

Birds SA

Newsletter



LINKING PEOPLE WITH BIRDS

No 236

November 2015



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 Quartet of Honeyeaters



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CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 54,
JOHN SUTTON'S OUTER HARBOR NOTES, PART 3

SAOA COMMITTEE 2015 – 2016

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Member	William Brooker	8381 8730
Member	John Spiers	8333 0272
Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	John Hatch	8362 2820

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 this Newsletter.

Dec 6	Sunday	Excursion to Riverglades etc.
Dec 12	Saturday	Excursion to Kyeema CP
Dec 17	Thursday	Excursion to White Rd. Wetlands

Jan 9	Saturday	Excursion to Angas River, Strath.
Jan 14	Thursday	Excursion to Onkaparinga Wetlands
Jan 29	Friday	General Meeting
Jan 31	Sunday	Excursion to private bushland

Feb 13	Saturday	Excursion to Magazine Rd. wetlands
Feb 18	Thursday	Excursion to Scott Creek CP
Feb 26	Friday	General Meeting
Feb 28	Sunday	Excursion to Thompson Beach

Cover photo: Pink-eared Duck, photographed by Kay Parkin at Laratinga, in August 2015

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 8 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p18.

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FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	0402123960
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
	email imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au	
Campout Organiser	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Rare Birds Secretary	Colin Rogers	8336 3325

RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

BirdLife Southeast SA

Convener, — 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 863 834

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 29). 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 Message/Birds SA Notes & News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring 2015 has been a busy period for Birds SA, with many of our members and the Birds SA committee involved in community events associated with the International Bird Sanctuary, doing things in Bird Week, delivering a WEA course on birds, engaging with *Ecocreative* to refresh our website, design a new logo and re-populate the web pages, and assisting with the Australasian Ornithological Conference at Flinders University in late November. To all those involved a special thank you on behalf of Birds SA. Hopefully the Christmas–New Year period will provide you with some time to recover and be refreshed for another challenging year in 2016.

Although we are all making a small difference for the environment, there is still much that needs to be done. We need to continually remind ourselves that we live in landscapes that have been greatly modified to the detriment of most of our birds. The majority of species that we love continue to decline. For example, the global population size for the southeastern Australian population of Fairy Terns has been revised downwards from 2650 (in the 1990s) to 1500 (for the 2000s). That is a 40% decline in about a decade and as yet we have no tools that can arrest further declines. Having just experienced the hottest October on record and by several degrees, with another dry spring all does not bode well for our wildlife in the future. That the Murray Mouth is being dredged again suggests we are a nation that is reluctant to change the way we live our lives and exploit natural resources.

On that less than cheerful note, I wish you all a Merry Xmas and prosperous New Year. If only I could wish the birds a Merry Xmas and prosperous New Year with the same confidence, then I would be a very happy man.

David Paton

BIRDS SA NOTES & NEWS

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Tolderol

John Gitsham met Kate Mason of the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM in July to discuss the future of Tolderol. The watering trial held during 2014/15 was a success. As far as birds are concerned 45 wetland species were observed of which 7 are listed as rare in South Australia. Overall the bird response exceeded expectations. Favourable responses were also recorded for fish and amphibians.

The trial cost \$30,000. Another trial is planned for the 2015/16 season which is expected to cost \$20,000. The first trial was costly because of the need to clear the input channel, provide extensive maintenance to the pump and because of the inherent inefficiencies of the pumping layout. In the new trial it is planned to make the pumping more efficient by changing the layout. The pump will be lowered and new pipes will be installed allowing pumping direct to individual bays. Under the original set up Bay 7 had to be filled to overflowing to enable water to reach the lower bays, numbers 6 and 5. This was obviously inefficient. It is also planned to extend the area watered to include bays 9, 10 and 12. Birds SA have been asked to provide \$10,000 towards the 2015/16 trial. John Gitsham took this proposal to the committee and the proposal was accepted.

An Open Day/Information session was held at Tolderol on the 2nd September, 2015. Between 50-55 supporters from various organisations were present. Kate informed the meeting of the \$10,000 that Birds SA had pledged towards Tolderol activities during the 2015/6 season and publicly thanked our organisation. She also reported donations of material and equipment from other organisations. A special mention was made of the efforts of Chris Eckert for his practical assistance. She covered the planned activity over the next few months.

Pumping should start in early November. In the meantime pumps need to be relocated, irrigation piping installed and the ponds ploughed.

Submissions

Birds SA made three submissions during the period –

- Seaweed harvesting in the South-East — to the Hon. Leon Bignell, the minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
- Traditional Rights and Freedoms — Encroachments by Commonwealth Laws (ALRC Interim Report 127).
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015
- Meetings, Summits etc.

Meetings

Members of the sub-committee attended a number of meetings and field days during the period namely:

- A meeting with DEWNR officials on Tuesday 23 June to discuss preventative burning. A summary of the presentation was included in the previous newsletter.
- “Meet the Collective” a meeting run by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources held at the Adelaide Zoo on the 30th July. This was to launch a community consultation panel for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. Jody Gates was elected as Birds SA representative on this panel.
- Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Ecology Summit held on the 13th and 14th August.

John Spiers.

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

This will be the last Newsletter that all members will receive as a hard copy. When they renew their membership, members will be able to choose between a hard copy Newsletter that has the current mix of coloured and black and white pages, and an online Newsletter that is entirely in colour. In addition, future Newsletters will have a new name and present a more colourful and up to date format, following suggestions from our new website designer, *Ecocreative*.

Cynthia Pyle

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

WAITPINGA SEA EAGLE NEWS

After an unsettled start to the breeding season, and right up to late August, it looked like another year would pass without a breeding attempt by the sea eagle pair on the Waitpinga cliffs. Then in September things changed. The female was no longer seen on the flyway to the West Island hunting grounds and the male was seen carrying prey from there back towards the core of the territory. It was thought maybe, 6 weeks later than normal, but just maybe, they may have settled and something was going to happen after all. The decision was made to visit the nest area by sea on the 1st of November and “bingo!”, the female was on the nest and appeared to be possibly brooding small young!

So, some positive news from this territory at last! However, there's still a long way to go. Assuming all goes successfully, fledging won't occur until well into the New Year, which is well outside the negotiated period of seasonal restrictions on various recreation activities in the area. Hopefully, by then the young eaglet(s) will be developed enough and the parents committed enough to persevere. Fingers crossed there won't be any significant disturbances affecting the young before they fledge. It's worth noting that 2008 was the last time the Waitpinga pair successfully fledged one young, which makes this year all the more significant.

The next follow-up nest check is planned for December, so more news to follow, but probably not until the 2016 February newsletter.

Terry Dennis and Elizabeth Steele-Collins



Composite image of Waitpinga WBSE pair, using a separate photo of each bird, taken by Elizabeth Steele-Collins on 5 August 2015

(The left wing of the male bird is missing a primary feather)



The WBSE pair together — a monitoring photo taken in August 2015 by Elizabeth Steele-Collins from 2km away

'Hijacked' Wedge-tailed Eagles' Nests

Near Lagoon Hill in the Tothill Range, 40 km north of Kapunda, there are 2 Wedge-tailed Eagle nests approximately 1 km apart, presumably built by the same pair of eagles.

These nests have contained some interesting 'tenants' since I discovered 3 Peregrine Falcon eggs in the southern nest on 22nd September 2007. These eggs later hatched and all 3 chicks fledged. In the northern nest that year, on 2nd of October, I saw one large white eaglet with a half eaten rabbit beside it in the nest. While I was watching, a Grey Butcherbird alighted on the nest and proceeded to feed on the rabbit carcass.

In 2012 it was the turn of the northern nest to be hijacked by the Peregrine Falcons. On 26th October there were at least 2, and possibly 3, small falcon chicks approximately 3 weeks old in this nest. The southern nest was empty and much reduced in size due to part of the stick mass falling.

There was a further twist to the story this year. On 3rd October 2015 a single large eagle fledgling occupied

the renovated southern nest. On approaching the northern nest later that day, I observed with binoculars from 150 metres what I took to be a fairly large white eaglet sitting on the nest rim. I approached closer, only to find that the chick had 'disappeared'! I climbed the slope to look down into the nest cup, thinking the chick must have crouched down into it. The cup was empty!

A week later, intrigued by the mysterious disappearance, I returned to check if the 'eaglet' had fallen to the ground below the nest. There was no sign of it anywhere! However, a pair of Peregrine Falcons were flying along the ridgetop within 200m of the nest tree. They were not calling at all, so they were probably not breeding close by. Completely baffled, I walked away. When 150m from the nest I had a last look back through my binoculars. I had previously noticed a curious small dark area in the fabric of the nest slightly below the rim and on the edge of the stick mass. While looking through binoculars at the nest, I was amazed to see a Laughing Kookaburra fly to the nest and

disappear into the dark spot! Mystery solved; the white 'eaglet' I had seen the previous week was in fact a frontal view of an adult kookaburra standing on the nest rim. It had emerged from its nest, which was tunnelled into the decaying bulk of the old eagles nest. Adult kookaburras are in fact very white below, from chin down to tail.

I returned a few days later to take some photographs. While watching from a distance I saw several kookaburras alight in the nest tree, and saw at least one enter and one leave the nest, so I presume they were breeding. From the laughing calls in the area, I estimate there were about 6 birds present.

I have not heard of any other instance of kookaburras nesting in the stick mass of an eagle's nest, although I have observed Yellow-rumped Thornbills doing so, well below the rim!

John Smyth

Riverton SA.

johnsmyth@aussiebb.com.au



The 'Hijacked' Eagles' Nest

Birding Ethics

BIRDING ETHICS

Birders are, of course, interested in birds and concerned about their welfare. It is therefore ironical that some of our activities while birding may, in fact, be harmful to birds. Usually this is due to our ignorance of the impact we have on the birds, or a lack of thought when undertaking birding activities. In our enthusiasm to see a new or rare species, or to photograph or sound record it, we may actually do harm. Recognising this, most, birding associations around the world have developed a code of Birding Ethics to guide their members. These are never prescriptive laws, but always guidelines. The Birds SA Committee is considering developing such a code and initiating a policy of following it. The code would be published on the web site and brought to the attention of all members. The form of the code is still to be discussed and **members are invited to submit their comments to the committee through the secretary.**

One of the first major organisations to publish such a code was the American Birding Association, and their Principles of Birding Ethics is highly regarded worldwide. Many associations, such as: Audubon Society, Birdlife Australia, Birdlife South Africa, Birdlife India, Birdlife Hungary, Indian Birding, and Andalusia Bird Society have adopted entirely, or modified it to suit local conditions. It provides a good place to start and the code is presented below for your consideration.

The committee was stirred into action by two different reports of what has become common practice at Brown's Road, namely banging on trees known to harbour Owlet Nightjars in order to flush them out. This is clearly disruptive to the birds particularly when done repeatedly by different groups visiting a very popular spot. While we don't have detailed data showing the effect of this activity on breeding and survival it is clearly not an activity that is in

the spirit of ethical birding. It should stop. Merely because we have been guilty of doing it for a long time does not make it OK.

On a lighter note you might enjoy reading Bill Oddie's "Little Black Birdwatchers Book" This is a humorous account of birdwatchers and birdwatching but it has a serious message: namely that birdwatchers can cause harm in pursuit of their hobby. This book is available in the Association's library.

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION (ABA) PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is threatened, endangered, of special concern, or is rare in your local area. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover. Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the likelihood of disturbing the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area; and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-

owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behaviour will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organised or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items 1 and 2, has responsibilities as a group member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

Birding Ethics (cont.) / Past General Meetings

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behaviour, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behaviour continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organisations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours]

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practises this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no sound devices allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organisations.

Please follow this code. Distribute it and teach it to others.

Additional copies of the Code of Birding Ethics can be obtained from ABA. The ABA Code of Birding Ethics may be reprinted, reproduced, and distributed without restriction. Please acknowledge the role of ABA in developing and promoting this code.

Identification to species level of pelagic birds on p28 of the August Newsletter:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| A | Shy Albatross |
| B | Black-browed Albatross |
| C | Royal Albatross |
| D | Wandering Albatross |
| E | Giant Petrel |

PAST GENERAL MEETINGS

FRIDAY JULY 31

Recently elected Vice-President Daniel Rogers introduced himself to members. For the past 12 months he has been the Principal Ecologist at the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. He completed his PhD in Conservation Biology at the University of Adelaide in 2002 with David Paton.

He then introduced the speaker Christine Evans, a PhD candidate from the Bird Lab, Flinders University. Christine gave an enthusiastic talk on her PHD research on Vocal Learning in the Superb Fairy-wren.

The Superb Fairy-wren is a well-studied Australian bird with a complex social behaviour. SFW is declining in the Mount Lofty Ranges. SFW's are cooperative breeders, sexually promiscuous with very high rates of extra pair paternity. SFW's are sedentary and territorial and both males and female sing chatter song.

The major findings linked with her studies were:

- embryos learn and females are their teachers
- the cost of teaching
- females are singers also
- song learning also occurs after hatching.

All Christine's work was undertaken at the Cleland Wildlife Park during 2012, 2013 and 2014 from September to January when the wrens breed. The majority of the population was banded (87 adults and 169 nestlings) with an aluminium band and three colour bands so that they could be told apart in the field. Morphological features were measured and blood samples taken for DNA analysis. Groups were monitored from when they were fertile until the end of the field season when they had fledglings.

Songs were recorded of the dominant male and female, helpers, and fledglings using a parabolic microphone and sound device. Thirty-five territories were monitored each year and up to 100 nests. All the songs were analysed in the laboratory to produce

spectrograms. A library of elements that are single traces on a spectrogram has been created. This library is then used to identify the different element types, and the presence or absence of all elements in the songs of every bird. Adults sing complex songs composed of many different elements but do fledglings learn these elements? To examine song learning in fledglings songs of the dominant male, female, helpers, and fledglings were recorded and then compared with the song element repertoire of the breeding pair with the song element repertoire of the fledglings.

Christine thanked Birds SA for funding a part of the project that genetically determined the sex of nestlings.

FRIDAY AUGUST 26

Doug Armstrong is Professor of Conservation Biology, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand and currently chairs the Oceania Section of the Reintroduction Specialist Group (RSG) one of several specialist groups within the Species Survival Commission, which is part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Doug thanked Birds SA for the invitation to talk and in particular David Paton for organising his visit.

Professor Armstrong's talk was entitled Advances in Reintroduction Programmes for New Zealand Birds.

He divided the talk into three parts –

- (1) Reintroductions in General
- (2) History of Reintroductions in NZ
- (3) Current Reintroductions.

Before providing details of reintroduction programs that have been carried out in NZ Doug provided the following terminology (from IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations 2013):

- Reintroduction: release where found historically, but not there at present
- Introduction: release where not found historically
- Reinforcement: release more individuals to reinforce an existing population

Past General Meetings (cont.)

• Translocation: any of the above
Prior to any translocation, a translocation proposal form, summarising the proposed procedure and justifying its necessity must be submitted to the Department of Conservation.

Doug showed photographs and provided details of some of the translocations that have taken place up to the present:

- Between 1885 and 1897 Richard Henry moved over 700 Kakapo and Kiwi from the mainland to Resolution Island in the Fiordland region.
- Black Robin Translocation from Little Mangere, 1976/77
- Kakapo Translocations from Fiordland & Stewart Island, 1974-82
- Experimental Management of Hihi on Mokoia Island, 1994-2002
- Experimental Management of Kokako on the North Island mainland, 1989-97
- Mainland Reintroduction Sites for North Island Robins, 1997-2007

Doug showed photographs of some of the species involved, including South Island Saddleback, Stead's Bushwren, Stewart Island Snipe, Kakapo, Little Spotted Kiwi, Western Weka, Brown Teal, Takahe, Hihi, Kokako, Campbell Island Teal, North Island Robin, Fairy Prion
Summarising his talk, Doug said there had been more than 1100 translocations of 55 NZ bird species between 1863 and 2012 (Miskelly & Powlesland 2013), of which 51% had been successful.

Recent advances in procedures, to achieve a greater success rate included:

- increased focus on monitoring, research, and protocols, in NZ and internationally
- increased focus on restoration
- Predator control/ eradication/ fencing

- revegetation
- ongoing habitat management
- reintroductions for ecosystem engineering
- reintroduction from islands to the mainland
- Utilising the services of wildlife professionals and community groups

Some future challenges are:

- long-term sustainability of toxin use, fencing, and intensive management
- long-term genetics
- dispersal from managed mainland



Doug Armstrong
photographed by Peter Gower

- areas
- climate change adaptation
- potential advancements in eradication
- potential de-extinction
- improved prediction and decision-making
- information flow among researchers, managers, and stakeholders

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29

The speaker was Sharon Gillam, Threatened Species Project Officer,

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Sharon's talk provided an update of the South Australian Threatened Species Schedule Review. The aim of this project is to review the conservation status of all of South Australia's vertebrate animal, and vascular plant, taxa. This follows the Regional Species Assessment project, a major piece of work that Sharon led to identify the regional conservation status of all vertebrate animals and vascular plants at a bioregional scale. The state review is primarily being undertaken to support the National Parks and Wildlife (NPW) Act. Sharon pointed out that the threatened species schedules under the NPW Act were last updated in 2003, and so required a review. Sharon's project uses the latest version of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Guidelines for Red List Categories and Criteria, which is the international standard for classifying the conservation status of species. So far, Sharon has classified the conservation status of all the mammals and birds in South Australia, and has begun workshops for plants.

The results of the bird status assessments have indicated a number of changes since the previous review. These changes are due to several reasons, including improvements in available information, changes in interpretation of criteria, and genuine changes in status. Among the key messages was the fact that few bird species have genuinely improved their conservation status since the last review, one exception being Magpie Goose. On the other hand, a number of species have become more threatened since the last review. Notably a number of migratory shorebirds have declined, suggesting a pattern decline relating to local and global diminution of wetland and coastal habitats. Sharon finished her

Future General Meetings/Past Excursions

global diminution of wetland and coastal habitats. Sharon finished her presentation acknowledging the valuable input of Birds SA members.

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 JANUARY 29:

Tom Hunt: "The value of River Murray floodplain woodlands to mallee woodland birds"

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26

Grace Hodder: "Foraging ecology of Diamond Firetails: Implications for restoration of grassy woodlands"

FRIDAY MARCH 25

Amy Slender: "Biodiversity Offset Strategy for impacts on the eastern subspecies of the Thick-billed Grasswren, (*Amytornis textilis modestus*)"

PAST EXCURSIONS

Cox Scrub Conservation Park — 2 August

Eight people attended the excursion despite an ominous weather forecast and some threatening clouds. Luckily, we remained dry apart from a couple of light showers, but many birds remained dry as well by not venturing out into the open. Altogether, we saw only 23 species for the day.

As often happens, especially at Cox Scrub, the car park was very productive; with several Adelaide Rosellas, a small flock of Striated Thornbills, a Crescent Honeyeater and a Grey Shrike-thrush putting in an early appearance and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo was heard calling. Golden Whistlers were heard and then seen in both the car park and along the creek nearby. The Golden Whistlers, both males and females, were unusually confiding, providing good

views and much successful photography.

A female Scarlet Robin was seen and later, in an adjacent area, a male. A pair of Grey Currawongs was observed collecting nesting material amongst the sugar gums across the creek and small groups of Red-browed Finches and several Eastern Spinebills were observed on the way up the hillside. New Holland Honeyeaters provided an ebullient presence and Galahs and Little Ravens passed overhead. Three Common Bronzings were flushed during the walk, doing their usual trick of disappearing in a clatter of wings before a good look could be obtained. Superb Fairy-wrens stuttered about in the undergrowth and an occasional Weebill was heard, but not seen.

After traversing the track up to higher ground it was decided to take a different track from the one usually followed, partly because of the weather and the paucity of birds. The area of the park that was burnt in May 2013 when a 'controlled burn' became completely uncontrolled continues to regenerate well but still doesn't attract many birds. We therefore returned to lower ground and looked along the boundary beside the road where a lone Striated Pardalote was heard. We then returned to the creek and car park area.

The rain held off and we enjoyed a relaxed lunch, birdcall and even a brief bask in some welcome sunshine. Despite the lack of birds and the pile of rubbish someone had deposited in the bushes in the car park (which was later reported to the Ranger) we all agreed that the morning had made a pleasant change from hiding at home trying to avoid winter. *Viva la thermal underwear!*

Ali Ben Kahn

Jenkins Scrub, Little Mt. Crawford Forest — 15 August

This excursion made a pleasant change from our last visit when we had to abandon the walk and retreat, wet and shivering, to the bakery in Williamstown to recover with the help of hot drinks and assorted pies

and pastries. Eighteen enthusiastic participants attended and we traversed the Scrub in a clockwise direction from the parking area on Mount Rd.

During the walk we saw several Fan-tailed Cuckoos which were apparently eager to breed and looking for nests for their eggs. In one place we saw a contretemps between a Cuckoo and a honeyeater, which seemed to be upset that its nest was being 'stalked' by the Cuckoo. As a result of the Cuckoo perching in low branches and generally 'creeping about' amongst low bushes, we were able to obtain a very good look at this attractive bird. Honeyeaters present included Red Wattlebird (7), Yellow-faced (20), Brown-headed (6), White-naped (2), Crescent (20), and Eastern Spinebill (8). Crimson Rosella (10), Purple-crowned Lorikeet (2) and Galah (1) were also observed, and amongst birds heard but not seen were Australian Owlet-nightjar (1) and Spotted Pardalote (1). We also saw Silvereye (12), Varied Sittella (8) and a good assortment of Thornbills including Yellow-rumped (2), Striated (25), Brown (2) and Buff-rumped (4).

On the way back to the car park we saw a single Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring above us. A total of 35 species was seen for the day and we were able to have a pleasant lunch and bird call in the car park with no adverse weather to cope with.

Ali Ben Kahn

Porters Scrub — 12 September

A warm and sunny day saw 12 members collect to record 29 species. The park was recovering from the burn-off in 2011 and the understorey was becoming quite thick. Our walk began from the main entrance along the track to gate at the northern end followed by a return trip along the eastern ridge. Grey Fantails, Yellow-faced, Crescent and White-naped Honeyeaters were seen and White-throated Treecreepers were constantly calling from the canopy. No raptors were observed. A Shining Bronze-Cuckoo and a Fantail Cuckoo

Past Excursions (cont.)

were also heard calling but unfortunately they were not seen. Golden Whistlers were observed quite close, with numerous females lurking in the undergrowth. Crimson Rosellas, as well as Striated, Brown and Buff-rumped Thornbills were especially abundant. Two Australian Wood Ducks were observed high in the trees, presumably scouting for nesting hollows. Gunfire was less evident this morning than on previous visits, although there were occasional volleys of activity. Yellow-faced Honeyeaters calling overhead accompanied our lunch, at the main gate.

Martyn Price

Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens — 17 September

The group of twelve met in the car park on a cool 9° morning. We welcomed a visitor, Wendy Bell, and two long-term members, Anna Lester and Len Underwood, who apparently had not been on a walk for some time.

The 27mm of rain that fell on the previous day had freshened the gardens up nicely and we set off on the long uphill climb that is characteristic of this outing.

There were very few ducks in the first pond at the outset and this was still the case at the end of the walk when two Hardheads were seen to fly across to feed on some bread offered by other visitors. Only one Pacific Black Duck was present. However a group of 15 Eurasian Coots was swimming around, and 8 Wood Ducks were on the opposite bank.

We all started off feeling very positive about seeing a Bassian Thrush, but that was not to be and there was not even a hint of this elusive bird during the entire morning.

Our count for the morning was 34 species seen and the four heard, which were Horsfield's and Shining Bronze Cuckoos, Grey Shrike-thrush and White-throated Treecreeper, making 39 species altogether.

The most abundant species were 20 each of Crimson Rosella, Superb Fairy-wren and Common Blackbird.

The next highest counts were the Coots at 15 and 12 Silvereyes. Other sightings were 6 Common Bronzewing, 1 Brush Bronzewing, 4 White-browed Scrubwrens, 5 Golden Whistlers male and female, 6 Eastern Spinebills and a total of only 8 birds of three common honeyeater species. In all 195 individual birds were recorded.

No breeding activity was noted and there did not appear to be any juveniles around. No raptors were seen.

We met back at the car park for the birdcall at about midday and although there were some threatening clouds about, they did not produce any rain.

Rod Tetlow

Altona Landcare Reserve — 27 September

A fine and mild spring morning greeted the 12 members who arrived for the start of the walk. One further member, who shall remain nameless, but seems to have earned a reputation for arriving a little after the normal start time joined the outing later.

Two Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos calling near the entrance to the reserve welcomed early arrivals. A couple of members had mentioned prior to the outing that few birds had been sighted on their recent visits to the Reserve. Consequently the fact that we probably saw more orchids and other wildflowers than birds in the first 15 minutes or so was no surprise, although a bit disappointing for those that have eyes only for avifauna.

As we progressed through the Reserve the number of birds increased, although there were no large flocks of anything apart from one group of New Holland Honeyeaters. Once into the walk we did find Rufous Whistlers throughout the Reserve, with 20 individuals recorded. Mistletoebirds were also reasonably common (12) and some young birds were present.

As the group was leaving the Reserve we saw four Rainbow Bee-eaters flying over. It was not until

we sat down for lunch that we saw our first raptor for the day, a Nankeen Kestrel. The raptor count went up to two with a Square-tailed Kite drifting above the group as the bird count finished, with about 7 of the group remaining.

The species count for the day was 54 species, but many of those were only sightings of one or two birds. It was a challenging, but enjoyable outing.

Brian Walker

Birds SA October Campout 2015 — Gluepot Reserve

Twenty-seven people braved an ominous weather forecast and gathered at Bellbird Campsite for the 2015 October long weekend campout, held at the Birdlife Australia Gluepot property in the mallee country north of Waikerie. Unfortunately, despite very pleasant weather before and after the long weekend, we faced a rather drastic heat wave with temperatures gradually building from the mid-to high 30s until, according to one camper's portable weather station, it nudged 45 degrees on the Sunday. It's no wonder then that we had lost about 10 people by the Sunday evening birdcall. Unable to endure the sudden heat, they had succumbed to the call of cooler temperatures and air conditioners back home. Despite these rather trying conditions and some fraying tempers, we soldiered on and did our best to enjoy ourselves and the many beautiful birds to be seen and heard at Gluepot. Highlights included Major Mitchell Cockatoo (3) nesting out at Long Dam, Orange Chat (17) at Long and Picnic Dams and the usual 'are they aren't they' Black-eared Miner (4) and Yellow-throated Miner (15). Other Honeyeaters observed included Red Wattlebird (14), Spiny-cheeked (30), Striped (5), Singing (2), White-eared (10), Brown-headed (30), Yellow-plumed (60) and White-fronted (50) which, along with the Yellow-plumed, were extremely common in suitable areas.

Past Excursions (cont.)

Walks were understandably less popular than usual although several groups did the walk out to Whistler Tank as early as possible in the morning. Mostly small groups spread out and travelled by car to various locations, especially the dams, to see the Orange Chat and Major Mitchell Cockatoo. Being so hot, the various hides with their water troughs were also popular viewing places, especially in the afternoons and evenings. We were grateful for the article in the Birds SA May 2015 Newsletter explaining the difference between Collared Sparrowhawk and Brown Goshawk when 2 Brown Goshawk flew in to have a drink at Emu hide with one perching on the trough giving an excellent close up view. We were able to clearly see the toes and tail and so were able to easily identify it as a Brown Goshawk. Paying attention to Newsletters is definitely a good idea! Other raptors seen were Wedge-tailed Eagle (2), Collared Sparrowhawk (2) and Little Eagle (1). The 2 Collared Sparrowhawks were observed nest building near Grasswren Tank. Budgerigar were seen in small (7-13) flocks and Mulga Parrot (12) and Australian Ringneck (16), Southern Whiteface (30), White-browed Babbler (30) and Chestnut-crowned Babbler (20) were also a welcome sight.

A small tragedy struck on our last morning. Some observant campers had found several nests and we observed Red-capped Robin and Chestnut-rumped Thornbill nests. Most interesting, however, was a Jacky Winter nest with 2 small chicks keeping their parents busy rushing backwards and forwards with an endless supply of food. Alas, on Monday morning, an Australian Raven found the nest and promptly devoured the chicks for breakfast; an event directly witnessed by several people from their caravan windows. This cast a bit of a pall over everyone who watched it happening. Despite knowing that's how nature works, it doesn't make experiencing such things at first hand any less unpleasant.

A few hardy souls and a late arrival decided to stay on beyond the

Monday but the rest of us packed up with rather more alacrity than usual and headed off relatively early on Monday morning, visiting various sites around Gluepot on the way out.

In all, a total of 69 species was seen and a full bird list from the Campout can be found on the Birdpedia website. Despite the heat it was another enjoyable and productive Birds SA campout but next time, cooler please!

Ali Ben Kahn

Wyndgate Conservation Park, Hindmarsh Island — 10 October

This was the third and final outing to Wyndgate for the year. It was a very enjoyable day for the five members who attended. The day was mild with a good cloud cover and no wind, making it very pleasant for bird watching. The most notable occurrence was that we saw almost no Grey Teal on Wyndgate itself but found over 200 in the Mundoo Channel. Ten new species were recorded for Wyndgate, bringing the number of species recorded there to 56. A total of 59 species were recorded for the day. Highlights of the trip were 23 Cape Barren Geese and 4 Great Crested Grebes.

Brian Blaylock

Sandy Creek Conservation Park — 15 October

Seven people attended this excursion, once again braving hot conditions with the forecast promising 35° or more. The heat built up during the walk but there was a light, cooling breeze that made the walk more pleasant. The park in general seemed very dry and may well be in for another bout of drought conditions.

From the car park at the end of Conservation Road we followed the boundary in an anticlockwise direction. We saw a lone Common Bronzewing relaxing on the track ahead. We also encountered Crimson Rosella (6), Musk Lorikeet (2), Galah (6) and 8 Red-capped Robins, which must surely be somewhat of a record for a single day at this location! Honeyeaters included Red Wattlebird (8), White-plumed (6), Brown-headed (4) and New Holland

(8).

We enjoyed an unusually close encounter with a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo that perched on a low branch for some time, allowing good views and photographs. We also saw a Brown Goshawk which initially took some finding but which possibly had a nest in the large eucalypt to which we finally tracked it. However, by this time we had disturbed it long enough and it was making increasingly frantic alarm calls, so we beat a hasty retreat. We also saw a group of 7 Varied Sittella, 6 Silvereye and a group of 12 White-winged Chough. There was also the usual Little Raven (20), Australian Magpie (6) and Grey Currawong (4). However we did not see any Little Wattlebirds, even in the area of banksias where they are usually to be found.

When we reached the trail junction near the quarry we decided to return via the Honeyeater Trail and Firetail Link as it was becoming very hot. In this area we saw very few birds. Thirty-four species were seen for the day and a highlight was the 2 Square-tailed Kites seen by one member of the group earlier in the day before the walk began. Other raptors included Brown Goshawk (2) and Whistling Kite (1). Diamond Firetails, some of which were nest building, were also a welcome sight as these birds are becoming increasingly hard to find.

Ali Ben Kahn

Barrage Road to Beacon 19 Sir Richard's Peninsula — 1 November

Twelve members and one visitor assembled at the Goolwa Yacht Squadron before heading off to the Barrage. Since the tide was just right for waders and other water birds we were soon off to a good start. First port of call was the Water Department depot, where the first wader of the day a Common Sandpiper was spotted on the rocks. We then walked onto the Barrage proper and obtained good views of not one but two Whistling Kite nests. The first nest had one adult and one juvenile roosting to one side and

Past Excursions (cont.) / Future Excursions

We then walked onto the Barrage proper and obtained good views of not one but two Whistling Kite nests. The first nest had one adult and one juvenile roosting to one side and everyone had a good look. We walked across the Barrage to the halfway mark and were rewarded by the sight of hundreds of Pelicans feeding on fish coming through one of the open sluice gates.

We moved on to the saltwater side of the Barrage and were met with a multitude of birds: hundreds of Pink-eared Ducks as well as Hardheads and one solitary Freckled Duck. Add to that over 300 Avocets, 300 sharp-tailed Sandpipers, and Greenshanks. Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers together with Red-necked Stints and you should get the picture. We went on to Beacon 19 with more of the same except for one only Great-crested Grebe, which made the day for Enid Pasco who needed the tick for her year list.

Murray Mouth Hindmarsh Island

After a bird count and a quick coffee for the overworked and stressed-out leader we drove over to the Murray Mouth. The view from the lookout was one of very little water and lots of sand that stretched as far as Bird Island. The Dredges were working overtime trying to keep the mouth open. Anyway we could see birds in the far distance so like Laurence of Arabia we trudged over sand. It was worth the effort as we were soon amongst the birds. Red-capped Plovers and Red-necked Stints were feeding at the water's edge,

Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers, Caspian, Crested, and Whiskered Terns were roosting together. A single small white tern amid the throng came in for much attention, was it a Little or a Fairy Tern. I'm sure there will be more discussion on this but for the record I have entered it as a Little Tern. Species count for the day was 64 at the Barrage, 42 at the Mouth with an overall species count of 83 for the day.

Winston Syson

FUTURE EXCURSIONS

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

A leader has been appointed for each excursion, but another person might like to write a report of the excursion. The report, submitted to the Field Trip Co-ordinator, must include the number of attendees, birds seen or heard, the weather and any other interesting events on the day.

Please inform the FGC if you have not led an excursion, but are willing to lead one in the future. Your assistance to the Association in this role will be greatly appreciated.

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).

HOT WEATHER PROTOCOL

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

Saturday 12 December 2015: Kyeema Conservation Park (MLR) (60km)

Meet at 8.30am. This Conservation Park is on the southern end of Kuitpo Road, about 10km west of Ashbourne and 20km SW of Meadows. Travel from Meadows on Brookman Road. About 5km past Kuitpo, turn left into Woodgate Hill Road at the end of a long straight, immediately before a right hand turn. Continue as far as the Park entrance on the left.

TRIP LEADER: A Ben Kahn

Thursday 17 December 2015: Whites Road Wetlands (AP) (16km).

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

TRIP LEADER: R Tetlow

Saturday 9 January 2016: Angas River Strathalbyn (MLR) (55km).

Meet at 8.30am in the Terminus Hotel carpark (7 Catherine Street). From Adelaide the easiest drive to Strathalbyn is via Mt Barker and Wistow. The Angas River flows through the centre of the town and has paths and open areas on each side. A visit to the disused Sewerage Ponds is planned for after lunch.

TRIP LEADER: L Huxley

Thursday 14 January: Onkaparinga Wetlands (MLR) (32km)

Meet at 8.30am at Port Noarlunga Oval Car Park off Britain Drive. We will drive to the various sites from here.

TRIP LEADER: L Huxley

Sunday 31 January: Private Bushland Property of Chris and John Boland near Murray Bridge approx. 76 km southeast of Adelaide.

At the first set of lights into Murray Bridge, turn left into Maurice Road and travel 4km until the end of the bitumen. Go in the gate on the left and follow the track to the car park area. Meet at 8.30am.

TRIP LEADER: L Huxley

Saturday 13 February: Magazine Road Wetlands, Dry Creek (AP) 10km.

Meet in the car park area at 8.30am. If you are travelling northwards on South Road, continue onto Salisbury Highway heading east. The road bends to the north and there is one road off to the left. This is Magazine Rd. From the city, take Port Wakefield Road north, turning left up onto the Salisbury Highway

Future Excursions (cont.) / Bird Records

heading to Port Adelaide. Once you are on the Salisbury Highway, you need to move over to the right hand lane so you are ready to turn right into Magazine Road Wetlands.

TRIP LEADER: M Price

Thursday 18 February: Scott Creek Conservation Park (MLR) (28km)

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

TRIP LEADER: L Huxley

Sunday 28 February: Thompson Beach (61km).

This excursion will commence at 8.00am to coincide with the high tide. Travel north on the Port Wakefield Road to the Thompson Beach turnoff, on your left as you reach Dublin. Follow this road for about 10km to its end and meet at the toilet facilities at Thompson Beach.

TRIP LEADER: B Walker

BIRD WATCHING FIELD TRIPS OF THE BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA, PORT AUGUSTA GROUP

Sunday 6th December

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Car Park 7:30 am

Christmas lunch in café

Please bring Sturdy footwear, Hat, Sun protection, Morning tea, Lunch if staying longer and Binoculars.

For further information contact:

Peter – 86425723, or Greg – 86486630, or Bernie – 0419863834. or b.haase@telstra.com

BIRD RECORDS

Collated by Graham Carpenter

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

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

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

Brown Quail

3, 26/7/2015. Coorong, Gemini Downs, SE.

Green, B. *et al.*

2, 31/7/2015. Coorong, Needles Island, MM.

Green, B. & Arney, M.

Heard, 2/10/2015. 5 km SW Victor Harbor, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

Chestnut Teal

Pair + 9 young, 23/9/2015. Botanic Gardens, Adelaide, AP.

Bansemmer, B.

Australasian Shoveler

2, 19/7/2015. Balaklava sewage works, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

6, 7/8/2015. Kapunda sewage works, LN.

Carpenter, G.

1 + 10 young, 8/10/2015. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K.

One of very few breeding localities in the region.

Plumed Whistling-duck

1, 18/8/2015. Banrock Wetlands, MM.

Field, T.

Few reports along River Murray.

Pink-eared Duck

22, 24/7/2015. Osborne, Whicker Rd wetlands, AP.

Ben Kahn, A.

Blue-billed Duck

6, 6/10/2015. Lobethal Country Park, MLR.

Bainbridge, A.

Freckled Duck

320, 1/8/2015. Robe Sewage Works, SE.

Hayward, B.

Great Crested Grebe

1, 4/9/2015. Onkaparinga River, Perry's Bend, MLR.

Bainbridge, A.

1, 27/9/2015. Reynella East, Byards Rd wetland, MLR.

Connolly, H.

Flock Bronzewing

6, 1/9/2015. 14 km N Dulkaninna HS, NE.

Allen, J. & Eggins, D.

40, 24/9/2015. Mungeranie, NE.

Gould, G. *et al.*

Great Egret

1, 22/10/2015. 1 km E Nullarbor Roadhouse, NW.

Edey, D. & Russell, V-J.

Little Bittern

1, 28/9/2015. Banrock Wetlands, MM. Calling from dense reedbed throughout day.

Field, T.

Australian White Ibis

2, 25/9/2015. Birkenhead, AP. Roosting on house roof.

Ben Kahn, A.

White-bellied Sea-eagle

Immature, 17/7/2015. Port Macdonnell, Stoney Point, SE.

Campbell, J. & S.

Immature, 18/7/2015. Mount Gambier, Hawkins Rd, SE. Probably the same bird.

Green, B.

Bird Records (cont.)

Square-tailed Kite

Pair at nest, 27/9/2015. Para Wirra NP, MLR. First seen (1 bird) on 22 August.

Gredley, S.

Osprey

2, 17/5/2015. Mutton Cove, AP. Murphy, K.
1, 23/8/2015

Carter, D.

Black Falcon

Pair + 3 young, 3/11/2015. Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Buff-banded Rail

2, 4/10/2015. American River foreshore, KI. Feeding among samphire on tidal creek.

Baxter, C.

Lewin's Rail

5, 16/8/2015. Finniss River, Finniss, MM. Calling from dense reedbeds.

Jaensch, R.

Baillon's Crake

1, 5/9/2015. Rocks Reserve, 8 km E Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

2, 23/9/2015. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K.

Spotless Crake

1 + 2 young, 8/10/2015. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Smith, S. & Williams, K.

Australian Bustard

14, 16/9/2015. 50 km S Marla, NW.

Taylor, P. & Smith, P.

Adult + juvenile, 12/10/2015. S of Malbooma, NW.

Carpenter, G. *et al.*

Few reports of breeding in SA.

Inland Dotterel

2, 18/9/2015. 7km S Florieton, MM.

Carpenter, G.

Fairy Tern

110, 31/7/2015. Coorong, Swan Point, MM, 18/7/2015. Riddoch Bay, McKinnon Lane beach, SE.

Campbell, J. & S.

Beach Stone-curlew

1, 22/8/2015. Port Macdonnell, Cape Douglas, SE.

Tsernjavski, P.

Also at this locality on 24/9/2015

Letheby, R

Also at this locality on 22/10/2015

Pascoe, E. & Russell, T.

First reported (at this site) in March 2015 (see SAOA Newsletter 234)

Pied Oystercatcher

1, 2/10/2015. Yilki Reef, MLR. First observation in this area, which is generally frequented by small nos. of Sooty Oystercatchers.

Carpenter, G.

Pair + nest, 6/10/2015. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Green, B. & Arney, M.

A large number for this species in recent years.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

300, 5/7/2015. Hallett Cove CP, MLR.

Judson, A.

300+, 8/8/2015. Peake, Hortles Well Rd, MM.

Schmaal, I.

75, 23/8/2015. Currency Creek, MM.

Syson, W.

23, 20/10/2015. Gilberton, AP. Also a pair plus immature reported to have roosted in area overnight on 21/10/2015.

Paton, P.

Several reports from AP in mid October, which is earlier than the last few years. Also not previously known to overnight on AP, with birds generally flying back to the hills each night.

Red-backed Kingfisher

2, 20/10/2015. 3km E Port Wakefield, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Rufous Fieldwren

Several, 18/9/2015. 7km S Florieton, MM. In Pearl Bluebush shrubland.

Carpenter, G.

White-throated Gerygone

1, 20/10/2015. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM. In 10-year old revegetation.

Doecke, M.

2, 29/8/2015. Redbanks CP, LN. Feeding in canopy of flowering mallees.

Dennis, T.

First record from this region. Irregular spring visitor to SA, with breeding recorded at Aldinga Scrub in the early 1980s.

Pied Honeyeater

9, 29/8/2015. 15 km S Parachilna, FR.

Allen, J. & Eggins, D.

Singing Honeyeater

1, 31/8/2015. Sturt Gorge RP, W end, MLR

Close, D.

First record in area in 45 years.

2+, 22/10/2015. Onkaparinga Gorge, Porosa Track, MLR. In olives on steep hillside.

Carpenter, G.

Usually associated with coastal scrubs in this region.

Chestnut Quail-thrush

Female, 30/10/2015. Monarto CP, MM.

Eaton, F.

It is pleasing to hear that this species still occurs in this area.

White-winged Triller

Male, 6/10/2015. Salisbury Heights, AP. In suburban garden.

Hayward, L.

Male, 25/10/2015. Cleland CP, MLR.

Spiers, J.

2 males, 6/10/2015. Snellings Beach, KI

Ramsay, K.

Three previous reports from KI (see Chris Baxter's 2015 'Birds of Kangaroo Island')

Bird Records (cont.)

Rufous Whistler

1, 26/9/2015. Dudley Peninsula, Rocky Point, KI.

Rischbeith, H.

Few records from KI. Reported from same area in 2000 (see 'Birds of Kangaroo Island')

Olive-backed Oriole

1 adult, 17/8/2015. Chowilla Regional Reserve, MM.

Kieskamp, H.

1, 4/9/2015. Vista, AP.

Russell, T.

1, 23/10/2015. Sandy Creek CP, MLR.

Philcox, J.

Little Woodswallow

2, 14/10/2015. Malbooma Rocks, NW. Roosting in dead mulgas near granite outcrops.

Carpenter, G. *et al.*

White-browed Woodswallow

500, 29/10/2015. Belair, MLR. Flying high overhead on sunny day.

Carpenter, G.

Little Crow

5, 7/8/2015. Saltia, Albury Creek, FR.

Langdon, P.

Forest Raven

Heard, 19/10/2015. Mandina Lakes, SE. Identified by characteristic deep call.

Pedler, L.

Near the northern limit of this species in SA.

Diamond Firetail

2, 8/8/2015. Halbury Parklands, LN.

Taylor, P.W.

European Goldfinch

1, 16/8/2015. Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Few reports away from wetter parts of the hills, usually in winter.

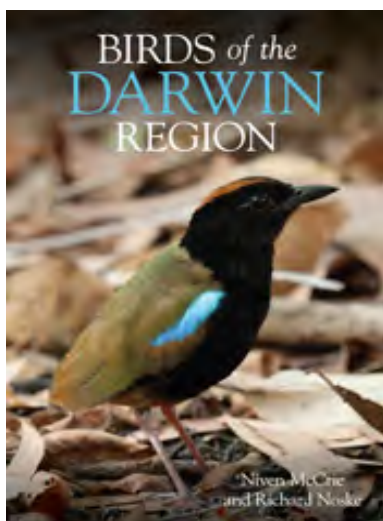
Erratum

On p23 of the August 2015 Newsletter, the Northern Gannets (photograph 14) were photographed in Iceland.



Members enjoying a birding excursion to Currency Creek on 30 August
Photographed by Peter Gower

News From the library



McCrie, Niven & Noske, Richard

Birds of the Darwin region

Melbourne: CSIRO Publishing. 2015

ISBN: 9781486300341

Birds of the Darwin Region is the first comprehensive treatment of the avifauna of Darwin, a city located in Australia's monsoon tropics, in which seasons are defined by rainfall rather than by temperature. With its mangrove-lined bays and creeks, tidal mudflats, monsoon rainforests, savanna woodlands and freshwater lagoons, Darwin has retained all of its original habitats in near-pristine condition, and is home or host to 323 bird species. Unlike other Australian cities, it has no established exotic bird species.

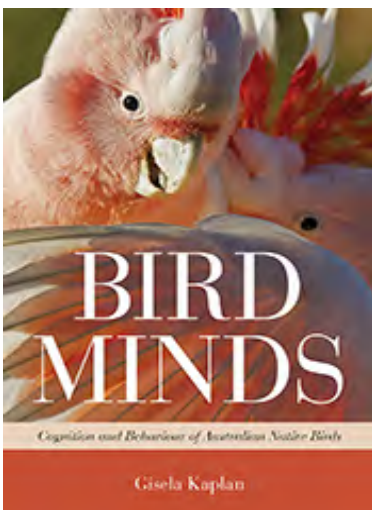
Kaplan, Gisela

Bird minds: cognition and behaviour of Australian native birds

Melbourne, CSIRO Publishing

ISBN 9781486300181

Gisela Kaplan demonstrates how intelligent and emotional Australian birds can be. She describes complex behaviours such as grieving, deception, problem solving and use of tools. Many Australian birds cooperate and defend each other, and exceptional ones go fishing by throwing breadcrumbs in the water, extract poisonous parts from prey and use tools to crack open eggshells and mussels. The author brings together evidence of many such cognitive abilities, suggesting plausible reasons for their appearance in Australian birds.



FOR SALE

Kowa TSN-4 Prominar series spotting scope with 25x, 40x and 60x eyepieces \$750;

plus 800mm telephoto adapter to suit Canon camera body \$150.

Contact Terry Dennis 8524 5561 or 0409 527 654

email osprey842@gmail.com

This and That Page

NEW MEMBERS

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

Ashley John Addington	KINGSWOOD	Maree Annette Merchant	SALISBURY EAST
John Christie Hayes & Lindsay Iona Kellett	MILE END	Arron Colin Broom	ROSTREVOR
Wendy Bell	N.ADELAIDE	Jude Meacham	HACKHAM WEST
Annie Hopkins	ROYSTON PARK	Athol Raymond Paton	BROOKLYN PARK

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our treasurer. His 'phone number is on p3.

Details of Photographs on pp2, 26 and 28

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Kay Parkin	Monarto CP	29/09/2015
2	Purple-gaped Honeyeater	Kay Parkin	Port Lincoln	July 2015
3	Red-headed Honeyeater	Peter McKenzie	Broome	20/10/2015
4	Crescent Honeyeater	Kay Parkin	Adelaide Hills	08/08/2015
5	Inland Thornbill	Paul Taylor	Port Wakefield	13/10/2015
6	Slender-billed Thornbill	Paul Taylor	Port Wakefield	13/10/2015
7	Double-barred Finches	Peter McKenzie	Broome	09/10/2015
8	Apostlebirds	Paul Tucker	Barmera	04/2/2015
9	Little Curlews	Peter McKenzie	Broome	October 2015
10	Scarlet Robin	Kay Parkin	Kyeema CP	29/9/2015
11	Diamond Firetail	Kay Parkin	Monarto CP	29/09/2015
12	Male Rufous Whistler	Peter McKenzie	Broome	12/10/2015
13	Broad-billed Flycatcher	Peter McKenzie	Broome	17/10/2015



Photos 5 & 6

Flocking Together



An Important Event!!

Tolderol Wetlands Open Day!

Come and join the celebration of the Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands environmental watering

Friday 4th December
8.00 am - bird survey
11.00 am - celebration

The delivery of environmental water to Tolderol is a community-driven project providing significant habitat for shorebirds that have travelled the globe. Come and meet those involved, hear about what's happening next and mingle with the birds!

RSVP: Monday 30th November
Regina Durbridge
Email: regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au



GOOLWA TO WELLINGTON LOCAL ACTION PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC

 **Natural Resources**
SA Murray-Darling Basin


Government of South Australia



This project has been supported by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board through the NRM levy and by Birds SA .

Bushland Colour

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