



## Animal Species

### Birds

The following section features native birds commonly found in the coastal environment of the western Eyre Peninsula. Information is provided on the conservation status, trend, appearance, habitat preferences, diet, breeding season and clutch size. Additional notes of interest are also provided.

Images used in this section feature non-breeding plumages for migratory species. Observers in the field are likely to encounter birds in partial breeding/non-breeding plumage.

Bird species are presented in the order outlined by Christidis and Boles (2008). The orders included are as follows: Anseriformes, Podicipediformes, Procellariiformes, Sphenisciformes, Phalacrocoraciformes, Ciconiiformes, Accipitriformes, Gruiformes, Charadriiformes, Psittaciformes, Coraciiformes and Passeriformes.

## Musk Duck

*Biziura lobata*

**ORDER:** ANSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese, Swans)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - R, EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, Male 60-73 cm. Female 47-60 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Broad dark duck that sits low in the water. Male has a large leathery lobe under a dark grey triangular bill and a stiff tail which is fanned in display. Female and immature lack the bill flap.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

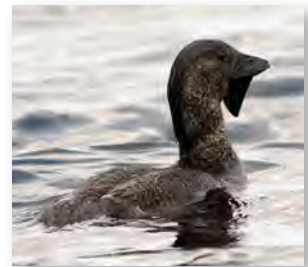
Large open permanent subcoastal lakes, bays and deep mangrove creeks. Lake Newland CP (South Lake), Sheringa Lagoon, Baird Bay, Streaky Bay, Murat Bay, Smoky Bay, Point Sinclair (Blue Lake).

**DIET:** Aquatic insects, crustaceans, snails, shellfish, fish and frogs.

**BREEDING SEASON:** September to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-9 eggs.

**NOTES:** Breeds locally. Dives rather than flies when alarmed.



## Cape Barren Goose

*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

**ORDER:** ANSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese, Swans)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - R, EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably Increasing

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Large, 75-100 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** A large pale grey goose with dark spots along shoulders and wings. Short triangular bill covered by yellow skin. Legs pink to deep red with black feet.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

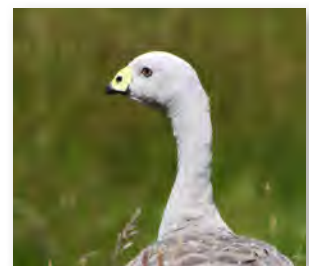
Offshore islands, brackish lakes and swamps, salty ground with succulents and farm paddocks with troughs and dams.

**DIET:** Grasses including native tussock and spear grass, as well as various herbs, succulents and pasture grasses.

**BREEDING SEASON:** July to September.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 4-7 eggs.

**NOTES:** Close to extinction in the 1950's. Eyre Peninsula population has increased due to protection of habitat and hunting regulation. The Investigator Group of islands are the second most important breeding site in SA. Cape Barren Geese move to mainland lakes and pastures post breeding.





## Black Swan

*Cygnus atratus*

**ORDER:** ANSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese, Swans)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Large, 110-140 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** A black swan with conspicuous white flight feathers. Immature birds are dull grey/brown with pale edges to feathers. Sexes similar, females slightly smaller with paler bill and iris.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered estuarine bays, sub coastal lakes with aquatic vegetation. Lake Newland CP, Sheringa Lagoon, Venus Bay, Baird Bay, Smoky Bay, St. Peter Island, Point Sinclair ( Blue Lake).

**DIET:** Aquatic vegetation including algae in shallow water, occasionally graze on land.

**BREEDING SEASON:** April to October.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Up to 10 eggs.

**NOTES:** Adult Black Swans moult their flight feathers during summer and autumn, dropping all their flight feathers at once. Flightless, they seek out large wetland areas where they remain on the water until new feathers grow.



## Australian Shelduck

*Tadorna tadornoides*

**ORDER:** ANSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese, Swans)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, Male 59-72 cm. Female 56-68 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body mostly dark grey with large white wing patches and neck ring. Male with green sheen from head to neck, and chestnut from neck ring to shoulders. Female with white eye ring, white at the base of the bill and chestnut coloured from neck ring to shoulders.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Subcoastal lakes.

**DIET:** Mainly pasture and aquatic vegetation but also insects and molluscs.

**BREEDING SEASON:** July to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 10- 14 eggs.

**NOTES:** Breeding pairs seek out pasture around dams and open woodlands with large tree hollows. Post breeding flocks move north and west to subcoastal saline systems like Lake Malata and Lake Greenly, Lake Newland CP and Sheringa Lagoon.



## Australian Wood Duck

*Chenonetta jubata*

**ORDER:** ANSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese, Swans)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 45-60 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** A pale grey brown-necked duck with two black stripes along its back and a speckled front. Looks like a small fine goose. Male with dark brown head (above right). Female with white eye stripes, mottled grey-brown body and grey wings (below right).

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Subcoastal lakes, dams, estuaries, open woodlands near water and short pastures.

**DIET:** Grasses, clover and other herbs in green pasture, occasional insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** September to November.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 8-10 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Australian Wood Duck breeds locally, nesting in trees in or near water.



## Grey Teal

*Anas gracilis*

**ORDER:** ANSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese, Swans)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 37-48 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Small mottled grey/brown duck, easily confused with female Chestnut Teal except for its distinctly whitish throat and area around the bill. Sexes identical, although male slightly larger than female.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

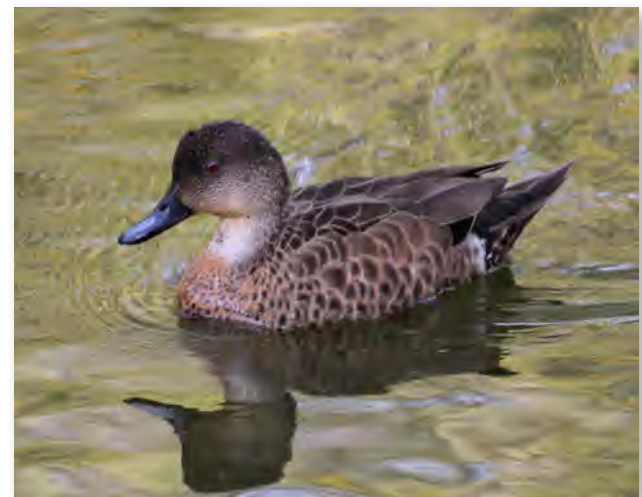
Most sheltered bays, sub coastal lakes, saltmarsh, sand flats and intertidal mangrove creeks.

**DIET:** Aquatic and terrestrial vegetation, crustaceans and insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Variable, dependent on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 4-14 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Grey Teal is highly mobile and may travel long distances in search of water. It becomes more coastal during dry periods.



## Chestnut Teal

*Anas castanea*

**ORDER:** ANSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese, Swans)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 35-50 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Chestnut underparts, rounded head with blue-grey bill. Male has a distinctive iridescent green head and neck, and a prominent white patch on flank. Female is similar to Grey Teal but face and throat are a richer buff.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

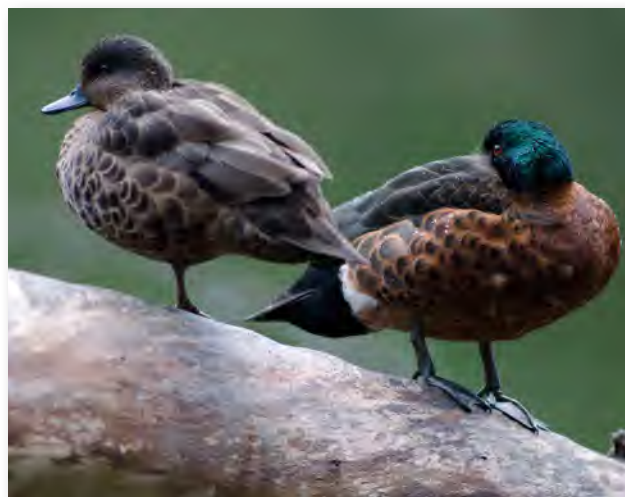
Sheltered coastal areas including subcoastal lakes, salt marshes, mud flats and mangrove creeks.

**DIET:** Seeds, insects, vegetation, molluscs and crustaceans.

**BREEDING SEASON:** July to November.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 9-11 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Chestnut Teal feeds mostly at dawn and dusk in shallow water and along the water's edge.



## Pacific Black Duck

*Anas superciliosa*

**ORDER:** ANSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese, Swans)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 47-60 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body dark brown with beige head and neck. Crown and nape dark brown with dark stripe through eye and a lower stripe from bill edge. Iridescent blue-green speculum and large white wing patch visible on underside of wing in flight. Green-yellow legs and feet. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Deep permanent water, swamps with dense vegetation and sheltered bays.

**DIET:** Mainly vegetation including seeds of aquatic plants, as well as small crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Variable, dependent on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 16 eggs.

**NOTES:** Occasionally crossbreeds in the wild with Grey Teal. The hybrid plumage is paler and more mottled. Eyebrow is also pale and indistinct.





## Australasian Grebe

*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

**ORDER:** PODICIPEDIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 25-27 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Non-breeding (below right): body dark grey-brown above and mostly silver-grey below, with a white oval patch of bare skin at the base of the bill. Breeding (above right): glossy-black head and chestnut facial marking which extends from behind the eye through to base of neck.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

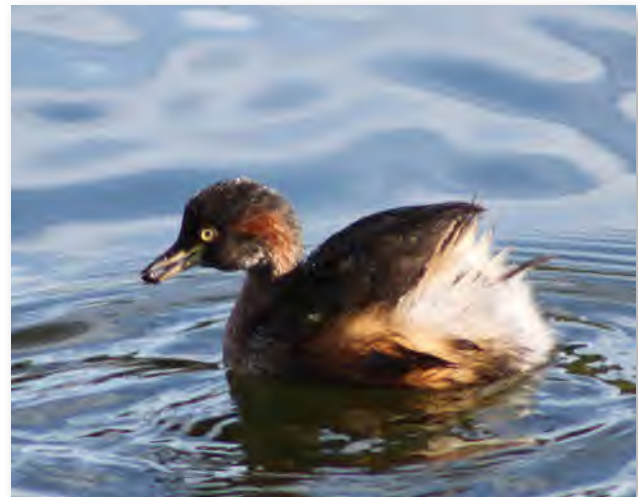
Deep permanent sub coastal lakes. Sheringa Lagoon, Lake Newland CP ( South Lake), Streaky Bay Area School Wetlands, Murat Bay and Point Sinclair (Blue Lake).

**DIET:** Small fish and aquatic insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** September to January.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 4-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Australasian Grebe is often observed singly or in territorial pairs. Plumages of non-breeding Australian Grebe and Hoary-headed Grebe are very similar. Use binoculars or a spotting scope for accurate identification.



## Hoary-headed Grebe

*Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

**ORDER:** PODICIPEDIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 25-30 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Breeding: Dark grey-brown above and pale buff to white below. Distinctive white facial plumes cover the entire head. Bill dark with cream tip. Non-breeding: body pale grey with facial plumes absent.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

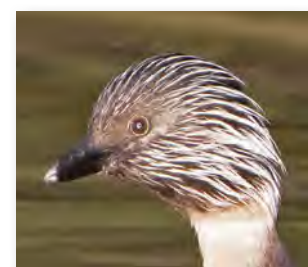
Brackish sub coastal lakes, sheltered bays and mangrove creeks.

**DIET:** Small yabbies, aquatic insects, spiders, small fish and some aquatic vegetation.

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to January.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Hoary-headed Grebe breeds in small colonies and constructs nests in the shallows amongst vegetation. Hoary-headed Grebe are often observed in large groups. When disturbed, may skitter across the water and fly rather than dive.



## Great Crested Grebe

*Podiceps cristatus*

**ORDER:** PODICIPEDIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - R, EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 47-61 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** The largest grebe. Breeding: Slender silvery white neck, chestnut and black neck frill and white face. Long, sharp bill with black line from bill to red eye. White cheeks and throat. Black line from centre of bill to forehead, ending in a crest. Neck rufous with black edging. Non-breeding: crest and neck markings reduced.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

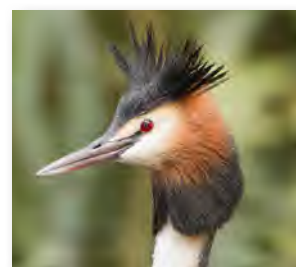
Large sheltered bays and deep subcoastal lakes. Adults with juveniles observed in the water at Sheringa Lagoon, Lake Newland CP (South Lake), Baird Bay and Point Sinclair (Blue Lake). Adults also observed at Streaky Bay and Venus Bay.

**DIET:** Mainly fish.

**BREEDING SEASON:** August to September.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 5-7 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Great Crested Grebe is well adapted to water and is rarely seen on land. A strong underwater swimmer.



## Little Penguin

*Eudyptula minor*

**ORDER:** SPHENISCIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SPHENISCIDAE (Penguins)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - DD

**WEST COAST TREND:** Data deficient

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 32-45 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body dark blue above and white below. Grey face, dark bill and white flipper edge. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Rocky coast and offshore islands.

**DIET:** Generalist predator, prefers small fish such as Sardines (*Sardinops sagax*), Anchovy (*Engraulis australis*) and Herring (*Etrumes teres*).

**BREEDING SEASON:** April to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Two eggs.

**NOTES:** Little Penguin colonies are no longer found on the mainland of the western Eyre Peninsula, however they are still present on many offshore islands.



## Australasian Gannet

*Morus serrator*

**ORDER:** PHALACROCORACIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SULIDAE (Gannets, Boobies)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Large, 90-95 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body white with black wing tips and inner tail feathers. Buff-washed head with short black stripe in centre of throat and black line extending from bill edge. Dark blue eye-ring around grey eye. Blue-grey bill and black feet with green lined toes. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Offshore islands, estuaries and bays.

**DIET:** Fish, especially Sardines (*Sardinops sagax*), Anchovy (*Engraulis australis*) and Jack Mackerel (*Trachurus declivis*), Squid (*Sepioteuthis australis*) and Garfish (*Hyporhamphus melanochir*).

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to November.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** One egg.

**NOTES:** The Australasian Gannet is a distinctive high diving white seabird often viewed from rocky cliffs and headlands fishing in salvos. Breeds in small dense colonies on offshore islands and nests on the ground.



## Little Pied Cormorant

*Microcarbo melanoleucos*

**ORDER:** PHALACROCORACIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 50-66 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Black back, wings and tail, and white below. Side of neck is divided black and white with small crest of black feathers from bill to forehead. Short yellow bill with black outline. Distinguished from the Pied Cormorant by its lack of yellow facial skin. Distinguished from the Black Faced Cormorant by its white forehead and yellow bill.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Fresh and salt water including coastal lagoons, bays, harbours, dams, lakes, swamps and floodwaters.

**DIET:** Aquatic insects, fish, yabbies and other crustaceans including shrimp.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Variable, dependent on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** Unlike other cormorants and some waterbirds the Little Pied Cormorant does not fly in 'V' formation and instead flies separately.





## Great Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

**ORDER:** PHALACROCORACIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Large, 70-90 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body black with yellow facial skin and throat pouch. Small white patch visible on each thigh although absent in winter. Bill is grey, legs and feet black. Juvenile resembles adult but is more dusky-brown (top right). Distinguished from Little Black Cormorant by its yellow facial skin.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

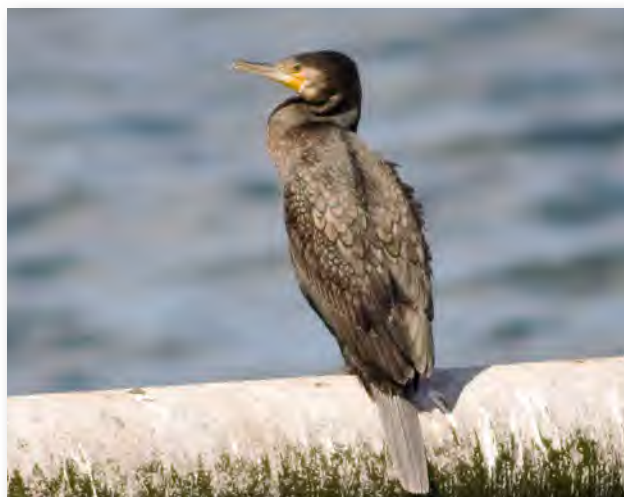
Predominantly marine. Rocky coasts, offshore islands, rocky reefs at the base of coastal cliffs. Kiana, Elliston, Talia, Venus Bay CP, Tyringa, Point Labatt CP and Cape Nuyts.

**DIET:** Mainly fish, but also crustaceans.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally August to January, although variable as dependent on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Great Cormorant catches food by diving underwater. Solitary but congregate where food is available. Nest and roost on rocks, cliffs and navigational platforms.



## Little Black Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

**ORDER:** PHALACROCORACIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 55-65 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body black with green sheen on back. More bronzed when breeding with white flecks on head and neck. Slender grey hooked bill. Distinguished from Little Black Cormorant by its lack of yellow facial skin.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sub coastal lakes, sheltered bays and mangrove tidal creeks. Often roost on oyster leases and on sand spits and sand flats with shorebirds, gulls and terns. Seagull Lake, Lake Newland CP, Sheringa Lagoon, Eyre Island, St. Peter Island, Tourville Bay, Streaky Bay and Venus Bay.

**DIET:** Mostly fish as well as crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Variable, dependent on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Little Black Cormorant may hunt cooperatively with Australian Pelicans.



## Pied Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax varius*

**ORDER:** PHALACROCORACIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Large, 70-80 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** The largest white-breasted cormorant. Glossy black back, wings and tail, with divided black and white neck. White underneath except for black leg strap. Long dark hooked bill, orange-pink facial and throat skin with small yellow patch above eye. Blue eye-ring around green eye. Distinguished from other black and white cormorants by its yellow facial skin.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, rocky coasts, offshore islands, mangrove creeks and subcoastal lakes. Significant breeding population in Venus Bay CP estimated to be at least 2,500 birds.

**DIET:** Mainly fish but also crustaceans and molluscs.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Variable, dependent on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Pied Cormorant breeds in colonies on offshore islands and mangroves. Often roosts on man-made structures such as jetties, oyster racks and moorings.



## Black-faced Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*

**ORDER:** PHALACROCORACIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably increasing

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 60-70 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Glossy black back, wings and tail, with divided black and white neck. White underneath except for black leg strap. Black bill, legs and feet. Green eye. Breeding: short white plumes on nape, rump and thighs. Sexes identical. Distinguished from the Little Pied Cormorant by the black facial colouring and black bill. Distinguished from the Pied Cormorant by its lack of yellow facial skin.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Mainly marine waters. Nest on offshore islands, stacks and reefs, rocky coasts or on cliff tops and ledges.

**DIET:** Mainly small fish and squid.

**BREEDING SEASON:** September to January.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Black-faced Cormorant breeds in large colonies. Roost on islands, offshore rocks, sand spits, navigation beacons and jetties.





## Australian Pelican

*Pelecanus conspicillatus*

**ORDER:** CICONIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PELECANIDAE (Pelicans)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Large, 160-180 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body white with black shoulders, rump, tail and upper wings. Large pink bill with an expansive throat pouch that becomes red when courting. Dark eye and yellow eye-ring. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

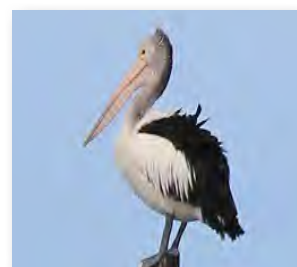
Sheltered coastal bays and subcoastal lakes.

**DIET:** Mainly fish.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Variable, dependent on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Australian Pelican breeds in colonies on offshore islands.



## White-faced Heron

*Egretta novaehollandiae*

**ORDER:** CICONIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ARDEIDAE (Herons, Egrets, Bitterns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 60-70 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body grey with white face and throat. Yellow eye and legs. Sharp dark brown bill. Breeding: white plumes on nape, mantle and back. Sexes identical. Distinguished from White-necked Heron by the lesser extent of white colouration on face and neck and yellow coloured legs.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, sub coastal lakes, mangroves, sand flats and sand spits, rocky coasts and offshore islands

**DIET:** Fish, insects and amphibians.

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** The White-faced Heron breeds locally and nests in tall trees.



## Eastern Great Egret

*Ardea alba*

**ORDER:** CICONIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ARDEIDAE (Herons, Egrets, Bitterns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Large, 80-105 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Tallest egret. For most of the year the bill is yellow, sometimes with a darker tip and legs are blackish. Neck length is greater than, or about the same length as the body.

**Breeding:** Bill black with green facial skin at base. Plumes fall down over back to tail tip. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, saltmarsh, intertidal sand flats, subcoastal lakes and rocky coasts.

**DIET:** Small fish and reptiles, molluscs, amphibians, crustaceans and aquatic insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-6 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Eastern Great Egret is dispersive and migratory in some areas of its range.



## Little Egret

*Egretta garzetta*

**ORDER:** CICONIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ARDEIDAE (Herons, Egrets, Bitterns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - R, EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 55-65 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Breeding: two long slender white plumes develop from crown with finer shorter plumes on front and tail. Yellow to orange facial skin. Neck length is less than, or about the same length as, the body. Non-breeding: plumes reduced or absent, facial skin yellow, bill and legs black.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

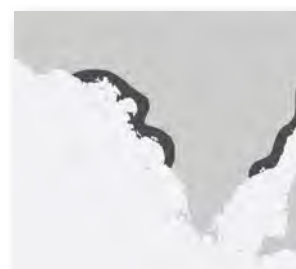
Mangrove creeks and associated sand spits and mud flats, saltmarsh and subcoastal lakes.

**DIET:** Aquatic invertebrates, fish and amphibians.

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to February.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Little Egret may display nomadic behaviour in response to water availability.





## Eastern Reef Egret

*Egretta sacra*

**ORDER:** CICONIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ARDEIDAE (Herons, Egrets, Bitterns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - R, EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably increasing

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 68-75 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body dark grey with white on throat. White colour variants do occur along the west coast although these are less common than black. Long, thick, brown bill. Yellow eyes, legs murky greenish-yellow. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

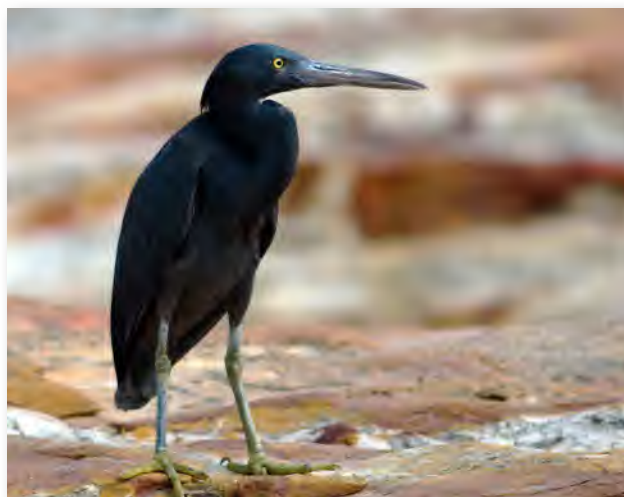
Rocky coasts, rock platforms at the base of cliffs, saltmarsh and mangrove channels.

**DIET:** Small fish, crustaceans and aquatic insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally September to January although variable depending on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Eastern Reef Egret breeds locally in pairs and nest under rock ledges.



## Eastern Osprey

*Pandion cristatus*

**ORDER:** ACCIPITRIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ACCIPITRIDAE (Kites, Goshawks, Eagles, Harriers)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - EN, EP - EN

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, Male 50-55 cm. Female 60-66 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body dark brown above with white head and underparts. Brown streak through eye and down sides of neck. Brown mottling across chest.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Variety of habitats including rocky coasts, cliffs, stacks, shallow bays, sandy beaches, mangrove channels, subcoastal lakes and offshore islands.

**DIET:** Mainly fish but also occasionally take molluscs, crustaceans, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals.

**BREEDING SEASON:** July to September.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** The breeding population of the Eastern Osprey in South Australia is small and fragmented, and estimated at only 52 pairs. The western Eyre Peninsula is a stronghold with at least 28 territories identified. They are successfully using artificial nesting platforms provided by oyster farmers in the region.



## White-bellied Sea-eagle

*Haliaeetus leucogaster*

**ORDER:** ACCIPITRIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ACCIPITRIDAE (Kites, Goshawks, Eagles, Harriers)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - EN, EP - EN

**WEST COAST TREND:** Definitely declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Large, 75-85 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body white with grey back, rump and wings. Large hooked, dark bill. Dark brown eye and long, dark talons. Females slightly larger than males.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Rocky coasts, cliffs, stacks, shallow bays, sandy beaches, mangrove channels, subcoastal lakes and offshore islands.

**DIET:** Fish, waterbirds, young gulls, terns and carrion.

**BREEDING SEASON:** May to October.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Two eggs.

**NOTES:** There are currently 55 known occupied breeding sites of the White-bellied Sea-eagle in South Australia. At least 29 territories have been identified on the western Eyre Peninsula.



## Buff-banded Rail

*Gallirallus philippensis*

**ORDER:** GRUIFORMES

**FAMILY:** RALLIDAE (Rails, Crakes, Swampheens, Coots)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 28-32 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Colourful body with black-brown back and wings with white spots. Throat grey merging into black with white striped front and underparts. Light orange chest band, white eye brow and chestnut eye stripe. Red eye and legs pale pink-brown. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

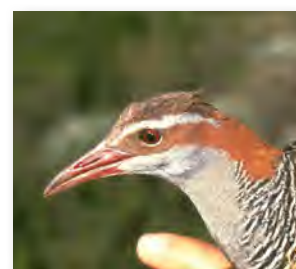
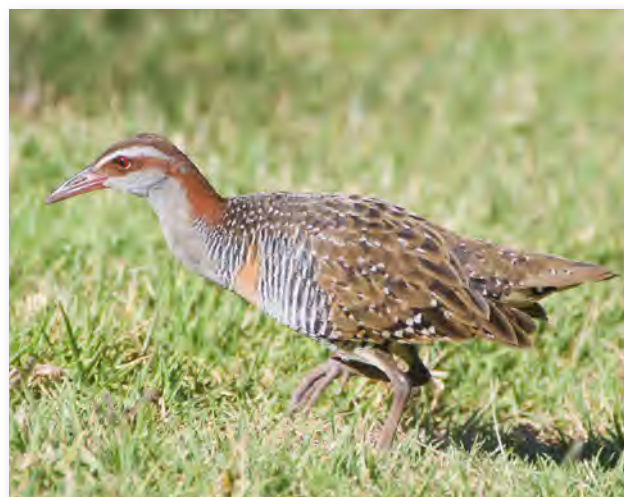
Offshore islands, subcoastal lakes with dense vegetation, artificial wetlands. Stays under cover and therefore prefers dense vegetation.

**DIET:** Crustaceans, molluscs, frogs, insects, seeds, fruit and carrion.

**BREEDING SEASON:** September to February.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 5-8 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Buff-banded Rail breeds locally and forms a cup-shaped nest from grasses and reeds.





## Black-tailed Native-hen

*Tribonyx ventralis*

**ORDER:** GRUIFORMES

**FAMILY:** RALLIDAE (Rails, Crakes, Swampheens, Coots)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 30-38 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Dark blue-grey body with olive-brown back and wings, and black tail. Several white markings on flanks. Orange-pink legs, bill green with orange base of lower mandible and yellow iris. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Fresh or saline wetlands, often in shallow clay pans and saltbush surrounding lakes.

**DIET:** Insects and vegetation including seeds.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally August to December but variable, depending on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 5-7 eggs.

**NOTES:** Irruptive populations. The Black-tailed Native-hen disperses in response to rainfall events and large groups may arrive and leave rapidly.



## Australian Pied Oystercatcher

*Haematopus longirostris*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** HAEMATOPODIDAE (Oyster catchers)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - R, EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 42-50 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Black wings, back and head, with white underbody and wing bars. Long red beak. Red feet, legs and eye ring.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

High energy sandy beaches, low energy bays, sand flats and sand spits, reefs, rocky coasts and offshore islands. St. Peter Island, Tourville Bay, Eyre Island, Streaky Bay, Venus Bay, Lake Newland CP ocean beach and Coffin Bay.

**DIET:** Shellfish, including oysters, crustaceans, small fish and polychaete worms.

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to January.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** A resident shorebird. The western Eyre Peninsula provides optimum breeding habitat. Currently the region supports at least 1,500 birds.



## Sooty Oystercatcher

*Haematopus fuliginosus*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** HAEMATOPODIDAE (Oystercatchers)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - R, EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 40-52 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Black head and body with pink legs. Red eye, eye-ring and bill. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Offshore islands, rocky coasts and sandy beaches.

**DIET:** Marine invertebrates including molluscs, crustaceans and insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to January.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Two eggs.

**NOTES:** The Sooty Oystercatcher creates a nest above the tide line from a depression in sand, gravel, shingle or among rocks or wrack. Prefers offshore islands and rocky outcrops for breeding. Breeding pairs defend small territories around the nest. Fledged juveniles are taken to adjacent sandy beaches to first learn to forage in a softer substrate.



## Black-winged Stilt

*Himantopus himantopus*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** RECURVIROSTRIDAE (Stilts, Avocets)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 26-38 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body white with dark brown wings and black nape patch. Long, thin pinkish-red legs. Long, thin black bill and red iris. Sexes identical. The Banded Stilt appears very similar but have all black wings in flight. The Black-winged Stilt are more often observed in pairs or small groups.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Shallow salt lakes and saltmarshes. Lake Newland CP (South Lake), Seagull Lake, Streaky Bay, Baird Bay and Lake Hamilton.

**DIET:** Aquatic insects, small crustaceans and molluscs.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally August to December but variable, depending on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** A resident shorebird. Disappearing from small salt marshes on the western Eyre Peninsula where springs and soaks have dried up.





## Red-necked Avocet

*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** RECURVIROSTRIDAE (Stilts, Avocets)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 40-48 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body white with chestnut head and neck, and black wing bar. Long up-curved black bill, white eye ring and partly webbed feet.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Subcoastal lakes and sheltered intertidal sand flats. Lake Hamilton, Lake Newland CP (South Lake), Baird Bay, Streaky Bay, Murat Bay and Point Sinclair (Blue Lake).

**DIET:** Fish, aquatic insects and their larvae, crustaceans and seeds.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally August to November but variable, depending on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** A resident shorebird. Often roosts and feeds with Banded Stilt.



## Banded Stilt

*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** RECURVIROSTRIDAE (Stilts, Avocets)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - V, EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 35-44 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** White head, neck and body with red-brown chest band, deep brown belly patch and brownish-black wings. Long fine black bill, dark-brown eye and long orange-pink legs. Chest band partial or absent in non-breeding season. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Subcoastal lakes, saltmarsh and margins of sheltered bays. Lake Greenly, Lake Malata, Lake Hamilton, Sheringa Lagoon, Lake Newland CP and many sheltered bays.

**DIET:** Crustaceans (particularly brine shrimp), molluscs, insects and vegetation including seeds and roots.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally May to December but variable, depending on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** A resident shorebird. Rapid response to rain on inland salt lakes. Some post breeding dispersal to western Eyre Peninsula.





## Pacific Golden Plover

*Pluvialis fulva*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** CHARADRIIDAE (Lapwings, Plovers, Dotterels)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - R, EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 23-26 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** A shorebird with a short black bill, long legs, dark eye and an upright stance. Non-breeding: pale buff forehead and face with a distinct whitish eyebrow. Upper parts dark brown, fringed with yellow-buff spots. Underparts white with a golden buff wash. Smaller and finer than a Grey Plover and lacks the black 'armpits' under wing.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Low energy sandy beaches, sand flats and sand spits. Eyre Island, St. Peter Island, Streaky Bay and Baird Bay.

**DIET:** Molluscs, crustaceans, insects, worms and small fish.

**BREEDING SEASON:** June to July.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Four eggs.

**NOTES:** The Pacific Golden Plover is a spring/summer migrant to Australia from September to April, returning to breed in north eastern Siberia and Western Alaska from June/July. Observed in singles or very small groups on western Eyre Peninsula.



## Grey Plover

*Pluvialis squatarola*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** CHARADRIIDAE (Lapwings, Plovers, Dotterels)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 27-31 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Large plover with typical short thick neck and big eye. Non-breeding body mottled grey-brown above and paler below. White rump and wing bar, barred tail. Short heavy dark bill and dark grey legs. Distinct black 'armpits' in flight.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sand flats and sand bars in sheltered bays with extensive cockle beds, saltmarsh and low energy sandy beaches. Venus Bay, Baird Bay, Streaky Bay, Eyre Island, St. Peter Island and Tourville Bay.

**DIET:** Mainly molluscs, marine worms, insects and crustaceans, as well as some vegetation including seeds.

**BREEDING SEASON:** May to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Four eggs.

**NOTES:** The Grey Plover is a spring/summer migrant to Australia from September to April, returning to breed in the high Arctic tundra in June/July.



## Red-capped Plover

*Charadrius ruficapillus*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** CHARADRIIDAE (Lapwings, Plovers, Dotterels)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 14-16 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Male: light brown back and wings with white wing bar, and white below. Reddy-brown crown and neck with black head band and black streak through eye. Black bill and legs. Females similar but with less distinct colouring. Non-breeding colours duller and mostly grey-brown above.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sandy beaches, rocky shores, sand flats, subcoastal lakes, saltmarsh, dunefields and blowouts. Widespread throughout the coastal zone from Coffin Bay NP to Wahgunyah CP.

**DIET:** Insects, molluscs, crustaceans and worms.

**BREEDING SEASON:** July to March.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Two eggs.

**NOTES:** A resident shorebird. The Red-capped Plover breeds locally on sandy beaches, often next to vegetation or debris. Nests are vulnerable to predation, beach traffic and disturbance.



## Double-banded Plover

*Charadrius bicinctus*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** CHARADRIIDAE (Lapwings, Plovers, Dotterels)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 18-21 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Non-breeding plumage: Buffish grey-brown above with a broad brown mark from bill below eye to ear coverts. Eyebrow and nape washed yellow buff. Underparts white with traces of a narrow brown breast band. Some may have partial lower band (below right). Very difficult to distinguish from a non-breeding Lesser Sand Plover.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sandy beaches, sand flats, intertidal creeks and saltmarsh. Coffin Bay, Streaky Bay. Rarely observed.

**DIET:** Aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, including molluscs, polychaete worms, crabs and worms, and vegetation including seeds and fruit.

**BREEDING SEASON:** August to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** The only migratory shorebird to breed in New Zealand (August-December) and winter in Australia (February-August).



## Lesser Sand Plover

*Charadrius mongolus*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** CHARADRIIDAE (Lapwings, Plovers, Dotterels)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - R, EP - EN

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 18-21 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body brown above and white below. Faint grey chest band and short dark stripe behind eye. White forehead and small, black bill. Smaller than the Greater Sand Plover but slightly larger than the Double-banded Plover.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

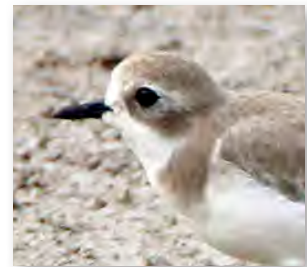
Low energy bays with sand flats and sand spits, intertidal creeks lined with saltmarsh. Baird Bay, Streaky Bay, Acraman Creek, Eyre Island and St. Peter Island.

**DIET:** Insects, crustaceans, molluscs and worms.

**BREEDING SEASON:** May to June.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Lesser Sand Plover is a spring/summer migrant to Australia from September to April and returns to breed on the dry stony plains of the Gobi Desert from May to August.



## Hooded Plover

*Thinornis rubricollis*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** CHARADRIIDAE (Lapwings, Plovers, Dotterels)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - V, Ma, SA - V, EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 19-23 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body sandy-brown above and white below. Black head and throat with red eye-ring. White nape and pink legs.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Low and high energy sandy beaches, subcoastal ephemeral lakes, dunefields and blowouts, rocky cliff tops, rocky shores with mussel beds and offshore islands. Sleaford Bay, Coffin Bay NP, Lake Newland CP, Venus Bay CP, Corvisart Bay, St. Peter Island and Point Sinclair.

**DIET:** Invertebrates, small bivalves, polychaete worms and soldier crabs.

**BREEDING SEASON:** August to March.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** A resident shorebird. Nests above the high tide mark, often at the base of dunes; sometimes on high calccrete ledges overlooking a high energy ocean beach.





## Masked Lapwing

*Vanellus miles*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** CHARADRIIDAE (Lapwings, Plovers, Dotterels)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 33-38 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body brown above and white below. Head with striking yellow facial wattles and black crown. Spur on bend of wing, long red legs. Sexes identical. Race *novaehollandiae* smaller with partial black neck collar and shorter wattles.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Subcoastal lakes, saltmarsh, sand flats, sandy beaches, parks and ovals.

**DIET:** Invertebrates including earthworms and beetle larvae.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Variable, dependent on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** A medium-large resident shorebird, often referred to as a Hooded Plover in the region because of its heavy facial wattles.



## Bar-tailed Godwit

*Limosa lapponica*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - R, EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 37-45 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** A long-necked, long-legged shorebird with a long, straight bill. Body lightly barred and mottled grey-brown above and white below. In flight: rump and tail off white with dark brown bars. Bill, pink at base. Breeding male has strong chestnut-red head and belly. Female slightly larger than male.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays and sand flats. Baird Bay, Streaky Bay, Eyre Island, St. Peter Island and Tourville Bay.

**DIET:** Molluscs, crustaceans, worms, aquatic insects and some vegetation.

**BREEDING SEASON:** May to June.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Bar-tailed Godwit is a spring/summer visitor to Australia returning to north eastern Siberia to breed from April to June.



## Eastern Curlew

*Numenius madagascariensis*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - V, EP - EN

**WEST COAST TREND:** Definitely declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 60-65 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** The largest migrant shorebird. Body dark brown-buff with a very long (18 cm) down-curved bill which is nearly half the body length. Female bill usually longer than the male bill.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays with undisturbed sand flats and exposed sea grass beds often adjacent to mangroves. Rarely observed south of Streaky Bay. Ones and twos regularly seen Eyre Island, St. Peter Island, Tourville Bay and Murat Bay.

**DIET:** Small crabs and molluscs.

**BREEDING SEASON:** June to July.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Four eggs.

**NOTES:** The Eastern Curlew is a spring/summer visitor to Australia arriving in August and returning to north east Asia in February and March.



## Common Sandpiper

*Actitis hypoleucos*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - R, EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 19-21 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body brown above with darker barring, white below leading up to shoulder to form a wedge shape. White eyebrow and eye ring. Bill dark grey and yellow at base. In flight: broad white wing bar above. Under-wing distinctly white.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Rocky shores, jetties, breakwaters. Anxious Bay, Corvisart Bay, Streaky Bay, Murat Bay and Point Sinclair.

**DIET:** Feeds in shallow pools. Small molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** May to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Common Sandpiper is a spring/summer visitor to Australia, returning to north eastern Asia to breed during April to September. Solitary bird which has a distinctive nervous 'bobbing'.



## Grey-tailed Tattler

*Tringa brevipes*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - R, EP - EN

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 24-27 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** A slim, medium sized shorebird. Upper parts grey. White eyebrow and yellowish legs. Straight bill with nasal groove.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays with rocky platforms or intertidal sand flats adjacent to mangroves. Streaky Bay, Seagull Lake, Sceale Bay, St. Peter Island and Eyre Island.

**DIET:** Polychaetes, molluscs, crustaceans, insects and occasionally fish.

**BREEDING SEASON:** May to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Four eggs.

**NOTES:** The Grey-tailed Tattler is a spring/summer visitor to Australia, returning to breed in north eastern Siberia in the southern winter.



## Common Greenshank

*Tringa nebularia*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 30-35 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** A grey and white, long legged and long-necked sandpiper-type bird. Underparts white. Bill slightly up-curved. In flight: rump and back are conspicuous white, contrasting with grey-brown wings.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, sand flats, mangroves tidal creeks and associated saltmarsh, rocky shores, subcoastal lakes and offshore islands. Streaky Bay, Eyre Island, St. Peter Island and Tourville Bay

**DIET:** Insects, worms, molluscs, small fish and crustaceans.

**BREEDING SEASON:** May to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Common Greenshank is a spring/summer visitor to Australia arriving from August to November and returning to north eastern Siberia in March and April to breed.





## Marsh Sandpiper

*Tringa stagnatilis*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curllews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 22-26 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Tall and long-legged, body mottled brown above and paler below. White forehead, fine straight bill and grey-green legs. The Common Greenshank is very similar in appearance but has a slightly upturned beak and darker face.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Fresh, saline and brackish wetlands, estuaries, sand flats, mud flats, beaches, swamps and lakes.

**DIET:** Molluscs, worms, crustaceans, insects and small fish.

**BREEDING SEASON:** April to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 4-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Marsh Sandpiper is a spring/summer migrant to Australia arriving in August and returning to the north eastern Siberia in March to breed.



## Ruddy Turnstone

*Arenaria interpres*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curllews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 21-25 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** A medium-sized, stocky shorebird with distinctive black and white patterning on head and shoulders, reddish-brown back and white below. Dark breast band, short wedge-shaped bill and short reddish-orange legs. Non-breeding plumage slightly less distinctive.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, sand flats, rocky ledges, sandy beaches with seaweed and offshore islands. Sceale Bay, Streaky Bay, Eyre Island and St. Peter Island.

**DIET:** Crustaceans, molluscs, insects and spiders, occasional maggots and carrion.

**BREEDING SEASON:** May to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Four eggs.

**NOTES:** The Ruddy Turnstone is a spring/summer migrant to Australia, returning to north eastern Siberia and western Alaska to breed in mid March.



## Great Knot

*Calidris tenuirostris*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - R, EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 26-28 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** A medium-large shorebird with a black bill that is longer than its head. Grey-brown above. White below with spots on breast and streaks on flanks. In flight: whitish rump with grey tail.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays with sand flats, low energy beaches with rocky platforms. Baird Bay, Streaky Bay, Eyre Island and St. Peter Island.

**DIET:** Mainly molluscs, worms and crustaceans.

**BREEDING SEASON:** March to June.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Four eggs.

**NOTES:** The Great Knot is a spring/summer migrant to Australia arriving in late August and returning to north eastern Siberia in March to breed.



## Red Knot

*Calidris canutus*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 23-25 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Robust body, grey above and pale below with speckled chest. Short straight black bill about the length of its head and short green-grey legs.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, sand flats, sand bars and low energy sandy beaches with saltmarsh. Baird Bay, Streaky Bay, Eyre Island, St. Peter Island and Tourville Bay.

**DIET:** Mostly crustaceans, worms and molluscs, as well as some insects, spiders and vegetation including seeds and shoots.

**BREEDING SEASON:** June to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Four eggs.

**NOTES:** The Red Knot is a spring/summer visitor to Australia arriving in September and returns to the New Siberian Islands in late March to breed.



## Sanderling

*Calidris alba*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - R, EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 19-20 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Pale grey above and white below with dark shoulder (not always visible except in flight). Distinct white wing bar visible in flight. White stripe through a dark eye. The whitest of the sandpipers.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

High energy sandy beaches, sand bars and sand flats. Coffin Bay NP, Convention Beach, Lake Newland CP (ocean beach), Searcy Bay, Sceale Bay and Eyre Island.

**DIET:** Mainly insects, small crustaceans and arthropods.

**BREEDING SEASON:** June to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Sanderling is a spring/summer visitor to Australia, arriving in September and returning to the New Siberian Islands in late March to breed.



## Red-necked Stint

*Calidris ruficollis*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 13-16 cm. The smallest migratory shorebird.

**Colours / Markings:** Body grey-brown above with dark streaks. White below. Sides of the neck pale grey-brown. Fine white wing bar. Dark line from bill through eye. Fine whitish eyebrow. Short black bill.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, sand flats, sand spits, sandy beaches, saltmarsh, subcoastal lakes and offshore islands. Widespread throughout the coastal zone from Coffin Bay NP to Wahgunyah CP.

**DIET:** Insects, small vertebrates, seeds, saltmarsh vegetation, crustaceans, molluscs and gastropods.

**BREEDING SEASON:** June to July.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Four eggs.

**NOTES:** The Red-necked Stint is a spring/summer visitor to Australia, arriving in September and returning to north eastern Siberia in March-April to breed.





## Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

*Calidris acuminata*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 17-22 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Robust body, mottled dark grey and buff above and white below with speckled chest. Black rump and tail with chestnut crown and nape. Straight black bill with olive-grey base, white eyebrow and yellow-green legs.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, sand flats, saltmarsh, mangroves and subcoastal lakes. Widespread throughout the coastal zone from Coffin Bay NP to Fowlers Bay.

**DIET:** Insects, worms, molluscs, crustaceans and occasionally seeds.

**BREEDING SEASON:** June to August.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a spring /summer migrant to Australia arriving in September and returning to north eastern Siberia in April to breed.



## Curlew Sandpiper

*Calidris ferruginea*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** SCOLOPACIDAE (Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Godwits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Definitely declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 18-23 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body grey-brown above and white below with white wing bar and rump. Long black bill with downward curve, dark brown eye and black legs. Sexes similar, female has slightly larger and longer bill.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, sand flats, sand bars and subcoastal lakes. Lake Newland CP, Baird Bay, Seagull Lake, Streaky Bay, Eyre Island, St. Peter Island and Murat Bay.

**DIET:** Mainly invertebrates including worms, molluscs, crustaceans and insects, may also eat seeds.

**BREEDING SEASON:** June to July.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Four eggs.

**NOTES:** The Curlew Sandpiper is a spring /summer migrant to Australia arriving in August and returning to north eastern Siberia in April to breed.



## Fairy Tern

*Sternula nereis*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** LARIDAE (Gulls, Terns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - V, Ma, SA - EN, EP - V

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably declining

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 22-27 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body grey and white with long narrow wings. Non-breeding: dark bill, legs and feet. Breeding: extended black cap, yellow beak and orange legs.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays, sand spits, sandy beaches, offshore islands and subcoastal lakes. Lake Hamilton, Sheringa Lagoon, Lake Newland CP, Venus Bay, Seagull Lake, Streaky Bay, Eyre Island, St. Peter Island, Tourville Bay and Point Sinclair (Blue Lake).

**DIET:** Mainly small fish.

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to February.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** The only local breeding small tern with a yellow bill. Consult other references for small tern identification, especially for non-breeding plumage.



## Caspian Tern

*Hydroprogne caspia*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** LARIDAE (Gulls, Terns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, Mi, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 48-56 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body grey above and white below, with fine black streaking across forehead and crown. Large red bill, black eye and ear coverts. Slightly forked tail and black legs. Breeding: body pale grey above and head with black cap and bill with grey marking. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

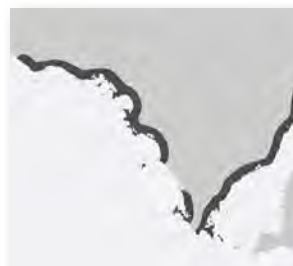
Sheltered bays, sand spits, sandy beaches, subcoastal lakes and offshore islands. Widespread throughout the coastal zone from Coffin Bay NP to Fowlers Bay.

**DIET:** Mainly fish, occasionally carrion and aquatic insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** Breeding colonies are found at Venus Bay, Eyre Island and St. Peter Island.





## Whiskered Tern

*Chlidonias hybrida*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** LARIDAE (Gulls, Terns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Probably increasing

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 23-25 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Robust body with slightly forked tail.

Breeding: body grey above, black belly and cap, with red legs and bill. Non-breeding: body white below with white streaking through crown and dark bill. Legs sometimes with red tinge.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

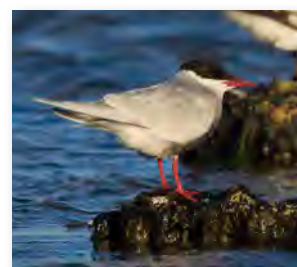
Sheltered bays, subcoastal lakes, sand flats and saltmarshes.

**DIET:** Mainly small fish, amphibians, crustaceans and insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally September to December but variable, depending on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** Dispersive. Summer breeding migrant to south eastern Australia. More frequently observed during spring and summer on western Eyre Peninsula in the last 5 years.



## Crested Tern

*Thalasseus bergii*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** LARIDAE (Gulls, Terns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 43-49 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body grey above and white below. Yellow to orange-yellow bill and forked tail. Black cap and crest in breeding season.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

High energy sandy beaches, rocky shores, platforms, reefs, mangroves, sand islands and offshore islands.

**DIET:** Mostly small surface fish but also squid, crabs and insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** October to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Two eggs.

**NOTES:** The Crested Tern breeds locally with large breeding colonies on many offshore islands.



## Pacific Gull

*Larus pacificus*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** LARIDAE (Gulls, Terns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS -Ma, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 50-66 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Adult plumage (above right) white with black wings and back. White tail with black terminal band. Thick yellow bill with red tip, yellow legs. Juvenile: dark brown, bill black. Immature birds take another three years to gain full adult plumage (below right).

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sandy beaches, rocky shores, cliffs and cliff tops.

**DIET:** Shellfish, molluscs, fish, squid, crabs, carrion and eggs and nestlings of other seabirds.

**BREEDING SEASON:** September to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Pacific Gull breeds locally in scattered pairs or small loose colonies on offshore islands or on high points of headlands.



## Silver Gull

*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

**ORDER:** CHARADRIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** LARIDAE (Gulls, Terns)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Definitely increasing

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Medium, 38-45 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body grey above and white below. Grey wings tipped black. Eye ring, bill legs and feet all orange-red and becoming brighter red in breeding season. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sandy beaches, sand flats, sand spits, saltmarsh, subcoastal lakes and offshore islands.

**DIET:** Opportunistic scavengers feeding from refuse, will also eat worms, fish, crustaceans and insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally June to December but variable depending on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** Three eggs.

**NOTES:** The Silver Gull is well adapted to modified habitat, with numbers increasing with the abundance of urban waste.





## Rock Parrot

*Neophema petrophila*

**ORDER:** PSITTACIFORMES

**FAMILY:** PSITTACIDAE (Parrots)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - R, EP - NT

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 21-23 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Male: forehead band dark blue, facial mask pale blue to behind the eye, wing edged blue. Female duller.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal dune shrublands, heathy cliff tops, saltmarsh and low saltbush shrublands from Coffin Bay NP in the south to Point Sinclair in the north west.

**DIET:** Seeds and fruits of a wide variety of grasses, rushes, shrubs and salt-tolerant plants.

**BREEDING SEASON:** August to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 4-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Rock Parrot breeds on offshore islands. Similar parrot species include the Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) and the Elegant Parrot (*Neophema elegans*).



## Sacred Kingfisher

*Todiramphus sanctus*

**ORDER:** CORACIIFORMES

**FAMILY:** HALCYONIDAE (Tree Kingfishers)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - R

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 19-24 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Colourful body with green head and back, and blue wings tail and rump. White to pale yellow below. Strong black band through eye and ear coverts through to back of neck. Pale yellow spot before eye, white collar tinged pale yellow. Sexes similar, although female with duller colouration.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sheltered bays especially along mangrove creeks and saltmarsh areas near towns with introduced eucalypts. Elliston, Baird Bay, Streaky Bay and Smoky Bay.

**DIET:** Yabbies, insects, small lizards and fish.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally September to December but may extend if conditions favourable.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-6 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Sacred Kingfisher migrates north for the winter and is often observed in transit.



## Blue-breasted Fairy-wren

*Malurus pulcherrimus*

**ORDER:** PASSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** MALURIDAE (Fairy-wrens, Emu-wrens, Grasswrens)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - LC, SA - LC, EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 14-15 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Male (top right): crown and tail brilliant blue. Black markings extend from beak across ears to neck and chest. Chest deep purple, often appearing black. Shoulders chestnut. White to cream below. Female (below right): Orange lores and eye-ring. Pale grey to brown above, white to cream below. Paler blue tail. Very similar to the Variegated Fairy-wren (*Malurus lamberti*).

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Shrubby areas including coastal dune shrublands, mangroves, samphire, mallee and mulga.

**DIET:** Small invertebrates such as larvae, beetles, ants, wasps and flies.

**BREEDING SEASON:** August to November

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3 eggs.

**NOTES:** Often seen in small groups or pairs.



## Yellow-rumped Thornbill

*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

**ORDER:** PASSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** ACANTHIZIDAE (Gerygones, Thornbills, Shrubwrens)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Very small, 10-12 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body olive-grey above with bright yellow rump, and pale yellow below. Forehead black with white spots and crown light brown with white eyebrow. Dark tail tipped white. Sexes identical. To identify this bird in the field look for the yellow rump contrasting with the black tail with a white tip.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal shrublands on dunes, along cliff tops and around subcoastal lakes.

**DIET:** Insects and sometimes seeds.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally July to December but variable, depending on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-5 eggs.

**NOTES:** Often observed moving across open ground and low branches in small groups.





## Singing Honeyeater

*Lichenostomus virescens*

**ORDER:** PASSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** MELIPHAGIDAE (Honeyeaters, Australian Chats)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 17-22 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body grey above and streaked dark grey below, with yellow tinge to wings and tail. Distinctive colouring around the face with dark streak extending from the bill, through the eye to the neck, and a yellow streak below the eye. Yellow ear tuft tipped white, black bill and dark brown eyes. Sexes identical.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal dune shrubland, subcoastal lake fringing vegetation and mangroves. Also found inland in shrublands, woodlands and mallee.

**DIET:** Berries, nectar and insects.

**BREEDING SEASON:** August to November.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Singing Honeyeater is the most common honeyeater observed throughout the western Eyre Peninsula coastal zone.



## Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

*Acanthagenys rufogularis*

**ORDER:** PASSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** MELIPHAGIDAE (Honeyeaters, Australian Chats)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 22-27 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Body grey-brown above with grey rump, and cream below with dark fragmented striations. Throat and breast light orange-yellow. Bill pink with black tip, and pink skin around beak and eye. White cheeks, white tail tip and blue iris.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal dune shrublands, heathy cliff tops and dune swales.

**DIET:** Insects, small native fruits and nectar.

**BREEDING SEASON:** Generally June to January but variable, depending on suitable conditions.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** The Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater constructs a deep cup-shaped nest built from plant fibres and grasses bound together with spider web.





## White-fronted Chat

*Epthianura albifrons*

**ORDER:** PASSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** MELIPHAGIDAE (Honeyeaters, Australian Chats)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Very small, 11-13 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Sexes similar. Male (above right): body grey above and white below with white forehead, face and throat. Black band extends from back of crown to nape and across the chest. Light pink eyes, black bill and legs. Female (below right): duller and mostly grey-brown and white.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Subcoastal lakes, samphire and saltmarsh and inland in a variety of low open saltbush shrublands.

**DIET:** Small insects such as midges, flies and beetles that occur close to the ground.

**BREEDING SEASON:** August to January.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 2-3 eggs.

**NOTES:** The White-fronted Chat nests in loose colonies, where the female builds the nest and both parents care for the young.



## Richard's Pipit

*Anthus novaeseelandiae*

**ORDER:** PASSERIFORMES

**FAMILY:** MOTACILLIDAE (Wagtails, Pipits)

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

**WEST COAST TREND:** Stable

### DESCRIPTION

**Size:** Small, 16-19 cm.

**Colours / Markings:** Sexes identical. Slender bill. Shades of brown above. Eyebrow stripe and throat buff to white. Throat edged by dark brown stripe. Tail has white edges. Underparts grade from buff to white with brown flecks. Pink legs.

### HABITAT PREFERENCES

Common in a variety of habitats with low vegetation including coastal dunes, samphire and cliff tops. Also very common in grasslands including crops and stubble.

**DIET:** Insects and seeds.

**BREEDING SEASON:** August to December.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 3-4 eggs.

**NOTES:** Richard's Pipit is usually seen flying low over vegetation or running along tracks and perching in prominent positions such as rocks and fence posts.

