

# Bird surveys in selected Perth metropolitan reserves:

## Round 3 survey report

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A joint biodiversity conservation  
project between Birds Australia WA  
and the Perth Biodiversity Project

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		<b>Site Name</b> <b>Trigg Regional Open Space</b>		
<b>Site Location</b> Trigg		<b>Local Government Authority</b> City of Stirling		<b>Area (ha)</b> <i>Duart-Arnott section:</i> 19.68 ha <i>St Mary's section:</i> 40.47 ha <i>Elliott section:</i> 46.81 ha <i>King Albert section:</i> 19.82 ha <b>Total:</b> 126.78
<b>Vegetation Complex</b> <i>Duart-Arnott section:</i> Cottesloe Complex - Central & South <i>St Mary's section:</i> Cottesloe Complex - Central & South <i>Elliott section:</i> Quindalup Complex; Cottesloe Complex - Central & South <i>King Albert section:</i> Quindalup Complex; Cottesloe Complex - Central and South			<b>Bird Survey Information</b> <i>Survey period reported:</i> Feb 2005-Jan 2006 <i>Survey frequency:</i> monthly <b>Total no. surveys:</b> <i>Duart-Arnott section:</i> 11 <i>St Mary's section:</i> 12 <i>Elliott section:</i> 12 <i>King Albert section:</i> 12	
<b>Natural Area ID no:</b> <i>Duart-Arnott section:</i> 11522 <i>St Mary's section:</i> 11381; 11230; 11234 <i>Elliott section:</i> 11301 <i>King Albert section:</i> 11372		<b>Bush Forever Site no:</b> 308 (all sections)		

For details of the location of the four sections of Trigg Regional Open Space, see map and discussion below.

Bird species recorded in survey period  * denotes introduced species	Breeding on survey site	Maximum number recorded (water dependent species only)	Frequency of occurrence		Significant species (Bush Forever)
			No. (number surveys in which recorded)	% of surveys	
<b>Trigg Regional Open Space - Duart-Arnott Section</b>					
Australian Shelduck			1	9	
Black-shouldered Kite			1	9	
Australian Hobby			1	9	
Laughing Turtle-Dove*			11	100	
Spotted Turtle-Dove*			4	36	
Galah	Possible		10	91	
Little Corella*			1	9	
Corella species*			2	18	
Rainbow Lorikeet*	Possible		10	91	
Purple-crowned Lorikeet			1	9	
Australian Ringneck	Possible		11	100	
Laughing Kookaburra*	Possible		7	64	
Rainbow Bee-eater			2	18	
Spotted Pardalote			1	9	
Striated Pardalote			6	55	
White-browed Scrubwren			1	9	3
Weebill			7	64	3
Western Gerygone			7	64	

Bird species recorded in survey period  * denotes introduced species	Breeding on survey site	Maximum number recorded (water dependent species only)	Frequency of occurrence		Significant species (Bush Forever)
			No. (number surveys in which recorded)	% of surveys	
Inland Thornbill			1	9	3
Red Wattlebird			11	100	
Little Wattlebird			2	18	4
Singing Honeyeater			11	100	
Brown Honeyeater			11	100	
New Holland Honeyeater			3	27	4
White-cheeked Honeyeater			9	82	4
Red-capped Robin			1	9	
Rufous Whistler			5	45	
Magpie-lark			9	82	
Grey Fantail			5	45	
Willie Wagtail			7	64	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike			4	36	
Grey Butcherbird			10	91	
Australian Magpie	Possible		11	100	
Australian Raven			10	91	
Welcome Swallow			1	9	
Silvereye			10	91	
<b>Total = 36</b>	<b>Total = 5</b>		<b>Surveys = 11</b>		<b>Total = 6</b>
<b>Trigg Regional Open Space - St Mary's Section</b>					
Straw-necked Ibis		60	3	25	
Black-shouldered Kite	Possible		6	50	
Brown Goshawk			2	17	4
Collared Sparrowhawk			2	17	4
Australian Hobby			5	42	
Laughing Turtle-Dove*			11	92	
Spotted Turtle-Dove*			9	75	
Galah			11	92	
Long-billed Corella*			1	8	
Corella species*			2	17	
Rainbow Lorikeet*			12	100	
Australian Ringneck			12	100	
Laughing Kookaburra*			10	83	
Rainbow Bee-eater			3	25	
Splendid Fairy-wren			2	17	3
Spotted Pardalote			4	33	
Striated Pardalote			10	83	
White-browed Scrubwren			1	8	3
Weebill			3	25	3
Western Gerygone			2	17	
Inland Thornbill			1	8	3
Red Wattlebird			12	100	
Singing Honeyeater			12	100	
Brown Honeyeater			8	67	
White-cheeked Honeyeater			12	100	4
Varied Sittella			4	33	3
Rufous Whistler			1	8	
Magpie-lark			6	50	
Grey Fantail			2	17	
Willie Wagtail			11	92	

Bird species recorded in survey period  * denotes introduced species	Breeding on survey site	Maximum number recorded (water dependent species only)	Frequency of occurrence		Significant species (Bush Forever)
			No. (number surveys in which recorded)	% of surveys	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike			11	92	
Grey Butcherbird			12	100	
Australian Magpie			12	100	
Australian Raven			12	100	
Welcome Swallow			7	58	
Tree Martin			5	42	
Silvereye			9	75	
<b>Total = 37</b>	<b>Total = 1</b>		<b>Surveys = 12</b>		<b>Total = 8</b>
<b>Trigg Regional Open Space - Elliott Section</b>					
Black-shouldered Kite			4	33	
Brown Goshawk			2	17	4
Collared Sparrowhawk			1	8	4
Australian Hobby			2	17	
Rock Dove*			3	25	
Laughing Turtle-Dove*			7	58	
Spotted Turtle-Dove*			8	67	
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo			2	17	1,4
Galah			5	42	
Little Corella*			1	8	
Rainbow Lorikeet*			5	42	
Australian Ringneck			8	67	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo			1	8	
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Possible		3	25	
Laughing Kookaburra*			7	58	
Sacred Kingfisher			1	8	
Rainbow Bee-eater			4	33	
Variegated Fairy-wren			1	8	3
Spotted Pardalote	Possible		3	25	
Striated Pardalote			3	25	
White-browed Scrubwren			12	100	3
Weebill			9	75	3
Western Gerygone	Confirmed		11	92	
Inland Thornbill			4	33	3
Western Thornbill			3	25	3
Yellow-rumped Thornbill			1	8	3
Red Wattlebird	Possible		8	67	
Singing Honeyeater			12	100	
Brown Honeyeater			9	75	
New Holland Honeyeater			3	25	4
White-cheeked Honeyeater	Possible		10	83	4
Rufous Whistler			11	92	
Grey Fantail			10	83	
Willie Wagtail			7	58	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike			9	75	
Grey Butcherbird			3	25	
Australian Magpie	Possible		11	92	
Australian Raven	Possible		12	100	
Welcome Swallow			3	25	
Tree Martin			3	25	
Silvereye			12	100	

Bird species recorded in survey period <small>* denotes introduced species</small>	Breeding on survey site	Maximum number recorded <small>(water dependent species only)</small>	Frequency of occurrence		Significant species <b>(Bush Forever)</b>
			No. <small>(number surveys in which recorded)</small>	% of surveys	
<b>Total = 41</b>	<b>Total= 7</b>		<b>Surveys = 12</b>		<b>Total = 11</b>
<b>Trigg Regional Open Space - King Albert Section</b>					
Black-shouldered Kite			1	8	
Nankeen Kestrel			1	8	
Rock Dove*			3	25	
Laughing Turtle-Dove*	Possible		12	100	
Spotted Turtle-Dove*			6	50	
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo			1	8	1,4
Galah			4	33	
Rainbow Lorikeet*			8	67	
Australian Ringneck			11	92	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo			3	25	
Laughing Kookaburra*			7	58	
Sacred Kingfisher			1	8	
Rainbow Bee-eater			4	33	
Variegated Fairy-wren	Possible		2	17	3
Spotted Pardalote			1	8	
Striated Pardalote			6	50	
White-browed Scrubwren	Possible		9	75	3
Weebill	Possible		5	42	3
Western Gerygone			7	58	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill			1	8	3
Red Wattlebird			10	83	
Little Wattlebird			1	8	4
Singing Honeyeater	Possible		12	100	
Brown Honeyeater	Possible		8	67	
New Holland Honeyeater			1	8	4
White-cheeked Honeyeater	Possible		11	92	4
Varied Sittella			1	8	3
Rufous Whistler			6	50	
Magpie-lark			5	42	
Grey Fantail			5	42	
Willie Wagtail			7	58	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike			8	67	
Grey Butcherbird			1	8	
Australian Magpie			12	100	
Australian Raven			12	100	
Welcome Swallow			8	67	
Tree Martin			1	8	
Silvereye			12	100	
<b>Total = 38</b>	<b>Total = 7</b>		<b>Surveys = 12</b>		<b>Total = 9</b>
<b>Total species, Trigg Regional Open Space (ROS) = 52</b>	<b>Total breeding species, Trigg ROS = 18</b>				<b>Total significant species, Trigg ROS = 14</b>

**Observers:**

*Duart-Arnott section:* Eleanor Adams, Niel Adams, Ric Curtis, Stewart Houghton, Des Moran.

**St Mary's section:** Joyce Hegney, Barbara Henderson, David Henderson, Rod Smith.

**Elliott section:** Penny Archer, Ric Curtis, Tom Delaney, Julia Gross, John Lauri, Dee Smith.

**King Albert section:** Bob Geary, Bob Gilham, Sue Keogh, Paul Setchell, Peter Wilshaw.

#### **Other sources of bird survey information**

Birds Australia national Bird Atlas database: 2 surveys, 25 species.

Meny (1991): 30 species.

#### **Additional significant bird species recorded in other sources**

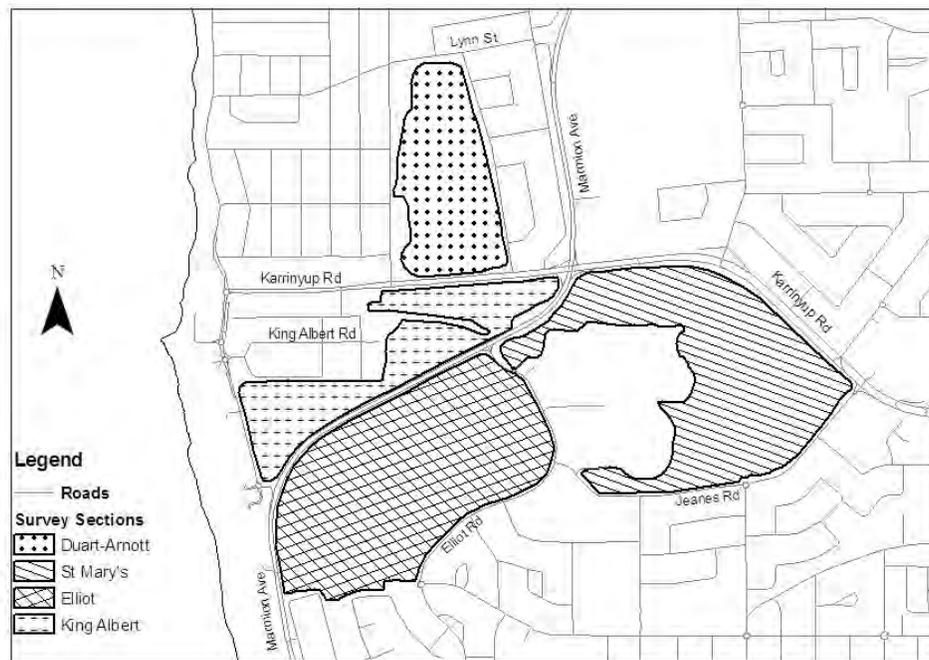
Birds Australia national Bird Atlas database: nil.

Meny (1991): Common Bronzewing, White-winged Fairy-wren. The surveys forming the basis of this report were undertaken in those sections of Trigg Regional Open Space south of Karrinyup Road - i.e. excluding the Duart-Arnott section - in 1988. An unidentified fairy-wren species recorded in the current surveys in the King Albert section may be White-winged. If not, it is possible that this species is gone extinct from the Trigg Bushland in the period since 1988. Common Bronzewing may be locally extinct, but may move periodically through the reserve.

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

Trigg Bushland Regional Open Space is also known locally as Trigg Bushland Reserve, and reserve signposts use the latter name. It is a Bush Forever site actively managed for conservation by the City of Stirling and has an active Friends group. The Reserve has an older management plan due to be upgraded: bird surveys will provide information for part of this.

Trigg Regional Open Space is the largest reserve surveyed for birds in the Perth Biodiversity Project. Due to the late selection of this reserve into the survey program, and the difficulty of mobilising a relatively large number of volunteers able to survey on the same day, the reserve was divided into four sections and each section surveyed separately for birds. Over time, the bushland at the Trigg reserve has been substantially fragmented by major roads. The map below shows the four sections, each named for nearby roads (e.g., King Albert) or a nearby facility (e.g., St Mary's). This was agreed in consultation with City of Stirling staff. Although the sections were surveyed separately, a summary of results is available for the whole reserve (see table above) and analysis relates to the entire reserve.



**A map of Trigg Regional Open Space, showing the four sections of the reserve separately surveyed for birds.**

Vegetation types differ substantially across some sections of the reserve, ranging from coastal shrubland to open woodland to Jarrah-Marri forest. The fungal disease *Armillaria* was known to occur in some sections of the reserve: observers were made aware of the locations of the infection and asked to clean walking shoes or boots and avoid the relevant areas when the soil was wet. The infected areas were small and did not substantially impact on the bird surveys.

Across the four sections of Trigg Regional Open Space, fifty two species of birds were recorded during the survey period. Of these, two water-dependent species were observed utilising cleared areas. Fourteen species have some conservation significance. In addition, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, a species known to have declined across parts of its range, but not listed by Bush Forever, was also recorded in the reserve. This could also be regarded as a species of significance. Sedentary species of significance include two species of fairy-wrens, three thornbills and White-browed Scrubwren. More mobile species of significance include two species of raptor, the endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, three honeyeaters and Varied Sittella. Duart-Arnett was the only section of the reserve in which fairy-wrens were not recorded in the survey period - this may relate at least partly to differences in habitat.

Trigg Regional Open Space appears to provide appropriate habitat for a significant range of bird species and it is important that large sections of bushland are similarly maintained elsewhere on the Swan Coastal Plain.