MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BIRDS SA

held on 23 February 2018 at the

CHARLES HAWKER CONFERENCE CENTRE, WAITE ROAD, URRBRAE

OPENING

John Gitsham (President) welcomed everyone to the February meeting of 2018 at 7:47 pm. He gave a special welcome to two visitors from Red Rock, New South Wales.

APOLOGIES

William Brooker and Teresa Jack

MINUTES

Lynton Huxley moved that the “Minutes of the General Meeting held on 19 January 2018 as posted on the website be accepted". Seconded by Bob Whatmough. Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Gitsham updated members on the affilitation talks with BirdLife Australia. He said that it was very important for Birds SA and we will continue to be the primary bird association in South Australia. It will be more like an alliance and it is a very positive move for Birds SA.

Questions / Comments

Diego Garcia-Bellido – The Spanish Ornithological Society went through this process when they became part of BirdLife International.

David Robertson – We need to see the detail.

David Hansman – It is essential we see the draft document and put the question to affiliate to the vote.

John Gitsham – The Management Committee will be meeting with John Barkla, Chair of BirdLife Australia on 8 March.

Andrew Black – I am very supportive of John's move on affiliation. As an organization we have been closely aligned. There are two main reasons why we should affilitate: (1) As a body we have a great deal to offer. (2) We should not see this body pushed out into St Vincent's Gulf.

John Gitsham – The affiliation agreement has no legal standing. Either party can go their separate ways. It is a constantly evolving process.

Merilyn Browne asked if any member would like to review the following books: *Vanished and Vanishing Parrots* by Jospeh Forshaw and *Birds in their habitat* by Ian Fraser.

John Gitsham – Membership badges are now only $3.00 each.

SPEAKER

John Gitsham introduced the speaker John Hatch to talk about hummingbirds.

John said that around 40 hummingbird species weigh less than a 5c piece weighs and another 150 species less than a 10c piece. He acknowledged the photographers Colin Rogers, Brian Walker and Jeremy Robertson. There are currently about 340 species of Hummingbirds recognized. They are confined in the wild to the New World from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, though the vast majority are confined to the New World Tropics. He gave information on their history, their names, taxonomy, feeding, migration and conservation.

BIRD(S) OF THE MONTH

Graham Carpenter gave a short talk on swifts. There are two swifts found in SA – Pacific or Fork-tailed Swift and Spine-tailed Swift. Records of a third species the House Swift have not been confirmed positively.

BIRD CALL (Graham Carpenter)

Square-tailed Kite – Bellevue Heights

Pacific Swift – Tolderol, Joslin, Cox Scrub CP, Thompson Beach, Port Clinton

Tree Martin - Port Clinton

Black-winged (Grey) Currawong – Highbury, Black Forest, Marino

Peregrine Falcon – Black Forest, Eden Hills

Australian Hobby – Eden Hills

FIELD TRIPS (Lynton Huxley)

Lynton gave the sad news that Bill Mountain's funeral was held on Tuesday. He was a great supporter of Paiwalla Wetlands.

Sunday's field trip is to Whites Road Wetlands. Rod Tetlow will be the leader.

Saturday, 10 March Scott Creek CP

CONSERVATION

David Hansman provided a report from the Conservation Sub-committee.

* Two new members have joined the sub-committee – Bill Breed and David Andrewartha.
* Phil Cole is investigating whether there may be potential for other wetland sites to replicate the success at Tolderol through Nature Foundation SA
* Preparing a submission for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary management plan.

NEXT MEETING

John Gitsham closed the meeting at 9:20 pm. The next meeting is on 23 March 2018.

Signed……………………………………………….. Date………………………