

## **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BIRDS SA**

held on 1 April 2016 at the

CHARLES HAWKER CONFERENCE CENTRE, WAITE ROAD, URRBRAE

### **OPENING**

David Paton (President) opened the general meeting of Birds SA at 7:45pm.

### **APOLOGIES**

Kate Buckley, John Hatch, Tina Miljanovic, John Spiers, Brian Walker, Sue Winwood

### **MINUTES**

Krystyna Rowland moved that the "Minutes of the General Meeting held on 26 February 2016 as posted on the website and on the noticeboard be accepted. Seconded by Barbara Wheaton. Carried.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Michael & Joanne Louend (Renown Park)

Graham Field

Alicia Zakarevicius (North Plympton)

Brian Young (Aberfoyle Park)

Abel Coelho (Mawson Lakes)

David Paton gave a welcome to all these new members.

### **SPEAKER (Dan Rogers)**

Dan introduced the speaker Amy Slender, a PhD student from Flinders University. Prior to starting her current project Amy's previous research was in the medical field. Her talk for the evening was "Unique populations need unique conservation strategies" dealing mainly with the Thick-billed Grasswren.

Over the past 100 years the range of the TBGW has contracted considerably. TBGW (*Amytornis modestus*) are registered on the EPBC list as vulnerable. Arrium Mining operates an iron ore mine very near some TBGWs and provided money towards a Biodiversity Offset that was managed by Nature Foundation SA on behalf of Arrium. This project was then contracted to the Birdlab, Flinders University in order to learn more about the TBGW in order to help with their conservation. There are seven subspecies (two extinct) of the TBGW, a member of the Maluridae family. There is some contention about whether there are this many subspecies and I'm interested in how we can define groups based on genetics.

Amy spoke about splitters and lumpers, what are species and what are subspecies and how to distinguish between species and subspecies. She described the genetic work she was carrying out with two TBGW subspecies (*A. m. indulkanna* and *A. m. ragless*). Targeted mist netting was carried out and blood samples were collected from 237 birds for extraction of DNA. Results have shown that these two TBGW subspecies are genetically distinct and should be recognised as populations that have a potential to become different.

Amy acknowledged help from the following organisations with her project – Nature Foundation SA, Flinders University, SA Museum, Birds SA, Nature Conservation Society of SA, BirdLife Australia, Royal Society of SA and the Field Naturalists Society of SA. Amy then answered questions from members.

**BIRD CALL (Graham Carpenter)**

Fork-tailed Swift – Port Augusta, Lake Alexandrina  
Black-winged Currawong (Grey Currawong) – Felixstowe, Black Forest  
Buff-banded Rail, Eastern Shriketit (Crested Shriketit) – Laratinga Wetlands  
Black Falcon - Macclesfield

**FIELD TRIPS (Lynton Huxley)**

Lynton Huxley said future trips are on the notice board.

Rod Tetlow will lead the trip to Whites Road Wetlands on Saturday, 9 April and Lynton Huxley will lead the trip to Montacute Conservation Park on Thursday, 21 April.

The Easter Campout at Keith was very successful with 35 attending and 83 species recorded.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

David Paton closed the meeting at 8:40pm. The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 29 April 2016 and the speaker will be Greg Kerr from the Department of the Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Port Lincoln.

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

