

BIRDWATCHING AROUND MULLEWA

The Mullewa region provides a wide range of habitats for the nature lover to visit - wildflowers, marsupials, natural features and over 140 species of birds have been recorded in this eucalypt-mulga transition zone.

This natural bushland is now being upgraded by long-term conservation programs that are evident in the shire.

The 1993 John Tonkin Award for the best individual conservation program was presented to local farmers Judy and Tony Critch. The Local Government Prize was awarded to the Mullewa Shire Council for its work in widening and rehabilitating road verges.

The Mullewa Land Conservation Group has planted thousands of trees along natural drainage systems, degraded farmland, samphire flats and road verges.

Such efforts are a long-term investment in providing an improved and varied habitat for the wildlife of the region. In your tours around the region, look out for these community conservation projects.

1 WILROY NATURE RESERVE

Sixty-eight species of birds have been recorded here. Look for Redthroat, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Southern Scrub-robin, White-browed Babbler and Crested Bellbird. Over farmland look for Banded Lapwing, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Brown Songlark.

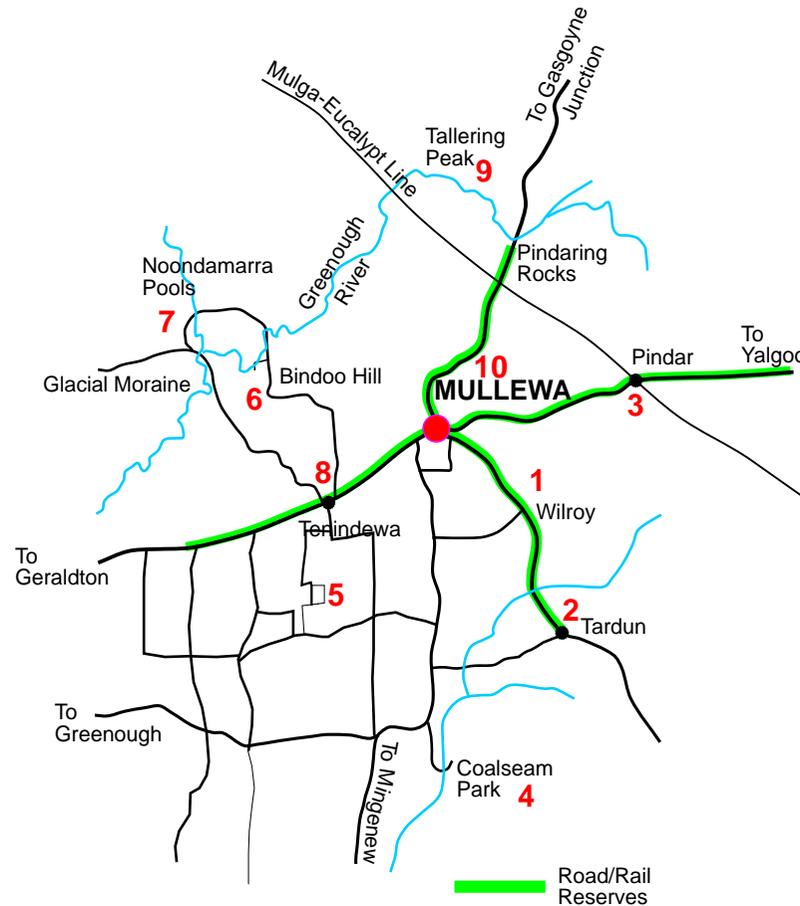
Many interesting native plants can be seen, including *Banksia benthamiana*.

2 TARDUN

Here is a lovely patch of bush with many bushbirds, including the Crested Bellbird.

3 PINDAR COMMON

This is an excellent wildflower drive. On the gravel



soils near Pindar look for the shire emblem, *Leschenaultia macrantha* (Stockman's Wreath). After Pindar you are moving from eucalypt-farming country to mulga-pastoral land.

You should see Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australian Bustard, Grey-crowned and White-browed Babbler and Crested Bellbird.

4 COALSEAM PARK

The journey from Mullewa to Coalseam Park is along the highway where much of the road-verge rehabilitation has been undertaken by the Mullewa Shire Council. Watch out for birds as you travel along this road.

This park is an excellent visit for a picnic - scenery, wildflowers and birds which include Peregrine Falcon (look along the cliffs), Chestnut-rumped and Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren and Mistletoebird,.

5 INDARRA SPRINGS RESERVE

Take Indarra South Road from the Geraldton-Mullewa Road.

This area was offered to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) by local farmers Judy and Tony Critch in 1988. It is now a flora and fauna reserve vested in DEC. The area is an important north-south bird corridor with a variety of bird habitats. There is a yellow dune system in the south-east corner.

The many species recorded here include Australian Bustard, Redthroat, Crimson Chat, Crested Bellbird and several raptors. Dense thickets provide refuge for many birds, safe from feral cats.

Four wheel drive vehicle is necessary to visit the area.

6 BINDOO HILL AND EAST YUNA NATURE RESERVES

Turn right at Terindewa to Bindoo Hill and East Yuna Nature Reserves. Look for water birds in seasonal lakes along the road. At the reserves you should see Whistling Kite, Little Eagle, Australian Hobby, Little Button-quail, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Mulga Parrot, Barn Owl, Australian Owllet-nightjar, Redthroat, Chestnut Quail-thrush and Pied Butcherbird. Over 130 bird species have been recorded here.

7 NOONDAMARRA POOL

These are permanent pools on the Greenough River with many water birds, including Straw-necked Ibis, Black-tailed Native-hen and possibly Buff-banded Rail and Australian Spotted Crake. Return to Geraldton Road on the circular route and visit the glacial moraine.

8 WALYA RESERVE

An historically interesting spot on the Old Cue Road. Check the samphire flats on either side of the road for Inland Dotterel, Crimson and White-fronted Chat.

9 TALLERING PEAK AND GORGES

Take a day's outing for a wide variety of interests - wildflowers, gorges, old mining sites and birds of the pastoral area. Australian Bustard, Red-backed Kingfisher, Grey-crowned and White-browed Babbler, Chiming Wedgebill, and Chestnut Quail-thrush, are a possibility.

10 MULLEWA COMMON

This area is typical of the country before clearing for wheat farming. Look for Mulga and Bourke's Parrot, Rufous and Brown Songlark and raptors.

11 ROAD AND RAIL RESERVES

The combined efforts of Mullewa Shire, Main Roads Department and the farmers has helped to retain and upgrade native vegetation in these corridors. Look out for birds, other native animals and wildflowers.



Australian Bustard

CONSERVATION

Today we are more aware of our natural heritage, the changes our habitat is undergoing and the need to mobilize and protect it.

Active management is taking place at all levels – national parks, reserves, road verges and remnants of bushland throughout the farming areas.

There are many examples in the Mullewa Shire to show that at all levels – management agencies, group projects, individual initiatives – efforts are being made to preserve and upgrade native vegetation to maintain a healthy biodiversity of our flora and fauna.

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.

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Prepared by Birds Australia
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BIRDWATCHING AROUND MULLEWA

Number 12a in a series of
Bird Guides of Western Australia



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

