

## BIRD REPORT, 2004

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This report highlights records from the calendar year 2004 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 1985). No attempt is made to cover all species represented in the Field List and species for which there are no records in the 2004 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/](http://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 1985 for a map of the regions). Brief reports on several threatened taxa are also included. Taxonomy follows Christidis and Boles (1994).

The first half of the year to June was characterised by below average rainfall. Southern regions including the MLR, southern EP, KI and Lower SE were 50–100 mm below average. Adjacent areas up to the NE were 15–50 mm below average and the NW was 10–15 mm below average. The situation improved after June with only the far NE still below average to 31 December (Bureau of Meteorology 2006).

Highlights for the year included the second record of a King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus* on the beach at Port MacDonnell, SE, further sightings of Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* along with several Buller's Albatross *Diomedea bulleri* during March and three Common Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix* in October—all during pelagic trips from Port MacDonnell. A Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos* was reported from two locations in the MLR and AP. Other records of interest were the sighting of a pair of Powerful Owls *Ninox strenua* in the Caroline Forest, SE, a Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* off Cape Northumberland, SE, in June and a Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* off Port Lincoln, EP, in September. Unfortunately no further details of that record have been provided so it must be treated as unverified. Ten Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* were reported from Mundoo Island, MM, in January and this may represent the highest count for the State. The Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* returned for a fourth season when it was reported from Buckland Park Lake, AP, in December.

In the second half of the year the first Sharp-tailed Sandpipers *Calidris acuminata* were recorded on 21 August and this coincided with the arrival of summer migrants in southern regions including Rufous Songlarks *Cincloramphus mathewsi*, Brown Songlarks *C. cruralis* and White-winged Trillers *Lalage sueurii* after warm north to north-westerly winds in the week of 14–21 August.

## KEY TO CODES

Species Status	Observers*	Observers	Observers
Br Breeding recorded in SA in 2004	BA Bill Alcock HA Hilda Anderson PA Pat Ashfield	BGr Bob Green GG G. Giles LG Lyn Gould TG Terry Gould PG Peter Ginnane	RO Ralph Ohlmeyer
Ex Extinct, SA or Specified Region			API Andrew Plimer DP D. Price FP Frank Pierce LP Lynn Pedler PP Peter PennEy RP R. Price SP Sarah Pennington
R Rare, SA or Specified Region	AB Andrew Black CB Chris Baxter JB Jack Bourne PB Pat Bourne SVB S. Van Barneveld SB Sue Black WB William Breed	BH Bryan Haywood CH Chris Hankel DH David Harper JH John Hatch RH R. Hogan SH Stuart Hull TH Trevor Hampel	AR Alan Richards CR Colin Rogers KR K. Richards TR Tania Rajic
Va Vagrant, SA or Specified Region			
(S) Spring-Summer visitor to SA	BSE Birds South East		
(W) Autumn-Winter visitor to SA			
<b>Specified Regions in SA</b>			
AP Adelaide Plains	DC Derek Carter DCu Dean Cutten JBC John B. Cox LC Lawrie Conole NC Neil Cheshire RC Raelene Cutten TC Trevor Cowie	CJ Chris James MdJ M. de Jong PK Peter Koch GL Gil Langfield LL Lizzie Lewis PAL P.A. Langdon	BS Bob Snell DS David Sando JS John Speirs LS Leigh Schmidt PeS Pearl Scapens PS Peter Scapens RS R. Standborough WS Win Syson
EP Eyre Peninsula			
FR Flinders Ranges			
KI Kangaroo Island			
LN Lower North			
MLR Mount Lofty Ranges			
MM Murray Mallee			
NE North East	AD A. Dawe DD David Dadd JD Judith Dyer MD Margaret Dadd PD P. Doecke RD Rod Dyke	DM Denzel Murfet IM Ian May RM Rob Mengler RMO Robin Moorhouse	BT B. Taylor CT Chris Thomas RT Rosemary Taplin
NW North West			
SE South East			
YP Yorke Peninsula			
<b>Reserves</b>			
CP Conservation Park	JF John Fennell JuF June Fennell OF Oliver Fuller	MFN Millicent Field Naturalists PN P. Norsworthy VN V. Nairn	DW Dianne Watson PW Peter Waanders JvW Jason van Weenen SuW Sue Winwood
GR Game Reserve			
NFR Native Forest Reserve			
NP National Park			
RP Recreation Park	BG B. Grear	MO Murray Oswald	

\*Observers are alphabetised by the last capital letter of the code, then the first.

## ANNOTATED LIST

**Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata* R**

Four were reported from Desert Camp CP, SE, on 12 April [RM]. Two were at Gum Lagoon CP, SE, on 10 March [DS, RS]. One was on the Border Track, Ngarkat CP, MM, on 5 September [BSE campout]. Two were at a mound in Gum Lagoon CP, SE, on 2 October [BSE campout]. At least one was near Inneston, Innes NP, YP, on 1 October [AB] and others were reported by campout members [TC]. Malleefowl footprints were noted in Warrenben CP, YP, on 4 October [AB].

Monitoring of active mounds on the northern Eyre Peninsula recorded only three in the Cowell Heritage Agreement and three in the Lock Heritage Agreement (Way 2006). Nonetheless, from the report, these appear to be important areas for the species on the northern EP.

Sharon Gillam reports that in 2004, four new grids were established in the Riverland District, MM, on Calperum Station, giving a total of 40 grids in SA. Of these, 28 were monitored in the 2004–2005 breeding season, with 26 of these being in the Murraylands, MM (Table 1). In this season, of the total 574 mounds monitored, 23 were active and 551 inactive (Table 2).

In 2004, five grids were searched, including four newly established on Calperum Station, MM, and one grid on Eyre Peninsula.

The increased number of grids monitored was motivated by the Monitoring Workshop in Victoria, conducted by the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group (VMRG). New volunteers were trained and the skills of regular volunteers refreshed prior to monitoring Malleefowl nests

during the approaching nesting season. In addition, the workshop introduced the electronic monitoring technique now used by the Victorians, which provides a very organised, sophisticated and efficient system of data collection, storage and analysis, whilst maintaining a high standard in data quality. This is the preferred method for monitoring breeding densities of Malleefowl across all states, thus standardising data collection methods nationally, allowing ready transfer of records to a central data storage facility, and easily combining data to provide regional impressions of Malleefowl trends. A national standard also facilitates community support and data analysis.

The VMRG monitoring method was adopted in SA in the 2004–2005 breeding season, with plans to extend this method to all grids next season, and establish a coordinated community-based monitoring program. Collating and sorting of historic Malleefowl records also began in the Murraylands. Overall monitoring results were not particularly positive, with few active mounds recorded following the poor winter and spring rains in 2004.

A trial in March 2004 over the Gawler Ranges region, NW, assessed the effectiveness of helicopter surveys for monitoring Malleefowl mounds in areas where mound densities are very low. The results indicated that this method was

useful in locating mounds in large areas of vegetation and could be effective in directing ground-based searches. However, on calibrating the aerial survey technique against ground surveys on an established 2 km<sup>2</sup> Malleefowl grid at Lock, EP, it was found that 50% of mounds recorded from the ground were missed from the air, and double-counting may also have occurred. Further investigation of this method may be warranted where there are large tracts of vegetation with low mound densities.

#### **Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora* R**

Thirty-two were a Bool Lagoon GR, SE, on 6 June [JB, PB]. One was at Lake Eliza, SE, on 25 July [BGr]. Two were at Tolderol GR, MM, on 25 October [PG]. One was on private property south of Penola, SE, on 16 November [LC]. Two were at the north-east corner of Buckland Park Lake, AP, on 14 December [CR].

#### **<sup>Br</sup>Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* R (S)**

Two adults with five young were at Koonchera Waterhole, NE, on 5 May [PK].

#### **Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* R**

One was at the Goolwa Sewage Ponds, MM, on 10 January [WS]; two were at Greenfields Wetlands, Stage 1, AP, on 17 February [JBC]; and three were at Berri Sewage Ponds, MM, on 28 February [LL]. Five were at Little Bool Lagoon, Bool Lagoon GR, on 6 February [JB, PB]. Twenty-six were on Duck Lagoon, KI, on 17 March [CB]. Three were on a swamp near Sunnyside Recreation Reserve, MM, on 4 April [RT, DM] while 50 were at Bool Lagoon GR, SE, on 9 April [JB]. Twelve were on Buckland Park Lake, AP, on 21 August [CR] and the number increased to at least 30 on 4 December and 50 on 13 December [CR]. Two hundred were at Bool Lagoon GR, SE, on 9 November [JB]. Two were at the Onkaparinga River RP, MLR, on 10 November [LS], while six were at the Paiwalla Swamp, Mypolonga, MM, on 18 November [HA]. Five were on an ephemeral lake near Meadows, MLR, on 5 December [WB]. Two were on an ephemeral swamp 90 km SE of Pimba, NW (31°52'S, 137°20'E) on 27 December [CR, JBC]. Sixty-eight were at Paiwalla Swamp, Mypolonga, MM, on 31 December [PK, JD].

Table 1: Number of grids monitored in the 2004–2005 Malleefowl breeding season in each region in SA.

Region	Grids monitored	Total grids
Murraylands	26	32
EP	2	5
YP	0	1
SE	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40</b>

Table 2: Number of active and inactive mounds per region in SA in the 2004–2005 Malleefowl breeding season.

Region	Inactive mounds	Active mounds	Total mounds
Murraylands	456	15	471
EP	95	8	103
YP	0	0	0
SE	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>574</b>

**King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus* Va (2<sup>nd</sup> record)**

An adult was first reported from Cape Northumberland, near Port MacDonnell, SE, on 18 February and re-sighted on 22 February. By 25 February it was showing signs of moulting but within several days it appeared to be very weak and had difficulty standing. It was collected, flown to the Adelaide Zoo where, despite feeding, it died on 8 March. The first record for the State was on the coast near the entrance to Lake Bonney, SE, on 1 March 1987 [PP]. That bird also died and the skin is in the South Australian Museum (B45918).

**Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix* R**

At least three were 15 km offshore on the pelagic trip from Port MacDonnell, SE, on 24 October [CR].

**Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* Va**

Three were near the shelf-break (water depth 200–2000 m centred on 38°23'S, 140°35'E) on the pelagic trip off Port MacDonnell, SE, on 8 February [CR].

**White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* Va**

The following records are from pelagic trips off Port MacDonnell, SE. Two were at the shelf-break on 8 February, and twelve sightings (of at least four individuals, although the count may well have been in double figures) were made in the same location on 14 March [CR]. See Rogers (2006) for comment about the status of this species in South Australian waters during summer. Six were over the continental shelf on 24 October [CR] and four were recorded on 19 December [CR].

**Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* R (S)**

One was recorded on the pelagic trip off Port MacDonnell, SE, on 8 February and two were recorded on the trip on 14 March [CR]. Single birds were recorded on the pelagic trips on 28 November and 19 December [CR].

**Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* Va**

Four 'Northern Royal Albatross' *D.e. sanfordi* were seen at the shelf-break on the pelagic trip from Port MacDonnell, SE, on 26 September [CR].

**Buller's Albatross *Diomedea bulleri* Va**

Twelve sightings were made on a pelagic trip off Port MacDonnell, SE, on 14 March [CR]. At least three different birds were noted and possibly there were as many as 10 individuals. One was found sitting with a large group of Yellow-nosed Albatross *D. chlororhynchos*, and a smaller number of nominate Black-browed Albatross *D. melanophris melanophris*, 7 km from shore. All the other sightings of individual birds were on or near the shelf-break. Prior to these sightings records of Buller's Albatross in South Australian waters have never exceeded two. Reid *et al.* (2002) have two records of *D. bulleri* on the shelf-break off South Australia (dates unknown) and the species was recorded in all months in their Atlas area of SE Australia but with an increase in numbers over the period February to April, most over deeper water (>200 m).

**Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria fusca* R**

An adult was seen at the shelf-break on the pelagic trip off Port MacDonnell, SE, on 9 May [CR] and a second was seen at the shelf-break on the trip on 24 October [CR].

**Grey-backed Storm-petrel *Garrodia nereis* R**

Ten were recorded at the shelf-break on a pelagic trip from Port MacDonnell, SE, on 9 May [CR] and a similar number were recorded on 26 September [CR].

**Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* R**

One was at the Grange Golf Course, AP, on 15 March [DC].

**Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* R (S)**

Two were calling from thick stands of reed *Phragmites* sp. at Paiwalla Swamp, Mypolonga, MM, on 31 December [PK, JD].

**Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura* R (S)**

One was quartering a dune at 'Muntiri', near Milang, MM, on 30 August [AB] and one was at Cox Scrub CP, eastern boundary north of the car park, MLR, on 16 September [BS]. One was at Blackfellows Creek, MM, on 24 October [JvW]. One was at near Vanilla Forest, EP, in early December [LP, PAL]. For a discussion of previous records in SA see Debus (1991).

**Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* Va**

One, an adult male, was at Telford Scrub CP,

SE, on 26 September [BGr].

**Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos* R**

In April one was seen on several occasions by a number of observers feeding on Spotted Turtle-Doves *Streptopelia chinensis* in the vicinity of First Creek near Kennaway Street, Tusmore, AP [OF]. This bird was still present on 18 July [OF]. There have been at least three additional sightings of Grey Falcon from southern regions over the past 24 months, possibly due to the dryer conditions in the interior. A Grey Falcon was observed hunting Rock Doves *Columba livia* at Blackwood Railway Station in January or February (date somewhat uncertain) [per MO]. The SAOA database has five records of Grey Falcon for the Adelaide Plains and adjacent areas prior to 2004: from Elizabeth in August 1982 [JBC]; Clovelly Park in July 1984 by Alan Lees (see Carpenter *et al.* 2003); Angle Vale in April 2002 by A. Prescott (photograph provided; see Rogers 2004); Sturt Gorge, MLR, in February 2003 by Pat Bowie; and Tolderol GR, MM, in December 2003 [JBC, CR] (see Rogers 2006).

From inland regions, one was on the Birdsville Track, west of Marree, NE, in May [GL]. One was reported from Gluepot Reserve, MM, in September and again on 12 October [per PW].

**<sup>Br</sup>Brolga *Grus rubicunda* R**

Three were at Honans Scrub NFR, SE, on 18 January [per BH] and on 24 June [per BH]. There were 118 at Bool Lagoon GR, SE, on 6 February [JB, PB]. Two were at 'Majardah', Glencoe East, SE, on 22 March [DP, RP]. Three were near the junction of Glencoe and Kalangadoo Roads, SE, on 23 March [SB]. Two were near Cowarry Homestead, Killanoola, SW of Bool Lagoon GR, SE, on 28 June [RMo] and three were at Bool Lagoon GR, SE, on 29 June [JB, PB]. Four were at Marshes NFR, SE, on 8 August [MFN] and three were at Kangaroo Flat Road, Compton, NW of Mt Gambier, SE, on 17 August [SB]. Two were nesting at Mary Seymour CP, SE, on 30 October [JB, PB]. Four were at Brooks Lane, Mt McIntyre, ENE Millicent, SE, on 3 November [MdJ]. Two were at Cowarry Snipe Swamp, Killanoola, SE, on 17 November [RMo].

**Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis* R**

One was at Hackett Hill NFR, SE, on 10 June [BT].

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

One was flushed at Tolderol GR, MM, on 3 April [CR]. One was in Greenfield Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, on 24 August [JBC]. Two were at Bool Lagoon GR, SE, on 11 September and three were present on 4 November [JB, PB]. One was at Little Bool, Bool Lagoon GR, SE, on 17 October and one was at Hacks Lagoon CP, SE, on 18 October [JB, PB].

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

Two were at Bonshaw, 17 km SE of Keith, SE, for most of the autumn [per DS]. One was at Sunlands, near Waikerie, MM, on 10 July [RO] and one was at Mobilong Swamp near Murray Bridge, MM, on 31 August and had been present at this location for several weeks [PK]. One was at Watson (Railway Station), Nullarbor Plain, NW, on 24 September [DW].

**Plains-wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* R**

One, a female, was flushed and observed in flight before 'parachuting' into a small bush and descending to the ground near Mt Dare Track, Hamilton Station, NE, on 6 July [CJ]. A Birds SA record form was completed and comprehensive description provided.

**Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* Va**

The bird spending the austral summer in Adelaide was at Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, with Black-tailed Godwit *L. limosa* on 5 January [TH]. It was not reported subsequently until 2 April when it came in to roost at Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, with a flock of 72 Black-tailed Godwit [CR]. It was again reported [JH] before the godwits departed in mid-April.

In the second half of the year a Hudsonian Godwit was seen in flight with Black-tailed Godwit at Buckland Park Lake, AP, on 4 December and at various dates through the month [CR]. This represents the fourth season that the Hudsonian has returned to Dry Creek Saltfields.

In non-breeding plumage the Hudsonian Godwit is readily distinguished from Black-tailed Godwit by its black underwing coverts and up-curved bill as opposed to the straight bill of the Black-tailed Godwits with which it usually associates. The black underwing coverts are prominent when the bird is in flight with Black-tailed Godwits which show an all white under-

wing.

**Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* R (S)**

Ten were on Mundoo Island, MM, with Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor* and 12 Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*, on 13 January [DD, MD]. The largest flock of Little Curlew on record is 25 seen on Torrens Island, AP, in February 1983 (see Carpenter *et al.* 2003).

**Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* R (S)**

One was roosting in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 5 March and again on 11 March [CR].

In the second half of the year seven were roosting in the Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 21 August [CR]. Five were at Price Saltfields, YP, on 4 September [JBC] and eight were present on 16 October with a count of 20 on 1 November [CR, JBC]. Five were in the Dry Creek Saltfields on 29 September with three on 17 November [CR] but only one was present on 5 December [BA].

**Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* R (S)**

Two were at Port Prime beach, AP, on 20 February [CR]. Sixteen were roosting in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 5 March and nineteen on 11 March [CR].

In the second half of the year, thirteen were roosting in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 21 August [CR]. Ten were at Price Saltfields, YP, on 4 September [JBC]. Five were at Pelican Lagoon, KI, feeding on the exposed mudflats on 18 September [CB]. Ten were at Price Saltfields, YP, and 18 were at Port Clinton CP, AP, on 1 November [CR, JBC]. Twenty-two were in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 29 September and again on 17 November [CR] and the number had increased to 34 on 5 December [BA].

**Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* R (S)**

One was at the Nineteenth Beacon Boat Ramp, between the Goolwa Barrage and Murray Mouth, MM, on 19 and 31 March [LS] and probably the same bird was at the Goolwa Barrage on 3 April [LS]. At least five were at Price Saltfields, YP, on 12 March [CT].

In the second half of the year three were on the Goolwa Channel, at the end of Mills Road, Hindmarsh Island, MM, on 29 December [LS]. No records were received from Dry Creek and Price Saltfields for the period September to December despite numerous visits by observers.

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

One was roosting with six Black-tailed Godwit, three Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* and Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 21 August [CR]. This species is usually more numerous in the SE on the rock platforms near Port MacDonnell and on the north-western Eyre Peninsula (CR pers. obs.).

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

Six were at Tolderol GR, MM, on 18 February [NC]. One was at Rush Lagoon, KI, on 12 March. Rarely observed on KI [CB]. Two in breeding plumage were at Tolderol GR, MM, on 27 March [LS]. These birds were still present in early April [CR].

In the second half of the year the first record for the season was one at Lake Eliza, SE, on 19 September [BGr] and one was at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, on 30 October [JBC]. One was in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 16–17 November [CR]. One was still at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, on 3 December [JBC] and two were at Buckland Park Lake, AP, on 14 December [CR, JBC].

**Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* R (S)**

Four were at Tolderol GR, MM, on 18 February [NC], with two at the same location on 29 March [LS].

The first record for the second half of the year was a sighting of two at Lake Eliza, SE, on 19 September [BGr] followed by one at Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 25 November [CR]. One was at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, on 3 December [JBC] and four were at Buckland Park Lake, AP, on 14 December [CR, JBC].

**Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* R (S)**

The bird reported from Tolderol GR, MM, in the 2003 Bird Report (Rogers 2006) remained until at least early March [CR]. In the second half of the year one, a Reeve, was at Buckland Park Lake, AP, on December 16 [JBC].

**Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* R**

Three, all females, were at Kaurna Park, Burton, AP, on 5 October [JBC]. One, sex not noted, was at the Washpool, Aldinga, MLR, on 10 October [PG]. One, a female, was at Kaurna Park, AP, on 21 November [JBC].

**Bush Stone-curlew** *Burhinus grallarius* **R**

Two were near Hynam, SE, on 14 August [BH]. Small numbers are still regularly reported from the Bordertown–Mundulla area and on offshore islands. Gates and Paton (2005) consider Kangaroo Island to be the stronghold of the species in SA.

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus* **R (S)**

One was at Thompson Beach, AP, on 30 October and four were recorded at the same location on 13 December [CR, JBC].

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii* **R (S)**

One was at Port Prime beach, AP, on 20 February [CR].

In the second half of the year one was at the Murray Mouth, MM, on 12 September [CR] and four were at Thompson Beach, AP, on 30 October [CR, JBC]. Eighteen were roosting on the samphire flats behind Thompson Beach, AP, on 13 December [CR, JBC], giving the highest count for this species in Gulf St Vincent in recent years.

**<sup>B</sup>Hooded Plover** *Thinornis rubricollis* **R**

Two were at Victor Harbor, MLR, on 25 January [PA]. Two were on Bashams Beach, MLR, on 2 February; three adults and one juvenile were on Waitpinga Beach, MLR, on 3 February; and six, four adults and two juveniles, were on Parsons Beach on 3 February [WS]. Five, including one juvenile, were at Marion Bay beach, YP, on 12 March [PS, PeS]. At least eight were at Cape Elizabeth, YP, on 15 March [IM]. One was on the beach at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 16 May [BGr]. An adult was sitting on three eggs at the Hindmarsh River mouth, MLR, on 29 July [WS]. One was at Parsons Beach, MLR, on 25 July [CR] and two were at Bashams Beach, MLR, on 29 July [WS]. One was feeding inside the Murray Mouth, MM, on 3 October [CR]. Eight were counted on Waitpinga and Parsons Beaches on 13 October [WS] and two adults with a juvenile were at Bashams Beach, MLR, on 14 October [WS]. Thirteen were in Emu Bay, KI, at various locations on 13 November and included two pairs, one with small runners and the other with eggs in nest [CB]. Another pair with an egg in cobble-stones near a small creek was at Dashwood Bay, KI, on 14 November [CB]. A pair was engaged with nesting on Long Beach, Robe, SE, on 28 December [BH].

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* **R**

Two were on the beach at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 9 April [BGr], with two at Port MacDonnell, SE, on 30 May [BGr]. Two were again on the beach at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 16 May and the number had increased to five on 27 June [BGr].

**Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini* **Va**

One, in breeding plumage, was reported 55 km off Port Lincoln, EP, on 16 September. The bird was observed briefly on the water behind the boat but it did not stay long enough for photographs to be taken. No formal report has been sighted at the time of writing so the sighting is unverified.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons* **R**

One was with a flock of *c.* 200 Fairy Terns *S. nereis* at Price Saltfields, YP, on 4 September [JBC].

**Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus* **R (S)**

One was at Cape Northumberland, SE, on 13 June [BGr]. This is an unusual winter record. See Rogers (2004) for discussion of previous SA records.

**Flock Bronzewing** *Phaps histrionica* **R**

A flock, estimated at 700–800, was feeding at 26°36'S, 139°06'E on the inside track to Birdsville, NE, on 28 December [CR, JBC].

**<sup>B</sup>Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptrorhynchus banksii* **R**

Reports of the 'South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo' *C.b. graptogyne* in the SE are as follows. Over the period January to March 10 reports were received with the high count of 35 at Jackson's Scrub, Killanoola [per BH]. In addition, there were five, including one young bird, on Wild Dog Valley Rd, north of Naracoorte, on 26 January; 34 near Comaum (Forest) on 5 February; three north-east of Keith on 9 February; six on Mulligans Rd, *c.* 14 km W of Coonawarra, on 20 February; 20 at Honan Native Forest Reserve (north-west of Mt Gambier) on 27 February; 12 at Western Flat on 2 March; 40 at Grundys Lane, Telford Scrub CP, *c.* 12 km N of Mt Gambier, on 11 March [all per TR].

At least 50 were at Giles Scrub Heritage Agreement area, east of Penola, on 8 April [BH].

GG]. Sixty were feeding in stringybark *Eucalyptus* sp. in the Hynam area, east of Naracoorte, on 27 April [per TR] and 20 were near the entrance to Naracoorte Caves CP, on 28 April [BH]. Three were at Telford Scrub CP on 8 June [KR] and two were at Olympic Park, Mt Gambier, on 12 June [BGr]. Eight were in Giles Heritage Scrub, Penola, on 16 June [GG] and at least 30 were at Gregory Scrub, Penola, on 23 June [BH]. At least 40 were at Nangwarry NFR on 10 July [BSE campout]. Five were at Fossil Cave, Tantanoola, on 23 July [SVB]. Eight were at Telford Scrub CP on 25 July [AD]. Fifteen were on the Coles/Killanoola Road on 12 August [BG] and eight were at the Comaun NFR on 14 August [BH]. One was at the Saint Heritage Agreement, Keppoch, SE, on 20 October [BH]. Five were at the southern end of Naracoorte on 5 November [per TR].

The recovery team's annual count recorded a tally of 736 birds in SA and Victoria [per TR].

Elsewhere, four were at Mt Dare Homestead, Witjira NP, NW, in July [per CR]. Residents at Mt Dare report that up to 130 have been recorded during the summer months.

**Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum* R (SE, KI-introduced)**

Two, sex not noted, were near North West River, junction with Church Road, in Flinders Chase NP, KI, on 30 September [per CB]. This is the first report of this isolated and introduced population since 1987.

**Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* R**

Five were at the intersection of Hawkins and Wireless Roads, Mt Gambier, SE, on 5 April [BGr].

**Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* Va**

One was seen over a period of four days, 25–28 May, along Callabonna Creek, near Old Callabonna ruins, NE [IM].

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

At least two were in a paddock with Blue-winged Parrots *N. chrysostoma*, at Earl Cave Road, Eight Mile Creek, near Port MacDonnell, SE, on 6 June [BGr]. One was near Dodd Landing Point, near Noonameena, Coorong, MM, on 24 July [DD, MD, RD, SP].

**Scarlet-chested Parrot *Neophema splendida* R**

A male was NW of Ceduna, EP, in late October [FP].

**Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* Va**

Two were seen in Caroline Forest, east of Mt Gambier, SE, on 14 May [BH]. It is seldom reported from the State despite being relatively common across the border in Victoria.

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

Two were at 'Cowarry', Killanoola, SE, on 11 July [RMo]. A male and female were at Kudriemitchie Waterhole, NE branch of the Cooper Creek, NE, on 5 April [AB].

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

One was at Donovans Landing, SE, on 29 February [BGr] and two were at the same location on 25 December [WB].

**Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* Va**

One was near the Goolwa Barrage, MM, on 26 April [BA].

**Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus* R (MLR, EP)**

Three were at Mt Compass boardwalk swamp, MLR, on 21 July [NC].

**Grey Grasswren *Amytornis barbatus* R**

Several were located in lignum *Muehlenbeckia* sp. along drying watercourses on the inside track to Birdsville, NE, on 28 December [JBC]. These observations are c. 40 km SW of Koonchera Waterhole (see Cox 1976).

**Chestnut-breasted Whiteface *Aphelocephala pectoralis* R**

Eleven were seen at four locations 27 km ENE of Lyndhurst, NE, on 29 May [IM]. During August–September several were seen c. 31 km N of Marla on the Stuart Highway, NW, and several were also seen just 12 km S of Coober Pedy, NE, on the same trip [FP]. These sites are readily accessible from the Stuart Highway but the site near Coober Pedy is subject to heavy people and vehicle traffic as it is also a monument site that attracts tourists. The site north of Marla is interesting because all three species of whiteface have been recorded there. Several were near Mt



Lyndhurst, NE, on 18 September [AR]. Four were 12 km S of Coober Pedy, NE, on 27 December [CR, JBC].

**Black-eared Miner** *Manorina melanotos* R (MM)

David Baker-Gabb reports that although widespread breeding failure in Bookmark prevented any translocations in 2004, considerable time was spent preparing to establish five colonies in Scotia Sanctuary in New South Wales where small numbers of Black-eared Miners exist.

In 2004, a year after their release at Bronzewing Flora and Fauna Reserve in Victoria, at least 17 of the 45 captive-released birds were located. Five of these were seen nesting, two with wild birds and three with other captive-bred birds. In addition, 18 Yellow-throated Miners *M. flavigula* were removed from the reserve. Removing single Yellow-throated Miners from Black-eared Miner colonies, and removing whole colonies from within the Black-eared Miner's range has proved to be very successful because, once removed, these birds are not replaced by other Yellow-throated Miners, even after several years.

**Black-chinned Honeyeater** *Melithreptus gularis* R

Two were in Mary Seymour CP, SE, on 9 April [JB] and four were at Cockatoo Lake, SE, on 19 April [DM]. One was at Gregory Street, Port Elliot, MLR, on 26 April [WS]. Two were at Cowarry Homestead, Killanoola, SE, on 24 May and heard there on 11 July [RMO]. One was heard at Reed Road Scrub, Kalangadoo, SE, on 15 July and one was at Pine Hill Soak CP, SE, on 25 July [BH]. One was at Pt Sturt, MM, from 25 September to 18 October [PD]. Two were in a garden at Zelda Close, Reynella, MLR, on 11 July [CH]. One was at Bullock Hill CP, MLR, on 1 August [per TC]. It is reported regularly in small numbers from the Morphett Vale, Reynella, Inman River Valley and Port Elliot areas, MLR. Also, it is occasionally reported from Sandy Creek CP, and the Barossa Valley, MLR. One was 5 km SW of Penola, SE, on 16 November [LC]. At least one was at Cowarry Snipe Swamp, Killanoola, SE, on 17 November [RMO].

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta* R (S)

Several were at the Border Village, Nullarbor

Plain, NW, during October [GC].

**Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegatus* R (S)

Eight, two males and six brown birds, were 1 km NW of Nildottie, MM, on 21 February [SuW]. One was at Sandy Creek CP, MLR, on the SAOA walk on 26 June [BA]. A considerable number, males and females, were on the eastern margin of the Nullarbor Plain, NW (29°59'S, 131°42'E and 31°07'S, 132°04'E) on 15–16 August [AB].

**Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea* R (W)

A brown bird was reported from the northern boundary of Ferries-McDonald CP, MM, adjacent to Kangaroo Road, on 30 May. Description and photographs provided [DCu, RC]. An immature male or adult female was seen during the SAOA outing at Ashbourne Oval, Ashbourne, MLR, on 1 August [TC] and again on 7 August [CR].

**Pink Robin** *Petroica rodinogaster* Va

A brown bird with orange wing bars was at Lenswood Research Centre, MLR, on 13 March [JF, JuF].

**Western Whipbird** *Psophodes nigrogularis* R

Several were identified by call on the lower YP, at Hundred Line Road (35°07'S, 132°04'E) and Warrenben CP, on 29 September [AB]. Calling was also noted at six locations in Innes NP, YP, 2–4 October [AB].

**Red-lored Whistler** *Pachycephala rufogularis* R

One at Gluepot Reserve, MM, on 20 December [API].

**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca* R (S)

In the second half of the year one was at Dry Creek NFR, SE, on 31 July [BGr]. A pair was in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 18 November [LG, TG] and 27 November [BGr]. One was in Long NFR, SE, on 1 December [SB] and two were in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 28 December [BGr].

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

Two, an adult and a juvenile, were at Glen Roy CP, SE, on 13 March [SH, DH, CR]. One was in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 21 March [BGr]. At least two were in Snow Gum NFR, SE, on 21 April and two were at Naracoorte Caves CP (Stony Point), SE, on 28 April [BH].

In the second half of the year two were at Nangwarry NFR, SE, on 10 July [BSE campout]. One was at Comaum NFR, SE, on 14 August [BH]. Two were at Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 25 September [BGr] and one was at Glen Roy CP, SE, on 23 October [SH]. One was in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 19 November [LG, TG].

**BrOlive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* R**

A juvenile was at Mt Panorama NFR, Kangarilla, MLR, on 21 May [LS].

In the second half of the year an immature was at 'Muntiri', near Milang, MM, on 21 September [AB]. Two were at a property near Currency Creek, MLR, on 25 September [per HC] and one was at Kuitpo Forest, MLR, on 28 October [WS]. The pair at Currency Creek was seen with a juvenile on 11 December [HC]. For discussion of an early breeding record in the MLR see Crouch (1970).

**Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* R? (not listed in the Field List)**

One was calling at Penambol CP, SE, on 19 March and two were seen on 21 April at the same location [BH]. During July and August several were in Dry Creek NFR, east of Penambol CP, SE [BGr]. One was in Penambol CP, SE, on 19 September and calling was heard along the boundaries of the park [JBC]. One was in Penambol CP, SE, on 26 December [PN].

**Painted Finch *Emblema pictum* R**

Two were in Barraranna Gorge, FR, on 20 September [AR].

**BrBassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata* R**

One was in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 21 March [BGr]. One was foraging in regrowth near a pine plantation in the MLR (location undecipherable), on 8 May [RH]. One was at Wotton Scrub, Kenneth Stirling CP, MLR, on 30 May [JS]. A pair was monitored feeding young just below the Mt Lofty summit, MLR, from late July to at least 18 August. See the report with photographs (Plimer 2004) [API]. One was 10 km S of Cape Cassini, KI, on 16 September. Rarely seen in this district [CB]. One was near Woodhouse Scout Activity Centre, Piccadilly, MLR, on 5 October [VN].

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