

# Birds SA

# Newsletter



No 216

November 2010



**Birds SA is the operating name of The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.**  
c/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000

The Aims of the Association are:

To promote the conservation of Australian birds and their habitats.

To encourage interest in, and develop knowledge of the birds of South Australia.

To record the results of research in regard to all aspects of bird life.

To maintain a public fund called the "Birds SA Conservation Fund" for the specific purpose of supporting the Association's environmental objects.

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### CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 34,  
ERHARD FRANZ BOEHM PART 7

## DIARY

Following is a list of Birds SA activities for the next few months. Further details of all these activities are given later in the newsletter.

Nov 28	Sunday	Excursion to Pooginook CP	*****	
Dec 11	Saturday	Excursion to Reedy Creek		
Dec 16	Thursday	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands		
Dec 19	Sunday	Excursion to Salt Fields		
<b>Dec 26 to Jan 4 Christmas Campout, Coffin Bay</b>				
*****				
Jan 8	Saturday	Excursion to Sandy Creek CP		
Jan 13	Thursday	Excursion to Salt Fields		
Jan 28	Friday	General Meeting		
Jan 30	Sunday	Scott Creek CP		
*****				
Feb 12	Saturday	Excursion to Salt Fields		
Feb 17	Thursday	Excursion to Goolwa Barrage		
Feb 25	Friday	General Meeting,		
Feb 27	Sunday	Excursion to Paiwalla Wetlands		
*****				
Mar 12	Saturday	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands		
Mar 17	Thursday	Excursion to Riverglades etc.		
Mar 25	Friday	General Meeting		

**Cover photo: Dusky Woodswallow, photographed by Burt May in Wirrabara Forest, April 2010**

*General meetings are held in the Hawker Centre at the Waite Institute, Waite Road, Urrbrae at 7.45pm. Doors open at 7.00pm.*

*Committee meetings are held at the above venue on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7.30pm.*

**Donations to the Birds SA Conservation Fund are tax-deductible**

### New Members

We welcome 15 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p11.

## SAOA COMMITTEE 2010 – 2011

President	Jeremy Robertson	8278 1217
Vice President	Stuart Hull	8391 0007
Vice President	Rodney Attwood	8264 1527
Secretary	Brian Blaylock	8370 3349
Treasurer	Brian Walker	8263 3433
Assistant Secretary	Robert Rowland	83881790
Journal Editor	John Hatch	8362 2820
Newsletter Editor	Cynthia Pyle	8264 5778
Field Program Coordinator	Trevor Cowie	8263 2531
Bird Record Secretary	Colin Rogers	8336 3325
Member	Lou Bartley-Clements	0418858037
Member	Merinda Hyland	8337 3616
Member	David Robertson	8278 7866
Member	Merilyn Browne	8339 6839

## FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	0402123960
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
	email <a href="mailto:imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au">imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au</a>	
Ongoing Atlas	Pat Bowie	8278 6048

## OTHER S.A. ASSOCIATIONS

### Birds South-east

Chair	Bryan Haywood	8726 8112
Publicity Officer	Bob Green	8725 0549
Email <a href="mailto:shriketit@bigpond.com">shriketit@bigpond.com</a>		

### Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact Person	Judith Dyer	8555 2736
Email <a href="mailto:dyer.jm@gmail.com">dyer.jm@gmail.com</a>		

**WEBSITE** [www.birdssa.asn.au](http://www.birdssa.asn.au)

## 2010 SAOA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single membership	\$50
Family/household membership	\$60
Single concession*	\$45
Family/household concession*	\$55

Student members (full-time students under 25 years) \$10

\*Pensioners and people experiencing financial hardship can obtain concessions. Apply in writing to the Treasurer, Birds SA.

**ABN 76 339 976 789**

## ADVERTISING IN THE Birds SA NEWSLETTER

SAOA relies on the integrity of advertisers for the quality and nature of their products and services. We cannot guarantee them. Advertising is charged as follows: \$1.00 per line, up to \$20.00 per quarter page and 10c per inserted leaflet (single sheet). The committee reserves the right to lower or waive these fees.

### COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the February Newsletter is due by the January General Meeting (Jan 28). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be made on CD, or emailed to either of my email addresses:

- [newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au)
- [cpy62284@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cpy62284@bigpond.net.au)

or typed/handwritten neatly.

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationer

# A Page of Parrots

See page 18 for details of all photographs



# President's Letter

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What a spring it has been with rain at last! Many birds have already bred and are on to their second or third clutch as they take advantage of the lush conditions and the available food. In late October I spent twelve days surveying birds to the east of the northern Flinders Ranges and was delighted with the abundance of birds of many species. After the prolonged drought with its tired vegetation and sporadic breeding it was wonderful to see blooming trees and shrubs and the ground covered in flowers, including carpets of Sturt's Desert Peas. Huge flocks of Budgerigars and Zebra Finches were all breeding wherever they could. Little Button-quail were common and I regularly flushed them, including many with young chicks. A highlight on a bright sunny mid-morning was to have excellent views of a female Plains Wanderer with two attendant males, all of which disappeared exactly as described by Colin Rogers at the October general meeting. At night we found Barn Owls, Southern Boobooks, Australian Owlet-nightjars, Tawny Frogmouths and Spotted Nightjars, and we saw many Dusky Hopping Mice on the roads. Many of the migratory birds were common with woodswallows everywhere and Rainbow Bee-eaters, White-winged Trillers and Rufous Songlarks in most creek lines, while Brown Songlarks were abundant in the open areas. Unusual birds were seen, including an excellent view of a lone Australian Bittern at a dam, and a single Painted Finch, though I unfortunately missed it. Curiously, many of the resident birds were in surprisingly low numbers, so there were few Chestnut-rumped and Inland Thornbills and the usually common Striated Pardalote and Mistletoebird were scarce. Perhaps they have been reduced by years of poor conditions and will take time to recover, or perhaps they have taken advantage of the good conditions to disperse widely. I encourage everyone who has a chance to make a

trip to the north to see all the flowers and abundant birds.

At the last general meeting it became apparent there is some speculation about our relationship with Birds Australia, and even a minority view that because it is the national organisation we should perhaps amalgamate with it. I was surprised by this speculation and so I have

*I extend best wishes to everyone over the summer break, with lots of good birding.*

canvassed five former presidents of the Association and other members, including (through John Hatch) Margaret Cameron who is a long-term member and past President of Birds Australia. A strong consensus emerged from these discussions. While there is no doubt Birds Australia is the national ornithological organisation there is plenty of room for a strong local organisation. Both organisations have complementary roles to play in the enjoyment, study and conservation of birds, and many of our members acknowledge this by being members of both. Birds SA as the South Australian Ornithological Association has a slightly longer history than Birds Australia, it is financially sound and has a large, stable and active membership. We also have a proud history of achievement with many of our members making outstanding contributions to Australian ornithology. Read any of the species accounts in *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds (HANZAB)* and it is soon apparent how much of the basic data were derived from our journal, the *South Australian Ornithologist*. For all these reasons there was a strong feeling that our Association

should remain an independent entity while maintaining cordial and collaborative relations with Birds Australia. A good ecological analogy is that any collective is strengthened by more entities and weakened by the domination of a few.

While we can undoubtedly serve the needs of the local membership there is always the danger we might become too parochial and inward looking. However, there is strong evidence that by and large the Association has avoided these pitfalls, as can be seen with our active involvement with national initiatives such as the *2020 Count*, and the recent initiative of our journal, which is encouraging submission of papers from all over Australia. We have been trying to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with Birds Australia, but the merger of Birds Australia with BOCA has delayed these negotiations. There have been attempts to formalise our relationship with Birds Australia going back to at least the early nineteen seventies, but they have been more in the nature of a gentleman's agreement. Because the other party has no record of them they are of little relevance today. However, they do provide evidence of goodwill between the two parties. Once the amalgamation between Birds Australia and BOCA is complete we will actively pursue a formal Memorandum of Understanding to outline our respective roles and interactions. Should the membership feel it is necessary we could also send out a questionnaire to explore the various ways in which the two august bodies might more effectively interact.

This is my last Letter for 2010, so I extend best wishes to everyone over the summer break with lots of good birding. There are still opportunities for members to meet and interact: first at the forthcoming meeting with refreshments and a lively presentation from Sean Dooley, and then at the Christmas Camp near Coffin Bay.

**Jeremy Robertson**

# Birds SA Notes & News

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD CITATION TREVOR COWIE

Trevor joined Birds SA in January 1991 and his first monthly walks were with the Australian Wader Studies Group. Organisation of these walks was later taken over by Birds SA.

In 1992 the position of Field Programme Co-ordinator became vacant at the Annual General Meeting and later that year Trevor volunteered to fill the position. Trevor has held the position continuously since then.

Since Trevor took over the role there have been over 300 weekend outings. Field programmes form a vital part of the Association's activities, providing enjoyment for all participants, practical training for new birdwatchers and important information on the numbers and distribution of bird species across a range of habitats.

As Co-ordinator, Trevor has been responsible for selection of sites; negotiations with landowners, groups and government departments to seek permission for access; and subsequent reconnaissance of the site. During a reconnaissance, Trevor establishes the species of birds that may be found at the site; the best areas for survey; the best way to travel to the site; and finds a pleasant spot for lunch and a 'bird call'. He always ensures that new bird watchers are welcomed and provided with assistance, and that as many of the group as possible see any unusual birds. Trevor accomplishes all this with his well-known sense of humour.

Trevor also ensures that members are informed of the details of future and past outings in the quarterly Newsletter and at General Meetings. He also attempts to ensure that members are informed of any problems with, or changes to, upcoming outings. All details of sightings on the outings are given to the Bird Record Secretary for inclusion in the Association's database and subsequent submission to the Department of Environment



**Trevor Cowie**  
photographed by Burt May

and Natural Resources, (Formerly DEH).

In 2009 Cheetham Salt advised that access to its salt fields at Price and Dry Creek would no longer be permitted. As these sites are important wintering areas for migratory shorebirds in South Australia this decision was a shock, especially as the sites rank high on the wish lists of both members and visitors.

Trevor embarked on a series of negotiations with management of Cheetham Salt and succeeded in securing future access for both members of local birding groups and interstate and overseas visitors. He was entrusted with the task of establishing an induction programme for visitors to the salt fields and Cheetham accepted this. He has gone out of his way to ensure that anyone wishing to visit the salt fields is able to undertake the induction programme with a minimum of fuss.

Trevor has more recently taken on the additional roles of local co-ordinator for the Shorebirds 2020 and Important Bird Areas programmes.

He will be presented with his Distinguished Service Award at the January general meeting.

**David Robertson**

## SHOREBIRD COUNTS

Counters are wanted to assist Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) with forthcoming shorebird counts. Help is wanted for the Port Adelaide (Council) Wetlands on the following dates in **December: 1, 8, 15, and 17.**

2020 Shorebird Counts will be held on the following dates:

5 December 2010

High tide – 1.60m, Time 5.51pm

15 January 2011

High tide – 1.14m, Time 10.23am

13 March 2011

High tide – 1.65m, Time 8.35am

Anyone wishing to join either of these counts will be welcome.

Contact: Trevor Cowie. 8263 2531.

Email [fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au)

**Trevor Cowie**

## SQUARE-TAILED KITES IN MOUNT CRAWFORD FOREST

During the spring of 2008 two pairs of Square-tailed Kites nested in Mount Crawford Forest. Rose Slade and Sue Gredley located one nest and Frank Dennis located the other. One pair raised two young that fledged successfully; the outcome of the second nest is less certain. In the spring of 2009 both pairs returned to their 2008 nests and engaged in incubation activity but no young were produced. The reasons are unclear. A November heat-wave is one possible factor.

Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) and Forestry SA staff took action to ensure the sites were documented so that any interference at the sites, such as through forestry activity or intrusive public access, would be minimised. Details of the site localities were not revealed. I was invited to meet DEH and Forestry SA staff to discuss further measures for the 2010 season. Unexpectedly and disappointingly we have been aware of no reports of Square-tailed Kites in the Mount Crawford Forest area so far this year. The reasons for this are also unclear. Many aspects of the season are running late; there have been fierce winds causing breeding failure in

# Birds SA Notes & News (cont)

many raptors according to Ian Falkenberg. Conditions may be very favourable elsewhere. Perhaps it is simply a matter of the birds finding breeding sites nearby but remaining undetected.

Forestry SA wishes to do what they can to protect these birds and especially their breeding activities but can do little unless they know where they are so any sighting of the species over the next few months will be helpful.

Please, whenever you are in the area (from Lyndoch and Williamstown in the north to Kersbrook, Forreston and Cromer CP in the south), keep a lookout for Square-tailed Kites. Make sure you have adequate views and field-notes or photographs so that identity is certain and please pass any record on to me or to Colin Rogers as for any important record on 8272 7271

or [abblack@bigpond.com](mailto:abblack@bigpond.com)

**Andrew Black**

## CONGRATULATIONS

### MICHAEL

One of our younger members, Michael Huxley, has recently won several awards. The following extract from "The Advertiser" outlines Michael's success in the Oliphant Awards. "FOOTAGE of birds shot in various states of Australia, together with a script that explained their survival skills, won the top prize in the Oliphant Science Awards last night. Eighteen-year-old Michael Huxley from St John's Grammar School has now won the Sir Mark Oliphant Award twice."

He submitted a three-minute DVD on how seven species of birds are adapting to their environment. "I had expectations about what they (birds) might be going to do so I tried to film that when I could," he said. The Oliphant awards are run annually by the South Australian Science Teachers Association."

The complete list of awards that Michael received is:

- Oliphant Trophy - for Outstanding Science Content
- First prize in the year 10-12 Multimedia section
- The Nature Foundation SA Prize for years 11-12 students
- Second prize in the boys' section of the DECS Young Scientists Awards 8-12.

I am sure that you will all join me in offering Michael congratulations from Birds SA.

**Brian Walker**



**Michael Huxley**

## BIRDS SA RARE BIRDS

### COMMITTEE

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD DESCRIPTIONS

Every now and then we are treated to visits from bird species that seldom occur in our region and these records form an important part of our understanding of how and when they turn up on 'our patch'.

The Birds SA website has a section called Rare Birds and members are

encouraged to familiarise themselves with the species that require descriptions before the records can be **accepted** on to the Birds SA database. When you see any of these species it is important that you make detailed notes on what you have observed and document these on the Rare Bird Record Form that can also be downloaded from our website.

The Rare Birds Committee reviews the record forms and decides whether there is sufficient evidence to enable a record to be **accepted**. If there is insufficient evidence the record is **not accepted** and may or may not go

into the database as a 'possible sighting'.

The Committee does not reject records and in some cases it is highly probable that the observer did see the species that they claimed, but did not support the observation with enough evidence. The Rare Birds Committee has received several records that could not be **accepted** because of inadequate descriptions.

When you think you may be looking at a rare species, try to do the following:

- ❖ Observe and write down as much as you can about the plumage colouring of all parts of the body
- ❖ Take note of the size and shape of the bird, reference to common species nearby is a good idea
- ❖ Note the size, shape and colouring of the bill and legs
- ❖ Describe any behavioural characteristics that you saw
- ❖ Make note of any calls and how they sounded
- ❖ Compare the bird to similar species you already recognise and note how the rare bird differed
- ❖ Photograph the bird, if possible.

You do not have to see and record every characteristic in order to get a record **accepted** but the better the description, the greater are your chances of success. It makes the Committee's job a lot easier too!!

**John Fennell**

# Birds SA Notes & News (cont)

## HOW TO REPORT A BIRD OR BAT BAND RECOVERY IN AUSTRALIA

To view the Australian Government web pages go to the following URL: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/science/abbbs/recovery.html>

If you find a bird with a band, wing tag, or some other marking, the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS) would like to hear about it. Some kinds of bands cannot be reported to the ABBBS. These include pigeon bands and bands used by domestic bird breeders. If you are not sure whether you have found a band that is not reportable, the above web address describes the features of Pigeon and Breeders' bands.

The ABBBS accepts reports of birds carrying foreign banding scheme addresses, such as the German band pictured. If you have found any wild bird bands, please follow the

If the bird is dead, we would like you, if possible, to:

- take the band off;
- gently straighten it as much as you can;
- stick it to some cardboard;
- write the band number on the cardboard;
- write whether you have telephoned the ABBBS about this band; and
- send the band to the ABBBS

The ABBBS will be very glad to hear from you and will send you a letter telling you about where and when the bird was banded.

### Contacts

The Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS) GPO Box 8 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6274 2407

Facsimile: (02) 6274 2455

Email: [abbbs@environment.gov.au](mailto:abbbs@environment.gov.au)

**Trevor Cowie**

sleeping bags and other adventure equipment.

## SPARE JOURNAL COPIES WANTED

A number of museums, public libraries and individual non-members throughout Europe, North America and of course Australasia, subscribe to our journal, The South Australian Ornithologist.

Inevitably, copies are sometimes lost or damaged in the post or within institutions, and we receive requests for replacements. We keep a small reserve stock (five copies) to cover such events. Unfortunately in 2004 Part 6 of Volume 34 was accidentally under-printed and we have no reserve stock.

If any members have copies of this issue that they no longer need, Philippa Horton (Collection Manager of Birds, South Australian Museum) would be grateful to receive them, as she handles our journal exchanges and subscriptions.

Copies could be given to either Philippa or Bob Brown at a general meeting.

Thanking you in anticipation,

**Bob Brown.**

## ERRATA

In the four-page flyer that was distributed with the August Newsletter, two of the IBAs being covered by Birds SE were incorrectly listed. The correct information is given below:

Area 26318 Watervalley Wetlands are covered by Birds SE.

Area 26483 Lakes Alexandrina and Albert are **not** under Birds SE.

On page 17 of the August Newsletter, bird number 12 was named as a White-fronted Honeyeater. It is actually a Striped Honeyeater.

**Cynthia Pyle**



## A Recovered Band

instructions below.

Either use the On-line reporting form obtainable at the above website; or write, email or telephone the ABBBS with the following information:

- the band number;
- where you found the band;
- date on which you found the band;
- what you think happened to the bird;
- where the bird is now;
- where the band is now;
- notes about any other marks on the bird.

## DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

**The Scout Outdoor Centre** has agreed to offer a discount of up to 15% to members of Birds SA upon presentation of a current membership card. The Centre is located at 192 Rundle Street and stocks a range of goods, including travel clothing, hiking boots, packs, sleeping bags and tents.

**Paddy Pallin** at 228 Rundle Street is also offering a discount of up to 10% to members of Birds SA upon presentation of a current membership card. Paddy Pallin offers a range of travel clothing, footwear, tents,

# Miscellaneous Items

## OLDMAN SALTBUSH PLANTATIONS — A BONUS FOR BIRDS

For many years Oldman saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*) has proved useful for restoring production on salt affected land. It is moderately salt tolerant and drought resistant, providing valuable supplementary feed in times of drought or seasonal shortages. It is usually planted in broad acres for saltland reclamation or in rows for fodder purposes. In recent years there has been a marked increase in fodder plantings

Interstate studies have shown that Oldman saltbush has the potential to achieve multiple resource management objectives for biodiversity and sustainable land management. These include resilient grazing systems, improved vegetation structural complexity and diversified landscapes. There is also potential for carbon sequestration.

In their natural state saltbush shrublands are known to provide useful habitat for a range of native fauna. Particular bird species associated with these shrublands include Orange Chats, Rufous Fieldwrens and White-winged Fairywrens — all notable ground feeders that also nest and breed at low shrub level.

Investigations have begun in South Australia to clarify the potential benefits of Oldman saltbush plantings for birdlife by comparing remnant vegetation, pasture and Oldman saltbush plantings at five sites in the southern Murray Mallee. Preliminary results show that the saltbush plantings are valuable for birdlife. As expected, remnant vegetation sites were found to have greater biodiversity values than saltbush or pasture. However saltbush sites contained a diverse range of plant, bird and invertebrate species, including a number of threatened bird species not found on adjacent pasture sites. These included Elegant Parrots, Hooded Robins and Restless Flycatchers.

There appears to be a relatively harmonious relationship between bird life and livestock. Livestock

chiefly graze saltbush at the end of summer into autumn, allowing birds to use the saltbush as a resource for feeding, protection and for nesting from late winter until the end of the year. In some situations the saltbush may not be grazed for two or three years.

Further work is planned to identify the biodiversity benefits of grazing systems based on perennial shrubs such as Oldman saltbush so that their potential to contribute to conservation in multifunctional landscapes can be fully realised and appropriate management recommendations developed. Birds SA member Dr Andrew Fisher is one of the researchers involved in the studies, which are funded by the Future Farm Industries Co-operative Research Council.

### Bill Matheson.

Source:DWLBC Technical Report. Biodiversity value of saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*) in mixed farming landscapes in the Southern Mallee, South Australia.

## PAINTED SNIPE SURVEYS

The Threatened Bird Network is seeking information and survey participants for Australian Painted Snipe.

Details from a recent email are reproduced below. It's time once again to grab your binoculars, squeeze into your gumboots, get yourself to a wetland and start looking for Australia's most rare and cryptic wetland species; the Australian Painted Snipe (APS). After the spring/summer months of 2009/2010 yielded sightings of only 11 individuals, signs are good for the upcoming season with five birds already recorded at two sites in Queensland! The onset of heavy winter rains throughout the Murray Darling Basin, the Channel Country and into the interior this winter could prove to produce a bumper breeding season for the APS, as it has already been for other opportunistic waders such as Banded and Black-winged Stilts. The rain events of this winter will however, allow the birds to remain dispersed, resulting in

potentially lower detectability to APS surveyors. For this reason the Australian Painted Snipe Recovery project encourages wetland birders from across the nation (especially in the under-represented north) to be ever vigilant as APS have been found in all types of habitat from vast lagoons to storm water drains. Australia wide simultaneous surveying for APS will occur on the weekends of October 16 and January 15 in an attempt to improve estimates on the population, now thought to stand at less than 1,500 individuals. Incidental surveys outside these dates (including those where no APS are seen) are also much appreciated in an attempt to unravel the many ecological questions still surrounding this enigmatic bird. For more information on the Australian Painted Snipe and tips on how and where to survey for them, please visit:

<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/our-projects/australian-painted-snipe.html> or contact Chris Purnell at [c.purnell@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:c.purnell@birdsaustralia.com.au) or Threatened Bird Network coordinator Janelle Thomas at [j.thomas@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:j.thomas@birdsaustralia.com.au).

Both online survey forms and a link to hard copy forms are also available on the website. And remember that negative surveys are just as important as positive sightings so please send in **all** survey forms.

Per **BRIAN WALKER**



**Striated Fieldwren**  
photographed by Greg Dare  
on 28/12/2009  
at Melaleuca, Tasmania



# Past & Future Meetings

## PAST GENERAL MEETINGS

### Friday July 30

Stuart Hull said he hoped that members were enjoying the Mid-Winter Members' Night. Before introducing the three interesting speakers he reminded them of the winter temperatures at 15.30 that day from:

- Casey, -26.2C, wind NNE 9km/hr, Wind chill -40.4C
- Mawson, -19.8C, wind S 37km/hr, Wind chill -50.97C
- Macquarie Island, 4.8C, wind NW 27km/hr, Wind chill -9.54 C

David Robertson described a trip he recently enjoyed with his wife Minnie on the Russian ship 'Spirit of Enderby (Professor Khromov)'. They travelled from Christchurch, New Zealand via Norfolk Island, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands to Hokkaido, Japan. Only a few bird photographs were shown. The remaining photographs were scenic.

Michael Huxley showed two of his latest videos. The first was 'The Strzelecki Track 2010' where he had seen a total of 86 species. The second video showed birds from southern Queensland, including Bowra Station, Cunnamulla to around Brisbane and south east Queensland.

Leigh Schmidt then talked about 'Birds in the Backyard'. He explained how he has kept bird records from localities where he has lived over the years – Bakers Gully, S.A., Cobar, N.S.W. and Hawthorndene, S.A. By keeping weekly records he was able to show with the use of graphs the changes in the occurrence of birds from year to year and season to season. He encouraged members to keep their own records.

### Friday August 27

Stuart Hull introduced Peter Day and Adrienne Lovelock. 2009/10 was a special year for both speakers during which they travelled to the Amazon jungle, Patagonia, the

Galapagos Islands, Peru and Bolivia and then earlier this year to Bhutan.

The topic for this meeting was their visit to Chile, Argentina and the Antarctic in November/December 2009. Adrienne briefly described their itinerary showing a map of their travels. Starting in Santiago de Chile, travelling to Punta Arenas in Chilean Patagonia and then by road to Puerto Natales. This was followed by a five day cruise on Fjordland, then five days in Torres del Paine National Park, based at the Cascada Eco-camp. They then flew to Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego where they sailed to the Antarctica peninsula for eleven days on the 'Polar Pioneer' to explore various waters and inlets, as well as going ashore every day to see birds and animals. They returned to Ushuaia and flew to El Calafate and then to the El Chalten/Fitzroy National Park, returning to Chile via San Carlos de Bariloche and Puerto Varas before returning home.

Although this was not a specific birding trip, they did go birding independently and also used the services of birding guides found on [www.birdingpal.com](http://www.birdingpal.com)

They saw 152 species on their trip, 137 in Chile & Argentina and 17 in Antarctica or on the ocean. 110 of these were new birds to them.

A Panasonic 18 zoom lightweight camera was used for the scenery and stationary birds, and a Panasonic 30 zoom video camera for action shots of bird behavior. Peter & Adrienne showed their best bird slides and many spectacular scenery photos with some short videos of bird and animal behavior. These included an amazing sequence of Condors with a fox at a carcass.

They interspersed these pictures with stories of incidents that occurred during their trip.

### Friday September 24

Stuart Hull introduced Jody O'Connor from Flinders University who is completing her PhD. Her talk was entitled "Ensuring the survival of Darwin's finches in the Galapagos Islands". The Galapagos Islands are about 1000km west of South

America. Darwin's finches are the fastest evolving group of birds around the world. Jody carried out her research on Floreana Island where all three species of tree finches are found (Small, Medium and Large Tree Finch). The populations of tree finches have been severely affected by the introduced parasitic fly, *Philornis downsi*. The fly lays its eggs when the adult finch leaves and from 30 to 100 larvae can then be found in the nest. Most young tree finches do not survive and adults can have deformed beaks. *Philornis* can affect all nesting birds in the Galapagos Islands.



Chirruping Wedgebill  
photographed by Kay Parkin  
at Coward Springs on 21/7/10

## FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

*General meetings are held at 7.45pm in the Hawker Centre at the Waite Institute on the last Friday of each month except December, (provided there is no clash with a public holiday). The doors open at 7pm. The speakers and topics for the next four months meeting are given below.*

### 28<sup>th</sup> January

Greg Dare — Birds Around SA

### 25<sup>th</sup> February

Merylin Browne — Some Bird Families of the Americas

### 25<sup>th</sup> March

David Robertson — What Bird is that?; Whistlers and Others

# Past Excursions

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**Saturday August 14**

**Scott CP**

It was obvious that it would be a wet days walk. The 8 birders who attended have naturally been certified. The drizzle was continuous and we were surprised to find that the rivers were not running at all. The walk, of just 2 hours, started from the first car park from which we moved west to the other car park and back to the vehicles along the road. The biggest problem was actually the cold! However, the birds were very vocal and many hollows were checked for signs of breeding. The number of species seen was only 30. However, we did see 3 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos plus a few Rainbow Lorikeets, Galahs, Crimson Rosellas, Red-rumped and Elegant Parrots. Purple-crowned and Musk Lorikeets were heard rather than seen. The combined noise, which included 7 species of Honeyeater and many Striated Pardalotes was great to hear. We moved to Goolwa wharf to enjoy our lunch under cover. After lunch we took a general look around the barrage and then split up, everyone doing their own thing on the way back to Adelaide.

**Trevor Cowie**

**Thursday August 19**

**Brown's Road, Monarto — Forestry SA**

In spite of the forecast predicting strong winds and rain, 17 members turned out for the Thursday Field Trip to Brown's Road, Monarto. Luckily, the forecast proved wrong, and we enjoyed an excellent morning's birding under mostly clear skies. Forty-seven species of bird were recorded, highlights being two Owlet-nightjars, Rufous and Golden Whistlers, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, three Restless Flycatchers and a Southern Scrub-robin. Enid Pascoe and Bill Alcock had previously seen Southern Scrub-robin at Brown's Road on 30/4/2010. One member of the group saw a bird that he did not recognise. After a search through a Field Guide he thought it most likely to have been White-eared Honeyeater, but was not

confident enough to claim it. This would have been a new record for this site. Has any member a record of this species at Brown's Road?

**Bob Snell**

**Weekend of 20-23 August.**

**Birds SE/Birds SA, Messent CP Campout.**

Birds SA members were invited to join Birds SE at this campout and some of us made the trip on this cold weekend to a place that we have not visited before. We recorded 62 species, including Emu, Cockatiel, Eastern Rosella, Pallid and Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Southern Boobook, Spotted and Owlet Nightjar, Superb and Variegated Fairy-wrens, Southern Emu-wren, Shy Heathwren, Rufous Fieldwren, White-eared, Purple-gaped and Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters, Crested Bellbird, Restless Flycatcher and European Goldfinch, plus a worked Malleefowl mound — to name just a few. The weather was not the kindest. On the first night we endured rain, hail and wind. On the second, there were no clouds and cold icicles were in the van in the morning. The third morning was pleasant. On a good note the Welcome Swallows stayed around the campsite and made visits into the caravans, which was great. However, some things do need to be done outside. Bryan Haywood and I agreed to organise a combined camp for next year, with Birds SA being the hosts at a campout over the October long weekend 2011 at Ngarkat Conservation Park. This is a place that neither group has visited for many years, mainly due to fires. This year's rain could make this area a fantastic place to visit. Watch this space for confirmation of authorisation to have a campout, and plan to be there. This is an Important Bird Area (IBA) site so an effort to have many birders there to seek out the IBA species would be worthwhile.

**Trevor Cowie.**

**Sunday August 29**

**Rocky Gully — Forestry SA**

This was the first planned walk in this area and it was enjoyed by the 36 people that turned out to have a look. To my knowledge, no one was disappointed, since the final count was 54 species with the late addition of Tree Martins and a Rufous Songlark. The site has a great variety of habitats, and species here included Southern Scrub-robin, Pallid and Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos, White-winged Chough, 6 species of honeyeater (including Spiny-cheeked), 7 Raptor species which included Hobby, Peregrine Falcon and Brown Goshawk. It is always good to see Variegated Fairy-wrens and Peaceful Doves. Quite a few nests were seen. Lunch was taken by entrance to another old growth area walk of this Forestry SA area. This was a great day — without rain for a change. We saw motorbikes along the railway lines and in the bush areas, and 11 of them were pulled over by rail security personnel. We understand they were given \$500.00 fines.

**Trevor Cowie.**

**Saturday September 11**

**Black Hill CP**

Things were looking good from the start of this walk. The 13 of us moved to an area where the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren had been recorded and eventually one appeared after hearing the call for a while. Most of us missed seeing it of course. Our aim was to confirm it was still active in the park in the area close to houses and it was also seen on the following day. At the same location we suddenly saw a large flock of 200 noisy Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos taking to the air. The reason for their flight may well have been a pair of Brown Goshawks that invaded the space where they were feeding. Goldfinches and Mistletoebirds added colour to our walk. At lunch a Kookaburra flew in above us with its own lunch, showing a mouse in its beak with the head sticking out at the tip. The count was

# Past Excursions (cont)

37 species of the birds expected in the Adelaide Hills.

**Trevor Cowie**

## **Thursday September 16 Moorundie Wildlife Park**

The park was exceptionally green due to the rain of the previous weeks and the track in was quite wet in places. Twenty two members attended the walk. Highlights of the morning included both Chestnut-crowned and White-browed Babblers, Splendid and Variegated Fairy-wrens, five species of honeyeater, including White-eared and White-fronted. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters were numerous and very vocal. Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and Southern Whitefaces were abundant as usual and, unlike this time last year, no breeding activity was directly observed. Neither of the common migrants, Rainbow Bee-eater nor White-winged Triller, had yet arrived. In all 38 species were observed on a mild and fine day.

**Martyn Price**

## **Sunday September 26 Redbanks CP**

Since we were enjoying a long weekend of 3 days spent looking for the species here, we recorded 56 species 10 of which were new to my listings for the Conservation Park. Of note were Tawny Frogmouth, Spotted Nightjar, Black-eared Cuckoo, Jacky Winter, Rainbow Bee-eater, Painted Button-quail, Red-backed Kingfisher and 6 species of Raptor, including Peregrine Falcon and Collared Sparrowhawk. The weather was fine and 10 members enjoyed a weekend away. However the area has not had much rain so very few grasses hadz put on any display.

**Trevor Cowie**

## **Saturday October 9 Bakara CP**

Seventeen members made the long trip for an early start to the morning, although not everyone made it by the scheduled starting time. The area covered was from about 100m into the park on the main entrance track, and the surrounding areas. Soon after leaving the parking area we flushed several Barn Owls. Several Bee-

eat-ers were observed passing through. Breeding activity seemed to be in full swing for a number of species. A Brown Goshawk was observed tending a nest near the car park and not far away Varied Sitella were busy constructing their nest. We also observed a Chestnut-rumped Thornbill's nest with young, a Jacky Winter sitting on a nest, possibly with eggs and Galahs exiting tree hollows. Other highlights included Splendid and Variegated Fairy-wrens, Crested Bellbird, Horsfields Bronze-cuckoo, Hooded and Red-capped Robins, Gilbert's and Rufous Whistlers and Chestnut Quail-thrush. In all 42 species were observed, and a warm and pleasant day was enjoyed by all.

**Martyn Price**

## **Thursday October 14 Cox Scrub CP**

A flurry of bird activity greeted 20 members and friends at the northern car park of the Cox Scrub Conservation Park. About two hundred metres from the car park everyone was entertained by four Golden Whistlers competing for their territory and mates. A number of other birds were also active in this area, but moving up the slope on the short walking trail produced fewer birds. A Goshawk or Sparrowhawk slipped over the treetops too quickly to be identified, but aside from that sightings were few and far between until back down the slope amongst the taller trees. Following an early lunch ten people moved to the southern car park, from where three further species, including a pair of

Wedge-tailed Eagles were added to the list. A small total of 35 species were seen altogether. Bee-eaters and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos were a couple of highlights for the morning. A mild to warm morning with an amazing display of wildflowers helped make up for the low bird count.

**Peter Gower**

## **Sunday October 31 Monarto CP**

It rained on and off from the start and it was cold (too cold for me and a few others). However, 26 people turned up for the day's birding, thinking it would be better than in Adelaide. After some of us returned to the car park I suggested the trip be abandoned so several gave up and left. I waited for the fit and hardy to return and we did manage a bird count of 39 species seen from inside the rear of Peter Gower's car. We did not have our lunch gathering of course as there was no shelter for it anywhere close to this Conservation Park. Many people saw the Southern Scrub-robins and Shy Heath-wrens, some for the first time. Other species, such as Common Bronzewing allowed close views. A Brown Songlark gave us a song, as did the Shy Heath-wrens. The 9 species of honeyeater seen included Spiny-cheeked, Purple-gaped, Tawny-crowned, White and Yellow Plumed. Four species were looking after dependent young. These were Australian Magpie, Grey Currawong, Red Wattlebird and Singing Honeyeater.

**Trevor Cowie**

We welcome the following new members, who have joined the Association in the past few months:

Neville Harris	PORT ADELAIDE
Allan West	LOWER MITCHAM
Jeff Groves	VISTA
Wendy Hudson	FAIRVIEW PARK
Warren Cheng	BEDFORD PARK
Ashley, Michael & Lynette O'Brien	NORTH HAVEN
Roslyn Rubarth	BRIGHTON
Clare & James Nicolson	MILLSWOOD

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our treasurer. His 'phone number is on p2.

# Future Excursions

**Convener: Trevor Cowie**

Email: [fielddtrips@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fielddtrips@birdssa.asn.au)

Tel: 08 8263 2531

Note: Lists of species recorded at the locations visited can be reviewed at [www.birdpedia.com](http://www.birdpedia.com)

## HOT WEATHER PROTOCOL

If a fire ban is in effect or the forecast temperature is above 36C in the area of a scheduled walk, the walk is automatically considered cancelled. This does not apply to Salt Fields excursions, which will proceed whatever the temperature.

## Cheetham Salt Limited

Each individual bird club member must have completed an induction course authorised by Cheetham Salt Ltd and must carry a valid card of authority prior to entering the Dry Creek and/or Price Salt Fields. If you do not have this authority, Contact: Trevor Cowie of Birds SA on Tel: 8263 2531 to find out how to become authorised. In his absence contact Brian Walker of Birds SA on Tel: 8263 3433.

## Outing details for Cheetham Salt Limited, Dry Creek Salt Fields for summer 2010/2011

Sunday December 19: Dry Creek Salt Fields Meet at 2.45pm. Tide 1.64m. **An additional outing**

Thursday January 13: Dry Creek Salt Fields Meet at 7.00am. Tide 1.75m.

Saturday February 12: Dry Creek Salt Fields Meet at 7.30am. Tide 1.61m.

Sunday March 27: Dry Creek Salt Fields Meet at 7.00am. Tide 1.67m.

Saturday April 2: Dry Creek Salt Fields Meet at 3.00pm. Tide 2.32m. **An additional outing**

## Sunday November 28: Pooginook CP (Riverland) (MM) (175km)

Meet at 8.45am on the Waikerie to Taylorville Road just across the ferry at Waikerie. Camping may be possible but individual permission should be obtained.

## Saturday December 11

### Reedy Creek, Waterfall Reserve (MLR) (85km)

Meet at 8.15am in the reserve's car park. The entrance road is on the Mannum side of the bridge over Reedy Creek, approximately 7km south of Mannum or 22km north of Murray Bridge.

## Thursday December 16

### Laratinga Wetlands (MLR) (34km)

Meet at 8.30am at the car park on Bald Hills Road, Mt. Barker.

## Sunday December 19

### Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km)

Meet at 2.45pm. Tide 1.64m. **An additional outing**

### See the Cheetham Salt Limited information, above

Turn west onto St Kilda Road from Port Wakefield Road and keep straight on. Pass the original entrance road, as it is now blocked off. Take the next turning right onto Radar Road (dirt) actually called Samphire Road.

*Please bring a hand held radio if you have one.*

## Christmas / New Year Campout

This year's campout will be held from 26<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January at Nyroca Camp on the Eyre Peninsula. This site is owned by the Scouts.

Nyroca is located on the Flinders Highway, 55km northwest of Port Lincoln (see map on the next page) on a 21 ha natural bushland setting. It is well equipped with all facilities, including plenty of powered tent sites.

The location of the camp is convenient for outings to various locations with a variety of habitats.

It is hoped to include a survey of Coffin Bay, which has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The Coffin Bay IBA regularly supports more than 1% of the world population of Pied Oystercatcher and Sooty Oystercatcher, significant numbers of the vulnerable Fairy Tern, near threatened Hooded Plover and Western Whipbird, and biome-restricted Rock Parrot and Blue-breasted Fairy-wren.

The table summarises the status of globally important bird populations in Coffin Bay

The cost will be \$10 per vehicle for the whole visit.

For further details contact David Robertson email: [david.robertson@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:david.robertson@birdssa.asn.au) or phone: (08) 8278 7866.

Further information can also be obtained from the following website: <http://www.nyrocacamp.com.au/>

## Saturday January 8

### Sandy Creek CP (MLR) (52km)

Meet at 8am at the northern car park. This is at the end of Conservation Road, which is on the right off of the Gawler to Lyndoch road about 10km east of Gawler.

## Thursday January 13

### Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP)

Meet at 7.00am. Tide 1.75m

### See the Cheetham Salt Limited information, above

Turn west onto St Kilda Road from Port Wakefield Road and keep straight on. Pass the original entrance road, as it is now blocked off. Take the next turning right onto Radar Road (dirt) actually called Samphire Road.

*Please bring a hand held radio if you have one.*

Common Name	Population	Abundance
Pied Oystercatcher	112 – 382 individuals	
Sooty Oystercatcher	152 – 200 individuals	
Hooded Plover	18 – 18 breeding pairs	
Fairy Tern	0 29 individuals	uncommon
Rock Parrot		common
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren		uncommon
Western Whipbird		frequent

# Future Excursions (cont)

**Sunday January 30**

**Scott Creek CP (MLR) (28km)**

Meet at 8.00am at the Almanda Mine Site car park area on Dorset Vale Road. To get there use the SE Freeway leaving it for Stirling. Turn right at the roundabout to Longwood. After approx 2.5-3km turn right towards Cherry Gardens, turning left into Dorset Vale Road approx 2km before reaching Cherry Gardens.

**Saturday February 12**

**Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP)**

Meet at 7.30am. Tide 1.61m

**See the Cheetham Salt Limited information, above**

Turn west onto St Kilda Road from Port Wakefield Road and keep straight on. Pass the original entrance road, as it is now blocked off. Take the next turning right onto Radar Road (dirt) actually called Samphire Road.

*Please bring a hand held radio if you have one.*

**Thursday**

**February 17**

**Goolwa**

**Barrage area**

**(MLR)**

**(90km)**

Meet to the west of Goolwa Yacht Club at 8.30am.

**Sunday**

**February 27**

**Paiwalla**

**Wetlands**

**(MM) (88km)**

**Awaiting confirmation**

Meet at Sunnyside Lookout at 8.30am. Take the Murray Bridge to Mannum Road, on the eastern side of the river. Stay on this road till just past the

turnoff to Bowhill on the right. Take the next left to Sunnyside Lookout car park.

**Saturday March 12**

**Laratinga (Mt. Barker) Wetlands (MLR) (34km)**

Meet at 8.30am at the car park on Bald Hills Road, Mt. Barker.

**Thursday March 17**

**Riverglades and Rocky Gully Wetlands, Murray Bridge. (MM) (80km)**

Meet at 8.30am in the boat ramp car park at Avoca Dell. To get there, drive to Murray Bridge. Cross the bridge to the eastern side of the river. Take the fifth turning on the left into Mitchell Ave. After 3.35km turn left into Murray Drive. At the foot of the hill turn right. The car park is ahead. GPS 35° 5.3' S 139° 18.5' E.

**Sunday March 27**

**Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP)**

Meet at 07.00am. Tide 1.67m.

**See the Cheetham Salt Limited information, above**

Turn west onto St Kilda Road from Port Wakefield Road and keep straight on. Pass the original entrance road, as it is now blocked off. Take the next turning right onto Radar Road (dirt) actually called Samphire Road.

*Please bring a hand held radio if you have one.*

**Saturday April 2**

**Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP)**

Meet at 3.00PM. Tide 2.32m. **An additional outing**

**See the Cheetham Salt Limited information, above**

Turn west onto St Kilda Road from Port Wakefield Road and keep straight on. Pass the original entrance road, as it is now blocked off. Take the next turning right onto Radar Road (dirt) actually called Samphire Road.

*Please bring a hand held radio if you have one.*



# Bird Records

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Records included here are of species listed as 'uncommon, rarely observed' or having not previously been recorded in the regions of South Australia as shown in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of *A Field List of the Birds of South Australia*. Also included are interesting breeding or ecological notes, new records for a well known locality, and first of the season records of migratory species. Send all reports to C Rogers at [twitchercolin@gmail.com](mailto:twitchercolin@gmail.com) or 83363325 or MOB 0417 896 977

## Malleefowl

20/08/2010. One was working the mound on the Loop Road, Salt Creek, Coorong.

Teresa Jack.

22/08/2010. An open mound was noted in Messent CP, SE.

Teresa Jack.

## Brown Quail

19/10/2010. Four were near the Pingle Farm Track, Onkaparinga recreation Park, MLR.

Nathaniel Doecke.

24/10/2010. One was calling from dense Veldt Grass near the Point Sturt road, LA.

Nathaniel Doecke.

19/10/2010. Three were flushed from dense grassland in the Onkaparinga recreation Park, MLR.

Nathaniel Doecke.

## Wandering Whistling Duck.

11/09/2010. A flock of 30 flew up and then landed on a soak cut by the bypass track to the Cooper Crossing, NE.

Peter Waanders.

03/10/2010. One was at Mungerannie Bore, Birdsville Track, NE.

Edward Smith.

*This species is classified as 'unconfirmed' on The Field List of the Birds of South Australia.*

## Flock Bronzewing

05/10/2010. One flew across the bypass track below Cooper Crossing, NE.

Colin Rogers & John Cox.

03/10/2010. Many were at waterholes along the Birdsville Track near Mungerannie, NE.

Edward Smith.

## Royal Albatross

10/10/2010. Four or five were over the shelf-break on the pelagic trip from Port MacDonnell, SE.

Stuart Hull *et al.*

## Australasian Bittern

21/08/2010. One was calling from a reed-bed at Morgan, Murray River, MM.

Chris Steeles.

30/09/2010. At least two, and possibly three or four, were calling (booming) near the Pat-om and Gunnar Walks, Bool Lagoon, SE.

Kevin Tracey.

13/11/2010. One flew across the lagoon near Gunnar Walk, Bool Lagoon, SE.

Bill Alcock.

## Intermediate Egret

05/10/2010. One was in a swamp on the by-pass track to Cooper Crossing, NE.

Colin Rogers & John Cox.

## Eastern Osprey

10/08/2010. One was near the head of the Bight Whale-watching platform, Nullabor, NW.

Teresa Jack.

## Letter-winged Kite

04-05/10/2010. Four were near the Strzelecki Track, north of Montecollina Bore, NE.

Mike Potter, Colin Rogers & John Cox.

## Square-tailed Kite

19/08/2010. One flew over the treetops near Belair, MLR.

Leigh Schmidt.

26/10/2010. One was 5km SW of Williamstown, MLR.

Hilary Thompson.

24/10/2010. Two were over the canopy at Hale CP, MLR.

Amada Pearce.

## Grey Falcon

03/10/2010. One was just north of the ferry on the southern side of the Cooper, NE.

Colin Rogers & John Cox.

## Brolga

26-27/09/2010. Three were in a creek near the Dulkaninna HS, Birdsville Track, NE.

John Cox & Colin Rogers.

## Australian Bustard

19/08/2010. One was 20km east of Ceduna, EP.

Bob & Trish Sothman.

## Greater Sand Plover

12/10/2010. One was at Light Beach, AP.

John Hatch & Brian Walker.

11/11/2010. Eight were at Thompson Beach, AP.

Win Syson.

## Hooded Plover

15/08/2010. Seven were at Fowlers Bay, EP.

Teresa Jack.

01/10/2010. Two were on the beach west of Cape Northumberland, Port MacDonnell, SE.

Kevin Tracey.

## Plains-wanderer

26/09/2010. Two, a male and a female, were on the Birdsville Track, NE, just north of the Clayton-Dulkaninna boundary.

Colin Rogers & John Cox.

## White-fronted Tern

02/10/2010. One in full breeding plumage was on the breakwater at Port MacDonnell, SE.

Kevin Tracey.

10/10/2010. One in non-breeding plumage was on the breakwater at Port MacDonnell, SE.

Colin Rogers *et al.*

## Orange-bellied Parrot

9/09/2010. One was with forty-six Blue-winged Parrots at 28 Mile Crossing, Old Coorong Road, Coorong.

David Dadd.

# Bird Records (cont)

## Western Bowerbird

25/09/2010. One was near Nyaperi, APY Lands, NE.  
John Hatch.

## Chestnut-breasted Whiteface

06/09/2010. Six were on Mt Lyndurst Station, NE.  
Peter Waanders.

## Pied Honeyeater

26/09/2010. Several were in the Frome Creek, Birdsville Track, NE.

John Cox & Colin Rogers.

28/09/2010. A male was at the Cooper Creek, north of the punt, NE.

John Cox & Colin Rogers.

## Black-chinned Honeyeater

20/09/2010. Two were in Mt George CP, MLR.

Peter Waanders.

12/11/2010. Four were in Harriet Street, Strathalbyn, MLR.

Nathaniel Doecke.

## White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike

02/10/2010. Two were at Telford Scrub CP, SE.

Kevin Stracey.

## Olive-backed Oriole

12/09/2010. One was at Sandy Creek CP, MLR.

Michael Wood.

## Little Woodswallow

24/09/2010. Thirty were at Wilkawillina Gorge, FR.

Tim Dolby.

## Pied Butcherbird

20-21/06/2010. One was on a property at Mount Dutton, lower EP.

Per Colin Gill.

03/08/2010. One was in a suburban garden, McCord Road, Two Wells, AP.

Jim MacNamara.

## Leaden Flycatcher

29/10/2010. A male was on private property at St Kilda, AP.

Kevin Collins.

*Photographs taken.*

## Bassian Thrush

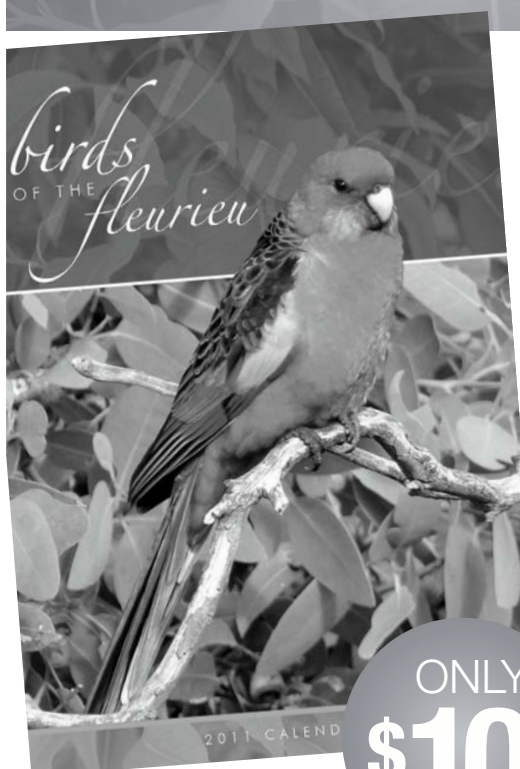
19/09/2010. One was in the Mt Lofty Botanical Gardens, MLR.

Kay Parkin.

04/11/2010. One was in Hale CP, MLR.

Kevin Stracey.

## Birds of the Fleurieu 2011 CALENDAR



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# Sea-Eagle Survey

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**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! ... well ... nearly. Thanks to the Nature Foundation Appeal fund topping-up, the survey work around the State is now 98% complete. Just a few more islands to visit and maybe a quick trip back to the Riverland.**

After nearly three years, tens of boat hours, hundreds of volunteer hours and thousands of kms travelled, new boots for me and the Landrover (plus various other bits!), the 'fun' part is now nearly over. Next comes the 'write-up' phase ... (groan!). Who was it said that 'one hour of fieldwork generates two hours of bookwork'? anyway, it was a hopeless underestimate!

## What's been happening ...

During the May-June sea-eagle courting and nest building period several specific surveys were conducted to follow-up on reports where eagles are seen from time to time: three days were spent conducting morning and evening 'telescope-watch' sessions overlooking Baudin Rocks at the northern end of Guichen Bay – but no sea-eagles were seen. Then the same result after four days of searching and 'scope-watch' in the Point Clinton – Price area. These were followed by several boat-based surveys to islands in the Investigator and Sir Joseph Banks Group; along the northern and eastern coastlines of Kangaroo Island; then, last week, the wildest ride of all – the western end of Kangaroo Island! Although no new sites were found on the latter survey, it is pleasing to report that overall, 19 sea-eagle territories were confirmed for Kangaroo Island – two more than were found in 2005 and one more than the 26 year average.



## Survey results ...

Although it may yet be possible to survey more islands, given the evident stability of the KI population and the numbers of territories confirmed on other islands so far, we are very close to being able to confidently model the total sea-eagle population. So here goes: the best estimate is ~70 sea-eagle territories statewide with the greater majority of these (77%) being found based on island habitats.

## Coastal Raptor Project Newsletter #4; September, 2010

This is ~15 more breeding territories than was estimated in the mid-1990s, but should not be regarded as an increase. No, it simply reflects the outcome of a more comprehensive habitat survey rather than another conservative estimate based on part survey and part anecdotal records.

## Osprey season ...

The story for osprey will have to wait until after the outcome of 'osprey season' on Kangaroo Island next month. However, the final number appears to be very close to that published in 2007 i.e. 55 pairs and appears unlikely to exceed 60 pairs.



In contrast to sea-eagle habitats, only a small number of these were found on islands, which seems to confirm my view that these two

species **do not live happily side-by-side.**

For the absolute final numbers we will all have to wait for these to appear when published in the *South Australian Ornithologist*, probably early next year.

## Volunteers ... take a bow!

As this will be the last scheduled project newsletter I really must say **a huge thankyou** to all those who contributed to the project in so many large and small ways ... well done to all of you! it would just not have been as thorough without your assistance and shared local knowledge.

You can all take some pride and satisfaction in having contributed to a significant result. Where, for the first time, and unique in Australia, we now have a relatively complete picture of two endangered species' population dimensions; where their important habitats are found; and an understanding of some of the threats that they face in our changing coastal landscapes.

## ... and next year?

Enough coastal cliffs for a while ... our turn to go 'a deck-chair birding' somewhere down the Cooper ...



Terry Dennis

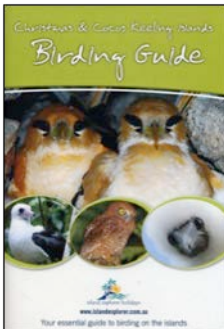
Ph - 08 8552 7659 or,  
mobile - 0409 527 654

email - [osprey84@internode.on.net](mailto:osprey84@internode.on.net)

(photos: Andrew Brooks, sea-eagle; Edy Tasovac, osprey)



# News From the Library

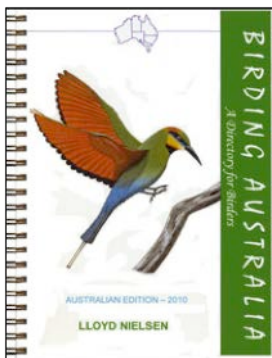


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## **Christmas and Cocos Keeling Islands Birding Guide**

Island Explorer Holidays Perth, W.A. : Island Explorer Holidays, n.d.

This guide contains where to find the birds; description of the birds, key species including voice, status, distribution and breeding; maps and a checklist.



598.2994 NIEa

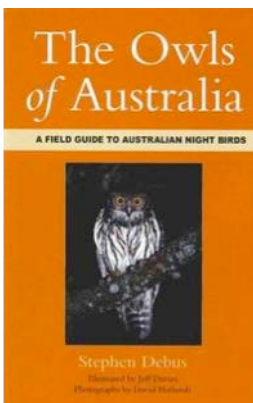
Nielsen, Lloyd.

## **Birding Australia: a directory for birders**

Australian edition. Mt Molloy, Qld. : Lloyd Nielsen, 2010

ISBN 0957988109

A comprehensive guide to birding sites around Australia. Listing suggested itineraries, travelling details and key species that may be seen.



598.97 DEB

Debus, Stephen

## **The owls of Australia : a field guide to Australian night birds**

Canterbury, N.S.W. : Envirobook in association with Birds Australia, c2009.

ISBN 9780858812222

This book documents the features and biology of Australian nocturnal birds, which include some of the most impressive birds found in this region.

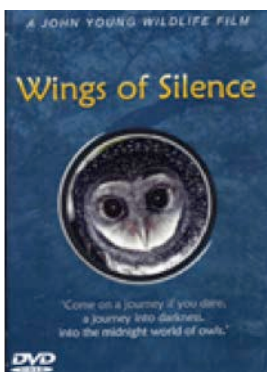
DVD

18

Young, John

## **Wings of Silence**

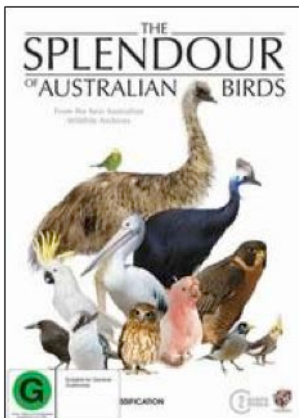
Toowong, Qld. : John Young Wildlife Enterprises (distributor), 2006.



"Under the cover of night there is a world rarely seen... a world travelled by creatures of the nightshift. Among these the owls are the supreme hunters flying soundlessly like shadows, flying on wings of silence. Share the spirit of discovery that drives wildlife cinematographer John Young to a death-defying climb twenty storeys up into the rainforest canopy. See the first ever footage of some of Australia's rarest living things. Experience the private lives of birds that have evoked images of mystery across the centuries".

Back cover.

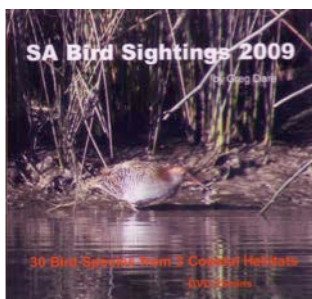
# News From the Library (cont)



DVD  
30

**The splendour of Australian birds**  
[Australia]: REEL DVD [distributor], [2010].

From the archives of esteemed wildlife filmmaker, Bettina Dalton and the Absolutely Wild Visuals collection comes the definitive collection of Australian Birdlife, shot on various locations around the country and featuring some never before seen footage of common, exotic, endangered and even extinct species of Australian birds



DVD  
31

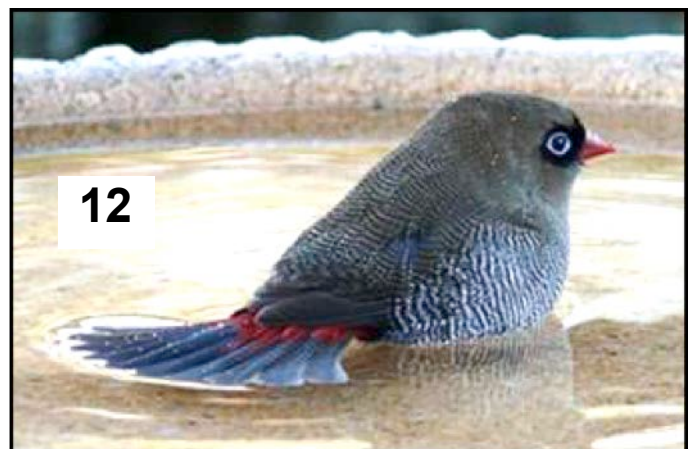
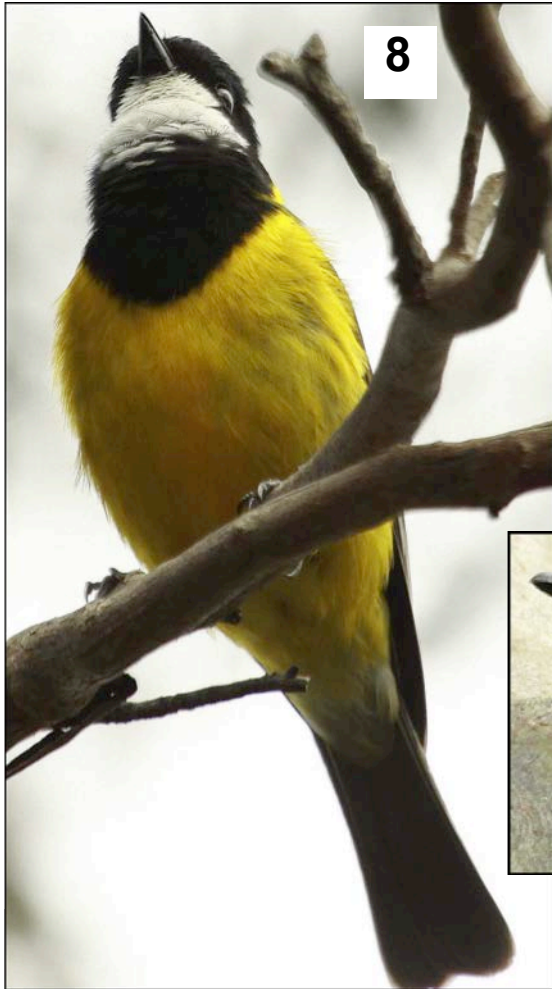
Dare, Greg  
SA bird sightings 2009: including juvenile Lewin's rail

Featured on 2 DVDs this collection shows 30 bird species from 3 coastal habitats; Thompson Beach, Victor Harbor and Goolwa

## Details of photographs

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Elegant Parrot	John Donkin	Cox Scrub	16/9/2010
2	Swift Parrot	Greg Dare	Port Sorrell Tasmania	7/01/2010
3	Major Mitchell Cockatoo	Chris James	Dangalli Conservation Park	17-19/09/2010
4	Eastern Rosella	Karen Donkin	Beaumont	14/9/1020
5	Bourke's Parrots	Terry Dennistock	Port Wakefield	22/6/2010
6	Australian Ringneck	Greg Dare	Alice Springs	19/02/2010
7	Cockatiel	Teresa Jack	Stuart Highway, beyond Marla	3/10/2010
8	Golden Whistler	Peter Day	Mosquito Hill Road, north of PortElliot	20/9/2010
9	Striated Pardalote	Peter Day	Para Wirra	30/9/2010
10	Rainbow Bee-eaters	Teresa Jack	Altona Reserve	23/10/2010s
11	Red-capped Robin	Chris James	Dangalli Conservation Park	17-19/09/2010
12	Beautiful Firetail	Elizabeth Steele-Collins	Southern Fleurieu peninsula	Feb/March 2010

# Colourful Bush Birds



# An Interesting Miscellany!



**Three Corella Species**

photographed by Helen Dennis  
at Walker's Flat 28/9/2010



**Ground Cuckoo-Shrike on nest**  
photographed by Kay Parkin  
at Marla in October 2010



**Brown Treecreeper**

photographed by Peter Day  
at Para Wirra on 30/9/2010



**Spotted Nightjar**

photographed by Trevor Cowie  
at Redbanks Conservation Park on 28/9/2010