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Birds of Hamersley Range National Park



Department of Conservation and Land Management, W.A.

Most of the species recorded in this birdlist were observed and recorded by Ian Soloman (Ranger-in-Charge 1977-1984) and his wife Eve.

Although the comments on abundance and habitat reflect observations in the Park, they frequently (but not always) mirror what can be seen elsewhere in the Pilbara. The nomenclature and sequence follows Graham Pizzey's "A Field Guide to Birds of Australia".

We still have a great deal to learn about birds in the Hamersley Range National Park. If you see a bird in the Park which is not on the list, or if you make an interesting or unusual observation, we would like to hear from you.

Ranger-in-Charge

Hamersley Range National Park

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NAME	COMMENTS
Emu <i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Uncommon. Usually in pairs on spinifex - eucalypt areas.
Hoary-headed Grebe <i>Podiceps poliocephalus</i>	Uncommon. Has been seen in Joffre Gorge and on a pond near Marandoo.
Little Grebe <i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>	Uncommon. In gorges and on pools in the southern section of the park.
Australian Pelican <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>	Rare. Has been seen near Marandoo and once in Joffre Gorge.
Darter <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Rare. Has been seen on Crossing and Coppin Pools.
Pied Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Rare. Has been seen in Dales Gorge and on Crossing Pool.
Little Pied Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	Rare. Recorded in Dales Gorge.
Little Black Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	Uncommon. On pools throughout the park.
White-necked Heron <i>Ardea pacifica</i>	Common. In Gorges and on pools throughout the park.
White-faced Heron <i>Ardea novaehollandiae</i>	Uncommon. In gorges and on pools throughout the park.
Large Egret <i>Egretta alba</i>	Rare. Has been seen on a pond at Marandoo.
Nankeen Night Heron <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Rare. Two known colonies in gorges.
Straw-necked Ibis <i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>	Uncommon. In groups of up to 50 during wet season.
Black Duck <i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Uncommon. On pools during wet season.
Grey Teal <i>Anas gibberifrons</i>	Uncommon. On pools throughout the park.
Pink-eared Duck <i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>	Rare. Recorded on a pond near Marandoo.
White-eyed Duck <i>Aythya australis</i>	Rare. Has been seen on Coppin Pool
Wood Duck <i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	Rare. One pair seen in January 1981 and one bird in December 1982 at the Ranger's house.

NAME	COMMENTS
Black-shouldered Kite <i>Elanus notatus</i>	Uncommon. Has been seen in Marandoo, Coppin Pool and Dales Gorge areas.
Fork-tailed Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	Rare. Seen at Marandoo and at the Ranger's house during 1980.
Black-breasted Kite <i>Hamirostra melanosternon</i>	Rare. Has been seen near Marandoo and Mt Bruce.
Whistling Kite <i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>	Uncommon. Occasionally seen along watercourses.
Australian Goshawk <i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>	Uncommon. Single birds and pairs have been seen along watercourses.
Collared Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter cirrhocephalus</i>	Common. Along creeks and more densely vegetated gullies.
Wedge-tailed Eagle <i>Aquila audax</i>	Uncommon. Single birds have been seen near Yampire and Hamersley Gorges.
Little Eagle <i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Rare. Recorded near Dales Gorge in 1979 and 1980.
Spotted Harrier <i>Circus assimilis</i>	Common. In open spinifex - eucalypt areas.
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Uncommon. Has been seen near Dales Gorge and Marandoo.
Little Falcon <i>Falco longipennis</i>	Uncommon. Has been seen along tree-lined watercourses.
Grey Falcon <i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Rare. Has been seen near the Ranger's house.
Brown Falcon <i>Falco berigora</i>	Common. In a wide variety of habitats.
Nankeen Kestrel <i>Falco cenchroides</i>	Common. Throughout the park.
Little Button-quail <i>Turnix velox</i>	Common. On spinifex and soft grass flats.
Black-tailed Native-hen <i>Gallinula ventralis</i>	Rare. Seen 3km north of Ranger's house in January 1981.
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	Rare. One in Kalamina Gorge Sept 1981 and one on Milli-Milli Spring November 1981.
Australian Bustard <i>Ardeotis australis</i>	Common. Single birds and pairs on spinifex and soft grass flats.

NAME	COMMENTS
Bush Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus magnirostris</i>	Uncommon. Has been heard in Joffre Creek area and near the Ranger's house.
Australian Dotterel <i>Peltohyas australis</i>	Very uncommon. Stony hillsides
Red-capped Dotterel <i>Charadrius ruficappilus</i>	Rare. Seen once after a cyclone near the Ranger's house, January 1980.
Black-fronted Dotterel <i>Charadrius melanopus</i>	Common. Most pools with muddy banks in the park.
Pied Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Uncommon. Has been seen at Marandoo, Joffre Creek and the Ranger's house.
Peaceful Dove <i>Geopelia striata</i>	Uncommon. Has been seen near Coppin Pool and the Ranger's house.
Diamond Dove <i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	Common. Throughout the park.
Common Bronzewing <i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	Common. Throughout the park. It can be seen coming to water at dusk.
Crested Pigeon <i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	Common. Throughout the park in open country and along watercourses.
Spinifex Pigeon <i>Petrophassa plumifera</i>	Common. Around most of the gorges and along creeks.
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus magnificus</i>	Rare. Recorded by Harry Butler at Dale's Gorge.
Galah <i>Cacatua roseicapilla</i>	Common. Along watercourses, nesting in <u>Eucalyptus</u> sp.
Little Corella <i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	Common. Along creeks and gorges, nesting in <u>Eucalyptus</u> sp.
Cockatiel <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	Uncommon. In small flocks along watercourses.
Budgerigar <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	Common. Flocks throughout park, congregating near water.
Port Lincoln Parrot <i>Barnardius zonarius</i>	Common. Along creeks and gorges with river gums.
Mulga Parrot <i>Psephotus varius</i>	Rare. One recorded by Harry Butler near Marandoo in 1978.
Bourke's Parrot <i>Neophema bourkii</i>	Rare. Has been seen in grassy mulga country towards Mt Bruce.

NAME	COMMENTS
Pallid Cuckoo <i>Cuculus pallidus</i>	Common. Throughout the park. Hooded Robins seen feeding young in October 1978.
Black-eared Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx osculans</i>	Rare. Collected by Butler in 1976 and one sighted 4km west of Mt Bruce.
Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>	Common. In <u>Acacia</u> spp. On rocky hills and in Mulga.
Boobook Owl <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>	Common. Throughout the park. Frequently seen on roads at night.
Barking Owl <i>Ninox connivens</i>	Uncommon. A pair lives near the spring in Yampire Gorge.
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	Rare. Two birds seen by Butler in 1976 and pellets found west of Mt Bruce 1982.
Tawny Frogmouth <i>Podargus strigoides</i>	Common. Throughout the park. Often seen on roads at night.
Owlet-nightjar <i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>	Uncommon. Throughout the park. Sometimes seen on roads at night.
Spotted Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus guttatus</i>	Common. Throughout park. Often seen on roads at night.
Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i>	Uncommon. Occasionally seen during the wet season.
Blue-winged Kookaburra <i>Dacelo leachii</i>	Common. In River Gums along creeks and gorges.
Red-backed Kingfisher <i>Halcyon pyrrhopygia</i>	Common. Wide variety of habitats.
Sacred Kingfisher <i>Halcyon sancta</i>	Uncommon. Along groges and watercourses.
Rainbow Bee-eater <i>Merops ornatus</i>	Uncommon. May be seen hawking over pools in gorges.
Singing Bushlark <i>Mirafra javanica</i>	Rare. Only two sightings; near Mt Bruce and near Dales Gorge.
Tree Martin <i>Cecropis nigricans</i>	Common. Colonies in Yampire Gorge and near Coppin Pool. Associated with big trees.
Fairy Martin <i>Cecropis ariel</i>	Uncommon. Nests have been found in the Mt Bruce area.
Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	Uncommon. Most often seen on stony spinifex country.

NAME	COMMENTS
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike <i>Cornacina novaehollandiae</i>	Common. Throughout park.
White-winged Triller <i>Lalage sueurii</i>	Common. Mulga and eucalypt woodlands.
Red-capped Robin <i>Petroica goodenovii</i>	Uncommon. Dense Mulga.
Hooded Robin <i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Common. Mainly Mulga woodlands.
Rufous Whistler <i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>	Common. Throughout the park especially in Mulga.
Grey Shrike-thrush <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	Common. Along watercourses and gorges.
Crested Bellbird <i>Oreoica gutturalis</i>	Uncommon. Open woodlands and creek sides. More often heard than seen.
Grey Fantail <i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	Rare. In dense Mulga thickets.
Willie Wagtail <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Common. Throughout the park.
Wedgebill <i>Psophodes cristatus</i>	Uncommon. In <u>Acacia</u> thickets along gullies. More often heard than seen.
Grey-crowned Babbler <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>	Uncommon. In dense Mulga and in <u>Acacia</u> scrub along creeks.
Clamorous Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	Rare. Recorded in Dales Gorge.
Spinifexbird <i>Eremiornis carteri</i>	Uncommon. Usually in dense spinifex, also soft grasses along creeks.
Brown Songlark <i>Cinclorhamphus cruralis</i>	Uncommon. Open Mulga and grasslands.
Rufous Songlark <i>Cinclorhamphus mathewsi</i>	Common. Mulga, also eucalypts along watercourses.
Variegated Wren <i>Malurus lamberti</i>	Common. Throughout the park, in Mulga and in <u>Acacia</u> scrub along gullies and gorges.
Blue-and-white Wren <i>Malurus leucopterus</i>	Uncommon. Spinifex and scattered Acacias or flat country.
Rufous-crowned Emu-wren <i>Stipiturus ruficeps</i>	Uncommon. Spinifex on flats and hills.

NAME	COMMENTS
Striated Grass Wren <i>Amytornis striatus</i>	Uncommon. Spinifex. Has been seen around Weano campsite.
Redthroat <i>Sericornis brunneus</i>	Rare. Recorded in 1980 in open mulga.
Weebill <i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>	Common. In snappy gums on ranges and in river gums along creeks.
White-tailed Warbler <i>Gerygone fusca</i>	Reported by WA Museum staff in 1980.
Broad-tailed Thornbill <i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>	Reported by WA Museum staff in 1980.
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill <i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>	Common. Open to dense Mulga woodland.
Slate-backed Thornbill <i>Acanthiza robustirostris</i>	Rare. It has been seen in Mulga near Marandoo.
Yellow-rumped Thornbill <i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	Uncommon. Seen in acacias along creek edges near the Ranger's house 1980 and 1981.
Varied Sittella <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Uncommon. In mulga - eucalypt woodlands along creeks.
Black-tailed Treecreeper <i>Climacteris melanura</i>	Uncommon. Snappy Gums and river gums along creeks.
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater <i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>	Common. All types of woodlands.
White-rumped Miner <i>Manorina flavigula</i>	Common. Along gorges and watercourses.
Singing Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>	Uncommon. Has been seen around Marandoo in woodland with flowering acacias.
Grey-headed Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus keartlandi</i>	Common. Throughout the Park particularly in flowering plants.
White-plumed Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>	Common. Along creeks and in gorges. (wild canary).
Golden-backed Honeyeater <i>Melithreptus laetior</i>	Uncommon. It has been seen above Joffre and Dales Gorges and at Coppin Pool and at the Ranger's house.
Brown Honeyeater <i>Lichmera indistincta</i>	Common. In acacia thickets along creeks and in snappy gum woodland.

NAME	COMMENTS
White-fronted Honeyeater <i>Phylidonyris albifrons</i>	Uncommon. Reported by Butler in 1976 near Coppin Pool and in 1980, WA Museum staff.
Grey Honeyeater <i>Conopophila whitei</i>	Rare. One sighted near Joffre Gorge and one at Ranger's house.
Black Honeyeater <i>Certhionyx niger</i>	Uncommon. Observed in Mulga with <u><i>Eromophila frazeri</i></u> .
Pied Honeyeater <i>Certhionyx variegatus</i>	Rare. Has been seen at Marandoo and at the Ranger's house.
Crimson Chat <i>Epthianura tricolor</i>	Common. (Nomadic). On roads in Mulga, and on open flats.
Orange Chat <i>Epthianura aurifrons</i>	Rare. Sighted at Ranger's house in January 1981.
Mistletoebird <i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>	Uncommon. Along major watercourses with eucalypts.
Red-browed Pardalote <i>Pardalotus rubricatus</i>	Uncommon. In eucalypts along creeks.
Striated Pardalote <i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	Common. In snappy gums on slopes and around gorges.
Painted Firetail <i>Emblema picta</i>	Common. In stony spinifex country e.g. around gorges.
Star Finch <i>Neochmia ruficauda</i>	Uncommon. Has been seen near Coppin Pool and one nested in buffle grass near the Ranger's house.
Zebra Finch <i>Poephila guttata</i>	Common. Throughout the park near water.
Spotted Bowerbird <i>Chlamydera maculata</i>	Common. In gorges, especially around wild figs (<u><i>Ficus platypoda</i></u>)
Magpie Lark <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	Common. In families along watercourses.
Masked Woodswallow <i>Artamus personatus</i>	Uncommon. (Nomadic) may be seen in flocks throughout park.
Black-faced Woodswallow <i>Artamus cinereus</i>	Common. Mulga - eucalypt woodland and along watercourses.
Little Woodswallow <i>Artamus minor</i>	Common. Frequently near cliffs. Can be seen around most gorges.

NAME

COMMENTS

Grey Butcherbird
Cracticus torquatus

Uncommon. Mulga - eucalypt woodland.

Pied Butcherbird
Cracticus nigrogularis

Common. Along gorges and creeks in eucalypts.

Australian Magpie
Gymnorhina tibicen

Uncommon. Along gorges and in open woodlands.

Torresian Crow
Corvus orru

Common. Along gorges and watercourses around settlements.

Little Crow
Corvus bennetti

Uncommon. Small flocks reported throughout the park.