

Birds SA

Newsletter



No 224

November 2012



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.



Powerful Owl, photographed by Robert Rowland, close to Lamington National Park QLD, November 2011

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CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 42,
F. W. ANDREWS (cont)

SAOA COMMITTEE 2012 – 2013

President	Jeremy Robertson	7183 2674
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Vice President	Greg Kerr	7007 3922
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Member	John Spiers	8333 0272
Member	Merinda Hyland	8337 3616
Member	Lynton Huxley	8278 4313
Member	Robert Rowland	83881790
Member	Wally Klau	8667 5005

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.

Dec 2	Sunday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields
Dec 15	Saturday	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands
Dec 20	Thursday	Excursion to Altona Reserve

Jan 12	Saturday	Excursion to Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island etc.
Jan 17	Thursday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields
Jan 25	Friday	General Meeting
Jan 27	Sunday	Excursion to Whites Rd. Wetlands

Feb 2	Saturday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields
Feb 9	Saturday	Excursion to Paiwalla Wetlands
Feb 14	Thursday	Excursion to Browns Rd. Monarto
Feb 22	Friday	General Meeting
Feb 24	Sunday	Excursion to Barker Inlet etc.

Mar 9	Saturday	Excursion to Onkaparinga Wetlands
Mar 21	Thursday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields
Mar 29	Friday	General Meeting
Mar 31	Sunday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields

Cover photo: Eyrean Grasswrens taken by Ian May on 04/08/2012 beside the road on the crest of the second sand hill east of the Moomba turnoff at Merty Merty station.

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 13 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p19.

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

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

RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

BirdLife Southeast SA

Convenor, — Bob Green shriketit@bigpond.com 8725 0549
IBA Coordinator/Newsletter Editor — Bryan Haywood
brytonwood@bigpond.com 8726 8112

Fleurieu Birdwatchers

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

WEBSITE birdssa.asn.au

2012 SAOA SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

ABN 76 339 976 789

ADVERTISING IN THE Birds SA NEWSLETTER

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

COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the February Newsletter is due by the January General Meeting (January 18). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD, emailed to either of my email addresses, or typed/handwritten neatly.

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

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Birds SA Notes & News

NEW BIRDS SA WEB PAGES

(birdssa.asn.au)

If you haven't already had a look, the new and improved Birds SA web pages went live during October.

Access to the "Members Pages" has been made easier because you can now create and manage your own password.

Not everything has been uploaded from the old website because this process requires a good deal of recoding, which will be done progressively.

Your comments and suggestions about the new web pages are welcomed.

Don't forget to click on the Like Facebook button.

Brian Blaylock, Webmaster

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Duck and Quail Stakeholder Reference Panel

We recently received a letter from Mr Allan Holmes Chief Executive of the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) thanking Birds SA for our new policy on recreational duck hunting. He went on to say that the Department recognises that hunters have made significant contributions to conservation through ongoing works and participation in waterfowl monitoring and research programs. He believes that it is important that DEWNR, Birds SA and hunting organisations work collaboratively to ensure hunting provides net conservation benefit to the broader community. Given this, he was keen for the Department to engage with Birds SA more purposefully. As part of this endeavour we have been invited to provide a member to represent Birds SA on the Duck and Quail Stakeholder Reference Panel (DQSRP). The DQSRP is an advisory group of hunting and non-hunting representatives, and is brought together once or sometimes twice a year to advise the Department on duck and quail hunting matters.

For a number of years DEWNR has not had any involvement from Birds

SA on the Panel, with Joan Paton being the last member to have any involvement with a the panel. This invitation presents an opportunity for Birds SA to again be involved in the development and implementation of policy and contribute to conservation outcomes for birds in South Australia. Greg Kerr has been nominated by the Birds SA committee to be their representative. DQSRP holds two meetings annually. The first will be on Thursday 1 November and the second on Monday 10 December. The purpose of the first meeting is to develop a new Terms of Reference for DQSRP. The second meeting occurs at time when all of the data have been consolidated and DEWNR is required to develop open-season recommendations for the Minister for the Environment.

Kangaroo Island Joy Flights

The Premier Jay Weatherill has responded to Birds SA's letter of concern on the process by which approval was given to Heli Experiences to provide joy flights on Kangaroo Island. Birds SA is concerned about the potential impact of these flights on the survival of two endangered birds breeding along the coastline of South Australia: namely the White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Halieetus leucogaster*) and the Eastern Osprey (*Pandion cristatus*). We expressed our concerns that a representative of the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) negotiated conditions of a sensitive ecological nature with a private company. And that consequently it was left to private organisations to oppose the operation and obtain the greater restrictions laid down by the EPCB. Because approvals are already in place, our greatest concern was that on the basis of precedent, the Experiences Group (or others) would seek to expand their operations in the future to other sections of the Kangaroo Island coastline where the most significant breeding habitat for the species is found.

We indicated that we believe it is the duty of government to provide adequate protection for our remaining natural environment and suggested some simple steps the Government can take in the future to enable this to happen.

The premier explained the process by which approval was granted under the EPBC Act and the involvement of the SA government in this process. He pointed out that DEWNR was responsible for preparing the whole of government response to the EPBC Act referral in consultation with the SATC. He stated that SATC staff were well aware of the environmental sensitivity of the proposal and provided support to Heli Experience on the basis that the experience offered by the company will be environmentally sustainable and that all matters would be resolved through the approval processes.

He thanked us for our suggestions but believes that the policies set in the Wilderness Code of Management in the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* for aerial operations over wilderness protection areas are more stringent than the EPBC Act approval conditions set for Heli Experience, and that the EPBC process provided a suitable mechanism for a rigorous assessment.

Buckland Park Lake

After the vote to proceed with support for the SA Government's proposed purchase of the southern half of Buckland Park Lake, Jeremy Robertson, Brian Walker and Greg Kerr met with representative of the Protected Area Establishment Branch of the DEWNR to discuss the conditions that would underpin Birds SA donation to the purchase.

All negotiations were very positive and the Department is confident of a concrete outcome by December.

Greg Kerr

Convener Conservation Sub-committee

Birds SA Notes & News (cont)

PLACES YOU LOVE

Worrying changes are being made to the process whereby projects are assessed for their environmental impact and approved to go ahead or otherwise. The plan is to use a procedure allowed by the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Control Act (EPBC Act) known as Bilateral Agreements. Under this arrangement the Commonwealth certifies State procedures that meet laid down criteria. It then withdraws from direct involvement in the assessment and approval processes, which are then undertaken by the States. It will audit and report on State processes and withdraw certification if the agreed processes are not followed. Conservationists are concerned for many reasons for example:

- The fact that the Commonwealth has had to step in and stop developments approved by a State Government on a number of important occasions — Franklin River Dam, Oil rigs on Barrier Reef, Coal plant on Shoalwater Bay, and cattle grazing in the Australian Alps etc.
- The pressures being put on the States by the business community particularly mining interests,
- The perception amongst members of the Business Forum that bilateral agreements will significantly reduce the costs of proposed projects and speed up the approval process,
- That the size of environment departments in many states has been reduced either by attrition over the years (e.g. South Australia), or by recent budget cuts (Queensland and Victoria), and the question arises as to whether they will be able to take on the extra work arising from assessment under the Bilateral Agreements.

For all these reasons we think that in practice corners will be cut and bad decisions made. We also doubt that the Federal Environment Minister will withdraw certification once a State process has been accredited, or will only do so after the event or under public pressure. We are further

concerned with the speed at which the changes are being made and the limited opportunities for public and parliamentary review.

In response to these concerns a number of organisations such as Birdlife Australia, The Conservation Council of South Australia, WWF, the Conservation Society and many others have formed an alliance to mount a campaign called 'Places you Love'. The Committee view the proposed changes as a very serious threat to our birds, and Birds SA members are urged to navigate to the campaign website (<http://placesyoulove.org/>) and use its facilities to add their voice to the campaign by sending a message to the Prime Minister.

John Spiers

BIRDS SA AND BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA

Representatives of Birdlife Australia will be attending the Committee meeting of Birds SA on the 10th of December. As announced at the October general meeting, talks between the two organisations have been planned to establish how Birds SA and BirdLife Australia may most effectively be aligned for the future.

Should you have any points you wish to be included in these discussions they would be welcomed.

A Birds SA sub-committee was formed to assist this process and to raise a number of points for further discussion at our December meeting. We will update all members with the outcomes of this meeting early in the New Year; and I should like to highlight, that these are initial information gathering discussions.

Lou Bartley-Clements

THIRD BIRD ATLAS OF THE ADELAIDE REGION HAS BEGUN

The third Bird Atlas of the Adelaide region commenced on 1 July 2012 and will continue for the next two years. Over 50 people have collected sets of data cards and instructions and already over a 100 sets of data have been submitted. Anyone with a keen eye for birds can assist in documenting the current distributions of birds within a region that spans from north of Port Wakefield to north-east of Morgan and from Cape Jervis to Salt Creek, as well as Kangaroo Island. The intention is to compare current distributions of birds within this region to similar data collecting in 1974-5 and 1984-5. If you wish to be involved please contact David Paton (david.paton@adelaide.edu.au) or collect some cards and instructions at the Birds SA general meetings. Country members living in rural areas are particular welcome as areas away from the peri-urban areas are usually poorly covered.

David Paton

THE IMAGE LIBRARY

In the last year the Image Library has provided photographs for use by the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources ("Birds for Backyards" display) and Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (Sustainability via Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative: "Barossa Bushgardens" display). The Library performs a small but valuable role in bird conservation. Donations of good quality photographs of any South Australian species are always welcome. (I have even been asked for images of feral pigeons!) We are also planning to use the Image Library next year to prepare materials for training courses and for species fact sheets to be published on our web site. In this regard I am looking in particular for photographs of quail, button-quail and raptor species. The photographer is always acknowledged in any pictures we publish.

John Spiers, Image Librarian

Birds SA Notes & News (cont)

UPDATE ON BUCKLAND PARK

I am pleased to advise that the recent survey of members resulted in 126 responses, which were overwhelmingly in support of a \$50,000 contribution to the proposed purchase of the Southern section of Buckland Park Lake by Birds SA. Several members also made comments regarding the purchase including the financial capacity of the Association to make this commitment, rights of access and security of tenure of the property as part of the Port Gawler Conservation Park.

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011 show that the Association had total funds of \$244,537 made up of:

General Fund	\$147,944
Contingency Fund	\$50,640
Conservation Fund	\$45,953

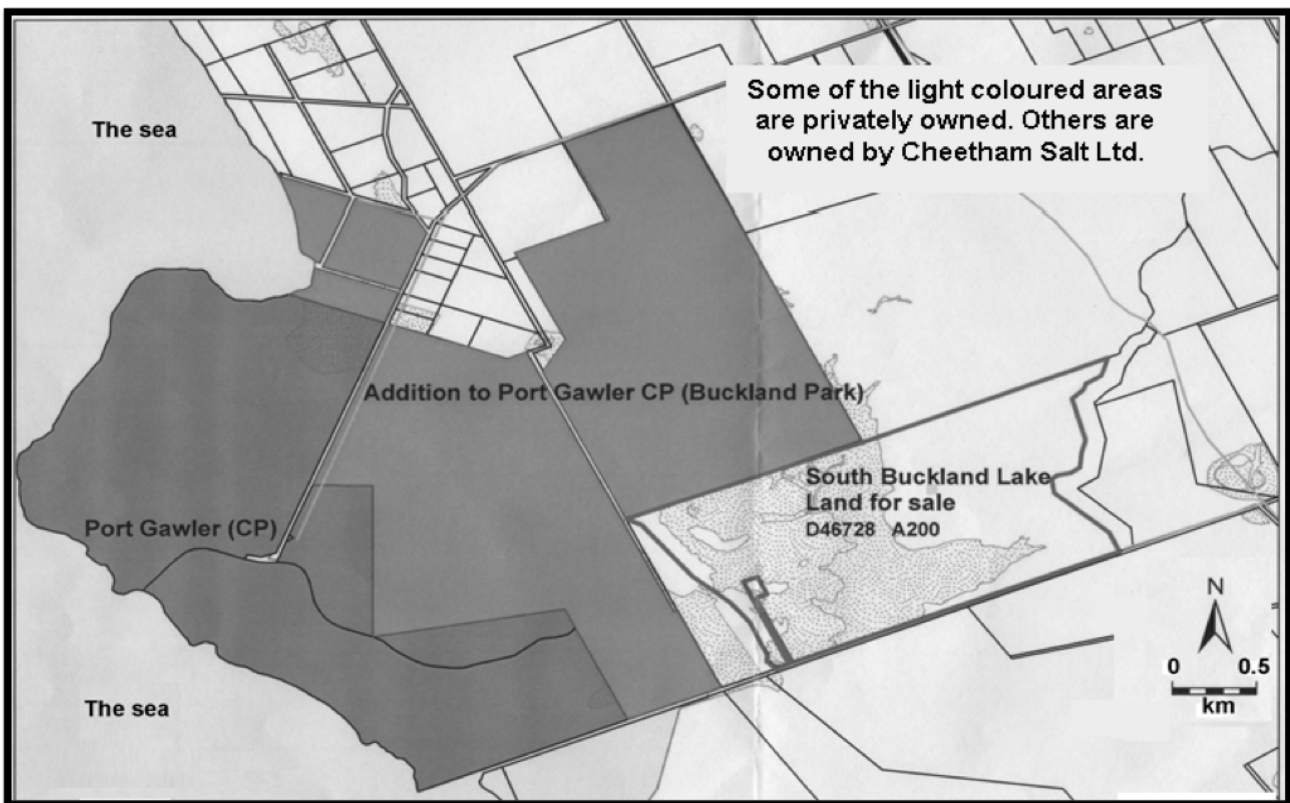
Excluding the Conservation Fund the total was \$198,584 and \$187,534 of this total was available from bank and other deposits.

The cash position of the Association, excluding the Conservation has not deteriorated since 31 December 2011.

The Association is able to access

Impact of Contribution on Financial Position

The Association currently earns interest on the proposed contribution and this income is used, in part, to support the activities of the Association. Given the current low level of interest rates available and the fact that the Association has been operating at a surplus in recent years it is not expected that the loss of interest on the \$50,000 will have any impact on subscriptions in the short term. The Committee is not proposing any increase in subscription levels for 2013.



Land for Sale at South Buckland Park Lake

A preliminary meeting has been held with representatives of the Department for Water, Environment and Natural Resources and as a result of the meeting Birds SA has been asked to submit a letter outlining any requirements that it would like the Department to meet as a result of the donation. This letter will seek to address issues raised by members.

In respect of the financial capacity of the Association the Committee makes the following statements:

funds on a timely basis to meet the proposed contribution of \$50,000.

The Committee is of the view that monies in the Conservation Fund should be used to further research activities on birds and their environment rather than for assisting in the purchase of property. The Fund has recently awarded three grants totalling \$9,186.

Although there will be no impact upon subscription levels in the short term, there is no doubt that ultimately there may need to be some increase if there is a significant increase in expenses. Any increase in expenses may be offset by an increase in interest income, should interest rates also increase and so there is no certainty that subscriptions will need to rise as a result of the contribution.

Brian Walker on behalf of the Committee

Miscellaneous Items

GLUEPOT DVD

A thirty-five minute DVD is available for sale at the information centre at Gluepot. It is entitled **Birding Gluepot** and it features fifty-two mallee birds including Black-eared Miner, Red-lored Whistler, Scarlet-chested Parrot, Regent Parrot etc. Alana and Greg Dare produced it and have donated it to BirdLife Australia. All funds raised will go to Gluepot. On your next visit to Gluepot you may like to check it out when signing in.

Duncan Mackenzie
Chairman Gluepot Reserve

GLUEPOT DVD (cont)

After Duncan Mackenzie saw our Gluepot film he asked if he could use it to raise money for Gluepot and we were happy to give it to him for this purpose. He rebadged it with the BirdLife logo, designed different packaging and made a hundred copies, which are available for sale at the information centre at Gluepot.

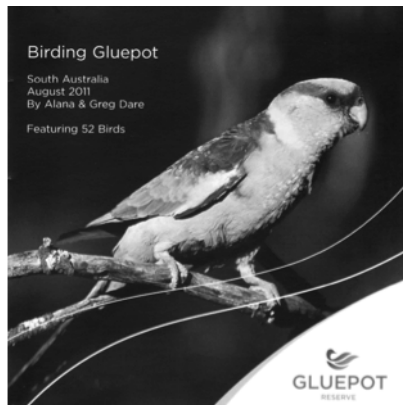
We don't know how sales are going, but a couple of our friends have since visited Gluepot and didn't realise it was there or they would have bought a copy. We thought it would be a good idea to let birders know so they can have a look if they are up there

Greg Dare

MR PETER LANGDON BIRDER AND BIRD ARTIST

This interesting article about one of our long-standing members was published in the August 2012 Newsletter of the August Newsletter of the The Friends of The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta Incorporated.

Peter grew up in Port Augusta West in the '50s and '60s. He was interested in natural history and birds in particular, from an early age. He has spent most of his working life in the pastoral industry and it was while working in the bush and seeing lots of birds, that he joined the South Australian Ornithological Association, the oldest such organisation in Australia, formed in 1899. This year Peter received a



Cover of Gluepot DVD

Platinum Membership certificate in recognition of 41 years of continuous membership of the SAOA, or Birds SA.

As well as recording the birds he saw, Peter noticed other creatures. He found the seventh (at the time) *Giles Planingale*, a mouse-sized marsupial, in the State, the first MacDonnell Range Rainbow Fish west of Lake Eyre and the first Yellow-bellied Sheathtail Bat in central South Australia. Through these discoveries, he got to know the relevant staff at the South Australian Museum, learnt to skin birds and did some 'collecting' for them.

Peter also held an A-class Bird Banding licence for many years, working with well-known bander Wally Klau OAM. It was with Wally that he discovered an Orange-bellied Parrot, a rare and endangered species, at Chinaman's Creek just south of Port Augusta. Peter has been involved in many bird surveys for DEWNR (Department for Environment, Water, and Natural Resources) and other institutions (Atlas of Australian Birds, 2020 wader count), and has run bird identification workshops.

Peter was drawing and painting birds at an early age and now you will find his pictures of birds on many walls in Port Augusta and, since accepting commissions, across the world as well.

He has been a member of the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden committee for two periods

over the years. Very early in the life of the 'Friends', he watched the difficulties faced as funding opportunities were sought, with little success.

His contribution, several years ago, was the donation of one of his paintings for a raffle and this drew a big sum of money. He is currently working on a series of paintings to display at Blinman as part of the exhibition, A Brush with Art, being held throughout the Flinders Ranges this spring.

The Bird Hides in the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG) also feature Peter's artwork. Greeting cards and posters of his paintings can be found in the shop at the AALBG's Visitor Centre. At the biennial Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference at Port Augusta in August Peter presented a paper called 25 years of Birding in the AALBG. To assist him, along with his photos of birds, he had many bird skins to



Peter Langdon

Miscellaneous Items (cont)

show. They were clearly labelled with date and circumstances of collection, often showing details of crop contents. The expansion of bird species found at the Garden was clearly shown in this very entertaining talk.

In the week before the Conference, the book *Birds of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden* was launched at the Garden. The two authors — Peter Langdon and Brian Reichelt — gave an amusing introduction to their 'baby', in the presence of many admiring Friends.

Article Submitted by Barbara Wheaton

RECENT TRAVELS.

In the last few months I have been extremely fortunate in that I have been able to travel extensively through a huge area of the inland. Although I don't pretend to have the expertise of my more experienced fellow members I just thought you might be interested in the special sightings and observations I made.

In mid August I travelled from Lyndhurst, across the Simpson Desert to Birdsville, and from Innamincka to Broken Hill. All of that country was as lush as you will ever see it with Mitchell grass as far as the eye could see for thousands, probably millions of square kilometres.

Approaching Purnie Bore on the edge of the Simpson I observed many flocks of Flock Bronzewing flying in the evening. They were all heading west and the flocks continued for over an hour. These flocks consisted of 100 to many hundreds of birds. I would guess a total of two thousand birds.

All through the Simpson Desert I saw Brown Falcons and huge numbers of Whistling Kites. There was a great

deal of evidence of a recent rat plague with the sand undermined for large areas by their burrows. A few were left and I observed Brown Falcons carrying off rats on a number of occasions.

At Algeuckina Waterhole near Oodnadatta there were about 60 Black Ducks, 30 Wood Ducks and a steady procession of Grey Teal.

At Birdsville, after driving up the Big Red Sand Dune I was confronted by a beautiful stretch of water that extended for many kilometres.

Waterbirds were there in profusion. I sighted Black Duck, Wood Duck, Hardhead, Freckled Duck, and a vast camp of Grey Teal numbering thousands.

Just out of Birdsville I again encountered large flocks of Flock Bronzewing in the evening. A couple of large flocks were sighted numbering possibly up to a thousand birds in each.

On to Innamincka and the creek held small group of Hardheads wherever you looked as well as a few Black Ducks, Wood Ducks and Grey Teal. Also Black-tail Native Hens were in profusion.

As I headed towards Broken Hill and the country became more wooded, Budgerigars were sighted constantly in varying size groups. The quantity out there must number in the millions. Also Zebra Finches and Cockatiels were present near water.

Just outside of Little Topar there

were some ephemeral wetlands. These held large numbers of ducks of all species, including a few Australasian shoveler. I also saw a few Freckled Duck, Grey Teal and Wood Duck, while Hardhead and Black Duck were common.

At a site known only to me I was elated to find that my personal pair of Peregrine Falcons was again nesting on their cliff face eyrie. They gave me the performance of the journey when the pair was hunting. One struck, but failed to knock down a Crested Pigeon. The pigeon took the hint and powered toward me as fast as a Crested Pigeon has ever flown with the two Peregrines steadily overhauling it in level flight. The pigeon plunged into a bush right by my shoulder as the two peregrines broke right and left a few feet above my head! What a sight and what a lucky pigeon. It refused to leave the bush.

I then travelled to Lake Alexandrina. In the past few months there have been enormous flights of black cormorants. Although live birds are still there in large numbers, there are now large numbers of dead ones. I counted over a dozen in varying stages of decomposition just from one point. I can only surmise that they are the result of the inland boom and finding it much harder to make a living and have perished. Interestingly, on visiting the same location a week later, the carcasses

were still there but there was also a dead fox. Due to the location there is no possibility that the fox had been shot. Botulism?

There are now thousands of Pelicans on the Lakes as well as a growing legion of teal and other ducks. I will be observing what happens to them with great interest.

I hope my amateur ramblings are of some interest.

John Peek



An Avian Multitude — photographed by John Peek in the inland, August 2012

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

BIRD CONSERVATION TRAPPED BY SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY

The profile of science has risen dramatically in policy making in recent years. Climate change mitigation, the Murray Darling Basin Plan, debate over the MV Margiris: all are talked about in terms of whether the science is certain. But what happens when government demands certainty in the science before acting, but won't fund the studies to provide that certainty?

Migratory shorebirds appear to be showing widespread declines while being increasingly threatened, but finding out for sure is expensive.

In Japan and several areas throughout Australia, recent work indicates that some of these species appear to have declined locally by anywhere from 30% to 80% in 15 to 30 years.

When faced with potential biodiversity losses such as those in shorebirds, decision makers often require high levels of certainty regarding any negative impacts of human activity on ecosystems. They are unlikely to support the typically costly actions to avoid impacts until they have strong evidence.

Unfortunately, such evidence can be difficult to deliver. Resources are scarce, and there has been under-investment in data collection for the past several decades. The unfolding evidence of large declines in migratory shorebirds exemplifies a rare long-term data set collected by volunteers that shows just how much information is needed to deliver strong evidence.

Shorebirds undertake remarkable journeys across the earth, at times coming together in clouds of birds that defy human understanding. Migratory shorebirds that visit the coasts and wetlands of Australia are very diverse. They come from breeding areas in the Arctic tundra, the steppes of central Asia, or large meadows found within boreal forests.

Many of the young are able to find their own food only days after hatching in the far north, and a few weeks later most fly south independently with no help from their parents or other experienced guides.

Most fatten up before they leave, in some cases to over 80% above their typical weight. They put on up to 5% weight gain per day in just a couple of weeks. These birds depart on their migrations looking like over-inflated footballs with wings, and yet some are known to fly up to 12,000km for over eight days non-stop across the Pacific.

They gauge favourable winds, and then with a variety of apparently built in navigation systems, and the sky for a map, they cross the globe.

Most migratory shorebirds feed in the non-breeding season on invertebrates living under the mud and sand. On their northern migrations these birds must stop at least once at habitats rich in food to fatten up again. One of the most important and widely used areas to stop and refuel is in southeast Asia's Yellow Sea.

There is growing evidence that the critical refuelling habitats in the Yellow Sea are declining rapidly. In fact many decision makers in these areas view intertidal habitats as an easy place to reclaim cheap land from the sea for other uses. The increasing popularity of these kinds of developments over the past few decades can easily be seen from space.

Evidence of declines in migratory shorebirds, combined with the loss of refuelling habitats, is sparking conservation planning throughout the flyway. The evidence is even convincing some of the most sceptical decision makers of declines. Unfortunately, many shorebird conservation advocates believe any action may come far too late if at all.

In a recent piece in *The Conversation*, Peter Doherty noted how citizen science, focused on birds that are relatively easy to monitor, may provide a barometer of the threats associated with increasing human activity on the planet. Migratory shorebirds are one such barometer. But without the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who have dedicated themselves to monitoring these birds across Australia and Japan for decades, we would have little idea that they appear to be in trouble.

Further work is determining the scale of declines across migratory shorebird species, and identifying any other factors besides habitat loss in SE Asia that may be reducing populations.

The threats to migratory shorebirds span a variety of interconnected habitats across the globe, from growing ecological imbalances in the Arctic, to large-scale degradation at inland non-breeding wetlands in Australia, such as the Coorong. As work continues I'm hopeful that the web of causes of declines in migratory shorebirds can be untangled so that sufficient and compelling evidence can be delivered regarding what is needed, and where, to reduce impacts to these birds.

It is striking though, that had it not been for the long term efforts of volunteers we would have no idea of the problem or its scale, and still less hope of beginning to unravel solutions. What about all those species, including other migratory shorebird species that have not been monitored by an army of volunteers for over 30 years? We know almost nothing about some of these species. What if the canaries we have enough data to look at seriously, and which we know are in trouble, are among the hardest birds in the mine?

Robert Clemens

Published in *The Conversation* 7 November, 2012

Past and Future Meetings

PAST GENERAL MEETINGS

FRIDAY JULY 27

Jeremy Robertson introduced the speaker for the evening Les Peters. Jeremy said that Les was also providing help to the Journal's editorial panel with his knowledge of Adobe InDesign.

Les then presented his talk entitled 'Bird Photography: A look at some approaches, ... and the results'. In this presentation we looked at:

- The impact of how you approach birds to photograph them – going directly towards them, staying hidden etc.
- Camera support and image quality
- The impact of light quality
- Getting the best results with what you have

With the first approach — just walking or driving around — which has the advantages of perhaps the most fun and the least work, Peter showed photos of 15 birds and one fox that he had photographed using this approach.

The second approach is to stay in a particular spot and wait for the action. This approach has the advantages that you can often choose your own background, you usually get closer to the birds and more often than not, the birds act more naturally. About 20 photographs taken using this approach were shown.

The third approach is to settle in a particular place, wait for the birds, then move along with them and choose your distance well. With this approach you are likely to see the most natural behaviour, you often get an interesting story and features of the bird's habitat and life style are preserved. In this series multiple photographs of Chestnut Quailthrush, Spotted Pardalote, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, White Cockatoo, and Little Corella were shown.

In the final group of about 100 photographs, Les asked members to see if they could pick up the different styles of photography.

With each photo Les explained the composition of each photo with

regards to light, how and what time of day the photo was taken. He also showed the effect of using a flash during daylight and comparing the quality of the close-up view using old and new lens.

Les gave the following hints for success:

- Try to capture a good light
- Watch the quality of the light
- Choose a suitable camera height
- Know your camera — play with it until you know it well
- Know your birds — you'll be able to predict where they will go and set yourself up in the right place

More great photographs can be seen at Les Peter's web site – lespeters.net

FRIDAY AUGUST 31

John Hatch introduced the speaker Craig Gillespie from the Urban Biodiversity Unit (UBU). Craig said that UBU is part of the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and is based at Wittunga House, the former residence of Edwin Ashby.

Craig began his talk by putting forward the following question – Urban Biodiversity – why bother? Urban Biodiversity has minimal conservation value; it is a highly modified environment and the land is managed for human interests.

Within the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management region urban Adelaide contains a significant proportion of the landscape and includes some very important biodiversity assets. What happens in urban Adelaide influences other parts of the landscape. Urban Adelaide includes some biologically significant patches of Grey Box Grassy woodland, which is a nationally threatened habitat. The largest patch of around 300 hectares is around Craighburn Farm and Sturt Gorge Conservation Park.

The Urban Biodiversity Unit looks after the S.A. Urban Forests Million Trees Program that includes Community Partnership Projects and Grow a Great School. It also runs Backyard for Wildlife (BfW) that is

largely unfunded and provides access for people to learn about the pre-European ecosystem. BfW principles encourage people to think of native *communities* rather than just native *species*. This last program also provides support for the Grey Box Day and the Understorey Project.

Adelaide's Urban Forest biodiversity areas are homes to birds such as White-browed Scrubwren where there are distinct races because of habitat diversity, the White-winged Fairy Wren and the Slender-billed Thornbill of which the gulf form is distinct. These three species only coexist in Adelaide's north. Other remnant bird populations include the White-browed Babbler, Black-chinned Honeyeater and the Hooded Robin.

Grey Box Day is a local project run by the Grey Box Community Group Inc. that provides cheap native plants to residents in the City of Mitcham council area to re-vegetate and restore the Grey Box community and associated biodiversity. Residents can get trays of twenty plants for \$20.00.

A major project of the UBU is the Million Trees Project. Photographs were shown of before and after plantings at O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park, the Gawler Buffer zone and Whitford Reserve at Hillbank. Bird surveys have been carried out by volunteers from Birds SA at Craighburn Farm (70 spp. since 2007), Onkaparinga River N.P. (71 spp. since 2007), Darlington (54 spp. since 2006) and at O'Halloran Hill R.P. (40 spp. since 2007).

Craig gave thanks to the following people who had helped with the bird surveys Phil Barron, the Blaylock family, Robert Brandle, Liz Carpenter, Peter Pfeiffer, Bea Rogers, Sue and Alan Winwood. He encouraged other members to become involved.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21

Merilyn Browne invited the speaker John Hatch to present his talk, which was called 'A Chilean Odyssey'. Colin Rogers had taken all the bird

Past and Future Meetings (cont)

photographs, while he had taken the scenic ones himself. The word 'odyssey' has a classical translation of 'a wandering'. John said that all his birding life he had wished to go to South America and when the chance came to visit while Colin Rogers was on six months secondment in Santiago, he went to Chile for fourteen days in May this year.

Santiago is the third largest city on South America. During his trip Colin and John visited Vallee Nedo, near the Argentine border, and flew 1500km north of Santiago to the Arica area where the temperatures in May vary between 5 and 17°C with zero precipitation for the whole year. No rain has been recorded there for the past 30 years and the town relies on water from the Rio's Lluta and Azapa that rise in the Andes.

South America has over 3000 bird species, mostly in the tropics. Chile is atypical of South America in some ways, since it is enormously long from north to south (about 4000km) but only the northern 10% is tropical. It is also a very narrow coastal country from 100-250km wide.

Birding is not a big thing in Chile and they met very few other birders.

John showed photographs and commented on the birds they had seen in the following locations;

Santiago area, Wetlands, Lluta estuary, Arica — Lluta and Azapa Valleys, Arica – pelagic, Arica – Rio Lluta estuary, Andean foothills and Putra, Altiplano Wetlands and Chungara Lake.

In 14 days Colin and John saw 175 species. John thanked his daughter Lisa for putting his presentation together.

FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Friday January 25

David Robertson will talk about, Sri Lankan Birds — 'Don't Mention the War'.

Friday February 22

Colin Rogers will tell us how to identify prions in South Australian waters.

**WEIRD
WORLD**

Sworn bird

A WOMAN in the US has been accused by neighbours of violating animal-noise regulations by teaching her cockatoo to swear.

Lynne Taylor is accused in Warwick municipal court, Rhode Island, of training the bird, Willy, to say expletives. The bird allegedly aims the invective at neighbours who happen to be Taylor's ex-husband and his girlfriend.

From 'The Advertiser',
15/9/12. Submitted by David
Robertson



**Banded Lapwing, photographed by Kay Parkin at
Tilmouth Well, NT July 2012**

Past Excursions

Monarto CP: 10 August

It was quite a change to find that we were not the only group around, as the orchid people were also out and about. They went south while we stayed in the northern parts. We found 48 species although numbers were not high. There were 9 species of honeyeater, including Purple-gaped, Tawny-crowned, Spiny-cheeked, Brown-headed & Yellow-faced. An Elegant Parrot made an appearance as did a single White-faced Heron, and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo called. Some of the group even found a Barn Owl. At lunch time we carried out the usual bird count. Then the orchid people took over to have lunch as the 19 of us drifted away.

Trevor Cowie

Hardy's Scrub CP, Onkaparinga River NP: 16 August

13 keen Birds SA bird watchers met at the Blewitt Springs CFS Station ready for a bracing winter's walk in weather that was cold, windy and threatening to rain. While the group gathered at the CFS Station, a flock of about 50 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos were seen on the edge of the park before we moved to the Hardy Scrub entrance to begin the walk. Due to the wind and cold weather, just 23 species were seen and overall the numbers of individuals was also low. Species which entertained the group included a well coloured male Mistletoe Bird which sat up in the sun giving everyone a good look at the red and black of his breast and belly, a pair of Crescent Honeyeaters which were seen on a low nest, just a couple of feet off the ground and only just off the track and Eastern Spinebills and Crescent Honeyeaters frequently called and appeared as we made our way around the park. Just after lunch a beautifully coloured male Eastern Spinebill was spotted by Les Peters a short distance down the track from the usual lunch spot. Other sightings included Crimson Rosella, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Golden Whistler female and juvenile as well as Grey

Currawong, Silvereyes and a single Red-browed Finch. A Fan-tailed Cuckoo was heard but not seen as was the Grey Shrike-thrush. Surprisingly no raptors were seen on the 2.5 hour walk. The numerous flowering plants and the variety of smaller native plants along the track kept attendees happy and interested and some of the flowering plants included Running Postman, a small grevillea, numerous acacia patches, sundews, a number of native orchids and many more. Lunch was taken while the only rain for the day passed, and during lunch three orchid enthusiasts arrive to photograph the numerous orchid species that were seen growing very close to the lunch area. While many of these small plants were seen, only a small percentage were flowering but there was enough knowledge within the group, especially from Les Peters, to identify many of the species. Les's knowledge of native plants and birds was a highlight of the walk and despite the low numbers of birds seen; there was plenty of informative banter within the group. Most of us left happy and with more insight into the bird and plant species of Hardy Scrub than when we arrived.

Alan Burns

Morgan CP: 2 September

Just seven members attended this walk, on which we managed to record 72 species. The area was looking good and the lignum was looking healthy. We found that the water levels were rather high along the river and the low-lying areas within Morgan Conservation Park were holding a lot of water. Several tracks were blocked as many trees have been dropping large limbs across them. As the day progressed, we saw many Regent Parrots, Crimson Rosellas (Yellow subspecies), Red-rumped Parrots and a few Australian Ringnecks. A single Brown Quail joined the party as did 3 Gilberts Whistlers and a pair of Restless Flycatchers. Superb, Splendid and White-winged Fairy-

wrens were nice to have around. The group enjoyed a good day.

Trevor Cowie

Scott CP: 15 September

With many old trees containing hollows, Scott CP lived up to its reputation for being the home of many lorikeets and other parrots. Many of these birds had already staked their claims and it was very pleasing to see one pair of Elegant Parrots using a hollow. Twenty-two members divided into two groups and were well occupied for most of the walk. In addition to the parrot families, seven species of honeyeaters were seen. A particularly good sighting was a pair of Crested Shrike-tits, a bird not seen here for several years. A very large number of Tree Martins were very busy collecting mud wherever it was exposed next to water. Although overcast, the conditions were calm which meant that many birds remained active until lunchtime. During lunch a Fan-tailed Cuckoo flew in to inspect the party.

Peter Gower

Altona CSR Landcare Reserve 20 September

18 members were present. After assembling in the car park the group began the slow walk up the slope toward the main tracks. The usual species were encountered here, namely Yellow Thornbill, Rufous Whistler, Eastern Spinebill, New Holland and Yellow-faced Honeyeater. At the top of the slope we headed as one group clockwise around the main track. Several Wedge-tailed Eagles were observed circling in the distance to the west. Tree Martins were present in good numbers but no Fairy Martins were seen. All of us had a good close-up view of a male White-winged Triller sitting quietly on the low branch of a shrub just off the track. Down on the creek there were Pacific Black Ducks with four ducklings. Several Horsefields Bronze-cuckoos were heard and then seen, whereas a Shining Bronze-cuckoo was only

Past Excursions (cont)

heard. Other highlights included a single female Red-capped Robin, Buff-rumped, Striated and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Spotted & Striated Pardalotes, Mistletoebirds, and Brown Treecreeper. No Rainbow Bee-eaters were seen or heard although they had recently been reported further north. In all although the number of birds seen was low we did manage 54 species for the morning.

Martyn Price

Kaiser Stuhl CP: 23 September

On a day with spasmodic high winds 14 birders managed to see just 34 species. A Brown Goshawk and Wedge-tailed Eagle were seen amongst the gum trees. We did manage to see eight species of honeyeater with the Crescent Honeyeater being the dominate species on the walk. We also recorded two Red-browed Finches and three European Goldfinches. Other interesting sightings were two separate Red-bellied Black Snakes in our way, one of which just let us walk by without moving. We went back down the hill for lunch and the bird call, after which a few of us looked at the Sewage Ponds, where a good number of Shovelers and Pink-eared Ducks were seen.

Trevor Cowie

OCTOBER CAMPOUT

Burra Creek, 28/09 to 2/10/12

Burra Creek Conservation Park is a new park, 8 to 10 kilometres downstream from the popular Burra Gorge / World's End camping area. The Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) had very little bird data for the area, which looked as if it had previously been grazed. The campsite was in the southeastern corner of the park, on a flat beside Burra Creek. From the campsite the park followed the meandering creek upstream through a gap in the low, north-south running range and ran north into mallee and saltbush flats. The creek was flowing over the road ford near the camp and a large

waterhole (more than 50 metres long) was found two kilometres upstream from the ford. Reed beds were plentiful, as was dense Myoporum scrub and river gums. The water flow ceased just down from our camp but it must have continued underground. The view from the ridge above camp showed the large river red gums growing well out onto the eastern bluebush plains. The combination of permanent water, rocky ridges and dry mallee/saltbush plains gave a good variety of bird habitats. The first campers arrived on Thursday but most of the 19 participants came in on Friday. The warm start gave way to a howling gale by Friday night, but no damage was reported. The rest of the camp period had fine weather for birding, with temperatures in the high teens. Many birds were seen and heard just around the camp, usually with the Peaceful Doves calling in the background. The Diamond Firetails near the ford showed themselves to nearly everyone. Most of Saturday was spent exploring the creek, gorge and waterhole. Another group drove to the northeast boundary, past a large group of White-winged Fairy-wrens, then into the hills along a fire track and down to the creek again in the southwest corner. Reed-warblers, Australasian Grebes and a Moorhen were spotted along the creek. The bird call that night had a selection of 'creek' birds, dry land birds and raptors. On Sunday the majority spent the morning surveying the 'Private Conservation' block that abuts the northern park boundary. Birds were scarce in the more grazed southern area, but the northern portion had a good selection of dry country birds. The camp split into small parties in the afternoon. That night we had separate bird calls, one for the Park itself and one for the private block. Some campers started leaving on Monday, while others continued birding and an informal gathering was held that night. In the end we had 73 species for the Burra Creek Park and 55 species for the private block. These bird lists have been

passed on to the DEWNR and the owner of the private land. It was a small but enjoyable camp, with a good variety of birds. Quite a few people expressed a wish to return and do some follow-up birding. We also met a few of the local landowners and heard about local birds, local history and even about the excavation of diprotodon bones from the creek bank.

Graham Bate, Campout Organiser

Moorunde Wildlife Park 13 October

It is always a pleasure to go into this Wombat reserve. The size of the park has more than doubled now, with the northern area being up to the Riverland main highway — a long walk! Twenty members were on the site and 43 species were recorded. Nine of these species were honeyeaters, including Striped, White-eared, Yellow-plumed and White-fronted. We also saw Splendid and Variegated Fairy-wrens, Chestnut Quail-Thrushes, Crested Bellbirds, Southern Scrub-robins, as well as Hooded and Red-capped Robins. After lunch several of us had another look around other areas before heading back home.

Trevor Cowie

Aldinga Scrub CP: 19 October

Seventeen members were present. Most of them gathered at the correct spot by 8:15am to head off in a counter-clockwise direction. A couple of late-comers made their own way around eventually joining us for lunch. A cool, calm overcast day, with some sun made for a pleasant walk. As always many species seen near the car park including, Mistletoebird, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and the resident Tawny Frogmouth in the caravan park. The ephemeral wetland at the north-east section of the park had plenty of water and we could hear Little Grassbird, and see Australian Reed-warbler. Continuing to the northern boundary we came across an Australian Spotted Crake. During

Past Excursions (cont) / Future Excursions

the walk we constantly saw Little Pied and Great Cormorants flying overhead to and from the wetland just to the north. A circling Australian White Ibis was also using the wetland. At the northern grassy area of the park a large mob of Kangaroos were feeding on the grass and resting beneath the trees. Spotted Pardalotes were in good numbers but there were few Striated Pardalotes. Honeyeaters included Red and Little Wattlebirds, White-plumed, New Holland and Crescent Honeyeater. Crescent Honeyeaters were observed feeding recently fledged young. The southern and south-eastern sections of the scrub were especially low in bird numbers. In all 61 species were observed.

After lunch several members went to the Washpool, south of the scrub; where we picked up a few more species including Black-winged Stilt, Cape Barren Goose, Grey and Chestnut Teals, Black Swan with cygnets, Black-fronted Dotterel, Whit-faced Heron and Brown Songlark to name a few.

Martyn Price

Cox Scrub CP: 28 October

A fine day saw 20 members and guests assemble for a walk in Cox Scrub. As it happened we were sharing the Park with a Nature Conservation Society of SA 'Walk with Nature', although our 8:00 am start time ensured that we had the Park to ourselves for a few hours. Close to the northern car park there was a shallow lake across the main track and this probably accounted for the fact that we observed Pacific Black Ducks, White-faced Herons, and Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants. We covered most of the park, with one hardy group walking all the way to Cole's Crossing. The species tally for the day was 46, but with very few species sighted in large numbers. Perhaps not surprisingly the most common bird sighted throughout the Park was New Holland Honeyeater, only surpassed by one flock of Little Corellas. The group had good sightings of Elegant Parrots, with five seen altogether. A total of 8

species of cockatoos, parrots and lorikeets were observed and 6 species of honeyeaters. A single Brown Songlark was heard calling on the southern edge of the Park.

Brian Walker

Bakara CP: 10 November

The weather was kind, as it warmed up slowly, which suited the 5 members who arrived for this outing. In hindsight I should have known that the Christmas Pageant was on that day. However we managed to record 41 species, and some wonderful species were recorded. These included 1 Malleefowl, 4 Mulga Parrots, 1 Southern Boobook, 2 Barn Owls, 2 Spotted Nightjars, 1 Australian Nightjar, 6 Splendid Fairy-wrens, 2 Chestnut Quail-thrushes, as well as Striped, White-eared and White-fronted Honeyeaters, Varied Sittellas, Crested Bellbirds and Gilberts Whistlers. Lunch was enjoyed by all present.

Trevor Cowie

FUTURE EXCURSIONS

Convener: Trevor Cowie

Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au

Tel: 08 8263 2531

Note: Lists of species recorded at the locations visited can be reviewed at www.birdpedia.com

NOTE FOR ALL SALTFIELDS EXCURSIONS:

The following regulations apply to both Dry Creek & Price Salt Fields:

Each Individual must be authorised by Cheetham Salt Ltd and must carry a valid card of authority **before entering the Salt Fields.**

If you do not have this authority, ask Trevor Cowie (8263 2531) how you can become authorised.

Everyone must wear Hi-Vi jackets, safety glasses, enclosed footwear and long trousers (baggy not tight). These items should be worn prior to entry. There are concerns about snake numbers at both sites.

WEATHER PROTOCOL FOR FIELD TRIPS

This protocol is based on the park closure policy of DEWNR. There is a ban on entering parks when the temperature reaches 36C. If a fire ban is in effect or the temperature is 36C or above in the area of a scheduled walk, the walk is **automatically cancelled**. This will not affect Salt Field trips, or Laratinga-type sites in towns. These excursions may proceed.

We have looked at wet weather situations with regard to the Cheetham Salt Field sites of Price and Dry Creek (St Kilda section). Passed recent winters have been eye openers for tracks within the salt fields. When rains and mud may weaken roadways, visits will be cancelled. With this in mind phone: 8837 6511 (Price) or 8409 9500 (St Kilda), and talk with Cheetham Salt. Entry into the salt fields is no longer authorised following heavy rains in the two days prior to a scheduled Birds SA visit, or for individuals at any time.

SALT FIELDS ENTRY

In the recent past no keys have been available as they had not been returned for others to use. In fact, one of the Birds SA scheduled walks was close to being cancelled because of this problem. Please think of others! Also be aware that not all members are on email.

It is also appropriate to remind all members that Salt Field passes will/may expire on the 30th June 2013. This will require going through the whole process of Induction and the necessary paperwork.

Sunday 2 Dec: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km)

This is an early start due to an early high tide of 2.53. Meet at the gate at 6.30am, (high tide 0700). Turn west onto St Kilda Road, from Port Wakefield Road follow the road turning right onto Radar Road (dirt and barrier) actually called Samphire Road. As per the normal request please bring your two-way radios if you have them.

Future Excursions (cont)

Saturday 15 Dec: Laratinga Wetlands (Mt. Barker) (MLR) (34km)

Meet at 8.15am in the car park on Bald Hills Rd, Mt. Barker.

Thursday 20 Dec: 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 **8.30am** at the Reserve entrance at the top of this road.

Please note that the meeting time given in the August Newsletter is incorrect.

Saturday 12 Jan: Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island & Goolwa Ponds (MLR) (90km)

Meet to the west of Goolwa Yacht Club at 8.15am. The intent is to cover the area up to and around the southern boat ramp from the Yacht Club then onto Hindmarsh Island to the Murray Mouth. Later in the day we will make a quick visit to Goolwa Ponds.

Thursday 17 Jan: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km)

This is an early start due to high tide being early that day. Meet by the gate at 6.45am, (high tide 0750). Turn west onto St Kilda Road, from Port Wakefield Road follow the road turning right onto Radar Road (dirt and barrier) actually called Samphire Road. As per the normal request please bring your two-way radios if you have them.

Sunday 27 Jan: Whites Road Wetlands (AP) (16km)

Take the Port Wakefield Road. At 1.5km after passing under the Salisbury Highway Bridge, turn left into Globe Derby Drive. Follow it to the end, turn right into Whites road and continue to the end of the road. The park entrance is on the left. Meet there at 7.45 a.m. Note that the main highway has been altered.

Saturday 2 Feb: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km)

Meet by the gate at 7.15am (high tide 0818). Turn west onto St Kilda Road, from Port Wakefield Road follow the road turning right onto Radar Road (dirt and barrier) actually called Samphire Road. As per the normal request please bring your two-way radios if you have them.

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The following regulations apply to both Dry Creek & Price Salt Fields:

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If you do not have this authority, ask Trevor Cowie (8263 2531) how you can become authorised.

Everyone must wear Hi-Vi jackets, safety glasses, enclosed footwear and long trousers (baggy not tight). These items should be worn prior to entry. There are concerns about snake numbers at both sites.

Saturday 9 Feb: Paiwalla Wetlands (MM) (88km)

Meet at Sunnyside Lookout at 9.00am. Take the Murray Bridge to Mannum Road **on the eastern side of the river** from Murray Bridge. Stay on this road until just past the turnoff to Bowhill on the right. Take the next left to Sunnyside Lookout car park.

Thursday 14 Feb: Browns Road, Monarto (MLR) (60km)

Meet at 8.30am at Browns Road, Monarto, just off the old Murray Bridge Road. Leave the SE Freeway at the Callington exit. Drive through Callington and turn right onto the old Murray Bridge road. The junction is on the left at the top of the hill.

Please note that the meeting time given in the August Newsletter is incorrect.

Sunday 24 Feb: Barker inlet and Magazine Road Wetlands (AP) (20km)

High tide is at 7.20am, so we will meet at Magazine Road car parking area at 7.30am. From there we will first walk the Barker Inlet wetland, where we are currently carrying out surveys for Port Adelaide Council. We may have to climb over the gate. We will return to walk the Magazine Road wetland and then have lunch.

Saturday 9 Mar: Onkaparinga Wetlands (MLR) (32km)

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

Thursday 21 Mar: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km)

High tide being at 08.50 we can meet by the gate at 07.30. Turn west onto St Kilda Road, from Port Wakefield Road follow the road turning right onto Radar Road (dirt and barrier) actually called Samphire Road. As per the normal request please bring your two-way radios if you have them.

Sunday 31 Mar: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km)

Meet by the gate at 6.30am (high tide 07.22). Turn west onto St Kilda Road, from Port Wakefield Road follow the road turning right onto Radar Road (dirt and barrier) actually called Samphire Road. As per the normal request please bring your two-way radios if you have them.

2020 Shorebird Counts 2012 to 2013

Once again we need our 2020 Group to do Shorebird counts, which many of you have been involved in for a long time. The Start will be around the 1st December 2012, covering all areas listed below and the inland areas covered by our members.

I request everyone who has been involved to let me know you will be along/available for the counts to follow.

There is a Birds SA Trip into the salt fields on the 1st December. Birders will cover the normal main tracks to record all species as they normally do.

Hazel and Trevor Cowie will be covering all the outlying edge tracks and will add the numbers recorded to

the overall trip into the Salt Fields list.

The main target areas are listed in the table below. Some of our members cover inland areas, which are also important.

Several birders will be coming to Gulf St Vincent from interstate.

Details are to be included in **Electronic birdpedia.com** and **Birds SA Web site (birdssa.asn.au)**

As you can see we need names of current and new willing observers

First count, to be conducted as close to Dec 1 as possible

Main Sites	observer/s
priority sites for Birds SA counters	
Barker Inlet Wetlands	
Magazine Rd Wetlands	
Whites Rd wetlands	
Section Banks/outer Harbour	Chris Purnell +
Dry Creek Saltfields	Trevor & Hazel Cowie
Port Gawler Seafront	
Middle Beach	
Light Beach	
Port Prime	Chris Purnell +
Thompson Beach south	Chris Purnell +
Thompson Beach north	Chris Purnell +
Webb Beach	
Port Parham	
Bald Hill	
Clinton Conservation Park	
secondary sites*	
Port Arthur	
Port Clinton	
Price Saltfields	
Tiddy Widdy coast	
Pine Point	
Black Point Reef	

Contact. Trevor Cowie. Tel: 8263 2531.

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 Rarities 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).

Brown Quail

1, 21/9/2012. 2 km W Kingscote, KI. Calling and photographed in garden. Danny Rogers

Still present 15/10/2012.

Baxter, C.

This is the first confirmed record of the species from KI.

7, 6/8/2012. Encounter Bay, Granite Island, MLR.

Syson, W.

15, 4/8/2012. Onkaparinga NP, Pingle Farm, MLR.

Doecke, N.

8, 23/9/2012. Cordillo Downs, Marianna WH, NE.

Rogers, C. & Koch, P.

1, 23/10/2012. 4 km SE Murray Bridge, MM.

Calling in weedy paddock with false caper.

Carpenter, G. & Allan, J.

Australasian Shoveler

pr+8 young, 18/10/2012. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K.

There are few breeding records of this species from SA in recent years.

Cape Barren Goose

105, 17/9/2012. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR, flying east.

Steele-Collins, E.

Great Crested Grebe

1, 4/9/2012. Price Saltfields, YP.

Tiller, M. & P. & R. Lloyd

Spinifex Pigeon

4, 21/9/2012. Cordillo Downs, Cadelga WH, NE.

Rogers, C. & Koch, P.

Previously reported from this locality.

Barbary Dove

1, 24/9/2012. Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Presumably translocated from populations established in Adelaide suburbs.

Spotted Nightjar

1, 8/10/2012. Waitpinga Beach, MLR, resting on coastal dunes.

Cutten, D.

Australasian Darter

5, 31/8/2012. Bordertown, SE.

Haywood, B. & Samuel-White, J.

1, 4/9/2012. Price Saltfields, YP.

Tiller, M. & P. & R. Lloyd

1, 19/10/2012. Streaky Bay jetty, EP.

Collard, S. & Cox, T.

Reported at latter locality last spring (NL 221).

Cattle Egret

2, 8/2012. Parndana Wildlife Park, KI.

Baxter, C.

Rarely reported from KI.

White-necked Heron

1, 21/9/2012. Latham CP, KI, on dam.

Baxter, C.

Again, rarely reported from KI.

Royal Spoonbill

14 nests, 20/8/2012. Busby Islet, KI. Nesting on Nitre-bush with **Australian White Ibis** (400 nests) and **Straw-necked Ibis** (10 nests).

Baxter, C.

Letter-winged Kite

11 and 12, 25/9/2012. 47 and 43 km N Innamincka, NE.

Rogers, C. & Koch, P.

White-bellied Sea-eagle

Juvenile, 21/10/2012. Aldinga Reef, MLR.

Lloyd, R.

Square-tailed Kite

1, 20/10/2012. Sandy Creek CP, MLR.

Barron, P.

1, 3/9/2012. Williamstown, Coppermine Rd, MLR.

Pearce, A.

Australian Painted Snipe

1, 30/9/2012. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K. & L.

Still present 8/10/2012.

Davis, T.

This is the only report of the species this spring.

Red Knot

22, 3/9/2012. Chinaman's Creek, LN.

Langdon, P.

Painted Button-quail

Dead male, 27/9/2012. Hallett Cove RS, MLR.

Lloyd, R.

1, 21/10/2012. Onkaparinga Wetlands, MLR.

Lloyd, R.

1, 1/9/2012. Inman Valley, Coote Rd, MLR.

Cutten, D.

Scarlet-chested Parrot

3, 17/10/2012. Perlubie, EP, in coastal vegetation.

Cox, T.

Bourke's Parrot

1, Jan 2012. Uplands HS, Iron Chieftan, EP.

Bebbington, L.

Bird Records (cont)

Pallid Cuckoo

Widespread in southern areas in August – September including:

1, 14/8/2012. West Beach, Patawalonga Creek, AP.

Lawrence, R.

1, 20/9/2012. Bay of Shoals, KI.

Redman, N. per Baxter, C.

Eastern Koel

1, 2/10/2012. Reynella, Sarah Cl, MLR.

Harris, S. & L.

Still present 18/10/2012. Reynella, Sarah Crt, MLR.

Lees, A.

and 22/10/2012. Reynella, Zeld Cl, MLR.

Hankel, C.

This is the third consecutive year at this locality.

Rufous Bristlebird

1, 31/7/2012. Caroline Forest, Snow Gum Reserve, SE.

Haywood, B.

Further inland than previous reports in the SE.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

1, 21/10/2012. Felixstow, Redden Ave, AP.

Hyland, M.

Little Wattlebird

3, 3/3/2012. Port Clinton, YP.

Wood, M., Hartland, D. & Mantle, D.

2, 19/10/2012. Port Clinton, YP.

In flowering Callistemon.

Carpenter, G.

These are the first reports from YP. Previously reported from Port Wakefield in 2005.

Crimson Chat

1, 1/9/2012. Piccaninnie Ponds, Picks Swamp, SE.

Barrand, P. & R.

Rarely reported in the SE.

Black Honeyeater

1 male, 22/9/2012. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM.

Feeding in flowering Lucerne Tree.

Doecke, M.

Gilbert's Whistler

1, 1/8/2012. Port Augusta Aridlands Botanic Garden, NW.

First report from this locality.

Langdon, P.

Masked Woodswallow

1, 8/9/2012. Aldinga Scrub CP, MLR.

Lloyd, R.

Large numbers present in the southern mallee during October, in mixed flocks with relatively few White-browed Woodswallows.

Pied Currawong

6, 9/8/2012. Mount Gambier, SE.

Penney, P.

Becoming more common in the SE since it was first discovered during the SAOA Easter 1985 Campout.

Restless Flycatcher

1, 21/9/2012. Cordillo Downs, Cadelga WH, NE.

Rogers, C. & Koch, P.

Most records in this region are during autumn-winter with no reports of nesting.

Apostlebird

4, 13/9/2012. Mambray Creek, FR.

Dennis, T.

Reported nesting at this locality last spring (NL 220).

Common Blackbird

2, 6/8/2012. Wilpena, FR.

Schrader, N.

This is the furthest north record in the region.

Australasian Pipit

1, 15/10/2012. Adelaide Parklands, Victoria Park, AP.

Sparks, K.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Andrew John Koerber	MILE END
Stefan & Hugh Michalski	HEATHFIELD
Jessica Palmer	DEVON PARK
Shane Kelly	NORWOOD
Michael Graham Stead	BEDFORD PARK
Stefaan Jan, Rogier Simons & Jane Sutton	GLENELG
Gregory Maggi	GAWLER
Patrick Leo Taggart	VICTOR HARBOR
Ian Reid	ROSE PARK

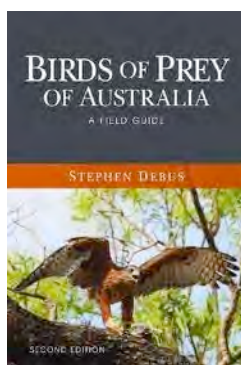
If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our treasurer. His 'phone number is on p2.

From the Library



598.1760994 HAD
Hadden, Don
Waterbirds of Australia.
Sydney : New Holland, 2010.
ISBN 9781877069826

This book showcases over 85 birds that frequent the wetlands, shores and coastal waters of Australia. Nature photographer Don Hadden has captured all of them in their natural environment



598.910994 DEB.2
Debus, Stephen
Birds of prey of Australia: a Field Guide. 2nd ed.
Collingwood, Vic.: CSIRO Publishing in association with Birdlife Australia, c2012.
ISBN 9780643104365

The book has been completely revised and updated, with 15 years of new data, a section on difficult species-pairs (split images providing direct contrast), and rearranged in modern field-guide format, making it easy to use and enabling rapid identification of 'difficult' raptors.



598.2994 PIZ.9
Pizzey, Graham
The field guide to the birds of Australia .9th ed., revised and updated.
Sydney, N.S.W.: Harper Collins Publishers, 2012.
ISBN 9780732291938

This definitive and respected work on bird identification as been fully revised and updated, with 18 new species recently recorded and described, new information on family groups and the new order of species corresponding to the latest taxonomic order of birds.



598.970994 OLS
Olsen, Jerry
Australian high country owls.
Collingwood, Vic.: CSIRO Publishing, 2011.
ISBN 9780643097056

Australian High Country Owls provides the latest scientific information on Australian owl species, especially Ninox owls. Appendices cover the biology, conservation and rehabilitation of Australian owls, including: field recognition, subspecies taxonomy, habitat, behaviour, food, range, migration, breeding, voice and calls, status and myths, questions about each species, and techniques for caring for injured and orphaned owls. The book includes numerous photographs of different owl species.

From the Library (cont)



598.15 BIR
 Birkhead, Tim
Bird sense: what it's like to be a bird.
 New York: Walker & Co, 2012.
 ISBN 978082779663

Bird sense tells captivating stories about how birds use their sense of sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch and magnetic field detection to interpret their environment and to interact with others.



Bar-tailed Godwits, photographed by Les Peters at the Murray Mouth on 7.9.2012

Details of photographs on pp 23 and 24.

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Gilbert's Whistler	Kay Parkin	Gluepot Reserve	August 2012
2	Hooded Robins	Kay Parkin	Gluepot Reserve	August 2012
3	Brown Thornbill	Peter Day	Mt. Crawford	2/11/2012
4	White-browed Scrubwren	Peter Day	Springmount CP	18/10/2012
5	White-winged Fairy-wren	Les Peters	Whites Rd.	13/8/2012
6	Splendid Fairy-wren	Les Peters	Ridley CP	23/7/2012

THE AUSTRALASIAN RAPTOR CONFERENCE

10 & 11th August 2013

Adelaide Zoo, Adelaide SA

Call for abstracts



'Raptors in a Changing Landscape'

The Australasian Raptor Association in conjunction with Birds SA invites you to join us in Adelaide at the picturesque Adelaide Zoo gardens and conference centre for the 2013 annual conference.

The Australasian Raptor Conference, the first to be held in South Australia, will focus on "Raptors in a Changing Landscape".

The conference program will encompass important issues in raptor conservation including:

- *Urban dwelling raptors*
- *The impacts of urban sprawl and coastal developments on threatened raptors*
- *Ecology and conservation of raptors in rangelands and agricultural environments*
- *Wind energy*
- *Toxicology and environmental pollution*
- *Education*
- *As well as the latest research in Australasia*

In addition pre-conference workshops will be conducted which aim to develop positive relationships with Industry, the community and scientists to improve conservation outcomes for raptors.

The conference aims to reach out to all raptor enthusiasts including scientists and researchers with an emphasis on education and engagement of students and the younger generation.

The conference organisers encourage researchers and scientists involved in raptor research from Australia and other countries to submit abstracts as soon as possible.

Registration to attend the conference is open to both members and non-members with a passion for raptor conservation.

Abstract Criteria

Poster or oral presentation
230-250 words

Speaker Assistance

\$250 towards travel costs and the conference fee waived upon timely receipt of abstract.

To apply

Simply email your conference abstract to Ian Falkenberg and please state that you would like to be considered for 'speaker assistance'.

Applications will be assessed on the merit of the presentation by the conference organisers.

The closing date for all abstracts: December 31st 2012

(however your registration of interest would be appreciated as soon as possible)

UPDATES TO FOLLOW ON CONFIRMED SPEAKERS, CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND ANY FURTHER INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE

We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide in 2013!



Abstracts & expressions of interest to:

Contact: Ian Falkenberg

Email: ian.falkenberg@sa.gov.au

White-bellied Sea Eagle photo by Nicholas Birks



Albatross Photos

Kay Parkin took all these albatross photos off Port Macdonnell on 28 October 2012.



Shy Albatross



Yellow-nosed Albatross



Black-browed Albatross



Royal Albatross



Wandering Albatross

A Page of Bush Birds

See page 20 for details



Beautiful Blue Fairy-wrens

