

Birds SA



Newsletter

No 219

August 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.

PRINT POST APPROVED PP532699/00009

Four Quail-thrushes

Photographed by Greg Dare



Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush
photographed at Bowra Station QLD
on 18/9/2010

Spotted Quail-thrush
photographed in Girraween
NP QLD on 25/09/2010



Cinnamon Quail-thrush
photographed on the
Strzelecki Track SA
on 9/09/2007

Chestnut Quail-thrush
photographed in Brookfield CP SA
on 28/10/2020



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CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 37,
ERHARD FRANZ BOEHM PART 10

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Member	Lynton Huxley	8278 4313
Member	Greg Kerr	8276 5599

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.

Aug 28	Sunday	Excursion to Whites Dam CP

Sept 10	Saturday	Excursion to Charleston CP
Sept 15	Thursday	Excursion to Talisker CP
Sept 23	Friday	General Meeting
Sept 25	Sunday	Excursion to Clements Gap CP
Sept 30 to Oct 5		Campout at Ngarkat CP

Oct 15	Saturday	Excursion to Aldinga Scrub CP
Oct 20	Thursday	Excursion to Porters Scrub CP
Oct 28	Friday	General Meeting
Oct 30	Sunday	Excursion to Swan Reach CP

Nov 12	Saturday	Excursion to Scott Creek CP
Nov 17	Thursday	Excursion to M. Lofty Botanic Gdns
Nov 25	Friday	General Meeting
Nov 27	Sunday	Excursion to Onkaparinga Wetlands

Dec 10	Saturday	Excursion to Altona Reserve
Dec 15	Thursday	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands

Cover photo: Pheasant Coucal, photographed by Burt May at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island, Queensland in March 2011.

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 9 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p5.

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	0402123960
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
	email imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au	
Ongoing Atlas	Pat Bowie	8278 6048

RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

Birds Australia – South East SA

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Publicity Officer	Bob Green	8725 0549
Email	shriketit@bigpond.com	

Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact Person	Judith Dyer	8555 2736
Email	dyer.jm@gmail.com	

WEBSITE 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 November Newsletter is due by the October General Meeting (October 28). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be made on CD, or emailed to either of my email addresses, or typed/handwritten neatly.

- newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au
- cpy62284@bigpond.net.au

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationer

Birds SA Newsletter, August 2011

Birds SA Notes & News/Miscellaneous Items

RARE BIRD COMMITTEE

Colin Rogers and John Fennell are switching places on the Rare Bird Committee so that John can have a break from being the secretary. Submit your downloadable record submission form to:

Secretary, Birds SA Rare Bird Committee, 6 Flavel Avenue, Woodforde, ADELAIDE SA 5072 or email it to twitchercolin@gmail.com
Rare Bird Committee Members for 2011-2012 are Andrew Black, Graham Carpenter, John Fennell, John Hatch, Lynn Pedler and Colin Rogers (Secretary)

John Fennell

BIRDS SA CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The conservation subcommittee has reconvened for 2011 with seven members: Rodney Attwood; William Brooker; Nigel Gammon; David Hansman; Greg Kerr; Krystyna Rowland and John Spiers. The subcommittee meets on the first Tuesday of each month and is keen to hear from Birds SA members about issues of conservation significance that they are concerned about.

At the first meeting in July we discussed the most significant threats to conservation of birds in the state and prioritised those areas that we would like to tackle in 2011. A range of topics centred on concerns about wetlands, water birds and migratory waders and this theme became our primary focus.

Our first priority was to raise an awareness of the imminent threats to our shorebirds that is posed by habitat loss in the Yellow Sea; and to initiate some solutions. The vast majority of shorebirds visiting Australia or returning to the Northern Hemisphere to breed make an essential stop to rest and feed on mudflats around the Yellow Sea. Each year the Yellow Sea offers fewer mudflats and less food, because its estuaries and mud-banks are being turned into docks and harbours, lost to sea wall construction and pumped to backfill and form land behind the seawalls; to the detriment of local people and birds alike.

A range of actions has been identified. We first produced letters expressing the concerns of Birds SA and seeking a range of actions from the Australian, Chinese and Korean Governments. To this end letters have been sent from our President to:

- The Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities;
- The Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage;
- Senator Bob Brown, Leader of the Australian Greens;
- H. E. Mr. Chen Yuming, Chinese Ambassador to Australia;
- H. E. Dr. Kim Woo-Sang, Ambassador from the Republic of Korea to Australia;
- Dr Geoff Raby, Australian Ambassador to China; and
- Mr. Sam Gerovich, Australian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

We would like the Birds SA members to be actively involved in this program and to send letters to the Chinese, Korean and Australian Governments, pressuring them to stop the loss of mudflats in the Yellow Sea; asking them to follow through on the migratory bird agreements to which they are signatories; and specifically asking the Australian Government to propose the addition of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red listed Eastern Curlew and Great Knot onto Appendix 1 of the Convention of Migratory Species. To aid this endeavour we will be making a proforma letter available on the Birds SA web page, along with contact details for the officials listed above, together with supporting information to allow everyone to personalise their letters. All going well this information will be available by the next general meeting, and we will be providing materials to members interested in putting some letters together.

The next meeting of the conservation subcommittee will be held on Tuesday 6th September.

Greg Kerr, Convener

ADELAIDE'S RAVENS IN THE 'THIRTIES

A couple of days ago Andrew Black rang to ask if I could give him details of three clutches of ravens' eggs I collected as a 14 to 15 year old in Torrens Island and Dry Creek mangroves in 1935 and 1936 and which I donated to the South Australian Museum in June 1937 as eggs of the Australian Raven. In those days all local ravens were called Australian Ravens but in 1967 CSIRO scientist Ian Rowley recognised that there were two distinct species and ours is now known to be the Little Raven. Andrew wanted to know if I could be confident of the identity of the parent birds because there was always the possibility that both species had been present in earlier times. Moreover mangroves were included in HANZAB as a potential habitat for Australian but not Little Ravens and the museum had no specimen of an Australian Raven from near Adelaide.

I well remember the time when Ian Rowley's revelation was published because I read and kept all his papers and there was a good deal of discussion amongst SAOA members at the time that there was something 'funny' about our local birds. I had been particularly familiar with them earlier because, not only had I taken eggs from the mangroves as a youngster, but I had taken two or three nestlings for pets (as was common in post depression times). I kept one that I named 'Ben' at home in Prospect for several years until an ex-farmer-neighbour who objected to his dawn calls and, like all farmers then, hated 'crows' persuaded my mother that the bird had to go. Museum Curator of Birds Herb Condon also had one but his was caged and wasn't as handsome or well groomed as Ben who had free range of the almond trees from where he would glide to my feet to welcome me home from school. Both birds eventually went to the Adelaide Zoo.

Ben grew to adult-hood in my care with irises turning from "hazel" to white but his throat hackles were never as long as those Rowley showed to be characteristic of Australian Ravens. When I fed him the hackles became obvious as he

Miscellaneous Items (cont)

parked meat scraps in his 'pouch' before taking them to a store below the grape-vines for safe-keeping (and returned for more). I also knew Ben's plumage well and am confident that the area under his lower mandible was well feathered, unlike the extensive bare area I have since seen in Australian Raven specimens. After the Little Raven became recognised as a species I knew I had never recorded the Australian Raven on the Adelaide Plains but I was quite certain of the identity of one that I saw and heard giving its long, mournful call in open mallee country east of Truro around 1970. That was the closest to Adelaide that I remember ever identifying an Australian Raven.

Ravens were common around Adelaide before World War Two and small flocks totalling 30 or more would fly south to the west of our house early each morning towards the city where they could be seen later in the day, scavenging in places like North Terrace. I am sure that the ravens I knew so well in suburban Adelaide then were all Little Ravens including those whose eggs and nestlings I collected in the thirties. I can therefore confirm that Little as well as Australian Ravens can occupy mangroves. They certainly nested in the mangroves of eastern St. Vincent Gulf back then and I presume they still do.

R. F. (Bob) Brown

WINGED SENTINELS: Birds and Climate Change

'The ability of the birds to show us the consequences of our own actions is among their most important and least appreciated attributes. Despite the free advice of the birds, we do not pay attention', said Marjory Stoneman Douglas in 1947.

A recently published book from Cambridge University Press: Winged Sentinels: Birds and Climate Change explores the responses of birds from around the globe to climate change; from ice-dependent penguins of Antarctica to songbirds that migrate across the Sahara. Winged Sentinels uses colourful examples to show how particular groups of birds face heightened threats from climate change, and to explore how we can help birds to adapt in a warming world. Generously illustrated with colour photographs the book is a fascinating insight into what climate change means for birds, and the potential consequences of ignoring these warning signs.

Furthermore the Australian publishers are able to offer a 20% discount off the purchase price of \$39.95 to members of Birds SA who would like to purchase a copy for themselves. For more information about the book, visit the following website:

<http://www.cambridge.org/aus/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521126823> and enter discount code WINGED 11 at the checkout.

ADVERTISEMENT

VOLUNTEER CALLED FOR AT BON BON RESERVE, SA

Dates: 3 – 12 October

Bush Heritage Australia (BHA) is a non-profit conservation organisation dedicated to protecting Australia's biodiversity. Bon Bon Reserve is a conservation property located at the geographical centre of SA on the Stuart Highway. For details see <http://www.bushheritage.org.au>

Volunteer Role:

The volunteer will accompany a Bird Surveyor as a scribe and general assistant. Surveys using the Bird Minute Method will be completed at 50 sites across 216 700 hectares. This is a good opportunity for a volunteer who is keenly interested in bird-call and song recognition to listen, learn and help generate new knowledge.

Requirements:

To be eligible for the position, the volunteer must have good hearing and listening skills, good written English and legible handwriting. The position will suit someone self-reliant in the bush and happy to get up before the birds. Familiarity with bird names in the arid zone will be an advantage.

Logistics:

BHA will provide accommodation, on-site transportation, equipment and some support with out-of-pocket expenses. The volunteer is required to arrange their own food and transport to the reserve.

Applications close 16 September. Selection processes apply, for information, please call Heidi Fisher on 03 8610 9102 or email hfisher@bushheritage.org.au

NEW MEMBERS

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

Stefan & Hugh Michalski	HEATHFIELD
Robert Clemens	BARDON
Nathan Cini & Larissa Schinella	COLLINSWOOD
Nattawoot Intarakhamhaeng & Daisy Miller	UNLEY
Steven Langley	JOSLIN
Robert Martin	SALISBURY HEIGHTS

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our treasurer. His 'phone number is on p3.



Grey Butcherbird
Photographed by Neville Harris
at Chowilla Reserve in June 2011

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

MORETON BAY SHOREBIRDS A new study using QWSG data reports worrying declines in Moreton Bay shorebirds, and highlights the value of regular monthly counting

I, like many in Australia, have marvelled at the clouds of migratory shorebirds that visit our shores each year. Many of us are further amazed by the incredible physical endurance and navigational skills that must be required for these birds to travel thousands of kilometres each year. Increasingly though, shorebird counters are seeing fewer shorebirds around now than just a few years ago. For example, it was recently reported that the Curlew Sandpiper has decreased by 80% throughout southern Australia over the past 25 years. On top of this, there are increasing reports of habitat destruction in the staging sites used by migratory species in SE Asia. It is therefore not surprising that many of us are concerned about the plight of migratory shorebirds.

The remarkable long-term shorebird population monitoring counts that have been conducted throughout Australia offer a unique opportunity to try to analyse and document the declines in shorebird populations. A new scientific paper due to appear in the journal *Conservation Biology*, 'Analyzing Variability and the Rate of Decline of Migratory Shorebirds in Moreton Bay, Australia' gives us some insights into how our existing long-term data can be put to work using new sophisticated modelling techniques to detect changes before they become catastrophic.

The paper, by researchers Howard Wilson, Bruce Kendall, Richard Fuller, David Milton and Hugh Possingham, highlighted the usefulness of doing monthly counts, as well as the differences between

using simple versus more rigorous analyses techniques. Specifically, the study looked at 15 years of shorebird population monitoring data collected by QWSG volunteers at shorebird roosts throughout Moreton Bay. Monthly surveys on this scale represent a huge logistical effort, and substantial input of time by many QWSG volunteers. This new paper highlights how that extra effort allows trends to be identified for more species than would have been uncovered if counts were done just once in summer and once in winter. The sophisticated modelling techniques employed in this study would probably not have been possible to run on most computers 10 to 20 years ago, but the techniques are particularly suited to data with large amounts and different types of variability. They are well suited to estimating how much our shorebird populations have changed, and how confident we can be that these changes are real. The paper uncovered strong evidence of long-term declines in Moreton Bay populations of White-winged Black Tern, Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Greenshank, Great Knot and Whimbrel, with evidence of an increase in Red-necked Stint (probably owing to the Port of Brisbane reclamation). There was some evidence of decline in another 4 species, and some evidence of increases in another 3. Interestingly, this paper showed that if counts had only been done twice a year in Moreton Bay, declines would have only been detected in four species; the Bar-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, Whimbrel and Eastern Curlew. These results highlight the question: how much evidence do we need to decide when species are in decline?

In order to understand how to interpret the results, it is worth first

reviewing what might affect the numbers of birds counted. In the simplest case we might expect bird abundances to stay level, which would mean the abundance counts shouldn't change. Now anyone who has ever counted shorebirds knows that if you do multiple counts, even when they are at a similar time of year, they will not be the same. At a local level, falcons can zip by leaving no shorebirds at the roost where you usually count, or poor weather can make it hard to count accurately, or push the birds around the corner so you can't see them. Furthermore, across large areas, such as the whole of Moreton Bay, there are considerable logistical difficulties in counting all the birds in one area at one time. This results in counts that, if plotted over time would not be identical even if the actual bird population was not changing. Additionally, at a broader scale, one season the birds spend in the arctic might be particularly good with a long warm summer, with plenty of food and few predators around resulting in more young coming to Australia, while the following year might be a bad one. These natural fluctuations in numbers occur in every wild animal population, but they occur to different degrees in different species. All these sources of variation obscure underlying patterns in the bird abundances, whether that pattern is the population staying constant over time, or increasing or decreasing.

A simple model, such as linear regression, will assume that all the variation comes from one source (usually the variation in our ability to count the birds accurately). However, the recent paper by Howard Wilson and colleagues compared these simple methods with recently developed randomly determined

Giving Them Wings (cont)

state-space models to account for many more sources of variation in bird counts, a much more realistic model. Simple population analyses techniques were more likely to identify population declines when there was in fact no decline happening. The more complex randomly determined state-space models are less powerful at detecting change but give rise to fewer 'false alarms'.

It is clearly beneficial to have comprehensive techniques that result in less doubt that the identified decline in a population is in fact happening, and which can then be used as compelling evidence of a problem when talking to decision makers. However, is it better to be more certain about the declines we do report, or should we identify all species that are possibly declining even if this gives rise to some false alarms? One solution is to make the scientific reporting complete enough to do both, as was done in this paper, so that the difference between those we are sure about and those with some evidence of decline can be made clear. In the case of QWSG, the paper shows clearly how monthly surveys enable greater scientific certainty regarding the changes in population abundance.

The shorebird monitoring data that has been collected over the last 25 years represents one of the best, most systematically collected long-term data sets in Australia: a data set which represents many thousands of hours of work by volunteers throughout the country. It is exciting to know that now a team of researchers at the University of Queensland led by Richard Fuller, Howard Wilson and Hugh Possingham will be extending the work discussed here. Supported by QWSG, DERM, the Port of Brisbane, the federal environment department, and the Australian Research Council, the team will determine if the results observed in Moreton Bay reflect what is happening throughout the East-Asian Australasian flyway. This project will be further assisted through the

valuable input from those who have collected data from throughout the country, including representatives from each of the following organisations: Australasian Wader Studies Group, Bird Observation and Conservation Australia, Birds Australia, Birds Australia Western Australia, Birds Tasmania, Friends of Shorebirds SE, Friends of Streaky Bay District Parks, Hunter Bird Observers Club, New South Wales Wader Study Group, Ornithological Society of New Zealand, The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc. (Birds SA), Victorian Wader Study Group, and Wetlands International. More importantly, the team will also try to uncover what is driving these declines.

For more information or to download a pdf copy of this paper, visit www.fullerlab.org

Rob Clemens, School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland (r.clemens@uq.edu.au)

FOURTH NATIONAL MALLEEFOWL FORUM

Over the weekend of 29th July to 1st August 2011, an eclectic collection of landholders, scientists, conservation volunteers, and government officials gathered in the Renmark Hotel for the 4th National Malleefowl Conference. Among the crowd were Birds SA members Teresa Jack, Peter Gower, and Lizzy Lewis.

National Recovery Plan for Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata*

Guiding the activities of all those involved in Malleefowl conservation is the 'National Recovery Plan for Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata*' drafted by Dr. Joe Benshemesh of La Trobe University, under the auspices of the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC). The plan has a primary objective and 18 specific objectives.

Recovery Plan Objectives

The primary objectives of this plan are to secure existing populations across the species' range and achieve de-listing of Malleefowl under the EPBC Act within 20 years.

Specific Objectives:

Managing Populations

- 1: Reduce permanent habitat loss
- 2: Reduce the threat of grazing pressure on Malleefowl populations
- 3: Reduce fire threats
- 4: Reduce predation
- 5: Reduce isolation of fragmented populations
- 6: Promote Malleefowl-friendly agricultural practices
- 7: Reduce Malleefowl mortality on roads

Planning, Research, and Monitoring

- 8: Provide information for regional planning
- 9: Monitor Malleefowl and develop an adaptive management framework
- 10: Determine the current distribution of Malleefowl
- 11: Examine population dynamics: longevity, recruitment and parentage
- 12: Describe habitat requirements that determine Malleefowl abundance
- 13: Define appropriate genetic units for management of Malleefowl
- 14: Assess captive breeding and re-introduction of Malleefowl
- 15: Investigate infertility and agrochemicals

- 16: Facilitate communication between groups
- 17: Raise public awareness through education and publicity
- 18: Manage the recovery process

Community Involvement and Project Coordination

- 16: Facilitate communication between groups
 - 17: Raise public awareness through education and publicity
 - 18: Manage the recovery process
- (A copy of the Recovery Plan can be downloaded from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/recovery/malleefowl/index.html>.)

Proceedings

Peter Sandell, outgoing chairman of the National Malleefowl Recovery Team opened with a welcome and outlined the major themes to be discussed at the conference. These were fire, genetics, the national database and the role of community groups.

Giving Them Wings (cont)

The first session, presented by **Peter Copley**, Senior Ecologist with DENR, was a performance evaluation of progress since the previous National Forum held at Katanning, WA in 2007. Results were patchy. Excellent progress has been made in monitoring and the development of a national database recording monitoring results, and in research into aspects of fire management and genetics. Very little progress, however, has been made in other aspects of the plan such as managing populations, raising community awareness, understanding population dynamics and habitat requirements. In many cases lack of clearly stated objectives and inadequate recording of results made it impossible to gauge progress objectively.

A key aspect of the National plan is the regular monitoring of a sample of Malleefowl mounds in sites extending throughout the southern half of Australia, from the southwest of Western Australia to Victoria. Monitored mounds fall within surveyed grids, and constitute a sample of the population of mounds. Changes in the number of mounds, and their condition, can be extended to the population as a whole, and can be used to assess the effects of changes in weather, habitat and management practices. Monitoring is usually accomplished by on ground visitation to mounds, previously located by line searches through the scrub. However the forum also learnt of surveying by helicopter (NSW), and the use of sand plots to detect Malleefowl tracks as employed in remote aboriginal lands in South Australia.

Dr. Joe Benshemesh described the development of a web-based national database to house the results. It must be secure, but allow controlled access to users to both enter and retrieve data. Leaders of community groups then described work within their regions in collecting data for the database. The enormous annual effort required was impressive, but so too was the enthusiasm of the volunteers that regularly perform these tasks,



Dr Jo Benshemesh
Photographed by
Peter Gower

some having done so for twenty years and more.

Fire is a major threat to the Malleefowl. It not only kills birds but also destroys their habitat. Breeding may not occur for up to 17 years after a fire, with the birds preferring mallee that had not had fire for 30-60 years. The requirement in Victoria following the 2009 bushfires for 5% burning per year is therefore a major problem. Research into the role of fire was presented by the newly minted Doctors **Blair Parsons** and **Simon Watson**. Blair described research in the wheat belt of Western Australia where he and his colleague G.C. Gosper investigated:

- whether fire regimes differed between remnants of different sizes and uncleared vegetation,
- vegetation structural responses to time since fire in different habitats, and
- exploring the consequences of these differences to the Malleefowl.

Their study showed how fire management must be tailored to the specific habitat and landscape context of the site. In small remnants, controlled fires may be necessary to maintain suitable Malleefowl habitat. In larger remnants the emphasis needs to be on preventing and limiting wildfires.

Simon reported on the results of a large-scale project, the *Mallee, Fire and Biodiversity Project*, a

collaborative research project between La Trobe and Deakin Universities. This very large project sampled the flora and fauna in 28 landscapes selected to represent different combinations of fire history across the Murray Mallee region of Victoria, SA and NSW. It produced a mass of data concerning the distribution of fire age-classes across the region and post-fire changes in vegetation structure and vertebrate biodiversity. A key finding was that the greater the number of patches with different ages since fire in an area, the greater the biodiversity in that area, or, as Simon put it: "Pyrodiversity begets biodiversity".

The role of community groups and individual landholders was discussed in some detail. Volunteers are essential to the surveying and monitoring aspects of Malleefowl conservation. However, individual landowners with a passion for conservation are the largely unsung heroes. It was fascinating to hear of the personal time and effort they put into this work and the considerable financial cost they incur. This is in a context of declining rural populations and reduced farming incomes through the effects of drought, rising costs and poor produce prices. The uncertainty associated with short-term Government funding of projects, which need to operate for long periods, is no small factor in the pressure they experience.

A highlight of the Forum was the presentation by **Taneal Cope** on the work she is doing on the conservation genetics of Malleefowl. Understanding the genetic status of Malleefowl populations is of great importance because many populations are contained in small isolated fragments. Small populations typically have reduced genetic variation because of mating between close relatives and random loss of alleles over time (genetic drift). Taneal extracts both mitochondrial and chromosomal DNA from feathers. There has been little problem in obtaining mitochondrial DNA from all parts of the feather, but chromosomal DNA,

Giving Them Wings (cont)

which is only found in the tip of the shaft, is more difficult to obtain. It needs to be supplemented by DNA from dead birds (e.g. road kill) or egg membranes.

Her investigations cover three main aspects:

Phylogeography and population structure. Results obtained so far show little evidence of a population structure (i.e. no races or subspecies). The indication is that a population was isolated in the SW of Western Australia during the Pleistocene and has spread eastward relatively recently. One indicator of this is the resistance to 1080 found in birds living in areas where there are no plants producing 1080, such as *Gastrolobium*.

Mating systems and reproductive behaviour. The indication is that Malleefowl are generally monogamous and that the male bird at a mound is the father of all the chicks that hatch from it. Taneal's work supports this contention. A case has been found where a male managed two mounds and had two females.

Inbreeding and gene flow. Malleefowl are reluctant fliers and do not readily disperse over open country. Populations isolated physically are therefore likely to be isolated genetically which may lead to inbreeding depression and susceptibility to novel diseases and other stresses. Taneal will now investigate these important topics.

Another important research study was conducted in South Australia in

the past year. This was an investigation into the effects of locust control activities on Malleefowl nesting success. **Ellen Ryan-Coultan** described how clutch size, laying rates, hatching success and other characteristics were compared for mounds that were variously:

- between 200 metres and 5 kilometres from aerial and ground based spraying activities (SPRAY),
- more than 4 kilometres from ground-based spraying and had no aerial spraying (LIGHT), and
- not subject to spraying (CONTROL).

No spray residues were detected in feather, scat or membrane samples and the results did not show any deleterious effects of spraying. However the study did reveal large variation in hatching success between individual mounds even on the same site. Disappointingly some mounds had very poor hatching rates, including samples from Ferries-McDonald C.P. Whether this was the result of the drought, inbreeding depression, or some other factor is currently unknown.

Dr Joe Benshemesh discussed adoption of the Adaptive Management methodology for Malleefowl conservation. Conservation is often a question of crisis management in an uncertain world. The appropriate strategy to use for conserving a species is often unknown but the species is declining fast and something needs to be done urgently. Conservation action cannot wait until the results of research studies are known. Adaptive management is a process whereby management activities themselves are seen as experiments. The results are closely monitored and future management actions modified in the light of lessons learnt. Joe sees this as the next step for Malleefowl conservation. Money is to be sought from the Federal government and the methodology applied. Adaptive Management is being used in many situations but seldom is it being applied in the proper formal manner. Joe is determined to see its use in

Malleefowl conservation become a model for other situations.

Among the displays were the impressive results of static cameras erected on active mounds. The cameras are left unmanned at the mound for extended periods. Motion sensors trigger the taking of a photograph. They enable detailed studies of the bird's behaviour to be captured and events such as visits to the mound by foxes to be recorded. They offer an avenue for obtaining valuable data that could not be gathered in any other way.

Vaughan Willams of Zoos SA described the work being done to establish a captive breeding population at Monarto Zoo. Such a population, if achieved, would form a valuable insurance against loss by fire of a population in a small remnant area.

At the end of the Forum future steps to be taken were considered. The most important of these were:

- continued development of the national database
- implementation of Adaptive Management
- improved communication between members of the Malleefowl conservation community whether by newsletter or website

Ms Sharon Gillam of DENR, South Australia was elected as the new Chair of the National Malleefowl Recovery Team. Sharon was responsible for the organisation of the Forum, and, if the excellent organisation of this event is anything to go by, Malleefowl conservation is in a safe pair of hands.

Note: Birds SA members finding feathers at a mound should place these in an envelope. Do not touch the quill and particularly its tip. Dead birds, or fragments thereof, and egg membranes should be placed in foil and stored in a freezer. If you then take them to the museum they will forward them to Taneal. You need also to provide information of when and where (GPS location if possible) the remains were found.

John Fennell



Tanael Cope

Photographed by Peter Gower

Past & Future Meetings

PAST GENERAL MEETINGS

Friday, 29 April

Stuart Hull introduced the speaker for the evening Dr Gregg Kerr. The talk was titled "Migratory Birds and Habitat Loss in the Yellow River and Yellow Sea — Out of sight ... Out of mind!!!"

Dr Kerr began with an overview of his talk

- The Yellow River
Habitat and threats to bird species
Examples of existing reserves
Flow dependent birds
- The Yellow Sea
Habitat and threats
Recent surveys on the Bohai Sea
What can we do?

The east Asian Australasian flyway stretches from the middle of Siberia to Alaska in the North, compressing through eastern Asia, and then spreading across south east Asia to Australia and New Zealand. More than 50 species of shorebird migrate up and down this flyway, along with hundreds of other species.

The Yellow River (Huang He) Basin is 5,464 km in length (Murray Darling 3,375 km) and the basin area is 752,443km² (MD 1,061,469km²). The river cuts through a loess mantle 100-200 m thick and 275,600km² in area. Around 76% of the loess area suffers severe soil erosion.

Threats to the Yellow River — Loss of floodplain and wetlands

- A few valuable riverine wetlands remain in the braided upper reach of the lower Yellow River, where the river still actively shifts its course.
- Wetlands along the lower Yellow River in Henan (Xiaolangdi to Dongbatou) – 19 % reduction in riverine wetland area between 1987 and 2002 (Liang and Ding, 2004). The total area of rice wetland increased, but other types (beach, bulrush and pool) decreased.
- Wetlands in Kaifeng City between 1987 and 2002 – 45% reduction the area of natural wetland

Threats to the Yellow River — Population

- In 2000, the population within the Yellow River basin was about 110 million (Miao et al., 2010) by 2006 it had reached about 113 million, and it was projected to be 120 million by 2010 (Zhu et al., 2003).
- The catchment includes 12.6Mha under agriculture, of which 40% is irrigated with water sourced from the Yellow River (Xia et al., 2002).

Threats to the Yellow River — Fringing habitat

- The area adjacent to the river is being used more and more for agriculture

Threats to the Yellow River — Timing and Extent of Flow

- 14 hydroelectric power stations
- 4 major dams Sanmenxia (1960), Liujiaxia (1968), Longyangxia (1986), Xiaolangdi (1999).

Over the last five decades, reduced flooding in the delta area, associated with natural flow reduction and regulation by dams, has led to:

- saltwater intrusion, and increased soil salinisation (Qi and Luo, 2007; Zhang and Zhao, 2010).
- lowered seawater temperature during the fish breeding season from April to June, which has reduced nutrient levels and reduced primary productivity, which has contracted fish production and changed species composition (Fan and Huang, 2008).
- a reduction in the ability of fish to return to the estuary after breeding (Fan and Huang, 2008).
- The essential character of the lower Yellow River delta, which contains a Ramsar listed wetland area, is partly reliant on its rapid rate of seaward progradation, which gives rise to very active plant succession.
- At Lijin the river ceased to flow for >200 days during 1998

Yellow River and Yellow Sea — Waterbird habitat

In China the waterbirds can be split into four groups

- summer breeding migrants which migrate north to breed in spring and summer, before departing

south again in autumn to avoid the colder period of the year

- winter migrants seeking refuge from the more extreme climate to the north
- transient spring (northward moving) and autumn (southward moving) migrants
- resident species

Example of a flow dependent species — Swan Goose, critically endangered:

- overwinters in China in lowland lake side marshes, estuaries and tidal flats
- preferentially feed on submerged macrophyte tubers, particularly those of *Vallisneria spiralis*, typically made successively available from muddy lake sediments by winter water level recession
- low summer water levels reduce the extent of deep water habitat available to *Vallisneria*
- Mud flats that are exposed to falling water levels too early in the year may become dry and too hard for birds to be able to dig for and feed on plant tubers
- Also Hooded Crane, Tundra Swans, and Siberian Crane

The Yellow Sea

- Average depth 46 m, 26 m in the Bo Hai
- Area of 458,000 km²
- Total mudflat area = ~ 20,000 km²
- In the Bo Hai the intertidal areas are frozen during winter.

The Yellow Sea — Threats to Shorebirds

- Habitat loss and alteration due to reclamation for industrial development, agricultural land, salt works, housing, mariculture and freshwater development
- Water quality deterioration – oil, inorganic phosphorous, inorganic nitrogen, heavy metals, industrial effluent and domestic sewerage
- Reduced river flow – reduced sediment transported – loss of fresh silt and nutrients to intertidal flats

All these factors reduce finfish and shellfish biomass and contaminate these food sources.

Past & Future Meetings (cont)

- Hunting – e.g. clap traps and mist nets

The **pumping boats** pump mud from the inter-tidal flats, to a depth of 15m, through pipes and over the seawall into the adjacent salt ponds. This is to create 'solid ground' that can then be developed with industry. At the same time new sea walls are being built around the mudflats and this area is then filled in and developed. This method of 'reclamation' is widely used in the Yellow Sea and is very effective for its purpose. Enormous areas of intertidal mud flats have been converted to industrial land in this way. The China Marine Environment Monitoring Centre estimates that between 2006 and 2010, 1000 km² of land were reclaimed each year in China

The current study site comprises 25km in length of inter-tidal flats.

The Yellow Sea — Habitat Loss

Mudflats lost to 2002 (Barter 2002):

- approximately 37% of the intertidal areas existing in the Chinese portion of the Yellow Sea in 1950
- 43% of those in South Korea in 1917
- reclamation of intertidal areas for food production in North Korea has been a national priority for many years
- S. Korea – Saemangeum 40,100 ha tidal flat lost – loss of 90,000 great knot, & 9 other sp 30% decline.

Future Plans:

- China: Plans to reclaim 45% of existing Yellow Sea mudflats (Yuan *et al.* 2001)
- South Korea: Plans to reclaim 34% of existing Yellow Sea mudflats (Moore *et al.* 2001)

The Yellow Sea – Shorebird significance

- At least 2 000 000 shorebirds use the region in northward migration (40% of flyway)
- About 1 000 000 in southward migration
- 27 known sites with internationally significant numbers (>1% of flyway population) for at least one species

- 36 shorebird species in internationally significant numbers

- At least 6 sites support 15 or more species (including YRD)
- Four sites have >20% of the flyway population for a species (e.g. Eurasian curlew and Kentish plover at YRD) (Barter 2002)

The Yellow Sea – Habitat Loss in Bohai Bay 1994-2009

Between 1994 and 2009, approximately 453 km² of sea area, including 156 km² of intertidal mudflats have been destroyed, a 36% loss of the total mudflat area of 428km². Roebucks Bay's (Broome Bird observatory) Mudflat Area is 175km².

The current study site comprises inter-tidal flats of 25km in length. Five km of this length, known to us as Zuidong, will not be available to shorebirds at all for next spring's migration. Right now, all mudflats of the Zuidong area are being reclaimed. This is in addition to the major reclamation of Caofeidian immediately further east that is approaching completion. Parts of the seaward impoundments at the Nanpu area have already been filled in, with the mudflats offshore showing many holes from dredging. Also the Nanpu area is bordered on the east by the dam to the Nanpu Oil Field artificial island, and the island itself. The relatively least-disturbed area is Beipu. The very muddy Beipu mudflats (home to tens of thousands Curlew Sandpipers and Red Knots in late May 2010) are harvested by the relatively affluent villagers of Beipu village. Nevertheless, rumours have it that dredging and the infilling of the seaward impoundment will also start here soon.

Some Bohai survey results (56 days observation)

- Over 3000 flagged birds sighted from 21 banding sites
- 8 individual Red Knots were counted on 2 April. This increased to 800 by 14 April and the peak of 4,958 was present during the count on 2-4 May.
- EAAF populations – 30% of the Curlew Sandpiper, 45.6% of the migrating Knot population

(mature adults) were using the area during northward migration.

- It is not known where the Red Knots go in the southerly migration

China's International Commitments

- China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA). Signed 1986
- The Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. China is not a signatory to the CMS. But, a signatory to the MOU on Siberian Cranes
- Ramsar. China is a contracting party to the Ramsar Convention. Signed in July 1992. They have 37 designated Ramsar Sites
- The only site in the Yellow River and Bohai Sea is the Yellow River delta
- Wetlands of International Significance.

What can we do about it?

- Form a group within Birds SA?
- Lobby for a Nanpu-Beipu international reserve?
- Establish contacts with bird observer clubs in China
 - Bird Watch China www.cbw.org.cn
 - Beijing Bird Watchers Club
- ????????????

Friday May 27

Vice-President John Hatch introduced the speaker Jeremy Robertson. The title of Jeremy's talk was 'Bird song and hearing'. Jeremy explained about his research work, which is with bird song and bio-acoustics. Jeremy said that birds have a syrinx while we have a larynx. Bird song is a means of communication i.e. providing **information** by a **sender** to a **receiver**, and subsequent **use** of that information by the receiver in deciding how to **respond**. This can be either a signal or a cue. With a signal the information that benefits the sender is *intentionally* sent: e.g. begging in baby birds, sex pheromones in moths, alarm calls to warn conspecifics. Conversely, in a cue the information is *inadvertently*

Past & Future Meetings (cont)

supplied to the receiver and it does not benefit the sender: e.g. footsteps of deer rustling leaves, predators homing in on alarm calls.

All signals must be propagated through an environment, which alters their quality. Lekking birds chose display areas where the lighting will emphasize their fancy plumage. Mammals scent-mark posts where the chemical will be more easily detected, but the chemical will fade with time, and other chemicals might interfere. Low frequency sounds propagate better in dense forest, high frequency sounds are better in open areas.

Communication probably evolved so it can be used to assess behaviour, physiology or morphology. Receiving mechanisms evolved for efficient and reliable reception. Signals evolved for efficient transmission to and manipulation of the receiver. The signal is transmitted from sender to receiver by touch, smell, vision or sound. Different channels have costs and benefits depending on the environment and the information being transmitted.

There are pros and cons for the channels of communication:

<u>Channel</u>	<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
Touch	Fast	Need contact
Smell	Slow	Diffuses, long lasting
Vision	Fast	Line of sight, diurnal
Sound	Fast	Diffuses

Smell is the oldest communication channel and is used throughout the animal kingdom *except* by most species of birds. Smell tends to be used for mate identification; attraction; signalling sexual receptivity; spacing mechanisms, alarms. Odours (Pheromones) are important in mammals, including humans. Vision is extremely important in birds. The main issue is that it is largely diurnal and requires line of sight.

We know much more about sound production than we do about hearing. It has long been suspected that birds are capable of hearing complex features beyond human abilities, but evidence is difficult to find.

Production of complex sounds is sometimes accompanied by unusual capabilities in perception, attention, memory and learning. Like humans, birds acquire abilities by exposure.

A perennial issue is the common assumption that other organisms perceive the world in the same way as we do. I previously gave a talk showing our commonly held view of birds' brains is incorrect. Similarly, it is now well known that birds can see u.v. light and thus see in a different way. Evidence suggests that birds see colours in ways we cannot imagine. Humans have three photo pigments that sub-optimally cover the visible spectrum. Birds have similar photo pigments that optimally cover the visible spectrum, but they also have a fourth pigment that is sensitive to u.v. light.

A bird's inner ears are much smaller than those of an equal-sized mammal. There are more hair cells in birds' ears and their arrangement is much more complex. Birds' ears are not fully understood and their complexity may mean that they have unknown hearing mechanisms. Some birds (e.g. Zebra Finches) are exceedingly good at discriminating changes in harmonics. Unlike many mammals, birds have no external ears, and this probably affects the directionality of their hearing. A single ear bone, compared with humans three bones, reduces birds' ability to hear high frequencies; Birds can match humans in 1% frequency discrimination. Although they are poorer than humans in discriminating intensity, birds equal humans at the 'cocktail party' effect. Birds' calls are acoustically simple and convey messages associated with the immediate environment, such as danger, feeding, nesting, and flocking. Their songs are longer, more complex, more tonal, and are used in the context of competition for resources, such as mates or territory. Superb Fairy-wrens' aerial alarm calls – for raptors – differ from their terrestrial alarm calls – for foxes and Currawongs.

Some birds have dialects that are characteristic of specific regions. For example, year-old Chaffinches learn

their local dialect, which is quite distinct from dialects in other areas.

Male Palm Cockatoos use a piece of stick as a drumstick. When calling and displaying to attract females they hold the stick with one foot and bang it against a hollow log.

Some birds are remarkable mimics. Song development in Swamp Sparrows depends on hearing others. Male Chaffinches need 10 months to learn 2-6 songs. Some birds need to hear their song to maintain its quality.

It is difficult to find out what birds actually hear, but it seems reasonable to assume that birds can hear the sounds they produce. Most of what we know is based on playback of sound to trained captive birds, such as Budgerigars, Zebra Finches, Starlings and Canaries.

Research findings indicate that birds' brains are as complex as mammal brains, but are probably 3-10 times faster.

Birds' ears have a smaller frequency range but are 3-8 times better at discriminating temporal differences. Thus birds hear in a completely different way...

Just as with birds' brains and vision it is incorrect to assume birds hear like we do;

There are similarities but the faster discrimination of the bird ear (and brain?) means they can hear temporal features we completely miss. You can get some idea of what they hear by listening to slowed down recordings, but this alters the pitch too.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has found that Club-winged Manakins, *Machaeropterus deliciosus*, make sounds by vibrating their feathers.

Communication and conservation — acoustic signals and anthropogenic noise. Male Great Tits increase the frequency of their songs in noisy, urban environments. If females prefer low frequencies, how will noise affect mate attraction? If high frequencies are costly to produce, how will this affect the males?

Past & Future Meetings (cont)

Friday June 24

John Hatch introduced the speaker Julie Riordan. Julie has been researching Black-faced Cormorants (BFC) for the past 2.5 years as part of her PhD at University of South Australia under the supervision of Greg Johnston. Her talk was entitled "Family dynamics of cormorants – a study of conflict and co-operation".

The Black-faced Cormorant colony is found near the mouth of the Port River and their rookery is on the breakwater opposite the Royal SA yacht squadron. The cormorants breed during winter months (April – August) in this area, in contrast with other colonies in SA that have a summer breeding season. The population can reach 6000 individuals. This season (2011) it is around 2000 – 3000 individuals. The breakwater is also visited by various other species including Silver Gull, Australian Pelican, Pacific Gull (adult and juveniles) and various waders but generally during the winter it will be the odd Pied Oystercatcher. Both the Australian and New Zealand Fur Seals can be seen in the area.

Facts about the BFC

- Endemic to southern Australia
- Outer Harbour is their largest breeding colony
- Represented in 21 Australian Important Bird Areas
- Conservation status is poorly understood
- Limited research has been conducted on BFCs especially of their breeding biology.
- The few research projects that have been conducted on the Outer Harbour population are from the 1960s in which Waterman first described the colony and leg-banded approximately 1000 chicks and 120 adults.

More recently, in the 1990s, Julie's supervisor, Greg Johnston, in conjunction with Jeremy Robertson supervised a small group of students gathering preliminary data on the cormorants' breeding biology.

Julie is continuing that research by further expanding our knowledge of the birds' breeding biology, and particularly understanding the

behavioural interactions occurring within a family.

The BFC is a brood-reducer species, which means that they lay more eggs than are expected to survive to the age of fledging. Common characteristics that lead to brood reducing behaviors include:

- Hatching asynchrony, — nestlings are born in a staggered order, resulting in core and marginal offspring
- Having young that are dependent on parents for warmth, food and protection for a period of time after hatching
- Offspring restricted to a nest environment, which means that they are always in close proximity to siblings
- Having limited access to resources — such as food only being available when parents deliver it

So part of the first part of my PhD study involved collecting descriptive data to confirm whether BFC do actually show the above characteristics, and basically gain a general understanding of what is happening in the colony.

Julie monitored 120 nests from when the eggs were laid to when the chicks fledged. The main variables measured were clutch size, hatchling size, hatching asynchrony and chick survival. From this study it was found that:

- Clutch size ranges between 1 – 4 eggs. The average is approximately 3 eggs.
- Weight at hatching is about 32g
- Hatching asynchrony i.e. the time between when each egg is laid and hatched is approx 2.65 days.
- By the time the third chick hatches the first chick is already 5 days old.
- This creates a huge size difference between nestlings.

The first hatched chick weighs more than the 2nd or 3rd chick with the 1st chick being four times larger than the third chick and 1.5 times larger than the second chick. This size hierarchy influences the way the brood is structured in which there are two different categories of chicks within one brood — a younger 'marginal'

nestling that is smaller and submissive to their older 'dominant' or 'core' nestling. This type of brood structure can influence the way chicks behave within the nest. Another important finding was chick survival. The survival rate for the first chick increased with brood size. The second chick also shows an increase in survival as brood size increases.

High mortality is due to the breakwater being exposed to storms and king tides. In 2009 90% of the nestlings died and in 2011 all were washed away due to a king tide.

A brood manipulation experiment involved moving nestlings from different nests into a shared nest. In addition to that, each chick used in the experiment was not related to either parent or any other nestling in the brood to which it was introduced. Variables measured in the experiment were survival rates, chick condition and behavioral interactions. The survival rates in the manipulated nests indicated conflict and not facilitation occurring between nestlings. In conjunction with chick survival and condition, observations were conducted on the rate of feeding, begging and aggression observed in manipulated nest.

In conjunction with the descriptive field study an analysis was carried out to determine if BFC are sexually dimorphic or monomorphic as they have previously been described. Julie visited museums in SA, VIC, NSW and WA and took external measurements from over 50 skins. Discriminant analysis was performed and a discriminant score assigned to each sex. It was found that individual sexes could be successfully identified in mated pairs. Males have more robust bills than females.

Julie concluded her talk by acknowledging Dr Greg Johnston and Dr Mike Gardner, Johnston laboratory group, field volunteers, Peter Day for photographs and funding from Nature Foundation SA, Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment and Sir Mark Mitchell Research Foundation.

Past & Future Meetings (cont) / Past Excursions

FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held on the last Friday of every month except December, public holidays or prior to a long weekend; in the Charles Hawker building of the Waite Institute on Waite Road Fullarton. The doors open at 7pm

Friday September 23
(due to long weekend)
TBA

Friday October 28
TBA

Friday November 25
Members' Night
Please contact John Hatch if you would like to give a presentation. *The meeting will be preceded by the Christmas breakup supper. Please bring a plate of food to share.*

PAST EXCURSIONS

Saturday May 14: Onkaparinga River NP — Hardy's Scrub

Thirteen members attended this excursion. The weather was good for walking and some birds put on pleasing displays. From the entrance gate we turned right and walked along a track through scrub. It was quiet in there but it soon opened up into an area that had been burnt and where the birds were active and could be seen. The Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flew above us a number of times. Pairs of Eastern Spinebills and Grey Fantails were very active, while a Fan-tailed Cuckoo was heard and finally seen. A Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo was seen by everyone but never heard. We walked down past the Creek and then up to the top road where Eastern Spinebills and Grey Fantails again very active. We enjoyed our lunch and bird-call amongst the sheoaks. We also saw three possums in nesting boxes, three koalas, one kangaroo and abundant evidence of Echidnas.

Teresa Jack

Thursday May 19: Bushland Park — (Nitschke Hill).

A cool morning saw 20 members gather for a leisurely stroll. The lower lake was quite full and held Eurasian Coots, Pacific Black Ducks and a single Australasian Grebe. No Little Pied Cormorants were observed on the lake although several were seen flying overhead later in the morning. One, perhaps two, Australian Reed-warblers were seen flitting about the reeds, but were not singing. Red-browed Finches were feeding on or near the track in several places. A small group of Varied Sittellas were gleaning branches high in the canopy alongside White-naped Honeyeaters. We were privileged to have several very close views of Spotted Pardalotes feeding in shrubs near the track. Grey Shrike-thrushes were numerous and quite vocal. Also numerous were White-throated Treecreepers but they were unusually quiet. Dusky Woodswallows, Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows were quite numerous in the trees and flying over the upper lake. Other species seen were Yellow-faced, White-naped, Crescent and New Holland Honeyeaters, Scarlet Robin, Crimson Rosella and Fan-tailed and Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoos. In all it was a very good winter's day with 41 species recorded.

Martyn Price

Sunday May 29: Karte CP

The location of this trip encouraged 10 members to attend the walk; some of whom stayed for 2 nights and managed to record 40 species. One of these, Yellow-throated Miner, had not been recorded here during our previous 6 visits since 1993. Four species of thornbills were recorded. These were Inland, Chestnut-rumped, Yellow-rumped and Yellow. Also seen were Splendid Fairy-wrens, Mulga Parrots, Australian Ringnecks and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters. An Owllet Nightjar was heard. A few people went into Billiatt CP on the way home.

Bill Alcock

Saturday June 11: Bullock Hill CP

An overcast morning saw 16 brave members assembled at Ashbourne Oval. Whilst weather conditions at the oval were pleasant, our arrival at Bullock Hill was accompanied by a cold wind, which persisted until lunchtime when the sun peeped through the clouds long enough for lunch and the bird call. After a thorough exploration of the Park we managed to see 31 species and identify a further 2 on call for a total of 33 species for the day. Many of the species were in low numbers, with Red-browed Finch, New Holland Honeyeater, Superb Fairy-wren and Musk Lorikeet being the most common. An odd addition to the list was a pair of Australian Shelducks seen flying over the Park.

Brian Walker

Thursday 16 June: Rocky Gully Conservation Reserve

Twenty-four members enjoyed this first winter visit to this location, which provided a species count of 50. The weather was at first quite cold but it gradually warmed as the morning progressed. A Stubble Quail was flushed early on as we moved through the grassy areas. Large flocks of Striated Pardalotes, Silvereyes and Brown-headed Honeyeaters were observed in several places. Other honeyeaters seen were Red Wattlebird, Spiny-cheeked, Singing, White-plumed, New Holland and a single White-naped. Several members saw a small group of Varied Sittellas. Several Southern Scrub-robins were heard calling but few were sighted. Other species included Black-shouldered Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Golden and Rufous Whistlers (neither calling), Red-capped and Hooded Robins, White-browed Babbler and several large groups of White-winged Chough. Although somewhat quiet for species compared with our summer visits, everyone enjoyed the morning. Several members went for a second walk after lunch and managed to add Australian Hobby to the list.

Martyn Price

Past Excursions (cont)

Sunday June 26: Lowan CP

A reasonable day's weather is always a good start to a walk through Lowan with only the sounds of the bush to enjoy. Seventeen members did just that and several even went back in after lunch, adding an extra two species making the day's tally of 44. Species of note included Stubble Quail, Owlet Nightjar, Shy Heathwren, Southern Scrub-robin, Mulga Parrot, Restless Flycatcher, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Sittella and Crested Bellbird (heard in various parts of the Park). Seven species of honeyeater were seen, and these included White-eared, Purple-gaped and Yellow-plumed. All participants enjoyed a satisfying full day out, arriving home as the darkness took over the night sky.

Trevor Cowie

Saturday July 9: Goolwa Barrage/Hindmarsh Island

About 18 members arrived for this trip during which a reasonable number of species (53) were recorded. We moved about in the vehicles, stopping here and there on the peninsula and Hindmarsh Island, and returning to the Barrage area for lunch. On the islands south of the Murray mouth lookout there were at least 2000 Crested Terns and 50 Caspian Terns. We recorded one of each of the three Grebes, a Whistling Kite nest building in the Barrage trees whilst Little Ravens were nest building outside the gates. Around the start of the barrage we saw Elegant and Rock Parrots as well as Golden-headed

Cisticola, Brown Songlark, seven Black-shouldered Kites, 20 Pied Oystercatchers and a pair of Sacred Kingfishers, no doubt also preparing their nest site.

Trevor Cowie

Thursday July 21: Nangkita Scrub

This was our first visit as a group to this area. A chilly start saw 16 hardy souls surveying the 1.5km main track from the car park on Nangkita Rd south to the southern boundary and east to the eastern boundary — a very similar habit to Cox Scrub CP. For the most part it was quiet, but Galahs, Little Ravens, Silvereyes and especially New Holland Honeyeaters were numerous. Red-browed Finches were observed in the reeds. A group of Eastern Spinebills were observed collecting nectar in small shrubs along the centre track. Thirty-one species were observed in two and a half hours, which was reasonable for such a small area.

The group then headed east to Cox Scrub CP, entering at the top of Ridge road, and surveyed the northern boundary as far as the Finnis River for about an hour. As expected a similar range of species was observed with numerous small groups of Eastern Spinebills. New Holland Honeyeaters, though present, were in smaller numbers than at the Swamp. Other honeyeaters included Red Wattlebird, Yellow-faced, White-plumed, Brown-headed, White-naped and Crescent. Several families of Scarlet Robins were observed near the car park, a species not usually

observed on our visits via the northern car park. In all 34 species were observed in the hour.

Martyn Price

Sunday July 31: Newland Head CP

It was another pleasant day by the sea, at least for the 30 fishermen and their families. There was no sign of Hooded Plover, nor would I expect them to be here with the number of people stretched all along the shoreline. We did actually add a Whiskered Tern to my records for this area. The count for this location was 43 species with a pair of Pelicans and Wedge-tailed Eagles looking wonderful as they glided above our heads. The group moved uphill to the ocean lookout and then basically broke into 2 groups one heading along the cliff top and the other going through the centre of the Park. The Eastern Spinebill and Brown-headed Honeyeaters provided good views to most people, while Horsfield's Bronze and Fan-tailed Cuckoos were calling well and were seen. Out at sea, four Australasian Gannets were flying around. At lunch we had Red-browed Finches and Golden Whistlers for company.

Trevor Cowie

A Birdo's Paradise — Observe Glossy Black-Cockatoos feeding!



Enjoy a special place at American River, within walking distance of all attractions.

Stay in a well-equipped three-bedroom cottage amongst surroundings that are perfect for birdwatching.

We offer Birds SA members staying two or more nights a discount price of \$60 per double plus \$12 for each additional person. We give even more discount to those who stay more than four days.

For more information, contact Chris and Pam Cooper on 85578616, at cpcoopers@adam.com.au or visit one of the following websites: www.roamfree.com or www.holidayz.com.au and search for 'Possums Watch'.

Future Excursions

Sunday August 28: Whites Dam CP (LN) (172km)

The park starts about 10km north of Morgan on the road to Burra. We meet in Morgan at 8.15am by the toilet block on the left as you approach the ferry.

Saturday September 10: Charleston CP (MLR) (38km)

Meet at 8am by the tennis courts in Newman Road, Charleston.

Thursday September 15: Talisker CP (& area) (MLR) (95km)

We meet at the General store in Delamere at 8.15am. From there we will drive to Talisker — a small park in the old silver-lead mine area. A side trip to another area for lunch & bird watching will fill the day.

Sunday September 25: Clements Gap CP (YP) (185km)

(date change due to long weekend campout)

Meet at 8.30am. To get there head north through Port Wakefield to Redhill. Make a left hand turn onto a dirt road about 3km north of Redhill drive about 8km. Turn left onto Bitumen for 3km. The park is on the right and opposite a Church. Overnight camping is permissible in the open areas. A toilet is available, but there is no water.

CAMPOUT – Sept 30 to Oct 5

Ngarkat CP Comet Bore, (MM)
Approx 330Km from Adelaide and 250Km from Mt Gambier
Combined Birds SA/Birds Australia South East SA.

Note: Use of Audio for calling birds in is unacceptable in this CP.

The campout will be at Comet Bore in Ngarkat Conservation Park, which is almost exactly half way between Bordertown and Pinnaroo. Take the Bordertown road 7Km before Pinnaroo: Comet Bore is about 80 Km South, almost on the boundary of the Bordertown and Pinnaroo council areas. Ngarkat is one of a complex of adjoining parks in South Australia and Victoria covering an area

roughly 120Km East to West, and 60Km North to South. The vegetation is Mallee and heath-land and has been subject to frequent natural wildfires in drought years.

The area is listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA) because it contains the following bird species listed as **Vulnerable**: *Australian Bustard*, *Regent Honeyeater*, *Mallee Emu-wren*, *Purple-gaped Honeyeater*, *Black-eared Miner*, *Western Whipbird* and *Red-lored Whistler*. **Report all sightings of any of these species.**

Additional Species list: We have received a request from DEHR for information about sightings of: *Crested Bellbird*, *White-browed babbler*, *Southern Scrub-robin*, *Chestnut Quail-thrush*, *Malleefowl* and *Striated Grasswren*. David Paton's work tells us these species have declined significantly over the park.

Access to all roads has been given for this survey. However all vehicles must display a notice on the dashboard. You may either obtain your notice from Trevor Cowie or photocopy the one on page 22. Much of the country is featureless, so bring a compass and or preferably a GPS if you plan to walk off the tracks. The walking is easy.

We have been granted free camping for this survey. Open fires are not permitted. If there is a total fire ban, even gas fires are not allowed, though this is unlikely in early October. Everyone must bring their own water, and toilet facilities, if possible.

I expect to be on site after lunchtime on Thursday. The campsite will be to the East of the road, adjacent to the clay pan (a public campsite that may be limited in size). A SAOA signpost will be placed on the main road.

We also invite other like-minded groups, such as Fleurieu Birdwatchers, BOCA, Birds Australia, Birdlife Australia, Field Naturalists to attend.

Trevor Cowie, Field Program Coordinator Birds SA.

Saturday October 15: Aldinga Scrub CP (MLR) (46km)

Meet at 8.15am at the reserve entrance on Cox Road, opposite Aldinga Holiday Park.

Thursday October 20: Porters Scrub CP (MLR) (44km)

From Lobethal take the road to Gumeracha. As you climb the hill with the Brick kilns on the left look for and take a right hand turn into Schubert road, which comes up quickly at the top of the hill as the main road bears to the left. Take the first turning left into Lihou road. This comes to a cross road with the left hand turn being the continuation of Lihou road, when the road reaches a sharp right turn the park is actually directly in front of you. We meet at the gate in the corner at 8.30am.

Sunday October 30: Swan Reach CP (MM) (113km)

The park is situated approx 16km east of Sedan on the road to Swan Reach. We meet at the entrance into the park, which is on the right opposite the road to Yookamurra at 8.15am.

Saturday November 12: Scott Creek CP (MLR) (28km)

Meet at 8.15am 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.



Buff-banded Rail
photographed by Helen Monterola
at Glen Helen Gorge (N.T.)
on 23/07/2011

Future Excursions (cont)/Bird Records

Thursday November 17: Mt. Lofty Botanic Gardens (MLR) (19km)

Meet at 8.30am in the lower car park off Lampert Road. To get there, leave the SE Freeway at the Crafers Interchange and follow the Piccadilly Road for about 3km. Then turn left into Trigg Road.

Sunday November 27: Onkaparinga W/L RP (MLR) (32km)

Meet at 7.45am at Port Noarlunga Oval Car Park off Britain Drive.

Saturday December 10: Altona CSR Landcare Reserve (MLR) (55km)

Directions: Travel through Lyndoch towards Tanunda, as you leave Lyndoch town centre take the first left into Altona Road. (Just past the 100km speed limit sign). We meet at 8.15am at the Reserve entrance at the top of this road.

Thursday December 15: Laratinga (Mt. Barker) Wetlands (MLR) (34km)

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

BIRD RECORDS

Collated by Graham Carpenter

Records included here are of species listed as rarely observed or unrecorded in the regions listed in the Field List of the Birds of South Australia. Also included are interesting breeding or ecological notes, new records for a well-known locality or first of the season reports of migratory species.

Please send all reports to the Bird Records Secretary at birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au or phone 8297 5463.

Note that the list includes reports of rare or vagrant species to South Australia that may yet to have been submitted or formally accepted by the Birds SA Rareties Committee (SARC). Members are encouraged to submit records of rare and vagrant species in SA to the Committee (refer to list of species and information on the website).

Malleefowl

1, 27/6/2011. 40km SE Kimba, EP.
Johnston D.

Brown Quail

An unprecedented irruption of this species has occurred over northern and eastern parts of the State in recent months. Most reports are from dense grass along watercourses, road margins and around dams. Records include:

AP: 4, 1/5/2011. N of St Kilda.

1, 1/5/2011. Port Wakefield.
Jack, T.
Doecke, N.

FR: hd, April 2011. Mambray Creek,
Haase, B.

LN: 1 roadkill, 5/3/2011. 5km N of Anama.

4, 14/4/2011. 2km W Halbury
Pedler, L.

10, 23/4/2011. Broughton River, 7km NE Koolunga.
Pedler, L.

1 roadkill, 26/4/2011. 6km N Brinkworth.
Pedler, L.

MLR: 1 roadkill, 9/4/2011, 2km NE Nuriootpa.
Pedler, L.

1, 13/4/2011. O'Halloran Hill RP
Bollinger, J.

7, 26/4/2011. Aldinga Scrub CP
Jack, T. & Gower, P.

4, 13/5/2011. Aldinga Scrub CP, Hart Rd.
Carpenter, G.

3, 20/5/2011. Normanville.
Doecke, N.

10, 23/5/2011. Onkaparinga RP, Gate 10.
Doecke, N.

12, 27/5/2011. Granite Island, Encounter Bay.
Hicks, A. & P.

6, 11/6/2011. Onkaparinga RP, Gate 10.
Pfeiffer, P.

2 groups of chicks, late 2010. Glenthorne Farm.
Carson, M.

This is the only report of breeding so far.

MM: heard overnight, 29/3/2011. Gluepot Stn, Birdseye Paddock.
Pedler, L.

Heard overnight, 8/4/2011. Calperum Stn, Timor Dam.
Pedler, L.

1, 5/5/2011. Coorong, near Mark Point.
Jack, T. & Gower, P.

2, 5/5/2011. Coorong, 7 mile Rd.
Jack, T. & Gower, P.

Several groups, 10/5/2011. Toolunka Flat, Promintz Rd. *Photos taken.*
Milne, T. & Hodder, M.

1 group, June 2011. Mannum, Wall Flat.
Koch, P.

NE: 1 group, 21/4/2011, Witchelina Stn.
Wurst, A.

1 group, 30/4/2011. Muloorinna WH.
Mableson, K.

Several groups, 18/5/2011. Witchelina Stn.
Black A. et al.

NW: 1, 26/2/2011. 20km E Andamooka.
Pedler, L.

1, 1/3/2011. Port Augusta.
Pedler, R.

1, 12/3/2011. Port Augusta West. Found dead.
Langdon, P.

5, 11/4/2011. Wilkatanna woolshed.
Langdon, P.

5, 15/4/2011. Bon Bon Stn, Darling Bore.
Black, A.

13, 14/5/2011. 10km NW Port Augusta.
Langdon, P.

8, 4/6/2011. Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Gardens,
Langdon, P.

Stubble Quail
1, 28/4/2011. Adelaide, Weymouth St, AP.
Hyland, M.

1, 12/5/2011. Adelaide, Gawler Place, AP.
Fennell, J.

Cape Barren Goose
3, 25/4/2011. Porters Lagoon, LN.
Hartland, D.

Bird Records (cont)

Plumed Whistling-duck

More reports in the north-east of the State.

23, April 2011. Wilpoorinna Stn, NE.
per Litchfield, G.
10, 16/4/2011. Witchelina Stn, Tea Tree Swamp, NW.

Johnston, G. & Sharrad, R.

Diamond Dove

1, 15/4/2011. Swanport Wetland, MM.

Schmidt, L.

Flock Bronzewing

Again, several southerly reports reflecting the good conditions in northern SA.

1, 21/4/2011. Witchelina HS, NE.

Wurst, A.

1500, April 2011. Moon Plain, Coober Pedy, NW. Ist seen 17/4 still present May

Walton, J.

300+, 22/6/2011. Callana Stn, Morphett's Bore, NW.

Sharrad, B.

Barbary Dove

48, 1/5/2011. Somerton Park, Oaklands Rd, AP.

Jack, T.

Numbers of this introduced species continue to increase in various Adelaide suburbs.

Tawny Frogmouth

1, 29/7/2011. North Adelaide, River Torrens, AP.

Stracey, K.

Very rarely reported in the Adelaide area.

Spotted Nightjar

1, 22/4/2011. Point Sturt, MM.

Doecke, N.

Wilson's Storm-petrel

1, 25/5/2011. Murray Mouth, MM.

Hicks, A. & P.

Northern Giant-Petrel

1, 24/5/2011. Port Augusta, NW. Seen and photographed at close range near town.

Langdon, K. & Morgan, A.

Salvin's Prion

Several, 26/6/2011. Seabird trip off Port MacDonnell, MO.

Rogers, C. et al.

Record submitted to SARC. The taxonomy of prions remains unsettled, with overlap in bill features between currently recognised species.

Fiordland Penguin

1 beachwashed, June 2011. Petrel Cove, MLR.

per Wiebken, A.

Forwarded to South Australian Museum. Photo and report in Victor Harbor Times, 21 July.

Australasian Darter

1, 23/4/2011. River Torrens, Morphett St, AP.

Kowalick, D.

Intermediate Egret

1, 9/7/2011. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetland, AP.

Wood, M.

Great Egret

24, 11/8/2011. Paiwalla Wetland, MM.

Koch, P.

Reports of greater than usual numbers at various sites.

Black-breasted Buzzard

2, 28/7/2011. 15km NE Lyndhurst, NE.

Tiller, M. et al.

1 immature, 17/4/2011. Bon Bon Stn, Hogarth's Bore, NW.

Black, A.

Grey Falcon

2, 21/6/2011. N of Olary, LN.

Dennis, T. & Brittain, R.

1, 7/7/2011. Innamincka, rubbish dump, NE.

Browne, M. & Jack, T.

1, 13/4/2011. Bon Bon Stn, Red Hill Well, NW. Following a Spotted Harrier.

Black, A.

2, 18/5/2011. Witchelina Stn, NE.

Alcock, B. & Carpenter, G.

Peregrine Falcon

2, 4/5/2011. Glenelg, Mosely Square, AP. Roosting on apartment building.

Ragless, C.

Feathers collected under the roost taken to the SA Museum for identification included those of a male Flame Robin !!

Brolga

5, 22/6/2011. Callana Stn, Callana Bore, NW.

Sharrad, B.

Buff-banded Rail

Again unprecedented numbers through southern and eastern parts this winter, including:

AP: 2, 11/6/2011. Thompson Beach.

Hartland, D.

1, 29/6/2011. West Beach.

Kowalick, D.

2, 6/8/2011. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetland.

MacIlwain, E.

EP: 2, 7/7/2011. Cowell.

In grass on edge of The Esplanade.

Walford, L

2, 18/7/2011. Charlton.

Bebbington, L.

MLR: 1, 4/5/2011. Gawler, Clonlea Park.

Hartland, D.

1, 1/7/2011. Washpool Wetland, Aldinga.

Carpenter, G.

1, 13/7/2011. Reynella East.

In reed bed along creek.

Brooker, W.

1, 21/7/2011. Blakiston.

Fennel, J.

1, 22/7/2011. Washpool Wetland,

Aldinga.

Jack, T.

1, 7/8/2011. Willunga, Willunga Creek.

Lush, F.

MM: 2, 26/4/2011. Goolwa, Barrage Rd.

Cheshire, N. & Lloyd, R.

1, 3/7/2011. Middleton Beach.

In coastal scrub.

Black, G.

1, 19/7/2011. Goolwa Barrage.

Snell, B. & M.

2, 1/8/2011. Goolwa Sewage Works.

Snell, B. & Williams, K.

Bird Records (cont)

3, 11/8/2011. Paiwalla Wetland.

Koch, P.

SE: 1, 2/6/2011. Coorong, Salt Creek.

Barron, P.

Lewin's Rail

1, 1/8/2011. Goolwa Sewage Works, MM.

Snell, B. & Williams, K.

Little Stint

1, 7/5/2011. St Kilda Saltfields, AP.

Rogers, C.

Report submitted to SARC.

Eastern Curlew

1, 5/4/2011. Whyalla foreshore.

Smith, E.

Hooded Plover

23, 28/6/2011. Coorong, Loop Rd, SE.

Gower, P.

The species congregates in the Coorong during winter.

Painted Button-quail

1, 20/4/2011. Happy Valley Reservoir, MLR.

Paton, P.

1, 8/5/2011. Vista, MLR.

Pascoe, E.

1, 3/6/2011. Woodcroft, Tangari Reserve, MLR.

Brooker, W.

3, 13/6/2011. Milang, Muntiri Scrub, MM. Also 2 on 30/7 and 1 on 1/8.

Black, A. & M.

White-winged Black Tern

20 mostly in partial breeding plumage, 5/4/2011. Lake Eyre, Haligan Bay, NW.

Antos, M.

Few reports from inland SA.

White-fronted Tern

33, 3/7/2011. Cape du Couedic, Admiral's Arch, KI.

Baxter, C.

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

6, 8/6/2011. Port Augusta West, NW.

Langdon, P.

Long-billed Corella

66, 30/6/2011. 0.5km W Balhannah, MLR.

Snell, B. & Williams, K.

This species was introduced to the Adelaide area in the 1980s and is slowly increasing, with breeding reported in red gums. In contrast, the Little Corella has not been reported to nest locally despite its large numbers over summer.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

A survey organised by the Dept of Environment and Natural Resources on 28-29 May found a total of 2029 birds in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges area. Most were in the Second Valley Forest area, including a single flock of 1250 (the largest reported in the region), with other large flocks at Anstey Hill / Millbrook Reservoir (400), McLaren Flat area (100) and Kuitpo (50). A distinctive aberrant bird was seen at Second Valley. Its head was yellow, upper breast yellow with black spots and wings black with yellow patches.

200, 11/6/2011. Chandlers Hill, Education Rd, MLR.

Brooker, W.

This report suggests that there may have been two flocks in the McLaren Flat region during the DENR survey.

3, 25/7/2011. Milang, Muntiri Scrub, MM.

Black, A.

300, 1/8/2011. Goolwa Sewage Works, MM.

Snell, B. & Williams, K.

Eastern Rosella

2, 15/4/2011. Swanport Wetlands, MM.

Schmidt, L.

Cockatiel

Several unusual southerly reports during winter.

20, 20/6/2011. Stirling North, FR.

Wright, G.

15, 1/6/2011. Mambray Creek, FR.

Langdon, P.

10, 3/6/2011. Port Augusta West, NW.

Langdon, P.

15, 4/6/2011. Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Garden, NW.

Langdon, P.

Barking Owl

1 calling on moonlit night, 21/6/2011. Bimbowrie HS, LN.

Dennis, T. & Brittain, R.

This appears to be the first report for the Olary Ranges region.

Sacred Kingfisher

1, 6/4/2011. Torrens Lake, Adelaide, AP.

Rogers, D.

Chestnut-breasted Whiteface

7 + 2 juveniles, 19/4/2011. Bon Bon Stn, north part, NW.

Black, A.

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren

1, 26/4/2011. Parson's Head, MLR.

Cheshire, N. & Lloyd, R.

Noisy Friarbird

1, 20/4/2011. Holder, MM. In eucalypts in garden.

Jacobs, P.

Report submitted to SARC. There are few reports of this species from the upper Murray in SA.

Pied Honeyeater

1, 17/4/2011. Owen, 5km E, AP.

Warnes, M.

White-naped Honeyeater

6, 4/5/2011. Black Forest, AP. Flying north.

Carpenter, G.

2, 21/5/2011. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetland, AP.

Tetlow, R. & Tiller, K.

Black-chinned Honeyeater

1, 14 and 25/6/2011. Gawler East, AP.

Hartland, D.



White Currawong

Photographed at Aldgate by Trevor Ireland on 26/07/2011

Bird Records (cont)

Olive-backed Oriole

1 immature, 4/5/2011. Brindana Springs, FR. Calling in red gums along creek.

Koch, P.

This is only the second report from northern SA (see Pedler, L. 1984. SA Ornithologist 29:118) and the first from the Flinders Ranges.

Grey Currawong

This species is increasing in the Adelaide area, with several reports from the suburbs.

1, 10/4/2011. Malvern, AP.

Black, A.

1, 30/4/2011. Ashford, AP. Feeding shop gutters.

Carpenter, G.

1, 18/6/2011. Sheidow Park, MLR.

Burns, A.

1 white bird (leucino), 26/7/2011. Aldgate, Woodlands Close, MLR. See photo p19.

Ireland, T.

A white currawong was previously reported at Crafers (22 June 95, SAOA Newsletter) and SE part Cleland CP (P. Farmer 24 Sept 2006).

1, 28/2/2011. Milang, Muntiri Scrub, MM.

Black, A.

First report for 22 years.

Flame Robin

1, 2/5/2011. Kenton Valley, MLR.

King, L. & S.

2 females, 15/5/2011. Dawesley, MLR.

Barron, P.

5, 12/6/2011. Crafers, MLR.

Rogers, C.

1 female, 19/6/2011. Cox Scrub CP, Coles Crossing, MLR.

Tiller, M.

The species has a small isolated population in the southern Flinders Ranges, with most reports from Wirrabara Forest and Mount Remarkable.

Painted Finch

5, 4/5/2011. Brindana Springs, FR.

Koch, P.

3, 4/5/2011. Terrapinna WH, FR.

Koch, P.

Plum-headed Finch

4, 10/7/2011. Cooper Creek, Cullyamurra WH, NE. Feeding in seeding grasses (?*Paspalidium*).

Dennis, T., White, G. & K.

10-12 also seen later in July by various observers.

This is the first report of the species in South Australia. Report submitted to SARC.

Beautiful Firetail

1, 26/7/2011. Morialta Falls, MLR.

Smith, A.

Rarely reported near Adelaide. The nearest known (small) population is at Mount Bold Reservoir.

Diamond Firetail

5, 31/5/2011. Maize Island Lagoon CP, MM.

Jacobs, P.

Rose Robin

1 male, 28/5/2011. Mylor, MLR.

Crooks, G.

Australian Reed-warbler

1, 29/6/2011. Clarendon Oval, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

Few winter reports.

Rufous Songlark

Several unusual winter reports.

1, 8/7/2011. Lewiston, Aunger Reserve, AP

Wood, M.

1, 23/7/2011. Port Germein Gorge, FR.

White, J. & Jamieson, A.

1, 23/6/2011. Moppa, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

Bassian Thrush

1, 13/6/2011. Wirrabara Forest, Old Nursery, FR.

Jamieson, A.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RARITIES COMMITTEE

The South Australian Rarities Committee (SARC) has accepted the following reports of rare birds:

SARC NO:	RECORD SERIAL No:	SPECIES	DATE/S OF SIGHTING	LOCATION OF SIGHTING	NAME/S OF OBSERVER/S
28	10/2010	Leaden flycatcher (male)	29-10-2010 to 2-11-2010	St Kilda	Kevin Collins, John Cox, Colin Rogers
29	11/2010	Dollarbird	17/11/10	Whites Rd	Robert Hicks
30	1/2011	Little bittern	10/02/11	Martins Bend	Helga Kieskamp, Peter Waanders
31	2/2011	Rufous fantail	28/02/11	Hart	Kim Franklin
32	3/2011	Noisy friarbird	20/04/11	Holder	Peter Jacobs
33	4/2011	Little Stint	7/05/11	Dry Creek Salt Fields	Colin Rogers

News From the Library



DVD 38

Let's Go Birdwatching

The Cumberland Bird Observers Club. Sydney, N.S.W. 2007

This four-part series looks at birds and birdwatching throughout the greater Sydney region.

Each episode is themed around different types of birds starting with backyard birds and moving on to water birds, sea birds and finally bush birds.

The series is an instructional guide for beginners. Each episode includes excellent footage of many of Sydney's birds accompanied by information and identification pointers.

There are segments about binoculars, telescopes, field guides, birdwatching hints and tips plus a discussion about some of Sydney's birdwatching hotspots.



598.07234 BAR

Barnes, Simon

How to be a Bad Birdwatcher

Pantheon Books: New York, 2005

ISBN 0375423559:

Even the 'baddest' birdwatcher in the world knows something about birds.

Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be an anoraked twitcher with top-of-the-range binoculars to have a good time admiring our often-neglected feathered friends in the sky.



598.2994 THO.2

Thomas, Richard

The Complete Guide to Finding the Birds of Australia. 2nd ed.

CSIRO Publishing: Collingwood, Vic., 2011

This new edition gives the best-known sites, accompanied with mud maps, for all of Australia's endemic birds and regular migrants such as seabirds and shorebirds.



DVD 39

Kimball, Don

Discovering the World of Parrots: NSW -Victoria - Northern Territory - Tasmania

San Rafael, CA. Polytelis Media, 2010

90 minutes

Disk one presents the parrots of New South Wales and Victoria. Disk two presents the parrots of the Northern Territory and Tasmania

DVD 40

Kimball, Don

Discovering the World of Parrots: Queensland - South Australia - Western Australia

San Rafael, CA. Polytelis Media, 2010

85minutes

Disk three presents the parrots of South Australia and Western Australia. Disk four presents the parrots of Queensland.

Vehicle Notice for October Campout

People going to the October campout can copy the notice below to place on the dashboards of their vehicles:

Birds SA/Birds Australia - South East SA

Important Bird Area (IBA) Survey Team

**Survey covering endangered and threatened
bird species**

On behalf of:

Birdlife International and Birdlife Australia

Report all sightings of the following vulnerable species: Vulnerable: *Australian Bustard, Regent Honeyeater, Mallee Emu-wren, Purple-gaped Honeyeater, Black-eared Miner, Western Whipbird and Red-lored Whistler*

**Note-Audio systems to call in birds are unacceptable in this
CP.**

Details of Members' Photographs

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Spotted Harrier	Kay Parkin	Keith	25/06/2011
2	Cape Petrel	Kay Parkin	Off Port MacDonnell	26/05/2011
3	Square-tailed Kite	Teresa Jack	Humbug Scrub	November 2010
4	Peregrine Falcon	Kay Parkin	Keith	25/06/2011
5	Slender-billed Prion	Kay Parkin	Off Port MacDonnell	26/05/2011
6	Yellow-throated Miner	Graham Crooks	Rawnsley Park	April 2011
7	Small Blue Kingfisher	Merilyn Browne	Java	April 2011
8	White-fronted Chat	Peter McKenzie	Near Stokes Bay, KI	Easter 2011
9	Stork-billed Kingfisher	Merilyn Browne	Taman Negara, Malaysia	3/11/2010
10	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Kay Parkin	Kaurna Park, Burton	June 2011
11	Hooded Robin	Les Peters	Ridley CP	16/05/2011
12	Temminck's Sunbird	Merilyn Browne	Mt. Kinabalu, Borneo	March 2011
13	Australian Shelduck	Kay Parkin	Adelaide Hilla	June 2011
14	Scarlet-chested Parrot	Kay Parkin	Gluepot	6/08/2011

Members' Photographs 'On the Wing'



Birds of Many Colours

