

Tropical Birding Tours

*Australia: The Top End (As an Extension to Eastern Australia
From Top to Bottom)*



Tour Guide: Ben Knoot

The photos in this report were captured by Ben Knoot unless otherwise stated.

Tour Introduction

‘Good-day’ reader! Just a little Australian greeting from the guide and writer of this report. Well, what can I say other than what you probably already know...Australia is one heck of a destination for birds, mammals, habitats and incredible scenery. This report is just going to cover the Northern Territory extension that took place in late October. This extension was a “pre-tour” trip that combined with our Set-Departure Eastern Australia: From Top to Bottom tour. There will be a separate report for that section. If you want to read the Eastern section trip report, please locate that in the trip archive section of the Tropical Birding website.

The Northern Territory is vast...very, very vast. Long drives, hot days and flies were a constant reminder that for most of the tour we were in fact out in the middle of nowhere, enjoying the exquisite offerings; feathered, furred and otherwise. Our tour started in Darwin, a hot, tropical city on the coast of the Northern Territory. Famed for its amazing parks and lively energy, Darwin is the ideal place to start a tour in the Northern Territory. We visited several hotspots to hit key mangrove and monsoon vine forest species like Rainbow Pitta, Red-headed Myzomela, Green-backed Gerygone. This was also the best place for us to grab shorebirds, one of the guests personal favorite families...or was it...?!

We left Darwin and went south towards Katherine. This area is considerably drier and of course hosts a different set of target birds we were keen to get our bins on. Over the next few days we spent our time in near seclusion, seeing another car or person every other hour, but sometimes we went an entire day and maybe saw one other car...AMAZING! I do really love how “out-there” you can get in the region of the world.

We ended our time in the Northern Territory in the famed Kakadu National Park and surrounding area. Here, the Yellow River reigns king and attracts a variety of incredible birds. So much so that nearly a third of all of Australias birdlife has been recorded here at some point, taking advantage of this vital water source. The sandstone escarpments are also so unique that they too attract a set of birds that while can be found elsewhere in the NT are ever present and add a nice ‘finishing-touch’ onto the already incredible landscape. Our time here was difficult this year. Extreme heat and an unfortunate fatality in the park created a lot of closures in key areas. We did our best here but unfortunately did not have the proper ability to go after everything I would have liked.

Overall the Northern Territory was a blast. If you can put aside the strenuous heat, the relentless flies and a semi consistent diet of fried food, fish and steak, the NT is really something that everyone should experience at some point.

For this trip report, I am going to organize it a bit differently. Instead of doing a day by day type summary, I am going to do it in sections based on habitats or types of birding that we experience. This will be a first written this way for Australia so let’s see how it goes! Enough babbling...let’s get to it...enjoy the report and the variety of imagery captured on this trip!



Itinerary

October 23rd.....Pre-tour birding then START of Tour/Darwin Hotspots
October 24th.....Darwin Hotspots/Adelaide River/Pine Creek/Katherine
October 25th.....Katherine Hotspots/Road to Timber Creek
October 26th.....Timber Creek Hotspots
October 27th.....Timber Creek/Road to Top Springs/Top Springs
October 28th.....Top Springs Hotspots/Pine Creek
October 29th.....Pine Creek Hotspots/Kakadu NP/Yellow Water Cruise
October 30th.....Yellow Water Cruise/Kakadu NP/Darwin
October 31st.....DEPARTURES or FLIGHT TO CAIRNS (Eastern Tour)

Tour Summary

First things first, let's get the generalists out of the way. These are birds we see nearly everyday in a variety of locations and habitats.

Section One: The Generalists

The Northern Territory like all places has a lot of “generalists”. These birds can really hang in any habitat category. We see these birds over the course of the entire tour in various habitats. Birds like; **Torresian Crow, Magpie Lark, White-breasted Woodswallow, Dollarbird, Red-backed Fairywren, Brown Honeyeater, Brown Falcon, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Galah, Great Bowerbird, Sacred and Forest Kingfisher, Red-winged Parrot, Paperbark Flycatcher, Little Corella, Sulfur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Bee-eater, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Brown Goshawk, Black Kite, Red-collared Lorikeet, Cockatiel, Whistling Kite, Peaceful and Bar-shouldered Dove.**



Forest Kingfisher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



White-breasted Woodswallow - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Dollarbird - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Rainbow Bee-eater - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Blue-faced Honeyeater - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Section Two: Tropical Monsoon Forest

Over the course of this tour, visit two big sections of [Monsoon Forests](#). Our first introduction to this habitat is in [Buffalo Creek](#) and the other is [Howard Springs Park in Darwin](#). These forests are hot, humid, tangled messes but hold quite a few Northern Territory specialties, as well as other wide spread Australian species. Birds like; [Lemmon-bellied Flyrobin](#), [Green-backed Gerygone](#), [Rainbow Pitta](#), [White-bellied Cuckooshrike](#), [Barking Owl](#), [Orange-footed Megapode](#), [Spangled Drongo](#), [Green Oriole](#), [Broad-billed Flycatcher](#), [Bar-breasted](#), [White-throated](#), and [Rufous-banded Honeyeaters](#), [Australasian Figbird](#), [Varied Triller](#), and [Arafura Fantail](#). We also found a sweet [Merten's Water Monitor](#) lounging in a pool (not a human pool, just a normal pool of water - haha).



Bar-breasted Honeyeater - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Section Three: Tropical Mangroves

We visit several areas of mangrove on this tour. The first are the [Mangroves at Buffalo Creek in Darwin](#). Here we had some good luck with; [Azure Kingfisher](#), [Little Kingfisher](#), [Brahminy Kite](#), [White-bellied Sea Eagle](#), [Osprey](#), [Red-headed Myzomela](#), [Dusky Myzomela](#), [Striated Heron](#), [Black Butcherbird](#), and [Australian Yellow White-eye](#). Here we also heard Chestnut Rail but even with a great tide and time of day, we weren't able to get eyes on this skulking mangrove specialist. [The East Point Mangrove Boardwalk](#) location gave us looks at; [Mangrove Robin](#), [Large-billed Gerygone](#), [Mangrove Gerygone](#), [Torresian Kingfisher](#), [Northern and Mangrove Gray Fantail](#). Mangroves are always tricky...very dense, and tough to get on the quick little birds but overall, we had some decent luck in this habitat. Lastly, [Mangroves along the Adelaide River](#) gave us stunning views of [Rose-crowned Fruit Dove](#) and a nice [Mangrove Golden Whistler](#).



Azure Kingfisher - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Section Three: Wetlands/Swamps/Lagoons/Waterways/Sewage Treatment Plants

These habitats much like sandy beaches, mudflats and rocky shorelines are much the same worldwide in terms of their design and overall structure. Of course, the biggest difference is the location of these swamps, wetlands, water systems and treatment plants. Here in the Northern Territory of Australia, we found just about everything I'd expect to find in such habitats. Birds like; **Magpie Goose, Green Pygmy Goose, Plumed and Wandering Whistling Duck, Radjah Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck, Black-necked Stork, Whiskered Tern, Plumed, Cattle, Great and Little Egret, Nankeen Night Heron, Comb-crested Jacana, Pied and Pacific Heron, Royal Spoonbill, Australasian Darter, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorant, Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterel, Asian Dowitcher, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Common Greenshank and Marsh Sandpiper.** Most of these birds were found either in **Knuckey's Lagoon** or on the **Yellow Water Cruise in Kakadu National Park**. Another noteworthy wetland we visited was **Mamukala Wetlands** where we were delighted to see a small group of **Brolga**.

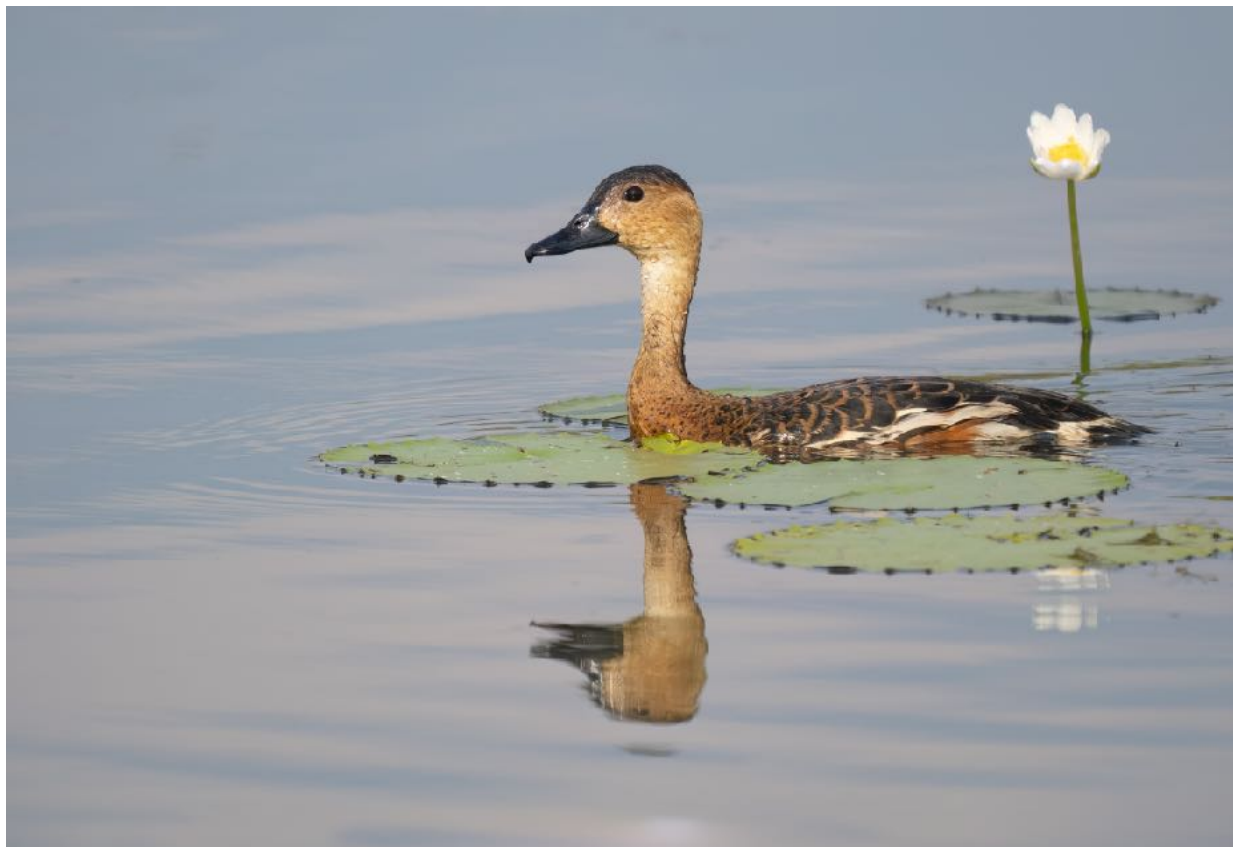
A few 'non water-based' birds were found near the wetlands as well, which is also to be expected. The newly named **Singing Bushlark** (old name Horsfield's Bushlark) was found in the grasses on the shores of **Knuckey's Lagoon** along with **Golden-headed Cisticola** while the cryptic and skulking **White-browed Crake** was found in a **Sewage Treatment Facility near Buffalo Creek**.



Black-necked Stork - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Magpie Goose - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Wandering Whistling Duck - Photo by Guide: Ben Knot



Little Pied Cormorant - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Section Four: Tropical Eucalypt Savana (Melaleuca and Open Eucalypt)

This is by far the most extensive and most important habitat on this tour. It holds the most Northern Territory specialties because well, it is the most prevalent habitat as it spans an area not only on most of our tour, but also most of the Northern Territory. Most of the finches on this tour can be found in either this [Melaleuca Savanna](#) or [Open Eucalypt Savanna](#). We started off with the easy ones... [Crimson Finch](#), [Chestnut-breasted Munia](#), [Zebra Finch](#) and [Double-barred Finch](#) were all quite common, especially around burned areas and areas with a little bit of standing water. That is sort of the secret in the NT... find water... The general habitat for [Masked](#), [Long-tailed](#) and [Gouldian Finch](#) is [Open Eucalypt Savanna](#) but we have a great location to give us the best change to get these birds. There is a great area around Pine Creek called "[Edith Falls](#)". Along the main road, a series of pools attracts these tougher species (and the three easier ones I mentioned before). It is an awesome spot to just hang out for the morning. We picked up our last finch, the [Pictorella Munia](#) just [outside of Top Springs](#) in the [Melaleuca Savanna](#). In this general area we also picked up; [Masked](#) and [Black-faced Woodswallow](#) and [Olive-backed Oriole](#).

A rather famous location near Timber Creek called "[Policeman's Point](#)" held another special bird for us. It took a bit of searching but we did manage to see and see very well one of my favorite bird families in Australia, the [Varied Sittella](#). A group of five of these nuthatch like birds graced us with their presence and we enjoyed a spectacular 5-minutes with these comical characters. Most of the raptors on this tour are found in this sort of habitat as well. Birds like; [Pacific Baza](#), [Little Eagle](#), [Wedge-tailed Eagle](#) and [Spotted Harrier](#).



Spotted Harrier - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Zebra Finch - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

By far one of the more desired and difficult chases that we managed to pull off came just [south of Katherine](#). Our first try failed so nervously we had to try one last time on our way back north from Top Springs. Luckily, the never give up attitude of the group prevailed and we were able to get cracking views of [Northern Shrike-tit](#). This recent split from Crested Shrike-tit was a big target for one of the group members so we were all stoked to pick up this bird. Other great birds we found in this area was the [Black-tailed Treecreeper](#), [Brown Quail](#) and [Chestnut-backed Buttonquail](#).



Black-tailed Treecreeper - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Section Five: Sandstone Escarpments

Perhaps one of the ‘coolest’, and I do use that term loosely habitats we visit in my opinion are the towering [Sandstone Escarpments](#). These areas are typically exceptionally hot, exposed and lacking in a huge diversity of birds. What they lack in diversity, they make up for in specialties. We visit three areas are escarpments on this tour, one in between Timber Creek and Victoria River, one just north of Timber Creek and the other in Kakadu NP.



Short-eared Rock Wallaby - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Our first opportunity to experience these escarpments was the [Gregory National Park Escarpment Walk](#). This is a tough hike. Definitely the steepest and most effort required walk on any of my tours and definitely on this specific tour. Here we target the White-quilled Rock Pigeon and Short-eared Rock Wallaby. Unfortunately, even though we gave it TWO tries (mad props to the guests for the effort) I could not find them the White-quilled Rock Pigeon, we had to settle for ‘heard-only’. We did get some cracking views of the [Short-eared Rock Wallaby](#) on both walks. It is also worth mentioning that this area is where we get the best views of [Purple-crowned Fair Wren](#). These birds are not on the escarpment but rather in the long grasses at the base of the walk. Pretty amazing bird! On this same morning, we got killer looks at [Pheasant Coucal](#) as well.

Our secondary escarpment walk was just north of Timber Creek called the [Neckaroo Lookout](#). This escarpment is a little different but overall it has the same feel. Here is where we found our [Star Finches](#), [Sandstone Shrike-thrush](#), [Diamond Doves](#) and [Little Woodswallow](#). This escarpment was incredibly fruitful for us.

Our last escarpment walk was to say the least...exceptionally disappointing. [Kakadu NP](#) had been experiencing extreme heat and unfortunately, even a recent fatality (due to that heat, apparently). So, several trails and walks were closed due to this. One of the trails we wanted to go on had some standing water over it that for some reason, a huge Saltwater Crocodile had decided to take up residence in. I mean, you just can't make this stuff up. So, we ended up missing White-lined Honeyeater and Black-banded Fruit Dove. We did however have great views of [Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon](#) so at least we nailed one of the two birds in that category. We ended up leaving Kakadu NP earlier than I wanted due to all of this but we ended up nailing lots of other birds along the way back to Darwin so all good!

Section Six: Cattle Grazing Land/Disturbed Habitat/"Grasslands"

One of the best places in Darwin for this habitat, well really on the outskirts of Darwin is the [road to Fogg Dam](#). This area of grassland and cattle grazing is ideal for [Australian Pipit](#) and indeed we were able to find several birds here. Unfortunately we dipped on the other bird I was hoping for, the Brown Songlark. Win some you lose some.

The Purple-backed Fairywren experience on this tour is a bit odd. Technically we are passing through huge stretches of open eucalypt but in this one area, there is an active cattle pond. So the area around the pond is pretty disturbed and shrubby, mixed in with the surrounding pristine environment. Its a weird spot but really, when a male [Purple-backed Fairywren](#) shows up... who's going to complain...right??

Section Seven: Anthropogenic Habitats and Random Encounters:

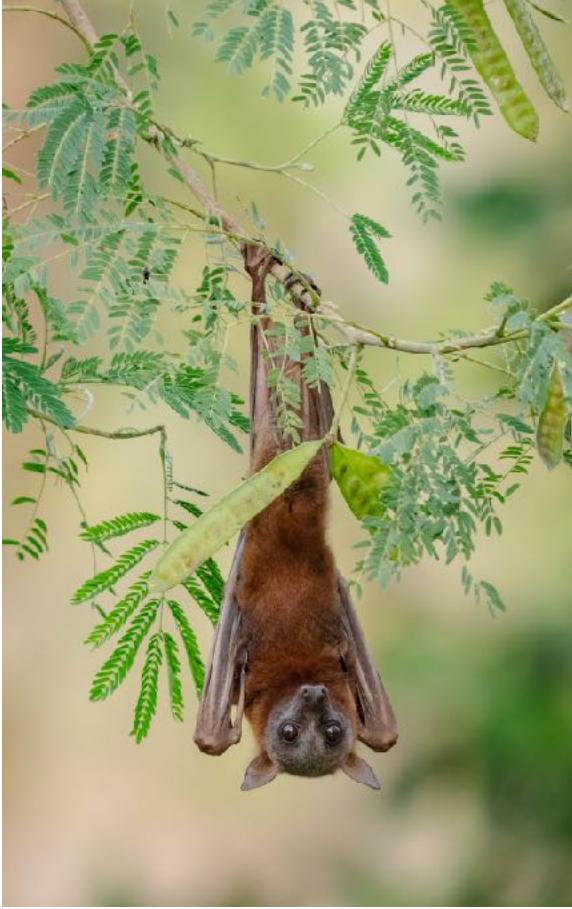
One of the many beautiful things about touring are the seemingly random encounters you experience while on tour. Most of the time, these birds or animals are somewhere that you don't expect or birds that have made their home in some sort of Anthropogenic environment. For example; one of the most reliable places to find the [Hooded Parrot](#) happens to be outside of a Tavern called "[The Lazy Lizard](#)" in [Pine Creek](#). Here you can find the birds drinking from the sprinklers, bathing in random parking lot puddles and feeding in the manicured grasses. This same area also happens to host an incredible [Black Flying Fox](#) colony and the next-door caravan park is the best place to find [Gray-crowned Babblers](#). Speaking of Caravan Parks, here were a few more that held great birds for us. The [Katherine Gorge Caravan Park](#) gave us our last parrot species for the tour, a stunning group of [Northern Rosella](#). Exceptionally stunning birds. The [Mardugal Campsite and Caravan Park](#) gave us views at the normally skittish [Partridge Pigeon](#). This is a great location for this bird and this time we had some prolonged looks.



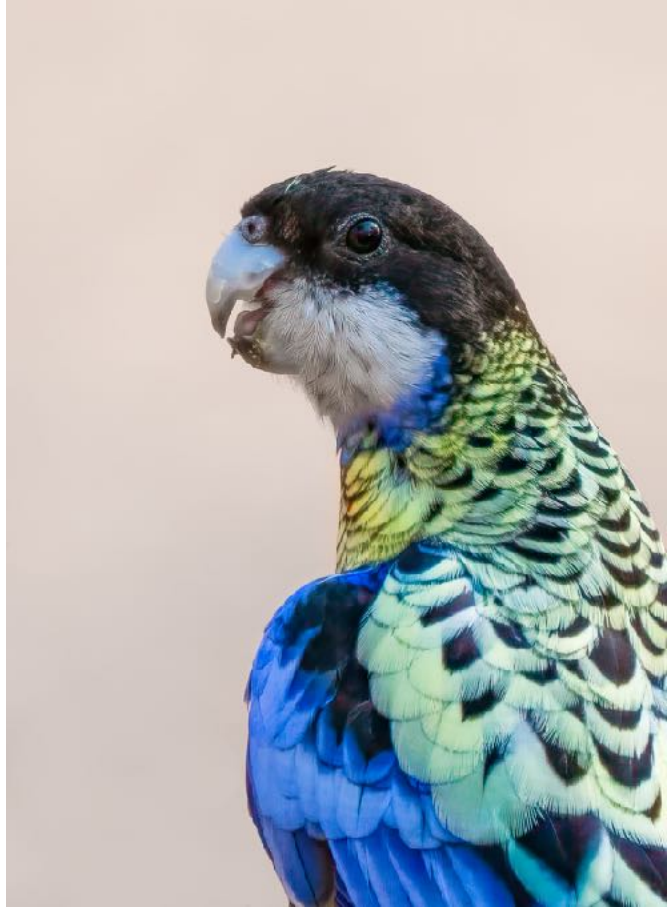
Partridge Pigeon - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Hooded Parrot - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Little Red Flying Fox - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Northern Rosella - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Another quite interesting and rare encounter we had was with a **Flock Bronzewing**...an amazing bird that typically prefers more interior plains, gibber and grasslands, not the **Sewage Treatment Plant in Katherine**. This bird is definitely not to be expected on tour but it was a great sighting for our group.

There are several Australasian Robins seen on this tour but the only truly randomly placed one (or so it seems) is the **Buff-sided Robin** in **Timber Creek Caravan Park**. The entire area surrounding this little caravan park is dry, eucalypt woodland and grassy fields...then you get to the **Timber Creek Hotel** and are presented with a random stretch of huge fruiting trees that border a river. Here it where you can find not only a pair of **Buff-sided Robin** but also a few **Freshwater Crocodile** and **Little Red Flying Fox**.

Perhaps one of my personal favorite and one of the last target chases of the trip was for a roosting **Tawny Frogmouth**. A tiny little **residential park (protected location) in Darwin** gave us our first and only looks at this species. It ended up being a family unit so we were privileged to see a youngster with its parents. A very special encounter but not their typical habitat. We ended up finding these birds in some sort of pine tree...whacky...haha



Little Corella - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Brown Falcon - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

And to end this section of the report, my absolute favorite experience of this tour. While driving towards one of our locations, I noted a small brown blob dangerously close to the side of the road. I hit the breaks, flipped a 'U-ee' and went back to investigate. Here we found a tiny, baby owl! After picking him up and putting him in a tree, I did some research and found that I mis-ID'd the little fella as a Barking Owl when in fact it was a baby **Southern Boobook**! It was so young that I couldn't really tell... just guessed based on location and habitat but nonetheless, I was wrong and unfortunately we hadn't seen an adult boobook yet. So, with some serious detective work, we recalled the iPhone photos a guest took and luckily, they had their GPS turned on so we simply recalled the photo, took down the GPS coordinates and returned the next morning. Thankfully this morning we were able to find the mamma owl and we even found the nest cavity with another youngster inside. A very cool experience for sure!



Southern Boobook - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Section Eight: Sandy Beaches, Mudflats and Shorelines

To round out our habitats, we have the typical sandy beaches, mudflats and shorelines. Most of the birds here as one might gather are going to be waders, shorebirds and some 'sea-type' birds. There is nothing special about these places in terms of the actual habitats and the bird families are generally the same across the globe. What does make this place special is the fact that it is located in the Northern Territory of Australia along a decent migratory path for various shorebirds. These habitats are not common on this tour and really there are only two areas around Darwin. The principle locations for these birds are [Lee Point](#) and [Buffalo Creek \(Beach and Mudflats\)](#). Here we found; [Great Knot](#), [Greater Sand Plover](#), [Red-capped Plover](#), [Terek Sandpiper](#), [Red-necked Stint](#), [Silver Gull](#), [Australian Tern](#), [Whimbrel](#), [Far-eastern Curlew](#), [Bar-tailed Godwit](#), [Pacific Golden Plover](#), [Sanderling](#), [Gray-tailed Tattler](#), [Common Sandpiper](#), [Little Tern](#), [White-winged Tern](#), [Caspian Tern](#), and [Pied Oystercatcher](#), [Great Crested Tern](#).

And finally, the last bird of the tour, a stunning [Beach Thick Knee](#) which we found hanging out in the sandy grass just on the border between the beach and monsoon forest. Awesome end to a whirlwind tour! This was a great bird to the end the trip with as it was another big target for one of the guests who really just loved seeing it. All in all, the NT does not host a huge variety of habitats, about eight as I have shown but as I said in the beginning, what it lacks in terms of diverse habitats it more than makes up for with a killer variety of bird and wildlife.



Greater Sand Plover - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot



Red-capped Plover - Photo by Guide: Ben Knoot

Trip List of Birds and “Other Animal” Species

List Summary:

- 207 Bird species seen by group
- 002 Birds species **HEARD** only
- 003 Birds species seen by guide only
- 212 Birds total species for the tour
- 012 ‘Other Animal’ species seen by group

Species	Seen	Guide Only
Birds		
<i>Magpie Goose (Anseranatidae)</i>		
Magpie Goose	Various locations on tour	
<i>Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl (Anatidae)</i>		
Plumed Whistling Duck (E)	Various locations on tour	
Wandering Whistling Duck	Buffalo Creek Sewage Ponds	
Radjah Shelduck	Buffalo Creek Area and Around Kakadu	
Green Pygmy Goose	Buffalo Creek Area and Around Kakadu	
Pacific Black Duck	Buffalo Creek Area, Around Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
Gray Teal	Knuckey's Lagoon	
<i>Megapodes (Megapodiidae)</i>		
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	Buffalo Creek Area	
<i>Pheasants, Grouse and Allies (Phasianidae)</i>		
<i>Brown Quail</i>	Seen briefly around Top Springs and south of Katherine	
<i>Grebes (Podicipedidae)</i>		
Australasian Grebe	Just about everywhere with water	
<i>Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)</i>		
Pacific Emerald Dove	Seen in flight by guide only in Kakadu	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
Common Bronzewing (E)	Buchanan Hwy near Top Springs	
Flock Bronzewing (E)	Katherine Sewage Ponds	
Crested Pigeon (E)	Top Springs	
Spinifex Pigeon (E)	Gregory Tree Road near Timber Creek	
Partridge Pigeon (E)	Kakadu	
Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon (E)	Kakadu	
White-quilled Rock Pigeon (E)	HEARD ONLY	
Diamond Dove (E)	Timber Creek, Top Springs, Pine Creek	
Peaceful Dove	Various locations on tour	
Rose-crowned Fruit Dove	Arnhem HWY Bridge over Adelaide River	
Bar-shouldered Dove	Various locations on tour	
Torresian Imperial Pigeon	Common around Darwin	
<i>Bustards (Otididae)</i>		
Australian Bustard	Best views were at Katherine Sewage Ponds	
<i>Cuckoos (Cuculidae)</i>		
Pheasant Coucal	Gregory NP Escarpment Walk	
Pacific Koel	Seen well by guests before the tour and seen by the guide during the tour	
Little Bronze Cuckoo	Buffalo Creek Area	
Pallid Cuckoo	Central Arnhem HWY	
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Seen in flight in Kakadu by guide only	
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Seen by guide only at Policeman's Points in Timber Creek	
<i>Frogmouths (Podargidae)</i>		

Species	Seen	Guide Only
Tawny Frogmouth (E)	A roosting pair around Darwin (location to be kept private)	
<i>Nightjars and Allies (Caprimulgidae)</i>		
Large-tailed Nightjar	Buffalo Creek Area	
<i>Owlet-nightjars (Aegothelidae)</i>		
Australian Owlet-Nightjar	Pine Creek Sewage Ponds	
<i>Rails, Gallinules and Coots (Rallidae)</i>		
Chestnut Rail	HEARD ONLY	
White-browed Crake	Buffalo Creek Sewage Ponds	
Australasian Swampphen	Buffalo Creek Sewage Ponds and Kakadu	
<i>Cranes (Gruidae)</i>		
Brolga	Mamukala Wetlands	
<i>Thick-Knees (Burhinidae)</i>		
Bush Thick-knee	Around our hotel in Darwin	
Beach Thick-knee	Lee Point	
<i>Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)</i>		
Pied Stilt	Various locations on tour	
<i>Oystercatchers (Maematopodidae)</i>		
Pied Oystercatcher	Lee Point	
<i>Plovers and Lapwings (Charadriidae)</i>		
Black-bellied Plover	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Pacific Golden Plover	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Masked Lapwing		
Greater Sand Plover	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Red-capped Plover	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Oriental Plover	Road to Victoria River Boat Ramp	
Red-kneed Dotterel	Katherine Sewage Ponds	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
Black-fronted Dotterel	Katherine Sewage Ponds and Kakadu	
<i>Jacanas (Jacanidae)</i>		
Comb-crested Jacana	Knuckey's Lagoon and Kakadu	
<i>Sandpipers and Allies (Scolopacidae)</i>		
Whimbrel	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Little Curlew	Random chase in Darwin	
Far Eastern Curlew	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Bar-tailed Godwit	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Black-tailed Godwit	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Ruddy Turnstone	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Great Knot	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Red Knot	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Various locations on tour	
Red-necked Stint	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Asian Dowitcher	Knuckey's Lagoon	
Sanderling	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Terek Sandpiper	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Common Sandpiper	Various locations on tour	
Gray-tailed Tattler	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Marsh Sandpiper	Knuckey's Lagoon	
Common Greenshank	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Wood Sandpiper	Katherine Sewage Ponds	
<i>Buttonquail (Turnicidae)</i>		
Chestnut-backed Buttonquail (E)	Seen well in flight on Central Arnhem HWY	
<i>Pratincoles and Coursers (Glareolidae)</i>		
Australian Pratincole	Various locations on tour	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
<i>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)</i>		
Silver Gull	Really anywhere with water near a coast, marsh or wetland	
Little Tern	Lee Point	
White-winged Tern	Lee Point	
Australian Tern	Lee Point	
Caspian Tern	Lee Point	
Whiskered Tern	Various locations on tour	
Lesser Crested Tern	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
Great Crested Tern	Lee Point and Buffalo Creek Beach	
<i>Storks (Ciconiidae)</i>		
Black-necked Stork	Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
<i>Aningas (Anhingidae)</i>		
Australasian Darter	Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
<i>Cormorants and Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)</i>		
Little Pied Cormorant	Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
Little Black Cormorant	Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
<i>Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns (Ardeidae)</i>		
Pacific Heron (E)	Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
Great Egret	Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
Plumed Egret	Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
Little Egret	Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
Pacific Reef Heron	Buffalo Creek Area	
Eastern Cattle Egret	Various locations on tour	
Nankeen Night Heron	Buchanan Hwy near Top Springs and Kakadu	
White-faced Heron	Around Buffalo Creek and Katherine Sewage Ponds	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
Pied Heron	Various locations on tour	
<i>Ibis and Spoonbill (Threskironithidae)</i>		
Glossy Ibis	Various locations on tour	
Australian Ibis	Various locations on tour	
Straw-necked Ibis	Various locations on tour	
Royal Spoonbill	Various locations on tour	
<i>Osprey (Pandionidae)</i>		
Osprey	Buffalo Creek Area	
<i>Hawks, Eagles and Kites (Accipitridae)</i>		
Pacific Baza	Arnhem HWY	
Little Eagle (E)	Seen at distance on Buchanan HWY	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Various locations on tour	
Spotted Harrier	Buchanan Hwy near Top Springs	
Brown Goshawk	Around Darwin and Buffalo Creek	
Collared Sparrowhawk	Seen en route to Kakadu	
Black Kite	Various locations on tour	
Whistling Kite	Various locations on tour	
Brahminy Kite	Buffalo Creek Area	
White-bellied Sea Eagle	Buffalo Creek Area, Around Kakadu and Knuckey's Lagoon	
<i>Owls (Strigidae)</i>		
Barking Owl	Buffalo Creek Area	
Southern Boobook	Victoria HWY	
<i>Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)</i>		
Azure Kingfisher	Buffalo Creek Area and Around Kakadu	
Little Kingfisher	Buffalo Creek Area and Around Kakadu	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
Blue-winged Kookaburra	Various locations on tour	
Red-backed Kingfisher (E)	Katherine Sewage Ponds	
Forest Kingfisher	Various locations on tour	
Torresian Kingfisher	East Point Mangrove Boardwalk	
Sacred Kingfisher	Various locations on tour	
<i>Bee-eaters (Meropidae)</i>		
Rainbow Bee-eater	Various locations on tour	
<i>Rollers (Coraciidae)</i>		
Oriental Dollarbird	Various locations on tour	
<i>Falcons and Caracaras (Falconidae)</i>		
Australian Hobby	Victoria HWY en route to Top Springs	
Brown Falcon	Top Springs Area	
<i>Cockatoos (Cacatuidae)</i>		
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (E)	Various locations on tour	
Galah (E)	Various locations on tour	
Little Corella	Various locations on tour	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Various locations on tour	
Cockatiel (E)	Various locations on tour	
<i>Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)</i>		
Red-winged Parrot	Various locations on tour	
Northern Rosella (E)	Katherine Gorge Area	
Hooded Parrot (E)	Pine Creek	
Budgerigar (E)	Victoria HWY between Victoria River Road House and Timber Creek	
Varied Lorikeet (E)	Various locations on tour	
Red-collared Lorikeet (E)	Various locations on tour	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
<i>Pittas (Pittidae)</i>		
Rainbow Pitta (E)	Howard Springs Park and Kakadu Area	
<i>Bowerbirds (Ptilonorhynchidae)</i>		
Great Bowerbird (E)	Various locations on tour	
<i>Australasian Treecreepers (Climacteridae)</i>		
Black-tailed Treecreeper (E)	Central Arnhem HWY	
<i>Fairywrens (Maluridae)</i>		
Purple-crowned Fairywren (E)	Gregory NP Escarpment Walk	
Purple-backed Fairywren (E)	Victoria HWY	
Red-backed Fairywren (E)	Various locations on tour	
<i>Honeyeaters (Maliphagidae)</i>		
White-gaped Honeyeater (E)	Various locations on tour	
Yellow-throated Miner (E)	Victoria HWY en route to Top Springs	
Singing Honeyeater (E)	Waterhole near Timber Creek	
Yellow-tinted Honeyeater (E)	Nackeroo Lookout in Timber Creek	
Gray-fronted Honeyeater (E)	Nackeroo Lookout in Timber Creek	
Bar-breasted Honeyeater (E)	Muirhead Bushlands	
Rufous-banded Honeyeater	Muirhead Bushlands	
Rufous-throated Honeyeater (E)	Muirhead Bushlands	
Dusky Myzomela	Kakadu	
Red-headed Myzomela	Buffalo Creek Area	
Brown Honeyeater	Various locations on tour	
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Various locations on tour	
White-throated Honeyeater	Muirhead Bushlands	
Little Friarbird	Various locations on tour	
Helmeted Friarbird	Muirhead Bushlands	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
Silver-crowned Friarbird (E)	Various locations on tour - best at Katherine Sewage Ponds	
<i>Pardalotes (Pardalotidae)</i>		
Striated Pardalote (E)	Central Arnhem HWY	
<i>Thornbills and Allies (Acanthizidae)</i>		
Weebill (E)	Nackeroo Lookout in Timber Creek	
Green-backed Gerygone	Buffalo Creek Area	
Large-billed Gerygone (E)	East Point Mangrove Boardwalk	
Mangrove Gerygone (E)	East Point Mangrove Boardwalk	
<i>Pseudo-Babblers (Pomatostomidae)</i>		
Gray-crowned Babbler	Pine Creek	
<i>Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)</i>		
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	Various locations on tour	
White-bellied Cuckooshrike	Various locations on tour	
White-winged Triller	Muirhead Bushlands	
Varied Triller	Buffalo Creek Area	
<i>Sittella's (Neosittidae)</i>		
Varied Sittella	Policeman's Point near Timber Creek	
<i>Shrike-tit (Falcunculidae)</i>		
Northern Shrike-tit (E)	Central Arnhem HWY	
<i>Whistler's and Allies (Pachycephalidae)</i>		
Sandstone Shrikethrush (E)	Nackeroo Lookout in Timber Creek	
Gray Shrikethrush	Waterhole near Timber Creek	
Mangrove Golden Whistler	Arnhem HWY Bridge over Adelaide River	
Gray Whistler	Buffalo Creek Area	
Rufous Whistler	Central Arnhem HWY and Kakadu Area	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
<i>Old World Orioles (Oriolidae)</i>		
Olive-backed Oriole	Victoria HWY	
Green Oriole	Buffalo Creek Area	
Australasian Figbird (E)	Buffalo Creek Area	
<i>Woodswallows and Bellmagpies (Artamidae)</i>		
White-breasted Woodswallow	Various locations on tour	
Masked Woodswallow (E)	Victoria HWY	
Black-faced Woodswallow	Various locations on tour	
Little Woodswallow (E)	Nackeroo Lookout in Timber Creek and Victoria HWY	
Silver-backed Butcherbird (E)	Pine Creek	
Black Butcherbird	Buffalo Creek Area	
Pied Butcherbird (E)	Victoria HWY and Central Arnhem HWY	
<i>Fantails (Rhipiduridae)</i>		
Northern Fantail	East Point Mangrove Boardwalk	
Willie-wagtail	Various locations on tour	
Arafura Fantail	Buffalo Creek Area	
Mangrove Gray Fantail	East Point Mangrove Boardwalk	
<i>Drongos (Dicruridae)</i>		
Spangled Drongo	Buffalo Creek Area	
<i>Monarch Flycatchers (Monarchidae)</i>		
Magpie-lark	Various locations on tour	
Leaden Flycatcher	Waterhole near Timber Creek	
Broad-billed Flycatcher	East Point Mangrove Boardwalk	
Paperbark Flycatcher	Various locations on tour	
Shining Flycatcher	Buffalo Creek Area and Around Kakadu	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
<i>Apostlebird (Corcoracidae)</i>		
Apostlebird (E)	Pine Creek and various outback HWY's (Arnhem, Buchanan, Victoria)	
<i>Jays, Crows and Magpies (Corvidae)</i>		
Torresian Crow	Various locations on tour	
<i>Australasian Robins (Petroicidae)</i>		
Jacky-winter	Central Arnhem HWY	
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher	Muirhead Bushlands and Buffalo Creek Area	
Buff-sided Robin (E)	Timber Creek Hotel	
Mangrove Robin	East Point Mangrove Boardwalk	
<i>Larks (Alaudidae)</i>		
Singing Bushlark	Knuckey's Lagoon	
<i>Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticolidae)</i>		
Golden-headed Cisticola	Knuckey's Lagoon	
<i>Grassbirds and Allies (Locustellidae)</i>		
Rufous Songlark (E)	Central Arnhem HWY	
<i>Swallows (Hirundinidae)</i>		
Fairy Martin	Bradshaw Bridge outside of Timber Creek	
Tree Martin	Buffalo Creek Area and Around Darwin	
<i>White-eyes, Yuhinas and Allies (Zosteropidae)</i>		
Australian Yellow White-eye (E)	Buffalo Creek Area	
<i>Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)</i>		
Mistletoebird	Central Arnhem HWY	
<i>Waxbills and Allies (Estrilididae)</i>		
Crimson Finch	Various locations on tour	
Star Finch (E)	Nackeroo Lookout in Timber Creek	

Species	Seen	Guide Only
Zebra Finch	Various outback HWY's (Arnhem, Buchanan, Victoria)	
Double-barred Finch (E)	Various locations on tour	
Masked Finch (E)	Various locations on tour	
Long-tailed Finch (E)	Nackeroo Lookout in Timber Creek, Edith Falls, Buchanan HWY	
Gouldian Finch (E)	Victoria HWY between Victoria River Road House and Timber Creek	
Pictorella Munia (E)	Buchanan Hwy near Top Springs	
Chestnut-breasted Munia	East Point Mangrove Boardwalk	
<i>Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)</i>		
Australian Pipit	Road to Fogg Dam	
Mammals/Other Fauna		
Agile Wallaby	Various locations on tour	
Short-eared Rock Wallaby	Gregory NP Escarpment Walk	
Little Red Flying Fox	Timber Creek Hotel	
Black Flying Fox	Various locations on tour	
Dingo	Seen very briefly by guide and one guest while driving out of Kakadu Area	
Feral Pig	Buchanan Hwy near Top Springs	
Merten's Water Dragon	Howard Springs Park	
Gilbert's Dragon	Pine Creek and Timber Creek Hotel areas	
Cane Toad	Timber Creek Hotel	
Asian House Gecko	Various locations on tour	
Freshwater Crocodile	Timber Creek Hotel	
Saltwater Crocodile	Kakadu Area	