

# Birds SA



# Newsletter

No 217

February 2011



**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.

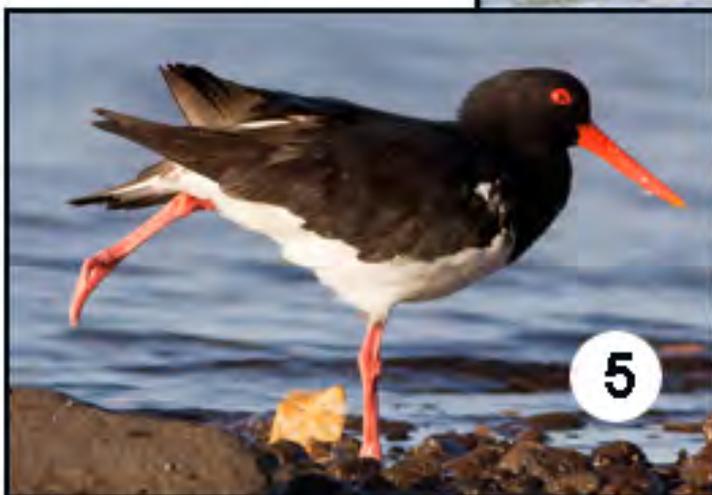
To maintain a public fund called the "Birds SA Conservation Fund" for the specific purpose of supporting the Association's environmental objects.

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# *A Selection of Water Birds*



See page 26 for details  
of all photographs



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### CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 36,  
ERHARD FRANZ BOEHM PART 9

## 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.

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
Mar 27	Sunday	Excursion to Salt Fields
*****		
April 2	Saturday	Excursion to Salt Fields
April 9	Saturday	Excursion to Kaiser Stuhl CP
April 21	Thursday	Excursion to Jenkins Scrub
April 29	Friday	AGM and General Meeting
*****		
May 1	Sunday	Excursion to Ridley CP
May 14	Saturday	Excursion to Hardy's Scrub
May 19	Thursday	Excursion to Bushland Park
May 27	Friday	General Meeting
May 29	Sunday	Excursion to Karte CP
*****		
June 11	Saturday	Excursion to Bullock Hill CP

**Cover photo: Eastern Spinebill, photographed by Greg Dare at Lake Barrine, North Queensland on 31 July 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 11 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p9.

## 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 [shriketit@bigpond.com](mailto:shriketit@bigpond.com)

### Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact Person Judith Dyer 8555 2736  
Email [dyer.jm@gmail.com](mailto:dyer.jm@gmail.com)

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

## 2011 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 May Newsletter is due by the April General Meeting (April 29). 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.

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# President's Letter

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In this Presidential Letter I wish to discuss the highly controversial and difficult issue of duck and quail shooting. As most of you know the majority of the Management Committee passed a motion that Birds SA should join a Coalition of organisations that want to make this hunting illegal in South Australia (hereafter called the Coalition). I accept the democratic process whereby the motion was passed, but I believe we have made a serious error and that on such an important issue the Committee should have sought the opinion of the whole membership. On the Committee I was the minority that opposed the motion because I strongly believe that such motions will undermine the credibility of our Association and hence our effectiveness in promoting the conservation of birds. This view may surprise many members and so I would like to explain my reasoning on this matter.

First, let me make it clear that I have never hunted ducks and have no desire to do so. However, I admire the skills and knowledge of many hunters and I gratefully acknowledge they preserve and manage thousands of hectares of important habitats. We may object that they only preserve the wetlands so they can kill and eat ducks, but it is specious to claim that these wetlands would be preserved without the efforts of shooters. In NSW, following the banning of duck shooting the hunting wetlands have deteriorated and many ducks are being culled in all seasons as agricultural pests. Humans are part of the natural world, not above it and all effective conservation is based on the idea that we will only contribute to conservation if we accrue benefits. Thus owners of rainforests will preserve them if they see compensatory income through pharmaceuticals or ecotourism, and many farmers will only maintain remnant habitats if they can benefit from hunting or government subsidies. Hunting is an important part of our evolution. The prevailing theory is that human evolution was so successful because our ancestral

hominids learned to cook and supplemented their diet by hunting (even after starting animal husbandry), and thus had much more nutritious diets and evolved much sharper brains than our more distant herbivorous ancestors. I have often considered birdwatching to be a form of "hunting" as it takes similar skills to approach, identify and watch birds, though of course we do not kill them. Similarly, I would argue that taking a good photograph of a bird takes more skill than shooting it.

Many nature loving people believe that the prohibitive banning called for by the Coalition are mainstream beliefs in conservation. This is not the case as the most famous conservationists have few problems with hunting. For example Sir David Attenborough and David Bellamy both view hunting as a part of human behavior and essential to conservation. In Australia Tim Flannery supports hunting and argues that hunters are more moral than most citizens because in killing their own meat they understand where it comes from and consequently have a deeper respect and understanding for life. Our key wetland conservationist, Dr. Richard Kingsford, has stated that duck hunting is consistent with "approaches to conservation, based on sustainable use, ecological management... implemented throughout the world and sanctioned by all international conservation treaties and conventions". The well-known studies of fox hunting in England have shown that it is a very inefficient way to control foxes as very few are killed, but the hunters pay farmers to preserve hedges as jumps for their horses. These hedges are essential habitats for much wildlife (especially birds) and native plants, but without fox hunting farmers would have replaced the hedges with sterile fences. It is easy for protesters to chant Oscar Wilde's famous quip "the unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable," but few realise fox hunting preserves much of the wildlife they profess to love. Be careful what you wish for, striving to make hunting illegal will eliminate a

strong and knowledgeable group who understand and wish to conserve wild countryside and who to date have established thousands of hectares of wetlands and other habitats. About 8% of the land in Australia is protected by National Parks and reserves, much less than the 27% in the USA, so it is rash to ignore the reserves maintained by hunters. There are irresponsible and unethical hunters just as there are in every group of humans including birdwatchers. The evidence suggests there are many more ethical hunters than cowboys. For example, when lead shot was outlawed in SA in 1994 rangers checked hundreds of hunters for lead shot and found only three, two of whom had been reported by fellow hunters.

There is abundant evidence that properly managed hunting can be, and often is, a powerful tool in conservation. Broadly there are two types of conservation: 1. conservation based on evidence, logic and an understanding of biology; or 2. conservation based on sanctimonious emotion, unsupported assertions, slogans and a failure to understand the natural world. Examples of the first type of conservation are exemplified by organization like the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and the National Audubon Society. The second type of conservation is exemplified by organisations like the Animal Liberation Front, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, that have the zealot approach based on the unassailable and self-righteous belief that they alone know the truth, and despite very worthy causes this approach has led them to illegal actions that have endangered the lives of others. Birds SA has a long and illustrious history in promoting the first type of conservation which means that our advice is sought by government and non-government agencies in developing management strategies that are the keystone of real

# President's Letter (cont)

conservation. This has included past published statements by Birds SA on the issue of hunting. For example, see the excellent articles by Joan Paton (*Newsletter* 1986) and Bob Brown (*Newsletter* 1994) in which they present rational arguments, which the *Advertiser* refused to publish, in the face of much emotive cant. I believe that our joining the Coalition associates us with the second type of conservation organisation because our logo is prominently displayed with theirs. A sound reputation in conservation is earned by many years of evidence-based actions and this careless association with less careful organisations can quickly squander that hard won reputation. Consider that similar actions by the leadership of the Wilderness Society in Tasmania led to a dramatic decline in their effectiveness in conservation. Many of the issues in conservation and the two radically different approaches described above are due to an increasing disassociation between humans and the natural world. The world is increasingly urbanised, so for the first time in human history the number of humans now living in cities and towns exceeds the number living in the country. In Australia, we believe we are an outback nation, but the reality is that we are one of the most urbanised populations in the world. Most of the world is following the model of western development that leaves people with very little contact with wildlife and the natural world. In recent human history most of us would have farmed and would be well acquainted with rearing animals for food and the realities of slaughtering them. This intimate contact has largely disappeared and though meat consumption per capita has risen most people think of their BBQ sausages and steaks as commodities that magically appear in polystyrene trays in supermarkets. Little to no thought is given to how the meat was produced or the ethics of this production. This disassociation has led to what I consider the "Beatrix Potter" view of

wildlife where all animals live in harmony without violence and suffering. Members of Birds SA are an exception because you are actually interested in wildlife, or at least birds, and regularly go into nature to watch them. This is unfortunately a minority activity and partially explains why so many Australians are frightened of the bush and ignorant of our glorious flora and fauna. For many an interest in wildlife means watching natural history documentaries and believing that dolphins are more intelligent than humans. This disassociation and unrealistic view of nature has led to much concern about what is called 'nature deficit disorder' and explains the success of the US bestseller *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. This book emphasizes the importance of knowledge and understanding of nature by encouraging more activities in nature such as bird watching, but also ethical fishing and hunting.

I worked for seven years in Sweden at a department of wildlife ecology in Uppsala (Institutionen för Viltökologi) that was also loosely associated with the Swedish Hunters Association (Svenska Jägarförbundet). Interacting with prominent conservationists who also were hunters clarified my views on the role of hunting in wildlife management and conservation. The Swedish Hunters Association runs many important reserves and control gun and hunting licences, which are only granted after extensive examinations to ensure hunters are responsible, highly skilled with their firearms, and have extensive knowledge of ecology and the flora and fauna, not just their target species. This approach is common in northern and central Europe and means there is little conflict between naturalists (such as bird watchers) and hunters, indeed many are both hunters and naturalists. Many bird watchers do not realise that the best binoculars (e.g. Swarovski, Leica, Zeiss) have been designed for the much bigger hunting market rather

than bird watchers. Instead of supporting the Coalition I believe that Birds SA would do much better to press for more responsible and skilled hunters who avoid 'long shots', always use the optimal ammunition for their quarry, avoid shooting in suboptimal light, know their birds, and always find any that are wounded.

I fully accept that for most of the membership of Birds SA shooting wild birds as a *recreational* activity is anathema, particularly where it leads to wounding and suffering, and the accidental shooting of non-target species. I loathe all activities that cause suffering, but I dislike the hypocrisy and inconsistent emotive nonsense that surrounds this subject. Anyone who has seen prey being killed by a bird of prey like a sparrowhawk, or by a mammal like a wolf or even their pet cat or dog, is aware there can be considerable time and struggle before death. This does not mean that suffering is acceptable, but it is foolish to pretend it is confined to activities like hunting. Fishing is said to be the commonest leisure activity in Australia and it undoubtedly causes suffering, especially when live baits are used. The commonest bird in the world is the domestic chicken and they are routinely reared and slaughtered in unspeakable conditions, yet I suspect most of the supporters of the Coalition eat chickens without a thought. I have frequently heard advocates against hunting on ethical grounds demolish their own ethical foundation by stating they have no objection to shooting foxes, cats and introduced birds. To my mind movements based on ethical arguments have to be careful that they are consistent in how they apply their ethics, and they need to ensure they do not ignore bigger ethical issues than the one they are championing.

I have been earnestly told that duck shooters wound "six out of ten of the ducks they shoot". When I heard this I thought the statistic was highly unlikely and indeed on later checking

# President's Letter (cont)

I found it is based on hearsay and an extremely doubtful computer simulation. Evidence-based statistics do exist. U.S. research found 90% of hunted ducks are killed outright. Is the Coalition suggesting Australian hunters are very poor shots? Well the evidence shows they are similar to American hunters: the Victorian Department of Conservation examined the bodies of 45,210 shot game birds and found that 9.2% had been previously wounded. Closer to home a study at Bool Lagoon found 8% of Grey Teal, 12% of Pacific Black Duck and 17% of Australian Shelduck had old shotgun pellets embedded in their bodies – note bigger ducks seem more likely to be wounded. All these figures fall very far short of the 60% claimed by the Coalition and have the advantage of being supported by publically available and peer-reviewed evidence. However, it is true that a proportion of wounded ducks later die and are not detected in these surveys. Of course any level of wounding is unacceptable, but my point is that a serious discussion must use real figures and not exaggerated hearsay. Similar misinformation that is frequently touted is that ingestion of lead shot threatens wildlife, yet throughout Australia lead has been replaced by inert pellets that do not poison. By joining the Coalition it is implied that Birds SA approves of such shoddy thinking and hearsay, and that must inevitably harm our credibility.

Personally, I have deep reservations about the prescriptive legislative approach to conservation issues, particularly when it is based on simple-minded “ethics” and slogans. This sort of thinking leads to preposterous legislation such as where farmed deer are not culled by shooting, but herded onto trucks where they panic and seriously injure themselves all the way to an abattoir. It also leads to the ludicrous, and to my mind unethical, legislation in Victoria where kangaroos can be culled but not consumed, so kangaroo meat has to be imported into Victoria. I also firmly believe

that the current legislation that makes it illegal, without a permit, to collect feathers, flowers etc. is one of the main barriers for our developing a strong naturalist tradition. If children are constantly told not to touch or experience it is hardly surprising they are fearful and ignorant of nature. Despite all the hype, a personal experience with nature is worth all the best natural history documentaries combined. Rather than relying on legislation we should strive for inducing more knowledge of natural history so that people want to preserve it rather than being told they should. This is not simply idealism. For example, in Sweden a thousand year old Viking custom (Allemansrätt or Everyones' Right) means that there is no such thing as trespass and anyone can collect flowers, berries, nuts (except hazelnuts) and mushrooms wherever they like. In Australia this would be considered unthinkable and a conservation disaster. Yet in Sweden it means everyone knows and uses all these resources so that a vase of wildflowers on the lunch table is commonplace, and everyone prefers wild mushrooms, or collects lingon berries to make a sauce that is infinitely better than commercial cranberries. But they also responsibly use them and vigorously oppose any over-exploitation.

So what do I think Birds SA should be doing about the hunting of ducks and quail? First and foremost, I would withdraw Birds SA from the Coalition so that we speak for ourselves. The association with the Coalition means that careless and unverified information is associated with our good name and the implied approval will damage our reputation and effectiveness in conservation. Second, I would liaise with hunting organisations, such as Field and Game Australia (Inc), and continue to acknowledge that they have contributed widely to the conservation of game bird species and hence the preservation of habitats that might otherwise be at risk. Third, I think we should be actively involved in developing

measures to minimize the wounding and suffering caused by shooting and the unacceptable killing of non-target species. This would include encouraging shooting organisations and licensing authorities to implement extensive training to ensure responsible behaviour, better marksmanship, appropriate shot size, increasing the choke on shotguns to reduce the spread of pellets, discouraging long-range shooting, and the prohibition of all shooting when there is insufficient light to accurately identify the quarry. Hunting seasons need to be constantly adjusted to variations in the breeding seasons and population dynamics, and also take account of climatic conditions such as prolonged droughts. Hunting and shooting clubs need to foster a responsible culture and code of practice that will remove the firearm and hunting licences of the irresponsible and careless, and actively prosecute any illegal shooting. Fourth, Birds SA should resist any further attempts at legal prescription in place of thoughtful actions.

I apologise for this long and rambling letter, but I believe that this is an important matter and that many members have not thought through the implications of the issue or of our joining the Coalition. I thank those members who did contact me to discuss their concerns about our joining the Coalition and I welcome future discussion and perhaps the development on a Birds SA policy.

**Jeremy Robertson**

*See p11 for information about the Coalition.*

**Cynthia Pyle**

# Birds SA Notes & News

## SICK AND INJURED BIRDS

We frequently receive calls from members of the public seeking advice on the treatment of sick and injured birds. Below is a list of those who may be able to help:

Australian Veterinary Association  
8334 0403 917 295

Dr Mark Hill, Somerton Park 8295  
6924

Bird Care and Conservation Society  
Inc Mobile service 0409 984 910  
Paradise Veterinary Hospital, 655  
Lower North-east Road, Paradise  
8337 4922

You may to cut this out and keep it  
near the telephone

**David Robertson**

P.S. If anyone knows of any other  
contacts, please let me know.

## A WARM WELCOME TO THOUSANDS OF MIGRANTS ARRIVING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Many thousands of migrant  
shorebirds are now in South  
Australia, fleeing harsh conditions in  
their breeding grounds. Birds SA  
members are once again asked to  
assist in the Shorebirds 2020  
surveys. There is now only one  
survey remaining for the summer  
season and that will be held on 13  
March 2011, when there is a high  
tide of 1.65m at 8:35 am

If you have carried our surveys in the  
past, you are requested to survey  
your usual site on the above date. If  
you have not participated before, but  
would like to do so please contact me  
by email

([fieldprograms@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fieldprograms@birdssa.asn.au)) or  
phone 8263 2531

If you would like to learn more about  
shorebirds, why not join one of our  
forthcoming trips to the Cheetham  
Saltfields at St Kilda - see details in  
Future Excursions.

**Trevor Cowie**

## MISSING MEMBERS

We have lost contact with a few  
members, who have moved and have  
not let us know their new addresses.  
They have also not responded to an  
email.

If anyone can assist with current  
contact details for any of the  
members listed below please email  
me at [membership@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:membership@birdssa.asn.au)  
with the new details.

The lost members are:

- Dianne K Slipper
- Travis Hague
- Ian and Liz Kakoschke
- Graeme Paul Clark

**Brian Walker**



**Little Wattlebird**

Photographed by Kay Parkin on 29 Jan 2011  
at Lower Glenelg National Park (Vic)

## COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

As the Annual General Meeting  
(AGM) is fast approaching (well at  
the April meeting) it is time to  
consider nominating yourself for a  
position on the Management  
Committee of Birds SA. At the  
AGM all positions are declared  
vacant, so if you would like to put  
your name forward please don't be  
shy. At least one current member of  
the Committee has indicated that  
they will not be re-nominating.

If you would like to influence the  
future direction of Birds SA, or just  
want to have your say please  
consider putting your name forward.

Just a couple of points:

You must be a financial member of  
Birds SA

Two other financial members must  
support your nomination.

To make life easy, you can download  
a nomination form and then either  
post it to The Secretary, Birds SA,  
C/- South Australian Museum, North  
Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000, hand it  
to me at a General Meeting, or scan it

and email it to me at  
[secretary@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@birdssa.asn.au).

**Brian Blaylock**

## ERRATUM

On page 18 of the November 2010  
Newsletter, the information about the  
photograph of Bourke's Parrots  
(photo 5) is incorrect. The birds were  
actually photographed by Kay Parkin  
in late September on the Stuart  
Highway about 60km north of Marla.

Apologies to Kay

**Cynthia Pyle**

## RARE BIRD COMMITTEE REPORT

The year 2010 ended in  
'Cuckooland' with reports in South  
Australia of two rarely reported  
relatives of the cuckoo family.  
Descriptions were submitted to the  
Birds SA Rare Birds Committee and  
have been Accepted.

**Common or Eastern Koel.** A male  
was calling regularly and seen in the  
suburbs of Reynella on 11 November  
to 25 November 2010. Local  
residents advised that the bird had  
been in the vicinity for up to three  
weeks before it was identified. Chris  
Hankel, Kay Parkin, John Fennell,  
Stuart Hull and other observers.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo.** A bird was  
photographed in flight at the northern  
end of Dickere Waterhole near the  
Diamantina River NE on 29  
December 2010. Colin Rogers,  
Lynton and Michael Huxley.

Many Birds SA members will be  
unfamiliar with the Rare Bird Report  
form. This form can be downloaded  
from the Birds SA website for use  
when you see a species that requires  
a description for Acceptance on to  
the database. To access the form  
from the Home Page, click on  
RAREBIRDS, and then on  
RAREBIRDS RECORD FORM.

The recent record of a Common Koel  
description is published on the next  
three pages to give members an  
indication of the type of information  
that is useful to support a sighting. In  
particular there is value in comparing  
the bird actually seen with other  
similar species so that they can be  
eliminated from consideration.

**John Fennell**

# Completed Record Report Form



Office use only

## Birds SA Rare Bird Committee Record Report Form

<b>Species Name:</b> <i>Common Koel</i>	<b>Scientific Name:</b> <i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
--	--

<b>Observers Name:</b> <i>Chris Hankel</i>	<b>Other Observers:</b> <i>Kay Parkin</i> <i>John Fennell (25.11.10)</i> <i>Stuart Hull (25.11.10)</i>
<b>Address:</b> <i>10 Zelda Close</i> <i>Reynella SA 5161</i>	<b>Phone No(s):</b> <i>08 8322 9109</i> <i>0407711418</i> <b>Fax:</b> <b>Email:</b> <i>chris.hankel@flinders.edu.au</i>

<b>Site Location</b> (please be as specific as possible) <i>Zelda Close and Sarah Court, Reynella and vicinity</i>	<b>GPS</b> (which datum?) - Optional
---	--------------------------------------

Date(s) of observation:	<i>11/11/2010</i>	<i>20/11/2010</i>	<i>25/11/2010</i>
Time(s) of observation:	<i>1700 hrs</i>	<i>1000 hrs</i>	<i>0700 - 08.30hrs</i>
How long did you watch the bird(s)?	<i>10 mins</i>	<i>10 mins</i>	<i>20 mins</i>
Distance to bird:	<i>About 70 mtrs then 5 mtrs as he flew directly above me.</i>		
	<i>Similar distance on 25.11.10</i>		

<b>Habitat</b> <i>Suburban gardens with some tall Eucalypts and deciduous trees</i>
<b>Sighting conditions</b> (weather, visibility, light conditions etc.): <i>Clear and sunny</i> <i>Overcast following drizzle on 25.11.10</i>
<b>Prior weather conditions</b> (that may have a bearing on the occurrence of this sighting) <i>Nothing significant apart from much better winter rains than in previous few years.</i>
<b>Optical aids used:</b> (include magnification) <i>Binoculars (10 x 42) and (10 x 50)</i>
<b>Did you use a field guide?</b> (or any other references for help with identification). <i>Yes. Pizzey and Knight and Morcombe to confirm identification.</i>

# Record Report Form (cont)

**Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who?** (please give names, addresses and phone numbers)?

No

**How confident are you of your identification?**, e.g. 70%, 100%. If not 100%, why not?

100%

**Other details:** e.g. Do you have historical and or anecdotal information/comments relating to the prior occurrence/status of the species within or near this location?

*Advice from Carl Clifford via Birding-Aus email list, indicated that after checking Birdata a sighting had been reported in the New Atlas. There were 2 locations and the co-ordinates are 138.66754, -34.91666 & 138.6604, -34.92301.*

*These are apparently in the Adelaide area but I am unaware of exact locations.*

*This bird was reported to have been present for 4 to 6 weeks by locals prior to being identified.*

**Physical Description of Bird - Please describe only what you saw:** (1) No. of individuals present (living or dead); (2) age (adult, juvenile, immature) and sex; (3) size and shape; (4) plumage colour and pattern (including any details of moult); (5) colour of bill, eyes and legs/feet; (6) calls; (7) behaviour, movements, flight pattern, "jizz" and anything else that might help to identify the bird e.g. feeding, interactions with other birds, describe where the bird was – on ground, in canopy, flying etc. Were comparisons made with other species? **Please also state whether you saw the complete bird or only part of it?** (e.g. upper/lower/front/rear of bird).

*An adult male Koel, slightly larger than Red Wattlebird, which was also present in the locality allowing direct comparison to be made.*

*Plumage - all glossy black with blue iridescence (visible on the sunny day but not on the overcast day).*

*Bill - light coloured, thick curved along the top edge and reasonably short.*

*Eyes - striking red*

*Tail - long, rounded at the end with a lot of tip wear resulting in a "needle-tail" appearance*

*Voice - Repeated far carrying "coooooe", rising in pitch. The bird was very vocal on 25.11.10 calling frequently. On 25.11.10 the bird responded directly to the playing of Koel calls.*

*1<sup>st</sup> sighting bird was sitting or "squatting" on branch on the edge of the canopy of eucalypt with fairly dense foliage. Bird slightly obscured by foliage but size, color and red eyes easily observed.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> sighting - A view that was not obscured by foliage. Clear view of front and side of bird and long tail evident this time. Bird then flew directly above me at a height of about 5 metres. No other features noticed but any white on flight feathers was discounted.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> sighting - Flight views obtained on 25.11.10 showed typical cuckoo flight with long tail and downward drooping wings*

# Record Report Form (cont)

**What experience have you had with the species in question?** (Did you know it was a Rare bird when you first saw it?)

*I knew that it was way out of its usual range. I have seen Koel in the area around Katherine, in Darwin and in other areas in the Top End.  
John Fennell has seen Koel previously in Papua New Guinea.*

**Other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?**

*White-winged Cough - Koel has no white on flight feathers, very different call, thicker shorter bill.*

*Spangled Drongo - Koel is a larger bird; has longer rounded tail (not the fish tail shape), paler bill; distinctive call.*

*Black Butcherbird - Koel has lighter coloured smaller bill, longer tail, distinctive call.*

*The Koel's call discounted all similar looking birds.*

**What experience have you had with these other species?**

*White-wing Coughs - seen and heard often when camping on River Murray, in the Mallee, Yorke Peninsula and Adelaide hills.*

*Spangled Drongo - observed in Top End and on Sunshine Coast, Qld.*

**Was the description written from notes and/or sketches made** (tick box):

during the observation or;  shortly after the observation or;  from memory (advise time elapsed)

**Please indicate supportive evidence available (and attach).**

Was the bird: photographed,  taped or  video taped? If yes to any of these, by whom?

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward all material to:

The Secretary, Birds SA Rare Bird Committee, PO Box 664 Littlehampton, SA 5250 or email to [jmfennell@hotmail.com](mailto:jmfennell@hotmail.com)

Office use only

Note: This form can be typed or clearly handwritten

# Miscellaneous Items

## PRINCESS PARROTS CHALLENGE BIRDING BEHAVIOUR

In July 2010 a sizeable irruption of Princess Parrots was discovered in Desert Oak-Marble Gum country about 350 km west of Alice Springs (see Wingspan vol 20, Summer 2010). Within a very short time the news was posted on birding websites, including the fact that access to the Aboriginal land required a permit from the Central Land Council (CLC). The Traditional Owner was keen to accompany any group who came onto his land, including the Birds Australia party, but so many people were soon racing to see the Princess Parrots that the number of applications proved overwhelming and in August the CLC announced that all further permits to enter the land would be declined. This did not deter a number of birders, photographers and others who showed scant regard for the land in question, including habitats that they damaged in the process of getting there.

([www.abc.net.au/unleashed/42384.html](http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/42384.html)).

In November the Traditional Owner agreed to allow access, providing he or a family member was present and the CLC acted as guides. Tours to see Princess Parrots under these arrangements proved popular and successful and are likely to continue. Regrettably some subsequent website comments complained of the fee imposed and were insensitive both to the issue of rights to enter private land and to its aboriginal custodianship.

The life history of Princess Parrots is incompletely known, since birdwatchers rarely encounter the birds. They are the most exquisitely beautiful creatures when seen in their natural environment. My wife Margie and I agree that our encounter with them in the Great Sandy Desert in August 1994 was our most exhilarating wildlife experience and we can therefore sympathise with those who went to great trouble but were unable to see them.

The event placed birdwatching in

public view and some saw that bird-watchers can be careless at times about basic things like good manners and a respect for the environment that supports our interests. The Association's objects include bird conservation, dissemination of knowledge and research. We have much to contribute in promoting these aims and must ensure that our activities enhance the reputation of birdwatching as a responsible and rewarding pastime.

I acknowledge input and advice from Ian May, Andrew Silcocks, Birds Australia, Chris Pavey, recently of NT Department of Natural Resources and Sam Rando, Central Land Council.

**Andrew Black**

## COALITION'S COMMITMENT TO DUCK SHOOTING BAN

**The RSPCA has joined forces with Animal Liberation, Birds SA, Fauna Rescue SA and Animals Australia in a combined effort to permanently ban the horrific practice of recreational duck shooting in South Australia.**

In October, the newly formed coalition against duck and quail shooting together with supporters Steven Marshall MP, State Member for Norwood, and Tammy Franks MLC, Greens, held a press conference at Parliament House, to publicly put pressure on the state government and rally the support of the South Australian community as

ammunition to end this barbarity once and for all.

The RSPCA views recreational duck shooting as an archaic, senseless practice that results in the unnecessary suffering and death of thousands of defenceless birds throughout the South Australian wetlands. Every year, during the government-declared 'open season' many thousands of ducks are shot in the name of this 'sport'. Some of these ducks will be killed outright. Some will be wounded, brought down and killed on retrieval. Many others will be crippled or wounded and will die a slow, painful and prolonged death over several hours or even days. This legalised cruelty is totally unacceptable.

Due to the intrinsically cruel method of killing, the coalition believes recreational duck shooting inevitably violates animal welfare legislation and is incompatible with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 1985.

With recreational duck shooting already banned in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia, the coalition is calling on South Australians to take action, write or speak to their local Member of Parliament and give the state government no choice but to finally take notice of the overwhelming chorus of disapproval and make prohibition of duck shooting a priority on the political agenda.

**Article from RSPCA publication**

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

David Andrew Gabrynowicz	KERSBROOK
Rhonda Emily Klar	MAWSON LAKES
Sheila Hawkins	FULLARTON
Colin Elliott & Liz Morris-Elliott	RISDON PARK SOUTH
Michelle Lensink	ADELAIDE
Christine Anne Bates-Brownsword	NORTH PLYMPTON
Les Peters	ALDGATE
Michael Kenneth & Mary Christine Heard	KINGSWOOD

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

# Past & Future Meetings

## PAST GENERAL MEETINGS

### Friday October 29

Jeremy Robertson presented the talk for the evening on "Sex and Violence in Birds/Sex and the Unexpected in Birds."

Charles Darwin introduced the first workable theory of evolution in 1859. He realised that in addition to natural selection species evolve through what he called the two forms of sexual selection:

Intra-sexual selection — male:male competition.

Inter-sexual selection — mate choice (usually female choice).

#### *The key biological concept*

In evolution, all that matters is getting ones genes into the next generation. A bird may be perfectly adapted to its environment, but if it fails to reproduce it is irrelevant because evolutionary change cannot occur. A bird that chooses a fit mate will increase the probability of their offspring surviving and thus increase the chances of their genes surviving. Many of the features of birds we take for granted, like colouration and song, evolved for mate choice and reproduction. Thus mate choice and reproduction form the key to evolution.

The fundamental difference between males & females lies in the number of gametes each sex produces and their relative energy costs. Males produce very many energy cheap gametes, while females produce a comparatively few energy expensive gametes. Females are therefore the limiting resource.

Two consequences of this situation are that males should be ardent & not very discriminating and females should be highly discriminatory. Thus there is a conflict between the sexes...

Monogamy is uncommon in most animals, especially mammals. Yet it occurs in 90% of birds. It is obligatory in raptors and seabirds, since removal of one partner results in complete breeding failure. In songbirds, monogamy facilitates breeding success. If the male is

removed the female can rear the brood, but with reduced success.

However, monogamy is not all it seems...

Males of many monogamous birds have been seen attempting to copulate with other females. D.N.A. fingerprinting reveals multiple paternity in the clutches of many apparently monogamous species of birds.

Males copulate with their mate after a separation – not cementing the pair bond but avoiding cuckoldry.

Some females increase their success by playing at cuckoos — egg dumping. This can be very common: 3-31% in Barn Swallows, 5-46% in Starlings.

John Ray (1627-1705) and Francis Willughby (1635-1672) were two early ornithologists. Willughby's *Ornithologica* (edited by Ray) was published by the Royal Society in Latin in 1676 and in English in 1678.

It was the first bird book based on facts rather than myths. Ray provided the first working definition of a species and the beginnings of taxonomy.

Ray identified three fundamental questions in relation to birds:

1. What is the basis of conception?
2. Why do birds have hard-shelled eggs instead of giving birth to live young like mammals?
3. How do embryos develop — are they preformed or constructed?

#### *Fertilisation in Birds*

Since ancient times its been known that hens produce fertile eggs for weeks after mating with a cockerel.

#### *Superstitious times...*

In 1474 a cockerel accused of laying eggs was burnt at the stake in front of a large crowd in Basel, Switzerland.

The Church viewed all deviance, especially in sexual matters, as crimes that needed to be forcefully resolved.

#### *Desexing*

In mammals castration leads to female characteristics — e.g. castrati & the opera-lovers cry of *Viva il coltello*. Castrated cockerels (capons) lost all lust but at next moult retained their cockerel plumage.

Desexed hens (poultards) characteristically develop cockerel plumage at next moult.

Why do desexed birds seem to revert to males? It seems that in most birds maleness is not due to testosterone, but the absence of oestrogen.

#### *Exception to the Oestrogen Rule*

However, the extraordinary appearance of Ruffs depends on testosterone. Dark males are residents of an area and white males are satellites. An intermediate sized form has recently been discovered. These are males that mimic females so they can live on resident territories and steal copulations. Colour is controlled by a normal gene and hence if females are injected with testosterone they develop male plumage & behaviour.

#### *Virgin Birth in Turkeys*

In the 1930s 16% of Beltsville Small White Turkey eggs were spontaneously fertilised. With selective breeding this proportion increased to 45% in 5 generations.

Over 30 years 1,100 chicks were produced. Intriguingly, all were males with a double set of chromosomes. They were weak and uninterested in sex but artificial insemination showed that they were fertile.

#### *Why are males the default in birds?*

In mammals the sex chromosomes determine that males are XY and females XX. In birds it is the other way around males are ZZ and females ZW.

Birds have many more chromosomes than mammals, so it is difficult to see the Z and W chromosomes. The mechanism of sex determination is unknown...

#### *Sex Ratio Manipulation*

Sex manipulation is technically possible in mammals with artificial insemination.

Some wild birds can manipulate the sex of their young. For example, the Seychelles Brush Warbler changes sex ratios with territory quality. They are cooperative breeders with daughters staying and sons dispersing. In poor territories they have mainly sons to avoid extra residents that use scarce resources.

# Past & Future Meetings (cont)/Past Excursions

Females determine the sex of the ovum just hours before laying, but we don't know how they do it!

## Conclusions

It is extraordinary how little we know about sex determination in birds. It is dangerous to draw conclusions from mammals.

## Friday November 26

Stuart Hull welcomed the speaker for the evening Sean Dooley. Sean is currently the editor of Birds Australia Wingspan magazine and is a writer for some of Australia's comedy shows on TV. He has written several books: Cooking with Baz, Anoraks to Zitting Cisticola and The Big Twitch. Sean showed some slides and spoke about his background and his twitching adventures, which became The Big Twitch. Sean said that he had always been interested in birds starting off by watching them at Seaford Swamp, Frankston, Victoria near his school. After his parents died he took a year off work to see if he could break the Australian twitching record by seeing more than 700 species in twelve months. He gave details of his travels throughout Australia and its territories to achieve the twitching record.

## FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

### Friday March 25

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

### Friday April 29

#### AGM

Followed by Dr. Greg Kerr — Yellow River and Bohai/Yellow Sea

### Friday May 27

#### TBA

### Friday June 25

Julie Reorden — Breeding and Biology of Cormorants

## AGM AGENDA

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting on Friday April 29 is:

- 1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 2010 AGM.
- 2 Election of the committee for 2011–2012:
  - President
  - Two Vice-Presidents
  - Secretary
  - Assistant Secretary
  - Field Programme Coordinator
  - Treasurer
  - Journal Editor
  - Bird Records Secretary
  - Newsletter Editor
  - Up to three other members
- 3 Appointment of an auditor.
- 4 Any other business of which notice has been given at a previous meeting.

## PAST EXCURSIONS

### Saturday November 13: Mark Olyphant CP

It was a wet day with mist hanging over the Adelaide hills as well as some light rain. The trees of course complied with gravity and kept the six of us damp. We somehow managed to identify and record 21 species in just over the two hours that we walked. The most surprising thing for the day was to find the CP padlocked, the buildings removed, including the toilet block, and the sport grounds not even mown. There were also lots of stobie poles lying on the ground. The birds of course were unconcerned. A few Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and White-throated Treecreepers kept us occupied on occasions and in all we observed 89 individual birds.

Trevor Cowie

### Thursday November 18: Inman River Estuary and old sewage area.

Sixteen members and friends arrived in Victor Harbor to be met

with light rain, which cut short the walk along the beach near the Inman River mouth. The Hooded Plover pair which live there were keeping under cover and we did not see them. A short drive to the Inman Flats area saw an improvement in the weather, and an increase in the number of species seen. They were mainly the more common species, but a young Nankeen Night Heron flying near the old sewage ponds provided a highlight. Another move was made to the Nangawooka Flora Reserve for lunch and our bird call. The total numbers of birds was good with several looking after young. These were Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, White-plumed Honeyeater, Magpie Lark, and Tree Martin. 53 species were seen for the morning.

Peter Gower

### Sunday Nov 28: Pooginook CP

Martyn Price was the leader of this birds SA field trip and 19 members were present. To the eight of us that stayed in Waikerie the previous day the weather looked as if it would be fine, in contrast to several of the last field trips where rain put the dampener on things. Unfortunately, a strong wind developed during the night and continued most of the day. It was warm but cloudy with patches of sun. The northern section had been burnt some years before and although it was slowly regenerating it was not easy to see any bird life. However, we were lucky to find several hot spots between the dunes where it was quite calm. The 19 members that made the trip were surprised that we managed 32 species for the day but in low numbers. Highlights were several groups of White-winged Choughs, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Inland and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, White-eared and Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Varied Sittellas, Crested Bellbirds and White-browed and Dusky Woodswallows. Jacky Winters with dependent young were also seen. The only bird of prey seen was a single Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring high overhead.

Martyn Price

# Past Excursions (cont)

## Saturday December 11: Reedy Creek (Waterfall Reserve)

This trip promised to be exciting with the news of roads being closed and out of action. Sixteen members found various ways to get there, with no one aware of exactly where the problems were. We eventually discovered that both roads into the car park were closed. Huge amounts of flora no longer exist and water and rocks have destroyed the road. In several places the road drops away 3 meters, leaving just one track that could be used by push & motor bikes.

Although the landscape has been totally changed, the walk up the gully and back down the road produced 52 species, which is the second highest number recorded. There were however 27 raptors — an amazing amount! These included 2 Wedge-tailed and Little Eagles, 10 Black Kites, 4 whistling Kites (2 in a nest), Peregrine and Black Falcons and 5 Kestrels. Good numbers of Pelican were around for most of the day. We also saw Southern Whiteface, Rainbow Bee-eater, Brown Treecreeper, Sacred Kingfisher and a juvenile Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo feeding on the ground. Rabbits dead and alive were everywhere; no doubt a providing a good reason for the raptors to be present.

**Trevor Cowie**

## Thursday December 16: Laratinga Wetlands

Thirty two members enjoyed a relaxed and relaxing morning's bird watching at Laratinga. The weather was fine and mild and a total of 50 species were recorded. Highlights were a Spotless Crane on pond 2 and a male Blue-billed Duck on pond 11. In early January 2011 Kevin Williams had found a female Blue-billed Duck with six recently hatched chicks on pond 10. In all 13 species were recorded as breeding with six Little Pied Cormorant's nests containing young on the island in pond 7.

**Bob Snell**

## Sunday December 19: Dry Creek Salt Fields.

*Cancelled due to rain.*

## 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - 2 Jan 2011. Xmas Campout at Nyroca (for Coffin Bay IBA) and surrounding area.

Our first Xmas camp was held at 'Mikkira' southwest of Port Lincoln in 1995. We went back in 1998, but have not been back since. It has therefore been 12 years since we ventured to the tip of the Eyre Peninsula.

Eighteen made the 700km journey from Adelaide and the Riverland and they were well rewarded.

Blue-breasted Wren, Western Yellow Robin, and Western Gerygone/Warbler were some of the birds seen at the Christmas Camp at 'Nyroca'\* Scout Camp, north of Coffin Bay. The 21ha site was well wooded, giving plenty of shade although the weather was much milder than that experienced in Adelaide — so much so that one hardy soul actually went for a swim in Coffin Bay (me).

There were powered sites and for those reluctant to erect their tents there was accommodation inside next to the lounge, which had TV and internet connection. What luxury and on top of this there was an excellent kitchen, refrigerator and deep freeze. The caretaker's free range chickens and bees provided fresh eggs and honey respectively. In the creek I caught 3 dozen yabbies in one night. They were much appreciated on New Year's Eve.

We explored the entire area, including Coffin Bay, Kellidie Bay and Murrumbidgee Conservation Parks, Big Swamp, Vanilla Forest and the property of Yvonne Puckridge (many thanks).

Coffin Bay is an Important Bird Area so we were keen to check the number and distribution of species considered to be in trouble, e.g. Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, Hooded Plover, Rock Parrot, and Fairy Tern. All except the Fairy Tern were recorded.

One hundred and twenty one species were recorded in the Southern Eyre Peninsula area including the Western Whipbird, the remnant flock of

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and on the edge of its range the Little Wattlebird.

Thirty-three species were seen in the camp area.

After the Edinburgh Tattoo on New Year's Eve we held the traditional NYE bird quiz, won by the 'Babbling Babbler' consisting of Burt May, Rob Mousley and Ros Pearce.

## David Robertson

\* 'Nyroca' is Russian for 'duck', as in *Aythya nyroca* the Ferruginous Duck, widespread in the northern hemisphere and no, I have no idea why a Scout camp on Camp Eyre should be named 'Nyroca'.

## Saturday January 8: Sandy Creek CP

The area was quiet as 23 birders gathered for the walk. The number of species seen was 47 with approx 40% of species consisting of three or less individuals, which of course makes the search more interesting. The Rufous Whistler provided the most heard call of the day with at least 15 singing out for attention. Some single species seen were Australian Owlet Nightjar, Brown Treecreeper, Eastern Spinebill, Welcome Swallow and Kookaburra. Others seen were Red-browed Finch, Diamond Firetail, European Goldfinch, two House Sparrows and one Starling, Hooded and Red-capped Robins. There were also a dozen Rainbow Bee-eaters for colour. It was a peaceful and pleasant day's walk in the park.

**Trevor Cowie**

## Thursday January 13: Dry Creek Salt Fields

Martyn Price was leader of this Birds SA field trip. Although the forecast was for showers 22 members met at 7:00 am at the gate to explore the salt fields for the first time this summer. Although the morning began fine and dry it was not long before a light drizzle began, and was topping and starting throughout the morning before settling in late morning for the day. The new tracks were firm and allowed easy access to both us and the salt fields workers. However, near Buckland Park Lake the tracks had not yet been renewed and as our

# Past Excursions (cont)/Future Excursions

2WD vehicles began to show navigation problems we stopped and turned around, having lunch under some minimal shelter of a grove of trees near the location of the old pump house. We were unable to travel along the central track or cover the the area around Buckland Park Lake. Despite the weather, we had an interesting morning, the highlight being a Ruff for some of us. Migratory wader counts were definitely down on previous years with low numbers of Black-tailed Godwit (19), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (50), Curlew Sandpiper (50), Red-necked Stint (500). It was nice to see a large group of Eastern Curlew (13), and plenty of Common Greenshank. Also in low numbers were Banded Stilt (200), Whiskered Tern (6), Musk Duck, Australian Shelduck, Grey and Chestnut Teal. No Marsh Sandpipers or Black-tailed Native Hens were seen. In all 56 species were counted.

**Martyn Price**

**Sunday January 30:**  
**Scott Creek CP.**  
*Cancelled due to heat.*

## **FUTURE EXCURSIONS**

**Convener: Trevor Cowie**  
*Email: [fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fieldtrips@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.*

### **Sunday February 27: Paiwalla Wetlands (MM) (88km)**

Meet at Sunnyside Lookout at 8.30am. Take the Murray Bridge to Mannum Road on the eastern side of the river from Murray Bridge. Stay on this road till just past the turnoff to Bowhill on the right. Take the next turn 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 & Rocky Gully Wetlands, Murray Bridge. (MM) (80km)**

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

### **Sunday March 27: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km)**

Meet at 07.00am. Tide 1.67m.

**And**

### **Saturday April 2: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km) —An additional outing**

Meet at 3.00PM. Tide 2.32m.

### **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 9: Kaiser Stuhl CP & Tanunda Ponds (MLR) (71km)**

Meet at 8.15am on Bethany Road, Tanunda just east of rail crossing by the Lutheran church. We will spend the morning in the park, looking into the ponds later in the day.

### **Thursday April 21: Jenkins Scrub (MLR) (61km)**

Meet at 8.30am. Travel about 10km from Williamstown towards Springton, turn right onto Mount Road, which is opposite Wirra Wirra Rd. We meet at the entrance to the scrub on the left opposite Murray vale road.

### **Sunday May 1: Ridley CP (MM) (126km)**

Travel to Swan Reach via Sedan, turning right towards Mannum at the ETSA Substation, just prior to where the road starts dipping down to the river. Travel along this road for about 5km. Meet at 8.30am at the northern end of the CP, which starts on the right.

**Easter Campout details on p25.**

### **Saturday May 14: Hardy's Scrub. Onkaparinga River NP (MLR) (42km)**

Meet at 8.15 am by the CFS Station in Blewitt Springs

### **Thursday May 19: Bushland Park/Nitschke Hill (MLR) (43km)**

Meet at 8.30am in the Bushland Park car park 1km north of Lobethal off the road to Gumeracha.

### **Sunday May 29: Karte CP (MM) (246km)**

Meet at 8.15am at the BBQ and Camping area (or Saturday anytime if camping - no facilities). To get there drive to Pinnaroo, from there a road heading northwest takes you to Karte (approx 30km). The entrance to the BBQ area is at the start of the park on the left side.

### **Saturday June 11: Bullock Hill CP (MLR) (60km)**

Meet at 8.15am at Ashbourne oval.

# 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 [birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au) or 83363325 or MOB 0417 896 977

## Malleefowl

15/12/2010. One was in Dinks Conservation Park, EP.

Helen Monterola.

## Brown Quail

26/12/2010. Several were in the Clayton Wetlands, Birdsville Track, NE.

Colin Rogers.

01/01/2011. Several were flushed from rank vegetation along the Cooper Creek, NE.

Michael Huxley *et al.*

## Flock Bronzewing

11-13/11/2010. Small numbers, ranging from 4 to 8, from 170km north of Mungerannie to Birdsville, on the Birdsville Track, NE.

Greg Smith & David Donato.

01/01/2011. A least 100 were at an ephemeral waterhole on Etudunna Station, Birdsville track, NE.

Michael Huxley *et al.*

## Freckled Duck

09/11/2010. One was at the Cooper Crossing, Birdsville Track, NE.

Greg Smith & David Donato.

27/12/2010. One was on an ephemeral lake west of the Birdsville Track, NE.

Colin Rogers *et al.*

31/12/2010. Four with young were at the Cooper Crossing, NE.

Colin Rogers *et al.*

## White-headed Petrel

14/11/2010. One was over the continental shelf off Port MacDonnell, SE.

Colin Rogers *et al.*

## Southern Fulmar

14/11/2010. One was over the continental shelf off Port MacDonnell, SE.

Colin Rogers *et al.*

## Common Diving Petrel

16/01/2011. One flew alongside the boat on the pelagic trip from Port MacDonnell, SE.

Colin Rogers *et al.*

## Australian Bittern

17/01/2011. Three were photographed in flight at Bool Lagoon, SE.

Chris Shaw.

## Little Bittern

10/02/2011. One was calling and then seen near Martins bend, Berri, MM.

Helga Kieskamp & Peter Waanders.

## Eastern Osprey

22/01/2011. One was resting on a track in Price Saltfields, YP.

Colin Rogers.

## Letter-winged Kite

12-13/11/2010. Two adults and two young were 170 kms north of Mungerannie on the Birdsville Track, NE.

Greg Smith & David Donato.

29/01/2011. Four were at this location, NE.

Michael Huxley *et al.*

## Square-tailed Kite

January. Two adults with two juveniles were seen regularly in the vicinity of Para Wirra Recreation Park, MLR.

Sue Gredley *et al.*

## White-bellied Sea-Eagle

18-19/01/2011. One was roosting in a dead tree in Buckland Park Lake, AP.

William Breed & Colin Rogers.

## Grey Falcon

09/11/2010. One was at the Cooper crossing on the Birdsville Track, NE.

Greg Smith & David Donato.

## Brolga

25/12/2010. Two adults and two juveniles were at Clayton Wetlands, Birdsville Track, NE.

Colin Rogers.

31/12/2010. Four were at the Mungerannie wetlands, NE.

Michael Huxley *et al.*

## Lesser Sand Plover

07/01/2011. One was at Thompsons Beach, AP.

Colin Rogers & John Cox.

## Greater Sand Plover

10/12/2010. One was at Black Point, YP.

Margaret Tiller.

07/01/2011. Seven were at Thompsons Beach, AP.

Colin Rogers & John Cox.

## Oriental Plover

29-30/01/2011. Thirty-one were on the beach at Denial Bay, Ceduna, EP.

Andrew Brooks.

## Hooded Plover

30/12/2010. Two were on Carrickalinga Beach, FP.

B. Davies.

21/12/2010. Two adults and a nest with three eggs were on Robe beach, SE.

Val Mobley.

19/01/2011. Four, two adults and two juveniles, were on Bashams Beach.

Wyn Syson

## Whimbrel

22/01/2011. At least 16 were in Price Saltfields, YP.

Colin Rogers.

08/02/2011. One was in Dry Creek Salt Fields, AP.

Colin Rogers

## Eastern Curlew

11/01/2011. Nine were at Light Beach, AP.

Claire Noble, Brian Walker & John Hatch.

22/01/2011. At least 38 were near Port Arthur, Clinton CP, YP.

Teresa Jack & Kay Parkin.

22/01/2011. Eight were in Price Saltfields, YP.

Colin Rogers.

# Bird Records (cont)

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08/02/2011. Seventeen were in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP  
Colin Rogers.

## **Terek Sandpiper**

22/01/2011. One was at Price Saltfields, YP.  
Colin Rogers.

## **Grey-tailed Tattler**

21/11/2010. One was at the Murray Mouth, MM.

Edward Smith.

15/01/2011. Several were at French Point, Port MacDonnell, SE.

Roly Lloyd *et al.*

## **Pectoral Sandpiper**

24/01/2011. Two were in Greenfields Wetlands, AP.

John Cox & Colin Rogers.

## **Ruff**

22/12/2010. One was in Dry Creek Saltfields, AP, roosting with Black-tailed Godwit.

Colin Rogers.

*Subsequently seen in mangrove pools and roosting with Black-tailed Godwit during January.*

## **Red-chested Buttonquail**

10/11/2010. One was flushed on Mt Lyndhurst Station, NE.

David Donato.

*Numerous Little Buttonquail were also present. Report submitted to SARC.*

## **Little Tern**

15/01/2011. A small number were at Danger Point, Port MacDonnell, SE.

Roly Lloyd *et al.*

## **Common Tern**

22/11/2010. One was at Price Saltfields, YP.

Colin Rogers.

## **Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo**

19/12/2010. About seven were in Dry Creek NFR, SE.

Nathaniel Doecke.

## **Glossy Black-Cockatoo**

10/01/2011. Several were at American River, KI.

Tim Dolby.

## **Regent Parrot**

02/01/2011. A flock of at least 40 was on the Cadell primary School Oval, Cadell, MM.

David Hartland.

04/01/2011. A female was flushed in Yumburra CP, NW.

Tim Bawden.

## **Black-chinned Honeyeater**

01/12/2010. Two were near Parafield Gardens Railway Station, AP.

John Cox.

23/11/2010. Four were at Sarah Close, Reynella, MLR.

Michael Wood.

21/11/2010. One was at Mandalay Drive, Happy Valley, MLR.

William Brooker.

12/11/2010. Four, including 1 immature were at Harriet Street, Strathalbyn, MLR.

Nathaniel Doecke.

## **Eastern Koel**

20/11/2010. One had been calling in the vicinity of Sarah Court, Reynella, MLR, for three weeks prior to this report.

Chris Hankel.

*Record accepted by SARC.*

## **Channel-billed Cuckoo**

29/12/2010. One flew across Dickeree Waterhole, NE.

Michael Huxley *et al.*

*Photographs taken and the record accepted by SARC.*

## **Powerful Owl**

19/12/2010. Two were calling in Dry Creek NFR, SE.

Nathaniel Doecke.

## **Dollarbird**

17/11/2010. One was at Whites Road Wetlands, AP.

Robert Hicks.

*Photograph taken on 19 November. Report submitted to SARC.*

## **Grey Grasswren**

13/11/2010. Two were approximately 90km south of Birdsville, on the Birdsville Track, NE.

Greg Smith & David Donato.

## **Chestnut-breasted Whiteface**

10/11/2010. Two groups of 3 & 4 were on Mt Lyndhurst Station, NE.

Greg Smith & David Donato.

01/01/2011. Several were 91km south of Coober Pedy, Stuart Highway, NW.

Jim Allen.

## **Little Woodswallow**

10/11/2010. Two were at Brachina Gorge, Flinders Rangers.

Peter Waanders.

## **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike**

17/01/2011. Two adults feeding young were in Telford Scrub CP, SE.

Neil Cheshire & Colin Rogers.

## **Olive-backed Oriole.**

05/02/2011. One was calling in trees near 4<sup>th</sup> Creek and then flew south across St Bernard's Road, AP.

Colin Rogers.

## **Pied Currawong**

16/01/2011. Two were calling and one seen near Dry Creek NFR, SE.

Neil Cheshire & Colin Rogers.

## **Satin Flycatcher**

17/11/2011. A pair was on eggs in Telford Scrub CP, SE.

Neil Cheshire & Colin Rogers.

*Subsequently seen feeding young on 31/01/2011. Kay Parkin.*

## **Bassian Thrush**

12/01/2011. One was at the Karka Picnic area, Belair NP, MLR.

Leigh Schmidt.

# Annual Report 2010

This report summarises the 111<sup>th</sup> year of our Association.

Total membership has increased from 562 to 613.

During the year the Committee of Management arranged for members to receive discounts from Paddy Pallin and The Scout Outdoor Centre on presentation of their membership card.

The Committee of Management extends its warm thanks to all those volunteers who helped throughout the year.

## Publications

The Birds SA (The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.) Newsletter edited by Cynthia Pyle continued to be published quarterly in February, May, August and November.

A double issue of the *South Australian Ornithologist* (Volume 36, Parts 1 & 2) was published under the Editorial Committee of John Hatch (Editor), Jeremy Robertson and Colin Rogers.

## Meetings

Meetings have been held on a monthly basis with strong support from Members. At the November meeting, Sean Dooley entertained a large audience when he talked about his adventures from *The Big Twitch*.

## Field Trips

Field Trips were held throughout the year and covered a variety of locations and habitats. During the year there were 39 Field Trips plus three campouts. A joint campout was held at Messent C.P. in August with members of Birds SE. A total of 236 species of birds were identified on the Field Trips and Campouts.

## Honorary Members

The Association's Constitution provides for the election of up to 10 Honorary Members. At the end of the year there were nine Honorary Members.

- Andrew Black
- Bob Brown
- Graham Carpenter

- Leo Joseph
- David Paton
- Penny Paton
- Lynn Pedler
- Richard Schodde
- Max Waterman

## Long-Serving Members

At the Annual General Meeting Birds SA recognised long-term membership by the presentation of membership certificates. The Committee would like to highlight those members who qualified for Platinum, 40 years and Gold 35 years certificates.

### Platinum Certificates

- Andrew Black
- Allen Burbidge

### Gold Certificates

- Trevor Cox
- A.C.O. Gibb
- Margaret Priede
- Bob Snell
- Maureen Snell
- Bob Whatmough

## SUB-COMMITTEES

### Conservation

The members of the Conservation Sub-committee are Rodney Attwood (Convener), William Brooker, Nigel Gammon and Krystyna Rowlands. The following issues have been considered by the sub-committee during the year:

- The proposal by the City of Murray Bridge relating to the upgrading and sealing of the road passing through the Ferries MacDonald Conservation Park. Submissions were made to the relevant authorities on this matter and support given to local activists against the upgrade.
- Support was also provided on behalf of Birds SA to the local residents of Murray Bridge who had taken action against the proposed development of land containing native scrub for a very large retirement home complex. This matter remains the subject of an Appeal.
- Birds SA provided documentation and a support

submission against the alienation of land at Mount Barker. It appears that the State Government has overruled the submissions by many organisations (including the Mount Barker Council) against the Development Plan.

- A number of submissions have been made to the State Government relating to the management plans for some conservation parks in South Australia and for a Fire Management Plan for parks in the Onkaparinga catchment area.
- Members of the sub committee have been active in the ongoing action by the 'Coalition Against Duck and Quail Shooting' to ban the open season in South Australia. Other organizations in the coalition are Animals Australia, Animal Liberation, Fauna Rescue SA and the RSPCA.

## Grants

Following the entry of the Fund onto the Register of Environmental Organisations, donations of \$2 and over to Birds SA Conservation Fund are now tax-deductible. The Fund received donations of \$13,174 during the year. At the end of December the Fund contained \$39887. The trustees of the Birds SA Conservation fund are Andrew Black (Chair), John Russell and David Bright.

The initial grant from the Birds SA Conservation Fund of \$3665 was awarded to Laurence Berry at the Australian National University, Canberra for his project "The influence of fine scale spatial components within a fire mosaic on avian community composition, Pinkawillinie SA"

A total of \$12,058 was also paid from Birds SA for the Coastal Raptor Survey, carried out by Terry Dennis, of which \$11,439 was funded from a Federal Government Grant.

# Annual Report 2010 (cont)

## Vetting and Rarities

The Rarities group (Andrew Black, Graham Carpenter, John Fennell (Secretary), John Hatch, Lynn Pedler, and Colin Rogers) has received nine submissions this year. These submissions and their outcomes are shown in the table below.

Jeremy Robertson	7
Stuart Hull	12
Rodney Attwood	12
Brian Blaylock	10
Robert Rowland	9
Brian Walker	10
Colin Rogers	9
Trevor Cowie	10
John Hatch	9
Cynthia Pyle	9
David Robertson	11
Lou Bartley-Clements	7
Merinda Hyland	8
Merilyn Browne	8
Helen Monterola	3

## Committee of Management

The Committee met twelve times during the year and attendance at these meetings was as follows:

### Brian Blaylock

Secretary (on behalf of the Committee of Management)

RECORD	SPECIES	DATES	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
SARC 19	<i>Plains Wanderer</i>	<i>Not confirmed</i>		
SARC 20	Little curlew	16 and 17-2-2010	Wallaroo	Teresa Jack, Stuart Hull
SARC 21	<i>Pink robin</i>	<i>Not confirmed</i>		
SARC 22	<i>Plains Wanderer</i>	<i>Not confirmed</i>		
SARC 23	<i>Orange-bellied parrot</i>	<i>Not confirmed</i>		
SARC 24	Koel	11 to 25-11-2010	Reynella	Chris Hankel, Kay Parkin, John Fennell, Stuart Hull
SARC 25	Channel-billed cuckoo	29-12-2010	Dickeree waterhole	Colin Rogers, Lynton Huxley, Michael Huxley
SARC 26	Wandering whistling-duck (approximately 30)	11-9-2010	Near ferry on Birdsville Track	Peter Waanders, Nigel Harland, Dougald Frederick
SARC 27	Mottled petrel	21-2-2009	Off Port MacDonnell	John Cox, Colin Rogers, Stuart Hull

**THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC.**  
**ABN: 76 339 976 789**  
**CONCISE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010**

This Financial Report is subject to audit. Any matters arising from the audit will be advised to Members at the Annual General Meeting and included in the May Newsletter. A copy of the Full Financial Report may be obtained by contacting the Treasurer (email: treasurer@birdssa.asn.au or phone: (08) 8263 3433).

**The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.**  
**and its Controlled Entity**  
**Comprehensive Income Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2010**

	<b>Consolidated</b>		<b>Parent</b>	
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Revenue from ordinary activities</b>				
<b>Subscriptions</b>				
Ordinary	9,735	9,675	9,735	9,675
Family	5,240	4,528	5,240	4,528
Concession	4,960	4,980	4,960	4,980
Student	20	30	20	30
Subscriber	927	1,203	927	1,203
	<b>20,882</b>	<b>20,416</b>	<b>20,882</b>	<b>20,416</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Donations	15,558	2,706		
Campouts		139		139
Supper sales	274	334	274	334
Field List	110	912	110	912
Library sale	470	459	470	459
Government Grants	11,439	27,574	11,439	27,574
Advertising & other	121	101	121	101
	<b>27,971</b>	<b>32,225</b>	<b>12,413</b>	<b>29,519</b>
<b>Interest</b>	8,486	8,187	7,206	7,998
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>57,340</b>	<b>60,827</b>	<b>40,501</b>	<b>57,932</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Publications</b>				
Newsletter	6,700	6,970	6,700	6,970
Journal	10,148	7,658	10,148	7,658
	<b>16,848</b>	<b>14,628</b>	<b>16,848</b>	<b>14,628</b>
Rent	2,582	590	2,582	590
Administration	3,165	1,356	3,165	1,356
Insurance	2,037	2,119	2,037	2,119
Publicity	550	765	550	765
Library & slide library	729	793	729	793
Subscriptions & donations	275	275	275	275
Campouts		305		305
Membership brochure	360		360	
Field List		407		407
Equipment	790		790	
Signage		320		320
Meeting expenses	1,316	1,513	1,316	1,513
Research grants	15,723	32,574	12,058	32,574
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>44,375</b>	<b>55,645</b>	<b>40,709</b>	<b>55,645</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/ (Deficit) from Ordinary Activities for the year</b>	<b>12,965</b>	<b>5,182</b>	<b>(208)</b>	<b>2,287</b>
Donation to Birds SA Conservation Fund				18,067
<b>Operating Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>12,965</b>	<b>5,182</b>	<b>(208)</b>	<b>(15,780)</b>

**The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.  
and its Controlled Entity  
Statement of Changes in Funds  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2010**

Parent Entity	General Contingency Fund		Project Fund		Total
	Reserve	Fund	Fund	Fund	
<b>Balance 31 December 2008</b>	141,122	45,938	17,187		204,247
Profit attributable to members	(15,780)				(15,780)
Transfer to Contingency Fund	(1,498)	1,498			
Transfer to Project Fund	(880)		880		
Transfer from Project Fund	18,067		(18,067)		
<b>Balance 31 December 2009</b>	<b>141,031</b>	<b>47,436</b>			<b>188,468</b>
Profit attributable to members	(208)				(208)
Transfer to Contingency Fund	(1,310)	1,310			
<b>Balance 31 December 2010</b>	<b>139,513</b>	<b>48,746</b>			<b>188,259</b>
<b>Consolidated</b>					
				<b>Birds SA</b>	
	<b>General Reserve</b>	<b>Contingency Fund</b>	<b>Project Fund</b>	<b>Conservation Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Balance 31 December 2008</b>	141,122	45,938	17,187	5,751	209,999
Profit attributable to members	5,182				5,182
Transfer to Contingency Fund	(1,498)	1,498			
Transfer to Project Fund	(880)		880		
Transfer from Project Fund	18,067		(18,067)		
Transfer to Conservation Fund	(20,962)			20,962	
<b>Balance 31 December 2009</b>	<b>141,031</b>	<b>47,436</b>		<b>26,713</b>	<b>215,181</b>
Profit attributable to members	12,965				12,965
Transfer to Contingency Fund	(1,310)	1,310			
Transfer to Conservation Fund	(16,839)			16,839	
Transfer from Conservation Fund	3,665			(3,665)	
<b>Balance 31 December 2010</b>	<b>139,513</b>	<b>48,746</b>		<b>39,887</b>	<b>228,146</b>

**The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.  
and its Controlled Entity  
Statements of Financial Position  
As at 31 December 2010**

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	102,873	83,089	62,072	56,456
Investments	116,783	123,783	116,783	123,783
Accrued income	1,863	1,316	1,511	1,235
Prepaid expenses	172	-	172	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>221,691</b>	<b>208,188</b>	<b>180,539</b>	<b>181,475</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
Property, plant & equipment	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>241,691</b>	<b>228,188</b>	<b>200,539</b>	<b>201,475</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Trade & other payables	2,255	13,007	989	13,007
Subscriptions paid in advance	11,290	-	11,290	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>13,545</b>	<b>13,007</b>	<b>12,279</b>	<b>13,007</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>228,146</b>	<b>215,181</b>	<b>188,259</b>	<b>188,468</b>
<b>Members' Funds</b>				
General reserve	139,513	141,031	139,513	141,031
Contingency Fund	48,746	47,436	48,746	47,436
Birds SA Conservation Fund	39,887	26,713		
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>	<b>228,146</b>	<b>215,181</b>	<b>188,259</b>	<b>188,468</b>

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

## **1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

### **1.1 Basis of Preparation**

The report covers The South Australian Ornithological Association as an individual parent entity and the consolidated group of the parent and its controlled entity Birds SA Conservation Fund. The South Australian Ornithological Association is an incorporated association and is domiciled in Australia.

#### *Historical Cost Convention*

The report has been prepared under the historical cost convention.

### **1.2 Principles of Consolidation**

The consolidated financial report incorporates the assets and liabilities of the subsidiary of The South Australian Ornithological Association as at 31 December 2010 and the results of the controlled entity for the year then ended. The South Australian Ornithological Association and its controlled entity are referred to in this Financial Report as "Consolidated".

### **1.3 Income Tax**

Due to an exemption provided by the Australian Taxation Office, no provision for Income Tax is necessary.

### **1.4 Government Grants**

Government grants relating to costs are deferred and recognised in the income statement over the period necessary to match them with the costs that they are intended to compensate.

### **1.5 Revenue Recognition**

Subscriptions from new members and non-members are recognised as income at the time they are received. Other subscriptions are recognised on an accruals basis. Other income is recognised on an accruals basis.

### **1.6 Accrued Income**

Represents amounts due but not received at the end of the financial year. As the item relates solely to interest due on investments it is considered that recovery is assured.

### **1.7 Property, Plant & Equipment**

The Library is included at the Committee's valuation and this was reviewed during the financial year.

All items of property, plant and equipment with an initial cost of less than \$3,000 is expensed at the time of purchase.

### **1.8 Trade and Other Payables**

These represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Outstanding amounts are usually settled within 30 days of receipt of an invoice.

## **2 Funding Commitments**

Birds SA Conservation Fund has approved the support of a research project for the study of Diamond Firetail. The outcomes of the proposed research will link insights from the Diamond Firetail mating and breeding biology to ecological processes that inform conservation management. The Conservation Fund has granted funding of \$3,000 per annum for the three years commencing 2011. Conditions are attached to the approval, including annual reporting of progress of the project to Birds SA. The contribution to the project is also subject to the project receiving funding from the Australian Research Council. A decision on that funding will not be finalised until March 2011 and so the commitment by the Birds SA Conservation Fund is contingent until that time.

### **3. Management Commentary**

#### **3.1 Revenue**

- Subscription revenue from members increased by 3.9% during the year with an increasing number of concessional subscriptions partly offsetting the increased level of fees. On a positive note, the number of members at the end of December was 613, up from 562 at the end of 2009.
- The flow of non-member subscriptions is fairly uneven and the fall is largely due to the reduction in the amount received in December 2010 compared with 2009. This is expected to be compensated for by an increased level of receipts in the first quarter of 2011.
- There was a dramatic increase in the level of donations to the Birds SA Conservation Fund during 2010, with one particularly generous donation.
- Field List sales fell during 2010, as would be expected, as this was the third year since the publication was produced. To the end of 2010 a surplus of \$180 has been achieved from sales of the publication.
- Income from Government Grants represents the amount of that grant spent on the Coastal Raptor Survey carried out by Terry Dennis.

#### **3.2 Expenditure**

- Costs of producing The South Australian Ornithologist were significantly higher in 2010, primarily as the result of the high cost of Part 8 of Volume 35, which was around \$1,800 more than the cost of a "regular" edition. Costs are likely to return to 2009 levels in 2011.
- After some time, an arrangement has been reached for payment of rent to the University of Adelaide for use of premises at the Waite Campus. As a result Birds SA has not been required to pay any rent for periods prior to 2010 and the accrual made in 2009 has been reversed. Rental costs for 2011 are expected to be \$3,172.
- Administration costs included one-off costs in relation to discussions with Birds South East (\$200) and linkage of bird observation records from Birdpedia to Birds SA (\$890). Other increases were largely due to the increased cost of postage and stationery.
- Expenditure on Publicity fell as a result of the change of internet service provider and there is likely to be a further fall in 2011.
- The membership brochure was reprinted in 2010 at a cost of \$360. Stocks are likely to last at least two years.
- Equipment costs of \$790 relate to the purchase of a document scanner, which will be used to convert older editions of The South Australian Ornithologist to digital format. This will enable the editions to be accessed via Birds SA's web site. The equipment will be sold once the task has been completed.
- Research grants expenditure during the year relates to two projects. First, the completion of the Coastal Raptor Survey (\$12,058), which was largely funded by a Government Grant. Second, a grant to a student (Lawrence Berry) of the Australian National University (\$3,665) to assist in the cost of a study of fire management practices in Pinkawillinie National Park as it relates to bird population recovery. Lawrence will give a presentation on his findings to a future General Meeting of Birds SA.

# News From the Library



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DAV

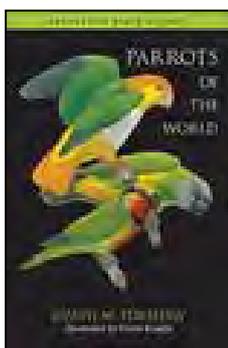
Davies, Alan

**The biggest twitch: around the world in 4,000 birds.**

London: Christopher Helm, 2010

ISBN 9781408123874

Ruth Miller and Alan Davies decided to pack in their jobs, sell their house and take on the ultimate birder's challenge — to smash the world record for the number of species seen in one calendar year. This book is the story of their great expedition, searching for birds from Ecuador to Ethiopia via Argentina, Australia and Arizona, the Peruvian highlands and lekking bustards in South Africa, all leading to the ultimate question — will they break the magic 4,000?



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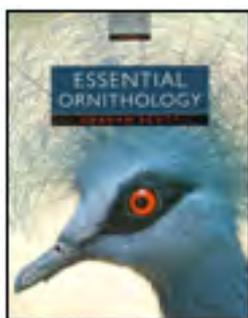
Forshaw, Joseph M

**Parrots of the world.** Joseph M Forshaw; illustrated by Frank Knight.

Collingwood, Vic: CSIRO Publishing, c 2010.

ISBN 9780643100572

From the macaws of South America to the cockatoos of Australia, this stunningly illustrated, easy-to-use field guide covers all 356 species and well-differentiated subspecies of parrots, and is the only guide organised by geographical distribution.



598

SCO

Scott, Graham

**Essential ornithology**

New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

ISBN 9780198569978

Essential Ornithology provides a concise but comprehensive introduction to the biology of birds. The book starts with the controversial question of the dinosaur origins of birds and their subsequent evolution. Development, anatomy, and physiology are then discussed followed by chapters devoted to avian reproduction, migration, ecology, and conservation. Sections dealing with aspects of bird/human relationships and bird conservation give the book an applied context.

# News From the Library (cont)/Easter Campout Details



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MAS

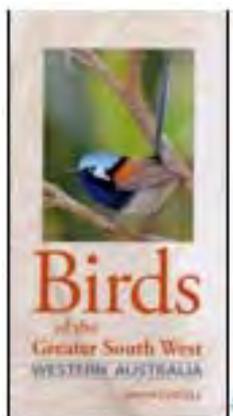
Mason, Peter Leslie

**Birds of the Yarra catchment: and where to find them**

Nunawading, Vic. Bird Observation & Conservation Australia : Yarra Valley Branch, 2010

ISBN 9780909711313

A full colour guide to the birds of the Yarra catchment area, from the mountains above Warburton and Healesville to the river mouth at Williamstown. A selection of 42 birdwatching areas has been made, with directions and the species you may be able to see.



598.29941

NEV

Nevill, Simon J.

**Birds of the Greater south west : Western Australia**

Perth: Simon Nevill Publications, 2008.

ISBN 9780980348125

A handy guide to the birds of South Western Australia with colour photographs and distribution maps.

## EASTER CAMPOUT

The Easter Campout will be held at Brookfield Conservation Park from Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April to Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. There will be no charge, but I will put out a collection box so that people can make a donation to Conservation Volunteers Australia (CV), which manages the Park. Our campsite will be at their headquarters.

Brookfield CP (5,534 hectares) is located 100 km North-East of Adelaide, on the Sturt Highway and 11 km west of Blanchetown. The Park is close to the River Murray and is part of the country of the Ngaiawang indigenous people of South Australia.

Please let me know if you are coming, as CV would like to know how many people will be there.

To find out more about CV and Brookfield, visit their website — [WWW.conservationvolunteers.com.au](http://WWW.conservationvolunteers.com.au) and search for 'brookfield'.

**David Robertson**

[drdeath@picknowl.com.au](mailto:drdeath@picknowl.com.au), phone 8278 7866

# Members' Photographs

## Heads and Shoulders



See details  
below



## Details of Photographs

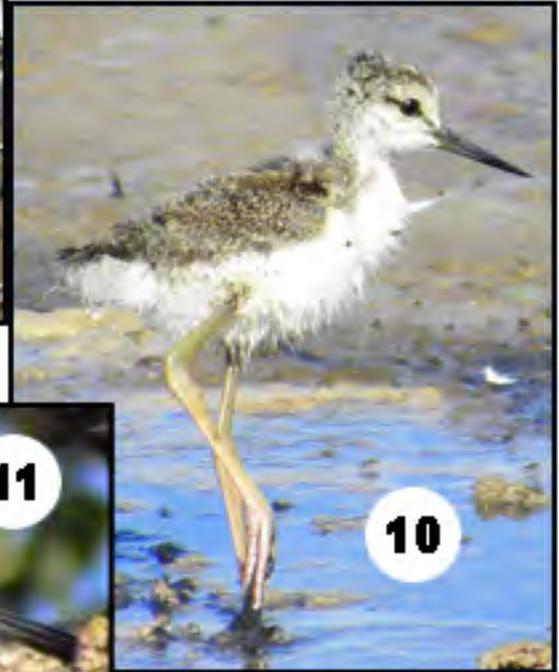
No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Great Knot	Kay Parkin	Cairns, Qld	12/11/2010
2	Pectoral Sandpiper	Trevor Cowie	Magazine Rd. Dry Creek	15/01/2011
3	Buff-banded Rail	Kay Parkin	Werribee, Vic	December 2010
4	Red Knot	Terri Randle	Thompson Beach	19/03/2010
5	Pied Oystercatcher	Scott White	Reeves Pt. Kingscote, K.I.	04/12/2010
6	Powerful Owl	Kay Parkin	Ivanhoe, Vic	December 2010
7	Crested Tern	Scott White	Emu Bay, K.I.	28/11/2010
8	Boobook Owl	Terri Randle	Tothill Ranges	26/04/2010
9	Square-tailed Kites	Kay Parkin	Near Williamstown	Early Nov, 2010
10	Black-winged Stilt	Margie Tiller	Price Salt Fields	04/02/2011
11	Satin Flycatcher	Kay Parkin	Telford Scrub	31/01/2011
12	White-plumed Honeyeater	Rodney Attwood	Highbury	Jan 2011
13	Tawny Frogmouth	Greg Dare	Seacombe Heights	01/11/2010

# *New Generations*

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See page 25 for details  
of all photographs





## Pink Eared Ducks

Photographed by Kay Parkin in a swamp on Patho Plains, Vic on 5/12/2010

### 4<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL MALLEEFOWL FORUM

Renmark, South Australia

29 July - 1 Aug 2011

You are invited to register your interest for the 4<sup>th</sup> National Malleefowl Forum, to be held at the Renmark Hotel. [Registration and pre-forum refreshments on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> July.](#)

Themes of the Forum include:

- → The role of community groups in Malleefowl conservation
- → Adaptive Management
- → The role of genetics in Malleefowl conservation
- → The role of fire in Malleefowl conservation
- → Malleefowl and remnants
- → Landscape-scale restoration projects

The organisers are currently calling for abstracts for both spoken and poster presentations.

For Registration/Call for Abstract forms, visit:

[www.malleefowlvictoria.org.au/](http://www.malleefowlvictoria.org.au/)

For further information contact:

Sharon Gillam, DENR, South Australia

On behalf of the National Malleefowl Forum Organising Committee

P: (08) 8222 9459 E: [sharon.gillam@sa.gov.au](mailto:sharon.gillam@sa.gov.au)

