

## Birds nesting and feeding at Point Walter Spit

Point Walter Spit is one of the Swan Canning Riverpark's most popular and scenic recreational locations.

The spit is also an important site for waterbirds using the Swan River. It is a feeding ground, a resting place and during spring and summer it may be a nesting site for the Black Swan, Pied Oystercatcher, Red-capped Plover and Fairy Tern.

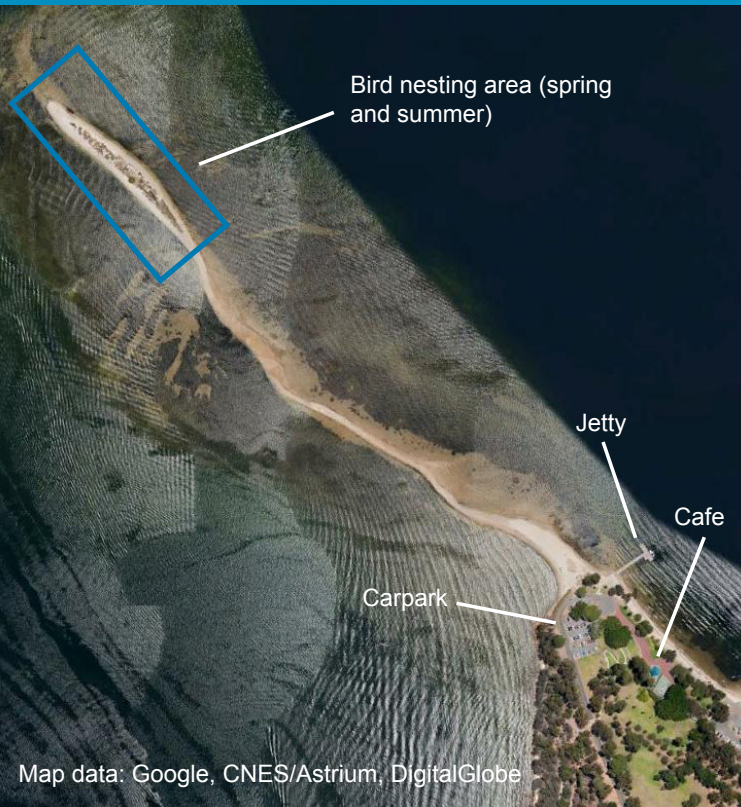
These birds are easily disturbed and frightened off by people walking, fishing, kitesurfing and paddle boarding on and near the spit.



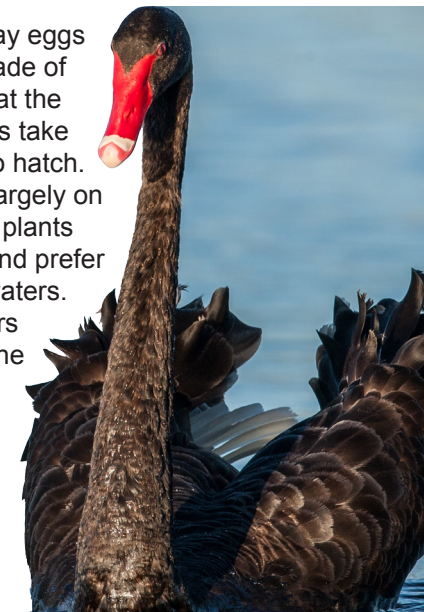
Pied Oystercatchers nest in a shallow scrape in the sand. Their eggs (below) are very well camouflaged and when people approach the nests, the birds quickly distance themselves from their eggs to keep them hidden. Photographs: Glenn Ehmke and Dean Ingerwersen.



Red-capped Plovers nest in the sand and typically feign injury by dragging a wing (broken wing display - pictured below) to lead a perceived threat away from their nests when approached. If nests are disturbed, the eggs can be trampled or become too hot or cold without the parent incubating them. Photographs: Geoff Gates, Liz Asher, Glenn Ehmke and Chris Tzaros.



Black Swans may lay eggs in an untidy nest made of reeds and grasses at the end of the spit. Eggs take four to five weeks to hatch. Black Swans feed largely on submerged aquatic plants such as seagrass and prefer to feed in shallow waters. Black Swan numbers have recovered in the Swan Canning Riverpark in recent years. Responsible river use will help keep them there. Photograph: Georgina Steytler.





## How you can help

- Avoid buzzing (travelling close to any birds while moving at speed) or scaring birds to flight when kitesurfing or during any other watercraft activity
- Please don't set up your kite or paddle board near vegetation and bird nesting areas, but on open ground and away from pedestrians
- Stand up paddle boarders should avoid paddling directly towards swans feeding or dolphins playing or feeding in the shallows
- Please don't carry or launch watercraft through vegetated or fenced off areas of the foreshore
- Avoid walking in or near vegetation
- The safest spot to walk along the spit is by the water's edge
- If you spot a nest or see birds performing the broken wing display, give them a wide berth
- Report bird nest sightings to the City of Melville on (08) 9364 0666 or 1300 635 845
- Please be aware of A-Class Nature and Marine Reserves at Alfred Cove, Pelican Point and Milyu. Special care should be taken in these important migratory bird habitats
- Report sick, injured or orphaned native birds to the WILDCARE helpline on (08) 9474 9055



### Department of Parks and Wildlife

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*Kitesurfing and paddle board photographs: Matt Kleczkowski*



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife



**SWAN CANNING  
RIVERPARK**

# Don't **BUZZ** that bird

