



# Bellbird

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### ***Red Centre tour report 2016***

Dates of tour: 28-31 July 2016

Leaders: Peter Waanders and Mark Carter



*next Red Centre tour:*

**16-19 July 2017**

**11-14 August 2017**

[go to our tour program page](#)

[download 2017 tour brochure](#)

*Spinifex Pigeon © 2016 Peter Waanders,  
Bellbird Tours*

### **Tour overview**

The “Red Centre”, as Australia’s outback around Alice Springs is named, hosts a variety of exciting bird species. Using Alice Springs as a base, this 4-day tour took daily trips out to different areas targeting enigmatic birds such as Dusky Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Spinifexbird, Grey Honeyeater, Western Bowerbird, Painted Finch and more. Guided by Mark Carter, the tour visited the Eastern and Western MacDonnell Ranges, the sewage works, the Old Telegraph Station, the Tanami Road, Kumoth Bore and the Deep Well Road.

## Red Centre tour report 28-31 July 2016

### Daily account

**Day 1:** Great conditions around Alice Springs had led to profusely flowering shrubs and wildflowers and associated birdlife. It took no time at all to track down a party of Dusky Grasswrens which provided photographic views, while flocks of Budgerigars wheeling through the skies with the MacDonnell Ranges in the background, provided the ultimate Australian birding experience.

**Day 2:** Mark guided the tour to some spinifex areas surrounding Alice Springs where great views were had of Spinifex Pigeon and a number of Cinnamon Quail-thrushes, while also catching up with Slaty-backed Thornbills. Grey-headed Honeyeater, Red-browed Pardalot and Crimson and Orange Chats were some of today's other highlights. A sumptuous lunch in the botanical gardens yielded Western Bowerbird and Grey-crowned Babbler.

**Day 3:** Further spinifex-bashing today provided good views of the tiny and shy Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, the equally elusive Spinifexbird and more Dusky Grasswrens while the nomadic Pied, Black and White-fronted Honeyeaters were out in force. The group had distant views of Painted Finches in the rock formations near town.

**Day 4:** Lucky last day around Alice Springs with beautiful, calm, sunny spring-like weather resulted in Chiming Wedgebill, Banded Whiteface, Western Bowerbird and daytime views of Bourke's Parrot. At the end of the day, guests were treated to views of Southern Boobook at a roost.

For 2017, we're offering 2 Red Centre tours in July and August.

[Read the 2017 Red Centre brochure here.](#)

*Dusky Grasswren © C Watson, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren © G Jones, Western Bowerbird © C Watson*



Red Centre tour list of birds seen 28-31 July 2016

Emu	Purple Swamphen	Sacred Kingfisher
Black Swan	Black-tailed Native-hen	Rainbow Bee-eater
Australian Wood Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Nankeen Kestrel
Pink-eared Duck	Eurasian Coot	Brown Falcon
Grey Teal	Little Button-quail	Australian Hobby
Chestnut Teal	Black-winged Stilt	Black Falcon
Pacific Black Duck	Red-capped Plover	Peregrine Falcon
Australasian Shoveler	Black-fronted Dotterel	Galah
Hardhead	Red-kneed Dotterel	Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
Australasian Grebe	Banded Lapwing	Little Corella
Hoary-headed Grebe	Masked Lapwing	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Great Crested Grebe	Wood Sandpiper	Cockatiel
Glossy Ibis	Common Greenshank	Rainbow Lorikeet
Australian White Ibis	Red-necked Stint	Australian (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck
Straw-necked Ibis	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Mulga Parrot
Great Egret	Australian Pratincole	Budgerigar
White-necked Heron	Whiskered Tern	Bourke's Parrot
White-faced Heron	Silver Gull	Western Bowerbird
Australian Pelican	Spotted Dove	White-browed Treecreeper
Little Pied Cormorant	Common Bronzewing	Splendid Fairy-wren
Great Cormorant	Spinifex Pigeon	White-winged Fairy-wren
Little Black Cormorant	Crested Pigeon	Variiegated Fairy-wren
Australasian Darter	Diamond Dove	Rufous-crowned Emu-wren
Black-shouldered Kite	Peaceful Dove	Dusky Grasswren
Whistling Kite	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Pied Honeyeater
Black Kite	Black-eared Cuckoo	Singing Honeyeater
Black-breasted Buzzard	Pallid Cuckoo	Grey-headed Honeyeater
Collared Sparrowhawk	Eastern Barn Owl	Grey-fronted Honeyeater
Spotted Harrier	Southern Boobook	White-plumed Honeyeater
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Tawny Frogmouth	White-fronted Honeyeater
Little Eagle	Red-backed Kingfisher	

Red Centre tour list of birds seen 28-31 July 2016

Yellow-throated Miner	White-winged Triller
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Varied Sittella
Crimson Chat	Rufous Whistler
Orange Chat	Grey Shrike-thrush
Black Honeyeater	Crested Bellbird
Brown Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Black-chinned Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Red-browed Pardalote	Magpie-lark
Striated Pardalote	Little Crow
Redthroat	Torresian Crow
Weebill	Jacky Winter
Western Gerygone	Red-capped Robin
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Hooded Robin
Slaty-backed Thornbill	White-backed Swallow
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Inland Thornbill	Fairy Martin
Southern Whiteface	Tree Martin
Banded Whiteface	Australian Reed-Warbler
White-browed Babbler	Little Grassbird
Grey-crowned Babbler	Rufous Songlark
Cinnamon Quail-thrush	Brown Songlark
Chiming Wedgebill	Spinifexbird
Grey Butcherbird	Mistletoebird
Pied Butcherbird	Zebra Finch
Australian Magpie	Painted Finch
White-breasted Woodswallow	Australasian Pipit
Masked Woodswallow	
White-browed Woodswallow	
Black-faced Woodswallow	
Little Woodswallow	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	