Birds SA Newsletter

November 2013 No 228



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.

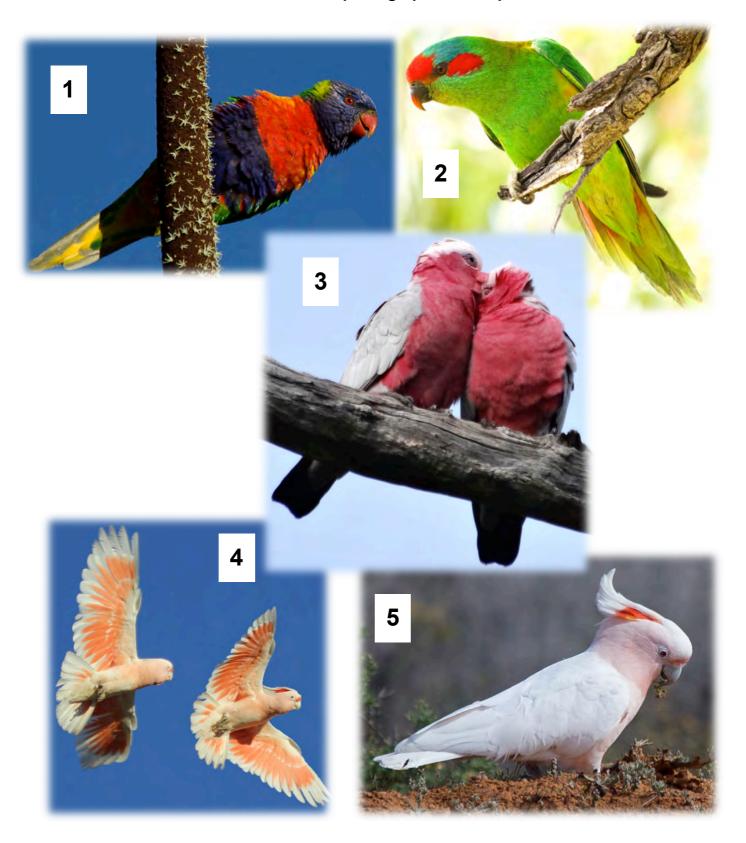
To encourage interest in, and develop knowledge of the birds of South Australia.

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.

A Plethora of Parrots

Details of these photographs are on p21



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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 1	Sunday	Excursion to Scott Creek CP					
Dec 14	Saturday	Excursion to Magazine Rd. wetlands					
	**	*****					
Jan 11	Saturday	Excursion to Whites Rd. wetlands					
Jan 23	Thursday	Excursion to Sir Richard Peninsula					
Jan 31	Friday	General Meeting					

Feb 2	Sunday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields					
Feb 15	Saturday	Excursion to Sandy Creek CP					
Feb 20	Thursday	Excursion to Altona Reserve					
Feb 28	Friday	General Meeting					
	**	*****					
March 2	Sunday	Excursion to Riverglades Wetlands					

Cover photo: Rainbow Bee-eaters taken by Jan Aamodt at Sevenhill, Clare on 31/1/2013

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 taxdeductible

New Members

We welcome 6 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p5.

SAOA COMMITTEE 2013 - 2014

President	David Paton	8344 8891		
Vice President	John Hatch	8362 2820		
Vice President	John Gitsham	0438900393		
Secretary	Brian Blaylock	0448822374		
Treasurer	Brian Walker	8263 3433		
Assistant Secretary	Kate Buckley	8261 7197		
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Bird Record Secretary	Graham Carpenter	8297 5463		
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Member	John Spiers	8333 0272		
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Member	Rebecca Zanker	0413426355		

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

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RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

BirdLife Southeast SA

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IBA Coordinator/Newsletter Editor — Bryan Haywood

brytonwood@bigpond.com 8726 8112

Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact Person Judith Dyer 8555 2736

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WEBSITE 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 February Newsletter is due by the January General Meeting (January 31) 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

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationer

President's Letter

SA Bird Atlas

More than 150 individuals have contributed to the 2012-14 bird atlas to date. For all of you who have contributed a big thank you. However there is still more to do. By the time you read this there will be just 6-7 months of the atlas to go.

The extent to which the Adelaide region and Kangaroo Island have been covered to date is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1. Numbers of cards with bird lists received within the Adelaide region July 2012 – September 2013 for each 10 km x 10km grid square.

easting	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
northing															
623	3		2		1	3		4			1	8	7		12
622	2		3	3	6	1		2		1	5	4	4	5	5
621	6	1	1	13	1						6	15	8		9
620	3	5	9	1	2		1	3	3		14	5	5		14
619					4	3			1		4	4	3	14	12
618		9	4						8	6	3	10		1	3
617			7	3	2	2	3	11	12	2	3	2	7		14
616				11	5		25	44	1			2	4		21
615					8	4	12	70	33	10	4	1		8	5
614					24	33	34	24	8	1	8			5	
613					59	91	55	25	20	3	3	2		3	3
612					63	115	108	6	4	16	9				10
611				•	25	39	40	36	6	45	12	15	3	9	
610				1	21	23	14	14	3	32	14	13	5	2	14
609				12	13	11	12	4	2	14	23	6	3	10	1
608				2	28	8	41	8	15	25	32	30	33		
607		•		10	39	11	33	58	67	3	4	23	13		
606		7	20	3	7	30	15	41	74	42	31	33	4		
605	5	17	19	6	19	6			1	19	19	13	22		
604											6	28			
603												3	6		
602													35	26	6
601														54	25
600														4	70
599															26

The aim of the current atlas is to repeat the atlases that were done in 1974-75 and in 1984-85 and to compare the current 2012-14 distributions with the historical distributions recorded in the two previous periods of intensive sampling. One of the requirements for making the atlases comparable is to secure at least similar coverage. In Figure 1 the numbers of bird lists received for sites within each 10km x 10km cell are shown. The cells are defined by the 10km easting that aligns with the western margin of a grid cell and by the 10km northing that aligns with the southern margin of the grid

President's Letter (cont)

cell. Only the first two digits for the eastings and first three digits for the northings are shown. Thus the top left grid cell is 23, 623 in Figure 1, but the actual easting and northing are 230000 and 6230000 respectively.

There are 248 grid cells with land for the Adelaide region and 71 grid cells with land for Kangaroo Island. To date 194 of the 10km x 10km grid cells have been visited for the Adelaide region and 49 for Kangaroo Island (Figs 1 & 2). This means that there are 54 cells in the Adelaide region that are yet to be visited and a further 103 that have fewer than 10 visits for them. The average number of lists provided per cell is around 12 but this is skewed by cells where there have been many visits, in several cases by over 100. This skew is similar to the skew in previous atlases – bird watchers tend to go to places where they know there are lots of birds to see, rather than exploring new areas. Despite some fantastic contributions from country contributors, the more peripheral areas to the north, northeast and east remain poorly covered.

Please continue to provide lists for the places you visit and if the opportunity arises to go birding, please target some of the areas that are poorly covered to date. Note too that lists within even a few bird species recorded on them are valuable. How many of us stop and record the birds that use the largely treeless paddocks? Not many of us. But this information is valuable to the atlas.

Figure 2. Numbers of cards with bird lists received for sites on Kangaroo Island for July 2012 – September 2013 for each 10 km x 10 km grid square.

														22	23	24
easting	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77		
northing									-		•					
606										2						
605				1		3		2	9	11						_
604	2	1	1	2		1	11	7	26	12	4		9			
603	2	1		2	9	6	14	9	8	9	8	6		1	3	
602	7	14			6	4	9	4	8	6					1	1
601	3	6	5	4		13	6			3						
600		9							1							
599																

For Kangaroo Island, 21 of the grid cells are still to be visited. Only 7 of these cells have received more than 10 visits to places within them, and as with the Adelaide region, those with multiple lists generally have a bird watcher residing in that cell. The overall average number of lists received across the 71 grid cells on Kangaroo Island to date is just 4. If you are spending the Xmas-New Year period on Kangaroo Island or are an Islander with some spare time for birding, please take the opportunity and fill in some atlas cards.

I conclude by wishing you all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year on behalf of the Birds SA Committee.

David Paton

NEW MEMBERS

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

Ben Parkhurst ROXBY DOWNS

Jenny Lewis & Dianne Stebbing ONE TREE HILL

Angela Jones MILLICENT

Craig Greer NORTH PLYMPTON

Bernhard Haase PORT AUGUSTA

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

Birds SA Notes & News

OBITUARIES FOR PAT BOWIE ANDS JANICE MENZ

Sadly, in early September, within the space of a couple of days the Association lost two long standing, well loved and greatly respected members. Pat Bowie died on September 10 and her friend and long time field companion, Janice Menz, died the following day. Both of them had been battling illness for some time.

Janice joined the Association in 1974 and Pat in 1976 and they lived close by, in Eden Hills and Bellevue Hills respectively. The two were clearly at one in their love of nature in general and birds in particular and became good friends. They pursued their bird-watching with enthusiasm, taking walks individually often several times in the week and, together with their close birding friend Delwyn Clark, documented the birds in Sturt Gorge Conservation Park on a monthly basis. Both were highly competent and reliable and each provided important records for the Association and for ornithology. Undoubtedly Pat's most exceptional record was achieved in November 1978 when a Cicadabird visited her garden and places nearby over three days; her report in SA Orn 28, p 108 (1980) is exemplary in its detailed description of her close observations. Close behind that record was one of the Swift Parrot at Blackwood in December 1980 (Houston, p 208 in the same volume). Janice came up with observations of the Olivebacked Oriole in Eden Hills in October 1983 and again in July and the following (Newsletters 110 and 114). Another remarkable observation was of a Barking Owl in Janice's own backyard but this seems not to have been published. It is a poignant irony that Pat, who visited Janice frequently during her prolonged terminal illness, was unable to obtain the details of that record from her during a visit in August 2012, only shortly before Pat's own illness took

Both Janice and Pat made substantial contributions to the activities of the Association over the many years of their respective memberships. Janice served on the financial advisory subcommittee for many years and her very firm and objective advice was consistently sound and always heeded. Later, when one of us (JH) was President in the centenary year of the Association, her enthusiasm and advice were crucial in planning the various events and celebrations. She was forthright, highly organised and assiduous in making sure that we all remained on course. The success of those events and others that followed for the RAOU centenary was attributable in large measure to her energies and planning skills.

Pat will be remembered by many for her charming and self-effacing, yet highly effective (volunteered) role as South Australia's State Coordinator for the second National Bird Atlas, which she fulfilled with much tact and good humour. Her little vignettes about the progress of the Atlas and anecdotes thereof were delivered regularly at General Meetings with the wonderful balance of levity and solemnity that this great undertaking required.

Janice was locally born and bred and Pat grew up in England, but they were united in their love of birds and bird matters. We will miss them both and we suspect so will the birds! Our sympathies are extended to their families.

John Hatch and Andrew Black

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Please advise the Association of any changes to your name, address, email address or telephone number by emailing

membership@birdssa.asn.au **Brian Walker**

VOLUNTEER BIRD ATLASERS NEEDED FOR GLUEPOT BIRD RESERVE

Bird Life Australia's Gluepot Bird Reserve is looking for a few keen birders to do regular Bird Atlasing on the Gluepot Reserve.

Gluepot has about fifty Atlas sites that need to be Atlased regularly at least three times a year, probably March, June and September.

Some of these Sites are in the 'Birds Eye Block', which is normally a Restricted Area to the public.

Gluepot would like to have birders Atlas the reserve in pairs (especially for the first few times). A four-wheel drive would be necessary for anyone Atlasing out in the Birds Eye Block. Depending on the amount of people who show an interest, Gluepot may be able let the birders use the accommodation normally reserved for researchers etc. depending on availability. This decision would be up to Gluepot management at the time. Failing that, camping facilities are available on the reserve.

You will need to bring your own Equipment for atalasing., These items would be a GPS, Hand Held Radio, Fluoro Vests and a whistle. Also you'll need to carry water, a small first aid kit, a compass and your food.

A pair of gaiters will protect your lower legs from Triodia (Spinifex) and potential snakebite.

Tim Pascoe from the Gluepot Management Committee is your contact and will organise which Atlas sites need to be done. If you are interested please contact Tim Pascoe by e-mail rasa42@tpg.com.au Cheers.

John Gitsham

Fleurieu Swamps Project Officer Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Inc. PO Box 674,

Strathalbyn, SA 5255

Ph: 08 8536 5615 (direct) Ph: 08 8536 5600 (reception)

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Birds SA Notes & News (cont)

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Three issues have dominated our activities in the past quarter – the fate of the Adelaide Saltfields after salt production ceased at the end of June, 2013, preventative burning by DEWNR and concerns about the Crown lands in Monarto near Murray Bridge.

Adelaide Saltfields.

Birds SA made representations to both the Federal and South Australian governments in July, 2013. These letters described the importance of the habitat protected by the former saltfields underlined the responsibilities of hoth the SA and Federal Governments to maintain the habitat of this important wetland. They also highlighted the need for immediate action to prevent damage from the generation of acid sulphate soils and habitat destruction from uncontrolled access. Subsequently a reply was received from Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. He has told us that the Department for Transport and Industry (DTI) has established a multi-agency task force to co-ordinate a whole of government response to Ridley Corporation's closure of its Dry Creek operations and the long term function of the area. We were assured that:

- the task force is aware of the unique role the operating salt fields play in providing coastal and estuarine habitats for flora and fauna, including migratory shore birds.
- the relative agencies were aware
 of the environmental challenges
 posed by acid sulphate soil
 formation, the discharge of
 pollutants, and the need to control
 access.
- It is the intention of the task force to engage with all key stakeholders to discuss the key elements of the proposed closure.

Currently the Ridley Corporation is working through the regulatory framework to affect a timely and responsible suite of actions leading to cessation of salt production operations. Ridley will refer its proposal to the Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (formerly the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts) to ensure there are no issues triggering the EPBC Act.

We were given contact details of the Director of DPTI and encouraged to contact him with any further queries we might have.

In the meantime Birdlife Australia organised a Shorebird Conservation Workshop, which was held on Sept 4, 2013 John Hatch, John Gitsham, Colin Rogers and John Spiers represented Birds SA. The workshop was successful in imparting the knowledge various to conservation groups represented. However, as members of the Government task force described above, pulled out of the Workshop a week earlier without a valid reason, the workshop failed in its main purpose which was to impart knowledge to that group and gain insight into their thinking.

We are currently waiting for an update from the task force while maintaining contact through Birdlife Australia and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board.

Monarto Crown Lands.

The coloured map on p23 shows the Monarto Crown lands near Murray Bridge. The red areas are the Crown lands controlled by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural resources (DEWNR) and includes areas regularly visited by members of Birds SA - Narrinyeri Hills, Browns Road and Frahns Farm. While there is no immediate threat to these areas, the SA State Government is in a difficult financial position and the areas are not currently legally protected. In order to pre-empt any risk to the area the Murray Darling Resources Basin Natural Management Board (MDB NRMB) is proposing that they, together with interested NGOs and Community Groups, undertake the management of these lands on behalf of the Birds Government. SA represented at a public meeting called by the MDB NRMB on the 17th October 2013 to gauge public support for the proposal by our president, David Paton, John Gitsham and myself. We indicated our interest in the proposal and our willingness to be involved provided suitable arrangements could be made. Be warned! This may result in us being involved with working bees and fund raising!

The green area on the map is an area of Crown land, controlled by the Department of Primary Industries Regions SA (PIRSA). Unfortunately this area is under threat of sale. Birds SA has written to Gago the Minister Agriculture describing the value of the area to our Association for birdwatching, to science referencing its use in many long term studies conducted by the University of Adelaide and particularly its value to a suite of declining woodland birds. We described the proposal for community groups to manage other Crown land in the area and the value of the PIRSA land in linking two of the largest areas of such land. We brought to the Minister's attention to the fact that the Lavender Federation Trail runs through the area. Finally we asked the Minister to hand control of the area to DEWNR so that it could be brought into the scope of the proposed area to be managed by community groups. We stated our opinion that the area was more valuable ecologically that any money PIRSA was likely to obtain for it.

Preventative Burning

In response to the fire in Coxs Scrub Birds SA sent a letter to State and Federal Environment Ministers in June 2013 setting out our concerns regarding the preventative burning programme conducted by DEWNR. In response we received a reply from Allan Holmes, the CEO of DEWNR. stating the department's position in to preventative burning, regard acknowledging that the Cox Scrub Burn did not go according to plan but confirming his confidence in the ability of DEWNR to undertake prescribed burns. Subsequently he

Birds SA Notes & News(cont)|Miscellaneous Items

and Grant Pelton (Director of Regional Co-ordination, DEWNR) met our president, David Paton, and discussed concerns we had raised in our letter to the Minister. They agreed with the concerns that we have but there is a lack of finance to support these concerns. David Paton was to be asked to meet with DEWNR staff in charge of running the fuel reduction burns sometime in the future. On the 17th and 19th of September there was an opportunity to attend public meetings on planned burns. Brian Blaylock and Simon Brearly represented Birds SA. DEWNR is required by law to conduct a programme of preventative burning. While this appears to be well planned and conducted using all required and reasonable procedures to maintain control, a small number of fires do get out of control. The real problem is that there is inadequate ecological monitoring before and after a burn to measure results and guide future activities. This is mainly a result of funding shortages.

Finally the Sub-Committee is maintaining a watching brief on a number of area such as Laratinga and Tolderol and developing a submission to be placed before the Government and the Opposition before the next State election asking for more funding for DEWNR to enable it to perform its duties adequately.

John Spiers.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

CONSERVATION

I think the aspect of conservation that really troubles me to the core is that the battle is never won and that as soon as one issue is even vaguely understood another one arises. It is really easy to get fed up with the whole business and just become grumpy old persons with a serious anxiety problem. Then, quite by accident, a jewel is discovered and the cloud lifts ever so slightly. I had one such epiphany a week or so ago near Naracoorte. I was helping my non-birding brother undertake a redtailed black cockatoo count near his home. He dropped me at the edge of a nice patch of stringy bark country and I wandered off looking at the

tops of trees for signs of the birds 'that were there last week' but inevitably were nowhere to be seen now. As the binos swept aloft the view came to rest on a huge wedgetailed eagles nest. As I traced the tree down to ground level a sheet of corrugated iron came into view nailed to the tree. 'EAGLES NEST' it said. Someone cared, and as I left the scrub to rejoin my brother there was another vehicle there and its driver wanted to know what the heck I was doing blundering through his patch. He cared. My brother said he knew the eagle's nest was there and he cared and he knew of many people in the country there who cared.

We make assumptions about our fellow inhabitants of this country that are not always very accurate and perhaps we unjustly assume the worst. I have felt pretty unhappy recently with the way things seem to be going on the conservation front, but there are things to feel good about and I for one will enjoy those brief moments.

Rod Attwood

HOW MANY GRASSWRENS ARE THERE?

This question was put to me after the August meeting and was prompted by discussion on the Birding-Aus website of an unpublished paper of Les Christidis and colleagues (1) that splitting the Striated proposed Grasswren Amytornis striatus into four species; the presently recognised subspecies of the Pilbara (A. s. whitei) and central Queensland (A. s. rowleyi), and populations of A. s. striatus to the west of ('oweni') and east of (striatus) the South Australian Gulfs. The paper in question is a taxonomic interpretation of a phylogeny of the genus Amytornis published in 2010 (2) by the same

The 2010 paper reported DNA sequences (3 mitochondrial genes and three nuclear introns) for single specimens of all of the then recognised Grasswren species and most subspecies. In addition one of the mitochondrial genes (ND3) was sequenced for 15 Grey (barbatus) and 16 Short-tailed (merrotsyi) Grasswren specimens to test divergence between the and

monophyly (independent inheritance) of each of their two respective subspecies, the latter data from the 2008 study of Christidis, Horton and Norman (3). For the specimen representing oweni only ND3 was sequenced and whitei was not included in the study. Important findings included: (i) wide genetic divergence between the Western (textilis) and Thick-billed (modestus) Grasswrens, consistent with their separate species status, (ii) similarly wide divergences between striatus, rowleyi and oweni but (iii) a much smaller divergence between the White-throated (woodwardi) and Carpentarian (dorotheae) Grasswrens, which was of a similar magnitude to that between the subspecies of Grey and Short-tailed Grasswrens.

In their present paper (1) the authors have provided a revised taxonomy based on the genetic distances (divergence) published by them and by Austin and colleagues (4) as below. Such a revision, if not accompanied by fully corroborative morphological analysis, generally requires that all forms are sampled. unusual feature of their An recommendations is to accept as subspecies only those forms that have a level of genetic divergence similar to that found between subspecies of Grey and Short-tailed Grasswrens which, as noted, is of the same order as separates two full species, the White-throated and Carpentarian Grasswrens. Therefore, if genetic distances alone are taken taxonomic revision, divergences suggest incipient or cryptic speciation. Subspecies are generally considered as differentiated potentially or actually interbreeding subpopulations within a species and may not be separated by such genetic distances.

The paper of Austin and colleagues (4) is a phylogeny of the *Amytornis textilis-modestus* (Western and Thick-billed Grasswren) complex that sequenced the ND2 gene for samples of between 3 and 18 specimens of each of 10 named and one unnamed subspecies, only the extinct eastern NSW Thick-billed Grasswren subspecies *inexpectatus* being unsequenced. The results support recent subspecific revision

Miscellaneous Items (cont)

within the group, including recognition of four subspecies of Western Grasswren in WA, three being extinct, and six other subspecies of Thick-billed Grasswren, including the extinct subspecies from central Australia.

So how many are there?

- A. There are 11 currently recognised species; one or more of the three additions proposed by Christidis and colleagues might come to be recognised as species but perhaps further corroborative evidence will be needed.
- B. There are five species with individual populations showing genetic divergences consistent with some degree of cryptic the Bulloo speciation; Diamantina Grey Grasswrens, the Flinders and Gawler Ranges Short-tailed Grasswrens. Thickbilled Grasswrens west of and east of Lake Evre, WA and Evre Peninsula Western Grasswrens, and central Queensland Striated Grasswrens and those west of and east of the SA gulfs. If these incipient species are added there are 17 grasswrens. Note again that DNA of the Pilbara Striated Grasswren (whitei) and eastern NSW Thick-billed Grasswren (inexpectatus) have not been sequenced.
- C. There are five species with two or more recognised subspecies, Grey (2), Short-tailed (2), Western (5), Thick-billed (7) and Striated (3; 4 if *oweni* is recognised). If all subspecies are included there are **26 grasswrens**, but five are extinct.

So, depending on your definition, the answer for known extant grasswrens is somewhere between 11 (or 14), 7-8 in SA, and 21, 12 in SA.

References

- Christidis, L, Rheindt, F.E., Boles, W.E. and Norman, J.A. 2013. Australian Zoologist in press.
- Christidis, L, Rheindt, F.E., Boles, W.E. and Norman, J.A. 2010. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 57: 868-877.
- 3. Christidis, L., Horton, P. and Norman, J.A. 2008. *Emu* 108, 275-282.

4. Austin, J.J., Joseph, L., Pedler, L.P. and Black, A.B. 2013. *Conservation Genetics*, DOI 10.1007/s10592-013-0504-9.

Andrew Black

Sue Winwood found this tribute to birding in South Australia in the English newsletter BIRDGUIDES

NATURALLY SOUTH AUSTRALIA, BIRDING SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S COAST

Just one glance at the map at South Australia's 5,000-km coastline, with its complexity of bays, headlands, islands and peninsulas, suggests treats in store for the visiting birdwatcher. And indeed the impressive variety of coastal habitats, from towering cliffs to sandy beaches and estuarine lagoons, supports both a rich community of resident species and a seasonal deluge of passing visitors.

Among the residents are some of Australia's greatest avian predators. Scan the rocky crags of the Eyre Peninsula and you'll find Whitebellied Sea Eagles and Ospreys constructing their huge platform nests on rock stacks and dead trees, or soaring high above the water on the lookout for fish. Peregrine Falcons prefer precipitous rock ledges, offering a commanding view of prey far out to sea.

At the foot of these cliffs are colonies of Cormorants, both Black-faced and Pied, while Silver Gulls patrol the shoreline. On rocky shores, piping calls announce small parties of Sooty Oystercatchers, while Cape Barren Geese—endemic to the offshore islands of southern Australia and once threatened with extinction—commute noisily along the shoreline between grazing areas inland. At night, in sheltered bays such as Kingscote on Kangaroo Island, Fairy Penguins waddle out of the surf to their burrows.

Meanwhile, on protected beaches such as those of Troubridge Island, off the Yorke Peninsula, Caspian, Crested and Fairy Terns nest in noisy colonies and Hooded Plovers lay their camouflaged eggs above the high-tide line. Turn inland, out of the teeth of the gale, and you'll find sheltered lagoons—such as on Kangaroo Island's Eastern Cove—where Australian Pelicans line up on

sandbars and migrating shorebirds gather to plunder the invertebrate bounty of the mudflats. At the Coorong, a vast lagoon system that extends for some 130km east of the Murray River mouth, October sees thousands of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-necked Stints, among numerous others, preparing for their northwards journey to their Arctic breeding grounds.

Step just a few metres inland, among the coastal dunes and scrub, and you'll find a wealth of other species. At Waitpinga Beach along the Fleurieu Peninsula, you might spot Golden Whistler or Red-browed flitting Finch around the campground, while the Eyre Peninsula might produce an elusive Rock Parrot, or perhaps an Emu leading its chicks, the male's distinctive drumming audible at night during September and October.

For the aficionado, however, it is the pelagic seabirds that hold the most excitement. After southwesterly, these ocean wanderers stream past the headlands extraordinary numbers: Short-tailed Shearwaters by the hundreds of thousands, and among them the whiter forms of Shy larger, Albatrosses, angling no more than a metre over the waves. "I've seen albatrosses in Eastern Cove so stuffed with squid that they can't take off," says Craig Wickham Exceptional Kangaroo Island.

And for a chance to see some of the more elusive pelagic specials, nothing beats a boat trip. Various operators, including Kangaroo Island Marine Adventures, will take you further offshore, where the right conditions often produce rarities such as Cape Petrel and Yellow-nosed Albatross. Just bring binoculars and good sea legs.

Mike Unwin October 2013

To See Mike's excellent photos, see the article on the following website: http://www.birdguides.com/webzine/article.asp?a=3999

Giving them wings conserving threatened species

FLEURIEU PENINSULA WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE UPDATE

A recent nest check at the Waitpinga White-bellied Sea-Eagle territory revealed yet another nest failure year and only the male eagle has been seen in the area of late. Although commencing later than average, incubation behaviour was recorded and estimated to run full term through August and September, with hatching being expected by early October. However that excitement short-lived. as early November there was no evidence at the nest to indicate that hatching had occurred at all and curiously, no sign of an abandoned egg or remnants.

Considering all the habitat protection measures put in place since 2005, the maturation of the 'new' young female this year, and with eggs apparently being produced, this is another disappointing and perplexing outcome. With just one young fledged at this nest over the previous 10 years and possibly longer, this level of productivity is well below any of the worst-case records from 'High Disturbance' category sea-eagle territories monitored on Kangaroo Island over the same number of breeding seasons. Terry says he is flummoxed to provide a ready explanation for the poor results based on precedent, and concedes that deliberate interference at the nest cannot be ruled out.

Included with this latest newsletter is a copy of the revised White-bellied Sea-Eagle brochure, produced mainly as a means of getting the message out regarding the Fly Neighbourly Advice conditions over the Waitpinga Cliffs. The new brochure will be distributed to pilots, various flying clubs, airports, the Australian Defence Force and the various recreation groups that use the

Waitpinga Cliffs area such as bird watchers, walking and rock-climbing groups. The brochure also carries a clear message about the collective impacts of venturing too close, which can apply to all declining bird species during their breeding season.

Terry Dennis and Elizabeth Steele-Collins

STOP PRESS!

Since we wrote the above the White-bellied Sea-Eagle pair have been sighted circling together above Waitpinga Cliffs before sunset on Wednesday 13th November. Of course another nest failure is still sad and very concerning but at least the female is still with us.



White-bellied Sea Eagle Pair, photographed by Elizabeth Steele-Collins, above Waitpinga Cliffs, 13th November 2013

HOODED PLOVERS ON THE FLEURIEU COAST

Hooded Plovers live on our beaches year round. They make their nests on the sand from August to March with nests and chicks well camouflaged. This makes them vulnerable to being stepped on or being disturbed by people and dogs.

Although fewer than 22 known breeding pairs are left on the Fleurieu Peninsula their monitored antics can be quite fascinating. With such a small number in this State they are rated as Vulnerable in South Australia and are being considered for listing as nationally threatened.

BirdLife Australia and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board are working jointly on a Hooded Plover banding program, which is seeking to fill in the gaps we have in our knowledge of these species so that we can actively conserve them.

Licensed researchers under permit conditions carry out the capture and banding of Hooded Plovers, to ensure the birds' welfare is foremost. Research in Victoria and on Kangaroo Island shows that hoodies live for up to 18 years (more commonly 10-15 years) and can fly large distances to search for a beach of their own.

There are still many things we don't know. Most importantly we want to learn about the dispersal of birds from the Fleurieu to other parts of South Australia, and even interstate. It is also critical to understand how many flying-age chicks survive to become breeders on a beach of their own. By learning this we can better assess whether our conservation efforts are paying off.

Across Victoria and South Australia, birds are tagged with an orange flag with two black letters on the upper leg, and a metal band on the lower leg. This allows volunteers to spot and identify interesting movements and behaviours such as those at Maslin Beach between AR, NA and MX!

Like an episode from 'Days of our Lives' AR and NA from

Giving Them Wings (cont)



Banding a Recently Fledged Juvenile, DK, at Tunkillo Beach. Photographed by Elizabeth Steele-Collins on 19/1/2013

Carrickalinga north spent the 2013 winter in warmer climes (Maslin Beach/Port Willunga). Unfortunately MX disappeared in March this year after breeding at Maslin Beach with a distinctive un-banded male (he has quite a lot of black on his back). AR and NA parted ways with NA then hooking up with the unbanded male. NA and her new male are now breeding at Maslin Beach this season in exactly the same location that MX had with the same unbanded male. It is the

male that chooses the nesting location so this has remained similar despite a change in partner.

Local volunteers have observed other movements. For example, DK, a juvenile banded on the south coast at Tunkalilla has been seen at Bashams Beach Port Elliot, Parsons Beach and also as far north as Port Willunga, Maslin Beach and South Port.

BirdLife Australia has now banded 24 Hooded Plovers on the Fleurieu Peninsula with support from Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges. Volunteers and key staff from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources have been invited to observe the banding and a few key individuals are being trained in the capture and handling of the birds. This ensures that if emergency situations such as oil spills or entanglements occur, there will be people across South Australia available to rescue the birds.

If you see a Hooded Plover with a coloured flag, please let us know! The requirement is that this viewing is done only from a distance of 100m; using binoculars, a telescope or a



Juvenile Hooded Plover DK with a Banded Adult Photographed by Hilary Thompson at Parsons Beach on 14/2/13

digital camera so the image can be zoomed in on to read the tag. Birds banded on the Fleurieu have orange flags.

For more information on Hooded Plovers, Visit the BirdLife Australia website

http://birdlife.org.au/projects/beachnesting-birds

To report banded Hooded Plovers contact: Grainne Maguire, BirdLife Australia

grainne.maguire@birdlife.org.au or Emma Stephens, Natural Resources Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges 0417 081 695,

estephens@holdfast.sa.gov.au Emma Stephens

WESTERN WHIPBIRDS

We took several photos of a pair of Western Whipbirds in a patch of scrub at Duck Pond Drive, which is just before Pound Lane leading to the Port Lincoln Prison on Western Aproach Road. We came across the Whipbirds by accident., while we were taking our dog for a walk. Not far into the walk I heard a birdcall, which I had heard before elsewhere, that I thought was a Whipbird. By playing the birdcall on our phone we were lucky enough to lure him out of the scrub and into a nearby tree! Some local birders told us that people have been looking for this bird for about 30 vears and have never seen one. We could not believe our luck! Not only did we find one Whipbird, but a pair Whipbirds! The male Whipbird caught a grub and presented it to the female, presumably as a gesture of partnership between the two. We found these birds on 15th September and again on the 22nd September.

As these birds are some of the shyest native birds we have, we are the luckiest couple around to find a pair of Whipbirds twice as well as capturing some clear images of them.

We contacted Birds SA as we have not been able to find any photos of these birds in our area. We hope our discovery provides useful information about one location of this bird.

One of Dion's photographs of a Western Whipbird on p24.

Dion and Serena Thompson dion81@live.com.au

Past General Meetings

FRIDAY JULY 26

John Hatch said that it was Members Night and that around 100 members were present. Six speakers would be presenting a variety of topics some with cryptic titles.

John Spiers

Taung Taung in South Africa is in one of the hottest and driest places in the world. In 1925, in Nature, Dr Raymond Dart described a skull, which was over 3 million years old, as a new species Australopithecus africanus. In 1995 Professor Lee hypothesized Burger that puncture marks below the eye sockets indicated that the child had been attacked and killed by an eagle. Similar puncture marks have been found in skulls taken from the nests of African Crowned Hawk Eagles. In 2006 Burger re-examined the Taung skull and found the same characteristics. A two million year old cold case had been solved.

Barbara Bansemer – A Himalayan Odyssey

Peter Bansemer organised the birdwatching tour to include Thailand, Bhutan, Sikkim and Nepal during April and May 2013. Barbara showed pictures of some of the birds they saw on the trip. Their first stop was Bangkok and they had a day trip north-east to Khao Yai National Park near Pakchong. Some of the birds photographs were the Great Hornbill, Spangled Drongo and Drongo Cuckoo. In Northern Thailand in Doi Inthanon National Park White-vented Myna, Grey-backed Shrike, Lesser Shortwing and White-browed Shortwing were photographed.

From Thailand they went to Bhutan where there is a charge of \$200 per head to enter plus costs for guides. In Bhutan the following birds were Eurasian photographed: Tree Sparrow, Rufous Sibia, Whitethroated Laughing Thrush, Blackfaced Laughing Thrush, Spotted Laughing Thrush, Grey Bush Chat, Spotted Nutcracker, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Blue Whistling Thrush, Long-tailed Shrike, Crested Bunting, Rufous-breasted Accentor and Largebilled Crow.

Special permits were required for entry to Sikkim, which is only 160km North to South and 60 km wide. Spot-winged Grosbeak, Himalayan Bulbul, Great Barbet, Grey-winged Blackbird were photographed here and a picture of a Large Niltava from the Oriental Bird Club was shown.

In Nepal they went on a six-day trek and pictures of the following birds were shown: Scarlet Minivet, Oriental Magpie Robin, Barn Swallow, Common Myna and Jungle Myna.

Barbara said that her camera was OK for close-ups but not very good for bird photographs

Stuart Collard — Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Bird Long-term Monitoring Program

Stuart said that he had only been involved with this Nature Conservation Society of South Australia project for the past 12 months. It was initiated by Hugh Possingham and began in 1999. The MLR is an island of woodland and only about 13% of the original vegetation remains. Approximately 160 sites are currently being monitored, and each site is surveyed three times per year and resurveyed at least one week apart. The study sites are in Pink Gum/Blue Gum or Stringybark habitats. The benefits of long-term monitoring are detecting trends (abundance/distribution) and a monitoring tool (weed control/fencing/revegetation and feral control)

Declining species in Stringybark Woodlands are: Scarlet Robin, White-backed Swallow, Silvereye, Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher, Brown Thornbill, Golden Whistler, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Tree Martin, Mistletoebird, Striated Pardalote, Red Wattlebird and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren. In Mistletoebird, Gum woodlands, Buff-rumped Thornbill, New Holland Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckooshrike, White-naped Honeyeater, Tree Martin, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, Musk Lorikeet, Laughing Kookaburra, White-winged Chough, White-browed Babbler and Brush Bronzewing are all declining. Objectives of the monitoring program are to assess general biodiversity surrogate measures within a site (e.g. weed abundance, structural diversity, regeneration etc.) for their correlation with bird species richness, abundance and diversity and to inform the 'Significant Environmental Benefit' calculation method.

Stuart showed graphs of bird community differences and preliminary results of the structural biodiversity. There are multiple factors affecting bird assemblages and further analyses are required of guilds, threatened and declining species, multivariate analyses with habitat factors, interaction with weed abundance and landscape context and fire history.

Merilyn Browne — Heard Island Expedition November 2012.

Merilyn sailed on the Spirit of Endersby. Heard Island is situated in the Southern Ocean southwest of Australia and is just south of the Antarctic Convergence. It took eight days sailing from Albany, W.A. to reach there. On Heard Island, Big Ben is an active volcano. McDonald Island, which is 30km northwest, has doubled in size over the past 10 years.

Birds photographed on the voyage were Flesh-footed Shearwater, White-chinned Petrel, Cape Petrel, Sooty Albatross, Amsterdam Albatross, Grev-headed Albatross, Salvin's Prion, Antarctic Prion, Blue Petrel and Southern Fulmar. On Heard Island Sheathbill, Lightmantled Sootv Albatross, King Penguin. South Georgia Diving Petrel, Macaroni Penguin, Heard Island Shag, Gentoo Penguin, Southern and Northern Giant Petrel. Other birds photographed at sea were Southern Fulmar, Gibson's Albatross, Black-bellied Storm Petrel, Grey-backed Storm Petrel, Brown Skua, Soft-plumaged Petrel, White-headed Petrel, Grey Petrel, Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross and Gould's Petrel.

Past General Meetings (cont)

David Robertson - SSBO

David and Minnie travelled to Taiwan and were surprised to see so much stainless steel in use there. David said that the stainless steel did not come from Mainland China. Almost everything external was made from stainless steel clotheslines, roller doors, chairs, plumbing (pipes). Hence the cryptic title for his talk - stainless steel bleeding obvious. Whilst in Taiwan they visited the botanic gardens there to see the Java Pond Heron. Asking for instructions at the information centre they were taken to a pond where there were lots of other birders with cameras and binoculars and were told to ask these people. The heron was out in the open and easily photographed. In other parts of Southeast Asian the Java Pond Heron is very difficult to see and photograph

Rodney Attwood said that the stainless steel would have come from the Bhilai Steel Works in India.

Rodney Attwood – Ground Hornbill

Rodney said that there were two species in Africa – Southern Ground Hornbill and the Abyssinian Ground Hornbill. There are only about 1500 individuals and they are omnivorous -feeding on insects, lizards, snakes and seeds. He showed photographs of the birds in Kruger National Park. They puff up their sacs to make a call, which can be heard about 2km away. The SGH are long-lived birds and only breed every few years. Although they lay two eggs only one chick survives. Unlike other hornbills they do not seal up the nesting cavity. SGH live in groups and are poor fliers.

Rodney said that he would make a presentation about a single species of birds over the next few years.

FRIDAY AUGUST 30

John Hatch introduced the speaker for the evening Mike Moore. Since retiring from the S.A. Education Department in 2009 Mike has been a volunteer in the Entomology Section of the South Australian Museum. He is extremely interested in the moth family Hepialidae and is currently in the process of describing and naming four previously undescribed species. Mike's talk was entitled 'Comments on the nine species of the genus Ogyris that live in South Australia'. Prior to giving details about Ogyris butterflies Mike gave some background information about moths and butterflies.

There is no single feature that separates moths from butterflies. Instead it is a combination of characteristics:

- Most moths fly at night; most butterflies during the day.
- Moths are mostly dull coloured and most butterflies are brightly coloured.
- At rest moths hold their wings flat or tent-like but butterflies hold their wings erect above the body
- Moths have a frenulum (an organ that links the fore and hind wings so they beat in unison) and butterflies except Regent Skipper do not have one
- Most moths' antennae are filiform or pectinated, whereas butterflies have clubbed antennae.

Butterflies and moths are arthropods, in the Class Insecta and Order Lepidoptera. Worldwide there are an estimated 175, 000 species. Australia has about 11, 000 but it is thought at least an equal number have yet to be described.

A butterfly collector would collect only six of the ~125 families (Papilionidae (birdwings and swallowtails), Peridae (whites and yellows), Nymphalidae (brushfoots), Riobinidae (metalmarks), Lycaenidae (blues) and Hesperidae (skippers). However many would also collect day-flying moths such as Agoristids (mistletoe feeders), Castanaeids

(club-antenna moths) and Uranids (large brightly coloured moths).

Mike said that he had collected and studied in some minor way all nine species of *Ogyris* found in SA. They are most easily raised in coffee jars. There are two species about which we know little and he would like to 'crack' their life cycles.

The Genus Ogyris belongs to the family Lycaenidae (blue butterflies). This genus is thought to have evolved in Australia and there are 13 endemic species, one shared with New Guinea and one endemic in New Guinea although there are queries about its taxonomy. Ogyris butterflies are particularly well adapted to arid conditions and bushfires. When resting they never open their wings to expose the brilliant colour. The underside of the rear wings is very cryptically coloured. They live rather secretive lives, even as adults and many species form intimate associations with ants. Many species feed on mistletoe

The blue in butterflies is not due to a pigment but instead results from the interplay of the light on the scales on the wings. When the wings are wet they are simply a grey colour.

Mike gave a summary of the South Australian species.

Ogyris amaryllis – Satin Azure. Most common and widespread; occasionally found with a few small black ants but the relationship is not obligatory. Feeds on mistletoe and seems to prefer Amyema preissii.

Ogyris oroetes – Silky Azure. Lives in the eastern mallee country but is found elsewhere. Prefers light woodland. Seems as though presence of ants is not necessary. Prefers Amyema miquelli.

Ogyris olane – Broad-margined Azure. Found in the eastern half of the state and prefers more heavily wooded forest. It is facultative myrmecophilous. Feeds on both A. miquelli and A. pendula in the Adelaide Hills.

Ogyris amaryllis – Bright Purple Azure. Restricted to areas of Western Myall (Acacia papyrocarpa). Feeds on Amyema quandang and is

Past General Meetings (cont)

facultative myrmecophilous. The caterpillars pupate in borer holes. Ogyris abrota – Dark Purple Azure. Only found in the lower southeast of the state. In this state it feeds on Muellerina eucalyptoides and is facultative myrmecophilous. This species is strongly dimorphic. Until 1997 only one specimen had been found in 1896 until Grund and Hunt re-discovered this species.

Ogyris genoveva - Genoveve Azure. species This is obligate myrmecophilous and in the wild the caterpillars would not develop into adults without the aid of ants. The caterpillars are "found" very soon after hatching and are herded and protected by Campanotus ants. At night the whole mass of caterpillars (about 100) and ants (thousands) move up the tree to feed on mistletoe, usually Amyema miquelli or A. pendula. After feeding the whole mass moves back down the tree. They are widely spread with many colour variations and males and females are strongly dimorphic. Ogyris otanes - Small Bronze Azure.

An obligate myrmecophilous species. Eggs are laid at the base of the food plant it uses, *Choretrum glomeratum* (Santalaceae). Upon hatching the caterpillars move into the ants' nest where they are protected. At night they are herded up onto the branches where they feed and return to the ants' nest.

Ogyris subterrestris – Arid Bronze Azure. Discovered in Western Australia in 1985 and described by Moore in 1992. Confused with another species for many years. Life history is largely unknown. The eggs are laid in large clumps at the opening of Campanotus ants nest. The eggs hatch at night and the caterpillars move straight into the ants' nest. What happens next is unknown.

Ogyris halmaturina – Large Bronze Azure. One of Australia's rarest butterflies. Only recognised as a separate species in 2009. Was thought to be extinct on the mainland when re-discovered by Moore in 1994. First instar caterpillars have been investigated but do not develop to the next instar as the food source

is unknown. Feeds on Campanotus brood.

Mike illustrated his talk with photographs of habitat, adults, eggs and larvae. He brought along a specimen case showing the different species.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27

David Paton introduced the speaker John Fennell. John is a British National, a New Zealand citizen and also an Australian citizen. He started birding in the UK and became a voluntary warden at a reserve on the edge of Langstone Harbour, Hampshire. He became a bird ringer (bander) and founded a bird-ringing group in the Midlands. John has a Masters Degree in Applied Genetics and worked as a plant breeder for much of his career. His work in agriculture has taken him to many countries including 12 years residence in New Zealand. Whilst there he was Secretary of the Rare Bird Committee of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and helped to set up the Birds SA Rare Birds Committee of which he is still a member. His partner Leoni South has had nursing experience but now works supporting an area of clinical pathology. She is a passionate photographer and nuts about Orangutans.

John's talk was entitled 'Getting hot and steamy in Borneo'.

Borneo is a large island east of Singapore, which lies 85km north of the equator. Borneo is divided among three countries: Brunei, Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak and the territory of Labuan) and Indonesia.

There are three seasons:

Drier season – April to October – hot and sticky! Wet season – November to March – hot and sticky! Tourist season – May to September hot and sticky with lots of tourists!

A total of 577 bird species have been recorded for Sabah including 9 endemics, 24 globally threatened species and three introduced. Sabah is east of Wallace's Line and in the Orientalis avifaunal region. The major bird groups in Sabah are:

- Waders 51 species
- Robins/flycatchers 38 species
- Babblers 34 species

- Falcons/hawks/eagles 33 species
- Herons/storks/ibis eagles 24 species
- Cuckoos 24 species
- Bulbuls 23 species
- Pigeons/doves 20 species
- Sunbirds/spiderhunters 17 species
- Woodpeckers 16 species
- Other groups:
- Crakes/rails 13 species
- Swifts/swiftlets/tree swifts 13 species
- Pheasants/partridges 13 species
- Owls 13 species
- Kingfishers 11 species
- Flowerpeckers 11 species
- Hornbills 8 species
- Broadbills 8 species
- Pittas 8 species
- Trogons 4 species
- Parrots 4 species

Significant habitats in Sabah are lowland rainforest, highland rainforest, peat swamp forest, Sunda shelf mangroves, freshwater swamps and plantations.

John and Leonie visited Kinabalu, Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary and the Danum Valley Conservation Area. There are few roads in Sabah and most travel was undertaken along the rivers.

Birds photographed during their visit to Kinabalu were Indigo Flycatcher, Temminck's Sunbird. John recommended using Borneo Eco Tours.

Kinabatangan Wildlife In the Sanctuary photos were taken of Great Egret, Striated Heron, Yellow Bittern, Storm Stork, Blue-eared Kingfisher, Stork- billed Kingfisher, Oriental Darter, Common Kingfisher, Buffy Fish Owl. White- throated Fantail, Black-and-red Broadbill, Black-and-yellow Broadbill, Squaretailed Drongo, White-bellied Buff-necked Woodpecker, Woodpecker, Scarletrumped Trogon, Ashy Tailorbird, Brownthroated Sunbird, Black Magpie, Crested Serpent Eagle, Jerdon's Baza, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Asian Black Hornbill. Bushy-crested Hornbill. Rhinoceros Hornbill. Wrinkled Hornbill. Helmeted Hornbill.

Juture General Meetings/Past Excursions

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 and meetings start at 7.45pm.

FRIDAY JANUARY 31

Marcus Picket will talk on Southern Emu-wrens.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28

Peter Gowers, 'The Making of a Book'.

PAST EXCURSIONS

Narrinyeri Hills 1 September

There was no leader for this trip. Much of the area had previously been burnt and the regrowth mallee around two metres interspersed with open areas and weeds. manv introduced The highlights of the trip were three Rufous Songlarks which were calling a lot of the time. Some people got a pood look at а Collared Sparrowhawk perched on the top of the mallee. At the lunch spot on the Lavender Federation Trail near Rocky Gully White-winged a Chough was sitting on three young in the nest. Peter Gower took the bird call and a total of 53 species were recorded by the 25 members and friends who came along.

Brian Blaylock

Laratinga Wetlands 14 September

Laratinga Wetlands at Mt Barker again proved a popular venue with 25 members and friends attending the walk. Broken cloud and a light wind greeted everyone, along with lots of birds, as has become expected at these wetlands.

Despite water levels in most ponds being high, the three species of Crake: Spotted, Baillon's and Spotless, were observed by the majority of people on the walk. Seventy Pink-eared Ducks were observed on the fenced sewerage ponds. Amongst this high number was one Freckled Duck with its head under its wing.

Nine species of birds were recorded with nests or young, including Little Pied Cormorants with three nests.

This venue always impresses, with easy views of many species, which have become very used to people walking along the paths surrounding the ponds. A total of 61 species were seen.

Peter Gower

Manning Fauna and Flora Reserve 19 September

Fifteen members met at a cold and overcast Old Noarlunga Square at 8.15 a.m. A quick look at birds around the square produced 21, common species. The highlight was at least 14 Nankeen Night Herons including juveniles. Ten were in one tree and four in a second. There was the usual assortment of 'dinner' ducks around and some hybrid Pacific Blacks. One Collared Sparrowhawk was seen circling overhead, as well as a Peregrine Falcon.

We then moved in convoy to Manning Reserve where the weather improved and by the time we took early lunch, it was quite pleasant. It was Theresa's birthday and after lunch we had a 'happy birthday' sing-a-long.

The reserve is in excellent condition and there is an explosion of orchids throughout. Most of the day's photography appeared to be centred on the orchids and one birder (who shall remain nameless) was heard to remind the rest of the group that we were there to observe birds and not plants! By the end of the walk he seemed to be partly converted and was heard quietly pointing out his own orchid observations to others in the group.

The morning produced 35 species, while another 4 were heard only. In total 216 birds were seen with highest individual numbers being 20 of each of Eastern Rosellas, Striated Pardalotes and Common Starlings.

Musk Lorikeets, Striated Pardalotes and Grey Shrike Thrushes were busy nesting and nest building. Two dependent young Australian Magpies were also seen. Ten Mistletoebirds were recorded and we had good views of them feeding from spider webs on the barbed wire of the perimeter fence. Two Brown Goshawks circled overhead and they were quite co-operative in moving closer to us rather than moving away, which is often the case. Tree Martins were flying overhead for much of the

After lunch some members of the group proceeded to a nearby wetland for further birding.

Rod Tetlow

Black Hill Conservation Park 29 September

Only two members attended! For those who know this trail it didn't surprise me they were not present. It is a bit tough (all right for young ones!!!)

We headed straight ahead uphill from the gate along the Summit Trail and worked our way around to the Ghost Tree Summit Link Trail. This Link was very steep down to the Ghost Tree Gully Track, which is a fire track and much easier going. We turned left near the bottom into the Tetragona Trail, which took us back to the Carpark trailhead. The path up to the Ghost Tree Summit Link Trail started OK but got steeper and very narrow and rocky in parts. The first step to the left was a long one – down.

A total of 15 species were seen including 16 Rainbow Lorikeets, 30 Crimson Rosellas, 20 Red Wattlebirds and 2 each of Red-Browed Finch, White-thoated Treecreeper, Yellow-rumped Thornbill and Black-faced Cuckooshrike

Gordon Pateman

Past Excursions (cont)

October Long Weekend Campout, Thursday, 3 October to Tuesday, 8 October 2013: **Bimbowrie Conservation Park**

A total of 34 members and partners attended. Some used the shearer's quarters and others set up camp around the Antro Woolshed. Country members came from Minlaton, Port Neill, and Renmark. Over the four days a total of 77 species were recorded. Of these Black Honeyeater, Masked Woodswallow and Whistling Kite were new records for the park. Highlights of the weekend were Little Woodswallow and Peregrine Falcon at Cathedral Rocks and Black Honeyeater around Antro. Quite a few people saw a Peregrine Falcon chase a Grey Teal over the dam. A group of Banded Stilts, another new species, was seen around the dam by the ranger on his return. A cheque for \$265.00, which was collected from those attending the campout has been sent to the Friends of Burra Parks who look after Bimbowrie C.P.

Brian Blaylock

Brookfield Conservation Park 12 October

A group of 15 people gathered at the gates before setting off in convoy to our first stop near the enclosed section. Although sunny it was not too hot, and for the most part it was calm throughout the day. Splitting into small groups, we covered both sides of the road. Species seen here included Hooded Robin, Whitebrowed and Chestnut-crowned Babblers. Southern Whiteface. Brown Treecreeper, White-fronted Honeveater. Chestnut-rumped and Inland Thornbills and Weebill. After about an hour we moved to the Mallee Loop track and stopped at a couple of places where the trees were more numerous and ground cover was thicker. Here we came across a Common Bronzewing sitting on a nest at the end of a thick branch that had been hollowed out through age. Crouched alongside was a large nestling. A Grey Currawong was harassing a group of White-winged Choughs. Α single Tawny Frogmouth was flushed from near the ground. Flying up and sitting on a branch about eight feet off the ground, it perched in full view, posing for photographs. Groups of White-browed Masked and Woodswallows were observed circling high above. We had lunch under the mallee trees and were greeted to a close flyby of two Rainbow Bee-eaters. Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters were numerous, as were Striated Pardalotes. Spotted Pardalotes and Horsefield's Bronzecuckoos were also heard calling. After lunch we headed further along the track calling in to the Charcoal We heard then observed Gilbert's and Rufous Whistlers in this area. On the track back to the pits we came across a large frill-neck lizard sunning itself on a low tree stump. At this point several groups decided to call it a day and the remaining two cars headed to the saltbush section in search of Redthroats. which unfortunately were nowhere to be seen. At the end of the day a couple of us visited the research station where we met a small group of researchers from the US carrying out their vearly fairy-wren studies. We were shown a recently abandoned Splendid Fairy-wren nest with three eggs. The group was currently watching the female to work out if and where she was re-nesting. In all 51 species were counted for the day. **Martyn Price**

Clements Gap 20 October

A mild and heavily overcast day greeted nine members of Birds SA for the outing to Clements Gap CP. The overcast conditions and hordes over-friendly flies made conditions challenging and fly nets were the fashion statement of the

The park was dry and there was very little evidence of anything in flower. This may explain the low number of honeveater species (only 4 species and 22 individual honeyeaters observed). Highlights of the day were sightings of Cockatiel (20) and Budgerigar (4). There were also reasonable numbers woodswallows with White-breasted. Masked, White-browed and Dusky all observed.

Thanks to Bill Alcock's efforts on the previous day four Little Buttonquail were also included on the species list for the park.

Brian Walker

Reedy Creek (Waterfall Reserve) 9 November

Twenty people turned out on a cool day with rain promising. There were few species in the section of the creek up to the waterfalls, though we did see a large feral cat prowling about on the opposite hillside. The group was treated to eight species of raptor: Black Kite, Little Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brown Falcon, Falcon, Wedge-tailed Peregrine Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel and Black Falcon. The same number of parrot species was seen, including two small groups of Cockatiels. There were Fairy Martins nesting under overhangs in the hillside boulders, with Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows also about. On the return trip along the creek from the bridge found a young Southern Boobook, though photographing it proved difficult. The bird list for the Reserve for the day was 49.

The group went on to Caloote for lunch, where we saw several huge flocks (500 +) of Straw-necked Ibis across the river.

Merilyn Browne

Juture Excursions | Bird Records

Contact: Lynton Huxley Field Program Co-ordinator

Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009

5038

Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au

Note:

Lists of species recorded at the field trip locations visited can be reviewed at www.birdpedia.com

HOT WEATHER PROTOCOL —

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

Sunday 1 December: Scott Creek CP (MLR) (28km):

Meet at 8.30am at the Almanda Mine Site car park area on Dorset Vale Road. Use the SE Freeway leaving it for Stirling. Turn right at the roundabout to Longwood. After approx. 2.5 to 3km turn right towards Cherry Gardens, turning left into Dorset Vale Road approx. 2km before reaching Cherry Gardens.

Saturday 14 December: Magazine Road Wetlands Dry Creek (AP) 10km.

Meet in the Car park area at 8.30am. 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. 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 Road Wetlands.

Saturday 11 January: Whites Road Wetlands (AP) 16km.

Meet at 8.30am. Head north on the Port Wakefield Road. At 1.5km after passing the Salisbury Highway Bridge, turn left into Globe Derby Drive and continue on this road until it meets Whites Road. Turn right and continue to the end. The park entrance is on the left.

Thursday 23 January: Sir Richard Peninsula, Goolwa Ponds (MLR) 90 km.

Meet at 8.30am at the west of the Goolwa Yacht Club. It is intended to cover the area up to and around the southern boat ramp from the Yacht Club then travel onto Hindmarsh Island to the Murray Mouth and later in the day to visit the Goolwa Ponds.

Sunday 2 February: Dry Creek Salt fields (AP) 26km.

Meet by the gate at 6.30am (high tide is just before 7.00am). Turn west onto St Kilda Road, from Port Wakefield Road follow the road turning right onto Radar Road (dirt & barrier) actually called Samphire Road. Please bring your two-way radios if you have them.

Saturday 15 February: Sandy Creek Conservation Park (MLR) 52 km.

Meet at 8.30am at the northern carpark located at the end of Conservation Road, which is on the right, off the Gawler to Lyndoch Road about 10km east of Gawler.

Thursday 20 February: Altona CSR Landcare Reserve (MLR) 55km.

Meet at 8.30am at the Reserve entrance at the top of Altona Road. 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).

Sunday 2 March: Riverglades & Rocky Gully Wetlands Murray Bridge (MM) 80km.

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

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 <u>birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au</u> 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).

Malleefowl

1, 9/9/2013. Barton to Mungala, NW. Baxter, D.

Brown Quail

1, 5/10/2013 and 19/10/2013. 3km SSE Lobethal, MLR.

Evans, M. & Horton, P.

Australasian Shoveler

3 prs + young, 4/11/2013. Laratinga Wetlands, Mount Barker, MLR.

Williams, K. & L.

This is one of very few localities where regular nesting has been reported.

Plumed Whistling-duck

12, 27/8/2013. Millicent, Lake McIntyre, SE

Pounsett, R. & S.

3, 7/10/2013.

Brooker, W.

Pied Cormorant

1, 9/10/2013. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR. *First record for area*. Also present were 1 Great Cormorant, 1 Little Black Cormorant and 2 Little Pied Cormorants.

Schmidt, L

Bird Records (cont)

Great Crested Grebe

3, 5/10/2013. Port MacDonnell marina, SE.

Baxter, C.

2, 6/10/2013. Kingston Marina, SE. Miller, R.

sheltered

Interesting reports in coastal waters.

1, 29/10/2013. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.

Zanker, R.

Rock Dove

1, 3/11/2013. Amata sewage works, NW.

Hartland, D.

Flock Bronzewing

An influx into more southern areas following a dry season after a series of wet years in its usual range, plus the first breeding reported in SA for many vears.

26/7/2013. 10km Andamooka,NW.

Pedler, R. 6, 11/8/2013. Witchelina Stn, Middle Dam, NW.

Slender, A.

200, 15/8/2013. 40km N Roxby Downs, NW.

Lamb, K.

6, 18/8/2013. 45km N Marree, NE. Sothman, B. & Lloyd, R.

2,19/8/2013. 20km N Mungeranie, NE.

Sothman, B. & Lloyd, R. 13, 21/8/2013. 8km E Moomba, NE.

Sothman, B. & Lloyd, R. nest+eggs, 1/9/2013. Mulgaria Stn, E

of Waterman Dam, NW. Moseby, K. & Pedler, R. 1, 5/9/2013. Near Wilkatanna HS, NW.

Smart, A. 2000, 20/9/2013. Billa Kalina Stn,

NW. Including nest+eggs near Davey Dam.

Langdon, P.

2, 24/9/2013. Bon Bon Stn, Freshwater Lake, NW.

Black, A.

170, 4/10/2013. 57km N Marree,

Noble, C. et al. 1500, 26/10/2013. Andamooka, NW.

Cook, B.

25000, 24/10 -2/11/2013 Near Lake Gregory, NE.

SA Museum Waterhouse Club

Tawny Frogmouth

1, 1/9/2013. River Torrens, North Adelaide, AP.

Stracey, K.

Great-winged Petrel

1, 7/10/2013. Backstairs Passage, MO. Following ferry.

Baxter, C.

Australasian Darter

1, 22/7/2013. Encounter Bay, Bluff boat ramp, MLR.

Cutten, D.

1, 1/9/2013. Inman River, Victor Harbor, MLR

Carpenter, G.

1, 22/9/2013. Warriparinga Wetland, Sturt, AP

Allen, J.

White-necked Heron

1, 28/8/2013. Rush Lagoon, KI.

Baxter, C.

1, 22/10/2013. Dublin, AP.

Carpenter, G.

Straw-necked Ibis

37, 26/7/2013. 8km W Kingscote, KI.

Baxter, C.

A large group for this region where it has only recently been reported nesting.

Square-tailed Kite

1, 12/9/2013. Hawthorndene, MLR. Schmidt, L.

1, 14/9/2013. Rockleigh, MLR.

White, G. 1, 27/9/2013. Kyeema CP, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

Eastern Osprey

1 sub-adult, 11/6/2013. Chowilla Stn, Customs House, MM.

Mableson, K. 1, 31/8/2013. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR.

Steele-Collins, E.

1, 11/9/2013. Aldinga Beach, MLR.

Hartland, D.

1, 11/9/2013. Ballaparudda Beach, MLR.

Halstead, C.

1, 30/9/2013. Maslin Beach, MLR.

Potter, S.

Black Falcon

1, 30/8/2013. Lower Inman Valley, MLR.

Cutten, D.

pair + juv, 4/10/2013. Tcharkuldu Hill, Minnipa, EP.

Szucs, L.

Brolga

130, 7/10/2013. Lake Goyder, NE. Reid, J.

Australian Bustard

1, 8/9/2013. 5km NE Stirling North,

Langdon, P.

4, 6/10/2013. W of Merna Mora HS, FR.

Langdon, P.

2, 26/10/2013. Andamooka, NW.

Cook, B.

Red-kneed Dotterel

30, 27/10/2013. Naracoorte Creek, Sarnia Swamp, SE.

Miller, R.

20, 27/8/2013. Tumby Bay, EP.

Cox, T.

Latham's Snipe

19/10/2013. Kaurna Park wetlands, AP.

Allen, J.

Sanderling

2, 24/10/2013. Tennyson, AP.

Turner, J.

Wood Sandpiper

2, 7/11/2013. Amata sewage works, NW.

Hartland, D.

Common Greenshank

1, 2/11/2013. Amata sewage works,

Hartland, D.

Gull-billed Tern

6, 24/9/2013. Tumby Bay, EP.

Cox, T.

Bird Records (cont)

Mallee Ringneck

1, 3/10/2013. 5km W Owen, AP.

Warnes, M.

Cockatiel

80+, 11/11/2013. Milang, Muntiri Scrub, MM. Largest flock for many years.

Black, A.

Little Lorikeet

2, 20/9/2013. Adelaide, War Memorial Dr, AP. Brief views flying past.

Price, M.

2, 18/10/2013. Inman River, Victor Harbor, MLR. Flying over.

Zanker, R.

Budgerigar

3, 19/10/2013. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM. First report for area.

Doecke, N.

100+, 15/9/2013. Verran, EP.

Cox, T.

Blue-winged Parrot

2, 1/8/2013. Seaford Heights, MLR. With 100 Elegant Parrots feeding on weeds in harvested oat crop.

Van Weenen, J. et al.

Bourke's Parrot

3, 6/10/2013. Near Merna Mora HS, FR.

Langdon, P.

Adelaide Rosella

4, 30/4/2013. Walkers Flat and Big Bend, MM.

Schmidt, L.

This area appears to link the Adelaide and Yellow forms of the Crimson Rosella via the Marne River.

Black-eared Cuckoo

1, 19/10/2013. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.

Allen, J.

Eastern Koel

1, 11/10/2013. Reynella, Sarah Close, MLR.

Harris, S. & L.

Reported from the same area in previous years.

Shining Bronze-cuckoo

Many reports in the hills and adjacent areas in September including:

1, 19/9/2013. Nairne, MLR.

Barron, P.

2, 10/9/2013. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM.

Doecke, N. 1 juv, 11/11/2013. Milang, Muntiri Scrub, MM. Fed by Yellow-rumped Thornbills.

Black, A.

Red-backed Kingfisher

1, 9/10/2013. 5km W Owen, AP. Steeles, C. & Warnes, M.

A southern record.

Rainbow Bee-eater

3, 20/10/2013, Mount Gambier, SE. Flying over.

Green, B.

Inland Thornbill

2, 12/10/2013. Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, NW. First report for area.

Langdon, P.

White-throated Gerygone

1, 12/9/2013. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM. First report for area. Photos taken.

Doecke, N.

Regent Parrot

3, 1/9/2013. Mannum, MM.

Snell, B. & M.

Further downstream than usual.

Pied Honeyeater

2, 26/9/2013. Quorn flora reserve, FR

Parker, D.

sev incl nest + young, 9/9/2013.

Bunkers CR, FR.

Klau, W. Female. 21/10/2013. 5km N Avon, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Orange Chat

20 prs, 8/9/2013. Port Neill, EP.

Cox, T.

Crimson Chat

Reports in southern areas including: Pair, 4/9/2013. Tumby Bay, EP.

Cox, T.

 $Male,\,24/9/2013.\,2km\;N\;Alford,\,YP$

Sara, G.

2, 5/10/2013. 5km W Owen, AP.

Warnes, M.

3 prs, 6/10/2013. Maize Island Lagoon CP, MM.

Jacobs, P.

2 prs, 7/10/2013. Parham, AP.

Ashfield-Smith, S. Male, 12/10/2013. Rockleigh, MLR.

Vincent, P. & J.

White-fronted Honeyeater

4, 6/10/2013. 5km W Owen, AP.

Warnes, M.

Black-chinned Honeyeater

1, 10/11/2013. Milang, Muntiri Scrub, MM.

Black, A. & Weller, D.

Black Honeyeater

Connor Dam, EP.

Various reports in southern areas including:

Juv, 6/10/2013. 5km W Owen, AP.

Warnes, M.

2, 9/10/2013. 5km W Owen, AP.

Steeles, C. & Warnes, M. 10 prs, 9/10/2013. Lake Gilles CP,

Cox. T.

2, 9/10/2013. Mullaquana, Whyalla, EP.

Smith, E.

1, 14/10/2013. Port Augusta West, NW.

Langdon, P.

White-winged Triller

Several reports in southern areas including:

1, 3/11/2013. 4km W Naracoorte, SE

Miller, R.

1, 12/10/2013. Gawler, MLR.

Girdham, L.

1, 9/10/2013. 5km W Owen, AP.

Steeles, C. & Warnes, M.

White-browed Woodswallow

Flock, 8/10/2013. Over Urrbrae, AP. Carpenter, G.

Bird Records (cont)

Apostlebird

1, 18/9/2013. Watervale, LN. 2 groups, 20/10/2013. Taplan, MM. Russell, T. Hampel, T.

A further extension to the south and west.

Tawny Grassbird

2, 13/6/2013. Cullyamurra WH, Cooper Creek, NE.

Several, 14/6/2013. Innamincka causeway, NE. In dense lush lignum and annual growth following floods. Observations to be published in SA Ornithologist. Reid, J.

First report from SA following recent observations upstream on Cooper Creek in SW Queensland by Jaensch and others (Sunbird 43: 1-11).

Little Raven

Pair+nest, 15/9/2013. Mingary Creek, LN. L. Pedler

This species appears to be expanding its breeding distribution into the southern pastoral areas, with another nesting report near Oraparinna in the Flinders Ranges in recent years.

From the Library



DVD 51 Life of birds

Eight Mile Plains, Qld.: Marcom Projects, c2010.

Produced by Visual Learning Company; producer, Brian A. Jerome.

This DVD explores the major characteristics, adaptations, and life cycles of birds. Special emphasis is paid to the features that enable birds to fly.



DVD 52 Birds of Prey: part 1

Loganholme, Qld.: Marcom Projects (distributor), 2004.

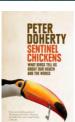
John Young presents the Peregrine Falcon, Letter Winged Kite, Square-Tailed Kite, Brown Goshawk, Wedge-Tailed Eagle, Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel, and the Pacific Baza



DVD 53 Birds Of Prey: part 2

Loganholme, Qld.: Marcom Projects (distributor), 2004.

Birds of prey: part 2 features the following raptors — Osprey, White-Breasted Sea Eagle, Black Kite, Black Shouldered Kite, Grey Falcon, Little Eagle, Brahminy Kite and Whistling Kite.



598.163 DOH Doherty, Peter

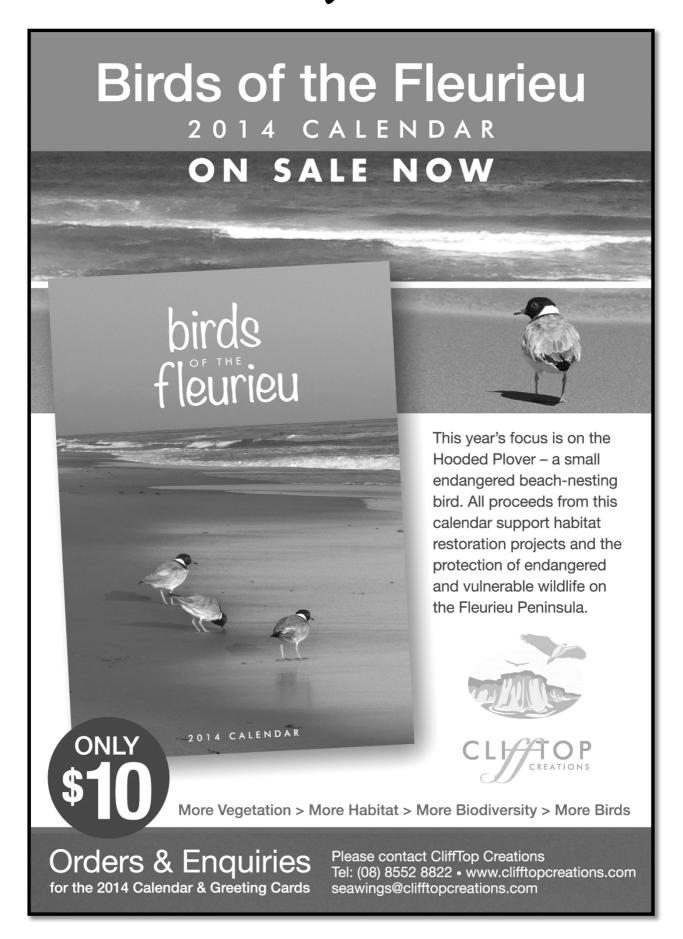
Sentinel Chickens: What Birds Tell Us About Our Health and Our World.

Carlton, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 2012

ISBN 9780522861105

Nobel Prize winner Peter Doherty explains how birds have contributed to cutting-edge medical research. Studying birds has helped us to understand the nature of human cancer, malaria and influenza, and contributed to the development of new vaccines and cures. Sentinel Chickens shows why we should give our feathered friends our close, sustained and caring attention

A Calendar for the Birds



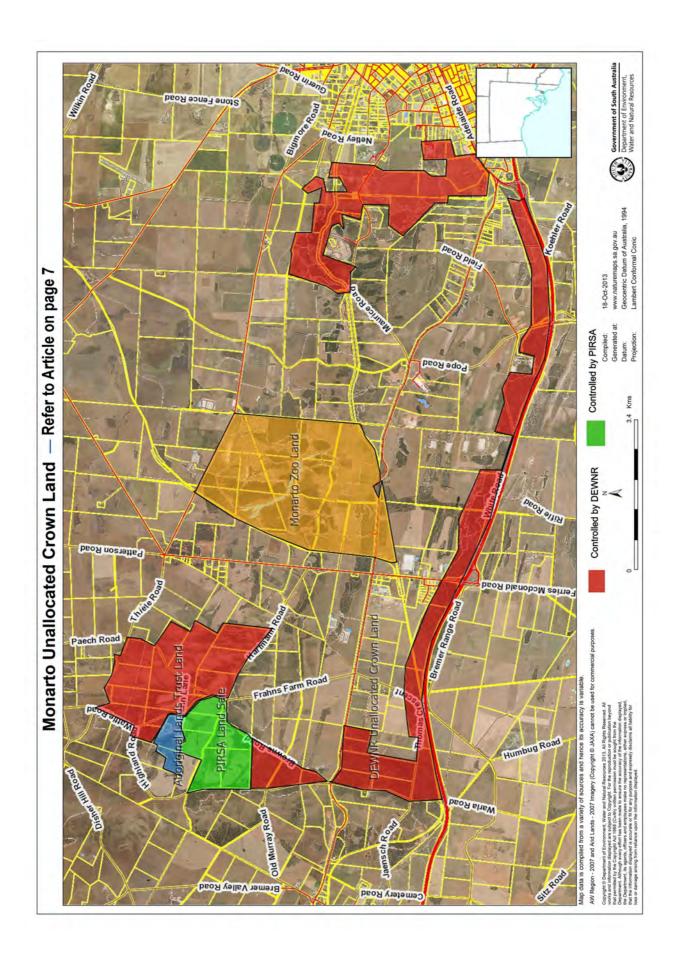
Members' Photographs

Details of The Photographs

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Rainbow Lorikeet	Kay Parkin	Jervis Bay, NSW	August 2013
2	Musk Lorikeet	Rebecca Zanert	Cobbler Creek Rec. Park	September 2013
3	Galah	Barbara Godfrey	Rockleigh	15/8/2013
4	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Teresa Jack	Near Fowlers Bay	September 2013
5	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Kay Parkin	Gluepot Reserve	September 2013
6	Australasian Gannet	Kay Parkin	Portland, Victoria	October 2013
7	Great-Crested Grebe	Peter McKenzie	Greenfields Wetlands	25/10/2013
8	Black-winged Stilt	Peter McKenzie	Greenfields Wetlands	June 2013
9	Crested & Fairy Terns	Peter McKenzie	Pine Point	19/10/2013
10	Southern Emu-wren	DT		
11	Red-browed Firetail	Burt May	Tea Tree Gully	October 2013
12	Crimson Chat	Teresa Jack	Bimbowrie Campout	October 2013
13	Lovely Fairy-wren	Kay Parkin	Julatten, Qld	October 2013
14	Rufous Whistler	Teresa Jack	Bimbowrie Campout	October 2013
15	Western Whipbird	Dion Thompson	Near Port Lincoln	15/9/2013

Birds Seen Around Water





Colourful Bush Birds

