



Linking people with birds
in South Australia

The Birder

No 237

February 2016



In This Issue:

Giving Them Wings

The Waitpinga Sea Eagles
have bred this year!

A glimpse of our Past

An SAOA excursion in 1938.

Easter Campout

Explore some Upper
Southeast birdwatching sites

AGM Agenda

Please join our committee

Birds SA aims to:

- Promote the conservation of Australian birds and their habitats.
- Encourage interest in, and develop knowledge of, the birds of South Australia.
- Record the results of research into all aspects of bird life.
- Maintain a public fund called the "Birds SA Conservation Fund" for the specific purpose of supporting the Association's environmental objectives.

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Scarlet Robin,
photographed by Kay Parkin
in Kyeema Conservation
Park in September 2015

**CENTRE INSERT, SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 55,
JOHN SUTTON'S OUTER HARBOR NOTES, PART 4**

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 Birder'.

Sunday 28 February	Excursion to Thompson Beach
Saturday 12 March	Excursion to Riverglades etc.
Thursday 17 March	Excursion to Hindmarsh River etc.
Friday 25 to Monday 28 March Easter Campout at Keith	
Friday 1 April	AGM and General Meeting
Saturday 9 April	Excursion to White's Road Wetlands.
Thursday 21 April	Excursion to Montacute CP
Friday 29 April	General Meeting
Sunday 1 May	Excursion to Monarto and Ferries-McDonald CP
Saturday 14 May	Excursion to Mt. Billy CP etc.
Thursday May 19	Excursion to Shepherds Hill RC
Friday 27 May	General Meeting
Sunday 29 May	Excursion to Swan Reach CP

Cover photo: Elegant Parrots, photographed by Kay Parkin at Price, in February 2016

New Members

We welcome 23 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p 7.

President's Message

CONGRATULATIONS – BIRD SURVEY IN SE

Hearty congratulations to Lynn Pedler who was awarded BirdLife Australia's J.N. Hobbs Memorial Medal for his outstanding contributions to ornithology as an amateur scientist for 2015. To my knowledge Lynn is the first South Australian to be awarded the medal. Much of his work has been associated with discoveries of isolated populations of birds such as the Flinders Ranges Chestnut-rumped Heathwren and the Gawler Ranges Short-tailed Grasswren, and pioneering studies on the Chestnut-breasted Whiteface. His other important contributions have been with the recovery of the Glossy Black Cockatoo population on Kangaroo Island, and assisting with the Black-eared Miner recovery program.

Every five years or thereabouts, the State Government's Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources reviews the status of birds in South Australia and generally relies on expert opinion for confirming the status and any changes to that status. Several Birds SA members sit on the panel that reviews the status of South Australian birds. Unlike the Mt Lofty region near Adelaide most regions of the state are poorly known and so any assessments are at best based on hunches.

To help provide a better basis for documenting changes in distributions of species, Birds SA will start a more intensive program (an atlas) to document the current distributions of birds in the South East of South Australia. The survey will begin on the 1 March 2016 and run for 2 years. The northern boundary of the survey area is the Northing 6100000, which runs just a little north of Lameroo and Pinnaroo. The western boundary is the Easting 380000, which is just a little east of Salt Creek while the eastern boundary is just over the SA-VIC border by about 3 km (Easting 500000). Over the next 2 years Birds SA will arrange to have several weekend camps in the South East to help generate distributional data. The methods will be the same as the methods for the recently completed bird atlas of the Mt Lofty Region. If you live in the South East, or plan to visit the South East please contribute to this survey. Atlas cards for recording your observations can be obtained from me at general meetings or posted to country members. Best contact for me is via email david.paton@adelaide.edu.au.

David Paton



Hooded Plovers, photographed by John Spiers on Basham's Beach, Port Elliot on 1/2/1016

Birds SA Notes & News

TRIBUTE TO RON GIBBS

Ronald Malcolm Gibbs AM, conservationist, teacher, historian. 28.11.1938-16.9.2015.

Only a few long standing members will remember Ron as a leader in this Association during a challenging period in its history.

Ron joined as a junior member and, as a teenager, frequented the Waite Arboretum where he might see Flame Robins and other birds now long gone from the suburbs. In 1962 he was one of four invited speakers at a public meeting held by the Association that led directly to the foundation of a formalised conservation movement in South Australia.

During one school holiday he and Dick Schodde caught the Morgan train as far as Eudunda, camping nearby before riding their bikes 20 or 30 km further to the small mallee holding of Erhard Boehm, a much published but entirely self-trained ornithologist, who introduced Ron to the subtle beauty and remarkable diversity of South Australia's arid and semiarid landscapes. The love of such country never dimmed for him and the relationships between persevering individuals such as Boehm and the peculiar environment in which we South Australians live is reflected in his life work on our colonial history.

As a high school teacher Ron published his first book 'A History of South Australia' in 1969 and his second 'The Aborigines' in 1974. Both ran to many editions. He was a founder member and first president of the Historical Society of South Australia and he made extended commitments to the State Heritage Committee and History Trust and to the Australian Dictionary of Biography. In recognition of his service to education and history he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1982.

As a professional historian from 1981 Ron published four further major books on history in South Australia, including 'Bulls, Bears and Wildcats', a centenary history of the Stock Exchange of Adelaide (1988). The culmination of his life of research 'Under the Burning Sun', a comprehensive history of colonial South Australia, was published in 2013.

Each year Ron went camping and bird watching in the outback with his wife Margaret and friends, recognising the birds by their 1960s names on hearing their calls. On 4 September he enjoyed views of Redthroats and a Red-backed Kingfisher at Warraweena. He died in his sleep less than a fortnight later.

Andrew Black

REPORT ON THE WEA BIRDS SA 'INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS & BIRDWATCHING COURSE', OCT/NOV 2015.

The WEA Introduction to Birds and Birdwatching Course has now been completed, it ran for 6 weeks (Oct 14th to Nov 18th) every Wednesday night from 8pm till 9.30pm, it was facilitated by Birds SA members John Hatch, John Spiers and John Gitsham.

Twenty-five keen participants had enrolled — the course was booked out! There was a regular attendance of approximately 21 keen participants every Wednesday night.

We also conducted two birding field trips: one at Thorndon Park near Athelstone on 2nd Nov, which was very successful with a total of about 45 bird species seen on the Sunday morning. The second Birding Field Trip and completion of the course was at Laratinga Wetland Mt Barker on 22nd Nov. It was a beautiful sunny morning and the group saw 53 species of birds, including Freckled Ducks. We were joined by Birds SA member and "Fleurieu Birds Book" author Peter Gower. Peter filled in for John Hatch who was still recovering from his recent hip operation.

The overwhelming reaction to the course by the participants was very positive. They all said they had enjoyed it and learned a lot about birds from the three Johns.

Hopefully we will get some new members as well! About 10 of the participants were already Birds SA members.

Birds SA (the three Johns) will run the course again at the WEA Centre next Oct 2016, if they'll have us back, which I'm sure they will, as the Bird Course was such a resounding success.

John Gitsham
(photograph on the next page)

Birds SA Notes & News (cont)



WEA Group at Laratinga Wetlands

DOCUMENTS NEEDING A NEW HOME

Our library shelves are becoming very short of space and the University will not allow any further bookshelves in the room. Something will have to be removed to make room for new additions to our collection.

Our librarian, Karen Donkin, has suggested that the bound editions of The Corella, which have not been borrowed for a long time, could be removed and offered to members free of charge. Committee members are very happy for this to happen.

We have been receiving The Corella since 1986. Five years' copies are bound into one document. None have been bound since 2005.

Volumes 1-39 of The Corella are available on the internet at the Australian Bird Study Association website.

Please contact Karen if you are interested in obtaining some, or all, of these bound editions. Her 'phone number is 0402123960 and her email address is kaz.donkin@gmail.com.

Cynthia Pyle

A (LONG TIME) PAST EXCURSION

On 12 June 1938 a small group of SAOA members and friends took part in an excursion to Port Gawler at the mouth of the Gawler River. During a lunch break, the group was photographed, possibly by Herb Condon, the Curator of Birds at the South Australian Museum.

Recently a friend loaned me 13 photographs, taken on the day, including two group photographs, which

are shown on the next page. The other photographs were chiefly of mangroves and Pied Cormorants and their nests.

The only information about the photographs was a comment next to one — "A trip to Port Gawler by some members of the SA Ornithological Society, June 12th 1938". However, with the help of the late Bob Brown (who was on the excursion — aged 17), Dr Philippa Horton and Dr. Andrew Black, we have been able to identify 5 of the 6 people in the top photo. On the far left is a youthful Bob Brown, then Bernard Cotton (conchologist at the Museum, later Curator of Molluscs). Second from the left, wearing a hat and glasses, Howard Jarman (joined 1935), Warren Hitchcock (joined 1936) and an unknown cadet at the Museum. The reclining person is Samuel Terrill. As Herb Condon is not in either photograph, it is believed that he was the photographer.

In the second photograph, only Bob on the left and Bernard Cotton second from the right could be identified with any certainty. Bob is holding a freshly dead Pied Cormorant, the specimen most likely attributed to him as collected on 12 June 1938. For that date, the Museum has bird specimens collected by Bob Brown, Herb Condon, Bernard Cotton, Warren Hitchcock, Samuel Terrill and Howard Jarman.

Acknowledgment: Thanks to Wayne Abbott for loan of the Photographs.

Bill Matheson, OAM

Memories of a long-ago SAOA Excursion

SEE TEXT ON PREVIOUS PAGE



This and That...

FRIENDS OF ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL BIRD SANCTUARY

The Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Ian Hunter MLC announced late last year the establishment of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) basically covering the coastal areas from Barker Inlet to Port Parham.

The Friends of AIBS is an association composed of people in the community volunteering their time and skills in maintaining and improving the Sanctuary. Members will work with DEWNR and relevant local and government agencies to this end. There has been one meeting so far of people interested in forming the **Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary**. The meeting venue is the Mawson Lakes Hotel, 10 Main Street, Mawson Lakes

Bev Harman

beverleyharman@gmail.com

or text to 0412 952 945

BUSHLARK BULGE

Below are 2 photos of a Horsfield's Bushlark and I have a query about the bulge on its underside. I thought maybe an egg to be laid, and I would appreciate any information on this.

The photos were taken 9km due north of Port Wakefield on 15 November 2015

Paul Taylor



Bushlark with Bulge

NEW MEMBERS

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

Lewis Chinner	PARA HILLS
Jan Webber	MODBURY HEIGHTS
Anne Kirk	COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS
Claire & Jim Sweeney	MALVERN
Angela Granegger	BLACKWOOD
Karen Rachel James & Peter Alan Johnson	SEMAPHORE
Judith Ann Trembath	FULLARTON
David Bacchus	GRANGE
John Newland	BRIGHTON
Graham & Jan Thomas	SEAFORD
Pauline Kemp	NAILSWORTH
Belinda Lee & Tahnee Alyce Battersby	SCOTT CREEK
Timothy Russell	TORRENS PARK
Graham & Helen Bald	MOUNT BARKER
Sue Croser	KILKENNY
Ted Hudson	NURIOOTPA
Graham Allen & Kay Rush	MELROSE PARK

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

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

WAITPINGA SEA EAGLE NEWS:

Update

As reported in the last newsletter, although very late in the season there were encouraging signs of breeding behaviour possibly occurring at the sole remaining sea eagle territory on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Now we are delighted (and relieved!) to report that this behaviour culminated in a successful breeding event with one young fledging in the nest in mid-January. It has since been seen away from the nest area in early February, together with the adults nearby. The parents showed strong parental/territorial behaviour toward passing Wedge-tailed Eagles. So a great result from this unsettled territory for the 2015-16 season. However, to put it in context, it is only the second successful fledging there over the last fifteen years, the last being in 2008!

Terry Dennis and Elizabeth Steele-Collins

Members are requested to contribute to the current Birds SA supported Coastal Raptor Survey project by reporting sightings of juvenile sea eagles (with images if possible) from anywhere in the state (NB until the end of March — after which they disperse away from their natal area)

to either **Sharie Detmar** or **Terry Dennis**
Sharie.Detmar@sa.gov.au or **osprey842@gmail.com**



Photograph taken by Dave Armstrong (DEWNR) from a boat. It shows a recently fledged Sea Eagle on Kangaroo Island

Past General Meetings

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30

Ian Falkenberg – "Threats and Conservation Priorities for Diurnal Raptors in South Australia".

Ian began his talk by providing information about the status of Australian raptors considered threatened or at risk of extinction. In South Australia Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle are listed as Endangered and Square-tailed Kite, Black-breasted Buzzard, Grey Falcon, Peregrine Falcon and Grey Goshawk are listed as vulnerable. Nationally the Square-tailed Kite and Grey Falcon are listed as rare. In addition to the above, Black Falcon and Little Eagle have been recommended for addition to the list whilst the regional status of Wedge-tailed Eagle has been recommended for consideration. The main threats to all species are habitat destruction and disturbance. Ian provided details of most species in turn.

White-bellied Sea Eagle: A significant contraction in the historical breeding range; mainland territories are rated as highly disturbed (e.g. wind turbines, housing, recreational activities, hang gliders, direct persecution, etc.); Seasonal Habitat Access Restrictions based on spatial buffer zones are used to enhance breeding success. Prescribing spatial buffer zones of 2,000m radius around nest sites in open coastal landscapes is vitally important at disturbed sites. (Dennis et al. 2011).

Osprey: Mainland territories are rated as highly disturbed (e.g. housing, recreational activities, etc.); Seasonal Habitat Access Restrictions based on spatial buffer zones are used to enhance breeding success. Prescribing spatial buffer zones of up to 1,000m radius around nest sites in open coastal landscapes is vitally important at disturbed sites (T. Dennis 2007). Enhanced breeding success can be achieved through the use of artificial nesting platforms.

Square-tailed Kite: A highly specialized hunter; takes most prey in canopy (e.g. miners, wattle birds etc.); described as a tree-top harrier. Data suggests low densities and large home ranges; main threat is habitat fragmentation, effects on foraging efficiency and food supplies; nesting density is 1 pair per 170km² & 1 pair per 120km² (NSW) (Lutter et al. 2003); kites readily habituate to major disturbance; tolerant of disturbance near the nest & seems to favour heavily settled areas.

Peregrine Falcon: Conflict between falcons and pigeon fanciers and direct persecution by pigeon fanciers. Falcons are vulnerable to fox predation on accessible cliff sites. Galahs and Feral Pigeons form a significant part of the peregrines diet in the Mid North of SA.

Little Eagle: Capable of relatively fast flight and regularly prey on other birds, reptiles and rabbits.

Wedge-tailed Eagle: Anecdotally WTE in SA were widely persecuted; Results of a Baseline Survey of Raptors in Mid North 2008/09 (T. Dennis 2009) showed higher numbers of WTE recorded in Autumn than Spring and the aggregation of juveniles and sub-adults in specific areas appears to be related to food availability; Direct persecution of eagles remains a serious problem in some parts of SA; Wind turbines may also pose a threat to eagle survival; Removal of individuals from a population may create a dispersal sink for Juvenile eagles from the wider population.

Grey Goshawk: Occurs in suitable forest areas in SE; highly specialized hunter; main threat is habitat loss and fragmentation; limited data on this species in SA.

Ian also discussed Falconry, Use of birds of prey and the Persecution of Eagles.

Falconry: Minority groups are lobbying to legalise falconry in Australia. The International Colving of species of birds of prey not occurring naturally should be carefully controlled to prevent accidental introduction of a breeding population; keeping birds of prey for financial reward should be strictly limited to zoos of official status. Each falconer should be licensed.

Use of birds of prey in mitigating abundant bird damage: the technique may constitute falconry, which is illegal; it is not effective in achieving long-term results. It only shifts the problem. There are insufficient birds of prey in captivity to support an industry. There is potential for raptors to escape to the wild when free flying; and there may be animal welfare issues if bird weight/food intake and work rate aren't carefully managed.

Persecution of eagles: In 2010 a landowner was reported for killing over 300 WTEs on his property. A search of this property revealed nearly 100 WTE carcasses buried at 2 dump sites plus 5 other dump sites found. Other landowners in the area are strongly suspected of killing large numbers of eagles.

Issues with landowners claiming that eagles are killing significant numbers of lambs are common. Most reports of predation occur in marginal cropping and farming areas where significant land management issues, such as minimal ground cover and soil erosion are evident; other issues involve timing of lambing — late summer to autumn, maintaining moderate to high stocking rates, high incidence of lamb and ewe mortalities. Few landowners undertake regular fox control. Those that

Past General Meetings (cont)

do, only fox bait during lambing time. There is little cooperation with neighbours and other nearby landowners to deal with predation. In traditional stock husbandry practices, lambs also die of starvation, mismothering, weather and fox predation.

Impact of Wind Farms: The Waterloo wind farm was constructed in late 2009 and 2010. Turbines were located near a remnant area of Peppermint Box woodland where WTE successfully produced young in 2008 and 2009 at this nest but it was abandoned in 2010. In May 2012 a report was received from local landowner about a dead WTE near one of the wind turbines at Waterloo wind farm. Strike by wind turbine blade is the only plausible cause of the wing fracture that occurred 2 to 3 weeks prior to death. A wing fracture is terminal because the eagle is unable to obtain prey. The bird was alive for at least 2 weeks following the injury and starvation would have been the cause of death. Post mortem and radiographic examinations demonstrated a distal mid shaft oblique compound fracture to the humerus, associated with bony callus formation and proliferation of granulation tissue along the skin defect margins.

The cumulative effects of persecution and a concentration of inappropriately placed wind farms could have severe implications for raptor populations. Even low rates of eagle mortality can have a substantial effect on low-density populations.

Ridgelines as flyways and hunting corridors: Wedge-tailed Eagles typically forage along ridgelines. These ridgelines thus become hunting corridors and local flight paths between foraging areas. The ridgelines also may provide some benefit for updrafts and thermals for travelling or foraging eagles.

Summing up his talk Ian spoke about the conservation priorities for threatened or near threatened raptors in Australia, other than preservation of habitat. Recovery or management programs are needed for Osprey, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Square-tailed Kite and Peregrine Falcon. Targeted research to identify key conservation areas and requirements for management plan are proposed for Grey Falcon, Black Falcon, Black-breasted Buzzard, Grey Goshawk, Little Eagle and Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Ian gave thanks to Nick Birks for some of the photographs and Terry Dennis for data from his research on the Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle.

NOVEMBER 27 — MEMBER'S NIGHT.

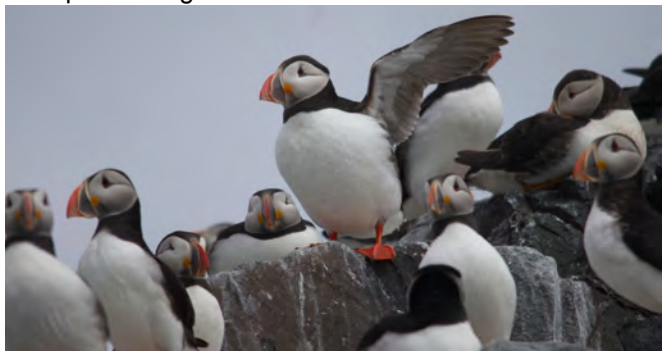
Jody Gates – The Birds SA New Website

Jody gave members an outline of the new Birds SA website which has been designed by Ecocreative. He spoke about branding, colours, logo, and the content of the web pages. Members gave overwhelming support for the new logo.

Brian Walker - "The Wildlife of the Highlands and Islands of the United Kingdom".

Brian's talk started off on the Isle of Wight where he showed photographs of the Red Squirrel and a Comma (a butterfly). Next stop was In the Cairngorms and the Eastern Highlands where a visit was made to the Glenlivet Estate. Fauna shown were Eurasian Oystercatcher, Northern Lapwing, Mountain Hare, Brown Hare, Northern Wheatear, Willow Ptarmigan, Horned (Slavonian) Grebe, Hooded Crow, and Common Eider. On the Insh Marshes we saw Eurasian Curlew and Rock Ptarmigan and in the Outer Hebrides there were Black Guillemot, Arctic Tern, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Eurasian Golden Plover, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Turnstone, Whooper Swan, Harbour Seal, Otter and Short-eared Owl. In Wester Ross photographs of Common Sandpiper, Great Northern Diver, Corn Bunting, Siskin, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Robin, Common Redpoll, Twite, Raven and Highland Cattle were photographed.

Northern Gannet were photographed on Bass Rock. On the Farne Islands we saw Atlantic Puffin (shown in photograph), Common Guillemot, Razorbill and European Shag.



Atlantic Puffins, photographed by Brian Walker

John Gitsham — "A Winter Birding along Victoria's coastline".

John showed photographs of birds taken on a trip including Werribee Wetlands, Philip Island, Geelong, Apollo Bay, Warnambool and Portland. He showed photos of Pied Oystercatcher, Red-capped Dotterel, Black-shouldered Kite, Nankeen Kestrel, Black Swan, Black-faced Cormorant, Australian Shelduck, Little Black Cormorant, Superb Fairywren, Grey

Past General Meetings (cont)

Shrikethrush,
Sulphur-crested
Cockatoo, Galah,
Australian White
Ibis, Cape Barren
Goose, Eurasian
Coot, White-bellied
Sea Eagle, Little
Wattlebird, Brolga,
Musk Duck, Pink-
eared Duck,
Whistling Kite,
Striated Fieldwren,
Little Pied
Cormorant,
Silvereye, Blue-
billed Duck, Red-
necked Avocet,
Yellow-billed
Spoonbill, Royal
Spoonbill, Great
Egret, White-faced
Heron, Australasian
Swampphen, Red-
kneed Dotterel,
White-fronted Chat
and White-necked Stilt.



Winter Birding along the Victorian Coastline



Andrew Black — "Dr Morgan's new Quailthrush Recognition for a distinctive but long neglected bird".

John Gould described the Chestnut Quailthrush *Cinlosoma castanotum* in 1840 from "the belts of the Murray". In 1902 Morgan collected a female quailthrush at Donald Plains, Yardea and a male at Wipipippee, east of Lake Gairdner, Nonning. The male seemed to be very highly coloured. In 1925 Morgan and Parsons collected further specimens in the Kimba-Iron Knob area. The 1902 male differed from them and even more remarkably from Murray Mallee specimens. In Volume 8 of the *South Australian Ornithologist* Morgan described *Cinlosoma castanotum clarum*: the chestnut back band was "lighter but brighter" and more extensive. Habitat was Mulga, Myall, and Sandalwood etc. EP birds similar to WA (*dundasi*) but all differed from Murray Mallee specimens.

In 1951 Condon described *Cinlosoma castanotum morgani* from Eyre Peninsula as intermediate between *C.c. clarum* and *C.c. castanotum*. This taxon is no longer recognised. Julian Ford's studies in 1981 and 1983 showed that SE and SW birds similar with narrow back bands; arid zone birds have broad back bands ("clarum"); SW birds extend east, south of the Nullarbor; extensive intergradient

populations in sw WA and on Eyre Peninsula and he recognised no subspecies.

Schodde and Mason (1999) described *C.c. castanotum* in SE with narrow chestnut burgundy band extending to scapulars. *C.c. clarum* in interior with broad chestnut rust band extending to scapulars. *C.c. fordianum* in SW, sub-coastally to far W coast of EP, greyer with chestnut burgundy band on back only. *C.c. clarum-fordianum* intergrades in interior WA and *C.c. castanotum-clarum-fordianum* intergrades on EP.

DNA studies carried out by Toon et al. (2012) and Dolman & Joseph (2015) described seven Australian quailthrush species, including two "chestnut quailthrush" species separated by Spencer Gulf. Morgan's quailthrush is a new species *Cinlosoma clarum*. There are two subspecies *C. clarum clarum* and *C. clarum fordianum* with extensive intergradient populations.

An English Name? The International Ornithological Conference proposed the name Copperback Quailthrush which is descriptive of *clarum* but not *fordianum*. Morgan's Quailthrush is favoured by some. Andrew suggested the name Variable Quailthrush, which reflects its varied phenotype and habitat.

The varieties of "chestnut Quailthrush" in SA - *C. castanotum* in Murray Mallee; *C. clarum clarum* in Yellabinna, Great Victoria Desert and NW; *C. clarum fordianum* in Yalata-Eucla area and *C. c. clarum-fordianum* on Eyre Peninsula.

Future General Meetings/Past Excursions

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 APRIL 1

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

FRIDAY APRIL 29

AGM — See agenda below

Greg Kerr (Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula, DEWNR) — Using local communities to monitor the state and trend of birds across Eyre Peninsula.

FRIDAY MAY 27

Pete Copley (DEWNR) - Volunteering for Conservation Programs in South America

AGM AGENDA

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting on Friday 29 April 2016 is:

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 24 April 2015
3. Presentation of the Annual Report for 2015.
4. Presentation of the Financial Report for 2015.
5. Election of the Management Committee for 2016/2017
 - President
 - Two Vice Presidents
 - Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Field Program Coordinator
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Journal Editor
 - Bird Records Secretary
 - Membership Officer andNot fewer than three nor more than five ordinary Committee Members
6. Appointment of an auditor
7. Any other business of which notice in writing has been given by two members at a preceding meeting

PAST EXCURSIONS

Sturt Gorge Recreation Park — 20 August

Only 5 members and 2 non-members, none of us experts, turned up on a surprisingly warm morning, after weeks of winter chill. We had no leader but luckily some members knew the area well. Despite the warmth, birds mostly stayed hidden out of the strong wind. We identified only 26 species, but then there were highlights. These included a pair of Peregrine Falcons — a nesting box is attached to the dam wall — plus a male Rufous Whistler strutting his piece so we all had a good look, and a male Mistletoebird, which sat facing us with red chest glowing. Early arrivals also spotted a flock of 40 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, which were not on the Birds SA checklist for the area. All in all, it was a very pleasant morning.

Barbara Godfrey

Currency Creek Gorge and Black Swamp — 30 August

Currency Creek

It was a cool 7 degrees when 15 members assembled in the car park of the Lion's Reserve, which is the starting point for the short trip up the gorge. The bird list was well under way as the last of the group arrived. Maned Duck with young, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and Adelaide Rosella were soon on the list. We headed off and people were amazed at the sight of the Currency Creek Bridge, which towers 23m above the gorge and consists of 5 x 11.9m spans. The creek was flowing strongly as we went ahead in single file. Birds were initially scarce but began to appear as we moved higher up the side of the gorge. The songs of several Grey Shrikethrushes filled the air and one bird was observed with nest building material. We saw a male Golden Whistler and a Mistletoebird. White-plumed and New Holland Honeyeaters were everywhere. The chatter from these birds was a signal to look up and spot a Collared Sparrowhawk as it flew high above us.

The top of the Gorge was a sight to behold with a waterfall tumbling down over large slabs of rock. The group took time out for a photo stop courtesy of Peter Gower.

The best bird of the day for me was Crested Shriketit. The bird list was compiled back at the Lions Park with a quick cuppa in glorious sunshine with 40 species listed.

Black Swamp

After completing the bird count for Currency Creek Gorge we made the short drive to Black Swamp.

Past Excursions (cont)

Black Swamp is on private property owned by Currency Creek Winery and is an easy 3km walk. We parked in the winery car park and then it was a short walk to the starting point. 106 bird species including Southern Emu-wren have been recorded at this site. The swamp habitat is also an important refuge for several rare native fish and the once thought to be extinct carabid beetle. Watch out for tiger snakes as you pass over the Tookayerta Creek close to the historic railway bridge. We were lucky to see the Steam Ranger train passing over the bridge on its way to Goolwa.

Now for the birds! We were very happy with the final bird count of 46 species. Peaceful Doves were calling from the winery car park and as we made our way to the start point Crimson Rosellas and Tree Martins were observed flying over. As we progressed round the swamp, two Brown Falcons flew from tree to tree and several members photographed them. A Kestrel was observed mobbing a Swamp Harrier and as usual Grey Fantail proved as friendly as ever. Three Australian Golden Whistlers were very active as were Grey Shrike Thrushes. Other good sightings were Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, Mistletoebird and Red-browed Finch. For the really lucky members bringing up the rear (not me) the sighting of a Shining Bronze Cuckoo, was a perfect end to a great day.

Win Syson

Tolderol Game Reserve – 14 November

A pleasant Saturday morning saw a good turnout of 23 members gather for another bird survey of the Tolderol Game Reserve. It was pleasing to see the reserve in good condition again – no doubt benefiting from the injection of Birds SA funding to assist with water pumping and other infrastructure works. The efforts of dedicated locals and others are much appreciated by all those who utilise and value the birds that this Reserve sustains.

A total of 52 species were recorded on this outing. The most prolific birds seen were Whiskered Tern (1000), Australian Pelican (70), White-fronted Chat (40), Straw-necked Ibis (25), Little Raven (25) Great Cormorant (20), Fairy Martin (20), Welcome Swallow (20), Golden-headed Cisticola (20). Other birds seen included Australian Shelduck (15), Australian White Ibis (12), Galah (10), Eurasian Skylark (10), Australian Reed Warbler (10). Black Swan (8), Brown Songlark (6), Little Grassbird (6), European Goldfinch (6), Spur-winged Plover (4), Silver Gull, Caspian Tern, Superb Fairywren and Australian Pipit (3 each), Hoary-headed Grebe, Hardhead, Singing Honeyeater, Magpie Lark, Silvereye, Grey Teal,

Australasian Grebe, Pacific Black Duck, Swamp Harrier and Nankeen Kestrel (2 each). Single sightings were for Australian Magpie, Common Starling, Baillon's Crake, Australian Hobby, Whistling Kite, Black Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, Little Pied and Pied Cormorants, Red-kneed Dotterel, Australasian Swamphen, Crested Pigeon, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Red-capped Plover and Greater Crested Tern.

Lynton Huxley

Onkaparinga Wetlands – 19 November

Only five people gathered for the field trip to Hardy's Scrub, Onkaparinga River National Park. This was understandable given the forecast high of 35° for Adelaide although a milder 30° was expected further south. However, due to several fire bans throughout the state and the ongoing bushfire at Kyeema only a few kilometres further south it was decided to err on the safe side and move the field trip to the Onkaparinga Wetlands.

Unlike other trips to this area where we begin at the coast and work our way east we first stopped off at the pond just to the west of South Road. We never cover this section in our usual surveys and we were quite surprised with a count of 44 species for this part alone. Species observed included Hardhead, Pink-eared Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebe, the latter nesting, Nankeen Night Heron, European Greenfinch, European Goldfinch and Red-browed Finch. A long-necked turtle was observed sunning itself on a log. We continued west along the river to the estuary picking up Great and Little Egret, Crested Tern, a small group of Red-necked Stint, Red-capped Plover and an immature Pacific Gull. Although it was quite hot a gentle breeze made for a very pleasant morning. Lunch was taken at the sheltered area halfway along River Road. In all 58 species were counted.

Martyn Price

Riverglades and Rocky Gully Wetlands Murray Bridge – 6 December

This excursion was cancelled due to hot weather.

Lynton Huxley

Kyeema Conservation Park – 12 December

The day started cool and cloudy but gradually cleared to become fine and warm. Eight people gathered in the car park on Woodgate Hill Rd. Some people were possibly deterred from attending due to mistaken information that the excursion might be cancelled due to a bushfire shortly beforehand. However, the fire had been further to the south and

Past Excursions (cont)

although the area in question had been referred to as 'Kyeema', this was simply a designation for the general area. So, if in doubt check the CFS website, especially the maps, for the exact location of fires!

We headed off in a northerly direction along the Myrtaceae Walk and through the 'Children's Forest', an area revegetated by the Friends Group with the help of local schoolchildren after the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires. The park consists of a mixture of messmate stringybark, pink gum, cup gum and candlebark gum and has a section of the Heysen Trail passing through it. We followed the centre track at first and then headed along smaller trails to the west to finally head south and east back to the carpark.

Red Wattlebirds (20) were busy foraging and calling especially in the earlier part of the walk and other honeyeaters present were Yellow-faced (2), Brown-headed (4) Crescent (1) and New Holland (6). The thick healthy understorey covering much of the park was popular with Super Fairy-wren (10), White-browed Scrubwren (2) and Brown Thornbill (12). Cockatoos, parrots and lorikeets observed included Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (5), Galah (6), Adelaide Rosella, and Elegant Parrot (1).

We also enjoyed the calls of Grey Shrikethrush (6) and the cheeky flirtatious attentions of Grey Fantail (10) whose juveniles always seem to be filled with curiosity and joie de vivre and a corresponding willingness to check out passing birdwatchers. We also saw Silvereye (2), Australian Magpie (2), Black-winged Currawong (4) and Little Raven (6).

As we were almost on the home straight heading south we spotted 2 small animals sunning themselves on the broken-down trunk of an old stringybark and darting in and out of various cracks and hollows. This caused quite a lot of excitement and we ended up getting very good views of what were later confirmed as Yellow-footed Antechinus. This was a good sighting as YFA are not often sighted partly due to their cryptic nature and a reduction in numbers due to habitat loss and degradation, especially feral predators.

Twenty-nine species recorded for the day and although not a high number, everyone agreed that the park itself was an excellent place for a walk and the added bonus of seeing the Antechinus made for an enjoyable outing.

Ali Ben Kahn

Whites Road Wetlands — 17 December

This excursion was cancelled due to hot weather.

Rod Tetlow

Angas River Strathalbyn — 9 January

Under ideal weather conditions 24 members met at the car park near the bridge before taking the bike/walking track that follows the river through Strathalbyn.

The streambed was mostly overgrown with bamboo and reeds. From the start, we were assailed by the sounds of 450+ Little Corellas. They filled the large gums and pines in the garden area near the town centre and were obviously damaging most of these old trees. Sadly the next most prolific species was Rock Dove with 200+ utilising the spaces under two bridges. There were 40 starlings. We counted 40 Australian Wood Duck and 20 Dusky Moorhen with 6 young and a similar number of Silver Gulls but they were semi-tame, scrounging from people eating lunch on the bank.

We tallied 13 Australian Reed Warblers, which were continuously calling in the dense reeds and bamboo and there were several individuals who were very happy to sing in exposed positions to give us some prolonged excellent views of what is a notoriously difficult bird to see.

Other species in good numbers were 20 Adelaide Rosella, 20 Spotted Dove, 15 New Holland Honeyeater and 12 White-plumed Honeyeater. The rest of the species recorded in the birdcall had tallies of 10 or less. Overall 34 species were observed.

Greg Sara

Onkaparinga Wetlands 14 January 2016

Nineteen members met at the Port Noarlunga Oval on a glorious summer's morning. A quick walk to the river and flood plain area provided a wide variety of species. We drove to the hill overlooking the river mouth and beach, stopping several times along the way to observe another range of species along the river bank. After spotting an elephant in a trailer the group decided it might be best to move on to our third and final destination of the day, Perry Bend Reserve. Small groups undertook separate surveys before gathering for lunch and the customary bird call under shelter from an intensifying sun.

The three sites visited on this outing yielded a satisfying total of 65 species and a summary of these included Musk Duck (2), Black Swan (50), Pacific Black Duck (20), Australasian Shoveler (4), Grey Teal (60), Chestnut Teal (6), Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes (6 each), Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants (6 & 4), Australian Pelican (40), White-faced Heron (10), Little and Great Egrets (1 each), Australian White Ibis (15), Royal Spoonbill (1), Buff-banded Rail (1), Australasian Swamphen (10),

Past Excursions (cont)

Dusky Moorhen (15), Eurasian Coot (20), Latham's Snipe (1), Common Greenshank (3), Red-necked Stint (1), White-headed Stilt (20), Red-capped Plover (5), Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterels (3 & 1), Spur-winged Plover (50), Pacific and Silver Gulls (1 and 100+), Greater Crested Tern (20), Feral Pigeon (40), Spotted Dove (5), Crested Pigeon (30), Galah (200), Little Corella (20), Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets (4 & 6), Elegant Parrot (3), Superb Fairywren (40), Weebill (10), Red Wattlebird (6), Noisy Miner (2), Singing, White-plumed and New Holland Honeyeaters (10, 6 & 20), Grey Shrikethrush (4), Magpie Lark (10), Australian Magpie (20), Little Raven (20), House Sparrow and European Goldfinch (20 each), Welcome Swallow (20), Tree Martin (30), Australian Reed Warbler (3), Little Grassbird (1), Golden-headed Cisticola (1), Silveryeye (6), Common Starling (20) and Common Blackbird (4).

The only raptors seen were a Collared Sparrowhawk (1) and a Black-shouldered Kite (1).

Lynton Huxley

Private Property near Murray Bridge 31 January

31 members attended our second visit to this property owned by Chris Bryant and John Boland.

Given the time of the year, the conditions were ideal for birding in the Mallee scrub and grassland of this 53ha piece of Utopia. Over lunch, James Plummer, a PhD student, reported on his project and invited assistance from Birds SA members once his study field parameters are finalised. Given the expression of interest to help James's study I will arrange circulation via our website.

A total of 42 species were recorded including sightings of Black Falcon (1), Australian Owllet-nightjar (1), Black-shouldered (1) and Whistling Kite (1), Australian Golden (4) and Rufous Whistlers (4), White-winged Chough (15), Red-capped and Hooded Robin (6 and 1 respectively), Spotted and Striated Pardalotes (2 and 6), Diamond Firetail (3), five species of honeyeater and three species of Thornbill – Yellow-rumped (20), Yellow (4) and Striated (4). Other notable species included White-browed Babbler (20), Rainbow Bee-eater (1) and Black-faced Cuckooshrike (2).

A revisit in spring will be scheduled as Chris and John have advised that there will be more bird activity then.

Lynton Huxley

Contact: Lynton Huxley

THE BABBLER, BIRD WATCHING FIELD TRIPS OF THE BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA CLUB, PORT AUGUSTA GROUP PROGRAM March to May 2016

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Friday 25 th . \			
Saturday 26 th . /	March 2016	-- Corunna station	-- Tanks / Iron Knob turn off 8:30 am
Sunday 27 th . /		(Camp out - facilities available)	
Monday 28 th . /			
Sunday 17 th . April	2016	-- Ironstone Hill conservation park	-- Whyalla wetlands 8:30 am
Sunday 22 nd . May	2016	-- Euro Bluff area	-- Start of Stuart Hiway 8:00 am

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

For further information contact :-

Peter - 86425723 / 0457708859 or Greg - 86486630 / 0459088052 or Bernie - 0419863834

Future Excursions

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 yet 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 for the area of the walk or the Adelaide metropolitan forecast temperature is 36C or above the walk is automatically cancelled.

Saturday 12 March: Riverglades and Rocky Gully Wetlands Murray Bridge (MM) 80km.

Meet at 8.30am at the boat ramp car park at Avoca Dell. Drive to Murray Bridge. Cross the bridge to the eastern side of the river and take the fifth turning left into Mitchell Ave. After 3.35km turn left into Murray Drive. At the foot of hill turn right and you will see the carpark ahead.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Thursday 17 March: Hindmarsh River Victor Harbor and Nangawooka Flora Reserve (MLR) (90km).

Meet at 8.30am on the esplanade (Bridge Terrace Victor Harbor) close to where the Hindmarsh River enters the sea 1km northeast of the Victor Harbor Post Office. After that walk we will drive to the nearby Nangawooka Flora Reserve to have lunch in the small rotunda. This location contains many birds there and it is a pleasant place to finish the day.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

Friday 25 to Monday 28 March: Easter Campout at Keith (USE) (225km) – The Easter Campout details are listed on page 19 of this Newsletter.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Saturday 9 April: 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: Rod Tetlow

Thursday 21 April: Montacute Conservation Park (MLR) (20km).

Meet at the entrance to the park at 8.30am. From the city take the Gorge or Montacute Road, turn into Corkscrew Road, then turn east into Valley Road. The end of this road is the start of the Park.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Sunday 1 May: Monarto and Ferries-McDonald Conservation Parks (MM) (76km).

Meet at 8.30am at the car park of the Monarto CP. Take the South Eastern Freeway from Adelaide. Leave the freeway at the Monarto Zoo ramp exit and turn right across the Bridge to head south on the Ferries McDonald Road for approximately 3.5km. After that walk we will drive to the nearby Ferries-McDonald CP.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

Saturday 14 May: Mt Billy Conservation Park and Hindmarsh Falls (MLR) (82km).

From Adelaide head to Willunga and take Pages Flat Road for 13 km. About 1 km before you reach Myponga turn left onto Hindmarsh Tiers Road for 12km and then turn right onto Nettles Hill Road. After 3km the Park entrance is on your left. We will meet there at 8.30am. After the walk in Mt Billy we will go to nearby Hindmarsh Falls where there's a pleasant picnic ground to have lunch.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

Thursday 19 May: Shepherds Hill Recreation Park (MM) (10km).

Meet at 8.30am at the car park on Ayliffes Road. The car park is located approx. 500m east of the intersection of Main South Road and Ayliffes Road.

TRIP LEADER: Brian Blaylock

Sunday 29 May: Swan Reach Conservation Park (MM) (113km).

This Park is approximately 16km east of Sedan on the road to Swan Reach. Meet at the entrance into the Park, which is on the right, opposite the road to Yookamurra, at 8.30am.

TRIP LEADER: Brian Walker

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

1, 20/9/2015. McLaren Flat, Manning Reserve, MLR.
Whatmough, R.

7, 15/12/2015. Balaklava, Rocks Reserve, MLR.
Taylor, P.W.

2, 6/1/2016. 5 km N Laura, LN.
Bosch, S.

2, 16/1/2016. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetlands.
AP.
Pateman, G.

Fewer records during spring-summer than in recent years.

Blue-billed Duck

Male, 1/12/2015. Patawalonga Creek, Tapleys Hill Rd, AP.

Paton, P.
50, 2/1/2016. Tanunda sewage works, MLR.
Stracey, K.

Freckled Duck

2, 6/2/2016. Barker Inlet wetlands, AP.
Brooker, W.

This site supports a high diversity of water birds including rare species due to the unique mix of freshwater and intertidal wetlands.

1, 6/2/2016. West Beach, Apex Park, AP.
Macllwain, E.

Hoary-headed Grebe

2, 2/5/2015. River Torrens, City, AP.
Whatmough, R.

Fork-tailed Swift

150, 19/12/2015. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM.
Doecke, N.

10+, 7/12/2015. Balaklava, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

30, 7/12/2015. Meningie, MM.
Fennell, J.

Several, 18/12/2015. Whyalla, EP.
Smith, E.

This species has been reported in low numbers in recent years, with flocks numbering many 1000s common up to the 1970s.

Little Egret

12 + 8 nests with eggs, 30/11/2015. Outer Harbor, Bird Island, AP.
Johnston, G.

This species was not found nesting near Adelaide until the early 1980s, when small colonies were found in mangroves near Torrens Island and Price.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

1 adult, 28/9/2015. Rivoli Bay, SE.
Redman, K.

1 adult, 4/11/2015. Coongie, Cooper Creek N arm NE.

Seen from helicopter during pig control operation.
Wilkins, D. & Watkins, D.

Square-tailed Kite

Pair, 24/11/2015. Belair NP, MLR.
Nest in Sugar Gum.
Berry, D.

First report from this area, indicating that new nesting territories are being established in the hills.

Pair + 2 juveniles, 12/12/2015. Para Wirra NP, MLR.
Gredley, S.

2 juveniles still present, 9/1/2016.
Brooker, W.

Black-tailed Native-hen

Pair + 5 chicks, 12/11/2015. Glenelg Golf Course, AP.

Paton, P.
Rarely reported nesting near Adelaide.

Eastern Curlew

40, 6/11/2015. Port Clinton, YP.
Woodland, R.

Declining numbers in this area, with up to 120 reported from Clinton CP in the 1980s.

Bird Records (cont)

Whiskered Tern

1 adult, 24/11/2015. River Torrens, City, AP.
McHenry, B.

White-winged Black Tern

3, 27/12/2015. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.
Stracey, K.

Also 6+, 22/1/2016.

Hatch, J.

A reliable locality for this species, with many reports since the ponds were established in the 1980s.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

1, 20/1/2016. 3 km E Minlaton, YP. Feeding in Aleppo Pines.

Treloar, K.

A few reports from YP in recent years (e.g. Innes NP Sept 1989 – Newsletter No. 132).

Blue Bonnet

20, 7/2/2016. 13 km NW Balaklava, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

*This species survives in some areas with only roadside vegetation, as long as there are a few hollow stumps (nest sites are usually low) and commonly Ruby Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa* is prominent in the understorey.*

Black-eared Cuckoo

1 adult, 25/10/2015. Struan, Sand Cave, SE.
Green, B.

Laughing Kookaburra

1, 23/1/2016. Lockleys, Mellor Park, AP.

Edey, D.

Superb Fairy-wren

1 uncoloured, 31/1/2016. West Beach, Apex Park, AP.

A few previous reports from this locality.

Edey, D.

Black-chinned Honeyeater

1 heard, 4/2/2016. Lewiston, Wirramulla Rd, AP.

Merigot, L.

Other records from the Willaston and Two Wells area were reported in recent Newsletters.

Bassian Thrush

1, 13/12/2015. Inman Valley, Polwarth Rd, MLR.

Syson, W

Horsfield's Bushlark

2, 21/11/2015. Lower Inman Valley, MLR.

Cutten, D.

Spotted Quailthrush

1, 27/9/2015. Caroline Forest, Snow Gum corridor, SE.

Report submitted to Birds SA Rare Birds Committee.
Green, B.

This species occurs in low numbers nearby in the Lower Glenelg River NP (Victoria) but has not been reported in SA since a clutch of eggs was taken 'near Mount Gambier' in 1898.

Crested Shrike-tit

2, 22/11/2015. Port Elliott, MLR.

Syson, W.

2, 27/1/2016. Macclesfield, MLR.

Gitsham, J.

Pair + juvenile, 4/2/2016. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K.

Golden Whistler

1 uncoloured, 12/5/2015. Diamantina River, Pandie Pandie Stn, NE.

Grey-bellied form indicative of the SE Australian form.

Reid J.

First record from the NE region. This form is known to disperse widely in autumn-winter.

Dusky Woodswallow

Pair + juvenile, 23/11/2015. Gilberton, Gilbert St, AP.
Nest in Jacaranda.

Paton, P.

Not reported nesting near the city since the 1920s.

Grey Butcherbird

1, 13/10/2015. Eight Mile Creek, SE.

Young, G.

A southerly report.

Grey Currawong

More records from suburban Adelaide including:

1, 29/3/2015. Toorak Gardens, Prescott Tce, AP.

Whatmough, R.

1, 24/1/2016. Frewville, AP.

Sparks, K.

2, 24/1/2016. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

9/2/2016, 1 immature, Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

White-winged Chough

4, 20/11/2015. Mullers Rd, E of Mount George CP, MLR.

Paton, P.

Little Grassbird

2, 1/11/2015. River Torrens, City, AP.

Whatmough, R.

Birds SA Easter Campout 25-28 March

This year the Easter Campout will be based at the Keith Caravan Park, Naracoorte Road, Keith. Keith is located approx. 225km South East of Adelaide on the Dukes Highway and the road conditions are now much improved with many safe-passing lanes. However, it is Easter and members are reminded to drive with care and attention.

The Caravan Park has excellent facilities and will make a comfortable place from which to base our bird survey work at nearby scrub and Conservation Parks. A Map of Upper South East Birdwatching Sites is attached as a guide.

The list below shows the variety of accommodation styles available on site. Make your bookings directly to the Caretaker/Manager **Leeanne on 0427 876 993** or (08) 8755 1957 ASAP to secure your preference.

- Cabins from \$80 to \$130 per night
- Onsite Van from \$40 per night*
- Powered site \$28 double per night*
- Unpowered site \$20 double per night*
- *Additional adult \$10 / child \$5 per night

Several shelters are available for guests to share. They contain power/lighting, hot plates, fridges, sinks, gas barbeque and tables/seating. The park is centrally located and close to shops, fuel stations etc. (although not all of these may be open every day).

While our official campout activities will be from 11am Friday 25 to 11am Monday March 2016, members may choose to schedule their own arrival and departure to suit personal requirements.

Birds SA will not collect any fees.

Planned camp activities include:

- A nightly birdcall and planning the next day's survey schedule;
- Excursions guided by an experienced local Birds SA Member, David Sandow These are currently expected to include Gum Lagoon Conservation Park; Blacket Scrub; Mount Monster Conservation Park; Gum Waterhole; Darwent Waterhole and Desert Camp Conservation Park.
- *However, we plan to be flexible to accommodate up-to-date special 'hot spots' for birds as well as any specific requests to see particular species;*
- A Sunday gas barbeque lunch (*bacon and eggs and/or pancakes – you will need to provide the ingredients for the Committee Members present to do the cooking!*).

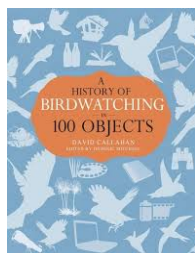
Please contact me by email: huxley@adam.com.au to confirm your intention to attend or to obtain more information about this fun Birds SA Annual event.

Lynton Huxley
Campout Organiser
Ph: 0498 466 092 or (08) 7009 5038 (home)

Upper Southeast Birdwatching Sites



FROM THE LIBRARY



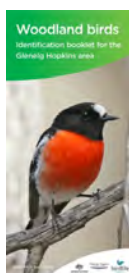
598.07234 CAL
Callaham, David
A History of Birdwatching in 100 Objects
Dominic Mitchell: London, 2013
ISBN 9781408186183
This book looks at a 100 items that have profoundly shaped how people watched, studied and engaged with the avian world.



598.44 ROY
De Roy, Tui
Penguins: their World, Their Ways
Collingwood, VIC: CSIRO Publishing, 2013.
ISBN 9781486300563
This book comprehensively covers all of the 18 penguin species in an engaging blend of accessible writing, the latest scientific research and over 400 breathtaking photographs.



598.29943 NElb
Nielsen, Lloyd
Birds of the wet tropics of Queensland & Great Barrier Reef & where to find them
Mount Molloy, Qld.: Lloyd Nielsen, 2015.
ISBN 9780957988156
With just over 400 pages and 1500 illustrations (all but one hand painted) this book contains a large amount of information for both visitors and locals birding in The Wet Tropics. Over 200 pages are devoted to a field guide based on colour and habits.
598.29945 WOO



Woodland birds: identification booklet for the Glenelg Hopkins area prepared by:
Caroline Wilson et al.
Carlton, Vic.: Birdlife Australia, [199-?]

This booklet is designed to help identify woodland birds within the Glenelg Hopkins catchment area.



DVD 57
Buckerfield, Graham
Falco Peregrines: Spring 2015
Adelaide: G. Buckerfield, 2015
This DVD covers the full breeding cycle from hatching to fledging at a natural nesting site in a former quarry in the Adelaide Hills from late August to December 2015. It contains graphic scenes.

Details of Photographs on p22

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Beach Stone-curlew	Enid Pascoe	Cape Douglas	22/10/2015
2	Freckled Duck	Kay Parkin	Laratinga	July 2015
3	White-Bellied Sea-Eagle	Kay Parkin	Port Lincoln	July 2015
4	Red-necked Phalarope	Kay Parkin	Western Treatment Plant, Vic	February 2015
5	Spotless Crake	Kay Parkin	Laratinga	January 2016

On, Around and Over the Water

Details of these photos are given on p21



About our Association

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

BIRDS SA COMMITTEE 2015 – 2016

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Vice President	Daniel Rogers	8222 9517
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Treasurer	Brian Walker	8263 3433
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Bird Trips	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Bird Records,	Graham Carpenter	8297 5463
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COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the May Newsletter is due by the April General Meeting (April 29). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD, emailed to either of my email addresses, or typed/handwritten neatly.

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian Karen Donkin 0402123960
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Single membership	\$50
Family/household membership	\$60
Single concession*	\$45
Family/household concession*	\$55

Full-time students under 25 years) \$10

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

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Photograph taken at Mannum by Greg Blackman

Not Often Seen Flying Around Adelaide!!

**Gouldian Finches,
photographed by Roslyn
Rubath at El Questro,
WA on 4.8.2015**



Barn Swallow



**Male Mangrove
Blue Flycatcher**



Both photographed by Barbara Bansemer in Kedah State, Malaysia on 4/12/15