



OUTBACK TRACK TOURS

PO BOX 358, Balgowlah NSW 2093 AUSTRALIA
Reservations: 1300-88-44-63 Office: 02-9913-1484 Fax: 02 9913 9206
www.outbacktracktours.com.au

BIRDING IN THE QUEENSLAND GULF AND CHANNEL COUNTRY

18 DAY

19th Aug – 5th Sep 2008 Ex Alice Springs - Sydney

◆ BARKLY TABLELAND ◆ CAMOOWEAL ◆ LAWN HILL GORGE ◆
◆ KINGFISHER CAMP ◆ MT ISA ◆ DIAMANTINA NP ◆ “BOWRA” PRIVATE PROPERTY ◆

Join us for a fantastic
Birds Australia tour taking in
the best of the Gulf of
Carpentaria!

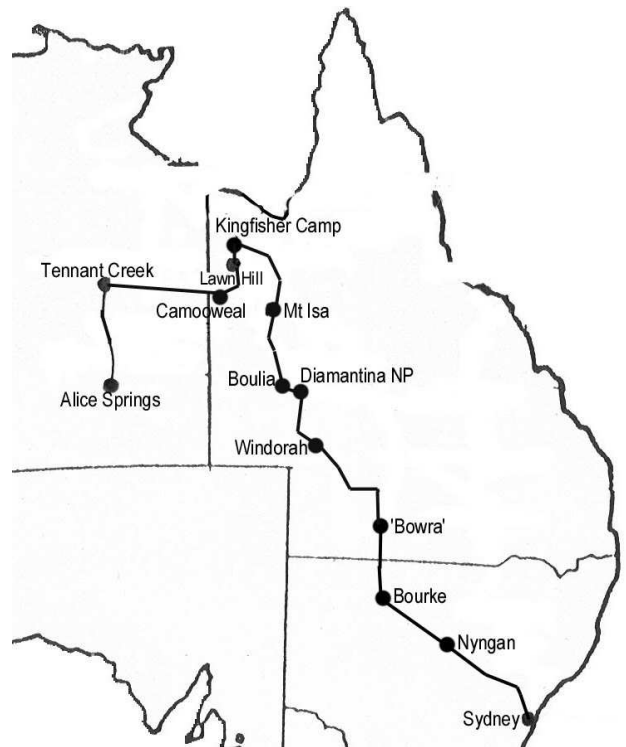
We will cross the Barkly Tableland,
visit Kingfisher Camp on a private
property - Bowthorn Station,
Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National
Park and “Bowra” a private
property near Cunnamulla.

Our birding will start at Heavitree Gap with Black Kites, Galahs and Corellas flying overhead. As we travel north along the Stuart Highway we will be on the lookout for raptors such as Black-breasted Buzzard and Grey Falcon.

The vast grasslands of Barkly Tablelands attract huge flocks of pigeons, Budgerigars and Zebra Finches which come to drink at any available water. Predators such as

Black Falcons and Australian Hobbies prey on these flocks. On a previous OTT tour the nest of a Grey Falcon was found. Bustards and Flock Pigeons are regularly seen beside the road.

Other possibilities are Pictorella Mannikin and Long-tailed and Masked Finch. Black Bitterns can be found along many of the rivers. The spectacular Lawn Hill Gorge is a paradise for birdwatching – Spinifex Pigeon, Red-winged Parrot, White-browed Robin, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, White-gaped and Banded Honeyeater and Great Bowerbird are a few which we are likely to see.



BOOKINGS: Can only be confirmed with the payment of \$250 deposit. Final payment falls due 45 days before departure. Cheques are to be made payable to 'Outback Track Tours Pty Ltd'. We also accept VISA, MASTERCARD and BANKCARD. All credit card transactions over \$250.00 will attract a 3% fee. **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend travel insurance against loss of possessions, accident and cancellation through unforeseen circumstances. Insurance is available at the office. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is a camping tour, however cabin accommodation is available at some of the places where we camp, a refund is not given for unused camping portion if you choose to stay in accommodation. If weather, road conditions or other circumstances necessitate a change in itinerary, the decision to make such changes is solely that of the Tour Guide.



BIRDING IN THE QUEENSLAND GULF AND CHANNEL COUNTRY

18 DAY

DEPARTURE DATE:

19th August, 2008

FARES:

\$3,400pp Ex Alice Springs - Sydney

Minimum: 12 Passengers

Maximum: 20 Passengers

Deposit: \$250

BIRD LEADER:

The leader will be Clive Meadows who has led many field excursions and tours including many Outback Track Tours.

INCLUDED IN FARE:

- Travel by air-conditioned OTT 4WD vehicle.
- All meals unless specified denoted as B – breakfast, L- lunch & D - dinner.
- All National Park entrance fees.
- All camping fees.
- All camping gear including two-person tents, foam sleep mats, tables and chairs.
- This tour will be led by an experienced birdwatching guide.
- Any additional flights, cruises & side excursions are optional extras.
- Note on the itinerary, "Bush Camps" do not have facilities; "Camps" are at caravan parks with full facilities, National Park campsites have limited facilities.
- Accommodation is available at the Heavitree Gap Resort, Alice Springs before the tour. Please advise on booking and we can arrange it.

Join us at the Bistro at Heavitree Gap for a welcome dinner at own expense the evening before the tour departs.

DAY 1 (TUES 19 AUG)

ALICE SPRINGS

Meet your passengers at Heavitree Gap Resort approx 1pm. This afternoon will be spent viewing Central Australian Birds at nearby locations. Join us at the Bistro, Heavitree Gap for a welcome dinner at own expense this evening.

DAY 2 (WED 20 AUG) TENNANT CREEK

Travelling from Alice Springs we head north along the Stuart Hwy before dropping into the Telegraph station at Barrow Creek. Another highlight today will be our visit to the Devils Marbles. We camp overnight at Tennant Creek.

CAMP: TENNANT CREEK (BLD)

DAY 3 (THURS 21 AUG) CAMOOWEAL

Today we travel to the Three Ways Roadhouse and turn onto the Barkly Highway. The vast grasslands of Barkly Tablelands attract huge flocks of pigeons, Budgerigars and Zebra finches which come to drink at any available water. On a previous OTT tour the nest of a Grey Falcon was found. We will cross the border into Queensland.

CAMP: CAMOOWEAL (BLD)

DAY 4 (FRI 22 AUG) KINGFISHER CAMP

Today we travel to Kingfisher Camp part of Bowthorn Station, located on the spectacular Nicholson River. This area has been a fauna reserve since 1983, and offers spectacular gorge scenery and delightful bird life.

CAMP: KINGFISHER CAMP (BLD)

DAY 5 (SAT 23 AUG) KINGFISHER CAMP

We spend the day relaxing and birdwatching.

CAMP: KINGFISHER CAMP (BLD)



Above: Rocks and cliffs line the River upstream from the Camp at Kingfisher Camp

DAY 6 (SUN 24 AUG) LAWN HILL

We travel on the back roads to Adels Grove – our campsite for access to Lawn Hill National Park. In remote north-west Queensland, Lawn Hill is an oasis on the edge of the Barkly Tableland. Lawn Hill Gorge has colourful cliffs and Aboriginal rock paintings to explore.

CAMP: ADELS GROVE (BLD)

DAY 7 (MON 25 AUG) LAWN HILL

A full day to enjoy the National Park. There are several walking tracks in the park that you can explore. Alternatively, take a canoe ride and discover the visual delights of the remarkably beautiful gorges. There is also swimming, photography and the chance to see the Purple Crowned Fairy Wren.

CAMP: ADELS GROVE (BLD)

DAY 8 / 9 / 10 MT ISA

Today we depart Kingfisher Camp and travel down to Mt Isa, where we will stay for the next two nights. We will spend the next two days birdwatching and various opportunities for the Kalkadoon Grass-wren and Carpentarian Grass-wren. CAMP: MT ISA (BLD)

DAY 11 (29 AUG) MT ISA - BOULIA

Today we travel south down the Diamantina Developmental Rd to Boulia. We are now in the heart of the channel country. After a stop in Boulia we travel back roads to Diamantina National Park where we set camp for two nights. This 507,000ha park is home to many rare and threatened species. Lake Constance and Hunters Gorge are important wetlands and support breeding populations of many resident and migratory birds.

BUSH CAMP DIAMANTINA NP (BLD)

DAY 12 / 13 (30 & 31 AUG) DIAMANTINA NP

Diamantina National Park was formerly a pastoral holding and became a national park in 1992. It sweeps across highly weathered sandstone ranges in the east, down to the floodplains of the Diamantina River and its tributaries, then across Mitchell grass plains to dunefields reminiscent of deserts further west. We will spend the next two days birding in the Diamantina NP.

BUSH CAMP DIAMANTINA NP (BLD)

DAY 14 (1 SEP) BOULIA – WINDORAH

Today we travel via Bedourie along the Diamantina Development Highway to Windorah.

CAMP: WINDORAH (BLD)

DAY 15 (2 SEP) BARCALDINE – BOWRA

We continue along the Diamantina Development Highway to Quilpie and Charleville before joining the Matilda Highway to Cunnamulla. We visit the privately owned station of "Bowra". Owned by the McLarens, the station is 75,000 acres of natural bushland. We camp next to the stunning waterhole. Our last major birding site will be at "Bowra", where over 180 species have been recorded. Our target birds will be Bourkes Parrot, Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, Chestnut-crowned and Halls Babbler, White-browed Treecreeper and Spotted Bowerbird.

CAMP: 'BOWRA' (BLD)

DAY 16 (3 SEP) "BOWRA"

Dawn visits by the local birds to our campsite next to the waterhole will be a highlight. A full day of birding around the property in various habitats.

CAMP: 'BOWRA' (BLD)

DAY 17 (4 SEP) BOWRA - NYNGAN

We depart "Bowra" and set off south across the border to NSW. We travel through Bourke and Coolabah before arriving at the lush oasis of Nyngan in NW NSW.

CAMP: NYNGAN (BLD)

DAY 18 (5 SEP) NYNGAN - SYDNEY

We travel from outback Nyngan via Dubbo and Orange and over the Blue Mountains, to arrive home in Sydney approximately 5.30-6.00PM.

(BL)

