

Alice Springs birding tour

21 — 26 April 2013



Australian Ornithological Services



www.philipmaher.com

Participants: Jeannie Grey, David Landon, Judy Spence
Leader: Philip Maher, tour organiser: Patricia Maher

Alice Springs / West MacDonnell Ranges **2013** birding tour checklist
 This list comprises species seen on the 2011, 2012 & 2013 tours.

1.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26
2.	Emu <i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>							S
3.	Brown Quail <i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>							
4.	Freckled Duck <i>Stictonetta naevos</i>			S 3				
5.	Black Swan <i>Cygnus atratus</i>							
6.	Australian Wood Duck <i>Chenonetta jubata</i>			S	S		S	
7.	Pink-eared Duck <i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>			S				S
8.	Australasian Shoveler <i>Anas rhynchotis</i>							
9.	Chestnut Teal <i>Anas castanea</i>			S				
10.	Grey Teal <i>Anas gracilis</i>			S				S
11.	Pacific Black Duck <i>Anas superciliosa</i>			S	S	S		
12.	Hardhead <i>Aythya australis</i>			S		S		
13.	Australasian Grebe <i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>			S	S	S		S
14.	Hoary-headed Grebe <i>Poliocephalus poliocephalus</i>	S	S					
15.	Spotted Dove <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	S	S	S	S	S		
16.	Common Bronzewing <i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>							
17.	Crested Pigeon <i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
18.	Spinifex Pigeon <i>Geophaps plumifera</i>				S			
19.	Diamond Dove <i>Geopelia cuneata</i>			S	(S)			
20.	Peaceful Dove <i>Geopelia striata</i>				S			
21.	Australian Owlet-nightjar <i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>							
22.	Australasian Darter <i>Anhinga novaehollandiae</i>				S	S		
23.	Little Pied Cormorant <i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>				S	S		
24.	Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				S	S		
25.	Little Black Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>							
26.	White-necked Heron <i>Ardea pacifica</i>			S				
27.	Eastern Great Egret <i>Ardea modesta</i>							
28.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26

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29.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26
30.	White-faced Heron <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>			S				
31.	Straw-necked Ibis <i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>		S					
32.	Black-shouldered Kite <i>Elanus axillaris</i>		S					S
33.	Black-breasted Buzzard <i>Hamirostra melanosternon</i>			S				
34.	Whistling Kite <i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>		S	S	S		S	S
35.	Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>		S	S	S	S	S	
36.	Brown Goshawk <i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>				S			
37.	Collared Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>				S			
38.	Spotted Harrier <i>Circus assimilis</i>			S	S		S	
39.	Wedge-tailed Eagle <i>Aquila audax</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
40.	Little Eagle <i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>							
41.	Nankeen Kestrel <i>Falco cenchroides</i>		S			S	S	S
42.	Brown Falcon <i>Falco berigora</i>		S	S			S	S
43.	Australian Hobby <i>Falco longipennis</i>							S
44.	Black Falcon <i>Falco subniger</i>			S				
45.	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>		S		S	S		
46.	Purple Swamphen <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				S	S		
47.	Australian Spotted Crake <i>Porzana fluminea</i>							
48.	Spotless Crake <i>Porzana tabuensis</i>							
49.	Dusky Moorhen <i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>				S			
50.	Black-tailed Native-hen <i>Tribonyx ventralis</i>			S				
51.	Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>			S	S	S		
52.	Australian Bustard <i>Ardeotis australis</i>							
53.	Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			S				
54.	Red-necked Avocet <i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>			S				
55.	Red-capped Plover <i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>			S				
56.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26

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57.	Black-fronted Dotterel <i>Euseyornis melanops</i>			S	S	S		S
58.	Red-kneed Dotterel <i>Erythrogonyx cinctus</i>			S				
59.	Masked Lapwing <i>Vanellus miles</i>		S	S			S	
60.	Banded Lapwing <i>Vanellus tricolor</i>		S					
61.	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>			S				
62.	Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			S				
63.	Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>			S				
64.	Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>			S				
65.	Red-necked Stint <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>			S				
66.	Long-toed Stint <i>Calidris subminuta</i>			S				
67.	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper <i>Calidris acuminata</i>			S				
68.	Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			S				
69.	Little Button-quail <i>Turnix velox</i>							
70.	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>		S		H			
71.	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo <i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>				S		S	S
72.	Galah <i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
73.	Little Corella <i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>			S	H		H	
74.	Cockatiel <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>							
75.	Australian Ringneck <i>Barnardius zonarius</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
76.	Mulga Parrot <i>Psephotus varius</i>		S	S			S	S
77.	Budgerigar <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>			H	S	S		
78.	Bourke's Parrot <i>Neopsephotus bourkii</i>							
79.	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo <i>Chalcites basalis</i>							
80.	Pallid Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis pallidus</i>							S
81.	Red-backed Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus pyrrhopygius</i>							
82.	Sacred Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>							

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84.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26
85.	Rainbow Bee-eater <i>Merops ornatus</i>							
86.	Western Bowerbird <i>Ptilonorhynchus guttatus</i>		S		S	S		
87.	Splendid Fairy-wren <i>Malurus splendens</i>		S	S			S	S
88.	White-winged Fairy-wren <i>Malurus leucopterus</i>			S			S	S
89.	Variegated Fairy-wren <i>Malurus lamberti</i>			S	S	S	S	S
90.	Rufous-crowned Emu-wren <i>Stipiturus ruficeps</i>					S		
91.	Dusky Grasswren <i>Amytornis purnelli</i>				S 2	S 2		
92.	Redthroat <i>Pyrrholaemus brunneus</i>							
93.	Weebill <i>Smicornis brevirostris</i>				S	S	H	
94.	Western Gerygone <i>Gerygone fusca</i>		S					
95.	Slaty-backed Thornbill <i>Acanthiza robustirostris</i>			S				
96.	Yellow-rumped Thornbill <i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>				S			
97.	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill <i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>		S	S				S
98.	Inland Thornbill <i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>		S	S	S		S	S
99.	Southern Whiteface <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>		S				S	S
100.	Banded Whiteface <i>Aphelocephala nigricincta</i>		S					
101.	Red-browed Pardalote <i>Pardalotus rubricatus</i>							
102.	Striated Pardalote <i>Pardalotus striatus</i>							
103.	Pied Honeyeater <i>Certhionyx variegatus</i>							
104.	Singing Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
105.	Grey-headed Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus keartlandi</i>				S	S	S	
106.	Grey-fronted Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus plumulus</i>							
107.	White-plumed Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
108.	White-fronted Honeyeater <i>Purnella albifrons</i>							
109.	Yellow-throated Miner <i>Manorina flavigula</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
110.	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater <i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
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112.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26
113.	Grey Honeyeater <i>Conopophila whitei</i>			S 1				
114.	Crimson Chat <i>Epthianura tricolor</i>						S	
115.	Orange Chat <i>Epthianura aurifrons</i>			S				
116.	Black Honeyeater <i>Sugomel niger</i>							
117.	Brown Honeyeater <i>Lichmera indistincta</i>				S	S	S	
118.	Black-chinned Honeyeater (golden-backed) <i>Melithreptus gularis laetior</i>				S8	H		
119.	Grey-crowned Babbler <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>			S	S			
120.	White-browed Babbler <i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>				S		S	S
121.	Cinnamon Quail-thrush <i>Cinclosoma cinnamomeum</i>							
122.	Chiming Wedgebill <i>Psophodes occidentalis</i>							S
123.	Varied Sittella (white-winged) <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera leucoptera</i>							
124.	Varied Sittella (black-capped) <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera pileata</i>							
125.	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>			S				
126.	White-winged Triller <i>Lalage sueurii</i>							
127.	Rufous Whistler <i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>		S		S		S	S
128.	Grey Shrike-thrush <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>				S	S		
129.	Crested Bellbird <i>Oreoica gutturalis</i>						S	S
130.	Masked Woodswallow <i>Artamus personatus</i>							
131.	Black-faced Woodswallow <i>Artamus cinereus</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
132.	Grey Butcherbird <i>Cracticus torquatus</i>				S			
133.	Pied Butcherbird <i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
134.	Australian Magpie <i>Cracticus tibicen</i>		S	S	S		S	S
135.	Grey Fantail <i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>			S				S
136.	Willie Wagtail <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
137.	Little Crow <i>Corvus bennetti</i>		S	S	S		S	S
138.	Torresian Crow <i>Corvus orru</i>		S		S	S		
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140.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26
141.	Magpie-lark <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
142.	Red-capped Robin <i>Petroica goodenovii</i>			S				
143.	Hooded Robin <i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
144.	Australian Reed-Warbler <i>Acrocephalus australis</i>					S		
145.	Little Grassbird <i>Megalurus gramineus</i>				S	S		
146.	Rufous Songlark <i>Cincloramphus mathewsi</i>						S	S
147.	Brown Songlark <i>Cincloramphus cruralis</i>							
148.	Spinifexbird <i>Eremiornis carteri</i>					H		
149.	White-backed Swallow <i>Cheramoeca leucosterna</i>				S	S	S	S
150.	Welcome Swallow <i>Hirundo neoxena</i>							
151.	Fairy Martin <i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>							
152.	Tree Martin <i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>				S			S
153.	Mistletoebird <i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>				S	H	S	H
154.	Zebra Finch <i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
155.	Painted Finch <i>Emblema pictum</i>							
156.	Australasian Pipit <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S
157.								
158.	Mammals							
159.	Euro		S		S		S	S
160.	Black-flanked rock-wallaby				S	S		
161.	Red kangaroo						S	S
162.	Kultarr <i>Antechinomys laniger</i>							
163.	Dingo			S	H	(S)		S
164.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26
165.	Reptiles							
166.	Central bearded dragon							
167.	Thorny devil							
168.	Long-nosed dragon		S					
169.	Centralian knob-tailed gecko				S			
170.	Butterflies							
171.	Meadow argus						S	S
172.	Small grass blue						S	
173.	Two-spot line blue						S	
174.								
175.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26

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176.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26
177.	Painted lady							
178.	Caper white			S	S	S		S
179.	Lesser wanderer			S	S	S		
180.	Satin azure							
181.	Clearwing							
182.	Species	April 2013	21	22	23	24	25	26

Notes: Alice Springs tour 21 to 26 April 2013

With Central Australia enduring one of the hottest and driest summers on record, it is a wonder there's any birds left in the red centre. Having been out scouting pre-tour for grey honeyeater without a squeak from it or anything much, I declared to the group at dinner that Julia Gillard had more chance of being the Prime Minister after the September election than us finding a **grey honeyeater** the next day. As it turned out, we didn't have too much trouble finding that species, and indeed, couldn't shake it off, so that augers well for Julia! Other sought-after species seen during the tour included two pairs of **dusky grasswren**, a pair of **rufous-crowned emu-wren**, one **spinifex pigeon**, a **diamond dove**, a **black-breasted buzzard**, a **black falcon**, about ten **slaty-backed thornbills**, a pair of **banded whiteface** in company with **southern whitefaces**, around eight **black-chinned honeyeaters**, thirty or so **orange chats** and roughly eight **chiming wedgebill**. A single **spinifexbird** was heard but not seen.

Much to Trisha's chagrin, PowerWater in Alice Springs had run out of keys to the waste treatment plant, so even though we had the access permits, we didn't have a key. Will, a birder from Alice Springs generously came to our rescue. Thanks to local birders, Lisa and Chris, for their kind offers to also assist us. Accompanied by Will, we had a productive couple of hours, getting **long-toed stint**, **red-necked stint**, **black-tailed godwit**, **curlew sandpiper**, **wood sandpiper**, **common sandpiper**, **marsh sandpiper**, **sharp-tailed sandpiper** plus three **freckled ducks**, as well as **orange chats** and a **black falcon**.

Other highlights included three **peregrine falcons**, three **spotted harriers** and a few small flocks of **budgerigars**.

There was a dearth of domestic migratory or nomadic species, with **rufous songlark** and budgies being the only species of that ilk seen. Amazingly, not a single pardalote of either species was seen or heard.

We spotlighted a superb **centralian knob-tailed gecko** near Glen Helen, and at Ormiston Gorge a feisty **long-nosed dragon** bailed us up.

The extremely dry conditions were evident in several skinny dingoes seen and even feral cats, which had bred up during the 2011 mouse plague, were looking the worst for wear.

Not the easiest birding tour I've ever led but David, Jeannie and Judith were always good humoured. Weather was great, mostly high 20s, with only one day at 37°C. Casa Nostra remains a favourite restaurant with a vanilla slice second to none; and we found a little piece of SE Asia in Alice Vietnamese Restaurant, about 15 km out of town.