

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BIRDS SA  
held on 24 November 2017 at the  
CHARLES HAWKER CONFERENCE CENTRE, WAITE ROAD, URRBRAE

OPENING

John Gitsham (President) welcomed everyone to the final meeting of the year at 7:45 pm.

APOLOGIES

None

MINUTES

Merinda Hyland moved that the "Minutes of the General Meeting held on 27 October 2017 as posted on the website be accepted". Seconded by Bob Whatmough. Carried.

NEW MEMBERS

John Gitsham announced the following new members -

Peter Corbett	Blackwood
Peter Watton	Coromandel Valley
Caitlin Edwards	Happy Valley
Jerome Kalvas	Littlehampton
Geoffrey Squires	Strathalbyn
Dr Angela McGuire	Hobart
Daniel Patterson	Finniss
David & Sue Harper	Modbury Heights
Nicholas Greavesmith	Forreston
Ian Reid	Toorak Gardens

John Gitsham announced that Fleurieu Birdwatchers would become a branch of Birds SA. With additional members from them this would bring our total membership to over 800. He asked new members to put up their hands if they were present and he welcomed back David and Sue Harper to the Association.

ANNOUNCEMENT

John Gitsham said that a Bird Survey would be held at Tolderol on 3 December followed by a BBQ. Membership Fees would increase next year by \$10.00 for members requiring printed copies of the newsletter and journal. Electronic copies would be available at the current membership rates.

SPEAKERS

John Hatch said that it was great to see so many people at this member's night. John introduced the first of six speakers Lou Jayleigh.

Lou's talk "Chasing the Bali Myna" was about her trip to Bali in April 2016. She described her trip to the Bali Barat Nature Reserve and the birds she saw there with the help of a local ranger. Apart from the Bali Myna other bird photographs shown were Blue-eared Barbet, Coppersmith Barbet, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Blue-banded Pitta, Great-billed Heron, Javan Pond Heron, Lesser Adjutant, Small Button Quail, Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, Common Sandpiper, Island Collared Dove, Spotted Dove, Lesser Coucal, Savanna Nightjar, Blue-eared Kingfisher, Collared Kingfisher, Javan Kingfisher, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, White-shouldered Triller, Common Iora, Yellow-vented Bulbul, Pied Fantail, Long-tailed Shrike, White-breasted Woodswallow, Olive-backed Sunbird, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, Scaly-breasted Munia, small blue kingfisher, Javan Myna, Green Junglefowl, White-headed Munia and Javan White-eye. The trip was part of her quest to record all the birds of the world. She has her own Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/birdie.lou.98> where you can catch up on her quest.

John Gitsham showed a collection of his best bird photographs. They included Royal and Yellow-

billed Spoonbill, Regent Parrot, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Australian Reed Warbler, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Pied Stilt, Australian Crake, Australian Pelican, Welcome Swallow, Australasian Bittern, Great Egret, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Malleefowl, White-fronted Chat, Magpie Goose, Whistling Kite, Singing Honeyeater, Crested Shrike-tit, Scarlet Robin, Golden-headed Cisticola, Red-capped Robin and Nankeen Kestrel.

Joe Dafoe gave a talk on "Canada to Guatemala – and back again (not a birding trip!)". He went with three friends leaving from Ottawa, Canada and the trip lasted three months. Although it was not a birding trip we saw the following species photographed – Tropical Kingbird, Vermillion Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Social Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Thick-billed Kingbird, Great-tailed Grackle, White-winged Dove, Wagler's Chachalaca, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Black-throated Magpie-jay, San Blas Jay, Unicolored Jay, Brown Jay, Orange-fronted Parakeet, Pacific Parakeet, Red-lored Parrot, Olive-throated Parakeet, Great Blue Heron, American White Ibis, Anhinga, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Green Heron, Tri-coloured Heron, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelican, Semipalmated Plover, Heermann's Gull, Whimbrel, Willet, Groove-billed Ani, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Orange-breasted Bunting, Painted Bunting, Streak-backed Oriole, Stripe-headed Sparrow, White-coloured Seedeater, Nashville Warbler, Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Spotted Wren, Canyon Wren, Giant Wren, Slate-throated Whitestart, Rufous-capped Warbler, Clay-coloured Thrush, Mangrove Swallow, Bronzed Cowbird, Scrub Euphonia, Roseate Spoonbill, Boat-billed Heron, Laughing Falcon, White-eared Hummingbird, Band-backed Wren, Blue-hooded Euphonia, Yellow-winged Tanager, Black-vented Oriole, Rufous-collared Thrush, Collared Trogon, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Ocellated Turkey, Masked Tityra, Montezuma's Oropendula, Bare-throated Tiger-heron, Great Curassow, Collared Aricari, Keel-billed Toucan, Violaceous Trogon, Ruddy Ground-dove, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Black-bellied Whistling-duck, Ringed Kingfisher, Tropical Mockingbird and Jabiru.

David Robertson gave a talk on his involvement with the 7th Asian Bird Fair held in Jingshan, China from 11-15 November 2016. He went as a delegate of the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society of which he is a life member. The photographs of the opening ceremony showed much involvement by the government of the People's Republic of China.

Andrew Black presented a talk on "What is the colour of a thornbill's eyes?." It all started about six months ago when John Pearce asked about the identification of thornbills he had photographed at Whites Road (Little Para) Wetlands. In the Mount Lofty Ranges and Adelaide Plains the thornbills occurring are Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla samueli* in southern MLR; Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis apicalis* in Mid North, York Peninsula and mangroves surrounding upper Gulf St Vincent; and Hybrid Brown/Inland Thornbills in mangroves of eastern Gulf St Vincent between Torrens Island and the Light River Estuary but what are the thornbills at Whites Road (Little Para) wetlands. Andrew showed a series of thornbill photographs from Whites Road, Clinton, inland York Peninsula, St Kilda and Mount Lofty Ranges showing differing eye colours. From this we have learnt that Whites Road thornbills are of the highly variable hybrid population of eastern Gulf St Vincent mangroves. Brown Thornbill adults have dark red-brown irises; in the young, they may be darker (or paler?) whereas Inland Thornbills: adults may be more variable, orange to red; young probably generally have paler, almost white irises. It is unclear how much variation in iris colour may be individual or regional Gulf St Vincent hybrid adult thornbills' irises may differ from those of both parental species, perhaps more yellow to orange rather than red-brown.

Jeff Groves gave the final presentation on "Bird Action and Behaviour" for Members' Night. He showed photographs of Eastern Rosella, Laughing Kookaburra, Great Egret, Striated Pardalote, Rainbow Lorikeet, Maned Duck, Red-rumped Parrot, Australian Magpie, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and a Blue-and-yellow Macaw (at the zoo). His last photo was a Bearded Dragon with a Wolf Spider on its head.

BIRD CALL (Graham Carpenter)

Graham asked members to lookout for Banded Stilts which Reece Pedler had tagged in 2013 at

Lake Torrens. He said that Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos have been reported from the suburbs. He also reported the Scarlet Honeyeaters had been found in Victoria recently.

Hallett Cove – albino Rainbow Lorikeet  
Spotted Pardalote – Lochiel Park Wetlands  
Gluepot Reserve – Striated Grasswren  
Clayton Bay – Freckled Duck  
Onkaparinga River CP, Hallett Cove CP - Brown Quail  
Thorndon Park – Buff-banded Rail  
Milang – Latham's Snipe  
Browns Road, Monarto – Red-backed Kingfisher  
Mundoo Channel – Gull-billed Tern

#### FIELD TRIPS (Lynton Huxley)

Lynton thanked everyone who had helped through the year. Trips are on the noticeboard and newsletter. The trip this Sunday is to Laratinga Wetlands. He also thanked everyone for providing supper tonight.

#### CONSERVATION

David Hansman gave a brief summary of the Conservation Sub-committee's work throughout the year. John Spiers had resigned as Chair of the Sub-committee when he took over the role as Treasurer of the Association. The Sub-committee is also looking for new members to join. The Sub-committee has put in submissions regarding cockling and crabbing at Thompson Beach, Whites Road Wetlands and Kinchina Conservation Park Management Plan.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Gitsham spent a day out with representatives of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources visiting parts of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. Birds SA will become part of the Shorebird Alliance to work on conservation action plans.

While attending the Australian Ornithological Congress in Geelong during November he met with John Barkla and Paul Sullivan from BirdLife Australia and discussed collaboratively working together. We are already doing this as part of the Shorebirds 2020 count. It was in our best interest if Birds SA became an affiliate of BirdLife Australia.

#### AUCTION

Joe Dafoe had presented a leather bound copy (No. 672 of 750) of Richard Schodde and Ian J. Mason's book Nocturnal Birds of Australia and illustrated by Jeremy Boot for auction. With bids starting at \$50.00 Peter Gower was the successful bidder with \$110.00.

#### NEXT MEETING

John Gitsham closed the meeting at 10:00 pm. The next meeting is on 19 January 2018. The speaker will be Colin Rogers.

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