

The Course

Introduction

Bird banding is an important study technique that contributes to the conservation of birds throughout the world. This course will provide you with an introduction to the whole banding process, which will be a great way to find out what banding birds is all about. It will also provide you an opportunity to see birds up close in the hand and to see the fine detail of different species.

Content

We will spend most of our time in the field, learning how and where to set up mist nets and how to safely extract birds from nets. You will get the opportunity and training to handle birds, identify their age and gender and be shown how to correctly identify species. You will also learn techniques for banding, weighing, measuring and recording the birds we catch. We will spend a small amount of time in the classroom learning about the role bird banding plays in conservation and some of the interesting discoveries researchers have already made.

Participants who are interested in further banding practice are welcome to stay on for a few days after the course.



Luke Ireland

Your facilitator this weekend is Luke Ireland, an ecologist with a fascination for all things ornithological. Luke holds a Masters degree in Wildlife Science and has worked on banding projects across South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and also Peru. He began banding at Gluepot Reserve a number of years ago under the guidance of renowned bander Wally Klau (OAM).

He has previously worked as a threatened mallee bird ecologist with DEWNR helping to setup a banding project looking to understand the movement patterns of the Regent Parrot.

Luke currently works as an Indigenous Protected Area Coordinator in the APY Lands in central Australia, where he teaches conservation land management to indigenous rangers.



Accommodation at Gluepot

Accommodation is available at Waikerie, but as it is 64km away - 1¼ hours travel, so we suggest camping at the Reserve as your best option. There are three camping grounds to choose from but you will need to be fully self-sufficient in regard to your camping equipment, water and food supplies. The camping grounds provide well-spaced sites that are suitable for tents, caravans and vehicles. Toilets are provided at each camping ground but power is not available. The Reserve has an excellent, well maintained track system suitable for 2 WD vehicles and mountain bikes. Course fees include camping fees.



About Gluepot

Gluepot Reserve is a 54,000ha conservation reserve situated 64km north of Waikerie in South Australia's Riverland district. Gluepot was purchased by Birds Australia with the aim of "effectively managing a large, internationally significant area for biodiversity conservation".

Some 190 bird species recorded there so far, including 18 nationally threatened bird species resident on Gluepot including - Black-eared Miner, Red-lore Whistler, Regent Parrot, Striated Grasswren, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo and Malleefowl.

There are few areas of the world that support such a concentration of threatened species.