

BIRDWATCHING IN THE ALBANY AREA

Albany is a great place for birdwatching. With its many different habitats more than 200 species of birds can be found in the region. They range from rare endemics to migratory shorebirds which visit the area from northern Asia/Alaska during the summer months. Several rare and endangered species survive in the coastal heathlands east of Albany, including Western Ground Parrot, though lack of recent records is worrying. Threatened birds such as Hooded Plover, Carnaby's and Baudin's Black-Cockatoo breed in the area. Most of the birds endemic to WA can be readily seen in the area. Western Rosella, Red-capped Parrot, Western Spinebill, Red-eared Firetail, Red-winged Fairy-wren and White-breasted Robin are common around Albany. Offshore islands provide breeding sites for birds such as Flesh-footed Shearwater, Great-winged Petrel and Little Penguin. The sites listed in this guide should provide both novice and expert birders with good bird watching opportunities.

1. TORNDIRUP NATIONAL PARK

Located off Frenchman Bay Road, this national park boasts extensive heathlands overlooking magnificent coastal scenery. Birds to look out for are Grey Currawong and honeyeaters such as Western Spinebill, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and Western Wattlebird. Seabirds can be seen off the coast in winter.

2. RUSHY POINT, LITTLE GROVE

During summer the tidal mudflats of Princess Royal Harbour are a great place to look for migratory shorebirds such as Pacific Golden Plover, Great Knot and Ruddy Turnstone. Cormorants and terns are also present.

3. ELLEN COVE BOARD WALK

This wheelchair accessible walk begins at Middleton Beach and winds through coastal heathlands offering great views of King George Sound. Look for Southern Emu-wren and Red-winged Fairy-wren in the low heath. Red-eared Firetail and White-breasted Robin are easily found as is Brush Bronzewing.

4. LAKE SEPPINGS

Located off Golf Links Road this wetland provides a home for many waterbirds such as Blue-billed Duck, Musk Duck, Hoary-headed Grebe and cormorant species. The Australian Reed-Warbler is often heard and Red-winged Fairy-wren, Golden Whistler and White-breasted Robin are residents.



Western Yellow Robin



Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo



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Birdwatching around Albany

Western Spinebill - Chris Tate



birds are in our nature



Birdwatching in the Albany area

5. EMU POINT BOAT HARBOUR

During summer this is a good place to watch shorebirds foraging on the Oyster Harbour mudflats. Year-round you can find terns, oystercatchers, cormorants and pelicans.

6. LOWER KING BRIDGE

Australian Hobby roosts in this small park off Nanarup Road. Whistling Kite and Eastern Osprey are also regularly seen nearby. During summer Common Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Whimbrel & Eastern Curlew may be spotted from the bridge. Little Egret and Yellow-billed Spoonbill also visit the area.

7. KALGAN RIVER ESTUARY

A small parking area off Kalgonak Lane offers access to extensive mudflats in summer. Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Greater Sand Plover and Common Greenshank are among the shorebirds regularly present.

8. LUKE PEN WALK, KALGAN RIVER

This walk between the end of East Bank Road and Upper Kalgan Bridge offers waterbirds such as ducks and cormorants. Bush birds common in this area include thornbills, both Splendid and Red-winged Fairy-wren, Striated Pardalote and Grey Currawong. Western Yellow Robin is also possible.

9. TWO PEOPLES BAY

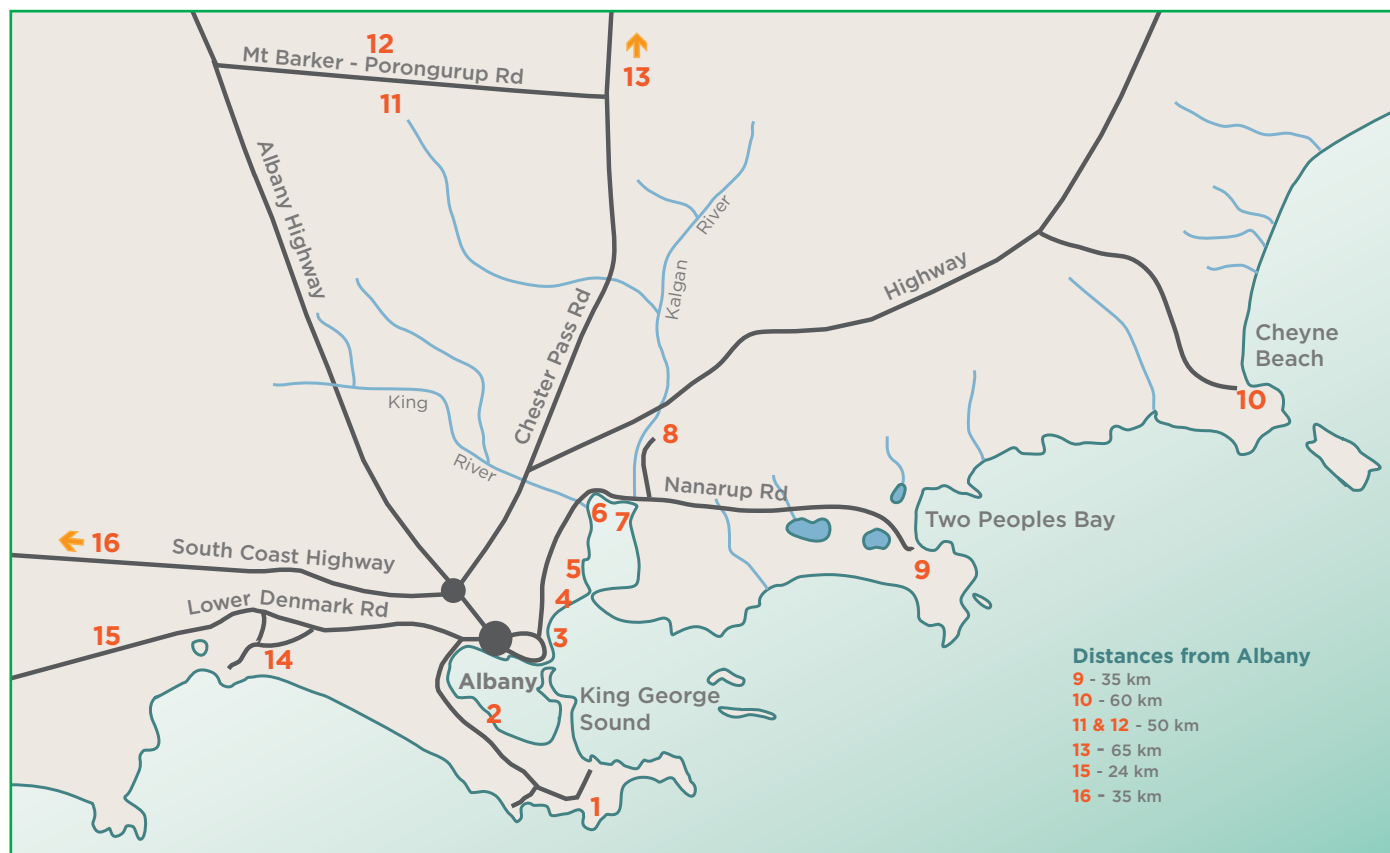
Home of endangered species such as Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Whipbird and Western Bristlebird, this reserve is also a haven for many honeyeaters, Southern Emu-wren and Red-eared Firetail. The rare species are more likely to be heard than seen. Also look for Rock Parrot near the beach.

10. CHEYNE BEACH

The coastal heathlands are a good place to look for Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird. Southern Emu-wren, Western



Red-capped parrot



Wattlebird and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater are common. Also look for Brush Bronzewing and Brown Falcon.

11. PORONGURUP NATIONAL PARK

Porongurup National Park with its stands of Karri trees is an excellent place to observe Rufous Treecreeper, Western Rosella, and White-breasted Robin. Look for Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Spotted and Striated Pardalote high in the canopy. Closer to the ground fairy-wrens, scrub-wrens and thornbills abound.

12. TWIN CREEKS CONSERVATION RESERVE

Access to this reserve is from Knights Road about 4km north of the Porongurup Range. More than 75 species have been recorded so far, including Western Yellow Robin, White-winged Triller and Varied Sittella. Most local parrot species can be found here as well as a variety of honeyeaters. Wedge-tailed Eagles nest in the reserve.

13. KAMBALLUP

With its stands of Wandoo, this bush reserve off Woogenellup Road is a haven for nesting birds such as Elegant Parrot and Striated Pardalote. Rufous Whistler and Rufous Treecreeper

occur in the reserve as does Blue-breasted Fairy-wren. Other nesting birds include Sacred Kingfisher and a Little Pied Cormorant colony along the Kalgan River.

14. LAKE POWELL NATURE RESERVE

Located off the Lower Denmark Road near Elleker. A short walk leads to a well-hidden bird hide. This is an excellent spot to observe waterbirds including ducks, cormorants, herons, egrets and spoonbills. Australasian Bittern has been observed near the drainage channel. Bush birds including Red-eared Firetail and Red-winged Fairy-wren are found along the access track.

15. TORBAY HALL BIRD WALK

Follow signs to Torbay Hall off Lower Denmark Road. This is a great place to observe parrots, fairy-wrens, thornbills and pardalotes. Nankeen Night Heron is occasionally observed near the creek.

16. MORLEY BEACH/WILSON INLET

From South Coast Highway, take Morley Road to the inlet. In summer this is an excellent shorebird site. Other waterfowl also abound.

Species List

Emu

Malleefowl

Stubble Quail
Brown Quail

Musk Duck
Black Swan
Australian Shelduck
Australian Wood Duck
Pink-eared Duck
Australasian Shoveler
Grey Teal
Chestnut Teal
Northern Mallard
Pacific Black Duck
Hardhead
Blue-billed Duck



Blue-billed Duck

Australasian Grebe
Hoary-headed Grebe
Great Crested Grebe

Rock Dove
Laughing Dove
Common Bronzewing
Brush Bronzewing
Crested Pigeon



Common Bronzewing

Tawny Frogmouth

Spotted Nightjar
Australian Owlet-nightjar

Fork-tailed Swift

Wilson's Storm-Petrel
White-faced Storm-Petrel
Black-browed Albatross
Shy Albatross
Yellow-nosed Albatross
Southern Giant-Petrel
Flesh-footed Shearwater
Sooty Shearwater
Little Shearwater
Great-winged Petrel
Little Penguin



Caspian Tern

Australasian Gannet

Australasian Darter
Little Pied Cormorant
Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Pied Cormorant



Australasian Darter

Australian Pelican
Australasian Bittern
Australian Little Bittern
White-necked Heron
Eastern Great Egret
Cattle Egret
White-faced Heron
Little Egret
Eastern Reef Egret
Nankeen Night-Heron
Australian White Ibis
Straw-necked Ibis
Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Eastern Osprey
Black-shouldered Kite
Square-tailed Kite
White-bellied Sea-Eagle
Whistling Kite
Brown Goshawk
Collared Sparrowhawk
Spotted Harrier
Swamp Harrier
Wedge-tailed Eagle
Little Eagle
Nankeen Kestrel
Brown Falcon
Australian Hobby
Peregrine Falcon



Sacred Kingfisher

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



Purple Swamphen

Australian Bustard

Australian Pied Oystercatcher
Sooty Oystercatcher
Black-winged Stilt
Banded Stilt
Red-necked Avocet
Pacific Golden Plover
Grey Plover
Red-capped Plover
Lesser Sand Plover
Greater Sand Plover
Black-fronted Dotterel
Hooded Plover
Red-kneed Dotterel
Banded Lapwing
Masked Lapwing
Black-tailed Godwit
Bar-tailed Godwit
Whimbrel
Eastern Curlew
Terek Sandpiper
Common Sandpiper
Grey-tailed Tattler
Common Greenshank
Marsh Sandpiper
Wood Sandpiper
Ruddy Turnstone
Great Knot
Red Knot
Sanderling
Red-necked Stint
Long-toed Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Curlew Sandpiper

Painted Button-quail
Little Button-quail

Brown Skua

Fairy Tern
Caspian Tern
Whiskered Tern
Crested Tern
Pacific Gull
Silver Gull

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo
Baudin's Black-Cockatoo
Galah
Purple-crowned Lorikeet
Regent Parrot
Western Rosella
Australian Ringneck
Red-capped Parrot
Elegant Parrot
Rock Parrot
Western Ground Parrot



Purple-crowned Lorikeet

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Pallid Cuckoo
Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Southern Boobook
Eastern Barn Owl



Southern Boobook

Laughing Kookaburra
Sacred Kingfisher

Rainbow Bee-eater

Noisy Scrub-bird

Rufous Treecreeper

Splendid Fairy-wren
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren
Red-winged Fairy-wren
Southern Emu-wren

Western Bristlebird

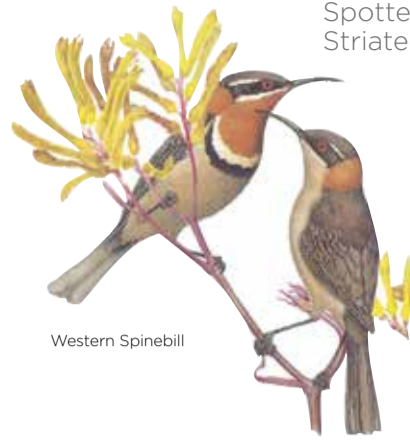
White-browed Scrubwren
Shy Heathwren
Rufous Fieldwren



Red-winged Fairy-wren

Weebill
Western Gerygone
Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Western Thornbill
Inland Thornbill

Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote

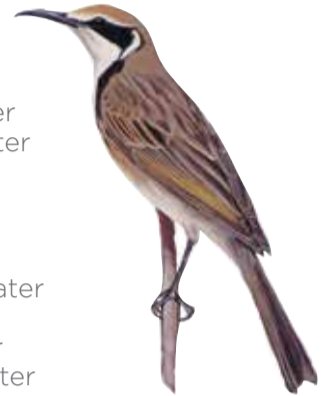


Western Spinebill



Striated Pardalote

Western Spinebill
Singing Honeyeater
White-eared Honeyeater
Purple-gaped Honeyeater
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
Yellow-throated Miner
Western Wattlebird
Red Wattlebird
White-fronted Chat
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
Brown Honeyeater
New Holland Honeyeater
White-cheeked Honeyeater
Brown-headed Honeyeater
Swan River Honeyeater



Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

White-browed Babbler

Western Whipbird
Varied Sittella

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-winged Triller



Golden Whistler

Crested Shrike-tit
Golden Whistler
Rufous Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush

Dusky Woodswallow

Grey Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Grey Currawong

Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail

Australian Raven

Restless Flycatcher
Magpie-lark

Jacky Winter
Scarlet Robin
Red-capped Robin
Hooded Robin
Western Yellow Robin
White-breasted Robin
Southern Scrub-robin



Grey Butcherbird



Scarlet Robin

Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Grassbird
Rufous Songlark
Brown Songlark

Silvereye

White-backed Swallow
Welcome Swallow
Tree Martin

Red-eared Firetail

Australasian Pipit

Please note, this list does not include vagrants.



Red-eared Firetail