

BirdLife Australia Gluepot Reserve.
Where to find Birds on Gluepot
Updated November 2018

Check on the White Board in the Visitor's Centre for recent bird sightings. This white board contains the most current information.

Southern Scrub Robin

These birds are ground dwellers and can be quite inquisitive – reasonably easy to see. They are sedentary.

1. There are three known territories of Southern Scrub Robins along the Whistler walk from the Homestead Dam gates, to the Whistler Bird hide so it is a good place to look for them particularly in the mornings. . You can find them in the swales (hollows) between sand dunes amongst prickly acacias and sennas.
2. A pair have been seen in the thick growth around the Whistler tank.
3. They can also be found near Froggy Dam approx. 100 m south of the Dam on Track 5 on the Western side of the road.
4. They have also been seen along Track 8 East past Babbler Campsite. Approx 2 km East of Babbler Campsite on the northern side of the road at *Atlas marker UMB 6791. (S 33 45 37.8, E 140 11 24.1.) Listen for their characteristic whistle.

* Atlas sites are marked by White-topped Star Droppers on the sides of Tracks.

Red-lored Whistler (RLW)

Red-lored whistlers are very similar to Gilbert's Whistlers and are uncommon on Gluepot. Gilberts Whistlers are relatively common. These whistlers can call at any time of the year but are more likely to call between September and the end of March. Their calls are similar. Red-lored whistlers are more likely to be found in mallee spinifex country similar to Striated Grasswren habitat. Gilberts Whistlers are more likely to be found in thicker low acacias and sennas.

RLWs have been seen relatively recently in the following areas.

1. Approximately 700m south of Froggy Dam on Track 5 on the West side of the Road.
2. Approximately 1 Km west of Sitella campsite. Also on the Gypsum Lunette Walk and the Babbler Walk south of Babbler campsite.
3. On Track 2 approx 100 m east of the cross road of tracks 2 and 4.
4. Travel along Track 8 East past Babbler Campsite. Turn Left (north) on Track 8 at the T junction. Travel North approx 1 km (just past the "No Entry" turn-off into Birdseye block.) On the West side of the road on the top of a sandhill, Atlas marker LS4B 942, (S 33 44 46.7, E 140 12 34.2.) Walk approx 100 m West to the unburnt spinifex. **This is an old RLW site and the birds have not been seen there for some years but it is always worth checking**
5. Approx 500 m west of whistler bird hide on the whistler walk.

Striated Grasswren

Striated grass wrens are less common on Gluepot than they have been in past years. They have not been seen on the sites below for several years and numbers remain low.

1. These have been seen at the same Atlas site (UMB 6791) on Track 8 as the Red-lored Whistler.
2. Also seen on the Gypsum Lunette Walk.
3. In the spinifex behind the whistler bird hide.

They are likely to be found on healthy, mature mallee spinifex in sandy country. Spinifex needs to be healthy enough to provide cover and individual plants open enough for the birds to be able to take cover (and also nest) in them. If the spinifex habitat becomes senescent (dies down) they will move. They also favour relatively large areas of spinifex. They are most likely to be calling between September and February and males will sometimes challenge you when you enter their territory.

Fairy Wrens

Splendid, White-winged and Variegated, are all relatively common. They can be seen around Dams such as Froggy, Picnic, Kangaroo and Old Gluepot Dams. Also on the Airstrip Walk. Any area of generally low chenopods (bluebush/saltbush) should have a Fairy Wren population. There is a family of splendid fairy wrens just east of the second gate of the homestead dam on the walk out to Whistler bird hide, also a family of Variegated Fairywrens inside the dam enclosure. White-winged Fairywrens are more likely to be found on more open country such as around Old Gluepot and Long Dams.

Regent Parrots

Generally spread around the Reserve. Can be seen drinking at troughs on bird hides particularly mornings. Check Josie's, (near Grasswren Tank), Emu, Whistler and Old Gluepot Hides and also the Homestead watering points. In October to December most of them move south to the Murray River where they nest in large hollows. Generally during January the young will be fledged, the parents will leave their young and fly south. The sub adult young tend to "flock up" and fly north looking for food. They feed on seeds on low shrubs blue bush, salt bush and other vegetation. It is not uncommon to see flocks of over 200 sub adult birds drinking at watering points on the Reserve during January February. Recently a flock of about 20 mixed young and adult birds were seen on Whistler bird Hide

Hogwash Bend (on the Ramco Road west of Waikerie,) and Banrock Station Wetlands are likely places to see Regent Parrots also.

Black-eared Miner (BEM)

Look at the information leaflet in the Visitor's Centre for ID information on how to identify them. They are spread widely around the Reserve. Check all Miner's calls as both yellow-throated and Black-eared Miners (BEMs) sound similar. Also check all apparently Yellow-throated Miner flocks as mixed flocks occur on the Reserve. Generally BEMs appear darker above the rump as you see them flying away and also slightly darker in the front. According to recent research most of the Miners on Gluepot carry BEM DNA.

Recent Sightings

1. A flock has been recently seen on Track 6 approx halfway along this track. On both sides of the road
2. Drinking at Josie's Bird Hide near Grasswren Tank and Whistler Bird Hide in the early morning
3. At the beginning of the Gypsum Lunette Walk.
4. On the malleefowl walk.

Scarlet-chested Parrots

A scarlet-chested Parrot was seen in February 2018 drinking at the bird hide near Grasswren Tank also on Whistler Bird Hide on the 18th March and a young male seen at the same place on 20th March. Before that birds were seen at the Red-lored Whistler site on Track 8 (UMB 6791). Also generally on track 8 leading north in late 2016.

Also on the Gypsum Lunette walk around the area where the walk comes back to the Gluepot/Taylorville Boundary fence. In large old growth Mallee.(A pair nested there in 2016.).

Scarlet-chested parrots nest in large Old Growth mallees with small Hollows – they are a relatively small parrot with a small bill and feed on food plants with relatively small seeds.

Observed food plants for Scarlet-chested parrots include: Dixon's Ray Flower (*Grammosolen dixonii*), a low growing, shrub with grey felty leaves found on sandhills, Toothed Raspwort (*Haloragis odontocarpa*). Also low growing with Red stems, green serrated leaves.). 2018 has been a very dry year and they have not nested in their usual spot on the Gypsum Lunette Walk.

Malleefowl

Uncommon but widespread on the Reserve

1. Have been seen crossing the road on Track 5 between Kangaroo and Froggy Dams. 2017.
2. On Track 1 near Gypsum Dam.
3. On Track 7, approx 1.9 km west of Bellbird Camp.

4. There have been reports very recently (Nov 2018) numbers of Malleefowl crossing the Pinnaroo to Loxton Road just north of Peebinga Conservation park.

Shy Heathwren

Widespread on the Reserve. Seen at the Red-lored Whistler sites mentioned earlier. Also at the beginning of the Malleefowl Walk near the carpark.

They are more likely to be calling and may challenge you if you enter their territory during spring and summer – September to February.

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

A small group have recently taken up residence and bred on the Reserve

Particularly found at or around Old Gluepot Bird Hide. (March 2018)

Just outside the Visitor's Centre in the Casuarina and drinking at the watering point there (November 2018.). Drinking at the Whistler Bird Hide Nov 2018.

Also around Long Dam. Nov 2017.

Ringneck and Mulga Parrots – widespread, common. Seen frequently on bird hide and homestead watering points with Brown-headed Honeyeaters, striped, spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, bronze-wing pigeons and other species.

Chestnut Quail-thrush – widespread, relatively common, sometimes flushed along the road. Listen for the (faint) very high pitched contact calls and the characteristic louder staccato early morning calls. Tend to be found in the shrubby low (up to 1.5 m acacia and senna scrub in the swales or hollows between dunes.

Crested Bell-bird – widespread, heard rather than seen. Generally low in the centre of mallees. Crest is usually down so you will see a black line on top of the bird's head. Have been seen on and off in residence at Sitella campsite.

Woodswallows – a number of species but more commonly White-browed and Masked in mixed flocks. Tend to flock around water but elsewhere as well. Migratory, much less common in the winter months. At times can be the most common bird on the Reserve.

White-browed Tree Creeper

Less common on Gluepot than the Brown Tree Creeper. Generally seen in or near Casuarinas. Look for the bright white brow (both species have a white brow) and black and white streaks on the ear coverts. Have been seen recently 2017 just east of the second homestead dams gate.

Rainbow Bee-eater

Migratory. Usually arrive in mid to late October and leave in February every year. Common when they are on the Reserve. Nest in hollows in hard sand drop offs. Will nest in hollows on hard sand roadside edges less than a metre high and can be seen flying out of their hollows as you pass in a car.

Raptors

Widespread around the Reserve. Often found hanging around bird hides waiting to catch an unwary bird. Collared Sparrow Hawks, Nankeen Kestrels, and Brown Goshawks are the most common.

Owls

Southern Boobook Owls, and Owlet Nightjars can frequently be heard at night throughout the Reserve. Spotted nightjars are often seen at dawn and dusk when driving along the tracks and roads. Tawny Frogmouths are relatively common but hard to spot.

General Good Birding Spots

1. Airstrip Walk. Particularly from August or when the *Eremophila maculata* is flowering. Good for fairywrens and honeyeaters.
2. Long Dam. Also the Atlas points along the road to Long Dam. (marked with white topped star droppers)
3. Picnic, Froggy and Kangaroo Dams.
4. The walk to Whistler Tank and Hide through the two homestead dam gates. A very good birding walk generally. (About 4 km round trip).
5. All bird hides are very good in summer and dry weather in general but after reasonable rain (more than 10 mm) birds will generally not drink from bird hides until free water dries out. Mornings are usually better.

If you see any Red-lored Whistlers, Striated Grasswrens, Scarlet-chested Parrots, Black-eared Miners or Mallefowl and have a GPS could you please record your sighting and if possible the GPS position on the Whiteboard in the Visitor's Centre. Also record any other bird sightings that you think are memorable or unusual.

Remember to be aware of your surroundings while birding. It is very easy to get lost on Gluepot as there are very few landmarks and the whole landscape is very uniform. Gluepot has many walking tracks and you don't need to stray too far from tracks and roads to see good birds.

Good Birding!
Chris Lill