



Chestnut-breasted Whiteface & Grey Honeyeater 4-day Expedition

6-10 July 2027

The Chestnut-breasted Whiteface is one of the most difficult species for birders to see, because of its very small distribution in remote outback locations, and its elusive nature. It has recently disappeared from one of its key locations, leaving only a few spots where it can still reliably be found. This year we're once again offering a short expedition into the outback in search of this elusive bird. Commencing in Roxby Downs (SA), accessible via direct flights from Adelaide, this trip explores areas adjacent to the Stuart Highway before heading off into little-visited outback locations to search for Chestnut-breasted Whiteface.

July is a great time to go birding here and we expect to see many other great species including Thick-billed Grasswren, Gibberbird, Budgerigar, Crimson and Orange Chat, and there's always the chance of Bourke's Parrot or even Grey Falcon! During this time of the year the weather is dry and quite pleasant. We've seen Chestnut-breasted Whiteface here annually since 2006, so our chances are very good. The tour finishes with a day's birding around Alice Springs for Grey Honeyeater and a host of additional species. Don't wait: only limited seats available!

ITINERARY

Day 0: 6 July 2027

Arrival in Roxby Downs

Please make your own way to the remote mining town of Roxby Downs (South Australia) this afternoon. There are multiple daily flights from Adelaide. NOTE: there are no taxis here, so please liaise with our office about airport pickups.

Overnight: Roxby Downs Motor Inn, en-suite motel room
Meals included: D

Day 1: 7 July 2027

Into the outback to Coober Pedy

This morning we bird a few local patches of remnant *Callitris* (native pine) woodlands before departing town to travel the Oodnadatta track, a remote outback road and alternative route to Coober Pedy. Good bird species we are likely to come across include Thick-billed Grasswren, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Black-breasted Buzzard and Gibberbird. After lunch at remote William Creek we'll complete driving the Oodnadatta track to arrive in the opal-mining town of Coober Pedy.

Overnight: Underground Motel, above-ground & underground en-suite motel rooms
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 2: 8 July 2027

First views of Chestnut-breasted Whiteface

After an early breakfast we'll spend the best part of the morning searching a location near Coober Pedy where we should, weather and other factors permitting, obtain our first views of Chestnut-breasted Whiteface. This will involve a lot of walking. Other species likely here include White-winged Fairy-wren, Zebra Finch and Rufous Fieldwren, which no doubt will be another highlight.

After lunch we'll spend most of the afternoon driving north to arrive in the hamlet of Marla, our destination for the night. Along the way we have chances of Budgerigar, Crimson and Orange Chat, Black-breasted Buzzard and Chiming Wedgebill.

Overnight: Traveller's Rest, en-suite motel room
Meals included: B, L, D



Thick-billed Grasswren, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Black-breasted Buzzard, Gibberbird, and Chestnut-breasted Whiteface. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 3: 9 July 2027
Marla to Alice Springs

After an early breakfast we will check the sparse outback habitats around Marla where we have another very good chance of Chestnut-breasted Whiteface as well as Zebra Finch and Orange Chat, while we may be lucky to come across Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Gibberbird, Chiming Wedgebill or Bourke's Parrot. We'll then have lunch and spend the afternoon driving up to Alice Springs. At the end of the day we'll retire to our accommodation in Alice Springs.

Overnight: Mercure Springs Resort, en-suite motel room
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 4: 10 July 2027
Birding around Alice Springs and departure

We'll spend a day birding around Alice Springs, where Grey Honeyeater will be the main target of the day. There are plenty of other good birds to be had too: Dusky Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Spinifex-bird, Slaty-backed and Inland Thornbill, Western Bowerbird and Painted Finch are on the menu for today. The tour finishes around 4pm this afternoon and you are welcome to fly out any time from 5pm onwards this evening.

If you're staying on for our [Red Centre Adventure](#) (10-16 July), your hotel and dinner is included tonight, and you'll receive a return-client discount. Contact us for details.

Meals included: B, L



Orange Chat, Dingo, Grey Honeyeater, and Rufous Fieldwren. All photos by Peter Waanders.

QUICK OVERVIEW

SCHEDULED DATES

Chestnut-breasted Whiteface & Grey Honeyeater Tour: 6-10 July 2027

Following: [Red Centre Adventure](#) from 10-16 July, leaving from Alice Springs

STARTING IN

Roxby Downs, South Australia

FINISHING IN

Alice Springs, Northern Territory

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 4, maximum 8 participants.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 6 July 2027: Arrival in Roxby Downs

Day 1: 7 July 2027: Into the outback to Coober Pedy

Day 2: 8 July 2027: First views of Chestnut-breasted Whiteface

Day 3: 9 July 2027: Marla to Alice Springs

Day 4: 10 July 2027: Birding around Alice Springs and departure

BOOKING

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



COST

COST

AU\$3,799 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$620.

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 4, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms or cabins where possible, as indicated on the itinerary, transport using comfortable and reliable vehicle, expert Australian guiding, any entry fees during the tour, taxes.

EXCLUDED

Travel to the meeting point; onward travel arrangements, pre- & post trip accommodation, meals before the first dinner, and after the last lunch, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance, visa / passport fees, anything else not specifically included.

PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS

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

Or join our [Red Centre Adventure](#) commencing with dinner on 10 July and receive an instant return-client discount.

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

At least a medium level of fitness required. For the actual Whiteface search we'll be walking between 5-10 km across stony, undulating terrain. We may have to do this again the next day if we don't succeed the first time.

ACCOMMODATION

In private en-suite air-conditioned rooms or cabins as indicated in the daily itinerary

CLOTHING

In the day it will be cool to mild, but mornings and evenings can be cold or 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; Binoculars, camera, mobile phone, chargers, power adaptors if you're an international guest, insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, sun hat, water bottle, hand sanitizer. Scopes, tripods, huge tele-photo lenses, and hard-cased 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)

Emu	Inland Dotterel	Slaty-backed Thornbill
Brown Quail	Black-fronted Dotterel	Southern Whiteface
Australian Wood Duck	Red-kneed Dotterel	Chestnut-breasted Whiteface
Pacific Black Duck	Banded Lapwing	Spotted Pardalote
Grey Teal	Masked Lapwing	Striated Pardalote
Pigeons, Doves	Australian Pratincole	Red-browed Pardalote
Rock Dove	Little Button-quail	Pied Honeyeater
Spotted Dove	Galah	Singing Honeyeater
Common Bronzewing	Pink Cockatoo	White-eared Honeyeater
Crested Pigeon	Little Corella	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
Spinifex Pigeon	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-plumed Honeyeater
Diamond Dove	Cockatiel	Grey-fronted Honeyeater
Peaceful Dove	Rainbow Lorikeet	Grey-headed Honeyeater
Tawny Frogmouth	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	White-fronted Honeyeater
Spotted Nightjar	Australian (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck	Noisy Miner
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Blue Bonnet	Yellow-throated Miner
Australian Pelican	Red-rumped Parrot	Striped Honeyeater
White-necked Heron	Mulga Parrot	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
White-faced Heron	Budgerigar	Red Wattlebird
Australian White Ibis	Blue-winged Parrot	Crimson Chat
Straw-necked Ibis	Bourke's Parrot	Orange Chat
Black-shouldered Kite	Western Bowerbird	White-fronted Chat
Whistling Kite	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Gibberbird
Black Kite	Black-eared Cuckoo	Black Honeyeater
Black-breasted Buzzard	Pallid Cuckoo	Grey Honeyeater
Brown Goshawk	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
Collared Sparrowhawk	Southern Boobook	New Holland Honeyeater
Spotted Harrier	Eastern Barn Owl	Brown-headed Honeyeater
Swamp Harrier	Laughing Kookaburra	White-browed Babbler
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Red-backed Kingfisher	Chestnut-crowned Babbler
Little Eagle	Sacred Kingfisher	Grey-crowned Babbler
White-bellied Sea-eagle	White-browed Treecreeper	Cinnamon Quail-thrush
Nankeen Kestrel	Brown Treecreeper	Chirruping Wedgebill
Brown Falcon	Splendid Fairy-wren	Chiming Wedgebill
Australian Hobby	White-winged Fairy-wren	Varied Sittella
Black Falcon	Purple-backed Fairy-wren	Ground Cuckoo-shrike
Peregrine Falcon	Rufous-crowned Emu-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Bustards	Dusky Grasswren	White-winged Triller
Australian Bustard	Thick-billed Grasswren	Gilbert's Whistler
Purple Swampphen	Rufous Fieldwren	Golden Whistler
Dusky Moorhen	Redthroat	Rufous Whistler
Eurasian Coot	Weebill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Pied Stilt	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Crested Bellbird
Red-necked Avocet	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Masked Woodswallow
Banded Stilt	Inland Thornbill	White-browed Woodswallow



Black-faced Woodswallow
Dusky Woodswallow
Little Woodswallow
Grey Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Grey Currawong
Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Australian Raven
Torresian Crow
Little Crow
Restless Flycatcher

Magpie-lark
White-winged Chough
Jacky Winter
Red-capped Robin
Hooded Robin
Australian Reed-Warbler
Spinifexbird
Rufous Songlark
Brown Songlark
Silvereye
White-backed Swallow
Welcome Swallow

Fairy Martin
Tree Martin
Common Blackbird
Starlings
Common Starling
Mistletoebird
Zebra Finch
Painted Finch
House Sparrow
Australasian Pipit