

1. Denham

Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre is well worthwhile. See Contacts panel.

Denham Lookout off the entrance road just south of town has waders, gulls and terns.

Sewage farm and water supply areas As with many remote or arid areas these often have interesting species not seen elsewhere in the area, such as Wood Sandpiper and duck species. They are Water Authority properties with restricted access, but views through the fence may be possible.

Seas, shores & islands

Visitors include Wedge-tailed Shearwater (summer), while winter visitors include Australasian Gannet, Wilson's Storm Petrel and perhaps Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, gulls and terns are among the birds that breed on the islands throughout the area. Try any of the local beaches between Little Lagoon and Nicholson Spit. The latter is a large sand / shell bar. There is a wader roost just north of a few sparse mangroves on the beach. A variety of species, along with cormorants, gulls and terns, can be found here. For more information on less accessible islands see entry at end of sites.

Boolbardi Country Club (Shark Bay Golf Course)
Phone Jill: 9948 3224

On Denham - Monkey Mia Rd, 9km from Denham. Please respect golfers, especially on club playing days (Sat & Wed afternoons). Keep an eye out for snakes too.

Vegetation includes shrubs and spinifex. Look for Emu, Banded Lapwing, Chiming Wedgebill, White-browed Scrubwren, Little Crow and honeyeaters.



Banded Lapwing

2. Eagle Bluff & Lagoon

(approx 19km south of Denham) Access from Denham-Hamelin Rd. At the bluff there is an island off the point and a boardwalk. Osprey, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, oystercatchers, cormorants, terns and gulls are all possible, maybe even Rock Parrot. The Lagoon (just north of Eagle Bluff and accessed from the Eagle Bluff Road) is tidal, easily accessible and has some interesting birds.

Birdwatching at Shark Bay

The Shire of Shark Bay includes the western-most point of Australia. Recognised as a World Heritage Area since 1991 for the significant history, geology and natural features, the area is the boundary of two major botanical regions: the acacia/mulga area to the north and the eucalypt-dominated area to the south of Tamala. The wide range of habitats - ocean, mangroves, islands, coastal, salt lakes, mulga and scrub - support over 165 bird species. They include resident species, migratory waders and passage migrants. Many breed locally or on nearby islands.

Shark Bay Marine Park forms a major part of the World Heritage Area, while Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve is a smaller area on the east side of the bay. Further information is available at www.sharkbay.org.au. The only town, Denham has accommodation and services. Other accommodation is available at Monkey Mia, Hamelin Pool and Francois Peron National Park. Visitor fees apply to reserves. A day pass is available or a holiday pass for up to 4 weeks.

Acknowledgements

Information: Nic Dunlop, Les George

Local Contact: Les George (08) 9941 2217

Illustrations / photographs J McMullan and K Lightbody

Contacts (See specific entries also):

Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre:

Phone (08) 9948 1590; Email sbdc@wa.gov.au

Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions:

Phone (08) 9948 2226 (Hrs Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30)

Email available via their website.

Visitors are welcome and a birdlist is available.

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Birdwatching around Shark Bay

Chiming Wedgebill by Heather Thorning



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birdlife
Western Australia

3. Little Lagoon

A land-locked birrida, inundated by the sea several thousands of years ago. Surrounding shrubs provide habitat for many small birds such as Australasian Pipit, White-browed Scrubwren and Splendid, Variegated and White-winged Fairy-wrens.

Accessible:

(a) from Stella Rowley Drive via unsealed 2WD track (turnaround available) to a shelter and mangrove areas along the creek. Best birding areas are along the creek, at the mouth of the creek or where it joins the lagoon and along the beach south of the creek mouth. Look for Common Sandpiper, Sacred Kingfisher and mangrove species such as Mangrove Grey Fantail, Yellow White-eye, and Striated Heron.
(b) via Monkey Mia Rd for the east end of the lagoon, where there are facilities close to a shallow, clear pool which attracts swimmers, canoeists, fishermen and sail-boarders. Australian Pied Oystercatchers feed in the lagoon and Silver Gull is often present. Better as a coffee / lunch stop perhaps.

4. Francois Peron National Park

National Park and camping fees apply.

A large area that is accessible only by high clearance 4WD, although Peron Homestead can be reached by 2WD. Turn-off is approx. 4km from Denham, along the Monkey Mia Rd. There are some excellent mangrove areas such as Big Lagoon and Herald Bight, where waders may be seen. See map. Malleefowl have been reintroduced to the peninsula and can still be seen. There are several campsites with limited facilities (no caravans), a small interpretive centre, which includes information on the Project Eden conservation project.

5. Monkey Mia

Park visitor fees apply

Dolphin Resort (Variety of accommodation options) (08) 9948 1320 reservations@racmonkeymia.com.au Visitor Centre for information: 9948 1366; open daily 7:00am-3:00. Ask for a bird list and walk trails. World famous for its Bottlenose Dolphins, Monkey Mia also has much to offer the keen birder. Start by looking in the car park for Western Grasswren and White-browed Babbler, and around the Visitor Centre for Australian Pelican, Pied Cormorant, White-plumed Honeyeater, Variegated and White-winged Fairy-wrens.

An easy 3km walk across coastal dunes is an excellent choice in the early morning.



The walk leads to red sand hills and a lookout, then on to a bird hide and the beach. Allow 2 to 3 hours as patience will often be needed for some of the shyer species. Look for Western Grasswren, White-winged and Variegated Fairy-wrens, Emu, Chiming Wedgebill, Southern Scrub-robins and Crested Bellbird.

Western Grasswren



On the beach, a spit further to the right is worth exploring, especially in summer, for shorebirds and terns. Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Greenshank, Grey Plover, both Lesser and Greater Sand Plovers, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Terek Sandpiper, Fairy Tern and Eastern Reef Egret are among possible sightings.

6. Hamelin Pool

Hamelin Pool Caravan Park and Hamelin Station Stay have a variety of options for accommodation and bird-watching in this area. Casual visits on the way to or from Denham are welcomed by both. For safety, if stopping along the way, please do not stray beyond sight of your vehicle. On arrival call at reception for permission and directions.

Chiming Wedgebill, Redthroat, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Banded Lapwing, Hooded Robin, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Southern Whiteface, babblers and honeyeaters are some species you might encounter.

(a) Hamelin Pool Caravan Park: (08) 9942 5905 hamelinpoolcaravanpark.com

Tearooms offer lunches, refreshments. Tours of the Old Telegraph Station are also offered (small fee applies) and there is access to ancient stromatolites (oldest living fossils in the world).

(b) Hamelin Station Stay: 08 9948 5145 hamelinoutbackstationstay@bushheritage.com.au Purchased by Bush Heritage Australia in 2015, this area is now managed for priority species. Over 100 species have been recorded here, including the threatened Western Grasswren. A lake provides extra species.



Redthroat

Further information on islands:

The following islands are not readily accessible but are important wildlife reserves.

Dirk Hartog, Dorre and Bernier Islands have breeding areas for Pied Cormorant, Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Silver Gull and Caspian, Bridled & Fairy Terns. Dirk Hartog Island is home for the black and white form of the White-winged Fairy-wren, the rare sub species of both Southern Emu-wren and Variegated Fairy-wren as well as a variety of raptors.

Faure Island, owned and managed by Australian Wildlife Conservancy, has been used to restock several nationally threatened mammals. It is a Key Biodiversity Area and annual bird surveys are carried out to monitor the many species of seabirds and migratory shorebirds which use the mangroves, mudflats, cliffs, lagoons and heaths.

NB Some of the smaller islands in the gulfs have Australia's only white-bellied morph of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater which may be confused with migrating Hutton's or Streaked Shearwaters.

Bird List

Emus & Cassowaries

Emu U

Ducks, Geese & Swans

Plumed Whistling Duck R *Hamelin Station*
 Pink-eared Duck R *Hamelin Station*
 Black Swan R
 Australian Shelduck U
 Hardhead R
 Australasian Shoveler R
 Pacific Black Duck R
 Grey Teal R
 Musk Duck R
 Australian Wood Duck R

Megapodes

Malleefowl R T
 Stubble Quail R
 Brown Quail R

Grebes

Australasian Grebe R
 Hoary-headed Grebe R
 Great Crested Grebe R

Pigeons & Doves

Rock Dove * R
 Laughing Dove * U
 Common Bronzewing U
 Crested Pigeon M
 Diamond Dove R
 Peaceful Dove R

Cuckoos

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo U
 Black-eared Cuckoo R
 Pallid Cuckoo R

Bustards

Australian Bustard R

Frogmouths

Tawny Frogmouth R

Eared Nightjars

Spotted Nightjar R

Owlet -nightjars

Australian Owlet-nightjar R

Swifts & Swiftlets

Fork-tailed swift R IA

Crakes, Rails & Swampheens

Buff-banded Rail R *Hamelin Station*
 Australian Spotted Crake R *Hamelin Station*
 Spotless Crake R
 Black-tailed Native-hen R
 Eurasian Coot R

Cranes

Sarus Crane R
 Brolga R

Stone-curlews

Bush Stone-curlew R

Bird List

Oystercatchers

Australian Pied Oystercatcher M
 Sooty Oystercatcher R

Stilts & Avocets

Banded Stilt R
 Red-necked Avocet R
 Pied Stilt R

Plovers, Dotterel and Lapwings

Grey Plover U IA Mi Su
 Red-capped Plover M
 Lesser Sand Plover R T IA Mi Su
 Greater Sand Plover U T IA Mi Su
 Black-fronted Dotterel R
 Banded Lapwing R
 Red-kneed Dotterel R
 Inland Dotterel *Hamelin Station* R

Snipe, Sandpipers, Godwits, Curlew, Stints & Phalaropes

Whimbrel R IA
 Bar-tailed Godwit U T IA
 Black-tailed Godwit R O IA
 Ruddy Turnstone U IA
 Great Knot R T IA Mi Su
 Red Knot R T IA Mi Su
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper R IA Mi Su
 Curlew Sandpiper R T IA Mi Su
 Red-necked Stint R IA
 Sanderling R IA Mi Su
 Pintail Snipe *Hamelin Station* R IA Mi Su
 Common Sandpiper U IA
 Grey-tailed Tattler U O IA
 Common Greenshank U IA Mi Su
 Wood Sandpiper R IA Mi Su
 Marsh Sandpiper R IA

Button-quail

Little Button-quail R

Pratincoles

Oriental Pratincole R IA

Gulls, Terns & Noddies

Silver Gull C
 Pacific Gull M
 Sooty Tern R
 Bridled Tern R IA
 Little Tern R IA
 Fairy Tern U T VU
 Australian Gull-billed Tern R
 Caspian Tern M IA
 Whiskered Tern R
 Roseate Tern R IA
 Common Tern R IA
 Lesser Crested Tern U IA
 Crested Tern M

Southern Storm-Petrels

Wilson's Storm-Petrel R IA

Bird List

Albatrosses

Shy Albatross R T *Dirk Hartog Is*
 Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross R T IA

Petrels & Shearwaters

Southern Giant-Petrel R IA
 Wedge-tailed Shearwater R IA *Dirk Hartog Is*
 Flesh-footed Shearwater R T IA *Dirk Hartog Is*
 Hutton's Shearwater R T *Dirk Hartog Is*

Pelican

Australian Pelican U

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns

Nankeen Night-Heron R
 Striated Heron R
 Cattle Egret R IA
 White-necked Heron R
 Great Egret R IA
 White-faced Heron R
 Little Egret R
 Eastern Reef Egret R

Ibis & Spoonbills

Australian White Ibis R
 Straw-necked Ibis R
 Yellow-billed Spoonbill R
 Glossy Ibis R IA

Frigatebirds

Lesser Frigatebird R IA

Gannets & Boobies

Australasian Gannet R

Cormorants & Shags

Little Pied Cormorant U
 Great Cormorant R
 Little Black Cormorant R
 Pied Cormorant M

Darter

Australasian Darter R

Osprey

Osprey U IA

Eagles, Kites & Goshawk

Black-shouldered Kite R
 Black-breasted Buzzard R
 Wedge-tailed Eagle U
 Little Eagle R
 Swamp Harrier R
 Spotted Harrier R
 Brown Goshawk U
 Collared Sparrowhawk R
 White-bellied Sea-Eagle U
 Whistling Kite R
 Black Kite R

Bird List

Masked Owls		
Barn Owl	R	
Hawk -Owls		
Southern Boobook	R	
Bee-eaters		
Rainbow Bee-eater	R	IA
Kingfishers		
Sacred Kingfisher	R	
Red-backed Kingfisher	R	
Falcons		
Nankeen Kestrel	M	
Australian Hobby	R	
Brown Falcon	R	
Peregrine Falcon	R	OSP
Cockatoos & Corellas		
Cockatiel	R	
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	R	
Galah	U	
Little Corella	R	
Parrots, Lorikeets & Rosellas		
Mulga Parrot	R	
Australian Ringneck	R	
Bourke's Parrot	R	
Elegant Parrot	R	Hamelin Station
Rock Parrot	R	
Budgerigar	R	
Fairy-wrens, Emu-wrens & Grasswrens		
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	R	
Variiegated Fairy-wren	M	
Splendid Fairy-wren	R	
White-winged Fairy-wren	M	
Southern Emu-wren	R	T Dirk Hartog Is
Western Grasswren	M	O
Honeyeaters & Chats		
Black Honeyeater	R	
Brown Honeyeater	R	
Pied Honeyeater	U	
Crimson Chat	R	
Orange Chat	R	



White-fronted Chat

Bird List

Pardalotes		
Striated Pardalote	R	
Thornbills & Gerygones		
Dusky Gerygone	R	
Western Gerygone	R	
Weebill	R	
Redthroat	U	
Rufous Fieldwren	U	
White-browed Scrubwren	M	
Southern Whiteface	R	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	R	
Inland Thornbill	U	
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	R	
Australian Babblers		
Grey-crowned Babbler	R	
White-browed Babbler	M	
Cuckoo-shrikes & Trillers		
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	R	
White-winged Triller	R	
Quail-thrushes		
Chestnut Quail-thrush	R	
Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush	M	
Whistlers, Shrike-thrushes & Allies		
Rufous Whistler	R	
Grey Shrike-thrush	R	
Australo-Papuan Bellbirds		
Crested Bellbird	M	
Whipbirds and Wedgebills		
Chiming Wedgebill	M	
Woodswallows, Currawongs, Butcherbirds, Magpie		
Australian Magpie	U	
Pied Butcherbird	R	
Grey Butcherbird	U	
Masked Woodswallow	U	
Black-faced Woodswallow	R	
White-breasted Woodswallow	U	



White-breasted Woodswallow

White-fronted Chat	U	
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	U	
Red Wattlebird	R	
Singing Honeyeater	C	
Grey-fronted Honeyeater	R	
White-plumed Honeyeater	R	
White-fronted Honeyeater	U	
Yellow-throated Miner	R	

Fantails		
Willie Wagtail	C	
Mangrove Grey Fantail	R	
Grey Fantail	R	
Crows & Ravens		
Torresian Crow	R	
Little Crow	C	
Australian Raven	R	
Monarch & Flycatchers		
Magpie-lark	R	

Bird List

Australian Robins		
Red-capped Robin	R	
Jacky Winter	R	Hamelin Station
Southern Scrub-robin	U	
Western Yellow Robin	R	
Hooded Robin	R	
Flowerpeckers		
Mistletoebird	R	
Weaver Finches		
Zebra Finch	U	
Pipits & Wagtails		
Australasian Pipit	U	
Larks		
Horsfield's Bushlark	R	
Grassbirds		
Brown Songlark	R	
Rufous Songlark	R	
Little Grassbird	R	
Reed-Warblers		
Australian Reed-Warbler	R	
Swallows & Martins		
White-backed swallow	U	
Fairy Martin	R	
Tree Martin	M	
Welcome Swallow	C	
White-eyes		
Yellow White-eye	R	
Silveryeye	U	

BIRD LIST CODES

Abundance		Season	
C	common	Su	Summer
M	mod. common	Au	Autumn
U	uncommon	Wi	Winter
R	rare	Sp	Spring
Status			
*	Introduced	IA	Protected by International Agreement
Mi	migratory		
N	nomadic		
T	threatened	O	Of conservation concern
EN	Endangered		
VU	Vulnerable	OSP	Other specially protected

Current Birdlife Australia names and taxonomic order applied