

# Birds SA

# Newsletter



No 230

May 2014



**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.

# *Predators and Prey*

Peter Koch submitted these interesting action shots, which were captured over time at **Paiwalla** by some of the 12 cameras that are continuously operating and being moved to different locations as water levels and bird activity change. Between about 4,000 and 7,000 shots are taken every week.



**Boobook Owl**  
with a Singing Honeyeater 13/11/2012



**Australian Magpie**  
killing a Superb Fairy Wren 14/7/2013



**White-faced Heron**  
a successful hunter 31/10/2013

## CONTENTS

President's Letter .....	4
Birds SA Notes & News .....	7
Miscellaneous Items .....	8
Giving Them Wings .....	10
Past and Future Meetings .....	13
Past Excursions .....	16
Future Excursions .....	12
Bird Records .....	17
From the Library .....	20
Members' Photographs.....	21

### CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 48,  
WILLIAM THOMAS ANGOVE PART 3

## DIARY

The 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.

June 1	Sunday	Excursion to Newland Head CP
June 14	Saturday	Excursion to Bakara CP
June 19	Thursday	Excursion to Magazine Rd. Wetlands
June 27	Friday	General Meeting
June 29	Sunday	Excursion to Bullock Hill CP
*****		
July 12	Saturday	Excursion to Porter Scrub CP
July 17	Thursday	Excursion to Jenkins Scrub
July 25	Friday	General Meeting, Members' Night
July 27	Sunday	Excursion to Scott CP
*****		
Aug. 9	Saturday	Excursion to Cox Scrub CP
Aug. 21	Thursday	Excursion to Mt. Lofty Botanic Gdns
Aug. 29	Friday	General Meeting
Aug 31	Sunday	Excursion to Yankalilla

**Cover photo:** Green-backed Heron, photographed by Burt May in the Greater Kruger National Park, South Africa in May 2014.

*General meetings are held in the Hawker Centre at the Waite Institute, Waite Road, Urrbrae at 7.45pm. Doors open at 7.00pm.*

*Committee meetings are held at the above venue on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7.30pm.*

**Donations to the Birds SA Conservation Fund are tax-deductible**

### New Members

We welcome 13 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p14.

## SAOA COMMITTEE 2014 – 2015

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
Journal Editor	Merilyn Browne	8339 6839
Newsletter Editor	Cynthia Pyle	8264 5778
Field Program Co-ordinator	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Bird Record Secretary	Graham Carpenter	8297 5463
Membership Officer	<i>Vacant</i>	
Member	John Spiers	8333 0272
Member	Jody Gates	83916342
Member	Rebecca Zanker	0413426355

## FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	0402123960
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
	email <a href="mailto:imagedlibrarian@birdssa.asn.au">imagedlibrarian@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)

## 2014 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 \$40.00 per half page and 10c per inserted leaflet (single sheet). The committee reserves the right to lower or waive these fees.

## COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the August Newsletter is due by the July General Meeting (July 25). 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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# President's Letter

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## **Retiring Committee Members and Management Committee Vacancies**

Two members of the Birds SA management committee, Robert Rowland and Lou Bartley-Clements., retired from their positions at the last AGM. I especially want to thank both of them for their contributions, enthusiasm and wise advice. At the AGM, no one nominated for the three vacancies on the Committee. The health and vitality of associations like Birds SA is very much dependent on people being willing to share the responsibility for managing the association's affairs. Please consider joining the committee and helping.

## **Strategic Planning**

The Birds SA Management Committee will be doing some strategic planning over the next six months; primarily to review what the Association does, whether we can deliver this more effectively and what additional things we could be doing to improve the status of birds in South Australia. There are likely to be requests for information from members at times during the next six months. If you have strong views on what the Association should be doing, this will be an opportunity to

inform the Committee. Better still if you want to be involved join the Committee.

## **Ethical Bird watching**

I have been asked several times to prepare some guidelines about ethical bird watching primarily from the perspective of the birds. However, before I do I want to remind all our members that before doing any bird watching on other people's properties, bird watchers should have obtained the permission of the landowner or land manager beforehand. This is a basic courtesy and the first step in ethical behaviour as a bird-watcher.

## **Bird Atlas to Continue for Another Six Months**

The third Bird Atlas of the Adelaide region, including Kangaroo Island, will continue for a further six months, primarily because there are still areas that are poorly covered. Some poorly covered areas are to the east and north of Adelaide and more generally across Kangaroo Island. Figures 1 and 2 show the numbers of lists that have been received for each 10km x 10km cell across the two survey regions. There has been a great response in recent months and there are now more than 9,000 cards or lists of birds seen from around

3,500 locations spread across the survey areas. Based on the current average of 17 species per list this will equate to over 150,000 records of birds. The numbers of lists are comparable to the 1983-4 atlas. However the area being surveyed is larger. The Adelaide region now extends further east, and Kangaroo Island has been added. Thus the overall effort on a per cell or unit area basis is still lower than 30 years ago. A further six months is warranted to increase the level of coverage, particularly for those areas that have been infrequently visited to date.

Those of you who have been collecting monthly lists for particular areas and wish to continue, please do so. However, if you are getting tired of doing this then please feel free to cease collecting after June lists for those areas that you have done multiple times. Instead you might like to visit other areas and compile lists of the birds that are present in these different areas. These additional areas will be particularly valuable if they are within those cells that have fewer lists as shown in the two figures.

**David C. Paton**



## **Group of Approximately 35 Black-tailed Native Hens Roosting in a Defensive Circle**

Photograph captured at Paiwalla Wetland at 01.31am on 2/4/14, using a motion-sensitive infrared camera. Submitted by Peter Koch, who has been unable to find any reference to BTNHs roosting in this way. He believes this may be the first ever photographic record of this behaviour.

# President's Letter (cont)

**Figure 1.** Number of cards (bird lists) received in 10km x 10km cells for the Adelaide region. The cells are defined by the first 2 digits of the easting and first 3 letters of the northing. Thus the cell defined by 28 (easting) and 615 (northing) has an easting of 280000 and northing of 6150000 in the bottom left-hand corner of that cell. To assist in locating approximate locations on this map, the cells in which key towns are based are given below the figure.

<u>easting</u>	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
<b>northing</b>															
<b>623</b>	7	3	3	2	25	26	3	6	1	1	1	8	7		13
<b>622</b>	7	3	7	3	7	4	5	2	1	1	5	4	4	5	7
<b>621</b>	18	9	3	20	5	5	3	6	5	6	13	15	8		22
<b>620</b>	10	8	12	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	38	5	5		32
<b>619</b>		5	9	6	5	8	11	6	4	5	6	4	3	33	21
<b>618</b>		41	14	10	13	9	8	8	14	6	2	10	1	5	5
<b>617</b>			38	10	8	11	4	36	29	8	5	2	8	4	28
<b>616</b>				42	9	6	30	96	5	4		4	5	1	61
<b>615</b>				4	25	26	22	135	68	13	7	1		20	5
<b>614</b>				1	110	100	73	37	10	3	9		1	13	1
<b>613</b>				1	174	178	93	44	42	16	9	7	3	11	8
<b>612</b>					169	244	210	16	4	31	11	7	4	3	11
<b>611</b>					69	94	84	69	18	65	41	32	5	11	1
<b>610</b>				5	41	49	23	28	7	38	15	16	8	3	14
<b>609</b>				26	29	19	25	11	13	17	39	6	8	17	1
<b>608</b>				11	33	20	77	16	37	57	70	60	57	5	6
<b>607</b>			4	18	79	17	65	117	157	7	8	46	26	6	4
<b>606</b>		14	38	4	14	75	38	167	209	92	61	66	8	7	7
<b>605</b>	5	21	37	14	32	25			14	102	49	26	49	4	7
<b>604</b>											73	79	2	5	2
<b>603</b>												58	36	7	3
<b>602</b>													77	34	7
<b>601</b>														85	17
<b>600</b>														5	101
<b>599</b>															52

## Locations of selected towns

Pt Wakefield 23 621	Auburn 28 624	Eudunda 32 621	Morgan 37 623
Balaklava 26 621	Saddleworth 29 622	Truro 32 619	Blanchetown 37 619
	Kapunda 30 619	Nuriootpa 31 618	Swan Reach 37 617
	Gawler 29 616	Springton 32 615	
Mt Compass 28 608	Macclesfield 30 610	Murray Bridge 34 611	Cooke Plains 36 608
Delamere 24 606	Goolwa 29 606	Meningie 34 604	Salt Creek 37 600

# President's Letter (cont)

**Figure 2.** Number of cards and bird lists received in 10km x 10km cells on Kangaroo Island. See the caption for Fig. 1 for further explanations.

<u>easting</u>	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	22	23	24
<u>northing</u>																
606										2						
605				1		3	1	3	9	13						
604	9	1	1	2		1	11	9	33	13	4		11	2		
603	8	4	2	7	9	10	14	10	9	12	11	11	2		16	
602	11	41	20	8	6	4	11	5	12	7	5		3		2	3
601	5	7	8	6		14	6			4						
600		18							1							

Location of major towns on Kangaroo Island

Parndana 70 603	Kingscote 73 605	Penneshaw 76 604
Seal Bay 70 601		American River 75 603

## SALE OF A PRECIOUS PROPERTY WITH ITS BIRDS

Margie and Andrew Black plan to sell our property 'Muntiri' south of Milang this year. Many birders will know the place, the largest native vegetation remnant in the Strathalbyn region. Section 85 Hundred Alexandrina of 115 hectares consists of 40 ha of cropping paddock and 75 ha of Heritage Agreement vegetation with Pink Gum Woodland, Peppermint Mallee, *Banksia ornata*/*Leptospermum* covered dunes and Broombush.

Over 220 species of native plants are present and over 130 bird species have been identified to date. An architect designed two bedroom rammed earth cottage is self-supported with solar power and a plentiful rainwater supply. It is a quiet and delightful retreat only an hour from the city.

We will place the property in the hands of agents shortly and are looking for new owners with a keen interest in managing it for its extensive wildlife, especially its birds.

For further information contact us on 8272 7271 or [abblack@bigpond.com](mailto:abblack@bigpond.com)

**Andrew Black**

# Birds SA Notes & News

## 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**

## DONATION OF ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

I have a copy of each of the following Association publications that I would like to give away.

### South Australian Ornithologist;

Editions published between 1993 and September 2011

### Birds SA Newsletters

Nos 178 to 220

If you would like any or all of these publications, please contact me on 8344 3935.

**Patricia Church**

## CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

### Mt. Barker

Kevin Williams has reported that council workers have effectively destroyed the snipe area in the Environmental Services Centre development site on the section known as 'Big Green'. This was despite agreement being reached at a very recent meeting in regards to the planned development. This will be followed up with the Council.

### Monarto Crown lands

The sub-committee has heard that, while parts of the Monarto Crown Lands will be incorporated into the state protected areas system, a question mark still hangs over the areas known as Brown's Road and Frahn's Farm. Apparently a number of other organisations are interested in acquiring these areas, and their proposed uses would not ensure the preservation of the natural environment. A letter from Birds SA was sent to the Hon I K Hunter MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation. In it we:

- re-emphasised the importance of the area from an ecological point

of view and as a site valued by our members,

- pointed out that there is plenty of low conservation value land that can be used for the purposes of other organisations, while the area of high value conservation land that we wish to protect is relatively small,
- stated that the areas concerned form a significant part of the Monarto woodlands and without them the value of the woodlands will be greatly reduced. Research has repeatedly shown that the smaller the area protected the less value it has for wildlife. We can confidently predict that without protecting Brown's Road and Frahn's Farm, a number of the species currently present in the Monarto woodlands will become locally extinct,
- pleaded that these areas not be sold, leased or used for any purpose that would damage the integrity of the remnant vegetation but be retained by DEWNR and included in the Conservation Park system.

Members of Birds SA are encouraged to write their own letters to the Minister similarly asking for Brown's Road and Frahn's Farm to be protected. Use your own words to describe the value of the area and, in particular, its value to you personally. The address of the Minister is:

Hon I K Hunter MP,  
Minister for Sustainability,  
Environment and Conservation,  
GPO Box 1047,  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

### Coffin Bay

The Committee received a letter from Doug Clarke describing threats to beach birds, particularly the Sooty Oystercatcher, arising from vehicle access to Long Beach at Coffin Bay. Graham Carpenter investigated the issue and has drafted a letter of response to Doug and a letter to send

to the Minister asking him to close the beach to vehicles.

### Conservation Council (CCSA)

At the AGM of the Conservation Council SA a new president, Nadia Evelyn McLaren, was elected. Nadia holds an Honours degree in Zoology and a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Adelaide. She describes herself as a human ecologist and sustainability consultant. She works in the space where natural, social, psychological and information systems overlap. She has been an independent contractor for 30 years, in roles of researcher, policy advisor, project coordinator, knowledge manager, communicator, editor, social entrepreneur and strategist.

The CCSA are developing a detailed budget and plan for the year. The work of the Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) will continue for at least a year using funding sourced largely from the Adelaide Law Society. This follows the removal of funds for the EDO by the Abbott Government.

### John Spiers

## STURT GORGE RECREATION PARK FAMILY FUN DAY

On Sunday, 4th May 2014 Birds SA and the Friends of Sturt Gorge shared a marquee at the Sturt Gorge Recreation Park open day on Craighburn Road, Craighburn Farm. National Parks, South Australia organised the event to highlight the new bike and walking trails in Sturt Gorge. There was a steady flow of parents and children throughout the day as well as some Birds SA members.

Our display was manned at times by Lou Bartley-Clements, Merinda Hyland, Heather Connolly, Brian and Joanne Blaylock and David Williams. Some interest was shown and hopefully we will gain a few new members.

See the photographs on page 21.

**Brian Blaylock**

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

### **INAUGURAL BIRDS SA FAMILY FUN DAY**

On Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>, with perfect autumn weather a group of members and their families enjoyed a picnic in the beautiful Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens. During the course of the picnic some 30-40 of us took in the sounds and sights of the Botanic Gardens, with of course a birdie focus! Activities throughout the day included an organised walk, origami crane making, local bird identification and activity sheets for the children.

Our display boards attracted members of the general public and this gave us the opportunity to also speak to at least 30 people about our association and birds in our environment. The organisers of the day felt that it was a great success, and worth doing again next autumn! (Or even this spring at Laratinga or Greenfields – I will wait to see the response on that!) ☺.

Personally I have had a lot pleasure over the years observing birds. However, I have never felt as much joy as I did to see the children out there on Sunday with their identification sheets and clip boards, discussing with each other what they thought they had just seen, observing and respecting nature.

Sincerest thanks, to Merinda, Brian Blaylock, Teri and Karen for their efforts in making this happen. And of course thanks to all that came along on the day to support this event. We have lots of ideas for the next event and would welcome any support from members. We really would like to see family days included as part of Birds SA annual event calendar!

**Lou Bartley-Clements**

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### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

#### **A THIRSTY BIRD**

*New members, Lyn and Peter Grivel, sent me the following email about an unexpected visitor to their garden:*

“Hi,

Peter and I are new members of BirdsSA, and we wanted to share these photos, which you might like to put in the newsletter.

The photos were taken by our friend, Dr Kath Cooper, on her farm at Sherlock in the Mallee, during the heat wave in January (she thinks it was 12 January). The photos were taken from her kitchen window, from which she can view her birdbath.

As you can see, the bather is not your “average” bird in the birdbath! It was quite a surprise to see this bird of prey also trying to cool off. We are all trying to work out what it is. Kath and her partner Mike Elleway think that it’s a juvenile Peregrine Falcon. Peter and I think it could be a juvenile Brown Goshawk or Collared Sparrowhawk. We’d like the Birds SA experts to help!

Kind regards

Lyn & Peter Grivell”

P.S. Birds SA expert, Brian Blaylock, says that, from its size, it looks like an immature Collared Sparrowhawk.

**Cynthia Pyle**

*These two articles ‘Naturally South Australia Birding’ from the UK publication Birdguides Weekly Newsletter were supplied by Sue Winwood.*

#### **19 Feb 2014, Kangaroo Island**

Kangaroo Island is the jewel in South Australia's wildlife crown. And it is the island's isolation that has been



**A young Collared Sparrowhawk needs a drink  
Photographed by Dr. Kath Cooper at Sherlock  
(MM) in January 2014**

The bather apparently stayed in the bath for quite some time (around an hour or so), and of course the other birds were none too happy about it!

The bird of prey stayed around their farm for a few more weeks during this hot spell, but Kath and Mike had to leave for a couple of weeks to tend to their other property on Eyre Peninsula. When they returned, the bird had departed.

We hope the members enjoy this!

responsible for its wildlife riches: not only keeping it beyond the reach of the invasive species such as fox and rabbit that have proved so disastrous to native wildlife elsewhere in Australia, but also allowing the development of numerous genetically distinct subspecies. Among birds, these include, in addition to the Glossy Black Cockatoo, local races of Crimson Rosella, Grey Currawong and Western Whipbird.



# Miscellaneous Items (cont)

Before heading to the cockatoo roost, you might have started the day in Flinders Chase National Park on the west coast, where an assortment of nectar feeders, including Purple-gaped Honey-eater, Crescent Honey-eater and Eastern Spinebill, flocked to the flowering gum trees, while Scarlet Robin and Superb Fairy-wren — both disarmingly confiding — flashed their dazzling colours around the understorey. Lunch might also have brought you Cape Barren Geese grazing the marshy clearing around your picnic site, Australian Ravens hopping about in search of scraps and perhaps a Wedge-tailed Eagle drifting overhead on the first thermal of the day.

After lunch, you might have taken the short drive south to Remarkable Rocks. The exceptional sea-watching from this part of the coast has turned up such rarities as Antarctic Tern. At this time of year you might have spied a smattering of Short-tailed Shearwaters — two months ago these birds were streaming past by the thousand — with a sweep of your binoculars inevitably revealing a few Shy Albatrosses and Australasian Gannets. And returning to the car park you might well have disturbed a small party of Rock Parrots feeding in a sandy gully. At nearby Seal Bay, you'd have found Hooded Plovers tending their nest at the top of the beach, dodging the lumbering Australian Sea-lions in their territorial disputes and perhaps casting a wary eye upwards for passing Peregrines.

To make the most of Kangaroo Island's birding bonanza, you need at least two days. After all, this is Australia's third largest island — measuring some 155km long by 55km wide — and its habitat mosaic comprises outback, cool forest, mallee, heath and sand dunes, each with its own community of birds. Other highlights among the 260 recorded species include Black Swans and swarms of migratory waders flocking to extensive wetlands, such as American River,

and breeding colonies of terns and Australian Pelicans on sand spits and offshore islands. And at night, Little Penguins waddle ashore to their burrows and the eerie wail of the Bush-stone Curlew drifts across the island's open spaces, hinting at just how many more secrets the island has to reveal.

**Mike Unwin**

## **20 March 2014, South Australia's Wetlands**

A blizzard of white wings erupts as your boat nudges closer to the sandbar. The terns are up first: mostly Crested Terns, but a few larger Caspian Terns and a scattering of diminutive Fairy Terns above them. Behind come the egrets — Little, Great and Intermediate — rising on more leisurely wing beats. And last to take off are the Australian Pelicans, heaving into the air then flapping ponderously, huge bills outstretched, as they labour to gain height.

This avian pandemonium is not your fault. A glance skyward reveals the telltale silhouette of a White-bellied Sea-eagle, arcing skyward again after its exploratory pass brought panic to the sandbar. But now everything seems to have caught the mood: a party of Little Pied Cormorants exit low over the water in formation, Straw-necked Ibises rise above the marsh, and a crowd of waders dash along the shoreline — Banded Stilts and Red-necked Avocets standing out among the smaller, speedier forms of Red-necked Stints and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. Birds, quite simply, are everywhere.

Think South Australia and you probably think heat, dust and desert. But the good news for birders is that the state does wetlands too, and few wetlands in Australia are more impressive than the Coorong National Park. This 130km-long stretch of saltwater lagoons, some 80km southeast of Adelaide, marks the final reaches of the Murray River as it snakes behind a barrier of sand dunes before emptying into the crashing breakers of the Southern

Ocean. Some 240 species have been recorded here. Wander the coastal heath and you'll also find such dry-land specials as Emus and Rufous Bristlebirds. Northeast of Adelaide, in the Murraylands, several excellent wetlands offer further treats for birders. Banrock Station may be best known for its fine wines, but the estate also protects a mosaic of marshes and lagoons beside the Murray River, where — to the resonant background twang of the eastern Banjo frog — birders may spy such aquatic species as Royal Spoonbills and Purple Swamphens, and — with luck — Regent Parrots.

And if wildfowl is your thing, Stockyard Plains offers a fine selection of Australia's ducks and geese. Arrive at sunset, when eastern grey kangaroos come bounding through the surrounding mallee, and the open water is crowded with the likes of Pink-eared Duck, Grey Teal, Hardheads, Bluebills and Pacific Black Duck. You may also spy a group of the bizarre Musk Duck, with its stiff tail and bill lobe, and that sought-after local special, the Freckled Duck. Black Swans fly in to the roost by the hundred, the evening filled with their bugling calls and whistling wings.

Closer to Adelaide, other excellent water bird sites include Whiteroad Wetlands and Laratinga Wetlands — the latter also a bolthole for Freckled Duck. And, this being South Australia, any time scanning the water for wildfowl and waders is also likely to bring such colourful supporting attractions as 'Flaming' Galahs, Crimson Rosellas and Superb Fairy-wrens.

And if you do insist on a taste of the Outback, then try hopping on a flight to Lake Eyre. This vast shallow salt lake lies some 750km north of Adelaide. For years it sees no water at all. In flood years, however, its vast saline shallows teem with innumerable stilts, avocets and up to 80 per cent of the world's Australasian Pelicans, creating truly one of the water bird wonders of the world.

**Mike Unwin**

# Giving them wings

## conserving threatened species

### THE DOWNSIDE OF WALKING DOGS

As a former dog owner and a bird lover, my interest was piqued by a recent article in Australian Birdlife the high quality three-monthly publication of Birdlife Australia (formerly Birds Australia). The author, Bob Holderness-Roddam, addressed the issue of impacts of dogs on Australian birds, including their conservation. Many people will be aware of the problems that dogs and beach-users in general cause to some beach-nesting birds, made worse by the prime time of human use (spring/summer) matching that of breeding birds. Locally the Hooded Plover is the bird most impacted and on which most effort has been spent.

But what of the impacts of dogs on birds in general? There are a few examples of dogs causing catastrophic damage to endangered species and populations, with mass killings by one or a few dogs. There are examples of this in southern Australia, including on Kangaroo Island, where domestic dogs killed large numbers of Little Penguins in one night. An international example mentioned by Holderness-Roddam, is of five dogs killing every bird in Italy's largest flamingo colony in Sardinia in one day.

Research by Holderness-Roddam at the University of Tasmania shows that these incidents are just the tip of the iceberg, with domestic dogs probably responsible for more attacks on wildlife than domestic cats. Between 2006 and 2011 dog attacks were second only to motor

vehicle strike as the reason for wildlife being presented for care in Tasmania. This finding was supported by data from the Healesville Sanctuary in Victoria, where dog attacks (115) outnumbered cat attacks (79) in causing harm to wildlife.

Many dog owners think nothing of walking dogs in conservation areas or areas of native vegetation, whether it is legal or not. One example that I



**Great Knot, photographed by Brian Furby at Thompson's Beach on 28/01/04**

am familiar with is the Waite Conservation Reserve at Urrbrae, where signs clearly state that dog walking is not allowed, yet locals persist in this practice, amongst other issues making fox baiting problematic. What damage could this possibly do to birds, I hear you ask? When dogs get too close to foraging or resting birds, birds are forced into emergency flight, which requires "rapid take-off, steep climbing and faster-than-usual flight". Thus emergency flight is very energy-

intensive for birds and these interruptions may occur several to many times per day. Moreover the spot where birds choose to feed often supplies the best foraging opportunity for them and relocating may force them to use sub-optimal areas.

To give an example of the energy demands that emergency flight places on birds, Holderness-Roddam cites a Great Knot gaining 2.77 kilojoules of energy by eating a large bivalve. This amount of energy provides this bird with resources to sleep for six hours, to forage for 159 minutes or to fly steadily for 26 minutes. But it only gives the Great Knot 7.5 minutes of alarm-induced flight.

So next time you are out walking in a park, a reserve, on the beach or even just in a suburban street, and you notice a dog disturbing a bird, watch what happens and think about the consequences of this action for the bird. In particular think about the consequences if this occurs several times per day or even several times per hour. Clearly the impacts will be more severe in bushland than in urban areas and in the case of threatened species. Holderness-Roddam cites a 2007 study where "walking dogs in bushland resulted in a reduction of bird diversity of up to 35 per cent, while abundance of birds was reduced by 41 per cent."

#### Reference:

Holderness-Roddam, Bob. March 2014. 'Gone to the dogs'. *Australian Birdlife*, Vol 3, No. 1, pp 50-51.

**Penny Paton**

# Giving Them Wings (cont)

## EXTRA LAND TO BE ADDED TO BLACK HILL CONSERVATION PARK?

*This is the final version of an article for the 2014 Autumn Issue of Xanthopus, the journal of the Nature Conservation Society SA. Birds SA is grateful to NCSSA for allowing us to publish this article.*

During one of the regular meetings between Minister Hunter and Nature Conservatin Society SA (NCCSA) staff, the Minister asked whether they would be interested in conducting a survey of two parcels of Crown Land adjacent to Black Hill Conservation Park. Part of this area had previously been used as a quarry and the lease was about to expire so there was a great opportunity for the land to be added to the Black Hill Conservation Park.

The area is important as it represents the only area of a dryland vegetation community within a high rainfall zone observed within the state. Vegetation is dominated by grey *Trymalium* (*Trymalium wayae*) shrub-land with a variety of co-dominant plants including dryland tea tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*), drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) and grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea semiplana* ssp. *semiplana* and *Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata*). This association of species is extremely rare. This crown land and parts of the adjacent Black Hill CP represent the only area within the Adelaide and Mount Lofty

Ranges (AMLR) region where it exists. While some of the same species are found further north within the Flinders Ranges, the vegetation association found within this crown land differs significantly from similar vegetation associations in the Flinders Ranges, making this area quite unique (Brewer 2001). This association contains several species that have limited distribution at a state, district and local level, and it contains many species typically found within mallee systems, which are not common in the AMLR (Brewer 2001).

In September 2013, Stuart Collard and Peter Day from NCSSA conducted a bird survey of the area and identified 41 species of native bird utilising this site, including six species with federal, state or regional conservation ratings (see Table below). Of particular significance was the observation of a breeding population of Mt Lofty Ranges Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (*Hylacola pyrrhopygia parkeri*) — a regionally endemic species listed as endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act and one of the state's most threatened birds. Further observations of the habitats across this area suggest another sixteen species are likely to inhabit the area and may well be detected if repeat

surveys were undertaken at other times of the year (Collard 2013). The dry open shrubland habitat is particularly important for a suite of birds that is found along the dry ridge tops along the spine of the Mount Lofty Ranges, and due to the limited availability of this habitat is now in decline.

Threatened Plant Action Group (TPAG) Project Officer, Tim Jury, also visited the area to assess the biodiversity conservation values in terms of presence of plant species and ecological communities with conservation significance at national, state and regional levels. The occurrence of the Dainty Maiden-hair fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*), listed as vulnerable within the state, is of particular significance. Only one other local population of this species is known to exist in nearby Anstey Hill Recreation Park and this population is one of only a handful left in the state. Tim also noted the presence of a significant population of the Rock Logania (*Logania saxatilis*), listed as rare in SA, within the area. This population is also extremely regionally significant as it is likely to be the largest existing within the AMLR region.

### Threatened Bird Species Recorded in the Study Area During the Survey in September 2013.

SPECIES	EPBC	SA	AMLR
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	E	E	V
Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo		V	V
Peregrine Falcon		R	R
Fan-tailed Cuckoo			V
Shining Bronze-cuckoo			R
Yellow-rumped Thornbill			U

#### KEY

E = endangered, V = vulnerable, R = rare, U = uncommon.

EPBC ratings range from critically endangered, endangered to vulnerable; State ratings range from endangered, vulnerable to rare and AMLR ratings range from endangered, vulnerable, rare to uncommon (Wilson and Bignall 2009).

# Giving Them Wings (cont)

Staff from the Department of Environment Water & Natural Resources (DEWNR) compiled a report from the NCSSA and TPAG preliminary surveys and other surveys targeting amphibians and reptiles that revealed a diverse range of species not recorded elsewhere in the state (Stubbs *et al.* 2013). In addition to the presence of the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, the report noted the following:

- An unusually high diversity of reptiles not seen elsewhere in the region;
- A unique assemblage of plant species not seen anywhere apart from on these two parcels of crown land due to the unusual presence of limestone bedrock;
- Stands of ancient grass trees, some over two metres in height that are thought to predate colonisation; and
- Forty-four plant species threatened at a state or regional level.

Further surveys of this important habitat are highly likely to detect more species of conservation significance. The addition of these two parcels of land to Black Hill

Conservation Park would be significant as it would greatly increase the viability of local plant and animal populations. However, there is still some uncertainty about whether the highest biodiversity areas will be protected against mining into the future.

In January this year, Craig Wilkins, Chief Executive of the Conservation Council of South Australia, wrote to Minister Hunter on behalf of environmental NGOs including the NCSSA, TPAG, The Wilderness Society, Zoos SA and Friends of Parks urging the Minister to formally consider including the land within these two parcels within the Black Hill Conservation Park. Although no formal announcement has yet been made about this issue, one of Labor's election commitments is to consider "adding 70 hectares of high biodiversity land abutting the Park to this important Conservation Park" in addition to expansion of other key reserves. We will watch with interest to see whether this transpires post-election.

**Nicki de Preu & Stuart Collard**

Birds SA has an opportunity to become involved in this project, both

by lobbying the government to carry out its election promise and by assisting with bird surveys on an ongoing basis to increase the list of species recorded. There may be merit in a longer-term programme of standardised bird surveys to keep track of changes in avifauna.

**Penny Paton**

## References

Brewer, K. (2001) *Black Hill Conservation Park: Torrens Gorge vegetation management action plan*. A report prepared for National Parks and Wildlife SA

Collard, S. (2013) *Bird surveys in crown land parcels adjacent to Black Hill Conservation Park*. Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, Adelaide

Stubbs, W., Price, L. and Kraehenbuehl, J. (2013) *Ecological Values and Conservation significance of Crown Land adjoining Black Hill Conservation Park*. Internal Report, Department of Environment Water & Natural Resources, Adelaide, South Australia [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Park\\_management/New\\_parks\\_parks\\_additions](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Park_management/New_parks_parks_additions)



**Crown land adjacent to Black Hill CP, Mount Lofty Ranges (Photo: S. Collard)**

# Past & Future Meetings

## PAST GENERAL MEETINGS

### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28

The speaker, Peter Gower, called his talk 'The Making of a Book'.

He explained that his book, *Fleurieu Birds*, took 5½ years to produce. Copies first went on sale mid December 2012. The book is being sold through 22 outlets including Gluepot Reserve and Andrew Isles, Melbourne. It has been the best selling book at the SA Museum Bookshop; Pages and More, Victor Harbor; Shakespeare's Bookshop, Port Elliott and South Seas Books & Trading, Port Noarlunga.

The first print run consisted of 1,500 copies, which had sold out by Christmas 2013 and a further 1,100 copies comprised the second print run. In the book 231 species are shown, each on a single page and 42 parks and reserves are described.

Peter made the following points on what motivated him to write a book about birds.

- To collect existing information together in one place, making the book a valuable resource.
- To increase people's awareness of birds, because the more aware people are, the better the chance of preserving what we have.
- To share information, since knowledge has the best value when it is shared; otherwise the effort in gaining it is not fully rewarded. Hopefully that effort is enjoyable, not too painful.
- To improve the knowledge of interested readers. With knowledge comes better understanding and

hopefully an incentive to not lose what we have.

- To make money? (Doubtful). My aim was to break even if possible. If I can cover my costs then I can afford to embark on more projects.
- To display and make use of my photos. Sharing makes them more valuable to me and hopefully other people enjoy them.
- To give me a reason to visit as much of the Fleurieu Peninsula as possible. This has increased my knowledge of the area in which I live, and I have learnt a lot more about birds.
- For personal satisfaction. Without that I would be doing something else.

Regarding costs and returns Peter said that approximate printing and preparation costs were \$15,000, photographic equipment cost \$15,000, labour in collecting material and writing and preparing pages (10hrs a week x 5 years @ \$20/hr) amounted to \$50,000. Not included were car costs (fuel etc.), computer and power, books, stationery. His total income for the first run (1,500 books) was \$41,200.

Peter made use of the free computer software listed in the box below.

Other software used included Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Publisher and Noiseware.

Peter showed examples of his photography in other books – *The Great Book of Australian Horses* (Rigby), *The Australian Countrywoman's Cookbook* (Rigby), *Horse Colour Explained. A Breeder's Perspective* (Kangaroo

Press), *Horse on Course! The Gawler Three-Day Event* (Peacock Publications). His bird photos have also been used for signs at Laratinga Wetlands, Mount Barker and Gemtree Wetlands, McLaren Flat as well as Christmas Cards for the Mount Barker Council.

Peter showed a selection of photographs from the book and explained how each one was selected and prepared. The photos used in the Parks and Reserve pages were sometimes a combination of several photos or a single photo cropped to size.

### FRIDAY MARCH 28

Peter Beer's title was 'The Birds of Sri Lanka'. He began his talk with a commercial. While on a birding tour of Sri Lanka in November 2013, he was impressed with the quality of photographs taken by one of their *Rockjumper Birding Tours* guides, Marcus Lilje. Peter felt that they, as well as his own photographs, deserved a wider audience. He told the audience that they would have no trouble picking whose photographs they are in each case as his camera is a Canon Powershot, while Marcus had a Canon SLR with a large lens. Marcus is quite happy for his photographs to be shown.

Sri Lanka is situated from 6 to 9 degrees north of the equator and stretches 400km north to south and about 250km east to west. The highest point in the centre of the country reaches to 2,500 metres. The wettest area is in the southwest with drier areas on the north and east coasts.

#### Free Software used by Peter Gower

Faststone Image Viewer — <http://www.faststone.org/FSViewerDetail.htm>

CKRename — <http://www.softpedia.com/get/System/File-Management/CKRename.shtml>

PrimoPDF — <http://www.primopdf.com>

Batch PDF merger — <http://mergepdfmac.com>

Notepad ++ — <http://notepad-plus-plus.org>

Apache OpenOffice — <http://www.openoffice.org/download/index.html>

Zone Alarm Firewall — <http://www.zonealarm.com>

Avast Anti-virus — <http://www.avast.com/index>

# Past & Future Meetings (cont)

The island contains about 250 resident bird species as well many migrants, giving a total of about 430 species. There are currently over 30 endemic species. Quite a few birds are shared between Sri Lanka and Southern India. On this trip he saw 196 species.

Places visited were Kelani River, Kitulgala (where the film Bridge over the River Kwai was shot), Nuwara Eliya, Horton Plains National Park, Sinharaja N.P., Yala N.P., Uda Walawe N.P., Bundala Salt Pans and Tissamaharama.

As well as photographs of the habitats and sites Peter showed photos of the following birds:

*Pheasants and Partridges* – Sri Lanka Spurfowl (E), Sri Lanka Junglefowl (E), Indian Peafowl; *Ducks* – Cotton Pygmy Goose; *Storks* – Painted Stork, Lesser Adjutant, Asian Openbill; *Herons, Egrets* – Purple Heron, Yellow Bittern, Black Bittern, Striated Heron; *Pelican* – Spot-billed Pelican; *Cormorants* – Little Cormorant; *Hawks, Kites, Falcons* – Black Eagle, Amur Falcon, Brahminy Kite; *Rails, Coots* – White-breasted Waterhen; *Thick-knees* – Great Thick-knee; *Plovers, Lapwings* – Red-wattled Lapwing; *Jacanas* – Pheasant-tailed Jacana; *Doves, Pigeons* – Sri Lanka Green Pigeon (E), Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon (E), Imperial Green Pigeon, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Common Emerald Dove; *Parrots* – Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot (E), Layard's Parakeet (E), Rose-ringed Parakeet; *Cuckoos* – Red-faced Malkoha (E); *Owls, Frogmouths* – Chestnut-backed Owlet (E), Serendib Scops Owl (E), Sri Lanka Frogmouth (E); *Kingfishers* (2 other species) – White-throated Kingfisher, Common Kingfisher; *Bee-eaters* (1 other species) – Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Green Bee-eater; *Barbets* (8 species) – Yellow-fronted Barbet (E); *Woodpeckers* (8 species) – Crimson-backed Flameback (E); *Pittas* – Indian Pitta; *Cuckoo-shrikes* – Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike; *Drongos* (10

species) – White-bellied Drongo; *Crows, Jays, Magpies* – Sri Lanka Blue Magpie (E); *Bulbuls* (10 species) – Yellow-eared Bulbul (E), Black-capped Bulbul (E), Brown-capped Bulbul (E), Orange-billed Bulbul (E), Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler (E), Dark-fronted Babbler; *Laughing-thrushes* – Ashy-headed Laughing-thrush (E); *White-eyes* (2 species) – Sri Lanka White-eye (E); *Starlings* (6 species) – White-faced Starling (E); *Old World Flycatchers* (27 species) – Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Kashmir Flycatcher; *Leafbirds* (3 species) – Jerdon's Leafbird; *Flowerpeckers* (6 species) – Legge's Flowerpecker; *Weavers and Finches* (11 species) – Tricoloured Munia, Black-throated Munia, Baya Weaver.

## FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

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

*The doors are opened at 7pm and meetings start at 7.45pm.*

## FRIDAY JUNE 27

Jeremy Robertson, 'A South African Bird Trip'.

## FRIDAY JULY 25

### Mid-winter Members' Night

Please submit offers of short talks or other items to John Hatch before mid-July so that the whole evening's programme can be arranged.

A supper of delicious soups will be provided before the meeting.

## FRIDAY AUGUST 29.

John Young, 'Rediscovery of the Night Parrot'.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Peter & Linda Christy	PROSPECT
David & Liz Hope	CHERRY GARDENS
Gary Philip Kimpton	SALISBURY HEIGHTS
Margaret Adams & Janet Lowe	FINDON
Peter Martin	PORT WILLUNGA
Doug Clarke	COFFIN BAY
Lynn & Peter Maxwell	PORT ELLIOT
Todd McWhorter	ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS
Robyn Norman	TORRENS PARK

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

# Past Excursions

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## **Altona CSR Landcare Reserve 20 February**

The trip began with perfect weather for our group of 24: warm, sunny and calm. Although Adelaide experienced heavy rain later in the morning, the storm clouds that gathered brought only a breeze and did not drop any rain. Consequently, birds were everywhere, flying and singing. Musk Lorikeets, Tree Martins and Rainbow Bee-eaters were especially abundant. However, Fork-tailed Swifts, seen a week earlier, were not observed even though we kept an eye out, especially as a storm front moved in. Crimson (Adelaide) Rosellas were plentiful as expected and a few Purple-crowned Lorikeets were observed feeding with Musk Lorikeets. A Spotted Harrier (new to this site for Birds SA) was observed overhead being harassed by a Nankeen Kestrel. Surprisingly, Brown Treecreepers were scarce with only two being observed. Little Wattlebirds were abundant as were New Holland Honeyeaters. Also observed were Red-browed Finches, Diamond Firetails, White-browed Babblers, Common Bronzings, Red-capped and Hooded Robins, and one each of Mistletoebird and European Goldfinch. A possible Brush Bronzewing (based on size and dark color) was sighted. Late leavers also observed a lone Black-shouldered Kite. In all, 55 species were counted.

**Martyn Price.**

## **Riverglades & Rocky Gully Wetlands 15 March**

Twenty-two members met on a fine and warm day at Riverglades Wetlands for the first part of the day's activities.

This was the Association's first field trip to the site, so there were no particular expectations as to the number or type of species that may be sighted. The final tally for the site was 72 species.

This included an unexpected sighting of a Black-eared Cuckoo. Other

notable species were Freckled Duck (1); Nankeen Night Heron (1); both Spotless and Australian Spotted Crakes; Latham's Snipe (1); six species of raptor; Zebra Finch and European Goldfinch.

The most common species for the day was Eurasian Coot (about 1,000), and about fifty Black-tailed Native-hens were also seen. In addition, members of the party easily observed Australian Reed-warblers.

Everyone enjoyed the morning walk and most members agreed that future visits to the site would be worthwhile.

Two parties undertook the after-lunch survey of Rocky Gully Wetlands, with 14 members in the first party and 5 in the second. The second party observed 41 species, including one Golden-headed Cisticola and twelve species of waterbirds.

**Brian Walker**

## **Swan Reach CP 30 March**

A fine morning saw 20 members assemble at the entrance to Swan Reach Conservation Park.

Two areas of the park were surveyed, one closer to the main Sedan to Swan Reach Road and another well into the park.

Although conditions were pleasant, the overall species count was low at 33 species and many species observed were only seen in small numbers. It was perhaps a little surprising that no raptors were seen during the outing. One Tawny Frogmouth was flushed from the track by the leading vehicle, but not seen by other members.

The majority of members had good sightings of Chestnut-backed Quailthrush, with a total of six recorded for the day.

Seven species of honeyeaters were seen, with Yellow-plumed being the only species of which more than ten birds were observed. This was also the most commonly recorded species of the day. A small number of

members saw a single Striped Honeyeater.

The overall impression was that no species was present in large numbers.

**Brian Walker**

## **EASTER CAMPOUT Caroona Creek CP, Mid-north, 18/04 to 21/04/2014.**

Apart from a warm and windy day on Monday, the 30 campers enjoyed near-perfect mild autumn weather for this Easter camp. The park had received about 200mm of rain in February and March so the saltbush was lush and lots of the mallee was in bud or in flower. We covered the various habitats over the 4 days -- mallee with saltbush understorey, creek lines, saltbush flats, gorge bottoms and ridge tops. Yet one of the best birding spots was a dry dam, just a three minute walk from camp.

Overall we saw 77 species of birds in the park. No water birds were seen, so our list represented a good effort. We spotted 14 species that were not on the 2003 DEWNR draft Management Plan list, and 13 species that were not on the Birds SA web site park list. Birds of prey were the stand out, with Whistling Kite, Spotted Harrier, Black Falcon and Peregrine Falcon being added to the list. We also observed much nesting and breeding activity, no doubt due to the good state of the vegetation.

The group spent most of Saturday exploring the lower end of Tourlie Gorge. The birding was good, but the rugged landscape and relics of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century pastoral settlement were equally interesting. One of our party accidentally set out to explore on his own, but he found his way back down a side creek in time to meet the search party who were looking for him. It didn't put him off, as he once again helped organise the next day's Easter Sunday brunch. Thank you to all the cooks who did such a good job with the bacon, eggs, mushrooms and pancakes.

**Graham Bate**

# Future Excursions

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**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](http://www.birdpedia.com)

**To assist the Field Program Coordinator (FPC) with updating our extensive records of past excursions, and for the convenience of members attending future field trips, it would be appreciated if prior notification of your interest in leading one or more of the trips listed could be provided to the FPC prior to the date of those trip/s. On some occasions, it may be necessary for members attending a field trip to appoint a leader to guide the group and a scribe. The scribe will provide a brief report to the FPC including the number of attendees, birds seen or heard, the weather and any other interesting events on the day. Both leadership and scribe duties can be shared. An SAOA Bird Record Form available from the FPC, or from the Birds SA website, should also be completed for each trip and accompany the trip report. Trip Reports need to be forwarded to the FPC as soon as possible for the information of all Birds SA members.**

**Sunday 1 June: Newland Head Conservation Park (MLR) (120km)**

Meet at 8.30am in the car park/camping area by the old house. Travel to Victor Harbor and then head west towards Waitpinga. 2km beyond Waitpinga, turn left to Waitpinga Beach. As you descend to the beach, the Park is on the left-hand side.

**Saturday 14 June: Bakara Conservation Park (MM) (155km)**

Travel to Swan Reach and cross on the Ferry. Drive about 31 km east

along the Loxton Road as far as the crossroad where we will meet at 8.30am (left/north being to Waikerie). We will travel approximately 3km right/south from there to the Park.

**Thursday 19 June: 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 onto the Salisbury Highway 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.

**Sunday 29 June: Bullock Hill Conservation Park (MLR) (60km)**

Take the Ashbourne Road from Strathalbyn. We meet at the Ashbourne oval, adjacent to the Community Hall at 8.30am.

**Saturday 12 July: Porter Scrub Conservation Park (MLR) (44km)**

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

**Thursday 17 July: Jenkins Scrub (MLR) (61km)**

Travel about 10km from Williamstown towards Springton. Turn right onto Mount Road. We meet at 8.30am at the entrance to the scrub on the left, opposite Murray Vale Road.

**Sunday 27 July: Scott Conservation Park (MLR) (79km)**

Meet at 8.30am at the right-hand turn-off into Gould Road (**not** Deep Creek Road). This is off the Strathalbyn/ Ashbourne Road to Goolwa. (NOTE: If you reach the Canoe Tree railway crossing, you would have missed the turn-off by about 1.5km.)

**Saturday 9 August: Cox Scrub Conservation Park (MLR) (66km)**

This Park is on the Ashbourne to Goolwa Road, about 6km south of Ashbourne. Meet at 8.30am in the northern car park.

**Thursday 21 August: Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens (MLR) (19km)**

Meet at 8.30am in the lower car park off Lambert Road. Leave the SE Freeway at the Crafers Interchange and follow the Piccadilly Road for about 3km. Then turn left into Trigg Road.

**Sunday 31 August: Yankalilla River Gorge & Nixon Skinner Conservation Park (MLR) (79km)**

Meet at 8.30am by the gorge entrance at Garnett Kelly Park, 6km south of Yankalilla. After lunch at the Park, we will head back towards Adelaide calling into Nixon Skinner CP for as long as you wish.

**FUEL SUPPLIES AT THE OCTOBER CAMPOUT**

The campout will be at Hiltaba Nature Reserve, in the Gawler Ranges. Nature Foundation of SA will allow members to purchase, for cash only, unleaded petrol and diesel at Hiltaba. Fuel will be available by pre-arrangement and at set times. Contact me for further information about these arrangements.

**Brian Blaylock**



# 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**

- 2, 1/2/2014. Onkaparinga NP, MLR.  
Stracey, K.
- 2, 13/2/2014. Hindmarsh Island, Murray Mouth lookout, MM.  
Edey, D.
- 5, 22/2/2014. Thompson's Beach, AP.  
Buckley, K.
- 2, 24/2/2014. Black Point, YP.  
Tiller, M.
- 3, 28/3/2014. Victor Harbor Sewage Works, Henderson Rd, MLR.  
Cutten, D.
- 7, 5/4/2014. St Kilda Salt Fields, W track, AP.  
Brooker, W.
- 3, 23/4/2014. Tookayerta Creek, Winery Rd, MLR.  
Doecke N.

Records of this species continue, mostly from previous localities.

## **Australasian Shoveler**

- 2, 16/4/2014. Adelaide Botanic Gardens, AP. On the new wetland near Hackney Rd.  
Wheaton, B.

Some large concentrations of ducks have occurred in southern regions, including:

## **Hardhead**

- 3500, 31/12/2013. Robe Sewage Works, SE.

Haywood, B.

## **Pink-eared Duck**

- 15,000, 17/4/2014. Bolivar Sewage Works, AP.

Carpenter, G.

- 700, 22/4/2014. Tanunda Sewage Works, MLR.

Jack, T.

## **Blue-billed Duck**

- 200, 12/3/2014. Rush Lagoon, KI. Renwick, J., Masters, P. & Baxter, C.

## **Freckled Duck**

Again, widely reported in southern districts, including:

- 30, 24/1/2014. Robe Sewage Works, SE.

Haywood, B.

- 19, 24/3/2014. Devon Downs South Wetlands, MM.

Winwood, S.

- 1, 26/3/2014. Stirling, Woorabinda Park, MLR.

James, C.

- 19, 21/4/2014. Goolwa Sewage Works, MM.

Crocker, J.

- 17, 1/5/2014. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Smith, S.

- 24, 8/5/2014. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Armstrong, D.

## **Barbary Dove**

- 1, April 2014. Whyalla, EP. Smith, E.

*This species has been widely reported from SA towns, presumably from deliberate introductions.*

## **Fork-tailed Swift**

Several reports but mostly of low numbers.

- 200, 2/2/2014. Coffin Bay NP, Point Avoid, EP.

Fennell, J.

- 500, 2/2/2014. Port Macdonnell, sea 10km S, MO.

Bartram, K. *et al*

- 1, 2/2/2014. St Kilda saltfields, AP.

Pascoe, E.

- 50, 13/2/2014. Altona Scrub, MLR.

Dennis, T.

- 30, 13/2/2014. Hindmarsh Island, MM.

Edey, D.

- 15, 14/2/2014. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM.

Doecke N.

- 50, 18/2/2014. Vivonne Bay, KI.

Baxter, C.

- 2, 10/3/2014. Littlehampton, MLR.

Fennell, J.

- 10, 1/4/2014. Seal Bay, KI.

Baxter, C.

## **Wilson's Storm-petrel**

- 1, 15/2/2014. Nuyts Archipelago, MO.

Sanders, J.

*This species is not known to breed in Australian or New Zealand waters, but migrates northward (including into Northern Hemisphere seas) after breeding around the Antarctic continent and subantarctic islands. Inshore sightings in SA are mostly February – July.*

## **Southern Royal Albatross and Northern Royal Albatross**

- 2 and 1 respectively, 6/4/2014. Pelagic trip off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Bartram, K. *et al*.

## **Buller's Albatross**

- 1 and 2, 2/2 and 6/4/2014 respectively. Off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Bartram, K. *et al*.

## **Flesh-footed Shearwater**

- 150, 2/2/2014. Off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Bartram, K. *et al*

## **White-headed Petrel**

- 1, 6/4/2014. Off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Bartram, K. *et al*.

# Bird Records (cont)

## Australasian Darter

Male, 8/5/2014. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

## Black-faced Cormorant

200 on nests, 1/4/2014. Busby Islet, KI.

Baxter, C.

## Pied Cormorant

200, 1/4/2014. Busby Islet, KI. On nests on Nitre Bushes.

Baxter, C.

## Letter-winged Kite

1, 10/3/2014. Hindmarsh Island, Murray Mouth Rd, MM.

Girdham, L.

*See comments in previous NL regarding sightings in southern areas.*

## White-bellied Sea-eagle

Adult, 16/3/2014. Chinaman's Creek, LN.

Langdon, P.

1 imm, 16/3/2014. Pick's Swamp, SE.

Green, B. & Campbell, J.

Adult, 29/3/2014. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM.

Doecke N.

## Whistling Kite

2, 7/2/2014. Lower Inman Valley, MLR.

Cutten, D.

1, 12/3/2014. Rush Lagoon, KI.

Renwick, J., Masters, P. & Baxter, C. *Very few reports from KI.*

## Little Eagle

1, 28/3/2014. Evanston, AP.

Saunders, B.

## Buff-banded Rail

1, 28/1/2014. West Beach, Apex Park wetlands, AP.

Edey, D.

## Lewin's Rail

1, 15/4/2014. Deep Creek CP, Bullocks Creek, MLR.

Jaensch, T.

## Baillon's Crake

1, 29/10/2013. Streaky Bay sewage works, EP.

Schmidt, L.

*See Cox, T. (2001) SA Ornithologist 33: 132-134 for details of previous records from EP.*

## Double-banded Plover

25, 8/4/2014. Cape Rouge, KI

Baxter, C.

## Greater Sand Plover

1, 22/3/2014. Black Point, YP. In breeding plumage.

Tiller, M.

## Grey-headed Lapwing

1, 2/3/2014. Amata Sewage Works, NW. Photos taken and details supplied to the Australian rarities committee.

Hartland, D.

*This is the first report of this Asian species from SA and the second in Australia. The previous record was at Burren Junction in northern NSW where it was present from 19 June to 7 October 2006. For an account of the previous record see Australian Field Ornithologist Vol 25.*

## Common Sandpiper

2, 4/2/2014. Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K.

## Sanderling

1, 9/1/2014. Tunkalilla Beach, MLR.

Steele-Collins, E.

7, 19/3/2014. Port Elliot, Basham Beach, MLR.

Syson, W.

## Pectoral Sandpiper

2, 22/1/2014. Rush Lagoon, KI.

Baxter, C

## Curlew Sandpiper

400, 16/3/2014. Chinaman's Creek, LN.

Langdon, P.

370, 28/3/2014. Bolivar Sewage Works, AP.

Carpenter, G.

*Reasonable numbers of this migratory wader 'wintered' in SA this summer compared with recent years, although nowhere near the flocks of 1000s that occurred up until the 1980s.*

## Grey-tailed Tattler

1, 27/3/2014. Busby Islet, KI.

Baxter, C.

4, 8/4/2014. Bay of Shoals, W side, KI.

Baxter, C.

## Terek Sandpiper

1, 16/3/2014. Chinaman's Creek, LN.

Langdon, P.

## South Polar Skua

1, 6/4/2014. Sea off Port Macdonnell, MO. Photos taken and details submitted to the Australian rarities committee.

Bartram, K. et al.

*Previously considered a subspecies of the Brown Skua, this species is rarely reported from Australian waters during its northward migration. It is included in the SA list on the basis of a beach-washed bird at Hardwicke Bay on 15 May 1958 (see Emu 59: 158).*

## Pacific Gull

5, 3/2/2014. Border Village, 75km E, NW. On fruiting Nitre Bush along highway about 1km from the coast.

Pedler, L. & R.

## Glossy Black-Cockatoo

4, 2/2/2014. Stunsail Boom River mouth, KI.

Baxter, C.

*Few reports from southern KI.*

# Bird Records (cont)

## Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

40, 23/2/2014. Kensington Gardens, AP.

Beer, P. & A.

*Few reports from AP compared to previous summers.*

50-60, 19/3/2014. Anstey Hill RP, MLR.

Zanker, R.

## Elegant Parrot

17, 17/3/2014. Port Moorowie, YP.

Jack, T.

20, 24/4/2014. Maslin Beach, MLR. In cliff-top heath.

Butterfield, M.

2, 19/10/2013. Whyalla CP, EP.

Smith, E.

## Sacred Kingfisher

1, 8/3/2014. River Torrens, Breakout Creek, AP.

Edey, D.

1, 21/3/2014. Adelaide, Torrens Weir, AP.

Black, A.

*There is thought to be seasonal movement between the MLR to breed in spring-summer and coastal mangroves in autumn-winter.*

## Superb Fairy-wren

1, 10/2/2014. West Beach, Apex Park wetlands, AP. Not found again on subsequent visits.

Edey, D.

*The current status of wrens on the AP (Adelaide Airport – Kooyonga Golf Course area) is uncertain.*

## Shy Heathwren

Heard, 9/2/2014. Border Village, 2km E, NW.

Pedler, L. & R.

*This species was not recorded during previous surveys of this area (1997 - SA Ornithologist 32 and 2009 - SAO 35).*

## White-throated Gerygone

1, 29/12/2013. Snow Gum to Dry Creek Forest Reserve revegetation corridor, SE.

Green, B.

## Pied Honeyeater

Male, 21/1/2014. Monarto, Browns Rd, MM.

Potter, S.

## Black Honeyeater

3, 9/3/2014. Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, NW.

Langdon, P.



**Willie Wagtail, photographed by Peter Gower at Avoca Dell, Murray Bridge, on 2 Mar 14**

## Ground Cuckoo-shrike

4, 12/12/2013. Mount Wedge, 10km NE, EP.

Penna, I.

*Regularly reported in open mallee on northern EP in late summer-autumn.*

## Crested Shrike-tit

Pr + juv, 25/1/2014. Aldinga Scrub CP, MLR.

Talbot, N.

2, 1/2/2014. Harrogate, MLR.

Wearne, M.

## Pied Butcherbird

1, 1/5/2014. Nairne, Woodside Rd, MLR.

Barron, P.

*There have been several reports from southern areas in recent years (see Eckert 2006 SA Ornithologist 35) and interestingly seen near Woodside in 1992 (SAOA Newsletter 154).*

## Black-faced Monarch

1, 17/1/2014. Millicent, SE. Report submitted in SA rarities committee.

Jones, A.

*Previous reports in SA from Goolwa and Sturt Gorge.*

## White-winged Chough

1, 27/2/2014.

Hawthorndene, MLR.

Schmidt, L.

## Rose Robin

1 immature, 26/4/2014. Newland Head CP, MLR. Caught in mistnet.

Bradley, T.

*This is one species whose presence is almost detected more often by mist-net than by binoculars!*

## Welcome Swallow

1, 2/2/2014. Port Macdonnell, 10km S, MO.

Bartram, K. *et al.*

*Another small terrestrial bird, a Skylark was seen well*

*out to sea on a previous pelagic trip in the 1980s.*

## Bassian Thrush

1, 2/5/2014. Hale CP, W of, MLR. Feeding in home garden.

Pearce, A.

## Diamond Firetail

71, 3/4/2014. Springton, W of, MLR. van Weenen, J.

15, 1/5/2014. Monarto, Frahn's Lane, MM.

Barron, P.

*The eastern hills area is one of the last strongholds of this species in SA, presumably due to the presence of native grasslands.*

# From the library



**598 VAN**

Grouw, Katrina van

**The Unfeathered Bird**

Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013

ISBN 9780691151342

The Unfeathered Bird is a richly illustrated book on bird anatomy that offers refreshingly original insights into what goes on beneath the feathered surface. Each exquisite drawing is made from an actual specimen and reproduced in sumptuous large format. The birds are shown in lifelike positions and engaged in behaviour typical of the species.



**598.2951**

**MAC**

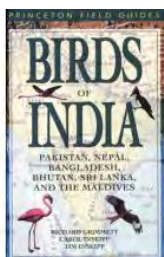
MacKinnon, John

**A Field Guide to the Birds of China: Ornithology**

Oxford: OUP, 2000

ISBN 0198549407

China is one of the largest countries in the world, encompassing a diverse range of habitats. As a result, it includes some of the most fascinating birds. Presented in a portable format, this field guide to the birds of China illustrates over 1300 bird species in 128 colour paintings. It offers colour distribution maps for the illustrated species.



**598.2954**

**GRI**

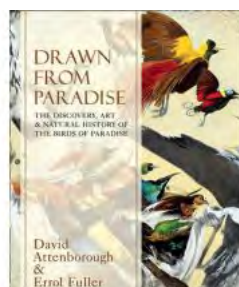
Grimmett, Richard

**Birds of India: Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives**

Princeton, New Jersey : Princeton University Press, 1999

ISBN 0691049106

This is a field guide to the many species of avifauna of the Indian subcontinent and environs. It depicts the known species in the region, ranging from the Himalayan Snowcock in the north to the Sri Lanka Spurfowl in the south. It also covers identification, voice, and distribution.



**598.865 ATT**

Attenborough, David

**Drawn from paradise : the discovery art and natural history of the birds of paradise**

London: Collins, 2012

ISBN 9780007487615

Drawn from Paradise is David Attenborough's journey through the cultural history of the birds of paradise, one of the most exquisite and extravagant, colourful and intriguing families of birds.

# The Family Fun Day



*Admiring the photographs*



*Left to right:*

*Barbara Wheaton*

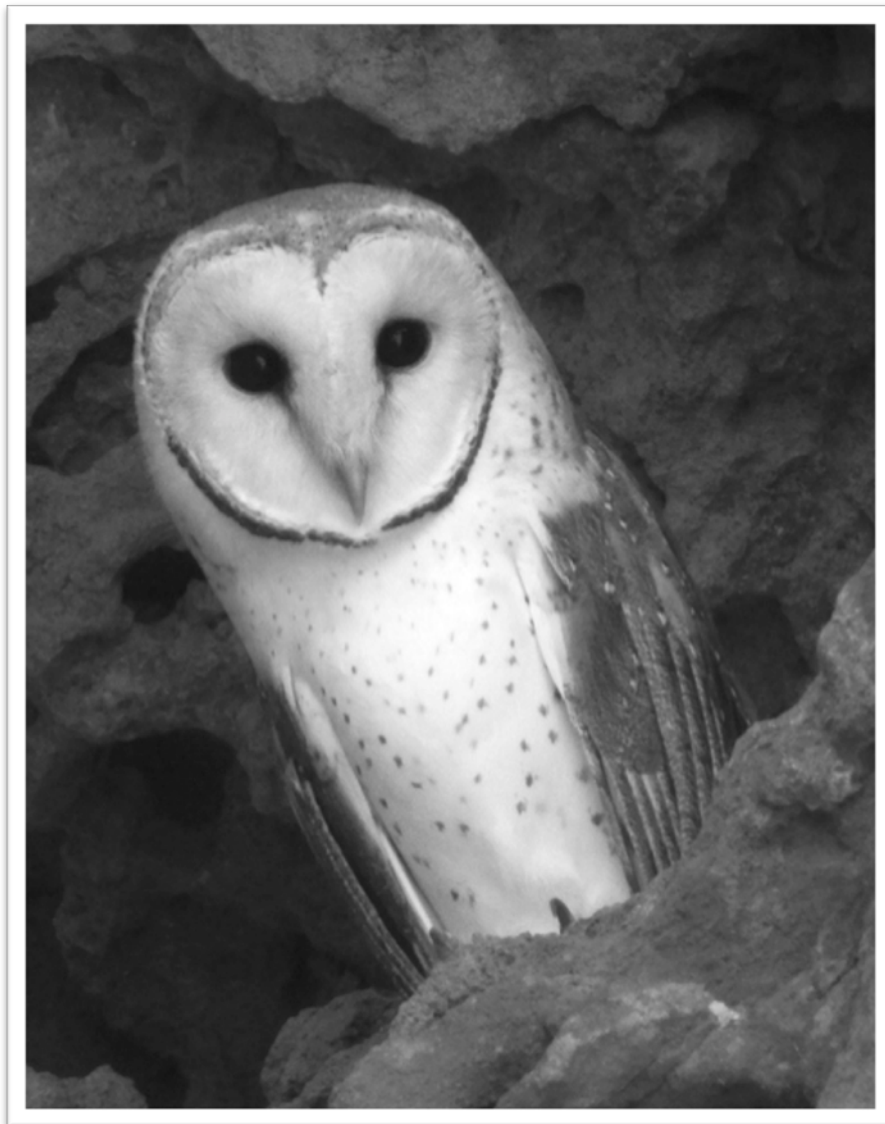
*Lou Bartley-clements*

*Merinda Hyland*



*The Birds SA display*





**Barn Owl, photographed by remote camera  
at cliff roost, Paiwalla on 24/12/2013**

**Details of the Photographs on Pages 23 and 24**

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Little Grassbird	Peter Gower	Avoca Dell, Murray Bridge	2/03/2014
2	Silvereye	Jeff Groves	Anstey Hill Recreation Park	March 2014
3	Lilac-breasted Roller	Burt May	Greater Kruger NP S Africa	May 2013.
4	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Fiona Paton		
5	Woodland Kingfisher	Burt May	Port Greater Kruger NP S Africa	May 2013.
6	Whistling Kite	Peter Gower	Avoca Dell, Murray Bridge	2/03/ 2014
7	Black Swan	Peter Gower	Avoca Dell, Murray Bridge	2/03/ 2014
8	Darter	Peter Gower	Avoca Dell, Murray Bridge	2/03/ 2014
9	Brown Goshawk	Jeff Groves	Anstey Hill Recreation Park	April 2014

# *From Home and Abroad*



# Patterns of Flight

