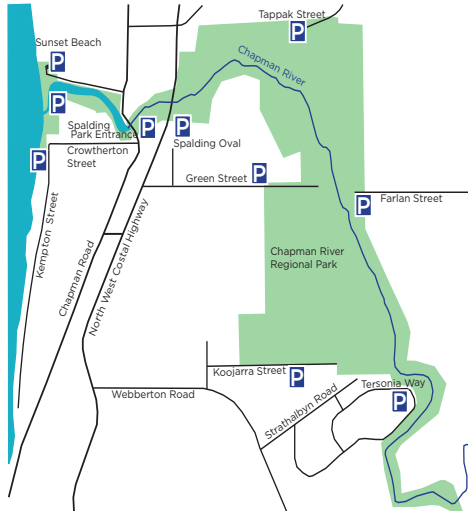


## 1 CHAPMAN RIVER REGIONAL PARK

This extensive reserve within Geraldton City is worth a visit at any time of year. It extends from Sunset Beach north of Geraldton, along the Chapman River to a large area of bushland and includes estuarine salt-marsh, limestone cliff-tops, groves of river sheoak, eucalypts and acacia; scrub and heathlands. Australian Pelican, Osprey, herons, egrets, White-browed Scrubwren, Mistletoebird and Grey Currawong have all been recorded here.



There are a number of access points, the best being:

**Spalding Park** - Enter Spalding Park from Chapman Road immediately south of the Chapman River Bridge. Park near the picnic shelters. Walk down the dual use path then either under the North Coast Highway bridge to access the south bank, or cross the river by the footbridge then walk under the bridge to access the north bank.

**Tappak Street, Waggrakine** - Park 50m from the end of Tappak St on the left hand (south) side. Walk south down the sandy track to the park's fence line. Avoid the large gate, but turn left (east) and walk 50m to the walk access.

**Fairfax Road, Moresby** - Car park and park entry are at the west end of Fairfax Rd.

**Tersonia Way, Strathalbyn** - Several entries provide access to the river or sandplain and a wide track linking to Spalding Park.

## Birdwatching around Geraldton and Dongara

Areas within the City of Geraldton provide eucalypt & acacia woodland, river margins and shorelines. For the more adventurous, those with more time to spare or en route to other places, there are a number of other options, including significant river pools and estuaries, farmlands, ranges and bush reserves. The Houtman Abrolhos Islands to the west provide habitat and food sources for many seabirds. *Please note:* Directions are given for travel from Geraldton.

### Local Contacts

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# Birdwatching around Geraldton

Black-shouldered Kite by Mike Lawrie



birds are in our nature



## 2 GERALDTON CITY BEACHES

Over the years, increased human activity has meant reduced bird activity but Point Moore, Grey's Beach and Back Beach offer good opportunities to see Osprey. There are man-made nesting platforms at Point Moore, Greys Beach & Separation Point. Other possibilities are Nankeen Kestrel, Pacific Gull, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling and Red-capped Plover.



Immature Pacific Gull

## 3 MINNENOOKA; BEETALYINNA AND ERADU NATURE RESERVES.

A pleasant 120 km round day trip can be made via Arthur Rd towards Walkaway, then east through farmland via Minnenooka Rd to Sandsprings Rd and Ramsay Rd to meet Eradu South Rd. Return via Geraldton-Mt Magnet Rd. There are a number of sites worth visiting en route: two Greenough River crossings, Beetalyinna Nature Reserve / Pool and Eradu Nature Reserve (see map). *NB Much of this journey is on unsealed roads.*

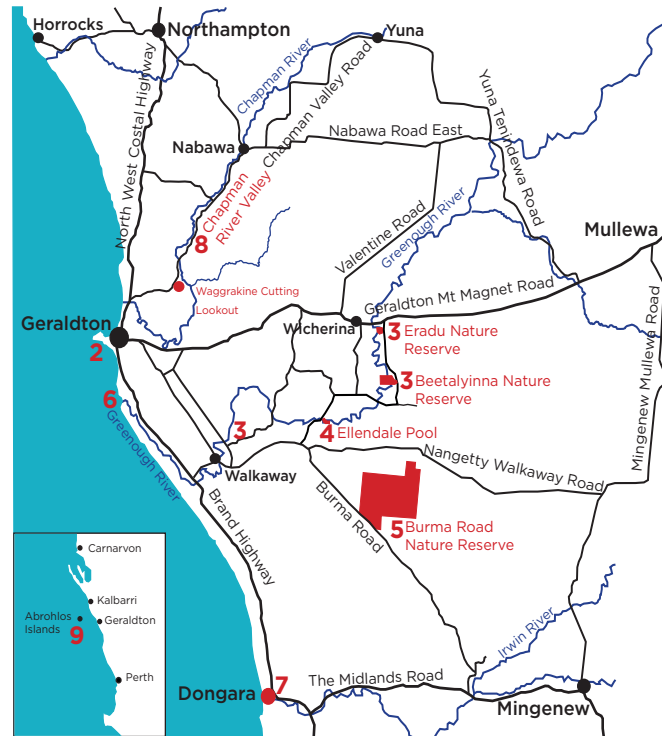
## 4 ELLENDALE POOL

This is an alternative to include on the longer day trip (see previous entry), or to combine with Burma Rd Nature Reserve for quite different habitat. Access via Walkaway, then east on Walkaway-Nangetty Rd. Follow signs north to Ellendale Pool.

A popular spot for picnics and barbecues, this natural pool is at the foot of tall river cliffs and is surrounded by eucalypts and acacias, with reed beds along the margins. Waterbirds include Australasian Darter and Musk Duck. There are many bush birds and Peregrine Falcons inhabit the cliff face.



Australian Darter



## 5. BURMA ROAD NATURE RESERVE

Alternatively, this site could be combined with Ellendale Pool for a full day's outing. Access as for Ellendale, via Nangetty-Walkaway Rd to Ellendale turn-off. Go 2 km further east then turn south onto Burma Rd (unsealed). The reserve is marked with signs at both northern & southern boundaries. Firebreaks and internal tracks allow access on foot. At 17 km south, a track to the left provides access to a farm gate. Park along the side of the road. *Please use caution on sandy tracks.*

This extensive area of heath is worth a visit for wildflowers and bush birds; best in spring. The speciality here is Rufous Fieldwren. Emu, White-winged Fairy-wren, Red-capped Robin and White-cheeked Honeyeater are among the other birds in the area.

## 6. GREENOUGH RIVER MOUTH

To the south, another good day outing includes Greenough River Flats, the river mouth and the historically significant areas of Greenough and Dongara.

Access Greenough River Mouth via Brand Hwy. About 10km south of Geraldton, turn west on Greenough River Rd.

Explore the river's edge and beach for Australian Pelican, Osprey and in summer watch out for shorebirds such as Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Red-necked Stint and Common Sandpiper.

Devlin Pool, a long river pool on the Greenough, is also worth exploring. From Greenough River Rd, travel approx. 2.5 km further south on Brand Hwy. Turn right into Devlin Pool Rd and follow it down to the river. *With care Devlin Pool Rd is also accessible from the south.*



Common Sandpiper

## 7. DONGARA

The Irwin River divides Dongara and the beachside town of Port Denison. It can be accessed via a 4.6 km loop trail, starting at either Irwin River Mouth Lookout on Church St (signage here), or Irwin River Park at the south end of Irwin Bridge (shady parking available). *Insect repellent is wise.*

The walk includes river margins, samphire wetland, a bird hide near the river mouth and boardwalks to access the estuary. *NB The river occasionally breaks through a bar, making crossing at the river mouth impossible.*

Look for Eastern Reef Egret, Caspian Tern and Great Egret near the river mouth. Pied Cormorants roost along the river.



Eastern Great Egret

## 8. CHAPMAN VALLEY DRIVE

Chapman Valley Road runs north-east from North-west Coastal Hwy, through the Moresby Ranges then along the Chapman River towards Nanson and Nabawa. Waggrakine Cutting Lookout, just off Chapman Valley Road is worth a visit. On the backroads, Rufous Whistler, Splendid and Variegated Fairy-wrens, Striated Pardalote and Rufous Songlark are among the birds to be seen. Return to the highway via Howatharra or Isseka Rd East.



Rufous Whistler

## 9. HOUTMAN ABROLHOS

This is an archipelago of 122 coral islands 60 km west of Geraldton, historically significant due the wreck of the Batavia in 1629. In the past the islands were also noted for guano production and, more recently, an important rock-lobster industry, commercial fishing and pearl farming. Schools of pelagic baitfish provide a vital food source for birds. On the Houtman Abrolhos are found the largest breeding colonies in Western Australia of a number of species of seabird.

The islands have limited access for the general public. For visitors there are day flights: [geraldtonaircharter.com.au](http://geraldtonaircharter.com.au) Eco Abrolhos offers five day boat tours or private charter in spring, summer or autumn: [ecoabrolhos.com.au](http://ecoabrolhos.com.au) or contact Geraldton Visitor Centre.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Little Shearwater, White-faced Storm Petrel, White-breasted Sea Eagle, Osprey, Common and Lesser Noddies, Caspian, Crested, Roseate, Sooty and the endangered Fairy Terns can be seen here. Breeding shorebirds include Australian Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers. Land birds include the threatened Abrolhos Island sub-species of Painted Button-quail.



Fairy Tern

## Bird List

Species	Geraldton	Abrolhos
Emu	U	
Stubble Quail	C (locally)	
Musk Duck	M	
Black Swan	M	R
Australian Shelduck	C	U
Australian Wood Duck	C	
Grey Teal	C	R
Pacific Black Duck	C	
Red-tailed Tropicbird		U
Australasian Grebe	U	
Hoary-headed Grebe	U	
Rock Dove	C	
Laughing Dove	C	
Common Bronzewing	M	
Brush Bronzewing	M	U
Tawny Frogmouth	M	
Spotted Nightjar	U	
Australian Owlet nightjar	U	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel		IA C Mi Au
White Faced Storm-Petrel	U	C B Sp-Su
Yellow-nosed Albatross	U	R Su
Southern Giant-Petrel	U	R Wi
Southern Fulmar		R Wi
Wedge-tailed Shearwater		IA C B Sp-Su
Flesh-footed Shearwater		IA C Mi Au-Wi
Hutton's Shearwater		U Mi Au
Little Shearwater		C B Au-Wi
Great-winged Petrel		U Mi Au
Australasian Gannet		C
Brown Booby		IA R vagrant
Australasian Darter	C	U
Little Pied Cormorant	M	U
Great Cormorant	M	U
Little Black Cormorant	C	
Pied Cormorant	C B Sp	C
Australian Pelican	C	U
White-necked Heron	U	

## Species

Species	Geraldton	Abrolhos
Great Egret	M river margins	
White-faced Heron	M	U
Eastern Reef Egret	IA U	C
Nankeen Night-heron	U Greenough R, Ellendale	
Glossy Ibis	U farmland	
Australian White Ibis	M increasing	
Straw-necked Ibis	M farmland	
Royal Spoonbill	U Greenough R	
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	M	C
Osprey	M	C
Black-shouldered Kite	M	
Square-tailed Kite	U	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	U IA	C
Whistling Kite	M	
Black Kite	R	Australian Hobby
Brown Goshawk	U	
Collared Sparrowhawk	U	
Spotted Harrier	C	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	C	
Little Eagle	M	
Nankeen Kestrel	C	
Brown Falcon	C	
Australian Hobby	M	
Peregrine Falcon	U	
Buff-banded Rail	U	R
Spotless Crake	U	U mangroves
Black-tail Native-hen	M farm dams	Wi-Sp
Eurasian Coot	C	
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	U	C
Sooty Oystercatcher	U	U
Black-winged Stilt	M	
Banded Stilt	U	
Red-necked Avocet	U N	
Grey Plover	U	U Sp-Su
Red-capped Plover	C	C B Sp
Greater Sand-plover	U	R
Black-fronted Dotterel	M	R
Hooded Plover		U O
Banded Lapwing	C	
Black-tailed Godwit	IA U	
Bar-tailed Godwit	IA T U	U
Whimbrel	IA U	C
Eastern Curlew	IA T U	R
Common Sandpiper	IA C	U
Grey-tailed Tattler	IA U	C
Common Greenshank	IA M	U



Species	Geraldton	Abrolhos
Marsh Sandpiper IA	U	R
Wood Sandpiper IA	U	
Ruddy Turnstone IA	C	C
Great Knot IA T	U	U
Red Knot IA T	U	U
Sandling IA	M	U
Red-necked Stint IA T	C	U
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	U Greenough	R Su
Curlew Sandpiper IA T	U	U
Painted Button-Quail T		U declining
Little Button-Quail	M	
Common Noddy IA	U	C B Sp-Su
Lesser Noddy	U	C B Sp-Su
Bridled Tern	U	C B Sp-Su
Sooty Tern	U	C B Sp-Su
Fairy Tern T	U	C B Sp-Su
Caspian Tern IA	M	C B Wi-Su
Roseate Tern IA	U	C B Au & Su
Lesser Crested Tern IA		R
Crested Tern	C	C B Au Sp-Su
Pacific Gull	C	C B Sp-Su
Silver Gull	C	C
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	M T farmland	
<b>Carnaby's Black Cockatoo</b>	M	
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	U	
Galah	C	
<b>Western Corella</b>	R	
Little Corella	C	
Cockatiel	U	Pallid Cuckoo
Regent Parrot	U	
Australian Ringneck	C	
Budgerigar	C Sp	
Elegant Parrot	U	
Rock Parrot	U	
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	U Wi	
Black-eared Cuckoo	U Wi	
Shining-bronze Cuckoo	U Wi	
Pallid Cuckoo	M Wi	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	M Wi	
Southern Boobook	U	
Eastern Barn Owl	U	
Red-backed Kingfisher	U	
Sacred Kingfisher	M Sp-Au	



Species	Geraldton	Abrolhos
Rainbow Bee-eater	C Sp-Au	
Splendid Fairy-wren	M	
White-winged Fairy-wren	M	
Variiegated Fairy-wren	M	
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	U	
White-browed Scrubwren	C	C Wallabi Is
Rufous Fieldwren	U	
Redthroat	U	Striated Pardalote
Weebill	M	
Western Gerygone	M	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	C	
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	M	
Inland Thornbill	M	
Spotted Pardalote	U	
Striated Pardalote	C	
Pied Honeyeater	U after good rains	
Singing Honeyeater	C	
White-eared Honeyeater	U	
White-plumed Honeyeater	C	
White-fronted Honeyeater	M	
Yellow-throated Miner	M	
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	C	
<b>Western Wattlebird</b>	U	
Red Wattlebird	U	
Crimson Chat	U after good rains	
White-fronted Chat	M	
Black Honeyeater	R	
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	M	White-winged Triller
Brown Honeyeater	C	
White-cheeked Honeyeater	M	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	U	
White-browed Babbler	C	
Chestnut Quailthrush	U	
Varied Sittella	U	
Black-faced Cockcoo-shrike	C	
White-winged Triller	M Wi-Sp	
Golden Whistler	U	
Rufous Whistler	C	
Grey Shrike-thrush	C	
Crested Bellbird	U pastoral areas	
Masked Woodswallow	U	
Black-faced Woodswallow	C	



Species	Geraldton	Abrolhos
Dusky Woodswallow	U	
Little Woodswallow	U	Dusky Woodswallow
Grey Butcherbird	M	
Pied Butcherbird	C	
Australian Magpie	C	
Grey Currawong	M increasing	
Grey Fantail	M	
Willy Wagtail	C	
Australian Raven	C	
Little Crow	U	
Magpie-lark	C	
Jacky Winter	U	Red-capped Robin
Red-capped Robin	M	
<b>White-breasted Robin</b>	U	
Australian Reed-Warbler	U	
Little Grassbird	U	
Rufous Songlark	M	
Brown Songlark	M	
Silveryeye	C	C
White-backed Swallow	C	
Welcome Swallow	C	C
Fairy Martin	M	
Tree Martin	C	R
Mistletoebird	M	
Zebra Finch	U	
Australasian Pipit	C	



BIRD LIST CODES			
Abundance		Season	
C	common	Su	summer
M	mod. common	Au	autumn
U	uncommon	Wi	winter
R	rare	Sp	spring
Status		IA	protected by International Agreement
Mi	migratory	N	nomadic
T	threatened	OSP	other specially protected
N	nomadic	O	of conservation concern
B	breeding		
WA	endemics are in		
<b>bold</b>			