



The thrill of seeing a numbat in the wild is beyond compare. To see that little striped creature always makes the heart jump, especially if it is your first. They are endangered marsupials, which have disappeared across much of their previous range in southern Australia due to habitat destruction and the introduction of cats and foxes. Numbats only remain in the southwest region of WA and have also been introduced to other reserves in WA, SA, and NSW.



Dad preparing the nest



Mum with babies



Numbats

The two most important qualities of a successful numbat spotter are PATIENCE and LUCK! But almost everyone comments on seeing their first numbat..."They are so small!"

Here are some hints to help you with your challenge.

TIME AND WEATHER

Numbats are diurnal (active only during the day). The seasons play a large part in their activity pattern. In the colder months activity is usually between 10am–4pm. In the hotter months sightings are between 8am–12pm, then there is an afternoon siesta and another activity window between 3pm–7pm. Numbats don't like rain and very cold weather. They are more likely to remain in their log or burrow on cold, wet, and windy days. They prefer mild to warm sunny days when termites are close to the surface and are

moving within the galleries on the woodland floor. Numbats also enjoy taking in the sun to absorb the warmth. If the weather is too hot, like the blistering summer days we encounter in the southwest, Numbats will limit their activity time. Numbats are very much like us when it comes to weather. The more comfortable the weather is for you, the more chances you have of spotting them.

TOOLS AND METHODS

For numbat photography it is best to use a camera with a long lens so you can stay well back from them. I suggest a minimum of a 300mm lens. However, some people just like to observe them, or take phone footage from a distance.

Walking startles numbats, but you can see them if you walk slowly and quietly. Driving is the most effective method. Drive between 10-15km/hour (numbat speed) to allow you to scan the area and it certainly helps to have more than one set of eyes. This allows you to cover both sides of the tracks and to not miss any movement. Look carefully right on the road ahead of you and on the sides within about 10metres for any sign of movement or stripes.

Don't lose your concentration, which is very easy to do as you slowly drive through a woodland. Keep yourself occupied by looking for other wildlife apart from numbats like birds, echidna, kangaroos and wallabies, and in the summer months: reptiles. Reserves where numbats are found support many species of fauna.

A numbat sighting it is a very exciting moment, but don't get too excited. Keep quiet, keep still and watch where it goes. Above all, do not shut car doors.

Some will bolt (bolter) and disappear; some will be slightly startled but will continue to forage (sitter).

Some will retreat into a log (waiter). If this occurs, be patient, sit to the side of the log (not straight in front of it) and soon it may poke its nose out and wander from the log entrance.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SEARCH.



Bolter



Waiter



Sitter

Did you know?

- *Female numbats don't have a pouch. After birth, babies crawl up the mother's stomach and attach to her nipples for up to six months until she deposits them into a burrow..*
- *Numbats only eat termites. Unlike echidnas, they don't eat ants.*
- *Numbats don't drink. They get all their moisture from termites.*

For more information: [Dryandra Facebook](#) and

[Project Numbat](#)

Please support this project if you can?



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