

Map of Canning River Regional Park



The Canning River Regional Park lies along the Canning River between Shelley Bridge and Nicholson Road Bridge. It comprises both freshwater and estuarine sections of river, two tidal lagoons and a constructed wetland, as well as parkland and bushland remnants. The Park is just one area along the Canning River where excellent bird watching is available.

Note - a second guide is available, detailing bush birds found along the Canning River.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERCUL

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

The South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) is an independent Natural Resource Management body. SERCUL brings together the community, business and government to develop and implement projects that improve the health of our waterways and other ecosystems.

For more information contact:
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The Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) lies within the Canning River Regional Park (CRRP) and is focused on increasing awareness and understanding of the Canning River and the Park through school and community environmental education programs. CREEC also provides support and facilities for local environmental groups, businesses and government organisations.

For more information contact:
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BirdLife WA and BirdLife Western Australia offer a variety of activities and services including conservation and research projects, excursions, camps, surveys and social activities. There is also a library and books for sale at the office. To view current range of bird guides visit the website.

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Waterbirds of the Canning River

White-faced Heron photograph by Andrew Hobbs



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SHOREBIRD

Many waders and shorebirds breed in the Northern Asian/Alaskan summer. Some fly to the west coast of Australia then disperse to coastal mudflats or inland wetlands. Many which once came to Canning wetlands no longer appear. Wader numbers are known to be diminishing world-wide, largely due to loss of suitable feeding grounds.

BLACK-WINGED STILT >

Feeds on aquatic plants, insects and shrimps. Breeds in Australia. Often seen around Riverton Bridge in the summer.
U, Ir/N



< RED-NECKED AVOCET

Wades through shallow water, sweeping its upturned bill in search of food. Look for them near Riverton Bridge in the summer.
R, Ir/N



BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL >

Prefers shallow margins of mudflats. Bobs its head, tips and runs. Nests on ground, relying on cryptic colouring and distraction displays to protect its nest and young.
U, Res, B



< COMMON SANDPIPER

Occasionally seen wandering solitarily along river margins in the downstream sections of the Park. Bobs nervously. Note white of breast forms a slight 'hook' round bend of wing.
R, Mi, IA



COMMON GREENSHANK >

Found solitarily along the water's edge, searching for insects and molluscs. More likely at Riverton Bridge or Adenia Lagoon. Call is a haunting 'tew-tew-tew'.
U, Mi, IA



TERN, GULL

Gulls are broad-winged, with mainly white bodies and are longer-legged than terns. Terns generally have sharper, finer bills and slender wings. They take food by plunging below or skimming the surface of water for fish.

CASPIAN TERN >

Largest of our terns. Heavy red bill is diagnostic. Patrols downstream areas of the park, plunging for prey. More common in summer.
U, Ir, IA



< CRESTED TERN

Note yellow bill and shaggy black fringe on the back of its head. Also plunges spectacularly. More likely around Riverton Bridge in summer.
U, Ir



< SILVER GULL

Has benefited from white settlement. Under natural conditions, feeds on plankton, small crustaceans and invertebrates. Young birds are mottled.
U, Res



RAPTOR

Both these birds of prey are associated with water.

< EASTERN OSPREY

Large raptor; diet of fish, which are caught in talons. Often seen cruising above the river; nests downstream from Shelley Bridge.
U, Ir



< SWAMP HARRIER >

Large dark raptor with pale rump. Cruises above swampy areas searching for prey. Nests on ground in dense reeds.
U, Res



OLD WORLD WARBLER

Australian warblers are medium to small birds with streaked or unstreaked brownish plumage. They favour grassy, swampy habitats and are usually secretive.

AUSTRALIAN REED-WARBLER >

Lives among typha (bulrushes). In spring its rich, loud call is conspicuous at Adenia Lagoon, Nicholson Billabong, Liege Street Wetland.
M, Res, B



< LITTLE GRASSBIRD

Secretive little bird. Sneaks to top of dense vegetation to view intruders. Presence indicated by a melancholy, three-note call. Try Adenia Lagoon or Liege Street Wetland.
U, Res



BIRD WATCHING along the CANNING RIVER

- Birds are more active early in the morning.
- Stay on pathways so birds feeding or nesting on the ground are not disturbed.
- Be wary of disturbing waterbirds when canoeing.
- Keep dogs on leads.
- Be tolerant of dead trees - they are useful as perches, and often have vital hollows.
- Resist feeding birds.
- Be aware that mosquitoes may be present.

Injured birds - Wildcare Helpline 9474 9055

This brochure is dedicated to the late Allan Jones who, as a volunteer of Birds Australia WA (now BirdLife WA), worked tirelessly over many years to produce numerous guides to promote birds and birding.