

# Highlights of South Australia

25 September - 1 October 2027

This is one of our longest-running tours, which promises even more birds with an updated itinerary. We'll explore South Australia's many varied habitats, ranging from the spectacular Flinders Ranges and surrounding stark outback deserts, to the lush Mt Lofty Ranges; wetlands and estuaries around Adelaide, floodplains along the mighty Murray River and the vast expanses of semi-arid eucalypt scrub at Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve. This wide variety of habitats allows us to maximise the species list – expect up to 200 species, including some highly sought-after birds

such as Malleefowl, Banded Stilt, Freckled Duck, Adelaide Rosella, Regent/Mulga/Elegant Parrot, 2 species of Grasswren, 4 species of Fairywren, Redthroat, 3 species of Cuckoo, 3 species of Tree-creeper, Gilberts/Rufous/Golden/Red-lored Whistler, 2 species of Quail-thrush, Inland Dotterel and many more. We'll look for mammals as well, including the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby and Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat. Good food and accommodation: join us this year! As an added bonus we now also offer a pre-tour extension to Kangaroo Island.



## ITINERARY

### Day 0: 25 September 2027

#### Arrival in Adelaide

From 21 to 26 September, we offer an optional pre-tour excursion to Kangaroo Island. Just off the Adelaide coast, the large island harbours a unique, diverse wildlife, specialised birds, striking scenery and vast wilderness. Key birds include the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo, colonies of Fairy Penguin, Hooded Plover, Cape Barren Goose, the elusive Western Whipbird and the cute Fairy Penguin as well as many sea and land birds. Cost of this 4-day trip is AU\$4399 per person (all-inclusive). See <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/kangaroo-island/>.

People not joining this trip will make their own way to our hotel on 25 September in Adelaide, where we'll all meet this evening for dinner and introductions.

Overnight: Adelaide, en-suite hotel room

Meals included: D

### Day 1: 26 September 2027

#### Adelaide to Lyndhurst

An early start for our trip to the outback. We follow the coast north, looking for Adelaide Rosella and Slender-billed Thornbill. At Port Augusta we visit the beautiful Arid Lands Botanical Gardens where an array of native flowers and shrubs attract such species as Chirruping Wedgebill, Redthroat, White-winged Fairy-wren and many species of Honeyeater including a chance of Pied and Black Honeyeater. A nearby coastal lake often has Banded Stilt. We will arrive at Mt Lyndhurst, on the edge of the Strzelecki desert, towards the end of the day. While we enjoy a spectacular outback sunset from a vantage point we marvel at the vastness of the landscape and at the same time look around for Inland Dotterel.

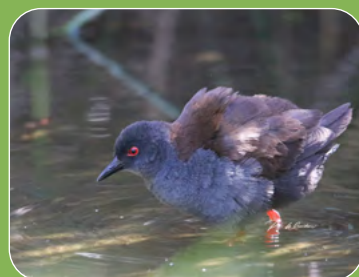
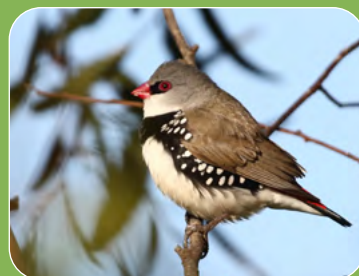
Overnight: Lyndhurst Hotel, en-suite cabins

Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 2: 27 September 2027

#### Lyndhurst and the Strzelecki desert

We depart around sunrise to start birding at nearby Mt Lyndhurst, where we may see the last few remaining Thick-billed Grasswrens with much luck and perseverance. We should certainly come across other good outback species such as Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Rufous Field-wren, Chirruping Wedgebill, Zebra Finch, Black-faced Woodswallow



*Diamond Firetail, Australian Crane, Diamond Dove, and Spotless Crane. All photos by Peter Waanders.*



and Budgerigar. We'll explore the endless open stony plains of the Strzelecki desert which are traversed by mostly dry watercourses. Expect species such as Budgerigar, Red-backed Kingfisher, Crimson, Orange and Gibber Chat. We'll have a picnic lunch at a billabong (waterhole) with coolabah trees after which we bird our way back to Lyndhurst, looking for Black-breasted Buzzard. If necessary, we return to our sunset viewing point for another chance of Inland Dotterel.

Overnight: Lyndhurst Hotel, en-suite cabins  
Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 3: 28 September 2027 Gammon and Flinders Ranges

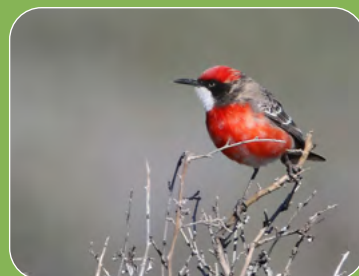
Today we'll travel south past the spectacular rock formations of the Gammon Ranges and enter the Flinders Ranges, an impressive range of steep hills and soaring rock formations on the edge of Australia's outback. Mid-morning we travel across dry creekbeds and through narrow gorges cut deeply into geological layers that date back 800 million years. Here we search for Elegant Parrot and Grey-fronted Honeyeater. We visit the fossil site of the Ediacaran fauna, which lived a little before the great explosion of multicellular life at the beginning of the Cambrian Period. Here we're also likely to encounter the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. We'll see stately Wedge-tailed Eagles soaring above spinifex-grass covered slopes and there are plenty of Red, Western Grey and Euro Kangaroos. We'll retire to our luxurious base at Wilpena Pound resort for dinner and an optional spotlighting session.

Overnight: Wilpena Pound Resort, en-suite motel room  
Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 4: 29 September 2027 Flinders Ranges and Bluebush Plains

Early mornings in the outback can get pretty chilly as we check nearby rocky outcrops for Southern Scrubrobin and various honey-eaters. We will leave the picturesque Flinders Ranges and drive south, through the historic copper mining township of Burra, and bird the extensive prairie-like Bluebush plains for Blue Bonnet, Redthroat, Black-eared Cuckoo, Brown & Rufous Songlark and Australian Pipit. Later in the day we reach Australia's largest river: the Murray. We visit a breeding colony of Regent Parrots and check a few wetlands for waterbirds including crakes, rails and Freckled Duck.

Overnight: Berri Resort Hotel, en-suite hotel room  
Meals included: B, L, D



Crimson Chat, Red-backed Kingfisher, Zebra Finches, and Tawny-crowned Honey-eater. All photos by Peter Waanders.



## Day 5: 30 September 2027

### Gluepot Reserve

We depart early in the morning for the drive of less than an hour to Birdlife Australia's Gluepot reserve, home to no less than 6 endangered bird species. While the sun rises over centuries-old mallee eucalypts and sand dunes covered in spinifex grass, we look for Malleefowl, Red-shouldered Whistler, Gilbert's Whistler, Hooded Robin, Southern Scrubrobin, Black-eared Miner, Shy Heathwren, White-browed Treecreeper and Inland Thornbill. As the bird activity slows down, we focus on species such as Chestnut Quail-thrush, Crested Bellbird, Splendid Fairy-wren and Striped Honeyeater. Depending on preceding seasonal conditions we may also encounter White-winged Triller, Pied and Black Honeyeater and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo. From one of the bird hides that overlook a watering hole, we have a chance of observing Mulga Parrot and many of Gluepot's 10 species of Honeyeater. We leave the reserve late in the afternoon to be back at your accommodation around dusk.

Overnight: Berri Resort Hotel, en-suite hotel room

Meals included: B, L, D

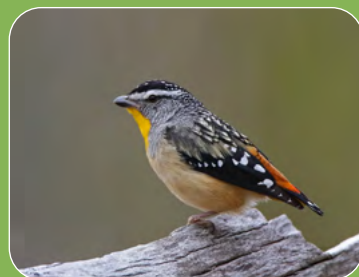
## Day 6: 1 October 2027

### Murray River and return to Adelaide

We bird our way back to Adelaide. First we follow the Murray River and wetlands for species such as Blue-billed and Freckled Duck, Baillon's, Australian Spotted and Spotless Crake and Little Grassbird. We'll visit a raptor lookout with good chance of Little Eagle, Spotted and Swamp Harrier, Whistling and Black-shouldered Kite and, if we're lucky, Black Falcon. We have lunch on the banks of the Murray River where Purple-crowned Lorikeet is often found. We then proceed into the Adelaide Hills. While most of South Australia's landscapes are arid, the Adelaide Hills are an exception. Tall, dense eucalypt forests provide habitat for many species otherwise only found in Australia's eastern states. We will look for Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, the adelaideae subspecies of Crimson Rosella (often regarded as a full species: Adelaide Rosella), Yellow-faced, White-naped and Crescent Honeyeater, White-throated Treecreeper, Scarlet Robin and the localised *maculatus* subspecies of White-throated Scrubwren. We also have a good chance of seeing Koalas.

The tour finishes in the evening. You will be dropped off between 5-6pm at a hotel of your choice in the city centre, or at the airport if you're flying back tonight. Please don't book flights departing before 7pm this evening.

Meals included: B, L, D



Rainbow Bee-eater, Yellow-footed Rock-Wallaby, Spotted Pardalote, Shy Heathwren, and Chestnut Quail-thrush. All photos by Peter Waanders.

## QUICK OVERVIEW

### SCHEDULED DATES

**Highlights of South Australia: 25 September - 1 October 2027**

Optional Kangaroo Island pre-tour extension: 21 - 26 September 2027

### STARTING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

### FINISHING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

### GROUP SIZE

Minimum 3, maximum 9 participants.

### BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 25 September 2027: Arrival in Adelaide

Day 1: 26 September 2027: Adelaide to Lyndhurst

Day 2: 27 September 2027: Lyndhurst and the Strzelecki desert

Day 3: 28 September 2027: Gammon and Flinders Ranges

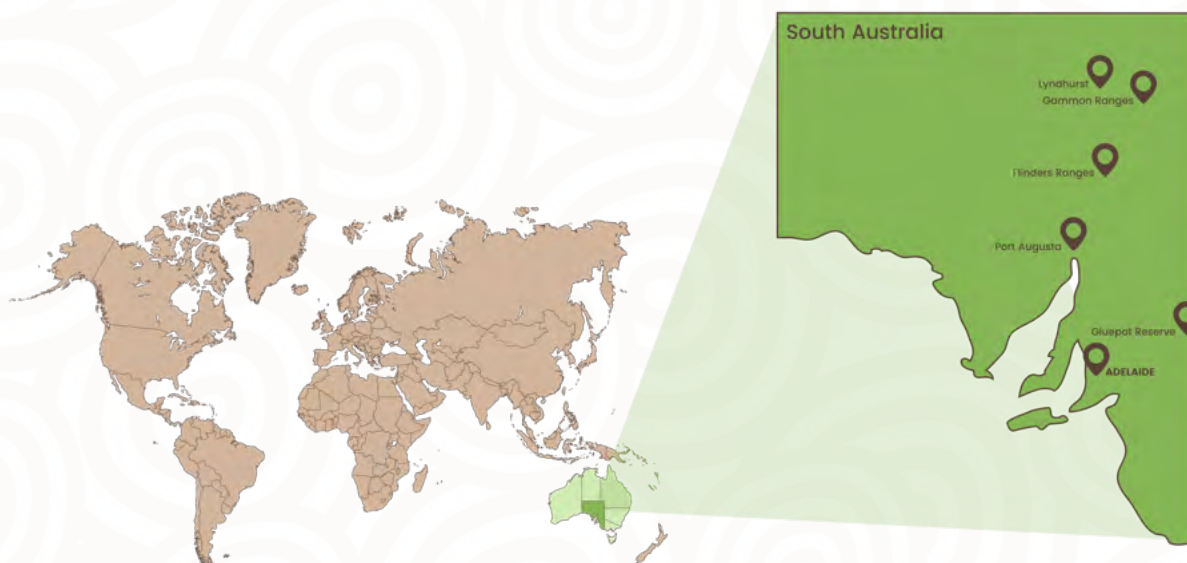
Day 4: 29 September 2027: Flinders Ranges and Bluebush Plains

Day 5: 30 September 2027: Gluepot Reserve

Day 6: 1 October 2027: Murray River and return to Adelaide

### BOOKING

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





## COST

### COST

AU\$4399 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$690.

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 6, 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 6, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance.

### PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS

People not joining the optional Kangaroo Island pre-tour extension will make their own way to our hotel in Adelaide, where we'll all meet on 25 September for dinner and introductions.

Optional pre-tour extension: From 21 to 26 September 2027, we offer an optional pre-tour excursion to Kangaroo Island. Just off the Adelaide coast, the large island harbours a unique, diverse wildlife, specialised birds, striking scenery and vast wilderness. Key birds include the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo, colonies of Fairy Penguin, Hooded Plover, Cape Barren Goose, the elusive Western Whipbird and the rare Fairy Penguin as well as many sea and land birds. Cost of this 4-day trip is AU\$3199 per person (all-inclusive). Read more about it here: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/kangaroo-island/>.

### 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

Bellbird tour leader.

### DIFFICULTY

Low to medium level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace, and walks are on varying surfaces, from paved roads to sandy or rocky walking trails with some short climbs. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

### ACCOMMODATION

Private en-suite rooms in hotels or lodges. Standards of the lodgings are generally very comfortable. Expect slow, if any, wi-fi access.

### 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 jumper / sweater and a wind- and rain-proof jacket.

### 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. 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)

Emu	Collared Sparrowhawk	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Musk Duck	Spotted Harrier	Curlew Sandpiper
Freckled Duck	Swamp Harrier	Australian Pratincole
Cape Barren Goose	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Fairy Tern
Black Swan	Little Eagle	Australian Tern
Australian Shelduck	White-bellied Sea-eagle	Caspian Tern
Australian Wood Duck	Australasian Swamphen	Whiskered Tern
Pink-eared Duck	Buff-banded Rail	White-winged Black Tern
Australasian Shoveler	Baillon's Crake	White-fronted Tern
Grey Teal	Australian Spotted Crake	Crested Tern
Chestnut Teal	Spotless Crake	Pacific Gull
Pacific Black Duck	Black-tailed Native-hen	Kelp Gull
Hardhead	Dusky Moorhen	Silver Gull
Blue-billed Duck	Eurasian Coot	Rock Dove
Malleefowl	Little Button-quail	Barbary Dove
Stubble Quail	Painted Buttonquail	Spotted Dove
Brown Quail	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Common Bronzewing
Australasian Grebe	Sooty Oystercatcher	Brush Bronzewing
Hoary-headed Grebe	Pied Stilt	Crested Pigeon
Great Crested Grebe	Red-necked Avocet	Diamond Dove
Glossy Ibis	Banded Stilt	Peaceful Dove
Australian White Ibis	Pacific Golden Plover	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Straw-necked Ibis	Grey Plover	Shining Bronze-cuckoo
Royal Spoonbill	Red-capped Plover	Black-eared Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Lesser Sand Plover	Pallid Cuckoo
White-necked Heron	Inland Dotterel	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Great Egret	Hooded Plover	Southern Boobook
Plumed Egret	Black-fronted Dotterel	Eastern Barn Owl
Eastern Cattle Egret	Red-kneed Dotterel	Tawny Frogmouth
White-faced Heron	Banded Lapwing	Spotted Nightjar
Little Egret	Masked Lapwing	Australian Owlet-nightjar
Nankeen Night-Heron	Black-tailed Godwit	White-throated Needletail
Australian Pelican	Bar-tailed Godwit	Fork-tailed Swift
Little Pied Cormorant	Eastern Curlew	Laughing Kookaburra
Great Cormorant	Terek Sandpiper	Red-backed Kingfisher
Little Black Cormorant	Common Sandpiper	Sacred Kingfisher
Pied Cormorant	Common Greenshank	Rainbow Bee-eater
Black-faced Cormorant	Marsh Sandpiper	Nankeen Kestrel
Australasian Darter	Wood Sandpiper	Brown Falcon
Black-shouldered Kite	Ruddy Turnstone	Australian Hobby
Square-tailed Kite	Great Knot	Black Falcon
Whistling Kite	Red Knot	Peregrine Falcon
Black Kite	Sanderling	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Black-breasted Buzzard	Red-necked Stint	Galah
Brown Goshawk	Pectoral Sandpiper	Pink Cockatoo

Long-billed Corella  
 Little Corella  
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
 Cockatiel  
 Rainbow Lorikeet  
 Musk Lorikeet  
 Purple-crowned Lorikeet  
 Eastern Rosella  
 Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella  
 Crimson (Yellow) Rosella  
 Australian (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck  
 Australian (Mallee) Ringneck  
 Regent Parrot  
 Greater Bluebonnet  
 Red-rumped Parrot  
 Mulga Parrot  
 Budgerigar  
 Blue-winged Parrot  
 Elegant Parrot  
 White-throated Treecreeper  
 White-browed Treecreeper  
 Brown Treecreeper  
 Superb Fairy-wren  
 Splendid Fairy-wren  
 White-winged Fairy-wren  
 Purple-backed Fairy-wren  
 Striated Grasswren  
 Thick-billed Grasswren  
 Eastern Spinebill  
 Pied Honeyeater  
 Yellow-faced Honeyeater  
 Singing Honeyeater  
 Purple-gaped Honeyeater  
 White-eared Honeyeater  
 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater  
 Grey-fronted Honeyeater  
 White-plumed Honeyeater  
 White-fronted Honeyeater  
 Blue-faced Honeyeater  
 Little Friarbird  
 Noisy Miner  
 Yellow-throated Miner  
 Striped Honeyeater  
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater  
 Red Wattlebird

Little Wattlebird  
 Crimson Chat  
 Orange Chat  
 White-fronted Chat  
 Gibberbird  
 Black Honeyeater  
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater  
 Crescent Honeyeater  
 New Holland Honeyeater  
 Brown-headed Honeyeater  
 White-naped Honeyeater  
 Spotted Pardalote  
 Striated Pardalote  
 White-browed Scrubwren  
 Shy Heathwren  
 Chestnut-rumped Heathwren  
 Rufous Fieldwren  
 Redthroat  
 Weebill  
 Striated Thornbill  
 Yellow Thornbill  
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill  
 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill  
 Buff-rumped Thornbill  
 Slender-billed Thornbill  
 Inland Thornbill  
 Brown Thornbill  
 Southern Whiteface  
 White-browed Babbler  
 Chestnut-crowned Babbler  
 Cinnamon Quail-thrush  
 Chestnut Quail-thrush  
 Chirruping Wedgebill  
 Grey Butcherbird  
 Pied Butcherbird  
 Australian Magpie  
 Grey Currawong  
 White-breasted Woodswallow  
 Masked Woodswallow  
 White-browed Woodswallow  
 Black-faced Woodswallow  
 Dusky Woodswallow  
 Ground Cuckoo-shrike  
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike  
 White-winged Triller

Varied Sittella  
 Crested Shrike-tit  
 Gilbert's Whistler  
 Red-lored Whistler  
 Western Whistler  
 Rufous Whistler  
 Grey Shrike-thrush  
 Crested Bellbird  
 Restless Flycatcher  
 Magpie-lark  
 Grey Fantail  
 Willie Wagtail  
 Australian Raven  
 Little Raven  
 Little Crow  
 White-winged Chough  
 Apostlebird  
 Jacky Winter  
 Red-capped Robin  
 Scarlet Robin  
 Hooded Robin  
 Southern Scrub-robin  
 Horsfield's Bushlark  
 Eurasian Skylark  
 White-backed Swallow  
 Welcome Swallow  
 Fairy Martin  
 Tree Martin  
 Australian Reed-Warbler  
 Little Grassbird  
 Rufous Songlark  
 Brown Songlark  
 Golden-headed Cisticola  
 Silvereye  
 Common Starling  
 Bassian Thrush  
 Common Blackbird  
 Mistletoebird  
 House Sparrow  
 Zebra Finch  
 Red-browed Finch  
 Diamond Firetail  
 Australasian Pipit  
 European Goldfinch