

BIRDS OF THE DUMBLEYUNG LAKE CATCHMENT

The Dumbleyung Lake Catchment is situated in the southern wheatbelt of Western Australia and covers an area of 610 000 hectares. It is at the source of the Blackwood River. The best time of the year for bird watching within the catchment corresponds with the spring wildflowers when the country looks its best. Over 175 bird species have been recorded in this area from a wide range of vegetation.

The amount of native vegetation remaining varies from 10 % at Dumbleyung Shire (6% on private land and 4% on public land) to 9% at Katanning and 7% at Broomehill. Rainfall varies from 400 mm at Dumbleyung to 494 mm at Katanning.

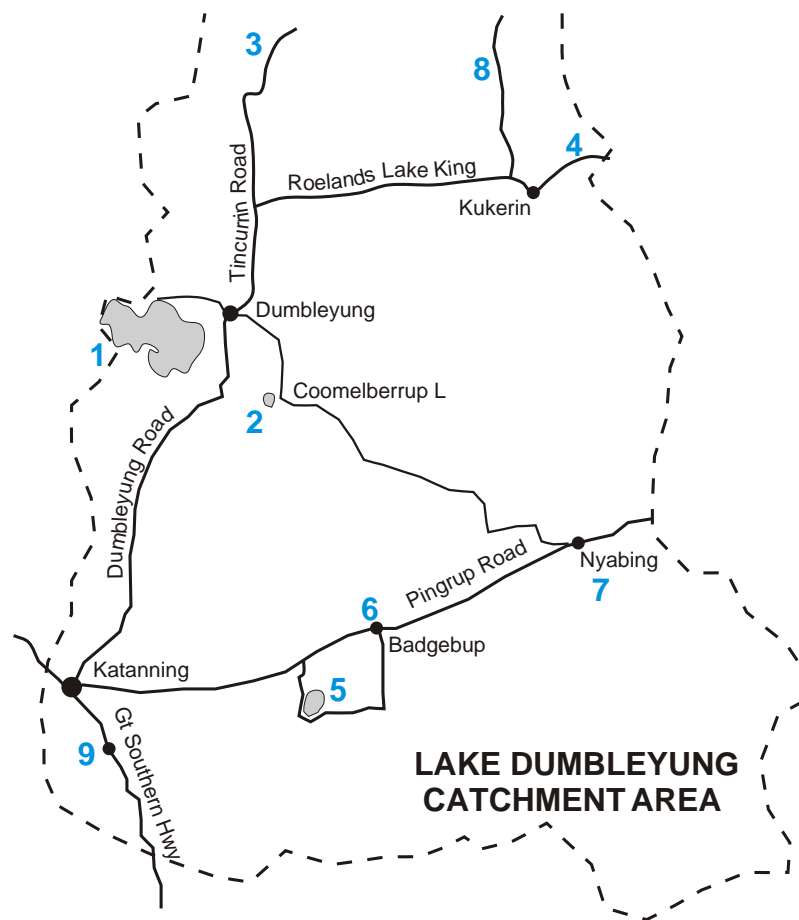
Following extensive clearing of bush for cereal crops a change of bird numbers and species has occurred with greater populations of the Port Lincoln Ringneck, Crested Pigeon, Galah and a corresponding decline in numbers of Regent Parrot.

PLACES OF INTEREST

1. Dumbleyung Lake is rarely dry and is the largest naturally-occurring body of water in WA. A bird survey conducted in March 1985 yielded 25 000 water birds. It is possible to occasionally see Australian Pelican, Hardhead and Blue-billed Duck.

2. Lower Coblinine River and Coomelberrup Lake - a salt water river and lake east of the Dumbleyung Lake. Better birding spots may require some searching and a telescope may be necessary to make viewing easier. Species seen here include Black Swan, most species of ducks, White-faced and White-necked Heron, Great Egret, Yellow-billed Spoonbill and Black-tailed Native Hen.

3. Dongolocking Nature Reserves - all wheatbelt vegetation formations except for salt complex are present in these 13 fragmented A Class reserves. Excellent representation of Wandoo and mallet woodland and heath. Among them common to the area are Rufous Tree-creeper, Golden and Rufous Whistler, Western Gerygone, Jacky Winter and Restless Flycatcher.



4. Tarin Rock Reserve - predominantly mallee and heath. Look for Emu, Malleefowl, Shy Heathwren, Rufous Fieldwren, Scarlet, Red-capped, Hooded and Western Yellow Robins and Western Whipbird.

5. Coyreкуп Lake Nature Reserve - every duck species recorded from south-west inland agricultural areas has been sighted here - Crested Grebe, Blue-billed, Musk and Freckled Duck, Australian White Ibis and Straw-necked Ibis have been sighted.

6. Badgebup Townsite - just off the bitumen road east of Katanning, excellent Salmon Gum and Wandoo woodlands with varied birdlife.

7. Nature Reserve 24589 - 15 kilometres southeast of Nyabing. This is Western Whipbird country.

8. North Kukerin Townsite - an informal half day bird survey yielded 37 bird species in this lovely Salmon Gum - Wandoo woodland. Among these were Painted Button-quail, Inland and Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Weebill and Varied Sittella.

9. Katanning's Police Pools (Twonkwillingup Pool) - named because of its site as the first police outpost between 1865 and 1870. Seventy-six species have been recorded in this 46 hectare reserve, which is important for resident and nomadic species.

Birds of Farmland and Roadside - Among the many species found here look for Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Falcon, Australian Kestrel, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, White-browed Babbler, Singing Honeyeater, White-fronted Chat, Willie Wagtail, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Richard's Pippet and Brown Songlark.

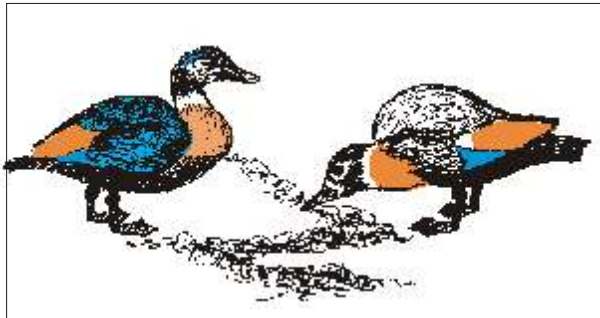
Conservation Projects Throughout the Dumbleyung Lake Catchment

The catchment is well covered by Land Conservation District Committees and numerous land conservation projects are taking place in a quest for sustainable farming practises.

Nature conservation projects are numerous with the fencing of bush and salt from livestock, the planting and direct seeding of native plant species plus double fencing of creeks and waterways, as in the centre of Katanning with the Piesse Dam Project.

A major project at Dongolocking conducted by interested local people, CALM and CSIRO aims to link the 13 reserves by way of bush corridors and monitor the use of these corridors by wildlife.

Hundreds of thousands of native plants are being returned to the landscape to combat salinity, create a wildlife habitat, improve water quality, provide shade and shelter for livestock, stabilise soils and to bring up to 25% of the catchment under deep rooted perennial vegetation.



Australian Shelduck

The Noongar word for Shelduck is Yederup. This bird is the emblem for the Shire of Dumbleyung.

WHO IS BIRDS AUSTRALIA?

The Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union was founded in 1901 and is Australia's national organisation for the study, preservation and enjoyment of our Australian birds. In 1998 it adopted the name Birds Australia. Its members are of all ages and come from all walks of life, and include amateur birdwatchers and professional scientists. Projects for the conservation of native birds involve the collection of field knowledge by amateurs and its assessment by professionals.

W.A. GROUP

The WA Group of Birds Australia has over 800 members. We offer a wide range of activities and services for members. New members are welcome and encouraged to participate in all activities.

MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Programs include excursions, campouts, bird surveys, research projects and social activities.

MEMBER SERVICES

Volunteers staff our Headquarters Office Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. They update data for our various research projects, provide information for members and attend to members requests.

MONTHLY MEETING

The meetings give you the opportunity to hear local, national and overseas speakers and to keep up to date with the WA Group activities.

INTERESTED?

Then contact our office now for membership information.

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A checklist of birds of the Great Southern is available at the CALM office in Katanning.

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Birds Australia
CONSERVATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

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