Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* breeds from north-western Greenland across the high Arctic of North America to far eastern Siberia. After breeding, the birds migrate to South America. In Australia, the species has been recorded twice in Victoria and once in New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory (see Lane 1987, Smith 1987, McKean 1984). This note presents the first South Australian record.

On 17 December 1986 at the southern edge of Buckland Park Lake, adjacent to the ICI Saltfields, 30 km N of Adelaide, I was looking at a group of waders on a small sandy island about 20m out from the bank. The group consisted of three Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea*, two Red-necked Stints *C. ruficollis* and a sixth bird of a species unknown to me. This bird was midway in size between the Curlew Sandpipers and Red-necked Stints. Its upperparts and breast were a rich buffish-brown in marked contrast to the much greyer backs of the other two species. The bill was black, quite long compared with that of the Red-necked Stint and from some angles appeared markedly decurved towards the tip. The rest of the underparts were white and the legs black.

After checking my notes against a number of field guides and handbooks and discussing the bird with J. B. Cox, I decided that it was most probably a Baird's Sandpiper. I returned to Buckland Park Lake on 19 December, found what was presumably the same bird still in the same area and confirmed my identification by noting the rump and wing patterns and the extension of the closed wing tips beyond the tail. The bird was subsequently seen by a number of people including J. B. Cox, J. Hatch, J. Hackett, N. Cheshire and D. W. Eades. Throughout its stay until at least 4 February 1987 (J. B. Cox, pers. comm.), it was never seen away from the lake. On 2 January 1987, D. W. Eades took several excellent photographs of the bird (see Plate 1).