

Birds SA



Newsletter

No 232

November 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.

A Future Birds SA Member?



Jorja Pettet enjoyed Birds SA's Nature Play Day at Carrick Hill on 9th November. Read her story on page 6.

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CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 50,
JOHN SUTTON PART 4

SAOA COMMITTEE 2014 – 2015

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Member	John Spiers	8333 0272
Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	Rebecca Zanker	0413426355

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.

Nov 30	Sunday	Excursion to Horsnell Gully CP

Dec 13	Saturday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields
Dec 18	Thursday	Excursion to Nurragi CP

Jan 10	Saturday	Excursion to Dry Creek Salt Fields
Jan 22	Thursday	Excursion to Tolderol Game Reserve
Jan 30	Friday	General Meeting

Feb 1	Sunday	Excursion to Whites Rd. Wetlands
Feb 14	Saturday	Excursion to Mannum Waterfalls
Feb 19	Thursday	Excursion to Sturt Gorge RP
Feb 27	Friday	General Meeting

March 1	Sunday	Excursion to Montacute CP

Cover photo: Scarlet Robin, photographed by Kay Parkin at Eaglehawk Neck (Tasmania) in August 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 a pleasing total of 21 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p11.

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationers

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	0402123960
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
	email imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au	
Campout Organiser	Graham Bate	8270 3041
Rare Birds Secretary	Colin Rogers	8336 3325

RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

BirdLife Southeast SA

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

Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact person: Neil Cheshire 8552 7904
Website: www.Fleurieubirdwatchers.org

Port Augusta group

Contact people: Peter Langdon 8642 5723, Greg Bannon 8648 6630,
Bernie Haase 0419 865 834

WEBSITE: birdssa.asn.au

2015 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 February Newsletter is due by the January General Meeting (January 30). 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

President's Letter

Birds SA's Logo

The committee recently approved a change to Birds SA's logo with the addition of a short statement under the Chestnut-breasted Whiteface that encapsulates what Birds SA largely does – “linking people with birds”. General meetings, field outings, special events, the library, the journal, newsletter and website all largely link people with birds. Some people might say “so what about conservation of birds?”

Conservation of birds is a stated aim of Birds SA - don't forget that”. I will come back to this but first a quick review of bird conservation for the past year.

It's all about Conservation

South Australia has a “no species loss” policy. Despite this, at the beginning of the year, Mallee Emu-wrens were eliminated from the state by fires. Even though the locations of the remaining Mallee Emu-wrens were known no attempt was made to stop these areas from being burnt. The new Murray Darling Basin Plan that is only partly implemented is showing cracks as the Murray Mouth closes and needs to be dredged. Furthermore, hidden largely from public view the state's environment sector has been substantially down-sized over the last year or so, with further cuts planned for next year. Massive de-investment in the environment does not augur well for conservation. The reductions in funding barely provoked any response from the public. Little wonder! With the majority of Australians now living in cities, the connection between people and nature has diminished to such an extent that there are now few votes to be gained from investment in the

environment, so governments desist. We all know that the things we treasure and love the most are the things we wish to conserve. So, if Birds SA wants a greater emphasis on conservation, then the first step is to connect more people to the birds we love – and it is imperative that we do this now. So the words “linking people with birds” is all about conservation.

*We want to conserve
the things we treasure
the most.*

A Challenge for us all

I am aware that many birdwatchers are reclusive and keep to themselves. However, if we are to increase the number of people who care about birds and hence conserve our birds, we need to be promoting the joys of birdwatching to anybody who will listen. My challenge to each and every one of you over the Christmas and New Year period is to find someone who is not already a bird-watcher and at least encourage, if not convince, them to become a bird-watcher.

The Third Bird Atlas

By the time most of you are reading this newsletter, there will only be at most a month left until the data collection for the third bird atlas of the Adelaide region and Kangaroo Island is finished. The final date for collection of data is 31 December 2014. I am aware that some of you will hold lists of birds seen at different locations within the study region that have not been submitted. Receiving those data so they can be incorporated into the atlas would be

great. If you need cards please contact me with a postal address (by email to david.paton@adelaide.edu.au) or text to mobile phone 0407 180 921.

Birds SA Campouts – thank you to Graham Bate.

Graham Bate has been running the Birds SA campouts for a number of years, and has done this with aplomb. Unfortunately Graham will not be

able to run the campout(s) next year as he will be away, so Birds SA is looking for someone to fill his shoes.

Graham's attention to detail, welcoming approach and inclusivity are legendary. He has already

started some planning for the Easter campout in 2015 but now needs someone else to take the reins. If you enjoy campouts and can help with organising them please contact one of the committee, and on behalf of Birds SA I thank Graham for his contribution linking people with birds through the campouts.

Enjoy the Christmas – New Year break

David Paton

Birds SA Notes & News

OBITUARY FOR BOB SNELL

Bob Snell died on October 25th after a battle with cancer, which he endured with great courage. He not only showed courage, but he continued to pursue his great love of nature in general, and birds in particular, almost to the very end. He enjoyed his last two years and so did all those who enjoyed his friendship. This was particularly true of his advocacy for and interest in the development of his beloved Laratinga; his local patch. He loved Laratinga and with his bosom friend Kevin Williams he developed and then defended it in his own quiet way. I say quiet, because Bob was ever the perfect gentleman in the best sense of that now sometimes pejorative word. I was lucky enough to go round Laratinga with Bob on several occasions and his love of the place was palpable. Bob was good for Laratinga and Laratinga was good for Bob.

Of course, until his illness, Bob had been a long-term and active member of the SAOA. He was an excellent field observer and through his great love of books, in this case bird books, had a broad knowledge of birds and their ways. He loved birds in the best sense, in that he recognised their wondrous ways, their beauty and their complexity. To paraphrase Simon Barnes 'he didn't go birdwatching, he was a bird watcher'.

Bob had many passionate interests and birds was but one, even if probably the most important to him. as was clear from the tributes at his memorial service in Mt Barker, he touched people in many other spheres. He pursued all these interests with high intelligence:

maths, music, engineering, astronomy, antiquities, art and many others.

Many people will miss this quiet, but highly civilised man. Our thoughts are particularly with his wife, Maureen and their family.

John Hatch



Bob Snell

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Tolderol

Preparations have been made for a watering trial at Tolderol Game Reserve. The watering has been planned for mid- to late spring (mid October). The aim is to provide summer watering for migratory shorebirds. Volunteers have been invited to get involved by monitoring activity while the migrants are present. Instructions and forms have been distributed in the e-newsletter.

If anyone would like to take part and does not have these please contact John Spiers either by e-mail (john_b_spiers@hotmail.com) or phone (83330272). This is a great opportunity for members to support the re-establishment of what used to be one of our favourite birding sites.

Monarto.

Not much is happening at Monarto at the moment. The Conservation Park gazettal process will take a while to go through. About one month ago, vice-president John Gitsham made a tour of the potential conservation areas with some of the Natural Resources Management staff involved in the proposed parks. He saw the main area destined for revegetation. He reported that all parts of the proposed conservation area looked great. Further discussions are to be had with BioR (an organisation that revegetates selected areas of bushland) and other interested parties, and the sub-committee will keep Birds SA in touch with any further developments.

International Bird Sanctuary.

The Government has issued a document asking for "Expressions of Interest" for areas not covered by the International Bird Sanctuary. This is

somewhat confusing as they are still seeking to sell it as a going concern – i.e. as a saltfield. The International Bird Sanctuary is not included in the sale but our contacts indicate that the Government have not yet finalised its boundaries. They will soon be appointing a person to get the sanctuary moving ahead.

John Spiers

Birds SA Notes & News (cont)

NATURE PLAY DAY AT CARRICK HILL

Dear Brian et al,

We attended the Nature Play Day at Carrick Hill on Sunday (with Jan's 5yr old granddaughter) and were very impressed with the Birds SA stand & the friendliness Merinda & her fellow helpers showed towards the young children.

Jorja was very happy to get her own list of Backyard Birds ("so I can do what Poppa does!") and although this was towards the end of the day she had to get a pen from the car & mark off what she already seen. (wouldn't do Kookaburra tho 'cos she hadn't seen it - only heard it Poppa!)

I picked her up from school on Monday & the first comment was - 'I saw another bird today Grandma & I need to tick it off. So cute. Who knows how long the interest will last but thank you guys so much for encouraging her and all the others who attended a wonderful day.

Regards,

Ross Brittain & Janette Diment

What a wonderful email, a true testament to what we are trying to achieve !!

I would like to thank very graciously Merinda and Terri without whose help at the Nature Play Day at Carrick Hill on Sunday November 9th the day would not have gone ahead. Terri made origami birds with the Birds SA website on it, and stamped the passports of over 110 children! We had the stand set up with a checklist of the common birds in the Carrick Hill area and armed with clipboards, the list and pens we sent families off for the day to identify the birds in the Carrick Hill backyard. We also copied enough sheets for families to take home and identify the birds in their backyards. Birds in Your Backyard program very kindly Express Posted us bird trading cards and bookmarks to give out on the day, which were a real hit with the children.

It was a very busy day, the busiest our group has enjoyed to date 139 families registered for the day, and we all felt it was a huge success. Thanks again Merinda and Terri and Brian Blaylock !

Lou Bartley-Clements



Merinda Hyland (standing) and Terri Randle



Merinda with Apprentice Bird-watchers

Noisy Miners

Different Views on Noisy Miners

In Support of Noisy Miners

Public expressions of a negative nature relating to the Noisy Miner seem to be increasing, both in number and degree of negativity. They range from: general comments about miners being 'a problem' or 'a pest', or people saying 'I hate miner-birds'; to a prominent radio personality with a country wide listener-ship, repeatedly blaming this species for a reduction in avifaunal diversity in his part of urban Sydney. More recently there seems to have been an escalation, with two local radio announcers joking about shooting at Noisy Miners in the backyard. Then the last straw, for me, a clear description of the application of oil-sprays to clutches of eggs, in order to adtle them, by an 'expert zoologist' and a 'garden guru' discussing problem birds in Adelaide. Were they looking forward to a kind of 'final solution' for Noisy Miners? Surely the vilification of the noisy miner has gone too far.

Firstly the miner is one of the very few successful native species that have coped with our disruption and destruction of native habitats, in the establishment of our urban environments. In a situation where most other native bird species have failed to cope with the changes we have wrought, it seems the height of irony if not an exquisite example of human perversity, to then decide to persecute Miners, for their very success.

Secondly, as a member of our native fauna it is protected under relevant South Australian law, along with almost all other native birds.

There may of course be confusion with the names: myna, mynah-bird, and miner or 'miner-bird', leading to a kind of nominal fallacy by which legitimate campaigns against the Indian Myna, an introduced pest species established in the eastern states, may be bleeding through to us here to the detriment of this local native honeyeater.

Timely response, by e-mail to the radio station(s)/program(s) and on-line via their Facebook page(s) seemed to have very little effect. A posting on South Aussie Birding and Australian Bird Identification (Facebook) pages got a much better response and generated some discussion.

I have been concerned for some time with the simplistic denigration of this species and thought this was something other SAOA members might also be concerned about. Do they share my view, in relation to the ecological responses of this species to environmental change and to the need for education of the general public about these and related matters?

Jim McNamara

A Qualified Approach

1. Common Myna and Noisy Miner are often confused. However there is literature that shows Noisy Miners have the capacity to reduce bird communities and as a consequence the species is listed as a threatening process in NSW and possibly Victoria.
2. Every situation is probably different, but there would need to be a reasonable summary of the evidence to show whether or not they do actually affect bird communities

There is some truth in Jim's opinion but there will be places where they are of concern versus places where they are not, but have the potential to be. What is actually missing in Jim's letter is that Noisy Miners have benefited from vegetation clearance (removal of understorey shrubs) and there should be some comment on how to manage or reduce their spread and prominence, for example by habitat modification or other procedures.

David Paton

Against Noisy Miners

I agree with David. Noisy Miners are opportunistic mobbing birds that take advantage of a habitat niche of open woodland (for example modified parklands with no understorey) and bully other birds away. The problem can be resolved easily, but over time. For example, I moved to Macclesfield in the Adelaide Hills 25 years ago on 1 acre of land, next door to open pasture/bushland, with dominant large remnant Blue gums and very little understorey. The bird count was about 25 species.

I started to plant various native understorey species, Casuarinas, Melaleucas, Hakeas, Grevilleas, Wattles (*pycnantha* and *paradoxa*) Callitris, Correas, Eremophilas, native grasses, native lillies, and other ground covers. I left plenty of fallen timber and leaf litter on the ground, so that my place is now considered by the local CFS to be a fire hazard! Also, over that time, many local native species of plants, such as various lillies, hardenbergias and grasses have naturally re-emerged.

Now, 25 years on, I have one acre of a mixed and diverse habitat from good ground cover, lower canopy, mid canopy species attracting upwards of about 70-80 species of birds over the past 20 years.

Noisy Miners have been well established in Macclesfield for about the last 15 years. I hear Noisy Miners in my neighbour's block, which has no understorey, and along the roadside gum trees. However, I rarely see them on my block as they have to compete with the many honeyeater species, Wattlebirds, Grey Shrike Thrushes, Superb Fairy-wrens, Red-browed Finches, Magpies, pardalotes, thornbills, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, 5 parrot species, Crested Pigeons, Bronze-winged Pigeons and occasional Crested Shrike-tits, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoos, Boobook Owls, Willie Wagtails, goshawks etc. that now occupy the various niches of a much healthier habitat on my small piece of land.

John Gitsham

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

FLEURIEU PENINSULA WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE UPDATE

Unfortunately we can only report yet another non-productive year at the Waitpinga White-bellied Sea-Eagle territory. A pair is still present there, but it has been a year of unexpected surprises. Yet another new, barely adult, eagle settled into the territory in May. We think the older male has been replaced, but this has yet to be confirmed.

There was early concern through summer and into autumn as only one eagle seemed to be frequenting the West Island sea-bird 'cafeteria', and using the flyway toward Waitpinga. Needless to say the mood out on the cliffs without the usual spectacular courtship flights and duetting

sessions, was subdued to say the least!

Then in mid-May, suddenly there were two eagles! Flight activity and frequency increased when the new 'guy' showed up. With fingers-crossed the pair were given the 'total privacy' period during the usual intensive nest repair and critical egg-laying period (June–July) before the first covert long-distance assessment of the nest in late August. Then it was found that although the nest had been repaired and lined there was no indication that egg laying had occurred. A second boat-based survey in September also failed to indicate breeding behaviour. Another boat-based survey was planned for mid-November on the outside chance that this now young eagle pair may

yet to have their breeding season calendars set 'correctly'.

Despite yet another year without a recruitment contribution to the struggling sea-eagle population in SA from this territory (last successful in 2008), these new young players are 'on notice' that after all that has been done to improve the refuge quality at Waitpinga, there are high expectations of them for the 2015 breeding season!

A boat-based WBSE nest check on November 12th failed to reveal any new information.

We sure hope they will breed in 2015.

Terry Dennis and Elizabeth Steele-Collins



White-bellied Sea Eagle

Photographed by Elizabeth Steel-Collins from Waitpinga cliffs on 18th January 2014

Past General Meetings

FRIDAY JULY 26 — MEMBERS' NIGHT

John Hatch reported that he had received 10 offers of speakers for the evening. He had selected six and the other four would be held off until the next members' night. There was a diverse range of topics.

Peter Gower showed photographs of Kimberley birds taken on a trip with bird guide George Swann. Also on the trip were Karen and John Donkin. The main reason for the trip was to see and photograph the Black Grasswren. They saw 170 species on the trip but not the Black Grasswren. Birds photographed included Square-tailed Kite, Northern Shrike, Northern Fantail, Silver-crowned Friarbird, Variegated Fairywren, Buff-sided Robin, Partridge Pigeon, Purple-crowned Fairywren, Gouldian Finch, and Red-headed Honeyeater.

Teresa Jack showed many photographs taken by spotlight at Old Noarlunga (Nankeen Night Heron), around Yorke Peninsula (Painted Buttonquail, Stubble Quail, Tawny Frogmouth), Monarto (Tawny Frogmouth, Southern Boobook), Freeling (Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth) and Hamley Bridge (Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth, Eastern Barn Owl, Australian Owlet-nightjar).

Andrew Black gave a talk on "New names on SA Bird List". It covered new birds for SA, newly recognised species, new evidence for the future, new genera and new names for old. These changes have been published online as Horton, Blaylock and Black (2013) – Census of South Australian Vertebrates (4th edition) – Section 3 Birds

(<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/4da011ed-ac0d-4fc8-ad71-a24900ae5f9b/vertebrates-census-birds-gen.pdf>) and reflect the classification and names used in the IOC World Bird List (Gill & Donsker).

New species for South Australia added in this census include

Wandering Whistling Duck, Cook's Petrel, American Golden Plover, White-throated Nightjar, Pied Currawong, Tawny Grassbird and Plum-headed Finch. Newly recognized species are Western Grasswren and Nullarbor Quailthrush. Hyphens have been removed in common names e.g. Black-Cockatoo to Black Cockatoo, Bronze-Cuckoo to Bronze Cuckoo, Fairy-wren to Fairywren.

Andrew spoke about the split up of the honeyeater genus *Lichenostomus* following extensive DNA analysis into seven genera. It now comprises *Caligavis* (Yellow-faced Honeyeater), *Gavicalis* (Singing Honeyeater), *Nesoptilotis* (White-eared Honeyeater), *Ptilotula* (Fuscous, Grey-headed, Yellow-plumed, White-plumed and Grey-fronted Honeyeater). The Purple-gaped and Yellow-tufted Honeyeater remain in *Lichenostomus*. No species are found in South Australia in the remaining genera *Bolemoreus* and *Stromiopera*.

Finally Andrew said that work was currently being undertaken and that there could be additional "new" species in the future.

Barbara Bansemer described the trip that she took with Peter on a cheap trip by Air Asia to Siem Reap, Cambodia and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November 2013. They visited Angkor Watt, the bird sanctuary Preaek Toal in Tonle Sap Lake. In KL they visited the Kuala Lumpur Bird Sanctuary. They were puzzled by a bird that was named Rainbow Lorikeet, as it did not look like the one here in Australia. Further research showed them that 22 subspecies are spread across South-East Asia.

Peter McKenzie gave a brief glimpse of some of the reptiles and birds seen on a trip to the Galapagos in January 2014. The Galapagos are a group of islands on the equator about 1000 km W of Ecuador. Only five of the islands are inhabited. Peter showed photographs of Galapagos

Sea Lions, which are very tame as well, as of the following birds – Blue-footed Booby, Nazca Booby, Red-billed Tropicbird, Waved Albatross, Lava Gull, Swallow-tailed Gull, Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos Dove, Large-billed Flycatcher, Greater Flamingo, Brown Pelican, American Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Least Sandpiper, Magnificent Frigatebird, and Yellow Warbler. Darwin's finches such as the Ground Finch, Warbler Finch and Cactus Finch were difficult to identify.

John Fennell showed photographs of many birds and one mammal seen on a trip with his grandson to the "Galapagos of the Southern Ocean" – the Sub-Antarctic Islands of Australia and New Zealand – in December 2013. They cruised past The Snares, landed on Enderby Island in Auckland Island group and also Campbell Island and Macquarie Island.

John showed photographs of Snares Crested Penguin, Auckland Island Tomtit, Auckland Island Cormorant, Auckland Island Teal, Double-banded Plover (endemic race), Subantarctic Snipe, Yellow-eyed Penguin, Red-crowned Lorikeet, Hooker's Sea Lion, Campbell Island Cormorant, Southern Royal Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Campbell Albatross, Cape Petrel, Light-mantled Albatross, Gentoo Penguin, King Penguin, Royal Penguin, Southern Giant Petrel, Brown Skua and Elephant Seal.

Past General Meetings (cont)

FRIDAY AUGUST 29

John Hatch said that he had never seen as many people at a meeting since Graham Pizzey spoke at our previous venue, AMDEL. John gave a brief introduction to John Young. He was born in New South Wales but now resides in Queensland. He is an old fashioned naturalist. John Hatch then introduced John Young to talk on “The Rediscovery of the Night Parrot.”

John was born and raised on a cattle station in the New England District and remained there until 1990. It was a long journey to find the Night Parrot, the holy grail of Australian ornithology. His search for the Night Parrot began in 1991 following its discovery by Walter Boles and Wayne Longmore near Boulia in South-western Queensland. This bird had probably been stuck in a car grille. John first heard a Night Parrot in 1998 and spent the next 15 years and 17,000 hours searching. Fortescue Metals have provided \$1,000,000 in funding over a three-year period.

Using a recording he had made previously, he was able to call up a bird on 25 May 2013 at an undisclosed location in the Lake Eyre Basin, Western Queensland. On 26 May he again called up a bird and took over 600 photographs and made a 17 second video which he showed to the meeting. The video showed that the Night Parrot hops along the open ground before disappearing into the *triodia*. He was able to collect feathers for DNA testing. The habitat where he found the Night Parrot is in *Triodia longiceps*, which is up to 35-40 years old. The birds venture out into nearby chenopod scrublands to feed.

John has had a very good working relationship with the landowner and has been able to obtain funding to protect the Night Parrot. The main threats to the survival of the Night Parrot are cats and fires. Cats live along the creek lines and are a source of food for Dingoes.



John Young
Photographed by Peter Gower

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26

John Hatch welcomed Jean Turner, Stewardship Project Officer, Birdlife Australia and Tony Flaherty, Coast and Marine Manager, Natural Resources – Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges – to talk on the “Samphire Coast Icon Project – Conservation Outcomes for Shorebirds”.

Jean offered an apology for Aleisa Lamanna who was unable to attend and thanked Tony Flaherty for filling in.

The project area extends from Parham to Port Adelaide and is an important area for coastal biodiversity and an important shorebird feeding and roosting habitat. There are sixteen key sites across four local government areas. Jean spoke about the project’s aims, the different habitats, bird species, threats, achievements, and priorities for the future and community engagement.

The project’s priorities are based on those identified in the Metropolitan Adelaide and Northern Coastal Action Plan. This planning process, completed in 2009, identified biodiversity assets, threats and risks, and priorities across a broad range of parameters.

The Samphire Coast Icon Project aims to:

- Improve community stewardship for iconic samphire and shorebird areas
- Provide a framework for strategic conservation efforts by all the partners involved – including local communities
- Ensure the long-term conservation of this significant area and its natural assets

Habitats along the Samphire Coast include:

- Extensive tidal flats — primary shorebird feeding and roosting habitat
- Clay pans — primary breeding habitat of Red-capped Plovers; secondary feeding and roosting habitat of some migratory shorebirds; critical habitat of the nationally vulnerable Bead Samphire (*Tecticornia flabelliformis*)
- Mangroves and tidal creeks — feeding and roosting habitat for some shorebird species
- Artificial freshwater wetlands — complementary feeding and roosting for some shorebirds; significant for freshwater specialists
- Dry Creek Saltfields — habitat for a significant proportion of the Gulf St Vincent shorebird population; high tide roosts; feeding opportunities not limited by tides; drought refuge for nomadic species
- Coastal shrub lands — an integral part of the mosaic of habitats; significant value for coastal bush birds, reptiles, invertebrates and plants

The Upper Gulf St Vincent is rich in shorebirds:

- 52 species of shorebirds recorded in the Samphire Coast area (out of 78 known in Australia)
- 13 species in internationally significant numbers

Past General Meetings (cont)/Future General Meetings

- 5 species in nationally significant numbers
- 20,000 - 27,000 at any one time in the summer months
- Meets criteria for inclusion in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway site network, and Ramsar Wetlands of International Significance.

Threats:

- Invasive species (animals and plants)
- Human Impacts (disturbance and development)
- Climate change / sea level rise

Achievements:

- On ground works (1,087 ha weed control; 15 ha revegetation; 3 km fencing; 675 ha fox den mapping and fumigation) support the project by reducing impacts from threats and improving the habitat condition – for shorebirds, undertaking activities like fox

control has its obvious direct benefits.

- Community and Volunteer Engagement (25 events, 702 participants, 532 new participants) – OzAsia Festival, Red-capped Plover monitoring
- Shorebird habitat optimization - Saltmarsh restoration research and trials; Habitat retreat assessment

Priorities for the future:

- Community awareness and stewardship activities, including workshops, arts and cultural events, and opportunities to become involved in things like shorebird monitoring
- On-ground revegetation, habitat restoration and invasive species control programs coordinated by the region's Coast Estuarine and Marine Officers
- Investigating and planning

options for habitat retreat

- Saltmarsh restoration trials
- Shorebird conservation activities (including habitat retention and protecting key sites from disturbance)
- Protection of designated shorebird habitat areas, for example through the National Shorebird Network and under the Ramsar Convention.

Tony Flaherty gave us an insight on the work involved in getting the project off the ground and the many hours of advocacy he had undertaken. He mentioned the work done by the Field Naturalists' Society in relation to Flinders Chase in the early 1900s and the Nature Conservation Society and their push to extend national parks in 1982. It also included discussions with the Marine and Coastal Community Network, Natural Resources, District Council of Mallala and Australian Wader Study Group amongst others. Some of the money to cover the costs for revegetation and other works has come from the Natural Resources Management Levy.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Elizabeth Milner & Garth Wimbush	ROSTREVOR
June Maxine Boscence	HAPPY VALLEY
Adrian Shackley	GAWLER
Carloyn Lesley Preece	ALDGATE
Thomas James Hunt	MILE END
Mike & Jenny Ashton	MURRAY BRIDGE
Jackie & Michael Crampton	LARGS BAY
James Dunlop	UNLEY
Matthew Raymond Angove	BELAIR
Judith K Lydeamore & R John Halsey	UPPER STURT
Trevor Kent Howe & Nita Jean Maloney	GAWLER
Robert Hill	GAWLER WEST
Robert Brinsley	PARKSIDE
Robert Brandle & Kirrily Blaylock	PORT AUGUSTA
Peter Owen	WILLUNGA

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

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 DECEMBER 26

No meeting.

FRIDAY JANUARY 30

TBA

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27

Vicki Thomson: DNA Mapping.

FRIDAY MARCH 27

Kieren Mitchell: Kiwi Origins and Taxonomy.

Past Excursions

Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens

21 August

It was a pleasant morning for a walk around the gardens of Mount Lofty with 16 people attending. Two of these were people who came along to see what Birds SA has to offer. Hazel and I have not been around for some time, and I was stupid enough to ask who was leading that day. Only four people kept their mouths shut. Two of them were the two newcomers and the other two were Hazel and I. In unison, everyone else yelled out 'Trevor'. Talk about being set upon!

As usual the group spread out and managed to find 42 species, which included Eastern Spinebill, Varied Sittella, Red-browed Finch, Zebra Finch, Golden Whistler, Bassian Thrush and a pair of Collared Sparrowhawk. Lunch was taken just above the lake.

One of the two new people who came along to check us out not only enjoyed the day and the bird count. He went home and realised he had left his binoculars behind. He phoned me at home to make arrangements for collecting them. I said of course — would you like your Camera back as well. He collected both items with a few laughs. I believe he will be joining us soon.

Trevor Cowie

Yankalilla River Gorge and Nixon Skinner Conservation Park

31 August

A fine but overcast, morning saw 13 members and guests assemble for a survey of Yankalilla River Gorge. Spring was in the air and the cloud cover cleared by mid-morning.

Unfortunately, water levels prevented us from taking the usual route up the Gorge and some backtracking and use of a rough track were necessary to work our way up the Gorge.

The group was rewarded with 41 species for the outing. This included five species of raptor — Black-shouldered Kite, Wedge-Tailed Eagle, Brown Falcon, Peregrine Falcon and Nankeen Kestrel. The

Wedge-tailed Eagle was having a hard time of it, being continually assailed by a party of Australian Magpies.

Wet conditions meant that we saw two species of ducks and one White-faced Heron. There were seven species of parrots, with Little Corella (32) being the most numerous. Of the five species of honeyeater, New Holland was the most common with 20 recorded. The list also included Red-browed Finch and European Goldfinch.

Following lunch and a birdcall for the Gorge, ten members and guests moved on to Nixon Skinner Conservation Park. By the time we arrived, the cloud cover had returned and birding conditions were more challenging. There was some discussion as to whether species seen on the Myponga Reservoir should be included, but the leader resolved that it was inappropriate to include the water birds in the count. A short survey resulted in ten species being recorded, with only small numbers of all species. We ended up with four species of parrot and only one species of honeyeater (Crescent). One White-throated Treecreeper was included and perhaps the solitary Mistletoebird was the highlight for some newer members.

Brian Walker

Laratinga Wetlands

13 September

Sixteen people arrived on a glorious spring day to enjoy a walk around this very interesting artificial wetland built in 1999 to dispose of treated wastewater. There was plenty to see right from the start with two Red-rumped Parrots grazing on the grass near the car park. In the picnic area, Chestnut Teals and Wood Ducks were seen nesting in a tall gum tree.

The air was full of enthusiastic bird noises with Reed Warblers being very vocal and more visible than is often the case. They were flitting above and between the reed beds. Further into the wetlands, Little

Grassbirds were also calling and venturing into the open.

We walked around the ponds in an anticlockwise direction and observed a number of ducks, including Pacific Black Duck, Mallard, Pacific Black Duck/Mallard hybrid, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Australasian Shoveler, Freckled Duck and Hardhead. Further on at the effluent lagoon we saw at least 50 Pink-eared Ducks.

Also present on the various ponds were Hoary-headed Grebes (but no Australasian Grebes), Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterels, Purple Swamphens, Dusky Moorhens, Eurasian Coots, Nankeen Night Herons, White-faced Herons, Australian White Ibises and a mixture of cormorants either by the water or flying overhead.

As usual the place was heaving with 'bush birds', with Superb Fairywrens and other species including New Holland and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebird, Red-browed Finch, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Dusky Woodswallow, Galah, Rainbow and Musk Lorikeet and Adelaide Rosella. Numerous Tree Martins were gathering mud and several Yellow Thornbills were seen in the western area along the creek. A notable absence for the day was any sign of raptors, despite our regular scrutiny of the sky.

Everyone was keen to spot crakes although it seemed at first that the doomsayers who predicted there would be 'too much water to see anything at all' would be vindicated. However, we found a secluded spot where the water was low; and, after first seeing a Spotless Crake, a Spotted Crake and a Reed Warbler suddenly popped into view, giving excellent simultaneous views of these three usually secretive species. In addition, one member of the group who had gone on a solo walk saw a Baillon's Crake on the edge of another pond.

Past Excursions (cont)

After our walk we enjoyed the unaccustomed luxuries of the picnic ground and congratulated ourselves that we had survived another round of freezing winter outings and were now being rewarded with beautiful weather. Overall, it was a very successful day with a total of 63 species recorded.

Ali Ben Kahn

Charleston Conservation Park 18 September

As if in punishment for gloating over the beautiful weather we experienced at Laratinga Wetland the Saturday before, this excursion took place on a chilly grey morning with the ever-present threat of rain. Twelve members and friends gathered at the tennis courts in Charleston and then headed to the park where we did the usual anticlockwise circumnavigation along the edge of the scrub.

Shortly after the start of the walk we came across a single White-winged Cough sitting on a nest. Later, on the other side of the park, we saw another single bird on a nest and it was interesting that at no time did we see or hear other coughs. They must have been around but had obviously ventured some distance in their foraging and did not return during the 3 hours or so that we were in the area. On the ground near the first nest was an old nest that had fallen from the tree, presumably during recent windy weather. Luckily it did not appear to have been in use at the time.

Seven species of Honeyeater made an appearance: Eastern Spinebill (4), Crescent (2), Brown-headed (9), White-naped (4), White-plumed (7), Yellow-faced (6) and Red Wattlebird (3). We also saw an assortment of Thornbills which prompted some discussion as to which was which (Bill/Enid and others where were you when we needed you?) but in the end we were satisfied that we had seen 10 Yellow, 2 Buff-rumped and 6 Striated Thornbills.

Due to the gloomy conditions it was hard to see some birds clearly and we saw two raptors we were 80% sure were Whistling Kites but it was impossible to see any markings. However, we had no problems with 20 Crimson Rosellas, 2 Musk Lorikeets, and 8 Galahs. Unfortunately, none of the many Purple-crowned Lorikeets seen on previous visits in tall Eucalypts across the road from the entrance were present on the day.

The rain held off until we had almost returned to our starting point but then it set in. So we retreated back to the tennis courts and had lunch and did the birdcall in a shelter shed nearby. A total of 28 species was recorded for the day.

Ali Ben Kahn

Brookfield Conservation Park 28 September

It is likely that the alarming weather forecasts on ABC radio may have deterred some people from attending this field trip, but 9 members and 1 guest did manage to assemble in somewhat trying conditions. The weather was warm and accompanied by gusty winds throughout the day. The windy conditions probably meant that many birds were keeping well out of the weather.

The day appeared to be off to a good start with Splendid Fairywrens and single Red-backed Kingfisher observed at the assembly point. The group made five stops in total covering a range of habitats. Only Southern Whiteface and White-winged Coughs were seen in large numbers (40 of each species). Three Stubble Quail were flushed at the first stop and gave the party a bit of exercise in trying to relocate them.

We enjoyed our lunch in close proximity to a puddle in the track and we were rewarded with several honeyeaters taking a bath.

Despite searching in the usual locations we were unable to locate Chestnut-backed Quailthrush, Southern Scrub Robin or Gilbert's Whistler. Forty-three species were

recorded in the count after lunch with a forty-fourth species (Jacky Winter) being added by an eagle-eyed observer on the way out of the park. Despite the fact that we saw low numbers of many species, a good day was had by all!

Brian Walker

October Campout

Hiltaba Nature Reserve — 2-6 October 2014

Thirty-four people, including five from the Port Augusta Babblers, came to Hiltaba to seek out the Short-tailed Grasswren but in the end only a few were lucky. More people were able to hear them calling from the *triodia*, almost under their feet but they refused to show themselves. Following high winds overnight on Sunday most people left on Monday morning. A total of 84 species was recorded for the long weekend with two species new to Hiltaba Nature Reserve — Shy Heathwren and Southern Scrub Robin (heard only). There were many young birds about including Emu, Brown Currawong (The subspecies of the Grey Currawong on Eyre & Yorke Peninsulas), Grey Butcherbird, Crimson Chat, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Banded Lapwing, Australian Magpie, Yellow-throated Miner, Mulga Parrot, Australian Raven, Western Yellow Robin, Black-capped Sittella, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Willie Wagtail and Jacky Winter. A total of \$1700 was collected for Nature Foundation SA from those attending the campout.

Brian Blaylock

Scott Creek Conservation Park 11 October

A dozen Birds SA members attended the Scott Creek excursion, led by Les Peters who knows the area well, being a member of the local Friends group. 45 species were seen in the morning to noon, which started out overcast with a cool breeze blowing but improved after a couple of hours into a pleasant, sunny day. Birds

Past Excursions (cont)/Future Excursions

were relatively quiet during the morning but there were enough species spotted consistently to keep the group active and on their toes. Eight honeyeater species were seen including a dozen White-naped Honeyeaters (many near the car park), 6 Brown-headed Honeyeaters and 25 New Holland Honeyeaters including a number of dependent young. Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were also sighted. White-browed Scrubwrens were active near the car park and one was seen disappearing into shrubbery near the watercourse with a caterpillar for its young. Brown Thornbills were clearly seen entering a well-woven nest perched above head height in an acacia alongside the walking trail and not far from the lunch site near the old cottage ruin. A Striated Pardalote was seen nesting in a hollow beneath a clump of mistletoe. Highlights for the day included the numerous native plants in flower including a number of orchid species. Spider Orchids grew from the cracks in the path. A White-throated Treecreeper was seen hunting for insects on the rough eucalypt trunks and excellent spotting by Hazel Cowie gave most of the group a good view of a Sacred Kingfisher. Two Fan-tailed Cuckoos were seen as well as seven Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flying overhead, four Kookaburras, four Golden Whistlers, including a brightly coloured male visible from the roadside, three Wedge-tailed Eagles and a single Spotted Pardalote. Near the dam on the edge of the park, close to the private properties, a family of Australian Wood Ducks were startled from their sleep, including 10 very young chicks. Disappointingly, along Matthews Road a group of four Australian White Ibis were seen dead in a pile by the side of the road. It was suspected that these had probably been poisoned and dumped. There did not appear to be any visible injuries on these unfortunate individuals and this species was not recorded on the record form.

Alan John Burns
Onkaparinga Wetlands

16 October

A dozen people met at the Port Noarlunga Oval on a cool and overcast, but otherwise fine, morning with a rising tide. Sixty pelicans and two Caspian Terns were sitting in the middle of the river on our arrival. In the rather dim light, distinguishing a potential Marsh Sandpiper from a Greenshank proved difficult. The excursion to the hill overlooking the river mouth was unrewarding. Given the off-leash dogs and the tyre prints in the sand, the absence of Hooded Plovers was not surprising. Two immature Pacific Gulls were seen amongst the Silver Gulls and Crested Terns. The area around the effluent ponds harboured the most birds. A Freckled Duck spotted amongst the Grey Teal on the roadside pond was greeted enthusiastically, as was the Common Sandpiper on the river itself. A Purple Swamphen had a couple of young and a Grey Shrike Thrush was trying to rid itself of a begging youngster. Australian Reed Warblers and Little Grassbirds were heard rather than seen. The effluent ponds were completely fenced off but Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterel could still be made out on the pond edges. They would probably have been found to be more co-operative if there had been an observation hide, especially as the walk from the Perry Bend reserve yielded few wetland birds because the whole park was mainly dry. The furthest pond had just a boggy patch in the middle. Only a couple of White-faced and a White-necked Heron were present. As compensation, an obliging Golden-headed Cisticola sat still for some minutes in full view before demonstrating its display flight. A Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo also provided a good view. Superb Fairy wrens, Red Wattlebirds, White-plumed and New Holland Honeyeaters were common in the bushland, but there were few lorikeets (mainly Musk). Raptors were even more rare — a Collared Sparrowhawk appeared on a couple of occasions and a probable Hobby once. Nevertheless, everyone was satisfied with a total of 74 species for the morning.

Hazel and Trevor Cowie

FUTURE EXCURSIONS

Contact: Lynton Huxley
Field Trip Co-ordinator
Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038
Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au

If you are prepared to lead one or more of the trips listed below, please will you notify the Field Trip Coordinator (FTC) before the date/s of those trip/s. Your leadership will enhance the experience of members participating in the trip/s and assist the FTC with updating our extensive records of past excursions. On some occasions, it may be necessary for members attending a field trip to appoint a leader to guide the group and a scribe to write a report of the excursion. The report, submitted to the FTC, must include 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.

Hot Weather Protocol

Members are reminded of the following summer protocol:
If a fire ban is in effect or the predicted temperature is 36C or above in the area of a scheduled walk, the walk is automatically cancelled. This will not affect Salt Field trips, or Laratinga-type sites in towns, which may proceed.

Information including Google Map, GPS location details and a bird species list for each excursion site is available from the Birds SA website (see User Menu – Go Birding).

Sunday 30 November: Horsnell Gully Conservation Park (MLR) (12km)

Meet at 8.30am. Travel up the Old Norton Summit Road and turn right into Horsnell Gully Road. This leads to a quarry gate just prior to which, on the right, is a track leading into the park.

Future Excursions (cont) / Bird Records

Saturday, 13 December:

Dry Creek Salt Fields, St Kilda (AP) (26km)

Meet by the gate at the end of Radar Road, St Kilda at **7.30am**. This is an early start due to the time of the high tide (2.25m) at 8.15am. To get there, turn left from Port Wakefield Road onto St Kilda Road. From St. Kilda Road, turn right onto Radar Road (dirt and barrier) actually called Samphire Road. As per normal request please bring your two-way radio if you have one.

Thursday, 18 December 2014: Nurragi Conservation Reserve (MM) (68km)

Meet at 8.30am at the junction of the Finnis-Milang Road and Nurragi Road. There is a small roadway triangle 1.8km north of this junction where a narrow corridor of Mallee scrub crosses Nurragi Road. This National Trust of SA reserve runs along the old railway corridor between Sandergrrove and Milang for about 12 km. Stiles provide easy access on both sides of the road to a walking track along the old railway embankment of the former Milang spurline.

Saturday, 10 January 2015: Dry Creek Salt Fields, St Kilda (AP) (26km)

Meet by the gate at the end of Radar Road, St Kilda at **7.00am**. This is an early start due to the time of the high tide (2.41m) at 7.42am. To get there, turn left from Port Wakefield Road onto St Kilda Road. From St. Kilda Road, turn right onto Radar Road (dirt and barrier) actually called Samphire Road. As per normal request please bring your two-way radio if you have one.

Thursday, 22 January 2015: Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina (LA) (85km)

Meet at 8.30am. Take the road from Langhorne Creek to Wellington for approximately 5km and turn right into Dog Lake Road. Continue over a cross road, past a farm on the left hand side, pass through a gate, turn left on reaching the T-junction. Leave gates as you find them.

Sunday, 1 February 2015: Whites Road Wetlands, Globe Derby Park (AP) (16km)

Meet at the car park entrance for the wetlands on Whites Road, Globe Derby Park at 8.30am. Heading north on the Port Wakefield Road turn left onto Globe Derby Drive (just prior to Globe Derby Park) and continue on this road until it meets Whites Road. Turn right and continue to the end. The park entrance is on the left.

Saturday, 14 February 2015: Mannum Waterfalls Reserve (MM) (85km)

This reserve is on the Mannum side of the bridge over Reedy Creek about 9 km south of Mannum or 22 km north of Murray Bridge. Meet at 8.30am in the reserve's car park.

Thursday, 19 February 2015: Sturt Gorge Recreation Park (MM) (11km)

Meet in the car park at the end of Mountbatten Road, Bellevue Heights at 8.30am.

Sunday, 1 March 2015: Montacute Conservation Park (MLR) (20km)

Meet at the entrance to the park at the end of Valley Road, Montacute at 8.30am.

PORT AUGUSTA GROUP

Sunday 14 December 2014

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden. Meet in car park at 7:30 am. Followed by lunch in the Cafe.

BIRD RECORDS

Collated by Graham Carpenter

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

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

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

Ostrich

1, 14/7/2014. Wilkatanna Stn, NW.

Langdon, P. *et al.*

Presumed progeny of a feral population released in area in the 1920s.

Emu

2, 20/10/2014. Ashton, MLR.

Cole, P.

Captive birds were released in Para Wirra NP in the 1960s, now ranging widely through the Mount Crawford area.

Brown Quail

10, 25/8/2014. Granite Island, MLR.

Zanker, R.

1, 20/9/2014. St Kilda Saltfields, west track, AP.

Brooker, W.

3, 15/9/2014. Coorong NP, Mark Pt, MM.

Allen, J.

1, 5/7/2014. Kingston-on-Murray caravan park, MM.

Allen, J.

Several, 12/4/2014. Eaglehawk Waterhole, SE.

Birdlife SE

Fewer reports this spring.

Bird Records (cont)

Common Pheasant

2. 27/8/2014. Seal Bay Rd. KI.
Wickham, C.
Has the potential to become established as a feral population on the island, like the Indian Peafowl.

Musk Duck

Female, 10/10/2014. Breakout Creek mouth, AP.
Edey, D.

Blue-billed Duck

3, 9/9/2014. Onkaparinga wetlands, MLR.
Brooker, W.
185, 28/4/2014. Lake Edward, SE.
Haywood, B.
A very large group for this species.

Freckled Duck

300, 25/8/2014. Duck Lagoon, KI.
Baxter, C.
150, 25/9/2014. Duck Lagoon, KI.
Connelly, H.
350, 8/2014. Millicent, Lake McIntyre, SE.
Pounsett, R.

Australian Shelduck

2000, 9/11/2014. Middle Beach to Port Wakefield Rd, AP. Flying south.
MacIlwain, E.
A large group for the Adelaide area. Small nos. are known to breed in Red Gums along the lower parts of the Gawler River.

Tawny Frogmouth

pr + imm, 11/10/2014. Woodcroft, MLR.
Brooker, W.
1, 29/10/2014. North Adelaide, River Torrens, AP. Bird sitting on nest.
Stracey, K.
First report of breeding in the metropolitan area for many years.

Cattle Egret

4, 14/8/2014. Kaurna Park wetlands, AP.
Zanker, R.
1, 25/10/2014. Gawler River, AP. Feeding with cattle.
Hartland, D.
3, 28/9/2014. Burton, Springbank wetland, AP.
Allen, J.

White-necked Heron

2. 26/10/2014. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.
Connelly, H.
7, 19/10/2014. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.
Brooker, W.
1, 15/10/2014. Cygnet River, Tagell's Lagoon, KI.
Baxter, C.
Few reports on KI, coinciding with their irruptions into the Mount Lofty Ranges region.

Glossy Ibis

8, 26/10/2014. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.
Hatch, J.

White-bellied Sea-eagle

1, 15/9/2014. Coorong NP, Mubin-Yerook Pt, MM.
Allen, J.
1 imm, 26/8/2014. Waikerie, MM. Flying upstream.
Harper, D.
1, 5/11/2014. 2 km SW Point Sturt, MM.
Doecke, N.
1, 3/11/2014. 1.5 km NE Wirrina, MLR.
Doecke, N.
1 imm, 4/8/2014. Light Beach, AP.
Noble, C. *et al.*

Square-tailed Kite

2, 26/10/2014. Para Wirra NP, MLR. Pair at nest.
Gredley, S.

Black Kite

1, 24/10/2014. St Kilda Saltfields, AP.
Hatch, J.
1, 7/9/2014. Vivonne Bay, KI.
Baxter, C.
Few reports from KI.

Brolga

9, 4/9/2014. Witchelina Stn, Murrumbidgee WH, NW.
Black, A.

Baillon's Crake

1, 26/10/2014. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.
Hatch, J.

1, 4/11/2014. River Light, 8 km NE Mallala, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Spotless Crake

Heard, 14/7/2014. Gawler East, South Para River, MLR
Belder, D.

Australian Bustard

1, 12/8/2014. 50 km S Hawker, FR.
Foster, M.

Pied Oystercatcher

pair + 2 young, 28/10/2014. Bald Hill beach, AP.
Taylor, P.W.
Few reports of nesting in Gulf St Vincent.

Curlew Sandpiper

280, 29/8/2014. St Kilda Saltfields, AP.
Rogers, C.
A relatively large number following catastrophic declines in recent years.

Latham's Snipe

43, 14/9/2014. Robe, Fox Lake, SE.
Alcorn, R. & M.
8, 25/10/2014. Robe, Fox Lake, SE.
Dare, A. & G.
1, 14/9/2014. White's Rd wetland, AP.
Noble, C. & Walker, B.

Wood Sandpiper

1, 28/10/2014. Whyalla CP, EP. On dam bank.
Ashton, I. & A.

Painted Button-quail

1, 2/10/2014. Black Point, YP.
Observed making platelets (small circular bare areas) in leaf litter while feeding.
Tiller, M.

White-winged Black Tern

1, 24/10/2014. St Kilda Saltfields, AP.
Hatch, J.
1, 25/10/2014. Cook sewage works, NW.
Baxter, D.

Bird Records (cont)

Arctic Tern

1, 28/9/2014. Port MacDonnell, SE.
On reef near breakwater with other terns.

Green, B.

Presumed same bird reported on:

5/10/2014. Bartram, K. & Rogers, C.
11/10/2014. Wood, M. *et al.*

Fairy Tern

35, 29/8/2014. St Kilda Saltfields,
AP.

Rogers, C.

A large number for the Adelaide area.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

1, 7 & 13/9/2014. Mullaquana, EP.

Smith, E.

Presumed aviary escapee, with the nearest natural population in the southern FR.

Musk Lorikeet

1, 10/8/2014. Blanche Harbour, NW.

Langdon, P.

Nearest populations are in the Clare Hills and on southern EP, north to Cowell.

Blue-winged Parrot

5, 27/9/2014. Chinaman's Creek, LN.

Langdon, P.

1, 15/10/2014. Kingscote, KI.

Second report from KI.

N. Grootenboer per C. Baxter

These birds are presumably travelling south from non-breeding areas in northern SA, and are frequently reported from northern AP coasts at this time. It is not known if these birds breed in south-eastern SA (including SE region) or migrate further to Tasmania.

Bourke's Parrot

100, 14/9/2014. Bon Bon HS, NW.

Black, A.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo

1, 27/8/2014. Ridgeway, AP.

Zanker, R.

Black-eared Cuckoo

1, 29/8/2014. Coorong NP, Loop Rd,
SE.

Green, B.

Few reports this far south.

Eastern Koel

Male, 16/10/2014. Paradise, AP.
Heard for previous two weeks.

Neale, R.

Presumed same bird reported on:

21/10/2014. Thorndon Park
Reservoir, AP.

Rogers, C. & Hatch, J.

1, 15/10/2014. Thorndon Park,
Athelstone, AP

Cellier, G.

A pair was reported in this area last year.

Yellow Thornbill

3, 22/8/2014. Berri, Martin's Bend,
MM.

Kieskamp, H.

A small population occurs in River Coobah and Dryland Tea-tree tall shrublands along the river.

White-throated Warbler

1, 9/8/2014. Stuart Creek- Witchelina
Stn boundary, NW.

Pedler, R. *et al.*

Rarely reported in SA mostly from the SE in spring. First report for NW region. The only other report from northern SA was an uncoloured bird at Mungeranie NE on 13 August 2011 (SAOA NL 220).

1, 4/10/2014. Hacks Lagoon CP, SE.
At campground.

Allen, J.

Pied Honeyeater

30, 13/7/2014. Mundallio Stn, FR.

Langdon, P. *et al.*

White-fronted Chat

6, 30/10/2014. Nairne, MLR.

Thomas, C.

Now rarely reported in the MLR region.

Orange Chat

5, 17/8/2014. Noora Evaporation
Basin, MM.

Kieskamp, H.

**Cape Gannett,
photographed by Kay
Parkin at Portland, Victoria
in August 2014**

Black-chinned Honeyeater

4, 26/10/2014. Hindmarsh River,
Greenhills, MLR.

Dare, A. & G.

1, 24/10/2014. Two Wells, McCord
Rd, AP.

McNamara, J.

One reported nearby at Willaston in last NL.

Olive-backed Oriole

1, 9/8/2014. Banrock Stn, MM.

Waanders, P.

Several reports of single birds along the river mostly during spring-summer, although one was reported at Banrock on 12 May 2013 (SAOA NL 227).

Hooded Robin

2, 2/11/2014. 7km SW Balaklava,
AP. Feeding young.

Taylor, P.W.

Now rarely reported from this region.

Fairy Martin

12, 9/9/2014. Onkaparinga wetlands,
MLR.

Brooker, W.

30, 10/10/2014. Red Banks, KI.
Nesting on cliff faces. Only recently established as a breeding bird on KI.

Baxter, C.



From the Library



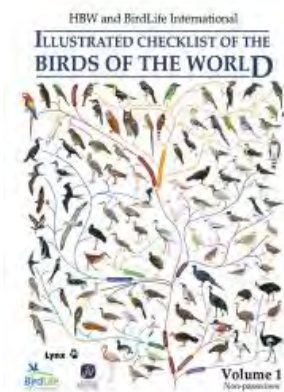
DVD 55

Dare, Greg

Birding Tasmania: featuring 75 Australian bird species

Produced by Association members Greg and Alana Dare, this 50 minute DVD documentary of birding around Tasmania features 75 Australian species including the 12 Tasmanian endemics, especially the Swift and Orange-bellied Parrots.

It takes you right around the island and includes most of the best birdwatching areas. There is also an interview with Dr Tonia Cochrane about conservation of the Forty-spotted Pardalote. You can see a 3 minute trailer on YouTube if you Google 'Birding Tasmania' Greg and Alana Dare.



REF 598 HOY

Hoyo del, Josep & Nigel J. Collar

HBW and Birdlife International illustrated checklist of the birds of the world: volume one non-passerines

Barcelona: Lynx, [2014]-

ISBN: 9788496553941

This stunning book is the first of a two- volume checklist of the birds of the world. It is a complete checklist whose taxonomy incorporates the most up-to-date information and an exhaustive methodology in a systematic and consistent way. At the same time, it contains illustrations and distribution maps for every bird species in the world, many for the first time.



598.0994 LOW

Low, Tim

Where song began: Australia's birds and how they changed the world

Melbourne, Vic.: Viking, 2014.

ISBN: 9780670077960

This is an eye-opening book about the unique nature of Australian birds and their role in ecology and global evolution. He brilliantly explains how our birds came to be so extraordinary, including the large role played by the foods they consume (birds, too, are what they eat), and by our climate, soil, fire, and Australia's legacy as a part of Gondwana.



598.0994 FUR

Furby, Brian

Tall stories and true: the adventures of a nature lover

[Horseshoe Bay, Queensland]: Claudia Gaber, 2014.

ISBN: 9780992470104

Brian Furby, a retired scientist and former member of this Association, chronicles, in photography and writing, 20 years of travels across the Australian landscape. Native birds were the main focus of this photographic safari. There are over 500 colour photographs and a wide range of travel anecdotes, many of them very funny.

From the Library (cont)



The National Library of Australia provides access to a wide range of free online databases and journals. To access these eResources you first need to obtain a Library Card. Click on the **Get a Library Card** and follow the prompts. Once you have registered and have received your login details, you then have access to the electronic resources. The Web address is as follows:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/app/eresources/>

There are a number of excellent databases covering a wide range of subject areas. For example:

Academic Search Complete covers a broad range of subjects including biology, chemistry, engineering, physics and psychology. It also contains links to other Ebsco databases: Business Source Premier, MasterFILE Premier, Health Source Nursing/Academic, Australia New Zealand Reference Centre, and Consumer Health Complete.

These are just some of the examples of journals available via Academic Search Complete that may interest you :

Full text access to:

Australian Geographic – from 1998

The South Australian Ornithologist from 2011

Informit e-Library — humanities & social sciences covers Agriculture, Arts, Asian Studies, Business, Cultural Studies, Education, Health, Medicine, History, Indigenous Studies, Law, Media, Political Science, Reference, Social Sciences, Science and Technology.

These are just some of the examples of journals available via Informit e-Library — humanities & social sciences that may interest you :

Full text access to:

Australian Field Ornithology from March 2006

South Australian Naturalist from 2008

Sunbird (Journal of Queensland Ornithological Society) from 1970

Wildlife Australia from 2009

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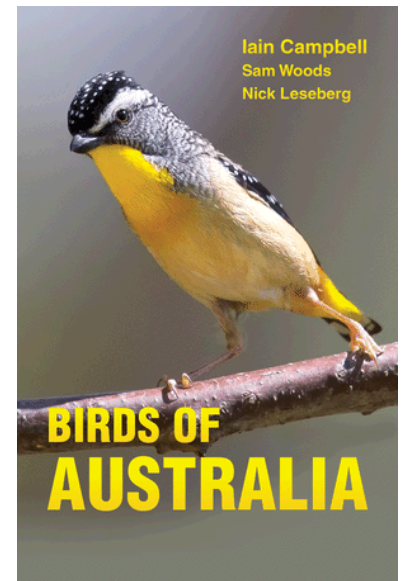
The latest addition to the Princeton University Press range of Bird and Natural History guides is:

Birds of Australia: A Photographic Guide, by Ian Campbell, Sam Woods and Nick Leseberg.

Members of Birds SA can receive a 20% discount on orders of this book through the Princeton UP website
<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10338.html>
using the Discount Code: P05950.

This book:

- ✓ Covers all 714 species of resident birds and regularly occurring migrants
- ✓ Features more than 1,100 stunning color photos
- ✓ Includes facing-page species accounts, habitat descriptions, and distribution maps
- ✓ The ideal photographic guide for beginners and seasoned birders alike



Australia is home to a spectacular diversity of birdlife, from parrots and penguins to emus and vibrant passerines. **Birds of Australia: A Photographic Guide** covers all 714 species of resident birds and regularly occurring migrants and features more than 1,100 stunning color photographs, including many photos of subspecies and plumage variations never before seen in a field guide. Detailed facing-page species accounts describe key identification features such as size, plumage, distribution, behavior, and voice. This one-of-a-kind guide also provides extensive habitat descriptions with a large number of accompanying photos. The text relies on the very latest IOC taxonomy and the distribution maps incorporate the most current mapping data, making this the most up-to-date guide to Australian birds.

Details of the Photographs on Pages 22 to 24

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Varied Sitella	Brian Walker	Brookfield CP	28/9/2014
2	Barn Owl	Teresa Jack	Freeling	June 2014
3	Bush Stone-curlews	Enid Pascoe	Possum Park, Bordertown	12/9/2014
4	Little Eagle	Kay Parkin	Bowra, Qld	August 2014
5	Spotted Harrier with lizard	Peter Mckenzie	Port Augusta Arid Lands Gardens	October 2014
6	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Peter Mckenzie	Port Augusta Arid Lands Gardens	October 2014
7	Baillion's Crake*	Stuart Milde	River Light, NE of Mallala	8/11/14
8	Australian Hobby with kill	Greg Blackman	Ingle Farm	16/9/14
9	Beautiful Firetail	Kay Parkin	Eaglehawk Neck, Tas.	August 2014
10	Spotless Crake**	Kevin Williams	Laratinga	16/6/2013
11	White-winged Fairy-wren	Peter Mckenzie	Port Augusta Arid Lands Gardens	October 2014
12	Citrine Wagtail	Teresa Jack	Mudgee, NSW.	August 2014

*In the Australian (and overseas) bird literature there seems to be little information about these crakes eating frogs. Their diet consists mainly of insects and vegetation. Paul Taylor wonders if this is an unusual circumstance. Please contact Paul on pwtaylor@rbe.net.au if you can provide Paul with any information about the diet of Baillon's Crakes.

** The Spotless Crake was Bob Denny's favourite bird — read about Bob's love of Laratinga on page 5.

Birds of the Fleurieu

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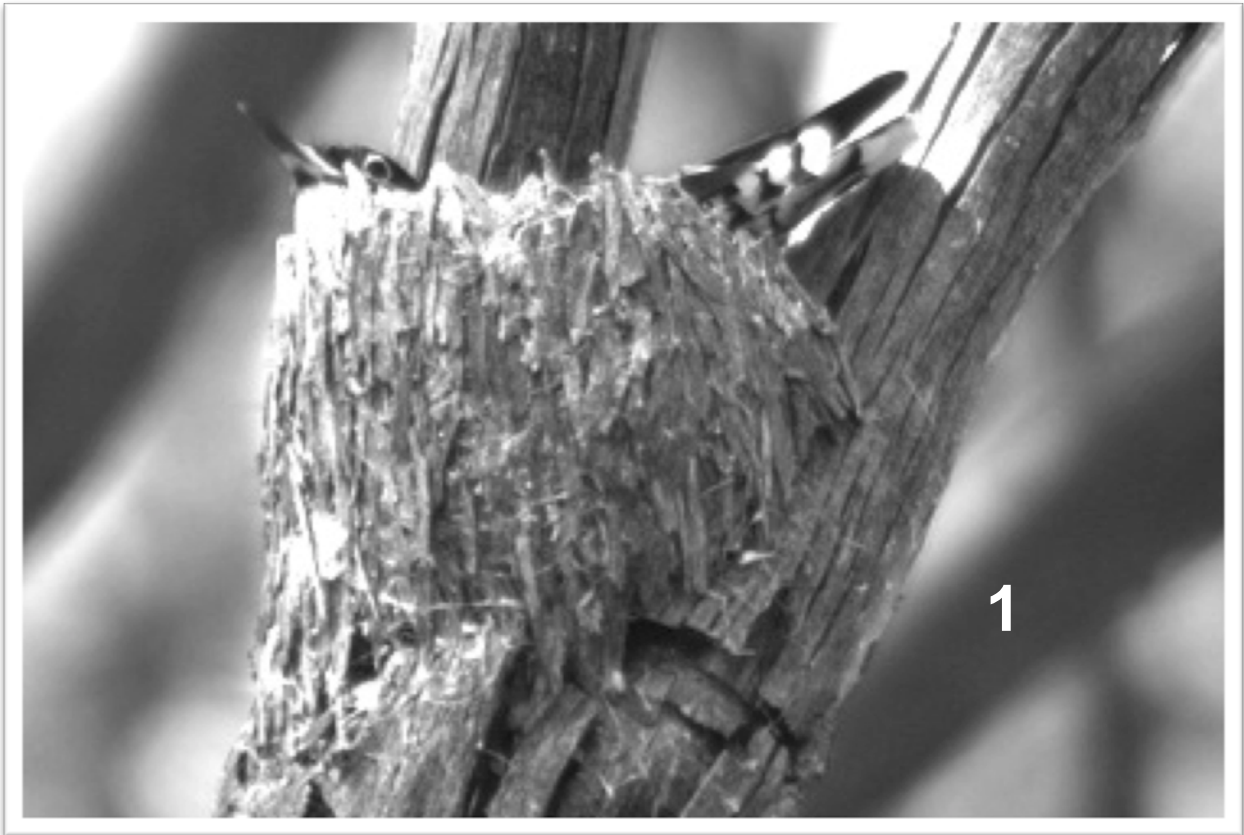


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