

# Rare Wiluna Fauna

Check out these rare animals that can be seen in the Wiluna area:

## Night parrot



The night parrot is a small parrot endemic to the continent of Australia. It is well known as being one of the most elusive and mysterious birds in the world, with no confirmed sightings of the bird between 1912 and 1979, leading to speculation that it was extinct. Sightings since 1979 have been extremely rare and the bird's population size is unknown, though based on the paucity of records it is thought to number between 50 and 249 mature individuals.

The first photographic and video evidence of a live individual was publicly confirmed in July 2013. After seventeen thousand hours in the field over 15 years of searching, wildlife photographer John Young captured several photos and a 17-second video of the bird in western Queensland. In August 2015, the tagging and tracking of a live individual was announced on Australian media. Other live individuals were photographed in Queensland in late 2016, and sightings recorded in Western Australia and South Australia in 2017. A young bird, likely hatched in late 2017 was recorded in February 2018.

[Click here for more information about the night parrot](#) and check out the natural history displays and books at the Canning-Gunbarrel Discovery Centre.

## Macrotis



Desert-Dwelling Marsupial Omnivore

Bilbies, or rabbit-bandicoots, are desert-dwelling marsupial omnivores; they are members of the order Peramelemorphia. At the time of European colonisation of Australia, there were two species. The lesser bilby became extinct in the 1950s; the greater bilby survives but remains endangered. It is currently listed as a vulnerable species.

It is on average 55 cm long, excluding the tail, which is usually around 29 cm long. Its fur is usually grey or white, it has a long pointy nose and very long ears, hence earning its nickname, the rabbit-eared bandicoot.

[Click here for more information about the Macrotis](#) and be sure to check out the natural history display at the Canning-Gunbarrel Discovery Centre.