



Southern Birding Services
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Highlights of South Australia 6-day birding trip – Information Sheet

South Australia offers some 450 species of birds. Habitats range from the dry red interior to the lush and green Mt Lofty Ranges; wetlands and mangroves around Adelaide and estuaries in the Coorong, floodplains along the Murray River, vast expanses of the famous semi-arid mallee, and outback deserts with spectacular mountain ranges.

Some unique bird species including a small number of endemics can be found here. Over recent years an increasing number of Australian and international visitors have discovered the birding secrets SA has to offer. This birding tour takes in a variety of habitats thereby maximizing the species list – expect around 180 species, including some highly sought-after species.

Featured Birds: expect around 180 species, including:

- Malleefowl
- Banded Stilt
- Inland Dotterel
- Regent Parrot
- Black-eared Miner
- Red-lored Whistler
- Chestnut-breasted Whiteface
- 4 species of Grasswren
- 2 species of Quail-thrush

Places to visit:

- Adelaide Hills
- River Murray
- Birds Australia's Gluepot Reserve
- Flinders Ranges
- Outback desert
- Coastal areas

Departs from and returns to: Adelaide, South Australia.

Scheduled departure dates for 2010:

- Monday 20 September 2010
- Thursday 25 November 2010
- Any other time as a private tour (subject to availability)

Leader: Peter Waanders



Costs: \$2299 AUD per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy attracts a surcharge. Not included: drinks and personal expenses.

What to bring: binoculars, telescope if you have one, insect repellent, sunscreen, hat, water bottle.

Clothing: Lightweight long pants, thin long-sleeved shirt, over the top of which you can wear various layers that can be taken off as necessary, including a thick jumper or reasonably wind proof jacket.

Group size: Maximum 5 participants.

Bookings: Please complete the enclosed booking form.

Itinerary

Day 1.

You will be picked up from your accommodation in Adelaide around 8am. 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, and the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges subspecies parkeri of Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, White-throated Treecreeper, Flame Robin and the localised maculatus subspecies of White-throated Scrubwren. We also have a good chance of seeing a Koala. A scenic drive through the hills leads us to a small but excellent wetland where Baillon's, Australian Spotted and Spotless Crake are often seen. Late morning we get our first taste of the low, dry eucalypt scrub known as 'mallee'. We look for the ground-dwelling Southern Scrubrobin and Shy Heathwren, as well as Purple-gaped Honeyeater and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater. We have lunch on the banks of the Murray river where Purple-crowned Lorikeet is often found, after which we follow the river checking out a number of wetlands en-route for species as Cape Barren Goose, Freckled Duck, Baillon's, Australian Spotted and Spotless Crake, Little Grassbird and Golden-headed Cisticola. We spend the night in Waikerie.

Overnight **Waikerie Hotel-Motel.**

Day 2.

We depart very early in the morning for the drive of less than an hour to Birds Australia's Gluepot reserve, home of the critically endangered Black-eared Miner. We arrive at Gluepot around sunrise. The next three or four hours is when Gluepot's critical species are most active. While the sun rises over centuries-old mallee eucalypts and sand dunes covered in spinifex grass, we look for Malleefowl, Red-lored Whistler, Gilbert's Whistler, Hooded Robin, Southern Scrubrobin, Black-eared Miner, Striated Grasswren, Shy Heathwren, White-browed Treecreeper and Major Mitchell Cockatoo. As the bird activity slows down, so do we, and focus on the easier species such as Chestnut Quail-thrush, Crested Bellbird, Splendid Fairy-wren, and Striped Honeyeater. Depending on the season we may also look for White-winged Triller, Pied and Black Honeyeater and Crimson and Orange Chat. From one of the bird hides that overlook a watering through, we have a chance of seeing the eastern race monarchoides of Regent Parrot and many of Gluepot's 10 species of Honeyeater. We leave the reserve late in the afternoon to be back at your accommodation in Waikerie around dusk.

Overnight **Waikerie Hotel-Motel.**

Day 3.

We depart from Waikerie around sunrise. During the morning we visit two river Murray wetlands looking for waterfowl including Freckled Duck, and a Regent Parrot breeding site. We will then travel some 400 km to the Flinders Ranges, an impressive range of steep hills and soaring rock formations on the edge of Australia's outback. Along the way we search for semi-open country specialists such as Redthroat and Brown Songlark. Once we arrive in the Flinders Ranges we search the spinifex-grass covered slopes for the elusive Short-tailed Grasswren, a recent split from the Striated Grasswren and one of SA's endemic species. We will certainly see plenty of Red, Western Grey and Euro Kangaroos.

Overnight **Wilpena Pound resort.**

Day 4.

Early mornings in the outback can get pretty chilly as we check nearby rocky outcrops for Southern Scrubrobin and Grey-headed Honeyeater. Once the sun starts to warm things up a little, the grasswrens become active and we head back to the spinifex slopes to search for Short-tailed Grasswren. Mid-morning we proceed along creekbeds and through narrow gorges cut deeply into geological layers that date back 800 million years. Here we search for Elegant Parrot and Grey-headed 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 will arrive at Mt Lyndhurst, on the edge of the Strzelecki desert, later in the day and will search for Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, another SA endemic, as well as Inland Dotterel, Thick-billed Grasswren, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Chirruping Wedgebill and Rufous Fieldwren. We then proceed to the Lyndhurst Hotel, a typical outback pub with basic facilities but lots of character.

Overnight **Lyndhurst Hotel.**

Day 5.

We depart around sunrise for another visit to Mt Lyndhurst where we search for any species still needed after yesterday. The endless open stony plains of the Strzelecki desert are traversed by mostly dry watercourses. We will follow the Strzelecki Track across the desert for most of the day, looking for species such as Budgerigar, Crimson, Orange and Gibber Chat, Eyrean Grasswren, and if we're lucky, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Letter-winged Kite and Black-breasted Buzzard. Picnic lunch will be taken at Montecollina Bore, a waterhole deep inside the desert. We will return to Lyndhurst after dark.

Overnight **Lyndhurst Hotel.**

Day 6.

We depart Lyndhurst around sunrise. Today we'll travel the almost 700 km back to Adelaide. Our first stop will be the Arid Lands Botanical Gardens with White-winged Fairy-wren, Chirruping Wedgebill, Rufous Fieldwren and Redthroat. A nearby coastal lake usually has Banded Stilt. We will check creekbeds for Little Eagle, Elegant Parrot and Grey-fronted Honeyeater. Further south along the coast we look for the *rosinae* race of Slender-billed Thornbill, the *rosina* race of White-browed Scrubwren, Elegant and Blue-winged Parrot and if we're lucky, Rock Parrot. Time (and tide) permitting we pull in at the saltfields near St Kilda to scan through flocks of migratory waders and another chance of Banded Stilt. Arrival back in Adelaide will be late afternoon.

Included:

All meals, Accommodation, Transport, Guiding, Entry fees.

Excluded:

Pre- & post trip accommodation, Breakfast on Day 1, Dinner on Day 6, drinks, personal expenses, tips.

Contact:

Peter Waanders, Southern Birding Services, PO Box 420, Waikerie SA 5330, web www.sabirding.com, email sbs@sabirding.com, phone 0424 212889



**Southern
Birding
Services**

Booking Form

Please print out and complete. Mail with payment to the address below.

Tour details

Name of tour _____

Starting and Ending dates _____

Your details

Name and address of the registrant(s) (only one form is needed for couples)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone (Home) _____

(Work) _____ (Mobile) _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact Name, relationship and telephone number

Accommodation requirements

Single Room / Double Room / Twin Share (please circle)

(a single occupancy will attract a surcharge)

Medical conditions and dietary requirements

Do you have any medical conditions (eg. disabilities, illnesses or allergies) that might restrict your full involvement in any aspect of the tour?

No / Yes

If Yes, please provide details: _____

If you have other special requirements (eg dietary requirements) please advise. While we cannot guarantee to accommodate them, we will make every attempt to do so.

Payment

To secure a seat, a deposit of 20% of the tour price is required at the time of booking. Full payment is due 30 days prior to the departure date. Until full payment has been received, PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services reserves the right to change the tour price (eg due to changing fuel prices) .

Payment options:

Money order, Australian cheques, bank drafts/cheques: please enclose with this form.

Electronic funds transfer: please contact us for bank account details. Please print out a transaction receipt and enclose with this booking form.

Credit card: attract a 2% service fee. Please go to our on-line payments page:

<http://www.sabirding.com/tours09cc.htm> and follow the prompts. Credit card payments will be handled by the secure on-line servers of PayPal. Please print out a transaction receipt and enclose with this booking form.

PayPal: If you are a PayPal member, please go to our on-line payments page: <http://www.sabirding.com/tours09pp.htm> and follow the prompts. Please print out a transaction receipt and enclose with this booking form.

Terms & Conditions 2010

Cancellation:

PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services reserves the right to cancel any trip due to weather or other unsuitable conditions. Travel insurance, including cancellation insurance, is strongly recommended. In the event of a trip being cancelled, 90% of any deposits received will be refunded should you need to cancel 30 days or more before departure. All money received within 30 days of departure is forfeited should you need to cancel unless the vacancy can be filled by PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services or the person canceling, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger.

Modification:

PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services reserves the right to modify the itinerary while on tour if weather or other conditions require so.

Bird species:

Birds are wild animals and no sightings of any species can be guaranteed. PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services will not be held responsible for clients not seeing any particular species.

Liability:

The tour participant agrees that PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services is not liable for injury, death, damage, monetary loss or loss of property as a result of participating in any tour. Participants should make their own health and travel insurance arrangements. Travel insurance should cover unplanned costs, e.g., a plane not arriving due to inclement weather.

For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, solicitors and contractors as set forth herewith. PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by bus, boat, airplane, or by other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in the carrying out the arrangements of the tour. PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or charges in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services reserves the right to substitute hotels or similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary. PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. Participants should be in good health and if in doubt should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the itinerary, and other pertinent matter recommended by PI & NL Waanders trading as Southern Birding Services. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended.

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I agree to book this tour. I have read and understood, and accept the Terms and Conditions.

Signature:
Print Name
Date :