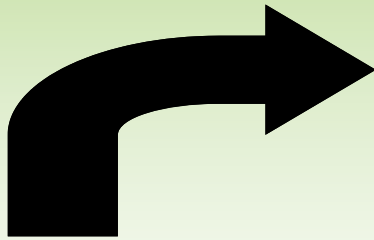




Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc.



Outings

Reminders

A Fun Event !

Lunch at the Victor Hotel.

Saturday 25 June. Cost \$35 each.

Bird Quiz and Raffle.

Money raised for the Bird Rescue

Centre at Goolwa.

To book contact Wendy 8555 0634

Or email FBW

The Annual Campout.

For planning purposes *please* register your attendance for the Campout Friday 22 Oct. and also the Boat Cruise which includes Dinner on Sunday 23 Oct. 5pm. Email FBW or ring Wendy on 8555 0634 by June 10th.

Saturday 11 June, Aldinga Scrub and Washpool.

Cox Road. Aldinga, [opposite Aldinga Holiday Park]

35°17'50"S 138°27'30"E

Thursday 23 June, Angas River Walk, Strathalbyn.

Colman Tce, near Library, Strathalbyn

35°15'26"S 138°53'25"E

Sunday 10 July, Monarto/Ferries McDonald CPs.

Junction Chauncy's Line Rd/Kangaroo Rd/ Ferries McDonald Rd

35°13'14"S 139°07'58"E

Wednesday 27 July, Inman River Flats/ Nangawooka.

Bay Rd. Car Park opposite Victor Harbor Library.

35°33'28"S 138°36'42"E

Saturday 13 August, Private property, Currency Creek.

Cnr. Myrtle Grove Rd. and Goolwa/Strath Rd.

35°26'53"S 138°46'02"E

Thursday 25 August, Nurragi CP.

Punkulde Car Park, Finniss—Milang Rd

35°23'35"S 138°56'18"E

Help the birds survive!



Buy a ticket for the Lunch or donate \$10 to the WWO to help equip the new Bird Rescue Centre.

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, corner Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa.

7.30 pm 2nd Friday of March, May, September and November unless otherwise stated.

Outings: Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair. See **Events** above

Contacts: fleurieubirds@gmail.com or phone 8555 0634

Website: www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org

Newsletter: Contact email: fleurieubirds@gmail.com

Outing—Thursday 7 April, Manning Reserve, McLaren Flat.

This Conservation Park on the Corner of Kays Rd. and Whittings Rd. is owned by the Field Naturalists Society of SA. There are tall trees at the low hilltop where most of the birds hang out. The day was perfect and seven bird 'detectives' (six men and Edith) found 26 species.

A pair of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes flapped around quite close to us. There were Golden and Rufous Whistlers, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas, Dusky Woodswallows and a host of Striated Pardalotes. An Eastern Spinebill and a Kookaburra were solitary, but Elegant and Red-rumped Parrots were on parade. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos had to fly by of course. Little Corellas and vermin Starlings were there as well.

We moved onto Gemtree Winery, but the lake was empty, so we called in at the McLaren Flat storm water ponds and found 19 species there, mainly water birds. There were 20 Eurasian Coots, 15 Grey Teal, 5 Shovelers and Black-fronted Dotterels, 4 Australasian Grebes and Purple Swamphens, 3 Little Grassbirds and 3 Dusky Moorhens, and one White-faced Heron.

Lunch was in a well appointed Lion's park nearby.

Thanks to Peter Owen for leading the outing. **Geoffrey Evans.**



Dusky Moorhen.



Kookaburras at Goolwa.
Not common in this area.
Photo: Kate Crawford.

Birds SA are holding a Bird Fair at Laratinga, Mount Barker.
Sunday 23 October. 10am-5pm.

We have been asked to participate to promote FBW. If you are **not** attending our Campout (same date) please consider volunteering. We need two people to talk to visitors about the Fleurieu Birdwatchers and to hand out our Council Brochures on Bird sites to visit.

Contact us if you are interested in assisting.

News from BirdLife Aust.

The President, Gerard Early says that they are making the biggest effort to draw attention to the plight of our **migratory shorebirds** this year to highlight their dramatic decline. Everyone, including staff and volunteers and the Australasian Wader Studies Group are banding together to work on a multi-pronged approach to promote shorebird conservation.

The Shorebird Crisis Summit will advocate for a zero loss of shorebird habitat within Australia.

Their Objectives are to:

Increase awareness, education and support for the plight of migratory shorebirds.

Ensure that migratory shorebirds are a conservation priority and delivery partners, including governments commit to tangible actions.

Facilitate partnerships internationally to address habitat destruction along the East Asian Flyway.

Work on the ground to conserve and rehabilitate important shorebird habitats in our own backyard.



Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Goolwa. Photo: *Bob Daly*

Outing— Newland Head C.P. Saturday 16 April.

Sixteen people met at Denis Hut Car Park, Waitpinga Beach at 8:30am. Leader, Bob Daly split the participants into two groups. Ten people led by Wendy walked westwards up the hill and down to the Waitpinga Beach Car Park. The intention was to walk on the beach (hopefully to spot the pair of Hooded Plovers that nested on the beach) but the weather was too inclement, i.e. strong S/SE winds, blowing 25/35 kmph with mist and intermittent showers. Temperature was about 16-17 deg C.

Consequently the group walked to the lookout at end of the boardwalk, but not down to the beach. After this we followed the Waitpinga Beach road walking north – north/west, coming to the Waitpinga Creek. Sightings of ducks were made here. We returned to Denis Hut Car Park for a welcome cup of coffee. The remaining six people led by Bob traversed this route in reverse.

Birds sighted on the day were Pacific Black Duck, Chestnut Teal, Australasian Grebe, Pied Cormorant, Masked Lapwing, Pacific and Silver Gulls, Crested Terns, Brush Bronzewing, Galah, Crimson Rosella, Elegant Parrot, Superb Fairy-wren, Spotted Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow and Striated Thornbill, Red Wattlebird, Singing, Brown-headed, Crescent and New Holland H.E., Golden Whistler, Grey Fantail, Australian Magpie, Grey Currawong, Little Raven, Red-browed Finch, Mistletoebird, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Silvereve, Blackbird and Starling.



Crested Terns:
Photo: Nick Tebneff

Julie Duke



Orange-bellied Parrot Workshop. Wyndgate, Hindmarsh Island, Saturday 9 July.

This workshop helps you identify all Neophema Parrots.

To Register contact Bob Green, OBP regional co-ordinator. Email shriketit@bigpond.com Ph. 08 8725 0549 or mobile 0407 649 909.

Rock Parrot. Photo: Bob Daly

Bird Rescue Centre.

Rena Robinson reports the building of the new Bird Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre has commenced on Skewes Rd. Goolwa. This will be the only purpose built facility of it's kind here in S.A. When it is completed the public will be able to view it at an Open Day before the sick and injured birds are transferred across from her private property. Already a number of people have expressed an interest in volunteering at the facility to provide care for the birds. FBW committee support the WWO group and would like our members to contribute by coming to the special lunch at the Victor Hotel on 25 June, or by giving a small donation which can be paid Direct Debit or cheque to treasurer Keith Jones. Rena will supply items for a raffle on the day at no cost to us. We hope to raise enough money to purchase equipment for the intensive care room at the Centre. Rena will be present at the lunch to talk to us.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) and the University of NSW are undertaking a citizen science project called the “*Feather Map of Australia Project*”. This project provides a new non-invasive method of tracking water birds without capturing them.

The aim of the initiative is to understand and improve the health of wetlands and wetland birds across Australia. You can learn more at www.ansto.gov.au/feathermap



Wetlands are habitats that are critical for Australia’s waterbirds however they are under threat from reduced river flows, drought, climate change and land use changes.

We have been asked to help turn the tide by simply collecting wetland bird feathers we find on the ground or in the water from wetlands across Australia and send them in an envelope to the scientists. Researchers will then analyse the feathers using nuclear techniques to track the movement of waterbirds, creating the first ever *Feather Map of Australia*. This information can be used by water and wetland managers to inform decision makers and help researchers better understanding waterbirds to ensure their survival.

If you can assist in this project instructions are on the web address above. If you are travelling this could be a great thing to do while you visit all the lovely bird sites and wetlands around Australia.

“Saving the Hooded Plover” — Victorian Government takes action.

With over 4 million visitors to the Mornington Peninsula each year, the pressures of human visitation and their canine companions were tipping the balance against survival of the Hooded Plover. Frequent disturbance by dogs **not** on the leash was regularly witnessed.

BirdLife Australia welcomed the **Victorian government’s announcement to ban dogs** from the Mornington Peninsular beaches to give the best chance of survival for the region’s population of the threatened Hooded Plover. The number of Hooded Plover chicks surviving had plummeted severely and scientific research conducted by **BirdLife Australia’s Beach-nesting Birds Project** has identified unleashed dogs on the beaches as a major contributor to this decline.

Restricted dog access is clearly not working in the National Park,” said Dr Maguire.

Mornington Peninsula National Park has one of the highest concentrations of Hooded Plovers in eastern Australia, yet in some years only one chick would survive to reach flying age (fledging).

It will be interesting to see the outcome of this approach to the problem and if successful will other states follow their example?

Welcome to new members: Dee Sommerville and Russell Creed.

We hope you enjoy birding with us and to see you soon at an outing.

If you need an Experienced Bird Educator or Bird Tourist Operator specialising in small, personal groups, then contact our local bird expert—John Gitsham, who is also a member of Birds SA and FBW — email: john.gitsham@bigpond.com

M 0438 900 393

PO Box 243 Macclesfield SA 5153

Grey Plover Migration:

A crowd funding campaign by BirdLife Aust. enabled them to supply satellite tracking devices to research the Grey Plover further. Four birds at Roebuck Bay, Broome were fitted and two at Thompsons Beach, 50kms north of Adelaide, in November 2015. These were put on by Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE), in collaboration with the Vic. Wader Study Group. The Thompson beach birds were regularly tracked in subsequent weeks as they fed on the extensive mud flats on the shore and occasionally adjourned to adjacent saltmarsh areas, mainly for night-time high tide roosting. They were occasionally seen and photographed in this period. You can follow these birds on the Birdlife Australia website: <http://birdlife.org.au/campaigns/the-marvel-of-migration>

The first of these 2 birds set off on northward migration on 14th March and the other 10 days later. This bird flew non-stop 7,200 km to the China coast in only 5 and half days. Travel speed 57kph. After a few days rest moved on to the Shores of the Yellow Sea. The other bird is now north of Shanghai.

These amazing birds hold us in awe of their incredible stamina to survive the journey to the Arctic area to breed and then head back to Australia each year.

The technical advancement of the electronic tracking device has made it possible to follow and record their movements over these huge distances so we can better understand them and hopefully protect them in the future.



Grey Plover with tracking device at Thompson's Beach
Photo: *Peter Owen*

The AWSG and FoSSE/ VWG are extremely grateful to the generous people and organisations who have provided the funds for this project. Each satellite transmitter costs around \$5,000 and satellite download costs of up to \$2,500 can be incurred for each unit (depending on the life of the transmitter). The South Australia project was mainly funded through generous contributions from the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and the Australian Government-funded Sapphire Coast icon project and some private donors.



A Rare Bird.

This beach-washed **Light- Mantled Sooty Albatross** was found at Watsons Gap by a local resident and passed on to me for identification. I gave the dead bird to DEWNR who will pass it on to the SA museum.

It is a rare, mostly winter-spring visitor offshore and breeds on circumpolar sub-antarctic Islands. *Win Syson.*

A Book Review:

Feather and Brush—Three Centuries of Australian Bird Art.

Well! If you are like me who loves both art and birds you would love this book too. *Penny Olsen*, a wildlife consultant, publisher of many articles and research papers has produced this beautiful book to give recognition to the many ornithological artists and illustrators that have made a huge contribution to educating us on the History of Bird Art. With 100 artists recognised from the early European voyages with their rough drawings and paintings, to the present day Australian wildlife artist, one marvels at the quality of their work and dedication to represent what they see and love. Of course, the quality of the printing to reproduce 250 paintings must also be acknowledge as it is outstanding. A great book available from your local library. *Wendy Phillips*



Red-capped Robin

Saving Declining Bush Birds.

Recently the South Coast Environment Centre presented an evening talk entitled "Woodland Recovery: Building Habitats for Declining Birds" by Dr David Paton, Associate Professor (Ecology and Environmental Science), University of Adelaide. Dr Paton has wide ranging expertise in ecology and behaviour of birds, bird-plant interactions, conservation and many other related fields.

We heard how many woodland birds of the Mt Lofty region have suffered from the extensive clearing of their habitat. Rebuilding habitats can help save remaining declining species threatened with extinction. Plantations need to be a messy mix of trees, shrubs and undergrowth in large sites of several/many hectares. Trees are best planted with room to grow sideways as well as upwards.

Dr Paton cited the example of the planned Monarto city development. In the 1970s a wide range of Australian trees and shrubs were planted in preparation for the establishment of a satellite city to cope with the rapidly growing population of Adelaide. Although the city itself never happened the diversity of vegetation has provided very good habitat for many bird species now rarely seen elsewhere in SA.

Governments cannot be trusted to provide ongoing support for such woodland environment. David believes that this can only be done by private groups setting up ongoing trust funds and providing continuity of management personnel. He and a number of associates, have created a non-profit organisation, Bio^R, that generates funds, knowledge and practical skills to build habitat for wildlife.

The group has been heavily engaged in re-establishing threatened plant communities on Kangaroo Island, and have invested in new projects at Glenthorne (formerly O'Halloran estate and CSIRO Research Station) and Monarto.

Visit www.bior.org.au to learn how you can help.

Verle Wood

General Meeting, Friday 13 May. Items of Interest :

16 members attended the meeting at the Willunga Enviro Centre.

Lunch at Hotel Victor on the 25 June with the aim to raise \$1000 towards a **special bird incubator** that has been chosen by Rena for us to contribute towards. Tickets have been printed and numbered for a door prize and there will be prizes for the Quiz winners as well.

Non -FBW members can be invited as the private room can hold 50 plus guests. We URGE people to show their support for this special project to care for sick and injured birds and **donate** if unable to attend.

Flourishing on the Fleurieu Festival to be held Wednesday 19 October at Signal Point Goolwa. An application to present has been submitted and we will be notified in June if successful. This was previously held at Victor Harbor and 2 of our members set up a stand with our bird photos and interacted with guests.

Bird Fair at Laratinga organised by Birds SA. This is a first but unfortunately it is on the same date as our Campout. If successful the fair may continue on a yearly basis. We are hoping for a volunteer to represent our group.

Registration sheet passed around for members to tick if they were planning on attending the Campout at Nelson and the Dinner/Cruise. Wendy and Bob plan to visit the area to make final arrangements.

Survey with John Gitsham at a private property on Golfview Rd and Tokuramoar C.P. Goolwa, revealed approx. 30 species each day and another survey will be arranged in Spring to compare it.

Committee Members: The Club will be unsustainable long term if no one is prepared to contribute to the running of it. We need to train a succession of members and help is available to learn the necessary positions. Keith would like a break as treasurer next year, so we **MUST** find a replacement.

Please notify us with any changes in email address as some people have missed their Newsletters for sometime before realising it. If you discontinue the home phone then we require your mobile number.

Presenters—Win Syson on the UK Rutland Bird Fair and Peter Gower on Bird Surveying at Witchelina, a Nature Foundation property that has been carefully restored. These were excellent talks and photo presentations and much appreciated by all the attendees.

Thanks to the Willunga Enviro Centre for allowing us to hold our meeting there.

Curse of the Corella

*As I lay sleeping I had a dream
And in that dream I heard a scream
I awoke with a jolt, jumped out of bed
To find the "scream" flying overhead!*

*The wind in the pines does softly sough
With a thousand corellas on each bough
When they take off with a piercing screech
You'll hear them down on Goolwa Beach!*

*To some folk corellas seem a pretty sight
Bright yellow feathers among the white,
These native birds are quite a pest
More destructive by far than all the rest.*

*In towns' trees are stripped quite bare
Barely a single leaf's still hanging there
With trees and oldies suffering stress
Noisy corellas make the streets a mess!*

*There's a thousand pine cones torn apart.
Why don't they finish what they start?
How many tonnes of those pine tree seeds
Do they need to meet their daily needs?*

*A schoolyard full of noisy boys
Can't match corellas' dreadful noise.
Should we send a prayer? Or make a curse?
Oh Lord, please don't send us.....
.....something worse!*

*Elizabeth Caldicott
Goolwa*

Little Corellas at Aldinga
Photo: Kathy Moore.



This poem was recently published in the Victor Times and permission given to print it in FBW Newsletter by the author. Elizabeth Caldicott has written other poems on birds and animals and published work with local artist Wendy Jennings.

Managing Impacts of the Little Corella on the Fleurieu Peninsula, by Ian Temby

This can be read on-line to help understand some of the difficulties Councils have in controlling the Corellas increasing numbers in our public parks. The first flock 30-40 was seen at Old Noarlunga in 1990 and they have spread out in their thousands since then.

Attempts to control them have not worked and further research has been undertaken at Flinders Uni. Their increase in population and range is mainly due to *man* altering their environment with extensive farming and cropping providing ideal food and water. Their noisy and menacing behaviour can distress some people. For further information contact your local council.

Outing--Sunday 15 May Old Noarlunga and Onkaparinga River Wetlands.

This outing commenced at the Market Square at Old Noarlunga where we had 14 FBW members led by Nic Tebneff on a cool and overcast morning. We were greeted by the Nankeen Night Herons (7) sheltering in the pine trees, and a good flock of Pacific Black Ducks on the Onkaparinga River. A flock of Little Corellas and another of Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos couldn't be forgotten with their calls! Then, by way of the historic swing-bridge over the river, we walked along the southern bank of the river seeing a flock of more than 40 Australian White Ibis roosting amongst the dead branches of a gum tree and a trio of quite vocal Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, and both species of Rosellas – Eastern and Crimson. Nearer the Old Noarlunga township, we saw a Fantail Cuckoo and the urban honeyeaters – Red Wattlebirds, and New Hollands, as well as a number of Straw-necked Ibis flying overhead. The Superb Fairy-wrens were about too. We moved to the Onkaparinga Estuary wetlands, where we walked along the edge of the river for some way. Amongst the re-vegetated wetlands were more Superb Fairy-wrens, a pair of White-browed Scrubwrens, a number of Golden-headed Cisticolas amongst the reeds and a Red-browed Finch. Some of us were startled by a flush of Brown Quail flying across the path. Many usual waterbirds were conspicuous by their absence, probably due the generally dry conditions of the wetlands, however, at our final bird count we had amassed a total of 56 species. Many thanks to Nic for his expert leadership.

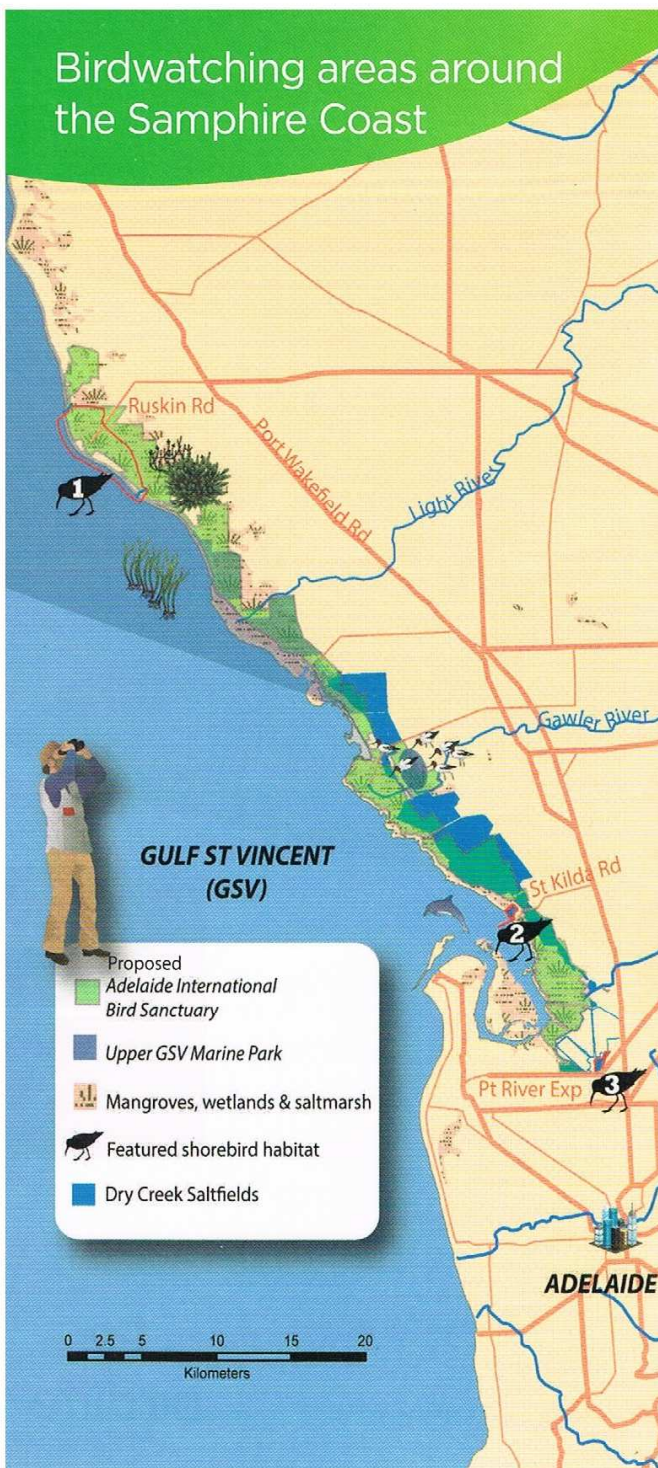
Keith Jones

Beach-washed seabirds - Please contact Win Syson on 8554 2121 if you find any . He will deliver them to the University for a study being conducted into plastic waste ingested by sea birds. This is becoming a serious problem to marine life around the world and research will help to identify the extent of it.

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary north of Adelaide is recognised as important habitat for Migratory Shorebirds with approx. 25,000 visiting from September to March each year. The area covers approx. 60 km and includes the decommissioned Saltfields at Salt Creek and the Dolphin Sanctuary in the Port River.

The State Government committed \$1.7 million over 4 years to establish the Sanctuary as a National Park. With community engagement, a management plan is being developed and expected to be completed by mid 2017. This will include infrastructure for tourism, revegetation, signage and protection for the birds.

Birdwatching areas around the Samphire Coast



1. Thompson Beach: Samphire, sabkhas and seashore

Arguably the best natural shorebird site in the gulf, residents at this small beachside town have been living with and working to conserve shorebirds for decades. Best viewing areas are on the intertidal mudflats between the intersection of Ruskin Rd and the southern boat ramp. The shorebird trails to the north and south take in the amazingly alien sabkhas and claypans before reaching tidal creeks where intertidal species can be seen roosting. Shorebirds to look out for: Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, Red Knot, Pacific Golden Plover, Grey Plover. Other highlights: Elegant Parrot, Samphire Thornbill, Bead Samphire (plant).

2. St Kilda Wetlands: the town with a pinch of salt on the side

It is not unusual to see over 3,000 Banded Stilts foraging on the St Kilda foreshore in the hours around high tide. Flocks of over 10,000 birds still occur in the neighbouring saltfields. These leggy ballerinas breed in vast colonies in Central Australia's Arid lakes where researchers from Deakin University have banded several hundred. Look out for coloured jewellery (leg flags) and report it to BirdLife Australia to help unlock their nomadic journeys. Beyond the tide line, vast flocks of Black Swans feed on the algae.

On the way in and out of St Kilda you'll travel between two of the old Dry Creek salt ponds. Although now decommissioned, the ponds on the northern side of the road still are still used at high tide by roosting shorebirds. Shorebirds to look out for: Banded Stilt, Red-capped Plover, Common Greenshank.

3. Magazine Road Wetlands: a freshwater paradise

Part of the larger Greenfields Wetland complex, Magazine Rd provides a variety of freshwater habitats that teem with birds. Following the walking track through the wetlands will take you past deep water, muddy islands and large ephemeral ponds which, depending on time of year and local weather, could turn up anything. Many rare and threatened shorebirds have been observed at the site including: Australian Painted Snipe, Long-toed Stint and Ruff. It is also one of the only places in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary that you can regularly see Latham's Snipe. Watch for them as they explode from the vegetation squawking, diving and weaving through the air.