

Western SA Splits & Specialties

1 - 9 May 2026

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 and Nullarbor Quail-thrush, Naretha Blue Bonnet, Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren and White-bellied Whipbird, we will also look for Western Grass-

wren, the western subspecies of Golden Whistler and Spotted Scrubwren. Other species we will target include Western Yellow Robin, Blue-breasted Fairywren, Rufous Treecreeper, Rock Parrot and the western subspecies of Gilbert's Whistler and Pink Cockatoo. A recent addition to the tour itinerary is the newly split Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren. Another not to be missed aspect of this tour will be the amazing coastal scenery of the Great Australian Bight. We'll be running this tour during the Austral autumn, generally a great time to go birding in this part of the world. There are only limited seats available on this small-group tour.

ITINERARY

Day 0: 1 May 2026

Arrival in Adelaide and flight to Port Lincoln

Make your own way (own arrangements) to Adelaide for your pm flight (included; TBA) to Pt Lincoln today, where you'll be collected from the plane. We'll meet for dinner and introductions this evening.

Overnight: Hilton Motel Port Lincoln, en-suite motel rooms
 Meals included: D

Day 1: 2 May 2026

Port Lincoln

We'll spend the entire day birding the vast wilderness surrounding Port Lincoln for a good chance of White-bellied Whipbird. These birds are extremely elusive and while they're readily heard singing, obtaining views of them 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, Spotted Scrubwren and Rock Parrot.

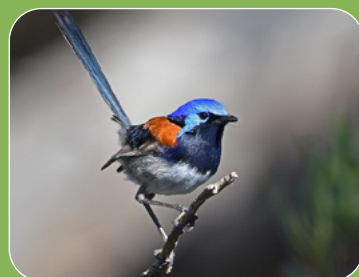
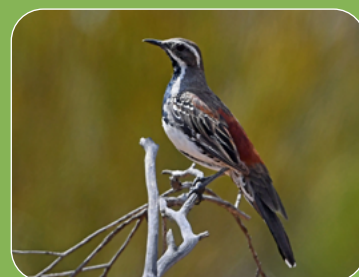
Overnight: Hilton Motel Ceduna, en-suite motel rooms
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 2: 3 May 2026

Eyre Peninsula to Ceduna

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 west coast of the Eyre Peninsula to the town of Ceduna, at the start of the Nullarbor plain. 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: East-West Motel Ceduna, en-suite motel rooms
 Meals included: B, L, D



Mulga Parrot, Rufous Grasswren, Western Grasswren, Copperback Quail-thrush, and Blue-breasted Fairy-wren All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 3: 4 May 2026

Exploring the “mallee”

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 Rufous Grasswren. We'll travel for a few hours on rough, sandy outback tracks to get to a remote location for this elusive species. Other good birds we can find here include Western Yellow Robin, Mulga Parrot, Shy Heathwren, Gilberts Whistler and Southern Scrubrobin. After a picnic lunch at a scenic spot we'll head back to civilization.

Overnight: East-West Motel Ceduna, en-suite motel room

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 4: 5 May 2026

Nullarbor Plain

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, en-suite motel room

Meals included: B, L, D

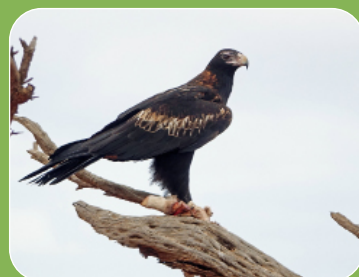
Day 5: 6 May 2026

Fowlers Bay

Before breakfast we'll explore the outback north of the Roadhouse for Nullarbor Quail-thrush. Other species we could encounter are Red-throat, 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 Foreshore Motel, en-suite motel room

Meals included: B, L, D



White-bellied Whipbird, Banded Lapwing, Rufous Grasswren, Banded stilt, and Wedge-tailed Eagle. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 6: 7 May 2026
Along the Eyre Peninsula to Kimba

A back-up morning for anything we may have missed previously, otherwise there is time for a relaxed morning birding various local coastal spots while working our way east again. After lunch at the amazing, wave-like Pildappa Rock just outside Minnipa we'll bird our way to the township of Kimba, located on the edge of another vast "mallee" wilderness area.

Overnight: Kimba Hotel Motel, en-suite motel room

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 7: 8 May 2026
Lake Gilles to Port Augusta

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 South Australian 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 Slender-billed 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, Bluebonnet and Mulga Parrot. We also have further chances of Copperback Quail-thrush and with luck, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo.

Overnight: Standpipe Motel Port Augusta, en-suite motel room

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 8: 9 May 2026
Return to Adelaide and departure

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



Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Naretha Bluebonnet, Nul-larbor Quail-thrush, and Western Yellow Robin. All photos by Peter Waanders.



QUICK OVERVIEW

SCHEDULED DATES

Western Splits & Specialties Tour: 1 - 9 May 2026

STARTING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

FINISHING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 4, maximum 9 participants.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 1 May 2026: Arrival in Adelaide, flight to Port Lincoln (included)

Day 1: 2 May 2026: Eyre Peninsula to Ceduna

Day 2: 3 May 2026: Port Lincoln

Day 3: 4 May 2026: Exploring the "mallee"

Day 4: 5 May 2026: Nullarbor Plain

Day 5: 6 May 2026: Fowlers Bay

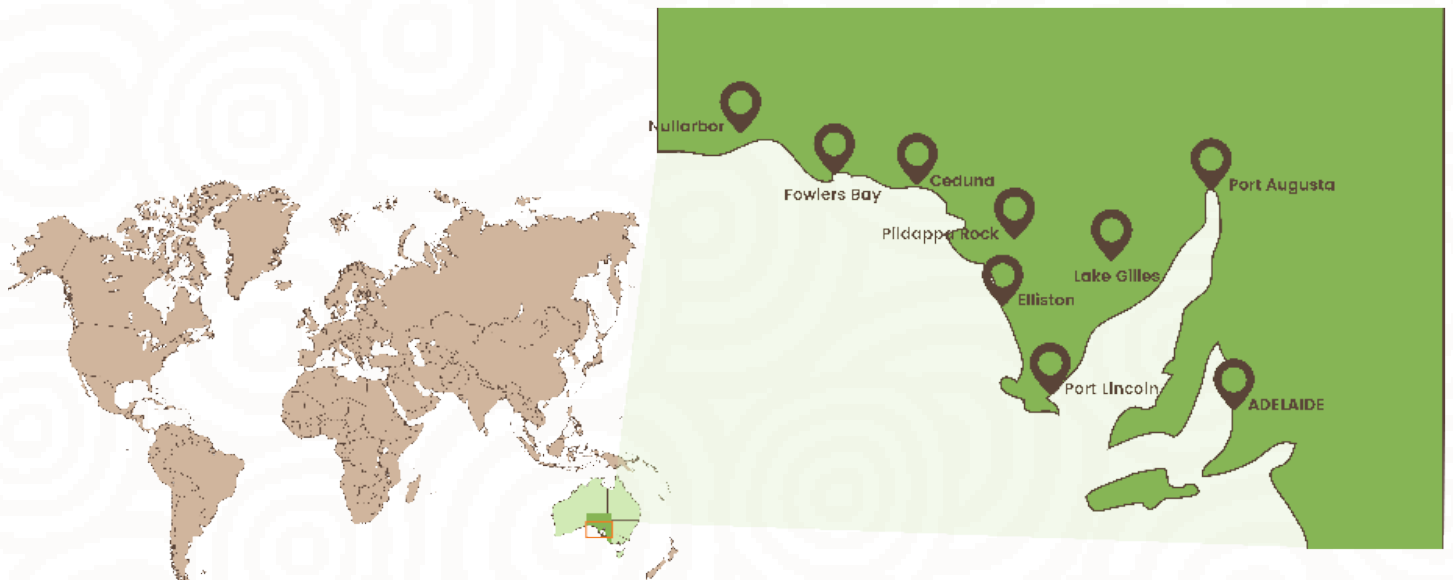
Day 6: 7 May 2026: Along the Eyre Peninsula to Kimba

Day 7: 8 May 2026: Lake Gilles to Port Augusta

Day 8: 9 May 2026: Return to Adelaide and departure

BOOKING

Please book at: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/>.



COST

COST

AU\$5,499 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$890.

Earlybird discount of AU\$99 for bookings received up to 12 months before departure date. Return client discount may apply.

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 ensuite rooms where 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.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

On day 0 (1 May 2026) you'll need to make your own way (own cost) to Adelaide airport where you will board an afternoon flight (included; TBA) to Pt Lincoln. Please arrive in Adelaide in time for this flight (details TBA). Once in Pt Lincoln, you'll be collected from the plane and we'll meet for dinner and introductions. On the last day (9 May 2026) you will return to Adelaide airport (please don't book flights departing before 6pm) or we'll drop you at a hotel if you wish to stay on.

PRE & 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.

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 our Terms and Conditions: <https://bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions/>.

BOOKING

Please book at: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/>.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

LEADERS

Expert Bellbird tour leader.

DIFFICULTY

Medium 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. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

ACCOMMODATION

Private en-suite air-conditioned rooms or cabins where possible, as indicated in the daily itinerary

CLOTHING

In the day it will be mild to warm, but mornings and evenings can be chilly. 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. Jacket or jumper for the evenings. Neat casual attire for dinners. Sturdy, comfortable footwear for birding. Shorts and sandals or thongs (flip-flops) are acceptable for non-birding time.

WHAT TO BRING

Please travel light, as there is a 15 kg max check-in luggage on the domestic flight. 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.

RECOMMENDED READING

The comprehensive (but large and heavy) *Australian Bird Guide* by Danny Rogers, Peter Menkhorst, and Rohan Clarke, or the (smaller and lighter) *Compact Australian Bird Guide* (2022) by the same authors.

HOW TO BOOK THIS TOUR?

Step 1: Essential reading

- Download, save and read the itinerary (this document);
- Read our terms and conditions and the release of liability waiver (both can be found on <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions>);
- Read our health & safety information page (<https://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 (e.g. 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 and 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 processing fee of ~3%. 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) 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 and 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.

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/>.



POSSIBLE SPECIES LIST (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

Port	Australasian Swamphen	Pallid Cuckoo
Musk Duck	Australian Spotted Crake	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Cape Barren Goose	Black-tailed Native-hen	Rufous Treecreeper
Black Swan	Dusky Moorhen	Brown Treecreeper
Australian Shelduck	Eurasian Coot	Blue-breasted Fairy-wren
Australian Wood Duck	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	Splendid Fairy-wren
Australasian Shoveler	Sooty Oystercatcher	Superb Fairy-wren
Grey Teal	Black-winged Stilt	White-winged Fairy-wren
Chestnut Teal	Red-necked Avocet	Purple-backed Fairy-wren
Pacific Black Duck	Banded Stilt	Western Grasswren
Hardhead	Pacific Golden Plover	Rufous Grasswren
Australasian Grebe	Red-capped Plover	Spotted Scrubwren
Hoary-headed Grebe	Hooded Plover	Shy Heathwren
Great Crested Grebe	Red-kneed Dotterel	Redthroat
Rock Dove*	Black-fronted Dotterel	Weebill
Spotted Dove*	Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill
Common Bronzewing	Banded Lapwing	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Brush Bronzewing	Common Greenshank	Slender-billed Thornbill
Crested Pigeon	Sanderling	Chestnut-rumped Th'bill
Peaceful Dove	Ruddy Turnstone	Inland Thornbill
Australian Gannet	Common Sandpiper	Spotted Pardalote
Little Pied Cormorant	Red-necked Stint	Striated Pardalote
Great Cormorant	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Pied Honeyeater
Little Black Cormorant	Fairy Tern	Singing Honeyeater
Pied Cormorant	Caspian Tern	Purple-gaped Honeyeater
Black-faced Cormorant	Whiskered Tern	White-eared Honeyeater
Australian Pelican	Crested Tern	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
White-necked Heron	Pacific Gull	White-plumed Honeyeater
Great Egret	Silver Gull	White-fronted Honeyeater
White-faced Heron	Galah	Noisy Miner
Little Egret	Little Corella	Yellow-throated Miner
Australian White Ibis	Cockatiel	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Royal Spoonbill	Rainbow Lorikeet	Red Wattlebird
Eastern Osprey	Musk Lorikeet	Crimson Chat
Black-shouldered Kite	Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella	Orange Chat
Whistling Kite	Aust. (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck	White-fronted Chat
Black Kite	Red-rumped Parrot	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
Collared Sparrowhawk	Mulga Parrot	New Holland Honeyeater
Spotted Harrier	Budgerigar	Brown-headed Honeyeater
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Elegant Parrot	White-browed Babbler
White-bellied Sea-eagle	Rock Parrot	Chestnut-crowned Babbler
Nankeen Kestrel	Naretha Blue Bonnet	Copperback Quail-thrush
Brown Falcon	Greater Blue Bonnet	Nullarbor Quail-thrush
Black Falcon	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Chirruping Wedgebill
Australian Hobby	Black-eared Cuckoo	White-bellied Whipbird



Varied Sittella
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-winged Triller
Gilbert's Whistler
Western Whistler
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*
Zebra Finch
Australasian Pipit