

Western SA Splits & Specialties

1 - 9 May 2027

As a result of the recent splits of some of Australia's western specialties, Bellbird Birding Tours is once again offering its Western SA Splits & Specialties 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 Bluebonnet, Sandhill Grasswren and Western (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 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 2027

Arrival in Adelaide and flight to Port Lincoln

Make your own way (own arrangements) to Adelaide for your pm flight (included) to Port 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 2027

Port Lincoln

We'll spend the entire day birding the vast wilderness surrounding Port Lincoln for a good chance of Western (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 Scrub Robin, Purple-gaped and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Western Yellow Robin, Blue-breasted Fairywren, Spotted Scrubwren and Rock Parrot.

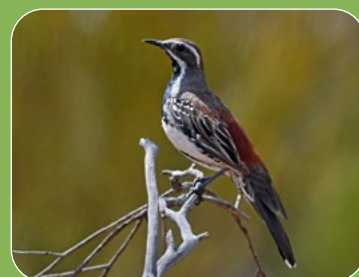
Overnight: Hilton Motel Port Lincoln, en-suite motel rooms
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 2: 3 May 2027

Eyre Peninsula to Ceduna

Our last chance for Western (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, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Western Grasswren, Copper-back Quail-thrush, and Blue-breasted Fairywren
 All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 3: 4 May 2027

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 Sandhill 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, Gilbert's Whistler and Southern Scrub Robin. After a picnic lunch at a scenic spot we'll head back to civilisation.

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

Day 4: 5 May 2027

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 colourful 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.

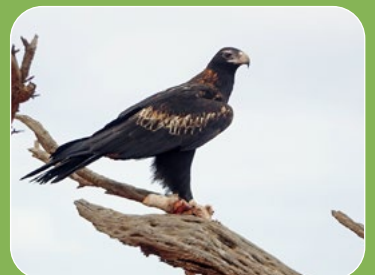
Overnight: Nullarbor Roadhouse, en-suite motel rooms
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 5: 6 May 2027

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 rooms
 Meals included: B, L, D



Western (White-bellied) Whipbird, Banded Lapwing, Sandhill Grasswren, Banded Stilt, and Wedge-tailed Eagle. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 6: 7 May 2027
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 rooms

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 7: 8 May 2027
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 Fairywren, Spotted Scrubwren, Redthroat, Greater Bluebonnet and Mulga Parrot. We also have further chances of Copperback Quail-thrush and with luck, Pink Cockatoo.

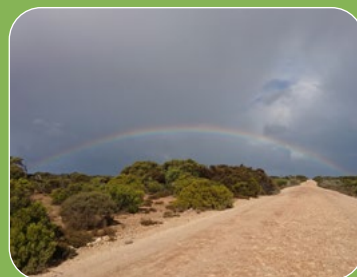
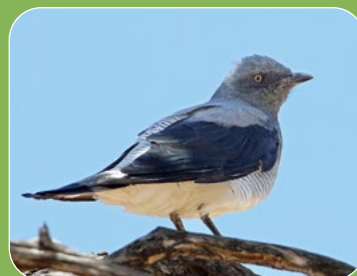
Overnight: Standpipe Motel Port Augusta, en-suite motel rooms

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 8: 9 May 2027
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 SA Splits & Specialties Tour: 1 - 9 May 2027

STARTING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

FINISHING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 4, maximum 9 participants.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 1 May 2027: Arrival in Adelaide and flight to Port Lincoln

Day 1: 2 May 2027: Port Lincoln

Day 2: 3 May 2027: Eyre Peninsula to Ceduna

Day 3: 4 May 2027: Exploring the "mallee"

Day 4: 5 May 2027: Nullarbor Plain

Day 5: 6 May 2027: Fowlers Bay

Day 6: 7 May 2027: Along the Eyre Peninsula to Kimba

Day 7: 8 May 2027: Lake Gilles to Port Augusta

Day 8: 9 May 2027: Return to Adelaide and departure

BOOKING

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



COST

COST

AU\$5,699 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$920.

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 2027) you'll need to make your own way (own cost) to Adelaide airport where you will board an afternoon flight (included; TBA) to Port Lincoln. Please arrive in Adelaide in time for this flight (details TBA). Once in Port Lincoln, you'll be collected from the plane and we'll meet for dinner and introductions. On the last day (9 May 2027) 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 90 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/Apple Pay: 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: 30 Roberts Avenue, Balaklava, SA 5461, 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	Australian Spotted Crake	Rufous Treecreeper
Musk Duck	Black-tailed Native-hen	Brown Treecreeper
Cape Barren Goose	Dusky Moorhen	Blue-breasted Fairywren
Black Swan	Eurasian Coot	Splendid Fairywren
Australian Shelduck	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	Superb Fairywren
Australian Wood Duck	Sooty Oystercatcher	White-winged Fairywren
Australasian Shoveler	Black-winged Stilt	Purple-backed Fairywren
Grey Teal	Red-necked Avocet	Western Grasswren
Chestnut Teal	Banded Stilt	Sandhill Grasswren
Pacific Black Duck	Pacific Golden Plover	Spotted Scrubwren
Hardhead	Red-capped Plover	Shy Heathwren
Australasian Grebe	Hooded Plover	Redthroat
Hoary-headed Grebe	Red-kneed Dotterel	Weebill
Great Crested Grebe	Black-fronted Dotterel	Brown Thornbill
Rock Dove*	Masked Lapwing	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Spotted Dove*	Banded Lapwing	Slender-billed Thornbill
Common Bronzewing	Common Greenshank	Chestnut-rumped Th'bill
Brush Bronzewing	Sanderling	Inland Thornbill
Crested Pigeon	Ruddy Turnstone	Spotted Pardalote
Peaceful Dove	Common Sandpiper	Striated Pardalote
Australasian Gannet	Red-necked Stint	Pied Honeyeater
Little Pied Cormorant	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Singing Honeyeater
Great Cormorant	Fairy Tern	Purple-gaped Honeyeater
Little Black Cormorant	Caspian Tern	White-eared Honeyeater
Pied Cormorant	Whiskered Tern	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
Black-faced Cormorant	Crested Tern	White-plumed Honeyeater
Australian Pelican	Pacific Gull	White-fronted Honeyeater
White-necked Heron	Silver Gull	Noisy Miner
Great Egret	Galah	Yellow-throated Miner
White-faced Heron	Little Corella	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Little Egret	Cockatiel	Red Wattlebird
Australian White Ibis	Rainbow Lorikeet	Crimson Chat
Royal Spoonbill	Musk Lorikeet	Orange Chat
Eastern Osprey	Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella	White-fronted Chat
Black-shouldered Kite	Aust. (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
Whistling Kite	Red-rumped Parrot	New Holland Honeyeater
Black Kite	Mulga Parrot	Brown-headed Honeyeater
Collared Sparrowhawk	Budgerigar	White-browed Babbler
Spotted Harrier	Elegant Parrot	Chestnut-crowned Babbler
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Rock Parrot	Copperback Quail-thrush
White-bellied Sea Eagle	Naretha Bluebonnet	Nullarbor Quail-thrush
Nankeen Kestrel	Greater Bluebonnet	Chirruping Wedgebill
Brown Falcon	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Western (White-bellied) Whipbird
Black Falcon	Black-eared Cuckoo	Varied Sittella
Australian Hobby	Pallid Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Australasian Swamphen	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	



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
Australian Bustard
Pink Cockatoo