Welcome
To the Alice Springs birding trail

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 trails 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
Tunks 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

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

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 Swamps 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

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 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

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

6 Trephina Gorge Nature Park
Trephina 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 Vanellus Fairy-wren.

Top 3 Birds
- Painted Finch
- Spinifexfowl
- Yellow-rumped Thornbill

Bonus: Golden-backed Honeyeater

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, Torr Jefferis Crow and Painted Finch.

Top 3 Birds
- Budgerigar
- Australian Reed Warbler
- Striated Pardalote

Bonus: Collared Cuckoo-shrike

8 Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve
About 10km south of Alice Springs, Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve has scenic sandstone cliffs and cliffs that are a photographers and birdwatchers delight. There are two walking trails 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
Birds of Alice Springs Checklist

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