

## Birding in the High Country and Leeton Bird Fair

### AWT TRAVEL AUSTRALIA

#### Upcoming Tours

08 November to 16 November 2008

16 / 30 Gadigal Avenue, Zetland, NSW 2017, Australia  
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Join a fully-accommodated nine-day tour to the High Country of New South Wales and Victoria and to Leeton in the Riverina area.

From Sydney we travel via Goulburn and Tumut to Laurel Hill near Tumbarumba. Our accommodation will be at an old forestry camp at Laurel Hill. It is surrounded by both native and pine forest and is a great area for birdwatching. From Laurel Hill we continue on south to Falls Creek in the Victorian Alps. We will be based at a lodge at Bogong just north of Falls Creek. The extensive grounds of the lodge including a weir and there is an excellent walking track around the weir and lake. Possible birds include Pink Robins and Olive Whistlers.

We will have a day exploring above Falls Creek looking for the High Country birds such as Scarlet and Flame Robins. We will also visit the historic Wallace's Hut set amidst ancient Snow Gums.

From Falls Creek, we will travel to Leeton via the Murray River and Narrandera where we will stop for birding at The Common where Koalas can be found.

There are some excellent areas for birding around Leeton including Fivebough a wetland recognized of international importance by RAMSAR. We will seek the advice of local birdwatchers for the best areas to visit such as Binya State Forest. A highlight will be the Annual Bird Fair at Leeton. Our accommodation will be in the grounds of Yanco Agricultural Institute where the Fair is being held which will allow the opportunity to participate in the activities of the Bird Fair. The grounds are extensive and attract many species of birds.

8 NOV

SYDNEY – LAUREL HILL

Meet your crew at Central Railway Station (Coach Bay 5) at 0645 for a 0700 departure. We will have a full day travelling via the South Western Freeway to Goulburn, Gundagai and Tumut to Laurel Hill for our stay for the next two nights. As we travel we will be on the lookout for raptors such as eagles, falcons and goshawks. Accommodation: Laurel Hill

9 NOV LAUREL HILL

Birdwatching in the area looking for the species of the mountain forests. At Laurel Hill we will walk through the mountain forests looking for such species as Grey Currawong, Little Raven and Lyrebirds. Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos are often seen feeding in the pine-forests. Accommodation: Laurel Hill

10 NOV

LAUREL HILL – FALLS CREEK

We will travel via Tumbarumba and across the Victorian border to Falls Creek in the Victorian Alps, our stay for the next two nights. Cottage accomm: Bogong

11 NOV FALLS CREEK

A relaxing days birdwatching around the area and Falls Creek.

In the spectacular Victorian Alps, we will be on the lookout for Gang Gang Cockatoos, Olive Whistlers, Pink, Flame and Scarlet Robins. Little Ravens and Pipits are the common birds of these high plains.

Cottage accomm: Bogong

12 NOV FALLS CREEK - LEETON

We leave the mountains and travel north back into NSW through Narrandera to Leeton, our stop for the next four nights. As we drive from Falls Creek to Leeton we will be watching for the first of the inland species. Superb Parrots and Yellow Rosellas can be found along the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers. We will stop for birding opportunities along the way. We will be staying at the Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture, where the Bird Fair takes place. We will be participating in some activities. Motel Rooms Yanco

13 & 14 NOV LEETON

Two days of birdwatching around the Leeton – Griffith district visiting a range of different habitats including Fivebough Wetlands. There is a range of habitats around the Leeton area and we will plan our days to find as many birds as possible.

Freckled and Blue-billed Ducks; Spotted, Spotless and Baillons Crakes, Black-tailed Nativehens, Brolgas and White-fronted Chats are all possible at Fivebough. Freckled and Blue-billed Ducks; Spotted, Spotless and Baillons Crakes, Black-tailed Nativehens, Brolgas and White-fronted Chats are all possible at Fivebough. Binya State Forest will most likely be included where Turquoise Parrots, Red-capped and Hooded Robins, Painted Honeyeaters Splendid Fairy-wrens can all be found.

Motel Rooms Yanco

15 NOV LEETON

As we will be staying in the grounds where the fair is being conducted, the day will be spent taking part in the activities of the Annual Bird Fair or by birdwatching around the area. Motel Rooms Yanco

16 NOV YANCO – SYDNEY

On our final day for the tour we travel via Temora, Harden and to Goulburn on the Hume Highway to Sydney.