

BIRDWATCHING AROUND NARROGIN

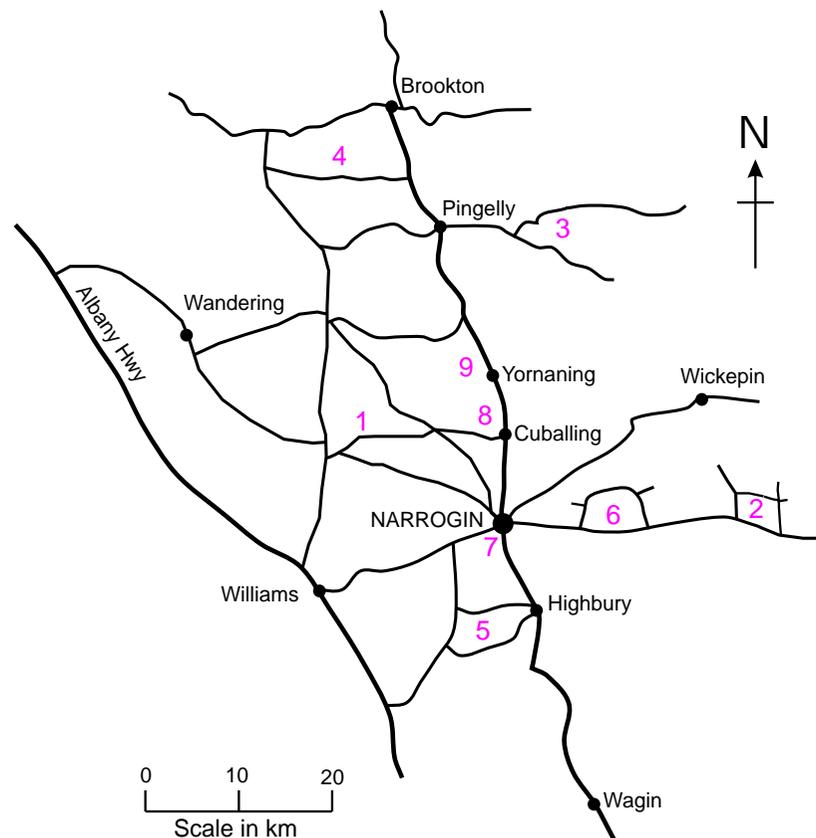
The Narrogin area provides an interesting and wide range of habitats, encompassing all aspects of the natural environment. Wildflowers, marsupials (night spotlighting) and over 100 species of birds are found throughout this area.

Natural bushland is being added to by ongoing conservation programs in various parts of the Central South area. Many farmers are now fencing off bushland and there is a real move to construct and maintain corridors between these areas throughout the wheatbelt. Three notable sites are being assisted by the Natural Landcare Program; Toolibin Lake (2), 14 Mile Brook, adjoining Dryandra Woodland (1) and Yornaning Dam (9). Keep an eye open for these and other Landcare projects as you travel through the region. The local community (often assisted by visitors) is justifiably proud of these revegetated areas and the ongoing work to control the ravages of salt, in part caused by overclearing.

1 DRYANDRA STATE FOREST

This well known area of extensive, undisturbed Wandoo woodlands is one of the last strongholds of the Numbat, a squirrel-like marsupial, and a refuge for a rich and varied birdlife of over 100 species. More than 600 plant species have been recorded. Some of the more noteworthy bird species are Malleefowl, Painted Button-quail, Red-capped and Elegant Parrot, Red-capped, Hooded and Western Yellow Robin, Crested Shrike-tit and the ever-admired Rufous Treecreeper.

Accommodation is available through the Lion's village. They can house small and large groups in rustic quarters, situated within the natural woodland. DEC Narrogin also conducts "Dryandra Woodland Ecology" courses here.



Rufous Treecreeper

2 TOOLIBIN AND WALBYRING LAKES (DEC)

The last chance of saving the last freshwater lake within the Wheatbelt. One needs to get the feet wet here. However, the chance of seeing the declared rare Freckled Duck and eight other species of ducks along with Nankeen Night-Heron surely outweighs the discomfort. Twenty-two species have been recorded breeding including Great Crested Grebe, Eastern Great Egret, Nankeen Night-Heron and Yellow-billed Spoonbill. At Walbyring Lake, White-necked Heron have been recorded breeding in the Casuarinas.

3 TUTANNING (DEC)

A difficult reserve to enter, however worth the rough and sandy roads. There is a good range of habitats including Wandoo, Casuarina, Mallet and heathland. White-eared, Brown-headed and White-naped Honeyeater are present as well as Blue-breasted Fairy-wren and Scarlet Robin. This is a good place for spotlighting for birds, with wallabies and kangaroos present.

4 BOYAGIN (DEC)

A picturesque nature reserve crowned by a very large granite rock. Wandoo and Powderbark Wandoo abound. Extensive areas of granitic soils and some good heath aspects are to be seen. Accommodation is available at Pingelly town for both the above areas.

Over eighty species of birds have been recorded here including Square-tailed and Whistling Kite, Common and Brush Bronzewing, Western Yellow-robin and Crested Shrike-tit.

5 HIGBURY - Part of Dryandra Woodland (DEC)

Several large bush patches, surrounded by farmland. Once a renowned nesting place for Carnaby's Black-

Cockatoo; there is still a flock of approximately 130 birds at Narrogin. There are Wandoo woodland and Mallet plantations.

6 YILLAMINNING AND BIRDWHISTLE ROCKS

Open Wandoo country and good areas of Dryandra thicket, very good honeyeater country indeed.

7 FOXES LAIR (NARROGIN TOWN)

Mixed woodland of Marri, Jarrah, Wandoo, Mallet and Sheoak. A bird list of 50 and still being added to. The area joins the town of Narrogin itself and is very convenient for those short of time. A wide range of accommodation is available in this regional town which serves as a central point to the Central South area.

8 CUBALLING NATURE RESERVE (DEC)

Situated on the south-west corner of the town. Quite dense Dryandra, Sheoak, Wandoo, Powderbark Wandoo etc., generally quite high in the landscape. Some 60 species of bird to be found.

9 YORNANING DAM (SHIRE OF CUBALLING)

Extensive Wandoo and Powderbark Wandoo along with Dryandra thickets, all being above the old railway dam. Keep an eye on the freshwater species using this water as they are increasing in number and species.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on any of these areas, please contact the local DEC office or the Tourist Information Centre at Dryandra.

Narrogin Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) (08) 9881-1113

Lions Village, Dryandra (08) 9884-5231

N O T E S

WHAT IS BIRDS AUSTRALIA?

Birds Australia is a non-profit organisation working for the enjoyment, study and conservation of Australia's birds.

The Western Australian members of Birds Australia are state-wide and are offered a variety of activities and services including conservation and research projects, excursions, camp-outs, bird surveys and social activities.

We also have a library, books for sale and information about birds.

To view our full range of bird guides and bird lists, visit our web site.

INTERESTED?

Contact us at:

Birds Australia Western Australia

167 Perry Lakes Drive

Floreat WA 6014 Weekdays 9.30 – 12.30pm

Ph: (08) 9383-7749

Fax: (08) 9387-8412

Email bawa@birdsaustralia.com.au

Web: www.birdsaustralia.com.au/wa

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*Carnaby's
Black-Cockatoo*

