



Rex Ellis'
BUSH SAFARI

A.B.N. 85 361 918 391

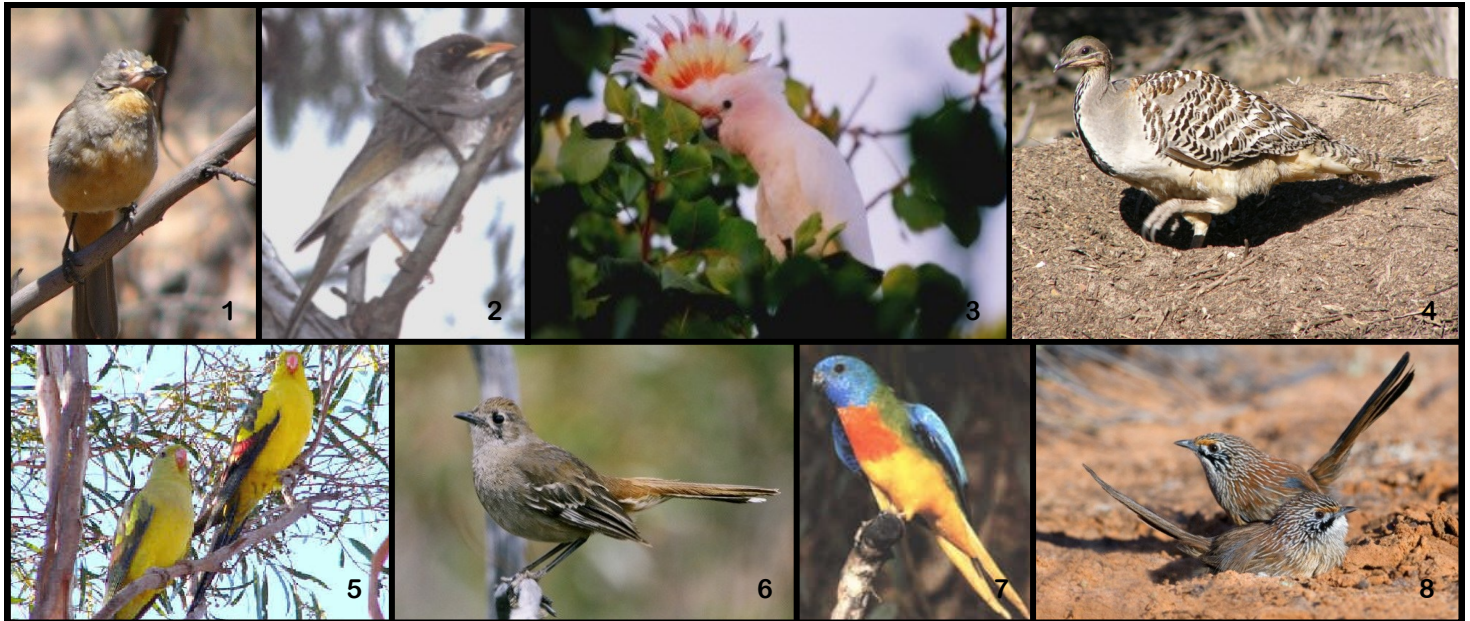


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Riverland Biosphere and Flinders Ranges **ORNITHOLOGICAL SAFARIS**

Four & Five day Riverland Biosphere or
Eight day Riverland Biosphere/Flinders Ranges

Targeting these hard to find species



1. Red-lored Whistler 2. Black-eared Miner 3. Major Mitchell Cockatoo 4. Malleefowl on Nest Mound
5. Regent Parrot 6. Southern Scrub Robin 7. Scarlet-chested Parrot 8. Striated Grasswren

These itineraries begin in Waikerie on the River Murray in South Australia. People drive, or travel by coach from Adelaide (3 hours) the day prior to departure. You are picked up and delivered to your motel. Each guest is given a checklist of Birds of the Riverland Biosphere.

Day one, we drive to Kingston on Murray where we board a large punt in the Nockburra/Chambers Creek wetlands for a three hour cruise, sometimes having lunch on board. After a short visit to the Calperum wetlands, we drive through virgin mallee bushland to our overnight base and accommodation at Oak Bore. This is located in the wilderness of the privately owned Calperum Reserve (2,300 square kilometres), where access is very much restricted.

The four day itinerary spends most of the time here, including some time at the adjacent **Gluepot Reserve** owned and operated by Birdlife Australia.

Both of these properties are a birdwatchers paradise, where we concentrate on finding the elusive mallee species including Black-eared Miner, Red-lored Whistler, Striated Grass Wren, Southern Scrub Robin, Shy Heath Wren, Mallee Fowl and others. At various times the rare (in this area) and beautiful Scarlet-chested Parrot visits this region. Gluepot is famous for the amount of rare and endangered flora and fauna that it hosts - some 264 plant species as well as birds and other fauna.

The four day itinerary finishes in Waikerie, while the eight day itinerary travels further north into the semi desert to Dangali Conservation Park.

P.T.O.

The great variety of vegetation in this park supports a varied birdlife including White-browed Tree Creepers and Major Mitchell Cockatoos. After some time here we head for the Flinders Ranges, travelling through semi-desert bushland to Yunta, before heading north to Curnamona Station. This is a country of wide open plains with great views west to the Flinders Ranges.

We spend the morning here in a variety of habitat, before driving on via the southern shores of Lake Frome (salt) to Wirrealpa Station quarters, in the Flinders Ranges. Day six takes us along the eastern edge of the Ranges to Moolawatana, and then to our next overnight stay in the quarters at the large Mount Lyndhurst Station on the northern outskirts of the Flinders Ranges.

If time allows we visit another ornithological 'hot spot' nearby where we usually see Thick-billed Grasswrens, the South Australian endemic, Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, Cinnamon Quail Thrush, Rufous Fieldwren, Chirruping Wedgebill and others. In any case, we visit the same area the following morning, usually spending several satisfying hours. We then head on to the town of Lyndhurst before turning south along the western side of the Ranges, visiting points of interest.

From Parachilna, we take one of the most picturesque and dramatic routes, climbing two thousand feet in thirty kilometres. We visit Rex Ellis' private wildlife sanctuary (Warragundi) before arriving at the tiny town of Blinman where our overnight stay is at the charming Blinman Pub. A very good night is guaranteed. One of the outback's best 'Bush Pubs.'

The last day takes us on a very scenic route through the middle of the Ranges. Just before the famous Wilpena Pound feature, we stop at a location to search for SA's other endemic, the Short-tailed Grasswren.

Then we drive back through majestic Ranges past the 'massive' of Wilpena Pound, then via Hawker (a visit to Jeff Morgan's famous gallery), and across the saltbush plains to finish at Waikerie, where you are delivered to your overnight accommodation.

Your Guides:

Rex Ellis is Australia's longest operating safari guide. Travelling by 4WD, camels and boats, he can access country available to very few. All other itineraries are nature orientated, concentrating on birds. In 1979, travelling by camel, he and Shane Parker (Curator of Birds, SA Museum) rediscovered the Night Parrot in the Cooper Creek Region of SA - It hadn't been recorded since the 1930s. He is an author, having written nine books. (see website) Most of these contain some observations of bird behaviour.

Bob Goodfellow is a respected Riverland bird guide who was instrumental in re-discovering the rare and endangered Black-eared Miner. He is a specialist in birds of the Riverland and adjacent mallee areas. For a number of years he operated his own bird-watching safaris in the Riverland Biosphere. He or another experienced bird guide accompany Rex on most accommodated trips.

Vehicles: Rex Ellis uses modern, comfortable 4WD vehicles , including Toyota FJ Cruiser

Camping Itinerary: is also available for 4, 5 & 8 day itineraries (price on application)

PRICES

- 4 day Riverland Biosphere. One person \$2,995 or \$2,250 each for two or more
- 8 day Riverland Biosphere/Flinders Ranges \$3,550 (Minimum 2 pax) 3 - 8 \$2,975 each
- 5 day Riverland Biosphere. One person \$3,350 or \$3,025 each for two or more

(This itinerary the same as the four day with the inclusion of the Calperum wetlands)

Specialist Birding Charters available anywhere in Australia

Rex Ellis' Bush Safari reserves the right to alter itineraries without notice