

Birding in North-West New South Wales

AWT TRAVEL AUSTRALIA

Upcoming Tours

7th November to 15th November 2009

16 / 30 Gadigal Avenue, Zetland, NSW 2017, Australia
Licence 2TA5877 **Phone** +61 2 9697 3394
Email enquiries@awttravelsaustralia.com.au

Join this 9 day tour to North-West New South Wales and South-West Queensland. The tour is fully accommodated at motels and a lodge at Baradine. If you missed out on last year's tour, this is the one for you! This tour will provide the opportunity to see a great variety of birds ranging from the waterbirds of inland wetlands, bushbirds of the mulga and saltbush of the outback plains to the mixed woodlands of the western slopes. Goonoo National Park is an important refuge for the endangered Malleefowl and there are a number of active mounds within the forest. We plan to visit the large lakes in Currawinya National Park which are important breeding site for many birds including the threatened Freckled Duck. In this dry, inland environment, the lakes provide a refuge for hundreds of waders including migratory species. Brolgas patrol the shores. We will look for Chirruping Wedgebill in the bushes along the edge of the lakes. In the mulga country on "Bowra" we will be looking for Bourkes Parrot, Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, Halls Babbler and White-browed Treecreeper. Grey Falcon and Black-breasted Buzzard are also regularly seen. The mixed Ironbark and Cypress Pine woodland in the Pilliga State Forest is an important refuge for many of the species of the woodlands of the western slopes including the endangered Glossy Black-cockatoo. Other threatened species found in the forest are Turquoise Parrot, Speckled Warbler and Hooded Robin.

12 SEP

SYDNEY – WILLIE RETREAT

Depart Sydney early this morning. We will have a full day travelling via the Great Western Highway through the Blue Mountains to Orange and Mitchell Highway to Dubbo and Warren. There will be a number of birding stops along the way. We will stay overnight in motel accommodation at Nyngan. Motel Rooms (Nyngan)

13 SEP WILLIE RETREAT

You will have a full day birding around the nearby Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve. There is prodigious birdlife in the wetlands areas. There is an observation platform that we will visit also. Motel Rooms (Nyngan)

14 SEP

WILLIE RETREAT - CUNNAMULLA

We leave Nyngan to travel north via Bourke before crossing the border into Queensland to Cunnamulla, and our overnight stop for two nights. Accommm: Cunnamulla

15 SEP CUNNAMULLA

An early morning visit to the sewage treatment ponds then a full days birding at "Bowra" a private property owned by Ian and Julie McLaren. We will explore the tracks throughout the station looking for the specialties of the area. In the mulga country on "Bowra" we will be looking for

Bourkes Parrot, Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, Halls Babbler and White-browed Treecreeper. Grey Falcon and Black-breasted Buzzard are also regularly seen.

To finish the day we will have a BBQ dinner beside the waterhole watching the birds come in for a final drink for the day.

Accomm: Cunnamulla

16 SEP CUNNAMULLA

Another full day birding in the surrounding areas and Bowra. Accommm: Cunnamulla

17 SEP CUNNAMULLA – LIGHTNING RIDGE

Today we travel to Lightning Ridge which is particularly special because

it is now the only place in Australia, and one of the few places in the world, where the precious and highly prized black opal is found. For those who want a warm, relaxing and therapeutic bath an afternoon visit to the Lightning Ridge Bore Baths where a permanent supply of warm mineralised waters bubbles up under natural forces from 900 m below the surface.

Accomm: Lightning Ridge

18 SEP

LIGHTNING RIDGE - BARRADINE

We only have a short distance to travel today so we will arrive at our accommodation at Camp Cypress at Baradine showground

in plenty of time for some afternoon birding. With plenty of Brimble Box and Cypress Pine, the grounds attract many birds including Red-winged Parrots, Diamond Doves, White-winged Trillers, Hooded Robins and Double-barred Finches. Accommm :Camp Cypress

19 SEP BARADINE

We will spend the day in the Pilliga State Forest which is important for the endangered Glossy Black-cockatoo. Barking Owls nest along the watercourses and are sometimes seen during the day. Various sites including water holes include many species of honeyeater. The mixed Ironbark and Cypress Pine woodland in the Pilliga State Forest is an important refuge for many of the species of the woodlands of the western slopes. Other threatened species found in the forest are Turquoise Parrot, Speckled Warbler and Hooded Robin.

Koalas can be found in the red gums along the dry watercourses. Accommm: Camp Cypress

20 SEP

BARRADINE - SYDNEY

A full day travelling back to Sydney via Coonabarabran, Coolah and the western Hunter Valley. We arrive in Sydney via the Pacific Highway hoping to arrive at approximately 5.30 - 6.00PM.