

bird watching

in Wyndham



Superb Fairy-wren

www.experiencewyndham.com.au

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city.coast.country

About

Each year thousands of migratory birds from as far as Siberia, Japan and Alaska make their way to Wyndham, in southern Australia. This incredible journey is made to escape the northern hemisphere winter and enjoy the wetland habitats on offer.

Wyndham has a number of sites that appeal to birdwatchers. Of particular significance is the Point Cook Coastal Park, considered one of the top ten wetlands in Australia by environmentalists, and the impressive Western Treatment Plant, considered second to only Kakadu for birdwatchers.

Attracting a variety of birdlife, the area hosts over 300 species of birds including several rare and endangered species. The variety of birdlife in the region and the area's close proximity to Melbourne, make Wyndham a must-see destination for both budding and seasoned birdwatchers.



Golden Whistler



Glossy Ibis

Point Cook Coastal Park & Cheetham Wetlands

Point Cook Coastal Park has long been a haven for migratory birds. The Park covers an area of 500 hectares including the former site of the Cheetham Salt Works.

There are numerous natural ponds and two significant lakes, Spectacle Lake and RAAF Lake. Spectacle Lake has a bird hide that offers a discreet position to watch birds in their natural habitat. Birds that frequent the area include the Straw-necked Ibis, Singing Honeyeater, Willie Wagtail, Golden-headed Cisticola and the Common Greenfinch. At the southern end of the Cheetham Wetlands you will find 'The Tower', a viewing platform that provides magnificent views of the wetlands and birdlife.

The Coastal Park includes a 300 hectare marine sanctuary on Port Phillip Bay and has been recognised as an area of international importance by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Willie Wagtail



Western Treatment Plant

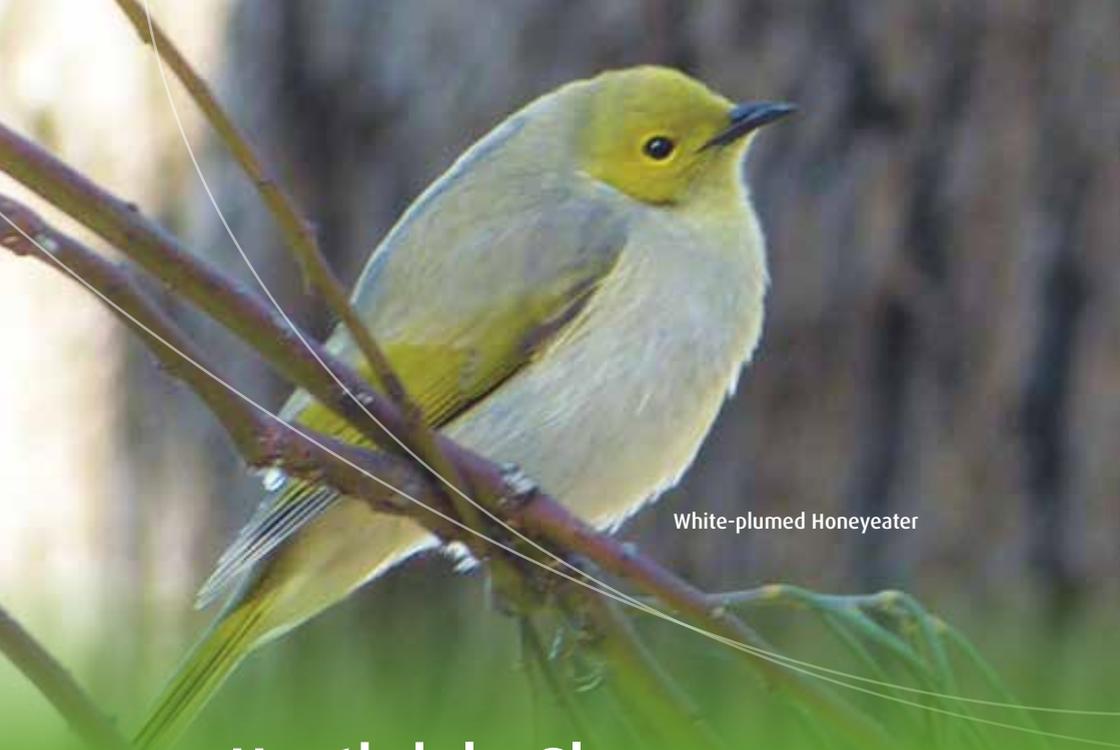
The 10,500 hectare Western Treatment Plant provides a haven for tens of thousands of birds and is a world leader in technical and environmental innovation. The Plant is home to numerous lagoons, estuaries, salt marshes and the beautiful Lake Borrie.

The Western Treatment Plant is one of the most popular sites for bird watching in Victoria, with hundreds of species of birds recorded. Both experienced twitchers and beginner birdwatchers can try their luck spotting hundreds of different bird species, including some rare and endangered. Birds on show include the Brolga, Orange-bellied Parrot, Red-necked Avocet, Fairy Tern, Lewin's Rail and Pied Cormorant. The Plant's lagoons, grasslands and coastline provide an ideal and varied habitat for birds with a permanent water supply, plenty of food and little interference from humans.

Parts of the Plant have been declared a sanctuary for the protection of native fauna and much of the surrounding area has been recognised as a wetland of international significance under the Ramsar Convention.



Orange-bellied Parrot



White-plumed Honeyeater

Heathdale Glen Orden Wetlands

The Heathdale Glen Orden Wetlands cover some 35 hectares of open space with many native species of flora and fauna calling the reserve home. The wetlands are well known for frequent spotting of Latham's Snipe, with the species migrating here for summer. Other frequently spotted birds include the Willie Wagtail, White-plumed Honeyeater, Little Raven and the Red Wattlebird.

The Heathdale Glen Orden Wetlands are best accessed from Rosella Avenue, with footpaths leading out from the car park. Birdwatchers can cross the wetlands water system via a boardwalk and circumnavigate the wetlands by walking along a network of soft surface tracks. With rotundas, seating areas and a playground, the Heathdale Glen Orden Wetlands are an ideal spot to bring the family.

Werribee River

The Werribee River is a valuable natural asset that takes its name from the Aboriginal word meaning 'backbone' or 'spine'. With majestic River Red Gum trees providing shelter and lining the upstream section of the river, nature lovers have the opportunity to see a diverse range of water birds in lush, picturesque surroundings.

The Werribee River is home to a diverse population of native and migratory bird species including the Wedge-tailed Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Swamp Harrier, Whistling Kite, Musk Duck, Latham's Snipe and the more common parrots and lorikeets. Expect to see large numbers of pelicans at the mouth of the River (Werribee South). The river is also a haven for many other species of fauna with the Platypus and threatened Growling Grass Frog calling the river home.

The Werribee River Park is part of a Ramsar site that aims to protect and enhance habitat for migratory birds.



Wedge-tailed Eagle

Werribee Open Range Zoo

Werribee Open Range Zoo is one of Australia's most popular zoos with visitors experiencing an African adventure on over 200 hectares of beautiful natural surrounds. In addition to being known for its beautiful African Savannah, the zoo is fast gaining a reputation as one of the best places in Melbourne for bird watching.

Werribee Open Range Zoo is home to more than 170 different species of bird with birdwatchers able to spot a diverse range of species including raptors, water birds and native bush birds. Frequently reported sightings include Wedge-tailed Eagles, Whistling Kites, Black Kites, Little Eagles, cormorants, pelicans, spoonbills, Spotted Pardalotes and Red-browed Finches.

Werribee Open Range Zoo also has a free flight aviary for Orange-bellied Parrots.

Entrance fees apply



Royal Spoonbill



Access to bird watching sites

Wyndham's bird watching sites are all relatively close to one another and located just a short drive from Melbourne.

Point Cook Coastal Park & Cheetham Wetlands

Point Cook Homestead Road, Point Cook

Phone 13 19 63 www.parks.vic.gov.au

Open Winter 8:30am-5pm, Autumn & Spring 8:30am-6pm and Summer 8:30am-7pm



Melbourne Water's Western Treatment Plant

Phone 131 722 www.melbournewater.com.au/birdwatching

Access to bird watching areas is restricted to holders of a current Melbourne Water bird watching permit. See website for details.



Short Term Permits for interstate and international visitors are also available at the Werribee Visitor Information Centre. A permit and key deposit is required.

Heathdale Glen Orden Wetlands

Rosella Avenue, Hoppers Crossing

Phone 8734 6006 www.experiencewyndham.com.au



Werribee River

Access the river from a number of different points including Werribee River Park and Riverbend Historical Park.

Phone 8734 6006 www.experiencewyndham.com.au



Werribee Open Range Zoo

K Road, Werribee South

Phone 9731 9600 www.zoo.org.au/werribee

Open every day 9am-5pm (last entry 3:30pm). Entrance fees apply.



Werribee Visitor Information Centre

K Road, Werribee South

Located at entry to Werribee Open Range Zoo

Phone 8734 6006 www.experiencewyndham.com.au

Open every day 9am-5pm (closed Good Friday & Christmas Day)



Birdlife Australia

birdlife.org.au

Photography credits

Thank you to local photographers David Jenkins and Paul Rushworth for the beautiful photography included in this brochure.



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