



Linking people with birds  
in South Australia

# The Birder

No 240

November 2016



## In this Issue

**A SPECIAL BUMPER CHRISTMAS  
ISSUE – LOTS OF PHOTOS**

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER – THE BIRDS  
NEED YOUR HELP!**

**A NATIONAL PARK IN THE  
INTERNATIONAL BIRD SANCTUARY**

### **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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**N.B. 'THE BIRDER' will not be published in February 2017. The next issue of this newsletter will be distributed at the March General Meeting, on 31 March 2017.**

## Cover photo

Emu, photographed by Barbara Bansemer in Brachina Gorge, Flinders Ranges, on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

## New Members

We welcome 25 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p29.

**CENTRE INSERT:** SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 58,  
JOHN SUTTON'S OUTER HARBOR NOTES, PART 8

## DIARY

The following is a list of Birds SA activities for the next few months. Further details of all these activities can be found later in 'The Birder'.

Sunday 27 November	Excursion to Currency Creek Gorge
Saturday 10 December	Excursion to Mt. Lofty Botanic Garden
Thursday 15 December	Excursion to Tolderol Game Reserve
Saturday 7 January	Excursion to Belair National Park
Thursday 19 January	Excursion to Thompson Beach
Friday 20 January	General Meeting
Sunday 29 January	Excursion Riverglades and Rocky Gully Wetlands
Saturday 11 February	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands
Thursday 16 February	Excursion to Magazine Rd. Wetlands
Friday 24 February	General Meeting
Sunday 26 February	Excursion to Sandy Creek
Saturday 11 March	Excursion to Porter Scrub CP
Thursday 23 March	Excursion to Whites Rd. Wetlands
Friday 31 March	General Meeting
Sunday 2 April	Excursion to Brown's Rd. Monarto

# President's Message

On 6 November, South Australia's Environment Minister, Ian Hunter, officially opened two new Conservation Parks in the Monarto area. The new parks will be known as Kinchina Conservation Park (414ha) and Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park (426ha). These parks are significant because they contain areas of planted woodlands (particularly Monarto Woodlands), so that they have become one of the first, if not the first, parks to protect habitat that has been re-established and does not represent the original woodlands that may have existed in the area. The planted woodlands are a legacy of plantings undertaken in the 1970s when South Australia was planning to establish a satellite city at Monarto. Many of the plants used were not locally endemic, including a wide range of eucalypts from Western Australia and other parts of South Australia. Despite this, these new woodlands have been remarkably successful at supporting a wide range of woodland birds including those that have continued to decline across the Mt Lofty region such as Diamond Firetail, Restless Flycatcher, Hooded Robin and Varied Sittella to name a few. Many Birds SA members visit and enjoy bird-watching at

Brown's Road and so are aware of the value to birds of these constructed woodlands. However Brown's Road and other planted woodlands in this vicinity are not part of the Monarto Woodland Conservation Park. Other interests, including the mineral exploration licences that exist over these

locations, have prevented these areas from being gazetted. Those of us who have been lobbying to have these areas protected and managed for biodiversity still have work to do.

Several factors help to secure the diversity of the birds that use these woodlands. These include not only the high diversity of plant species, which ensures that there is always something flowering; but also the overall quantities of woodland cover in

the area. The overall area of habitat needed often seems to be missed. To secure the future of the woodland birds in the Monarto area all of the available habitat — both remnant and revegetated — is needed and should therefore be protected. From tracking individual birds over the last 15-20 years, we know that many individuals are resident over multiple years, but that some move around these woodlands. For example an uncoloured male Red-capped Robin originally banded near Browns Rd was recaptured eight years later, using other areas of revegetation around three kilometres away. This is the greatest known longevity for this species. Simply gazetted areas as parks, however, will not secure conservation outcomes and any areas set aside will need to be managed. Sadly the budget for managing reserves are inadequate even for managing those that we already have. Increasingly there will be a need for the community to engage with and assist in managing our parks and these two are no exceptions. As an organisation we benefit from parks, but our contributions to managing reserves remain modest. Even then, woodlands will need to be re-established on more cleared land to



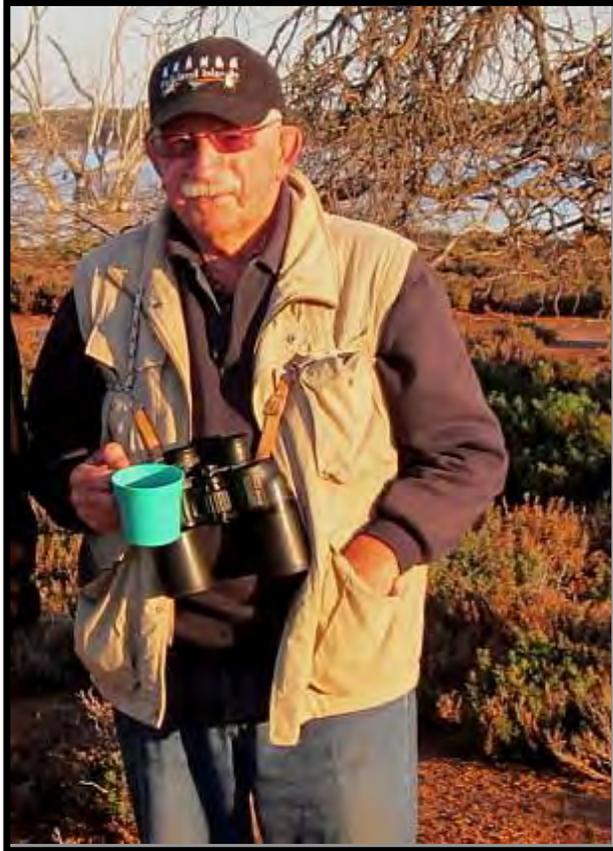
**Typical Monarto Woodland habitat**

enable the diversity of birds that we see today to survive for future generations. We should acknowledge and celebrate the contributions that the Monarto Woodlands are making to lessen the declines of woodland birds. We have evidence that the concept works. We now need to apply it. There is much to be done.

**Merry Xmas Everyone.  
David Paton**

# Birds SA Notes & News

VALE KEVIN SIMMONS



John Kevin Simmons, Kevin to his friends, was born on the 27 April 1928 at Condobolin NSW. Kevin's father died when Kevin was only 8 years old. In 1935 Kevin his mother and 2 siblings moved to Sydney to be near family. Life was tough for the family and Kevin helped out where he could by doing small jobs for pocket money around the town.

In 1942 the family moved back to Condobolin where Kevin finished his schooling and commenced work with a local builder. Much of his work was on rural properties.

Kevin joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1946 and signed on for 12 years. He served on several ships, the last one being The Aircraft Carrier Sydney. He spent a year in Japan and served in both the Korean and the Malaysian Conflict. Kevin was discharged from the navy in 1958 with the rank of Petty Officer. In 1952 Kevin married Verna McKeller and they had 2 children. Kevin's life changed dramatically at this time when he found work at the Woomera Rocket Range as a camera operator. He left Woomera in 1979 and worked for the Department of Social Security. His wife Verna passed away 1987. He married Margaret in 1988 and retired in 1993.

Looking for something to do during his retirement he attended one of Dr Joan Paton's WEA courses at the Adelaide University on how to identify the Birds

of South Australia. He joined SAOA (now Birds SA) in 1990. He then helped in forming a small sub-group along with Derek Carter and me called The Rambling Babblers. This group travelled the length and breadth of Australia from 1998 to 2014 conducting bird surveys and adding more and more birds to our life list. Kevin was the main organiser and navigator for all of these trips. He was also a great cook and very handy with a camp cooker. I well remember his Rabbit Stew and Roast Lamb with five vegetables as classics.

Kevin passed away on the 10 September 2016 after heroic battle with pancreatic cancer. He was aged 88 years old. His family and friends will sadly miss him.

**RIP old friend.**

**Winston Syson.**

## 2020 SHOREBIRD LUNCHEON

It was just wonderful to share lunch on Tuesday 8th November, at the British Hotel, Port Adelaide, with other dedicated people who undertake the 2020 Shorebird Count.

The luncheon was organised by Jean Turner, Samphire Coast Stewardship Project Officer, as a gesture of gratitude for the work done by volunteers, who are prepared to travel some distance to do their survey work. It was also an opportunity to meet Kasun Ekanayake, Samphire Coast Icon Project Co-ordinator.

Tony Flaherty, Manager, Coast and Marine, Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges, Natural Resources Region, spoke at the luncheon. The focus of his presentation was to thank Birds SA and all the Birds SA volunteers who, for many years, have undertaken surveys of shorebirds. Tony made special mention of the contributions that have been made by Birds SA Members such as David Close, John Hatch, Colin Rogers as well as many other people whose work has formed the basis of the longitudinal data on the birds that visit the coast line of South Australia.

**Well done Birds SA!**

**Kate Buckley**

## CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The sub-committee discussed the following issues:

### **Tolderol**

Recent flooding rains have probably prevented the migratory birds from reaching the area. A Tolderol Working group meeting (Three Birds SA members are on the working group) was held Sunday 16th October. A report will be presented at the next meeting.

# **Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)**

## **Duck and Quail hunting**

The sub-committee will propose a strengthening of Birds SA policy with regard to duck and quail hunting. Our policy will change from one of being prepared to work in collaboration with other parties to secure net environmental gains, to one of opposition to the practice. This proposal is to be put to the main Committee in a letter from the sub-committee

## **Possible affiliations with other Conservation bodies.**

A discussion was held regarding some affiliation by individual members with the following Conservation organisations to work together on various issues.

**Australian Wildlife Conservancy & Nature Foundation SA** by David Hansman

**BirdLife Australia** by Jeff Groves

**Bush Heritage Australia** by Simon Brealey

**Conservation Council SA, Bio R and Wilderness Society:** John Gitsham

It was felt that BirdLife Australia, Bush Heritage Australia, Conservation Council SA and Bio R are the best organisations to build relationships for combined campaigns and to obtain support for projects and bird habitat protection. Further discussion on this topic will continue at our next meeting. **Future Directions**

Members felt that the sub-committee should not just react to issues and be letter writers, but should seek out issues and be more pro-active to obtain support from the above organisations. It will therefore have a more powerful voice in the future. Ongoing discussion will occur over the next few meetings.

**Simon Brealey / John Gitsham**

## **PLEASE VOLUNTEER**

The birds need our help in many areas of activity some of which involve their actual welfare, perhaps by protecting and improving their habitats. Other valuable activities involve helping people to increase their knowledge and understanding of birds, so that they will support measures aimed at improving their welfare. In the paragraphs below, you will find have described four areas in which volunteers are urgently needed.

## **Pengilly Scrub**

Pengilly Scrub is a 20ha patch of remnant mallee vegetation, which is situated south of the town of Wasleys, about 10km northwest of Roseworthy. This reserve consists of an open woodland system and has two Northwest to Southeast trending sand dunes, which are separated by a flatter inter-dunal zone. This variety of soil types and landforms provides a complex mosaic of native vegetation and forms an important habitat for a variety of native

fauna. Unfortunately 80% of this scrub was burnt out in the fires of November 2015.

Andrew Philpott, Environmental Projects Officer, Light Regional Council, has asked whether some of our members would be interested in undertaking a Bird Survey at Pengilly because birds are there, some of which they have not seen for years, even though there is little habitat He also wondered if any Birds SA Members would be interested in helping with some weeding – under supervision. He felt that this was an ideal time as regrowth has started, to get rid of pest plants, but they need help.

Birds SA is about conservation for birds – do we have any interested members who would be prepared to go out and get their hands dirty?

If you would like to take part in a working bee, or help in any other way, contact either me or Andrew Philpott, Environmental Projects Officer, Light Regional Council.

Over the last few weeks the Light regional Council has sponsored three Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) groups as well as a slashing operator and these activities have made some excellent inroads into preparing this reserve for the fire danger season. I recently worked at the site and was delighted with the regeneration of native plants. Literally thousands of seedlings are emerging and it



**Pengilly Scrub before the fire**

# Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

is clear that this wet and cool season has greatly aided this regeneration. However there is still a long way to go before this beautiful site back in order. Andrew would be happy to take a group around the scrub and show them the good, the bad and the ugly! There is some amazing native plant regeneration but much of it is being swamped by mustard weed and wild oats. Hopefully a group of Association members will be able to arrange a date to meet Andrew at Pengilly.

Andrew's email address is APhilpott@light.sa.gov.au His phone numbers are 8525 3200 and 0417 817 566.

**Kate Buckley**

## 10 Minute Talks

At two general meetings earlier this year, Association members gave 10-minute talks before the main presentations. John Gitsham spoke about the different species of robins and Merylin described pardalotes. Everyone present enjoyed these presentations, and I'm sure they would like some more.

It would be excellent if we could have a 10-minute presentation at the start of every general meeting. However, we need members to volunteer as presenters.

You can choose any Instructive topic concerning birds,. For example you could describe the differences between birds of similar appearance, or the habitat and behaviour of your favourite bird species.

Please contact Dan Rogers on 8222 9517 if you would like to make a presentation, so that arrangements can be made.

## Activities for Young People

Many years ago, the Association ran a children's group called 'The Fledglings' that organised activities for children, mainly those of Association members. However, the fledglings grew up and flew away.

The Committee feels that the Association should offer bird-related activities that are open to all children. They would like to develop two or three programmes each year, and each programme could be aimed for a different age group.

Many Association members, including Merinda Hyland, Lou Bartley Clements and Brian Blaylock have presented such activities in the past few years, They have been very successful and the Committee thanks them for their hard work. Of course, planning and presenting these activities is very time-consuming, and these people would love some help. Our president, David Paton will run a field trip for fledglings in March 2017, and the Fledgling Group will meet twice a year, prior to a General Meeting.

The organisers of these events would love some help from fellow members of the Association. Also, if you have any educational materials suitable for presentations to this group please will you send them to our Secretary at the Association's postal address.

## BIRDS SA OUT AND ABOUT

### St. Kilda Flyway Festival

Sunday 30th October looked to be an exciting day at St Kilda for the 'Flyway Festival'. It had been a very successful event last year and Birds SA members were keen to further promote their "conservation through Birds" message at St Kilda.

Food, musicians and games for children, were all available, along with a group of willing Birds SA volunteers, but when the 'bouncy castle' looked as if it would literally become a feature of the 'flying away festival' the organisers decided it was time to close the Festival. Unfortunately the horrific wind meant that public safety was at risk so the event managers closed the festival at 11.30am. It was disappointing, especially for stalls like the Thompson Beach Men's Shed who had prepared a Sausage Sizzle to feed hundreds. However, public safety always takes priority!

**Kate Buckley, Jodi Gates**

### Sophie Thompson's Open Garden

Sophie Thompson's Open Garden was held over three days, Saturday 12th November through to Monday 14th November. Sophie's Garden puts a whole new meaning to the words, 'Garden Bed'! She has an old iron bedstead, painted bright orange, and trays filled with various succulents form the base of the bed and make the prettiest quilt ever!

Gardeners, like birdos, are not put off by bad weather and quite a few people attended on Saturday. Unfortunately the wind was again atrocious, making it impossible to put up any display materials, so we closed our stall around midday.

John Gitsham gave a presentation on "Creating a Bird Friendly Garden" in the safety and relative comfort of the 'shed' and this was very well received. Again, we had willing Birds SA volunteers, and I would like to thank, John Gitsham, Margaret Adams, Merinda Hyland, Barbara Wheaton, Kathy Tiller, Jan Webber, Kate Buckley, Sue and Alan Winwood for being prepared to support Birds SA at this event.

**Kate Buckley, Jodi Gates**

# Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

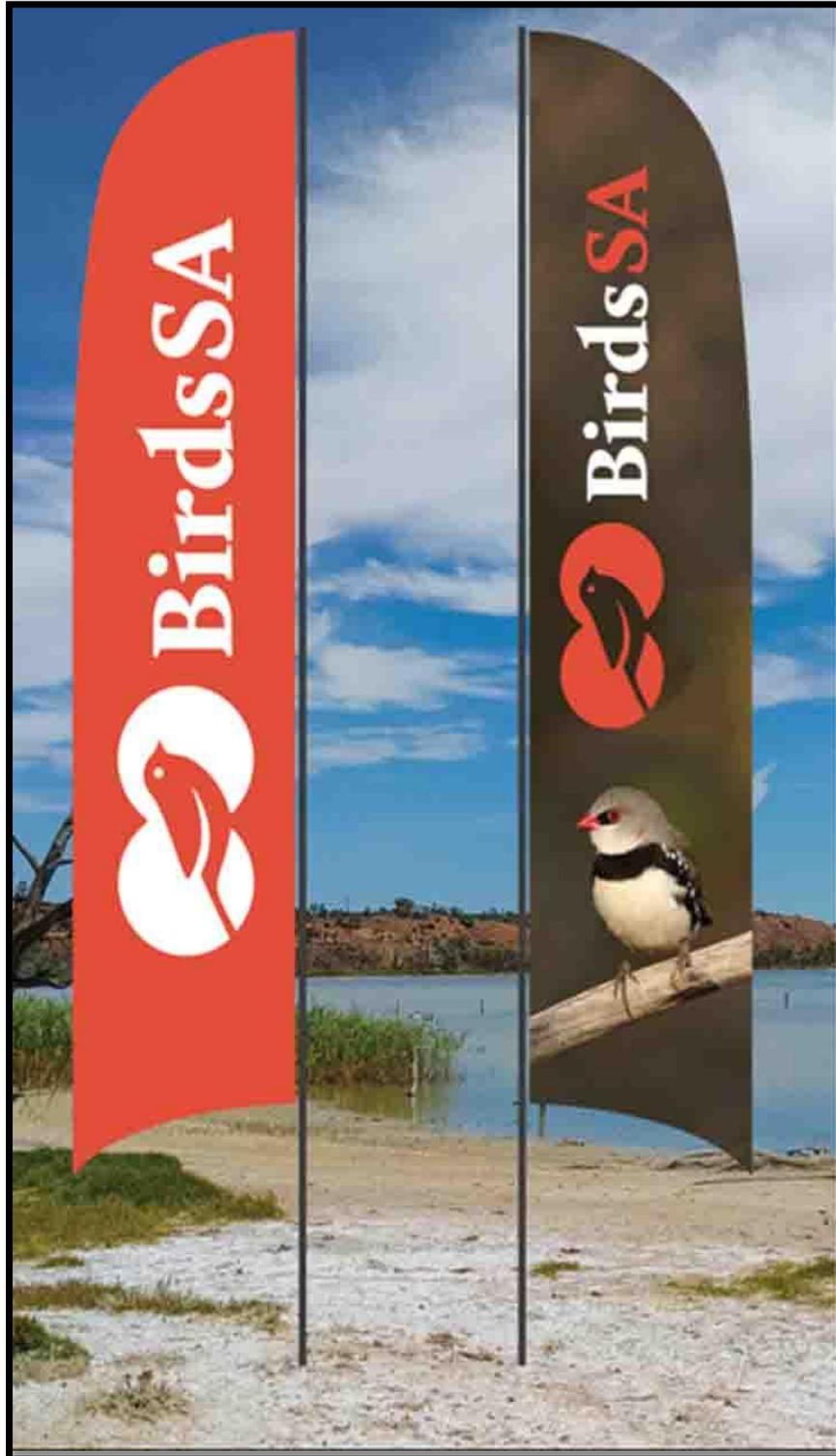
## **PROMOTING BIRDS SA.**

The photograph below shows both sides of the magnificent banner that Birds SA has recently purchased. As well as this and other banners, the Association owns a wide range of items that are used when we operate a stall at a function such as the two events described above and at the recent

Laratinga Birdfair, which is reported on page 8. These items include other signs and banners, binoculars and bird books.

Of course, any member who would like to help at these functions would be most welcome.

**Cynthia Pyle**



**Two sides of our new banner**

# The Laratinga Birdfair



## Making Friends!

**29 October 2016.**

The inaugural Laratinga Birdfair at Mount Barker in the Adelaide Hills had a really pleasant atmosphere and everything went swimmingly. The visitors appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves and many people made complimentary comments. The stallholders even managed to enjoy themselves as well.

Emma Montgomery from Mount Barker Council and my co-organiser of the event and I estimated that about 400-500 people attended the Birdfair. We will definitely hold another Birdfair next year. It will be about the same size as this year's event and consist of the same stallholders. With better promotion and advertising we should probably get up to 1000 people attending.

Highlights were Professor Chris Daniels talk entitled 'Bird function, structure and biology' and the ABC Gardening show's Sophie Thompson's talk about Creating wildlife gardens. Bob the Tawny frogmouth from Animals Anonymous was a hit with both adults and children.

The birdfair was a very family friendly event. The food was great, and there were no queues. The background of gentle live acoustic music was lovely and added to enjoyment of the day. The weather was good if a bit cool at times but after all the rain and flooding we were grateful it wasn't wet. It was still a bit boggy under foot in some areas.

Birds SA ran Guided Bird walks around Laratinga on the hour. These were a great success, proving popular with the crowd of adults and children that joined in. The interest of participants in the tours was increased by a number of factors, such as:

- tours being led by experienced bird watchers
- people being able to borrow binoculars
- explanation given on how to use the binoculars
- consideration given to children
- consideration given to the mobility of all participants
- not excluding anybody from the walk
- the terrain being flat
- a booklet, given away to both adults and children, with provision for ticking birds as they saw them.

The following members led the walks: John Fennell, Bryan Blaylock, John Hatch, John Spiers and Merinda Hyland who led two walks.

Birds SA committee and members extend their thanks to John Gitsham and everyone who helped to make the day such a success.

**John Gitsham /Kate Buckley**



**John Hatch, Brian Blaylock and John Gitsham at the Laratinga Birdfair**

# Kangaroos at Sandy Creek Conservation Park

## Two opposing viewpoints

### **NOT GUILTY**

Some of the points raised in the President's message published in the August, 2016 issue of the Birds SA newsletter 'The Birder' should not go unanswered. While one can agree with ongoing concerns for woodland birds in the Adelaide Region, the reasons for their decline are complex. It may be an exaggeration to single out kangaroos as the prime cause, especially when data on kangaroo numbers are not provided! Other, possibly more important factors, are human population growth with ongoing clearance of native vegetation and the damage caused by weed invasion and fires, including presumptive burns. A notable example of the latter was the extensive out-of-control fire at Cox's scrub in May 2013. A sad result of fire is often the invasion of burnt areas by weeds, as seen after the recent prescriptive burns in Cleland reserve.

David's message mentions Sandy Creek Conservation Park (SCCP), a woodland/heath reserve on sandy soil near Cockatoo Valley, which is sometimes visited on Birds SA excursions. It is claimed that kangaroos are responsible for serious, ongoing damage at SCCP, with the destruction of native plants.

It was, however, reassuring to discover in August and September little visible change from previous visits. As mentioned in the useful Department of the Environment Water and natural Resources [DEWNR] brochure on the reserve, portions of the land had been used much earlier for agriculture and sheep raising. Previous clearing accounts for the open grassed areas adjacent to Sandy Creek, which are visible from near the YHA cottage. These clearings, often frequented by kangaroos, have been present for several decades at least. The largely exotic grasses are eaten by kangaroos and, until recently, by rabbits [now well controlled].

Fortunately, much of the reserve, and perhaps most of it, remains intact. Among the many species of trees and shrubs are Southern Cypress-pine, Peppermint Box, Drooping She-oak, Mount Lofty Grass-tree, Scarlet Bottlebrush, Silver Broom, Wallowa, Flame Heath and Sticky Hopbush. Amongst daisies, lilies and orchids are Millotias, Yam Daisy; Early Nancy; Spotted Donkey-orchid and King Spider orchid. The reserve hosts a variety of woodland birds including Common Bronzewing, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Brown Goshawk, Square-tailed Kite, White-winged Chough, Musk Lorikeet, Diamond Firetail and Red-capped Robin.

A notice on the Pimpala Road entrance gate indicates that kangaroos are culled regularly. This is a controversial topic in SA – and DEWNR may be

faced with pressure from adjoining landowners who see kangaroos as a threat to their properties, while using the reserve as a base! However it is debatable whether the numbers of kangaroos pose such a serious and progressive threat to the reserve as to justify continuation of culling.

**David Hansman**  
**November 16, 2016**

### **GUILTY**

I used to go to Sandy Creek in the early 1970s and the park is a very different system to what it was in the 1970s and 1980s. The changes are due to grazing by kangaroos, and over-grazing has been a factor for at least 2 decades and so this is not a recent phenomenon. There is also some compelling experimental evidence, partly shown in the image that went with that piece. In 2002 I had a series of fenced exclosures erected (each about 20m x 20m) at Sandy Creek. Within these plots the heathy understorey has re-established to what was the case in the park when I used to go there in the early 1970s and even into the early to mid-1980s. The vegetation that has re-established inside the fenced plots just blows your mind away – even to the point where I suspect the so called grassy woodlands that we seem to promote and cherish these days might not have all been grassy woodlands originally. Penny has been weeding plants inside Happy Valley Reservoir for 10 plus years, and she has watched the shrubs (peas, acacias, every species) completely eliminated from the areas she knows well – all due to kangaroos. There are also a few other longterm fenced plots in other reserves that tell a similar story but involve other plants (Cromer, Big Flat etc.). I have recently had other fenced plots established in spring 2015: six more in Sandy Creek, six in Cromer, three in Charleston and there are three more being established at Big Flat (SA Forestry land) this spring. At Charleston native grasses barely produce a seed outside the plots but you should see the seeds being produced inside this year, and some of the shrubs like *Leptospermum myrsinoides* can barely be seen outside the plots, yet they are recovering and flowering inside the plots – anyone can go and look at these plots by the way. Various peas are particularly vulnerable to grazing so I suspect to see some recovery of these in time as well. When these peas, acacias and plants like *Leptospermum* are missing, then native invertebrate pollinators are seriously disadvantaged as well. Recall the video of Mallee Emuwrens breeding in Ngarkat where the birds were harvesting most of the food for their chicks by going to flowering *Leptospermum myrsinoides*. Having shrubs and grasses that flower and set seed is critically important if those habitats and species (plants and animals) are to be sustained.

**David Paton**

# Return of the Adelaide Rosella

## THE ADELAIDE ROSELLA RETURNS

Every bird species has at least a scientific name and an English name, the former determined by taxonomic research and the latter by agreement, if possible, among pertinent ornithological authorities.

Subspecies (differentiated populations within a species) also have scientific names and some may have an English name too, but generally only when the subspecies are readily distinguishable, one from another. Mallee Ringneck, Helmeted Honeyeater, Yellow Rosella, Samphire Thornbill are examples.

A few years ago, BirdLife Australia (BLA) embarked upon an ambitious project, to provide English names for all subspecies occurring in Australia, the Working List of Australian Birds (WLAB).

It is well established that Adelaide and Yellow Rosellas are part of the Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans* group of parrots but, while the Yellow Rosella retained its traditional name in WLAB, the Adelaide Rosella was unlisted. The reason is at least in part because it is not a subspecies. It includes two subspecies, one almost yellow and another brick red, as well as birds of intermediate appearance, the typically orange Adelaide Rosellas.

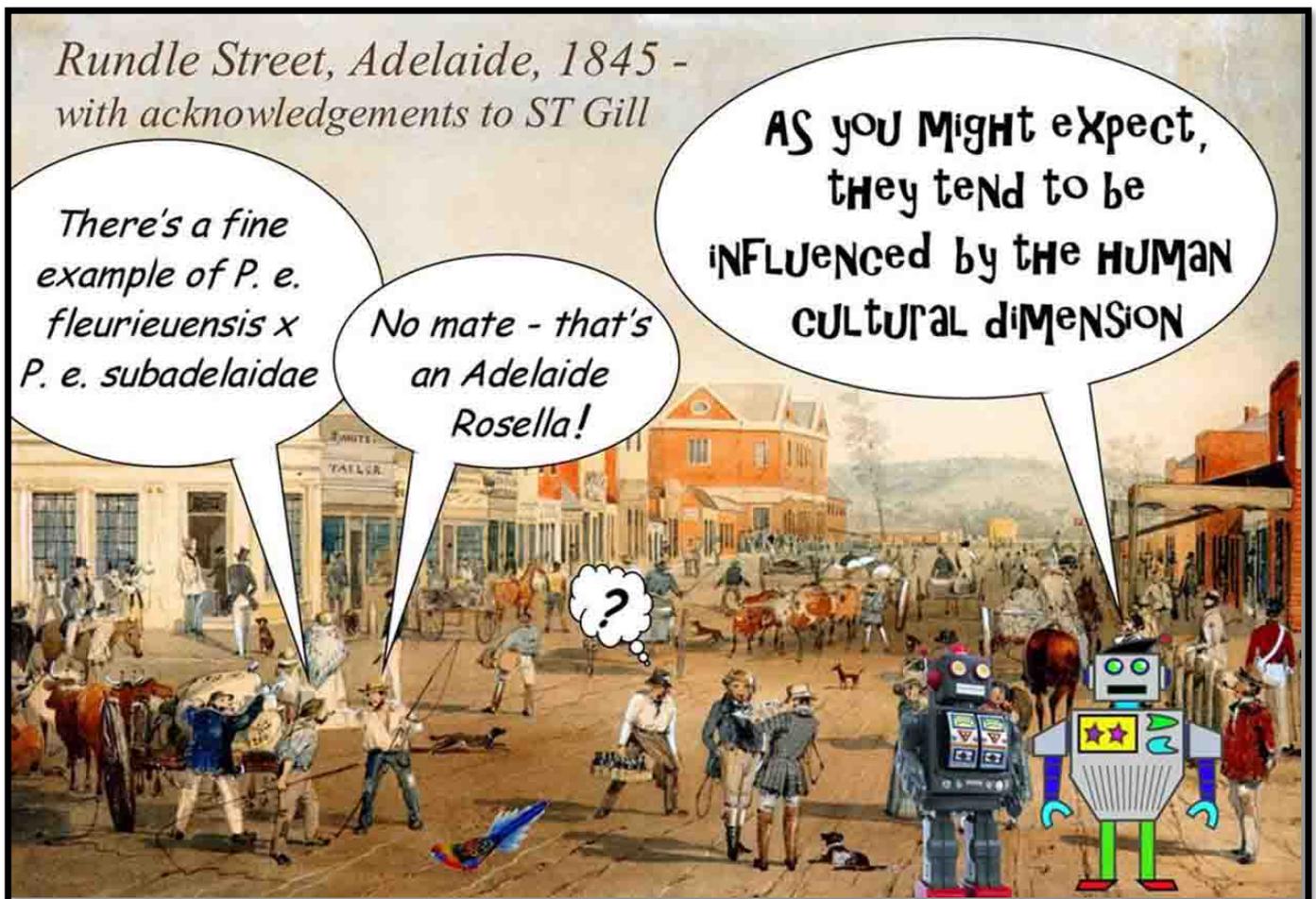
The mostly yellow subspecies of the southern Flinders Ranges is *Platycercus elegans subadelaidae* and the redder subspecies of the

southern Mount Lofty Ranges is *Platycercus elegans fleurieuensis*. As some will be aware, all the others used to be known as *Platycercus elegans adelaidae* but are now regarded as an intergradient population without an individual scientific name.

BLA's English Names Committee (ENC) considered this case in September and agreed that the last group, which covers much of the parrot's range, can be designated as *P. e. fleurieuensis* x *P. e. subadelaidae* and carry the English name Adelaide Rosella. The named subspecies have English names of Fleurieu Adelaide Rosella and Flinders Adelaide Rosella.

Not all 13 members of ENC agreed promptly to accept this rather unusual case and one suggested that it was only the human cultural dimension that justified it, referring perhaps to the sensitivities of some South Australians. The ENC Chairman was taken with the phrase and produced the cartoon below.

**Andrew Black**



# *Giving them wings*

## *conserving threatened species*

### **ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL BIRD SANCTUARY UPDATE — OCTOBER 2016**

**The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary now has a national park!**

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary has a very big announcement — it now has a national park!

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park — Winaityinaityi Pangkara — has become the state's first new national park in a decade. It aims to protect vital migratory shorebird habitat. The national park occupies 2457ha of land north-west of Adelaide.

Over the next 12-18 months new parcels of land will be added to the national park, creating a sanctuary for shorebirds along the northern coastline of Adelaide.

As well as creating a safe haven for shorebirds, the sanctuary will improve the quality of water entering Gulf St. Vincent, protect the coastline from climate change impacts and provide opportunities for local and international tourism.

Kurna Elder, Jeffrey Newchurch said Winaityinaityi Pangkara for Kurna People means a country for all birds and the country that surrounds these birds. "Engagement with the Kurna people has brought new economic opportunities to our community, including rediscovering language, family and connection to the bird sanctuary," he said.

A leaflet has been launched to encourage international and interstate tourists to visit the bird sanctuary, together with a pocket visitors' map of local attractions. These documents are now available in hard copy from various locations and online at [www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks).

The following page contains a map of the International Bird Sanctuary, showing the locations of the National Park areas.

Now that Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park — Winaityinaityi Pangkara has been proclaimed, it is important that people have some guidance on how they can access and enjoy it. To do this an interim management statement has been produced.

This statement will guide the Park's management, acting as a placeholder until the full national park is proclaimed over the coming year.

The interim management statement describes how, from the outset, the national park will be managed to enable people to visit and use the park. It is the guiding document for park managers until the management plan has been developed with input from the wider community.

Development of the interim management statement has been based on many conversations to understand what is important about the land that people use and enjoy. To be effective as a safe haven for shorebirds, a coordinated approach to land management is needed across all of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

A broader management plan will be developed in the coming months to set direction for how we will work together across the entire Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary, including the national park. The development of this management plan will build on this interim management statement, providing further detail about management strategies, and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to have a further say.

#### **To get involved and stay connected:**

Follow us on Twitter @SADEWNR and @birdsanctuarySA.

Visit our National Parks website [www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks)

Join us on our Official 'Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary', 'Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Collective Action Group', 'Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges' and 'National Parks' Facebook pages.

#### **Contact:**

Ms Arkellah Irving, Community Involvement and Planning Coordinator, Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

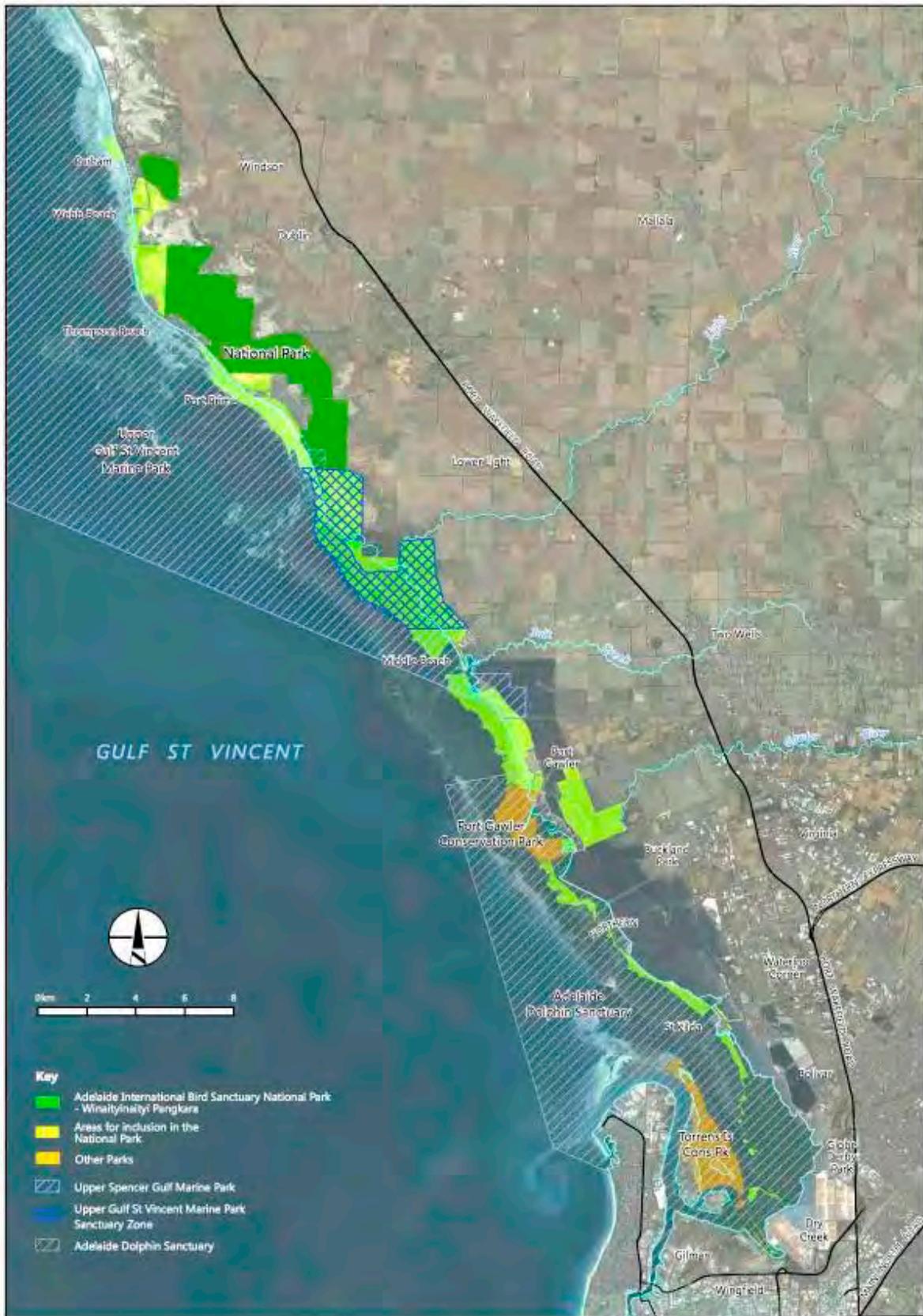
Email: [arkellah.irving@sa.gov.au](mailto:arkellah.irving@sa.gov.au) (08) 8463 7131/0409 426 371

The above information was obtained and adapted from [Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary e Newsletter](#), October 2016.

This document contains a good deal more information about the International Bird Sanctuary.

**Cynthia Pyle**

# Giving Them Wings (cont.)



## Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

# Past General Meetings

## FRIDAY 29 JULY

Vice-President John Gitsham chaired the presentations of four members giving short talks: Drew Smith, John Fennell, Colin Rogers and Peter McKenzie.

Drew Smith showed video footage of Mallee Emu-wrens attending a nest in Ngarkat. The video was shot thirty or more years ago on super-8 film and recently converted. Drew explained how the footage was collected so as not to disturb the birds, waiting until the chicks had hatched before entering the hide that had been previously established near the nest. At times the birds were visiting the nest every two or three minutes, and by carefully noting the plumages, Drew ascertained that two male birds and two female birds were attending the nest that was placed in *Triodia*. Most of the food consisted of small grubs of moths, which they collected from *Leptospermum myrsinoides* that was flowering at the time.

**John Fennel** took the audience on a brief photographic tour of Patagonia and Antarctica. Highlights from Patagonia were Magellanic Woodpeckers, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Meadowlarks, Caracaos, Buzzard-eagles and even an Andean Condor in the distance. The Beagle Channel revealed Chiloe Wigeon, Flightless and Flying Steamer Ducks, Kelp and Upland Geese, and breeding Imperial Cormorants. Magellanic Penguins were also photographed on Mortillo Island. penguins, albatrosses, Storm Petrels, Snowy Sheathbills, seals, whales and the spectacular scenery of Antarctica concluded the presentation.



**Photographed by John Fennell  
on the South Shetland Islands**

**Colin Rogers** showed images of some of the waders attracted to SA Water ponds near St Kilda. SA Water has been using some of the reclaimed water from Bolivar to help with managing some of the decommissioned saltpans. Colin showed images of a Ruff, Marsh Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and Little Stint as well as some of the more abundant species like Red-necked Stint. He also showed images of an American Golden Plover that visited Tolderol in March and a Laughing Gull that had appeared at Venus Bay in July.



**Little Stint, photographed by Colin Rogers  
at SA Water Ponds in July 2016**

**Peter McKenzie** completed the talks with images of birds seen on Heron Island including Black Noddies, Bridled Terns, Black-naped Terns, Lesser and Great Frigatebirds, Silvereyes and a Wandering Tattler.



**Bridled Tern, photographed by  
Peter Mckenzie on Heron Island**

# Past General Meetings (cont.)

## FRIDAY 26 AUGUST

Vice-President Jody Gates introduced the speaker Chris Hedger who talked about the Status of threatened Mallee Birds of the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Region. Chris was born and bred in the Riverland and worked for several years at Calperum.

He provided background information about the Threatened Mallee Bird Conservation Action Plan (TMB CAP). CAP steps are:

- 1 Identification of Conservation Targets
- 2 Viability of Conservation Targets
- 3 Threats to Conservation Targets
- 4 Conservation Strategies and Actions

Inappropriate fire regime presents a key threat. Strategies to mitigate future risk include:

- Improving understanding of fire requirements (species and habitats)
- Review and revise fire management strategies
- Ecological values mapping
- Internal and external awareness raising
- Private land burning

Chris provided information about the following target species: Black-eared Miner, Mallee Emu-wren, Red-lored Whistler, Striated Grasswren, Western Whipbird, Malleefowl, and Regent Parrot.

**Black-eared Miner** — In 2006 and 2014 there were wildfires in the Bookmark Biosphere. Good breeding events were noted during 2010-11. Current population estimates show populations lie somewhere between a high in 2001 and a low in 2007. Recovery team is largely incorporated into TMB CAP. The current focus is controlling genetic swamping and acquiring and improved understanding of fire growth age requirements.

**Regent Parrot** — found in mallee and River Red Gum forest with hollows. Threats include loss of habitat and hollows, persecution and competition.

**Malleefowl** — habitat is mallee with plenty of debris and litter. Threats are loss of habitat, predation and fragmentation.

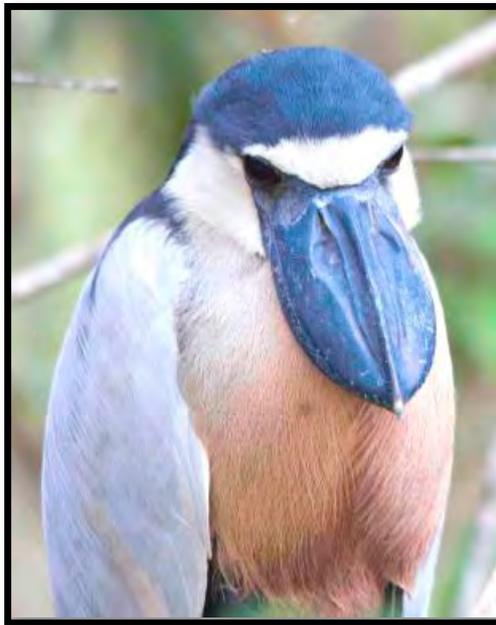
**Red-lored Whistler** — habitat is mallee communities with patchily dense shrub communities about 2m high. Threats are land clearance and inappropriate fire regimes'

**Striated Grasswren** — habitat is mallee communities with extensive patches of *Triodia* and some shrubs. Threats are land clearance and inappropriate fire regimes.

**Western Whipbird** — habitat is mallee and densely vegetated to 1.5 metres high. Threats are land clearance and inappropriate fire regimes.

**Mallee Emu-wren** — Now extinct in SA. May be possible to translocate wild population from Murray-Sunset and Hattah-Kulkyne National Parks in Victoria to Ngarkat Conservation Park.

A wide range of bodies are involved in the plan, including Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (SA), Zoos South Australia, La Trobe University, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Vic), Zoos Victoria, The University of Adelaide, Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW), Department of Environment (Aus.), BirdLife Australia and Monash University. The vision of the TMB CAP is to protect, improve and conserve threatened mallee bird species, together with appropriate habitat to increase species' resilience and decrease their extinction risk.



**Boat-billed Heron, photographed by Brian Walker 29 March 2016 on the Tarcoles River, Costa Rica**

## FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Vice-President Daniel Rogers introduced the speaker Brian Walker to talk about his **Two Weeks in Costa Rica**. Brian described a trip to Costa Rica with John Hatch during March/April 2016.

Brian provided the following facts about Costa Rica:

- No standing army since 1948
- Monthly earnings — High school graduate US\$608/month,

- University graduate — US\$809/month
- Just over 900 bird species
- Six endemic and 90+ near endemic species.
- About 75% the size of Tasmania

Getting there:

- Logic would dictate a flight via the USA which involved a 17 hour stopover in Los Angeles
- They went via Dubai, Rio de Janeiro and Panama City — 5 cities and 4 continents in 2 days!

They visited Savegre Mountain Lodge, Rancho Naturalista, La Selva Research Station, Hotel Villa Lapas, Tarcoles River, Carara National Park, Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and the capital San José.

**Savegre Mountain Lodge** is 89km south-east of San José on the flanks of the Cerro de la Muerte, in the village of San Gerardo de Dota at an elevation of 2200 metres above sea level in a valley deep in

## Past General Meetings (cont.) / Future General Meetings

tropical cloud forest. Over 170 species of birds have been recorded. It is the "Home of the Quetzal" and the Quetzal research station, a secondary campus of Southern Nazarene University. Birds seen and photographed included Scintillant Hummingbird, Volcano Hummingbird, White-throated Mountain-gem, Green Violet-ear, Magnificent Hummingbird, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Flame-coloured Tanager, Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher and Emerald Toucanet.

**Rancho Naturalista** 2½ hours by road SE of San José is on the Caribbean slope at an elevation of 900 metres. The local bird list is 450 species and is "the Home of the Snowcap". Birds seen and photographed here included Violet Sabrewing, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, White-necked Jacobin, Green-crowned Brilliant, Rufous Hummingbird, Snowcap (photo courtesy of Rancho Naturalista), Grey-headed Chacalaca, Paltry Tyrannulet, Social Flycatcher, Piratic Flycatcher and Sunbittern (photo courtesy of Rancho Naturalista).

The **La Selva Research Station** is at the confluence of two major rivers in the Caribbean lowlands of northern Costa Rica. It is 1600 hectares of tropical wet forests and disturbed lands that averages 4m of rainfall spread rather evenly throughout the year. It was purchased in 1968 by the Organization for Tropical Studies and declared a private biological reserve and station. 467 species of birds have been recorded including Black-mandibled Toucan, Keel-billed Toucan, Ariçari, Rufous Motmot, Broad-billed Motmot, Crested Guan, Great Curassow, Buff-throated Saltator, Yellow-crowned Euphonia and Passerini's Tanager. Other wildlife photographed included Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth, Collared Peccary, Strawberry ("Blue Jeans") Poison-dart Frog, Green and Black Poison-dart Frog and Eyelash Palm Pit Viper.

At the **Hotel Villa Lapas** in the Pacific lowlands 230 species of birds have been recorded. Photographs were shown of Blue-black Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Scarlet Macaw, Blue-crowned Motmot, Great Kiskadee, Northern Waterthrush, Black-crowned Tityra, Iguana and Basilisk.

The **Tarcoles River** is formed by the convergence of two rivers, the Virilla and the Grande de San Ramón, which empties into the Pacific Ocean and is almost the most polluted river in Costa Rica. Luis Campos guided Brian and John. Bird photographs shown were Tri-coloured Heron, Great Blue Heron, Bare-throated Tiger-heron, Boat-billed Heron, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Snowy Egret, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, Brown Pelican, Mangrove Black Hawk, Yellow-headed Caracara and Osprey.

The **Carara National Park** has over 400 species of birds and is a protected area of 4700 hectares of regenerating tropical rainforest-lowland and tropical dry forest. Amanda Sánchez was their guide. Photographs were shown of Rufous-naped Woodwren, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Black-faced Ant-thrush, Great Tinamou, Baird's Trogon, Red-capped Mannikin and White-faced Capuchin.

**Monteverde** was established by a group of Quakers

fleeing the military draft in the USA. Brian and John's guide was Ricardo Guindon, the son of the Quaker founders that colonised the area in 1951. He studied Ornithology at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. The Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve is 1440 metres above sea level and contains over 100 species of mammals, 400 species of birds, tens of thousand of insect species, and over 2500 varieties of plants including 420 orchid species. Birds photographed here included the Resplendent Quetzal, Three-wattled Bellbird, Black Guan, Purple-throated Mount Gem and Magenta-throated Hummingbird.

**San José** (elevation 1172 metres) sits in the Central Valley Region with the Talamanca Mountains to the south and volcanoes to the north. Some of the birds photographed here included Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-winged Dove and the National Bird of Costa Rica – the Clay-coloured Thrush.

Brian summarised his talk with the following information and advice:

- They saw 249 bird species, including 3 in Rio de Janeiro.
- Do use local guides
- If birding without a guide, walk slowly and listen for calls
- Don't forget to tip guides, drivers and housekeeping staff
- Enjoy yourself!

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### 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 20

Randall Johnson will talk about Habitat Restoration for the Declining Woodland Birds of the Mount Lofty Ranges.

#### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24

Arkellah Irving will present an Update from the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

#### FRIDAY MARCH 31

Colin Rich's presentation will be entitled Carotenoids, colour and captive breeding. How Noisy Miners are helping threatened species.

# Past Excursions

## Sturt Gorge – 28 August

Only six members came along on a very pleasant morning. We made our way to the Sturt River Flood Control Dam where we were rewarded by good views of a Peregrine Falcon perching on its nest box, which was attached to the side wall of the dam. Surprisingly we saw very few waterbirds on the dam. We flushed a Brown Quail that was hiding under some thick olives near the Minda Home farmlands. This is a new record for the Sturt Gorge Recreation Park. We also saw a White-faced Heron grazing along a drainage line nearby. A long walk ensued back to our starting point along the new trails on the former farmlands. A total of 43 species were seen and/or heard for the day.

Brian Blaylock

## PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) EXCURSION TO BERNIE'S BLOCK, MAMBRAY CREEK – AUGUST 28

It was an overcast day with a steady northerly wind but thirteen keen bird watchers rolled up at Bernie's block. Three were from Pt. Augusta, two each from Whyalla, Adelaide, Koolunga and Mambray Creek, and one each from Pt.

Pirie and Wilmington. The property is about seventy hectares in size and consists of the river red gum lined Mambray creek, an extensive area of Native pine woodland and old paddock areas that are being revegetated. We would also be entering the neighbouring property of similar size but it has more old paddocks, some *Acacia victoriae* woodland and more wetland areas in the creek. We parked our vehicles at the house and immediately began noting the birds we could see. The Rufous Songlarks could be clearly heard calling throughout the native pine woodland at the back of the house's yard and one then began calling on the power line above us, giving everyone a clear view of it. Welcome Swallows were darting about and had nests under the veranda and in the sheds. Willie Wagtails, who also had nests there, were chattering at us while a Grey Shrike-thrush was calling out from the extensive native garden. A Pallid Cuckoo sat on the

power line nearby as four Emus slowly passed in the distance. Then we all headed off towards the creek and noted the Little Ravens flying around. As we entered the rocky creek area numerous birds were calling out and a flock of Yellow-rumped Thornbills were feeding on the ground in front of us. A pair of Magpie-larks and three Galahs flew by while Singing Honeyeaters were poking around in the trees. A pair of Magpies were keeping a close eye on us, worried about us getting too close to their nest. We saw a Kookaburra as it left its hollow in a big red gum and flew away with its mate. A Grey Butcherbird called out nearby and a fledgling Little Raven quietly sat in a thick part of a native pine anxiously watching us. A



**The Babblers on their Mambray Creek Excursion**

single Striated Pardalote sat on a branch of a big dead gum tree, occasionally calling out to its mate, which we could not see. A small flock of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes were flittering about and diving onto caterpillars in the paddock next to the creek.

As we moved along the creek Chestnut-rumped Thornbills were fossicking about in some pines with a pair of Yellow Thornbills and a Grey Fantail. Dusky Woodswallows were gliding amongst the trees and Spiny cheeked Honeyeaters were singing their bubbly song nearby. Four Wood Ducks were disturbed from their feeding and rapidly flew off. A pair of Weebills whistled out from amongst the gum tree canopy while a brightly coloured male Rufous Whistler and then his mate were seen moving through the trees. Crested Pigeons flew off in front of us with their familiar whistling wing beats. A group of White-browed Babblers were scolding us as a

# Past Excursions (cont.)

Common Bronzewing Pigeon clattered off ahead of us. Yellow-throated Miners were announcing our progress along the creek while a pair of Rosellas and then a pair of Mallee Ringnecks were seen. Then while looking for a Grey butcherbirds nest a Tawny Frogmouth was found sitting motionless on a branch against the trunk of a pine tree. It was only one and a half meters of the ground and the photographers were able to move close to it, getting some good close-up photos.

As we left the creek area and crossed the top of the paddock area there were Galahs and Little corellas feeding on black bluebush seeds. A Kestrel flew by and then the Galahs and Corellas were startled and rushed away as a Hobby cruised by. It was probably after a flock of Starlings that had also been flushed out of the pine trees nearby. More Black faced Cuckoo Shrikes were hunting along the edge of the paddock as we entered the native pine woodland area and were greeted by the constant calls of the Rufous Songlarks. Southern Whitefaces were quietly whistling as they were feeding on the ground and Variegated Fairy-wrens remained quietly squeaking in the bushes until they were called in and several coloured males gave us a good look at them. Several female Red-capped Robins were chasing insects but no males appeared. We moved on through the pines and a single Elegant Parrot flew over us and landed in the distant woodland. A Whistling Kite glided overhead curiously watching us. Three Grey Shrike-thrushes were having a ding dong battle over land rights or a female bird and totally ignored us, putting on an entertaining show. We heard Red-rumped Parrots and later we saw a group of seven males. The females were probably left sitting on their nests while the males were taking their turn to feed. We regularly saw Peaceful Doves, either on the ground or in the trees. Then we saw a flash of a brown bird running across the track and upon closer inspection we found a Brown Quail, quietly sneaking away through the low vegetation. As we watched, it joined two more Brown Quails and they gave us a good viewing as they wandered about and circled back to be very close to us. The next stop was back at the house for a late smoko and a quick bird call. Two Black Kites circled the area and could be seen tending to their nest in a gum tree in the creek.

After we had finished smoko we headed off back into the native pine woodland. A pair of White necked Herons passed by with the white 'landing light' patches on their wings clearly visible as they headed for the creek area. We moved on finding at last a male Red-capped Robin. We saw more Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Chestnut-rumped

Thornbills, Yellow Thornbills, Southern Whitefaces, Grey Fantails, Variegated Fairy-wrens and Babblers. As we left the pine woodland area we walked along the edge of a patch of *Acacia victoriae* and the open paddock. Here the bluebush is coming back and recolonising the old paddock area. White-winged Fairy-wrens prefer this type of country and we saw several groups, and the bright dark blue and white males stood out. We crossed the old paddock area and re-entered the creek area. White-plumed Honeyeaters were in the gum tree canopy and a White-winged Triller flew between the trees. We moved towards old quarried areas in the creek that have exposed the creek water, which before would have flowed underground and now have formed billabongs and wet areas. A couple of Grey Teal were flushed off the water and an Australian Grebe was diving and reappearing in the water as a Wood Duck swam with it. A Horsfields Bronze Cuckoo sat in a tree above a couple of Silvereyes on the edge of the billabong. We moved on along the babbling brook area watched by Yellow-throated Miners. Wood Duck were disturbed but one male duck stubbornly remained, walking around and obviously anxious about leaving ducklings hiding nearby, which we could not see.

We crossed the creek area and walked along the edge of another old paddock and were greeted by a Spotted Harrier carrying a half grown Bearded Dragon in its talons. As it flew along the paddock to join up with its mate there was a flash of a dark streamlined shape with pointed wings. A Black Falcon had been watching and dived down to the Harrier, snatched the lizard from the Harrier's grasp and disappeared amongst the gum trees.

It was past lunchtime and some of our tummies were rumbling, so we crossed the creek heading back to the house. A Black-shouldered Kite was hovering over the paddock and a Brown Goshawk glided past as we had lunch. Another bird call and addresses were exchanged and after plenty of bird talk people departed. Everyone had an enjoyable bird watching day. Fiftysix bird species were sighted, but some regulars were absent such as the Red Wattlebird, Australian Raven and Tree Martins. Other birds that had been regularly seen very recently, such as the Sacred Kingfisher, Mistletoebird and White-faced Heron were also missed. As I write this article the pair of White-faced Herons are walking past the yard looking for worms after the recent rain.

**Bernie Haase.**

# Past Excursions (cont.)



## The Babblers on their excursion around Argadells Station

### Port Augusta Bird Group (the Babblers) Argadells Station – 11 September

It was a fine day when seven bird watchers met at the Quorn swimming pool. One each from Pt. Augusta, Pt. Pirie and Mambray Creek, plus two each from Quorn and Whyalla. It was suggested by the Quorn locals that we could look in on the Quorn reservoir on the way to Argadell's station and we all agreed.

As we approached the reservoir there were Sacred Kingfishers, Kestrels and Sparrows in the red gum creek that went past the reservoir. When we parked our vehicles we disturbed a group of Variegated Fairy Wrens and then as we walked to the embankment of the reservoir White Browed Babblers were skittering around in the bushes and through the Mallee patch between the reservoir and the creek. A Grey Shrike-thrush was calling from the Mallee scrub as Australian Ravens and Galahs flew over us. We followed the embankment around to a place where we could get easier access to view the water and saw White-backed Magpies, Willie Wagtails and Singing Honeyeaters. The reservoir water was about three quarters full and there were a number of Wood Ducks and Coots on the water and

on the shore. A few Grey Teal, a Hoary-headed Grebe and a pair of Little Pied Cormorants were swimming with a single male Musk Duck who was displaying his wares and occasionally flicking water into the air. A pair of Masked Lapwings and a Black fronted Dotterel patrolled the shore line. While we watched them a Black Shouldered Kite was hovering over the neighbouring wheat fields and Pipits were calling out and Little Ravens flew by.

On our way back to the vehicles, through the Mallee patch there were Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Weebills, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Southern Whitefaces and a Rufous Whistler. Whilst we were at the vehicles Crested Pigeons, Mallee Ringnecks and a Collared Sparrowhawk passed by. In the creek red gums, Striated Pardalotes and a Pallid Cuckoo called out as the Sacred Kingfishers were having a territorial dispute amongst themselves. Just as we were leaving a small group of Apostlebirds flew along the creek.

When we arrived at the Argadells station property entrance we followed a red gum creek up to the homestead and there were Elegant Parrots quietly perched on the upper branches and Black-faced Cuckoo shrike cruising around. At the homestead we

# Past Excursions (cont.)

said gooday to the residents and paid our vehicle entry fees. There were Crested Pigeons, Little Corellas, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Galahs and a flock of about fifty Tree Martins in the area. We drove along a track towards Hannimans gorge and there were more Galahs, Yellow-throated Miners, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Singing Honeyeaters, Little Ravens and White-backed Magpies as well as hybrid Magpies between the White-backed and Black-backed races. As we entered the gorge Rufous Songlarks, Mallee Ringnecks and Grey Butcherbirds called out and flew by. At a quick stop in the gorge Inland Thornbills and Weebills fossicked around in the trees. We drove on through the gorge and stopped for smoko near a small dam and amongst native pine woodland. Rufous Whistlers and Grey Shrike-thrush were calling out as well as a Horsefields Bronze Cuckoo's long high-pitched call echoing of the nearby cliffs. A pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles soared overhead as the constant whistling of Grey Fantails was heard. There were also Striated Pardalotes, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Brown-headed Honeyeaters and a Collared Sparrowhawk about as we had our smoko. We regularly heard a bird calling that most of us were not able to recognise, so we all went looking for it, but it was proving to be very elusive. A pair of Red-capped Robins were tending to their young in a nest and were getting upset by the bird that was making the unusual call. We called the bird to us and finally were able to identify a Shining Bronze Cuckoo and the photographers were even able to get photos. Then there was another one and we observed their courtship display and feeding. The Cuckoos were well north of their usual range and must have been able to move here during the wet winter here this year. On a small dam nearby there were Wood Duck and Grey Teal and as we were about to move on a small flock of Budgies flew past.

Next stop was at South Gorge with more steep cliffs in which Kestrels were nesting in a little cave high up the cliff face. Apostlebirds were loudly letting us know they were there and Silvereyes moved around in the undergrowth. We walked into the gorge looking for Yellow-footed Rock Wallabies but had no luck. Adelaide Rosellas, Kookaburras, White-browed Babblers, Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Inland Thornbills greeted us as we moved along the gorge. After returning to our vehicles the Apostlebirds came right up to us as we had lunch. The constant raucous calls of this group of Apostlebirds nearby needed a closer look and a nest with young birds about to leave the nest was found, with the whole mob of them caring for the young.

After lunch we moved on along a rough in places, four wheel drive track along high ridge tops where we stopped several times to find Grass Wrens, with no luck. Emus and Pipits were found in these areas. We travelled along the track and then turned onto the steep Mt. Arden track. This is a very steep, rocky and rough in places, proper four wheel drive track to the summit, but the view is well worth it. The hillsides look like good Grasswren country but we were running out of time and had to head back.

We arrived back at the homestead and made a bird count, said our goodbyes and all headed back to our homes.

**Bernie Haase**

## **Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park – 15 September**

Four people participated in this excursion, which was more than expected given the ferocious weather of the day before. As expected, our walk options were limited by the amount of water flowing through the creeks and down the tracks and lying about in every possible spot.

We were unable to follow the usual route around the Stringybark Trail due to the creeks being up and instead stuck to the Wallowa Track. We made slow progress as the track was wet and slippery and there was a general scarcity of birds. A highlight of the day was a Sacred Kingfisher seen on the road near the parking area when we first arrived. This sighting gives further credence to the theory that most of the best birds are always seen in and around where the cars are parked, either before or after the actual walk!

The most common birds were honeyeaters with Crescent (4), New Holland (20), Brown-headed (4), White-naped (2), Red Wattlebird (6), Yellow-faced (10) and White-plumed (6). We also saw both White-throated Treecreeper (4) and Brown Treecreeper (2). Laughing Kookaburras (4) were clearly amused by the sight of soggy birdwatchers struggling through the mud, while some cheeky Scarlet Robins (5) also came out to have a look. Thornbills, usually numerous in the park, were clearly being sensible and taking shelter, although we did see Yellow Thornbills (8), Striated (2) and a single Buff-rumped Thornbill.

The walk was accompanied by the calls of Grey Shrike-thrushes (4) and White-winged Choughs (3) and Tree Martins (30) were a fairly constant presence in the sky. We also saw the usual Little Ravens (4), Superb Fairywrens (10), Crimson Rosellas (10), Willie Wagtail (1), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes (2), Galah (1) and Magpies (4).

Due to the weather conditions we finished a little early and retreated to the picnic ground in Bethany

# Past Excursions (cont.)

to have lunch and carry out the bird call. When we arrived, a large sugar-gum was lying across the entry road. Naturally we assumed it had fallen the previous day or evening during the wild winds but were cheerfully informed by a nearby council worker that it had collapsed only about 5 minutes before our arrival. So rest assured, birdwatching is an adventure sport fit for intrepid explorers willing to brave natural hazards in the pursuit of their passion.

**Ali Ben Kahn**

## **October Long Weekend Campout — Mount Scott Conservation Park — 1 to 3 October**

Regrettably this event had to be cancelled due to heavy rain prior to the weekend creating boggy conditions on access roads and at the proposed bush camp site. The actual weekend was also very wet and windy in the proposed bird survey areas. Given the planning and work of local birders Vicki Natt and David Sando, I will liaise with them to reschedule a visit for next year.

**Lynton Huxley**

## **Hardy's Scrub — 15 October**

A keen group of 6 members and 4 visitors met at the Blewitt Springs CFS Shed on a warm and breezy morning before moving to the starting point on Chapel Hill Road. We headed out on the track to the right and into the area that had been burned out a number of years ago. New vegetation was still thick and high and so we had 'heards' not sightings. I asked Ali to lead from there and I would meet them near the return track.

Winter rains meant a bush bash to make their way around the flooded dam. Although most birds were in small numbers, cheeky Grey Fantails, Crescent and New Holland Honeyeaters were abundant. Everyone agreed the moments spent watching the Mistletoebirds provided the morning's highlight.

Lunch and bird call were enjoyed in an enchanted Forest. We saw a total of 33 Bird species on this walk.

**Teresa Jack**

## **Jenkins Scrub Little Mount Crawford Native Forest Reserve — 20 October**

Ten club members met on a very pleasant morning, and it was obvious that we had picked the best day for birding in a week of otherwise quite variable weather.

Shortly before 8.30am we were pleasantly surprised to have our numbers more than tripled in size with the arrival of five mums and their sixteen children. They were part of the Torrens Valley Home

Schooling Group and were joining us for an educational outing. We split into two groups, with Martin and Sue going along with the visitors in what was considered would be the more "active" group, and the remaining club members going off in the opposite direction at our normal sedate pace. As had been agreed, we all met in the middle of the park and then moved on to the big fallen tree. In no time, as would be expected, the tree had sixteen curious children sitting on it and in it. Gordon took a



**Torrens Valley Home Schooling Group joined our excursion**

photo of our visitors, then four of the families moved on back to the car park but the Fahner family of five remained with us to complete the walk.

The park is in very good condition with plenty of water about but this did not hamper us in any way. The aspiring botanists in the group had a field day with a good variety of wild flowers about, including eight species of orchid seen, including an explosion of Wax-Lip Orchids.

The walk produced twenty-five bird species seen, and one heard. The overall number of birds present

# Past Excursions (cont.)

was a low 154 individuals. Most common were Striated Pardalote, Crescent Honeyeater, Buff-rumped Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Superb Fairy-wren and Grey Shrike-thrush. One Fantail Cuckoo was heard. Nesting activity by White-throated Treecreeper, Crescent Honeyeater, and White-winged Chough was evident.

Other interesting birds were a pair of Sacred Kingfisher and one member reported two Black-capped Sittella.

We arrived back at the parking area at about 11.45 for lunch and the birdcall.

After lunch some members of the group proceeded to Para Wirra Recreation Park where we had a fantastic sighting of a Square-tailed Kite nesting, and her mate flying to and from the nest. This was the second recent siting of Square-tailed Kite as we also had a very good view of a low soaring individual on the recent Cox Scrub walk.

## Rod Tetlow

### Private Property near Murray Bridge — 30 October

Blustery conditions and the threat of a late morning shower did not deter 12 members from gathering for our third bird survey on this private property. I suspect attendance was also affected by the clash with the much-publicised Shorebirds count.

Whilst the forecast rain held off, the wind was quite strong at times and this probably restricted our sightings of some species we had previously recorded. Our total of 30 species sighted on this survey consisted of Common Bronzewing (3), Crested Pigeon (1), Brown Falcon (2), Nankeen Kestrel (1), Galah (12), Australian Ringneck (4), Adelaide Rosella (2), Weebill (12), Spotted Pardalote (2), two species of Thornbill – Yellow (4) and Yellow-rumped (12), four species of Honeyeater – Brown-headed (6), New Holland (4), Singing (6) and Spiny-cheeked (4), Red Wattlebird (8), Australian Magpie (10), Australian Golden Whistler (2), Rufous Whistler (4), Grey Shrike-thrush (4), Grey Fantail (2), Willie Wagtail (6), Red-capped and Hooded Robin (4 and 2 respectively), Little Raven (12), Silvereye (4) Spotted Pardalote (2), White-bowed Babbler (20), Rainbow Bee-eater (4) and White-winged Chough (12).

## Lynton Huxley

### Port Augusta Bird Group (the Babblers) Whyalla Wetlands and Point Lowly Area, 13<sup>th</sup> November

It was a partly overcast and very windy day at the Whyalla wetlands when five keen bird watchers met in the car park. Two members were from Pt. Augusta and one each from Whyalla, Mambray Creek and Adelaide. Silver Gulls greeted us expecting a feed and a Crested Pigeon was coming and going from the dense foliage of a gum tree. It possibly had a nest there but we could not find it. The first birds noticed on the water near us were Chestnut Teals and a Little Black Cormorant. A Magpie-lark and a group of Black-winged Stilts were on the banks of an island in the first pond. Some of the stilts were young juveniles with their mottled grey wings and a stilt was sitting on a nest in a slight depression nearby. As we moved around the pond Red Wattlebirds and Welcome Swallows were flying past. A group of Starlings and some House Sparrows were sitting on some buildings nearby. As we approached a second pond some White-winged Fairy-wrens were quietly squeaking in the bushes and then briefly showing themselves as they moved from bush to bush. New Holland and Singing Honeyeaters and more Red Wattlebirds were in the trees along the path. This pond had previously contained a lot of reeds and Bulrushes around it, but they were gone and only some small young plants were making a comeback. This meant that we would not find any of the reed-living birds that were previously found here. There were many domestic ducks here. Muscovy, Indian Runners, Mallards and hybrids which were competing aggressively with the native Wood Ducks, Chestnut Teals and Australian Grebes. The Little Pied Cormorants may be able to hold their own but will probably be crowded out in the future. A pair of Coots were actually sitting on a nest in a clump of remnant reeds in a quieter part of the pond. Tree Martins were buzzing about the area and a few Fairy martins were darting about over the pond. As we moved around the pond a pair of Rufous Whistlers were calling to each other and we had a good look at the female whistler. This is our first record of a Rufous Whistler at this site. At the third pond, White-faced Herons slowly pulled themselves into the sky as we approached. A single Common Sandpiper and more Black-winged Stilts were on the bank. A White-backed Magpie and some Feral Pigeons flew overhead. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes and Grey Butcherbirds sat in the trees nearby. As we moved around the pond a pair of stilts were constantly scolding us and sure enough they had some very young chicks with them. We had to take cover under a tree to get out of a

# Past Excursions (cont.)

light shower of rain and we disturbed a blackbird. As we headed back to the car park a couple of Galahs passed overhead. We had a quick bird count and smoko in a shelter and discussed where we could go for next year's birding program. One of the Pt. Augusta birds had to leave us here and the rest of us headed off to Point Lowly. At Point Lowly we parked near the lighthouse and were nearly blown away by strong southerly wind. On a nearby rocky headland a large group of birds were sitting out the windy conditions. The group consisted of about ninety Black-faced Cormorants, forty Silver gulls, sixteen Crested Terns, six Pacific gulls and a few Pied Cormorants. At the lighthouse buildings there was a mob of Starlings and some Sparrows. In the bushes nearby the Variegated Fairy-wrens were sheltering out of the wind while Welcome Swallows and Tree martins seemed to be enjoying the windy conditions. As we walked around the lighthouse to have a look at the sandy beach area close by, a Crested Pigeon, Singing Honeyeaters and White-backed Magpies were resting in the trees there. The beach was receiving the full force of the wind and we could not see any birds there. Behind the buildings a family of White-winged Fairy-wrens were living in the bushes there and a single female White-fronted Chat provided some photo opportunities. On the power lines to the shacks close by a mob of twenty two Galahs were hanging on against the wind as a Nankeen Kestrel revelled in the conditions above them. We jumped back into our vehicles and travelled to the coastal road that goes to Fitzgerald Bay to find a place to have a late lunch. On the way we passed some Pipits and White-fronted Chats.

We stopped for lunch at the start of a sheltered, rocky gully that leads inland from the coast and has some trees and scrub lining it. Many birds were calling out and it promised to be a good spot for some birding. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Singing Honeyeaters, White-browed Babblers, Grey Butcherbirds and Crested Bellbirds could be heard and seen while we had lunch. An inquisitive pair of Grey Shrike-thrushes came to look at us and the rufous underparts of their race *rufiventris* were clearly visible. A pair of Kestrels was squabbling in a dead tree high up on the side of the gully as Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows darted about above

us. We finished our lunch and decided to walk up the sides of the gully. The Babblers here were unusually shy and we had trouble getting a clear view of them as they kept hiding and moving away in the undergrowth. Yellow-throated Miners with what sounded like annoying young birds were moving along with us. We could hear the scolding calls of Redthroats and occasionally spotted them moving through the bushes. Eventually we did get several good sightings of them as we moved along the side of the gully. At the top of the ridge we were following, a Little Button-quail exploded out of the ground under our feet and its white under side was clearly visible as it tore away from us. We moved back down the gully following the opposite ridge and the undergrowth was thicker on this side. A mob of what at first I thought were Variegated Fairy-wrens were moving in front of us, but we could see that they were Splendid Fairy-wrens when a brilliantly coloured male popped up and gave us a lovely sighting. We had another good look at a male Redthroat and a single Galah flew up the gully. We returned to the vehicles and went down to the shore passing a group of White-winged fairy-wrens. There were Crested Terns, Pied Cormorants and Pacific Gulls on the beach and in the water. We drove along the coastal road to Fitzgerald Bay passing several large groups of Black-faced Cormorants, Silver Gulls and Pied Cormorants on the shore. A single Black-faced Woodswallow and White-backed Magpie were also seen. If the wind had not been blowing at gale force by this time I'm sure we would have found more waders along the shoreline.



**The Babblers at Whyalla**

**Bernie Haase.**

# Future Excursions

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Field Trip and campout Co-ordinator, Lynton Huxley

Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038

Email: [fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au) or [lyntonhuxley@gmail.com](mailto:lyntonhuxley@gmail.com)

**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. The duties of the leader and scribe may be shared 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 or the forecast temperature is above 36C in the area of a scheduled walk, the walk is automatically cancelled.**

**Sunday 27 November: Currency Creek Gorge (85km).** The Gorge is 6km north of Goolwa on the Goolwa to Strathalbyn Road. Meet at 8.30am in the Lions Park on the northern side of the road just past the 80km limit in Currency Creek, when travelling from Goolwa.

**TRIP LEADER: Wyn Syson**

**Saturday 10 December: Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens (MLR) (19km)**

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

**TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn**

**Thursday 15 December: Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina (LA) (85km).**

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

**TRIP LEADER: John Fennell**

**Saturday 7 January: Belair National Park (MLR) (13km).**

Meet at 8.30am in the car park inside the main gate off Upper Sturt Road, Belair. Note car parking spaces are limited so an alternative may be to park at the golf club and walk through to the meeting spot.

**TRIP LEADER: David Williams**

**Thursday 19 January: 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. It is planned to move to Dublin for the bird call and lunch as there is more shelter /shade.

**TRIP LEADER: Kate Buckley**

**Sunday 29 January: Riverglades and Rocky Gully Wetlands Murray Bridge (MM) (80km).**

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

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

**Saturday 11 February: Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker (MLR) (34km).** Meet at the carpark on Bald Hills Road, Mt. Barker at 8.30am.

**TRIP LEADER: John Gitsham**

**Thursday 16 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 Road. From the city, take Port Wakefield Road north, turning left onto the Salisbury Highway heading towards Port Adelaide. Once you are on the Salisbury Highway, move over to the right hand lane so you are ready to turn right into Magazine Road Wetlands.

**TRIP LEADER: John Hatch**

**Sunday 26 February: Sandy Creek CP: (MLR) (52km).** Meet at 8.30am at the northern car park located at the end of Conservation Road, which is on the right, off the Gawler to Lyndoch Road about 10km east of Gawler.

**TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow**

# Future Excursions (cont.)

## Saturday 11 March: Porter Scrub Conservation Park (MLR) (44km)

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

**TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn**

**Thursday 23 March: Whites Road Wetlands (AP) (16km).** Meet at 8.30am. Head north on the Port Wakefield Road. At 1.5 km, 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**

**Sunday 2 April: Browns Road, Monarto (MLR) (60km).** Meet at 8.30am at Browns Road, Monarto, just off the old Murray Bridge Road. Leave the SE Freeway at the Callington exit. Drive through Callington and turn right onto the old Murray Bridge road. The junction is on the left at the top of the hill.

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**



## THE BABBLER

Bird watching field trips of the Birdlife Australia & Birds SA clubs  
PORT AUGUSTA GROUP

### PROGRAM 2017, January to March

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Bowman Park	Crystal Brook info. park (main st.)	8:30 am
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Baroota reservoir	Mambray Creek parking bay	8:00 am
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> \			
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Munyeroo cons. park	Whyalla wetlands	8:30 am
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> /	( Camp out - <u>no</u> facilities available )		

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

For further information contact:-

Peter - 86425723 / 0457708859 or Bernie - 0419863834 / 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](mailto:birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au) or phone 8297 5463.

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

## **Brown Quail**

Fewer reports than in recent years.

20, 18/6/2016. 3 km E McLaren Vale, MLR.

Smith, D.A.

3, 4/8/2016. St Peter Island, off Ceduna, EP.

van Weenen, J.

First report from an island off EP.

2, 31/10/2016. St Kilda Saltfields, west track, AP.

Carpenter, G.

## **Magpie Goose**

768, 7/5/2016. Piccaninnie Ponds, Pick Swamp, SE.

Campbell, J.

About 1000, 26/7/2016. Bool Lagoon, SE.

Moorhouse, R.

## **Australasian Shoveler**

Pr.+6juv, 8/11/2016. Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K.

Appears to be now a regular breeding species at this wetland, with few other breeding reports of this species received in recent years.

## **Cape Barren Goose**

1, 1/11/2016. Port River, Snowden's Beach, AP.

Potter, D.

Formerly a regular visitor to the wetlands on the Adelaide Plains.

## **Plumed Whistling-duck**

6, 28/6/2016. Cowarie Stn, Warburton River, NE.

Black, A.

## **Fork-tailed Swift**

25+, 9/10/2016. Mungernanie, NE.

Harper, D. & S.

An early record.

## **Blue-billed Duck**

75, 11/6/2016. Tanunda sewage works, MLR.

Birds SE

12, 25/6/2016. 5 km E Glacier Rock, Inman Valley, MLR.

Cheshire, N.

113, 7/8/2016. Hacks Lagoon, SE.

Green, B.

4, 8/11/2016. Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K.

Most ducks and other waterbirds are in low numbers in southern regions, presumably dispersing due to the wet winter-spring period.

## **Spinifex Pigeon**

2, 24/10/2016. Cadelga Outstation, NE.

Harper, D. & S.

A few previous reports from this site.

## **Barbary Dove**

20, 3/8/2016. Salisbury, Midway Rd, AP.

Roberston, D.

1, 6/11/2016. Port Clinton, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

## **Southern Royal Albatross**

2, 23/10/2016. Sea off Port MacDonnell, MO.

Rogers, C. et al.

Also reported on this trip were 1 Northern Royal Albatross, 1 Flesh-footed Shearwater, 15 White-chinned Petrel and 1 Hutton's Shearwater.

## **Buller's Albatross**

1 beach-washed, 4/4/2016. Nene Valley beach, SE.

Todd, R. per P. Horton, SA Museum.

The first beach-washed report of this species in SA was on the same data, same locality and by the same observer in 2015.

## **Australasian Bittern**

1, 23/5/2016. Oaklands Wetland, Marion, AP.

Reported and photographed by various observers including C. Greer.

## **Little Bittern**

1, 3/11/2016. Banrock Wetlands, MM.

Field, T.

## **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**

1 immature, 13/7/2016. Whyalla, EP.

Smith, E.

1 immature., 14/8/2016. Semaphore, Pt Malcolm breakwater, AP.

vanTrigt, M-A.

# Bird Records (cont.)

## Square-tailed Kite

- 1, 11/8/2016. Naracoorte Parklands, SE.      Leddy, L.  
1, 23/10/2016. Piccaninnie Ponds CP, SE.      Johnston, D.  
1, 19/8/2016. Swan Reach, 10km S, MM.      Winwood, S.  
1, 11/9/2016. Black Hill CP, MLR.      Gordon, S.  
1, 24/9/2016. Anstey Hill CP, MLR.      Groves, J.  
2, 1/10/2016. Belair NP, MLR.      Gordon, S.  
*This species appears to be slowly increasing in SA, with nesting attempted at Belair NP again this year.*

## Osprey

- 1, 28/5/2016. Port MacDonnell, SE.      Mount, D.  
1, 23/7/2016. Mulgundawa, Lake Alexandrina, MM.      Spencer, L.  
1, 15/9/2016. The Bluff, Encounter Bay, MLR.      Carpenter, G.  
1, 10/9/2016. Semaphore, Pt Malcolm breakwater, AP.      vanTrigt, M-A.

## Grey Falcon

- 1, 28/6/2016. Cowarie Stn, Warburton River. NE.      Black, A.  
1, 19/7/2016. Whyalla, EP.      Smith, E.  
*Periodic reports near Whyalla suggest a local nesting pair.*

## Lewin's Rail

- 2, 14/7/2016. Mt Compass school swamp, MLR.      Nickholds, T.

## Australian Bustard

- 1, 10/6/2016. Wood's Well, E of, MM.      Birds SE

## Bush Stone-curlew

- 1, 22/4/2016. Moorunde, MM.      Nye, G.  
1, 15/8/2016. Wistow, MLR. Attracted to captive birds in aviary.      Wilson, V. & Bentley, K.

## Common Sandpiper

- 2, 11/9/2016. Port Adelaide, Mangrove Cove, AP.      vanTrigt, M-A

## Double-banded Plover

- 370, 20/7/2016. Lake George, SE.      Christie, M. *et al.*  
*A large count for this species.*

## Hooded Plover

- 3, 17/9/2016. Seacliff, AP.      Shaw, C.  
*Reported in local media to have 2 chicks in early November. Many nests failed due to storms in September and October.*

## Ruddy Turnstone

- 1, 29/9/2016. Semaphore South beach, AP.      vanTrigt, M-A.

## Sanderling

- 2, 7/10/2016. Semaphore South beach, AP.      vanTrigt, M-A.

## Latham's Snipe

- 8, 10/11/2016. Waitpinga Swamp, MLR.      Carpenter, G.

## Bar-tailed Godwit

- 1, 28/10/2016. Black Point, YP.      Tiller, M.  
*First report from this site.*

## Laughing Gull

- Reported to be still present at Venus Bay on 5/10/2016.      Goldie, J.

## Fairy Tern

- 118, 20/7/2016. Lake George, SE.      Christie, M. *et al.*

## Elegant Parrot

- 6, 17/9/2016. Wistow, Scrubby Hill Rd, MLR. Including pair at hollow in dead eucalypt.      Tiller, M.

## Scarlet-chested Parrot

- Male, 1/10/2016. Nullarbor Roadhouse, NW. On fence in open bluebush country.      Langfield, G.

## Red-browed Pardalote

- 1, 22/9/2016. Witchelina Stn, FR.      Scientific Expedition Group  
*Close to southern limit in SA.*

# Bird Records (cont.)

## Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

80, 11/9/2016. Black Hill CP, MLR.

Turvey, D.

1 over, 27/10/2016. Adelaide, Government House, AP.

Horton, P.

1 over, 3/11/2016. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

7 over 8/11/2016. Malvern, Duthy St, AP.

Horton, P.

*Visits to AP are earlier than usual this year. Nesting at Cleland CP is being monitored. Several pairs are investigating hollows and due to start laying in November - December. Reports of birds at hollows are welcome. Please send them to the Bird Records Secretary).*

## Rainbow Bee-eater

8, 15/10/2016. Glandore Oval, AP. Warm day with N wind. Perched briefly in gums before heading off to north.

Carpenter, G.

3, 15/10/2016. Flinders Park, Grange Rd, AP.

Price, M.

*Possibly the same birds as above.*

## White-throated Gerygone

1, 6/11/2016. Eaglehawk Waterhole, SE.

Hlava, C.

1, 11/11/2016. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM. In 15-year old revegetation.

*Reported at this site each year for the last 3 years.*

Doecke, M.

## Little Wattlebird

Pair + immature, 6/11/2016. Port Clinton, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

*Previously reported at this site in October 2012 (see Birds SA newsletter November 2012).*

## Blue-faced Honeyeater

1, 30/9/2016. Hart Lagoon, Waikerie, MM.

Henderson, S.

2, 16/11/2016. Keith township, SE. In street trees.

Carpenter, G.

## Black-chinned Honeyeater

3, 8/7/2016. Murray Bridge, Greenlands Drive, MM.

Hampel, T.

1, 22/8/2016. Globe Derby Park, White Rd, AP.

Carter, D.



Superb Fairy-wren, photographed by Alan Pettigrew at the Laratinga Birdfair on 23/10/16

## Ground Cuckoo-shrike

1, 31/8/2016. Brachina Gorge road, FR.

Cameron, D.

## Olive-backed Oriole

1, 4/9/2016. Para Wirra NP, MLR. Adult calling near Frank Barker Rd.

Zanker, R.

## White-browed Woodswallow

20 over, 20/10/2016. Blackwood, Coromandel Parade, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

## Pied Butcherbird

1 adult, 3/10/2016. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR. Photographed in low coastal mallee.

Steele-Collins, E.

*A few recent reports elsewhere in the Mount Lofty Ranges (see August newsletter)*

## Grey Currawong

1, April-July 2016. Edwardstown, AP.

Kowalick, D.

## Red-whiskered Bulbul

2, 12/9/2016. Mount Torrens, MLR.

Potter, S.

## Zebra Finch

2, 23/7/2016. Hahndorf, MLR. At garden bird bath.

Rowland, K.

*Now rarely reported in MLR/AP region. These may be escaped aviary birds.*

# From the Library



**578.6 PEA**

Pearce, Fred

**The new wild: why invasive species will be nature's salvation**

London: Icon, 2015

ISBN: 9781785780516

In *The New Wild*, Pearce goes on a journey to rediscover what conservation should really be about. He explores ecosystems from Pacific islands to the Australian outback to the Thames estuary, digs into the questionable costs of invader species, and reveals the outdated intellectual sources of our ideas about the balance of nature. Keeping out alien species looks increasingly flawed. The new ecologists looking afresh at how species interact in the wild believe we should celebrate the dynamism of alien species and the novel ecosystems they create.

In an era of climate change and widespread ecological damage, we must find ways to help nature regenerate. Embracing the 'new wild' is our best chance.



**598.176097 LES**

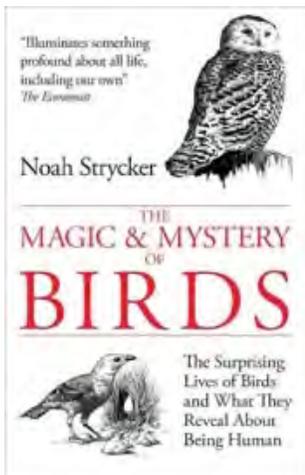
Leslie, Scott

**Wetland birds of North America: a guide to observation, understanding and conservation**

Toronto: Key Porter Books, 2006

ISBN: 1552637220

Photographer and naturalist Scott Leslie profiles some of the most common species that birders may observe, including loons, great blue herons, greater yellow legs, bald eagles, warblers, sparrows, and sandpipers. Each entry provides a complete profile of a species including a description of its appearance, habitat, behavior, calls and sounds, food, family life, distribution and migration, conservation concerns, and related species. Also included is a guide to North America's most easily accessible bird-rich wetlands by region, a great resource that explains where to find some of the most fascinating natural areas on the continent.



**598.251 STR**

Strycker, Noah

**The magic and mystery of birds : the surprising lives of birds and what they reveal about being human**

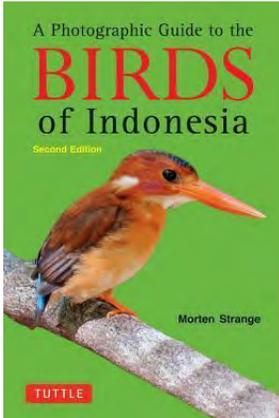
London : Souvenir Press, 2015

ISBN: 978028543239

Noah Strycker has spent the last decade studying bird behaviour in some of the world's remotest places from a penguin colony in Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, the Australian outback, the Galápagos Islands and has observed almost 2,500 species of birds. *The Magic and Mystery of Birds* is a thoughtful and engaging look at how the life of birds connects with humanity.

**598.29598 STR**

# From the Library (cont.)



Strange, Morten  
**Photographic guide to the birds of Indonesia, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.**  
Tokyo: Tuttle Publishing, 2012  
ISBN: 9780804842006

This bird field guide covers a total of 912 species, including most of the non-migratory and endemic species that are seen only in Indonesia, as well as a number of threatened and endangered species. A photograph and distribution map is given for each bird. Many new photographs of Indonesian birds appear in this volume for the first time and they have been carefully selected to show the important characteristics of each bird. The concise text provides vital information, and an index of common names is provided at the back of the book.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Mary Morris	HAMPDEN
Martin and Joy Aartsen	WARRADALE
Larry and Julia Gruitt	WHYALLA STUART
James Spiker	PANORAMA
Philip Verco	BORDERTOWN
Brian and Bev Reichelt	PORT AUGUSTA
Jillian Nickolls	PINNAROO
Doug and Sandy Castle	HOVE
Gabrielle Hunt	MODBURY
Peri and Alan Stenhouse	ADELAIDE
William Winser	UNLEY
Samuel Gordon	ROYSTON PARK
Benjamin Sean Freeling	PORT NOARLUNGA
Allan Lance	BORDERTOWN
Stephen and Padma Devi Carter	ALDGATE
Denise Skiffington and John Coates	MOUNT BARKER
Laurie Broomhead	KENSINGTON GARDENS
Rosemary and Roger Collins	NAIRNE
Ian Richard Gardiner	WARRADALE

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Treasurer. His 'phone number is on p30.

# About our Association

General Meetings are held in the Hawker Centre at the Waite Institute, Waite Road, Urrbrae at 7.45pm.  
Doors open at 7.10pm.

Committee Meetings are held at the above venue on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7.40pm.

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

## BIRDS SA COMMITTEE 2016 – 2017

President	David Paton	8344 8891
Vice President	John Gitsham	0438900393
Vice President	Daniel Rogers	8222 9517
Secretary	Brian Blaylock	0448822374
Treasurer	Brian Walker	8263 3433
Assistant Secretary	Kate Buckley	8261 7197
Journal Editor	Merylyn Browne	8339 6839
Newsletter Editor	Cynthia Pyle	8264 5778
Bird Trips	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Bird Records,	Graham Carpenter	8297 5463
Membership	Simon Brealey	8390 3666
Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	Emma Montgomery	0422 398610
Member	John Hatch	8362 2820
Member	John Fennell	8391 5358

## FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	0402123960
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
email <a href="mailto:imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au">imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au</a>		
Campout Organiser	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Rare Birds Secretary	Brian Blaylock	0448822374

## Port Augusta group of Birds SA

Contact people: Peter Langdon 8642 5723,  
Greg Bannon 8648 6630, Bernie Haase 0419 863 834

## BirdLife SE SA

Convener, — Bob Green  
[shriketit@bigpond.com](mailto:shriketit@bigpond.com), 8725 0549

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[abigail.goodman@bigpond.com](mailto:abigail.goodman@bigpond.com)  
IBA Coordinator, Bryan Haywood  
[brytonwood@bigpond.com](mailto:brytonwood@bigpond.com) 8726 8112

## Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact person: Neil Cheshire 8552 7904  
Website: [www.Fleurieubirdwatchers.org](http://www.Fleurieubirdwatchers.org)

## 2017 BIRDS SA SUBSCRIPTIONS

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.

## ADVERTISING IN 'The Birder'

Birds SA 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 March Newsletter is due by the February General Meeting (February 24). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD or USB stick, emailed to either of my email addresses, or typed/handwritten neatly.

- [newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au)
- [cpy62284@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cpy62284@bigpond.net.au)

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WEBSITE: [birdssa.asn.au](http://birdssa.asn.au)

## Guidelines for Ethical Behaviour When Birdwatching

- Always promote the welfare of birds and their environments.
- Respect the law and the rights of others — ensure that you are legally permitted to enter any land that you do not own.
- When watching and photographing birds, do so from a distance that does not disturb them.
- Limit the use of play-back calls, and never use them in heavily birded areas.
- Take special care during the birds' breeding season and do not disturb breeding birds or their nests.
- Birding in groups, whether organised or impromptu, requires special care to avoid disturbing birds.

**Birds SA members must lead by example, by practising ethical behaviour when birding individually or on field trips and campouts**

## Details of Photographs on pages 32 to 36

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Superb Fairywren	Teresa Jack	Near Naracoorte	27/09/2016
2	White-throated Treecreeper	Peter McKenzie	Waterfall Gully	10/11/2016
3	Striated Thornbill	Peter McKenzie	Charleston	27/10/2016
4	Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Gordon Pateman	Whites Road Wetlands	21/05/2016
5	Silvereye (race <i>chlorocephalus</i> )	Peter McKenzie	Heron Island, Qld	23/01/2015
6	Pacific Golden Plover	Peter McKenzie	Heron Island, Qld	25/01/2015
7	Grey-tailed Tattler	Paul Taylor	Bald Hill Beach	11/09/2016
8	Hooded Plover	Bill O'Malley	Coorong, near Salt Creek	15/03/2016
9	Common Sandpiper	Peter McKenzie	Goolwa	18/02/2016
10	Wandering Tattler	Peter McKenzie	Heron Island, Qld	26/01/2015
11	Black Kite	Gordon Pateman	Paiwalla Wetlands	1/09/2016
12	Peregrine Falcon	Gordon Pateman	Paiwalla Wetlands	1/09/2016
13	Brown Goshawk	Gordon Pateman	Browns Road, Monarto	14/04/2014
14	Red-necked Avocet	Alan Pettigrew	Near Birdsville, Qld	20/07/2016
15	Pacific Reef Heron (White morph)	Peter McKenzie	Heron Island, Qld	25/01/2015
16	Australasian Gannet	Teresa Jack	Danger Point, Portland, Vic	24/10/2016
17	Black-faced Cormorant	Robert Rowland	Coorong	15/05/2016
18	Sacred Kingfisher	Gordon Pateman	Pompoota	5/11/2016
19	Eastern Rosella	Merilyn Browne	Adelaide Botanic Gardens	12/04/2016
20	Mulga Parrot	David Cox	Bendleby Ranges	19/05/2015
21	Rainbow Bee-eater	Bill O'Malley	Red Banks CP, near Burra	4/10/2013
22	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Merilyn Browne	Scott CP	31/07/2016
23	Gang-Gang Cockatoo	Teresa Jack	Princess Margaret Rose Caves area	22/10/2016



Female Mistletoebird, photographed by Anne Kirk at Black Hill CP on 13 August 2016.

Featured as the ABC Weather Photo on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

# A FEAST OF PHOTOS

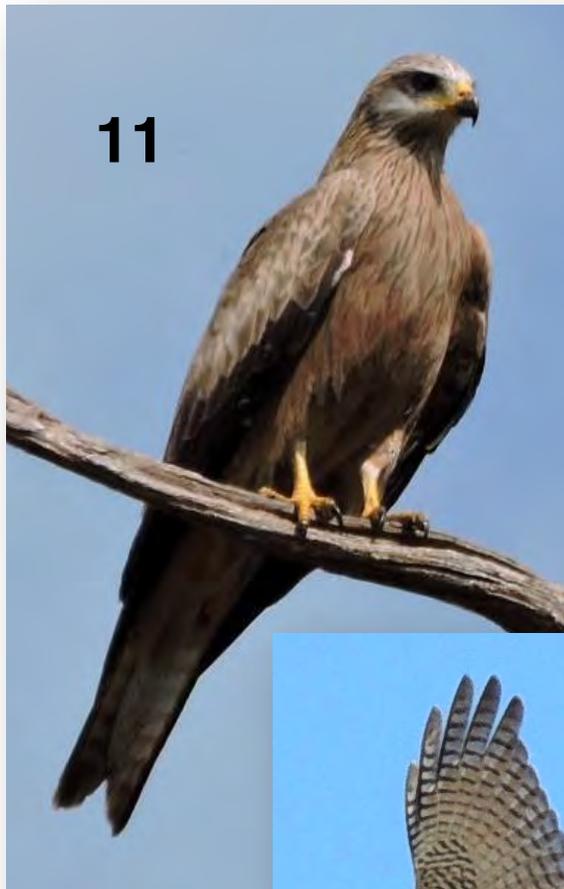
## Woodland Birds



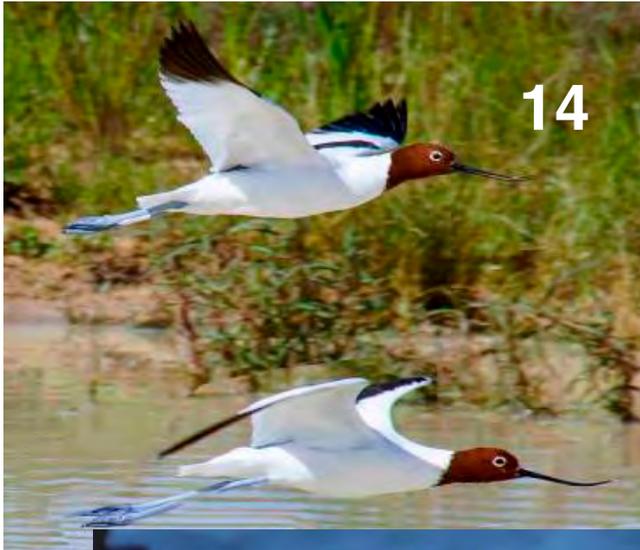
# Waders — Confusing??



# Raptors



# Around the Water



# Colours for Christmas

