

## BIRDWATCHING IN THE SHIRE OF GINGIN

The Shire of Gingin contains more than a dozen wetlands of environmental significance, the extensive Moore River National Park, offshore islands with seabird colonies, as well as several other nature reserves. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded from these areas.

### 1. GINGIN AND VICINITY

#### JIM GORDON VC TRAIL, PICNIC AREA AND THE THREE BRIDGES

A short walk through a delightful area of flooded paperbarks and dense undergrowth gives sightings of Grey Fantail, Western Gerygone, Splendid Fairy-wren and Rufous Whistler. Along the brook ducks, ibis and heron may be seen. Friends of Gingin Brook are currently enhancing the area by eradicating exotic plants. Visit Gingin Brook for Red-winged Fairy-wren. Wallering Swamp Nature Reserve, ten kilometres south of Gingin for Black-fronted Dotterel on the margins. Black-tailed Native-hen breed here.



*Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike*

### 2. MOORE RIVER NATIONAL PARK

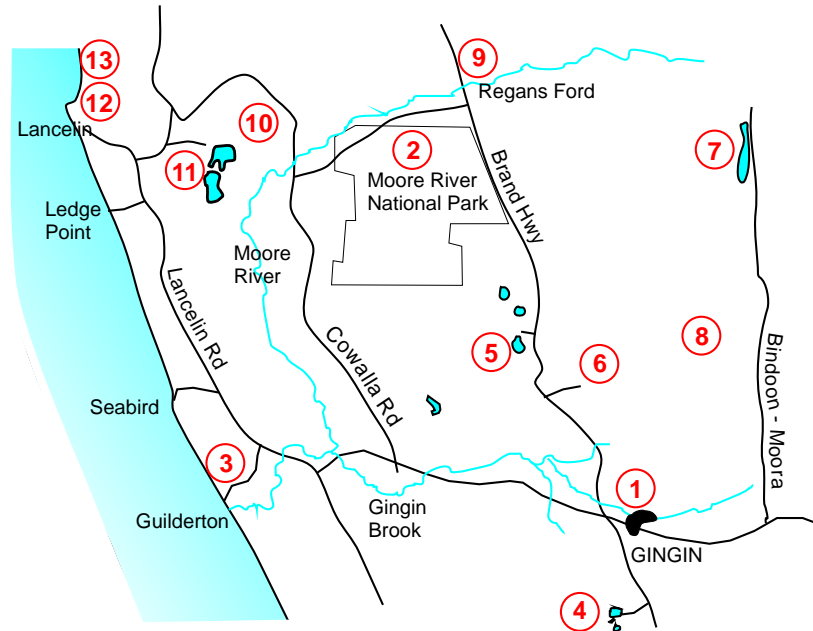
Access from Orange Springs Road. 4WD inside of the park. Species include Emu, Variegated, Blue-breasted and White-winged Fairy-wren, White-cheeked, New Holland and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Scarlet Robin, Crested Bellbird and Rufous Whistler.



*White-winged Wren*

### 3. MOORE RIVER AND ESTUARY

A canoe trip down the lower reaches of the river to Guilderton is a good way to see cormorants, darters, egrets, herons and ibis, or walk the south bank through coastal heath upstream to Diamond Island.



### 4. BAMBUN WETLANDS (Lakes Bambun, Nambung, Mungala)

Nine kilometres SSW of Gingin, this is an important area for the Pink-eared Duck and Blue-billed Duck, and the breeding of the Great Crested Grebe and Black-tailed Native-hen. In the wetter times of the year, the north boundary has the greatest concentration of interesting birds, where a large, shallow flooded area forms.

### 5. BEERMULLAH LAKE

This lake is on private land, so permission to access is needed. Look for Blue-billed, Musk and Pacific Black Duck, Australian Shelduck, Grey Teal, Australasian, Hoary-headed and Great Crested Grebe, Little and Eastern Great Egret, White and Straw-necked Ibis and Yellow-billed Spoonbill. Shorebird include Common Greenshank, Common Sandpiper and Black-fronted Dotterel.

### 6. BOONANARRING NATURE RESERVE

This reserve is 15 km north of Gingin. Look for Painted Button-quail, honeyeaters and Scarlet, Red-capped and Hooded Robin.

### 7. WANNAMAL LAKE NATURE RESERVE

This is another wetland given important status by waterbird surveys for Australasian Grebe, Freckled Duck, Australasian Shoveler, Black-tailed Native-hen, Inland Dotterel, Common Greenshank and Australian Reed-Warbler. Eurasian Coot, Black Swan, Banded Stilt, Hardhead and Grey Teal are frequently recorded. Walk the lake edge by the railway line among Flooded Gums and melaleucas.



*Striated Pardalote*

Bushbirds include parrots, pardalotes, thornbills, Varied Sittella, White-winged Triller, Restless Flycatcher, Rufous Whistler, Pallid Cuckoo and Fan-tailed Cuckoo. Collared Sparrowhawk nest here and Eastern Barn Owl has been seen.

### 8. FOOTBALL LAKE \*

A small permanent lake on private property near the eastern boundary of the Shire. Surrounded by melaleuca, it is a dry season refuge for egrets, spoonbills, cormorants, grebes and ducks. Peregrine Falcon and Freckled Duck have been sighted.

### 9. REGANS FORD

A pleasant picnic spot where one can observe many bushbirds nesting in spring. Look for Sacred Kingfisher, Rufous Whistler, Striated Pardalote, Tree Martin, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, Magpie-lark and Willie Wagtail.

### 10. DOOPITER SWAMP \*

This is on private land, so permission to access it is needed. Two permanent paperbark swamps surrounded by tuarts and ti-tree support over 80 species, including nine species of ducks, six raptors, also Purple Swamphen. Dusky Moorhen, Black-tailed Native-hen, Wood Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red-necked and Long-toed Stint, Red-necked Avocet, Spotless Crake, Whiskered Tern, Australian Reed-Warbler and Little Grassbird.



*Dusky Moorhen*

\* Group excursions are organised to these lakes which are on private land. To reduce impact and inconvenience, try to join us on these occasions.

## 11. KARAKIN LAKES

This is on private land, so permission to access it is needed. An excellent birding spot after seasonal rains, it provides nesting sites for ducks, stilts and swans.

Nankeen Night-Heron, Whiskered Tern, Glossy Ibis, and Hooded Plover (1997) have been recorded. Raptors include Whistling Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Little Eagle, Brown Falcon and Black-shouldered Kite.

## 12. LANCELIN

In the beach fore-dunes look for Rock Parrot, White-winged Wren, White-fronted Chat and White-browed Scrub-wren.

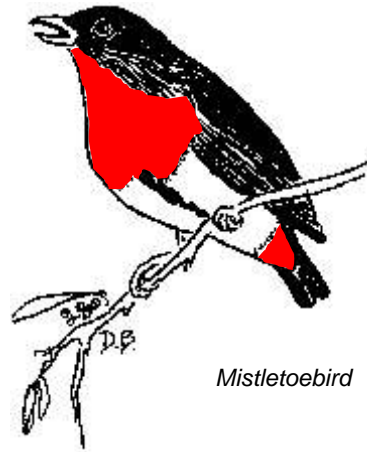
On the foreshore opposite Edward Island see Ruddy Turnstone, Red-necked Stint, Red-capped Plover, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit and Sanderling. Terns include Fairy, Crested and Caspian Tern.

In coastal heath on K. W. Road and Nilgen Nature Reserve see Brown, White-cheeked and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, White-winged Triller, White-backed Swallow, Southern Emu-wren, Rufous Field-wren, Rufous Songlark, Regent Parrot and raptors. Mistletoebird are commonly seen in boobialas and acacias.



## 13. OFFSHORE ISLANDS

Edward and Lancelin Islands are wildlife sanctuaries. Seabirds which nest there are Wedge-tailed Shearwater, White-faced Storm Petrel, Silver Gull, Pacific Gull, Caspian, Crested, Bridled, Roseate and Fairy Tern, Common Noddy and Eastern Osprey. Buff-banded Rails are resident.



*Mistletoebird*

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*Straw-necked Ibis*  
Artist: Diane Beckingham

