A Field Guide to the Native Fauna of the Onslow Region
This field guide is part of a series of books created to inform personnel and visitors of the Chevron-operated Wheatstone Project about the diversity of wildlife in the Project area and the surrounding Onslow region. This book describes some of the most common fauna species in the area and some species of conservation significance.

All wildlife on site is protected and must not be handled without a valid license or permit. If an injured or dead animal is encountered on site, the Chevron Australia Fauna Interaction Procedure or Fauna and Vehicle Interaction Response shall be followed.

Enjoy reading about the fauna of the Onslow region and look out for additional books in the series.

Front cover: Smooth Knob-tail Gecko (*Nephrurus levis*). Photo – Megan Smith
The Chevron-operated Wheatstone Project is one of Australia’s largest resource projects. Located at Ashburton North, 12 kilometres west of Onslow in Western Australia, the project will consist of two liquefied natural gas (LNG) trains with a combined capacity of 8.9 million tonnes per annum and a domestic gas plant.

The Wheatstone Project is a joint venture between Australian subsidiaries of Chevron, Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), Woodside Petroleum Limited and Kyushu Electric Power Company, together with PE Wheatstone Pty. Ltd. (part owned by TEPCO).
Introduction

Thalanyji Connection to Country

The Thalanyji people are the Native Title holders of land and waters in the Pilbara region near Onslow, on which their ancestors have resided for tens of thousands of years.

Thalanyji have a strong connection to the country around the Ashburton River and Onslow region, and believe their ancestors gave form to the landscape, inhabiting the land since time immemorial. These creator ancestors provided Thalanyji with language and are the source of customs, law and tradition. Thalanyji believe that the spirits of ancestors who have passed away are also present within Thalanyji country, mediating the relationship between the living Thalanyji and the land. Thalanyji people live in harmony with the environment and carefully manage the landscape. They have a strong
connection to the land and waters, and the animals and plants that reside within.

Thalanyji knowledge of the seasons, the weather and natural cycles such as plant and animal fertility help the people find food all year round in a manner that respects the land and preserves for the future. A large proportion of the Thalanyji people’s diet is made up of native animals including birds such as the emu, marsupials, goannas, fish, turtles and dugong as well as products such as eggs, native fruits, vegetables and honey. Both men and women are involved in the hunting and gathering of food, and this practice is as important today as it has been for tens of thousands of years.

Animals are not only a source of food for Thalanyji people, they are also totems that are considered as ancestral relatives and are highly respected. All Thalanyji people honour the emu as their totem animal and pay it respect when it is hunted and eaten. Individual totem
animals are also assigned to children at birth and young Thalanyji men at Lore time.

We request you respect the land and plants in this region, as Thalanyji people have done for generations.

About the Onslow Region

The town of Onslow is located approximately 1150 kilometres (km) north of Perth on the Pilbara coast of Western Australia (WA). Established in 1885, Onslow is the oldest town in the Shire of Ashburton and has historically supported a variety of industries including gold mining, pearling and sheep and cattle farming. Today Onslow also supports fishing, tourism, salt mining and natural gas industries.

Located approximately 12 km west of Onslow, the Chevron-operated Wheatstone Project is one of Australia’s largest resource projects. The foundation project will consist of two liquefied natural gas (LNG) trains with a combined capacity of 8.9 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), and a domestic gas plant.
The Onslow region experiences an arid-tropical climate, with hot summers and mild winters. The town of Onslow is located in one of the most cyclone-prone regions in Australia and, on average, has experienced a cyclone event once every two years since 1910. Between December and April each year, cyclones form over warm ocean waters to the north of WA and contribute to Onslow’s yearly rainfall average of 328 millimetres (mm). Despite extreme rainfall during storm events, Onslow also experiences periods of extreme drought. Evaporation exceeds rainfall in the Pilbara region, which means water is a limiting resource. As well as influencing the location of the town, these extreme weather patterns have shaped the landscape and allowed only the hardiest animals and plants to survive.

The area surrounding Onslow and the Wheatstone Project is dominated by topography of undulating dunes, sand plains and low-lying coastal systems supporting samphire communities, salt flats, claypans, tidal creeks and regionally significant mangrove communities. The major soil types present in the shallow soil profile
of the Onslow region are coastal mudflats, sand plains and red sand dunes.

**Native Fauna of the Onslow Region**

Environmental studies conducted at Ashburton North for the Wheatstone Project recorded more than 210 native vertebrate fauna species including reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals.

**Reptiles and Amphibians**

Surveys around Onslow and the Wheatstone Project area recorded a total of seven amphibian (frog) species including two tree frogs and five ground-dwelling species. A total of 60 reptile species have been recorded on the Project and surrounding area. Reptiles and frogs in the Ashburton region inhabit a wide range of ecosystems, from coastal dunes to Spinifex grasslands and open Eucalypt woodland. The Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*), a Schedule 1 listed species considered Vulnerable in WA, has been recorded in the region and the skink *Lerista planiventralis maryani*, a State-listed Priority 1 reptile is likely to occur in the region.
Mammals

Surveys around Onslow and the Wheatstone Project area recorded 17 native mammal species including six carnivorous marsupials, two macropods (kangaroos and wallabies), three native mice, one monotreme (egg-laying mammal) and five bat species. Mammals were recorded in a wide range of habitats in the project area, and a number of other mammal species also dwell within the wider Ashburton region. One Commonwealth-listed Endangered species, the Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), occurs in the area. One State-listed Priority 1 species, the Northern Freetail Bat (*Mormopterus loriae cobourgensis*), has been recorded in the area from echolocation calls.

Birds

An estimated 130 bird species have been recorded around Onslow and Ashburton North during surveys for the Wheatstone Project. A diverse range of habitats including coastal shoreline, tidal flats, mangroves, inland grassland and woodland support a wide range...
of bird species of which a number are conservation significant. The Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) is Commonwealth-listed as Critically Endangered and the Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*) and Star Finch (*Neochmia ruficauda subclarescens*) are State-listed as Priority 4. Over 30 migratory species as listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) are likely to reside in the region or visit in the summer months to feed.
Conservation Codes used in this Book

Western Australian Conservation Codes

Conservation Categories according to the *Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*

Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2013

Schedule 1 Taxa are fauna which are rare or likely to become extinct and are declared to be fauna in need of special protection

Department of Parks and Wildlife Priority Codes

Priority 1 Taxa with few, poorly known populations on threatened lands

Priority 2 Taxa with few, poorly known populations on conservation lands, or taxa with several, poorly known populations not on conservation lands

Priority 3 Taxa with several, poorly known populations, some on conservation lands

Priority 4 and 5 Taxa considered rare but not threatened or near threatened, and in need of monitoring

Commonwealth Conservation Codes

Conservation Categories according to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*

Critically Endangered A native species facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>A native species that is: a) not critically endangered; and b) is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>A native species that is: a) not critically endangered or endangered; and b) is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migratory</td>
<td>Many migratory species listed under the international conventions and agreements Australia is party to are protected under the Australian Government’s central piece of environmental legislation, the EPBC Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>Many marine species are protected in Australian waters under s248 of the EPBC Act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Brolga (Grus rubicunda)](image-url)

Photo - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.
Understanding this book

Map data has been sourced from NatureMap (Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife) and the Atlas of Living Australia (CSIRO) and was current at the time of publication. Maps denote positive records of fauna occurrence only, and the absence of a record does not mean fauna are absent from an area.

The conservation significance of fauna described within this book was current at the time of publication. Species identified as not conservation significant are not listed as threatened within the Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 or the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
FROGS

Main’s Frog
(Cyclorana maini)

Family  Hylidae
Thalanyji Name  Ngaarnkura
Other Names  Sheep Frog, Western Collared Frog

Conservation Significance
Not conservation significant

Ecology
Main’s Frog is a medium-sized frog with no webbing present on its fingers and only partial webbing on its toes. It varies from grey or olive-brown to dull green on its back, with dark patches and a distinct pale stripe down its spine. To survive dry periods Main’s Frog burrows deep into the ground and covers itself completely with a cocoon made of shed skin layers, breathing through openings at the nose. Rain signals the frogs to emerge from their cocoon and begin breeding.

Habitat
Main’s Frog is common in arid areas, especially flood plains and grasslands.

The call of Main’s Frog sounds similar to a sheep bleating or an ambulance siren.
Main’s Frog (*Cyclorana maini*)

Photo - Kathie Atkinson

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
FROGS

Green Tree Frog
(Litoria caerulea)

Family          Hylidae
Thalanyji Name  Ngaarnkura

Conservation Significance
Not conservation significant

Ecology
The Green Tree Frog is a large, bright green frog with a robust body and short limbs. Males grow to 8 centimetres (cm), and females to over 11 cm in length. Fingers and toes are webbed with large discs on the end of each. Breeding occurs in the wet season between November and February, during which time male frogs call to females from the ground. Clumps of 200 to 2000 eggs are laid on the surface of the water before sinking within 24 hours.

Habitat
The Green Tree Frog is found in a range of habitats including dry forest and grassland, near streams and swamps in rock crevices or in trees, and in woodlands often far from water. This frog is likely to have been introduced into Onslow from the Kimberley region and is commonly observed in gardens, toilet cisterns and bathrooms.

Green Tree Frogs wipe a waxy secretion over themselves and tuck in their chin and limbs to minimise their surface area and reduce moisture loss during the day.
Green Tree Frog (*Litoria caerulea*)
Photo - Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
Smooth Knob-tail Gecko
(*Nephrurus levis*)

**Family**
Gekkonidae

**Other Names**
Three Line Knob-tail Gecko, Common Knob-tailed Gecko

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**
The Smooth Knob-tail Gecko is a ground-dwelling, insectivorous gecko that can grow to 10 cm long (excluding the tail). This species is nocturnal, and shelters in burrows, often those of other animals, during the day.

**Habitat**
The Smooth Knob-tail Gecko inhabits sand plain and spinifex habitat.

**To defend itself, the Smooth Knob-tail Gecko does slow push-ups, before jumping forward in an attempt to scare predators.**
Smooth Knob-tail Gecko (*Nephrurus levis*)
Photo - Megan Smith

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
REPTILES

Burton’s Legless Lizard
(*Lialis burtonis*)

**Family**  
Pygopodidae

**Other Names**  
Burton’s Snake-lizard

**Conservation Significance**

Not conservation significant

**Ecology**

Unlike other legless lizards, Burton’s Legless Lizard has a distinctive pointed, wedge-shaped snout. Body colour is extremely variable, ranging from dark grey to off-white, often with longitudinal stripes and spots. Active during the day and night, this species feeds primarily on skinks, but will also hunt other reptiles such as geckos, dragons, legless lizards and small snakes. This lizard grows to 59 cm in length.

**Habitat**

This species is the most widespread Australian reptile and has been recorded in all habitat types except cool, high altitude areas of Tasmania. Burton’s Legless Lizard inhabits desert sand ridges, woodlands, sclerophyll forest and rainforest.

Burton’s Legless Lizard is the only Australian member of the *Lialis* genus. The other member of this genus, *Lialis jicari*, is restricted to New Guinea.
Burton’s Legless Lizard (*Lialis burtonis*)
Photos - Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
Military Dragon
(\textit{Ctenophorus isolepis})

**Family**
Agamidae

**Other Names**
Central Military Dragon, Crested Dragon

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**
The Military Dragon has a reddish-brown upper surface with a series of dark spots and pale, longitudinal stripes. The Military Dragon has 42–68 pores along the full length of its thighs. Like other dragons, this species is diurnal (active during the day) and oviparous (an egg layer). This dragon feeds on a variety of invertebrates including ants and grows to a length of 7 cm (excluding the tail).

**Habitat**
Primarily found under the cover of spinifex, the Military Dragon inhabits sand-ridge deserts.

**Male Military Dragons can be seen bobbing their heads in the presence of other males.**
Military Dragon (Ctenophorus isolepis)
Photo – Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
REPTILES

Western Bearded Dragon
(*Pogona minor*)

Family: Agamidae
Thalanyji Name: Galarra/Kalarra
Other Names: Dwarf Bearded Dragon

Conservation Significance
Not conservation significant

Ecology

The Western Bearded Dragon is grey to greyish-brown in colour with a series of small spines along the side of the body and a beard of spines across the back of the head. This dragon can lighten or darken its body colour to regulate its temperature and camouflage with its surroundings. The Western Bearded Dragon feeds on insects, as well as small reptiles and plant material such as leaves, flowers and fruit. This species is oviparous and will dig a burrow to keep its eggs safe.

Habitat

The Western Bearded Dragon inhabits woodlands and shrublands and actively forages on the ground and amongst tree limbs and stumps during the day.

The Western Bearded Dragon defends itself against predators by flattening its body, extending its beard of spines around the neck, and opening its mouth to make itself look larger.
Western Bearded Dragon (*Pogona minor*)

Photo - Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
REPTILES

Leopard Skink
(*Ctenotus pantherinus*)

Family: Scincidae
Other Names: Leopard Ctenotus

Conservation Significance
Not conservation significant

Ecology

The Leopard Skink is a moderately large skink, growing up to 33 cm in length, with a coppery brown back and sides and a pale underside. As the name suggests, its bold markings resemble that of a leopard, with its back and sides patterned with rows of darkly outlined, white spots. The Leopard Skink selects termites over other insects when hunting and detects its prey using only its senses of smell and hearing.

Habitat

The Leopard Skink inhabits areas with low ground cover such as spinifex plains.

Unlike all other *Ctenotus* skink species that are diurnal (active during the day only), the Leopard Skink is active both at night and during the day.
Leopard Skink (*Ctenotus pantherinus*)
Photo - Chevron Australia

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
REPTILES

Pygmy Desert Monitor
(*Varanus eremius*)

**Family** Varanidae

**Other Names** Rusty Desert Monitor

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**
The Pygmy Desert Monitor is reddish brown in colour with a spotted back and four to five dark stripes running the length of its tail. The Pygmy Desert Monitor is carnivorous, predating exclusively on reptiles and foraging widely amongst spinifex. This monitor grows to a length of 50 cm (including the tail).

**Habitat**
The Pygmy Desert Monitor inhabits sandy deserts with spinifex vegetation.

Of all pygmy monitors in Australia, this species is the most widespread.
Pygmy Desert Monitor (*Varanus eremius*)
Photos - Tim McCabe, Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
Stimson’s Python
(*Antaresia stimsoni*)

**Family**
Pythonidae

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**

Stimson’s Python is distinctly marked, cream in colour with a bold, reddish-brown blotched pattern. This python feeds on a range of prey including birds, lizards, frogs and bats. The Stimson’s Python, like other pythons, protects its eggs until hatched. This python grows to a total length of 130 cm. In the Onslow area it is commonly found inhabiting termite mounds.

**Habitat**

Stimson’s Python is common in woodlands and areas with rocky outcrops and escarpments.

Stimson’s Python can sense its prey using heat-sensitive pits along the lips. These detect changes in temperature as minute as one-thirtieth of one degree Celsius.
Stimson's Python (*Antaresia stimsoni*)
Photo – Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
REPTILES

Black-headed Python
(*Aspidites melanocephalus*)

**Family**
Pythonidae

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**
The Black-headed Python can be distinguished by its shiny black head and neck, numerous dark bands over a pale body and a pale coloured belly. The Black-headed Python is nocturnal, however may be active during the day when the weather is cool or during or after rain storms. This python feeds on small mammals, birds and reptiles, including venomous snakes. The Black-headed Python produces up to 10 eggs per clutch and grows to a total length of 250 cm.

**Habitat**
The Black-headed Python inhabits semi-arid to arid areas in open woodlands, shrublands and outcrops. A ground-dwelling python, it shelters in disused burrows and cracks in the soil as well as in logs and under rocks.

The Black-headed Python’s diet primarily consists of lizards, venomous snakes and even other Black-Headed Pythons. Mammals constitute less than 10 percent of their diet.
Black-headed Python (*Aspidites melanocephalus*)
Photo – Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
REPTILES

Mulga Snake
(*Pseudechis australis*)

**Family**
Elapidae

**Other Names**
King Brown Snake

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**
The Mulga Snake is a large grey-brown snake with a broad head and pale underbelly. Generally active during the day or at night (depending on the ambient temperature), this species feeds on a range of animals, from reptiles to birds. The Mulga Snake lays an average clutch of nine eggs and grows to a total length of up to 250 cm.

**Habitat**
The Mulga Snake is found in a range of habitats, from spinifex grasslands to tropical rainforest, and shelters in old animal burrows and cracks in the soil as well as under logs and rocks.

The Mulga Snake is the heaviest venomous snake in Australia and delivers more venom per bite than any snake in the world. Despite being known as the king brown, the mulga is actually a member of the black snake genus (*Pseudechis*) and black snake anti-venom is needed to treat a bite. This snake is dangerously venomous.
Mulga Snake (*Pseudechis australis*)
Photo - Ed Swinhoe, Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
Western Brown Snake 
(Pseudonaja mengdeni)

Family: Elapidae
Other Names: Gwardar

Conservation Significance
Not conservation significant

Ecology
The Western Brown Snake is highly variable in colour and pattern but generally conforms to one of two distinct colour morphs (different colour variations that exist within one species): orange body with a black head or pale to medium brown with a pale or light brown head and neck (see photos). Both can show a reticulated pattern and some may display a series of broad dark bands down the body. Depending on the ambient temperature, the Western Brown Snake is diurnal or nocturnal and feeds on vertebrates such as mammals and reptiles. This species can grow to a total length of 160 cm.

Habitat
The Western Brown Snake frequents dry to arid habitats, sheltering in ground burrows and under rocks or logs, as well as in soil cracks.

Brown snakes are generally shy but can be aggressive if cornered or provoked. At only 2-3 mm, the Western Brown Snake’s fangs are short but their venom is potent making this snake highly dangerous.
Two colour morphs of the Western Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja mengdeni*)
Photos - Brian Bush

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
White-bellied Sea Eagle
(*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

**Family**
Accipitridae

**Other Names**
White-bellied Fish Eagle, White-breasted Sea Eagle

**Conservation Significance**
Commonwealth listed: Migratory, Marine

**Ecology**
The White-bellied Sea Eagle is a large, white and grey bird of prey with long, broad wings and a short, wedge-shaped tail. Feeding mostly on fish, nesting seabirds and coastal terrestrial fauna, the White-bellied Sea Eagle has been sighted both in pairs and singly.

**Habitat**
The White-bellied Sea Eagle inhabits coastal areas and terrestrial wetlands in tropical and temperate areas of mainland Australia and offshore islands.

*White-bellied Sea Eagles build their nests in a wide range of sites including tall Eucalyptus trees, mangroves, cliffs, caves or on the ground. Nests are made of sticks and lined with leaves, grass and seaweed.*
White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)
Photo – Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from the Atlas of Living Australia
CC BY 3.0 AU (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/)
Wedge-tailed Eagle
\textit{(Aquila audax)}

\textbf{Family} \hspace{1cm} Accipitridae

\textbf{Thalanji Name} \hspace{1cm} Warrirda

\textbf{Conservation Significance}
Not conservation significant

\textbf{Ecology}
The Wedge-tailed Eagle is the largest bird of prey in Australia. Feeding on both live prey and dead carcasses, such as roadkill, the Wedge-tailed Eagle predominantly eats rabbits, large lizards, birds and native mammals. Wedge-tailed Eagles are monogamous, forming lifelong mating pairs. They commonly construct their nest out of sticks in the tallest tree available. Both parents are involved in keeping the clutch of eggs (usually two) warm and feeding the chicks once hatched.

\textbf{Habitat}
The Wedge-tailed Eagle primarily inhabits woodlands and open areas that provide tall trees for perching and nesting.

\textbf{Wedge-tailed Eagles can reuse their nests for many years and nests can become very large. Records show some nests have reached 3 m deep, almost 2 m wide and weighed up to 400 kilograms (kg).}
Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*)

Photos - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
BIRDS

Australian Kestrel
(Falco cenchroides)

Family
Falconidae

Other Names
Nankeen Kestrel

Conservation Significance
Commonwealth listed: Marine

Ecology
The Australian Kestrel is one of the smaller members of the Falconidae family. This Kestrel is brown to brownish-red above and white or off-white below, with a black tail tip. A carnivorous raptor, the Australian Kestrel feeds primarily on small mammals, birds and reptiles, with insects also part of its diet. Prey is generally pounced on once spotted from the air, but it can also catch birds and insects while in flight. The Australian Kestrel nests in tree hollows and caves and may also nest on the ground. Pairs will often breed together over multiple seasons and will raise one brood of three to four young per year.

Habitat
The Australian Kestrel has been recorded across a wide variety of habitats, however it most commonly inhabits open areas and lightly wooded habitats.

When hunting, the Australian Kestrel hovers a short distance off the ground, rapidly beating its wings and using its tail as a rudder to ensure its head and body remain as still as possible.
Australian Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)
Photos - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
BIRDS

Osprey
(*Pandion haliaetus*)

**Family**
Accipitridae

**Other Names**
White-headed Osprey, Fish Hawk

**Conservation Significance**
Commonwealth listed: Marine, Migratory

**Ecology**
The Osprey is a medium-sized bird with a dark, silky brown back, a white underside and a dark mask across the eyes. A bird of prey, Ospreys primarily feed on fish captured using their talons (claws). Ospreys breed from April to February, typically in a monogamous pair, and females lay two to three eggs on average per clutch. Nests are made of sticks and constructed on a variety of natural and artificial platforms such as dead trees, cliffs and rocks as well as jetties, cranes and offshore drilling rigs. One nest site may be used by one or more pairs for several years.

**Habitat**
The Osprey inhabits coastal areas and terrestrial wetlands of northern Australia, as well as an isolated breeding population in southern Australia.

Osprey wings are oily, allowing their feathers to stay reasonably dry when diving for fish and ensuring they can fly uninhibited.
Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)
Photos - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
BIRDS

Fork-tailed Swift
(*Apus pacificus*)

**Family**
Apodidae

**Other Names**
Australian Swift, Migrant Swift, Pacific Swift

**Conservation Significance**
Commonwealth listed: Migratory, Marine

**Ecology**
The Fork-tailed Swift has a slim body with long, scythe-like wings and a distinct long, highly forked tail. This species is insectivorous and catches and consumes its prey in flight. The Fork-tailed Swift is a non-breeding visitor to Australia, coming to feed during summer months.

**Habitat**
The Fork-tailed Swift spends the majority of its life in the sky and has been observed flying over most open habitats, such as inland plains or coastal areas, as well as urban areas and rainforests.

Fork-tailed Swifts are migratory birds, in August/September they begin their journey from Siberia to Australia via Korea and Malaysia. They arrive in Australia around October before departing for their breeding grounds in April the following year.
Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)
Photo – Rafael Suleimanov

Data sourced from the Atlas of Living Australia
CC BY 3.0 AU (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/)
BIRDS

Rainbow Bee-eater
(*Merops ornatus*)

**Family**  Meropidae

**Thalanyji Name**  Pirrulbirrul

**Other Names**  See below

**Conservation Significance**

Commonwealth listed: Marine, Migratory

**Ecology**

The Rainbow Bee-eater is the only species of bee-eater in Australia. It is a brightly coloured bird with orange, blue, green and black streamer feathers (central tail feathers) that project from the tail, and a black stripe across the eye. Feeding mainly on bees and wasps, this bird will also eat beetles, butterflies, spiders and earthworms. The breeding season runs from August to January, during which time adult birds excavate a burrow in the ground or a cliff face. The female lays two to eight eggs in a large chamber at the end of the burrow. Rainbow Bee-eaters in southern parts of Australia migrate to northern Australia and Indonesia during winter.

**Habitat**

The Rainbow Bee-eater occurs in a range of open environments but prefers lightly wooded habitats with tall vegetation for perching and sandy soil for nesting.

**This bird is known by 16 different names including Australian, Black-tailed or Pin-tailed Bee-eater, Rainbow Bird, Golden Swallow, Gold Digger, the Pintail Sandpiper, Spinetail, Needlebeak and Berrin-berrin.**
Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*)

Photos - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from the Atlas of Living Australia

CC BY 3.0 AU (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/)
BIRDS

White-plumed Honeyeater
(*Lichenostomus penicillatus*)

**Family** Meliphagidae

**Thalanyji Name** Jurrabi

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**

The White-plumed Honeyeater is olive grey in colour with a yellowish head and a distinctive white stripe on the sides of the neck.

This species is usually gregarious (seeks out the company of others) and feeds on nectar, insects, fruit and seeds in the crowns of trees as well as in shrubs.

During the breeding season, male birds conduct song flights, singing while flying above the tree tops before diving steeply into the vegetation. Female birds build a small nest made from grass and spider web and lined with wool, feathers or hair.

**Habitat**

The White-plumed Honeyeater is found in open forests and woodlands, often near water or wetlands. The distribution of this species appears to be linked to that of the River Red Gum.

*White-plumed Honeyeaters defend their territory aggressively, even working as a group to attack birds much larger than themselves to drive them away.*
White-plumed Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus penicillatus*)

Photos - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from the Atlas of Living Australia
CC BY 3.0 AU (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/)
BIRDS

Star Finch
(*Neochmia ruficauda subclarescens*)

Family Estrildidae
Other Names Kimberly Star

Conservation Significance
Western Australia listed: Priority 4

Ecology

The Star Finch is bright green with a distinctive red beak and face and white spots on the chest. This finch feeds entirely on seeds (granivorous). Star Finches are residents to the Ashburton region and can be observed in large flocks. Breeding occurs primarily in March to April, with females laying three to six eggs in a dome-shaped nest.

Habitat

The Star Finch is most often recorded in reed beds and vegetation alongside permanent waterways in the Pilbara, and in grassy, open sclerophyll woodland. These areas are characterised by plants with tough, often spikey leaves including eucalypts, wattles and banksias.

The main threat to the Star Finch is the loss of habitat due to overgrazing of vegetation by stock.
Star Finch (*Neochmia ruficauda subclarescens*)
Photo – Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
BIRDS

Zebra Finch
(Taeniopygia guttata)

Family  Estrildidae
Thalanyji Name  Nyumburrji
Other Names  Chestnut-eared Finch

Conservation Significance
Not conservation significant

Ecology

The Zebra Finch is predominantly grey, with black and white teardrop shaped stripes beneath the eye, black and white stripes on the upper tail, and red eyes and beak. Males are distinguished by chestnut coloured cheek patches. Zebra Finches feed in large flocks on grass seeds and insects. Forming lifelong breeding pairs, Zebra Finches build loose, dome-shaped nests and both partners share the duty of caring for the eggs and young.

Habitat

Zebra Finches are commonly found in arid and semi-arid habitats.

Living in arid environments with infrequent rain, Zebra Finches rapidly build nests and begin breeding after substantial rainfall. Hatchlings develop quickly and are independent at only 35 days old and soon begin breeding themselves.
Zebra Finch (Taeniopygia guttata)
Photo - Alexia Jankowski

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
BIRDS

Bush Stone-curlew
(*Burhinus grallarius*)

**Family**  
Burhinidae

**Thalanyji Name**  
Wirlumayi

**Other Names**  
Bush Thick-knee, Southern Stone Plover, Weeloo, Willaroo

**Conservation Significance**  
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**

The Bush Stone-curlew stands approximately 50–60 cm tall with slim gangly legs, large yellow eyes, a white eyebrow and a long tail. The Bush Stone-curlew has dark brown speckled feathers on the back, and white feathers with dark streaks on its breast and belly. A ground-dwelling bird, the Bush Stone-curlew is solitary and nocturnal, feeding on insects and small vertebrates such as lizards and frogs. During breeding season Bush Stone-curlews take part in courtship dances, calling loudly while stamping their feet with their wings and necks outstretched.

**Habitat**

The Bush Stone-curlew inhabits forest and woodland with sparse, grassy understories that allow them to keep a look out for predators while feeding. Branches on the ground are necessary for this species’ camouflage to be effective.

*If disturbed, the Bush Stone-curlew’s defence mechanism is to crouch down or freeze rather than fly away.*
Bush Stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*)

Photo - Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
Australian Bustard
(*Ardeotis australis*)

**Family**  
Otididae

**Thalanyji Name**  
Ngalguru

**Other Names**  
Bush Turkey, Plains Turkey, Wild Turkey

**Conservation Significance**

Western Australia listed: Priority 4

**Ecology**

The Australian Bustard can weigh up to 14 kg, stand up to 120 cm tall and have a wingspan of up to 200 cm. Grey to brown in colour, it has a light coloured neck, a black crown with a small crest and a white eyebrow. The Australian Bustard feeds on insects, small vertebrates, seeds and fruit. It moves location in response to food availability after rain. The Australian Bustard lays up to two eggs on bare ground.

**Habitat**

The Australian Bustard occupies a wide range of habitats including grasslands, spinifex, grassy woodland and low shrublands. It is also found in croplands and recently burnt vegetation.

The Australian Bustard is the heaviest flying bird in Australia and one of the heaviest flying birds in the world.
Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*)
Photo - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
BIRDS

Brolga
*(Grus rubicunda)*

**Family**
Gruidae

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**
The Brolga is one of only two crane species in Australia and has a large, distinctive, grey body, a grey crown and a featherless red head. Brolga are omnivorous, eating plant material and crops as well as insects, amphibians and even small mammals like mice. Brolgas pair for life, building nests on mounds of vegetation within shallow waterways. Both partners share the duty of incubating the eggs and raising the chicks. Outside the breeding season Brolga form large flocks of more than 100 birds.

**Habitat**
The Brolga can be found in large, open wetlands and grassy plains, as well as other seasonally wet areas such as coastal mudflats.

All Brolga partake in elaborate courtship displays involving dancing, leaping, trumpeting and flapping their wings.
Brolga (*Grus rubicunda*)
Photos - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
Eastern Curlew  
*(Numenius madagascariensis)*

**Family**  
Scolopacidae

**Other Names**  
Far Eastern Curlew

**Conservation Significance**

Commonwealth listed: Critically Endangered, Marine, Migratory
Western Australia listed: Schedule 1, Vulnerable

**Ecology**

The Eastern Curlew is a large migratory wader with a long neck, long legs and a heavy, downward curving bill. Eastern Curlews feed on insects, berries, and marine invertebrates such as crabs and molluscs. Adult Eastern Curlews breed in eastern Russia and Mongolia in the summer, before migrating south to Australia to escape the northern hemisphere’s winter. They nest in swampy areas in small colonies of two to three pairs, with females usually laying around four eggs.

**Habitat**

Eastern Curlews primarily inhabit tidal mud flats and sandy beaches during the non-breeding period.

The global population of the Eastern Curlew is estimated at only 38,000 individuals. Around 28,000 of these birds visit Australia each summer to feed.
Eastern Curlew \textit{(Numenius madagascariensis)}

Photo - Dan Weller, Birdlife Australia

Data sourced from the Atlas of Living Australia
CC BY 3.0 AU (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/)

A Field Guide to the Native Fauna of the Onslow Region | 61
BIRDS

Royal Spoonbill
(*Platalea regia*)

**Family**
Threskiornithidae

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**
The Royal Spoonbill is a large waterbird with a white body, a black spoon-shaped bill and a black face and legs. This species feeds on fish, shrimp, crustaceans and insects that occur in waters less than 40 cm in depth. Royal Spoonbills form monogamous pairs for the duration of the breeding season, building bowl-shaped nests in tall vegetation near the water. Females lay three eggs with both parents sharing egg incubation and chick feeding duties.

**Habitat**
This species prefers shallow freshwater and saltwater wetlands, intertidal mud flats and wet grasslands. They also utilise artificial wetlands such as dams, sewage lagoons and salt fields.

*The Royal Spoonbill uses its large bill to detect vibrations in the water and catch its prey.*
Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*)
Photos - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
BIRDS

Crested Tern
(*Sterna bergii*)

Family  Laridae
Other Names  Sea-swallow

Conservation Significance
Commonwealth listed: Marine

Ecology
The Crested Tern is one of the most commonly observed tern species in Australia, either foraging singly or in small groups, or gathering at roost sites in the hundreds. The Crested Tern feeds on small fish that occur near the surface of the water, squid, crustaceans, insects and prawns. Breeding occurs in dense colonies on low-lying coastal spits, salt pans and offshore islands with other terns and gulls. Rather than build a nest, the Crested Tern scrapes a shallow indent in the ground in which to lay its eggs.

Habitat
The Crested Tern occurs in tropical and subtropical coastal areas, inhabiting mainland and island beaches, as well as lakes and inlets.

Flocks of Crested Terns are often used by fisherman as an indicator of areas abundant with fish.
Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*)
Photos - Chevron Australia (left) Alexia Jankowski (right)

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
MAMMALS

Northern Quoll  
(*Dasyurus hallucatus*)

**Family**  
Dasyuridae

**Other Names**  
Little Northern Native Cat

**Conservation Significance**

Commonwealth listed: Endangered

Western Australia listed: Schedule 1, Endangered

**Ecology**

The Northern Quoll is red-brown in colour with a pointed nose, white spotted fur, a cream underbelly and a long, unspotted tail. These nocturnal mammals are omnivores, eating insects, small mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs as well as fruit and nectar. Northern Quolls breed once a year. Females give birth to around seven young, however only two to three will survive to maturity.

**Habitat**

The Northern Quoll typically inhabits open eucalypt woodland and rocky plains with spinifex grassland as well as shrublands and coastal dunes.

**Northern Quolls have short life spans, most adult males die at the end of the breeding season at one year old. The oldest recorded female in the wild was three years of age.**
Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*)

Photo - Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from the Atlas of Living Australia
CC BY 3.0 AU (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/)
MAMMALS

Striped-faced Dunnart
(*Sminthopsis macroura*)

**Family**
Dasyuridae

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**
The Striped-faced Dunnart is grey-brown in colour with a dark stripe down its face and a long tail that is fat at the base. The Striped-faced Dunnart is nocturnal, feeding predominantly on small invertebrates such as crickets and spiders, as well as small reptiles.

**Habitat**
The Striped-faced Dunnart is widespread in arid and semi-arid regions, inhabiting spinifex and tussock grassland, and rocky areas.

When food is plentiful, the Striped-faced Dunnart stores fat in its tail as an energy reserve for when food becomes scarce.
Striped-faced Dunnart (*Sminthopsis macroura*)

Photo - Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
MAMMALS

Euro
(*Macropus robustus*)

**Family**  
Macropodidae

**Thalanyji Name**  
Bigurda/Pigurda

**Other Names**  
Common Wallaroo, Hill Wallaroo

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**

The Euro is a large species of macropod. They are commonly dark grey in colour, with a reddish tone on the back and a pale grey underside. Their fur is shaggy and coarse and can vary from long to short among the four subspecies. The Euro is a crepuscular herbivore, most active during the early morning and evening and feeding on grasses and shrubs. Euros breed whenever conditions are optimal. Females often have one young in the pouch and one at foot.

**Habitat**

The Euro is found in a variety of habitats, but most commonly in areas with steep escarpments, hills, or caves that provide shelter when temperatures are high.

There are four Euro subspecies. *M. r. robustus* is found in eastern Australia and *M. r. erubescens* is found across Australia, but is most abundant in WA. *M. r. isabellinus* is found on Barrow Island and *M. r. woodwardi* is found in the Kimberley and some parts of the Northern Territory.
Euro (*Macropus robustus*)

Photo - Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
MAMMALS

Spinifex Hopping Mouse
(Notomys alexis)

Family: Muridae

Conservation Significance
Not conservation significant

Ecology
The Spinifex Hopping Mouse is sandy brown in colour with a pale underside, a long tail up to 15 cm in length and large ears. An omnivore, it feeds on insects and invertebrates as well as seeds, shoots and roots. The Spinifex Hopping Mouse is nocturnal, spending the day sleeping in a deep burrow in family groups of up to 10 individuals, before emerging at dusk to search for food. Breeding occurs throughout the year with females giving birth to three to four young.

Habitat
This hopping mouse inhabits spinifex covered sand plains and dunes in arid and semi-arid Australia.

The Spinifex Hopping Mouse moves around on all four legs but hops on its two powerful hind legs for speed.
Spinifex Hopping Mouse (Notomys alexis)
Photo - Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
MAMMALS

The Little Red Kaluta
(*Dasykaluta rosamondae*)

**Family**  
Dasyuridae

**Other Names**  
Little Red Antechinus, Kaluta

**Conservation Significance**

Not conservation significant

**Ecology**

The Little Red Kaluta is reddish-brown in colour with coarse fur and a body length of around 20 cm. The Little Red Kaluta is a nocturnal, carnivorous marsupial that feeds on insects and small vertebrates including skinks and geckos. Breeding occurs in September, with females giving birth almost two months later. Young become sexually mature at 10 months old.

**Habitat**

The Kaluta inhabits spinifex grassland on sand plains and dunes and can be found hiding in burrows within grass tussocks.

**Male Little Red Kalutas are one of 10 species of dasyurid marsupials that die shortly after the breeding season. It is suspected this occurs due to stress and exhaustion as a result of the mating process.**
The Little Red Kaluta (*Dasykaluta rosamondae*)

*Photo* - Terrestrial Ecosystems

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
MAMMALS

Short-beaked Echidna
(*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

**Family**  
Tachyglossidae

**Thalanyji Name**  
Jiribarri/Mijibuga

**Conservation Significance**
Not conservation significant

**Ecology**

The Short-beaked Echidna has a pointed snout, pale coloured spines interspersed with dark brown fur and a tongue that can protrude up to 18 cm from its mouth. It grows to 45 cm in length and weighs up to 5 kg. Short-beaked Echidna are generally active during the day, however they are poorly equipped to deal with heat. Since they cannot pant or produce sweat, they alter their behaviour to become nocturnal during summer months. During breeding, trains of up to 10 males can be observed pursuing one female; a ritual that can last up to four weeks. The Short-beaked Echidna lays one egg and the young, known as a puggle, hatches after 10 days.

**Habitat**

The Short-beaked Echidna inhabits forest and woodland as well as grassland and arid environments. The Short-beaked Echidna is a solitary animal with no home territory; instead ranging over a wide area.

The name *Tachyglossus* means quick tongue. Short-beaked Echidnas move their tongues in and out of their mouths up to 100 times a minute to feed on ants and termites.
Short-beaked Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)
Photo - Alexia Jankowski

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
Mammals

Dingo
\textit{(Canis lupus dingo)}

Family \hspace{1cm} Canidae

Thalanyji Name \hspace{1cm} Wujun/Wanyja

Conservation Significance

Not conservation significant in Australia however the Dingo is listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)

Ecology

The Dingo is Australia’s largest carnivorous mammal, arriving on the mainland 5,000 to 18,000 years ago from Asia. With ginger fur and white feet, erect ears, a long muzzle and long canine teeth, dingoes can weigh up to 24 kg and live for up to 10 years. Dingoes are opportunistic carnivores, feeding on rabbits, kangaroos and wallabies, reptiles, birds and insects. Dingoes scavenge for food alone at night but will also form large packs when hunting larger prey. Breeding occurs once a year between March and June, with females rearing a litter of up to six pups in a hollow log, rock shelter or disused burrow.

Habitat

Pure bred Dingoes are common across the central and north-western regions of Australia and live in a wide range of habitats including grassland, desert, and woodland areas.

Dingoes have been breeding with domestic dogs since the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788. In WA, 62 percent of Dingoes are considered pure bred, while in New South Wales and Victoria less than 5 percent are pure bred.
Dingo (*Canis lupus dingo*)

Photo - Mars Nelson Treadwell

Data sourced from NatureMap (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Glossary</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carnivorous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crepuscular</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diurnal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Granivorous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gregarious</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Herbivorous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Insectivorous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invertebrate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Migratory</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monogamous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nocturnal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Omnivorous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oviparous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raptor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solitary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taxon (plural taxa)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terrestrial</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venomous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vertebrate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wingspan</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Black-headed Python (*Aspidites melanocephalus*)
Photo – Mike Edmondson/Nexus Public Relations Pty. Ltd.
## Sighting Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frogs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main's Frog <em>(Cyclorana maini)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Tree Frog <em>(Litoria caerulea)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lizards</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Knob-tail Gecko <em>(Nephrurus levis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton’s Legless Lizard <em>(Lialis burtonis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Dragon <em>(Ctenophorus isolepis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Bearded Dragon <em>(Pogona minor)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leopard Skink <em>(Ctenotus pantherinus)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pygmy Desert Monitor <em>(Varanus eremius)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Snakes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimson’s Python <em>(Antaresia stimsoni)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-headed Python <em>(Aspidites melanocephalus)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulga Snake <em>(Pseudechis australis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Brown Snake <em>(Pseudonaja mengdeni)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-bellied Sea Eagle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Haliaeetus leucogaster)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedge-tailed Eagle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Aquila audax)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Kestrel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Falco cenchroides)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Pandion haliaetus)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fork-tailed Swift</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Apus pacificus)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Bee-eater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Merops ornatus)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-plumed Honeyeater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Lichenostomus penicillatus)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star Finch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Neochmia ruficauda subclarescens)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zebra Finch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Taeniopygia guttata)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bush Stone-curlew</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Burhinus grallarius)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Bustard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Ardeotis australis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brolga</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Grus rubicunda)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Curlew</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Numenius madagascariensis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Spoonbill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Platalea regia)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crested Tern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Sterna bergii)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Quoll <em>(Dasyurus hallucatus)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped-faced Dunnart <em>(Sminthopsis macroura)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro <em>(Macropus robustus)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinifex Hopping Mouse <em>(Notomys alexis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Little Red Kaluta <em>(Dasykaluta rosamondae)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-beaked Echidna <em>(Tachyglossus aculeatus)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dingo <em>(Canis lupus dingo)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dingo *(Canis lupus dingo)*
Photo - Mars Nelson Treadwell


Austin, P. 1992. *A Dictionary of Thalanyji Western Australia.* La Trobe University, Department of Linguistics, Bundoora, Victoria.


Acknowledgements

Terrestrial Ecosystems supplied and coordinated all fauna handlers during construction of the Wheatstone Project. Terrestrial Ecosystems provided technical support and photographs to this book.

Species distribution data records were sourced from NatureMap, an online database developed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and the Western Australia Museum (http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/).

The production of this field guide was supported by Joint Venture Participants of the Wheatstone Project.
A Field Guide to the Native Fauna of the Onslow Region