vegetation to systematically search for prey. Glides with wings upswept in a deep V and head down, often with legs trailing

ready to catch prey, and edges of tail curved upward. Flies alone or in pairs. Perches in trees. Nomadic to partly migratory.

**Voice:** Chattering, threatening 'kik-kik-kik' when competing for food. High-pitched chipping and squeaking. Loud whistled 'ki-yoo' in flight over territory.



## Swamp Harrier | *Circus approximans*



**General description:** Size: 50-61 cm, wingspan: 1.45 m. Female is larger. Dark brown body, becoming grey with age. Pale ring on head gives appearance of a hood. Underbelly whitish-buff with streaked neck and breast. Long, lightly barred tail. Yellow eye. Legs are long and yellow. In flight, has obvious white patch on rump and long broad wings with barred fingered wingtips. In flight, underwing has mottled brown upper edge, black lower edge and lightly barred grey in middle. May be confused with Spotted Harrier in flight, but wings appear narrower with barred fingertips and shorter tail with square, slightly rounded tip. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Brown upper body and grey wings, greyer with age. Breast is buff with brown streaks. May have a dark hood on head.

**Female plumage:** All brown upper body. More rufous and heavily streaked underbelly. Underwing has pale patch toward wingtips and black lower edge. Wings slightly broader than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Darker brown body. Pale patch on back of head. Brownish rump with less obvious pale patch. Dark underwing. May be confused with Black-breasted Buzzard, but whitish patch near fingertips is less obvious.

**Behaviour:** When hunting, they 'quarter', flying low over ground vegetation to systematically search for prey. Glides with wings upswept in a deep V and head down. Flies alone, in pairs or family groups. Male will pass food to female in the air. Perches within vegetation and on stumps on or near the ground.

**Voice:** High short 'kyeow!' or 'kee-oo'. Courtship flight mewing whistle 'kee-a' or 'kee-u'. High-pitched 'see-uh' during aerial food transfers. Low 'kok-kok-kok'. At nest, 'see-eeep' begging call and 'kitter-kitter-kitter' chattering.



## Square-tailed Kite | *Lophoictinia isura*



**General description:** Size: 50-56 cm, wingspan: 1.3 m. White face. Brown body with darkly streaked breast and pale band across wing. Pale brown to rufous underbelly. When perched, wings extend past dark grey tail. White-yellow eye. In flight, long and slender with pale large white patch and dark crescent near darkly-barred fingered wingtips, rufous and grey otherwise. Long, square tail with dark band at tip. Short pale legs. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Red-brown to pale brown head and body. Back feathers have rufous edges. Brown eye.

**Behaviour:** Solitary or in pairs when perched or flying. Soars low over or through tree canopy with wings upswept and very slow wingbeats. May glide low over ground, almost hovering with slight sideways rocking. Will take entire bird nests with nestlings back to own nest. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Hoarse 'kee-up' or 'airk-ek-k'. Plaintive yelp 'yip-yip-yip'. Chattering at nest. Female begs food with whistled 'wheee', slightly lower from male.



## Black Kite | *Milvus migrans*



**General description:** Size: 45-55 cm, wingspan: 1.2 m. Dark brown-black body with pale shoulder. Whitish face with dark patch around and beyond eye. Neck, breast and underbelly may be light to rufous brown. Forked tail at rest. Brown eye. Yellow facial skin at base of bill. Short, stocky, yellow legs. In flight, underwing is dark brown at lower edge through to widespread fingertips, upper edge is rufous brown, faintly barred. Uncommon, widespread.

**Voice:** Whistling plaintive 'see-err'. Sharp 'kee-ee-ki-ki-ki' or 'si-i-i-l'. Whinnying calls.

**Juvenile plumage:** Brown body with buff-streaked head and breast. Underwing brown to grey-brown with pale bars towards dark fingertips.

**Behaviour:** Often gathers in groups at fires, rubbish tips, carcasses, or in flocks over cattle feedlots and abattoirs, behaviour not shown by any other bird of prey. Scavenges, but also grows in numbers due to locust or mouse plagues. May nest in loose colonies. Flies and soars with wings held flat or slightly bowed and tail spread and squarish, but slightly forked, frequently twisting as the bird soars. Resident to nomadic.



## Black-breasted Buzzard | *Hamirostra melanosternon*



**General description:** Size: 50-61 cm, wingspan: 1.5 m. Female is larger. Solid-looking body. Black face and head. Rufous brown crown and back of neck, which may raise into a small crest. Black breast. Rufous to chestnut underbelly. Mottled rufous brown upper body. When perched, wings extend well past short pale grey tail. In flight, large white patch near dark fingered wingtip of underwing, wings are even width from body to tip, and tail is short and square. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Red-brown to pale brown. Back feathers have dark centres. In flight, brown body separated from grey wings by a pale grey bar, large white patch near black wingtips. May be confused with Spotted Harrier and Square-tailed Kite, but these both have barred tail or underwing feathers.

**Behaviour:** Walks easily on ground, sometimes hunting in this way. Soars and glides high with wings upswept, sometimes rocking sideways. Glides low over ground to hunt. Will eat large eggs by breaking shell with a rock. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Short hoarse yelp 'kyik-kyik-kyik'. Thin whistle. Alarm call, high long 'scree'. Various harsh scratching calls. Usually silent away from nest.

**Noongar name:** Koodap



## Whistling Kite | *Haliastur spenurus*



**General description:** Size: 50-60 cm, wingspan: 1.2 m. Female is larger. Light brown upper body with mottled wings and dark wingtips. Head, breast and underbelly pale buff-blond to sandy brown, head and neck are finely streaked. Long pale tail. Bone-coloured legs. In flight, underwing is black at lower edge through to fingertips, broken by a pale brown stripe that connects to pale brown upper edge of wing, pale tail. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Reddish-brown upper body with spotted wings. Heavily streaked brown head and neck.

**Behaviour:** May be seen at fires or around carrion. In flight, wings are arched and slightly drooped at ends, fingertips spread, tail spread with rounded tip. Flies alone, in pairs or small groups. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Clear falling whistle followed by staccato upward chatter 'pee-aar-wh-wh-wh-wh-wh-wh' or 'peee-arrgh-ka-ke-ki-ki', repeated during flight or when perched. Warning harsh 'eeargh' or 'kaair'.



## Collared Sparrowhawk | *Accipiter cirrocephalus*



**General description:** Size: 29-40 cm, wingspan: 76 cm. Female is larger. Grey-brown hooded head and dark grey-brown upper body. Rufous-chestnut brown neck collar. Neck, breast and underbelly are rufous brown with fine pale bars. Long tail with square end, lightly barred. Yellow eye with wide-eyed look. Long yellow legs with slender feet, longer middle toe used for catching prey. In flight, underwing has rufous brown upper edge and lower edge is white finely barred with black and long, thin, square tail. May be confused with Brown Goshawk. Uncommon, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Smaller or less complete neck collar, underparts are browner and more barred on underbelly.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dark brown upper body. Neck, breast and underbelly are dark-chocolate brown heavily streaked or barred with white, bars may be V-shaped. Streaked brown head. Sub-adult appears like darker version of adult but without brown neck collar.

**Behaviour:** Usually hunts birds in flight. In flight, wings are rounded, curving down at tips, lower edge is a wavy curve. Glides with wings flat. Wings flick faster than Brown Goshawk, can be very aerobatic. Will soar with wings upswept slightly and tail fanned. Flies alone or in pairs. Resident.

**Voice:** Rapid 'kikikiki', higher pitch than Brown Goshawk. Slower 'swee-swee-swee-swee' or 'kwiek-kwiek-kwiek', or 'wit-wit-wit' by male. Soft 'seet'. Coughed 'bckt'.



## Brown Goshawk | *Accipiter fasciatus*



**General description:** Size: 40-55 cm, wingspan: 0.7-1 m. Female is larger. Grey-brown hooded head and dark grey-brown upper body. Dark eyebrow ridges give appearance of frowning. Rufous-chestnut brown neck collar. Neck, breast and underbelly are rufous brown with fine pale bars. Long tail with rounded end, lightly barred. Yellow eye. Long yellow legs. In flight, underwing has rufous brown upper edge and lower edge is white finely barred with black, dark grey closed fingertips, and long thin rounded tail. May be confused with Collared Sparrowhawk. Uncommon, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Smaller neck collar, underparts are browner and more barred on underbelly.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dark brown upper body. Neck, breast and underbelly are dark-chocolate brown heavily streaked or barred with white, bars may be V-shaped. Streaked brown head. Sub-adult appears like darker version of adult but without brown neck collar. Underwing more grey than brown on upper edge.

**Behaviour:** Hunts in short bursts of speed from a low, concealed perch or within trees to ambush prey. In flight, flaps quickly and heavily, then performs short glides on rounded wings curving down at tips, lower edge is relatively straight. Will soar with wings upswept slightly and tail fanned. Flies alone or in pairs. Very aggressive at nest. Male does most of the feeding of nestlings. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Rapid 'ki-ki-ki'. More drawn out 'swee-swee' or 'swee-it swee-it' or 'yuik-yuik-yuik' or 'ee-you-wick, ee-you-wick'. Female calls lower than male.

**Noongar name:** Matwelitj



## Little Eagle | *Hieraaetus morphnoides*



**General description:** Size: 45-55 cm, wingspan: 1.3 m. Female is larger. Stocky body with broad head, similar in size to kites. Back of head has short dark crest. Tail is short, square, light grey with faint barred pattern; fanned and rounded square when flying. Feathered legs. Wings when perched do not reach tip of tail. Body plumage can be light or dark, dark is less common. Light birds – brown upper body with pale shoulder, buff-brown head with blackish cheeks, pale buff-brown underbelly with streaked breast; underwing has bands of rufous on upper edge, white through middle and barred dark brown at bottom, plus distinct pale patch towards fingered dark wingtips. Dark birds – dark brown body with less prominent pale shoulder, reddish-brown underbelly with streaked breast; underwing is dark and barred, has pale band through middle and reddish-brown upper edge, plus pale patch towards fingered dark wingtips. May be confused with Whistling Kite and Black-breasted Kite. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Less streaking on neck and breast than adult. Light birds – similar to adult with rufous head and breast. Dark birds - dark red-brown plumage, small white shoulder patch.

**Behaviour:** Hunts from perches or by flying over open ground. Will also hunt prey in tree canopy. Soars with flattened wings and upturned fingertips; otherwise slow, deep wingbeats. Will hover. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud and rapid, whistling, 2- or 3-noted 'wh-whee-whit' or 'fee-few' or 'pip-it, pip-it'. Rapid 'chik-a-chuk' or 'kuk-kuk-kuk'. Piping 'kleep-kleep-kleep'. Female at nest makes begging squeals and chatters.



## Wedge-tailed Eagle | *Aquila audax*



**General description:** Size: 85-110 cm, wingspan: 1.8-2.8 m. Female is larger. Australia's largest bird-of-prey. Dark brown to black body. Head, back of neck and shoulder are blonde-rufous brown. Becomes darker with age, but will retain pale tawny patch across shoulder. Long, pointed, dark tail, wedge-shaped in flight. Feathered legs. Whitish bill. Brown eye. In flight, dark underwing may have brown upper and grey lower edge, possible white patch towards fingertips. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Darker than female.

**Juvenile plumage:** Brown with black neck and underbelly. Pale tips on feathers of upper body. Pale rufous shoulder and back of neck. Faintly barred underwing in flight.

**Behaviour:** Commonly seen feeding off roadkill on roadsides, often in groups. Main food is rabbits and hares. May kill lambs, but usually scavenges on already dead livestock. Perches in trees or on poles. Soars very high with wings upswept and widespread fingers, often circling alone or in family groups. Heavy, slow wingbeats

when flying. Nests built in large tall trees with clear view of surroundings. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Usually silent. 'Cooweee-el' or yelped, wavering high-pitched 'tseet-you'. Soft 'soo-wee-ya'. Aggressive scream.

### Environmental & agricultural impact:

May kill lambs, but usually scavenges on dead carcasses.

**Noongar name:** Warlitj

**Noongar significance:** Warlitj, or Wedge-tailed Eagle, holds great significance to Noongar lore, as it was told in the Nyitting or Dreamtime that the old Warlitj was the guardian of the sky, protecting the earth and the sun.



## Nankeen Kestrel | *Falco cenchroides*



**General description:** Size: 30-35 cm, wingspan: 80 cm. Female is generally larger. Rufous-brown upper body. Black wingtips. Black stripe passes from bill back under eye and partially down neck, with another around top of eye passing back towards neck. Pale forehead. Neck, breast and underbelly white-buff with dark streaks. Dark eye. Yellow facial skin at base of bill. Dark grey bill. Yellow legs and feet. In flight, underwing is white-buff finely barred with grey. Undertail has faint grey bars on white with black band on end, edged with white bands. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Grey head. Grey tail with black band on end, edged with white bands.

**Female plumage:** Rufous-brown head. Dark spots on upper body plumage. Neck, breast and underbelly more heavily streaked. Rufous-brown tail is barred with black band on end, edged with white bands.

**Juvenile plumage:** More rufous upper body than female with more obvious dark spots. Facial stripes more obvious. Facial skin grey. Neck,

breast and underbelly very heavily streaked. Tail more heavily barred.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone or in pairs. Wingbeats very rapid, will hover, soars with wings flat. Tail spread during hovering and soaring. Hunts for prey from a perch or by hovering above ground. Often seen on phone poles, overhead wires or in dead trees. Prey caught by catching in air or pouncing on ground. Will dive onto prey with wings closed. Grows in numbers due to high insect or mouse numbers. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Rapid shrill 'ki-ki-ki...' or 'keeekeeekeee'. Slow 'tek-tek-tek...'. Wavering rising scream 'keer, keer, keer' or 'keeeiir, keeeiir, keeeiir'. Indrawn 'ee-agh'. Display call a sharp 'killy-killy'.



## Brown Falcon | *Falco berigora*



**General description:** Size: 40-55 cm, wingspan: 1.2 m. Female is larger. Brown upper body, highly variable from light brown to red-brown to dark brown, may become paler with age. Thick dark band passes from bill back through eye and down side of head. Dark stripe passes from bill down side of neck. Partial collar of buff-white from throat towards back of neck. White-buff throat, neck, breast and underbelly streaked or speckled with brown, but can be nearly completely white or completely brown. Brown upper leg feathers. Tail is banded above and below. Dark eye with blue-grey eye-ring. Long blue-grey legs and feet. In flight, underwing is pale and barred, upper edge may be brown. May be confused with Nankeen Kestrel. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Partial buff-coloured neck collar and buff throat. Upper body plumage may have buff edges. Facial stripes more obvious. Brown breast and underbelly, becoming speckled.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone on a perch, including phone poles, fences and dead trees.

Prey killed by breaking the spine, either in flight by grabbing with feet or by pouncing on ground. Uses the stick-nests of other birds, either birds of prey or crows or ravens, but sometimes builds own nest. In flight, wings are upswept. Wingbeats are slow, over-arm rowing style, but may hover unsteadily. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Noisy cackling 'yeah-cook' or 'yeah-cook-uk-uk' or 'karairk-kuk-kukuk'. Single calls 'tek' or 'karark' or 'kar-r-rak' or 'kairrrk'. Juvenile 'keea-keea...'. Various screeches, chuckles and cackles.



## Australian Hobby | *Falco longipennis*



**General description:** Size: 30-35 cm, wingspan: 90 cm. Female is larger. Upper body slate-grey, paler on rump. Black wingtips on long wings. Dark crown of head. Wide black marking from under eye towards crown of head. White-buff forehead, neck and throat extending towards back of neck and becoming rufous. Rufous-brown breast, underbelly and upper leg with dark streaks. Eye-ring and facial skin at bill are blue-grey. Dark grey bill. Yellow legs and feet. In flight, underwing is rufous-brown spotted white and strongly barred on lower edge. May be confused with Peregrine Falcon. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Upper body plumage is browner and edged with rufous. Neck, breast and underbelly more rufous-rusty colour.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone or in pairs. Flies swift and direct on fast wingbeats. In flight, wingtips are sharply pointed, tail is square when gliding, but fanned and rounded when soaring. Will capture prey in air and can be very aerobatic, will chase down other birds. Uses the stick-nests of other birds, including crows,

ravens, Whistling Kites and Australian Magpies, with little repairing. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** High-pitched 'kek kek kek kek' or 'kiek-kiek-kiek-kiek', becoming rapid 'ki-ki-ki'.



## Peregrine Falcon | *Falco peregrinus*



**General description:** Size: 35-50 cm, wingspan: 95 cm. Female is larger. Solid body. Upper body slate-black, paler on lower back. Black-hooded head. Partial collar of white-buff from throat towards back of neck. White-buff to buff-brown neck, breast, underbelly and upper leg, finely barred with black. Eye-ring and facial skin at bill are yellow. Dark eye. Yellow bill with grey tip. Very large yellow feet. May be confused with Australian Hobby or Brown Falcon. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Upper body dark brown with buff-edged feathers. Brown-hooded head. Neck, breast and underbelly buff to brown, heavily streaked. Dark eye with blue-grey eye-ring.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone, in pairs or family groups. Will perch on phone poles, fences, cliff faces and dead trees. Uses the stick-nests of other birds, either birds of prey or crows or ravens, otherwise nests on ledges of cliffs and buildings. Flight is very fast and agile, will aggressively swoop at intruders near nest. Hunts birds by hitting them at speed while flying

with wings half-closed. In flight, wingtips are pointed, tail is square. When soaring, wings are held stiffly outstretched, giving very flat profile and tail is fanned and rounded. During glides, wings are slightly more relaxed and tail is folded. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud slow 'kek kek kek...' or 'kak-kak-kak' or 'chak-chak-chak-chak', becoming louder harsher 'kiek-kiek-kiek-kiek' when intruders approach nest. Hoarse indrawn 'ee-agh...'. Thin high-pitched 'keer-keer-keer'. Female calls are harsher and deeper than male. Male calls soft 'ke-kik'. Nest calls plaintive 'chip-chip' or 'chirrup'.



## Southern Boobook

### *Ninox boobook*



**General description:** Size: 25-36 cm, wingspan: 60-80 cm. Female is larger. Hawk-like appearance, but with large staring eyes and compact body. Dark red-brown upper body. White spots across back. Face mask of dark brown with pale outer edge looks like goggles on pale face. Red-brown neck and breast heavily streaked or spotted with white. Underbelly

pale cream with reddish streaks. Eye grey-green or green-yellow. Bill grey with dark tip. Short tail. Feathered legs with dull yellow-grey feet. In flight, underwing is strongly banded. May be confused with Barking Owl. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Plumage is more buff coloured. Facial goggles are very distinct. Eye brown.

**Behaviour:** Commonly heard calling at night. Nocturnal, but occasionally seen during the day. Roosts in thick vegetation during day. Sits with body on an angle. Hunts from a perch, either catching prey in air or pouncing on the ground. Becomes more common during mouse plagues. Strong and agile in flight, occasionally glides. Young are cared for by both parents and sometimes a second female helper. Resident.

**Voice:** Loud, quick, repeated 'book-book' or 'boobook' or 'morepork', second note lower. May call in a duet. Falsetto 'yo-yo-yo-yo'. At nest, drawn-out rising 'brrrrow' or low monotonous 'mor-mor-mor' or 'quorr-quorr-quorr'.

**Noongar name:** Yontj

**Noongar significance:** Yontj or Southern Boobook in Noongar lore is said to be a bird of ill omen.



## Barking Owl

*Ninox connivens*



flight, underwing and tail are strongly banded. May be confused with Southern Boobook. Uncommon, mostly in the western part of the Avon River Basin.

**Female plumage:** Narrower head and more rounded crown of head than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Fluffy white hatchling. Juvenile has white partial collar around neck and less streaked neck and breast.

**Behaviour:** Roosts in trees during day, often near watercourses. Stands very upright. If approached, head will snap around quickly to look at intruder. Flies silently, fast and is agile, occasionally glides. Hunts shortly after dark and before dawn, although sometimes seen during day. Eats more insects during non-breeding season and larger prey during breeding season. Resident.

**Voice:** Deep, quick, dog-like bark 'wook-wook' or 'wok-wok', preceded by a growl 'arr', and becoming louder and more far-carrying. May be heard in a duet, male call deeper and female call is a quicker, higher 'wuk-wuk'. Rarely heard quavering, sobbing scream 'a-aii-eer-lp'.

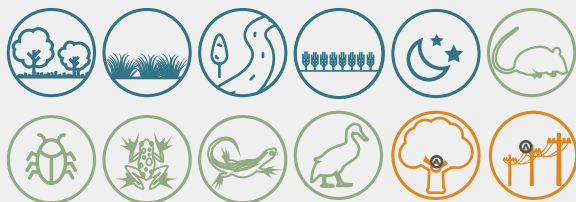
**Noongar name:** Woorup

**General description:** Size: 35-45 cm, wingspan: 85-100 cm. Male is larger. Hawk-like appearance, but with large staring eyes. Grey-brown upper body. White spots across back. Grey head. Pale face. Cream-white neck and breast with thick grey-brown to rusty-brown vertical streaks, fading on underbelly. Eye bright yellow. Feathered legs with dull yellow feet. In



## Eastern Barn Owl

*Tyto alba delicatula*



**General description:** Size: 29-40 cm, wingspan: 70-90 cm. Female is larger. Slim-bodied owl with large head. Mottled buff-brown and grey upper body has scattered black and white spots. Wingtips and tail have narrow grey bars. White neck, breast and underbelly with dark spots on neck and breast. Heart-shaped face mask of white narrowly edged with brown. Dark brown teardrop-shaped

patch around and down from eye. Large dark eye. Pale bill. Slender legs feathered almost to foot, pinkish feet. In flight, underwing is white, edges and undertail having narrow grey bars. May be confused with Masked Owl or Eastern Grass Owl. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Upper body plumage is slightly brighter, neck and breast more darkly spotted.

**Juvenile plumage:** Fluffy white hatchling. Juvenile more heavily spotted than adult.

**Behaviour:** Nocturnal. Often seen flying at night in glow of car headlights or on roadsides and fence posts. Stands upright with slim body. In flight, head is large, wings appear long, legs are carried trailing just past tail. To hunt, flies slowly and silently across ground with head faced down, sometimes hovering, or glides down from a perch. May roost or sometimes nest in old or out-buildings. Numbers fluctuate greatly with rodent numbers. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Rasping hiss or screech 'sk-air!' or 'skee-air!' or 'skee-aarr', often heard in flight. Wavering reedy scream.

### Environmental & agricultural

**impact:** Prey includes rodents, which may help in the event of mice plagues, however owls may be affected by rodent control techniques



## Tawny Frogmouth | *Podargus strigoides*



**General description:** Size: 32-50 cm. Male is larger. Short compact body with large head. Silver-grey upper body with mottled and marbled grey-brown across back and wings. Tawny-brown stripe across shoulder. Dark brown streaks on very flat crown of head. Short bristled feathers at base of bill. Pale stripe passes from above bill and eye towards back of head. Dark stripe passes from bill back below eye and down side of neck towards breast. Paler grey neck, breast and underbelly finely streaked with brown. Thick, short, olive-grey bill gives head a frog-like appearance. Large eye is yellow to orange-yellow. Long grey tail. In flight, upper wingtips have white spots that form rough bars, both underwing and tail are barred. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Plumage browner than male. Neck stripe more obvious.

**Juvenile plumage:** Fluffier than adult. Darker and more mottled across back. Dark patch passes from bill through eye and beyond. Younger birds more black and white to plumage.

**Behaviour:** Nocturnal. Hunts from a perch, gliding down to pounce on ground or sometimes catching prey in air. Flies strongly, direct and silent. Roosts on tree branch during daytime, often in pairs or family groups. When disturbed, will close eyes, point bill towards sky, blends tail with branch, and whole body appears like a short, broken branch. Nest is a loose platform of sticks. Resident.

**Voice:** Soft, low, penetrating 'oom-oom...'. When disturbed, loud 'gr-r', grunting or drumming sounds, or harsh screech.

**Noongar name:** Dewi



## Australian Owlet-nightjar | *Aegotheles cristatus*



### **General description:** Size: 20-24 cm.

Australia's smallest night bird. Grey to rufous-brown upper body, finely barred with black. Long whiskery feathers at base of bill. Dark stripe passes from bill through eye to back of head, meeting another stripe starting below eye. May have a white or rusty-brown stripe around back of neck that follows the lower stripe. Dark stripe from bill along crown of head to neck. Neck, breast and underbelly mottled pale grey. Very large eye is dark brown. Tiny but broad bill. Very long grey tail is barred underneath. Pink feet. Common, widespread.

### **Juvenile plumage:** Plumage is rufous-brown.

Less obvious head stripes and neck collar. Tail and facial whiskers are shorter.

**Behaviour:** Nocturnal. Hunts from a perch, gliding down to pounce on ground or sometimes catching prey in air. Flies fast and aerobically, fluttering. Roosts inside tree hollows and may be seen in these during day. Call is very commonly heard at night and sometimes during day from the hollow. Resident.

**Voice:** Strident, grating 'chirr-chirr-chirr' or 'quar-rr-rgh-a-kak, quar-rr-rgh-a-kak'. Softer yelps and squeaks. Sharp, metallic 'aeiirk!'.



## Spotted Nightjar | *Eurostopodus argus*



**General description:** Size: 29-33 cm.

Red-brown upper body with scalloped, spotted and barred buff and black markings. White throat forms a partial neck collar. Neck, breast and underbelly are rufous-brown. Eye is dark brown and large. Short bill. In flight, white spots on dark wingtips form a broad white stripe, both on upper and underwing, no white in tail. At night, in a spotlight or car headlight, wingstripe glows white and eyes glow pink-red. On ground, wings when folded are shorter than tail. Uncommon, widespread.

or 'coor-caw-caw-caw....dipdop-dipdop-dipdop'.  
Low thudding. Sharp 'aik! aik! aik!'.

**Noongar name:** Kwoynkordong

**Juvenile plumage:** Plumage is rusty-brown.

**Behaviour:** Nocturnal. Catches prey while flying, most active after dark and before dawn. Agile and floating in flight, also glides. Sits on roads at night and therefore often seen flying in glow of car headlights. Roosts on ground during day. Usually alone or in pairs but may form flocks. Migratory.

**Voice:** Rising in speed and pitch

'caw-caw-caw-tukka-tukka-tukka-tukka-tuk' or  
'wokka-wokka-chokka-chokka-chooka-chooka'



## Spotted Dove | *Streptopelia chinensis*



**General description:** Size: 27-33 cm. Light brown upper body with dark centre to each feather. Light grey head. Black back of neck covered in white spots. Neck, breast and underbelly pink-grey. Long, dark brown tail. Yellow eye. Pink-red legs. In flight, underwing has blue-grey upper edge and dark grey lower edge, tail has broad white edge. May be confused with Laughing Dove. Common in western parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Back of neck is dark grey. Neck and breast less pink.

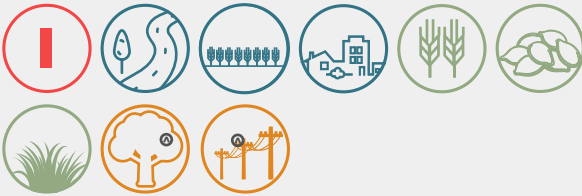
**Behaviour:** Common in urban parks and gardens and agricultural areas. Feeds on ground alone, in pairs or small groups. When landing, raises and lowers tail. Male during breeding display will fly up steeply and clap wings, then spread wings and tail to glide down to a perch. Male walks on ground in front of female displaying the black and white neck while bowing his head. Nest is a very loose pile of twigs, often see-through. Resident.

**Voice:** Musical 'curoo, curoo' or 'coo-cu-karoo'. Stronger 'cuckoo-crroooo-cuck' or 'coo-wook' or 'k-cook-curoo'.



## Laughing Dove

*Streptopelia senegalensis*



**General description:** Size: 24-27 cm. Small slim body. Red-brown upper body with blue-grey shoulders, wings and base of tail. Head, neck and breast mauve-pink. Small white patch on throat. Lower neck copper-brown speckled with black. Cream-white underbelly. Long, dark brown tail. Black eye. Pink-red legs. In flight, underwing has dark blue-grey upper edge and dark grey lower edge, tail has very broad white edge. From

above, brown spreads to grey then to dark wingtips, tail has very broad white edge. May be confused with Spotted Dove. Common, widespread close to human habitation.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler colour all over. No neck patch.

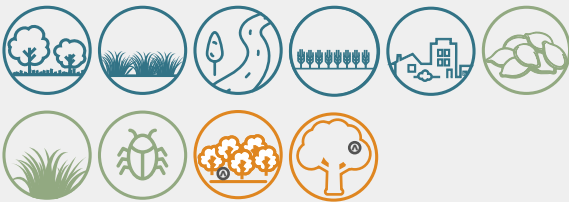
**Behaviour:** Commonly found in urban parks and gardens and agricultural areas. Feeds on ground alone, in pairs or small groups. Walks with hunched head. Male during breeding display will fly up steeply and clap wings, then spread wings and tail to glide down to a perch. Nest is a loose pile of twigs, leaves and grass. Resident.

**Voice:** Bubbling, musical 'coo-oo coocoo' or 'cooo-wook-coo' or 'curucoo-cu-curoo'.



## Crested Pigeon

*Ocyphaps lophotes*



**General description:** Size: 30-36 cm. Plump body with small head and short dark bill. Tall dark crest rises from top of head. Grey-brown upper body. Iridescent, metallic, bronze-green and blue-purple feathers towards tip of wing, thin black bars across upper wing. Blue-grey head, neck, breast and underbelly. Pink-grey side of neck to shoulders. Red eye-ring. Long, black tail with white tip. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller colour with less iridescent wings and less pink neck and shoulders. Short grey crest. Blue-grey eye-ring.

**Behaviour:** Feeds and drinks in small to large groups. Rarely far from water, especially at dawn and dusk. When disturbed, flies swiftly with a distinct whistling sound. Glides with wings downturned. On landing, tips forward while raising and spreading tail. Nest is a very loose pile of twigs, often see-through. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Surprised-sounding, explosive 'wook' or 'whoop'. Repeated low 'coo' or 'whoop' or 'coo-whoop', becoming stronger.

**Noongar name:** Kakara



## Common Bronzewing | *Phaps chalcoptera*



**General description:** Size: 28-36 cm. Plump body with small head. Light brown back of neck and back with pale edges to feathers. Iridescent, metallic, bronze-green wing feathers form bars across wings. White stripe passes from bill under eye towards neck. Dark patch from bill to eye. Iridescent blue sheen to sides of neck. Pink-grey breast and underbelly. In flight, underwing is cinnamon-brown with dark wingtips. May be confused with Brush Bronzewing. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Male has obvious buff-cream forehead and purple-brown crown of head. White head stripe is more obvious than on female.

**Female plumage:** Female has small buff-cream patch near bill and pale grey forehead. Breast less pink. Wing less obviously bronzed. Neck less iridescent.

**Juvenile plumage:** wavy black bar under wings and a faster wing beat.

**Behaviour:** Feeds on ground alone, in pairs or small groups. Often found near water, especially at dawn and dusk. When disturbed, claps wings on take-off before flying to a perch. Strong and agile in flight, weaving through trees. Male walks on ground in front of female while bowing his head. Nest is a very loose pile of twigs, often see-through. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Repeated, deep, slow, far-carrying 'oom oom...'. Display call short, soft 'whoo-, hoo-hoo'.

**Noongar name:** Wotta



## Brush Bronzewing | *Phaps elegans*



**General description:** Size: 25-33 cm. Plump body with small head. Rufous-brown upper body. Iridescent, metallic, bronze-green wing feathers form two bars across wing. Chestnut-brown stripe from eye curving down to back of neck with a white stripe underneath it. Dark patch from bill to eye. Chestnut-brown back of neck extending over shoulders towards neck like a collar. Grey neck and breast. On throat are white then chestnut-brown patches. In flight, underwing has cinnamon-brown patch on dark wing with blue-grey upper edge. May be confused with Common Bronzewing. Uncommon, widespread

**Male plumage:** Buff-cream forehead.

**Female plumage:** Pale grey forehead. No chestnut-brown collar. Breast and underbelly pale grey-brown. Chestnut-brown patch on throat is smaller.

**Juvenile plumage:** Plumage is duller brown on upper body and grey on neck, breast and underbelly. No chestnut-brown collar.

**Behaviour:** Feeds on ground alone or in pairs. Often found near water, especially at dawn and dusk. When disturbed, claps wings on take-off before flying to a perch. Flies swiftly. Nest is a very loose pile of twigs, often see-through. Resident.

**Voice:** Repeated, deep, far-carrying 'whoom' or 'whoop!' or 'hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo', faster than Common Bronzewing.



## Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo

*Zanda (Calyptorhynchus)  
latirostris*



**General description:** Size: 53-60 cm. Large, dull, all-black bird with white undertail and thick bill. Feathers have pale edges. Very short crest above bill. Dark brown eye. Dark legs.

**Male plumage:** Grey-white cheek patch. Pink eye-ring. Dark grey bill.

**Female plumage:** White cheek patch. White eye-ring. Off-white to grey bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female.

**Behaviour:** Endangered conservation status is due to historic and ongoing land-clearing for development and agriculture, loss and fragmentation of feeding habitat, and loss of tree hollows for breeding. Usually seen in small to large flocks. Vocal and noisy, often seen feeding in trees during the day or flying to and from roosts at dawn and dusk. Wingbeats slow and heavy. Roosts at night in large trees. Eats seeds from thick nuts including eucalypts, hakeas, banksias and pine cones, plus insect larvae removed from tree branches. Will eat grain spilled on roadsides. Breeds in the Avon River Basin and Darling Ranges, moving between coastal areas in summer-autumn and more inland and the Avon River Basin during winter. Nomadic to partially migratory. Uncommon, found in western and southern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Voice:** Plaintive wail 'wee-la' or 'wy-ieee-la' or aa-ieee-la or 'plee-erk', emphasis on the 'eee' note. Juveniles have incessant, grating, begging call.

**Notifiable status:** Join Birdlife WA and take part in the Great Cocky Count conducted in April each year.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can cause damage to fruit and nut orchards in the south-west.



## Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo

*Calyptorhynchus  
banksii naso*



**General description:** Size: 50-64 cm.

Fully-recognised south-west Western Australian subspecies. Large, glossy, all-black bird with brightly coloured undertail and thick bill. Dark brown eye. Dark legs. Uncommon to Rare, found in the far western and southern parts of the Avon River Basin

**Male plumage:** Bright red feathers in undertail. Short rounded crest of feathers on top of head. Black bill.

**Female plumage:** Speckled with yellow on upper body and finely barred yellow on neck, breast and underbelly. Undertail is orange to orange-yellow, heavily barred with black. Small crest on head. Off-white to grey bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female.

**Behaviour:** Vulnerable conservation status is due to historic and ongoing land-clearing for development and agriculture, loss and fragmentation of feeding habitat, and loss of tree hollows for breeding. Most likely to be seen in Jarrah-Marri-Karri woodlands, usually in family groups or small flocks. Vocal and noisy, often seen feeding in trees during the day or flying to and from roosts at dawn and dusk. Wingbeats slow and heavy. Roosts at night in large trees. Eats seeds from thick nuts including eucalypts, hakeas and banksias, plus insect larvae removed from tree branches. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Repeated metallic, harsh grating or squeaking calls 'krurr' or 'kreee' or 'karraak' or 'airrk'.

**Notifiable status:** Join Birdlife WA and take part in the Great Cocky Count conducted in April each year.

**Noongar name:** Karak



## Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo

*Calyptorhynchus banksii  
samueli*



**General description:** Size: 50-64 cm.

Fully-recognised central-west Western Australian subspecies. Large, glossy, all black bird with brightly coloured under tail. Thinner bill than Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Dark brown eye. Dark legs. Uncommon, found in the north-western parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Bright red feathers in undertail. Rounded crest of feathers on top of head. Black bill.

**Female plumage:** Speckled with yellow on upper body and finely barred yellow on neck, breast and underbelly. Undertail is orange to orange-yellow, heavily barred with black. Small crest on head. Off-white to grey bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female.

**Behaviour:** Most likely to be seen in woodlands, usually in family groups or small flocks. Vocal and noisy, often seen feeding in trees during the day or flying to and from roosts at dawn and dusk. Wingbeats slow and heavy. Roosts at night in large trees. Eats seeds from thick nuts including eucalypts, hakeas and banksias, plus insect larvae removed from tree branches. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Repeated metallic, harsh grating or squeaking calls 'krurr' or 'kreee' or 'karraak' or 'airrk'.

**Noongar name:** Karak



## Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

*Cacatua leadbeateri*



**General description:** Size: 35-40 cm. White upper body and crown of head. Pink head, neck, breast and underbelly. Large white crest on top of head is banded yellow and red close to head, although WA race has little yellow. White-grey bill. In flight, underwing is pink edged with white. Uncommon, found in the northern and north-eastern parts of the Avon River Basin

**Male plumage:** Brown eye.

**Female plumage:** Red eye.

**Juvenile plumage:** Brown eye.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small to large flocks, often with Galahs or Little Corellas, feeding on the ground or in vegetation. Eats seeds from a range of plants, as well as bulbs and roots. Eats insect larvae collected from the ground or in vegetation. Flight is shallow and fluttering, glides briefly with downturned wings. On landing, sweeps wings into air and raises crest. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Quavering, falsetto, drawn-out 'quee-err' or 'creek-ery-cree' or 'ar-ai-ar-a-ar-iagh, ai-ra-a-iagh'. Harsh short alarm screeches.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** May have some impact on grain and cereal crop production if in large enough numbers, usually in combination with other cockatoos. DBCA notes that population control using lethal methods should be viewed as a last resort after all other control options have been attempted. Guidelines for approved control techniques for introduced corellas can be obtained from DBCA.



## Galah

*Eolophus roseicapilla*



**General description:** Size: 34-38 cm. Grey upper body. Pale pink crown of head forms a small crest. Dark pink head, neck, breast and underbelly. Eye-ring grey. In flight, underwing has dark pink upper edge and grey lower edge. Very common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Brown eye.

**Female plumage:** Red eye.

**Juvenile plumage:** Pink areas are tinged with grey, including crown of head.

**Behaviour:** Forms loud flocks, often large. Frequently seen feeding on ground or roadsides, especially on spilled grain. Eats seeds from a range of plants, as well as bulbs and roots. Eats insect larvae collected from the ground or in vegetation. Flies with deep, abruptly-changing wingbeats, can be very acrobatic. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** High-pitched, harsh 'czzk-czzk' or 'chill chill' or 'chri-chri' or 'chirrink-chirrink' or 'chzink-chzink'. Loud screech in alarm.

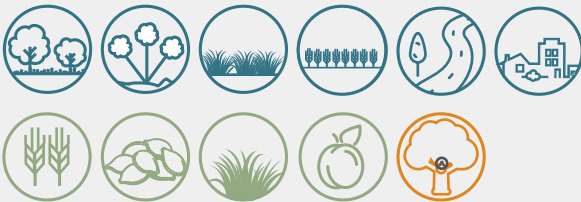
**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can impact grain and cereal cropping if in large enough numbers. Can also affect infrastructure in Avon River Basin towns. DBCA notes that population control using lethal methods should be viewed as a last resort after all other control options have been attempted. Guidelines for approved control techniques for introduced corellas can be obtained from DBCA.

**Noongar name:** Djakal-ngakal



## Little Corella

*Cacatua sanguinea*



**General description:** Size: 35-39 cm. All white body. Short white crest on top of head, not as tall as Western Corella. Sometimes pink underfeathers on head and throat. Blue eye-ring. Pale pink facial skin. White-grey bill. Upper bill is short. In flight, pale yellow underwing. May be confused with Western Corella. Very common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Eye-ring pale pink-grey.

**Behaviour:** Forms large noisy flocks. Usually seen feeding on the ground or in trees. Will eat grain spilled on roadsides. Can be seen playing on windmills, sliding on roofs, and swinging from branches and powerlines. Flies swiftly. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** High-pitched falsetto screech 'ee-ee-ar' or 'currup' to 'air-er-ek, aier-rr-k, aer-rk, errk, urrk, aiirk'.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can impact grain and cereal cropping if in large enough numbers. Can also affect infrastructure in Avon River Basin towns. DBCA notes that population control using lethal methods should be viewed as a last resort after all other control options have been attempted. Guidelines for approved control techniques for introduced corellas can be obtained from DBCA.

**Noongar name:** Manatj



## Western Corella | *Cacatua pastinator*



**General description:** Size: 37-48 cm. All white body. Short white crest on top of head. Pale pink underfeathers on head and throat. Blue eye-ring. Pink facial skin. White-grey bill. Upper bill is long. In flight, yellow underwing. May be confused with Little Corella and Long-billed Corella. Common, found in the west and north of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Pale yellow tinge over ears.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small to large flocks. Digs for bulbs and roots, especially the weed, Onion Grass, *Romulea*. Will eat grain spilled on roadsides. Locally moves to and from breeding areas. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** High-pitched falsetto screech 'ee-ee-ar' or 'currup' to 'air-er-ek, aier-rr-k, aer-rk, errk, urrk, aiirk'.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can impact grain and cereal cropping if in large enough numbers. Can also affect infrastructure in Avon River Basin towns. DBCA notes that population control using lethal methods should

be viewed as a last resort after all other control options have been attempted. Guidelines for approved control techniques for introduced corellas can be obtained from DBCA.

**Noongar name:** Manatj



## Long-billed Corella | *Cacatua tenuirostris*



**General description:** Size: 38-41 cm. All white body. Very short white crest on top of head. Dark pink feathers form partial collar around neck. Dark pink underfeathers on head and throat. Blue eye-ring. Dark pink facial skin from bill to beyond eye. Long upper white-grey bill. In flight, pale yellow underwing. May be confused with Western Corella. Common, found in western parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Behaviour:** Forms large noisy flocks. Usually seen feeding on the ground. Digs for bulbs and roots, especially the weed, Onion Grass, *Romulea*. Flies swiftly with shallow wingbeats. Resident.

**Voice:** Quavering falsetto 'currup' or 'curr-ur-rup, curr-ur-rup' or 'ar-aer-ek, ar-aer-aerk'. Harsh screeches.

**Introduced species:** Native to eastern states.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can impact grain and cereal cropping if in large

enough numbers. Can also affect infrastructure in Avon River Basin towns. DBCA notes that population control using lethal methods should be viewed as a last resort after all other control options have been attempted. Guidelines for approved control techniques for introduced corellas can be obtained from DBCA.

**Noongar name:** Manatj



## Rainbow Lorikeet

*Trichoglossus moluccanus*



**General description:** Size: 25-32 cm. Bright green upper body. Blue, streaked, hooded head. Yellow-green back of neck. Orange-red breast. Underbelly is blue then green, mottled with yellow-orange. Red eye. Red bill. Long green tail. In flight, underwing is black with wide yellow stripe, upper edge is red with green edging. Rare, may occasionally be seen in the western part of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller than adult. Brown eye. Black-red bill.

**Behaviour:** Competes with native birds for tree hollows. Usually seen noisily feeding in tree canopy or flying in small to large flocks. Flies rapidly and directly with shallow wingbeats, wings swept back and pointed, tail long and pointed. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Noisy rolling screech while flying, feeding or roosting. Pleasant single-note call while feeding. Melodious whistle. Screeching bark alarm call.

**Notifiable status:** Report all sightings in the Avon River Basin to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Population is spreading out from the Perth Metropolitan area.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can cause severe impact on fruit and nut orchards.



## Purple-crowned Lorikeet

*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*



**General description:** Size: 16-18 cm. Only native lorikeet in Western Australia. Bright green upper body. Brown-green upper back. Above bill is yellow patch, red patches to the sides. Orange-red cheek patch. Purple crown of head. Blue shoulder. Pale blue neck and breast. Light green underbelly. Dark eye. Black bill. In flight, underwing is black with red and blue upperwing. Uncommon nomad, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Dark brown hooded head. Yellow cheek patch.

**Juvenile plumage:** Upper body plumage is bronze-tinged. Cream forehead.

**Behaviour:** Forms small to large groups. Very rapid, direct flight. Eats nectar and pollen, also insects and lerps, the protective covering of crystallised honeydew that is made by the larvae of psyllid bugs. Nomadic, following the flowering of Eucalyptus trees.

**Voice:** Thin, mellow screech 'ziit' or 'ziit-ziit' or 'tsit-tsit-tsit' or 'tziet, tziet'. Constant chatter when feeding.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** May cause some damage to fruit and nut orchards.



## Australian Ringneck - Twenty-eight Parrot

### *Barnardius zonarius semitorquatus*



**General description:** Size: 32-44 cm. Male is larger. Slightly larger than Port Lincoln Parrot. Found only in south-west Western Australia. Dark green upper body. Blue-black wingtips. Black head. Blue-black throat. Red patch above bill. Yellow band around back of neck extending to sides. Green neck, breast and underbelly. Long green tail. In flight, underwing is black with bright blue upper edge, undertail is black edged with pale blue, uppertail is green-blue, edged with white. Compare with Australian Ringneck – Port Lincoln Parrot, with which it interbreeds. Common, found in western parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Female plumage:** Duller plumage. Brownish-black head.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner head. Juvenile female has pale underwing stripe in flight.

**Behaviour:** Most likely to be seen in Jarrah-Marri-Karri and Wandoo woodlands. Seen in pairs or small groups. Feeds on ground and in trees. Will eat grain spilled on roadsides. Flies strongly with deep wingbeats, undulating,

usually calling loudly. Male during breeding display spreads and wags tail, wings dropped to show blue feathers, while calling repeatedly. Resident.

**Voice:** Named from its whistled 3-note call 'tween-ty-eight' or 'teu-wit, teoo'. Ringing 'kling-kling-kling'. Alarm call 'vatch!' Mellow whistles. Noisy chatters.

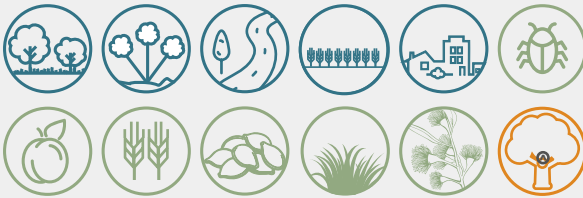
**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can cause localised damage to grass trees by biting off leaves causing death. Cause damage to fruit and nut orchards and have a minor impact to grain and cereal crops.

**Noongar name:** Dumarlark



## Australian Ringneck - Port Lincoln Parrot

*Barnardius zonarius zonarius*



**General description:** Size: 32-44 cm. Male is larger. Slightly smaller than Twenty-eight Parrot. Dark green upper body. Blue-black wingtips. Black head. Blue-black throat. Red patch above bill. Yellow band around back of neck extending to sides. Green neck and breast. Yellow underbelly. Long green tail. In flight, underwing is black with bright blue upper edge, undertail is black edged with pale blue,

uppertail is green-blue edged with white. Compare with Australian Ringneck – Twenty-eight Parrot, with which it interbreeds. Very common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Duller plumage. Brownish-black head.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner head. Juvenile female has pale underwing stripe in flight.

**Behaviour:** More likely to be seen in drier, more inland country, although range is extending westwards and it has been seen in York. Seen in pairs or small groups. Feeds on ground and in trees. Will eat grain spilled on roadsides. Flies strongly with deep wingbeats, undulating, usually calling loudly. Male during breeding display spreads and wags tail, wings dropped to show blue feathers, while calling repeatedly. Resident.

**Voice:** Ringing 2-note 'klingit, klingit, klingit' or 'kwink-kwink' or 'tween-ty' to 'put-kleepit-keelpit'. Ringing 'kling-kling-kling'. Alarm call 'vatch!' Mellow whistles. Noisy chatters.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can cause localised damage to grass trees by biting off leaves causing death. Cause damage to fruit and nut orchards and have a minor impact to grain and cereal crops.

**Noongar name:** Dumarlark



## Red-capped Parrot | *Purpureicephalus spurius*



**General description:** Size: 34-38 cm. Found only in south-west Western Australia. Dark green upper body. Blue wings. Red crown of head. Dark eye with dark eye patch. Yellow-lime-green cheek patch extends around throat. Blue-purple breast and underbelly. Yellow-red undertail. Long pale bill. Yellow-green rump and base of tail. Long blue-green tail, light blue underneath. Uncommon, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Duller than male. Pale underwing stripe in flight.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller than adult. Green crown of head. May have red forehead. Grey-brown breast. Pale underwing stripe in flight.

**Behaviour:** Most likely to be seen in Jarrah-Marri-Karri and Wandoo woodlands, mostly within 100 km of the coast. Usually seen in pairs or small groups. Feeds on ground and in vegetation, the bill being adapted to remove seeds from deep gumnuts such as Marri and crush hard seeds. Flight is undulating and fluttering but fast. Resident.

**Voice:** Grating 'getacheck' or 'checkacheck' or 'chirek-achek' or 'karakk-rak'. Rolling in-flight 'kchurrrink!'. Harsh 'shrek shrek' or 'chrrek!'. Harsh clanging screeches.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can cause damage to fruit and nut orchards.



## Regent Parrot | *Polytelis anthopeplus*



**General description:** Size: 38-42 cm.

Yellow-green body. Dark green back. Blue-black wings with yellow patch on shoulder and red patch across lower edge. Long blue-black tail. Pink-red bill. In flight, underwing is black with green upper edge. Uncommon, widespread.

**Voice:** Harsh, grating, rolling 'krrack' or 'currak-currak' or 'quarrak-quarrak-quarrak' or 'carrack-carrack-carrack'. Soft warbling.

**Noongar name:** Kuran

**Male plumage:** Body colour is more smoky-yellow. Shoulder patch is bright yellow and has bright red lower wing patch.

**Female plumage:** Olive-green body. Shoulder patch is green-yellow and lower wing patch is dull pink-red and smaller.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female but has paler bill.

**Behaviour:** Often seen in pairs but forms large flocks. Roosts and breeds in groups. Feeds on ground and in trees. Swift and graceful in flight, wings upswept. Resident to nomadic.



## Western Rosella | *Platycercus icterotis*



**General description:** Size: 25-30 cm. Smallest Australian rosella and WA's only rosella. Found only in south-west Western Australia. Yellow cheek patch extends around throat. Black upper body with feathers edged in green. Subspecies *Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys* found in drier inland areas has upper body feathers edged in red or red-grey. Blue shoulder. Head, neck, breast and underbelly bright red. Green to olive-green rump. Long green-blue tail. In flight, upperwing is blue, underwing is black with blue upper edge, undertail is pale blue and white. Uncommon, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Greener upper body including back of neck, leaving red crown of head. Duller cheek patch. Neck, breast and underbelly mottled green and red. Pale underwing stripe in flight.

**Juvenile plumage:** Greener than female. No cheek patch. Red forehead and underbelly. Pale underwing stripe in flight.

**Behaviour:** Seen in pairs or family groups. Feeds on ground and in trees. Will eat grain spilled on roadsides. Gentle, fluttering, direct flight. More approachable than other parrots and may become tame. Resident.

**Voice:** Quiet bell-like 'tink-tink' or 'chink chink' or 'wink-quink', often 4-noted. Soft 'whip-a-wheee'.



## Mulga Parrot | *Psephotellus varius*



**General description:** Size: 25-32 cm.  
Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Emerald-green body.  
Yellow-green lower back. Red crown of head.  
Yellow patch above bill and on shoulder. Blue wings. Underbelly yellow. Red patch on rump, underbelly and upper leg. Long blue tail.

**Female plumage:** Duller than male.  
Olive-green-brown body. Red-brown crown of head and shoulder patch. Blue wings. Green rump. Long blue-green tail. Pale underwing stripe in flight.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller than adult of same sex. Orange bill. Pale underwing stripe in flight.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in pairs or family groups. Feeds on ground and in vegetation. Relatively quiet and keeps to vegetation cover. Rarely seen far from water. Flies fast and direct with some undulation, relatively low to ground. Glides upward to land with tail fanned. Resident.

**Voice:** Brisk, sharp, in-flight 'swit swit' or 'chwit chwit' becoming 'swit-it-it-it'. From tree may be rapid 'wit-wit-witwitwit'. Slower flute-like 'sweet-sweet'.



## Elegant Parrot | *Neophema elegans*



**General description:** Size: 22-25 cm. Bright yellow-olive to olive-green body. Yellow face. Dark blue stripe passes from bill through eye, edged above with a pale blue stripe that extends past eye. Underbelly yellow. Blue-black wings with thin blue patch on shoulder, dark blue edged with pale blue. Yellowish rump. Long blue tail. In flight, underwing is black and undertail is yellow, juvenile may have pale bar in wing. Uncommon, widespread.

**Voice:** Grating sharp 'zit' or 'zwit' or 'tsit' or 'tseet', called rapidly in alarm 'zit zit zit'.

**Male plumage:** May have small orange patch on underbelly.

**Female plumage:** Duller plumage and less blue. No orange patch on underbelly.

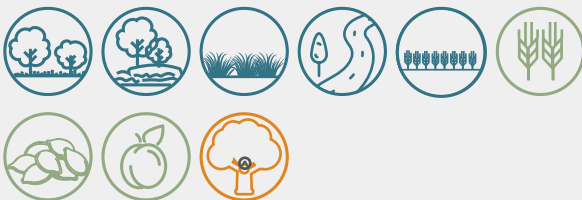
**Juvenile plumage:** No or little blue or yellow on face. Dull blue patch on wing. Pale orange bill.

**Behaviour:** Feeds on ground. Will eat grain spilled on roadsides. Flies in zig-zag when disturbed from ground, quick flitting wingbeats. Nomadic.



## Cockatiel

*Nymphicus hollandicus*



**General description:** Size: 29-33 cm. Common household pet. Slender grey body. White shoulder. Long crest on head. Long tail. In flight, white shoulders form wide diagonal stripes down upperwing, underwing is grey. Uncommon, nomadic, found in northern and eastern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Yellow face and throat. Orange-red patch behind eye and white patch separating this from back of head. Crest is yellow-grey. Dark grey bill.

**Female plumage:** Grey-yellow face and throat. Grey-red patch behind eye. Crest is grey. Back finely barred. Tail finely barred and has yellow tinge. Grey bill. In flight, upper and under wingtips have white toothlike markings.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Buff bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in large flocks, flying or feeding on ground. Flight is strong and graceful, wingtips pointed, wings upswept. Small flocks fly in formation. Nests in tree hollows near water. Enters hollow, tail first. Moves inland in response to rainfall. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Rolling 'chirrup'. Penetrating 'queel queel' or 'querr-eel' or 'whee-it' or 'weero' or 'cweeree'. Alarm call 'wee-urp'.



## Budgerigar | *Melopsittacus undulatus*



**General description:** Size: 17-20 cm. Small and slender green parrot, bright green body. Yellow head and back. Neck and back feathers edged with black, finely barred across neck. Small blue face patch below eye and several black dots along neckline. White eye. Long blue-green tail. In flight, white stripe across upperwing, pale yellow stripe in underwing. Other coloured forms (e.g. blue, yellow) are bred for the pet market. Uncommon nomad.

**Voice:** Continuous mix of calls - zizzing chatter 'tzzit-tzit-tzit, tzt-zt-zt'; rasping scolds; musical warbling, chirrup 'tirrit' or 'tir-rit, tirit' or 'chedelee chedelee'.

**Male plumage:** Facial skin is blue.

**Female plumage:** Facial skin is pink-brown when breeding, pale blue when not.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller than adult with barred forehead. Brown eye.

**Behaviour:** Forms very large flocks. Flies fast and coordinated within dense groups. Feeds in grass. Often found in large numbers around water sources. Nomadic.



## Fan-tailed Cuckoo

*Cacomantis flabelliformis*



**General description:** Size: 24-28 cm. Blue-grey upper body. Chestnut-brown neck and breast. Pale underbelly. Long, dark grey tail with white, toothlike edges. Brown eye with yellow eye-ring. Long dark tail with wedge-shaped tip. Undertail has thick black and white bars. In flight, underwing has rufous upper edge, dark grey lower edge and white stripe through middle. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Duller and greyer than male, particularly on breast and underbelly, which may also be lightly barred.

**Juvenile plumage:** Brown upper body with feathers edged in rufous-brown. Head has brown streaks. Neck, breast, underbelly and undertail barred with cream and brown. Long, brown tail with rufous-brown, toothlike edges.

**Behaviour:** Nest parasite of mainly dome-shaped nests, including fairy-wrens, scrubwrens, warblers and thornbills, particularly Brown Thornbill; also cup-shaped nests of honeyeaters and flycatchers. Lays one egg. Will call from obvious perches including overhead wires. In flight, wings have very pointed tips and flight pattern wavers. Raises and lowers tail on landing. Nomadic to migratory.

**Voice:** Repeated, far-carrying, falling trill 'pee-eeer' or 'peeer'. Mournful whistle 'wh-phweee' or 'p-who'. Slowly rising, quiet 'get-woorrk'. Female call is a brisk, shrill 'too-brrreeet' or 'chiree' or 'pree-ou-eeee, pree-ou-eeee'.



## Pallid Cuckoo

*Heteroscenes pallidus*



**General description:** Size: 28-33 cm. Large cuckoo. Grey-brown upper body with small white shoulder patch. White spot on back of head. Dark shadow passes from bill through eye, curving down neck to side of breast. Pale white-grey neck, breast and underbelly. Dark eye with yellow eye-ring. Dark bill. Long, black tail with white, toothlike edges. Undertail has black and white bars. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** May be grey, or more rufous-brown than male with heavily mottled upper body and neck.

**Juvenile plumage:** Black and white spotted plumage on upper body. Brown and white striped head, neck and breast. Face and throat blackish. Dark stripe passes from bill through eye, curving down neck to side of breast. Becomes browner with age, neck and chest forming horizontal bars instead of vertical stripes.

**Behaviour:** Nest parasite of cup-shaped nests mainly, including honeyeaters, woodswallows, whistlers and flycatchers, magpie-larks, woodswallows, orioles, cuckoo-shrikes, especially Willie Wagtail and Hooded Robin. Lays one egg. Will usually pounce on prey on the ground. Will call persistently from obvious perches, including overhead wires. In flight, wings have very pointed tips and flight pattern wavers. Raises and lowers tail on landing. Migratory.

**Voice:** Male call is a loud rising whistle of 8-10 notes, rising 'crookyer' or staccato 'pip-pip-pip-pip'. Female call is a hoarse rising whistle 'wh-wh weeya wh-wh weeya'.



## Shining Bronze-Cuckoo | *Chalcites lucidus*



**General description:** Size: 13-18 cm. Wings and upper tail have iridescent green-bronze sheen. Copper-bronze crown of head. Neck, breast and underbelly cream-white, barred with bronze-brown. Eye pale brown. Short tail. Undertail has thick black and white bars. In flight, underwing has brown and cream barred upper edge and brown-grey lower edge, with pale band passing through middle. May be confused with other Bronze-Cuckoos. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Crown of head is duller bronze, but extends further down back of neck.

**Juvenile plumage:** Grey-brown upper body. Whitish neck, breast and underbelly, with or without faint bars on sides.

**Behaviour:** Nest parasite of a number of species, particularly with dome-shaped nests, including warblers, thornbills, gerygones, scrubwrens, fairy-wrens; also robins, fantails, flycatchers, silvereyes, honeyeaters. Lays one or two eggs. Flies swiftly. Hides amongst tree foliage, darting out to catch prey. Migratory.

**Voice:** Repeated rising whistle 'fwee-fwee-fwee', sometimes ending with one or more 'tsiu' notes. Falling staccato 'pee-eeerrr' or 'pe-ee-ee-er'.



## Black-eared Cuckoo

*Chalcites osculans*



dark grey lower edge and broad white stripe through middle. May be confused with juvenile Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo. Common, mostly in the central and eastern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller plumage and eye stripe than adult. No tail bars.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone. Nest parasite of dome-shaped nests such as fieldwrens, Speckled Warbler and Redthroat. Migratory.

**Voice:** Falling whistle 'feeeeeee' or 'feeeuw' or 'peeeeer', slower and lower than Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo. Staccato 'pee-o-wit, pee-o-weer' or 'pee-u-wu' or 'fee-ew-wit'.

**General description:** Size: 19-21 cm. Grey upper body and tail, faintly iridescent. Broad black stripe passes from bill through eye, widening down sides of neck. Broad white stripe passes above this like an eyebrow. Cream-buff neck, breast and underbelly. Obvious pale rump. Undertail has dark grey bars with thin white bars, outer feathers edged with white. In flight, underwing has cream-buff upper edge,



**Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** | *Chalcites basalıs*



**General description:** Size: 15-17 cm. Olive-brown head and upper body with pale-edged feathers. Wings and upper tail have iridescent bronze-green sheen. Dark brown stripe passes from bill through eye, widening down sides of neck. White stripe passes above this like an eyebrow. White throat with fine brown mottling. Breast and underbelly cream-white, sides barred with brown, bars joining on upper breast. Short tail with rufous-brown edge. Undertail has thick dark grey and white bars, rufous-brown edges and centre (when spread). In flight, underwing has brown and cream barred upper edge and brown-grey lower edge, with pale band passing through middle. May be confused with other Bronze-Cuckoos. Common migrant, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Eye red or dark brown.

**Female plumage:** Eye off-white or brown. Underbody less barred than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller plumage with faint or no bars on sides. Pale eye.

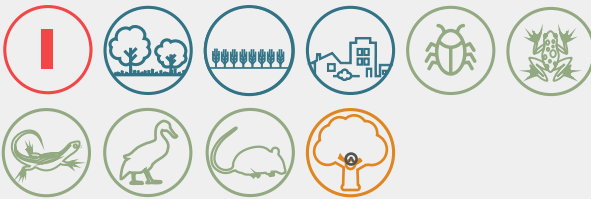
**Behaviour:** Nest parasite of dome-shaped (such as thornbills, fairy-wrens, gerygone) and cup-shaped nests (such as chats, robins). Lays one egg. Flies swiftly. Resident to partly-migratory.

**Voice:** Falling whistle 'tseeeuw' or 'fee-ew', often coming up at the end. Brisk 'chirrup'.



## Laughing Kookaburra

*Dacelo novaeguineae*



**General description:** Size: 40-48 cm. Large member of the kingfisher family introduced into Western Australia from the eastern states. Stocky body with large head. Upper body is brown with silver-blue shoulder patch. Thick brown stripe passes from bill through eye towards back of neck. Brown forehead and crown of head. Off-white neck, breast and underbelly, may be faintly barred. Eye dark brown. Large broad bill, brown on top and buff

below. Rufous-brown tail is barred black above with white tip. Grey legs. In flight, upperwing has large white patch within dark brown wingtips. Uncommon, mostly in the western and southern parts of the Avon Cathment.

**Male plumage:** Breeding males have blue rear.

**Female plumage:** Forehead speckled brown. Head more buff-coloured. Brown rear.

**Juvenile plumage:** Lighter brown upper body with pale-edged feathers. Darker head, neck and breast with more barring. Brown rear. Dark bill.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Non-breeding males have brown or pale blue rear.

**Behaviour:** Hunts from a perch, gliding down to pounce on ground. Flies strong and straight. On landing, lifts tail and slowly lowers it. Usually feeds alone but forms family groups of 4-8 birds that roost together. Both parents care for young with helpers, usually offspring from previous years. Will also nest in termite mounds. Resident.

**Voice:** Well-known laugh, starting with low 'ooo-ooo-ooo' to 'kook-kook-kook' and rising to shouted 'kook-kook-kook-ka-ka-ka' or 'ha-ha-ha' before slowing to a chuckle. Often a single bird leads to a group call. Warning 'kooaa' or 'growk-growk' sound.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Can have some localised impact on small native bird populations.



## Red-backed Kingfisher

*Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*



**General description:** Size: 20-24 cm. Streaked grey-green crown of head that forms a small crest. Thick black stripe passes from bill through eye to back of head. White stripe passes between the crown and eye stripes. Neck has broad white collar. Breast and underbelly white. Tan to red-brown lower back and rear. Long dusty-blue tail. Long, thick, dark bill. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Grey-green back with white streaks. Blue shoulders. Bill is lighter underneath.

**Female plumage:** Head is more streaked. Dull grey-green upper body with white streaks. Neck, breast and underbelly have buff tinge.

**Juvenile plumage:** More buff and mottled neck collar and breast. Bill has white tip.

**Behaviour:** Often seen on dead branches or overhead wires during the day, alone or in pairs. Hunts from a perch, gliding down to pounce on ground. Swift and straight in flight. Will nest in roadside cuttings, creek beds, termite mounds, and occasionally tree hollows. Migratory to nomadic.

**Voice:** Mournful whistle 'ter-loop' or 'kee-ip' or 'peel' or 'chew'. May be drawn out to 'kweee-ip, kweee-ip, kweee-ip'. Chattering 'k-prrr, k-prrr' during breeding season.



## Sacred Kingfisher

*Todiramphus sanctus*



**Male plumage:** Bright blue wings. Eye stripe is black. Neck collar, breast and underbelly are buff.

**Female plumage:** Duller back and wings than male. Neck collar and breast are white. Buff underbelly.

**Juvenile plumage:** Upper body is duller. Scalloped appearance to back, wings and breast feathers, with buff edges to back and wing feathers and dark edges on breast. Buff underbelly.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone or in pairs, or small groups when migrating. Hunts from a perch, gliding down to pounce on ground or take prey from water. Rarely eats fish. Swift and straight in flight. Will nest in riverbanks or termite mounds as well as tree hollows. Migratory.

**Voice:** High-pitched 'dek-dek-dek-dek' or 'kek-kek-kek-kek' or 'kik-kik-kik-kik', mainly by male and frequently throughout day. Rising 'keer keer keer' or 'tucree tucree tucree...' or 'kek-krree-krree-krree'. Chuckle 'ch-rrr-k' at nest. Loud defensive shriek 'skreeek', usually female at nest.

**Noongar name:** Koonyenok

**General description:** Size: 19-23 cm.

Blue-green upper body. Dark blue-green crown of head. Blue wings. Thick black stripe passes from bill through eye to back of head. Cream-buff forehead. Broad white or buff neck collar. Blue rear. Long blue tail. Long, thick, dark bill is paler underneath. In flight, underwing is rufous-buff. Common, widespread.



## Rainbow Bee-eater

*Merops ornatus*



**General description:** Size: 23-28 cm, including tail streamers. Brilliantly coloured bird with long tail streamers. Green-orange crown of head. Black stripe passes from bill through eye towards back of head, underlined in light blue. Yellow-orange throat underlined with black. Green neck, breast, upper body and shoulders. Blue lower back and underbelly, copper-black wingtips visible when wings are folded. Red eye. Long, downcurved, black bill. In flight, looks similar above and below, orange wing with black edging and sharply pointed wingtips, tail is black, fanned and square. Seasonally common during summer, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Longer, thinner tail streamers than female, about 2.5 cm long.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller and greener with less orange, no tail streamers or black neck band. Cream throat. Dark eye.

**Behaviour:** Will perch on fence posts, dead branches and overhead wires. Catches insect prey in flight, taking it back to a perch to eat, usually after beating it against perch. Eats bees, wasps, dragonflies and butterflies. Agile and aerobatic flyer, soars on outstretched wings, including high in sky. Digs long tunnel in sandy banks to create nest, including in roadside banks and on golf courses. May breed in colonies. Both parents care for young, sometimes with helpers. Usually seen in pairs during summer, will form small groups before flying north to winter feeding areas in northern Australia. Migratory.

**Voice:** Musical, rapid, repeated 'prrrp-prrrp' or 'prrrt-prrrit' or 'pirr, pirr', often heard while flying. Short 'plk' or 'pik!'.

**Noongar name:** Berrin berrin



## Welcome Swallow | *Hirundo neoxena*



**General description:** Size: 14-15 cm. Common bird in urban areas. Glossy blue-black upper body and crown of head. Long, pointed, dark brown-black wings. Short bristled feathers at base of bill. Short dark stripe passes from bill to eye. Rufous face, neck and upper breast. Grey lower breast and underbelly. Undertail has dusky grey V-shaped markings. Long, deeply forked, dark grey tail. Short fine black bill. In flight, tail is deeply forked into two streamers, row of white dots visible from above and below at the V, wings thin and sharply pointed, underwing is dark grey with grey to grey-brown upper edge. May be confused with martins and other swallows. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Tail streamers shorter and broader than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to adult. Dark brown-black upper body. Dull rufous face, neck and upper breast. Shorter tail streamers.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small to large flocks. Commonly found near water, feeding over it in large numbers. May feed with woodswallows,

swifts, martins and other swallows. Active, fast and aerobatic in flight, will catch insects in swoops and glides. Bristles on face help scoop insects into mouth. Perches in groups on overhead wires, branches and fences. Breeds alone or in small colonies. Builds cup-shaped nest from mud and grass and attaches it to rock walls, building walls and rafters, cranes, boats, inside dead trees or buildings or under bridges. Resident in the Avon River Basin.

**Voice:** Pleasant twittering song of warbles, trills, high squeaky notes and harsher chirrup, such as a rising 'seep, seep, seep'. Alarm call, piercing 'sierp' or 'seeet' or 'tswee' or 'tit-swee'. In flight, single 'chep' or 'tswit' or 'tzeck'.



## White-backed Swallow | *Cheramoeca leucosterna*



**General description:** Size: 13-15 cm. Black lower back and wing. White upper back. White crown of head mottled brown. Thin white stripe passes from bill above eye to back of head, joining with crown. Thick black stripe passes from bill through eye to back of head. Back of head brown-black. White neck and upper breast. Black lower breast and underbelly. Black stripe passes from bill through eye and down side of neck to shoulder. Long, deeply forked, black tail. Short black bill. In flight, tail is deeply forked into two thin streamers, wings thin and sharply pointed, underwing has white upper half and black lower half, upperwing completely black against white back. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller plumage. Wing feathers white-edged. Darker crown of head. Underbelly mottled. Shorter tail without streamers. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen flying high in sky in flocks. Found in inland sandy country, usually near water with steep sandy banks, but also on roadside or railway banks. Digs long tunnel in banks to create nest within colony. Will roost

communally over winter in a burrow. More fluttering flight than other swallows and martins. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Single, quiet, far-carrying 'check' or 'chhk' or 'jk jk'. Sharp scratchy 'skiep, skiep, skiep'. Loud hawk-alarm, 'pseeoo'. Pleasant warble. Juvenile call 'churr'.



## Fairy Martin | *Petrochelidon ariel*



**General description:** Size: 11-13 cm. Glossy blue-black back. Long, pointed, brown wings. Rusty-rufous crown of head to back of neck. Fine white streaks on back of neck. White neck, breast and underbelly, brown streaks on neck. White rump. Short, slightly forked, brown tail. Short black bill. In flight, tail is squarer, wings thin and sharply pointed, underwing is grey with rufous upper edge. May be confused with Tree Martin and swallows. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Smaller with duller plumage. Wing feathers buff-edged. Greyer neck, more streaked neck and breast. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Prefers open country near water. Usually seen in large flocks, often around breeding colonies. May flock with Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows. Active, fast and aerobatic flight, will catch insects in swoops and glides, usually high in sky, but sometimes close to ground. Breeds in colonies. Builds bottle-shaped nest with entrance spout from mud and attaches it to road culverts and under bridges, cliffs and cave walls, usually near water.

May migrate north to south to breed in the Avon River Basin. Resident to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Soft 'churr' or 'drr, drr' or 'drrt, drrit' or 'djrit'. Distinct 'chirrup'. Sweet chittering.



## Tree Martin | *Petrochelidon nigricans*



**General description:** Size: 12-14 cm. Glossy blue-black back and crown of head. Long, pointed, brown wings. Dark buff-rufous forehead. Dusky brown face. Cream-buff neck, breast and underbelly, lightly streaked brown. Mottled grey rump. Short, slightly forked, brown tail. Short black bill. In flight, tail is squarer, wings thin and sharply pointed, underwing is grey-brown with pale rufous upper edge. May be confused with Fairy Martin and swallows. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Brown-black plumage. Wing feathers buff-edged. Buff neck, breast and underbelly, faintly streaked brown. Small chestnut forehead patch. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in large flocks. May flock with Fairy Martins and Welcome Swallows. Active, fast and aerobatic flight, will catch insects in swoops and glides, high in sky over trees or low over water or pastures. Often found where large trees are near water. Breeds in tree hollows and several pairs will use the same tree if enough hollows are available. Will roost communally. May migrate north to south to

breed in the Avon River Basin. Migrating birds in their thousands will roost in reedbeds. Nomadic to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Pleasant, animated twittering 'chwip-chip-chzeit-chwip'. Sharp 'chk'. Metallic 'tzweit' or 'chit'.



## Rufous Treecreeper

*Climacteris rufus*



but can still be found in far western forested areas and larger areas of intact woodland.

**Male plumage:** Upper breast is black.

**Female plumage:** Upper breast is buff.

**Juvenile plumage:** Greyer than adult. Dark face. Buff edges to shoulder. Rufous-brown rear. Grey bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen climbing up trees in a spiral, poking into cracks or pulling at bark to feed. May be seen feeding on ground. Glides between trees. At nest, breeding pair may be helped by offspring from previous years. Resident.

**Voice:** Loud 'peet' or 'peep' or 'chip, chip, chip'. Churring whistled scold 'tsoo-tsoo-tsoo-tsoo' or 'tsit-tsit-tsit'.

**General description:** Size: 15-18 cm. Light brown-grey crown of head, back and sides of neck, and upper body. Olive-brown back. Rufous edges to shoulder. Face, neck, breast and underbelly cinnamon-rufous brown. Brown stripe passes from bill through eye. Breast has white streaks. Undertail has black dots. Dark brown eye. Black-grey bill. Dark grey-black legs and feet. In flight, pale buff-rufous stripe in underwing. May be confused with Varied Sittella. Declining and rare in Avon River Basin



## Southern Emu-wren | *Stipiturus malachurus westernensis*



**General description:** Size: 15-18 cm. Boldly streaked to lined upper parts. Buff underparts. Very long filamentouse tail up to twice the body length with six feathers. Long bill. Uncommon, found in far southern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Sky blue eyebrow, throat and bib. Fine white streaking surrounding eye.

**Female plumage:** No blue throat. Subdued streaking around eye.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Juvenile male has hint of pale blue on throat. No streaking around eye.

**Behaviour:** May be found in low vegetation and reedbeds bordering wetlands. Seen in small family groups. Feeds within dense low vegetation. Female cares for young with helpers, usually offspring from previous years. Resident to partially nomadic.

**Voice:** Soft high-pitched tinny tweetering, 'deedle-deedle-deedle' lasting 1-2 seconds. Soft high-pitched 'pree' or 'psip' or tseep and sharper repeated 'steet' alarm call. Voice is beyond the hearing of some humans. Has an insect like quality.



## Splendid Fairy-wren | *Malurus splendens*



**General description:** Size: 12-14 cm. May be confused with other fairy-wrens when non-breeding, but the breeding male is very distinctive. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Deep iridescent blue-purple body and tail. Lighter blue crown of head, cheek patch and shoulder. Black stripe passes from bill through eye to back of neck, met by a partial collar that extends to sides of neck. Black band across breast. Brown wing with strong blue tinge. Black bill.

**Female plumage:** Grey-brown head and upper body. Orange-brown stripe passes from bill to eye. Orange-brown eye-ring. Cream-grey neck and breast. Buff-fawn underbelly. Brown bill. Blue tail not as bright as male, but brighter than other fairy-wrens.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Browner tail. Paler legs.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male similar to female from autumn to early spring. Faint black stripe passes from bill to eye. Blue-green tinge to wing. Black bill. Bluer tail than female.

**Behaviour:** Seen in small family groups. Feeds within dense low vegetation and on ground, may be seen higher in vegetation than other fairy-wrens. Female cares for young with helpers, usually offspring from previous years. Resident to partially nomadic.

**Voice:** High-pitched, staccato, wavering, metallic trill that becomes lower and quieter at the end 'trit-triit-trit-tirreet-tirreet-trit-tirreet-trit-tirreet'. Repeated contact call, chirping 'tipp' or 'trrip', or soft 'treeee' or 'sree'. High-pitched trilling alarm 'ts-s-s-...'. Sharp alarm call, 'tsit'.



## White-winged Fairy-wren | *Malurus leucopterus*



**General description:** Size: 11-13 cm. May be confused with other fairy-wrens when non-breeding, but the breeding male is very distinctive. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Bright iridescent blue body and tail. White wing, may be edged with black. Black bill.

**Female plumage:** Pale brown head and upper body. Cream-grey neck, breast and underbelly. Sandy-brown bill. Pale blue tail.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male similar to female from autumn to early spring. Black bill. Bluer tail than female.

**Behaviour:** May be found around salt lakes and marshes. Seen in small family groups. Feeds within dense low vegetation. Female cares for young with helpers, usually offspring from previous years. Resident to partially nomadic.

**Voice:** High-pitched, unevenly wavering, metallic, mechanical trill like winding fishing reel 'chirr-IRR-irr-IRIRit-chirr-IRRrit-irirIRIRIT-chirr ir-IRRITirrit'. High-pitched 'tsit tsit...' or 'prrit!'. Trilling 'tsrrreeee'. Alarm call, 'trrit-trait'.



## Blue-breasted Fairy-wren | *Malurus pulcherrimus*



**General description:** Size: 12-15 cm. May be confused with other fairy-wrens. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Bright violet-blue crown of head, eye-ring, cheek patch and upper back. Black face, throat and partial neck collar. Bright chestnut-brown shoulder on grey-brown wing. Dark blue breast. White underbelly. Black rump. Blue tail. Black bill.

**Female plumage:** Grey-brown head and upper body. Chestnut-brown stripe passes from bill to eye. Chestnut-brown eye-ring. Cream-grey neck and breast. White underbelly. Brown-black bill. Blue-grey tail.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male similar to female from autumn to early spring. Black stripe passes from bill to eye. White-pale blue eye-ring. Black bill.

**Behaviour:** Found in drier areas of south-west WA than Red-winged Fairy-wren. Seen in small family groups. Feeds within dense low vegetation or on ground. Both parents care for young with helpers, usually offspring from previous years. Resident.

**Voice:** High-pitched, vibrating, metallic trill 'trrrree' that begins with shorter squeaky chirps than Red-winged Fairy-wren and sounds more mechanical than Variegated Fairy-wren. Contact call, repeated 'tsee'. Alarm call, 'tsit' or 'trrt-trt-trtt-trt-trrt'.



## Red-winged Fairy-wren | *Malurus elegans*



**General description:** Size: 13-16 cm. Found only in south-west Western Australia. Largest of WA's fairy-wrens with longest tail. Small roundish body. Black bill in both male and female. May be confused with other fairy-wrens, particularly Blue-breasted Fairy-wren. Common, found in the western and southern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Silver-blue crown of head, eye-ring, cheek patch and upper back. Dark blue-black face, breast and neck collar. Dull chestnut-brown shoulder on grey-brown wing. Buff underbelly. Dusky-blue tail.

**Female plumage:** Blue-grey head. Grey-brown upper body. Warm brown wings. Chestnut-brown stripe passes from bill to eye. Chestnut-brown eye-ring. Cream-buff neck, breast and underbelly. Blue-grey tail.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male similar to female from autumn to early spring. Black stripe passes from bill to eye.

**Behaviour:** Most likely to be seen in south-west Jarrah-Marri-Karri and into Wandoo woodlands, often near swamps and creeklines. Seen in small family groups. Feeds within dense low vegetation or on ground in hop-search-pounce manner. Both parents care for young with helpers, usually offspring from previous years. Resident.

**Voice:** Several short notes 'cher-cher-cher' become a trilling warble 'treeee'. Sharp 'pipping' or 'trrit-trrit-trrit' or 'tsit' alarm call. Contact call 'see-see-see'.



## Variegated Fairy-wren | *Malurus lamberti*



**General description:** Size: 11-15 cm. May be confused with other fairy-wrens, especially Blue-breasted Fairy-wren. Uncommon, found in northern and eastern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Bright blue-purple crown of head and upper back. Cheek patch is lighter blue than rest of head. Black face, throat, neck collar and breast. Bright chestnut-brown shoulder on grey-brown wing. Small lilac-blue patch between breast and shoulder. Grey-white underbelly. Black rump. Strongly blue tail. Blue eye-ring. Black bill. Dark brown legs.

**Female plumage:** Pale grey-brown head and upper body. Red-brown stripe passes from bill to eye. Red-brown eye-ring. Cream-grey neck and breast. Buff-fawn underbelly. Red-brown bill. Dull blue tail. Red-brown legs.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male similar to female from autumn to early spring. Black stripe passes from bill to eye. White eye-ring. Black bill. Bluer tail than female.

**Behaviour:** Seen in small family groups. Feeds within dense low vegetation. Female cares for young with helpers, usually offspring from previous years. Resident.

**Voice:** High-pitched, vibrating, metallic, mechanical trill 'trrrree' or 'trrrri' to 'tririt-tiririt-trit-trit-tirrit-trit-tirit' that begins with shorter squeaky chirps than Red-winged Fairy-wren. Repeated contact call, chirping 'trrt' or 'see' or 'sree'. Sharp alarm call, 'tsit' or 'trrt-trrt'.



## White-browed Scrubwren | *Sericornis frontalis*



**General description:** Size: 11-15 cm. Stocky body. Dark olive-brown upper body. Black shoulder with white edges to feathers. White stripe passes from bill above eye towards back of head. Broad white stripe passes from bill below eye to side of neck. Black face between the two stripes. Throat buff-grey. Rufous-brown rump and tail. Cream-yellow eye. Pink legs. Subspecies *Sericornis frontalis maculatus* found in south-west WA and *S. f. mellori* in south-east WA have grey-buff neck, breast and underbelly, spotted grey on breast, small white mark under eye, and black and white tail tip. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Duller with browner face than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller than female. Browner back. Dusky face. Facial and shoulder markings less distinct.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in pairs or small groups, low, in thick vegetation or on ground. Nest may be on ground, under leaves or in low dense grass or shrubs. Scolds intruders, but can

become tame in gardens. Will approach when imitated. Can be found on saltmarsh edges. Resident.

**Voice:** Varied and mimics other birds, 'ch-weip, ch-weip, ch-weip' or 'chi-wipip, chi-wipip' or 'cheweeep-chip or 'whee-a-chee'. 'Tseer-tseer-tseer' or 'ts-cheer...' or 'sit you sit you...' with higher second note. Deep zizzing, scolding alarm call, 'tzzt' or 'chk-chk-chkchkchk'.



## Redthroat | *Pyrrholaemus brunneus*



**General description:** Size: 11-12 cm. Grey-brown upper body. Speckled or scalloped forehead. White face extends through eye to thin toward back of head. Grey neck, breast and underbelly. Buff sides of underbelly. Dark brown tail with white tip. Brown eye. Thin dark grey bill. Uncommon, widespread.

chi-chi-chi-chi, quirrrr' or 'jur-jerrig-jerriganee, a pitta-pitta-pit'. Loud scolding chatter. Constant twitter during feeding. Will mimic other birds.

**Male plumage:** Rufous-rusty throat.

**Female plumage:** White-grey throat.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler and browner than female. No speckling on forehead. Less white on tail tips.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in pairs feeding on ground. Will form small groups. Can be seen flying amongst bushes with flashes of fanned white-tipped tail. Resident.

**Voice:** Beautiful variable song a mix of whistled notes and chattered sounds 'wheet wheet widda widda wheet whee' or 'whit-whit-chee-chee-chak-chak' or



## Shy Heathwren

*Calamanthus cautus*



**General description:** Size: 11-14 cm.

Brown-grey upper body. Black shoulder with white spot. Broad white stripe passes from bill above eye towards back of head. Chestnut-rufous rear. Dark brown tail with black and white tip. Undertail is dark rufous spotted white. Dark grey bill. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** White neck and breast heavily streaked with black. White underbelly.

**Female plumage:** Eye stripe is tinged buff. Buff neck and breast heavily streaked with brown. Buff underbelly.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler and browner than female. White underbelly.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Hides in vegetation and feeds on ground. Stands with tail held upright. Flies low and only briefly, showing the red rear and white shoulder spots. Resident.

**Voice:** Rich, musical song starts with high thin squeaks, becomes a stronger buzzing rattle, then fades away 'chee-chee-chick a dee' or 'see-sree, chweip-chzeip-quirrip-quip-chip-chiep'. Alarm call, 'tchak'. Will mimic other birds.



## Western Fieldwren

*Calamanthus campestris montanellus*



**Female plumage:** Eye stripe may be yellowish.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to adult, may be browner and more finely streaked.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone or in pairs feeding on ground or in shrubs. Can be seen singing on top of shrubs. Stands with tail held upright. Resident.

**Voice:** Gloomy 'whirr-whirr chick chick whirr-ree-ee' or 'chit-whit-whit whirrrrrreet' or 'chick-whir-ree-ree-ree whirr-eeee', starts off whistling and becomes a rattled chattering.

**General description:** Size: 11-14 cm.

Fully-recognised south-west WA subspecies.

Olive-grey upper body with dark brown streaks.

Faint rufous markings may be found on crown of head, forehead or cheek. White stripe passes from bill through eye towards back of head.

White neck, breast and underbelly heavily streaked with dark brown. Olive-grey rear.

Grey-brown tail with white tip. Cream eye. Thin dark grey bill. Uncommon to Rare, widespread.



## Western Gerygone | *Gerygone fusca*



**General description:** Size: 10-11 cm.

Brown-grey upper body. Red eye with incomplete white eye-ring. Thin white stripe passes from bill to eye-ring. Dark stripe passes from bill through eye. Light grey neck and breast. White underbelly. Black tail with white at base and tip, very obvious in flight. Short black bill. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Darker neck and breast than female.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner upper body than adult. Yellow tinge to face, neck, breast and wing feathers. Brown eye with pale yellow eye-ring. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Will flock with other small birds. Will hover to catch prey in vegetation. Some flocks move in winter from south to north. Resident to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Sweet, meandering, plaintive series of rising and falling whistles, often ending abruptly as if the bird had run out of breath or interest.



## Western Thornbill | *Acanthiza inornata*



**General description:** Size: 10 cm. Found only in south-west Western Australia. Olive-grey-brown upper body. Forehead and face have scalloped appearance from brown feathers edged with buff. Buff-grey neck and breast, darker underbelly. Buff-brown rump. Buff-brown tail has black tip with white edging. White-grey eye. Dark grey bill. May be confused with Slender-billed and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills. Common, widespread, although less common in the eastern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller than adult. Less scalloped forehead. Brown eye. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small groups. May flock with other small birds. Feeds on ground and in low shrubs. Will nest inside grasstrees or behind loose bark. Resident.

**Voice:** Weak, erratic, scratchy chittering 'tchip-tsip' with louder 'chweep' forming mellow musical 'tchip-tseep, cheewip, tseep-tsip, chweep, tsip-cheowip, tsip, seep, chweep, tsip'. Tinkling erratic 'pitta-pitta-pitta'

with fast trill and metallic 'dzink' notes. Loud whistling 'wh wh wh wh-whit'. Contact call, 'tsip tsip'. Will mimic other birds.



## Yellow-rumped Thornbill | *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*



**General description:** Size: 10-13 cm. Largest and most common of Australia's thornbills. Olive-brown to olive-grey upper body. Black forehead and crown of head with white spots. Small white stripe over eye. Dark stripe passes from bill through eye. Black cheek streaked with white. Off-white neck, breast and underbelly, brown sides. Yellow rump. Black tail with white tip. Pale brown eye. Dark grey bill. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner than adult. Buff spots on head. Dark brown eye. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small groups feeding on ground, moving with a jerky hop. May flock with other small birds. Flies in a bouncing way, yellow rump obvious against black tail. Both parents care for young, sometimes with one or two helpers. Dome-shaped nest has an upper cup-shaped false nest, possibly to confuse predators or nest-parasite cuckoos or as a roosting place. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Repeated, melodious, tinkling warble 'chip-chip-chippity-cheepity-chippity-cheepity-wheet-wheehoo', usually ends on two whistled notes, the second one being lower. Contact call in flight, 'chip chip' or 'check-check'. May mimic other birds.

**Noongar name:** Djidbot



## Chestnut-rumped Thornbill | *Acanthiza uropygialis*



### General description: Size: 10-11 cm.

Grey-brown to mouse-grey upper body. Face and forehead, scalloped black and white over light brown. Light grey neck and breast. White underbelly. Chestnut-rufous rump. Black tail with white tip. Whitish eye. Dark grey bill. May be confused with the Inland, Slaty-backed and Western Thornbills. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to adult. Pale bar across wing. Head scalloping has buff tinge. Buff tail tip. Dark brown eye. Yellow corner to bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small groups feeding on ground or in vegetation. Will flock with other small birds. Flies in a bouncing way, chestnut rump is obvious against black tail. Resident.

**Voice:** Penetrating, peevish, squeaking 'see-see' or 'see-ti-ti-ti-ti-seeee' or 'see-tzit-tzit-see' or 'tsee, tsee-tseep, tseep, tseip'. Pleasant warbling song 'pit-pee-teu'. Whistled penetrating 'cheweeep-cheweeep-cheweeep'. Harsh single 'teu' or 'tseu'. Buzzing scold. In flight call 'tchik, tchik'. Contact call 'chip'. May mimic other birds.



## Inland Thornbill | *Acanthiza apicalis*



### **General description:** Size: 9-11 cm.

Grey-brown upper body. Black wingtips. Brown-grey forehead speckled with white-buff. White neck, streaked with grey to upper breast. Buff-white breast and underbelly, pale rufous sides. Chestnut-rufous brown rump. Grey tail with black tip edged with white. Red eye. Dark grey bill. May be confused with Chestnut-rumped and Slaty-backed Thornbills. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Fainter speckling on head and streaking on breast. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in pairs, sometimes small groups. May flock with other small birds. Rarely seen on ground, feeding within vegetation instead. May stand with tail held upright. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Gloomy, far-carrying, warble 'pee-ore' or 'quor-r-r-r-r-eip' and musical whistle 'chweeeip!' can lead to song 'tseeeip-tsip-tseep-chweeeip, chip-tzweep-tseep- quorr-r-r-eip! tsip seep'. Contact call 'tsip-tsip' or short thin 'tsee'. Buzzing scold. Will mimic other birds.



## Slaty-backed Thornbill | *Acanthiza robustirostris*



### **General description:** Size: 9-9.5 cm.

Slate-blue-grey upper body. Grey crown of head, finely streaked with black. Face may be speckled black with short white stripe above eye. White-pale grey neck and breast. White underbelly. Dull chestnut-cinnamon rump. Short black tail with dull white tip. Red-brown eye. Thick dark grey bill. May be confused with Chestnut-rumped and Inland Thornbills. Rare, occasionally seen in the far northern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner than adult. No streaking on head. Buff-white eye-ring.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small groups. May flock with other small birds. Feeds in vegetation, sometimes on ground. May be found in low shrubs around salt lakes, but particularly in mulga woodland. In flight, chestnut rump is obvious against black tail. Resident.

**Voice:** Varied calls, whistled musical notes mixed with sharp twittering 'pitsuid-piteet' or 'pitsuid-grarr-sweet-eel' or 'chwil-wip, chwip-wip, cheewheep, chwip, chwip-chwip,

cheewheep, chwip, whil-e-chiew'. Loud 'whippy-chew'. Soft single 'pseet' or 'tseeip'. Harsh 'thrip thrip' or 'trrit, trrit'. Distinct 'tiz-tiz'. May mimic other birds.



## Weebill | *Smicrornis brevirostris*



**General description:** Size: 8-9 cm. Australia's smallest bird. Small round body. Olive-brown upper body. Grey-brown head. White-buff stripe passes from bill above eye. May have rufous-rusty cheek patch and dark stripe through eye. Yellow-buff neck, breast and underbelly, neck may be streaked. Cream-white eye. Dark brown tail with black and white tip. Very short, thick, light brown bill. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler than adult. No streaking on neck and breast. Grey-brown eye. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen in pairs or small groups. Most likely to be seen in tree canopy. Will flock with other small birds. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Vigorous, far-carrying, slightly husky 'wee-willey-weet weet' or 'willy-weet, willy-weetee!' or 'weebit, weebee!' or 'wheet-will' or 'whit-a-whit' or 'whit, whit, WHEETiew' or 'whit, whit, WHEET-a-whit' or 'pee-pee pwee-weep' or 'I'm a weebill'. Throaty 'tchick'. Quick deep 'tidid, tidid' or 'tizit'. In flight, soft 'chip-chip'.

**Noongar name:** Kiderbot



## Southern Whiteface | *Aphelocephala leucopsis*



**General description:** Size: 10-12 cm.

Brown-grey upper body. White edges to wing feathers. White face and throat. Black forehead colour passes through both eyes. Mottled crown of head. Pale grey breast and underbelly, cinnamon-chestnut-rufous sides. Black tail with white tip. White eye. Short, thick, black bill. Uncommon to Rare, found in the far north-western parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner than adult. No black forehead.

**Behaviour:** Seen in pairs or small groups. Noisily feeds on ground, often with other small birds. Usually nests in tree hollows, but will nest inside fenceposts and low vegetation. Flies low, fast and undulating. Resident.

**Voice:** Rapid, scratchy, twittering 'tweet-tweeter' or 'tzip-tzip-tziptziptziptzip' or 'tchip-tchip-chiptchipt-chipt-chip'. Soft contact call, 'tik-tik-tik'. Harsh 'tzzit, tzzit-tzzit, tzzit'. Alarm call, scolding 'kzzurrrk, kzzurrrk-kzzurrrk-kkzzurrrk'. Fast repeated 'chak'. In flight, brisk 'wit, wit-awit'.



## Spotted Pardalote | *Pardalotus punctatus*



**General description:** Size: 8-10 cm. Very small, colourful, round bird. Two subspecies found in WA – south-west variety, *Pardalotus punctatus punctatus* and inland variety, *P. p. xanthopyge*. Short, red tail ends with white spots on black tips. Short black bill. May be confused with Striated Pardalote. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Black upper body with buff spots. Black wing with lines of white spots. Black crown of head has rows of white spots. Grey face and cheeks to side of neck. White stripe passes from bill through eye towards back of head. Yellow neck. Buff breast and underbelly. Yellow-orange or red rump, yellow-orange rump more common on *P. p. xanthopyge*. Yellow undertail.

**Female plumage:** Markings less distinct than male. Browner crown of head with yellow-buff spots. White-cream neck. Rump is dull orange. Pale yellow undertail.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Grey-green crown of head. Brown upper body. Faint spots.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Often heard rather than seen, high in canopy. Mainly eats insects, especially psyllid bugs and lerps, the protective covering of crystallised honeydew their larvae make. Flight is rapid and undulating. Digs tunnel in banks to create nest, including in roadside or railway banks, or nests inside hollows in tree branches. Subspecies *P. p. xanthopyge* mainly found in mallee woodland. Resident to nomadic to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Monotonous, repeated 'weep-weep'. High-pitched 'sleepy-baby' or 'sleep, deedee' or 'whee, whee-bee' or 's-wit PIWIP' starts clear, becomes higher then falls, sometimes to a sharp 'peep'. Plaintive 'deedee'. Subspecies *P. p. xanthopyge* has softer call 'wit WEE-ee' or 'chnk-whee-a-bee'.



## Striated Pardalote | *Pardalotus striatus substriatus*



**General description:** Size: 9-10 cm. Very small, colourful, round bird. Race in WA has black crown of head with white streaks, broad white stripe on wing, starting with a red spot near shoulder, and other wing stripes are buff-brown to white. Olive-grey to grey-brown upper body, paler rear. Black wing. Orange-yellow forehead becomes white stripe passing above eye towards back of head. Yellow throat. Cream breast and underbelly, yellow sides. Short black tail with small white tip. Short black bill. May be confused with Spotted Pardalote. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Slightly duller than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler and duller than adult. Plain or scalloped grey crown of head. Throat cream. Pale grey bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small groups feeding high in canopy, or alone or in pairs. Forms large flocks in non-breeding season, often with thornbills. Moves inland in autumn-winter when non-breeding. Digs tunnel in banks to create nest, including in roadside or railway

banks, or nests inside tree hollows. Parents may have helpers to raise young. Resident to nomadic to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Variable 'wit wit' or 'chip-chip' or 'witta witta' or 'wittachew' or 'rigby dick' or 'pretty-de-dick' or 'pick-it-up' or 'widididup'. Soft 'cheeo' or 'pee-ew, pee-ew'. Flat hard trill.



## Singing Honeyeater | *Gavicalis virescens*



**General description:** Size: 16-24 cm. Grey-brown upper body and crown of head. Yellow-olive wing. Broad black stripe passes from bill through eye and down side of neck. Beneath this is a yellow stripe becoming a white patch on side of neck. Cream-yellow throat. Pale grey neck, breast and underbelly streaked with dark grey. Yellow edges to brown tail. Black eye. Black bill. May be confused with Purple-gaped or Grey-headed Honeyeaters. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Plainer than adult. Neck and breast less streaked. Yellow base of bill.

**Behaviour:** Common garden bird. Usually seen alone, but does form small groups. Feeds in shrubs, often low in understorey, or on ground. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud 'prrp' or 'prrit' in single, double or repeated notes. Obvious in dawn chorus, often as a duet, varied deep mellow 'kitch-ee-wok' or 'wheer we what' or 'cheewip-chip-quorricheep-quorit-chiwip'. Rapid

'crik-crik-crik-crik'. Peevish 'scree'. Staccato alarm call 'prrrrrrrt'.

**Noongar name:** Koolbort



## Purple-gaped Honeyeater

*Lichenostomus cratitius*



**General description:** Size: 16-20 cm.

Olive-grey upper body and tail. Yellow wing. Grey crown of head. Greyish cheek patch. Black stripe passes from bill through eye towards back of neck to a yellow tuft over ear. Thin purple stripe of skin passes from bill below eye. Below this, yellow stripe passes from bill below eye along side of throat. Yellow-grey neck, breast and underbelly. Brown eye. Dark legs. May be confused with Grey-fronted and Singing Honeyeaters. Uncommon, found in the south-eastern part of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller plumage. Yellow instead of purple stripe of skin from bill.

**Behaviour:** Particularly found in mallee habitat. Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Eats nectar and insects, also lerps, the protective covering of crystallised honeydew that is made by the larvae of psyllid bugs. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Highly variable calls. In flight 'twit twit'. Whistling 'too-whip' or 'toweit towet'. Metallic 'chairk, chairk, chairk'. Harsh, peevish 'quitty-quitty-KAIRRK-KAIRRK'. Abrupt 'chek-chek-chek-chek'. High-pitched 'yeep yeep yeep'. Harsh chattering or chirps. Clicking notes.



## White-eared Honeyeater

*Nesoptilotis leucotis*



**General description:** Size: 16-22 cm.

Olive-green upper body and tail. Grey crown of head streaked with black. White cheek patch. Black face, neck and upper breast. Yellow-olive breast and underbelly streaked with grey. Red eye. Black bill. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller plumage. Olive-green crown of head. Cheek patch, yellow-cream. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** In WA, often found in Salmon Gum woodlands and tea-tree around salt lakes. Seen alone or in small groups. Mainly eats insects, also nectar, manna that seeps from trees after injury, and lerps, the protective covering of crystallised honeydew that is made by the larvae of psyllid bugs. Often seen digging noisily under bark. Aggressively defends territory. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Falling 'chung chung chung'. Loud 'chock' or 'chwok', may be rapidly repeated becoming 'chock-chock-chock' or 'chockup, chockup' or 'choku-whit, choku-whit'. 'Mellow 'cheery-bob' or 'cherrywheat, cherrywheat' or 'chittagong' or 'beer-brick, beer-brick' or 'kwitchu, kwitchu'. Chiming 'tew-wh-wh' with higher first note. Wings in flight make a 'flop-flop' noise.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** May cause some damage to fruit orchards.



## Grey-fronted Honeyeater

*Ptilotula plumula*



**General description:** Size: 13-17 cm.

Olive-grey upper body. Yellow-olive face, crown of head and wing. Grey forehead. Black stripe passes from bill through eye. Yellow plume of feathers on side of neck. Thin black line passes from bill below eye and along upper edge of yellow plume. Buff-grey neck and breast streaked with olive-brown. Buff-grey underbelly. Brown

eye. Black bill. Grey-green tail edged with yellow and has square end. Grey legs. May be confused with Yellow-plumed or Purple-gaped Honeyeaters. Uncommon to Rare, found in the northern part of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler plumage. Less obvious neck plume. Yellow bill with dark tip. Yellow corner of bill.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Yellow bill with black tip. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen in pairs or small groups when feeding. Mainly eats insects, also nectar and lerps, the protective covering of crystallised honeydew that is made by the larvae of psyllid bugs. Can be aggressive to other birds. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud musical 'it-wirt wirt wirt wirt' or 'kwit, kwit-kweeit, kwit-kwit'. Peevish 'queeeit-queeeit-queeeit'. Sharp penetrating 'peet-peet-peet'. Low persistent 'chwok, chwok'. Sharp 'clit'. Alarm call, single sharp 'boink'.

**Noongar name:** Bildjart



## Yellow-plumed Honeyeater

*Ptilotula ornata*



**General description:** Size: 13-18 cm.

Olive-green upper body. Darker olive-green cheek patch has dark brown edge over ear. Thin yellow stripe of skin passes from bill below eye. Yellow plume of feathers on side of neck. Pale grey neck, breast and underbelly strongly streaked with grey-brown. Brown eye. Black bill. Yellow-olive wing and tail. May be confused with Grey-fronted Honeyeater. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller plumage. Yellow eye-ring. Yellow-orange bill with black tip. Yellow corner of bill.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Yellow bill with black tip. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in pairs or small groups. Mainly eats insects, also nectar and lerps, the protective covering of crystallised honeydew that is made by the larvae of psyllid bugs. Feeds in vegetation, sometimes on ground. Breeds alone or in loose colonies. Aggressively defends the whole group's breeding and feeding territory, often against each other. Both parents raise the young, sometimes with helpers. Performs group wing-quivering displays called 'corroborees'. Male flies up steeply in display flight. Resident.

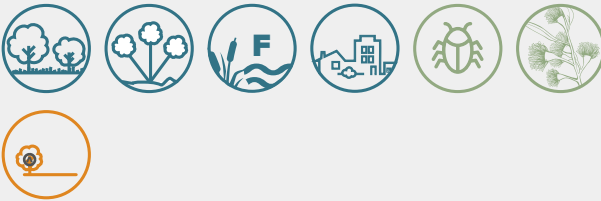
**Voice:** Loud brisk 'chick-a-dee' or 'chickwididee' or 'chier wit chier' or 'CHIEWP-ier CHWiep-ier'. Rapid trilling alarm call, 'ti-ti-ti...'. Liquid 'joe-joe-hik'. In flight, 'hit joe-joe, hot joe-joe, hit'. Contact call, 'chip'. Rattling 'chap chap'. Squabbling, 'chzak-chzak-chzak'.

**Noongar name:** Djibort



## White-plumed Honeyeater

*Ptilotula penicillata*



**Juvenile plumage:** Paler plumage. Less obvious neck plume. Yellow-orange bill with black tip. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Commonly found in woodlands edging inland rivers, closely linked to River Red Gum distribution. Will feed high in canopy down to ground level. Mainly eats insects, also nectar and lerps, the protective covering of crystallised honeydew that is made by the larvae of psyllid bugs. Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Very active, seen darting between trees. Can be aggressive to other birds. Performs group wing-quivering displays, called 'corroborees'. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Variable 'chee-uck-oo-wee' or 'chickowee' or 'chick-abiddy' or 'chick-wist-chick-wist...' or 'chick-wert, chick-wert' or 'which-a-whee, whitch-a-whee-whit' or 'whee-a-wheioo'. Rapid trilling alarm call, 'ti ti ti...' or 'cak-ak-ak-ak-ark'. Contact call, 'due-wheat!' or 'chip chip'. Bill clapping.

**General description:** Size: 13-19 cm. Only honeyeater with white neck plume. Olive-grey upper body. Yellow-olive wing and tail. Yellow head, neck and upper breast, faintly mottled on neck. White plume of feathers on side of neck with dark upper edge. Light grey-brown underbelly. Brown eye. Black bill. Grey-brown legs. Uncommon, found in the far northern part of the Avon River Basin.



## Yellow-throated Miner | *Manorina flavigula*



**General description:** Size: 22-28 cm. Main Western Australian variety, *Manorina flavigula wayensis*, has grey upper body and crown of head. Yellow tinge to wing. Yellow forehead and side of neck. Black face becomes grey-tipped cheek patch. Two yellow stripes of skin pass back from bill, one to eye and other to side of neck, with pale grey feathers in between. Yellow skin behind eye. Pale grey neck, breast and underbelly, brown edging to breast feathers gives scalloped appearance. White rump. Grey tail with white tip. Yellow bill. Yellow legs and feet. South-west variety, *Manorina flavigula obscura*, has darker grey upper body, neck and breast, rear not white, less yellow on head and neck, and blacker face. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Less obvious markings. Darker breast. Yellow throat.

**Behaviour:** Feeds in large noisy flocks. Builds nest in a tree fork between 2-6 m high. Breeds in colonies, particularly in mistletoe clumps. Parents are helped by others in group. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Very vocal and variable in groups. Querulous 'tee tee tee' or 'meee, meee, meee'. High-pitched 'ti-ti-ti-ti...' hawk alarm call.



## Gilbert's Honeyeater (Western Honeyeater)

### *Melithreptus lunatus chloropsis*



**General description:** Size: 10-15 cm.

Olive-green upper body with black-tipped wings and grey shoulder. Black head. White stripe passes around back of head, but does not reach eye. White crescent of skin above eye. Black stripe extends from side of neck to side of breast. White neck, breast and underbelly. Brown eye. Short, thick, black bill. Long, square, olive-green tail. Uncommon, found in the south-western part of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller plumage and head stripe. Brown head with blackish face. Blue-grey crescent of skin above eye. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Mainly eats insects, also nectar, manna gum that seeps from trees after injury, and lerps, the protective covering of crystallised honeydew that is made by the larvae of psyllid bugs. Will feed high in canopy. Often seen digging under bark. Usually seen in small groups to large flocks. Breeds communally. Parents are helped by others in the group. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Hissing scratchy 'sherp sherp' or 'mjerp mjerp' or 'szerrk'. Mellow 'tew tew tew...' or 'tsew-tsew-tsew'. Whistle 'shierrk-WHIET'. Musical 'wherrt-wherrt-wherrt'. Alarm call, 'ti ti ti...' or 'pew, pew, pew' or 'chwip-chwip'.



## Brown-headed Honeyeater

*Melithreptus brevirostris*



**General description:** Size: 11-15 cm. Dull olive-grey-brown upper body. Brown head. Grey wing. White-cream stripe passes around back of head to eye. Cream to orange-buff eye-ring. White throat extends back to side of neck. Grey-buff breast and underbelly. May be confused with juveniles of other honeyeater species. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler and browner than adult. Less obvious head markings. Pale blue eye-ring. Yellow-orange corner of bill. Yellow-brown bill.

**Behaviour:** Mainly eats insects, also nectar, pollen and manna gum that seeps from trees after injury. Usually seen feeding in small groups, constantly moving in canopy. Parents may have helpers to raise young when available. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Lively staccato song 'chip-chip-chip-chip' or 'chwik-chwik-chwik', separate notes becoming faster and broken, then returns to separate notes. In flight 'chip chip...' or 'chick' or. Sweet 'breet, breet' or 'yet yet'. Lively 'chak-chak-chak' or a 'ti ti ti' alarm call.



## White-fronted Chat | *Epthianura albifrons*



**General description:** Size: 11-13 cm.  
Uncommon, widespread.

**Voice:** Metallic 'tang'.

**Male plumage:** Grey back. Dark brown wing and tail. White head, neck, breast and underbelly. Black collar from crown of head and back of neck around upper breast. White eye.

**Female plumage:** Grey-brown upper body. Grey head. Small white patch above bill. Buff-grey neck and breast. Dusky dark brown band on upper breast. White underbelly. Red eye with white eye-ring.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female, but browner and no or pale breast band. Pale stripe passes from bill above eye. Cream corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Found in damp areas including saltmarshes, salt lakes, samphire flats and rough pasture. Usually seen in small to large groups, feeding and running on ground after insects. Perches in low vegetation. May breed in loose colonies. Flies high in a jerky, bouncing manner. Resident to nomadic.



## Orange Chat | *Epthianura aurifrons*



**General description:** Size: 10-12 cm. Plump body. Red eye. Dark bill. In flight, undertail is blackish with narrow pale tip with square end. Uncommon to Rare, found in northern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Voice:** In flight 'cheel cheel' or cheep cheep' or 'chee-chee-chee'. Soft 'check-check'. Metallic 'tang'.

**Male plumage:** Bright yellow head, breast, underbelly and rump, orange tinge to head and breast. Black face and throat. Back mottled yellow-brown. Dark brown wing with buff-yellow edges. In flight, upperwing is black.

**Female plumage:** Yellow-grey head, breast and underbelly, breast lightly streaked with brown. Yellow face. Pale yellow stripe passes from bill above eye towards back of head. Back mottled sandy-brown. Dark brown wing with buff edges. Pale yellow-orange rump.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female but browner upper body.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small groups, often with other chats. Often on the ground, walking not hopping, or running to catch prey. Flies high and undulating. Resident to locally nomadic.



## Crimson Chat | *Epthianura tricolor*



**General description:** Size: 10-13 cm. Brown wing and tail with white-edged feathers. Pale yellow-white eye. Long dark bill. In flight, undertail has broad white tip. May be confused with Red-capped Robin and Mistletoebird. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Dark brown upper body. Bright red crown of head, breast and rump. Broad black stripe passes from bill through eye towards back of neck. White neck and underbelly.

**Female plumage:** Light brown upper body and crown of head. Red rump. Breast and sides mottled pink-red and buff. White throat and underbelly.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler than female. Dark-brown wing with buff-edged feathers. Pale brown breast and underbelly. Yellow corner of bill.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male is less bright red and patchy, white appearing on breast and underbelly, black facial stripe faded black. Female has little red colouring, breast and underbelly pale brown. Both have red rump.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small groups. Often on the ground, walking not hopping. Feeds mainly on insects, but will drink nectar. May nest communally, including with other species. Bouncing flight. Males hover while courting. Nomadic to partially migratory.

**Voice:** High-pitched, melodious, single or repeated 'tsee' or 'see-ee-ee'. Metallic 'ting' or 'tang'. Soft 'dik-it, dik-it' or 'chikit, chikit'. Brisk 'check check'.



## Western Spinebill | *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*



**General description:** Size: 12-16 cm. Found only in south-west WA. Long, fine, dark bill that curves downwards. Red eye. May be confused with Tawny-crowned Honeyeater. Uncommon, found in western and southern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Upper body and crown of head, grey-brown. Broad black band passes from bill through eye towards back of neck, edged above with thin white stripe. White throat. Broad chestnut-brown collar around neck and upper breast. White then black stripes separate upper and lower breast. Lower breast and underbelly buff-white. Dark grey tail, outer tips edged with white.

**Female plumage:** Upper body and head olive-grey. Back of neck rufous-brown. Dull white stripe passes above eye towards back of head. Faint white stripe passes from bill below eye. Neck and breast, rufous-buff. Underbelly buff-grey.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. No rufous-brown on back of neck. Dark eye. Base of bill is yellow.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone or in pairs. In flight, white outer tail feathers are flashed. Fast, erratic flight, wings make a 'flip-flop' or 'ffrup ffrup' sound. Also hovers. Bill is adapted for drinking nectar from deep tubular flowers such as kangaroo paws and grevilleas. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Staccato, high, shrill, musical piping 'kleat-kleat' or 'klee-klee' or 'ting, ting, ting' or 'chri-chri-chri-chri'. Sharp abrupt 'chwhip, chwhip, chwhip, chwhip' at slow intervals. Faster falling 'chip-chip-cherip'. Two-noted 'ca-hip ca-chip ca-chip'.



## Black Honeyeater | *Sugomel niger*



**General description:** Size: 10-13 cm. Long thin downcurved bill. Short, square tail. Black legs. Rare vagrant in Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Black upper body and head, extending down the breast to a point on underbelly. White breast and underbelly. In flight, completely black from above.

**Female plumage:** Grey-brown upper body, buff edges to wing feathers. Pale stripe passes from eye towards back of head. Pale grey-brown neck. Cream-buff breast and underbelly, brown streaks or scallops on breast.

**Juvenile plumage:** Darker than female. Eye stripe less obvious. Yellow-orange bill with dark tip. Yellow-cream corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. May breed in loose colonies. Aggressively defends the whole group's breeding and feeding territory, often against each other. Bill is adapted for drinking nectar from deep tubular flowers such as eremophilas. Moves to follow blossom timing. Female collects and eats ash

and charcoal from campfires, presumably as a calcium source. Fast, erratic and agile in flight, will catch insects in the air. Male flies up, almost vertically in display flight, calling while flying down with quivering, half-opened wings and tail cocked. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Plaintive repeated 'peee' or 'seep' from male on perch. Male display flight call, double-noted 'see-see' or 'se-seeee' or 'tieee-eee', or 'pee-p-pee'. Soft metallic 'chwit, chwit'. Chattering chirping song.



## Pied Honeyeater | *Certhionyx variegatus*



**General description:** Size: 15-20 cm. Long, fine, dark bill that curves down. Uncommon, found in north-eastern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Black head and upper body. White shoulder. Large patch of light blue skin under eye. White breast and underbelly. White rump. White tail with black centre and tip. In flight, white rump and tail panels are obvious.

**Female plumage:** Mottled grey-brown head and upper body. Shoulder has dark brown feathers with white edges. Dull white stripe passes from bill above eye. Small patch of light blue skin under eye. Buff-white neck, breast and underbelly, brown streaks on neck and breast.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female but darker. Brown bill. Skin below eye is pale blue-yellow.

**Behaviour:** Seen in pairs or small groups. Male performs breeding display flight, calling while flying straight up with wings and tail spread, then diving down with wings closed and tail

spread. Bill is adapted for drinking nectar from deep tubular flowers such as eremophilas. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Plaintive, high-pitched whistle from male during breeding season, 'tee-ttee-tee-tee' or 'tieee, ti-tie, tieeee' or 'peepee-pee-pee' or pee-peepee-pee'.



## Brown Honeyeater | *Lichmera indistincta*



### General description: Size: 11-16 cm.

Olive-brown upper body and head. Green-yellow edges to wing and tail feathers. Dusky brown patch between bill and eye. Short yellow stripe passes back from eye. Thin yellow stripe of skin passes from bill below eye. Grey-brown neck and breast. Pale grey underbelly. Long, thick, downcurved black bill. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Crown of head greyish. Thin black stripe of skin passes from bill below eye.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to adult but with yellow tinge to plumage. No yellow patch behind eye. Paler bill. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Very widespread bird, usually found near water, including river edges and saltmarshes, and often seen in gardens. Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Can be aggressive to other birds. Active and aerobatic flight, may catch insects in flight or while hovering. Bill is adapted for drinking nectar from deep tubular flowers such as kangaroo paws. Resident to nomadic.

### Voice: Highly varied, ringing, musical calls.

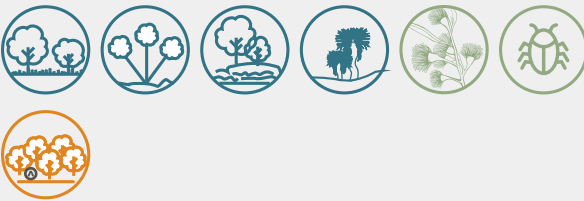
Musical bursts of 'whit, whit, whit' to hesitant 'whit, whit, whit, quorrit, quit' to vigorous 'quorrit-quorrit-quorrit' to rapid trilling 'whitchit, whit, whit-whit-witiwitwit'. Warbling 'sweetie-sweetie' or 'sweet-sweet-quarty-quarty'. Loud rich 'plik'. Grating 'kree?'. Throaty 'dup'. Repeated 'ke-ke-ke'.

**Noongar name:** Djindjoko



## White-fronted Honeyeater

*Purnella albifrons*



**General description:** Size: 13-18 cm.

Brown-black upper body and crown of head, pale edges on feathers giving a scaly look. Yellow-olive wings. White face. Greyish cheek patch. Thin black stripe passes from bill below eye to meet cheek patch. White eye-ring. Small red skin patch behind eye. Black neck, may have small white spots. White breast and

underbelly, darkly streaked with black. Thin white stripe may pass down side of neck to breast. Dark downcurved bill. May be confused with New Holland or White-cheeked Honeyeaters. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dull brown upper body. Head markings are not distinct. No red skin behind eye. Brown bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. May form loose breeding colonies. Moves to follow blossom timing, also some local migration to north in winter and towards coast in summer. Nomadic to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Various loud metallic calls. Musical 'tsooee' or 'kzeip-kzeip' or 'kzeep chrok-chrok-chrok' or 'pzeip-pzip, chrreik-chrreik'. Scratchy trilling 'pert-pertoo-weer' or 'quack-peter-peter-peter' or 'peter-peat-peat'. Sneezed 'trreep'. 'Tsing tsing tsing'. Peevish 'tweet'. Harsh 'truk truk' or 'tuck, tuck' with a click.



## New Holland Honeyeater

### *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*



**General description:** Size: 16-20 cm. Black upper body and head, white streaks on upper back. Yellow wing patch. White side of chin. White stripe starts above eye and passes down side of head. White cheek patch forming a tuft. Black neck with white bristle-like feathers. White breast and underbelly heavily streaked with black. Black tail with yellow sides. White eye.

Downcurved black bill. In flight, wing and tail feathers are black and yellow, tail with white tips. May be confused with White-cheeked Honeyeater. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner than adult. Lower body less heavily streaked. Head markings less obvious. Ear tuft is smaller. Grey eye. Yellow bill with grey tip. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Common garden bird. Usually seen in small to large groups. Very active and noisy, darts between bushes and aggressively chases other birds. Performs group wing-quivering displays, called 'corroborees'. Moves to follow blossom timing. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud 'tchlik' or 'tchik' or 'jik', single or repeated. Weak, squeaky whistle 'pseet' or 'phsee' or 'tseee', often in flight. Rapid alarm call 'chwiep chwiep chwiep'. Shrill harsh chatter and scolding.



## White-cheeked Honeyeater | *Phylidonyris niger*



**General description:** Size: 16-20 cm. Black upper body and head, white streaks on upper back. Yellow wing patch. White stripe passes from bill above eye to crown of head. Black forehead. Large white cheek patch forming a plume. White breast and underbelly heavily streaked with black. Black tail with yellow sides. Dark brown eye. Downcurved black bill. In flight, wing and tail feathers are black and yellow. May be confused with New Holland Honeyeater. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner than adult. Lower body less heavily streaked. Head markings less obvious. Cheek patch is smaller. Yellow bill with grey tip. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small to large groups. Very active and noisy, darts between bushes and aggressively chases other birds. Performs group wing-quivering displays called 'corroborees'. Moves to follow blossom timing. Prefers damper habitats than New Holland Honeyeater. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Vigorous 'chip-choo-chippychoo' or 'chwippy-choo, chwippy-choo'. Quick 'chip' or hiccup' or 'chwikup, chwikup' or 'chwipit-chwipit' or 'chakup-chakup-chakup'. In flight, 'twee-ee-twee-ee'. Rapid alarm call, 'tee-tee-tee...' or 'hee-hee-hee', often as a group. Harsh 'chak-a-chak'.



## Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

*Glyciphila melanops*



**General description:** Size: 15-18 cm. Mottled grey-brown upper body, buff-yellow edges to wing feathers. Tawny-cinnamon crown of head. Thin white stripe passes from bill above eye towards back of head. Thick black stripe passes from bill through eye and curves down side of neck to side of breast. Thin, vertical white stripe over ear separates this from black patch on side of neck. White neck, breast and underbelly, side

of underbelly streaked grey-brown. Long downcurved black bill. Long grey-brown tail. In flight, underwing is cinnamon-salmon with dark grey-brown edge. May be confused with Western Spinebill. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dark brown upper body streaked with white. Brown cheek patch. Pale yellow neck. Cream-buff breast and underbelly, streaked with dark brown. Yellow-orange corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Particularly found in coastal heathlands and sandplains. Often seen feeding on nectar from the ground, unlike other honeyeaters. Moves to follow blossom timing. Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Male flies up, almost vertically in display flight, calling while spiralling down with rapid wingbeats. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Melodic, flute-like, rising 'a-peer-peer-pee-pee' or 'quip-peer, peer--peer-piier' to faster 'quip-pip-pip-pip'. Shorter liquid metallic calls. Sneezing 'kneep'.



## Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater | *Acanthagenys rufogularis*



**General description:** Size: 22-27 cm. Mottled grey-brown upper body. Finely-mottled grey crown of head. Wing feathers have white edges. Pink skin passes from bill under eye. Below this, white patch of spiny feathers extends from bill below eye towards back of neck, edged with black. Buff-cinnamon neck. Cream breast and underbelly, streaked with dark brown. Pale rump. Dark grey-brown tail has white tip. Blue eye. Pink bill with black tip. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner plumage. Yellow patch on side of neck. Paler facial skin. Brown eye.

**Behaviour:** Mainly feeds on nectar and fruit, will also eat insects, reptiles, baby birds and eggs. Feeds in vegetation, on ground or takes insects out of air. May be found in orchards and gardens. Can be aggressive to other birds. Undulating flight shows white rump and tail tip. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Bubbling, gurgling or warbling calls, 'widit, widit-ear, peer-peer, peer-peer' or 'wee-ear, chonk-chonk' or 'quip kpeer kpeer kpeer quipip quipip quipip'. Plaintive whistle, 'whee-you-weer, wh-wh-wh...'. Sharp alarm call, 'quock' or 'tock'. In flight, repeated 'give-the-boy-a-go'.



## Red Wattlebird | *Anthochaera carunculata*



**General description:** Size: 31-39 cm. Male is larger. Grey-brown upper body streaked and feathers edged with white. Black-brown crown of head. Wing feathers have white edges. Silver-white cheek patch, edged with black, extends to bill. Dark pink-red wattle of skin below cheek patch on side of neck. Light grey-brown neck and breast streaked with white. Yellow underbelly. Long grey-brown tail with white tips. Red eye. Long black bill. Pink legs. May be confused with Western Wattlebird. Common, widespread.

silent flocks when migrating. Moves to follow blossom timing, also some local migration to north and towards coast in autumn. Nomadic to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Loud sneezing or 'chock-a-lock' or 'tobacco box'. Barked or coughed 'cheekk' or 'chokk' or 'yak' or yakayak' or 'hrarrark-hrak'. Ringing 'tew-tew-tew-tew' or 'kieuw kieuw kieuw'. Grating chuckle, 'graarrrrk'. Bill clapping.

**Female plumage:** Smaller wattle.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler browner plumage. No wattle. Red-brown eye.

**Behaviour:** Common garden bird. Very noisy and aggressive to other birds. Feeds in vegetation, on ground or takes insects out of air. Eats nectar, berries and insects, also lerps, the protective covering of crystallised honeydew that is made by the larvae of psyllid bugs. Strong, undulating flight shows white wing and tail tips. Usually seen in small groups, will form large



## Western Wattlebird | *Anthochaera lunulata*



**General description:** Size: 26-33 cm. Male is larger. Found only in south-west WA. Dark grey-brown upper body and long tail, finely streaked and spotted with white. Wing feathers edged with white. Silver cheek patch extending to sides of neck. Neck, breast and underbelly grey-brown streaked and spotted with white. Red eye. Long black bill. In flight, upperwing has chestnut patch in middle, white wingtips and tip of tail. May be confused with Red Wattlebird. Uncommon, found in the south-western half of the Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Less streaked than adult. Brown eye.

**Behaviour:** Common garden bird. Usually seen in small groups. Can be noisy and aggressive to other birds. Hunts for invertebrates under bark or takes in flight. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Musical, undulating 'cook-cook-cup-hook, cook-cook-cup-hook'. Repeated 'cook-cackle, cook-cackle, cook-cackle'. Loud 'kwock' or 'chock'. Harsh 'graaak'. Bill clapping. Male-female duets, female is higher-pitched. Very vocal at dawn.



**White-browed Babbler | *Pomatostomus superciliosus***



**General description:** Size: 18-22 cm. Dark brown-grey upper body. Dark brown crown of head. White stripe with dark borders passes from bill above eye to back of head. Thick dark brown band passes from bill through eye to back of head. White neck and breast. Grey-brown underbelly. Dark brown rump. Long dark brown tail with white tip. Black eye. Long, downcurved, black bill, lower bill greyer. Thick dark grey legs. Common, widespread.

'sweet-sweet-sweet-miaow'. Rapid tearing 'chiew-chiew'. Alarm call, sweet 'wit wit'. Contact call, clucking 'tchuk'.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller than adult. Buff neck and breast. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen in noisy, active, small groups. Feeds on ground or under tree bark. Builds two dome-shaped nests, one for breeding and a larger one for roosting at night. Breeds in cooperative groups, with two to four breeding pairs assisted by up to eight helpers. Holds tail upright or fanned. Resident.

**Voice:** Varied nasal, squeaky and wheezing chatterings, cluckings and miaows 'squarrk-squarairk, wheeit-wheeit, chur-r-r-r-r' or 'wee-wee-weet' or whistled, rising



## Copperback (Chestnut) Quail-thrush | *Cinclosoma clarum*



**General description:** Size: 17-26 cm. Male is larger. The Copperback (Chestnut) Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma clarum*, which occurs west of the Flinders Ranges in South Australia and across southern WA, is a newly recognised species that has been separated from the Copperback (Chestnut) Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma castanotum*. Little separate information is available, therefore this guide uses the description information for the Copperback (Chestnut) Quail-thrush unless noted. Uncommon to Rare in northern parts of the Avon River Basin.

Chestnut lower back and rump, forming a band to shoulders. *Cinclosoma clarum* has broader and richer chestnut lower back and shoulders. Black wing feathers edged with olive-buff. White stripe passes from bill above eye toward back of head. Broad white stripe starts below eye and down side of neck to breast. White underbelly. Long dark tail with white tips usually only seen in flight. Dark eye. In flight, upperwing has thin white stripe across middle of dark cinnamon-brown wing and black and white spotted upper edge.

**Male plumage:** Grey-brown upper back and head. Black shoulder with white spots. Black

face, neck and upper breast becomes thin black band along side. Side of body between wing and black stripe is grey becoming brown. Undertail white with black spots on side.

**Female plumage:** Browner head and upper back. Rufous lower back and rump. Brown shoulder with white spots. Brown face. Grey neck and upper breast. Brown sides of body.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Cream facial stripes. Dark scalloped pattern on breast. Wings more chestnut than adult.

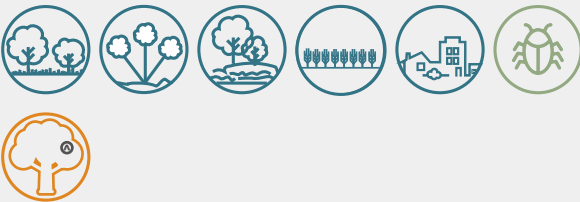
**Behaviour:** Seen in pairs or small groups. Feeds on ground. Runs away or freezes if disturbed, will walk away with back to intruder. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Rapid, high-pitched, squeaked whistle, 'swit-swit-swit-swit-swit-swit'. Male song, even series of rich, mellow whistles, 'wheat-wheat-wheat-wheat' or quicker higher 'whit-whit-whit-whit-whit'. Wings whirr on take-off from ground.



## Varied Sittella

*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*



**General description:** Size: 10-13 cm. Small chubby body. Grey-brown upper body, may be darkly streaked. Short brown-black wings. White neck, breast and underbelly. White rump. Short dark tail with white tip, darkly barred underneath. Orange-yellow eye and eye-ring. Long thin yellow-orange bill, slightly upcurved with black tip. Orange-yellow legs. In flight,

broad black wings have wide orange stripe through middle, visible above and below, white rump obvious from above. May be confused with Rufous Treecreeper. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Black crown of head stops above eye. White forehead. Longer bill than female.

**Female plumage:** Black head extends down to eye. White throat.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler than adult. Grey-brown crown of head and back with white streaks. Wing feathers edged with buff-rufous. Neck, breast and underbelly whitish.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen feeding noisily in small groups in trees. May form mixed feeding flocks with other birds. Moves along branches or down tree trunks in a spiral, hunting insects in cracks and under bark. Nest well-camouflaged in the fork of a tree. Both parents care for young, usually with helpers, including young from previous year. Will roost communally. Flies in undulating or jerky way, usually short distances between trees. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** High-pitched twittering contact calls, 'chip chip...' or 'seewit-seewee' or 'sweet swee' or 'chwit' or 'tchweit-tchweit-tchweit', many birds calling at once. Alarm call, rapid high-pitched 'didididit'.



## Ground Cuckoo-shrike | *Coracina maxima*



**General description:** Size: 33-37 cm. Pale grey upper body. Black wings, wingtips white-edged. Dark grey-black face and cheek patch. Grey neck and upper breast. White lower breast and underbelly, finely barred with black except under tail. White rump finely barred with black. Long, black forked tail with white tip. Yellow eye. Thick dark grey bill. Long, thin, black legs. In flight, black upperwing and tail with pale upper body and pale striped rump. Rare nomad, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Light brown-grey upper body, neck and upper breast, white lower breast and underbelly, all finely barred with brown-black. Brown wings with buff-edged feathers. Face not as dark as adult. Dark brown eye.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in pairs or small groups feeding on ground. Will perch and hunt insects in flight. Runs with head bobbing back and forth. Flight strong, easy and undulating, with fluttering wingbeats mixed with gliding, tail has deep fork. Both parents care for young, helped by others in the group, including previous year's young. Sometimes two females lay eggs in nest. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Distinctive, metallic, far-carrying 'pee-ew, pee-ew' or 'chew-chew' or 'cheer-cheer' or 'chr-EEEEIP' or 'kree-el' or 'queel'. Also 'chill-chill... kee-lik, keelick' or 'hic-o-weeyit' or rapid 'weeip-weeip, weeip, weeip' or musical trilled 'tr-r-rweeip, tr-r-r-reeip, tr-r-r-rrrp'. Harsh 'coo-look'.

**Noongar name:** Kooraling



## Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

*Coracina novaehollandiae*



**General description:** Size: 30-36 cm. Blue-grey crown of head and upper body. Black wingtips are white-edged. Black face, throat and upper breast. Light-mid grey lower breast. White underbelly. Long, grey-black tail with white rounded tip. Black eye. Thick black bill. In flight, underwing and undertail are white, black head. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Pale brown-grey to pale grey upper body, mottled due to feathers being buff-edged or finally barred grey. Pale brown neck and breast, mottled due to feathers being brown-edged or finely barred grey. White underbelly. Thick black stripe passes from bill through eye towards back of head.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Forms large travelling flocks. Catches prey in air, sometimes on ground or from vegetation. May hover over canopy or grass. Hunts from a high perch, such as overhead wires and dead tree branches. Slow, easy, heavily undulating flight, sometimes gliding between wingbeats. May shoot through air with wings closed. Shuffles wings up and down after landing. Resident to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Pleasant, falling, musical churring or trilling 'churrieer' or 'quarieer-quarieer-quarrieer' or 'chereer, chereer', notes repeated up to ten times. Plaintive 'plee-urk'. Creaky trilling, 'kreeark'. Also 'plurr peh'. Aggressive 'skair'.



## White-winged Triller

*Lalage tricolor*



**General description:** Size: 16-19 cm. May be confused with Magpie-lark. Black upper body. Black with white shoulder, other feathers edged with white making a net-like pattern. Black crown of head extends to just below eye. Face white below eye. White neck, breast and underbelly. Grey rear. Black tail with white outer tip. Short, thin, black bill. In flight, black upperwing has large white patch near upper edge. In flight, white underwing, black upperwing with white upper edge and black fanned wingtips, white-edged feather in the middle. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Black upper body. Wings black with white shoulder, other feathers edged with white making a net-like pattern. Black crown of head extends to just below eye. Face white below eye. White neck, breast and underbelly. Grey rump. Black tail with white outer tip. Short, thin, black bill. In flight, white underwing, black upperwing with large white patch near upper edge and black fanned wingtips, white-edged feather in the middle.

**Female plumage:** Brown, whereas male is black. Dark brown wing feathers edged with buff, no white patch. Dark brown stripe passes from bill through eye towards back of head. Thin white line above this. Light brown neck and breast, may be mottled. Grey-brown rump. Mid-brown tail. Short, thin, brown bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Scalloped appearance to head, back and wings with white-buff edges on feathers. Breast and underbelly buff, breast streaked dark brown, sides may be barred with brown. Brown rump. Yellow corner of bill.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male similar to female, except wings and tail are black and rump is grey.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. May form large flocks. Feeds on ground, in air or from vegetation, may hover. Flight is graceful and undulating. Male will call from high perches or flying and gliding with wings spread and tail fanned. Migrates to south for spring breeding season. Locally nomadic to migratory.

**Voice:** Loud, carrying series of brisk notes, falling slightly with fast trilling at end, 'chiff-chiff-chiff joey joey joey' or 'ch-ch-joey-joey- joey...' or 'chiffa-tiffa-tiffa-tiffa-' or 'chooe, chooe' or 'chwipa-wipa-wipa-wipa-wipa-' or 'chif-chif-chif-chif-tif-tif-tif'. Sung usually in breeding season and mostly by male. Juvenile call, a rusty 'chick-airp'.



## Western Shrike-tit

*Falcunculus frontatus leucogaster*



### General description: Size: 15-19 cm.

Fully-recognised south-west WA subspecies of Crested Shrike-tit. Yellow-green upper body. Yellow-grey wings. Large head. Black crown of head and back of head with short crest at front. Small white patch between bill and eye. Thick black stripe passes from bill through eye to back of neck. Thick white stripe starts above eye and passes down back of neck, becoming thinner. Thick white stripe passes from bill below eye

down side of neck to shoulder. Bright yellow breast. White underbelly. Yellow undertail. Green rump. Long grey tail. Very thick, short, black bill with hooked upper bill. Rare, found in the western forests of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Black neck.

**Female plumage:** Olive-green-grey neck. Longer tail than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Cinnamon to olive-brown upper body. Whitish neck and breast. Dark grey bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. May be heard noisily tearing at bark to feed, using its hooked bill. May form mixed feeding flocks with other birds. Feeds in trees, hunting insects in cracks and under bark. Flies swiftly and swooping between trees. Both parents care for young, usually with helpers, including young from previous year. Resident to partially nomadic.

**Voice:** Often silent with two-noted nasal call, 'hur-hee'. Whistling. Sad, slow, falling whistle 'peeer, peeer' or 'keep-keep-keep' or 'poo-wee-e' or 'whiert, whi-whit, wheeier...whiert, whi-whit, wheeier'. Distinctive chuckle or stutter, 'knock at the door jack' or 'chet-a-chet'. Clear, animated song includes mimicry.



## Western (Golden) Whistler | *Pachycephala occidentalis*



**General description:** Size: 15-18 cm. Found only in south-west WA, previously a subspecies of Golden Whistler. Red to red-brown eye. Common, widespread, denser population in the western parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Olive-green upper body. Black wing feathers edged with yellow-olive. Black head and breast band. White throat. Bright yellow neck collar, lower breast and underbelly. Grey tail with wide grey-black tip. Short black bill.

**Female plumage:** Grey-brown upper body and tail. Wing feathers edged with yellow-white, forming pale stripe. White-grey neck. Pale grey-buff breast and underbelly, darker under tail. Short grey bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female, but with grey wings edged rufous. Brown bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone or in pairs. May form mixed feeding flocks with other birds. Call with a see-saw movement, tilting head, then tail towards sky. Moves north-south or

coastal-inland in autumn-winter. Resident to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Whistled ringing call 'wh-wh-wh-you wit' or 'tchee-tchee-tchee-tuwhit' or 'whit-whit-whit-whiet-whiet-wheet-quWHIT' or 'wheet-wheet-wheet-WHITTLE!'. Brisk 'sweetawit, sweetawit' or 'dee-dee-dee-ah-WHIT!' or 'whit-whit-whew-WHIT' or 'chwit-chwit-CHEW-WIT'. Contact call, single long 'seeep'.



## Rufous Whistler | *Pachycephala rufiventris*



**General description:** Size: 16-18 cm. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Grey upper body, crown of head and side of upper breast. Black-brown wings and tail, feathers edged light-grey. Black stripe passes from bill through and below eye to cheek, becoming a wider, black band across upper breast. White throat. Deep buff-rufous breast and underbelly. Thick black bill.

**Female plumage:** Grey-olive-brown upper body and crown of head. Grey-brown wings and tail, feathers edged light-grey. White neck and buff breast, finely streaked dark brown. Buff underbelly with less streaking. Thin buff stripe passes from bill above eye to back of head. Thick dark brown bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Upper body more olive. Grey wing feathers edged rufous. Rufous tinge to cheek. Buff neck, breast and underbelly heavily streaked dark brown. Brown bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone or in pairs. May form mixed feeding flocks with other birds. Call with a see-saw movement, tilting head, then tail towards sky. May migrate to north or inland in autumn-winter. Resident to partially migratory.

**Voice:** Loud vigorous song, notes including explosive 'ee-chong!' and 'eeee-CHIEW!' and 'pllik, chik!' and 'chip', sung singly, followed by ringing, rippling melody. Clear, rapid, penetrating 'joey-joe-joe...' or 'chWIT-chWIT-chWIT'. Plaintive 'seep'.

**Noongar name:** Bambon



## Gilbert's Whistler

*Pachycephala inornata*



**General description:** Size: 19-20 cm.

Brown-grey upper body. Grey head. Pale grey breast and underbelly. Buff-grey undertail. Short black bill, may have downcurved upper bill. Uncommon to Rare, found in the eastern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Black stripe passes from bill to around eye. Orange-buff-rufous neck. Underbelly and undertail may be rufous-tinged. Red eye.

**Female plumage:** White-grey neck. Red-brown eye with pale eye-ring.

**Juvenile plumage:** Upper body and breast rufous-brown. Pale grey neck. Streaked neck, breast and underbelly. Wing feathers edged brown.

**Behaviour:** Found in semi-arid areas. Usually heard rather than seen. Feeds on ground and in thick vegetation. Nests in dense creepers, shrubs and mallee bark or in old babbler nests. Flight is strongly undulating with short swooping glides. Resident.

**Voice:** Loud repeated 'chopchopchop...' or 'cheop-cheop-cheiop-CHEIOP-CH EEIOP-CHEEIOP'. Musical whistling 'er-whit-er-whit...' or 'eew-WHIT, ew-WHIT, ew-WHIT'. Slow rising whistle 'pooo-eee, choo-eeee'. Repeated one-noted 'cheoo, cheoo'. Hoarse, scratchy 'cherak, cherak' or 'eechowk, eechOWK, eeCHOWK'.



## Grey Shrike-thrush

*Colluricincla harmonica*



**General description:** Size: 22-26 cm. Dark grey head, wings and long tail. Yellow-buff-cinnamon undertail. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Olive-brown back. White patch between bill and eye. Whitish neck and grey breast and underbelly. Black bill.

**Female plumage:** Grey-brown back. Head may be finely streaked grey-brown. Grey patch between bill and eye. Whitish neck and grey breast and underbelly, finely streaked grey-brown on neck and upper breast. White eye-ring. Bill has grey sides.

**Juvenile plumage:** Rufous wings. Tan-buff-rufous stripe passes from bill above eye towards back of neck. Buff neck and breast heavily streaked with brown. Reddish eye-ring. Cream corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Feeds in trees and on ground. Will eat eggs and young of other birds. Nests in tree hollows, cracks or branch forks, also in grasstrees, vines on buildings, rock cracks or ledges, in leaf litter, or in sheds, down-pipes, tins and baskets. Flight swift, direct and undulating. Resident.

**Voice:** Variable ringing, rhythmic, liquid calls 'pip pip pip pip hoo-ee' or 'purr-purr, QUEE YULE!' or 'ee-all, ee-all, queel' or 'cho-cho-weeee!' or 'quorra-quorra-quorra, WHIET-CHIEW' or 'wheat-wheat-quor-quor-quor, WHIET-CHIEW'. Single sharp 'yorick' or 'ching' or 'chong'. Whistling repeated 'wit-wit-wit' or 'whiet-whiet-whieeit'. In winter, ringing 'dite!'. Juvenile call, 'klute'.

**Noongar name:** Koodelong



## Crested Bellbird | *Oreoica gutturalis*



**General description:** Size: 20-23 cm. Large head. Grey-brown to olive-brown upper body and tail. Thick, short, black bill. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Grey head. Black crown of head raises into a crest. White forehead and throat. Black stripe joins crown of head through eye to black breast. Underbelly off-white with buff sides and undertail. Rump has chestnut tinge. Orange-red eye.

**Female plumage:** Grey-brown head. Thin black line on crown of head, no crest. Grey throat. No black breast or stripe through eye. Buff breast and underbelly. Grey throat. Red-brown to orange eye.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner than female. Juvenile male has dark throat patch. Pink-brown bill. Orange-yellow corner of bill. Brown eye.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone, in pairs or small groups during breeding season. Feeds on ground or in low shrubs. May form mixed feeding flocks with other birds. Feeds on ground or in low

shrubs. Nests in a deep fork between branches or tree stem and branch, or on a stump. Paralyzes live caterpillars and puts them on nest edge. Flight is strong and undulating with long glide down from perch. Calls from high perch. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Distinctive, far-carrying, liquid, staccato notes becoming louder followed by a loud 'plop' or 'plonk' or bell-like note, including 'p-link, p-link' or 'plunka-plunka-plunka' or 'pan-pan-pallela' or 'did-did-did, didee-dit' or 'dee, dee, dee-ook, dee, dee, dee-ook' or higher 'whit, whit-whit-quook'. Voice can be thrown like a ventriloquist, sounding like it is coming from another direction as it swings head from side to side. Chuckles while walking on ground. Contact call, thin 'seep'. Harsh alarm call, 'chuck-a-chuck-chuck'.

**Noongar name:** Dirl Dirl



## Dusky Woodswallow | *Artamus cyanopterus*



**General description:** Size: 17-18 cm. Smoky dark brown body. Dark blue-grey wings with white outer edge. Black face. Blue-black tail with white tip. Blue-grey bill with black tip. In flight, silvery underwing with brown body, black tail with white tip, split by a central black patch, dark upperwing has white streaks on upper edge. May be confused with Black-faced Woodswallow. Uncommon, widespread.

**Voice:** Loud 'check'. Soft low 'vut vut' or 'zut zut'. Brisk 'peet peet' or 'tseit tseit' or 'zweet'. Harsh scolding chatter when defending nest. Brassy chirps and chirrups. Soft quiet song includes mimicry.

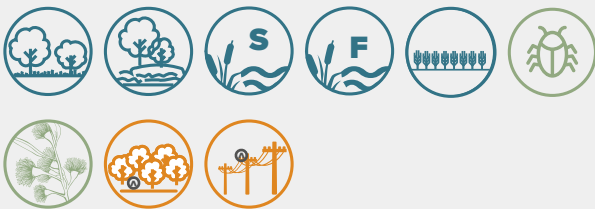
**Juvenile plumage:** Heavily streaked and mottled buff over grey-brown upper body, neck and breast. Dark grey wings with white outer edges. Dark brown face. Dark brown tail with white tip. Grey-brown bill with black tip.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in small groups perching or flying, sometimes pairs. Flicks tail while perching. Forms large travelling flocks. May be found with other woodswallows. Catches prey in air with soaring flights. Nests on branches, in fenceposts, stumps, tree hollows or behind tree bark. Nests in small colonies. Will roost communally in tree cavities or tree forks. Resident.



## Black-faced Woodswallow

*Artamus cinereus*



**General description:** Size: 17-20 cm. Smoky grey-brown upper body. Black face. Light grey neck, breast and underbelly. Black undertail. Black rump. Black tail with white tip. Blue-grey bill with black tip. In flight, silver underwing with grey body and black undertail with white tip split by a central black patch. May be confused with Dusky Woodswallow. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Heavily streaked, mottled and spotted buff-brown and light grey over upper body, neck and breast. Grey wing feathers edged with buff-white. Dark brown face. Dark brown tail with white tip. Pale brown bill with black tip.

**Behaviour:** Seen in pairs and small groups. May be found with other woodswallows, swifts, swiftlets and White-winged Triller. Perches in open country on fencelines, overhead wires, termite mounds, shrubs or dead trees. Catches prey in air by flying down from perch and may hover or feed in vegetation. Usually nests in fork of tree or shrub, but may use fenceposts, stumps and grasstrees. Will roost communally. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Scratchy 'chiff chiff' or 'tchif-tchif' or 'chap chap' or 'chep chep'. Chittering 'quet-quet'. Alarm call or approaching roost, loud throaty 'tchat-tchat-tchat-tchat'. In flight, chattering contact calls. Uncommon trilling song, brief and soft and includes mimicry.

**Noongar name:** Kayibort



## Masked Woodswallow | *Artamus personatus*



**General description:** Size: 17-19 cm. Blue-grey upper body. Long, thick, blue-grey bill. In flight, black throat obvious against pale body and underwing, wings sharply pointed, pale grey tail has slight V-shape. Grey tail with white tip. Uncommon nomad, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Black face and throat with white edging. Pale grey breast and underbelly.

**Female plumage:** Dusky grey face and throat with pale grey edging. Pink-brown to grey-brown neck, breast and underbelly.

**Juvenile plumage:** Heavily streaked, mottled and spotted brown and light grey over upper body, neck and breast. Brown face. Grey wing feathers edged with white. White spots on shoulder. Smaller white tip on tail than in adult.

**Behaviour:** Seen in pairs and small groups. Forms large flocks that fly up high. May be found with other woodswallows. Catches prey in air. Usually nests in a dead or living tree branch or low shrubs, but may use fenceposts and stumps. Will roost communally. Moves with seasons and

rainfall/temperature, usually south in spring to breed. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Whining 'check', 'chrrt' or 'chak' or 'chyep' heard high in sky. Musical 'chap chap'. Soft 'chrrup'. May mimic.

**Noongar name:** Djilbong



## Pied Butcherbird | *Cracticus nigrogularis*



**General description:** Size: 32-36 cm. Black upper body. Black wing with a messy white stripe down middle. Black head. White collar around neck. Black neck and upper breast. White lower breast and underbelly. White-grey rump. Black tail with white outer tips. Dark brown eye. Thick blue-grey bill with black hooked tip. Black legs. In flight, upperwing is black with white band from upper edge to lower edge, white patch near outer edge, white-grey rump above black tail. May be confused with Grey Butcherbird and Australian Magpie. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** May be browner than male and slightly smaller. Greyer collar.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dark brown upper body where adult is black. Dark crown of head. No neck collar. Streaked face. Buff-rufous neck and breast, may be mottled. Buff-white underbelly. Brown bill with small hook on black tip.

**Behaviour:** The name 'Butcherbird' originates from behaviour of spiking uneaten food on sticks and in tree forks. Usually seen alone, in pairs or small groups, hunting together. Uses perches to

hunt for food before pouncing on ground, but will capture some prey in the air. Flight is fast and undulating, swoops upwards to land with wings spread. Sings from obvious perches. Nest placed in a tree fork at up to 15 m. Both parents care for young and are also helped by others in the group, including previous year's young. Sometimes more than one female lays eggs in nest. Can be aggressive to intruders near nest. Resident.

**Voice:** Beautiful, slow, fluting piping and warbling, notes switching from high and clear to deep and mellow. Often alternates call with one or two other birds. Calls strongly at dawn, but also during the day and on moonlit nights. Alarm call, loud 'zwit'. May mimic in softer song.

**Noongar name:** Kwadalang



## Grey Butcherbird | *Cracticus torquatus*



**General description:** Size: 24-32 cm. Grey upper body. Black wings with a white stripe down middle and white patch in middle of wing. Black head. White patch between bill and eye. Partial collar of white from throat towards back of neck. Light grey neck and breast. White underbelly. White rump. Black tail with white tip. Dark brown eye. Thick blue-grey bill with black hooked tip. Black legs. In flight, upperwing is black with grey upper edge, white patch in middle and white stripe down middle of lower edge, white rump above black tail. May be confused with Pied Butcherbird. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** May be browner, especially underneath, and smaller than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Olive-brown to dark-brown upper body and head, may be streaked buff. Buff-olive throat, neck, breast and underbelly, may be mottled on breast. Grey-black bill without a hook on black tip.

**Behaviour:** The name 'Butcherbird' originates from behaviour of spiking uneaten food on sticks and in tree forks. Usually seen alone, in pairs or

small groups, hunting together. Uses perches to hunt for food before pouncing on ground, but will capture some prey in the air and take young birds from nests. Flies direct with shallow fast wingbeats, glides with flat wings. Will quiver wings in flight while calling loudly. Nest placed in a tree fork at below 10 m. Both parents care for young and may be helped by the previous year's young. Can be aggressive to intruders near nest. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Varied, vigorous, melodious piping and warbling, notes rising and falling, 'quorrok-a-quokoo' or 'kworrok-a-chowk-chowk-chowk-chowk'. Rattling 'cheep'. Aggressive staccato rollicking shriek 'karr karr'. Wing-quivering flight call is piping, becoming scolding and harsh 'quayk-quayk-quiak-qraik'qzaik-kzaaik-kzaaik-kzz aik'. May mimic in softer song. May sing in duets or as a group.



## Grey Currawong

*Strepera versicolor*



**General description:** Size: 45-53 cm. Male is larger. Large grey-black bird. Darker face and throat. White patch on wings, wingtips white-edged. White undertail. Black tail with white tip. Yellow eye. Long, thick, black bill. Black

legs. In flight, upperwing has grey-black upper edge, black lower edge with white wingtips, and white patch in middle. May be confused with Australian Raven and Little Crow. Common, widespread.

**Female plumage:** Lighter brown-grey than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner than adult. Buff patch on wings, wingtips buff-edged. Dark brown eye. Yellow-cream corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. May form large flocks. Feeds on ground and in trees. Flies with wings flat, but with looping wingbeats that look like rowing, wings often closing during flight. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud, gong-like ringing, two to three notes. In south-west WA, most likely to be 'tew-tew' or 'tiew-tiew', but may 'clang clang' or 'kling-kling-kling' or 'chding chding'. Whistled, 'eow'. Ringing, 'cree'. Soft mewing calls and squeaks. Louder petulant begging calls.



## Australian Magpie | *Gymnorhina tibicen*



**General description:** Size: 34-44 cm. Very common and popular black and white bird with well-known call. WA's magpies are part of the 'white-backed' group of races, race *Gymnorhina tibicen dorsalis*. Black wings with broad white stripe on outer edge. Black head, neck, breast and underbelly. White undertail. White rump. White tail with black tip. Red eye. Long white-grey bill with black tip. Black legs. In flight, black underwing has white upper edge and wingtips spread. May be confused with Pied Butcherbird and Magpie-lark. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Back of neck and back are white.

**Female plumage:** Back of neck is white. Back has white-edged black feathers giving mottled appearance.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dark grey-brown to grey-black back, neck, breast and underbelly, white-edged feathers giving mottled appearance. Ash-white back of neck, shoulder, rump and tail. Faint buff stripe passes from bill above eye. Dark grey bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Prefers areas where trees are near open

ground. Feeds on open ground, usually in groups, on insects and their larvae. Flight strong, fast and direct, wings making a 'swish' or 'whoosh' sound. Will glide downwards with wings swept back. Complex social bird with groups made up of a lead male, several females and young, and sometimes other males. Usually one lead female has the only successful nest, others in the group helping raise young and defend nest. Aggressively defends feeding and breeding territory against intruders, including people and other magpie groups, by swooping, as well as attacking intruding magpies on the ground. Becomes tame around people. Calls with bill pointed into air, wings slightly open and feathers fluffed. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud, flute-like or organ-like warbling and carolling, notes switching from high and clear to deep and mellow, 'quardle oodle ardle wadle doodle'. Calls day and night. May sing in duets or as a group, sometimes against neighbouring groups. Single 'sheow'. Aggressive high-pitched yodel. Alarm call, repeated short harsh shout, 'quaark!' or falling 'pew-pew'. May mimic in softer warbling song.

**Noongar name:** Kulbardi

**Noongar significance:** Kulbardi or Australian Magpie is one of many Totem birds for Noongar families that reside in Ballardong country.



## Little Crow | *Corvus bennetti*



**General description:** Size: 45-48 cm. Common in outback towns and inland farms. Glossy all black body and long tail. Head and neck feathers have short white base, usually seen only in wind. Black hackles under throat. White eye. Long slender black bill. Slim black legs, lightly feathered at top. May be confused with Australian Raven and Torresian Crow. The call is the most distinctive difference between species. Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dull black. Brown or blue-grey eyes. Pink corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Scavenges in towns and becomes tame around people. Will form large flocks that may be seen soaring high in the sky or performing aerobatic, tumbling falls. In flight, wings held very straight while soaring, tips swept up and slightly pointed, tail square and closed. May miss a wingbeat while giving a single call during flight, causing flight to undulate. When calling from a perch, flicks both closed wings upwards and extends hackles under throat. Forms loose breeding colonies. Builds a stick nest in tree, windmill, power pole or other man-made structure, or on ground. Will roost

communally. Moves south in spring-summer into Avon River Basin. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Rapid, flat, deep, hoarse, nasal 'nark-nark-nark-nark...'. Occasional high-pitched, rapid 'kup-kup-kup' or 'ok-ok-ok'. Bubbling calls. Long creaky call.

**Noongar name:** Wardong



## Australian Raven | *Corvus coronoides*



**General description:** Size: 48-52 cm. Male is larger. Commonly seen largest of Australia's corvid (crow/raven) species. Glossy all black body and long tail. Head and neck feathers have short grey base, usually seen only in wind. Long beardlike black hackles under throat. White eye. Long thick black bill with black skin in corner. Long black legs, heavily feathered at top. May be confused with Little Crow and Torresian Crow. The call is the most distinctive difference between species. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller, browner plumage. No or short hackle on throat. Brown or blue eye. Pink skin at corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Scavenges in towns and becomes tame around people. Usually seen in pairs. Eats a range of food, but is mainly a carnivore, will eat eggs and rubbish. When calling from a perch, extends pouch and hackles under throat and leans body forward. Builds a stick nest in tree, power pole or other man-made structure, occasionally on ground. Flies with shallow wingbeats and quivering wings. In flight, wings are held straight, tips swept up, tail rounded,

wingbeats are slow downwards and fast flick upwards. Resident (adult) to nomadic (immature adult).

**Voice:** High-pitched, guttural wail, falling and drawn-out at end, 'aah-aah-aah-aaaaah' or 'aairk, aark, aaarh, aargargh'. Throaty rattles and 'chucks'. High-pitched, falling, wavering wail.

**Noongar name:** Wardong

**Noongar significance:** Wardong or Australian Raven is one of many totem birds for Noongar families that reside in Ballardong country.



## Willie Wagtail | *Rhipidura leucophrys*



**General description:** Size: 19-22 cm. Very common and popular black and white bird. Glossy black upper body and neck, wing may be brown-black. White breast and underbelly. Thin white stripe passes from bill above eye to back of head. This white 'eyebrow' can be flared or almost hidden to show aggression or submission. Black whiskers at bill. Fine white dots pass from bill down side of neck. Long, fanned, rounded, black tail. Black eye. Long black legs. May be confused with Restless Flycatcher. Very common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to adult. Dull black with rusty-buff edges to wing feathers forming stripes. Buff stripe above eye.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Actively feeds and runs on ground, wagging and fanning tail from side to side and flicking open wings as it moves around to flush out prey. Also catches prey in air with a twisting action. Can be aggressive to other birds. Becomes tame around people. Will perch on livestock, fence posts, branches, stumps and rocks. Nest often placed over water on horizontal branch, in garden and orchard trees, or in clothes hoists, rafters,

streetlamps, building and boats. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Varied melodious song 'sweet pretty creature' or 'which are you, Willie, which are you?' or whichity-wheat' or 'whitch-i-wheat, whitchit', often at night in spring. Harsh ratchetting chatter 'rikka-tikka-tikka-tik' or 'chitit-chitit-chitit', may be urgent when alarmed.

**Noongar name:** Djidi Djidi

**Noongar significance:** Djidi Djidi, or Willie Wagtail in Noongar lore, is a bird of ill omen. The Djidi Djidi would often be seen trying to lure children away from camp into the bush.



## Magpie-lark | *Grallina cyanoleuca*



**General description:** Size: 26-30 cm. Common medium-sized glossy black and white bird. White tail with thick black patch at end and white tip. White eye. Long thin white bill. Thin black legs with white upper. In flight, black underwing with white upper edge, fingertips spread and rounded, undertail is white with black band, white tip and black outer feathers. May be confused with Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird and White-winged Triller. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Black head and upper body. Black wing with white shoulder, white stripe down middle, white patch in middle of wing, and white wingtips. Large white patch starts below eye to cheek and down side of neck. White stripe starts above eye and passes to back of head. Thin white stripe under eye. Black neck and upper breast. White lower breast and underbelly, partially curving around shoulder.

**Female plumage:** Black crown of head and back of neck. White face, neck and side of head down to breast. Thick black stripe connects crown of head through eye to black upper breast.

**Juvenile plumage:** Browner than adult. Similar

head and neck markings to female, but with white stripe above eye and black forehead like male. Brown eye. Black bill. Cream corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in pairs or small groups. May form large flocks of juveniles in winter. Feeds on ground, head moving back and forth. Inquisitive and will approach people, especially when gardening. Nest made from mud and placed on horizontal branch, windmill, power pole or other man-made structure. Nest often placed over water. Male can be aggressive to other birds. Flight direct and buoyant with flapping wingbeats on broad, rounded wings, aerobatic. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Often as a duet with opening wings and spreading tails, loud ringing metallic 'knee-deep' and 'pee-o-wit' or 'tee-o-wee' or 'peewee-peewee' or 'qwoo-zik, weeik... qwoo-zik, weeik'. Mellow, liquid 'cloop, cloop, cloop' or 'clui-clui, clui-clui' and ringing 'clue-weet, clue-weet' or 'tiu-weet, tiu-weet'. Nasal 'clui'. Alarm call brassy, strident 'tee! tee! tee!' or 'pee-pee-pee' or 'treee-treee-!'.

**Noongar name:** Dillabirt



## Grey Fantail | *Rhipidura fuliginosa preissi*



**General description:** Size: 14-17 cm. Very common and popular small grey bird. Sooty-grey upper body. White-edged wing feathers form two thin stripes across wings. Short white stripe passes from bill above eye. Thin white stripe passes from eye over ear toward back of head. Black whiskers at bill. White neck. Narrow sooty band around upper breast. Off-white to grey breast and underbelly, sides deep grey. Long sooty-grey tail with white outer edge and outer tips. When tail is fanned, central feathers are completely sooty-grey and all other feathers have white tips. Black eye. Black bill. Black legs. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Brownish-ginger-grey plumage. Mottled buff-grey-brown breast. Buff wing stripes and head markings.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. May form mixed feeding flocks with other birds. Aerobatic erratic flight, catches prey in air with a twisting action. Bristles on face help scoop insects into mouth. Tail constantly fanned and swinging from side to side, helping to flush out prey, or held upright. Feeds in and outside

low vegetation. Perches sideways on branches. Inquisitive and will approach people. Other Grey Fantail subspecies migrate north and inland in winter after breeding, although *R. f. preissi*, which is the subspecies found in the Avon River Basin, may be less likely to move.

**Voice:** Vigorous, rising, tinny, sweet, tinkling chatter like a fiddle, ending on high trilled note, such as 'twitch-twitchit, tsweeit-tseet, chit-twit, tswit-c6hat, tsweeit'. Sharp 'jeck' or 'dek'. Warning, 'dik!'. Agitated 'cheep-cheep-cheep'.



## Restless Flycatcher | *Myiagra inquieta*



**General description:** Size: 19-22 cm.

Grey-black back. Glossy blue-black wings with browner wingtips. Glossy blue-black crown of head to below eye and back of head, short crest at front. Black whiskers at bill. White neck, breast and underbelly, breast may have yellow-buff tinge. Black tail. Dark brown eye. Long, thin, blue-black bill. May be confused with Willie Wagtail. Uncommon, widespread.

**Female plumage:** May be duller than male. Face is greyer. More likely to have yellow-buff breast.

**Juvenile plumage:** Grey-black upper body. Wing feathers have buff-white edges. Buff neck, breast and underbelly.

**Behaviour:** Seen feeding alone or in pairs, sometimes in threes. Very active. Perches on fenceposts and stumps, swinging tail from side to side with head crest raised, before hunting again. Flies in swooping, graceful, floating way with deep wingbeats. May hover outside vegetation or over grasses to catch prey, body arched with head and tail pointing down, wings

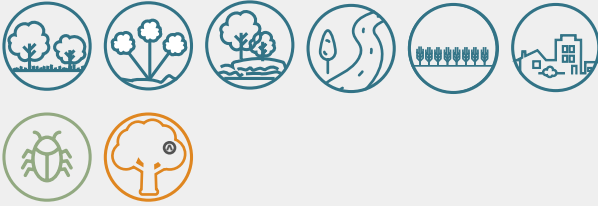
and tail spread, making grinding churring call. Nest often placed over water. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Harsh grinding, buzzing notes, like scissors being sharpened, 'bzzrrrrt' or 'kzowk! kzowk-kzowk, kziok-kziok, kzeek-kzeek, kzeik-kzeik', often while hovering. Musical whistle, 'tu-whee' or 'chewee, chewee, chewee' or 'tzweet-tzweet', rising at end of each phrase. Drawn-out 'joi-joi-joi'. Single or repeated rasping, 'zhap'. Harsh grating, 'grrzziek'.



## Jacky Winter

*Microeca fascinans*



**Juvenile plumage:** Dark brown upper body streaked with white. No stripe above eye. Buff neck, breast and underbelly spotted dark brown. Brown bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone or in pairs, sometimes in family groups. May form small groups in winter. Hunts from a perch, catching prey in air with aerobatic twists or hovering above grass. Sits on dead trees, stumps and fenceposts for long periods of time, wagging tail from side to side in a figure-of-eight pattern or singing loudly. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** High, rich, melodious, slightly falling, 'peter-peter-peter...' or 'witta-witta-witt...' or 'plicky-plicky-plicky' or 'jacky-jacky winter-winter-winter' or 'chwit-chwit-chwit-queeter-queeter-queeter'. Short sharp alarm call. May mimic other birds.

**General description:** Size: 12-14 cm.

Grey-brown upper body. Long brown wings with white-edged feathers. Pale stripe passes from bill just above eye towards back of head. Dark stripe passes from bill through eye. White neck, breast and underbelly, grey tinge to breast. Dark brown-black tail with white outer feathers. Long black bill. Thin black legs. Uncommon, widespread.



## Southern Scrub-Robin

*Drymodes brunneopygia*



**General description:** Size: 20-23 cm. Round body. Brown-grey body. Black wings with white-edged feathers making two stripes across wing. White stripe passes from bill to eye. Short black stripe passes vertically through eye. White-grey throat. Buff breast and underbelly. Rufous-brown rump. Long rufous-brown tail with dark band at end and white outer edges. Black eye with white eye-ring on back side only. Long black bill. Long grey legs. Common, found in central and eastern parts of the Avon River Basin.

**Female plumage:** Duller than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Darker plumage with pale buff streaks on upper body and cream wing stripes. Buff neck, breast and underbelly, feathers edged with brown-grey, giving scalloped appearance.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone or in pairs. Feeds on ground, although will catch prey in air. Runs and hops across ground. Lifts tail up and down, often held upright while feeding. Scolds intruders from under cover. Will sing from perches. Resident.

**Voice:** Loud, sweet, musical 'chip-por-wee' or 'chip, choo-wee?' or 'chee-too-kwee?' or 'whip-whip, paree?' or 'chwip-chWIPpee'. Brisk, cheery whistle that rises sharply and drawn out, 'wheet-d-wheeeit' or 'did-you-eat?'. Contact call, long high-pitched 'seeep'. Harsh scolding 'scraach-chak-chak-chak' or 'chrr'.

**Noongar name:** Djibot



## Red-capped Robin | *Petroica goodenovii*



**General description:** Size: 11-12 cm. Round body. Black eye. Slender black bill. May be confused with Scarlet Robin or Mistletoebird. Common, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Black upper body and head. Messy white stripe down middle of wings. Bright crimson-red forehead extends to crown of head. Bright crimson-red breast extends to top of underbelly, white sides. White underbelly. Black tail with white outer edges. In flight, upperwing is black with large white patch in middle near body, stretching towards both upper and lower edges, tail when fanned is black with white outer edges.

**Female plumage:** Light buff-brown-grey upper body. Brown wings with buff-white feather edges forming vague stripes. Faint rusty-red forehead. Pale stripe passes from bill to eye, connecting to white eye-ring. Grey-buff neck and breast, may have pink-red tinge to breast. White underbelly. Brown tail with white outer edges.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Light brown upper body streaked with white. Wing

feathers edged with buff. Buff neck, breast and underbelly mottled with dark brown.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Feeds on or near ground after flying down from a perch but also feeds from vegetation or in air. Shuffles feet and wings to disturb prey in leaf litter. Very active, constantly moving between ground and perches, flicking tail and wings while perched. Flight low and undulating. Moves towards coast in winter. Nomadic.

**Voice:** Rapid cheery metallic, insect-like trill 'did-dit-d-wier, did-dit-d-wier, did-dit-d-wier' or 'di-di-dididit drrr' or dit-dit-drrr-it' or 'trr-trr-derradee dee'. Contact call, hard 'tchek, tchek'. Fighting males call, a scolding 'kek-kekekek'.



## Scarlet Robin | *Petroica multicolor*



**General description:** Size: 12-14 cm. Round body. Black eye. Slender black bill. May be confused with Red-capped Robin or Mistletoebird. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Black upper body and neck. Messy white stripe down middle of wings. White forehead. Bright scarlet-red breast. White underbelly. Black tail with white outer edges. In flight, upperwing is black with large white patch in middle near body, stretching towards both upper and lower edges, tail when fanned is black with large white outer edges.

**Female plumage:** Brown-grey upper body. Brown wings with buff-white feather edges forming vague stripes. Small white patch above bill. Grey-buff neck, breast and underbelly, orange-red tinge to breast. Brown tail with white outer edges. White eye-ring.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Brown upper body streaked with white. Wing feathers edged with buff. Small grey-buff patch above bill. Buff neck, breast and underbelly mottled with dark brown.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone or in pairs. May form mixed feeding flocks with other birds. Feeds on or near ground after flying down from a perch, but also feeds from vegetation or tree bark. Nests usually in a tree fork, but will use tree or stump hollows. Flight is direct and undulating. Moves locally to more open habitat in autumn/winter. Partially migratory.

**Voice:** Male song, pretty, rising, whistled trill 'wee chee-dalee-dalee' or 'sh-sh-sha-weeya' or 'tirrit-tirrit-tirrit, tirrit-tirrit-tirrit'. Contact call, sharp single 'ptek' or 'chup'. Sharp trill 'trrrt', especially between fighting males. Aggressive male defence call, 'trrut! trrut!'. Scolding 'chirr'. Quiet 'tick'.



## Western Yellow Robin

*Eopsaltria griseogularis*



**General description:** Size: 15-16 cm. Round body. Grey upper body. Dark grey wings. White throat extends into stripes around front of neck. Grey neck and upper breast. Bright yellow lower breast and underbelly. Grey tail. Black eye. Long slender grey bill. Two subspecies found in WA – south-west variety *Eopsaltria griseogularis griseogularis* and inland variety *E. g. rosinae* differ only by colour of rump - yellow (*E. g. griseogularis*) or olive-green (*E. g. rosinae*, may also have darker grey upper body). Uncommon, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dark brown upper body streaked with cream. Dark grey wing feathers. Buff neck, breast and underbelly heavily mottled with dark brown. Dark brown tail.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone or in pairs. May form mixed feeding flocks with other birds. Feeds on or near ground after flying down from a perch. Perches motionless for long periods of time, often perches sideways on branches and tree trunks. Both parents care for young, sometimes with helpers. Resident.

**Voice:** Rapid, abrupt, clear, piping, pre-dawn whistle 'whit-whit-whit-whit'. Slower, high-pitched 'ch-wip-ch-wip-ch-wip...'. Explosive 'chip chip' or 'chiOWP-chiOWP, chiOWP-chiOWP'. Territorial call, 'chip chair' or 'tchair-tchair'.



## Hooded Robin | *Melanodryas cucullata*



**General description:** Size: 14-17 cm. Round body. Long square-tipped tail. Dark brown eye. Slender black bill. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Black upper body, head and upper breast with downward point. Wings have white shoulder and white stripe down middle and short horizontal stripe. White-grey breast and underbelly. Black tail with white base of outer tail feathers. In flight, upperwing black with white stripe through middle and white shoulder, black tail with white outer edges near base.

**Female plumage:** Grey-brown upper body. Dark brown wings with white stripe down middle and short horizontal stripe. Pale stripe passes from bill above eye. Dark stripe passes from bill to eye. White-grey neck. Grey breast. White underbelly. Dark brown tail with white base of outer tail feathers.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dark brown upper body streaked with white. Wing feathers edged with buff and whitish shoulder patch. Buff neck, breast and underbelly heavily mottled with dark

brown. Dark brown tail with white base of outer tail feathers.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen in pairs or small groups. Feeds on or near ground after flying down from a perch. Perches motionless for long periods of time. Builds nest in tree or stump hollows or branch fork usually 1-2 m high, but up to 6 m. Resident.

**Voice:** Usually silent during day. Metallic, piping pre-dawn call by male 'bree-yeeuw-yew-yew' or 'whee yew, whee yew yew' or 'kwee kwoo kwoo kwoo' or 'kwee kuwoo kuwoo' or 'peet peet peet...'. Falling 'chew chew' or 'pheew' or CHIERP, chwep-chep-chep'. Chatter 'ja-ja-ja'.



## Australian Reed-Warbler

*Acrocephalus australis*



### General description: Size: 16-17 cm.

Olive-brown upper body. Pale off-white stripe passes from bill above eye. Dull stripe passes from bill to eye. White-buff neck. White-buff breast and underbelly tinged orange-brown. Long olive-brown tail with rounded tip. Long, slender, dark grey-yellow bill. Mouth yellow-orange when seen singing. Long grey legs. Rare, found mostly near wetlands in the far western Avon River Basin.

### Juvenile plumage: Similar to adult.

Dark stripe passes from bill to eye. Yellow corner of bill and inside mouth.

**Behaviour:** Usually heard rather than seen, may call from trees. Raises feathers on crown of head when singing. Feeds within thick reedy vegetation in wetlands, both fresh and saline, perching sideways on stems. Briefly flies fast and low over water and reeds. Migrates north to south to breed in summer.

**Voice:** Loud, rich, melodious, metallic, guttural 'twitchy twitchy twitchy quartz quartz quartz' or 'chutch chutch, dzee-dzee-dzee, quarty-quarty-quarty' or 'crut-crut-crut, deet-deet-deet, crotch-crotch-crotch' or 'cheewip-cheewip, quit-quitt, quitt, kwitchy-kwitchy, kwarty-kwarty-warty'. Sharp 'cheet'. Alarm call, sharp 'tuk!' or 'chak' or 'tchuk, tchuk' or 'kretch-kretch'. Rattling scolds.



## Little Grassbird | *Poodytes gramineus*



**General description:** Size: 13-15 cm. Dark brown-grey to olive-brown upper body, thickly streaked black. Finely streaked rufous crown of head. Dark wings with white-edged feathers. Pale off-white stripe passes from bill above eye. Dull stripe passes from bill to eye. White-buff neck streaked dark brown. Grey-buff breast and underbelly streaked dark brown. Rump is a dull rufous-brown. Long, slender, dark grey-yellow bill. Long, dark brown, rounded tail edged olive-buff. Long grey legs. Rare, found mostly near wetlands in the far western Avon River Basin.

**Juvenile plumage:** Greyer plumage with fine streaking above and little streaking below. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually heard rather than seen. Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. Feeds within thick reedy vegetation in wetlands and saltmarshes. Briefly flies low over water and reeds. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Plaintive, three-noted, piping whistle 'tee ti-tee' or 'p-pee-pee' or 't-thee-thee' or 'to-too too' or 'whp-whewee-whewee' or 'whp-whiooo'. Scolding rattle 'chu-chu-chu-chu'. Sharp 'chuk'.



## Rufous Songlark | *Cincloramphus mathewsi*



**General description:** Size: 16-19 cm. Male is larger. Grey-brown mottled upperbody with buff-edged feathers on back and wings. Streaked brown crown of head. White stripe passes from bill above eye towards back of head. Brown stripe passes from bill through eye to back of neck. Pale grey-brown neck and breast, darker on breast. White underbelly. Rufous rump. Long pointed rufous then brown tail. Long legs. May be mistaken for Brown Songlark, Australasian Pipit or female White-winged Triller. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** May have pale breast band of brown spots or streaks. Black bill. Black inside mouth.

**Female plumage:** Paler sides. No or paler brown eye stripe. Grey-brown bill. Pink inside mouth.

**Juvenile plumage:** Paler plumage with darker stripe above eye, paler stripe through eye and darker feather edges on upper body. Darkly spotted neck and breast.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male similar to female.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone or in loose groups in non-breeding season. Walks or runs through grass. Spends much time hiding in grass. Male performs breeding display flight, constantly flying and calling around territory, flying straight and slowly between trees and perches. Male sings in display flight or from perch such as fencepost, stump, dead tree or overhead wire. Migrates south in summer to breed. Nomadic to migratory.

**Voice:** Male song is rich, melodious and splintered. Starts as clear loud trill and becomes loud, ringing, sweet, high-pitched, repeated 'twitchy-tweedle' or 'a-twitchy-weedle' or 'whitcher-whitcher, a-whitchy-wheedle-whitch'. Single whipcrack 'whitcher'. Alarm call, sharp 'plk' or 'tlik' or 'tik'. Scolding rattle.



## Brown Songlark | *Cinchoramphus cruralis*



**General description:** Size: 18-26 cm. Male is much larger. Long pointed tail. Long slender bill. Very long legs. May be mistaken for Rufous Songlark, Australasian Pipit, female White-winged Triller or Common Starling. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Sooty-brown to dusky cinnamon-brown mottled upper body with buff-edged feathers on back and wings. Light brown crown of head. Sooty-brown neck, breast and underbelly, may be speckled white on neck and breast. Black stripe passes from bill to eye. Dark brown tail. Black eye. Black bill. Black inside mouth.

**Female plumage:** Dusky grey-brown mottled upper body with buff-edged feathers on back and wings. White stripe passes from bill above eye towards back of head. Grey stripe passes from bill through eye to back of neck. Off-white throat. Pale brown-grey neck, breast and underbelly, upper breast finely streaked and centre of underbelly dark brown. Brown tail. Pale brown bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female. Cream-buff-edged feathers on back and wings. Streaked brown crown of head. White stripe passes

from bill above eye towards back of head. Black stripe passes from bill to eye. Streaked brown on neck, breast and shoulder.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Male similar to female. Brown stripe passes from bill above eye towards back of head. Mottled brown on neck, breast and shoulder. Grey-brown neck, breast and underbelly, centre of underbelly dark brown. Light brown bill.

**Behaviour:** Usually seen alone or in loose groups in non-breeding season. Walks or runs through grass. Female spends much time hiding in grass. Flight fast and undulating with glides. Male performs breeding display flight, singing from perch, such as fencepost, stump or overhead wire, feathers on crown of head raised and tail held upright, then steeply flying up fast while singing, flying and gliding in a long circle, wings fluttering, then gliding back to perch with legs dangling. Migrates south in summer to breed. Nomadic to migratory.

**Voice:** Male song is creaky, metallic, guttural, jerky, but pleasant. 'Skit-scot-a wheeler' or 'skzit-kotch-zzweiler, chweeip, kzzeech-kotch-awailer', finishing with a musical trill and whipcrack.



## Australasian Pipit

### *Anthus novaeseelandiae*



**General description:** Size: 15-19 cm. Slender body. Dull cinnamon-brown upper body and dark brown wings with buff-edged feathers, giving streaked appearance. Crown of head streaked dark brown. Cream-buff stripe passes from bill above eye towards back of head. Cream-buff stripe passes from bill down side of neck, below cheek and up side of head to meet

the other stripe, wrapping around brown cheek. Thin dark brown stripe passes from bill down side of neck to side of breast. Buff neck, breast and underbelly, breast streaked or spotted dark brown. Long dark brown tail with white outer edge. Brown eye. Long, slender, slightly downcurved, pink-brown bill. Long pink-brown legs. May be mistaken for Rufous Songlark or Brown Songlark. Two subspecies are found in WA – south-west variety *Anthus novaeseelandiae bilbali* and widespread variety *A. n. australis*; however, there are no external features to separate them. Common, widespread.

**Juvenile plumage:** More buff and finely marked than adult.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone or in pairs. May form large flocks. Particularly found in grasslands and farmlands. Feeds and runs jerkily on ground, wagging tail up and down, possibly to flush out prey. Stands very upright. Flight is low and fluttering with head raised and tail closed or fanned downwards, showing white edges. Male display flight is undulating, flying up with wings quivering and tail held up while calling, followed by swooping dive. Nest hidden under tussock, shrub or stone. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Male display flight call, trill 'prrrt' or high, quavering, drawn-out, rising and falling trill, 'tzweeer' or 'tiz-wee-ir' or 'seeou' or 'swee'. Brisk splintered, 'pith!'. Brisk cheery, 'chirrip' or 'ch'rip' and 'tsweip' or 'tjsweep'.



## Silvereye | *Zosterops lateralis*



**General description:** Size: 10-12 cm. Tiny round bird commonly seen in gardens and orchards. Olive-green upper body. Black eye with thick white eye-ring of feathers. Black stripe passes from bill to eye. Throat olive-yellow. Grey neck, breast and underbelly, may have lighter underbelly and buff-cinnamon sides. Yellow undertail. Black bill. Grey legs. Common, widespread, but less common in the eastern part of the Avon River Basin.

**Female plumage:** Slightly paler than male.

**Juvenile plumage:** Duller plumage. Pink-orange bill. Yellow corner of bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen alone, in pairs or small groups. May form large flocks in non-breeding season. Constantly active within vegetation or flying. Constantly calls while rapidly flying bouncily between plants. Threat display includes flaring eye-ring feathers, quivering wings and showing yellow mouth. Resident to locally nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud, peevish 'tsee' or 'psee' or 'tseeep'. Repeated high mournful 'tee-oow'. Pleasant,

peevish, variable warble, 'tsweeip-cheeip, peeip-a-chweip, cheeip'. Flight call 'chip chip'. Territorial song of high-pitched notes, trills and warbles. Rapid giggle. Alarm call, wavering 'wee-ee-ee-ee-ee'. May mimic other birds in song.

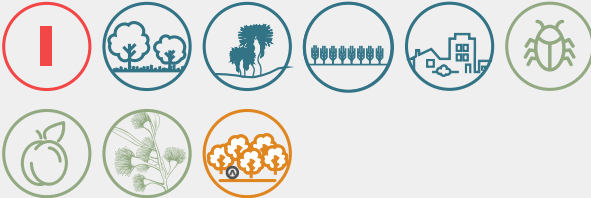
### **Environmental & agricultural impact:**

Can cause damage to fruit orchards in the south-western parts of the Avon River Basin.



## Common Starling

*Sturnus vulgaris*



**General description:** Size: 20-22 cm. Glossy iridescent green-purple black body. Brown wings with buff-edged feathers. Underbelly flecked with white. Short black tail. Long pointed yellow bill. Red-brown to yellow legs. May be confused with Dusky Woodswallow. Not present in the Avon River Basin yet, but has been recorded near Esperance.

**Female plumage:** Less glossy than male. Pinkish bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Dull grey-brown body. Neck and breast spotted brown. White throat. White underbelly. Buff-edged wing feathers. Black bill. Black legs.

**Non-breeding plumage:** Feathers across whole body, except wings have buff-white V-shaped spots on tips. Female has larger spots. Dark grey bill. Brown legs.

**Behaviour:** Not currently found in WA and there is a program to stop them creating a population here. Noisy and lively. Feeds on ground, in orchards and livestock feedlots, and in cities and towns. Will perch on livestock. Flies direct and fast with rapid wingbeats and glides. Forms large flocks, particularly obvious when twisting and wheeling through the sky before roosting. Will nest in tree hollows, taking over from native birds, or in buildings. Vagrant.

**Voice:** Variable song includes mimicry, wheezes, clicks, rattles, and loud falling whistle. Harsh falling 'tcheer' or 'chwee'. Sharp 'dick!' or 'schwip'. High 'tizz-tzz'. At take-off, short 'prurp'. Juvenile call, 'tschurrrrrrrr'.

**Notifiable status:** Please contact the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia urgently if birds are seen in WA.

**Environmental & agricultural impact:** Has the potential to cause extensive damage to agricultural industries in WA.



## Mistletoebird | *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*



**General description:** Size: 9-11 cm. Tiny round bird. Long pointed wings in flight. Short square black tail. Black eye. Short bill. Grey legs. May be confused with Scarlet Robin, Red-capped Robin and Crimson Chat. Uncommon, widespread.

**Male plumage:** Glossy blue-black upper body. Scarlet-red throat, neck and upper breast. White-grey lower breast with wide black stripe passing down middle toward undertail. Scarlet-red undertail. Black bill.

**Female plumage:** Grey upper body, darker wing. White neck, breast and underbelly. Neck mottled grey. Grey streak down middle of lower breast. Pale red undertail. Grey bill.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female, but paler. Orange bill. Corner of bill orange.

**Behaviour:** Found wherever Mistletoe grows and moves to follow fruiting. Seen alone or in pairs. Feeds mostly on Mistletoe and is crucial to the plant's spread. Drops sticky digested seeds by wagging and wiping tail along branches.

Also eats insects, nectar, pollen and other fruits. Flight fast, erratic and high in canopy. Nomadic.

**Voice:** High-pitched variable song, combining notes like 'sweet-sweet' or 'pretty-sweet!' or 'sweet-sweet-zeer' or 'swizit, swizit, weet-weet-swizit' or 'wait-a-bit' or 'wait-a-bit, zhipp!' or 'tiech, tiech, tiwitch' or 'kinsey-kinsey-kinsey' or 'perwita-perweeta-perweeta'. Strident 'tzew'. In flight, sharp 'wit' or 'dzeel'. May mimic other birds.

**Noongar name:** Minnijit



## Zebra Finch | *Taeniopygia guttata*



**General description:** Size: 10 cm. Common aviary pet. Tiny, round, noisy bird. Grey head and back of neck. Grey-brown back and wings. White stripe passes vertically between bill and eye down to side of neck. Short black stripe passes vertically below eye to side of neck. White rump. Black tail with white stripes. Red eye. Red-orange bill separated from face by thin vertical black stripe. Orange-red legs. Common, found in the northern part of the Avon River Basin.

**Male plumage:** Head more blue-grey than female. Tan-chestnut cheek patch. Neck and upper breast is finely barred black and white. Black band separates upper and lower breast. White lower breast and underbelly, sides are chestnut with white spots.

**Female plumage:** Pale brown-grey neck and breast. Buff underbelly.

**Juvenile plumage:** Similar to female without black and white head markings. Grey-brown eye. Black bill.

**Behaviour:** Seen in pairs, small groups or large flocks, particularly near inland waterholes. Feeds on the ground on grass seeds, but also on insects, particularly to feed young. Breeds after rainfall, and numbers may grow rapidly. Nest built in low shrubs, tree hollows, fenceposts, termite mounds, tussock grasses or an old babbler nests. Flight is undulating and bouncing, striped tail obvious. Resident to nomadic.

**Voice:** Loud, brassy, nasal 'tang' or 'tya' (male) or 'tiaah' (female). In flight, abrupt 'tet, tet'. Aggressive 'woot'. Trilled male display song.

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Note: ND is not described in text

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## Photographers

### Codes:

P = Perching

F = Flight

J = Juvenile

♂ Male

♀ Female

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### **Useful Information:**

Atlas of Living Australia Website: [www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au)

Birdlife Australia Website: [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)

Birds in Backyards Website: [www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)

Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia Website: [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)

Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attraction Website: [www.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://www.dbca.wa.gov.au)

The Morcombe and Stewart Guide to Birds of Australia App:  
[www.mydigitalearth.com/dproducts/morcombeinfo.html](http://www.mydigitalearth.com/dproducts/morcombeinfo.html)



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Cover Photos: Nankeen Kestrel by  
Leigh Whisson, Splendid Fairy-wren and  
Red-kneed Dotterel by Georgina Steytler

Spine Photo: Splendid Fairy-wren by  
Georgina Steytler

ISBN: 978-0-6483306-5-3

Written and designed by Wheatbelt NRM

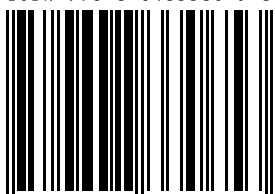
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### About Wheatbelt NRM

Wheatbelt NRM is an independent community-based organisation involved with natural resource management (NRM) endeavours within the Avon River Basin. The organisation operates from its Northam office, Western Australia, and exists as the second largest of the seven NRM regional organisations in the state, with responsibility for the 12,000,000 hectares of the Avon River basin.

The Wheatbelt landscape is mostly privately owned. In order to have a positive impact on the natural resources in our region we need to engage the community who manages them. Wheatbelt NRM works to enable, support and partner with our community in order to improve the management and sustainability of natural resources, and make positive change in their environment.

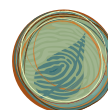
ISBN 978-0-6483306-5-3



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