

NORTHERN TERRITORY
June 28-July 13, 2024



Author

Robert Tuveson, Lund, Sweden, RobTuveson@gmail.com

Introduction

This was my second visit to Australia, after a trip to Queensland in July to August 2016. All in all, I saw 242 species (113 lifers), which exceeded my expectations. 99 of the species seen are endemic to Australia. Doing an independent birding trip to Northern Territory is straightforward but, of course, requires some planning. I did not find that many recently published reports from the region, why, hopefully, this text will fill a gap and help you in your planning process.

Species with a limited range, hence the main target species for most birders, are *Chestnut Rail*, *Chestnut-backed Buttonquail*, *Red Goshawk*, *Rufous Owl*, *Red-collared-* and *Varied Lorikeet*, *Northern Rosella*, *Hooded Parrot*, *Partridge Pigeon*, *White-quilled-* and *Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon*, *Black-banded Fruit Dove*, *Rainbow Pitta*, *Green-backed Gerygone*, *Purple-crowned Fairywren*, *Rufous-crowned Emu-wren*, *White-throated-*, *Rufous-* and *Dusky Grasswren*, *White-lined-* and *Grey Honeyeater*, *Helmeted Friarbird*, *Cinnamon Quail-thrush*, *Silver-backed Butcherbird*, *Arafura Fantail*, *Buff-sided Robin*, *Northern Shrike-tit*, *Arafura-* and *Sandstone Shrike-thrush*, *Long-tailed-* and *Gouldian Finch* and *Pictorella-* and *Yellow-rumped Mannikin*. Of these 33 species, I managed to see 27. The species I did not encounter were *Chestnut-backed Buttonquail*, *Red Goshawk*, *White-throated-* and *Rufous Grasswren*, *Northern Shrike-tit* and *Pictorella Mannikin*. Below you will find some information also about these species.

Cars were rented through Tourism Central Australia (www.discovercentralaustralia.com). I found their service to be excellent. The car rental company was Thrifty. An international driving licence was needed. The main reason behind renting through an intermediary was to get unlimited kilometres, which is often not possible to get when renting directly from the rental car agencies. A 4WD was rented for one day in Alice Springs (a Suzuki Jinmy), to be able to bird Santa Teresa Rd, but apart for that one day 2WD cars were used. The only time I regretted not having a 4WD was when I drove along Victoria Highway between Katherine and Timber Creek. There were several unsealed roads leading south from the highway where target species had been reported, not least Gorrie/Dry River and Buchanan Highway. If one wants to try for *White-throated Grasswren* at Jim Jim Falls a 4WD is required according to some sources. All in all, the cost for car rental was 3115 AU\$, which is hefty. All in all, I drove 3893 km (Darwin section 2267 km and Alice Springs section 1626 km).

Overall, I am very satisfied with the trip. I found birding to be easy (not too many skulkers!), weather to be pleasant (apart from the Darwin area with 36 degrees and high humidity) and scenery sometimes stunning, especially at Ubirr in Kakadu, Victoria River Escarpment Hike, West MacDonnell NP and Uluru/Kata Tjuta NP. In hindsight, would I have done something differently? The only thing I can come up with is to have at least one more day in Uluru/Kata Tjuta NP. The drive there from Erldunda is a very long and monotonous one, and there are many things to see and do in the area. Furthermore, that would also mean more time to try to find the difficult *Rufous Grasswren* near Yulara.

Itinerary

Date	Locations	Lodging
June 28	Darwin: Flight from Singapore to Darwin (Singapore Airlines, 8.30 am to 2.45 pm) -> Palmerston	Darwin: Rydges Palmerston
June 29	Darwin: Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Ln) -> George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens -> East Point Reserve (Monsoon Forest Walk, Mangrove Boardwalk and far end) -> Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Shore -> Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove)	Darwin: Rydges Palmerston
June 30	Darwin to Jabiru: Bill Lewis Park (Palmerston) -> Adelaide River Bridge -> Fogg Dam	Jabiru: Anbinik Kakadu Resort
July 1	Kakadu NP: Nawurlandja Lookout -> Nanguluwurr -> Jabiru Airport -> Bardedjilidji Sandstone Walk -> Cahills Crossing -> Ubirr	Jabiru: Anbinik Kakadu Resort
July 2	Jabiru to Pine Creek: Jabiru Airport -> Bowali Visitors Centre -> Nourlangie Rock -> Anbangbang Billabong -> Cooinda -> Mary River Ranger Station -> Pine Creek	Pine Creek Hotel
July 3	Pine Creek to Victoria River Roadhouse: Central Arnhem Road -> stops along Victoria Hwy	Victoria River Roadhouse
July 4	Victoria River Roadhouse to Timber Creek: Victoria River Escarpment Hike -> Skull Creek Minor -> Policeman's Point -> Bradshaw Bridge -> Timber Creek Airstrip -> Timber Creek Caravan Park	Timber Creek Travellers Rest
July 5	Timber Creek to Katherine: Bradshaw Bridge -> Nackeroo Monument & Lookout -> Timber Creek Airstrip -> Katherine Racecourse -> Central Arnhem Rd -> Manbulloo Homestead	Katherine: Manbulloo Homestead Caravan Park
July 6	Katherine to Darwin: Manbulloo Homestead -> Buffalo Creek -> Muirhead bushland -> Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove) -> Howard Springs Nature Park -> Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Ln)	Rydges Palmerston
July 7	Darwin to Alice Springs: Howard Springs Nature Park -> Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Ln) -> Flight Darwin to Alice Springs (Qantas Airlines, 11.30 am to 1.35 pm) -> Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole Site	Alice Springs: Alice's Secret Travellers Inn
July 8	Alice Springs: Bourke's Parrot Swamp -> Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole site -> Alice Springs Sewage Works -> Olive Pink Botanic Garden	Alice Springs: Alice's Secret Travellers Inn
July 9	West MacDonnell NP: Alice Springs Desert Park Entrance -> Neil Hargrave Lookout -> Ormiston Gorge -> Glen Helen Gorge	Alice Springs: Alice's Secret Travellers Inn
July 10	Alice Springs to Erldunda: John Flynn's Grave -> Alice Springs Telegraph Historical Reserve -> Olive Pink Botanic Garden -> Stuarts Well -> Cannonball Run Monument -> Palmer River Crossing	Erldunda Desert Oaks Resort
July 11	Erldunda to Yulara: Stuart Hwy, 21 km north of Erldunda -> stops along Lasseter Hwy -> Kata Tjuta NP (Valley of the Winds)	Yulara: Outback Hotel & Lodge
July 12	Yulara to Alice Springs to Darwin: Dunefield near Yulara -> Cannonball Run Monument -> Alice Springs -> Flight from Alice Springs to Darwin (Qantas Airlines, 7.45 pm to 9.50 pm)	Darwin: The Cavenagh
July 13	Darwin: Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Ln) -> Charles Darwin University -> Casuarina Coastal Reserve (Dariba Rd) -> Buffalo Creek Shore -> Flight from Darwin to Singapore (Singapore Airlines, 4 pm to 7.15 pm)	

Recommended material

Literature

Dolby, Tim and Rohan Clarke, *Finding Australian Birds. A Field Guide to Birding Locations*, CSIRO Publishing, 2014.

Menkhorst, Peter et al, *The Australian Bird Guide*, CSIRO Publishing, 2019 (2nd edition).

Trip Reports and information about birding

Aviceda, *Birding Northern Territory July/August 2020 Part 1-3*:

<https://aviceda.org/18/>

<https://aviceda.org/262/>

<https://aviceda.org/330/>

Budget Birders, *We made a huge mistake: We followed the rules!*:

<https://budgetbirders.com/2023/10/13/we-made-a-huge-mistake-we-followed-the-rules/>

Reid, Ian and Paul Coddington, *Northern Territory, Top End 7-16 Aug 2020*:

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~ianr/Birding/Reports/Top%20End%20report%20new.pdf>

Rockjumper, *Kakadu NP & the Top End 2nd to 16th July 2018*:

<https://app.rockjumperbirding.com/sites/rockjumper/attachments/9/Trip%20Report%20-%20RBL%20Australia%20-%20Kakadu%20NP%20&%20the%20Top%20End%202018.pdf>

Teltscher, Christian, *Top End - Northern Territory, Australia, 12 August 2019-24 August 2019*:

<https://www.orniverse.com/report/149>

Tracks Birding, *Guide to finding Birds around Darwin, NT*:

<https://www.tracksbirding.com.au/darwin/>

Tracks Birding, *Guide to finding Birds in Kakadu National Park, NT*:

<https://www.tracksbirding.com.au/kakadu/>

Tracks Birding, *Guide to finding Birds around Katherine and the Victoria River, NT*:

<https://www.tracksbirding.com.au/katherine/>

Tracks Birding, *Guide to finding Birds around Alice Springs, NT*:

<https://www.tracksbirding.com.au/alicesprings/>

Apps

Morcombe & Stewart Guide

<https://apps.apple.com/au/app/morcombe-stewart-guide/id397979505>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.coolideas.eproducts.ausbirds&hl=en&pli=1>

Pizzey and Knight Birds of Aus

<https://apps.apple.com/au/app/pizzey-and-knight-birds-of-aus/id714625973>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.pkbirds&hl=en_AU

Site-by-site Account

Darwin area

I spent one full day in the Darwin area plus one afternoon and two mornings. This was sufficient. If one is very lucky and focused, one day can be enough to secure all the target species in the area, but to be on the safe side it might be better to have 1,5 to 2 days. I had great help from skilful and knowledgeable local birder Magen Pettit both before, in the planning stage, and during the trip. We birded together a few times when in the Darwin area. Peter Brown, another local birder, joined us once. I found Magen's name in a trip report and her contact details on e-bird. When visiting Darwin it is paramount to time the visits to some of the locations according to tides. I found this chart helpful:

<https://tides.willyweather.com.au/nt/darwin/darwin.html>

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Ln) (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1764201>) is a very productive birding site which I visited four (!) times. Finally, I succeeded in finding the main target here, *Buff-banded Rail*. Other species recorded here were *Channel-billed Cuckoo*, *Brush Cuckoo*, *Australian Pratincole*, *Black-necked Stork* and *Tawny Grassbird*.

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1121945>) is the classical site for *Rufous Owl*. I doubt I would have found the birds without the help from Magen, why I recommend getting advice from local birders. This is also a good location for *Torresian Imperial Pigeon*.

We visited East Point late morning, where the bird activity was not very high. Nevertheless, we managed to find our target species. At the Monsoon Forest Walk (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1761184>)



Rufous Owl

we saw *Little Bronze Cuckoo*, *Rufous-banded Honeyeater* and *Grey Whistler*. At East Point far end (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1761188>) we added *Yellow-tinted Honeyeater* and *Sooty Oystercatcher*. At the Mangrove Boardwalk (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2968446>) we added *Torresian Kingfisher*, *Red-headed Myzomela*, *Helmeted Friarbird*, *Mangrove Gerygone*, *Black Butcherbird* and *Mangrove Robin*.

Buffalo Creek (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L989144>) was visited twice. The best time to visit this location is supposedly on a 4.5 meter falling tide. The main targets were seen: *Chestnut Rail*, *Green-backed Gerygone*, *Arafura Fantail*, *Canary White-eye*, *Helmeted Friarbird*, *Mangrove Gerygone* and *Arafura Shrikethrush*. This is also a good site for *Great-billed Heron*, especially if you join Christopher Spooner on one of his boat trips. Furthermore, it seems to be the best site at present for *Mangrove Fantail*. The latter, though, is very difficult. One might want to be aware that according to local birders this species is more uncommon than the e-bird reports from the area suggest. Some of these concern misidentified birds (*Northern Fantail* which is common in mangroves).



Buffalo Creek

The nearby Lee Point (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1175186>) and Buffalo Creek Shore (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3128558>) provided the possibility to study terns and shorebirds. Albeit numbers were not high, quality was good: *Sooty Oystercatcher*, *Beach Stone-curlew*, *Red-capped Plover*, *Red-necked Stint*, *Far Eastern Curlew*, *Great Knot*, *Lesser- and Greater Crested Tern* and *Australian Pelican*.

Nearby is Muirhead Bushland (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L9853688>). This is a good site for *Bar-breasted Honeyeater*.

We visited the mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove) twice, both times at low tide (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1175729>). The main targets here are *Mangrove Golden* - and *White-breasted Whistler*. The first time, late afternoon, we failed to find the targets, but during our second visit (12 noon) we had excellent sightings of both species. This shows that one might need more than one day in the Darwin area, to have the opportunity to make a second visit if necessary. To bird this site together with local birders is recommended - to find one's way through the mangroves towards the mudflats on a hardly notable trail and then back again is not, according to me, as straightforward as it might seem. Bring plenty of water - it gets extremely hot here during the day.



White-breasted Whistler, Mangroves near Orchard Rd

Howard Springs Nature Park (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1064118>) was visited as a good site for *Rainbow Pitta*. We went there twice, an evening visit followed by a morning visit. Interestingly, we only had quick glimpses of the target in the evening (several individuals) while it was seen well during the morning visit. Other notable species recorded at the site were *Arafura Shrikethrush* and *Arafura Fantail*.

Bill Lewis Park in Palmerston was visited as a good site for *Silver-backed Butcherbird*, recommended by Magen's birding friend Ben Hoffmann. I easily found a couple in this small and attractive park. In hindsight, I could have skipped this site since I saw the species at many other locations. Nearby Marlow Lagoon Recreation Area is supposedly a great birdwatching area if one has time. It is easy to access and is the closest place to Darwin for reliable sightings of *Silver-backed Butcherbird* and *Yellow-throated Miner*.

Fogg Dam and Adelaide River Crossing

Fogg Dam (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L958432>) is an area where one can easily enjoy many hours of high-quality birding. I spent a few hours birding along the Monsoon Forest Walk. Then I took a shorter stroll along the Waterlily Walk. Finally, I drove along the Dam Wall to Pandanus Lookout. The 51 species recorded here include *Arafura Shrikethrush*, *Rufous-banded Honeyeater*, *Pied Heron*, *Rainbow Pitta*, *Broad-billed Flycatcher*, *Rose-crowned Fruit Dove*, *Green-backed Gerygone* and *Arafura Fantail*. Some species possible here that I did not get are *Spotted Nightjar* (rare, migratory during the dry season) and *White-browed Crake*. The latter is supposedly easy in the right habitat and responsive to playback, but since I already had seen the bird in Queensland I did not make an effort to see it.

Adelaide River Crossing is right by Arnhem highway (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1174344>). I visited this site twice - first thing in the morning, and then after my visit to Fogg Dam. I did not find this location to be very productive, but on my second attempt I managed to see the main target, *Mangrove Golden Whistler* (a female).



Partidge Pigeon, Kakadu NP

Kakadu NP

Jabiru is the main "town" in Kakadu NP. There are several hotels, a gas station and a supermarket there. I stayed two nights in Anbinik Kakadu Resort, which was the cheapest option. When it comes to what is the optimal place to stay when birding in Kakadu NP it all depends. There are not many birding locations in Jabiru itself, and main locations like Ubirr and Nourlangie (Burrungkuy) are some distance away (44 km and 37 km respectively). An alternative is to stay two nights in Cooina. This is preferred if one plans to take the early morning Yellow Water Cruise (<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/do/tours/yellow-water-cruises/>). I decided to stay in Jabiru for two reasons, one being the fact that Cooina Lodge

was fully booked, the second that I had no intention on going on the Yellow Water Cruise, because I wanted to have as much early morning time as possible to secure my main target birds. Jabiru seems to be the best place to find *Partridge Pigeon*. There are three main locations: Jabiru Airport (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L9960251>), Bowali Visitors Centre (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1175700>) and the intersection of Arnhem Highway and the road going to Ubirr. It took some time and effort, but on my third visit to Bowali Visitors Centre (early morning) I was rewarded by excellent views of a bird foraging close to the car park.

Ubirr (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L984086>) is a must, albeit maybe not for birding reasons. The rock art here is spectacular and so is the sunset views. The only interesting bird species seen here was *Sandstone Shrikethrush*. This is a good site for *Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon*, albeit I did not see any. Nearby, is Bardedjilidji Sandstone Walk (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1608618>). I did not spend much time here, because I was in a hurry to get to Ubirr at sunset, but I managed to find my main target, *Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon*, within minutes.



Ubirr at sunset

The Nourlangie area (Burrungkuy) is a key location in Kakadu NP. To be able to secure all target species, I planned for two early mornings here. As it turned out, one was enough. The first morning, I visited Nawurlandja Lookout (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2538937>) and Nanguluwurr (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1606305>). The trek up to Nawurlandja Lookout produced great views and to my great delight some sought-after species: *White-lined Honeyeater* and *Black-banded Fruit Dove*. Furthermore, I saw *Sandstone Shrikethrush* and *Purple-backed Fairywren* of the subspecies *dulcis*, i.e. "Lavender-flanked Fairywren". The second location visited was Nawurlandja Lookout. The last stretch of road before the parking

lot was unsealed and corrugated so I decided to park the car by the end of the sealed road and walk. As it turned out, this was a good choice, because during the walk along the unsealed road towards the parking area I heard and then saw the first *Black-tailed Treecreepers* of the trip. The walk from the parking area to the rock art site did not yield many birds at all. *Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeons* and *Partridge Pigeons* had been reported at this site, but I did not find any despite a lot of effort. The second morning visit was focused on Nourlangie Rock (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1120554>). Having spent 1,5 hours of the morning searching for *Partridge Pigeon* around Jabiru, I arrived pretty late. Bird activity was very low. I walked Anbangbang Rock Art loop-walk and also visited the Gunwarddehwarde look-out. Since I had already seen the main target species here, I focused on enjoying the rock art. Nevertheless, I managed to add *Silver-crowned Friarbird* to the trip list. After this I made a short detour to Anbangbang Billabong (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1840869>), which yielded *Glossy Ibis*.



White-lined Honeyeater, Nawurlandja Lookout

On my way towards Pine Creek I made a productive stop at Mary River Ranger Station (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2538136>). Best birds seen were *Northern Rosella*, *Varied Lorikeet* and *Silver-backed Butcherbird*.

Pine Creek

I arrived to Pine Creek in the evening, checked in to my hotel (Pine Creek Hotel) and then made the short walk down to Lazy Lizard Tavern and Caravan Park (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L7971566>). Within minutes I had great views of 60 *Hooded Parrots* coming to drink water from a puddle.

Katherine

One of my favourite birding spots of the entire trip was Central Arnhem Road. I birded here one morning and one evening. As it turned out the evening was more productive, surprisingly enough. The road is sealed, one lane, and there was not a lot of traffic, at least not when I visited. While walking along the road, I was told to watch out for and not approach Buffalo by the driver of a car passing by. The main target species here for birders is *Northern Shrike-tit*. Unfortunately, I could not locate this species despite visiting a site where the species had been reported twice shortly before my visit (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3049075>). Nevertheless, the site was very rewarding: *Black-tailed Treecreeper*, *Black-chinned Honeyeater*, *Silver-backed Butcherbird*, *Long-tailed Finch*, *Pallid Cuckoo*, *Varied Lorikeet*, *Varied Sittella* and *Jacky Winter*. A target species possible along Central Arnhem Road is *Red-chested Buttonquail*, but a lot of luck and effort is needed to succeed.

Katherine Racecourse (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L28577674>) was chosen as a stake-out for *Red-backed Kingfisher*. They were easily found. As it seems, one is allowed to walk into the area without permission. I asked some people working there and they said it was perfectly ok for me to walk around within the fenced area.

I stayed for one night at Manbulloo Homestead Caravan Park. They had great motel rooms for 100 AU\$. At night, I heard calling *Barking Owl*, *Bush Stone-curlew* and *Brown Quail* and in the early morning I saw 8 *Australian Bustards* in the fields nearby (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2540278>).

Victoria Highway, Victoria River Roadhouse and Victoria River Escarpment Hike

It takes 2,5 hours to drive from Katherine to Victoria River Roadhouse along Victoria Highway. There are several possible detours along the way where one can search for target species, for example Chainman (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1275248>) and Chinaman Creeks (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1120560>), Gorrie/Dry River and Buntine Highway (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4851543>). Since I had spent more time than planned birding along Central Arnhem Road in the morning, I did not have much time to bird all these places. Nevertheless, I really wanted to bird along Gorrie/Dry River, since it is a good place to search for difficult target species like *Northern Shrike-tit* and *Chestnut-backed Buttonquail*. Unfortunately, when reaching that road it turned out that it was unsealed, so I decided to skip it. After my trip, I have been in contact with birders who have made reports from along this road. According to one of them the road "is unsealed and corrugated with a few patches of bulldust". In the end, I only made one stop along the entire stretch from Katherine to Victoria River Roadhouse, at a place called Watering Point on Victoria Highway (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4881810>). This is the first place where I saw *Star Finch* and *Golden-headed Cisticola*.

Victoria River Crossing (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1120635>), near Victoria River Roadhouse, is a classical site for *Purple-crowned Fairywren* and I easily found a pair in long grass close to the river, southwest of the bridge.

Victoria River Escarpment Hike (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2538507>) starts at a parking area only three minutes drive (2 km) from Victoria River Roadhouse. When reaching the parking area at dawn, I heard a *Purple-crowned Fairywren* singing. The hike was very rewarding when it comes to views of the beautiful landscape, but birding was slow, to say the least. It took me a while, but eventually I found a *White-quilled Rock Pigeon*, the main target here.



View from Victoria River Escarpment Hike

Timber Creek Area

Skull Creek Minor (-15.734240, 130.750989) was a random stop I made while driving from Victoria River Escarpment Hike towards Timber Creek. As it turned out this was the only place where I saw *Gouldian Finch*. Other species recorded here were *Masked-* and *Long-tailed Finch* and *Paperbark Flycatcher*.

Timber Creek Caravan Park/Timber Creek Travellers Rest has small motel rooms. I stayed in one of these. This is also a very good place to see *Buff-sided Robin*. They are to be found along a creek within the Caravan Park area. I actually did not find them on my first attempt in the middle of the day, despite spending a lot of time along the creek, which made me surprised and worried, but happily enough I had excellent views in the evening at exactly the same spot where I had searched earlier in the day. *Spotted Nightjar* is sometimes found hawking moths by the streetlights in the town centre, but I did not find any.

Policeman's Point Lookout (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1174858>) offers great views over Victoria River. The road there is unsealed so I decided to walk there from Victoria Highway (1.8 km). I visited this site in the middle of the day, hence bird activity was not very high. Nevertheless, I managed to find *Diamond Dove* and *Masked-* and *Star Finch*. Other species possible here include *Gouldian Finch*, *Purple-crowned Fairywren*, *Varied Lorikeet*, *Buff-sided Robin* and *Yellow-rumped Mannikin*.

Timber Creek Airstrip (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1120632>) is a good place for raptors and finches. I visited the site twice and recorded *Spotted Harrier*, *Australian Hobby*, *Brown*

Falcon, Singing Bush Lark and Star Finch. This is also a good location for *Gouldian Finch* and *Pictorella Mannikin*, albeit I unfortunately did not see these two species here.



Spotted Harrier, Timber Creek Airstrip

There is a sealed road leading up to Nackerroo Monument and Lookout (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L9500712>). Here, I saw *Grey-fronted* and *Banded Honeyeater* and *Masked Finch*. Other possible species here include *Chestnut-backed Buttonquail*, *Gouldian Finch*, *Australian Owlet-nightjar* and *Black-tailed Treecreeper*.

Bradshaw Bridge (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2538504>) is a nice birding spot. I visited it twice. On my second attempt I managed to locate the main target here, *Yellow-rumped Mannikin*. It took some dedicated work, since the bird was in a large flock of *Chestnut-breasted Mannikins*, flying back and forth in reeds/tall grass east and west of the bridge. Finally, when close to giving up, I found a bird perched in a small tree just east of the bridge. What a relief! Here I also recorded a *Purple-crowned Fairywren* pair.

Alice Springs

Alice Springs has become a national flashpoint in Australia because of large social problems, criminality and violence. Some sources rank it as among the 20 most dangerous cities in the world. This is something I found out by coincidence only a couple of weeks before the trip, after I had booked everything. If I had known before I made the bookings, I might have decided to skip it. When actually there, I was advised by my hostel host not to walk alone in the city centre after 8 pm which I adhered to. My car was parked behind a barbed wire fence. Apparently, they have issues with youngsters throwing stones at and stealing cars for fun. Having said this, I personally felt safe when driving and birding in the Alice Springs area and I am very happy that I included this part of Australia in my itinerary.

When in Alice Springs, where the night sky is fabulous, I took part of Earth Sanctuary's program (<https://www.earth-sanctuary.com.au>). This is something I really recommend. Their "Dinner & Stars" was great!



Bourke's Parrot, Bourke's Parrot Swamp, Santa Teresa Road

Santa Teresa Road is a "must". The road is gradually being sealed. When I visited, the first 10 kms or so from the airport was a good sealed road, but after that it was unsealed, in parts heavily corrugated. I was recommended by Tourism Central Australia to book a 4WD for this road and I am happy I followed their advice. I rented this car for 24 hours and could therefore only visit this location twice, once in late afternoon/early evening and once in the early morning. On my first visit in the late afternoon, I focused on the Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole Site (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3691409>), which I birded together with local birder Dorothy Latimer (see below) whose aim was to get photographs of *Rufous-crowned Emu-wrens*. Having read mouth-watering recent reports from the site, I was somewhat disappointed when I found birding extremely slow and birds few and far between, despite a lot of walking. We actually only recorded four species, none of the targets. A waterhole to the northeast was somewhat better: *Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater*, *Crimson Chat*, *Rufous Songlark* and *Red-browed Pardalote*. The day after, I left Alice Springs at dawn in a thick fog. Happily enough the fog soon lifted and I could start searching for the target species. The first stop was made at Bourke's Parrot Swamp (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2532935>). This was a completely different story compared to yesterday's visit - there were birds everywhere and the targets were secured one after the other: *Bourke's Parrot*, *Southern Whiteface*, *Red-capped-* and *Hooded Robin* and *Yellow-rumped-*, *Slaty-backed-* and *Chestnut-rumped Thornbill*. After this success, it was with lighter steps that I revisited yesterday's site. Birds were few and far between that day too but included some sought-after and difficult species: *Rufous-crowned Emu-wren* and *Dusky Grasswren*. When it comes to the Emu-wrens Magen Pettit had advised me to focus on trying to hear their thin calls and then locate them while walking around in the spinifex habitat. This paid off - after

an hour or so I heard the call nearby, and it did not take much time to locate first the male followed by the female. I only saw the birds for a few seconds, and I could not relocate them and only had captured the tail of the female on photograph, but I nevertheless felt euphoria, since I know how difficult this species is. Other possible species at this site include *Painted Finch*, *Spinifexbird*, *Cinnamon Quail-thrush*, *Banded Whiteface*, *Chiming Wedgebill* and *White-backed Swallow*.

Olive Pink Botanic Garden (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1176748>) is located close to the city centre in Alice Springs. The main reason for me visiting this place was to see *Western Bowerbird*. I actually did not find any on my first visit, despite the small size of the area, but on my second attempt I managed to find two birds and the bower. Here, I also recorded *Spotted Dove* and *Red-browed Pardalote*.



Redthroat, Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L956488>) is a place where one can easily spend several hours. This is a site one has to visit with a local guide. It is not as difficult and time-consuming as it might seem when reading the information here: <https://www.powerwater.com.au/about/community/bird-watching>. I simply filled in the online safety induction and indemnity form, followed by contacting Tourism Central Australia. They provided me with a list of guides and I sent an e-mail to one of the guides: Dorothy Latimer. We birded the area for 1 h 45 minutes, since I had to return my rental car, but I managed to secure the target species in this short amount of time: *Pink-eared Duck*, *Hoary-headed Grebe*, *Black-tailed Nativehen*, *Australian Crake*, *Red-necked Avocet*, *Red-kneed Dotterel*, *Australian Reed Warbler* and *Little Grassbird*.

Alice Springs Desert Park Entrance (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2782364>) was visited during two mornings. The main target here is *Grey Honeyeater*. Both times I parked here: -23.699862, 133.827773. The first morning, I followed trails leading south and southeast. I

did not find the main target, but had great views of *White-browed Babbler*, *Crested Bellbird*, *Hooded Robin* and *Pallid Cuckoo*. The second morning I decided to follow trails leading west towards John Flynn's Grave Historical Reserve. I walked and walked looking for copses of mulga trees. After some time I found one that looked large enough, southwest of John Flynn's Grave, walked into the area and within a minute or two heard the calls of a *Grey Honeyeater*. Unbelievable! Some time later I found a second bird (see photograph p. 32) singing from a mulga tree. Fabulous! Other good birds recorded during my second visit were *Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo*, *Western Gerygone* and *Little Buttonquail*.

Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1121938>) was visited since I had read a recent e-bird report of *Redthroat* in the area. This was a species with only one report in the region the last couple of weeks previous to my visit, so I understood this would probably be my only chance to connect with this species. When I reached the area my heart sank - there was no obvious place to look for *Redthroats* and several different trails to choose from. I decided to go for Bradshaw Walk and as it turned out this was a good decision. Birding there in the middle of the day it was very hot and bird activity low, but halfway through the trail I heard the calls of *Redthroats* and had great views of three birds. Excellent!



Spinifexbird, Ormiston Gorge

West MacDonnell NP

It took me 1,5 hours to drive from Alice Springs Desert Park to Ormiston Gorge. Since I had spent several hours at the Desert Park in the morning, it was already pretty late when I reached Ormiston Gorge (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4853674>). I turned off Namatjira Drive onto Ormiston Gorge Access Road and parked the car almost immediately after the turn off.

Within seconds, I had secured my target here, *Spinifexbird*. Furthermore, to my delight, I found two *White-fronted Honeyeaters*. The Ormiston Gorge Kiosk area was crowded with people, but nevertheless I found six *Spinifex Pigeons* and a *Grey Shrikethrush* there. The walk to Ormiston Gorge Waterhole and Ghost Gum Lookout did not yield any new birds, but provided a very beautiful scenery. Other possible species in this area include *Dusky Grasswren*, *Grey Fantail* and *Painted Finch*. After visiting Ormiston Gorge, and not having seen *Painted Finch* there, I decided to drive the short distance (11 km) to Glen Helen Gorge where that species had been reported recently. I was running out of time now and understood that this would be my last chance to see *Painted Finch*, a difficult species. I more or less ran down Glen Helen's walk (1 km). I could hardly believe my own eyes when I was lucky enough to find two *Painted Finches*.

Alice Springs to Uluru: Stuart and Lasseter Highway

I had read some exciting reports from Stuarts Well (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2532772>) so I decided to bird here on the way towards Erldunda. I birded along the road near the Roadhouse, which was not very productive. A few days after my visit a well-known birder, Laurie Ross, reported 42 species in the area (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S187201616>), having walked 4 kilometres. I guess there are dirt tracks/trails to walk into the bush area if one knows where to walk but, unfortunately, I could not find any obvious trails with public access. Nevertheless, I secured two target species here - I heard the song of a *Cinnamon Quail-thrush* and I saw a *White-backed Swallow*. Other species reported from here include *Black-eared Cuckoo*, *Bourke's*- and *Mulga Parrot*, *Pied*- and *White-fronted Honeyeater* and *Banded Whiteface*.

Cannonball Run Monument (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4710473>) is a very productive small area along Stuart Highway. I birded here both on the way to Uluru and on the way back to Alice Springs. Best birds seen were *Cinnamon Quail-thrush*, *Banded Whiteface*, *Black Honeyeater* and *Little Buttonquail*. Other possible target species here include *White-fronted*- and *Pied Honeyeater* and *Bourke's Parrot*.

I made a quick stop at Palmer River Crossing (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3262445>) and within a few minutes found my main target here: *Pink Cockatoo*. After spending the night at Erldunda Desert Oaks Resort, I drove 21 kilometres north again along Stuart Highway in the early morning to a well-known birding site (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2533171>). Over the years many good birds have been recorded here so my expectations were high. Unfortunately, I was totally disappointed. There were fences on both sides of the road, so one could only walk along the highway. I heard a *Chiming Wedgebill*, but apart from that the place was almost devoid of birds. Birds that are possible here include *Inland Dotterel*, *Banded Whiteface*, *Cinnamon Quail-thrush* and *Orange Chat*.

From the site mentioned above I turned south again, and then turned west onto Lasseter Highway at Erldunda. From Erldunda it is a 2,5 hour long drive to Yulara. There are very few buildings along this road and the landscape is monotonous. A boring drive to say the least ... I made two stops along the road. The first one was a random stop at Mt. Ebenezer Homestead (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4823049>). Best birds seen were *Southern Whiteface*, *Chiming Wedgebill* and *White-backed Swallow*. The second stop made was in an area of Mulga trees (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S186567663>) approximately 90 kilometres before Yulara. I decided to stop here because I thought that Mulga trees could mean *Mulga Parrots*, and sure enough I found a pair of this species, a species that I had almost given up hope of seeing.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

The trek into Valley of the Winds in Kata Tjuta was something extraordinary. What a place! I walked to Karingana Lookout via Karu Lookout and between these two lookouts I found my target here, *Little Woodswallow*. Other species recorded were *Black-breasted Buzzard*, *Western Bowerbird* and *Australian Raven*.

After watching Uluru at sunrise (among hordes of tourists, unfortunately), I went to the site known as Dunefield east of Yulara airport and north of Lasseter Highway (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2533048>). This is the best site for *Rufous Grasswren* in the Northern Territory. I knew beforehand that the species is somewhat difficult, but nevertheless I felt very disappointed drawing a blank despite two hours of dedicated effort.



Valley of the Winds in Kata Tjuta

Comments on some important birds NOT seen

Chestnut-backed Buttonquail

This species is possible at Nackerroo Lookout (Timber Creek), usually flushed when walking along rocky spinifex slopes here, at Chainman Creek (Victoria Highway) and along Gorrie/Dry River (south of Victoria Highway). According to Tim Dolby (Facebook, August 18, 2024) it "occurs in the hip-high grass along the Marrakai Track, 10 km south of the Arnhem Hwy." One is to "walk through the long grass on the north side of the road, between fence and road."

Northern Shriketit

This species is regularly reported from Central Arnhem Road (Katherine) and along Gorrie/Dry River, south of Victoria Highway. A key to finding this species is to know their calls and song.

Pictorella Mannikin

A species reported from Buntine Highway and Buchanan Highway (south of Victoria Highway), Timber Creek Airstrip and Central Arnhem Road.

Red Goshawk

For most birders probably the most important species to see. Some years there are known breeding sites public on e-bird. When I visited there had been no recent reports on e-bird and no one I spoke with knew about any breeding sites. After my visit, in July 2024, breeding birds were reported from Sandy Creek Falls Campground in Litchfield Park (also bred there in 2023) and in Kakadu NP.

Rufous Grasswren

The site to look for this species is known as Dunefield east of Yulara airport and north of Lasseter Highway (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2533048>). Might require more than one visit.

White-throated Grasswren

This is an extremely difficult species, which requires a challenging hike up escarpments. The best location for this species is Barrk Malam Walk at the top of Jim Jim Falls in Kakadu NP (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4832752>). It is advisable not to go alone for safety reasons. It is hot and humid, the ground is unsteady, there is the risk of potential snake bite, no phone reception and not many people go up there so the chance meeting others if in an emergency is limited. I recommend booking a tour with bird guide Laurie Ross to see this bird (<http://www.tracksbirding.com.au>).

List of Bird Species

In this report I follow IOC World Bird List 14.2

EN = Endemic to Australia

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

Fogg Dam

Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

Fogg Dam, Anbangbang Billabong (Kakadu NP) and Cooinda (Kakadu NP)

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Fogg Dam and Anbangbang Billabong (Kakadu NP)

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Radjah Shelduck *Radjah Radjah*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin) and Fogg Dam

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* EN

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata* EN

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Green Pygmy Goose *Nettapus pulchellus*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin) and Anbangbang Billabong (Kakadu NP)

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin) and Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*

Common in the Darwin area and at Fogg Dam

Brown Quail *Synoicus ypsilophorus*

Manbulloo Homestead (Katherine)

Australian Bustard *Ardotis australis*

Manbulloo Homestead (Katherine)

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

Casuarina Coastal Reserve (Dariba Rd in Darwin) and Fogg Dam

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Knuckey Lagoons CR and Lee Point (Darwin)

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*

Alice Springs Desert Park

Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

Several sightings in the Darwin area. Also seen at Fogg Dam and Jabiru Airport (Kakadu NP)

Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs) and Alice Springs Desert Park

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin)

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*

Olive Pink Botanic Garden (Alice Springs)

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes* EN

Watering Point on Victoria Highway, Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs), Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve and Dunefield east of Yulara airport and north of Lasseter Highway

Spinifex Pigeon *Geophaps plumifera* EN

Ormiston Gorge (West MacDonnell NP)



Spinifex Pigeon, Ormiston Gorge

Partridge Pigeon *Geophaps smithii* EN

Bowali Visitors Center (Kakadu NP)

Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon *Petrophassa rufipennis* EN
Bardedjilidji Sandstone Walk (Kakadu NP)



Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon, Bardedjilidji Sandstone Walk

White-quilled Rock Pigeon *Petrophassa albipennis* EN
Victoria River Escarpment Hike

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata* EN
Policeman's Point (Timber Creek) and Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs)

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*
Common in the Top End

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*
Common in the Top End

Black-banded Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus alligator* EN
Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP)



Black-banded Fruit Dove, Nawurlandja Lookout

Rose-crowned Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus regina*
Fogg Dam and Howard Springs Nature Park (Darwin)

Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*
Darwin, for example George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

Chestnut Rail *Eulabeornis castaneoventris*
Buffalo Creek (Darwin)

Buff-banded Rail *Hypotaenidia philippensis*
Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin)

Australian Crake *Porzana fluminea* EN
Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Black-tailed Nativehen *Tribonyx ventralis* EN
Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*
Fogg Dam

Brolga *Antigone rubicunda*
South Alligator River South of Arnhem Hwy

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin) and Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus* EN
Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Little Buttonquail *Turnix velox* EN
Cannonball Run Monument (Stuart Hwy) and John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs)

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*
Darwin: Buffalo Creek Shore and Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove)

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* EN
Anbinik Kakadu Resport (Kakadu NP) and Manbulloo Homestead (Katherine)

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*
Darwin: Buffalo Creek Shore and Lee Point

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus* EN
Darwin: Buffalo Creek Shore, Lee Point and East Point (far end)

Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*
Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* EN
Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Black-fronted Dotterel *Charadrius melanops*
Alice Springs Sewage Ponds and Glen Helen Gorge (West MacDonnell NP)

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*
Common in the Darwin area

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonyx cinctus*
Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Red-capped Plover *Anarhynchus ruficapillus*
Buffalo Creek Shore (Darwin)

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*
Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin), Fogg Dam and Anbangbang Billabong (Kakadu NP)

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove, Darwin)

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*
Buffalo Creek Shore (Darwin)

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*
Buffalo Creek Shore (Darwin)

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Buffalo Creek Shore (Darwin)

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin)

Australian Tern *Gelochelidon macrotarsa*

Darwin: Buffalo Creek Shore, Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane) and Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove)

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Darwin: Buffalo Creek Shore and Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane)

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*

Buffalo Creek Shore (Darwin)

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

Buffalo Creek Shore (Darwin)

Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

Buffalo Creek Shore (Darwin)

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Darwin: Buffalo Creek Shore and Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane)

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin), Alice Springs Sewage Ponds, Muirhead Bushland (Darwin), Fogg Dam, Victoria River Crossing and Policeman's Point (Timber Creek)

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin), Fogg Dam, Howard Springs Nature Park (Darwin) and Anbangbang Billabong (Kakadu NP)

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin) and Ormiston Gorge in West MacDonnell NP

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

Common in the Darwin area and in wetlands in Kakadu NP

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Common in the Darwin area

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Anbangbang Billabong (Kakadu NP)

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

Fogg Dam

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Cahills Crossing (Kakadu NP) and Howard Springs Nature Park (Darwin)

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*

Darwin: Buffalo Creek Shore, East Point (far end) and Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin) and Fogg Dam

Pied Heron *Egretta picata*

Fogg Dam, Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin) and Coinda (Kakadu NP)

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds and Glen Helen Gorge in West MacDonnell NP

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Buffalo Creek (Darwin)

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Fogg Dam

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin), Anbangbang Billabong (Kakadu NP) and Victoria River Crossing

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin) and Fogg Dam

Plumed Egret *Ardea plumifera*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin) and Fogg Dam

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Buffalo Creek Shore (Darwin)

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris* EN

Alice Springs Desert Park, Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve and at Neil Hargrave Lookout in West MacDonnell NP

Black-breasted Buzzard *Hamirostra melanosternon* EN

Several seen along Victoria Highway. Also seen in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

Several seen along Victoria Highway and along Stuart Highway south of Katherine

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin)

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine) and Timber Creek Airstrip

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

Timber Creek Airstrip

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Common

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Common

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Common in the Darwin area

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Ichthyophaga leucogaster*

Darwin: Buffalo Creek Shore, Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane) and Muirhead bushland

Rufous Owl *Ninox rufa*

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

Manbulloo Homestead (Katherine)

Australian Boobook *Ninox boobook*

Heard from Alice's Secret Travellers Inn (Alice Springs)

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane in Darwin), Howard Springs Nature Park (Darwin), Lee Point (Darwin), Timber Creek Caravan Park, Victoria River Crossing and Nanguluwurr (Kakadu NP)

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

Darwin (Knuckey Lagoons CR, Mangroves near Orchard Road, Casuarina Coastal Reserve) and Fogg Dam

Torresian Kingfisher *Todiramphus sordidus*

East Point Mangrove Boardwalk (Darwin)

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Darwin: Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane), Mangroves near Orchard Road (Coconut Grove) and Buffalo Creek

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius* EN

Katherine Racecourse

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyz azureus*

Buffalo Creek (Darwin)



Azure Kingfisher, Buffalo Creek

Little Kingfisher *Ceyx pusillus*

Mangroves near Orchard Road (Coconut Grove, Darwin)

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Darwin, Fogg Dam, Kakadu NP and Victoria River Crossing

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP), Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole site (Alice Springs) and Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

Timber Creek Airstrip

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

Nanguluwurr (Kakadu NP), Central Arnhem Road (Katherine) and Timber Creek Airstrip

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii* **EN**

Darwin and Kakadu NP

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* **EN**

Watering Point on Victoria Hwy, Central Arnhem Road (Katherine) and Cannonball Run Monument (Stuart Hwy)

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla* **EN**

Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs and Palmer River Crossing along Stuart Hwy

Pink Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri* EN

Palmer River Crossing along Stuart Hwy

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs Sewage Ponds and Palmer River Crossing along Stuart Hwy

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Darwin, Fogg Dam and Kakadu NP

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

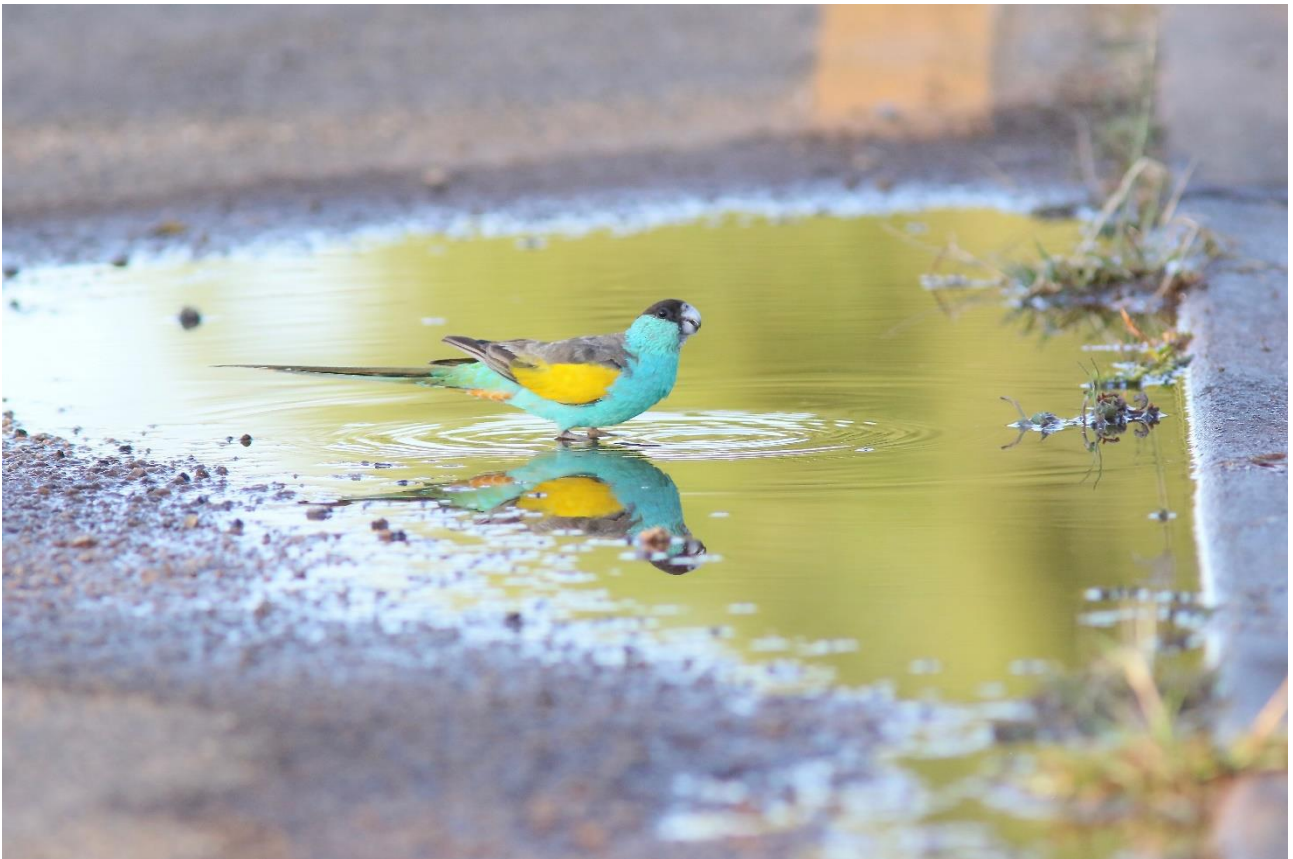
Common in Darwin. Also observed at different locations along Victoria Highway

Mulga Parrot *Psephotellus varius* EN

Lasseter Highway, 90 kms east of Yulara

Hooded Parrot *Psephotellus dissimilis* EN

Pine Creek



Hooded Parrot, Pine Creek

Northern Rosella *Platycercus venustus* EN

Mary River Ranger Station (Kakadu NP)

Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius* EN

Common in Alice Springs

Bourke's Parrot *Neopsephotus bourkii* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs)

Varied Lorikeet *Psitteuteles versicolor* EN

Mary River Ranger Station (Kakadu NP) and Central Arnhem Road (Katherine)

Red-collared Lorikeet *Trichoglossus rubritorquis* EN

Common in Darwin and Palmerston

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus* EN

Common in the Alice Springs section of the trip

Rainbow Pitta *Pitta iris* EN

Howard Springs Nature Park (Darwin) and Fogg Dam

Western Bowerbird *Chlamydera guttata* EN

Olive Pink Botanic Gardens (Alice Springs) and Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis* EN

Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP), Victoria River Crossing and Timber Creek Caravan Park

Black-tailed Treecreeper *Climacteris melanurus* EN

Nanguluwurr (Kakadu NP) and Central Arnhem Road (Katherine)



Black-tailed Treecreeper, Nanguluwurr (Kakadu NP)

Purple-backed Fairywren *Malurus assimilis* EN

Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP), Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole site (Alice Springs), Palmer River Crossing (Stuart Hwy) and Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Splendid Fairywren *Malurus splendens* EN

Alice Springs: Bourke's Parrot Swamp, John Flynn's Grave and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Purple-crowned Fairywren *Malurus coronatus* EN

Victoria River Crossing, Victoria River Escarpment walk and Bradshaw Bridge (Timber Creek)



Purple-crowned Fairywren, Victoria River Crossing

Red-backed Fairywren *Malurus melanocephalus* EN

Bradshaw Bridge (Timber Creek)

White-winged Fairywren *Malurus leucopterus* EN

Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole site, Alice Springs Sewage Ponds, Mt. Ebenezer Homestead (Lasseter Hwy) and Cannonball Run Monument (Stuart Hwy)

Rufous-crowned Emu-wren *Stipiturus ruficeps* EN

Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole site (Alice Springs)

Dusky Grasswren *Amytornis purnelli* EN

Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole site (Alice Springs)

Crimson Chat *Epthianura tricolor* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs)

Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*
Common in Darwin and Kakadu NP

Rufous-throated Honeyeater *Conopophila rufogularis* EN
Central Arnhem Road (Katherine)

Grey Honeyeater *Conopophila white* EN
John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs)



Grey Honeyeater, John Flynn's Grave

Bar-breasted Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus* EN
Darwin: Muirhead Bushland, Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Lane) and Charles Darwin University

Black Honeyeater *Sugomel nigrum* EN
Cannonball Run Monument (Stuart Hwy)

Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*
East Point Monsoon Forest Walk (Darwin)

Red-headed Myzomela *Myzomela erythrocephala*
Darwin: East Point Mangrove Boardwalk, Buffalo Creek, Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove) and Fogg Dam

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*
George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, Bill Lewis Park (Palmerston), Mary River Ranger Station (Kakadu NP), Central Arnhem Road (Katherine) and Casuarina Coastal Reserve (Dariba Rd, Darwin)

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*

East Point Mangrove Boardwalk (Darwin), Buffalo Creek (Darwin), Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove, Darwin) and Mary River Ranger Station (Kakadu NP)

Silver-crowned Friarbird *Philemon argenteiceps* EN

Nourlangie Rock (Kakadu NP) and Policeman's Point (Timber Creek)

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

Common in Darwin and Kakadu NP. Also observed at Ormiston Gorge in West MacDonnell NP

Banded Honeyeater *Cissomela pectoralis* EN

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine) and Nackeroo Monument & Lookout (Timber Creek)

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Bill Lewis Park (Palmerston)

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis* EN

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine)

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

Fogg Dam, Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP), Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Muirhead bushland (Darwin) and Howard Springs Nature Park (Darwin)

White-gaped Honeyeater *Stomiopera unicolor* EN

Common in Darwin. Also observed at Timber Creek Caravan Park

White-fronted Honeyeater *Purnella albifrons* EN

Ormiston Gorge in West MacDonnell NP

White-lined Honeyeater *Territornis albilineata* EN

Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP)

Singing Honeyeater *Gavicalis virescens* EN

Common in Alice Springs and along Stuart and Lasseter Hwy all the way to Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Yellow-tinted Honeyeater *Ptilotula keartlandi*

East Point - far end (Darwin) and Central Arnhem Road (Katherine)

Grey-headed Honeyeater *Ptilotula keartlandi* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs)

Grey-fronted Honeyeater *Ptilotula plumula* EN

Nackeroo Monument & Lookout (Timber Creek) and Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole site (Alice Springs)

White-plumed Honeyeater *Ptilotula penicillata* EN

Olive Pink Botanic Gardens (Alice Springs) and Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs), John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs) and Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula* EN

Bill Lewis Park (Palmerston), John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs) and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Red-browed Pardalote *Pardalotus rubricates* EN

Alice Springs: Bourke's Parrot Swamp, Olive Pink Botanic Garden and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus* EN

Lee Point (Darwin), Nanguluwurr (Kakadu NP), Victoria River Crossing and Buffalo Creek (Darwin)

Redthroat *Pyrrholaemus brunneus* EN

Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris* EN

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Timber Creek Airstrip, Victoria River Escarpment Hike, Ormiston Gorge at West MacDonnell NP, John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs) and Olive Pink Botanic Garden (Alice Springs)

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs) and Mt. Ebenezer Homestead (Lasseter Hwy)

Banded Whiteface *Aphelocephala nigricincta* EN

Cannonball Run Monument (Stuart Hwy)

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs) and Alice Springs Desert Park

Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis* EN

John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs) and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Slaty-backed Thornbill *Acanthiza robustirostris* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs)

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza uropygialis* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs)

Green-backed Gerygone *Gerygone chloronota*

Buffalo Creek (Darwin) and Fogg Dam

Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*

Buffalo Creek (Darwin) and Fogg Dam

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*

Darwin: East Point Mangrove Boardwalk, Buffalo Creek and Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove)

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca* EN

John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs) and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

Palmerston, Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs) and Stuarts Well (Stuart Hwy)

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus* EN

Alice Springs Desert Park

Chiming Wedgebill *Psophodes occidentalis* EN

Stuart Hwy, 21 km north of Erldunda and Mt. Ebenezer Homestead (Lasseter Hwy)

Cinnamon Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum* EN

Stuarts Well (Stuart Hwy) and Cannonball Run Monument (Stuart Hwy)

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus Leucorhynchus*

East Point (Darwin), Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Nackeroo Monument & Lookout (Timber Creek) and Charles Darwin University (Darwin)

Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus*

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Timber Creek Airstrip, Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy), Policeman's Point (Timber Creek), Bradshaw Bridge (Timber Creek), Nackeroo Monument & Lookout (Timber Creek), Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs), several sightings along Lasseter Hwy and Dunefield east of Yulara airport and north of Lasseter Hwy

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor* EN

Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Black Butcherbird *Melloria quoyi*

Darwin: East Point Mangrove Boardwalk, Buffalo Creek, Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove) and Charles Darwin University

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs)

Silver-backed Butcherbird *Cracticus argenteus* EN

Bill Lewis Park (Palmerston), Mary River Ranger Station (Kakadu NP) and Central Arnhem Road (Katherine)

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis* EN

Alice Springs (Olive Pink Botanic Garden, Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve) and Ormiston Gorge (West MacDonnell NP)

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP), Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy), Olive Pink Botanic Garden (Alice Springs), John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs) and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

Mangrove Boardwalk at East Point and Lee Point (Darwin), Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP), Central Arnhem Road (Katherine) and Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy)

White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor*

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy), Policeman's Point (Timber Creek) and Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs)

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

Darwin (George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, East Point, Howard Springs Nature Park, Charles Darwin University, Buffalo Creek and Casuarina Coastal Reserve) and Fogg Dam

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera* EN

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine)

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis* EN

Santa Teresa Rd (Tyre in Pole site and Bourke's Parrot Swamp), Alice Springs Desert Park, John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs), Cannonball Run Monument (Stuart Hwy), Stuart Hwy 21 km north of Erldunda and Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*

Darwin (East Point, Buffalo Creek and Casuarina Coastal Reserve), Fogg Dam and Adelaide River Bridge

Mangrove Golden Whistler *Pachycephala melanura*

Adelaide River Bridge and Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove, Darwin)

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

Fogg Dam, Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy), Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs), Alice Springs Desert Park, John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs) and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

White-breasted Whistler *Pachycephala lanioides* EN

Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove, Darwin)

Arafura Shrikethrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

Buffalo Creek (Darwin), Howard Springs Nature Park (Darwin) and Fogg Dam

Grey Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

Ormiston Gorge (West MacDonnell NP)

Sandstone Shrikethrush *Colluricincla woodwardi* EN

Nawurlandja Lookout and Ubirr (Kakadu NP)

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

Common in Darwin and at Fogg Dam

Green Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*

Common in Darwin and at Fogg Dam

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Common in Darwin, at Fogg Dam and in Kakadu NP

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Quite commonly seen throughout the tour

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

Darwin: Monsoon Forest Walk at East Point, Buffalo Creek, Muirhead Bushland, Howard Springs Nature Park, Charles Darwin University and Fogg Dam

Arafura Fantail *Rhipidura dryas*

Darwin (Buffalo Creek and Howard Springs Nature Park), Fogg Dam, Adelaide River Bridge and Cooinda (Kakadu NP)

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Commonly seen throughout the tour

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

Darwin (Monsoon Forest Walk and Mangrove Boardwalk at East Point, Buffalo Creek, Howard Springs Nature Park and Casuarina Coastal Reserve), Fogg Dam and Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP)

Broad-billed Flycatcher *Myiagra ruficollis*

Fogg Dam and Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove, Darwin)

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

Darwin (Monsoon Forest Walk, far end and Mangrove Boardwalk at East Point, Buffalo Creek, Howard Springs Nature Park and Mangroves near Orchard Rd), Fogg Dam and Cooinda (Kakadu NP)

Paperbark Flycatcher *Myiagra nana*

Fogg Dam, Cooinda (Kakadu NP), Timber Creek Caravan Park, Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy) and Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Ln in Darwin)

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

Commonly seen; the only corvid in the Top End

Little Crow *Corvus bennetti* EN

Commonly seen in the Red Centre

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* EN

Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Apostlebird *Struthidea cinerea* EN

Katherine

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp (Alice Springs)

Lemon-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca flavigaster*

Darwin (Knuckey Lagoons CR, East Point Reserve, Lee Point, Buffalo Creek, Mangroves near Orchard Rd, Howard Springs Nature Park, Charles Darwin University), Fogg Dam, Cooinda (Kakadu NP) and Timber Creek Caravan Park

Jacky Winter *Microeca fasciata*

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine)

Buff-sided Robin *Poecilodryas cerviniventris* EN

Timber Creek Caravan Park

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata* EN

Alice Springs: Bourke's Parrot Swamp and Alice Springs Desert Park

Mangrove Robin *Peneothello pulverulenta*

Darwin: East Point Mangrove Boardwalk and Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove)

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafrja javanica*

Timber Creek Airstrip

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna* EN

Stuarts Well (Stuart Hwy) and seen at several places along Lasseter Hwy, for example at Mt. Ebenezer Homestead

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

Victoria River Crossing, Bradshaw Bridge (Timber Creek) and Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

Far end at East Point (Darwin)

Australien Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds and Glen Helen Gorge in West MacDonnell NP

Spinifexbird *Poodytes carteri* EN

Ormiston Gorge in West MacDonnell NP

Little Grassbird *Poodytes gramineus*

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis* EN

Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole site (Alice Springs) and Cannonball Run Monument (Stuart Hwy)

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi* EN

Bourke's Parrot Swamp and Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole site (Alice Springs), Stuarts Well and Palmer River Crossing (Stuart Hwy) and in Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Tawny Grassbird *Cincloramphus timoriensis*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Ln in Darwin)

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Knuckey Lagoons CR (Fiddlers Ln, Darwin), Watering Point on Victoria Hwy and Bradshaw Bridge (Timber Creek)

Canary White-eye *Zosterops luteus* EN

Buffalo Creek (Darwin)

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Monsoon Forest Walk in East Point Reserve (Darwin), Fogg Dam, Nawurlandja Lookout (Kakadu NP), Nackeroo Lookout & Monument (Timber Creek), Bourke's Parrot Swamp and John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs)

Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*

Victoria River Crossing, Timber Creek Caravan Park and Bradshaw Bridge (Timber Creek)

Painted Finch *Emblema pictum* EN

Glen Helen Gorge in West MacDonnell NP

Star Finch *Bathilda ruficauda* EN

Watering Point on Victoria Hwy, Timber Creek Airstrip and Policeman's Point (Timber Creek)

Double-barred Finch *Stizoptera bichenovii* EN

Mangrove Boardwalk (East Point, Darwin), Victoria River Crossing, Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy), Policeman's Point (Timber Creek) and Mangroves near Orchard Rd (Coconut Grove, Darwin)

Australian Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia castanotis* EN

John Flynn's Grave (Alice Springs), Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve, Glen Helen Gorge (West MacDonnell NP), Stuart Hwy 21 km north of Erldunda and Valley of the Winds in Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP

Masked Finch *Poephila personata* EN

Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy), Policeman's Point (Timber Creek) and Nackeroo Monument & Lookout (Timber Creek)

Long-tailed Finch *Poephila acuticauda* EN

Central Arnhem Road (Katherine), Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy) and Charles Darwin University (Darwin)

Yellow-rumped Mannikin *Lonchura flaviptymna* EN

Bradshaw Bridge (Timber Creek)

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

Bradshaw Bridge (Timber Creek)

Gouldian Finch *Choebia gouldiae* EN

Skull Creek Minor (Victoria Hwy)

Australian Pipit *Anthus australis*

Santa Teresa Rd Tyre in Pole Site (Alice Springs) and Cannonball Run Monument (Stuart Hwy)