

## WALK DETAILS

**3.2 km circuit approx. 1 hour  
easy walking, some sand**

**Note: Bicycles are not permitted on walking tracks**

This walk commences from the car park opposite the eastern entrance to the Babbler Campsite.

Babbler Campsite is 3 km from the Visitor Centre along track 8.

The walk heads SSE through the Black Oak (*Casuarina*) woodland south of the track. It passes through a variety of vegetation associations each with its own array of bird species.

In addition to the Black Oak woodland, the walk traverses open Mallee areas with a sparse understorey and passes close by low lying areas with a dense understorey of shrubs such as Acacias and Sennas. Part of the walk skirts along the edge of a Mallee/Triodia ridge, whilst, towards the end, it passes through some dense Triodia.

### THIS WALK IS HABITAT FOR

Restless Flycatcher, Striped Honeyeater, Chestnut-crowned Babbler, Rufous Whistler, White-browed Treecreeper, Crested Bellbird, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Grey Butcherbird.

### IF YOU BECOME LOST ON THIS WALK

Walk north to intercept track 8

## THE CRYPTOGAMIC CRUST

This is a big name for a host of very small organisms that together, play a very important role on the soil surface.

Microscopic plants such as small mosses, lichens and algae together with slime from bacteria and fungi form a skin-like coating over soil particles. This not only holds the soil together, but also takes atmospheric nitrogen and fixes it into a useable form for other organisms.

It is claimed that the greatest biodiversity on Earth is within 2 cm of the soil surface. As the organisms listed above build up, other miniscule animals arrive to eat the “organic gardens”, tiny predators prey on them, then larger insects feed on them and so on.

Look at the extensive **cryptogamic crust** on this and other Gluepot walks.

**Please take care of this important ecosystem.**

### SAFETY GUIDELINES

A few simple precautions should always be taken when walking at Gluepot.

#### De-hydration is always a real risk

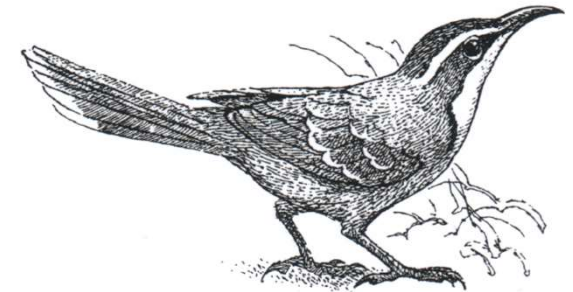
as the temperature can get extremely high (over 45°C), and humidity is normally very low.

- **Carry sufficient water**
- **Protect yourself from the sun**
- **If on a long walk take at least one piece of warm clothing**
- **Carry a compass & plan or map**
- **Carry a snake bite kit.**

W5  
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## BABBLER CAMP SOUTH WALK

### Mallee/Triodia dune Casuarina woodland



Chestnut –crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus ruficeps*

### GLUEPOT RESERVE WALKING TRACK NETWORK

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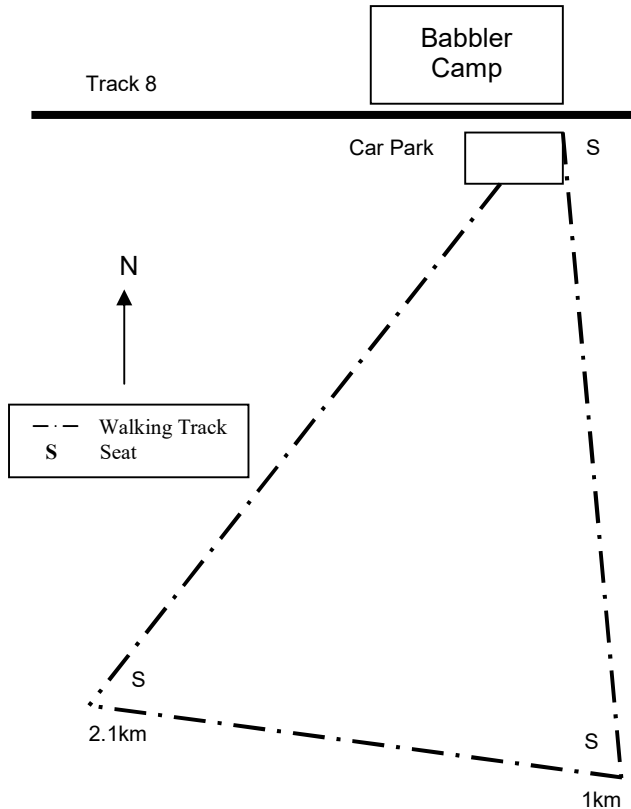


**South Australian**  
*Tourism Commission*



## BABBLER CAMP SOUTH WALK

Map NOT to Scale



## THE BABBLERS

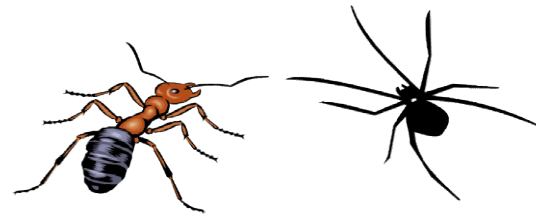
Gluepot is home to two species of babbler:

- White-browed Babblers and
- Chestnut-crowned Babblers.

Both species live in small family groups of 2 to 20 birds. This group usually consists of a breeding pair and their offspring.

Their noisy, gregarious and restless groups are easily detected as they move about foraging for food. Their incessant calls consist of growls, chattering and whistles.

They forage mainly on the ground in leaf litter and decaying wood. They seek out spiders and a range of insects.



They also eat a range of seeds and fruit from plants such as Acacias and Saltbushes.



Acacia



Saltbush

### Babblers are cooperative breeders.

The whole group assists in building the nest. When the breeding female has laid the eggs, the rest of the group feeds her as she incubates the eggs and then helps to feed the young birds.

Groups build several nests in an area, using some for breeding and others for roosting. When roosting, the whole group will crowd into one nest.

### CHESTNUT-CROWNED BABBLERS

The nests are conspicuous, large, dome-shaped and moderately tidy.

They are built **high** in the canopy of larger trees.

### WHITE-BROWED BABBLERS

Nests are built lower down in smaller trees and shrubs, usually about 2 m above the ground.

They are also generally more untidy with larger sticks poking out.

Babblers work cooperatively to defend their territory. So devoted to the group are they, that, when one of their group is caught in a bird bander's mist net, the other group members "jump" into the net to join their "mate".

Birdlife Australia Gluepot Reserve

contact details:

[gluepot@gluepot.org](mailto:gluepot@gluepot.org)

[www.gluepot.org](http://www.gluepot.org)

Phone: 08 8892 8600