



**BIRDING TOUR WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
SOUTHWEST AUSTRALIAN ENDEMIC BIRDS**

27 SEPTEMBER – 05 OCTOBER 2027



Blue-breasted Fairywren is one of our targets on this trip.

Due to geographic isolation and diverse habitats, the southwest of the state of Western Australia boasts several endemic species and subspecies. This nine-day small-group well-paced Australian birding tour will focus on finding as many of these Western Australian endemic birds as possible, while also enjoying a wide range of other interesting flora and fauna along the way.

Local endemic bird species that we will be focusing our attention on during the tour include **Carnaby's** (Short-billed) and **Baudin's** (Long-billed) **Black Cockatoos**, **Western Corella**, **Red-capped Parrot**, **Western Rosella**, **Noisy Scrubbird**, **Western Bristlebird**, **Red-winged Fairywren**, **Western Fieldwren**, **Western Thornbill**, **Western Wattlebird**, **Western Spinebill**, **Gilbert's Honeyeater** (formerly known as Western White-naped or Swan River Honeyeater), **White-breasted Robin**, **Red-eared Firetail**, **Black-throated Whipbird**, and **Western Shrike-tit**. Other species that are near-endemics to the state (and still Australian endemics) also form targets, as they are unlikely to be found on other eastern tours, these include **Western Yellow Robin**, **Rufous Treecreeper**, **Blue-breasted Fairywren**, and **Spotted Scrubwren**.



*One of the toughest birds to see in all of Australia; we will hope to see **Noisy Scrubbird** well again, this is one seriously tough bird, but we have a great record of seeing them on our tours.*

Additional species we will also be looking for include the Australian endemics **Square-tailed Kite**, **Banded Stilt**, **Hooded Plover**, **Rock Parrot**, **Elegant Parrot**, **Purple-crowned Lorikeet**, **Western Whistler**, **Splendid Fairywren**, and the near-endemic **Fairy Tern**. The isolation of southwestern Australia has led to a high degree of endemism, also at the subspecies level, and we will try to see as many of these as possible in case of potential future splits, such as (Western) **Scarlet Robin** and others. This tour will prove interesting for those participants who have been birding on the Australian East Coast and/or in Tasmania and are interested in the possibility of some potential future armchair ticks!

For those wishing to explore Australia further, this tour can be combined with our **Birding Tour Australia: Northern Territory – Alice Springs and Uluru Birding Tour** and our **Birding Tour Australia: Northern Territory – Top End Birding Tour**, both of these tours precede this Western Australia birdwatching tour.



Red-eared Firetail is a beautiful finch found only in this part of Australia.

Itinerary (9 days/8 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Perth

Morning arrival into Perth, if not arrived ahead of the tour starting. We will meet in the afternoon and spend the late afternoon birding around Perth, including near to our hotel, adjacent to the famous grounds of the Kings Park and Botanical Gardens, within the city. If we have time, we will take a walk into the park, where we will hope to connect with the first of the southwestern endemics, **Western Spinebill** and **Western Wattlebird**, as well as more widespread **White-cheeked**, **New Holland**, and **Singing Honeyeaters** and the huge and ever-vocal **Red Wattlebird**. **Carnaby's Black Cockatoo** could be present, feeding in the pine trees, and we will likely find **Little Corella**, **Australian Ringneck**, **Laughing Dove** (introduced from Africa/India), and **Rainbow Lorikeet** and **Laughing Kookaburra** (both introduced from eastern Australia). Passerines here may include Australia's smallest bird, the tiny **Weebill**, **Australian Reed Warbler**, and **Little Grassbird**, while waterbirds may include the beautiful **Nankeen Night Heron** and the stately **Black Swan**. We may also visit other sites within the city depending on local flowering conditions and time available.

Overnight: Perth

Day 2. Perth to Dryandra Woodland

We will likely spend the early morning birding around Perth, seeing some of the above species and others. If tidal conditions allow, we may find **Red-necked Stint**, **Sharp-tailed** and **Curlew Sandpipers**, **Great** and **Red Knots**, and **Pacific Golden** and **Grey Plovers**, among others. We will also check out some of the lakes in and around the city before we head south. The waterbodies here may harbor a late **Freckled Duck** if we are very lucky but other species likely include **Hardhead**, **Blue-billed Duck**, and **Hoary-headed Grebe**. Lakeside vegetation may hold **Little Grassbird**, **Australian Reed Warbler**, **Grey Fantail** and **Spotless Crake**. We will also keep our eyes peeled skywards for any raptors that may be overhead.

After a late breakfast we will leave Perth and head south towards the Dryandra Woodland area, keeping a look out for **Baudin's Black** and **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos** along the way. After lunch we will check in to our accommodation for the next couple of nights and then head out for an afternoon birding in the local vicinity. This is one of the prime birding sites in the region, so we want to do it justice over the next couple of days.

Overnight: Narrogin



Spotless Crakes are often shy and retiring, but occasionally, with patience, they can show well.

Day 3. Full day at Dryandra Woodland

The woodland consists of an interesting mix of *Eucalyptus* (jarrah, wandoo, and marri), with a good native shrub layer. We will spend the full day in and around the woodland and will look for some of the area's specialties, such as **Western Yellow Robin**, **Rufous Treecreeper**, **Western Whistler**, **Blue-breasted Fairywren**, **Western Thornbill**, **Spotted Scrubwren**, and **Western Shriketit**. We will also look for 'the' special mammal found at Dryandra - the rare **Numbat**.

There are plenty of birds to look for around the huge woodland, and we will focus on finding the above birds and other exciting species such as **Painted Buttonquail**, **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Brown Goshawk**, **Carnaby's Black Cockatoo**, **Red-capped Parrot**, **Western Rosella**, **Regent Parrot**, **Elegant Parrot**, **Brush Bronzewing**, **Black-faced Cuckooshrike**, **Western Spinebill**, and **Tawny-crowned**, **Yellow-plumed**, **Brown**, **Brown-headed**, **White-cheeked**, **New Holland**, **White-eared**, and **Gilbert's Honeyeaters**, **Restless Flycatcher**, and **Splendid Fairywren**.

Overnight: Narrogin



An exceptionally rare and range-restricted endemic mammal – Numbat. Unusually for an Australian mammal, this species is diurnal, spending its days hunting for termites.

Day 4. Dryandra Woodland to Stirling Range National Park

We will spend the morning back in Dryandra Woodland or another nearby interesting site, focusing on finding the aforementioned species and others that we may still be looking for, or want to see again after our last couple of days.

As the day progresses, we will continue south to the Stirling Range National Park, an area renowned for its impressive flora and pretty landscape, as well as plenty of avian targets. While here we will search for **Black-throated Whipbird**, **Southern Scrub Robin**, **Western Spinebill**, **Gilbert's** and **Purple-gaped Honeyeaters**, **Western Yellow Robin**, **Blue-breasted Fairywren**, and **Western Fieldwren**.

Overnight: Amelup



Western Spinebill is one seriously beautiful honeyeater – this tour is loaded with all manner of honeyeaters!



Western Shrike-tit, a recent split, is a difficult bird – fortunately, we have several chances throughout the route.

Day 5. Stirling Range National Park to Cheynes Beach

We will spend the morning birding at Sterling Range, seeking out those species referred to above but also many others, such as **Square-tailed Kite**, **Spotted Harrier**, **Little Eagle**, **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Elegant Parrot**, **Regent Parrot**, **Rufous Treecreeper**, **Southern Emu-wren**, **Red-winged Fairywren**, **White-breasted Robin**, (Western) **Scarlet Robin**, **Western Thornbill**, **Western Shriketit**, and **Red-eared Firetail**.

After our birding session here, we will travel down to the south coast township of Cheynes Beach, along the way looking out for interesting species such as **White-necked Heron**, **Banded Stilt**, and other interesting shorebirds/waders. Cheynes Beach is home to some great (and very difficult) birds, and we will start looking for these as soon as possible after our arrival and check in for our two night stay here.

Overnight: Cheynes Beach



*The flowering banksia's at Cheynes Beach are a magnet to birds like this **White-cheeked Honeyeater**. We'll hopefully get our first looks at these birds shortly after arriving.*

Day 6. Full day at Cheynes Beach

A full day birding the Cheynes Beach area for three of Australia's toughest, most skulking birds: **Noisy Scrubbird**, **Western Bristlebird**, and **Black-throated Whipbird** (a different subspecies from that at Stirling Ranges and a much talked-about potential further future split). These birds are difficult to see, but we will put all of our effort into securing views of them all during the course of the day. There are also plenty of other species to look for in the area, such as **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Spotted Harrier**, **Carnaby's Black Cockatoo**, **Purple-crowned Lorikeet**, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **Brush Bronzewing**, **Southern Emu-wren**, **Red-winged**

Fairywren, Spotted Scrubwren, Inland Thornbill, White-cheeked Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, White-breasted Robin, Dusky Woodswallow, and Red-eared Firetail.



*The heathland at Cheynes Beach is beautiful and occasionally one of the major skulkers shows well, such as this **Western Bristlebird**.*



***Black-throated Whipbird** is another of the tough ones, but occasionally they come to the tops of the Banksia shrubs to announce their presence.*

Weather permitting, at night we will look and listen for **Tawny Frogmouth**, **Australian Boobook**, and **Spotted Nightjar**, as well as the area's nocturnal creatures such as **Quokka**, **Western Ringtail Possum**, the tiny **Honey Possum** (sometimes possible during the day too – they are tiny!), **Western Brush Wallaby**, and **Southern Brown Bandicoot**.

Overnight: Cheynes Beach

Day 7. Cheynes Beach to Augusta

We will spend the early morning birding around Cheynes Beach again, enjoying views of some of the above species and mopping up any others we may still want to try and see. We will then make our way west along the spectacularly forested coast with giant red tingle and karri trees towards Augusta. With a stop at Lake Muir Nature Reserve along the way we may find a selection of interesting wildfowl and waders (very much depending on water levels), such as **Banded Stilt**, **Eurasian Coot**, **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**, **Blue-billed Duck**, and **Freckled Duck**. More secretive species around the lake shore include **Spotless Crake**, and **Australasian Bittern**.

Regardless of water levels, the woodland surrounding the lake is home to a population of **Western Corella**, known as 'Muir's Corella', which is an endemic and isolated subspecies and worth looking for. Other birds possible here include **Emu**, **Carnaby's**, **Baudin's**, and **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos**, **Western Rosella**, **Australian Ringneck**, **Brown Quail**, **Square-tailed Kite**, **Western Spinebill**, **Gilbert's Honeyeater**, **Southern Emu-wren**, **White-winged Triller**, **Restless Flycatcher**, **Western Yellow Robin**, (Western) **Scarlet Robin**, and **Spotted Pardalote**. We will arrive in Augusta in time to freshen up before dinner.

Overnight: Augusta



Baudin's Black Cockatoos frequent the tall woodlands down here.

Day 8. Augusta to Busselton

The morning will be spent birding around the rugged coastline of the Cape Leeuwin area, pretty much the most southwesterly point of this huge continent-country where the Indian Ocean meets the Southern Ocean. We will look for seabirds here, such as **Bridled Tern, Fairy Tern, Flesh-footed, Hutton's,** and **Little Shearwaters, Southern Giant and Northern Giant Petrels,** and **Indian Yellow-nosed, Black-browed,** and **Shy Albatrosses.** Much depends on what the weather is doing as to what is possible here over the water on any given day.

Along the coast we will look for **Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers, Hooded Plover, Grey-tailed Tattler, Far Eastern Curlew, Pacific Reef Heron, Rock Parrot, Southern Emu-wren,** and **Splendid Fairywren.**



Hooded Plover is considered Vulnerable (BirdLife International), which is not surprising, it has a lot of recreational pressure on its breeding grounds (sandy beaches), but we will hope to find this beautiful shorebird during the tour.

After birding here, we will slowly wind our way up the coast, checking our areas of *Banksia*, jarrah, and marri woodland, with the hopes of seeing more black cockatoos, and **Western Shriketit.** We will stop in the picturesque Margaret River for lunch and will arrive in the Busselton area in the afternoon for the final night of the tour.

Overnight: Busselton

Day 9. Busselton to Perth, departure

Our final morning will be spent checking out some areas around Busselton where we often find interesting shorebirds and waterfowl. We will then commence the return journey back to Perth keeping our eyes peeled for anything interesting we may still want to see.

We will arrive in Perth mid-afternoon where the tour will conclude in time for an evening flight to your next destination.

Overnight: Not included

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Duration: 9 days
Group Size: 6 - 8
Dates: 27 September - 05 October 2027

Start: Perth, Western Australia
End: Perth, Western Australia
Prices: AU\$7,995 per person sharing – based on 6 - 8 participants (2027)

Single Supplements: AU\$1,500 (2027)

Price includes:

All accommodation (as described above from Day 1 through Day 8, note accommodation at Amelup might include shared bathrooms, we usually stay in small cottages that have a couple of private bedrooms and a communal dining room and bathroom)

Meals (from dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on Day 9)

Expert tour leader

National park/birdwatching reserve/protected areas entrance fees

Private transportation during the tour

Price excludes:

International or domestic flights to get to/from Perth

Airport transfers

Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/etc. excursions

Visa if required

Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls, etc.

Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/monument excursions

Soft/alcoholic drinks (drinking water is safe from the taps, please bring a refillable water bottle)

Personal travel insurance

Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))