

## BIRD REPORT, 2001

COLIN ROGERS

### INTRODUCTION

This report highlights records from the year 2001 for species listed with a rare, vagrant or irruptive status in *A Field List of the Birds of South Australia*, Third Edition (hereafter referred to as the Field List) (SAOA 1985). No attempt is made to cover all species represented in the Field List and species for which there are no records in a calendar year are not discussed. The status in the Field List is indicated by a code with each entry (see Key to Codes overleaf).

Records are provided by SAOA members in the monthly record books, from field trips, or by direct report to the record secretary, as well as by visitors to the state who post reports on the Birding-Aus Mail List ([www.cse.unsw.edu.au/birding-aus/](http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/birding-aus/)). Comments, with suitable references, are made about identification, breeding, migration, and other issues of interest. In many cases a Specified Region code is given to indicate the region of South Australia (SA) from which records occurred (see Key to codes overleaf; see SAOA 1985 for map of regions). Taxonomy follows Christidis and Boles (1994).

Highlights for the year were seabirds, terns and waterfowl. Although there were no pelagic trips in 2001, and sea-watching conditions from Newland Head were generally rated as poor, there were two important beach-washed records. A Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata* was found at Cape Douglas, SE, in January and a Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome* was found on the Coorong beach in February. Additional seabird highlights were Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaeton rubricauda* seen by some overseas visitors in Backstairs Passage in October, a possible Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata* reported from Kangaroo Island in November and a Bridled Tern *S. anaethetus* found at

Carpenter Rocks, SE, in December. Unfortunately the tropicbird went unreported until after the visitors had left the country.

The second half of the year was relatively wet in southern regions with Buckland Park Lake filling with water by September and spring witnessing an irruption of Black-tailed Nativehen *Gallinula ventralis* estimated to be millions. Associated with this influx were higher than usual numbers of waterfowl in southern regions, including Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* and Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*. The wet conditions also resulted in an apparent influx of Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* to the wetlands on the Adelaide Plains and produced the second record of Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* at Buckland Park.

Wader surveys were reduced in 2001 with only the Coorong surveyed by the Australasian Wader Studies Group (J.R. Wilson 2001). Sites in Gulf St Vincent, including Dry Creek Saltfields, Port Wakefield Firing Range and Price Saltfields, were visited but no comprehensive State-wide wader survey was undertaken in 2001. The absence of wader surveys on the western Eyre Peninsula accounts for the lack of reports of sand plovers this year as few reports of Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* and Greater Sand Plover *C. leschenaultii* have been received in recent years from sites in Gulf St Vincent. For comparison Close and McCrie (1986) report peak numbers of 145 Lesser and 27 Greater Sand Plover in March from sites in Gulf St Vincent over the period April 1982 to May 1985. Although it has not been conclusively established that the decline in numbers is real, rather than a change in roosting location, it does appear that since the early 1980s there has been a significant decline in the number of migrant *Charadrius* visiting Gulf St Vincent.

## KEY TO CODES

Species Status		(Observers continued)		(Observers continued)	
Br	Breeding recorded in 2001	TB	Tony Bainbridge	TM	Trish Mooney
(I)	Irruptive				
MC	Moderately Common	CC	Chris Chafer	CN	Clare Noble
R	Rare, SA or Specified Region	DC	David Carey	VN	Vicky Natt
(S)	Spring-summer visitor to SA	DCa	Derek Carter		
Va	Vagrant, SA or Specified Region	DCI	David Close	DP	Dexter Palmer
(W)	Autumn-winter visitor to SA	GC	Graham Carpenter	DPa	David Paton
		JC	Jill Carey	EPa	Enid Pascoe
		JCo	John Cox	HP	Hugh Possingham
		NC	Neil Cheshire	IP	Irena Palmer
				JP	Josie Pyle
				MP	Marcus Pickett
				PP	Penny Paton
				PPe	Peter Penney
				CR	Colin Rogers
				IR	Ian Runciman
				JR	John Reidy
				JRo	Jeremy Robertson
				TR	Tony Russell
				V-JR	Vicki-Jo Russell
				BS	Bob Sothman
				DS	David Sando
				ES	Ella Smith
				IS	Iain Stewart
				PS	Pete Smith
				CT	Chris Thomas
				CTu	Craig Tully
				FT	F. Taylor
				HT	Hilary Thompson
				PT	Paul Taylor
				RT	Rosemary Taplin
				BW	Brain Walker
				CW	Chris J. Wilson
				DW	David White
				GW	Geoff Walker
				GWh	Graham White
				JvW	Jason van Weenen
				PW	Peter Waanders
				RW	Bob Whatmough
				SW	Stephen Walker
				GY	Gwen Young

## ANNOTATED LIST

**<sup>Br</sup>Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata* R**

One, a male, was at Mt Boothby CP, SE, on 13 April [CH] and two were in Ferries McDonald CP, MM, on 27 April [CH]. An old nest with the eggs was recorded at Chinaman's Well, 12 km SSE of Salt Creek, Coorong, on 15 April [BW]. One was reported from Gluepot Reserve, MM, on 9 June [JP]. One was at Blackett's Scrub, SE, on 16 December [DS]. Single birds were reported regularly on the visitors' board at Gluepot Reserve during October–December [per DM]. A chick was noted on 14 April and Baker-Gabb (2002, p.8) concluded that Gluepot Reserve holds a 'robust breeding population of 400 pairs'. The DEH survey had 11 records, ten for the period June to October all with GPS locations recorded [per JvW].

**Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora* R**

Three or four were calling at Boatswains Point, SE, on 23–24 January [DP]. A covey of 10 was flushed from tall grass near Lake Eliza, SE, on 25 January [BH, DM]. Several groups were in Mary Seymour CP, SE, during 13–15 April at the SAOA campout [TR]. Approximately six were 25 km W of Mt Lindsay, NW, in a patch of luxuriant scurf-pea *Psoralea* sp. and grasses at the base of a granite outcrop during 21–27 September [GC]. One was heard calling from rank grasses at the edge of a wheat crop 6 km N of Laura, FR, on 5 October [GC, SBo]. Two were flushed from an un-grazed paddock with bracken and perennial grass 4 km SW of Victor Harbor, MLR, on 9 September [GC]. One was in Bethany Reserve, MLR, on 15 October [EPa].

**Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* R (S)**

Three were on a farm dam 5 km W of Penola, SE, on 15 January [BH]. Parker, Eckert and Ragless (1985) include the Penola area within the range of this species in the SE of the State.

**<sup>Br2</sup>Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* R**

On 7 May a flock of 12 was on the River Murray at Waikerie, MM. These birds remained through winter, with numbers increasing to 35 during July–August, and 19 still present on 30 September [PW]. On 9 May a flock of c. 150 was on Oak Vale 'Lake', LN, and on 10 May a smaller

flock of c. 10 was on Canegrass 'Lake', LN [AB]. In the second half of the year reports were received from the AP, MLR and Coorong. On 15 June, 12 were at Bolivar Sewage Works, AP [DE]. Several (number not noted) were on Lake George, SE, on 25 June [BH, CW]. On 14 July, five were at the Onkaparinga River RP, MLR [RL]. On 23 August at least 400 were at the Morella Basin, inland from Salt Creek, Coorong [JB]. This must be the largest flock recorded in the State for some time (see Rogers 2002; Black and Carpenter, in prep.). Five were on an ephemeral lake 3 km N of Meadows, MLR, on 20 September [HA *et al.*] and 10–12 were on Buckland Park Lake, AP, on 23 September [CR, JCo]. A flock of nine was at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, on 29 September but only two were present on 12 October and they departed shortly after that date [JCo]. Two were on the ponds at Laura sewage works, FR, on 5 October [GC, SBo]. Eight were at Wrong Way Wetland, part of Watervalley Wetlands, south of Salt Creek, Coorong, on 9 October [JB]. Two were reported from Pandurra Station, NW, on 30 October [PL]. At least 30 were at Jaffray Swamp, Stewarts Range, SE, on 31 October in association with large numbers of Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* [BH]. Two were at the Onkaparinga River RP, on 4 November [TB] and five were at the Goolwa Sewage Ponds, MLR, on 11 November and six on 26 December [JH, CR]. Two were at the Onkaparinga River RP, on 6 December [HT]. Reports were received from Buckland Park Lake, AP, from September to December with counts of c. 50 on 1 December [CR] and c. 80 on 23 December [SH, DH]. Juveniles were observed in December in a flock estimated to be 100 but breeding at Buckland Park Lake has not been confirmed [CR, JCo].

**Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolome* Va**

A beach-washed specimen was recovered from the ocean beach 29 km N of Tea Tree Crossing, Coorong, on 2 February [IR, IS, KGo, DE, MC]. Parker *et al.* (1979, p. 13) list three beach-washed records between 1913 and 1972.

**Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata* Va**

An adult was found beach-washed at Cape

Douglas, SE, on 6 January (see C. Wilson 2001 for a report and photograph) [CW]. Parker *et al.* (1979, p. 16) list four beach-washed records between 1966 and 1977. Hatch and Cheshire (2000, p. 236) list only three records from pelagic trips out to the 200 mile EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) limit between 1977 and 1998.

**Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* Va**

One was reported from the ferry to Kangaroo Island on 19 October [JC, DC]. Sutton (1923, p.98) mentions a specimen now in the SA Museum that was recovered from North Shields, north of Port Lincoln, EP, in 1899, and Parker *et al.* (1979, p. 29) list six records between 1919 and 1969. Baxter (1995, p. 20) notes records from the CSR salt lake near Pelican Lagoon, American River, KI of one in March–April 1966 and one in May–June 1967. The most recent record was the sighting of two adults (accompanied by a juvenile in January 1992) in the summers of 1991/92 and 1992/93 (Jordon 1995). The suspected breeding of the species in South Neptune Island was discussed by Tarburton (1999) who considers the possible extension of the range of this species into South Australian waters.

**Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* R**

One was at the Hahndorf Golf Club drain, MLR, on 1 January and two were at the same location staying for 3–4 days from 18 March [FT]. One, showing traces of breeding plumage, was at Eight Mile Creek outlet, east of Port MacDonnell, SE, on 7 May [HT]. One was in the Whyalla Wetlands, EP, on 25 November [ES].

**Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* R (S)**

One was reported in lignum *Muehlenbeckia florulenta* and sedge *Bolboschoenus caldwellii* at Buckland Park Lake, AP, on 4 November [BA, MH]. Single birds were seen on separate occasions at the same location on 5 and 6 November, and several observers reported at least one adult and one juvenile on 5–6 November [CR, JCo, NC, DH]. On one occasion a Little Bittern was observed to run crake-like into sedge, before disappearing into a lignum bush. It appears that this is the second record of Little Bittern for Buckland Park; the first occurred in 1935 (see Glover 1976). Recent records of Little Bittern in SA have occurred north of the River Murray in 1992 and 1997 (see Carpenter and de Jong 2001).

Carpenter and de Jong (2001) suggest that it might migrate from the wetlands of the Darling River system to the wetlands and extensive reed-beds along the River Murray in SA. Extensive flooding of Buckland Park in September 2001 may have provided an attractive alternative destination. Previous breeding records at Bool Lagoon in 1984–86 are reported in Jaensch (1989).

**Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* R (MLR, AP, KI, EP, LN)**

One was at Greenfields Wetlands, AP, on 18 April [JCo] and again on 19 May [CR]. One was flushed from reeds at Lake George, SE, on 25 June [BH, CW]. One was flushed at Greenfields Wetlands on 13 September [JCo]. It is reported to be a regular winter visitor to Greenfields in small numbers [JCo].

**Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus* R (W, not KI)**

One was in Witjira NP, NE, roosting in coolibah *Eucalyptus coolabah* on the eastern side of Spring Creek delta [CB].

**Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura* R (S)**

One was seen briefly at Kyeema CP, on Fleurieu Peninsula, MLR, on the SAOA outing of 20 September [HA *et al.*]. A description was provided and included ‘...gliding on large upswept wings’. The colour of the under-wing coverts was difficult to make out as the bird was observed against cloud but was reported as possibly light to dark brown rather than rufous. The wings were noted as long relative to the body and tail and the under-wing had an ‘...indistinct window about two thirds distally along the wing just before the fingering of the primaries. The long barred primaries appeared spotted as they were widely separated at the tips—the fingering giving the impression that the wings were wider at the ends. As the bird glided closer the white head was obvious. The tail was fanned, square tipped and slightly darker at the tip’. For a useful field description of Square-tailed Kite see Debus (1998, pp. 26–28). A recent record from the Fleurieu Peninsula at Blewitt Springs is reported in Read (1999).

**<sup>Br</sup>Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* Va**

Two adults and a juvenile female were seen frequently at the north-western boundary of Telford Scrub CP, SE, in January [BG, BH]. A

pair was reported from Telford Scrub CP on 27 October and was observed at a nest in a pine *Pinus* sp. plantation on the northern boundary. The female was observed on the nest with the male usually nearby during November and December [BG]. Grey Goshawk probably has been breeding in the SE of SA since the mid-1990s (Rogers 2002).

#### **Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos* R**

One was at Olary Creek, 'Duffields', Mutooroo Station, LN, on 2 May [AB]. One was near Eureka Bluff, Gawler Ranges, EP, in early September [GWh] and one was at Spear Creek, Stirling North, NW, on 20 September [BL, DL].

#### **<sup>B</sup>Brolga *Grus rubicunda* R**

All records are from the SE region. A flock of 125 was at Bool Lagoon on 14 January [CR, DH]. Graham Pizzey counted 180, including 10 juveniles, in the vicinity of Magpie Swamp (just west of the Victorian border near the Casterton road) and surrounding properties from January to March 2001 [per JB]. One was flying east of Nene Valley CP on 7 May [HT]. Six were in Penola CP on 18 September [BH]. A pair was raising a chick on a swamp on Milroy Station on 8 October [JB]. One was near Grundy's Lane on 8 November [BG].

#### **Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis* R**

There was only one record for the year of a probable sighting in a swamp south of Kuitpo Forest (35°18'S, 138°55'E), MLR [SW]. This cryptic species is possibly under-reported.

#### **Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis* MC (I)**

An estimated 1–4 million birds were on Moolawatana Station (30°40'S, 139°30'E), northern FR, in July [per AB]. On parts of the property birds were reported at a density of 'one every three feet' over an area of 20 square miles which suggests that the estimate of 1–4 million is conservative, i.e. 1 bird per m<sup>2</sup> over 50 km<sup>2</sup> equals 5 million birds! Matheson (1974) provides an analysis of a similar irruption in 1972/73.

#### **Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis* R (W, not KI)**

Two were in the Innamincka Regional Reserve, NE, south of Innamincka township on 31 March. Four were in the Innamincka Regional Reserve,

on the Coongie Track south of Tirrawarra on 7 May. Three were in the Witjira NP, NE, south of Dalhousie Springs on 25 June and an additional seven were recorded at different locations within the park on 28 June [per CB].

#### **Plains-wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* R**

All records are from the LN region. A single adult female was photographed on Boolcoomatta Station on 28 March. A pair was spotlighted on Wompinnie Station on 10 March. Two were spotlighted on Kalkaroo Station in late June and two adult females were spotlighted and photographed on Boolcoomatta Station on 7 July [per CB].

#### **Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* R (S)**

One was in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 10 January roosting with Eastern Curlew *N. madagascariensis* [DCI] and three were there on 20 May [CR]. Whimbrels often roost near the mangrove edge nearby at Outer Harbour and are consequently under-reported by observers in Dry Creek Saltfields. Five were at Price Saltfields, YP, on 15 September [JC] but only one was recorded at that location on 19 October [JH]. On 7 November three were observed flying up the channel opposite Pelican Point, Outer Harbour, AP [CR]. One was at Price Saltfields, YP, on 20 October and 30 December [CR].

#### **Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* R (S)**

A wader count on 10 January produced 43 in the Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, and 19 at the Port Wakefield Firing Range, AP, on 26 March [DCI]. Four were at Hindmarsh Island, Coorong, on 1 January [DMu]. This is well down on the count of 120 for Gulf St Vincent in 2000 (Rogers 2002) but probably reflects the lack of survey coverage in 2001 rather than a decline in numbers. Four were in Dry Creek Saltfields on 20 May [CR]. The only reports during winter were two in the Mundoo Channel near the barrage, Coorong, on 23 June [DMu], one between Pelican Point and Blackfellows Caves, SE, on 18 June and 26 August [HT], and five at Dry Creek Saltfields on 21 July [CR]. Thirteen were roosting at Price Saltfields, YP, on 15 September [JH]. There were 32 at Dry Creek Saltfields on 23 September, but only 26 roosted there on 4 November [JC, JH]. At least 35 were at Dry Creek Saltfields on 30 December [CR]. To give some indication of its

decline in numbers in SA over the last 60 years, flocks of c. 1000 were recorded feeding on the mudflats at Outer Harbour in 1930 (Pearce 1931) and 1938 (Clements 1938; Parker and Cox, unpubl.). Parker and Cox (unpubl.) note that these flats have since been reclaimed. Factors suggested as causing the decline of the global population are habitat loss, pollution, disturbance and hunting, particularly in China where this species is a passage migrant (Close and Newman 1984; Watkins 1993).

#### **Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* R (S)**

One remained at Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, from 2000 and was reported on 28 January and 25 February [JCo]. The first record in the second half of the year was on 6 October at Dry Creek Saltfields, and subsequently single birds were seen there on 17 November and 21 December [CR]. Parker and Cox (unpubl.) note that Terek Sandpiper was first recorded in SA on 5 February 1961 at Dry Creek Saltfields and is now known to visit Gulf St Vincent annually in small numbers.

#### **Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* R (S)**

Three were at French Point, Port MacDonnell, SE, on 13 January [CR, DH]. One was at Stony Point, SE, on 7 October [BG] and 10 were at French Point, Port MacDonnell on 24 November [GY]. One was at Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 1 December [JC]. This species is under-reported from Eyre Peninsula.

#### **Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Va**

One was reported from Pelican Point, Outer Harbour, AP, on 11 November with a flock of 250 Red-necked Stints *C. ruficollis* [RB]. From the sketch and description provided it appeared to be a juvenile or an adult in breeding plumage. The sketch noted a dark red-brown striated crown, with high forehead and light 'eyebrow' (supercilium) through and behind the eye with an 'eye-ring' and dark lores. The throat was white and the breast had a rose-brown tinge with dark streaks. Feathers on the mantle and wing coverts were dark red-brown with buff edges and a pale white tramline was visible on the mantle. The bill was short and slightly down curved and the legs were black (see Hayman, Marchant and Prater 1986). There are possibly less than a dozen records of Little Stint in SA. Parker and Cox (unpubl.) mention seven and there are two others

in recent years from Price, YP, and Eyre Peninsula (see Rogers 2002).

#### **Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* R (S)**

There were no records from the first half of the year, possibly due to dry conditions. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, was dry by January. The first record for the season was at Greenfields Wetlands on 23 October [JCo]. It was seen regularly after that date. One was in a mangrove pool in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 10 November [JCo]. Two were seen near that location on 1 December and one on 23 and 27 December [CR, JCo]. Long-toed Stint was first reported and collected in SA in the period 23 March to 5 April 1964 near Langhorne Creek, LA (Eckert 1965). It is now known to be a regular summer visitor to SA in small numbers (Parker and Cox, unpubl.). Maximum counts include 12 near Langhorne Creek on 27 March 1964 (Eckert 1965) and 11 observed by J. Cox at Greenfields Wetlands in 1999 (SAOA 1999).

#### **Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* R (S)**

In the first part of the year one was with a mixed flock of shorebirds at Stony Point, SE, on 13 January [DH, CR]. One remained at Greenfields Wetlands, AP, until mid-January and one was seen regularly in mangrove pools in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, during January [JCo]. In the second half of the year the first record for the season was at Price Saltfields, YP, on 20 October [JCo]. One was at Dry Creek Saltfields on 4 and 18 November and 1, 21 and 23 December [CR]. Pectoral Sandpiper was first recorded in SA on 12 February 1966 when J. Eckert and R. Cleggett collected a specimen at Boggy Lake, LA (Eckert 1967).

#### **Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* R (S)**

One was seen regularly between 26 October and 3 November at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP [JCo]. It appeared to be a juvenile moulting into first winter plumage. Another one was seen in a mangrove pool in the Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 12 December [DH, SH]. Broad-billed Sandpiper was first recorded (and collected) in SA on 26 March 1970 at Buckland Park, AP (Eckert 1971).

#### **Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Va**

One was at Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, from

December 2000 and on 17 January was identified as a female in advanced breeding plumage [NC, JH, CR]. It was last reported on 28 January. Red-necked Phalarope was first recorded (and collected) in SA on 19 November 1966 at Boggy Lake, LA (Eckert, 1969). In the Field Guide, the status of this species as vagrant should be reconsidered as rare since records now well exceed 12.

#### **Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* R**

An influx of Painted Snipe occurred in the second half of 2001 possibly as a result of the relatively wet conditions in southern regions. The first record was a male flushed in Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Road, AP, on 11 August [JCo]. One was at Eight Mile Creek, Port MacDonnell, SE, on 2 October [BH]. Three were seen in an ephemeral swamp 1 km SW of Redhill, AP, on 4 October [GC]. A group of five, males and females, was reported from Onkaparinga River RP, MLR, on 4 November [TB] and this number rose to eight by 28 November [NC, DCI]. Two, a female and a male or juvenile, were seen there on 7 December [GBr]. A group of two males and two females was at an ephemeral swamp at the corner of Young's and Lower Nelson Roads near Port MacDonnell, SE, on 7 November [GY, BG, PPe]. Three males were at Greenfields Wetlands on 1 December and remained until at least 20 December [JCo]. A group of at least six, males and females, was at Kaurna Park wetlands, AP, on 10 December and was seen intermittently until at least 30 December [IM]. One male or immature bird was at Onkaparinga River RP on 16 December [HT]. A male and female were at Berri effluent ponds, MM, on 17 December [LL].

#### **Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* R**

One was near Yacka, FR, in October [BL]. Two were roosting at Possum Park, Bordertown, SE, on 28 June [BH]. One was at the Mundulla Common, Mundulla, SE, on 8 November [BH].

#### **Hooded Plover *Thinornis rubricollis* R**

Two were at Stony Point, SE, on 10 February, and two at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 31 March and again on 10 June [BG]. One and often two were reported between Piccaninnie Ponds and Blackfellows Caves beach from 7 May to 19 September. On the beach between Nene Valley and Blackfellows Caves, there were eight reports of 16 birds in total over the period 7 May to 19 September with a maximum count of five on 27

August [HT]. Three were at Piccaninnie Ponds CP on 16 September [BG]. Four were reported from Innes NP, YP, on 7 September [CT]. Two were at Port Willunga, MLR, near the creek outlet on 1 December [BW].

#### **Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* R**

Two adults were at Stony Point, SE, on 10 February [BG]. One adult was at Pelican Point near Carpenter Rocks, SE, on 4 April [HT]. Several, age and number not noted, were at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 25 April [BH]. One immature bird was feeding on a dead shark on the Nene Valley beach, SE, on 18 June and four, ages not indicated, were on the coast southeast of Nene Valley on 19 June [HT]. One, age not indicated, was seen flying offshore at Boatswains Point, SE, on 9 July [DP]. One adult and four immature birds were with Pacific Gulls *L. pacificus*, between Nene Valley and Blackfellows Caves, on 28 July [HT]. An adult was at the Murray Mouth on 10 June [CR]. For identification and aging of Kelp Gull see James (1995).

#### **Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* R (S)**

A flock of c. 20 was roosting on sandbars at the Murray Mouth on 4 January [CR, DCI]. One was at Cape du Couedic, KI, on 13 November [KGr].

#### **Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* Va**

Two, in basic plumage, were roosting with a flock of c. 120 White-fronted Terns *S. striata* on a sandbar at the Murray Mouth on 6 June [CR]. They were identified by smaller size and smaller bill than White-fronted Tern, with white forehead behind the eye and very short legs. In flight they showed all white rump and tail by contrast to most of the White-fronted Terns that were moulting into first winter plumage and showing tails with grey smudges (see Carter *et al.* 1994, plate 9). The White-fronted Terns were showing a distinct white line on the upper edge of primaries as described by Carter *et al.* (1994, plates 8 and 10).

#### **Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* R**

One was at Price Saltfields, YP, on 21 November roosting with Fairy Terns *S. nereis* [CR, JH].

#### **Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* R (S)**

One was at Gerloff Bay, near Carpenter Rocks, SE, from 17 December 2001 to 20 March 2002 (Christie 2003) [IM, MC]. A dark tern, seen at a

distance in flight at Pelican Point, SE, on 12 January was tentatively identified at the time as a Sooty Tern *S. fuscata* (SAOA 2001). Although Sooty Tern has been recorded in SA, the proximity of Pelican Point to Carpenter Rocks suggests that this earlier sighting was also Bridled Tern. If that is the case one or more of these birds have been in the area during the summers of 2000/01 and 2001/02. Records over several summers would be consistent with the previous records of Bridled Tern in SA. Bridled Tern was seen in most summers at Baudin Rocks, SE, from 1968 to 1975, with breeding occurring in January and December 1968 and a maximum count of four birds in December 1972, but none were recorded between 1975 and 1982 (Bonnin 1968, 1969, 1982).

**White-winged Black-Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* R (S)**

At least two were with Whiskered Terns *C. hybridus* near the Milang–Kidinan Road intersection, LA, on 3 January [AB]. One was at Mosquito Point, LA, on 4 January [CR, DCI]. Approximately 10 were roosting with Whiskered Terns on the eastern boundary of Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, on 28 January [JCo]. Five were with 300 Whiskered Terns near Ewens Ponds CP, Lower Nelson Road, SE, on 30 September [BG]. One was at Greenfields Wetlands, AP, on 4 November [BG]. One was at Dry Creek Saltfields on 18 November [JCo] and 21 December [CR, JRo].

**Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii* R**

All but one of the following records are from the SE region and are referable to the nationally Endangered *C.b. graptogyne*. A flock of 20 was at Telford Scrub CP and surrounds on 30 January [BG]. Three were at the Langkoop Rd on 20 February [BH]. An interesting report, in view of its northerly location, was of four, two males and two females, 35 km north-west of Bordertown (36°05'S, 140°35'E), MM, on 8 March [CTu, DS]. The birds remained at this location for several weeks. A flock of *c.* 20 was 5 km N of Frances on 14 April [TR, EPa] and flock of *c.* 38 was at Bangham CP on 16 May [CH]. A flock of 50–60 was just west of Telford Scrub CP in stringybark woodland in April, and a flock of *c.* 100 was in Telford Scrub CP and the surrounding area on 20 May [BG]. This would account for a large

proportion of the isolated population in SE Australia, which is estimated to be 500–770 adults (Burnard and Hill, unpubl.). Only one was in Telford Scrub CP on 17 June but four were there on 19 August [BG]. Two were in the Nangwarry Native Forest Reserve on 19 December [SB].

**<sup>Br</sup>Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathamii* R**

A report from the recovery team indicates that there has been a sustained increase in nesting success of the nationally Endangered *C.l. halmaturinus* from three in 1995 to 32 in 1998 and 31 in 2001. Numbers have increased from an estimated 195 in 1995 to an estimated 260–270 in 2001 [per TM]. As the population recovers there is an increasing probability that birds will be encountered on their former range on the Fleurieu Peninsula, MLR. SAOA members are requested to report any sightings of Glossy Black-Cockatoo on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

**Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* Va**

Three were on Pandie Pandie Station in a riparian corridor of the Diamantina River near Dickeree Waterhole, NE, on 15 May [CBr]. There were several reports from the Cooper Creek and Diamantina River system, NE, in early 2001 (see Reid and Baxter, in prep.).

**Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus* R**

All reports are from the MM. A flock of 10–12 were reported from Banrock Station, on 24 March [JH]. A flock of 15 was 1 km E of the ferry at Morgan on 21 September [JH]. A flock of *c.* 10 adult and immature birds was on the road into Gluepot Reserve on 8 June [JP]. Up to six were in Morgan CP on 29 September [CR] and a flock of 10–20 was there on 28 October [JH]. A small flock of 4–10 was reported by the SAOA outing to Gluepot Reserve on 28 October [TC *et al.*]. Four were at Loch Luna, near Cobdogla, on 15 December [DE, V-JR]. A flock of *c.* 50 was at Stockyard Plains on 17 December [BF].

**Orange-bellied Parrot *Neophema chrysogaster* R (W)**

Two were in the paddocks near Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 20 May [BG]. The May Orange-bellied Parrot count produced a total of three between Glenelg River and Piccaninnie Ponds



CP [per MC]. One was at Dodd's Landing, Coorong, on 27 June [DD]. Twelve, including two banded juveniles at Butchers Gap CP, and four in the Coorong, were recorded on the July count between the Murray Mouth and the Victorian border [per MC].

**Scarlet-chested Parrot *Neophema splendida* R**

Eight were in Yumbarra CP, EP, on 13 January [TR, EPa]. An unspecified number were reported in early July from a dam 20 km north-east of Canopus in Danggali CP, LN. Later in the year one was flushed from mallee with dense triodia in Cooltong CP, MM, on 23 October [GC]. Two males were seen in Yumbarra CP on 25 September [DH, SH] and again on 5 October [PH]. One was seen in early September 17 km E of Googs Lake, north of Ceduna, EP, [GWh]. Two were seen at the northern boundary of Billiatt CP, MM, on 13 November [CT]. Several were reported north-west of Ceduna, EP, in early November [CC, CBr].

**Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* R (NE), Va (SE, MLR)**

Two were seen and heard regularly in Mary Seymour CP, SE, during 13–17 May. It is likely that this species has established itself in the area (see Rogers 2002) [TR, EPa].

**Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae* R**

One, and possibly two, were reported from Gluepot Reserve, MM, in March–May [per PW].

**Grass Owl *Tyto capensis* Va**

Five were seen at dusk at Trinity Well, northern FR, in December [PG].

**<sup>B</sup>Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus* R (MLR, EP)**

In terms of naturally occurring populations the status of the nationally Critically Endangered 'Mount Lofty Ranges (MLR) Southern Emu-wren' *S.m. intermedius* in 2001 changed little in comparison to 2000 (Rogers 2002). Of note however was the reintroduction of 30 emu-wrens (15 males, 15 females) to Cox Scrub CP in July (Pickett 2001), which resulted in their establishment at two sites in the formerly occupied (prior to 1983 bush-fires) reserve. Monitoring at Cox Scrub CP during the 2001/02 spring–summer breeding season revealed at least eight breeding pairs and at least 10–11 young. Reintroduced

emu-wrens were translocated from Deep Creek CP. Overall in 2001 the MLR Southern Emu-wren was recorded at 24 sites—14 swamp sites (12 private, two Forestry SA) and 10 dry-heath sites (eight in Deep Creek CP and two in Cox Scrub CP)—including one previously unrecorded location at the west end of Deep Creek CP, 9 km S of Delamere (M. Pickett, unpubl. data). The ongoing recovery program is funded primarily by Commonwealth and State agencies, and administered by the Conservation Council of SA (Littlely and Cutten 1994; MLR Southern Emu-wren Recovery Team 1998) [per MP].

Records of the 'Eyre Peninsula Southern Emu-wren' *S.m. parimeda* in 2001 include Sleaford Mere, Kellidie Bay Conservation Park, Charlton Gully, and Taylors Landing and the Memory Cove track (Jussieu Bay) in Lincoln NP (Pickett 2002) [per MP].

**<sup>B</sup>Chestnut-breasted Whiteface *Aphelocephala pectoralis* R**

All records are from the vicinity of Mt Lyndhurst, FR. There were up to 12 birds during 13–16 April [LG, TG], at least 12 on 26 May [JR], c. 16 pairs (with nine breeding) over the period 14–17 August [GB], at least 12 on 18 August [KB] and 'several' in early July [GW].

**Black-eared Miner *Manorina melanotis* R (MM)**

The Black-eared Miner is classified as Endangered, a recovery plan having been in operation since 1995 (Backhouse, Bennett and McLaughlin 1995; Backhouse *et al.* 1997; Baker-Gabb 2001). It is no longer present over much of its historical range in the Murray Mallee of SA, Victoria and New South Wales (Blakers, Davies and Reilly 1984; Joseph 1986; Starks 1987). In SA there are 200 colonies (over 95% of known colonies) in the Bookmark Biosphere Reserve about 50 km north-west of Renmark (Clarke and Clarke 1998) and one at Glenburr Scrub near Murray Bridge (McLaughlin 1996; Clarke and Clarke 1999). In Victoria there are six known hybrid colonies of birds, and five pure colonies recently translocated from SA (Clarke and Clarke 1999; Boulton and Clarke 2000b, 2001). The only recent records from New South Wales are five hybrid colonies (Franklin 1996; Boulton and Clarke 2000a). Small captive colonies of hybrid birds have been established at three zoos.

The Black-eared Miner occurs in extensive mallee eucalypt shrublands, particularly in areas

unburnt for more than 50 years (McLaughlin 1992; Muir, Quin and Dominelli 1999). Its marked decline since 1950 has been attributed to habitat clearance, and genetic introgression with the abundant, open-woodland dwelling Yellow-throated Miner *M. flavigula*. Major current threats include continued introgression from Yellow-throated Miners (and hybrids), large wildfires, too frequent fires and ongoing habitat degradation by grazing herbivores [per RH].

<sup>Br</sup>**Black-chinned Honeyeater** *Meliphreptus gularis* R

Paton (2002) reports that a total of 67 birds was recorded in the MLR and adjacent areas during 2000–2001, including five on 14 April and one in May at Scott Creek CP, one near Kyeema CP on 12 May, two at the Barossa Reservoir in July, four near Harrogate in November and two in Hay Flat Road, near Normanville, in December [per PP]. Other records for the MLR include two immature birds at the Barossa Valley Golf Club, near Nuriootpa, on 14 January [DCa], four in Altona Scrub on 22 June [DMu, RT], five at Sandy Creek CP on 8 November [RA, JP], four or five (2–3 adults and 3–2 fledglings) at Swains Crossing, Victor Harbor, on 26–29 December [HP].

The following records are from the SE. The species was reported from Mary Seymour CP over the Easter weekend by the SAOA campout [TR *et al.*]. A group of 3–5 was in Bangham CP on 30 May [FD]. Three were at the Ferris Heritage Agreement area, Padthaway on 14 August and one was at the Boston Reserve, Naracoorte on 22 October [BH].

**Black Honeyeater** *Certhionyx niger* R (S)

All the records come from the second half of the year. The first report was of an unspecified number of birds on Bollards Lagoon Station, Cameron Corner, NE, on 19 August [GBr]. Small numbers were at Mt Lyndhurst, FR, on 18 August [KB]. More southerly records were three at Monarto CP, MM, on 16 September [BM] and six at Morgan, MM, on 29 September and 7 October [CR, JC]. Two males and a female were reported north of Scrubby Peak, Gawler Ranges, EP, on 1 October [AB] and 2–3 were on a property off Kangaroo Flat Road between Meningie and Coonalpyn, MM, on the October long weekend [PS]. One was about 2–3 km W of Pondana Ruins, Gawler Ranges, EP, in early September

[GWh]. Between 4 and 10 were at Browns Road, Monarto, MM, on 15 November [TC *et al.*]. A flock of 10 was at the Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta, NW, on 7 October [DE, V-JR] and an unspecified number were there in early November [CC, CBr].

**Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegatus* R (S)

Like Black Honeyeater most records are from the second half of the year. The only winter records were 12 at Lake Hart, NW, on 24 June [CN, BW] and an unspecified number reported from Bollards Lagoon Station, Cameron Corner, NE, on 19 August together with Black Honeyeater [GBr]. It was reported to be numerous in the Mt Lyndhurst area, FR, on 18 August [KB]. In spring, 10 were on the track between Morgan and Mt Mary, MM, on 29 September and again on October 7 [JCo, CR]. Pied Honeyeater was reported to be common through the Gawler Ranges, EP, in early September [GWh]. A male and a female were at Lake Gillies CP, EP, on September 28 [AB] and three males at Scrubby Peak, Gawler Ranges, EP, during September 28–29 [AB]. One male and one female were in Yumbarra CP, EP, on 5 October [DH, SH]. A flock of 20 was at the Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta, FR, on 7 October [DE, V-JR] and small numbers were there in early November [CC, CBr].

<sup>Br</sup>**Yellow Chat** *Epthianura crocea* R

An estimated 19 pairs, one pair breeding, were at Pandiburra Bore, NE, on 10 August [GB].

**Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea* R (W)

An uncoloured adult female was reported from the northern boundary of Aldinga Scrub CP, MLR, on 4 June. A description, with sketches, was provided but referees could not determine on the basis of the evidence provided if the bird was a Rose Robin or Red-capped Robin *P. goodenovii*. Uncoloured specimens of both these species have occurred in SA and separation in the field can pose difficulties for observers. For an example of an uncoloured robin that was thought to be Red-capped Robin but turned out to be Rose Robin when mist-netted, see Paton, Paton and Waterman (1968). Rose Robin tends to be more arboreal than Red-capped Robin (Rogers 1993) and usually exhibits characteristic wing drooping and tail raising, sometimes said to be reminiscent of Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* (Black 1997). If possible, take careful note of the pattern

of white in the tail. Rose Robin has white in the three outer tail feathers while Red-capped has white in the outer two tail feathers (see Rogers 1993, p. 17, figure 2.).

**Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster* Va**

A male in adult plumage was reported from Scott Creek CP, MLR, on 29 May by the SAOA outing [TC *et al.*]. As noted in Rogers (2002), most records of Pink Robin in South Australia are of brown birds although a male in adult plumage was recorded in Big Heath CP, SE, in January 2000 (see Rogers 2002 for additional references). The only other record for the year was a brown bird at the intersection of Hill and Victor Harbor–Yankalilla Roads, MLR, on 20 July [WS]. A sketch was provided, and an accompanying description indicated ‘buff’ wing bars and flanks with white under-parts. Unfortunately there was no reference to the presence or absence of white in the tail, which makes it difficult to distinguish between the bird reported and a female Flame Robin *P. phoenicea* (see Rogers 1993, p. 17, figure 1, numbers 1 and 8).

**Western Whipbird *Psophodes nigrogularis* R**

Two, and possibly three, were calling near the lookout in Innes NP, YP, on 25 February [HT]. Several, numbers not specified, were seen near Pondalowie, Innes NP, YP, on 21 May [SF]. One was at Taylors Landing, Lincoln NP, EP, on 8 October [DE, V-JR]. Two were heard near Taylors Landing in early November [CC, CBr].

**Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea* R**

Several were calling from silky tea tree *Leptospermum lanigerum* on private land (Cockburn) between Carpenter Rocks and Blackfellows Caves, SE, on 29 February [BH]. Two were in silky tea tree on a private property at Blackfellows Caves on 23 July and one was calling from swamp paper-bark *Melaleuca halmaturorum* on private property north of Cape Douglas, SE, on 29 August [HT].

**Red-lored Whistler *Pachycephala rufogularis* R**

One was at Pooginook CP, MM, on the SAOA outing on 28 October [TC *et al.*]. Three were seen at Calperum Station, MM, on 14–15 August [KB, DHo].

**<sup>B</sup>Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca* R (S)**

All records are from the SE region. Six, one

male, three females and two juveniles, were at the northern track in Telford Scrub CP on 13 January [BG, CR, DH]. All the females were observed to assist with feeding the juveniles. Small numbers appear to be regular summer breeders in the SE. A male was at Aslins, Grundy’s Lane, near Telford Scrub CP on 25 February [BG]. In the second half of the year, two were seen courting in the northern section of Telford Scrub CP on 27 October. At least three were in Telford Scrub CP on 25 November [BG]. One was in a suburban garden at Wilhelmina St, Kingston on 13 December [VN]. A pair was seen to attack a male Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* near the northern boundary of Telford Scrub in late December [BG, CR, JH]. The Millicent Field Naturalist outing to Wool Wash Native Forest Reserve reported one on 30 December. Four were in Telford Scrub CP on 31 December [BG].

**<sup>B</sup>White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracinapapuensis* R (S)**

Three were in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 13 January [BG, CR, DH]. Breeding occurred near the southern boundary of Telford Scrub CP in November and two young fledged. One of the breeding pair was the dark morph of the race *C.p. robusta* (see Green and Haywood 2003 for a detailed discussion) [BG, CR, BH]. One was at the northern boundary of Telford Scrub CP on 21 October and 25 November [BG]. The species was reported from the Wool Wash Native Forest Reserve, SE, by the Millicent Field Naturalists on 30 December.

**Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* R**

A sub-adult was seen 4 km SW of Nantawarra, AP, on 29 May [PT]. Three were 11 km E of Straun, SE, on the Straun–Joanna Road on 5 June [BH]. One was banded at Newland Head CP, MLR, on 21 May [DPa].

**Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella* R**

Three were at Myponga CP, MLR, on 7 January [DMu]. A small number, 1–3, were at Cullen Reserve, Robe, SE, on 13 April and again on 22 September [BH]. A small number, 1–3, were at Nene Valley CP, SE, on 24 April and similar numbers were at Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE, on 25 April and again on 5 May [BH]. Two were at Piccaninnie Ponds CP on 20 May and one on 10 June [BG]. One was at Ravine de Casoars

Wilderness Protection Area, 23 km E of Cape Borda, KI, on 2 June [DE, V-JR]. Two were at Black Bullock Road, Deep Creek CP, MLR, on 20 July [DE]. Five were at Gemini Downs near Salt Creek, Coorong, on 15 April and the same number was at Guichen Bay CP, SE, on July 10–13 [DP, IP]. One was near Tent Rock Rd, Deep Creek CP, MLR, on 27 July [DE]. Several, number not specified, were at Taratap quarry, 25 km N of Kingston, SE (date and observer unknown). One was on the Loop Rd, Salt Creek, Coorong NP, Coorong, on 27 July [DE, V-JR]. A small number, 1–3, were east of Butchers Gap CP, SE, on private land on 14 September and a similar number were at Blakers Scrub, north of Talapar CP, SE, also on private land on 31 October [BH]. Several, number not noted, were in Blackett's Scrub, SE, on 18 December [per BH]. Regularly reported in small numbers from widespread locations in the SE.

#### Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata* R

One was in Telford Scrub CP, SE, on 13 January, with two on 3 February and another one on 20 October [BG]. One was in Kaiserstuhl CP, MLR, on 10 February and another one was observed foraging near the summit at Mt George CP, MLR, on 18 February [HT].

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank SAOA members and others for submitting their records and drawing my attention to significant bird records and events and unusual bird behaviour. I am grateful to Maureen Christie, Rhidian Harrington, Duncan MacKenzie, Trish Mooney, Marcus Pickett, Penny Paton and Jason van Weenen for providing updates on a number of bird conservation projects within SA. Finally, I thank David Edey for commenting on an earlier draft and sourcing material for the report.

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Colin Rogers: 16 Flavel Ave, Woodforde, S.A.  
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Received 21 January 2003; accepted 3 March 2003