



## **DARWIN MODULE**

### **Darwin AREA: Module 2**

Note: Back to airport by about 5 PM so Jenny Bowman can eat with her friend before final flight check-in at about 7 PM.

Accommodation in Darwin: Palms City Resort.



### **Day 8 (November 16): Early Start for Kakadu Area: First Stop Marrakai Track and then Start Birding Kakadu National Park in PM**

Start early on the next leg of the trip. Your birding guide, Luke Paterson, will meet you at the Palms City Resort lobby at 6:15 AM so you can get groceries at 6:30 AM and carry on.

You will have a chance to catch up on your rest the next few hours. If the group is alert and ready, we may stop at Fogg Dam (but this may not be essential birding at this point). We will certainly pay a visit to the Marrakai Track. Driving along the dirt road and walking short distances here, we will hope to find Black-breasted Kite, Red-backed Fairywren, Masked Finch, Little Friarbird, and Red-winged Parrot.

After a picnic lunch, drive 180 km east towards the World Heritage Site of Kakadu National Park, stopping at a river crossing *en route* to search for Black-tailed Whistler and Shining Flycatcher., In the South Alligator Region, you may find Little Curlew, Wandering Whistling-Duck, Australasian Swamphen, Long-tailed Finch, Marsh Sandpiper, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, and Varied Lorikeet.

Have dinner at the lodge in Kakadu around 6 PM.

Overnight in Anbinik Kakadu Resort.



### **Day 9 (November 17): Birding and Wildlife Watching at Kakadu National Park**

After an early breakfast, start the day in the Nourlangie Region of Kakadu NP, where we will be looking for White-lined Honeyeater, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Black-banded Fruit-Dove, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Helmeted Friarbird, and Northern Fantail. There is also a possibility of Varied Lorikeet, Red-winged Parrot, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Olive-backed Oriole, and a variety of honeyeaters. Black Wallaroo and Dingo may also be seen here.

Kakadu NP is of Aboriginal rock-billabongs where we Rock-Wallaby and you will be having a maximize your



known for a number art sites and can find Short-eared wallaroos. Today picnic lunch to birding time.

Later during the Ubirr and Jabiru NP. At Ubirr, you will Chestnut-quilled

Sandstone Shrikethrush, Channel-billed Cuckoo, and Pacific Baza. At Jabiru, we hope to add Partridge Pigeon, Sacred Kingfisher, Golden-headed Cisticola, Australian Hobby, Bar-breasted Honeyeater, and Pink-eared Duck before the end of the day.

morning you will visit regions of Kakadu be looking for Rock-Pigeon,

After an early dinner, settle again into the cozy cabins for the night in Anbinik Kakadu Resort.

## **Day 10 (November 18): Birding from Yellow Waters to Pine Creek**

Begin the day by taking a sunrise cruise during the best two hours of the morning on the Yellow Waters Billabong. This is a good opportunity to see Saltwater Crocodile as well as a number of waterbirds; Brolga; Sharp-tailed Sandpiper; Forest, Little, and Azure Kingfishers; Green Pygmy-Goose; White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Restless and Shining

Flycatchers; and Buff-banded Rail. This will be your best chance at some of the rarer species such as Great-billed Heron and Black Bittern. The cruise is followed by a buffet breakfast at Cooinda Lodge.

Leave Kakadu and head southward, continually looking for raptors, including Black Falcon and Red Goshawk, as well as Hooded Parrot. Other birds include Silver-backed Butcherbird and Yellow-throated Miner; Gouldian Finch also likes to feed in the same habitat, often accompanied by other finches such as Masked, Long-tailed, and Double-barred Finches. Other species to look for are Northern Rosella, Cockatiel, Diamond Dove, and Red-backed Kingfisher. You may also find Crested Pigeon, Red-winged Parrot, Great Bowerbird, and a wide variety of honeyeaters and other finches.



Your travels will also include a visit to a dam to search for Chestnut-backed Buttonquail, Partridge Pigeon, and Northern Rosella. This is a nice spot for a picnic lunch. White-throated Gerygone and Black-chinned, Rufous-throated, and Banded Honeyeaters may be seen as they come in to drink at a nearby small creek.

Your total travel distance today is about 150 miles, so you will get in plenty of birding as you finish your day in Pine Creek.

You will all enjoy dinner at about 7 PM at Pine Creek, where you are spending the night in Pine Creek Railway Resort.

## **Day 11 (November 19): AM Birding in the Pine Creek Area; then Birding the Coast and Other Spots on the Way Back to Darwin**

This morning you'll explore the Pine Creek region for a chance of Red-backed Kingfisher, Olive-backed Oriole, Brown Falcon, Gray-crowned Babbler, White-eyed Duck, Pied Stilt, and White-winged Triller. Later in the day, you will explore the Adelaide River region, where you may find Buff-sided Robin, Banded and Rufous-throated Honeyeaters, Pacific Baza, Plumed Whistling-Duck, and Radjah Shelduck.

After your picnic lunch, you'll head back to Darwin, birding along the way. You should arrive in the late afternoon and have an opportunity to look at shorebirds again from the Esplanade.

Accommodation in Darwin: Palms City Resort.

## **Day 12 (November 20): Darwin Area Birding (Mangroves and Monsoon Forest)**

You will begin your day with early-morning birding around Darwin, including mangrove habitat for Australian Yellow White-eye, Red-headed Honeyeater, Mangrove Robin, and the elusive Chestnut Rail. Later, you will visit some monsoon vine-forest areas in search of the spectacular and delightful Rainbow Pitta along with Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Green Oriole, Varied Triller, and Large-billed and Green-backed Gerygones.

You will spend the rest of the morning seeking any species in the area that would be new for the trip.

As it warms up, you will have lunch near the coast. This will be your best opportunity thus far for coastal and shore birding. You may find Pacific Golden-Plover, Great Knot, Terek Sandpiper, Oriental Plover, Lesser Sand-Plover, Red-necked Stint, Torresian Kingfisher, and Beach Thick-knee.

The late afternoon plans will depend upon what we can squeeze in and what is best for bird-finding.

- In the late afternoon, you may try the mangrove habitat again for any species you missed in the morning, specifically looking for Chestnut Rail, Black Butcherbird, Red-headed Myzomela, Mangrove Robin, Mangrove Gerygone, and Black-tailed Whistler. The freshwater wetlands will give you the chance to look for Little Egret,



Pacific Heron, Royal Spoonbill, Magpie Goose, Wood Sandpiper, and Australian Pratincole.

- Based upon what we have seen before, Luke may try to sneak into a drive into Fogg Dam. Travel to Fogg Dam (about 60 km southeast of Darwin), which is an excellent area for waterbirds including Magpie Goose, Green Pygmy-goose, Black-necked Stork, Brolga, White-browed Crake, Comb-crested Jacana, Forest Kingfisher, Tawny Grassbird, and a variety of egrets. A nearby walk may produce honeyeaters and flycatchers as well as Brush Cuckoo and Little Bronze-Cuckoo. Crimson Finch flocks feed in the area. From a bird hide overlooking the wetland, you may find Black-breasted Kite and other raptors such as Spotted and Swamp Harriers.



At about 5 PM, you will bid Luke *adieu* and the group will have dinner together.

XXX another night in Darwinxxx



