

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BIRDS SA

held on 26 February 2016 at the

CHARLES HAWKER CONFERENCE CENTRE, WAITE ROAD, URRBRAE

OPENING

David Paton (President) said that he was pleased to open the general meeting of Birds SA at 7:45pm.

APOLOGIES

Rodney Dyke, Bronwyn Williams

MINUTES

Merinda Hyland moved that the "Minutes of the General Meeting held on 29 January 2016 as posted on the website and on the noticeboard be accepted. Seconded by John Gitsham. Carried.

NEW MEMBERS

Sue Croser – Kilkenny

Ted Hudson – Nuriootpa

Graham Allen and Kay Rush – Melrose Park

SPEAKER (Dan Rogers)

Dan introduced the speaker Grace Hodder who is a PhD candidate at The University of Adelaide. Grace gave a talk on "Diamonds Aren't Forever: The Ecology of the Diamond Firetail in the Mount Lofty Ranges". Diamond Firetails are contracting from southern areas and are now in highly fragmented sub-populations throughout eastern flanks and northern MLR. "What is contributing to their ongoing declines" and "how can their habitat best be managed" are two questions that she is trying to answer. Her six study areas range from Milang up to Mount Karinya in the Barossa Valley. Preliminary studies show a huge difference in winter survival at a supplemented versus a non-supplemented population. From past studies it is known that DFT eat seeds from a range of native grasses but their diet in the MLR is made up from 80% of weedy non-native species. Grace has also found that Drooping Sheoak might be very important for DFT. They eat the seeds that are produced during the winter months when grass seeds are scarce and also use them for nesting sites. To help DFT populations Grace made the following suggestions: Reinstate native grassland – but don't remove all weeds! - Keep oats or veldt from becoming thatchy - Plant sheoaks and protect seedlings from roos. Grace then answered questions from members.

BIRD CALL (Graham Carpenter)

Pink-eared Duck – Bolivar Sewage Works, Byards Road Wetlands

Buff-banded Rail – River Torrens, Adelaide

Black-winged Currawong (Grey Currawong) – Felixstowe; Melrose Park; Eden Hills

Osprey – North Arm, Port River

White-bellied Sea Eagle – Bolivar

Australasian Bittern, Lewin's Rail, Spotless Crake – Tolderol

Double-banded Plover, Red-necked Stint – Semaphore Park

Australian Owlet-nightjar, Diamond Firetail – Browns Road

Grey-tailed Tattler – Port Clinton

Red-necked Stint – Port Arthur

Curlew Sandpiper – Goolwa Barrage, Port Giles
Tawny Frogmouth – McLaren Vale
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo – Anstey Hill
Red-whiskered Bulbul - Houghton

FIELD TRIPS

Lynton Huxley said future trips are on the notice board.

On Sunday the trip is to Thompson Beach starting at 8:00am from the northern end. Future trips - Saturday, 12 March to Riverglades and Rocky Gully Wetlands and Thursday, 17 March to Hindmarsh River and Nangawooka.

The Easter Campout will be based at Keith. Units are still available at the caravan park.

Lynton announced that he will be away from April to August and will need help for suppers during this period. He will also arrange all the trips for the rest of the year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Spiers gave details of recent work by the Conservation Sub-committee. The main issue has been Duck and Quail Hunting. John Spiers, John Gitsham and Jeff Groves had a follow-up meeting with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources to discuss the methodology used to justify the current hunting season. Further discussions will take place at the next committee meeting.

Andrew Black asked about the culling of Euros in the Flinders Ranges which are affecting Short-tailed Grasswren habitat.

John Gitsham said that water had started flowing back into the ponds at Laratinga. John Hatch asked if water was being sold to the mines at Kanmantoo.

CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

David Paton closed the meeting at 9:20pm. The next speaker on 1 April 2016 will be Amy Slender from Flinders University.

Signed..... Date.....