

BIRD REPORT, 2002

COLIN ROGERS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with recent practice this report highlights records from a calendar year (2002) for species listed with a rare or vagrant status in *A field list of the birds of South Australia* (hereafter referred to as the Field List) (SAOA 1985a). No attempt is made to cover all species represented in the Field List and species for which there are no records in a calendar year are not discussed. The status in the Field List is indicated by a code with each entry (see Key to Codes overleaf).

Records are provided by SAOA members in the monthly record books, from field trips or by direct report to the record secretary, as well as by visitors to the state who post reports on the Birding-Aus Mail List (www.cse.unsw.edu.au/birding-aus/). Comments, with suitable references, are made about identification, breeding, migration, and other issues of interest. In many cases a Specified Region code is given to indicate

the region of South Australia (SA) from which records occurred (see Key to Codes overleaf; see SAOA 1985a for a map of the regions). Taxonomy follows Christidis and Boles (1994).

The significant climatic event for 2002 was an intensifying drought in the interior that spread to southern regions from mid-year. Drought in the interior was particularly severe in the Gawler and Flinders Ranges as well as along the eastern border of the State adjacent to north-western Victoria and south-western New South Wales. Bureau of Meteorology Rainfall Deficits for the 2002 period show that serious deficits and the lowest rainfall on record were recorded for these areas during 2002 (Bureau of Meteorology 2004). As a consequence there was some southward movement of birds usually only recorded in the central and northern regions of the State.

In particular, Black-tailed Native-hens *Gallinula ventralis* remained in southern regions

throughout the year and Orange Chats *Ephianura aurifrons* appeared in high numbers in southern regions with suitable samphire habitat from October. Of particular note was the first record of Yellow Chat *Ephianura crocea* from the south of the State when a specimen was collected from Tolderol Game Reserve, Murray Mallee, in April (Eckert and Ludewigs 2003).

Additional highlights were the State's first record of Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*, the return of a Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* (third record), a Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (second record), and a Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* at Carpenter Rocks during December 2001 and January 2002 (Christie 2003). Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum* and Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* were con-

firmed from the South East (SE) of the State. The latter species is not yet in the Field List but the records from 2002 and later suggest that it is a regular winter visitor to the SE (Berggy 2004). Also from the SE, were reports of Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*, and an influx of Fuscous Honeyeaters *L. fuscus*, the latter occurring from at least as far north as Bordertown to Telford Scrub Conservation Park just north of Mt Gambier in the south. Closer to Adelaide a moulting Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* at Tolderol Game Reserve in December provided an identification challenge for local observers.

Although the following records have been vetted, researchers are advised to check with the observers before citing.

KEY TO CODES

Species Status	Observers	Observers (continued)	Observers (continued)
Br Breeding recorded in SA in 2002	AA Anita Aspinall HA Hilda Anderson	BG Bob Green CG C. Gillespie	VN Pat Newy PN Vicki Natt
Ex Extinct, SA or Specified Region	JA Jim Allen KA K. Alcock	CGI Clair Gifford JG John Gitsham	APr Ann Prescott CPr Carol Proberts
R Rare, SA or Specified Region	ABl Andrew Black AB Adrian Boyle	KG Ken Grinter LG Lyn Gould	DP Dexter Palmer DD David Paton
Va Vagrant, SA or Specified Region	CB Chris Baxter JB John Berggy	PGr Philip Griffin TG Terry Gould	EPA Enid Pascoe JP Irena Palmer
(S) Spring-Summer visitor to SA	JBo Jack Bourne PB Pat Bourne	BH Brian Haywood BHU Beatrice Hurrell	JP Josie Pyle CR Colin Rogers
(W) Autumn-Winter visitor to SA	RB Rob Bensen SB Sue Black	CH Cathy Houston DH David Harper	DR David Robertson JR John Reidy
Specified Regions in SA	WB William Breed	IH Ivan Hunt JH John Hatch	MR Minnie Robertson PR P. Rfeiffer
AP Adelaide Plains	CC Colin Clarke	KH K. Heyne	TR Tony Russell
EP Eyre Peninsula	DC David Close	PH Philippa Horton	V-JR Vicki-Jo Russell
FR Flinders Ranges	EC Emma Crossfield	RH Ron Hunt	
KI Kangaroo Island	GC Graham Carpenter	TH Toni Haywood	AS Annette Smith
LN Lower North	JC Jane Corin		BS Bob Snell
MLR Mount Lofty Ranges	Jo John Cox	DJ Doug Johnston	DS David Sando
MM Murray Mallee	LC Lawrie Conole		LS Leigh Schmidt
NE North East	MC Maureen Christie	BL Bill Lade	WS Wyn Syson
NW North West	NC Neil Cheshire	DL Diana Lade	
SE South East	RC Ron Cox	EL E. Lawson	AT A. Turner
YP Yorke Peninsula		PL P. Lansley	CT C. Thomas
Conservation Areas	GD Giles Daubeney RD Richard Dodds SD Sean Dooley	SL S. Laslett	JT John Turner MT Michael Todd PT Peter Taylor
CP Conservation Park		AM Alan Morris	
GR Game Reserve	DE David Edey	DM Duncan McKenzie	
NP National Park	JE John Eckert	DMu Denzel Murfet	DV David Vincent
RP Recreation Park		IM Ian May	
	BF Brian Furby	RM Rob Mengler	MW Michael Wood
	OF Oliver Fuller	RMo R. Moorhouse	PW Peter Waanders
	RF Rob Farnes		RW Robert Whatmough
		DN David Nevitt	SW Stephen Walker
			SWi Sue Winwood

ANNOTATED LIST

thMalleefowl *Leipoa ocellata* R

A pair was working a mound on the Loop Road, Salt Creek, Coorong, MM, on 23 March and a chick was flushed from a shrub 20 m from the mound—a late breeding record [DE, V-JR]. One was seen on the north-western boundary of Pooginook CP, MM, on 21 April [CR, JCo]. One was on a boundary track at Mt Scott CP, SE on the ANZAC weekend in late April [JC, RM]. Two were at Ferries McDonald CP, MM, on 5 May [AS, RD]. Two were seen crossing the road near Goondooloo, 16 km E of Bowhill, MM, on 23 June [JA]. One was south of Mundulla, SE, on 16 July [CH]. Two were at Gluepot Reserve, MM, on 18 July [GD]. Two were at Stockyard Plain, WSW of Waikerie, MM, on 3 November [JA]. Four adults were in Casanova Scrub, MM, on 10 November [BF]. Regular sightings of one or two birds were reported at Gluepot Reserve, MM, throughout the year [per DM]. David Baker-Gabb (2002, p. 8) concludes that there is a robust breeding population of about 400 pairs on Gluepot Reserve; while it is estimated that there are 12 active mounds in Ferries McDonald CP [per CR].

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora* R

A covey of 11 was at Mary Seymour CP, SE, on 3 May [JBo, PB]. Two groups were flushed from dense grass along a creek, 60 km NNE from Murnpeowie Station, NE, on 24 May [GC]. One, a male, was near Gawler, AP, on 20 July [JP]. Four were flushed near the gate at Tolderol GR, Lake Alexandrina, MM, on 27 July [JH, CR]. A small group of 4–10 were at a Cropping Heritage Agreement, Avenue, SE, on 2 August [BH]. A covey was reported from Bool Lagoon, SE, on 26 August [MT]. A pair was in Aldinga Scrub CP, AP, in open grassland on 21 October [MW]. One was at White's Road Wetland, Globe Derby, AP, on 30 December [JCo].

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata* Ex (MM, AP, NE), Re-introduced (SE)

A flock of 700 was at Kaladbro Swamp (Victoria) near the SA-Victorian border on 1 August [JB]. See comment in 2000 Bird Report (Rogers 2002) about the location of Magpie Goose when Bool Lagoon is dry.

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* R (S)

Three were on the wetlands at Banrock Station, MM, on 19 October [DR, MR].

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* R

Five were at Greenrise Lake, SE, on 24 January [JB]. Three, including a male in breeding plumage, were at Murray Lagoon, Cape Gantheaume CP, KI, on 25 January [CB]. One was roosting with Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*, Grey Teal *A. gracilis* and Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* at the Goolwa Sewage Ponds, MM, on 30 March and 20 April [CR]. Two were at Greenfields Wetlands, AP, on 15 June [CR, JCo]. One was at the Mungerannie Wetlands, NE, on 7 July [DMu]. Several were on Laratinga Wetlands, Mount Barker, MLR, on 15 July [PN]. Four were with a large flock of Australasian Shoveler, Grey Teal and Pink-eared Duck on a bay on Lake Alexandrina near Tolderol GR, MM, on 23 July [JH, CR]. Three were on Lake George (South), SE, on 30 July [BH]. Three were at Willunga Ponds and one at the Waitpinga Wetlands, MLR, on 17 August [PG]. A total of 54 were at Coongie Lakes, NE, on 2 September [CPr]. Six were at Kingscote Sewage Ponds, KI, on 25 September [CB]. Seven were on the Copley Retention Dam, FR, on 27 October [DMu]. A flock of 150 was at Disher Creek between Renmark and Berri, MM, on 1 December [PW]. Five were reported from Greenfields Wetlands, AP, on 2 December and one was still present on 17 December [JH, JCo]. Five were at Goolwa Sewage Ponds, MM, on 25 December [CR] and three were at Barker Inlet Wetlands, AP, on 26 December [JCo]. Twenty were on Banrock Lagoon, MM, on 31 December [JA]. A report of 1700 on the wetlands east of Salt Creek, SE, during the winter requires verification [per DC].

Fiordland Penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* Va

One was observed standing on rocks near Snug Cove, KI, on 22–23 July [RC] and is the first live record for KI. All previous records for the island have been of beach-washed derelicts [per CB].

Salvin's Prion *Pachyptila salvini* R

One was found alive on 24 June in an industrial yard at Port Adelaide, AP, but later died. The specimen is in the SA Museum (B49502) [per PH].

Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* Va

Two approached the boat on a pelagic trip 32 miles WSW of Robe, SE, over the continental shelf on 22 September [JH]. One was a stage 2-3 of the nominate race, 'Southern Royal Albatross' *D.e. epomophora*, and the other was an adult 'Northern Royal Albatross' *D.e. sanfordi*. See Harrison (1985) for useful discussion of identification and ageing of *Diomedea* albatross.

Grey-headed Albatross *Diomedea chrysostoma* R (W)

One was found beach-washed at Blackfellows Caves beach, SE, on 3 March [SB, MC, AB].

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* R

One was at the Onkaparinga River Estuary, MLR, on 25 September [PG] and one was at White's Road Wetland, AP, on 9 December [JCo].

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* R (MLR, AP, KI, EP, LN)

Two were at Green Point, east of Port MacDonnell, SE, on 19 May [BG]. One was flushed at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, on 20 May [JCo, CR]. This was the first record for the winter and Australasian Bittern is now a regular winter visitor to this location in small numbers. Another single bird was at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, on 7 July and again on 13 September [JCo]. One was at the River Road Sewage Ponds, Onkaparinga River, MLR, on 26 September [PG]. At least three were at Tolderol GR during November and December [DC, CR, JCo].

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus* R (W) (not KI)

Four were roosting in trees south of Strzelecki Crossing, NE, on 14 July [GD]. They were also reported from the same location in July [DH] and on 10 August [DN]. Eight were roosting 5 km S of Montecollina Bore, Strzelecki Track, NE, 400-500 m W of the track on 12 August [JT]. One was at Rotten Lake on Chowilla (Bookmark Biosphere Reserve), MM, on 21 September [per PW].

^BGrey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* Va

On 12 January a male was near a nest in a pine plantation on the northern boundary of Telford Scrub CP, SE [JH, CR, BG]. A female was on the nest at that time but it is not known if any young were successfully fledged in 2002. One, sex not

noted, was 10 km south-east of Robe, SE, on 2 February [DP, IP].

On 14 December a male was recorded at Donegal, near Telford Scrub CP, SE. Also present was a juvenile female goshawk. On 16 December a male was heard calling and both male and female juveniles were observed in the presence of an adult female Brown Goshawk. It is thought that the juveniles were hybrid Grey Goshawk x Brown Goshawk *A. fasciatus* [BG]. Report and description pending.

Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos* R

One was at Curtis Road, Angle Vale, AP, on 13 April [APr]. Photograph provided. John Cox has a record from the nearby suburb of Elizabeth North, AP, in 1982 (J. Cox, pers. comm.). One was near Bungor, LN, on 22 July [OF]. Two were at Spear Creek, Stirling North, FR, (date not provided) [DL, BL]. Two were on Mungerannie, NE, on 7 July [DMu].

^BBrolga *Grus rubicunda* R

A flock of 60-70 arrived at Magpie Swamp, SE, on 9 March [JB]. This was two weeks later than normal, although the first arrivals came in on 28 February. A count at Magpie Swamp on 24 March totalled 70 with only 4-5 juveniles [JB]. Two were just south of Mungerannie, NE, on 5 May [DMu]. A flock of 100+ were in a paddock south of Magpie Swamp, SE, on 1 June [JB]. Only 5-10 juveniles were present. Four or five pairs were along the border track between the Casterton Road and Magpie Swamp, SE, on 30 June [JB]. A pair was observed defending a nest against Forest Ravens *Corvus tasmanicus* in a swamp 200 m N of the Casterton Road and about 400 metres from the Victorian border, on 20 July [JB]. Three were near Glencoe, SE, on 1 August [KH]. Three were near the Lucindale Road, Mt Burr, SE, on 29 August [BH, TH]. Thirty-five were at Coongie Lakes, NE, on 2 September [CPr]. A pair had reared a chick along the border track, SE, on 11 September [JB]. A resident pair was recorded at Mungerannie Wetlands, NE, on 25 October [DMu].

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis* R

One was flushed from bare twig-rush *Baumea juncea* at Lake St Clair, SE, on 27 March and two were caught and released from mammal traps at the same location, SE, in April [GC]. One was at the Onkaparinga River RP, MLR, on 28 August

[PG]. One was in a swamp at Yundi, MLR, on 15 December [CH]. One responded to a tape-recorded call at Tolderol GR on 29 December [NC, DC]

**Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis* R (W)
(not KI)**

Two were in dryland lucerne pasture, Bonshaw, 20 km S of Keith, SE, on 9 February [IH] and again on 6 March [RH, DS]. An adult female was in Ngarkat CP, MM, on 19 July [EC, DPa]. One was at Glenburr Road, MM, on 21 July [CT] and another one was near Waikerie, MM, on 24 August [per PW]. An adult male was on the plain adjacent to Eyre Highway east of Border Village, Nullarbor Plain, NW, on 18 October [DE, V-JR].

Plains-wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* R

One, a male, was reported from the Troubridge Scenic Drive inland from Port Moorowie, YP, in stubble paddocks [CGi]. This unusual southerly record is possibly explained by the dry conditions further north.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* Va (3rd record)

A solitary godwit coming into breeding (alternate) plumage was observed roosting with Banded Stilts *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* and Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* on 10 March in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP [DH]. It was observed regularly after that date until mid-April and usually roosted at the same location with a flock of Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. Several good photographs were taken by PW and DH. The bird was identified as female on the basis of the heavy barring on the lower breast flanks and under-tail coverts. This is the third record for SA. The first record was identified as a male, also at Dry Creek Saltfields on 20 September 1986. This bird was last observed on 17 April 1987 but apparently returned on 20 September and remained until 15 April 1988 (see Cox 1990).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* R (S)

Up to three were reported by the SAOA outing to Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 21 February [HA *et al.*] and two were there on 23 March [CR]. A flock of 32 was at Price Saltfields, YP, on 13 April [CR, JCo]. This is close to the highest monthly average of 34 recorded for this site in March over the period July 1981 to June 1984 by Close and McCrie (1986, Table 2). A flock of 12

was roosting in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 1 April and again on 7 April [CR]. Close and McCrie (1986, Table 1) report a maximum average count of 11 at Dry Creek (ICI or Penrice) Saltfields for July over the period February 1979 to May 1981, with at least six through to September 1980. Only three were recorded there on 18 April [CR], while two were present on 27 April [CR, JCo]. One was reported from Kangaroo Island on 17 July [KG]. In the second half of the year five were in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 24 September and a similar number was in Price Saltfields, YP, on 11 December [CR]. Only one was roosting in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 19 December. The difficulty with obtaining an accurate count at Dry Creek is the propensity for Whimbrel to roost in the mangroves for all but the highest tides.

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* R (S)

Two were at Western Cove-Cygnets River mudflats, KI, on 27 January [CB]. Ten were on a sand-spit at Outer Harbour, AP, on 20 February [DE, DV]. A roosting flock of 36 was reported from the Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, by the SAOA outing on 21 February [HA *et al.*]. Twelve were in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 23 March. Only six were there on 7 April but numbers had risen to 11–12 by 18 April and 15 were present on 27 April [CR, JCo]. Only one was present in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 8 July [CR] and one was at Hindmarsh Island, MM, on 31 July [DJ].

In the second half of the year seven were at Price Saltfields, YP, on 24 August [CR, JCo]. Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, had 32 on 13 September [PGr], a high count of 56 on 6 November, and 52 on 16 November [CR]. These are significant numbers as Close and McCrie (1986, Table 1) have a maximum average count of 40 for October with 39 still present in February 1980 over the period February 1979 to May 1981. A flock of six was at Price Saltfields, YP, on 11 December [CR]. Only 27 were located at Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 19 December [CR].

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* R (S) (1st record 1961)

Three were in Price Saltfields, YP, on 13 January [WB]. Two were in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 24 February [JCo]. A flock of five or six was at Price Saltfields, YP, on 20 March and again on 13 March [JH, WB, JCo, CR]. In the second half of the year there was one at the Dry Creek Saltfields,

AP, on 29 September [CR], three in October [DH], three on 6 November [CR, LG, TG] and one on 19 December [CR].

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* R (S)

A small number (2–6) spent the austral summer on the reefs near Port MacDonnell, SE. No reports were received from Dry Creek Saltfields, Price Saltfields or the western Eyre Peninsula.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* R (S)

One was at Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 24 February and two were at Greenfields, Magazine Road, AP [JCo]. The last record for the season was one at Greenfields Wetlands on 24 March [JCo]. The first record for the second half of the year was one at Tolderol GR on 9 December [CR, JCo] and the number had increased to three by 17 December [CR] and six were present on 28 December [JCo, CR].

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* R (S)

One was at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP on 17 March [JCo]. One was at Tolderol GR, MM, with Red-necked Stints *C. ruficollis*, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers *C. acuminata* and Curlew Sandpipers *C. ferruginea* on 25 March [BS], on 30 March [JCo] and again on 6 April [CR]. In the second half of the year the first record was on 16 November at Dry Creek Saltfields, AP [CR], although one was reported from the Berri, MM, area in November (date not provided) [PG]. One was at Greenfields Wetlands, AP, on 2 December and was seen regularly through December [JCo].

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* R (S)

A Reeve was observed feeding with Sharp-tailed and Marsh *Tringa stagnatilis* Sandpipers at the Greenfields Wetlands, AP, on 21 December [JCo, CR]. It was reported regularly up to 31 December.

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* R

One was near Lake Alexandrina, 3 km S of Milang, MM, on 4 January [AB]. During January five, consisting of three males and two females, were at the Greenfields Wetlands, Stage 1, AP, [JCo]. At least one female was at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, on 21 February [JCo]. Two were at Noora Evaporation Ponds, MM, on 1 June [BL] and one was west of Angaston, MLR, during 1–17 June [PT]. One was

caught in a yabbie net near Lake Alexandrina, MM (date not available) [per JE].

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* R

At least two were at Panorama Park, Wisanger, KI, on 25 April [CB]. Two were with a pair of Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* on an oval at Bordertown, SE, on 1 June and again on 7 June [CR]. One was in a paddock 3 km N of Cygnet River, KI, on 30 September [RW]. One was at Yacka, FR, in September [BL].

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* R (S)

One was reported from Tolderol GR, MM, on 28 December [DC].

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* R (S)

The only record for the year was one at Wheaton's Beach, Cape Gantheaume CP, KI, on 9 February [CB]. Most records of sand plovers now come from EP and only small numbers are recorded in Gulf St Vincent.

²⁸Hooded Plover *Thinornis rubricollis* R

One was at Danger Point, Port MacDonnell, SE, on 28 March [BH, BG]. A pair was at Hardwick Bay, YP, during July [PR]. Three were at Piccaninnie Ponds beach, SE, on 19 May [BG]. Eight were on the beach at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 27 July but only one was recorded at the same location on 15 September [BG]. Four were at the Nene Valley–Blackfellows Cave beach, SE, on 28 July [SB]. One was on the beach at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 6 October [CR]. Two were at the Blackfellows Caves beach, SE, on 15 September [SB] and one was on the beach at the SA–Victorian border on the same date [BG]. Two were at Emu Bay, KI, on 30 September [RW]. Two were at Flour Cask Bay, KI, on 9 October [CB]. Two were at the Hindmarsh River mouth, MLR, on 5 November and a nest with three eggs was noted [WS]. One was on Middleton beach, MM, on 8 November [AT, DMu]. One was on Waitpinga beach, MLR, on 13 November [WS] and two were still present at Blackfellows Caves beach, SE, on 14 December [DJ].

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* R

One, age not noted, was on the beach at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 27 July and another one was present on 4 May [BG]. One, age not indicated, was at French Point, east of Port MacDonnell, SE, on 14 December [DJ].

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* Va (2nd record)

A bird in breeding plumage was observed with a flock of Silver Gulls *Larus novaehollandiae* on a football oval in Salisbury Downs, AP, on 23 July [CC]. It was seen regularly, if intermittently, until 5 August, but only in the early morning when it came in to feed with a flock of Silver Gulls. The gulls appeared to be feeding on worms and/or insects particularly after overnight rain or heavy dew. The bird was showing signs of wing moult of the inner primaries and on the nape and was last reported on 5 August. A photograph by John Turner appeared in the SAOA Newsletter (SAOA 2002). The record has been accepted by the Birds Australia Rareties Committee (BARC 2004).

The first confirmed record of Franklin's Gull in SA was made by John Cox and occurred at Greenfields Wetlands, AP, in September 1993, only a few kilometres from the current sighting (see Carpenter *et al.* 2003).

There has been at least one additional record from SA of possible Franklin's Gull. A photograph taken off Streaky Bay, EP, in the 1970s (photographer unknown), shows a gull with a black hood in the company of a flock of Silver Gulls. Unfortunately the quality of the photograph is insufficient to positively identify the species, which may be a Franklin's Gull or Laughing Gull *L. atricilla*, the latter having now been recorded in Australia on several occasions. For a useful discussion of the identification of these two gulls see Grant (1997).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* Va

One in fresh non-breeding plumage was at the Murray Mouth, Hindmarsh Island, MM, on 1 July [DJ].

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* R

One was at Price Saltfields, YP, with an unspecified number of Fairy Terns *S. nereis* on 17 January [JH].

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* R (S)

The bird located near Carpenter Rocks in December (see Rogers 2003) remained in the area until at least 17 January [MC]. There were unverified reports of more than one Bridled Tern in the area. For a full report see Christie (2003).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* R (S)

A flock of 18 was at Tolderol GR, MM, on 30

March [JCo, CR]. Two in almost full breeding plumage were seen at Tolderol on 20 April along with a flock of c. 20 in plumages of various stages [CR]. Three, two in full breeding plumage, flew past the Murray Mouth and down the Coorong, MM, on 4 May [CR, NC]. Two were at Tolderol GR, MM, on 15 December [JCo] and one was reported from the same location on 22 December [JCo, CR].

Flock Bronzewing *Phaps histrionica* R

A flock of 90 was at the Mungerannie Wetlands, NE, on 4 October and again on 22 November [DMu]. A flock of in excess of 1,000 was on Pandie Pandie Station north of the homestead on the Diamantina River, NE, on 27 June [CB].

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii* R

At Bangham CP, SE, there were three on 7 July [BH], five (on the eastern edge) on 20 July [EPa] and three on 4 October [CR]. Four were in Comaam Forest, SE, on 15 October [KA]. The large numbers (c. 100) reported from the vicinity of Telford Scrub CP, SE, in May and recorded in the 2001 Bird Report (Rogers 2003) were not reported in 2002.

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* R

Progress report on the KI recovery program indicates that population recovery reported in the 2001 Bird Report (Rogers 2003) is continuing. The growing KI population increases the probability that birds will visit the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum* R

One was in Penambol CP, SE, on 5 June [SB]. Three were at Yah, SE, on 8 March [SL]. Higgins (1999, p. 96) indicates that the movements of Gang-gang Cockatoos are not well known but that Condon (1969) noted that it occurred occasionally in the SE of SA. Gang-gang Cockatoo was introduced into Flinders Chase NP, KI, in the 1940s and three were reported from Rocky River Waterhole on 25 April 1992 (Baxter 1995). See also the comments by Carpenter *et al.* (2003). There have been no recent reports from KI.

Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus* R

A flock of 200–300 was drinking at Whistler Tank, Gluepot Reserve, MM, during 7–15 March

[DM]. A flock, size not noted, was reported from Gluepot Reserve, MM, on 12 May [JR] and 12 were reported from there on the same day [IH]. Over 150 were near Banrock Lagoon, MM, on 11 June [AB]. Two, a male and a female, were at a nest hollow in Morgan CP, MM, on 26 August [CR]. A flock of 12 was at Brooke Reserve, near Waikerie, MM, on 27 August [RB, AM]. A flock of 15 was at Banrock Station, MM, on 21 September [JP]. A flock of 80 was at Peter Waanders' property, Waikerie, MM, on 21 December [PW].

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* Va

A flock of c. 20–30 was at the Wildlife Park, Bordertown, SE, on 7 June [JCo, CR]. At least six were in Bangham CP, SE, on 15 July [CH].

Orange-bellied Parrot *Neophema chrysogaster* R (W)

Two were at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, early in the season (date unverified) [RF]. Two were in the Mt Benson area, SE, on 10 June and four were reported from the Coorong NP, MM, on 12 July and three there again on 27 July [per BG]. Three were near Nora Creina, SE, on 10 October [VN, EL].

Scarlet-chested Parrot *Neophema splendida* R

The following were reported from Gluepot Reserve, MM. A flock of 4–5 was coming in to drink in the early morning at Homestead Dam on 15 March [DM]. One was seen in flight on 23 March [PL] and seven were again near Homestead Dam during 20–21 March [PW]. A maximum count of 11 was made during this period (see Fontaine and Davis 2003). Two adults were reported on 11 May [WS] and two males were at Quinn's Dam on 12 May [JR]. Up to five, three males and two females, were in Yumbarra CP, EP, from 26 August to 6 September [AM, RB].

Six neophemas thought to be Scarlet-chested Parrots were flushed 50 km E of Burra, LN, on 22 July [SW, ABI].

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* Va (3rd record?)

One was located at Tolderol Game Reserve, MM, on 8 December [CR, JCo]. It was identified as an immature bird moulting into adult plumage. A complete report has been submitted to the *South Australian Ornithologist* (Rogers, in prep.). For a discussion of the plumage details of Brush Cuckoo see Higgins (1999, pp. 677–686 and plate 32). The two previous records occurred at Ferries

McDonald CP, MM, approximately 15 km N of Tolderol GR (see Figwer and Britten-Jones 1994; Paton *et al.* 1994).

Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* Va (1st record)

An adult male was observed in the grounds of Norwood High School, Magill, AP, during 10–12 January. It was relocated in the vicinity of Branson Reserve, Wattle Park, AP, on 14 January and heard calling, usually in the morning, until 21 January [JA]. For a complete report see Allen (2003).

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* R (FR, NE, Va (SE, MM, MLR, AP, LN)

One was at Cowarry, Killanoola, SE, on 6 February close to Mary Seymour CP [RMO]. At least three pairs were calling along the Cooper Creek near Coongie Lakes, NE, on 1 September and one bird was calling at Innamincka, NE, on 2 September [CPr]. Two were calling at Cowarry, SE, from July and observed roosting together from early September [RMO].

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea* R (SE–Glenelg River), Ex (MLR)

One was at the Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 21 July [EPA].

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea* R (S)

One was in Belair NP, MLR, on 24 September [BHU] and subsequently reported on 24 September [CR] and early October [TR, EPA].

Chestnut-breasted Whiteface *Aphelocephala pectoralis* R

A flock of 20–40 was located north of Marla on the Stuart Highway, NW, in July (date not known) [SD]. Three small flocks of 3–5 birds were near Mt Lyndhurst, Strzelecki Track, NE, on 15 July [GD]. Up to 20 were near Mt Lyndhurst, NE, on 8–11 August [JT] and two groups were reported from the same location on 21 August [MT].

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops* R

One was on a private property at Moorak, south of Mt Gambier, SE, during 10–15 May [BH]. This species is seldom recorded in SA and Higgins, Peter and Steele (2001, pp. 808–809) note that the subspecies *L.m. meltoni* is a vagrant to the SE of

SA during autumn and winter. For a more detailed discussion see Haywood (2003).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus* R (W)

One was feeding in manna gums at Brynton Wood, Moorak, SE, on 29 April [BH]. At least 12 were at two locations in Bordertown and east along the Dukes Highway north of Wolseley, SE, on 1 June [CR]. Three were in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 10 June [CR, JCo]. One was in Mt Rescue CP, SE, on 15 July [DS] and at least two were there on 16 July [CH]. One was in Kelvin Powrie CP, SE, on 27 July [DS]. Three or four were on a heritage block on My Mi My Road, west of Bangham CP, SE, on 4 October and an adult in breeding plumage was seen feeding a juvenile on the SA-Victorian border opposite Kanawinka State Forest (Victoria) on 5 October [CR].

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis* R

One was at the Victor Harbor Council Caravan Park, MLR, on 8 April [DV]. At least 10 were in Bangham CP, SE, on the Birds SE Group outing on 7 July [BH] and at least three were at Agreement, Western Flat, south of Bordertown, SE, on 15 July [BH]. Six juveniles were in the Victor Harbor Cemetery, MLR, on 24 July [JT]. Two were at the south-eastern corner of Scott CP, MLR, on 16 July [CG]. Five were in suburban gardens at Reynella, MLR, on 29 August [LG, TG]. At least four were west of Border Lane south of Poolaijelo Road, east of Glen Roy CP, SE, with White-naped *M. lunatus* and Brown-headed *M. brevirostris* Honeyeaters on 5 October [CR]. Three were at the Victor Harbor Sewage Works, MLR, in late October [SWI].

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta* R (S)

A group of c. 15 was 35 km north-west of Marla, 1 km E of the Stuart Highway, NW, feeding in flowering gum *Eucalyptus* sp. on 2 September [IM]. Brown Honeyeater is known from the NW (Close and Jaensch 1984). There is also one report from the NE near Innamincka in 1998 (Reid 2000, p. 219). See also Carpenter *et al.* (2003) for records over the period 1982–1999.

Black Honeyeater *Certhionyx niger* R (S)

Four were at Yookamurra Sanctuary, MM, on 20 November [JG].

Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegatus* R (S)

One was at Gluepot Reserve, MM, on 23 March [PL]. Four males, with no females, were in Swan Reach CP, MM, on 13 November [LS]. A flock of 20 was in the Yookamurra Sanctuary, MM, during November and December [JG].

Yellow Chat *Epthianura crocea* R (NE) (1st record from southern region)

One was observed in the company of Orange Chats *E. aurifrons* and later collected at Tolderol GR, MM, on 24 April. This is the first record of Yellow Chat from southern regions and is probably attributable to the dry conditions in the interior that produced an influx of Orange Chats to southern regions. For a full report see Eckert and Ludewigs (2003).

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea* R (W)

One male was located in the garden of a property near Longwood, MLR, on 10 May [AA]. One male was in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 22 June [RF]. Another male was reported from Kaisersstuhl CP, MLR, in November and is an unusually late record [PW].

Western Whipbird *Psophodes nigrogularis* R

At least one was heard calling near Coonalpyn (35°41'S, 139°36'E), MM, during 25–26 August [MT].

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea* R

At least one bird calling frequently was reported from Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE [per BH].

Red-lored Whistler *Pachycephala rufogularis* R

A juvenile was in Cox Scrub CP, MLR, on 17 February [DMu]. One was at the northern boundary of Pooginook CP, MM, on 21 April [JCo, CR]. Two were reported from separate locations in Gluepot Reserve, MM, on 15 March [DM]. Two were near Coonalpyn (35°41'S, 139°36'E), MM, during 25–26 August [MT]. Six, three pairs, were recorded and photographed in Gluepot Reserve, MM, on 7 September [CT]. Two were in Gum Lagoon CP, SE, on 15 October [LC].

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca* R (S)

One was at Cowarry, Killanoola, SE, on 8 January [RMO]. Four, three males and a female, were on the northern boundary of Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 13 January [JH, CR, BG] and at least three were there on 28 January.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis* R (S)

A pair was near the southern boundary of Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 25 August [BG]. One of the pair was the dark morph *C.p. robusta* so this is probably the same pair that fledged two young at this location in 2001 (see Rogers 2002; Green and Haywood 2003). A dark morph *C.p. robusta* was on Honeysuckle Road in scrub east of Penambol CP, SE, on 6 October. This bird appeared to act aggressively towards a Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*. A large group of Fantailed Cuckoos *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, estimated at 20–30 birds, was also in the immediate vicinity [CR]. One flew across the border track, SE, in October [JB]. A pair was on the eastern boundary of Telford Scrub, SE, on 14 December [BG].

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* R

One immature bird was at Worrolong (c. 37°48'S, 140°49'E), SE, on 16 April [JB]. One was in the Tangari Regional Park, Happy Valley, MLR, during 14–16 August [PG]. One was in a suburban garden in Gilberton, AP, on 11 September [DPa].

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* (not on SA list)

Several were reported from Worrolong (c. 37°48'S, 140°49'E), SE, generally in the winter months [JB], and additionally there were three on 30 April and seven on 11 September [JB].

These birds have the characteristic call of Pied Currawong but have a smaller white patch at the base of the tail that is difficult to see in the field and reduced white at the base of the primaries by comparison with eastern birds (Pizzey and Knight 1997, p. 464; Berggy 2004). It is uncertain if these birds are the threatened 'Western Victoria' Pied Currawong *S.g. ashbyi* (e.g. see Schodde and Mason 1999, pp. 553–554). They have been recorded on several occasions previously (SAOA 1985b; SAOA 1997), but more comprehensive field notes were considered necessary. For records during the period 1982–1999 see Carpenter *et al.* (2003). Reluctance to accept past records may be explained by the lack of obvious Pied Currawong characteristics in western Victoria although the call is diagnostic.

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella* R

One was at the north-eastern corner of Lake St

Clair, SE, on 12 February [BH]. One was at Cape Northumberland, SE, on 30 July [BH]. Six were at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 4 May and again on 1! May and 9 June [BG]. Eight were at Lake Bonney, SE, on 8 August [BH] and at least six were at Salt Creek, Coorong, SE, during 16–17 August [CR]. One was at Blackett Scrub, Gum Lagoon CP, SE, on 6 October [DMu].

^BBassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata* R

Five were at De Mole River (subdivision), KI, on 20 January [CB]. One flew into a window near Humberg Scrub, MLR, on 31 March; specimen now in the SA Museum (B49604). Two were at the Woolwash Native Forest Reserve, SE, on the Birds SE outing on 26 May. Two were in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 7 October [CR]. One was in Deep Creek CP, at Boat Harbour Creek, MLR, on 1! October [DMu]. Breeding was recorded at De Mole River, KI, on 28 July [CB].

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