

The BIRDER

The official newsletter of Birds SA

March 2017

No 241

In This Issue:

Easter Campout Details

DEWNR assessment of kangaroo impact

More about the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary



Birds SA

Linking people with birds

in South Australia

CONTENTS

President's Message	3
Birds SA Notes & News	5
Giving them Wings	7
Kangaroos in the Adelaide and Mt. Lofty Ranges Region.	9
Two Mysteries	12
Past General Meetings	13
Future General Meetings	15
Past Excursions	16
Future Excursions	22
The Easter Campout	23
Bird Records	24
From the Library	28
About our Association	30
The Babblers' Activities	31
Photos from Members	32

John Gitsham designed the front page of this issue.

He took the photograph of a female Regent Parrot at Gluepot Bird Reserve in Nov 2016

If you would like one of your photographs to be considered for the front page of the May Birder, please send a hi-res copy to John at john.gitsham@bigpond.com

We welcome 40 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p29.

CENTRE INSERT: SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 59,

THE CROMPTONS OF STONYFELL

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'.

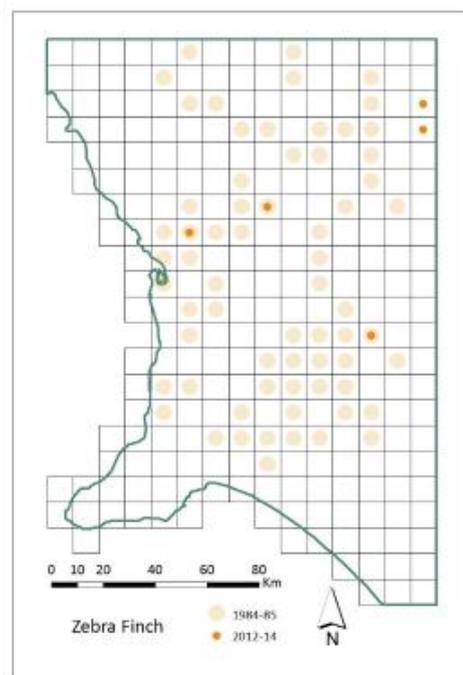
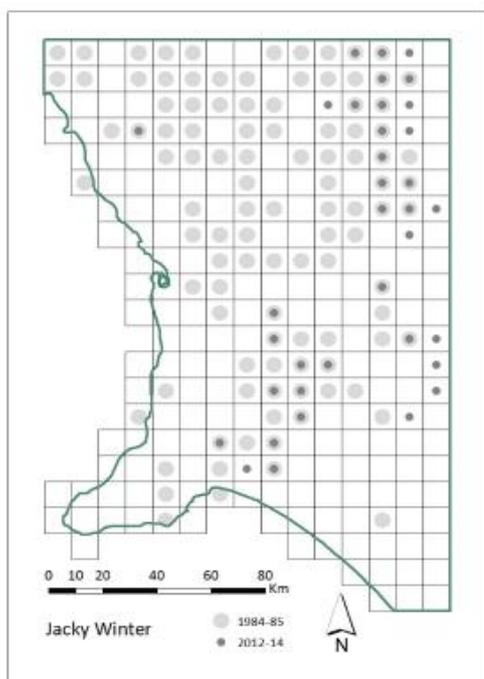
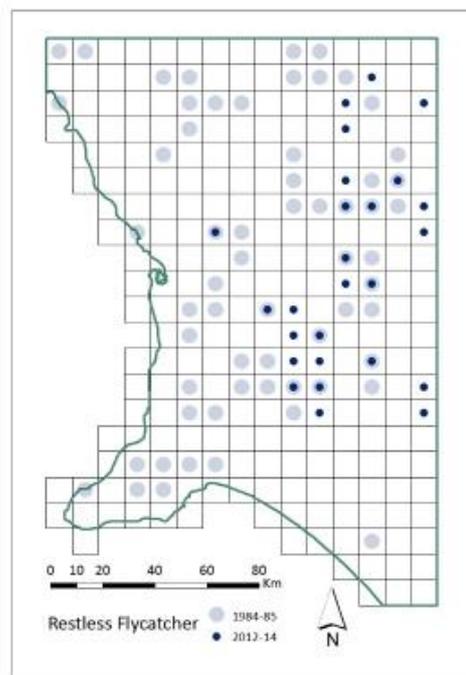
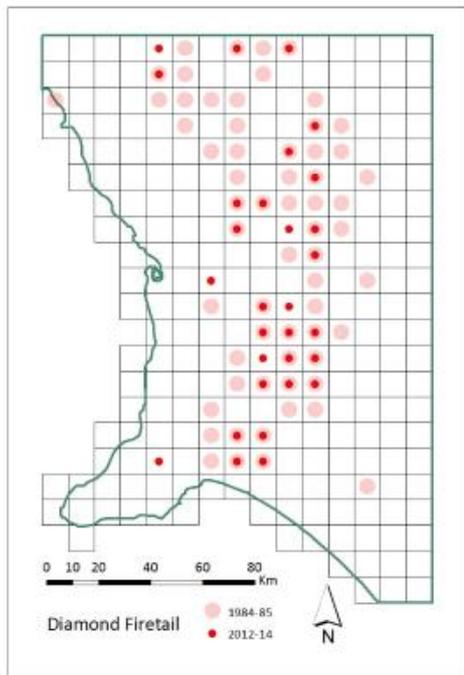
Sunday 2 April	Excursion to Brown's Rd. Monarto
Friday 14 to Monday 17 April — Easter Campout at Mount Scott CP	
Thursday 20 April	Excursion to Belair NP
Friday 28 April	AGM and General Meeting
Sunday 30 April	Excursion to 'Wyndgate', Hindmarsh Island
Saturday 13 May	Excursion to Ridley CP
Thursday 18 May	Excursion to Shepherds Hill RP
Friday 26 May	General Meeting
Sunday 28 May	Excursion to Sir Richard Peninsula & Goolwa Ponds
Saturday 10 June	Excursion to Horsnell Gully CP

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.

President's Message

South Australia's birds continue to decline. This fact is easily illustrated by the following maps, which compare the 2012-14 distributions of some of our woodland birds across the greater Adelaide region with their distributions in 1984-85.



Changes in distribution of birds across the Adelaide region between 1984-85 and 2012-14.

Pale circles show the distribution in 1984-85 and the darker small spots show the distribution in 2012-14.

President's Message (cont)

These on-going declines are not unexpected and are due to the inadequate amounts of woodland habitat remaining in this region. Species disappear following extensive vegetation clearance but there is a lag between clearance and disappearance. This is known as an extinction debt. So, although South Australia stopped broadacre clearance of native vegetation in the early 1980s, by then a substantial extinction debt had accumulated and the birds are now paying for that. We can continue to document these declines but if Birds SA wants to prevent the declines, which ultimately lead to regional extinctions of species, then significant amounts of new habitat need to be established. Building habitats is not only about planting trees but also about developing complex habitats that provide all the resources the birds need. These new habitats must therefore be resilient and self-sustaining, with ability to cope with climate change. They must be novel systems designed to produce the best biodiversity return from investment. At the moment governments invest little in biodiversity, and so the chances of slowing losses let alone halting them are limited. But it is not too late, nor impossible to halt the declines. I am hopeful that we can at least build sufficient new habitats, while also looking after the remnants, to make a positive difference. However, the community will lead the charge and not governments.

The declines of woodland birds across the greater Adelaide region are matched by declines in other

systems. For example, Mallee Emu-wrens have been lost from South Australia and Striated Grasswrens have experienced substantial declines across the Murray Mallee. The abundances of waterbirds in the Coorong and Lower Lakes were the lowest on record this summer, with abundances of some of the migratory shorebirds as little as 1% of their long-term median abundances. For the first time ever, no Musk Ducks were detected in the Coorong and Lower Lakes during this summer's annual census. Although the birds may be using other inland wetlands this year, the Coorong and Lower Lakes have not been managed in recent years in ways that provide the birds with both suitable food resources and suitable foraging habitat. This ultimately links back to the ongoing over-extraction of water from the Murray Darling Basin.

Other threats to our birdlife include overgrazing of remnant vegetation by kangaroos and koalas, and a shift away from conservation to human recreation as the primary purpose of reserves. South Australia's *No Species Loss* policy is also being pushed aside to accommodate this new vision for parks and nature. This suggests that the State Government is content to lose species, and intends to continue to reduce funding for the natural environment. This is the thin edge of the wedge.

David Paton



Two of our declining woodland birds

Red-browed Finch

Photographed by Colin Conor in Piccadilly Valley on 31st December 2016

Scarlet Robin

Photographed by Pauline Kemp on Kangaroo Island in December 2016

Birds SA Notes & News



Address by Kate Mason, NRM Project Officer at Tolderol Open Day

TOLDEROL OPEN DAY

About 20 Birds SA members and supporters, plus locals and other organisations associated with conservation work at Tolderol attended the Tolderol Open Day on Sunday 5th February.

The weather was kind to us, — overcast and warm, and without the expected heavy rain that was ever threatening. Chris Eckert cooked up a great BBQ and Kate Mason, Project officer of Natural Resources Management (NRM), gave an update of on ground works carried out so far together with future works needed to get Tolderol back to its former self and to provide safer access around the ponds for viewing birds.

Regina Durbridge, Goolwa to Wellington Local Planning Association (GWLAP) Project officer, spoke about the various bird species seen at Tolderol. Up to 150 species have been seen over the years. She also showed us a bird list and map that is now available at the Reserve's notice board area.

After the BBQ, Birds SA members went off to see 10 Pacific Golden Plovers and others species of birds on the mudflats of pond 10.

Everyone enjoyed the day. Thanks for the terrific support by Birds SA members.

John Gitsham

THE CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Conservation Sub-committee discussed the following issues at their meeting on 13th February:

- **Closer links with like-minded organisations.**
The sub-committee continued its discussion on the best and most effective methods to relay relevant information on the activities of other like-minded organisations to our membership,

and how to progress the fostering of closer ties. Simon Brealey is due to report to the Birds SA Committee in March with recommendations on a closer links policy.

- **Monarto Crown Lands:** John Gitsham suggested that Birds SA keep a close watch on the potential impacts that the proposed freight hub for Monarto would have on birds and bird habitat in the area.
- **Tolderol:** John Gitsham reported that the Open Day at Tolderol to celebrate World Wetlands Day went well, with several Birds SA members in attendance.

An update was provided on the coming hunting season, which will run from 18 February 2017 to 25 June 2017.

Twelve Pacific Golden Plovers were sighted on the day.

The seedlings planted by Bird SA members at Tolderol on 5 June 2016 were reported to be progressing well.

- **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary:** John Gitsham advised that crabbing activities at Thompson's Beach have become of major concern and were having a demonstrably negative impact on the birdlife at the site. It was observed that there were notably fewer migratory birds observed this season in SA.
- **Laratinga:** The wetlands are currently in good condition. John Gitsham reported that the recent Birds SA field trip had yielded 58 bird species, including 9 duck species.
- **Duck and Quail hunting:** The General Committee will consider the proposed revisions to the Birds SA duck and quail hunting policy.

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

The policy changes to will be put to the Birds SA February 2017 General Meeting for endorsement. (This subsequently occurred at the General Meeting of 24th February 2017.)

- **State of the River Murray:** David Hansman provided information that the date for submissions on possible changes to the Murray Darling Basin Plan had been extended. Details are available at: mdba.gov.au/BPamendments.

Simon Brealey

FLEDGLINGS' ACTIVITIES

The November issue of 'The Birder' included a short article about the Association's plans for providing activities for young people.

Our President, David Paton has generously given up his whole weekend on 25th and 26th March to run a series of Fledglings Activities on behalf of Birds SA. These activities will involve bird banding and bird identification.

The weekend is divided into 6 sessions, with sessions from 8.00-11.00am, 11.00am-2.00pm and 2.00pm-5.00pm. Numbers have been limited to 10 children per session. The ages of the children are between 8 and 15 years with the most common age group booked being between 8 and 11 years.

Session 1 on Saturday 25th has proved to be very popular and filled up immediately. In fact, there is a waiting list for this session. Some Sessions are already full with over 40 children having booked, with still 5 days to go before bookings close.

The popularity of this event has been assisted by the advertising of the Fledglings Activity by DEWNR, and Friends of Parks, as well as being publicised through Birds SA web site and e-Newsletter.

Also being offered are Fledglings Workshops, at the Hawker Centre, Waite Institute, before the Birds SA General meetings in May and August. Many of the children attending the Fledglings Field Activities have expressed interest in these workshops.

Well done and a huge "Thank You" to David Paton for dedicating so many hours to the next generation of bird watchers and conservationists.

Kate Buckley

SPARE COPIES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGIST TO GIVE AWAY

I have many copies of the *South Australian Ornithologist*, from the time when I was Editor, and would like to know if anyone wants them before I recycle them. They are:

Vol 30 Part 8 (Sep 1989)

Vol 31 Part 1 (May 1990); Part 2 (Sep 1990); Part 3 (Mar 1991); Part 5 (Oct 1992); Part 6 (Apr 1993) and **Short Index to Vol 31** (May 1996)

Vol 32 Part 1 (Oct 1994); Part 2 (Mar 1995); Part 3 (Nov 1995); Parts 4 & 5 (May 1996); Part 7 (Apr 1997)

Vol 33 Part 5 (Jun 2000), Part 6 (Nov 2000)

Vol 34 Part 4 (Nov 2003 – Bird Report 1982-1999); Parts 7 & 8 (Mar 2006)

David and I also have many copies of the **SAOrn Vol 31 Parts 7 & 8 (Jul 1994) – A Second Bird Atlas of the Adelaide Region (1984-85)** which we are happy to give away, but we won't be recycling these just yet.

Penny Paton

pennypaton@adam.com.au; 8344 8891

GOSHAWK OR SPARROWHAWK???

Detailed information, provided by raptor expert Steve Debus, about differences between a Brown Goshawk and a Collared Sparrowhawk was published in Newsletter 234, May 2015. Despite this, photograph 13 on p. 34 of *The Birder* #240, Nov. 2016, was incorrectly identified in the caption on page. 31 as a 'Brown Goshawk'. Steve Debus states that if the ID criterion was tail shape then the tail is too widely fanned to say whether it would be rounded or square-tipped when furled or almost so (which is when that feature is useful for distinguishing the Brown Goshawk from the Collared Sparrowhawk). Based on all its other features — small head and bill, lack of brow ridge ('staring' eye), strongly curvaceous wings with 'step' from inner primary 'finger' to remaining primaries, middle toe as long as the exposed (and slender) tarsus and clearly a whole segment longer than the other toes — this bird is a Collared Sparrowhawk. He also states that **The V-shaped kink in the Sparrowhawk's tail is only noticeable when the tail is furled or slightly spread, and not all individuals (and then mostly males) have that distinct notch. It disappears when the tail is widely fanned.**

Comparison of the photograph in the November issue of 'The Birder' with similar photographs on the internet will show up the differences between the two species.

Cynthia Pyle

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary **Background and Focus Areas**

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary is being created to provide a place for safeguarding native species, developing a thriving economy, enhancing the wellbeing of all visitors and expanding global conservation efforts.

Background

Since the 1930s, the salt fields that stretch 35km along the Gulf St Vincent coastline from Dry Creek in the south to Middle Beach in the north, have been used to provide brine for the commercial production of soda ash. From June 2013, all salt production at Dry Creek ceased with the closure of the soda ash factory.

The past 80 years have seen the salt fields develop into a patchwork of artificial and natural wetlands, providing a diverse range of habitat for migratory birds that travel annually to Australia from the Northern Hemisphere via the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

With the removal of commercial salt production, some ponds are likely to dry out if water is no longer pumped through them, giving rise to the possible risk of acid sulphate soil formation. Other ponds might be reopened to the sea and become tidal. These changes are likely to affect important roosting and feeding areas of migratory bird species and could result in unpleasant odours affecting the amenity of the area and local residents.

The conservation significance of this area has been elevated by the destruction and disturbance of similar habitats elsewhere along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and worldwide decline in migratory shorebird habitat.

The South Australian Government has long been committed to protecting Gulf St Vincent and its varied and unique coastal and marine ecosystems, recognising the area as a valuable asset to South Australia. Numerous initiatives and protection

mechanisms are in place, both terrestrial and aquatic, – that affect the salt fields area.

These include the following;

- The Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park
- The Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary
- The Barker Inlet Aquatic Reserve
- St Kilda-Chapman Creek Aquatic Reserve
- Port Gawler Conservation Park
- Torrens Island Conservation Park

There has also been attention to identify and address the causes of declining water quality. The *Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Plan* [Environment Protection Authority EPA 2013] sets targets and makes recommendations for improving water quality and the health of aquatic ecosystems in the gulf. The plan builds on and complements the Adelaide Coastal Waters Study (EPA 2013), which was initiated by the Environment Protection Authority in 2001, in response to concerns about declining water quality in Gulf St Vincent.

The Collective

The development of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary is applying a new model of innovative engagement called Collective Impact. Collective Impact is a framework for facilitating and achieving large scale change and goes beyond the process of community consultation. It provides a structured and disciplined approach to bringing cross-sector organisations together and formalising these partnerships. The collective consists of a partnership of more than 35 groups, people and organisations, which provide strategic leadership and a representative voice for local, state and national communities.

Through this model, collaboratively designed visions have been created for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary in 'Protecting Shorebirds and Creating

Giving Them Wings (cont.)

Opportunities for people'. Four focus areas have been co-designed to deliver this vision:

Focus area one: Establish and sustain the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Protected Area for native species, in particular migratory shorebirds and species that are endangered.

Focus area two: Facilitate opportunities to stimulate the local and state economy through activating economic pathways while protecting the range of ecosystem, recreational and cultural services that the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary provides.

Focus area three: Enhance the wellbeing of visitors to the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary by creating places for people to engage with, be active, explore, learn about nature and share experiences with other people.

Focus area four: Cultivate partnerships locally and across the globe to share scientific and cultural knowledge and support the growing movement of global flyway conservation.

Taskforce

A Taskforce is being convened for each of the bird sanctuary focus areas to ensure that the creation and ongoing management of the bird sanctuary results in a thriving sanctuary for resident and migratory shorebirds, as well as providing real and meaningful opportunities for people.

Each Taskforce is **Action** orientated, so a level of enthusiasm to deliver results is necessary.

We're looking for people who have connections, influence and time to help shape the future of the bird sanctuary. This is a 'one of its kind' initiative and provides Taskforce members with an opportunity to make a change with leaders and influencers across sectors. We are inviting Taskforce members to be a part of changing the system not just treating the symptoms.

SOURCE: Material

extracted from a DEWNR Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary article entitled Taskforce one – Protect the Sanctuary for Shorebirds

NEWS ITEMS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL BIRD SANCTUARY (FAIBS)

Bird Monitoring Day.

The Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) Committee recently met to

discuss their activity program for 2017. Bird monitoring at Light Beach is planned for April 1st, beginning around 9.30am, depending on tides. All interested birders are welcome. We'll need 4WDs to get to the area, so if you're coming in one, it would be appreciated if you could help by transporting attendees from our meeting point – yet to be decided. If you'd like to come along, please contact Tammy Leggett (DEWNR Liaison Ranger) at Tammy.Leggett@sa.gov.au for further details.

Bird Bags

If you attended the last Birds SA meeting you would have seen the wonderful Bird Bags that FAIBS member Mary-Ann Van Trigt has produced as a fund-raiser for this Friends group. They are fantastic as shoulder bags for carrying around your day gear during birding excursions and they also make great gifts. You can view them on the website: [β](#)

Orders and enquiries can be made through JoyofBirdsong@hotmail.com

Mary Ann will be bringing bags for sale to the next Birds SA meeting. They will include some new designs.

Joining FAIBS.

For \$10 you can become a member of FAIBS with entitlement to Sanctuary news, workshops and other activities. We'll be happy to sign up new members at the next Birds SA meeting. You can also indicate

your interest in being on our contact list by emailing Anna Woods at gypsywoods@hotmail.com

FAIBS Facebook post 21/3/17.....A good time to go to Thompson Beach, AIBS.

It's that time of year when the migratory shorebirds are starting to colour up and get fat in preparation for their long return flight along the East Asian-Australasian flyway. Many of them will return to places in China and

Russia in the hope of finding a mate and breeding – producing the next generation of shorebirds for us to watch and enjoy. Whilst we want you all to experience these birds as they change plumage, please remember that if birds feel they are in danger they will fly off in alarm. This depletes their energy reserves, which they need for the long journey north. Please enjoy the bird sanctuary quietly and leave only footprints.

Anna Woods (FAIBS committee member)



Red Knot in Breeding Plumage, photographed by Martin Stokes at Thompson Beach in March 2017

Kangaroos in the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Region

Jason van Weenen, Species Ecologist.
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Background to kangaroos in the region:

Many changes that have occurred in Australian landscapes since European settlement have advantaged particular kangaroo species (e.g. via an increased number of water points, predator removal and/or increased grassland/pasture food resources); whilst others have been disadvantaged (e.g. via habitat loss or the introduction of exotic predators that has particularly impacted on smaller “critical weight range” species).

In the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges region (AMLR), we have seen the local extinction of smaller species such as the Banded Hare-Wallaby, Brush-tailed Bettong and the Tammar Wallaby. However, larger species such as the Western Grey Kangaroo and Euro still persist. Changes in our regional kangaroo diversity are also underway, with it apparent that new kangaroo species may soon become established in the region. These new species include the Bennett’s Wallaby (escapees from private collections), Swamp Wallaby (possible escapees or natural expansion in range) and the Eastern Grey Kangaroo (apparent expansion in range).

There is growing evidence that two of our larger kangaroo species (the Euro and Western Grey Kangaroo) are increasing in local abundance and distribution within the region, with reporting rates rising over the past few decades. Western Grey Kangaroos (or their signs) are a visible part of most of the conservation reserves and other protected areas in the region. Even outside the protected area network, Western Grey Kangaroos are very common and are usually found in most peri-urban and rural settings, particularly in areas where there are remnant patches of vegetation for animals to shelter in during the day.

Kangaroos and primary production:

As observed in most parts of the Australia, kangaroo species (particularly when in high abundance) can impact on primary production activities by competing with domestic livestock for pasture resources, impacting on crops or by damaging trees or infrastructure in horticultural settings. As a result, the management of kangaroos (by shooting) takes place in many areas, including across the Mt Lofty Ranges region. South Australian kangaroo management activities by landholders are authorised through a destruction permit process under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. The permit system enables

appropriate checks to be put in place to ensure impacts can be resolved appropriately and also that our unique wildlife is adequately protected.

Kangaroos and biodiversity:

There is increasing evidence nationally to show that elevated kangaroo numbers can cause significant biodiversity impacts. Such impacts include the over-browsing of a variety of native plants to a point where they are lost from the landscape and/or prevented from recruiting, or the kangaroo over-browsing alters the structure of habitats and reduces habitat quality for other native plants and animals. The AMLR region is well recognised for its plant and animal diversity (it is a nationally recognised biodiversity hotspot). Kangaroo impacts have been identified by Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources (DEWNR) Ecologists and other wildlife experts (both flora and fauna experts) as a key threat to a significant component of this unique local diversity. Across the AMLR, increases in kangaroo abundance are currently translating to increasing costs to conservation programs in general. Threatened species and threatened ecological community recovery programs are also being impacted, whereby significant tree and shrub guards now have to be placed on seedlings to protect them (see Figure 1). In some areas, this has gone further with kangaroo exclusion fencing being installed to facilitate more substantial habitat restoration works.



Figure 1) Attempts to restore a threatened plant community at Stipiturus Conservation Park. Traditional plastic guards are no longer suitable. This intensive level of guarding is what would be expected in a paddock grazed by livestock. This intensive approach still doesn’t facilitate recovery of the full diversity of plant species across the broader reserve areas.

Kangaroos in the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Region (cont)

One of the most notable changes currently underway in the AMLR region (as highlighted by Birds SA president David Paton in previous newsletters) is the reduction in shrub cover and shrub recruitment in many woodland, heathland and forest landscapes due to browsing and trampling caused by Western Grey Kangaroos. This is of particular concern for the region's heath species and heath dependent species such as the EPBC listed Mt Lofty Ranges Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (Figure 2), Southern Brown Bandicoot, and Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Emu Wren. For these fauna species, their persistence is closely linked to the protection that their dense heath habitat provides.



Figure 2) Mt Lofty Ranges Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (photo by Danny McCreddie). A local species threatened by the degradation of heath habitats, including heath degradation caused by kangaroo impacts.

DEWNR staff and Adelaide University researchers have been investigating such impacts for some time, with the region (and the state more broadly) now containing numerous herbivore exclosures within conservation reserves to inform how habitats are being affected by elevated levels of herbivory (Figure 3). To address kangaroo impacts on biodiversity within our conservation parks and reserves, there has been an increasing requirement to extend management activities into reserve areas. Across the state (including in the AMLR region), kangaroo management is now an integral part of how many reserves are managed to help ensure the survival of the biodiversity they contain. Sandy Creek Conservation Park is one such park where vegetation degradation caused by kangaroos has required kangaroo management to be initiated within the reserve area.

DEWNR also recognises that, despite kangaroo management taking place in some areas, kangaroo grazing pressure impacts are still excessive in many other reserve areas. Importantly, it is also clear that in many reserve settings, such grazing pressure impacts are attributable to kangaroos and not other exotic species such as deer or rabbits.

Figure 3) Herbivore exclosures. A common sight at many parks and reserves across South Australia. These exclosures typically highlight the particular impact that kangaroos (as opposed to other herbivores) are having on reserves across the State.

One of the most challenging things about excessive



grazing pressure by native species (or exotic species for that matter) is that the effects can be very subtle (Figure 4), particularly when looking at our conservation areas which always seemed to be filled with an abundance of native plants. Herbivore exclosures can provide us with a stark visual gauge of the impacts, but without such structures, it is often only those working closely with flora or habitats within conservation areas who become exposed to the ecosystem changes at play.

Kangaroos in the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Region (cont)



Figure 4) Herbivore enclosure showing the impact that Western Grey Kangaroos are having on native grasses. Without such an enclosure, the impacts can be difficult to detect in what seems to be a suitably diverse native plant community (Photo: John Read).

Kangaroos and the community:

The high number of people living in peri urban and rural settings in the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges region means that encounters with kangaroos are not uncommon. There is also a transition in land use from what was primary production to lifestyle living in hills environments (from those seeking a tree/sea change). This appears to be allowing kangaroo populations to become established in new areas where previously they may have been managed (to protect crops and reduce competition with livestock). It appears plausible that the effect of this land use transition (along with other factors) will see local kangaroo populations continue to increase across the region.

Sustainable kangaroo management:

The increasing trend in both the Western Grey Kangaroo and Euro populations in the AMLR region, despite the regular management activities by landholders over the last 40 years, is a significant observation. It highlights that current levels of management do not appear to be limiting Western Grey Kangaroo population growth in the region or impacting on the viability of the local populations. This is important as it highlights that strategic kangaroo management activities in key reserves (undertaken to protect threatened species or communities) can occur without impact on the

viability of kangaroos in the region or more broadly across the state.

The Mt Lofty Ranges observations conform with those from other parts of the State, where long-term kangaroo management activities have not resulted in reductions in the species range or population viability. Recent (2016) conservation status assessment of the Western Grey Kangaroo at the State level by a diverse group of mammal experts concluded that the species was one of least concern (i.e. that the species is considered secure in the state and not at risk of extinction). Whilst the overall prospects for the Western Grey Kangaroo and other large kangaroos are very good, the observation of increasing abundance in the AMLR region (and

across southern SA more broadly) does highlight the potential for increased impacts on biodiversity and primary production in the region.

With continued care in regard to the issuing of destruction permits across the state, populations of our common kangaroo species are expected to remain viable well into the future. Our current knowledge of biodiversity impacts by larger kangaroo species on conservation parks and reserves provides a basis for continuing or expanding management activities to ensure other unique wildlife species are not put at risk by increasing kangaroo abundance. By clearly identifying the current impacts and the expected outcomes of any kangaroo management program, conservation objectives can be targeted and management methods adjusted at local and regional scales over time.

Final note:

I commend Birds SA for engaging in a discussion around kangaroo management. It is likely to be important that, for our unique avifauna assemblages are to be conserved, we need to remain open-minded about the diversity of threats they face. Carefully evaluating the relative importance of threats is fundamentally important. To this end, continued open dialogue between the Birds SA and DEWNR around grazing pressure risk and other perceived threats to bird populations (e.g. prescribed burning) is considered invaluable to build on the knowledge base of both organisations respectively so that future bird conservation and recovery initiatives are most effective.

Jason van Weenen,

TWO MYSTERIES

GRIPING SHRIKE

There has recently been some argument in the press about the true identity of the bird in the State's Piping Shrike emblem. Many people assume that we see the front of the bird, so the white on the body makes it a Magpie-lark rather than a Magpie.

One correspondent has argued that in heraldry, a bird with its wings spread is always seen from the back. This may be true, but how do those who know little about the heraldic arts decide? Try it on the above pair of samples:

The left one is from the Protected Areas Area Statement of 1995. The right one is from a Gawler Ranges NP pamphlet of 2001— enlarged with difficulty. If you note that in both images, the head is turned to our left and the white on the body twists to our right at the neck there is no problem. The white is on the back. But wait a minute! What is the bird standing on? In the 1995 version, the legs lead to a light-coloured perch that disappears behind the tail, as it should for a bird that faces away from us. In the 2001 version however, the perch is dark and it appears to continue right in front of the tail, suggesting that the bird is facing us.

About the turn of the millennium an artist has apparently redrawn the perch, thereby confusing many people and putting that Magpie in a most uncomfortable position!

(Of course, in the public transport area, the bird is printed in white on a coloured background, but that is another problem...)

Bob Whatmough



Protected Areas Statement, 1995



Gawler Ranges NP Pamphlet, 2001

VOMITING SPOTTED SHAGS ON TATA BEACH, GOLDEN BAY, NEW ZEALAND

On a recent holiday to Golden Bay at the top of the south island of New Zealand we were told about the vomiting shags on Tata Beach. Each morning at dawn, the shags fly to the beach from two small, nearby islands, Ngawhiti and Motu. We were informed that towards the end of summer up to 1500 birds may appear each morning. However in November, only 100-200 birds come each morning. So at 06.30, off we set to Tata Beach. About 100 birds were on the beach or in the sea close to the shore. The shags flew in from the islands, started furiously flapping their wings and diving. Then they came onto the shore soon afterwards and started preening; followed by vomiting or regurgitating a small pile of stones with mucous. Red and black-billed gulls were there picking at the stones and mucous. Searching the web led to <http://blog.forestandbird.org.nz/shag-life-still-shrouded-in-mystery/>. This site records that the gulls are eating worms from the vomited piles. So is this a learned habit for getting rid of parasites?

Jeffrey Robinson (November 2016)



Furiously flapping their wings



Vomiting up stones

Past General Meetings

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER

Daniel Rogers introduced the speaker Jeff Groves. Jeff is a retired engineer who worked for the Ford Company for over 20 years and is a member of the Birds SA Conservation Subcommittee.

Jeff's talk was entitled Bird Action and Behaviour and he showed photographs under the following topics:

Feeding and Drinking:

Mistletoebird, Striated Heron, Whimbrel, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Beach Stone-curlew, Black-winged (Grey) Currawong, Square-tailed Kite, Long-billed Corella, Black Cockatoo, Musk Lorikeet, White-plumed Honeyeater, Red-browed Finch, Whiskered Tern, Pacific Gull, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Echidna and Whistling Kite.

Introduced Food

Sources: Black-winged (Grey) Currawong, Silveryeye, Mistletoebird, Long-billed Corella, Adelaide (Crimson) Rosella, Galah, Common Goldfinch, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Mallee (Australian) Ringneck and New Holland Honeyeater.

Courtship Feeding: Crimson Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Superb Parrot, Eastern Rosella and Adelaide (Crimson) Rosella; Black-shouldered Kite.

Preening and Bathing: Galah, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Black Swan, Australian Pelican, Eastern Rosella, Nankeen Kestrel, Adelaide (Crimson) Rosella, Zebra Finch, Scarlet Robin, Red-rumped Parrot and Royal Spoonbill and Galah.

Flight: Pacific Gull, Royal Spoonbill, Caspian Tern, Long-billed Corella, Australian Shelduck, Sooty Oystercatcher, Square-tailed Kite, Australasian Darter and Satin Bowerbird.



Sheathed Hornbill, photographed by John Gitsham on his Bali holiday

Notable Behaviour & Characteristics:

Australian Pelican, Magpielark, White-winged Chough, Long-billed Corella, Royal Spoonbill, Spotted Pardalote, Brush Bronzewing, Comb-crested Jacana, Greater Crested Tern, Red-rumped Parrot, Koala, Adelaide (Crimson) Rosella and Regent Bowerbird.

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER

John Gitsham spoke about the Birds of Bali that he visited with his son on a surfing trip at the end of August. John said that he did not take most of the photos they were in Bali primarily for surfing. He spoke about each species seen and showed photographs of many of the birds observed including Olive-backed Sunbird, Brown-throated Sunbird, Wreathed Hornbill, Indonesian Common Golden Whistler, Pied Bushchat, Common Kingfisher, Blue-eared Kingfisher, Small Blue

Kingfisher, Javan Kingfisher, Collared Kingfisher, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Plaintive Cuckoo, White-breasted Waterhen, Wood Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Javan Pond Heron, Striated Heron, Greater Painted Snipe, Long-tailed Shrike, Oriental Magpie Robin, Sooty-headed Bulbul, Yellow-vented Bulbul, Oriental White-eye, Javan Sparrow, Javan Munia, Scaly-breasted Munia, Chestnut Munia and Black-naped Oriole. In total 46 species of Bali birds were seen. Those not photographed were Glossy Swiftlet, Mossy-nest Swiftlet, Barn Owl, Spotted Dove, Common Black-headed Gull, Common Tern, Little Black Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, Pacific Swallow, Zitting Cisticola, Golden-headed Cisticola and Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

Past General Meetings (cont)

They also enjoyed the Bali Bird Walks at Ubud where the critically endangered Bali Myna could be seen.



Olive-backed Sunbird photographed by John Gitsham on his Bali holiday

FRIDAY 20 JANUARY

Daniel Rogers introduced Randall Johnson, whose topic was 'Translating the Landscape Assessment Framework for the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges into targeted restoration action.' Before Randall started to speak in detail about the topic he apologised to those who had listened to this talk at the recent Natural Resources Management Science Conference in Adelaide.

Randall began his talk by comparing the ideal '5-star restoration' that emphasises reconstruction of pre-European vegetation, including strata, richness and floristic composition; high quality reference sites, fixed point in time 'templating' and grassy groundcover, cultivation/scalping, foam box propagation to 'goal-based restoration', in which the goals are other than attempted reconstruction of pre-European plant community with interventions, that recognises 'new world order' and an emphasis on managing existing values. He then discussed restoration under the following areas: How Much; Where; What; Examples of Restoration

How Much? Setting area targets — Individual area requirements: 20ha; Minimum viable population for landscape: 2,590ha; population area requirements: 51,800ha; % of landscape required under native vegetation: ~23%. This target requires reconstruction/restoration of 38000 ha!

Where? Identifying priority parcels for restoration. Prioritise 'parcels' based on criteria linked to probability for successful restoration; such as habitat value (suitable environmental setting); distance from existing populations; amount of remnant vegetation; amount required (grassy woodlands: 51,800 ha).

What? What does habitat restoration for lower rainfall grassy woodland bird species involve? What does good grassy woodland bird habitat look like? Can we design, construct and manage habitats for these species?

The following birds have been recorded in the Mallee Box at the Disher Hill Rd site, Frahns Farm: Restless Flycatcher, Jacky Winter, Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetail, Brown Treecreeper, Southern Whiteface, Dusky Woodswallow, White-browed Woodswallow and Elegant Parrot. The vegetation here is wall-to-wall Galenia, which is a drought and salt tolerant plant that grows over and smothers existing vegetation by forming a thick dense mat. It invades coastal dunes, pastures, and other disturbed areas. The area is also overrun by rabbits, and there is no recruitment.

The Relationship between 'vegetation condition' and ground-foraging woodland bird habitat resources. Antos *et al.* 2008 found negative tree density to be the most significant habitat variable in foraging plots when compared to randomly located plots. Negative shrub density was also important for many key species. Martin *et al.* 2005 found moderate grazing favoured some declining species including Brown Treecreeper and Jacky Winter. Martin *et al.* postulated that livestock grazing might be replacing the natural disturbances caused by fire and macropod grazing in which these species specialised. These findings suggest implications for management of degraded sites. Derived grasslands have been on the radar for years. However, the value of other modified states, e.g. degraded lightly timbered areas, are rarely recognised. Some of our traditional interventions can quickly send these areas in the wrong direction.

What might we learn from the Monarto plantings re habitat 'construction' for these species? These plantings were undertaken within a matrix of remnant and cleared habitats. Sandy loams in creek lines were often targeted. This was a large-scale development involving thousands of hectares. The

Past General Meetings (cont.)/Future General Meetings

initial structure consisted of inter canopy spacing, low tree density, bare ground.

Time – sites may be untidy for a while but focus on the long game. Conditions will stabilise under competition for light, nutrients and water.

Species selection? – Callitris groves bare off ground, Callitris provides good perching structure for perch and pounce foragers, Callitris and Melaleuca provide ideal nesting sites for robins and flycatchers, Callistemons provide refuge for Southern Whiteface

Trees for Life Paddock Tree Project – The lack of tree recruitment is often a feature of relatively vast lightly wooded production landscapes that are providing habitat for declining birds. Removing grazing is not an option and we might not want to do that anyway. Intervention can involve planting individually guarded trees at low density to improve age class structure, increase cover, restore missing components and help ensure the persistence of the landscape. In the case of Sheoak low open woodland, we have seen an entire landscape converted to grassland! We have very reliable accounts of the Sheoaks being so dense that you couldn't build a drystone wall through them.

At Frahns Farm, Monarto 'Open woodland' plantings at densities between 15 and 50 trees per hectare has been carried out with fencing used to maintain grazing as a habitat management tool.

Restoration Strategies for Beautiful Firetail on Deep Creek Leaslands – The Project will target closed shrubland restoration with understanding that this was not the pre-European vegetation association across the subject area.

Breeding habitat vs feeding habitat. Revegetation with *Allocasuarina* spp., *Leptospermum* spp., *Carex* spp. *Gahnia trifida*, *Gonocarpus tetragynus*, *Melaleuca decussata*. Grassy clearings will be maintained to provide green feed (annual grass leaf matter is preferred food source in captivity).

Southern Emuwren – Prefer treeless low shrubland e.g. *Pultenaea involucreata*, *Acacia verticillata*, *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*, *Allocasuarina striata*. Do we need to include problematic species, eg *Lepidosperma semiteres*, *Austrostipa muelleri* because they are a significant component of Deep Creek dry heath habitat when carrying out revegetation? Southern Emuwren is a generalist and can be found in Lignum/Samphire, Baumea/Gahnia, Melaleuca brevifolia, Coastal Wattle habitats. Both Beautiful Firetail and Southern Emuwren use simple revegetated habitats at Morella in the Upper South-East.

In closing Randall acknowledged valuable assistance from the following people: Dan Rogers, Andrew West, Grace Hodder, Jason van Weenen, Tim and Sonya Croft.

FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

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

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

FRIDAY APRIL 28 — AGM

AGM AGENDA

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting on Friday 28 April 2017 is:

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 29 April 2016
3. Presentation of the Annual Report for 2016.
4. Presentation of the Financial Report for 2016.
5. Election of the Management Committee for 2017/2018
 - President
 - Two Vice Presidents
 - Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Field Program Coordinator
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Journal Editor
 - Bird Records Secretary
 - Membership Officer and
 - Not fewer than three nor more than five ordinary Committee Members
6. Appointment of an auditor
7. Any other business of which notice in writing has been given by two members at a preceding meeting

The Speaker

Arkellah Irving will give an update on the International Bird Sanctuary.

FRIDAY MAY 26

Ian Falkenberg will talk about Raptor Identification.

FRIDAY JUNE 30

The speaker will be Marilyn Browne. The title of her talk will be: Tip to Tip: Ushuaia, the Falklands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula.

FRIDAY JULY 28

Mid-winter Members' Night

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

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

Past Excursions



Aldinga Scrub — 12 November

Saturday 12th Nov was forecast to be a cool 19 degrees in Adelaide, windy with heavy rain expected later that day. Saturday morning was expected to be reasonably fine but cool, cloudy and windy and that is how 12 Birds SA members and visitors found the Aldinga Scrub that November morning. The group met at the entrance opposite to the Aldinga Holiday Park and were joined by Julie Burgher and Aidon Bradford, members of the Friends of Aldinga Scrub. The group set off, heading north, following the Yacca track. Aidon and Julie pointed out a number of plant species, including two species of mistletoe — Box and Harlequin, one of which seemed to predominantly occur on the Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) in the park. Mistletoes were generally abundant. Aidon noted that one species was growing on a Native Cherry (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) an example of a parasitic plant growing on another parasitic plant. It wasn't long before the group was seeing common bush birds, including Crested Pigeons, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Grey Fantails and a pair of Dusky Woodswallows. A Peaceful Dove was seen fleeing down the track and the group had a relatively close observation of a pair of Elegant Parrots in the morning sunlight. A low flyover by a Wedge-tailed Eagle was particularly special and remarked on by Aidon as a rare sighting in the scrub.

A number of waterbirds were seen flying, including Pied Cormorants and Little Black Cormorants (4). Aidon guided the group off the usual track, heading northeast towards the wetlands in the north east corner of the scrub. High rainfall in winter and spring had increased the water in the park. Some northern tracks were impassable and the wetlands were full. Waterfowl seen at the wetlands included, Grey Teal (8), Pink-eared Duck (8 including 6 young), a pair of

Australasian Shovelers and a pair of Hardheads. Pacific Black Ducks (12) and Australian Wood Ducks (20) were plentiful. Australian White Ibis (3) and a Pelican were seen flying over and Eurasian Coots (3 including 2 chicks) and White-faced Herons (8) were also seen.

The group headed back south along the eastern boundary and then southwest across the woodland and saw a number of Black-faced Cuckooshrikes and a fleeing Scarlet Robin. We arrived back early at the starting point, so a quick wander west down the Boomerang Fire Track revealed Red-browed Finches (2) and Silvereyes and a number of species were heard, including Scarlet Robin, Eastern Spinebill and Rufous Whistler.

Following a quick bird call and lunch, a small number of the group were keen to visit the Hart Road Wetlands north of the park and also view the Aldinga Scrub's wetlands from the northern boundary. Four or five vehicles drove back to this location, known locally as Mistletoe Alley. Walking along Hart Road, a Mistletoebird was the first bird seen and plenty of Australian Reed Warblers were heard. Further along Hart Road we saw a pair of these birds and a Little Grassbird. The wetlands outside the park had changed immensely in the past years with a much larger volume of water and plenty of sedges and lignum providing habitat, although few birds were seen, other than one Australasian Grebe. We walked quite a distance into the Aldinga Scrub from the northern fence line, around the wetlands, seeing plenty of Mistletoebirds. The highlight of the morning was a Crested Shrike-tit, which presented itself in the sunlight high in the saplings along the edge of the water. A further Little Grassbird and, on the walk back to the vehicles, a pair of Yellow Thornbills were seen. A quick update of the bird list revealed 59 species for the morning's walk.

Alan Burns

Past Excursions (cont.)

Scott Creek Conservation Park — 17 November

The weather was sunny but not too hot for the eight members attending this Scott Creek excursion. Altogether we saw 29 species and surprisingly, no raptors.

Common Bronzewing, Grey Shrike Thrushes, Blackbirds and Laughing Kookaburras were heard calling but not sighted. However, thanks to the sharp eye of Lee Roberts, a Tawny Frogmouth on a nest (usual minimum number of twigs) provided some good photos and excellent vision.

Other species sighted included Sacred Kingfisher (2), Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (2), Galah (2), Crimson Rosella (12), Musk Lorikeet (2) and Superb Fairywren (30). Four honeyeater species were seen including White-naped (4), Brown-headed (6) and New Holland (25) including a number of dependant young. We also sighted Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. White-browed Scrubwrens were active near the car park and one was seen disappearing into shrubbery near the watercourse with a caterpillar for its young. Brown Thornbills were also clearly seen entering a well-woven nest perched above head height in an acacia alongside the walking trail and not far from the lunch site near the old cottage ruin. A Striated Pardalote was seen nesting in a hollow beneath a clump of mistletoe. A White-throated Tree Creeper was seen hunting for insects on the rough eucalypt trunks and excellent spotting by Hazel Cowie gave most of the group a good view of a Sacred Kingfisher. Two Fan-tailed Cuckoos were seen as well as 7 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flying overhead, 4 Kookaburras, 4 Golden Whistlers, including a brightly coloured male visible from the roadside, 3 Wedge-tailed Eagles and a single Spotted Pardalote.

Lynton Huxley

Currency Creek Gorge — 27 November

We met at the Lion's Park Currency Creek for a walk up the Gorge. Seven members and one visitor and off we set. The grass gave way to a designated track, not on even ground as they eventually found, many rocks to negotiate. The creek was running well and the Waterfall a picture, many Australian Reed Warblers. The sides of the Gorge are high so most of the birds were moving up there in the shrubs. There were many 'heards' on this outing. White-plumed Honeyeaters were the most abundant along with good numbers of Musk and Rainbow Lorikeets, Crimson Rosellas and Red-rumped Parrots. We were able to watch one pair entering their nesting site from our morning lunch area. Superb Fairywrens were bouncing around. We then drove up to the top and visited the Currency Creek Cemetery, a very well kept and well used Cemetery that has a maintained track down to the creek.

Teresa Jack.

Port Augusta Bird Group (the Babblers)

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden — 4 December

It was a warm, sunny day with a light breeze when eight people met in the carpark at the A.A.L.B.G. Five people from Pt. Augusta and one each from Whyalla, Mambray Creek and Sydney. From the carpark area we could see and hear Singing Honeyeaters, Yellow throated Miners, Crested Pigeons, a Mistletoebird and nearby a Chirruping Wedgebill could be clearly heard. As we were chatting amongst ourselves and waiting for any latecomers a couple of Galahs and a Nankeen Kestrel flew past. Several small flocks of Little Corellas passed by while White-plumed Honeyeaters chased some Singing Honeyeaters about in the trees. We moved off into the Eremophila Garden and could hear White-fronted Honeyeaters and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. However, before we could get a good look at them our attention was drawn to a Black Honeyeater feeding on the red flowers of an *Eremophila alternifolia*. It was a young, dull-coloured bird that was moving about in the shrubs with a couple of White-fronted Honeyeaters. As we walked on through the garden some Spotted Doves, Sparrows and Magpie larks were drinking from the pond in front of the Visitors' centre. A pair of Willie Wagtails was feeding its young under the verandah and a couple of Zebra Finches had a quick drink from the pond. Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins glided past overhead as we began to enter the general garden areas. In the dead branches of a gum tree a Striated Pardalote could be clearly seen as well as another Black Honeyeater. This one was an almost fully coloured male. On a nearby fence a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo was quietly sitting watching us. We moved on along one of the garden paths and were met by a group of White-browed Babblers calling out and scampering about in the bushes. A regular call of some young birds could be heard and upon closer investigation we found a nest of young Red Wattlebirds in the branches of a Mallee. The parent birds would occasionally come and feed them as well as keeping an eye on us. As we moved along the path heading for the boardwalk lookout we saw more Red Wattlebirds, Singing, Spiny-cheeked, and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Babblers and another Striated Pardalote. Variegated Fairywrens were in the bushes and shrubs in the garden beds, while White-winged Fairywrens were in the natural bush near the lookout. A pair of Australian Ravens flew by while more small flocks of Galahs lazily floated by, often in opposite directions and calling out to each other. At the lookout an Elegant Parrot called out as it flew overhead and more Zebra Finches flew past. Five Little Ravens were squabbling amongst themselves in a nearby

Past Excursions (cont.)

Myall tree. Along the path towards the sandhills bird-hide more Babblers and a pair of Chirruping Wedgebills posed for us on a dead shrub, calling out and giving the photographers some good shots. A Redthroat was heard in the distance but not seen. As we headed back to the visitor centre for smoko, we saw Magpies and a Silver Gull. We enjoyed our smoko on the verandah and watched the honeyeaters, Sparrows, young Zebra Finches, Willie Wagtails and a Chirruping Wedgebill at the pond. We then all got into our vehicles and drove to the Redcliffs Lookout car park. There were more Singing, Spiny-cheeked and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Crested Pigeons, Willie Wagtails, Magpies, and Welcome Swallows. We scanned the shoreline for waders but none were found. There were plenty of Silver Gulls on the shore and a couple of Pied Cormorants in the gulf diving with Dolphins. A large flock of Tree Martins was roosting in the mangroves and another large flock of Starlings was seen further along. Looking along the cliff lined shore a flash of iridescent green was seen and after some scanning a pair of Rainbow Bee eaters was found hawking for insects. A single White-backed Swallow slid past over us as a Magpielark patrolled the beach. Three Australian Ravens sat on the fence at the far end of the cliff face. It was now time to head back to the visitor centre for our Christmas lunch. We had seen a total of only thirty-six bird species on this occasion.

After we had enjoyed our lunch and discussed our group's outings for 2017 it was time to move to the conference room to look at members' bird photos on the big screen. Photos of this year's outings of the group and birds seen were shown. Other photos taken by members from other trips to their local areas and some from trips taken to Alice Springs, Darwin and Kakadu were shown and commented on. That was it for this year and next year promises to be another good birding one.

Bernie Haase.

Mt Lofty Botanic Garden – 10 December

Fourteen people gathered for this walk after a bit of a drama earlier in the week when we discovered that the Garden didn't open until 9.30-10am, making our usual (and advertised) 8.30am starting time a bit of a problem. Luckily, we were able to get the news out and only one hardy local turned up at the earlier time and was entertained by Lynton who kindly agreed to arrive early in case anyone turned up.

Once the gate was opened things got off to a good start with absolutely perfect weather and we headed off around the lake where Hoary-headed Grebe (4), Pacific Black Duck(6) and Maned Duck (20) were

observed as well as a Eurasian Coot with chicks in tow. The chicks had lost those rather surprising chestnut coloured heads they have when very young and were heading rapidly towards the juvenile stage. Eastern Spinebills (4) were observed both along the path and around the carpark where we started but, overall, we saw few honeyeaters. This coincided with the general observation that not many honeyeaters seem to be around anywhere this year, probably due to the chaotic weather conditions we've been experiencing. The only other honeyeaters seen were White-naped (1), Red Wattlebird (2) and Yellow-faced (4).

We ascended to higher ground via the Rhododendron track where, as usual, no Bassian Thrushes were anywhere to be seen (we live in hope!). After that, however, our progress was somewhat stymied by the number of tracks closed for maintenance. One can only imagine water from the recent big rains rushing down the steep slopes creating erosion gullies and lots of repair work for garden staff. So we had to alter our plans and follow the few available paths. This enabled one regular participant to enjoy being annoyed and loudly complain that our walk would be too short. It finished at 12.30 after only 2.5 hrs: shock, horror!

Other birds encountered included Laughing Kookaburra (4), 2 Pelicans and 2 Yellow-tailed Cockatoos that flew overhead, Common Bronzewing (2) and a Brush Bronzewing (1), Crimson/Adelaide Rosella (12), Rainbow Lorikeet (10), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (6), the usual mob of Superb Fairywren (8), White-throated Treecreeper (4), Striated Pardalote (5) and White-browed Scrubwren (2). Magpie (20), Grey Currawong (6) and Little Raven (6) were also scattered about. Unfortunately, as usual, there was also a strong contingent of Blackbirds (10).

The total species count for the day was 34, which although not large, was amply compensated for by the balmy weather and the chance to have a nice walk after all the rain and wind of recent times.

Ali Ben Kahn

Tolderol Game Reserve – 15 December

Twelve members of Birds SA met at Tolderol Game Reserve on a sunny but cool morning on 15 December. Bird monitoring that had been done the previous day indicated that waders had still not arrived in any numbers and so there were not great hopes of seeing very much at the Reserve.

Past Excursions (cont.)

Basin 7 was the only one to have any reasonable amount of water and mud and Basins 6 and 5 were well vegetated. A small amount of water was present in Basin 11. Due to ground conditions not being suitable for ploughing, the proposed flooding of Basins 4 and 17 also had not occurred.

Thirty-eight species were seen within the reserve but a group of 7 Banded Lapwings was seen just outside the reserve bringing the total to 39 species. The only other waders seen were Masked Lapwings, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-capped Plovers. As usual the Golden-headed Cisticolas and White-fronted Chats were very evident.

However the highlight of the visit was the unexpected sighting of an Australasian Bittern that flew along the edge of the reeds and did a flypast of the assembled observers. So that made the day!

Nine members then decided that they would like to see the oxidation ponds at the Strathalbyn sewerage farm. There wasn't much water in the ponds but 27 species were seen at the location including the adjacent roadside. Highlights were a Magpie-lark on its mud nest and two Little Eagles, both light and dark phases.

The total for the day was 57 species. Did I mention that we saw a Bittern?

John Fennell

Belair National Park – 7 January

Excursion cancelled due to hot weather.

Port Augusta Bird Group (The Babblers) Excursion to Bowman Park – 15 January

On a sunny day with a slight breeze twelve birdwatchers arrived at Bowman Park, about 5km. out of Crystal Brook. Four people were from Pt. Augusta, two each from Pt. Pirie and Merriton and one each from Whyalla, Wilmington, Koolunga and Mambray Creek.

A Peacock who lives at the caretaker's house and roams the area gave us a friendly greeting. On the oval there were Dusky Woodswallows, Willie Wagtails, Magpie larks, Red-rumped Parrots and Welcome Swallows with Purple-crowned Lorikeets and Rainbow Bee-eaters in the tree canopy above. As we headed off along the Redgum-lined creek, past the building complex there were numerous White-plumed Honeyeaters in the trees and some Peaceful Doves, Adelaide Rosellas, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Crested Pigeons and Grey Shrike thrush. We were looking for the elusive Crested Shriketit, which we had seen in the area on several previous occasions, but we had no luck. As we moved along the creek the birds seen were Starlings, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Galahs, Red Wattlebirds, Mallee Ringnecks, Little Ravens, Kookaburras, a group of Yellow-throated Miners, a Kestrel, Blackbird, Magpie and a few White-winged Choughs. A Common Bronzewing clattered away from us as two Wedge-tailed Eagles glided high overhead and Tree Martins were darting about. We observed Dusky Woodswallows building a nest in the branches of a gum tree. The distinct call of a



**Port Augusta Babblers on their Bowman Park
Excursion**

Past Excursions (cont.)

Diamond Firetail was heard and upon closer inspection a group of about fifteen birds were found feeding on the ground. There were a good number of very young fledglings amongst the group, which was great to see. Variegated Fairywrens moved about in the undergrowth as a single Striated Pardalote called out from the trees. There are reeds in the creek bed and a couple of Reed Warblers were constantly calling out and providing an occasional view of them. A Brown Treecreeper was spotted as we headed back for smoko. After we made a quick birdcall and had a close look at the friendly Peacock, we headed in the opposite direction along the creek to do a loop track, which crosses the creek and goes into a higher more open area. As we crossed the creek we observed some fledgling Grey Shrikethrush and another group of about ten Diamond Firetails, that had fledglings sitting quietly in the undergrowth. Some White-winged Choughs flew across our path and we counted about ten birds in the mob. We added a Singing Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeaters and two Varied Sittellas to our list. It was time for lunch and more Peacock observing. After we had our lunch and a good chin-wag some of the group went looking for the Crested Shrike-tit again, with no more luck than before. Some of us decided to have a look at a small patch of mallee on a hill close by. Here we found Weebills, a Rufous Whistler, a Grey Butcherbird and an Australian Raven.

Forty-one bird species were seen on this excursion.

Bernie Haase

Thompson Beach — 19 January

Seventeen people gathered at Thompson Beach carpark at 8am to catch the high tide. The weather forecast was for a hot 37 degrees with storms later in the day but it was a pleasant overcast morning with a slight breeze to keep most of the mozzies at bay. We scoped 4 Grey Plovers with a Silver Gull further up the beach. A community function for school children was being set up in the car park by the Wader Study Group who told us there were a lot of waders at a high tide roost on a claypan at the northern end of the beach. This claypan is usually dry but has filled with water over winter.

We drove there, parked and walked out onto a high spit with telescopes and spent 2 hours looking at a mix of waders among Pelicans, Caspian Terns, and hundreds of Grey Teal and Australian Shelducks. There were good numbers of Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, Red-necked Stints, Ruddy Turnstones and Common Greenshanks while around us flitted Welcome Swallows, Singing

Honeyeaters and White-fronted Chats. There were a lot of waders further out hidden among the samphire in the water but too far to see properly. The highlight was a Pectoral Sandpiper among the sharpies near us. We had good views of a Swamp Harrier and a flock of 20+ White-faced Herons as they flew by. It was starting to get a bit warm by now so we moved to the mangrove area opposite Petrel Street but the tide had gone out just past the mangroves. We scoped more Greenshanks with a few sharpies and Stints and another couple of Grey Plovers — even a Willie Wagtail on top of a mangrove. There was also one Pied Oystercatcher here. We then moved down to the boat ramp where Martyn had found 5 Far Eastern Curlews with more Masked Lapwings. Heat haze made it hard to work out distant Cormorants. We retired to a small park in Dublin for lunch in the shade. Many thanks to Martyn Price for doing the bird call — we had a total of 42 bird species for the day. But no Red-capped Plovers were found!

When we left the beach 10 crabbers were spread out from the car park area — somewhat less than the 30 – 40 Kate and I had seen the previous Sunday while trying to do the wader count. The crabbers were distributed from the car park to the boat ramp areas so there was a significant amount of bird disturbance.

Enid Pascoe

Riverglades, Murray Bridge — 29 January

Despite the forecast temperature of 37+ degrees a small group of 5 members met at the carpark along with the usual gathering of ski boat enthusiasts. The morning's weather was very kind with a cooling breeze and some cloud cover.

A total of 50 species was recorded.

Our group agreed to not to undertake the scheduled bird survey at the nearby Rocky Gully Wetlands due to the increasing heat. We enjoyed an early lunch and made the birdcall before heading home.

Lynton Huxley

Laratinga Wetlands, Mount Barker — 11 February

The weather was slightly overcast to sunny, very calm conditions and warmish at 24C for most of the morning.

Approximately 30 keen Birds SA members (some new members as well, which was nice to see) gathered at Laratinga Wetland at Mt Barker at 8.30am.

The ponds were still reasonably full, but there were several areas of mudflats that were perfect for the highlights of the day which made everyone excited:

Past Excursions (cont.)

one Latham's Snipe, 2 Buff-banded Rails, 2 Australian Crakes, 1 Spotless Crake and 1 Baillon's Crake, plus many Black-fronted Dotterels. The Birds SA group counted 58 species of birds for the morning. Some other highlights were Blue billed Ducks, Hardheads, Pink-eared Ducks, Australasian Shovelers, female Musk Duck and one Freckled Duck plus four other duck species. We enjoyed good views of many Tree Martins Australian Reed Warblers, the usual Superb Fairywrens, a couple of Dusky Woodswallows, about 20 Little Pied Cormorants, several Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebes and the ever present Little Grassbird calls.

The usual Australasian Swampheens, Dusky Moorhens and Eurasian Coots were in ample numbers around the ponds, many with chicks. A large number of Masked Lapwings were constantly calling around the wetlands. Many juvenile birds were seen, providing at times a challenge for some to identify easily. The birds were generally very active, no doubt catching up on feeding after two days of 40C very hot conditions.

An excellent morning's birding was enjoyed by all those who had ventured up to the hills to this wonderful wetland at Mt Barker. **John Gitsham**

Magazine Road, Wetlands — 16 February

I was a little apprehensive about this outing given the excess water in the ponds and indeed over much of the inland, and the possibility that the bridges would be impassable. A brief visit the day before allayed the latter worry and about a dozen members met in the car park on time. The weather was excellent, sunny and warm, with little wind. It turned out to be a splendid trip and we stayed until 12.00 noon when it was getting rather warm in open the treeless habitat. We saw 54 species and some of them really well and several people were photographing.

We had a splendid opening half hour with good views of an adult Nankeen Night Heron and an Australian Crake. Later we enjoyed excellent views of four Freckled Ducks, up to five Baillon's Crakes, Wood Sandpipers and a charming group of Black Swans, parents and very young cygnets clambering through rather thick vegetation. At one point the pen (female) went back to wait for the laggard of the four cygnets. (Please forgive the anthropomorphism). Other birds included a brief view of an Australian Hobby, Great Egret, Royal Spoonbill, Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterel and White-fronted Chats. Birds not seen included: terns, Galah, Welcome Swallow, Maned Duck, Little Raven and Swamp Harrier, so that the 54 species seen was excellent.

John Hatch

Sandy Creek Conservation Park — 26 February

A good-sized group of 21 members attended this walk, including two visitors and a few members who we have not seen at a Birds SA outing for a while. We were expecting to be joined by members of the 'Friends of Sandy Creek', but when they had not arrived at 8.45am we set off without them.

The weather was fine and it only began to warm up towards the end of the walk, at midday the temperature was about 27C. Notwithstanding the better than average summer rains this year, the park was quite dry and very few signs remained of the good rainfall.

Bird numbers were low and there were many spots along the track where they were totally absent. In all we recorded 36 species seen and 5 heard. Highest numbers seen were 30 New Holland Honeyeaters, 30 Adelaide Rosellas, 20 Striated Pardalotes, 20 Musk Lorikeets and 15 each of Superb Fairywrens, Little Wattlebirds and Yellow Thornbills. We also saw 4 Diamond Firetails and 6 Rainbow Bee-eaters. Among the birds heard was a Shining Bronze Cuckoo.

In all a disappointing 290 individual birds were seen and after accounting for the highest numbers above, that left only 145 individuals over the remaining 29 species!

We arrived back at the car park at about midday and ate our lunch. The group was uncharacteristically boisterous during the bird call and had to be called to order a number of times and asked to refrain from interrupting, or jumping up to either take photos or have a closer look at a passing bird. It was all done in good humour and when they eventually settled down we managed to complete the call at about 1.00pm.

Rod Tetlow



Shining Bronze Cuckoo photographed by Rose Slade near Forreston on 23/8/16

Future Excursions

Field Program and campout Co-ordinator,
Lynton Huxley
Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038
Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au or
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 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

Easter Campout 14-17 April:

The Easter Campout this year will be based at the Mount Scott Conservation Park about 20km east of Kingston, which is approximately 300km (3.5hours) South East of Adelaide via the Princes Highway. Additional information and directions for getting there are provided on the next page, or you may contact the trip leader on 0498 466 092.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Thursday 20 April: Belair National Park (MLR) 13km

Meet at the car park inside the main gate off Upper Sturt Road, Belair at 8.30am. Note that 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

Sunday 30 April: 'Wyndgate' Hindmarsh Island (MLR) 100km.

Meet at 8.30am on the corner of Randell and Semaschko Roads Hindmarsh Island. If planning to arrive later that day, please proceed to the homestead off Denver Road.

TRIP LEADER: Neil Cheshire

Saturday 13 May: Ridley Conservation Park (MM) 126km

Head towards Swan Reach via Sedan, turning right towards Mannum at the ETSA Substation, which is just before the road starts dipping down to the river. Travel along this road about 5km. Meet at 8.30am at the northern end of the CP, which starts on the right.

TRIP LEADER: Brian Walker

Thursday 18 May: Shepherds Hill Recreation Park (MM) (10km)

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

TRIP LEADER: Brian Blaylock

Sunday 28 May: Sir Richard Peninsula & Goolwa Ponds (MLR) 90km. Meet at 8.30am at the west of the Goolwa Yacht Club. We plan to cover the area up to and around the southern boat ramp from the Yacht Club then travel onto Hindmarsh Island to the Murray Mouth and later in the day to visit the Goolwa Ponds.

TRIP LEADER: Wyn Syson

Saturday 10 June: Horsnell Gully Conservation Park (MLR) (12km): Meet at 8.30am. To get there travel up the Old Norton Summit Road and turn right into Horsnell Gully Road this leads to a quarry gate just prior to which on the right, is a track leading into the park.

TRIP LEADER: Martyn Price

THE BABBLER
Bird watching field trips of the Birdlife
Australia & Birds SA clubs

PORT AUGUSTA GROUP
for
APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2017

Will be found on page 31

The Easter Campout

14-17 April 2017

The Easter Campout this year will be based at the Mount Scott Conservation Park about 20km east of Kingston. Kingston is located approx. 300km (3.5hours) South East of Adelaide via the Princes Highway.

The directions for getting there are simple as it is clearly marked on the RAA map of the Lower SE. Turn left (east) at the Big Lobster in Kingston, continue for 4km and turn left again onto the Bordertown/Keith road. Continue for a further 15km and turn right when you see the brown sign to Mount Scott CP. It is then only another 4km on a gravel road to the park's entrance.

Anyone towing a van should turn right towards the fence line on the western boundary as soon as possible after entering the park as the more heavily marked track becomes very narrow with low branches on both sides. There are plenty of spaces for camping all along the fence line track. Our usual Birds SA signage will be in place from Thursday afternoon to assist with site parking.

The local ranger, Michael Trebilcock, would appreciate a bird list from us in return for no camping fees being imposed.

No water or shelter structures are available at our bush camping site!!!!

Depending on weather or local restrictions, camp or cooking fires may be banned. Please be prepared for gas cooking only if you intend to stay at this site. A portaloos event toilet will be available.

Alternatively you may choose:

1. To stay at the nearby Kingston Caravan Park, 34 Marine Parade. This park has a variety of accommodation styles — cabins, onsite vans, powered and unpowered sites — and bookings can be made direct using the online booking tab on their website <http://www.kingstoncaravanpark.com.au/> Alternatively, contact June or Kevin Pascoe, the Managers, on Ph.: 08 87672050 or email: Kevin@kingstoncaravanpark.com.au to secure your preferred accommodation.
2. People with self-contained vehicles can stay without any payment (i.e. free) at the Kingston Jetty Parking Area for 24 hours. It has toilets and cold water open shower facilities.

While our official campout activities will be from 11am Friday 14 to 11am Monday 17 April 2017, Members may choose to schedule their own arrival and departure to suit personal requirements. A map of bird survey sites and the timing of site visits is being prepared by local birders Vicki Natt and David Sando. David has also agreed to assist with survey excursions. Once finalised this information will be available on the Birds SA website.

Given the likely split camp situation, I plan to conduct the nightly bird call and any update on the next day's survey schedule at the bush camp site at 5.30pm. If suitable cooking facilities can be organised, the usual Sunday gas barbeque lunch will be held (bacon and eggs and/or pancakes – you will need to provide the ingredients for the Committee Members present to do the cooking). I will need to confirm with you at a later date whether this lunch event will occur.

During this camp participants will be asked to pay a flat \$20 per vehicle fee (covering one or more days). I will issue a Birds SA receipt for your payment.

It would be most helpful if you could contact me by email: lyntonhuxley@gmail.com to confirm your attendance or to get more information about this fun Birds SA Annual event.

Lynton Huxley

Bird Records

Collated by Graham Carpenter

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

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

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

Brown Quail

Additional reports following note in last newsletter:
2 heard, 29/10/2016. Taperoo dunes, AP.

Edey, D
1, 9/11/2016. Globe Derby Park, White Rd Wetland, AP.

Also 1 on 1/12/2016 and 3 on 12/12/2016.

Carter, D. & Hicks, R.
2. 11/11/2016. Coobowie, Salt Creek, YP.

Jack, T.
1, 22/11/2016. Thompson Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.
2, 22/11/2016. Saint Kilda, AP.

Also 1 on 15/1/2017
Carter, D. & P.

2, 5/12/2016. Saint Kilda, AP.
Carter, D. & Syson, W.

Pair + 4 juveniles, 21/12/2016. Charlton Gully, EP.
Bebbington, L.

Australasian Shoveler

3, 6/3/2017. Port Wakefield, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Musk Duck

Several reports of 1 or 2 at Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP, including:

2, 22/11/2016.
Winwood, S.

1, 10/12/2016.
Edey, D.

1, 23/12/2016.
McCreadie, D.

1, 15/1/2017.
Winwood, S.

Also

1, 15/1/2017. O'Halloran Hill, Glenthorne Farm, MLR.

Burns, A.
1, 26/2/2017. Port Wakefield, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Blue-billed Duck

1, 26/2/2017. Port Wakefield, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Freckled Duck

1, 1/1/2017. Bonython Park, AP.
Whatmough, R.

4, 16/2/2017. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.

Hatch, J.
10, 26/2/2017. Port Wakefield, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Little Bittern

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

1 heard, 1/12/2016. Hacks Lagoon, SE.
Schmidt, L.

Red-tailed Tropicbird

1, 1/1/2017. Semaphore, AP.
Bridge, R.

Description provided and subsequent report indicated this species most likely. One was seen at Semaphore Beach on 10/1/1989 (Newsletter 129).

1, 21/1/2017. West Beach, AP.
Photos provided.

Seidel, J.



Red tailed Tropicbird,
Photographed by J. Seidel at West Beach on 21/1/2017

Bird Records (cont.)

Flock Bronzewing

100s-1000s, 10/7/2016. Parachilna, FR.
Birds seen in distance rising from plain west of railway, spiralled upwards in two groups then headed off to south-east.

Cole, P.

This report is south of recent records.

Cape Barren Goose

1, 28/12/2016. South Para Reservoir, MLR.

Pearce, A.

7, 19/2/2017. Waikerie, Hart Lagoon, MM.

Haines, P.

Few reports from the Upper Murray, mostly in summer.

Barbary Dove

1, 19/11/2016. Para Hills, The Paddocks, AP.

Edey, D.

3, 7/12/2016. Port Clinton, YP.

Carter, D. & Syson, W.

1, 22/2/2017. Woodville South, Glen Rowan Rd, AP.

Edey, D.

Australian Owlet-nightjar

3, Dec. 2016. Blackwood, MLR.

Merry, K.

Fork-tailed Swift

50, 9/2/2017. Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

50, 9/2/2017. Port River, AP.

Potter, D.

Members are reminded to take care identifying swifts as both the Fork-tailed Swift and White-throated Needletail have white throats. The latter occurs regularly in the SE over summer but there are few recent reports from elsewhere in SA.

White-faced Storm Petrel

1 juvenile, 27/2/2017. Kings Head, MLR.

Found near dwelling, taken into care for later release.

Hannaford, I. per Steele-Collins, E.

Presumably from nesting islands in Spencer Gulf and off Kangaroo Island, where they nest in burrows.

Salvin's Albatross

1, 27/11/2016. Off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Also present were exceptional numbers of other seabirds namely 22 Wandering Albatross, 1 immature Grey-headed Albatross, 20 White-headed Petrel, 1 Gould's Petrel and 3 Soft-plumaged Petrel.

Rogers, C. et al.

Southern Royal Albatross

1 adult beachwashed, 6/12/2016. Waitpinga Beach, MLR.

Smith, P.

Intermediate Egret

1, 13/2/2017. Lake George, Drain M, SE.

Harper, D. & S.

1, 8/3/2017. Port Wakefield, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Eastern Reef Egret

1, 15/1/2017. Middleton, MM.

Syson, W.

Royal Spoonbill

52, 11/2/2017. Goolwa Channel, MM.

Edey, D.

Glossy Ibis

Widespread reports from southern SA including YP and EP where rarely reported:

1, 27/12/2016. Gillman, Whicker Rd wetlands, AP.

Sparks, K.

1, 1/1/2017. Port Wakefield golf course, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

4, 6/1/2017. Whyalla Sewage Works. EP

Earl, H. & I.

4, 16/1/2017. Port Clinton, YP

Taylor, P.W.

Also seen on same day by D. & P. Carter

1, 18/1/2017. Banrock Wetlands, MM.

Tourenq, C.

2, 13/2/2017. Cowell Foreshore, EP.

Carpenter, G.

Square-tailed Kite

Reported to have bred at Para Wirra NP again this year, with one or 2 young fledging (last seen 29/1/2017 by J. Kreig). Other reports in the district, possibly of the same pair, include:

1, 27/11/2016. Para Wirra NP office, MLR.

Taylor, S.

1, 2/12/2016. Highbury, Linear Park, AP.

Crooks, G.

1, 24/12/2016 and 17/1/2017. Forreston, MLR.

Slade, R.

1, 31/12/2016. Blakeview, Springvale Rd, AP.

Kreig, J.

1, 3/1/2017. Norton Summit, Sinclair Gully, MLR.

McCreadie, D.

1, 12/1/2017. Vista, Perseverance Rd, MLR.

Pascoe, E.

Bird Records (cont.)

Straw-necked Ibis

1, 19/2/2017, Port Wakefield, AP.
With 60 Australian White Ibis.

Taylor, P.W.

White-bellied Sea Eagle

1 adult, 1/1/2017. Swan Reach, MM.

Garcia-Bellido, D.

1 immature, 4/2/2017. Greenfields Wetlands,
Parafield Gardens, AP.

Edwards, N.

Black-breasted Buzzard

Pair+2 juveniles, 9/11/2016. Farina, NE.

Dare, G. & A.

Brahminy Kite

1, 26/11/2016. River Murray, Lock 4, MM.

Seen gliding low over the forest opposite Lock 4
then landed in a tree. White head, chestnut back
and definite black fingered wing tips noted.

Smith, A.

*An adult Brahminy Kite was previously reported in
SA at Myponga Beach in Nov 2002 and later near
Mannum in Dec 2002 and Jan 2003. This was
presumed an escapee from the Gorge Wildlife Park
(see Newsletters 184 and 185).*

Australasian Swamphen

1, 31/12/2016. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR.
First report for area.

Schmidt, L.

Baillon's Crake

5, 16/2/2017. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd,
AP.

Hatch, J.

Red-kneed Dotterel

100, 22/1/2017. 10 km N Bower, LN.
On ephemeral wetland.

Taylor, P.W.

Sanderling

2, 7/10/2016. Semaphore South beach, AP.

vanTrigt, M-A.

Long-toed Stint

1, 7/1/2017. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Steeles, C. *et al*

Latham's Snipe

70, 8/1/2017. Robe, Fox & Pub Lakes, SE.

Haywood, B.

*Similar nos. were reported from these lakes on
5 Dec 2013 (Newsletter 229) and 3 Sep 2014 (NL*

*233), with the largest group in SA in recent times
being 200 from east of Milang on 16 Dec 1982.*

*There are old reports of 100s from various sites in
the South East, although some early observers may
have used 'snipe' as a generic term for various
waders.*

Bar-tailed Godwit

28, 5/1/2017. Hindmarsh Island, Sugars Beach, MM.

Brooker, W.

Eastern Curlew

1, 11/2/2017. Goolwa Channel, NW of Swan Point
Hindmarsh Island, MM.

Edey, D.

Wood Sandpiper

1, 6/1/2017. Whyalla Sewage Works, EP.

Earl, H. & I.

6, 21/2/2017. Birchmore Swamp, KI.

Baxter, C.

Marsh Sandpiper

2, 14/2/2017. Murrays Lagoon, E side, KI.

Baxter, C.

Both of these waders are rarely reported from KI.

Painted Button-quail

1, 6/12/2016. Lower Inman Valley, MLR.

Cutten, D.

1, 12/12/2016. Eden Hills, Shepherds Hill Rd, MLR.
In suburban garden.

Johnson, P. per Steele-Collins, E.

Little Tern

3, 7/1/2017. Hindmarsh Island, Sugars Beach, MM.

With about 50 Fairy Terns.

Harper, D. & S., Steeles, C.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

*Numerous reports from AP from Nov 2016 to end of
Jan 2017*

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

Horton, P.

1, 16/11/2016. Adelaide Airport, Sir Don Bradman
Dr, AP.

Edey, D.

10, 7/1/2017. Glenelg North, Dutchman Dr, AP.

Whatmough, R.

2, 20/1/2017. Klemzig, AP.

Corchoran, P.

About 50, 11/2/2017. Kooyonga Golf Course, AP.

Pring, A.

1, 8/12/2016. Near Nantawarra, LN. Photos taken.

Maxwell, R. per Taylor, P.W.

First report for this region.

Bird Records (cont.)

Laughing Gull

Still present at Venus Bay caravan park EP on 23/11/2016.

Earl, H. & I.

Musk Lorikeet

15, 21/2/2017. Port Arthur, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

Most reports from YP around Moonta and Wallaroo, where its status is uncertain.

Swift Parrot

2, 27/1/2017. Millicent, SE.

Green, B.

Report submitted to rarities committee. Up to 180 were at Millicent in August 1985 (Newsletter 155).

Budgerigar

2, 31/1/2017. Nuriootpa, Belvedere Rd, MLR.

Kretschmer, G.

Scarlet-chested Parrot

Pair + 2 juveniles, 2/11/2016. Vokes Hill Corner, NW.

Heinsohn, J & Grant, J.

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo

1, 10/2/2017. Felixstow, AP.

Hyland, M.

Eastern Koel

Female, 30/11/2016. Prospect, Clifton St, AP.

MacIntosh, M.

White-throated Gerygone

Heard, 24/11/2016. Monarto Zoo entrance, MM.

Paton, D.

Heard, 23/12/2016. Marshes Swamp Native Forest Reserve, SE.

Haywood, B. *et al*

Heard, 25/12/2016. Moorak, SE.

Haywood, B.

Black-chinned Honeyeater

1, 19/1/2017. Port Elliot, Gregory St, MLR.

Also 1 present on 4/3/2017

Syson, W.

Crested Shrike-tit

1, 27/11/2016. Strathalbyn sewage works, MLR.

Price, M.

2, 14/1/2017. Port Elliot, Gregory St, MLR.

Syson, W.

2, 23/2/2017. Gawler East, AP.

Hartland, D.

Crested Bellbird

1, 9/12/2016 and 17/1/2017. Macs Beach, YP.

Carter, D. & Syson, W.

Small numbers occur in the coastal scrub on either side of YP.

Gilbert's Whistler

1, 5/3/2017. Gawler East, AP.

Uncoloured bird feeding near ground, identified by call.

Hartland, D.

Black-faced Woodswallow

Pair + immature, 26/2/2017. 15km W Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Dusky Woodswallow

1, 23/10/2016. Malvern, Cremorne St, AP

Horton, P.

5, 29/1/2017. Vale Park, AP.

Buckley, K.

Grey Currawong

Pair + juvenile, 1/12/2016. Fullarton, Cremorne St, AP.

Horton, P.

ckos Cuckoo

White-winged Chough

7, 9/1/2017. Chandlers Hill, Cockatoo Lane, MLR.

First report in area.

Bate, G.

Fairy Martin

8, 5/10/2016. West Beach, West Beach Rd, AP.

Presumed nesting in pipe.

Edey, D

50 nests, 15/1/2017. Seaford Meadows, MLR.

Brooker, W.



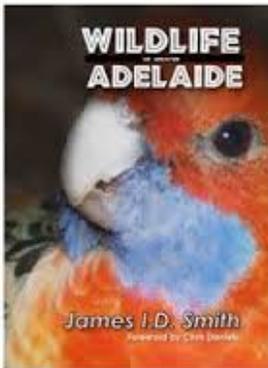
Baillon's Crake,

photographed by Anna Lester
at Magazine Rd., Dry Creek on 16/02/2017

From the Library

Online access to the Birds SA library catalogue is available at:

<https://birdssa.libib.com/>



590.94231 SMI

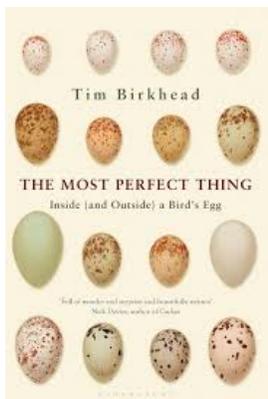
Smith, James I.D.

Wildlife of Greater Adelaide

Stephney, SA: Axion Publisher, 2016

ISBN 9781864768114

The city of Adelaide and its immediate surroundings contain some truly remarkable wildlife. Mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, insects, spiders, crustaceans, snails and worms are amongst the diverse array of wildlife described and displayed within these pages. The aim of this book is to provide the reader with some insight into the wildlife of this region.



598.1468 BIR

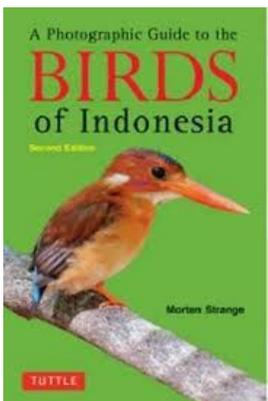
Birkhead, Tim

The most perfect thing: inside (and outside) a bird's egg

London: Bloomsbury, 2016

ISBN 9781408851258

How are eggs of different shapes made, and why are they the shape they are? When does the shell of an egg harden? Why do some eggs contain two yolks? How are the colours and patterns of an eggshell created, and why do they vary? And which end of an egg is laid first – the blunt end or the pointy end? These are just some of the questions this book answers, as the journey of a bird's egg from creation and fertilisation to its eventual hatching is examined. Current scientific knowledge is placed within a historical context.



598.29598 STR

Strange, Morten

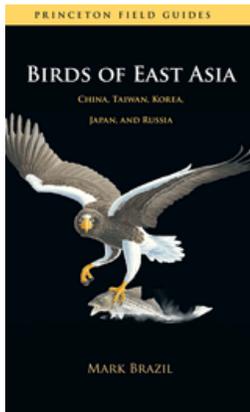
A photographic guide to the birds of Indonesia 2nd ed.

Tokyo, Rutland, VT: Tuttle, 2012

ISBN 97808042842006

912 species are illustrated in this publication, plus a complete annotated checklist of all 1605 birds occurring in Indonesia.

From the Library (cont.)



598.295 BRA

Brazil, Mark

Birds of East Asia: China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan and Russia

Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009

ISBN 9780691139265

This book describes 985 species of birds found in East Asia and 19 extralimital species that may occur. It contains 234 colour plates and more than 950 colour maps, making identification easy and convenient.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Alan Burgess	SALISBURY EAST
Bill O'Neill & Lan Anh Nguyen Dang	SEMAPHORE
Claire Hamm	SOUTH PLYMPTON
Mansurwala Riyaz	PARA VISTA
Fiona MacCullum Cox	HYDE PARK
Patricia Berry	EASTWOOD
Gregory Moss	HOPE VALLEY
Cate Moss	HOPE VALLEY
Margaret Marshall & David Balloch	ALDINGA BEACH
John Ronald Pumpa	SEFTON PARK
Ann Hentschke	VICTOR HARBOR
Heather Cosh	MODBURY
Dani Austin & Sam Ryan	KINGSTON PARK
Manfred Feuser	LILYDALE
Carole-Anne Fooks & Geoffrey Higges	CAMPBELLTOWN
Scott Perry	ADELAIDE
Peter & Elaine Elton	COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS
Christine Cowan	WAYVILLE
Ellen Carter	ASCOT PARK
Craig Greer	MALVERN
Jan Clarke	DULWICH
David Mann	TOORAK GARDENS
Jo, Grant, Caitlin & Phoebe Wood	ALDGATE
Wendy Cook	OAKDEN
Sue & Bruce Lamont	HAPPY VALLEY
Pete & Pat Owen	CRAFERS WEST
Sheila Margaret Lewis	TAILEM BEND
Dragos, Magdelana, Bianca & Andrew Moise	FAIRVIEW PARK
Emily Tomassian	ALDINGA BEACH
Diana Koch	BALHANNAH
Narelle de Veau	PORT LINCOLN

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	Merilyn Browne	8339 6839
Newsletter Editor	Cynthia Pyle	8264 5778
Bird Trips	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Bird Records, Membership	Graham Carpenter Simon Brealey	8297 5463 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	imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au	
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, 8725 0549

Newsletter Editor, Abigail Goodman
abigail.goodman@bigpond.com
IBA Coordinator, Bryan Haywood
brytonwood@bigpond.com 8726 8112

Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact person: Neil Cheshire 8552 7904
Website: 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 May Newsletter is due by the April General Meeting (April 28). 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
- cpy62284@bigpond.net.au

ABN 76 339 976 789

Print post number 100004337

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationers

WEBSITE: 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

The Port Augusta Babblers' Activities for the next three Months

**THE BABBLER — Bird watching field trips of the
Birdlife Australia & Birds SA clubs PORT AUGUSTA GROUP
APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2017**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Friday 14 th . \			
Saturday 15 th . April 2017 --	Mt. Ive station --	Tanks parking bay, Iron Knob turnoff	8:30am
Sunday 16 th . /	(Campout — \$10pp/night — facilities available)		
Monday 17 th . /	(Please book at Mt. Ive, 86 481 817)		
Sunday 21 st . May 2017 --	Mail road to Wartaka station --	Start of Stuart hi-way	8:30 am
Saturday 10 th . \			
Sunday 11 th . June 2017 --	Bendleby Ranges --	Carrieton pub	8:30 am
Monday 12 th . /	(Campout - \$20pp/night — facilities available)		

Please bring Sturdy footwear, Hat, Sun protection, Morning tea, Binoculars and Lunch.
For further information contact:-



Wedge-tailed Eagle
photographed by Anne Kirk in the Flinders Ranges on 08/04/14

New Generations



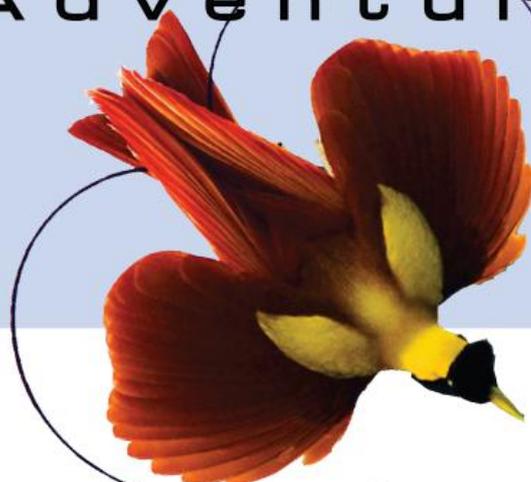
On their Nests



Birds of a Feather...



Kalawai Adventure



WEST-PAPUA BIRDING EXPEDITIONS

ARFAK MOUNTAINS & RAJA AMPAT

11-day adventures for small groups

*"9 species of birds-of-paradise, discover
the richest reefs on Earth and much,
much more!"*

USD 4,900 - incl. flights, boats, hotels

Book now for the 2017 season!

geoffreygearheart.com/arfak

Click on advert to
access web site

Erratum William Brooker has informed me that the wader in photo 7 of the November 2016 issue of 'The Birder' is a Grey tailed Tattler. It was incorrectly identified as a Curlew Sandpiper

Details of Photographs on pages 32 to 36

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Australasian Grebe with chicks — one just hatched	Craig Greer	Oaklands Wetlands Reserve	23/12/16
2	Black Swans with cygnets	Anna Lester	Magazine Rd. Dry Creek	16/02/17
3	Black-breasted Buzzard adult and chick	Greg Dare	Farina	9/11/16
4	Grey Fantail on nest	Alan Home	Cherry Gardens	17/01/17
5	Crested Pigeons	Peter Pfeiffer	Happy Valley	22/01/17
6	Apostlebirds	David Cox	Popiltah Lake, SW NSW	2015
7	New Holland Honeyeaters	Greg Blackman	Ingle Farm	21/01/17
8	Gouldian Finch (captive)	Ann Houghton	Mareeba, Qld	5/09/16
9	Azure Kingfisher	Ann Houghton	Daintree River, Qld	8/09/16
10	Olive-backed Sunbird (female)	Ann Houghton	Cairns, Qld	17/10/16
11	Double-eyed Fig Parrot	Ann Houghton	Cairns, Qld	15/09/16
12	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Ann Houghton	Lake Eacham, Qld	1/09/16

A Selection of Colourful Tropical Birds

