

Welcome

To the Alice Springs birding trail



Wedge-tailed Eagle © Mark Carter

Alice Springs and its surrounding area is a fantastic birding destination. The desert landscape of Central Australia is home to 180 bird species in a range of spectacular habitats from sandstone

rock formations, arid woodlands, sandy flats, waterholes and spinifex grasslands.

Important information

The wellbeing of our birds is our top priority. Making as little impact as possible in these environments is of high importance for the future protection of these wonderful species. Although our land is vast, there are restrictions placed on certain areas where access is strictly prohibited.

- Please respect all landowners. Much of the Katherine region is held under traditional Indigenous custodianship, by private landholders or managed conservation areas. Please keep to marked tracks and obey all signage. If you are unsure, please ask.
- Remain a safe distance (5m) from the water's edge when you are close to any body of water as saltwater crocodiles are common and can be found in all natural waterways.
- Try not to disturb or feed any of the wildlife. Limit the use of recordings or 'call-back' and keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts and important feeding sites.
- Ensure you drink plenty of water and have appropriate clothing to protect you from the elements. Sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended.

Alice Springs trails - where to go and what to see

1 Olive Pink Botanic Garden

Tuncks Road, Alice Springs

The Olive Pink Botanic Garden is home to over 600 Central Australian plants as well as excellent birdwatching and wildlife viewing. A network of walking trails takes visitors around the garden which is a great place to see species such as Rainbow Bee-eater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Mistletoebird and Galah.

Top 3 Birds

- Western Bowerbird
- Grey-crowned Babbler
- Australian Ringneck
- Bonus: Southern Boobook



Western Bowerbird © Ninox Photography

2 Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Herbert Heritage Drive

Located just 4km north of Alice Springs town centre, the Telegraph Station Historical Reserve is a picturesque place to immerse yourself in history and enjoy the outdoors. The extensive trails and varied terrain gives birdwatchers great opportunities to spot species such as Whistling Kite, White-browed Babbler and Masked Woodswallow.

Top 3 Birds

- Redthroat
- Red-backed Kingfisher
- Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
- Bonus: Barn Owl



Red Backed Kingfisher © Ninox Photography

3 Ilparpa Claypans Crown Land Reserve

Ilparpa Road, Ilparpa

Just 15 minutes from the centre of Alice Springs, the Claypans is accessible via an unmarked track off Ilparpa road towards the south-west corner of the Ilparpa Swamp Wildlife Protection Area. This location may provide you an opportunity to sight species such as Red-backed Kingfisher, White-eyed Duck, Galah and White-plumed Honeyeater.

Top 3 Birds

- Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
- Black-shouldered Kite
- Mulga Parrot
- Bonus: Spotted Nightjar



Mulga Parrot © Jim Oatley

4 Simpsons Gap

Darken Drive

Simpsons Gap is located in the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park, just west of Alice Springs. The West Macs will draw you in with its majestic beauty and is a fantastic place to find amazing birds. Look for mountain dwellers, the Dusky Grasswren, and other species including Inland Thornbill, Grey Fantail, Southern Whiteface and Painted Finch.

Top 3 Birds

- Dusky Grasswren
- Peregrine Falcon
- Red-capped Robin
- Bonus: Grey-headed Honeyeater



Dusky Grasswren © Jim Oatley

5 ALICE SPRINGS SEWAGE PONDS

COMMONAGE ROAD, ILPARPA

If you have some extra time while in Alice Springs, a visit to the Ilparpa sewage ponds is not to be missed. Home to a variety of birds and an important staging point for migratory birds, the birdlife here is spectacular. Lookout for Pink Cockatoo, Grey Teal, Pied Stilt and Black-fronted Dotterel.

Top 3 Birds

- Red-necked Avocet
- Pink-eared Duck
- Red-capped Plover
- Bonus: Orange Chat



Red-capped Plover © Mark Carter

**Access to this site is conditional. All visitors must contact Tourism Central Australia for a list of accredited guides who can facilitate entry. Costs may apply.*

Heading further out of Alice Springs? Take in a couple of other outstanding spots about an hour from the centre of town. (Please note there is no mobile signal at these locations).

6 Trepghina Gorge Nature Park

Trepghina Gorge, an hour east of Alice Springs is noted for its sheer quartzite cliffs and gorges. The waterholes attract much wildlife and a diverse range of birds. Enjoy seeing species such as Painted Finch, Hooded Robin, Zebra Finch and Variegated Fairy-wren.

Top 3 Birds

- Painted Finch
- Spinifexbird
- Yellow-rumped Thornbill
- Bonus: Golden-backed Honeyeater



Yellow-rumped Thornbill © Jim Oatley

7 Ellery Creek Big Hole

Ellery Creek Big Hole is a spectacular waterhole in the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park, just 90kms west of Alice Springs. The walking tracks offer great opportunities to spot Black-shouldered Kite, Dusky Grasswren, Torresian Crow and Painted Finch.

Top 3 Birds

- Budgerigar
- Australian Reed Warbler
- Striated Pardalote
- Bonus: Collared Goshawk



Budgerigars © Mark Carter

8 Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve

About 100km south of Alice Springs, Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve has scenic sandstone bluffs and cliffs that are a photographers and birdwatchers delight. There are two walking tracks and several viewing platforms that provide the best views of Rainbow Valley. Look out for Pied Honeyeaters, White-winged Fairy-wren, Redthroat, Peregrine Falcon and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

Top 3 Birds

- Crested Bellbird
- Crimson Chat
- Little Button-quail
- Bonus bird: Little Eagle



Crimson Chat © Ninox Photography



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Ninox Photography
Wildlife & landscape photography
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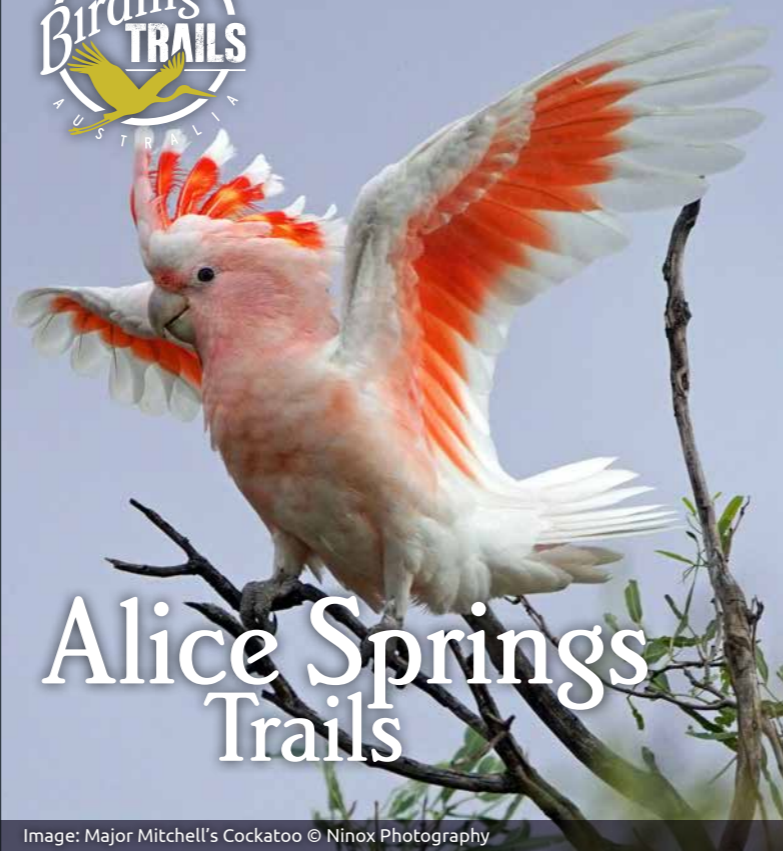


Image: Major Mitchell's Cockatoo © Ninox Photography

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Share your experiences and images with us on any of our social media pages - #BirdingNT

Birds of Alice Springs Checklist

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australasian Grebe | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey-headed Honeyeater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-necked Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> White-plumed Honeyeater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-faced Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> White-fronted Honeyeater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-fronted Dotterel | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-kneed Dotterel | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Honeyeater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whistling Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Honeyeater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Honeyeater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Shouldered Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> Crimson Chat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-breasted Buzzard | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange Chat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Goshawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-browed Pardalote |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collared Sparrowhawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Striated Pardalote |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wedge-tailed Eagle | <input type="checkbox"/> Redthroat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Gerygone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Thornbill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> Slaty-backed Thornbill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spinifex Pigeon | <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-rumped Thornbill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crested Pigeon | <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Thornbill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Dove | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Whiteface |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Banded Whiteface |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pallid Cuckoo | <input type="checkbox"/> White-browed Babbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channelbilled Cuckoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey-crowned Babbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Barn Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> Cinnamon Quail-thrush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Boobook | <input type="checkbox"/> Pied Butcherbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tawny Frogmouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Masked Woodswallow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Nightjar | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-faced Woodswallow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Owlet-nightjar | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Woodswallow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-backed Kingfisher | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Kingfisher | <input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Triller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Bee-eater | <input type="checkbox"/> Rufous Whistler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nankeen Kestrel | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Shrike-thrush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Hobby | <input type="checkbox"/> Crested Bellbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Galah | <input type="checkbox"/> Magpie-lark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Black Cockatoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Crow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major Mitchell's Cockatoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Torresian Crow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cockatiel | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-capped Robin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck | <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Robin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mulga Parrot | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairy Martin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budgerigar | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Martin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bourke's Parrot | <input type="checkbox"/> Spinifexbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Bowerbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Mistletoebird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Splendid Fairy-wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Zebra Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Fairy-wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Variegated Fairy-wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Australasian Pipit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rufous-crowned Emu-wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-necked Avocet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dusky Grasswren | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-capped Plover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pied Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Crake |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singing Honeyeater | |

