

**Media Release:**

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## **Red Centre's Feathered Residents at the Desert Park**

Discover the diversity of desert birds at the Alice Springs Desert Park during Red Centre Bird Week from 25 September to 3 October 2010.

Desert Park Sales and Marketing Manager Estelle Marshall said the Red Centre has over a quarter of Australia's bird species. A variety of species can be found hiding in spinifex, dancing around waterholes or soaring over rocky ranges.

"Red Centre Bird Week at the Alice Springs Desert Park is your chance to get to know the Centre's feathered inhabitants with a range of activities for everyone from toddlers to avid bird watchers," Mrs Marshall said.

"Highlights for children include the daily 'Make a Bird' workshop, the daily 'Waterhole Watch' activity where you join a guide at the waterhole and meet the wild bird residents, and the twice daily 'Scatter Feeds' where you join a zookeeper and watch the feeding of some of the Park's birds.

"Highlights for adults include the '24 Hour Twitchathon' from Friday 24 to Saturday 25 September where teams head out to see who can count the most bird species within 24 hours.

"During the day discover what happens behind-the-scenes at the free flying bird presentations at 'Nature Theatre Training'.

"The Desert Park will also host an 'Introduction to Bird Watching' 4.15-5pm each afternoon with an expert bird guide showing you what to look for, where to look and what equipment to use. A \$5 binocular hire fee applies."

Red Centre Bird Week is now in its second year following the success of the inaugural event held around the same time last year and after the rainfall experienced this year now is a great time to head out and see some of the magnificent birds flocking to the Red Centre.

"The Alice Springs Telegraph Station 'Birds Before Work' is a free event being held 7-9am on Tuesday 28 and Thursday 30 September and offers an excellent opportunity for all ages and skills to hear glorious bird songs and fascinating behaviour at dawn," Mrs Marshall said.

"The Desert Park will also host a dawn Bird Walkabout tour daily from 6.30-9.30am led by one of the Park's expert bird guides. Adults \$50 and children (5-15 years) \$25 which includes binocular hire, all day entry to the Park and concludes with a light breakfast. Bookings are essential."

For more information about the Desert Park's Red Centre Bird Week activities go to [www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au](http://www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au).

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Estelle Marshall on 8951 8707**

**Image – Splendid Blue Fairy Wren**

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