

Inala Nature Tours

TRIP REPORT

Guide Nick Hart | Oct 21, 2025 to Oct 29, 2025



Numbat by J. Hamilton.

Inala's Southwestern
Australia

Day 1

Tuesday 21 October Arrival in Perth

The tour started with all the tour participants meeting the guide and each other for dinner at the hotel.

Day 2

Wednesday 22 October Perth to Cheynes Beach

Today was mostly a travel day from Perth to Cheynes Beach, but we did make some birding stops along the way and saw some excellent birds. In fact, we saw many of the southwest WA endemics including a couple of species which were not seen again on the tour!

On the way out of Perth, we had huge success finding a set of WA endemics with appearances from **Carnaby's Black Cockatoo**, **Red-capped Parrot**, **Gilbert's Honeyeater**, **Western Wattlebird**, **Western Rosella**, **White-breasted Robin**, **Red-winged Fairywren**, and the only **Red-eared Firetail** of the trip. The Red-eared Firetail was actually voted bird of the trip! We also got a good look at the beautiful **Spotted Pardalote**, **Golden (Western) Whistler** and **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos**. Next stop was at the Beaufort River where we got a few waterbirds, a **Red-capped Robin**, and **Rufous Treecreeper**. Rocky Gully was the next stop where we found a group of **Western Corellas**, a WA endemic with quite a small distribution. The Corellas allowed us some great close views, before we were distracted by a group of **Baudin's Black Cockatoos**, a critically endangered WA endemic. **Splendid Fairywrens** (the first of many) and **Regent Parrots** also put on a great show.

We arrived at Cheynes Beach late in the evening. After checking in and getting dinner we had a go at some spotlighting by vehicle along the roads. We found a very cooperative **Australian Boobook** which posed for pictures, and a less cooperative **Tawny Frogmouth**.



Image: Baudin's Black Cockatoo by A. Schulte.

Day 3

Thursday 23 October 2025 Cheynes Beach

Our first target of the day was to try find the Noisy Scrubbird, a loud but famously difficult species to see. From our accommodation, we could already hear a bird calling in the distance. At the usual Scrubbird spot near the beach, we could hear a bird calling infrequently, but not very close. So we began the waiting game, hearing it call occasionally but not getting any closer. After about 40 minutes of waiting, a **Noisy Scrubbird** suddenly ran across the track! A brown flash which ran across the path at great speed – the typical view of this species. Unfortunately not all the participants saw the bird, because it was so fast. There was another bird calling, so we waited again and were very fortunate to see a second **Noisy Scrubbird** cross the track about 20 minutes later.

With the Scrubbird under our belts, we went looking for Western Bristlebird and Western (Black-throated) Whipbird. **Western Wattlebirds** and **White-cheeked Honeyeaters** were feeding on the flowering Banksias, and almost immediately we stumbled upon a **Western Bristlebird** calling right next to the track, which then hopped onto a bush and started singing. No luck with the Whipbird today, however.

In the afternoon we visited the Albany area to see a range of different wetlands, from estuary and mud flats to freshwater lakes. On the mud flats and estuary we found a wide range of

waterbirds including **Fairy Tern**, breeding **Australian Pelicans**, **Pied Oystercatcher**, and a few migratory shorebirds like **Red-necked Stint** and **Grey Plover**. Lake Seppings was a wonderful stop during the afternoon, with a good selection of ducks including **Musk** and **Blue-billed Ducks**, **Buff-banded Rail**, **Spotless Crake** (heard only), **Red-capped Parrot**, and hundreds of breeding **Australian White** and **Straw-necked Ibis**.



Image: Western Bristlebird by C. Davidson.

Day 4

Friday 24 October 2025 Cheynes Beach & Stirling Range

With heavy rain forecast for the late afternoon, we started early today to make the most of our time. We visited the Stirling Range Retreat in the morning where we found **Restless Flycatcher**, **Regent Parrot**, **Elegant Parrot**, **Purple-crowned Lorikeet**, **Carnaby's Black Cockatoo**, **Yellow-plumed Honeyeater**, and **Banded Lapwing**. The rest of the day was spent visiting several salt lakes and freshwater lakes near the Stirling Range. Some of the highlights from the salt lakes were **Hooded Plover**, **Banded Stilt**, **Red-necked Avocet**, **Emu**, **Western Fieldwren**, **White-fronted Chat**, and **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater**. At our lunch stop, a large freshwater lake called Bob's Lake, we found many waterbirds including **Whiskered Tern** and a great selection of ducks such as **Chestnut Teal** and **Pink-eared**

Duck. We returned to Chenyes Beach for the afternoon to wait out the rain, and in the evening, we heard **Spotted Nightjar** calling near the Caravan Park but could not locate it.



Image: Regent Parrots by K. Kennedy.

Day 5

Saturday 25 October 2025 Chenyes Beach & Jerramungup.

Today we started at dawn to try and find Honey Possums at Chenyes Beach. The weather was a bit rough with frequent bursts of rain passing over us, getting us thoroughly wet. But it was worth it, because we had fantastic views of a Honey Possum feeding on Scarlet Banksias right in front of us. We also tried to track down a calling Western (Black-throated) Whipbird but we were defeated by the rain, but we did find **Brush Bronzewing** in the Caravan Park.

We left Chenyes Beach to head inland to the Mallee, hoping for better weather. We birded for most of the morning at the Corackerup Nature Reserve. This area, including the large patch of bushland in Corackerup, is well known for its Malleefowl population, although the birds can be difficult to see for visiting birders. We actually got really lucky here, and we spotted a **Malleefowl** crossing the road just before we arrived at the reserve. Birding in Corackerup was slow at first, probably due to the weather, but we did manage to find **Southern Scrub Robin**. We moved to an area of heathland and finally managed to find a **Western (Black-throated) Whipbird** singing very close, and got some fleeting views as it

moved between bushes. Here we also found **Western Spinebill**, **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater**, and an unexpected **Black-eared Cuckoo**.

After Corackerup we headed east to Bremer Bay, where we spent some time watching birds on Glasse Island from the mainland. We had excellent views of a **Rock Parrot** feeding on the mainland and a few birds flying back and forth to the island. Over the sea we saw **Australasian Gannets** and **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**.

Our day ended with a drive to Jerramungup where we stayed the night, and our attempt at spotlighting for nocturnal birds was unsuccessful.



Image: Rock Parrot by P. Kelly.

Day 6

Sunday 26 October 2025 Jerramungup & Fitzgerald River NP.

A travel day mixed with a good amount of birding along the way. Today was a day dominated by honeyeaters, with 13 species seen during a single day. We started early with some

birding in the Fitzgerald River National Park, where we found **Shy Heathwren**, **Purple-gaped Honeyeater**, **Brown-headed Honeyeater**, and **Purple-crowned Lorikeet**.

Heading north and west, we visited Cairlocup and Chinocup Nature Reserves where we found **Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo**, **Blue-breasted Fairywren**, **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater**, **White-eared Honeyeater**, **Spotted Pardalote**, **White-fronted Chat**, **White-winged Triller**, **Grey Currawong**, and **Carnaby's Black Cockatoo**. Brief stops at a few salt lakes along the way also produced several **Hooded Plovers** and **Banded Stilts**. We got extra lucky with our final stops near Wagin where we found **Mulga Parrot**.

Our last stop of the day was for a quick group photograph in Wagin with the Giant Ram statue!



Image: Honey Possum in Royal Hakea by N.Hart.

Day 7

Monday 27 October 2025 Dryandra State Forest.

Today we birded Dryandra Woodlands thoroughly to find the species we were still missing. We started with a very productive walk in the morning, finding **Western Rosella**, **Western Thornbill**, **Varied Sittella**, **Jacky Winter**, **Western Yellow Robin**, **Scarlet Robin**, **Rufous Treecreeper**, **Shining Bronze Cuckoo** and **Blue-breasted Fairywren**, among others. After such a successful morning, we went in search of **Painted Buttonquail**, which we managed

to find after patient waiting and listening to a bird singing for about an hour. We also picked up **White-eared Honeyeater** and **Red-capped Robin** in the afternoon. Possibly the highlight of the whole day, after driving slowly for hours searching, was a close-up sighting of a Numbat foraging near the road. As we were talking about giving up the search, suddenly it appeared as if it heard us.

After an early dinner, we headed back into Dryandra to Barna Mia Sanctuary, for a guided nocturnal walk in their enclosure to see some (captive, habituated) very rare Australian marsupials. After the walk, we drove through the woodlands spotlighting for nocturnal mammals and birds, finding Common Brushtail Possum and Western Quoll, along with a **Tawny Frogmouth** and a **Bush Stone-Curlew**.



Image: Rufous Treecreeper by A. McNab.

Day 8

Tuesday 28 October 2025 Narrogin to Perth.

After having such great success over the past week, we had relatively few bird species left to find. Today was about targeting a few most-wanted species. Our first stop was at Yornaning Dam where we picked up a lovely pair of **Chestnut-rumped Thornbills**. On our way back to

Perth we stopped at an excellent patch of wandoo woodlands on the Brookton Highway and after a good search we finally managed to find the spectacular **Western Shriketit!** We also had **Western Rosella** showing really well here, a bird which we struggled to get good views of during the week.

Arriving in Perth for the afternoon we had a few waterbirds on the agenda, including the very difficult Freckled Duck which several of the guests had already tried to find at Herdsman Lake before the tour, and did not see. We tried a different spot in Whiteman Park and after a long walk in quite hot weather, we got very lucky with a brief sighting of three **Freckled Ducks!** We also visited Tomato Lake and Herdsman Lake where we found several waterbirds which we had not seen previously during the trip – **Australasian Grebe**, **Great Crested Grebe**, and **Dusky Moorhen** to name a few. Tired from the heat and from a week of hard birding, we made it back to the hotel for the last night of the tour.



Image: Western Shriketit by B. Scott.

Day 9

Wednesday 29 October 2025 Depart Perth.

The tour ended here at breakfast.

Despite the sometimes-difficult weather, our hard work was rewarded with us finding all the possible southwest WA endemics and special birds during the trip. The trip was wonderful overall between the great birds, animals, scenery, and company.



On behalf of Inala- thanks for touring with us.

