

## BIRDS OF ROTTNEST – By Habitat

Notes compiled from “Birds of Rottnest Island” by Denis Saunders/Perry de Rebeira; Notes from Elizabeth and John Rippey and Peter Coyle

### Birds of the Settlement/Disturbed Areas

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| <p><b>Silver Gull (Seagull) (38-43 cm)</b><br/> White with pale grey upper surfaces and black wing tips. Eyes are white while eye rings, bill and legs are red<br/> Immature birds mottled with brown; bill and legs grey or black<br/> Most common resident<br/> Breeding sites all lakes, islets and stacks around coast<br/> Permanent pair bonding and usually same nest which is depression in ground.<br/> 1-3 eggs; 2 more common – breeding April-November/<br/> Only seabird known to be capable of rearing two broods of chicks each year<br/> Low success rate for breeding (80% mortality between leaving nest and age 6 months) but birds can live to 18 years<br/> Some carry Salmonella<br/> Eat eggs and young of several species - Kill and eat young Shelduck, Avocet and Fairy Tern. Also eat brine shrimp and swarming ants.<br/> (pp37-39)</p> | <p><b>Singing Honeyeater (19-22 cm)</b><br/> Call more like “screees” and chatters; one call sounds like a pea blown round in a tin whistle<br/> Grey-brown upper surfaces; streaked grey and buff lower surfaces; well defined black bar from base of bill through each eye to back of neck. Below black bar – thin yellow band which terminates in dirty white patch around ears. Brown eyes; stout black bill; dark grey legs.<br/> Has been isolated on the island. Larger, darker, more streaky; 20% heavier; leg band is one size larger than mainland species – e.g. of incipient speciation<br/> Aggressive bird – engage in noisy aerial chases<br/> Common – occurs in all habitats on Rottnest except surface of lakes and swamps<br/> May form permanent pair bonds. Nest cup-shaped suspended in tree or bush, made of grasses, cobwebs and lined with soft vegetable matter or hair.<br/> 2-3 eggs June-Dec. Both adults feed immature birds<br/> Probe, hawk and glean for food - eat insects, nectar, pollen, seed, caterpillars, beetles, spiders, flies, bugs and flying ants<br/> (pp86-87)</p> |
| <p><b>Raven (Commonly misnamed a Crow) (46-56 cm)</b><br/> Large, black – feathers on throat are long giving a bulging, goitrous look. Massive bill is black. Legs black and eyes white in adults but brown in immature birds<br/> Conspicuous and noisy<br/> Large hackle and long call as if it is being choked – “AARK”<br/> Form permanent pair bonds<br/> Cup-shaped stick nest - remains of old nests in fork of trees<br/> 4-5 eggs July to September<br/> Female incubates eggs for three weeks while male feeds her<br/> Both parents feed chicks<br/> Live for 12 years<br/> Raid rubbish bins; feed on dead Quokkas, insects, eggs, young birds<br/> (pp 88-89)</p>  | <p><b>Welcome Swallow (House swallow) (15-16 cm)</b><br/> Upper surfaces blue-black; rufous red throat and forehead; upper chest chestnut; under surface pale grey; eyes dark brown; bill black; legs brown; tail blue black deeply forked with a white spot near end of each tail feather.<br/> Common resident - found all year round all over the island - rafters, caves and offshore stacks<br/> Nest built by both sexes – cup-shaped nest made with vegetation cemented with mud – lined with soft feathers or dried grass.<br/> 2-4 eggs Aug to Nov Chicks stay in nest 3-4 weeks<br/> Couples stay together for a year – capable of rearing more than one brood in a season<br/> An insectivore – feeds on flies, midges, insects (hawks/swoops for insects)<br/> (pp79-81)</p>   |
| <p><b>Peafowl/Peahen/Peacock (Male 180-230 cm; Female 86-100 cm)</b><br/> Native of India and Sri Lanka<br/> Most conspicuous bird / usually on foot but can fly<br/> Released on Rottnest around 1915<br/> Only feral population in Australia<br/> Males polygamous - use fanned tails to attract females<br/> Long tail feathers moult towards the end of the year<br/> Females drab in comparison to male. She has a fan-shaped crest.<br/> 3-5 eggs laid Oct to Dec in a scrape in the ground<br/> Females do all incubating and caring<br/> Feed on seeds, insects, lizards and snakes<br/> (pp 95-96)</p>   | <p><b>Tree Martin (12-14 cm)</b><br/> Upper surfaces blue-black; distinctive white rump; cut off square tail.<br/> Visitor to island - large numbers in summer (tens of thousands of birds)<br/> Kingston Barracks/Little Parakeet bus stop<br/> Aerial insectivore catching its insect prey on the wing and swooping low over lakes catching prey.<br/> Do not swoop quite as low as Welcome Swallow.<br/> Nests in holes in trees but few sites on Rottnest.<br/> (pp 81-82)</p>   |
| <p><b>Spotted Turtle Dove (Indian Dove) (28-32 cm)</b><br/> From China and Indo-Malaya<br/> Released zoo1898<br/> Established 1937/exotic<br/> Dependant on humans for food<br/> 2 eggs spring to summer<br/> Nestlings remain 2 weeks<br/> (pp77)</p>  | <p><b>Laughing Turtle-Dove (Senegal Dove) (24-27 cm)</b><br/> From East Africa<br/> Released zoo 1898<br/> reached Rottnest 1930/exotic<br/> 2 eggs Sept to March<br/> Nestlings remain 2 weeks<br/> Spread faster than spotted dove 4:1<br/> (pp77-79)</p>  |

## The Lakes

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| <p><b>Red-necked Stint (14-17cm)</b><br/> Smallest of visiting waders/30g<br/> Trans equatorial migrant breeds in Siberia and W. Alaska and during non-breeding season migrates to SE Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Migrates twice a year and travels to and from breeding grounds via Indonesia/South China Sea/Vietnam/China/Japan/up East Coast Russia/Bering Strait/Alaska a trip of 26,000 km p/yr<br/> Leave in April and May; arrive late August/early Sept<br/> Sewing machine action when probing the lake – feeds on gastropods, mosquitoes, weevils, insect larvae, beetles, caterpillars, spiders and seeds<br/> Breeding plumage – deep salmon pink/russet brown head, neck, upper breast<br/> (pp65-66)</p> | <p><b>Red-capped Plover (Red-capped dotterel) 14-16 cm)</b><br/> Common resident/ highest in summer<br/> Stands more erect than stint and bobs its head when stationary<br/> Seen mainly on salt lakes; sometimes swamps and beaches.<br/> Feeds on seeds, insect larvae, ants, beetles, spiders, worms and snails.<br/> Breeds in nest scraped on the ground; lined with shell or dried leaves at edges of lakes, above high water mark on beaches, in limestone quarry West End. One of the few species of wading birds to breed on Rottnest<br/> Male has rufous cap but female does not.<br/> (pp 50-51)</p> |
| <p><b>Ruddy Turnstone (21-24cm)</b><br/> Non-breeding trans equatorial migrant - breeds in Arctic<br/> Ruddy = short, orange legs. Turnstone = forages by turning over stones (267g).<br/> Favours shores covered in stones and weeds; edge of salt lakes and beaches – eats salt-water mussels, barnacles, amphipods, beetles, flies, larvae, slaters, spiders, vegetable matter<br/> Common on Rottnest - rare on adjacent mainland coast<br/> (pp63-64)</p>   | <p><b>Curlew Sandpiper (20-25 cm)</b><br/> Trans equatorial migrant breeds in Siberia<br/> Migrates to SE Asia, Africa and New Zealand<br/> Grey-brown upper surfaces; white stripe from base of bill to behind each eye; white under surface; long black legs; long thin distinctly down-curved black bill<br/> Common usually with Red necked stints and Ruddy Turnstones but has longer legs and bill and feeds in deeper water than other waders.<br/> Eats insects, worms, bivalves, crustaceans, molluscs, bugs, water beetles, vegetable matter.<br/> (pp 66-67)</p>                                      |
| <p><b>White-fronted Chat (11-13 cm)</b><br/> Common resident round lakes and swamps – Male looks like its in a dinner jacket with black waist coat<br/> Turns over stones and bits of wood similar to Ruddy Turnstone but a much smaller bird (11.7g; 22.7g)<br/> Forages everywhere for insects<br/> 2-3 eggs June to Dec<br/> Nest in low vegetation within 1 metre of the ground<br/> (pp 71-72)</p>  | <p><b>Pied Oystercatcher (42-52 cm)</b><br/> Black, white and red colouring. Long stout bill – eyes are red; legs are pink. Colour blends to ground colour<br/> By 1960's resident found on all beaches.<br/> Nest a scrape on ground - 2 eggs July to Nov<br/> When danger – parents get agitated, may give "broken wing" display; chicks run for cover and freeze lying flat on ground.<br/> Eats molluscs, marine worms and snails<br/> (pp 32-33)</p>  |
| <p><b>Crested Tern (43-53 cm)</b><br/> Most common tern on Rottnest – harsh guttural cry<br/> Lasting pair bonds; Nest scrape in ground; tightly packed together in breeding colony just beyond bill of neighbour<br/> Common on salt lakes, beaches, rocky platforms<br/> Live for 20 years+. Fish diet caught by plunge diving<br/> (pp 40-42)</p>   | <p><b>Caspian Tern (49-50cm)</b><br/> Largest of four species of tern which breed on Rottnest – distinctive large, bright red bill. Grey upper surfaces; black crown and back of neck; white under surface; dark brown eyes; black legs.<br/> Usually single or in pairs around coast and salt lakes<br/> Nests in scrape in ground July to Oct 1-2 eggs<br/> Aggressive; chase birds and people<br/> (pp67-68)</p>  |
| <p><b>Australian Shelduck (Mountain Duck) (62-70 cm)</b><br/> Most common duck especially Dec-Jan<br/> Semi-permanent bonds and same nest for years prepared by female - Female covers eggs with down plucked from own breast. Nest limestone caves; offshore islets; stacks<br/> 6-19 eggs - male stands guard as she lays eggs separately<br/> July to Sept<br/> Brood territories established for feeding<br/> See ABC film "Rottnest Winter"<br/> (pp 45-47)</p>   | <p><b>Red-necked Avocet (42-48 cm)</b><br/> 1950 to 1960 rare visitor/ now resident<br/> Chestnut head and neck – long thin upturned black bill. White body; brown-black wings with a broad white band through them. Long, pale grey-black legs; webbed toes.<br/> Nest around lakes and swamps - nest is scrape in ground lined with dry vegetation<br/> 4 eggs Nov to Jan young soon leave nest<br/> Parents have "broken wing" display; fly at intruders "tooting"<br/> Prone to attacks by Silver Gulls and Ravens<br/> (pp 51-52)</p>   |
| <p><b>Banded Stilt (Rottnest Snipe) (35-43 cm)</b><br/> Common non-breeding visitor summer and early winter<br/> White head, body; black wings, chestnut band on chest.<br/> Long finely tapered black bill. Feed on brine shrimp.<br/> Create tight packs called "Rafts"<br/> Breed on inland salt lakes /irregular due to cyclonic rains<br/> (pp 52-62)</p>   | <p><b>Black Winged Stilt</b><br/> Recent visitor<br/> Finer than Banded Stilt</p>  |

## Woodlands/Golf Course

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| <p><b>Banded Lapwing (Banded plover) (25-26 cm)</b><br/> First appeared in 1934 and became a resident<br/> Brown upper surfaces, white underneath. Black crown, broad white bar behind eyes, broad band of black down side of neck and round the breast. White throat, yellow surrounds of eyes, yellow bill with dark tip, red wattle in front of eyes. Legs are reddish (Looks a bit like a masked bandit or highwayman robber)<br/> Favours short grass<br/> Breeding takes place in spring July to Oct 3-4 eggs in scrape on ground. Both parents incubate eggs<br/> Chicks freeze if danger is present<br/> Parent plays “broken wing”.<br/> Feeds on variety of plants and their seeds, snails, and a wide range of insects and their larvae<br/> (pp 96-97)</p> | <p><b>Red -capped Robin (10-12 cm)</b><br/> Common resident of the woodland - genetically different from birds on mainland (e.g. of incipient speciation). Probably present when island was cut from mainland. None on adjacent mainland though some move off Darling Scarp<br/> Adult male is one of most distinctive birds on island – brilliant red cap and breast. Remainder of upper surfaces are predominantly black with white wing bar, white under surfaces and tail with white edges. Brown eyes, black bill and legs. Female has rufous patch on forehead, pale brown upper surfaces, some wing feathers have white edges, tail has white edges and under surfaces are dirty white.<br/> Defends territory all year round<br/> Cup-shaped nest built in fork of tree using bark and spider web 2-3 eggs Aug to Dec Both adults tend young<br/> Feed on spiders, scorpions, caterpillars, moths, flying ants and other insects.<br/> (pp 82-85)</p> |
| <p><b>Nankeen Kestrel (Small falcon) (31-35 cm)</b><br/> Long wings and tail and has the ability to hover. Rufous upper surfaces with exception of wing quills which are brownish-black and tail which is pale grey with a black bar near the tip in male and rufous with fine black bars in female. White under sides with faint brown streaks. Yellow round eyes, the cere and legs. Blue-grey beak.<br/> Favours the heath<br/> Breed in caves and rafters<br/> 3-6 eggs Aug to Oct<br/> Hunts for lizards, skinks, snakes and large insects. May also prey on small birds like the Welcome Swallow or White-fronted Chat.<br/> (p91)</p>   | <p><b>Silver Eye (Greenie, Grey-backed white eye) 10-13 cm)</b><br/> Olive green appearance, white ring round each eye, grey lower surfaces except throat and area under tail which are yellow-green. Brown eyes, dark brown bill, grey legs.<br/> Abundant resident of the island<br/> Not an isolated population - travels from Perth to Margaret River<br/> Feeds on nectar, insects, seed and fruit<br/> Nest August to December. Nest is cup-shaped and constructed of grasses and cobwebs and suspended in a shrub. 2-4 eggs.<br/> May live for 10+ years<br/> (pp 87-88)</p>   |
| <p><b>Ring-necked Pheasant (Common pheasant) (52-90 cm)</b><br/> Native of Asia Minor<br/> Two birds introduced in 1928 and now all over<br/> Favours heath<br/> Lays 4-14 eggs<br/> Feeds on snails, ants and seeds<br/> (pp 91-92)</p>   | <p><b>Gerygone (Western Warbler; Sleepy Dick) (9-10 cm)</b><br/> Plaintive call has somnolent quality.<br/> Smallest resident bird on Rottnest<br/> Often heard but not seen<br/> Arrived in 1950's – woodland dweller.<br/> Grey-brown upper surfaces; dirty white under surfaces; fine whitish line from base of bill to each eye; tail has white at base of outer feathers and white spots near the tip of most feathers, red eyes, black bill and legs.<br/> Breed in Sept to Dec – female builds an oval dome nest suspended from a branchlet, lays 2-3 eggs and incubates for nearly two weeks. Both parents feed chicks.<br/> Eats insects<br/> (pp85-86)</p>  |
| <p><b>Sacred Kingfisher (19-23 cm)</b><br/> Related to Kookaburra<br/> Greenish-blue upper surfaces including crown, buff lower surfaces, throat and collar. Buff above and in front of eyes, wedge of black extending through each eye around the back of head. Brown eyes, black long solid bill, brown feet. Adult males have bright blue rump while adult females have dull green rump.<br/> Restricted to woodland areas of Eastern half of Rottnest, no further west than Wadjemup<br/> Sits on vantage point near nest - 4-5 eggs Sept to Oct<br/> Palm trees provide good nesting chambers in the trunk<br/> Call distinctive – eats insects and small reptiles.<br/> (pp97-99)</p>  | <p><b>White-browed Scrub-wren (Spotted Scrub-wren) (11-14 cm)</b><br/> Common resident in woodland areas and scrub heath<br/> Grey-brown upper surfaces; throat and chest buff with heavy black streaks, buff belly, black feathers edged with white on shoulder. Prominent white stripe from base of bill extending above and behind eyes; Area between eyes and bill is black in male, brown in female. Throat is pal buff with band running roughly parallel with stripe above eyes. Yellow-white eyes, brown-black beak, pale flesh-brown legs.<br/> More often heard than seen - scolding chatter<br/> Live more than 12 years<br/> (p93)</p>  |
| <p><b>Pink and Grey Galah</b><br/> Recent visitor</p>  |   |

## Coast

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| <p><b>Little Pied Cormorant (Shag) (50-65 cm)</b><br/> Smallest cormorant<br/> Black on top, white underneath with white thighs. Bill is short in relation to head (unlike Pied Cormorant) and is predominantly yellow. Brown eyes, black legs and feet.<br/> Resident<br/> 3-5 eggs - incubated by both parents<br/> Breed any time<br/> Feeds on fish and crustaceans and is able to hunt for prey underwater.<br/> After swimming can be seen standing with its wings spread out to dry<br/> (p 28)</p>   | <p><b>Pied Cormorant (Shag; Yellow faced Cormorant) (75-89 cm)</b><br/> Most common cormorant found round coast – swimming, perched on rock outcrops, beaches, boats, mooring buoys<br/> Black upper surfaces, white undersides and black thighs.<br/> Long, grey or dark bone bill and distinctive orange-yellow patch on skin between eyes and bill. Green eyes; black legs and feet.<br/> Only known nesting colony on Dyer Island.<br/> 2-3 eggs laid March/Apr.<br/> Eats fish and crustaceans.<br/> King Skinks feed on their eggs and small nestlings.<br/> (p 29)</p>  |
| <p><b>Fairy Tern (20-27 cm)</b><br/> Smallest of Australian terns.<br/> Very pale grey upper surfaces; black on top of head extends down back of neck, white forehead, white under surfaces, yellow bill, brown eyes, orange legs<br/> Common breeding visitor arriving in spring breeding over summer and departing in autumn possibly for West Kimberley coast<br/> Most number of birds in Dec and Jan<br/> Noisy, conspicuous, flying to and from their breeding colonies, keeping up a constant “chittering” as they forage.<br/> 1-2 eggs in scrape in ground on shell beaches round salt lakes, coast and Natural Jetty - Very vocal and aggressive if disturbed when breeding<br/> Number of birds breeding on Rottneest - 200 to 300 pairs for past 60 years<br/> Catch fish by plunging into the sea<br/> Fish parade/noisy bickering while resting<br/> (pp68-71)</p> | <p><b>Bridled Tern (Dog Tern) (34-42 cm)</b><br/> Dog tern as call is like a barking puppy<br/> Brown-black back and wings; dirty white under surfaces; distinctive white eyebrow and black cap which extends down back of neck. Brown eyes; black bill and legs; deeply forked tail.<br/> Common breeding visitor on off shore islets and limestone rocks Joan, Phillip, Duck, Monday and Clune Rocks and Dyer Island.<br/> Arrive October lay 1 egg Oct to Dec usually on a rock ledge near the water. Both birds incubate and they are quite aggressive in defence of their nest, readily flying at intruders<br/> Territorial/aggressive<br/> Feed on fish well out at sea. Can be seen from Jeannies’ Lookout and Little Salmon Bay<br/> (pp 39-40)</p>   |
| <p><b>Pelican</b><br/> Frequent visitor<br/> Flies well but take off is rather clumsy</p>  | <p><b>Whimbrel (Jack Curlew) (43-49 cm)</b><br/> Trans equatorial migrant breeds in Siberia where it feeds almost exclusively on berries. Spends its non-breeding season in Southern Hemisphere. It is uncommon in south-west WA but is a regular visitor in small numbers to Rottneest often seen at Salmon Bay with Bar-tailed Godwit which has a curved up bill<br/> Its bill is thin, dark brown, down-curved and long, being two-thirds of the total length from back of head to tip of bill. Dark brown eyes, long olive-grey legs. Body is predominantly mottled dark brown and buff, crown is brown with light grey stripe down middle and light grey stripe above eyes. Rump is whitish with light brown bars. Under surfaces heavily marked with brown stripes.<br/> Abdomen is white.<br/> Eats molluscs, crustaceans, worms, beetles, flies, moths, spiders.<br/> (pp 34-35)</p> |
| <p><b>Wedge-Tailed Shearwater (Mutton Bird) (37-46 cm)</b><br/> 1 white egg laid mid Nov to Jan – weighs 59g<br/> Both sexes incubate/change every one or two days<br/> Large breeding colony at West End/Radar Reef/Green Island/Dyer Island – burrows in sand or nests in crevices<br/> Low moaning at dusk when they return to burrows or nests<br/> Fly into colony at dark (about two hours) Leave before dawn<br/> Adults can remain at sea for a week (poor chicks)<br/> Three quarters survive<br/> Nestlings leave in April<br/> (pp 27-28)</p>   | <p><b>Osprey (Fish Hawk) (47-59 cm)</b><br/> Eagle shaped bird /about 4 breeding couples<br/> Breeding time up to 20 birds may be present<br/> Female larger<br/> 14 sites/ stacks off coast mainly<br/> 2-3 eggs August to October<br/> 400 metres is recommended for viewing<br/> Young in nests till after Christmas<br/> Eat mainly fish, catch with talons also quokka and king skink<br/> (pp 30-32)</p>   |

## Around

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| <p><b>Rock Parrot (Rock Parakeet) (20-24 cm)</b><br/> Only resident parrot<br/> Gave name to Parakeet Bay<br/> Olive-brown upper surfaces; yellow under surfaces; dark blue band across forehead with pale blue surrounds; dark blue flight feathers; brown eyes; grey bill; grey-brown legs<br/> May be seen flying high and fast between Rottnest and offshore islets.<br/> Nest in crevice or hollow in limestone<br/> 4-6 eggs Aug to Oct Female incubates eggs for about 18 days while male forages bringing food back to her several times a day.<br/> Nestlings 4 weeks in nest fed by both parents<br/> Feed on samphire seed, seed of Harefoot Grass, pine cone seeds.<br/> Can be seen in area of golf course<br/> Because they are seed eaters they need to drink fresh water – water seepages around Government House and Baghdad Lakes and Bickley Swamp<br/> (pp 42-43)</p> | <p><b>Rainbow Bee-eater (Rainbow Bird) (19-25 cm)</b><br/> First recorded in 1977 on Rottnest<br/> Distinctive bird with brilliant plumage, pointed wings and graceful pattern of flight. Predominantly green with pale green forehead; orange-yellow nape; thick black band with thin blue edging band from the base of the bill through each eye to back of head, bright orange-yellow throat with black band at base; green chest, light blue belly, blue rump, black tail, coppery colouring on trailing part of upper wing surfaces. Long down curved, black bill; red eyes; grey legs.<br/> Regular breeding summer visitor - arriving from North in early Oct and leaving late Feb/March<br/> Nest in burrow on flat ground or bank (Railway track) 4-6 eggs<br/> All young depart with adults to Kimberley/ Indonesia<br/> Hawks bees, dragon flies, wasps, flies, beetles, grasshoppers<br/> (pp 99-101)</p>            |
| <p><b>Fantailed Cuckoo (25-28 cm)</b><br/> Regular migrant<br/> Arrive May/June; Leave Oct/November<br/> Slate grey upper surfaces; red-brown under surfaces; dark grey long tail feathers notched with white; brown eyes with yellow surrounds; black bill; yellow feet.<br/> Immature birds markedly different – brown-black head and upper surfaces with rufous edges to feathers; mottled pale grey and brown under surfaces; black tail with buff notches.<br/> Adult call is a trill which sounds like a pea being blown round in a tin whistle - Male calls monotonous trill day or night<br/> Like many cuckoos, it is parasitic, laying its eggs in White-browed Scrub-Wren nests - “Baby” four times heavier than adopted parents<br/> Eats centipedes, cockroaches, hairy caterpillars, sawfly larvae, ants and spiders.<br/> (p79)</p>  | <p><b>Golden Whistler (15-18 cm)</b><br/> Most attractive male – distinctive bright yellow and contrasting black colouring. Black head, white throat bright yellow chest, abdomen and back of neck, white throat separated from neck by black band. Olive green back and rump; dark grey wings and tail; brown eyes; black bill; grey legs. Female dull by comparison – grey on upper surfaces and buff on lower surfaces.<br/> Large heads with stout bills.<br/> Resident of woodlands - larger than Robin – requires a larger territory. Fewer Whistlers than Robins.<br/> Distinctive whistle like song which ends with a sound like a whip cracking<br/> Sing all year – often male/female duet<br/> Breeding Aug to Nov both parents build cup-shaped nest set in fork of tree<br/> 2 eggs incubated by both parents for just over two weeks<br/> Feeds on insects - probes under bark<br/> Lives 17 years<br/> (p 84)</p> |
| <p><b>Richard’s Pipit (Groundlark) (15-17 cm)</b><br/> Brown upper surfaces with darker brown streaking; pale buff stripe above each eye; white outer tail feathers – characteristic white stripes when bird is flying – breast streaked with brown, brown eyes, pale brown beak and legs. Habit of wagging tail up and down when stationary<br/> Resident foraging for insects - favours the heath<br/> Usually singly or in pairs but occasionally in flocks of up to six.<br/> Breeds in spring – 2-4 eggs in cup-shaped nest on ground.<br/> (pp 92-93)</p>   |  |

**Pam Ghirardi/Heather Goodwin 2007**