

Media Release:

30.09.11

Desert Park Celebrates Red Centre Birds

Red Centre Bird Week is back, featuring plenty of activities to celebrate our rich desert bird life at the Alice Springs Desert Park and further afield from 1 to 9 October 2011.

Alice Springs Desert Park Sales and Marketing Manager Estelle Marshall said the annual event is an excellent opportunity to spend time with bird experts and enthusiasts and learn more about our local bird species.

“We get regular sightings of more than 100 species in this region, and Red Centre Bird Week gives our visitors a chance to get know these feathered residents and have a great time doing it,” said Ms Marshall.

“Once again, we will be hosting the popular Twitchathon, in which teams compete to see the most bird species in the wild within 24 hours and earn prizes for the top three spots.

“Last year, 136 species were recorded, and after the 2010 rains, it’s possible that this year’s teams will do even better.”

Other Red Centre Bird Week highlights include a free Tag-a-long Bird Tour through Owen Springs Reserve, a Twitcher Talk and Tucker event with local historian and bird watcher Dick Kimber, and dawn bird-watching tours led by the Desert Park’s expert bird guides.

Ms Marshall said there are also plenty of activities for children to enjoy, such as a treasure hunt, make-a-bird workshops and scatter feeds, where they can watch zookeepers feeding the Desert Park’s birds.

“We like to make sure there is something for everyone at the Desert Park and that is certainly true of our Red Centre Bird Week event,” said Ms Marshall.

“Whether you want to spot unusual birds, get tips on the best bird-watching equipment or simply experience desert bird life in our unique environment, there is something in the program for you.”

While many Red Centre Bird Week activities are free, others require a fee and prior registration. For more information on activities and prices, go to www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au

Ends

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

Images – 1. Spinifex pigeons at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
2. Bird watchers Deidre and Ivor Morton.

Issued: 12.30pm Friday, 30 September 2011