

# Birds SA



# Newsletter

No 225

February 2013



**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 objectives.

# Bright-coloured Tropical Birds

Photographed by Burt May in November 2012 at O'Reilly's Rainforest Guest House, Green Mountain, Gold Coast, Queensland



**Eastern Spinebill**



**Regent Bowerbird**



**King Parrot**



**Satin Bowerbird**

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### CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 43,  
F. W. ANDREWS (cont)

## 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.

Mar 2	Saturday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields
Mar 9	Saturday	Excursion to Onkaparinga Wetlands
Mar 21	Thursday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields
Mar 22	Friday	General Meeting
Mar 24	Sunday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields
Mar 31	Sunday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields

### March 28 to April 2, Easter Campout, Mary Seymour CP

\*\*\*\*\*

April 13	Saturday	Excursion to Mt. Lofty Botanic Gardens
April 18	Thursday	Excursion to Magazine Rd. Wetlands
April 26	Friday	AGM and General Meeting
April 28	Sunday	Excursion to Bushland Park etc.

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May 11	Saturday	Excursion to Bullock Hill CP, etc
May 16	Thursday	Excursion to Mt. George CP
May 31	Friday	General Meeting

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June 2	Sunday	Excursion to Swan Reach CP
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**Cover photo:** Varied *Sitellas* taken by Trevor Cox on 07/04/2009 at Stockyard Plains

*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 p11.

## SAOA COMMITTEE 2012 – 2013

President	Jeremy Robertson	7183 2674
Vice President	John Hatch	8362 2820
Vice President	Greg Kerr	7007 3922
Secretary	Brian Blaylock	8370 3349
Treasurer	Brian Walker	8263 3433
Assistant Secretary	Kate Buckley	8261 7197
Journal Editor	Merilyn Browne	8339 6839
Newsletter Editor	Cynthia Pyle	8264 5778
Field Program Coordinator	Trevor Cowie	8263 2531
Bird Record Secretary	Graham Carpenter	8297 5463
Membership Officer	Lou Bartley-Clements	0418858037
Member	John Spiers	8333 0272
Member	Merinda Hyland	8337 3616
Member	Lynton Huxley	8278 4313
Member	Robert Rowland	83881790
Member	Wally Klau	8667 5005

## FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	0402123960
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
	email <a href="mailto:imagerlibrarian@birdssa.asn.au">imagerlibrarian@birdssa.asn.au</a>	
Campout Organiser	Graham Bate	8270 3041

## RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

### BirdLife Southeast SA

Convenor, — Bob Green      [shriketit@bigpond.com](mailto:shriketit@bigpond.com) 8725 0549  
 IBA Coordinator/Newsletter Editor — Bryan Haywood  
[brytonwood@bigpond.com](mailto:brytonwood@bigpond.com) 8726 8112

### Fleurieu Birdwatchers

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

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

## 2013 SAOA SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

ABN 76 339 976 789

## ADVERTISING IN THE Birds SA NEWSLETTER

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

### COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the May Newsletter is due by the April General Meeting (April 26). 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](mailto:newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au)
- [cpy62284@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cpy62284@bigpond.net.au)

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# Birds SA Notes & News

## GET INVOLVED!

The Annual General Meeting of The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc. will be held in April. As usual all positions on the Management Committee will be open for nominations.

This year Greg Kerr and Trevor Cowie will not be standing for re-election. One General Committee position is already vacant due to the resignation of Wally Klau and there is the possibility that two other current committee members may not stand.

If you wish to get involved in the management of our Association put your hand up and nominate. A nomination form is available on the website

<http://www.birdssa.asn.au/images/birdssa/pdfs/CommitteeNomination.pdf>

Should you require any information about what is involved do not hesitate to contact me.

**Brian Blaylock, Secretary**

## HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS LATELY?

I have recently become aware of the fact that some South Australian Government email addresses changed late in 2012. As a result of these changes some members are no longer receiving our monthly e-Newsletter.

I am also aware that some members email addresses are no longer valid as emails have "bounced".

If you have an email address and are not receiving our monthly e-Newsletter (or any other messages sent via email from Birds SA) please send an email to [membership@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:membership@birdssa.asn.au) requesting that you be added to our mailing list. If you could include your name and membership number that would assist me in matching the email address with a name.

**Brian Walker**

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee proposes to award Honorary Life Membership of the Association to Trevor Cowie in

recognition of his outstanding contributions to planning, organising and leading very many excursions over more than 20 years.

### 1. As Field Trip Coordinator for the past 20 years Trevor has:

Encouraged membership of Birds SA through his welcoming approach to new and prospective members

Expanded the program to encompass a coordinated approach to the three monthly outings

Gone beyond the call of duty in personally leading the vast majority of trips on Saturdays and Sundays,

Collected records of bird species seen on all trips, thus creating a formal record of observations,

Taken many interstate and overseas visitors to South Australia's wide range of bird habitats.

### 2. Shorebirds 2020 Coordinator for Gulf St Vincent

Trevor has acted as coordinator of Birds SA participation in BirdLife Australia's Shorebirds 2020 programme since its inception. This has involved recruiting and training a core of volunteers and organising their activities at several locations for a large number of bird counts.

### 3. Obtaining access for Association members and other birdwatchers to Dry Creek Salt Fields

Against all the odds, Trevor successfully negotiated access to the Salt Fields for members of Birding associations generally.

He helped to develop the induction process required by the Salt Fields' proprietors for anyone entering the facility.

He assumed responsibility for conducting inductions and issuing permits so that Salt Fields' staff are not distracted from their normal duties by the need to induct birders and issue permits for access.

Trevor has made himself and his home widely available to birders at times that suit them for the issue of permits.

Members will have the opportunity to vote on the Committee's proposal at the AGM

P.S. As Newsletter Editor, I thank Trevor for always submitting his 'Past and Future Excursions' contributions well before the due date, without having to be reminded.

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME

A sub-committee has been formed to discuss and plan running a Children's Bird Education program. The objective of the program is to initiate interest in primary school children about Birds! Initially it will be a one-hour talk to classes around the birds they see in their back yards. And hopefully we are also planning ways that we could incorporate the families of these children in becoming involved in Birds SA, via organised events or children's memberships.

This is obviously a huge task, with a lot to be considered. We welcome any members of Birds SA that may have any experience in this area, or who would just like to be involved to contact me via the committee secretary.

We are really excited about this project and know it is going to be lots of fun and very rewarding.

**Lou Bartley-Clements**

## UPDATE ON THE THIRD BIRD ATLAS OF THE ADELAIDE REGION

At the time of writing this report, over 5000 blank cards have been distributed to willing participants and around 1200 completed cards have been received. Half of the completed cards have been checked and entered into the database. I am anticipating that there are many completed cards still to be returned. Please keep them coming. At present most people provide cards for key areas that they visit regularly and this is great, but cards can be provided even for short visits to other locations within the survey region. The survey region runs from the western tip of Kangaroo Island to the other side of the Morgan to the bottom of the Coorong and includes the River Murray south of Morgan. Although

# Birds SA Notes & News(cont)/Miscellaneous Items

these are still 17 months to go, the more locations and lists provided on the cards the better. Some preliminary distribution maps will be added to the Birds SA website in a couple of month's time (when more data have been collated). Specific areas that are poorly covered will be targeted from July 2013 onwards. Please keep up the good work and enthusiasm. If you fail to get a supply of blank cards at a general meeting then please email me [david.paton@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:david.paton@adelaide.edu.au) with a postal address and ask for blank cards to be posted to you.

**David Paton**

## **BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA UPDATE**

A meeting of the Birds AS Committee with Fiona Blandford and Diana Gibson from BirdLife Australia in early December 2012 went very well. Our President, Jeremy Robertson, has since received a letter from Diana Gibson, which supports a joint proposal to develop a strong co-operative relationship over time between BirdLife Australia and Birds SA.

This letter summarises the outcomes of the meeting, which were that Birds SA's interest in development of an ongoing 'affiliation' with BirdLife Australia is founded on:

- Opportunities for improved communication with BirdLife Australia and the umbrella BirdLife International Affiliation
- Coordinating with BirdLife Australia on Important Bird Areas
- Coordinating with BirdLife Australia's national advocacy initiatives
- Possible access BirdLife Australia Education resources and advice
- Possibility of joint project funding submission
- Formalising and coordinating data and atlasing arrangements
- Training in monitoring methodologies to align Birds SA data with national and international methods.

In the short term, BirdLife Australia will list Birds SA activities on the BirdLife Australia website and

provide a link from BirdLife Australia's 'Affiliates' section of our website to the Birds SA website.

A subcommittee comprising Lou Bartley-Clements, Brian Blaylock and Jeremy Robertson has been set up to continue discussions about a closer working relationship between our two associations. Lou Bartley-Clements has been elected to be the liaison person.

**Lou Bartley-Clements**

## **AN EASTER EVENT**

We are currently looking for volunteers to help on the Birds SA stall over the Easter Weekend at the Nunkri Orchard Open Day, Coromandel Valley. We will be engaging with the general public, in cooperation with the orchard owner, by assisting them, especially the children, to identify birds, .

If you are willing to assist, please contact our Secretary for further information! We aim to conduct many more public presentations this year, so if you are unable to make this Easter event but would be interested in future events please let us know!

**Lou Bartley-Clements**

[louandjo@internode.on.net](mailto:louandjo@internode.on.net)

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

### **DIARY FROM AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL STATE**

The following is an extract from a UK website called '**BIRD GUIDES — better birding through technology**

([www.birdguides.com.au](http://www.birdguides.com.au)). The site describes South Australia and Tasmania as 'Australia's Natural States'. The first three paragraphs below advertise the delights that South Australia had to offer. They are quoted verbatim.

"South Australia is envied worldwide for its vast tracts of pristine wilderness, prehistoric, fossil-rich ranges and 2,900 miles of untouched coastline. The state is home to a vast array of birds and wildlife all year round. The birdlife in South Australia is prolific, due to its diverse range of habitats including a mix of mudflats, wetlands, heath land and forests as well as desert and semi-dry

Mallee. The result is a bird list that tops 450 species including endemic and specialist birds such as the Chestnut-breasted Whiteface.

"Stand-out birding destinations include Coorong National Park, an hour's drive southeast of Adelaide on the Limestone Coast. Considered by many to be one of the most important water bird habitats in Australia, The Coorong acts as a magnet to huge numbers of birds with its shallow lagoons protected from the Southern Ocean by a line of sand dunes. The 230 bird species found in the Coorong include Little Pied, Little Black and Black-faced Cormorants, Pied Oystercatcher, Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebe, Greater Crested and Fairy Tern, myriad migratory waders in the summer months as well as the world's largest breeding colony of Australian Pelicans.

"The wetlands and lagoons of the Murray River also teem with birdlife, with Black Swans, herons and egrets and many species of duck thriving in the shallow waters and river reeds. South Australia also boasts an impressive list of seabirds including 12 species of Albatross, six species of Prion and seven species of gadfly (*Pterodroma*) petrel including Great-winged, Mottled, Collared, Kerguelen, Soft-plumaged and White-headed, as well as several species of storm-petrel and diving-petrel."

In the two weeks from 14<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012, Rob Jolliffe toured south Australia, visiting Glenelg, the Coorong, Tolderol, Swan Reach, Banrock Station and Kangaroo Island. He sent back regular posts, pictures and videos that chronicled the birds and wildlife he experienced as he made his way across South Australia, taking in vast wetlands, island endemics, Mallee prairie-lands and marine specialities on the way.

Visit the website to read the details of Rob's travels and admire his photographs and videos.

**Cynthia Pyle**

**(Thanks to a tip-off from Sue Winwood)**

# Miscellaneous Items (cont)

## BENEATH THE COLOUR: SOME ASPECTS OF BIRD STRUCTURE

Some knowledge of avian anatomy enriches bird watching because it makes it possible to understand more about how birds look and behave.

We record plumage and other features in our field observations and use standard ways to describe them; for instance the bird's head is complex and may have any number of features that need to be noted precisely. Thus knowledge of surface anatomy becomes essential and is the reason why it is covered at the beginning of so many field guides.

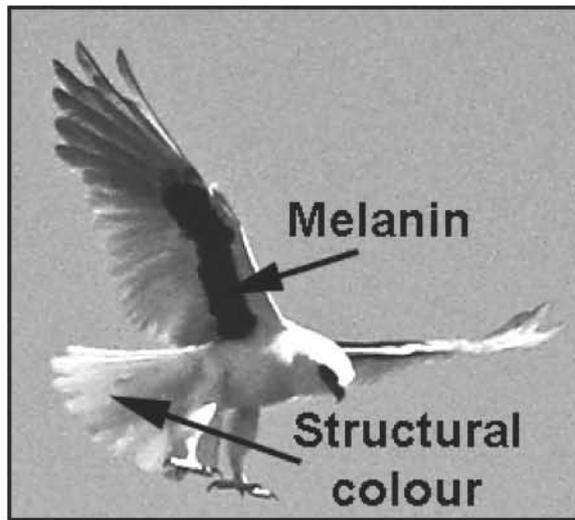
Contour feathers cover the bird's body. Typically feathers have a central rachis or shaft with two vanes. Each vane is formed of a row of barbs, which have overlapping barbules linked by hooklets. Flight feathers have stronger

shafts and vanes to bear the stresses of flight. Definitive down feathers are for insulation and lack a rachis and hooklets. Filoplumes and bristles have nerves around the quill indicating a tactile or sensory role.

The colour of birds' feathers may be due to pigments or be structural. Melanins are synthesized by melanocytes in the skin and the pigment is transferred to the feather during development producing browns and blacks. Porphyrins from blood are less common pigments. The brilliant colour of flamingoes is due to ingested carotenoids (related to vitamin A) coming from the diet e.g. crustacea. Structural colours may be white, iridescent or the fantastic hues of a peacock's tail. Structural colours are produced by the microscopic structure of the feather causing refraction, reflection or interference of light.

Bird anatomy is easier to understand with some knowledge of the underlying bones. Birds' skulls vary but in general are light.

The eye is large because of the importance of vision to flight. Unlike humans, where the brain is above the face the brain of a bird is located behind the eyes and the bill is in front, a good aerodynamic arrangement.



Letter-winged Kite, photographed by Robert Rowland on the Strezleki Track in Sept. 2012

The bony skeleton of the bill is covered by the ramphotheca, a layer of densely adherent skin, which produces the keratin of the bill. In addition to the mandible opening in many birds the maxilla can flex or is articulated and can also open.

The bill is sensitive to pain and there are numerous nerves and blood vessels present within it. The bill tip organ in parrots and ducks is sensitive to touch. Ducks have taste buds. Some waders have been shown to create pressure waves by repeated probing and build up a three dimensional perception of food items in the sand. Birds can smell, the albatross and other pelagic birds find food and identify their breeding islands in part by using the sense of smell. Kiwis have a highly developed sense of smell and a large olfactory lobe in their brain.

Birds' eyes are generally large in proportion to body size and birds have a well-developed optic lobe of the brain. The bird's eye differs from the human eye in a number of ways. The bird eye is not spherical and is

surrounded by ossicles. Birds have eyelids but also a nictitating membrane to keep the cornea clean and moist. The vitreous chamber has a pecten, a comb shaped vascular structure, which contributes to the nutrition and oxygenation of the eye.

About one half of birds have two maculae compared with one in the human. The macula is the area of greatest visual acuity at the back of the eye and is where colour sensitive cone cells are concentrated. The visual acuity of some birds, such as the Wedge-tailed Eagle, is greater than the human and they have more cone cells per mm<sup>2</sup> in the macula. Owls have a reflective layer, the tapetum lucidum, at the back of the eye to assist with night vision.

Birds see in four colours, ultra violet, blue, green and red/orange. Some flowers, fruit and animal trails reflect ultra violet light. Mammals see in only two colours, apes

and humans see in three colours, unless they are colour blind.

The eyes in birds face out sideways as well as forward but there is a lot of variation between species so three visual field patterns are described. The owl with forward facing eyes has excellent stereoscopic binocular vision but a wide arc of blindness posteriorly. The typical 'starling pattern' shows reasonable binocular vision a wide arc of monocular vision out sideways and a limited blind area posteriorly. The third pattern is that of the duck with a narrow zone of binocular vision, an huge arc of monocular vision and only a very narrow blind segment behind which is a very effective visual field pattern for identifying aerial predators.

The gannet's head has evolved so that it has binocular vision looking down. The bill is dagger like, the nares are closed and it breathes through gaps between the base of the maxilla and mandible. The ears are well covered. All these features suit its diving fishing lifestyle.

**ROBERT ROWLAND**

# *Giving them wings*

## *conserving threatened species*

*Barbara Wheaton supplied these two articles from Balinese publications.*

### **BALI STARLINGS**

In April this year I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Nusa Penida with a group of about 20 people, including Dr Bayu Alan El Kadhi and the team from the Friends of the National Parks Foundation (FNPF). This a local Indonesian not-for-profit organisation that is doing extraordinary work in Bali and Kalimantan (Borneo). FNPF was founded in 1997 by a group of veterinarians and conservation/community minded Indonesians.

The organisation's strength lies in creating community-based conservation. They combine programmes that directly improve local community wellbeing, such as education scholarships, agro-forestry and eco-tourism, to motivate and mobilise the communities to protect wildlife, restore habitat, and support their conservation work. They have an inherent understanding of local indigenous communities' culture, spirituality, needs and challenges, so they can work closely with the local communities to design programmes that benefit them, wildlife and habitat.

Nusa Penda is a great example of the work they are doing. Starting in 2004, FNPF spent two years on Nusa Penida using their knowledge of Balinese traditions and culture to establish a good relationship with the communities on the island. They provided conservation education and advice about the community development benefits that they would provide. This resulted in all villages passing a traditional Balinese regulation (awig awig) to protect the bird population of the island, especially the Bali Starling. In return, FNPF provides a range of projects to

help the communities, including education scholarships, a nursery growing thousands of saplings that the villagers can take freely, eco-tourism promotion and a community library.

The Bali Starling, Bali's official emblem bird, is one of most beautiful and one of the rarest birds in the world. In 2005 there were less than 10 remaining in the wild in Bali, despite the release of many hundreds into the West Bali National Park from the mid 1980s by the Indonesian government and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). Their decline to almost extinction is almost entirely because of bird poachers — a single bird can fetch over US\$1, 000/Indonesian Rp 8,5million.

Conversely FNPF rehabilitated and released just 64 birds (owned by the Begawan Foundation) onto Nusa Penida in 2006/7 and by 2009 there were over hundred birds. By motivating and mobilising all 41 villages on Nusa Penida to protect the birds FNPF had overcome the threat from bird poachers and transformed the whole island of Nusa Penida into an unofficial bird sanctuary.

FNPF is continuing to find ways to increase the number of Bali Starlings on Nusa Penida in terms of numbers and genetic diversity. The organisation is working with multiple readers to increase the genetic diversity of the original 64 birds that they released in 2006/7. They released at least 10 birds each year from a variety of breeders, with the first release in 2011. In addition, FNPF is installing nest boxes on Nusa Penida that were specifically designed for Bali Starlings, to help increase their breeding numbers and frequency.

The promotion and provision of nest boxes was largely the reason behind

the April 2011 visit to Nusa Penida. Mary Wilson, a regular visitor to Bali from the USA funded the trip because she had fallen in love with the Bali Starling and the FNPF project. Last year she invited long standing Ubud residents Cat Wheeler and Sue Winski to join her in a visit to the Island to see the project and to help spread the word about the wonderful work of FNPF. This year Mary wanted to return to Nusa Penida to see how the project had developed, to increase community awareness about the project and to encourage people to support the project by buying nest boxes for these beautiful birds. In addition to their work with Bali Starlings, FNPF is working on a project to build a back-up wild population of Java Sparrows on Nusa Penida. Once common all over Bali, especially in the rice fields, these birds are now extremely rare on Bali and FNPF is concerned that they will become extinct before they become officially classified as endangered.

John Duffield, an Ubud resident who has been rearing many Java Sparrows in his aviary in Ubud, has donated over 100 of the birds to FNPF. They will be released onto Nusa Penida on July 10 through a temple ceremony attended by all 41 Nusa Penida village leaders plus various Balinese government officials. The event is also the fifth anniversary of the first release of Bali Starlings by FNPF onto the island; so the event is expected to be well attended and publicised by the media.

As for the nest boxes 6 have already been installed and 2 had pairs of Bali Starlings nesting in them within two weeks of installation. SNPF has proven over the last five years that the birds can survive, can find places to nest and can breed successfully on Nusa Penida. The reason for installing the nest boxes is to provide

# Giving them Wings (cont)

the Bali Starlings with more places and security to nest so that they can increase their rate of producing young.

## TWO BIRDS IN THE BUSH

*From Ubud Life Magazine*

Perhaps, like me, you've noticed that there are a lot more birds in your garden these days. It only recently occurred to me that this is because they may be running out of choices.

Rampant development all over Bali is covering wildlife habitat with villas, roads, shops and restaurants. I imagine being a bird here in Ubud these days, cruising along among the kite strings and looking down at gridlock traffic and concrete where green things used to be growing, and wondering where to land. **The rivers with their steep, jungled banks must look very attractive to a bird in the air.**

I live on such a riverbank and beside me are three like-minded neighbours, so between us we have a good long stretch of natural ravine frontage where no chemicals are used and no garbage is dumped. We're rewarded with a ringside seat of Bali's wildlife – birds, snakes, monitor lizards, squirrels, musang (asian palm civet cat) and the occasional porcupine or rogue macaque that lost a dominance battle in the Monkey Forest.

"It's very true that the rivers of Bali are important reservoirs of biodiversity," agreed Farquhar Stirling, a lifelong birdwatcher. "Fortunately, the river gorges are so steep that they are unlikely to be disturbed by development."

to the natural world that we've lost in our urban lives."

Farquhar is a member of the Board of Trustees of Burung Indonesia, an affiliate of the UK-based conservation group Birdlife International. Burung Indonesia

(www.burung.org)

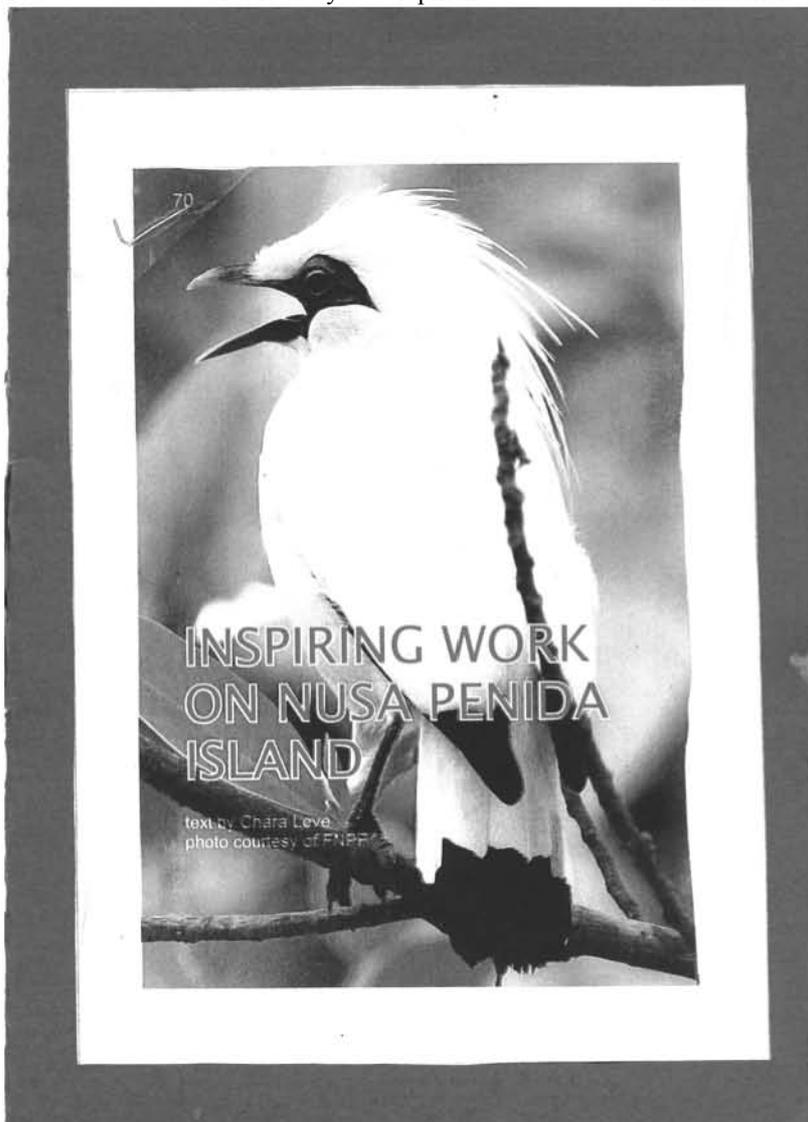
focuses on protecting habitats and educating people about wild bird life in Indonesia. Its program 'Birds Around Us' aims to encourage the protection and enjoyment of wild birds in urban areas of Indonesia. Members meet with young people, students, developers and homeowners to inform them about sustainable organic methods of cultivation with the intention of making gardens, golf courses, housing developments and apartment complexes hospitable to birds.

If you've ever wondered about that tiny bird hovering in front of your hibiscus flowers, you need Victor Mason's excellent little guide 'Birds of Bali' with

charming water colour illustrations by Frank Jarvis. Breezily written and free of technicalities and Latin taxonomy, it's the perfect companion for an afternoon in the garden or an early morning walk in the sawah (traditional Balinese village). According to Victor, about 100 species of birds are likely to be seen in Bali by the casual observer, with

hospitable to birds.

According to Victor, about 100 species of birds are likely to be seen in Bali by the casual observer, with



## Bali Starling

"Wild birds enrich our lives and are an essential part of the natural environment. Bulbuls, Sunbirds, Munias, Spotted Doves, Magpie Robins, Bushchats, Flowerpeckers, Tailorbirds and Prinias enliven many gardens in Bali, and it's now being realised that birdsong is not only beautiful to hear, but also has therapeutic value, in providing a link

to the natural world that we've lost in our urban lives."

# Giving them Wings (cont)

another 200 species occasionally seen or visiting from other islands.

It's delightful to have a garden full of birds, but no self-respecting avian is going to visit a Zen-like, manicured garden if there is a nice jungly patch nearby. You can encourage birds to visit and stay in your garden by leaving some wilderness where they can shelter to feed, rest and mate among the trees and plants. A source of water attracts birds, too – they drink from and bathe in ponds, birdbaths and even swimming pools. Trees and bushes with plenty of foliage provide shelter for nesting, so don't let the gardener cut everything back, or disturb nests. Reduce pesticides to ensure there are lots of insects to feed on. Birds eat insects, fruit and nectar, depending on the species, so plant accordingly. A list of plants attract birds can be found at <http://burung.org/en/BArU/plant-that-attract-birds.html>

“Bird watching is developing rapidly in Indonesia, as it is worldwide. There are now many bird watching clubs based in universities and schools, and bird photography is becoming a very popular pastime. Burung Indonesia's mission is to increase awareness and interest among Indonesians, including children, about wild birds. Some species in Bali have declined due to habitat loss, poaching for the bird trade (many ending up in tiny cages) and chemical use,” notes Farquhar.

Ni Wayan Sumadi agrees. Su was an avid birder as a child, and in 1990 teamed up with Victor Mason to learn all she could about Bali's birds. She understudied with Victor for three years and learned the English names, and since then has become one of the most respected bird guides on the island.

“Yes, the Java Sparrow used to be abundant here and is now rare, due to poaching for the bird trade,” she told me. “Crows used to be very common, too, but they've almost disappeared. People used to shoot them, but that is much less frequent now.”

Victor and Su co-founded Bali Bird Club in 1990, and one of their earliest activities was to visit villages to talk to people about the importance of birds, and posting signs discouraging shooting. Su has been conducting bird watching tours for almost two decades now. “I see more birds now than before -- maybe that's because I know what I'm looking for, and maybe because there is less shooting of birds now. Balinese have a better understanding of nature, and many of them believe that killing birds is not good karma.” Su has spent the past 20 years introducing travellers to the wealth of Bali's bird life. She wants to spend the next 20 years engaging Bali's children in their avian heritage.

Su is optimistic about the future of Bali's bird populations. “There aren't many predators in Bali, such as raptors. People with guns and poachers for the bird trade are the most serious threat to our birds. Also, the government is now supporting the use of natural fertilisers instead of chemicals. The chemical load doesn't seem to be toxic around Ubud. If we can still see dragonflies and butterflies then we know that insects are not being affected by chemicals, and healthy insects are food for the birds.”

Su's popular tour, the Bali Bird Walk, has delighted thousands of visitors over the past two decades. The three and a half hour walk starts at Murni's Warung at Campuhan Bridge and winds through the rice fields and ravines north of Ubud. Sightings depend on the season and location, but **it's not unusual to see about 30 different species around Ubud.** Book a tour at [su\\_birdwalk@yahoo.com](mailto:su_birdwalk@yahoo.com) or [www.balibirdwalk.com](http://www.balibirdwalk.com) or by calling 081 239 13801. Su also designs custom tours for serious birders in the mountains on request.

Bali's only truly endemic bird, the Bali Starling, is at last making a comeback after being poached to the brink of extinction only a decade ago. About 125 are living and breeding in the wild in community-

managed programs under the NGO Friends of the National Parks Foundation on Nusa Penida and Nusa Lembongan. Poaching from the West Bali National Park is declining as increasing numbers of captive-bred Bali Starlings are appearing on the market.

Those who venture deeper into the island's mountains and forests are often rewarded with sightings of up to 50 species of birds. Drongos, Flycatchers, beautiful orange Minivets, Monarchs, Golden Whistlers, Bee-eaters, Glossy Starlings and Barbets are among the many gorgeous birds seen in the interior of Bali, particularly the West Bali National Park.

I don't have to go tramping through the hot sawah to see birds. Lounging on my old Java day bed with a pair of light binoculars and Victor's book, I clock up my own little list. A Java Kingfisher preens on the fence in my garden. White-headed Munia have turned up in my yard for the first time. I often hear the booming cry of Coucals and the repetitive descending song, even at night, of the Plaintive Cuckoo. Better two birds in the bush than one in a cage, any day.

Reading:

*Field Guide to the Birds of Java and Bali* by John MacKinnon

*Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia* by Ben King

*Birds of Bali* by Victor Mason and Frank Jarvis

*Birds Around Us Program* by Burung Indonesia on website

*Birds of Bali, Java and Sumatra* by Tony Tilford

*The Birds of Java and Bali* by Derek Holmes and Stephen Nash

*Birding Indonesia* by Paul Jepson

**By Ibu Kat**

# Past and Future Meetings

## PAST GENERAL MEETINGS

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 26

John Hatch introduced the speaker James Smith, an Honours graduate from University of Queensland. James started working in the Queensland Museum, transferred to CSIRO, then spent fifteen years in the UK. This led to directional change into sales and marketing. He returned to Australia and is currently working for University of South Australia. He started the organisation 'fauNature' to bring people and wildlife together particularly in urban and peri-urban habitats. James' topic for the evening was 'Hollow Habitats'.

James described how people in the UK engage with wildlife. He said that in Australia there is a real disassociation between people and wildlife. That is why he set up 'fauNature'.

He was fascinated by the nesting habitats of hollow dependent species. He wanted to look at three areas:

Natural hollows and dependent fauna  
Nesting boxes, designs,  
research/diary,

Hollow dependent fauna number between 110 and 115 species, which is quite a high number compared with the rest of the world. For example, only about 9% of Southern African species are hollow dependent. In Australia, 47 parrot species, 8 Owl species, half of our kookaburras, and a whole group of passerines, such as pardalotes, depend on cavities. In addition to birds, hollows provide homes for one third of our terrestrial mammals and two thirds of the micro-bats.

There have been huge habitat clearances, often selecting the large trees — the ones that contain hollows. Over 80% of Australia's original forests have been logged, managed or changed. Trees have been cleared for agriculture, for forestry or just for firewood. It takes at least 120-150 years, more typically 220-300 years for the eucalypts to produce general hollows. Habitats used to provide approximately 12 hollows per hectare, but since

European settlement this number has been reduced to between 2 and 7.

Hollows develop through fungi, which is the principal vector; many species of termites, the majority of which eat hard wood as well as 44 families of beetles. Bacteria are also important. Some kind of damage to a tree is needed to enable cavities to develop. A whole range of organisms combine to make the hollows within the trunks of trees in the first place, and these hollows must be 60-80 years old before they become decent cavities. Fire is another important vector.

James described a Gum Tree in Morialta Conservation Park, which is 'like an apartment block' during spring. Different species require different types of hollows.

James was fascinated when an arborist told him that most of the hollow dependent species rely on dead trees. He had been instructed at University on the importance of dead trees, but since he has been working, it has struck him that the live trees are more important for several reasons. Temperature regulation is not possible in dead trees. The temperature inside both dead trees and nest boxes is slightly different from ambient temperature. However, in live trees there might be about 28 degrees difference on a hot day and about 14 degrees on a cold day, so that temperature fluctuation is more bearable for the nesting bird.

Artificial hollows will never replace natural hollows, but artificial hollows do offer the opportunity for people to become interested in the wildlife in their backyards on a daily basis. Kookaburras are some of the quickest birds to take up residence in the boxes. Of the next boxes that 'fauNature' supplies, medium parrot boxes are the mainstay, while small parrot boxes are also popular. Larger parrot boxes are needed for Galahs. Owls can use a specific type of box. Other wildlife often use boxes for a variety of purposes.

The study of nest boxes is really quite young, with much of it done since the Second World War. The first book became available only 20 years ago.

James showed a very interesting diagram and described details of a pardalote box. Tom Hand from Friends of Scott Creek had provided a great deal of information from having installed small boxes under his eaves for the pardalotes. James tested them for sizes, which took 2-3 days and resulted in the introduction of smaller boxes. If the boxes are too large it takes the birds too long to prepare the nest. Reduced size means reduced time to prepare and birds will produce three clutches.

James also showed a diagram of a treecreeper nest box, including the dimensions. The opening needs to be large enough for the bird that you are trying to attract, but small enough to keep out predators. Birds use quite deep hollows, so the box needs to be deep enough. Treecreepers have started using these boxes in Scott Creek Conservation Park. The boxes will be checked at the end of the season.

Nest box trials for kingfishers have been undertaken, but their outcome is not yet known.

James set up a web-cam in a nest box in his backyard on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010. This was the season when we had good rain after the drought. By 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010 a rosella hen was sitting in the nest and a single egg was visible. By the 10<sup>th</sup> day she had laid 6 eggs. On 20<sup>th</sup> October there were 8 eggs. Eggs were always laid between 1pm and 3.30pm. On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2 young hatched, on 28<sup>th</sup> the next 2, on the 29<sup>th</sup> the fifth, on 1<sup>st</sup> November the seventh hatched and on 3<sup>rd</sup> the eighth hatched. It has been found that if any young are lost, the whole clutch is usually lost.

The hen did not feed the chicks much in the first few days after hatching. Throughout the growth of the chicks, the female does most of the feeding.

# Past and Future Meetings (cont)

One week later the chicks showed development of beaks and eyes and were stretching their wings. No space was left in the bottom of the box. Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December, 5 of the young left. The last one did not want to leave, but the parents did not feed it for two days in an attempt to encourage it to leave the nest. Eventually, never having flown before, it just took off. The fledging process had taken longer than the literature predicts.

James showed a graph of hatching progression, showing, some variation in hatching time.

James — and 250 arborists — had attended the Waite Arboretum for a discussion. James found that they looked at trees in isolation. From a wildlife perspective that makes no sense. Arborists are about risk mitigation. As soon as tree gets to a state where it has some structural defect, it has to be removed. Another point is aesthetics. When trees become a viable resource for animals and birds, is the time when they take them out.

James concluded his talk by reminding us that proportionally we have more hollow dependent fauna than anywhere else in the world. We are never going to replace natural hollows. They need to be preserved. We cannot afford to wait the 200-300 years that it may take for some species to produce hollows. We cannot replicate all natural processes in a nest box, but artificial hollows placed in trees are really like a halfway house. You need a 60-70 year old tree before you can introduce a hollow. Habitat creation does give you a spectrum so that you can manage different situations and environments.

## **FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30 (MEMBERS' NIGHT)**

Vice President John Hatch commented on the pleasing variety of speakers for Members' Night, saying there would be something for everyone.

The first speaker, Peter Gower, showed a series of photographs showing the habits and antics of the New Holland Honeyeaters in his garden.

Rodney Attwood told a great story of what happened when he visited his brother and they went searching for the Purple-crested Turaco on the border of Swaziland and Mozambique. They followed a road or track into the hills only to come across a guard post and an armed soldier who was having an epileptic fit. They were able to take him back to base but they never saw the Turaco.

Robert Rowland then spoke in detail about colour and aspects of avian structure. There is a summary of Robert's presentation, in 'Miscellaneous Items'.

David Kowalick gave a talk about spring bird watching in Texas where hundreds of bird watchers come to watch the migrants arrive from across the Gulf of Mexico.

Heather Connolly showed two beautiful videos with musical accompaniments. The first one showed seabirds at Vivonne Bay, Kangaroo Island, while the second

showed the birds around Kaikoura on the South Island of New Zealand.

Colin Rogers showed photographs from recent pelagic trips.

Margie Tiller presented a series of photos of waders taken at Black Point on Yorke Peninsula.

## **FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS**

### **FRIDAY MARCH 22**

Dr Greg Johnson will talk on Pelicans. He has completed a study of these birds at Outer Harbour.

### **FRIDAY APRIL 26**

#### **AGM**

**Speaker TBA**

### **FRIDAY MAY 31**

**TBA**

## **AGM AGENDA**

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting on Friday 26 April 2013 is:

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 27 April 2012
3. Presentation of the Annual Report for 2012.
4. Presentation of the Financial Report for 2012.
5. Election of the Management Committee for 2013/2014  
President  
Two Vice Presidents  
Secretary  
Assistant Secretary  
Treasurer  
Field Program Coordinator  
Newsletter Editor  
Journal Editor  
Bird Records Secretary  
Membership Officer and  
Not fewer than three nor more than five ordinary Committee Members
6. Appointment of an auditor
7. Honorary Life Membership
8. Any other business of which notice in writing has been given by two members at a preceding meeting

## **NEW MEMBERS**

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

Denise Turvey	ST AGNES
Janis Haynes & Fran Wanders	MIDDLETON
Phillip John Mules	KALANGADOO
Barbara Taylor	PLYMPTON PARK
Paul Smith	LOCKLEYS
Paul Tucker	BARMERA
Christopher John Durrant	ST GEORGES
Greg Coote	WALKERVILLE
Jan Harrison	NETHERBY

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

# Past Excursions

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## **Newland Head CP: 15 November**

Just 9 members were present. However those few people managed to record 58 species. From the bird list they supplied I can advise that they saw Brush Bronzewing, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Elegant Parrot, Rufous Songlark and Brown Songlark as well as 8 species of honeyeater. The members enjoyed their day. I have no idea who looked after the count, but I extend my thanks to that person.

**Trevor Cowie**

## **Dry Creek Salt Fields: (+2020 Shorebird Count) 2 December**

This outing, which was attended by 30 birders, included the 2020 Shorebirds count. The total numbers of birds seen had to be recorded as well as estimated number of each species. We saw a total of at least 20,595 birds belonging to 82 species. Needless to say Banded Stilts numbering plus or minus 11832 were spread out in all directions. However, the waders were not anywhere near the numbers of a decade ago. White-winged Fairy-wrens were showing very well and a pair of Sacred Kingfishers displayed briefly. A species new to the salt fields list — a pair of Bush Larks appeared. Hazel, Enid and I were amazed, not once but twice, when we saw the height of the seawater covering the vegetation.

**Trevor Cowie**

## **Laratinga Wetland (Mt Barker): 15 December**

It was a very pleasant day to stroll around this wonderful wetland; have lunch, relax and of course find a bird or two. On that day there were serendipitously more to see, such as: 3 Freckled Ducks, 3 Baillon's Crakes, 7 Latham's Snipes, 20 Australian Spotted Crakes and 1 Spotless Crake. Not to be outdone, although heard more than seen, were Little Grassbirds and Reed Warblers. Lunch was enjoyed, the birdcall recording 63 species was taken while the Superb Fairy-wrens ignored us.

**Trevor Cowie**

## **Altona CSR: 20 December**

It was already warm by the time of our normal 8:30am start. Eighteen members headed up the entrance track that, unlike most of our trips was curiously low in bird numbers. No Yellow Thornbills were seen at the start but we did have good views of a single Eastern Spinebill feeding on low shrubs. No species were in great abundance and some of the usual species, such as Musk Lorikeet and Golden Whistler were missing or in low numbers. Highlights included 6 Rainbow Bee-eaters, 1 Nankeen Night Heron, and 2 Sacred Kingfishers, possibly looking for nesting sites in the sandy cliff-face. European Goldfinches were abundant as were Crimson (Adelaide) Rosellas, Tree Martins, White-browed Babblers, Buff-rumped Thornbills and New Holland Honeyeaters. The expected Wedge-tailed Eagles were observed soaring — 2 close to us and 1 further away. As one pair moved higher, an unidentified raptor, possibly Brown Goshawk was observed to be harassing them. A single Nankeen Kestrel was seen hovering over the creek at the northern end of the park. A Brown Treecreeper was taking food into a hollow, Grey Fantails were observed feeding a recently fledged youngster and a Diamond Firetail was seen by a couple of members as we were departing for home. All in all it was a pleasant day on which we saw 48 species.

**Martyn Price**

## **Hindmarsh Island and Goolwa River: 12 January**

This is an area of importance to shorebirds, where we cover from SW of Goolwa town to the Murray Mouth on both sides of the river. This area contains a great variety of species. On this trip we recorded 87 species, so I will only mention a few of them: Rock Parrot, Elegant Parrot, Red-rumped Parrot, Sacred Kingfisher, Stubble Quail, Latham's Snipe, Spotless and Spotted Crake; and to finish my list many Red-necked Avocets. But please don't

forget the 'drab waders' — they need us.

**Trevor Cowie**

## **Dry Creek Salt Fields: (+2020 Shorebird Count) 17 January**

This was another combined Birds SA and 2020 shorebird count in which some of us go out on old boundary roads to record the numbers of waders and waterbirds that cannot be seen from the officially approved tracks. On this occasion there were just 9 members plus two visitors from New Zealand. The temperature reached 42 degrees and 74 species were seen. However numbers of birds were down compared with the previous visit on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, as many of the Banded Stilts had left the area. The 21 Eastern Curlews seen on December 2<sup>nd</sup> were seen again and, as we have seen before, one Whimbrel was with them. Three Marsh Sandpipers were also found.

**Trevor Cowie**

## **Whites Road Wetlands: 27 January**

We were aware that the water level in the ponds was low, which has reduced the numbers of bird species. However we still saw most of the species we had expected to see there. We actually saw 67 species, which still provided a good walk around the site. To list a few species for the day I offer 1 Musk Duck, 6 Freckled Ducks, 2 Hardheads, 1 Glossy Ibis, 1 Royal Spoonbill, 1 Collared Sparrowhawk, 1 Australian Hobby, 1 Wood Sandpiper, 4 Red-rumped Parrots, 1 Sacred Kingfisher, 15 White-winged 15 Fairy-wrens and 5 European Goldfinches.

We also found a good area to have lunch, so ended a wonderful day for 39 members.

**Trevor Cowie**

## **Dry Creek Salt Fields: (+2020 Shorebirds Count) 2 February**

We were back in the Salt Fields and the combined Birds SA & 2020 count has worked well. There were 30 members on this count who

# Past Excursions(cont)/Future Excursions

between them found 80 species on this trip. Previous trips this season had recorded very low numbers of raptors, but on this trip 7 raptor species, which included Peregrine Falcon were in attendance. Many of the wader species were missing and we saw just: 1 Grey Plover, 1 Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Black-tailed Godwits, and 5 Marsh Sandpipers. On the plus side, there were 1 Hardhead, 5 Blue-billed Ducks, 30 Fairy Terns, 6 Sacred Kingfishers and 40 Great-crested Grebes. Also two other members and I were lucky enough to see a Ruff. Lunch was taken at the trees/lakes open area and eventually the bird count was carried out back at the car park.

**Trevor Cowie.**

## **FUTURE EXCURSIONS**

**Convener: Trevor Cowie**

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

Tel: 08 8263 2531

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

## **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 Larating-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). Past 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.

### **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.

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.

### **Saturday 2 March: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km) Plus 2020 Shorebirds Count**

Meet by the gate at 7.30am (high tide 7.38am). 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.

### **Saturday 9 March: Onkaparinga Wetlands (MLR) (32km)**

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

### **Thursday 21 March: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km)**

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

### **Sunday 24 March: Dry Creek Salt Fields (AP) (26km) Plus 2020 Shorebird Count**

**Meet by the gate at 3.30pm (high tide 5.30pm).** Turn west onto St Kilda Road, from Port Wakefield Road follow the road turning right onto Radar Road (dirt & barrier) actually called Samphire Road. As per the normal request please bring your two-way radios if you have them.

### **2013 EASTER CAMPOUT**

#### **March 28 to April 2**

#### **Mary Seymour CP, SE**

We haven't had a campout at Mary Seymour since 2007, so this is an opportunity to re-visit the Naracoorte area, which includes Bool Lagoon, Big Heath and Glen Roy Conservation Parks.

There are two routes from Naracoorte to Mary Seymour CP. The shortest route, with some gravel sections, is along Moyhall Road which runs past the airport and to the west of Bool Lagoon. This road starts at a right turn about 100m south of the main intersection (where the Lucindale to Naracoorte road crosses the main north-south road). Follow Moyhall Road for about 25km to a T junction and there turn right. Turn sharp left after 4km (having passed Bourne's Bird Museum), and the entrance to the conservation park is on your left, near the southwestern corner of the park.

The other route, continuing past Naracoorte towards Coonawarra and Penola, is bitumen all the way. About 17km south of Naracoorte, turn right at the Bool Lagoon sign. Follow the signs to, and then drive past, Bourne's Birds until the road turns sharp left. The entrance to the

# Future Excursions (cont) / Bird Records

conservation park is on your left, near the southwestern corner of the park. It will be sign posted from Thursday onwards.

There are no facilities in the park and fires are not permitted. A pit toilet will be installed for the camp. I last visited the park in the middle of last year and the access track was in good condition. There will be a minimal camp fee of \$5 per adult and please bring bacon, eggs, pancakes, bubbly and whatever, if you care to indulge in the now traditional Easter Sunday communal brunch.

See you there.

**Graham Bate**

Ph 08 8270 3041

e-mail etabtrah@bigpond.com

## **Sunday 31 March: 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 & barrier) actually called Samphire Road. As per the normal request please bring your two-way Radios if you have them.

## **Saturday April 13: Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens (MLR) (19km)**

Meet at **9am** 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.

## **Thursday April 18: Magazine Road Wetlands. Dry Creek (AP)**

If you are travelling northwards on South Road, continue onto Salisbury Highway heading east. The road bends to the north and there is one road off to the left. This is Magazine Rd. Park anywhere.

From the city take Port Wakefield Road north, turning left up onto the Salisbury Hwy heading to Port Adelaide. Once you are up the Salisbury Highway, you need to move over to the right hand lane so you are ready to turn right into Magazine Rd. Wetlands and park. Meet in car parking area by **8.30am**.

**Sunday April 28: Bushland Park-Nitschke Hill (MLR) (43km)** Meet at **8.30am** in the Bushland Park car park 1km north of Lobethal off the road to Gumeracha.

## **Saturday May 11: Bullock Hill CP Haines Road (MLR) (60km)**

Take the Ashbourne Road from Strathalbyn. Meet at 8.30am at Ashbourne oval, adjacent to a Community hall.

**Thursday May 16: Mt. George CP (MLR) (29km)** Meet at **8.30am** at the car park at Mt George. Leave the SE Freeway at the Bridgewater exit. Turn left towards Carey Gully. Travel about 2km, turn left into Worden Road, left again into Muller Road, and left again into Mt. George Road.

**Sunday June 2: 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 into Yookamurra at **8.30am**.

## **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](mailto: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**

*More reports from widespread locations, including EP and YP where there are few previous records.*

2, 11/11/2012. Port Augusta West, NW.

Langdon, P.

1+3 young, 28/11/2012. St Kilda S&Baltfields, AP.

Rogers, C.

2, 25/12/2012. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K. & L.

3, 27/12/2012. Charlton Gully, EP.

Bebbington, L.

2, 5/1/2013. Goolwa, Tokuremoar Reserve, MM.

Barron, P.

2, 6/1/2013. Martins Washpool, Salt Creek Rd, SE.

Stracey, K.

5, 7/1/2013. Lincoln NP, EP.

Waanders, P.

4, 14/1/2013. Black Point, YP. Heard in grassy paddock.

Tiller, M.

2, 21/1/2013. Rockleigh, Critchley Rd, MLR. In reeds along dry creek.

Bansemmer, B. & P.

2, Jan 2013. Port Augusta West, NW.

Langdon, P.

### **California Quail**

2, 28/10/2012. Parndana, Gregors Rd, KI.

Baxter, C.

*This introduced species has the potential to flourish on KI in the absence of foxes.*

### **Cape Barren Goose**

1, 6/8/2012. Whyalla, EP. Flying over.

Smith, E.

2, 26/11/2012. Adelaide Airport, AP.

Paton, P.

# Bird Records (cont)

## Blue-billed Duck

1 female, 26/12/2012. Tokuremoar Reserve, Goolwa, MM. Also an abandoned nest with eggs in dense Swamp Paperbark *Melaleuca halmaturorum* and Thatching Grass *Gahnia filum*.

Jaensch, R.

## Freckled Duck

37, 26/12/2012. Tokuremoar Reserve, Goolwa, MM.

Jaensch, R.

## Great Crested Grebe

1, 30/11/2012. Onkaparinga Wetlands, South Rd, MLR.

Jack, T.

1, 25/1/2013. Onkaparinga River, Old Noarlunga, MLR.

Cock, C.

1, 28/1/2013. Tumbly Bay, Second Creek, EP.

Bebbington, L.

## Flock Bronzewing

c.2000, August 2012. Simpson Desert, Purnie Bore, NW. Numerous flocks flying over.

Peek, P.

## Fork-tailed Swift

*Few reports of small numbers.*

30, 5/11/2012. Gluepot Stn, MM.

Waanders, P.

Sev, 5/11/2012. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR.

Steele-Collins, E.

6, 29/11/2012. Glengowrie, AP.

Buckley, K.

6, 12/12/2012. Roseworthy, Pengilly Scrub, AP.

Steeles, C.

100, 14/12/2012. Gluepot Stn, MM.

Waanders, P.

## Australasian Darter

1, 4/11/2012. Chapman River, Creek Bay Rd, KI.

Pascoe, E. et al.

1, November 2012. Kingscote foreshore, KI.

Baxter, C.

1, 3/12/2012. Port Augusta causeway, LN.

Langdon, P.

## Little Egret

8 + 1 juv, 11/11/2012. Busby Islet, KI. Four nests in samphire, three with incubating birds.

Baxter, C.

*First record of breeding on KI, and only the third locality in SA (previous sites in mangroves at Torrens Island and Price).*

## Nankeen Night Heron

1, 23/11/2012. Burra, LN.

Waanders, P.

## Glossy Ibis

1, 22/1/2013. Cambelltown, Lochiel Park wetlands, AP.

Hyland, M.

## Australian White Ibis

12, 25/1/2013. West Parklands, Bonython Park, AP.

Burns, A.

*Numbers increasing around the city, but not yet as bold as those in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.*

## Square-tailed Kite

1, 20/10/2012. Hawthorndene, MLR.

Schmidt, L.

1, 21/12/2012. Kaiser Stuhl CP, MLR.

Edward Smith et al.

*No active nests were located this season.*

## Grey Falcon

1, 16/11/2012. Woolshed Flat, FR.

Black, A.

## Buff-banded Rail

pr +2 chicks, 4/11/2012. American River, KI.

Renwick, J.

pr + 5 chicks, 18/11/2012. Cambelltown, Lochiel Park wetlands, AP.

Hyland, M.

2, Dec 2012. Charlton Gully, EP.

Bebbington, L.

## Lewin's Rail

1, 27/12/2012. Charlton Gully, EP. Flushed by dog adjacent creek with dense sedges and Cutting Grass *Gahnia trifida*. Two birds calling in area over previous 2 months.

Bebbington, L.

*Parker (1985) SA Ornithologist 29:188 lists one previous report from EP, a specimen probably collected in Sleaford Mere in 1920.*

2, 20/1/2013. Freeling Sewage Works, AP. In reed bed.

Steeles, C.

## Baillon's Crake

2, 14/9/2012. Whyalla wetlands, EP.

Smith, E.

1, 11/11/2012. Sunbury, YP.

Jack, T.

*Rarely reported from YP and EP.*

1, 18/11/2012. Cambelltown, Lochiel Park wetlands, AP.

Hyland, M.

## Hooded Plover

2, 13/11/2012. Yalata Beach, NW.

Kowalick, D.

*Rarely reported in the far west of SA.*

## Australian Painted Snipe

4, 1/12/2012. Onkaparinga Wetlands, MLR.

Jack, T.

1, 3/1/2013. Lake McIntyre, SE.

Jones, A.

## Pectoral Sandpiper

1, 18/10/2012. Coober Pedy, NW. With Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at stormwater pond at edge of town.

Berggy, J.

## Latham's Snipe

2, 10/11/2012. Myponga, Blockers Rd, MLR.

Jack, T.

2, 17/11/2012. Netley, AP. At trash rack on Brownhill Creek drain.

Jack, T.

2, 6/1/2013. Kelly Hill CP, Grassdale Lagoon, KI.

Baxter, C.

## Eastern Curlew

16, 19/1/2013. Light Beach, AP.

Noble, C. & Walker, B.

# Bird Records (cont)

## Buff-breasted Sandpiper

1, 15/12/2012. Price Saltfields, YP.  
Rogers, C. & Harper, D.  
*Report submitted to SA Rare Birds Committee for consideration. See Arthur (1987) SA Ornithologist 30:74 for a previous report in SA, from St Kilda Saltfields in February 1986. Another was reported from the coast near Port Macdonnell on 5 April 2003 but was not conclusively supported by the Australian Rare Birds Committee (See 2003 Bird Report – SA Ornithologist 35:15-26).*

## Terek Sandpiper

1, 28/11/2012. Murray Mouth, MM.  
Brooker, W.

## Elegant Parrot

pr + juv, 17-23/1/2013. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.  
Newlands, P. & Williams, K.  
*The breeding distribution and status of this species in the MLR is poorly understood.*

## Scarlet-chested Parrot

15, 16/12/2012. Sinclairs Gap, W of, EP. Feeding on ground in recently burnt area.  
Langdon, P. et al.

## Barking Owl

2, 3/12/2012. Waikerie, MM. Heard calling overnight.  
Larmour, K. & G.  
*Surprisingly few reports from along the River Murray. The previous report (from Chowilla Station in July 2004 - SAOA NL 152) was also based on calls only. See also F.W. Andrews Historical Series.*

## Red-backed Kingfisher

1, 28/10/2012. Glen Roy CP, SE.  
Green, B. Birds SE.  
*Rarely reported in the SE – see Eckert (1989) SA Ornithologist 30: 210-212 for southern records in SA.*

## Thick-billed Grasswren

4, 12/10/2012. Leigh Creek, coalfield road, FR.  
Morgan, K.

## Blue-faced Honeyeater

1, 24/3/2012. Grange, AP.  
Lindsay, S.  
*Previously reported at Grange on 28 June 2010 (Bird Report 2010). Has the potential to establish as a breeding species in Adelaide gardens, as it has done in Riverland towns.*

## Black-chinned Honeyeater

1, 4/11/2012. Hackham, MLR. At birdbath.  
Richards, N.  
Ad + 2juv, 7/12/2012. Clayton Bay, MM.

Doecke, N.  
Ad+2 juvs, 31/12/2012. Hackham West, MLR. At birdbath.  
St George, E.  
*See Elsworth (1997) SA Ornithologist 32: 170 for details of the nesting of this species at Hackham in 1994.*

## Striped Honeyeater

1, 27/1/2013. Minlaton, YP.  
Treloar, K.  
*A small and declining population occurs on YP between Minlaton and Clements Gap CP.*

## Crested Shrike-tit

1, 18/11/2012. Trott Park, AP.  
Bishop, D.  
1, 20/1/2013. Port Pirie, Bowmans Park, LN.  
Langdon, P.

## Pied Currawong

2+, 18/10/2012. Windy Hill forest reserve, W of, SE.  
Green, B. Birds SE.  
*This is the western-most report of the species, which is slowly expanding its distribution in pine forests in the SE.*

## Grey Currawong

1, 20/11/2012. Linden Park, AP.  
Longden, D.  
2, 6/1/2013. Black Forest, AP.  
Carpenter, G.

## Restless Flycatcher

1, 18/12/2012. Charlton Gully, EP.  
Bebbington, L.

## White-winged Chough

9 + nest, 23/1/2012. Naracoorte, Crooked Lane, SE.  
Moorhouse, R.

## Rose Robin

1, 28/10/2012. Glen Roy CP, SE.  
Green, B. Birds SE.  
1 female or immature, 3/11/2012. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.  
Rogers, C.  
*Late records of this species that is generally considered to be a non-breeding winter visitor from the eastern states.*

## Horsfield's Bushlark

1, 21/11/2012. Lower Inman Valley, MLR.  
Cutten, D.  
*Rarely reported from the MLR.*

## Diamond Firetail

1, 7/12/2012. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR.  
Steele-Collins, E.

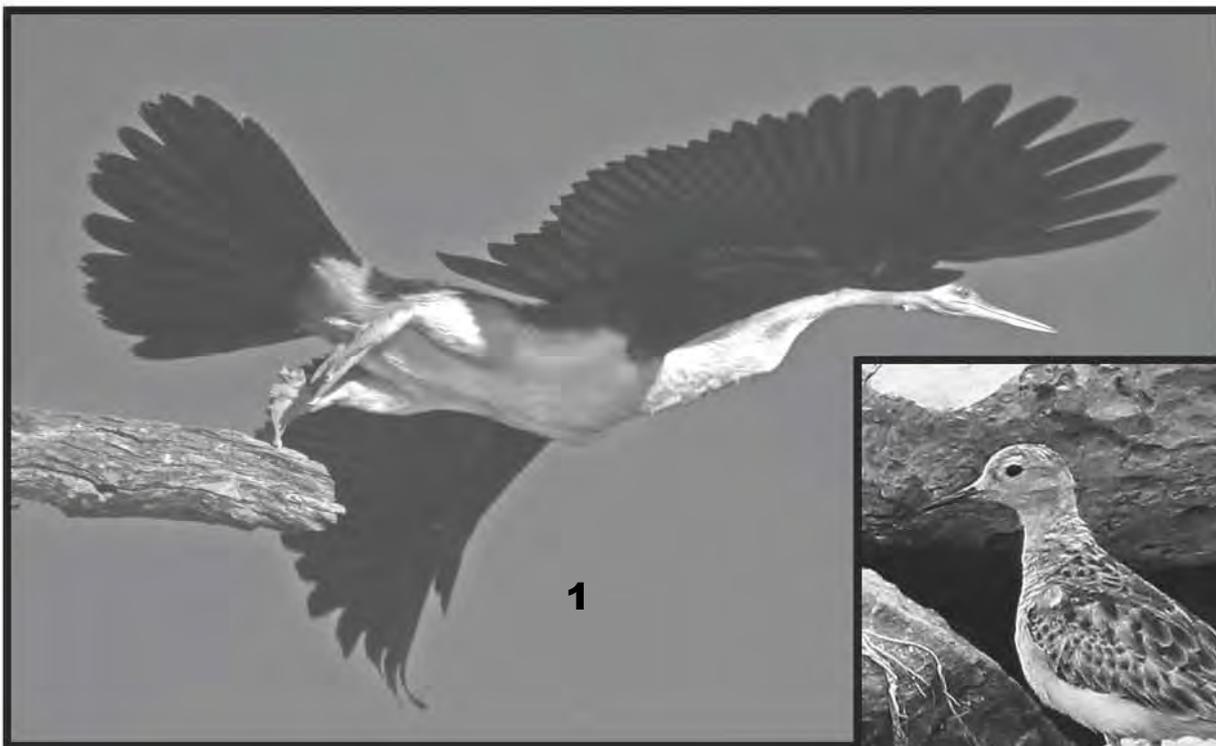
## Common Mynah

1, 20/11/2012. Adelaide Airport, Tapleys Hill Rd, AP.  
Parkin, K.  
1, 13/12/2012. Netley, AP. Feeding at trash rack on Brownhill Creek drain.  
Pearson, R.  
*The previous report in the Adelaide area was of 3 birds at North Haven on 1/12/2004. (Bird, P.).*

## Red-whiskered Bulbul

1, 2/12/2012. Ovingham, AP.  
Cox, D.  
*Another introduced species that so far has been kept out of South Australia.*

# Members' Photographs



## Details of Members' Photographs

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Darter	Trevor Cox	Kingston	12/04/2012
2	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Helga Kieskamp	Price Saltfields	17/12/12
3	Pacific Black Duck	Barbara Bansemer	Laratinga	15/12/12
4	Nankeen Kestrel	Trevor Cox	Elleston	11/10/2011
5	Letter-winged Kite	Helga Kieskamp	Birdsville Track	15/10/2012
6	Brown Goshawk	Helga Kieskamp	Gluepot	29/11/2012
7	Little Eagle	Helga Kieskamp	Loxton	15/9/2012
8	Grey (white) Goshawk	Helga Kieskamp	Appollo Bay	Easter 2011
9	Red-capped Robin	Trevor Cox	Calperum	4/4/2012
10	Short-tailed Grasswren	Helga Kieskamp	Stokes Hill	22/11/2012
11	White-browed Scrubwren	Peter Day	Springmount CP	18/10/2012
12	Brown Thornbill	Peter Day	Nr. Kersbrook	2/11/2012
13	Striated Grasswren	Trevor Cox	Calperum	9/4/2012
14	Eastern Whipbird	Burt May	Green Mountain, Gold Coast	November 2012
15	Spotted Pardalote	Trevor Cox	Port Lincoln	3/8/2011
16	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Trevor Cox	Calperum	6/4/2012
17	Zebra Finch	Trevor Cox	Port Augusta	2/10/2012

# Members' Photographs (cont)



**“Sugars” Beach House, Murray Mouth, Hindmarsh Island, South Australia.**

[www.sugarsbeachhouse.com.au](http://www.sugarsbeachhouse.com.au)

With 180 degree views from the large front deck overlooking the Goolwa Channel and River Murray mouth across to the Southern Ocean, “**Sugars**” is a perfect destination for bird watchers, kayakers and those interested in the River Murray Mouth, the Coorong and Lower Lakes river and eco systems. The area, which is recognised by Bird Life International as an important bird area, has seen a recent massive increase in fresh water inflows, in addition to a heartening return of bird life. The Coorong is also Ramsar-listed as a Wetland of International Importance.

Located on Hindmarsh Island, we are 10 minutes drive from the historic port of Goolwa, now a popular beachside resort, and approximately 85 km (1.5 hours drive) from Adelaide.



## **Sugars Beach House:**

- modern and beautifully appointed
- spacious lawns leading onto a private beach and jetty
- many bird species can be seen including gatherings of water fowl, pelicans, native ducks, and black swans and during warmer months thousands of migratory birds such as sandpipers, stilts and stints.
- kayaks and dinghies can be launched from the private boat ramp.
- the house features four bedrooms (2 queen, 1 double and 1 twin share), 2 bathrooms, a well equipped kitchen, and spacious living, dining and deck areas.

[wechappel@gmail.com](mailto:wechappel@gmail.com) – phone Wendy Chappel; 0407945874.

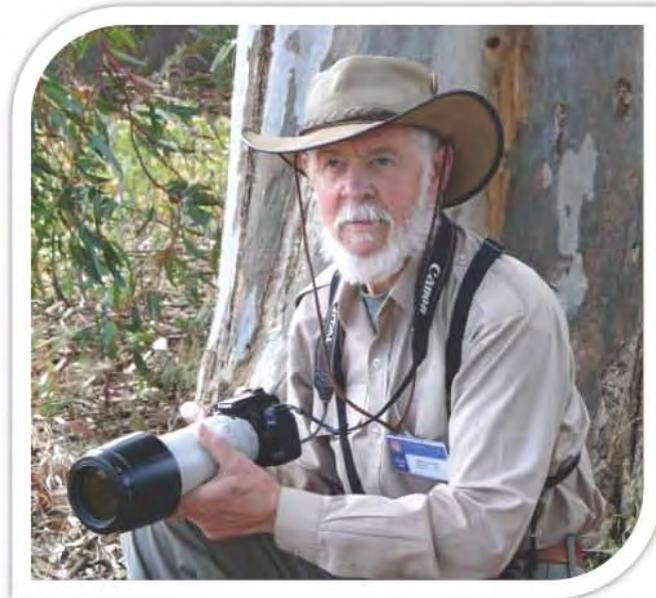
# *A page of Raptors*



# Trevor With Some Little Birds



**We're sad to see the back of Trevor**



**We would prefer to see this view!**

