



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd

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Western SA Specialties and Splits 8-day birding tour-II

10-18 May 2024



As a result of the recent splits of some of Australia's western specialties, Bellbird Birding Tours is once again offering its *Western SA Specialties and Splits Tour*. Starting in and returning to Adelaide, this tour traverses much of South Australia's West Coast, the northern Eyre Peninsula and Nullarbor Plain towards the Western Australian border. This tour is a fast-paced trip as we'll cover some 3000 km in eight days. Focusing on the main targets of Copperback (pictured) and Nullarbor Quail-thrush, Naretha Blue Bonnet, Sandhill (Rufous) Grasswren and White-bellied Whipbird we will also look for Western

Grasswren and the newly split Western Whistler and Spotted Scrubwren. Other species we will target will include Western Yellow Robin, Blue-breasted Fairywren, Rufous Treecreeper, Rock Parrot and the western subspecies of Gilbert's Whistler and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo.

Another not to be missed aspect of this tour will be the amazing coastal scenery of the Great Australian Bight. We might even see Southern Right Whales! We've scheduled this tour during the Austral autumn, generally a great time to go birding in this time of the world. There are only limited seats available on this small-group tour.

Tour starts: Ceduna, SA (*flight from Adl included*)

Tour finishes: Adelaide, SA.

Scheduled departure & return dates:

- 10-18 May 2024
- Any other time as a private tour

Price: AU\$4,999 all-inclusive (discounts available).

Leader: Peter Waanders or other local SA guide.

Trip reports and photos of previous tours:

- <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/reports>.

Questions? Contact BELLBIRD BIRDING TOURS :

- Freecall 1800-BIRDING
- email birds@bellbirdtours.com

READ ON FOR:

- Further tour details
- Daily itinerary
- Booking information



Tour details

Tour starts: Ceduna, SA (*flight from Adl included*) & **finishes:** Adelaide, South Australia

Scheduled departure and return dates:

Tour commences with a PM flight (included in price) from Adelaide to Ceduna on 10 May 2024. Please arrive in Adelaide in time for this flight. Tour finishes in Adelaide afternoon on 18 May 2024. Please depart after 6pm on 18May. Itinerary on next few pages contains further details.

Leader: Michael Greenshields/David Kowalick and/or one of our local guides.

Difficulty: ~~Low~~/Medium/~~High~~/Excellent level of fitness required. The tour has a reasonable pace and walks are on varying surfaces, from paved roads to uneven, gravelly trails with some short climbs and soft sandy dunes. One day includes a few hours' drive on a rough 4WD track. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

What to bring: Please travel light. Binoculars, camera, mobile phone, chargers, power adaptors if you're an international visitor, insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, travel umbrella, hat, water bottle, hand sanitizer. Sturdy footwear recommended. Scopes, super-telephoto lenses with tripods, and heavy suitcases are discouraged.

Clothing: Lightweight long pants, t-shirt and long-sleeved shirt, over the top of which you can wear layers that can be taken off as necessary, including a rain-proof jacket. Neat casual attire for dinners. Shorts and sandals or thongs (flip-flops) are acceptable for non-birding time.

Group size: Minimum 3, maximum 9 participants.

Cost: AU\$4,999 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of \$800. Not included: drinks, tips, personal expenses. Earlybird discount of \$99 for bookings received up to 6 months before departure date. Return-client discount may apply.

Bookings: Online at <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> - see the last page of this brochure.

Western Specialties and Splits 8-day birding tour

ITINERARY

Day 0: 10 May '24. Make your own way (own arrangements) to Adelaide for your 5pm flight (*included*) to Ceduna today, where you'll be collected from the plane. We'll meet for dinner and introductions this evening. Overnight **Ceduna East West Motel, Ceduna** (private en-suite hotel rooms; meals included: D).

Day 1: 11 May '24. We'll spend a full day birding the remote 'mallee' eucalypt bush north of Ceduna where the main targets are the elusive but subtly beautiful Copperback Quail-thrush and the cryptic Sandhill/Rufous Grasswren. Other good birds we can find include Western Yellow Robin, Mulga Parrot, Shy Heathwren, Gilbert's Whistler and Southern Scrub-robin. After a picnic lunch in the wilderness we'll bird our way back to Ceduna. Overnight **Ceduna East-West Motel** (private en-suite motel rooms; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 2: 12 May '24. An early departure this morning as we travel further west to the Nullarbor plain, Australia's largest treeless plain, where the main focus of the morning will be Nullarbor Quail-thrush. These birds inhabit the vast, treeless bluebush prairie and can be hard to spot as they feed inconspicuously on the ground. After lunch at the Nullarbor roadhouse we head even further west to a site for Naretha Bluebonnet (recently split from Bluebonnet). Smaller and more colorful than the original Bluebonnets, the elusive Narethas inhabit sparsely treed areas away from the road. At the end of the day we return to the Nullarbor Roadhouse. Overnight **Nullarbor Roadhouse** (private en-suite motel rooms; meals included: B, L, D)..

Day 3: 13 May '24. Before breakfast we'll explore the outback north of the roadhouse for Nullarbor Quail-thrush. Other species we could encounter are Redthroat, Inland Dotterel and we will be on the lookout for Australian Bustard. After breakfast we have a backup morning for Naretha Bluebonnet, if not needed, we'll bird some more in the area before starting the journey east again, aiming to pick up anything we may have missed. We'll call in at very scenic Fowlers Bay with its unique sand dunes and beach where Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint and White-bellied Sea-eagle can be seen. Overnight **Ceduna East-West Motel** (private en-suite motel rooms; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 4: 14 May '24. A back-up morning for anything we may have missed yesterday in the mallee, otherwise there is time for a relaxed morning birding various local coastal spots while working our way south, following the west coast of the Eyre Peninsula to the town of Port Lincoln. We might even see Southern Right Whales! Along the way we check the coastal mudflats and mangroves from the boardwalk at Elliston, where we may come across Slender-billed Thornbill, Fairy Tern, Spotted Scrubwren and dolphins.. Overnight **Hilton Motel, Port Lincoln** (private en-suite motel room; meals included: B, L, D)

Day 5: 15 May '24. We'll spend the entire day birding the vast wilderness surrounding Port Lincoln for another chance of the whipbird. These birds are extremely elusive and while they're readily heard singing, obtaining views of them



Naretha Blue Bonnet © Bardi
 Station, Nullarbor Quail-thrush ©
 9001birding, Western Grasswren,
 Inland Dotterel, Western Yellow
 Robin, White-bellied Whipbird ©
 Peter Waanders

Western Specialties and Splits 8-day birding tour

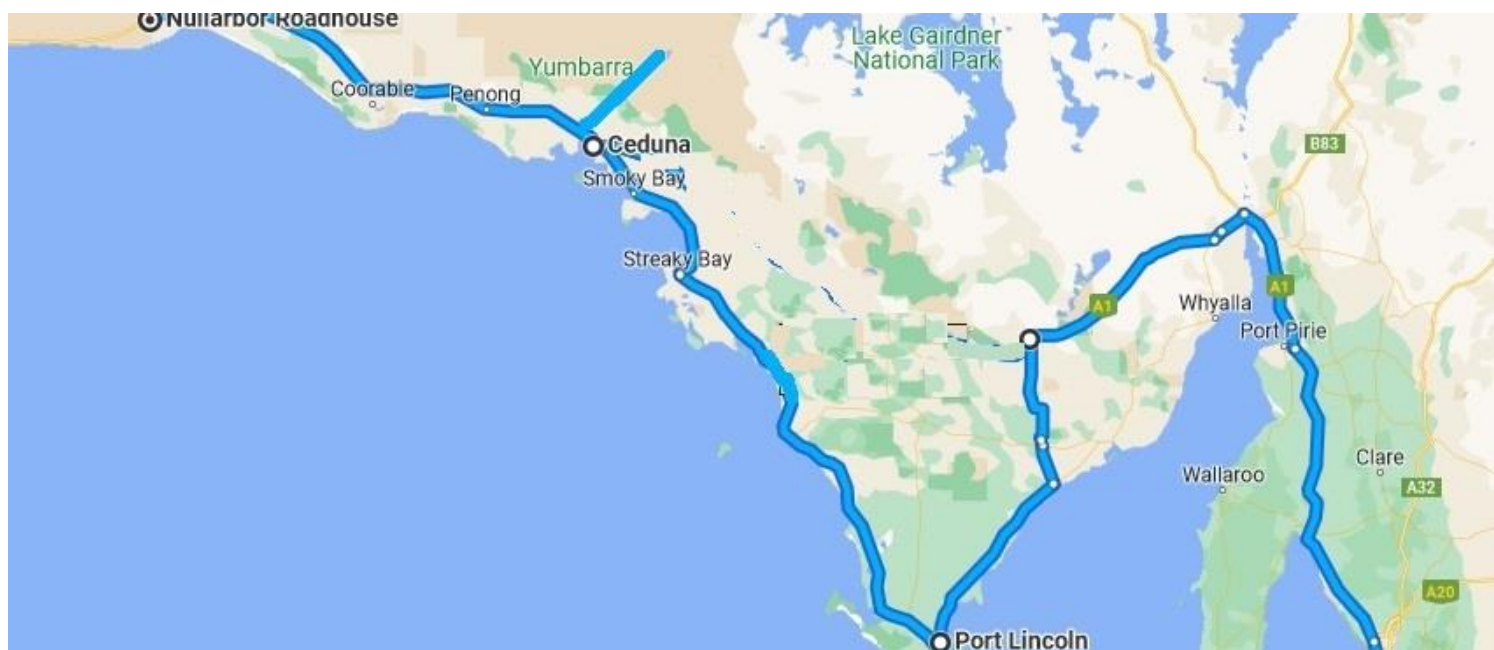
in the dense, tall scrub is going to be a challenge. Therefore we allocate two mornings to this bird. This is a very scenic area which contains eucalypt scrub and woodlands, saltwater lakes, natural clearings, and a beautiful rocky coastline with sandy coves. Many other good species await us today, including Eastern Osprey, Sooty Oystercatcher, Hooded Plover, Southern Scrubrobin, Purple-gaped and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Western Yellow Robin, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, the recently split Spotted Scrubwren and Rock Parrot.. Overnight **Hilton Motel, Port Lincoln** (private en-suite motel rooms; meals included: B, L, D)



Day 6: 16 May '24. Our last chance for White-bellied Whipbird this morning or to pick up any other species we may still need. We'll then follow the east coast of the Eyre Peninsula to the town of Kimba, located on the edge of another vast "mallee" wilderness area. Along the way we check the coastal mudflats and mangroves, where we may come across Slender-billed Thornbill, Fairy Tern, Spotted Scrubwren and dolphins. Overnight **Kimba Hotel Motel** (private en-suite motel rooms; meals included: B, L, D).



Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, Rock Parrot, © Peter Waanders



Disclaimers: (1) itinerary may be modified slightly due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors; (2) until we've received your final payment, tour price may be subject to adjustment in the event of significant cost increases in ground arrangements. See the terms and conditions posted on our website.

Western Specialties and Splits 8-day birding tour

Day 7: 17 May '24. We'll make an early departure to watch the sun rise in the bush around Lake Gilles, a beautiful underexplored area of South Australia where birds of the SA outback join their Western Australian counterparts. Patches of woodland hold Rufous Treecreeper, Western Yellow Robin, Pied Honeyeater, Elegant Parrot, Hooded Robin, White-fronted Honeyeater, Black-eared Cuckoo, and on shrubby flats Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Orange, Crimson & White-fronted Chat. We'll check the bluebush plains for Western Grasswren (former *myall* race of Thick-billed) and other good birds we may encounter today include White-winged Fairy-wren, Spotted Scrubwren, Redthroat, Blue Bonnet and Mulga Parrot. We also have further chances of Copperback Quail-thrush and with luck, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo. Overnight **Standpipe Motel, Port Augusta** (private en-suite motel rooms; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 8: 18 May '24. This morning we have a look for Western Grasswren before we travel south, following the coastal mudflats and mangroves birding for Slender-billed Thornbill, Elegant Parrot, Banded Stilt, Chirruping Wedgebill and other local species. We'll visit the Arid Lands Botanical Gardens in Port Augusta with chances of Pied and Black Honeyeater. Returning to Adelaide mid-afternoon, we finalise the bird list and drop you at the airport for your flight home (own arrangements: please don't book flights departing before 6pm), or at a hotel nearby (own arrangements). Meals included: B, L. TOUR ENDS

Getting there & away:

On day 0 you'll need to make your own way (own cost) to Adelaide airport where you will board a ~5pm Rex flight (included) to Ceduna. You'll be collected from the plane and we'll meet for dinner and introductions. On the last day you will return to Adelaide airport that afternoon (please don't book flights departing before 6pm) or we'll drop you at a hotel in the city or near the airport if you wish.

Pre- and post tour options:

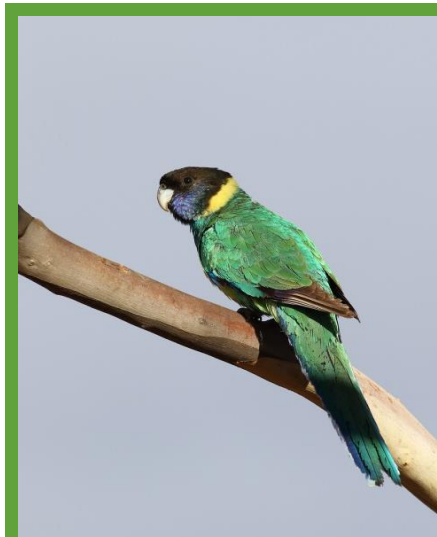
If you wish to stay in Adelaide before the tour starts, or after the tour finishes, and you'd like us to book you a room, please indicate this on the booking form.

Price inclusions and exclusions:

Included: All meals commencing with Dinner on Day 0 and finishing with Lunch on Day 8, morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms, on some nights only basic rooms with shared facilities are available. Transport using comfortable and reliable vehicle, expert guiding, any entry fees, taxes.

Excluded: Travel to & from departure and finish points, Pre- & post trip accommodation, any meals before Dinner on Day 0 and after Lunch on Day 8, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance, anything else not specifically included.

Bookings: Please book online: <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> - see the last page of this brochure.



Pt Lincoln Ringneck, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Nullarbor Quail-thrush, Rufous Grasswren © Peter Waanders

Western Specialties and Splits 8-day birding tour

Musk Duck
 Cape Barren Goose
 Black Swan
 Australian Shelduck
 Australian Wood Duck
 Australasian Shoveler
 Grey Teal
 Chestnut Teal
 Pacific Black Duck
 Hardhead
 Australasian Grebe
 Hoary-headed Grebe
 Great Crested Grebe
 Rock Dove
 Spotted Dove
 Common Bronzewing
 Brush Bronzewing
 Crested Pigeon
 Peaceful Dove
 Australian Gannet
 Little Pied Cormorant
 Great Cormorant
 Little Black Cormorant
 Pied Cormorant
 Black-faced Cormorant
 Australian Pelican
 White-necked Heron
 Great Egret
 White-faced Heron
 Little Egret
 Australian White Ibis
 Royal Spoonbill
 Eastern Osprey
 Black-shouldered Kite
 Whistling Kite
 Black Kite
 Collared Sparrowhawk
 Spotted Harrier
 Wedge-tailed Eagle
 White-bellied Sea-eagle
 Nankeen Kestrel
 Brown Falcon
 Black Falcon
 Australian Hobby
 Purple Swamphen
 Australian Spotted Crake
 Black-tailed Native-hen

Possible species list

Dusky Moorhen
 Eurasian Coot
 Aust. Pied Oystercatcher
 Sooty Oystercatcher
 Black-winged Stilt
 Red-necked Avocet
 Banded Stilt
 Pacific Golden Plover
 Red-capped Plover
 Hooded Plover
 Red-kneed Dotterel
 Black-fronted Dotterel
 Masked Lapwing
 Banded Lapwing
 Common Greenshank
 Sanderling
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Common Sandpiper
 Red-necked Stint
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
 Fairy Tern
 Caspian Tern
 Whiskered Tern
 Crested Tern
 Pacific Gull
 Silver Gull
 Galah
 Little Corella
 Cockatiel
 Rainbow Lorikeet
 Musk Lorikeet
 Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella
 Aust. (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck
 Red-rumped Parrot
 Mulga Parrot
 Budgerigar
 Elegant Parrot
 Rock Parrot
 Naretha Blue Bonnet
 Greater Blue Bonnet
 Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
 Black-eared Cuckoo
 Pallid Cuckoo
 Fan-tailed Cuckoo
 Rufous Treecreeper

Brown Treecreeper
 Blue-breasted Fairy-wren
 Splendid Fairy-wren
 Superb Fairy-wren
 White-winged Fairy-wren
 Variegated Fairy-wren
 Western Grasswren
 Sandhill/Rufous Grasswren
 Short-tailed Grasswren*
 Spotted Scrubwren
 Shy Heathwren
 Redthroat
 Weebill
 Brown Thornbill
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill
 Slender-billed Thornbill
 Inland Thornbill
 Spotted Pardalote
 Striated Pardalote
 Pied Honeyeater
 Singing Honeyeater
 Purple-gaped Honeyeater
 White-eared Honeyeater
 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
 White-plumed Honeyeater
 White-fronted Honeyeater
 Noisy Miner
 Yellow-throated Miner
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
 Red Wattlebill
 Crimson Chat
 Orange Chat
 White-fronted Chat
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
 New Holland Honeyeater
 Brown-headed Honeyeater
 White-browed Babbler
 Chestnut-crowned Babbler
 Copperback Quail-thrush
 Nullarbor Quail-thrush
 Chirruping Wedgebill
 White-bellied Whipbird
 Varied Sittella
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
 White-winged Triller
 Gilbert's Whistler
 Golden Whistler

Western Specialties and Splits 8-day birding tour

Rufous Whistler
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Crested Bellbird
 Masked Woodswallow
 White-browed Woodswallow
 Dusky Woodswallow
 Grey Butcherbird
 Australian Magpie
 Grey Currawong
 Grey Fantail
 Willie Wagtail
 Australian Raven
 Little Raven
 Little Crow
 Magpie-lark
 White-winged Chough
 Jacky Winter
 Red-capped Robin
 Western Yellow Robin
 Hooded Robin
 Southern Scrub-robin
 Horsfield's Bushlark
 Eurasian Skylark
 Australian Reed-Warbler
 Little Grassbird
 Rufous Songlark
 Brown Songlark
 Silvereye
 Welcome Swallow
 Fairy Martin
 Tree Martin
 Common Blackbird
 Common Starling
 Mistletoebird
 House Sparrow
 Australasian Pipit



Steps to book this tour:

Step 1: Essential reading

- Download, save and read the itinerary (this document)
- Read our [terms and conditions](https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) and the [release of liability waiver](https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) (both can be found on <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions>).
- Read our [health & safety information](https://www.bellbirdtours.com/health-and-safety/) page (<https://www.bellbirdtours.com/health-and-safety/>)

Step 2: Online booking

Head over to our secure online booking page: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings>.

(Should you prefer a paper booking form, this can be downloaded from there).

Step 3: Pay the deposit

To secure your seat, a deposit of 20% of the tour price is required at the time of booking. Full payment is due 60 days prior to the departure date. Until full payment has been received, Bellbird Tours reserves the right to change the tour price (eg due to changing fuel prices). Payment options:

- ☐ *Domestic electronic funds transfer:* please send funds to the following bank account:
- bank: Australia & New Zealand Bank (ANZ), 112 Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000
 - account name: Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd
 - Branch No. (BSB) 015-140 Account No. 206136528
 - Please use your *surname* as the booking reference.
- ☐ *Visa, Mastercard & Google Pay:* through Pin Payments (an easy, secure online payment system). They charge us a fee of ~3%, which we pass on to you. Please contact us to use this option, and we'll email you a secure payment link.
- ☐ *International electronic funds transfer:* please send funds in Australian Dollars (+ bank charges or AU\$20 bank transaction fee, see notes below) to the following bank account:
- international swift code: anzbau3m (no IBAN codes are used in Australia)
 - bank: Australia & New Zealand Bank (ANZ), 112 Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000
 - account name: Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd
 - Branch No. (BSB) 015-140 Account No. 206136528
 - If possible, please use your *surname* as the booking reference.
 - If you are asked to provide our physical address, this is: 101 Chilton Road, Berri, SA 5343, Australia.
 - Please specify AU\$ as the recipient's currency, and the correct amount. Select the option for you to incur any charges at *both* ends; if no such option exists, please add AU\$20 to cover the bank fee at the recipient's end.

Any discrepancy between the amount payable and amount received will be added to the final balance, or payable in cash at the start of the tour. Prices and fees are not negotiable.

Step 4: You're done!

Sit back and wait for your booking confirmation to arrive (24-48 hrs). Meanwhile, should you have any questions, please contact us via: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/about-us/>.