

# The BIRDER

The official newsletter of Birds SA    May 2017    No 242

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New hunting policy

Activities for 'fledglings'

Easter at Sophie's Patch



**Birds SA**

Linking people with birds  
in South Australia

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<b>CENTRE INSERT: SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES</b>	
No: 60, <b>FRANK MILTON ANGEL</b>	

**John Gitsham designed the front page of this issue.**

Jeff Groves took the photograph of a Square-tailed Kite at Para Wirra Conservation Park, SA in Sept 2016.

**If you would like one of your photographs to be considered for the front page of the August Birder, please send a hi-res copy to John at [john.gitsham@bigpond.com](mailto:john.gitsham@bigpond.com)**

We welcome 14 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p20.

## 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 28 May	Excursion to Sir Richard Peninsula & Goolwa Ponds
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Saturday 10 June	Excursion to Horsnell Gully CP
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Thursday 22 June	Excursion to Jenkins Scrub
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Friday 29 June	General Meeting
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Sunday 2 July	Excursion to Altona Landcare Reserve
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Saturday 15 July	Excursion to Reedy Creek
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Thursday 20 July	Excursion to Anacotilla Springs
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Friday 28 July	General Meeting
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Sunday 30 July	Excursion to Paiwalla Wetlands
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Saturday 12 August	Excursion to Bakara CP
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Thursday 17 August	Excursion to Kyeema CP
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Friday 25 August	General Meeting
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Sunday 27 August	Excursion to Charleston CP
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### 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

Hello to all our members, I feel privileged and honoured to represent the Association as your new president. I hope to continue to guide and take Birds SA in a new and progressive direction while maintaining our rich history and traditional activities. I would like to firstly thank the magnificent job David Paton has done as president over the last few years and feel a bit intimidated. His are big shoes to fill, and I'll do my best. I also express a big thanks to our past Treasurer Brian Walker for the excellent job he has done over the past years on the committee. Also, welcome to the new committee members.

As an Association we are in a strong position with a membership of approximately 750 members growing at about 4% per year, thanks to our recent outward marketing approach and promotional activities, such as attending functions with our Birds SA stand, at Laratinga Bird fair, Sophie's Garden, WEA and other birding courses and activities, raising our profile to the public.

As the membership grows, Birds SA will provide a louder and stronger voice in support of conservation and protection of our birds and their habitats in SA.

I recognise we are now primarily a bird watching association, which is fabulous, and is a growing area around the world; along with the introduction of digital photography acting as a conduit that makes people more aware of birds. However, we must also remember that the Association has a strong scientific and conservation component. I wish to maintain and further support and encourage the science and conservation aspects of Birds SA, since we are an ornithological association at heart.

With the ongoing challenges of a changing environment and climate change, increasing

population growth and sprawling urban development, more and more pressure is being put on our dwindling natural resources, and that has a funnel-down effect on our birdlife. As we know, the birds are suffering badly in various areas of the state. Consequently, as an association we will be collaborating more with like-minded conservation and birding organisations so that we can stand together to voice our opinions and or protests on important issues that will impact on our birds and their habitats.

Birds SA will continue to support the Conservation areas of Tolderol as prime habitat for waders and other bird species and a great bird watching site for our members. Also our ongoing relationship with the Mt Barker Council's Laratinga wetland will continue to provide an excellent location for Birds SA members to visit. Our Conservation Fund will support other worthwhile projects and scientific research as they arise.

Our involvement with the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary will increase and I urge all members to support the sanctuary as much as possible.

It is also important to remember that all Birds SA members are ambassadors of the association while out birding and it is expected that we will all follow Birds SA ethical birding guidelines (presented on page 2) and promote the association in a positive way.

I hope to meet most Association members during my tenure as president. Please feel free to approach me with any issues and ideas you would like to see the Association take on and I hope to see you out there birding at some stage. Happy Birding!

John Gitsham

**President Birds SA**



**'Fledglings' enjoying a bird-banding activity run by Birds SA and Bio<sup>R</sup>.  
Details on the next page**

# Fledglings' Field Trip



**A 'Fledgling' holding a Diamond Firetail before releasing it.**

Birds SA, in conjunction with Bio<sup>R</sup>, offered a Fledglings Field Trip on the weekend of March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Bio<sup>R</sup> is a non-profit organisation that focuses on offsetting ecological footprints. This organisation generates funds, knowledge and practical skills to reconstruct habitats that support native wildlife in degraded landscapes.

Advertising for this event started in February and bookings were immediate, with Sunday being fully booked by the first week in March. Of the 60 available spaces 58 were booked, however, illness prevented several children from attending over the weekend.

Saturday was fairly warm and humid, but the cloud cover made the day reasonable and the bird numbers impressive. Sunday morning was perfect but it became very hot in the afternoon. Over the weekend 302 birds were processed and this included 33 different species.

Without the expertise of the Bio<sup>R</sup> team this event would not have been possible. I would like to extend gratitude from Birds SA to the following Bio<sup>R</sup> team members, David Paton, Fiona Paton, Grace and Tom who made up the Saturday team. David and Fiona again worked on Sunday along with Hayley, Tommy and Priya.

David and Fiona set up nets on the Friday, arrived very early Saturday morning, before 7.00am, to unfurl them and worked all day, not stopping until after 5.00pm. This was repeated again Sunday with the Sunday team. Both teams exhibited amazing dedication to spreading the need to conserve habitat into the future by involving children in an activity that they all thoroughly enjoyed.

The children were thrilled to be carrying the small bags containing the birds, with the Bio<sup>R</sup> team making sure that each child was able to carry at least two bags. The children then observed the team weighing, banding and checking the feathers of the birds. Detailed descriptions of the various species were given, with comparisons made, for example, between a female Golden Whistler and female Rufous Whistler in the hand at the same time. What an opportunity in bird identification! Where appropriate, the children were then shown how to hold a bird and then to release it. Every child was able to hold at least one bird, but none put their hand up for the Adelaide Rosella or the Chough!

All participants expressed their appreciation and we hope that this activity will encourage future conservationists and ornithologists.

**Kate Buckley (who also took the photographs)**



**A Bio<sup>R</sup> member showing a 'fledgling' how to weigh the bird in the bag.**



# Birds SA Notes & News

## **NEW DUCK AND QUAIL HUNTING POLICY**

The following alteration to the Association's Duck and Quail Hunting Policy was adopted at the February 24 General Meeting

The previous policy stated: "Birds SA opposes the recreational hunting of all native birds and would prefer it to be disallowed. However, the organisation recognises that sometimes there may be some conservation benefits associated with well-managed recreational hunting and, while hunting remains legal, will co-operate with others to maximise such benefits."

At the meeting, John Gitsham stated that many Birds SA Members have voiced opposition to the wording of the above policy. The proposed change brings Birds SA in line with BirdLife Australia and most other States.

After some discussion, David Robertson proposed the adoption of the following Birds SA hunting Policy: "Birds SA opposes the recreational hunting of native bird species." be put to the vote. This was seconded by Allan Burns and carried by the members.

The full policy can be found on the website.

**Cynthia Pyle**

## **E-NEWSLETTER EDITOR/S NEEDED**

Many members enjoy receiving our monthly e-Newsletter with its up to date information, maps showing locations of our birding venues and a bird list for each venue.

The two people who have published the e-Newsletter every month for several years— editor Roger Collier and former Treasurer Brian Walker — will no longer be publishing the document.

**We need at least one new e-Newsletter editor, or there will not be any more e-Newsletters.**

**Please contact our Secretary, Brian Blaylock, if you are able to help.**

**Cynthia Pyle**

## **CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

### **March Report**

#### **Closer links with like-minded organisations**

The Sub-committee has sent an introductory letter on this subject to the members of the Birds SA Committee, along with detailed appendices describing the aims and the degree of alignment with Birds SA of five organisations suggested for consideration for closer ties. The letter described the mutual benefits that may arise through such an initiative. The five potential organisations listed were:

- Nature Foundation SA,
- Australian Wildlife Conservancy,
- BirdLife Australia

- Bush Heritage

- Bio<sup>R</sup>.

Various members of the Conservation sub-committee initially compiled the appendices. It was noted that there was already considerable interaction between Birds SA and some of these organisations.

#### **Monarto Crown Lands**

Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin was reasonably positive that the Brown's Road and Frahn's Farm tracts of land will be included in the proposed conservation parks. Primary Industries and Resources SA) PIRSA have rights over both properties.

#### **Tolderol**

J Gitsham advised that water had been supplied to Bay 17. There is still considerable groundwork to be done. Birds SA is acknowledged prominently on the signage at the site.

#### **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary**

DEWNR are aware of the issues relating to crabbing activities at Thompson's Beach and their impact on the birdlife. It was felt that the Collective needs to be involved in educating those involved. D Hansman suggested that Birds SA should provide support for covering the cost of signage. Arkellah Irving, Community Involvement and Planning Coordinator for the AIBS will address the April General Meeting

#### **Laratinga**

Mt Barker Council has indicated that it is unable to support the Bird Fair this year, due to rehabilitation works after extensive rainfall events. The Council would support holding the event on a biennial basis.

#### **Dry Creek Saltfields and Buckland Park Lake**

W Brooker advised that we no longer have access to the Dry Creek Salt fields. Consideration is to be given to writing to the new owners of the site requesting access by Birds SA under controlled conditions. It is considered unreasonable that there is lack of access for Birds SA to Buckland Park Lake despite the Association's contribution of \$50,000 towards the purchase of the site.

#### **Duck and Quail hunting**

There is debate within the Conservation sub-Committee on whether to further pursue the outlawing of duck and quail hunting in SA or to move on now that the Birds SA policy change has been endorsed. If this matter is to be pursued further, Birds SA needs to develop a clear strategy.

#### **State of the River Murray**

P Cole provided an update:

- a. The Murray system has good volumes of water in storage towards the end of the 2016-17 irrigation season — Hume > 70%, Dartmouth near 80%

# Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

- b. SA has already announced that for the next water year (i.e. the 2017-18 irrigation season) water allocations against entitlements will be 100%. This means both irrigators and environmental water holders holding SA water will have their full allocations.
- c. At the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council Meeting held 17 March 2017 in Mildura, Ministers proposed that the full remaining volume of water to meet the water recovery target of 2750 GL would be by 'supply measures' i.e. by inference no further water will be purchased from irrigators to secure the promised 2750GL of environmental water to keep wetlands alive and the Murray Mouth open.

## April Report

### Closer links with like-minded organisations.

Simon Brealey confirmed that, following the circulation of his introductory letter on this subject the Birds SA Management Committee had discussed the matter. Overall the feedback was positive. The Committee suggested that The Field Naturalists Society of SA and the Nature Conservation Society of SA be added to the list of key contact organisations.

The Conservation Sub-Committee had recommended that it was appropriate to have individual champions who would be the prime Birds SA contact with each of the external organisations. In the case of BirdLife Australia it was conceded that there would be several Birds SA contacts. John Gitsham and William Brooker were acknowledged as two of these. The recommendations on all the "champions" will need to be approved by the Management Committee. The process for how these people will be selected was not discussed.

### Monarto Crown Lands

The two new Monarto Conservation Parks are Kinchina, of 414 hectares, and Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park, of 426 hectares.

### Tolderol

John Gitsham reported that Natural Resources Management (NRM) and Goolwa to Wellington Action Planning Association (GWLAP) had conducted a bird survey at Tolderol on Friday April 7. Thirty species were recorded. Many Royal Spoonbills were sighted together with several Lewin's Rails and Glossy Ibis. There were many ducks in Bay 11. The Besser block building housing the pumping system needs repair because the efficacy of the pump has been compromised by the collapse of the shed. Responsibility for undertaking repairs lies with the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DEWNR).

### Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS)

DEWNR are aware of the issues relating to crabbing activities at Thompson's Beach and their impact on the birdlife. The importance of educating the public was discussed. It was recommended that Birds SA send a letter to both DEWNR and PIRSA detailing the issues, asking whether there are relevant regulations covering these issues and requesting how compliance with appropriate regulations can be assured. David Hansman raised the question of appropriate signage to indicate size limits for crabs etc. It was noted that Chris Purnell (BirdLife Australia) and others had already referred to these issues in the Shorebird Population Monitoring Survey Report 2014-15 published in October 2015.

### Laratinga

The balance of the interpretive signs was installed this month.

### Duck and Quail hunting

A request by William Brooker to Mike Greig of DEWNR regarding what data is used for setting the hunting limits for Stubble Quail had revealed that there was a total lack of any meaningful analysis.

### State of the River Murray (April)

- a. The strong submission by BirdLife Australia opposing reductions to environmental water flows was discussed, and John Spiers proposed that the subcommittee draft a letter to be sent to the MDBA supporting BirdLife Australia's position. David Paton will be asked for any relevant comments applicable to the lower lakes of SA.
- b. The subcommittee has commenced investigation into the potential impacts of the carp eradication virus. John Spiers undertook to draft a letter to CSIRO, to be reviewed by Phil Cole, asking specific questions for the scientific evidence that the proposed introduction of the carp herpes virus will have no impact on native birdlife.

### Northern Connector Project

The subcommittee discussed recent correspondence between Rod Tetlow, Birds SA, and Tony Flaherty (DEWNR) with respect to the impact on bird habitat of the Northern Connector Project where it traverses the land adjacent to the Whites Road wetlands. Jeff Groves will represent Birds SA in any future discussions on this issue with Tony Flaherty and Chris Podger (Land Lease Environmental Manager Northern Connector Project).

### Simon Brealey

# Easter Weekend at Sophie's Patch



**Staffing the Stall, photographed by Kate Buckley**  
Barbara Wheaton, seated; Jan Webber, holding the banner

The Birds SA stall was again held at Sophie's Patch, near Laratinga, over the Easter Weekend. I should like to express my gratitude and the appreciation of the Birds SA Management Committee to all who volunteered to donate their time over the weekend, but especially to Cynthia Pyle, Merinda Hyland, Barbara Wheaton, Jan Webber, Sue Winwood, Kathy Tiller, Colin and Merry Theakstone, for their wonderful work. Monies raised came to \$346.70. Most of this money came from the sale of James Smith's book – Wildlife of Greater Adelaide. Three copies were sold on Saturday. A new member signed up on Sunday afternoon. She



**Merinda Hyland in her 'bird' shirt**  
Photographed by Jan Webber

also contributed a donation of \$50 to Birds SA. Sales of our badges and car stickers, together with generous donations, constituted the remainder of the money raised. Thank you again to the wonderful people who gave up part of the Easter weekend to support Birds SA and conservation. In appreciation  
**Kate Buckley**

Thank you Kate, for organising the roster, the float and stall items etc., plus the Easter eggs generously given to each of us!  
**Greatly appreciated by The Team.**

**N.B. Kate gave up almost all her Easter weekend!!!**  
**Cynthia Pyle**



# Easter Weekend at Sophie's Patch, (cont.)

## Report by a team member

I was disappointed last year when the Birds SA stall at Sophie's Patch Open Garden had to be cancelled due to very bad weather, as it would have been my first opportunity to support the group by staffing the stall. So I was very pleased that we had lovely weather for Sophie's Patch Open Garden over the Easter weekend. I was fortunate enough to be on the Birds SA stall most of Easter Sunday with Merinda Hyland, Barbara Wheaton and Sue Winwood. As a very inexperienced birder I was grateful for the knowledge and experience of these people.

The day was busy, with many people wandering around the garden, visiting the various stalls and generally enjoying the autumn sunshine. I did have a fascinating walk through 'The patch' and was impressed by the wide range of vegetables, herbs and fruit growing in what is really quite a small area. I also loved the way in which Sophie had used succulents to make interesting and attractive areas. We were particularly impressed with the family of pardalotes nesting by Sophie's back door.

During the day we spoke to many people, passing on information about Birds SA, answering questions about bird sightings and giving general advice about how to encourage and protect native species. Sue had conversations with many people who had birdbaths in their garden and enjoyed watching birds especially New Holland Honeyeaters enjoying the water. A few people raised concerns about the Noisy Miners and the negative effect they had on small birds. We were able to suggest increasing the understorey in order to give the small birds places to hide.

Merinda and Barbara were able to help a gentleman identify a Black-Chinned Honeyeater from a photo on his phone and by the sound of their call on Merinda's tablet. He had taken the photo at Bunnings in Murray Bridge — an area where



**Part of Sophie's beautiful garden  
Photographed by Jan Webber**

you would not normally expect to find this species. As Merinda said clearly no one had told the bird. At times I felt like a detective. In one conversation we were given information about a bird's colouring; we sought more information about size and shape. We then showed a picture from one of the field guides, which was rejected but enabled the family to give us some further information about beak shape. Eventually we identified the bird as an Eastern Spinebill much to the delight of the family. These

stories were examples of many conversations that I am sure occurred over the 3 days.

We handed out some membership application forms and copies of 'The Birder' and one person joined Birds SA on the day. We also sold a few copies of the *Wildlife of Greater Adelaide* books, some badges and received a few donations. It would have been good to have some sheets to hand out to children, possibly photos or colouring-in sheets with some general information about our most common birds. I think we also created a lot of goodwill and passed on some very valuable information about South Australian birdlife.

I do need to pass on our thanks to Kate Buckley who did such a great job of organising the weekend and the Easter Bunny who left us all a little bag of Easter Eggs.

**Jan Webber**



**Sophie's magnificent vegetables  
Photographed by Jan Webber**



# Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS)

This new group is steadily gathering momentum. Thanks to new members, sales of Mary-Ann's wonderful bird bags, and a successful Initial Works Project Grant, we are beginning to feel a little more financial, prompting even more concerted future planning and grant applications. Our events so far have been largely focussed on landscape projects in the Sanctuary, with priorities on cleaning up and revegetation. However, there's no holding back on the birders among us, so that Ranger Tammy Leggett's session on bird monitoring at Thompson Beach (Light Beach, our planned location, being rained out) was welcomed and instructive. Including time for our binoculars and scope is a high priority when FAIBS are out in the field, enabling us to record sightings of quite a range of birds. Thompson Beach listings in early April included the Eastern Curlew, Red Knot, Common Greenshank, Red Neck Stint, Grey Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, White Faced Heron, Silver Gull, Caspian Tern, Pacific Gulls, Singing Honeyeater and White Browed Babbler. Some of the birds were showing breeding plumage. At Port Prime, late in April, sightings included Red Capped Plover, Egret, swan, pelican, Pied Cormorant and Brown Falcon. Further inland, favourites were a Barn Owl, Nankeen Kestrel and Blue bonnet Parrot.



**Monitoring instruction at Thompson Beach**

## **Future Events.**

**Our next scheduled coastal events** are revegetation planting days at Port Gawler on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 9.00am to 1pm. We will meet at Pt. Gawler Beach. Morning tea will be provided. If you wish to join in — and we need lots of helpers — please RSVP to [Linda.durham@sa.gov.au](mailto:Linda.durham@sa.gov.au) or call her at 08 8273 9117. You will need to bring a hat, gardening gloves, water, lunch, trowel (if you have one), suitable clothing and a friendly smile! These Samphire Coast activities are funded by the Federal Government and the NRM Levy, and supported by the Adelaide

Plains Council. The longer-term aim is to reduce the impact of illegal off-road activity and dumped rubbish, as well as to protect coastal habitats. Rest assured that the birders will be exercising their viewing technology along with the planting! On June 18<sup>th</sup>, if you're still feeling energetic, the revegetation activity will be followed by a presentation by Chris Butcher about the Yellowish Sedge Skipper Butterfly re-introduction project at St Kilda (2-4pm). Enquiries about this can be made to 0406 226 2096, and attendance RSVP's go to [chris.butcher@ncssa.asn.au](mailto:chris.butcher@ncssa.asn.au)

We are planning more events on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. The FAIBS Facebook site will provide more information as these events approach. In particular we're looking forward to the Flyway Festival later in the year when we welcome back the migratory birds.



**FAIBS Birders in action, Port Prime**

# FAIBS (cont.)

## FAIBS Membership

If anyone wishes to be added to our contact list or to become a member of FAIBS (\$10 p.a.), please contact Anna at [gypsywoods@hotmail.com](mailto:gypsywoods@hotmail.com). We'll be very happy to welcome you into our group. Membership includes free participation in training sessions held by DEWNR, for example plant ID, First Aid, field techniques etc. We're currently gathering names for our one-day First Aid course. Contact Mary-Ann ASAP if you'd like to do this course. [mary\\_annvantrigt@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_annvantrigt@hotmail.com)

We wish to thank all Birds SA members who have been so supportive through our early days at meetings and at our events. We look forward to continuing action together with the ultimate aim of helping birds to flourish in South Australia.

## Bird Bags

The bird bags that quite a number of you have seen at Birds SA meetings will be on display and sale again at the Members' Nights, which are the July and November General Meetings. In the meantime they can be viewed at [https://au.pinterest.com/mary\\_annvantrigt/shorebird-bird-bags-friends-of-adelaide-internatio](https://au.pinterest.com/mary_annvantrigt/shorebird-bird-bags-friends-of-adelaide-internatio) and purchased online through [joyofbirdsong@hotmail.com](mailto:joyofbirdsong@hotmail.com). Here are some examples of bags for sale. They were made using Mary-Ann van Trigt's photos:

Anna Woods



**Rubbish collection, Port Prime**





# *Giving them wings*

## *conserving threatened species*

### **Extracts from the April e-news of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary**

#### **Management News**

Since the end of February, the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary team has been busy consulting with the community on what a management plan for the bird sanctuary might look like.

This has included visiting the Port Adelaide Enfield Town Hall, Len Beadell Library in Salisbury, the Stretton Centre in Playford, St Kilda, Two Wells and Thompson Beach. Using maps and relevant documents, the community has been able to chat directly with staff about how they use the area now and what they're hoping to use it for in the future.

In other news, Nature Play SA and the NRM Education team have recently been out to the Bird Sanctuary with an education theme. NRM Education has been teaching children about migration, bird identification and habitat importance.

The Adelaide Plains Council gained funding to get kids out to Thompson Beach during the summer to learn about birds, fish and the impact of marine debris.

The Bird Sanctuary team has been asking the community 'how should we look at managing the bird sanctuary in the future?'

The management plan consultation process is well underway and has given the community an opportunity to come along to the drop-in information sessions, chat and view maps as well as join the discussion online.

If you missed the drop-in sessions there is still a chance to have your say via our email account [dewnr.aibs@sa.gov.au](mailto:dewnr.aibs@sa.gov.au). A number of comments have already been left, which you can add to; or you can start your own discussion relating to what you think the management plan should include.

Altogether, nine drop-in sessions were

held across the Bird Sanctuary area allowing people to come along and chat with staff about how they use and might use the Bird Sanctuary in the future. More than 100 people attended the sessions overall with St Kilda, Two Wells and Thompson Beach being well attended. Maps were a big hit as they allowed people to show staff where they like to visit and how access to the area is best achieved. Comments were received from various users throughout the sessions including landowners, crabbers and horse riders.

All comments have been recorded and will be used to help draft the Bird Sanctuary's management plan document, which will be available for further comment later in the year. A feedback report is also being compiled to share with the community, especially those who participated, what we heard and will be taking forward as themes for the management plan. We will share this feedback report in the next e-news.

#### **Hook, line and thinker**

Within the Adelaide Plains Council area you may see the installation of a periscope style bin at some coastal locations. These bins are part of a larger fishing line recycling program that is slowly rolling out across many different council areas in the state. The program encourages communities and fishers to recycle their fishing line and prevent it from entering our marine environment. Material collected will be analysed to better understand the types and amounts of debris entering coast and marine areas. Adelaide Plains Council received funding for this program through a successful Recreational Fishing Grant, which is supported by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board.



# Past General Meetings

## FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY

John Gitsham introduced Colin Rogers who would talk on "The Hunt for the Spoonbill Sandpiper"

The Spoonbill Sandpiper breeds in the Siberian region whilst half the population winter in Myanmar where they are being trapped and eaten, as well as other shorebirds.

Colin visited Pak Thale Shorebird Site in Thailand, several hundred kilometres out of Bangkok. There is some interest on the preservation of this bird by a Nature Conservation group in Thailand – but there are so few of these sandpipers that it takes several hours to find them amongst the other waders.

Colin showed photographs of Nordmann's Greenshank and explained that this bird is only seen in groups whereas the Common Greenshank, seen in South Australia, is often alone. Other photographs were of the Asian Dowitchers, Common Red Shank, Spotted Redshank, not in breeding plumage, Temminck's Stint, Little Ringed Plover, Malaysian Plover and the White-faced Plover.

A map of the salt field near Pak Thale Village gave perspective to the distance walked, in fact, crept along, to find the Spoonbill Sandpiper, through mud and torrential rain. Comparison photographs were shown of the Broad-billed Sandpiper and the Spoonbill Sandpiper. The Spoonbill Sandpiper is a specialist feeder. If it can't put weight on it does not breed, so its numbers are declining. There have been fewer recorded sightings along the Flyway and it is assumed that there are only about 100 breeding pairs left, but it is hard to know how restricted this data is.

BirdLife Australia and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) tried to set up some captive breeding programs as a recovery plan, but if it is not known what these birds actually feed on, it is difficult for recovery to succeed.

Unfortunately this site, Pak Thale Salt works is now for sale. The Thailand Conservation People say that they have a plan in place, but there are rumours that

it will be turned into a Shrimp Farm. If that happens that will be yet another salt field lost, mirroring what is happening here. When private individuals purchase such a place, all control is lost.

## FRIDAY 31 March

John Gitsham introduced the speaker for the evening, Colin Rich, to speak on 'Carotenoids, colour and captive breeding. How Noisy Miners are helping threatened species'. Colin studied biology at Flinders University and has been an "A" Class bird bander for over 30 years. He organised the Desert Bird Banding Project and now works for Wombaroo Foods. His father Brian Rich is an honorary researcher at the Adelaide Zoo Animal Health Centre. With the help of volunteers Brian has been

conducting research for 15 years. Taronga Zoo approached and Healesville Sanctuary him to investigate the loss of colouring of birds in their captive breeding program of the Regent and Helmeted Honeyeaters. Carotenoids are responsible for feather and soft part colouring in birds. They include lutein, zeaxanthin, canthaxanthin, rhodoxanthin, capsanthin, astacin,  $\alpha$ -carotene,  $\beta$ -carotene and astaxanthin.

Approximately 600 carotenoids are known in nature.

Noisy Miners were selected for the trials as they are a convenient size bird and breed well in captivity. When all carotenoids were removed from the diet their yellow eye patches faded to white after 50 to 60 days. Six carotenoids are commercially available. They are lycopene, capsanthin, beta-carotene, lutein, xantho-carotene and astaxanthin.

Testing showed that lutein in

small doses was the most efficient carotenoid to enable captive birds to regain the full colour of the wild birds.

Adding certain carotenoids to Wombaroo Foods fed to Noisy Miners showed that normal healthy and fully coloured birds could be bred in captivity. This process is now being used in the captive breeding programs of the Regent and Helmeted Honeyeaters.



**Spoonbill Sandpiper**  
Photographed by Colin Rogers



# Future General Meetings/Past Excursions

*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 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 for either the July or the November Members' nights to John Hatch before mid-July. John likes to structure members' nights rather than just fill them.

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

## **FRIDAY AUGUST 25**

Colin Rogers will be the speaker. His topic will be: The decline in Migrating Shorebird numbers roosting in the Dry Creek Salt Fields over the period 1985/86 to 2015/16.

# Past Excursions

## **Porter Scrub Conservation Park – 11 March**

Fifteen people took part in this excursion on an overcast, warm and rather humid day. We started at the corner of Lihou and Maidment Roads and followed the centre track to the northern boundary of the park. We then walked to the eastern boundary and followed the fence line south until we rejoined the walking trail and continued southwest until we came back to the centre track and the parking area.

We were initially met in the parking area by a pair of Scarlet Robins that always seem to hang around the vineyard just across the road. Once the walk started it was fairly quiet bird wise for some time, with only White-throated Treecreepers, Crescent Honeyeaters, Adelaide Rosellas and the occasional Superb Fairywren. However, things improved once we reached the northern end of the park and we saw several Honeyeaters, including Brown-headed, White-naped, Yellow-faced and New Holland. During the walk we also saw Red Wattlebirds and Eastern Spinebills. There was also a mixture of Thornbills, including Brown, Buff-rumped and Striated as well as the scolding of some White-browed Scrubwrens.

We saw a variety of parrots and cockatoos including Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Galahs, the aforementioned Adelaide Rosellas and Rainbow Lorikeets. We saw a rather

large number of Grey Fantails (25), as well as Little Ravens (6), Australian Magpies (10), Laughing Kookaburras (6) and Grey Currawongs (5).

Due to the patchiness of the birds, which really seemed to be present in significant numbers only in those 'hot spots' one so often encounters when bird watching, we were pleasantly surprised to discover at the bird call that we had seen a total of 33 species for the day.

## **Ali Ben Kahn**

## **Whites Road Wetland – 23 March**

Sixteen members met for this excursion on a fresh autumn morning, but the weather warmed up and by the time of the birdcall it was a pleasant 28 degrees. In view of the better than average summer rainfall, the main ponds had more water than normal for this time of the year. The large middle pond was about 60% full and, as is often the case, had the most water birds. There was however little sign of the prolific breeding that has taken place at this site over the summer, although some juvenile Australasian Grebes, Eurasian Coots, Dusky Moorhens and Grey Teals were still around.

Altogether we saw 64 species, heard one Striated Pardalote and counted a total of 821 birds. By comparison, the early April 2016 excursion produced 46 species with a total of 810 birds. Interestingly the highest species count in 2016 was 102 Rainbow Lorikeets, whereas the highest 2017 count was 118 Musk Lorikeets.

Apart from the abundant Grey and Chestnut Teals and Pacific Black Ducks there were 14 Freckled Ducks, 9 Pink-eared Ducks, 10 Hardheads and one female Musk Duck and they have been present here for some weeks now. Similarly the latter four species have for the last month or so been present at Magazine Road, including a male Musk Duck. We also saw one Intermediate Egret and confirmed it with a photograph. They have also been seen and photographed at Magazine Road in the past month. There were 26 Wood Ducks, 23 Royal Spoonbills, about 20 each of Australasian Grebe, Red Wattlebird, Galah and Superb Fairywren. Numbers of New Holland and White-plumed Honeyeaters were in the mid twenties. We saw one Rufous Whistler, and they are reputed to be uncommon at this site. The following raptors were present: 1 Peregrine Falcon, 2 Nankeen Kestrels, 1 Black-shouldered Kite and 1 Collared Sparrowhawk.

Work has commenced in earnest on the Northern Connector road system and as part of this project access to the White-winged Fairywren area has now been fenced off.

Information subsequently received confirms that the roadway goes directly through the White-winged Wren habitat and at one point it passes within less

# Past Excursions (cont.)

than 90 metres of the main middle pond. This is the pond that traditionally attracts most waterbirds and where most of the waterbird breeding occurs. At other points the road passes between 200 – 300 metres from the ponds. These developments are very distressing from a birding point of view.

We gathered at a shady spot just after midday, had lunch and made our bird call.

## Rod Tetlow

### Browns Road, Monarto – 2 April

A mild and calm morning saw 28 enthusiastic members assembled for this excursion.

Given our numbers in attendance we parked inside the gate and divided into three small groups in order to maximise our bird survey of this location. The birds appeared to be scarce at times but our bird call still resulted in a total of 50 species being recorded. This total included: Whistling Kite (1), Common Bronzewing (4), Crested Pigeon (3), Peaceful Dove (10), Australian Owlet-nightjar (2), Red-rumped Parrot (10), Crimson Rosella (10), Purple-crowned Lorikeet (2), Brown Treecreeper (3), Variegated (20) and Superb Fairywren (2). We saw eight honeyeater species included New Holland (15), Brown-headed (20), Spiny-cheeked (12), Red Wattlebird (4), Noisy Miner (1), Singing (4), Yellow-plumed (1) and White-plumed (12).

We also recorded Spotted Pardalote (12), Striated Pardalote (50), Weebill (6), Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (10), White-browed Babbler (12), Grey Currawong (2), Australian Magpie (6), Varied Sittella (12), Black-faced Cuckooshrike (2), Australian Golden Whistler (1), Rufous Whistler (2), Grey Shrikethrush (4), Willie Wagtail (6), Grey Fantail (4), Restless Flycatcher (2), Little Raven (6), White-winged Chough (40), Hooded Robin (2), Jacky Winter (2), Red-capped Robin (6), Tree Martin (15), Silvereye (4), Mistletoebird (2) and Diamond Firetail (20).

A very sociable morning and lunch was enjoyed by everyone.

## Lynton Huxley

### EASTER CAMPOUT AT MOUNT SCOTT CONSERVATION PARK – 14 TO 17 APRIL

About forty Birds SA members based their Easter Camp for 2017 at Mount Scott Conservation Park. Twenty kilometres inland from Kingston, the site was central to a range of habitats, allowing bird surveys to be made in woodlands, wetlands, beaches and forest. While it was brisk overnight due to clear skies and no wind, the days were warm and very pleasant for our birding activities.

Using her local knowledge, Vicki Natt led bird-watchers to varied hot spots to see birds that might otherwise have been missed. Vicki's expertise proved invaluable, enabling visitors to locate and identify secretive and less commonly seen birds. Other locals, including Bryan Haywood, David Sando and Janet and Kathryn Copping joined our campout group at various times to assist with guide duties of the region. The valuable support of the district's ranger, Michael Trebilcock in preparing access and our general campsite area was also much appreciated. On behalf of all who attended this campout, I again wish to extend our thanks to the above mentioned locals.

There were many highlights, including glimpses of a single Striated Field-wren in low coastal vegetation and good sightings of normally shy Spotted Crakes on Maria Creek's mud banks. Double-banded Plovers and a pair of (not very) Common Sandpipers were noted. The secretive Mallee Fowl and several Koalas were also sighted around our camp.

In Kingston township, we enjoyed good views of two exquisite Beautiful Firetails on power lines.

One of the main campout aims is to enable members to socialise and have fun and I believe this was achieved through the daily field trips, happy hour and our Sunday barbeque lunch allowing new and regular attendees to mix. The queue for the porta loo also assisted this familiarisation!

In total we identified 124 species during the course of the campout, with some members getting excellent views and photos of some 'lifers'. The total species recorded for our various site visits were:

- Mount Scott CP – 68 species
- Mount Scott CP campsite area only – 60 species
- Blackford Drain – 47 species
- Butcher Gap Conservation Park - 49 species
- Wright Bay – 15 species
- Robe Sewerage Ponds – 18 species
- Bagdad Native Forest Reserve – 14 species
- Kingston Beach – 7 species
- Drain L – 4 species
- Fox's Lake, Robe – 5 species

## Lynton Huxley

### PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) APRIL, 2017 EXCURSION, Mt. IVE STATION

#### Friday 14th.

On a fine, slightly overcast day two bird watchers met at the Tanks parking bay near the Iron Knob turnoff on the Whyalla road. One was from Pt. Pirie and the other from Mambray Creek. We waited for a little while for any others to join us and then travelled to Iron Knob where we met another birdo, who was from Whyalla. The three of us then left the bitumen



# Past Excursions (cont.)

and travelled along the road to Nonning and then Mt. Ive. About seven kilometres along the road on Corunna station we stopped for smoko and a quick look at the birds around White dam. There were about thirty Crested Pigeons, together with Galahs, Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes, Little Pied Cormorants, Wood Ducks, Grey Teals, Coots, Pipits, White-winged and Variegated Fairywrens, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Grey Butcherbirds and Mulga Parrots. Another reason we stopped here was to look at the Western Grasswrens that frequent the area, and we found four of them.

We moved on along the road and, as we passed the Nonning homestead area, we saw a couple of Ground Cuckoo-shrikes, so we hurriedly pulled up and set off after them. We got quite close to them and took some photos. There were also Black-faced Woodswallows, Willie Wagtails, Singing Honeyeaters, Variegated Fairywrens, Magpie Larks and two Western Grasswrens.

We arrived at the Mt. Ive homestead and camp ground and booked in, settled in and had a quick late lunch. Looking around the homestead area we found Crested Pigeons, kestrels, Galahs, White-winged Fairywrens, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, Southern Whitefaces, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, many White-browed Babblers, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Grey Shrike-thrushes, Crested Bellbirds, (white-backed) Magpies, Grey Butcherbirds, Black-faced Woodswallows, Australian Ravens, Magpie Larks, Welcome Swallows and starlings. We drove up a rough track to the top of Mt. Scott on the western side of the homestead area, where we found three Short-tailed Grasswrens and took some photographs. The highlights of the day were the Ground Cuckoo-shrikes, Short-tailed Grasswrens and Western Grasswrens.

During the day the camp ground had filled, due to the long weekend holidays, with people from nearby towns, Adelaide, interstate and overseas. Most of them had set up big tents or camper trailers and caravans. One couple of bird watchers from Adelaide were looking for as many different bird species as they could find in a year. They were still working, so they were busily birding whenever they

had time off. They had found several new birds for their list in the Mt. Ive area.

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>.

The morning promised another fine day, and the area was looking dry even though it had rained earlier in the year. The dams were dry or almost dry, but the deeper-rooted vegetation was still looking good. The birds we saw yesterday were still around the homestead area but more species were found in the morning. A flock of fifteen Major Mitchell Cockatoos were moving about the area providing some good photo opportunities. Blue Bonnet and

Mulga Parrots, Redthroats, Willie Wagtails, Pipits and Tree Martins were added to the homestead area list.

We decided to consider driving around the Flight Path Track, which was a loop through eastern part of Mt. Ive station. The first stop we made was not far from the homestead at Horse Well which had a trough where Willie Wagtails, Southern Whitefaces, Pipits, Emus, Welcome Swallows and Magpie Larks were found. In the area there were Hooded Robins, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Australian Ravens, White-winged Fairywrens, Redthroats, Crested Pigeons, Grey Butcherbirds,



Short-tailed Grasswren, photographed by Bernie Haase on Mt.Ive in April 2017

(Port Lincoln) Ringnecks White-browed Babblers, Yellow-rumped and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and Black-faced Woodswallows. As we travelled along a creek line in a broad valley Rufous Whistlers, Brown Falcons, Mulga Parrots, Blue Bonnet Parrots, Red-capped Robins, Singing, Spiny-cheeked and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, Variegated Fairywrens and magpies were added to the list. We left the creek line and gradually climbed along a rocky track, stopping on a high ridge to have lunch. Mistletoebirds were moving about in the mallee canopy as well as a pair of Grey-fronted Honeyeaters. Weebills were constantly calling at us because we were close to their nest. We drove down a steep, rocky and winding track to another creek line in a valley and took a short detour to look at organ pipe rock formations and another detour to a lookout. On the way more of the bird species mentioned were seen and we added Grey Fantails and Grey Shrike-thrushes. We arrived back at camp late in the afternoon. The Major Mitchell Cockatoos

# Past Excursions (cont.)

and Hooded Robins had provided the highlights of the day.

## **Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>.**

It was another fine day and we headed up to the summit of Mt. Ive on the eastern side of the homestead area. It was another steep, rough and rocky track but the view and phone reception made the climb worthwhile. The Short-tailed Grasswrens made the climb even more worthwhile. Two fairywrens were there and one circled around us for some time, providing excellent photo shots. On the way down a Brown Falcon was watching us from its perch next to the track.

We decided that we would have a look at Lake Gairdner which is on the western part of Mt. Ive station. To get there we went back to the main road and headed west. Along the road we sighted Crested Bellbirds, Black-faced Woodswallows, whitefaces, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Singing Honeyeaters, magpies, Australian Ravens, and Hooded Robins. Near the turnoff to the track leading to Lake Gairdner is Yardea Dam, and we stopped to check it out. The dam was almost dry and a mob of goats was drinking what little water was left. Everywhere we had been on this trip we had seen goats. A dry swamp, containing an expanse of lignum scrub, surrounded the dam area. There were Common Bronzewing, a Brown Goshawk, Mulga Parrots, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Crested Bellbirds, Grey Butcherbirds, Australian Ravens, Pipits, White-backed Swallows, Redthroats, many White-winged and Variegated Fairywrens and two Western Grasswrens. This had been a good stop for adding more species for our trip list.

We drove on along the track to Lake Gairdner and passed through a locked gate, which can be opened using the key supplied from the Mt. Ive camp host. We checked out another dry dam surrounded by goats and moved on to Some Quality Bore. Here there were many birds including Major Mitchell Cockatoos, Dusky Woodswallows, Welcome Swallows, White-browed Babblers, Blue Bonnet Parrots, Crested Pigeons, Willie Wagtails, Grey Shrike-thrushes, Mistletoebirds, Yellow-throated Miners, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Red-capped Robins, Rufous Whistlers, Ringneck Parrots and Emus with very young chicks, which were added to our day's species list. Nearby the bore, there is a detour that goes to more organ pipe rocks, and here a Black Falcon flew past and scared all the birds in the area into any thick vegetation cover there was. Another short detour led to a stone wall embankment which still had some water behind it. Here there were many goats and Zebra Finches. After lunch we moved on to Lake Gairdner, where

we looked at the camping area and shed that the lake speed trials club had built; and then walked out onto the lake to get some photos. It was then time to get back to Mt. Ive. The Short-tailed and Western Grasswrens, Major Mitchell Cockatoos and the Black Falcon had been the day's highlights.

## **Monday, 17<sup>th</sup>.**

We decided to do a shorter track, the Horseshoe Loop track, before we headed home. This track does a loop to the northwest of the homestead. The track goes over rocky low hills and our first stop was in an open area of Mulga near a sheep trough. Here there were Crested Pigeons, Wedge-tailed Eagles, kestrels, Brown Falcons, Blue Bonnet and Mulga Parrots, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, many Southern Whiteface, White-browed Babblers, Rufous Whistlers, Grey Shrike-thrushes, Crested Bellbirds with fledglings, magpies, butcherbirds, Black-faced Woodswallows, Willie Wagtails, Australian Ravens, Magpie Larks, Red-capped and Hooded Robins and three Varied Sittellas. We continued on through a narrow gorge where we stopped to look for grasswrens but with no luck. The area opened out and White-winged Fairywrens, Redthroats and Mistletoebirds were added to the list. We walked up a gully path to check out some small cliffs looking for more grasswrens on the way, but found none. As we circled back to the homestead the track goes over a ridge and past a disused eagle's nest, which we stopped and looked at. Back at Mt. Ive camp we had lunch and finished packing up then headed off back along the road to Nonning and Iron Knob. On the way we stopped at Twelve Mile Dam on Coronna station and had a quick look for birds. Pink-eared and Freckled Ducks, 54 Wood Ducks, Grey Teal, Hoary-headed Grebes, Crested Pigeons, Black-tailed Nativehens, coots, White-faced Herons, Little Pied Cormorants and Singing Honeyeaters were seen. The highlight birds for that day were the Varied Sittellas and Freckled Ducks. We saw a total of 61 bird species over the four days.

## **Bernie Haase.**

### **Belair National Park — 20 April**

Nine brave people turned-up on a grey damp day. After some debate about the weather, we set off around Playford Lake. It started to rain heavily! Eight water birds were sighted through the gloom. The most interesting was a Hoary-headed Grebe, seldom seen here, although the Australian Grebe is seen here from time to time.

After the lake we headed east and started to lose people as the rain got heavier and heavier! By 10.00 am having travelled some 500-600 metres and with



## Past Excursions (cont.)/Future Excursions

only 4 people remaining we returned to our cars. Nearby, 13mm of rain was recorded during the time we were in the park!

We did however record 26 species and our list, with estimated numbers, included: Emu (1), Wood Duck (20), Mallard (20), Hardhead (2), Grey Teal (2), Hoary-headed Grebe (1), Dusky Moorhen (10), Eurasian Coot (4), Australasian Darter (1), Crested Pigeon (2), Galah (6), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (10), Rainbow Lorikeet (30), Adelaide Rosella (6), Eastern Rosella (4), Superb Fairywren (6), New Holland Honeyeater (10), Crescent Honeyeater (2), Red Wattlebird (4), Yellow-faced Honeyeater (2), Noisy Miner (20), Striated Pardalote (4), Grey Currawong (4), Australian Magpie (2), Magpie- Lark (2) and Little Raven (10).

**David Williams**

### Lawari Conservation Park, Hindmarsh Island – 30 April

Lawari Conservation Park was only proclaimed on 21 March 2017, and it covers most of the 'Wyndgate' property on Hindmarsh Island. Twenty-one members and friends including some from the Fleurieu Birdwatchers attended. Sixteen had not visited the property previously. The weather was mild and overcast but there was no wind.

Forty-six species were recorded in Lawari C.P. including three new species (Silvereye, Eurasian Skylark and Fan-tailed Cuckoo). Twenty-six species were recorded along the Mundoo Channel which borders the Lawari C.P. The total number of species seen on the day was 57.

Highlights of the trip were four Cattle Egrets in a paddock with cattle opposite the 'Wyndgate' homestead, 43 Cape Barren Geese, 8 Nankeen Night Herons (Mundoo Channel) and 20 Elegant Parrots (Lawari C.P.)

**Brian Blaylock**

### Ridley Conservation Park – 13 May

Those of us driving to the park through the Adelaide Hills were faced with heavy fog in places, so it was a pleasant surprise to find a clear and sunny morning when we arrived at the park.

Thirteen members gathered for the trip. We spent two hours in the Northern section of the park before moving 1.7km south, where we spent about an hour and a half walking around before taking lunch.

As has been observed on other recent visits to the park the species observed at each location differed, since the northern section featuring more open habitat.

While 46 species were observed, few species were seen in high numbers (with the exception of White-winged Choughs – see information later in this report). Other than choughs, the most commonly observed species was Chestnut-crowned Babbler (30), with family groups present in both areas. We observed fairywrens only in the more southerly section. With 15 Variegated and 6 Splendid, they were not common. White-browed Babbler were also observed only in the southerly section and only 10 were seen. Gilbert's Whistlers were popular with 8 being observed compared with only one Rufous Whistler. Seven species of honeyeater featured in the count, with Singing and Spiny-cheeked having equal ranking as the most frequently observed. Two White-fronted and five White-eared were enjoyed by most of the company.

Following the bird count, members dispersed, and Clare Noble, Enid Pascoe and I drove along the rough track to the Southern end of the park. At the bird count it was notable that we had not seen any White-winged Choughs. This was remedied as a group of around 200 crossed the track as we neared the southern exit. Perhaps this section should be included in future outings as the habitat appears to be slightly different. The section can be accessed from a track towards the southern end of the park.

**Brian Walker**

### PORT AUGUSTA (THE BABBLERS) GROUP PROGRAM JUNE TO AUGUST 2017

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> . \			
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> . June 2017	— Bendleby Ranges	— Carrieton pub	8:30 am
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> . /	(Camp out - \$20pp/night - facilities available )		
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> . July 2017	— Wilkatana station	— Carlton parade cemetery	8:00 am
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> . August 2017	— Bernie's Block	— Mambray Creek parking bay	8:00 am

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

Peter - 86425723 / 0457708859 or Bernie - 0419863834 / b.haase@telstra.com

# 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).

**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**

**Thursday 22 June: Jenkins Scrub (MLR) (61km)**

Travel about 10km from Williamstown towards Springton, then turn right onto Mount Road. Meet at 8.30am at the entrance to the scrub on the left, opposite Murray Vale Road.

**TRIP LEADER: Martyn Price**

**Sunday 2 July: Altona CSR Landcare Reserve (MLR) 55km.**

Meet at 8.30am at the Reserve entrance at the top of Altona Road. Travel through Lyndoch towards Tanunda. As you leave Lyndoch town centre take the first left into Altona Road (just past the 100km speed limit sign).

**TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn**

**Saturday 15 July: Reedy Creek (Waterfalls Reserve) Mannum Waterfalls Reserve (MM) (85km)**

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

**TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow**

**Thursday 20 July: Anacotilla Springs, Second Valley (MLR) (87km)**

This is a private bushland property, which enjoys the permanent flow of the Anacotilla River. Take the Southern Expressway and Main South Road through Normanville towards Wirrina Cove Resort. Meet at 8.30am at the property gate, which is on your left near a yellow 90km sign, a gravel area and some cattle yards. (NOTE: If you reach the entrance to Wirrina Cove Resort, Paradise Drive, you have gone about 700m too far!)

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

**Sunday 30 July: Paiwalla Wetlands (MM)**

Meet at the Sunnyside Lookout at 8.30am. Take the Murray Bridge to Mannum Road on the eastern side of the river from Murray Bridge. Stay on this road until just past the turnoff to Bowhill on the right. Take the next turning left to Sunnyside Lookout car park.

**TRIP LEADER: Brian Walker**

**Saturday 12 August: Bakara Conservation Park (MM) (155km)**

Travel to Swan Reach and cross on the Ferry. Drive about 31 km east along the Loxton Road as far as the crossroad where we will meet at 8.30am (left/north being to Waikerie). We will travel approximately 3km right/south from there to the Park.

**TRIP LEADER: Barbara and Peter Bansemer**

**Thursday 17 August: Kyeema Conservation Park (MLR) (60km)**

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

**TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn**

**Sunday 27 August: Charleston Conservation Park (MLR) (38km).** Meet at 8.30am by the tennis courts in Newman Road, Charleston. We will travel to the Conservation Park from this meeting point.

**TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow**



# Bird Records

## **Collated by Graham Carpenter**

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

Please send all reports to the Bird Records Secretary at [birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au) or phone 8297 5463.

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

## **Brown Quail**

2, 6/3/2017. Black Point, YP.

Carter, D. & Syson, W.

5, 13/4/2017. Roseworthy, Pengilly Scrub, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

1, 27/4/2017. St Kilda Saltfields, west track, AP. *In coastal shrubland.*

Carpenter, G.

20-30, 3/5/2017. Sturt Gorge RP, MLR. *In dense grass.*

Close, D.

## **Plumed Whistling-duck**

1, 2/2/2017. Paiwalla Wetlands, MM. Roosting with Pink-eared Ducks.

Durbridge, R.

## **Pink-eared Duck**

1, 21/4/2017. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR. *First report for this park.*

Williams, D.

## **Freckled Duck**

30, 22/4/2017. Port Wakefield, AP. *At freshwater wetland formed from winter rains.*

Taylor, P.W.

5, 8/4/2017. Bald Hill Beach, AP. *Resting on sea.*

Taylor, P.W.

## **Hoary-headed Grebe**

1, 20/4/2017. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR.

Williams, D.

## **Diamond Dove**

1, 22/4/2017. Monarto, Brown's Rd, MM. *With Peaceful Doves.*

Newell, D.

## **Fork-tailed Swift**

*A number of late season reports:*

Several, 5/2/2017. Mullaquana, EP.

Smith, E.

10, 9/2/2017. West Lakes, AP.

Carter, D. & P.

40 and 20, 2 and 9/3/2017. Woodville West, AP.

Carter, D. & P.

60, 11/3/2017. Clayton Bay, MM.

Doecke, N.

40, 11/3/2017. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM.

Doecke, N.

100s, 26/3/2017. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR

Steele-Collins, E.

Several, 5/4/2017. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR.

Steele-Collins, E.

50, 6/4/2017. Hove, AP.

Allen, J.

100, 7/4/2017. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

50, 8/4/2017. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR.

Syson, W.

10, 20/4/2017. Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

## **Intermediate Egret**

1, 23/4/2017. Kingston on Murray, MM.

Edey, D.

## **Little Bittern**

2, 21/1/2017. Tolderol GR, MM.

Rogers, C.

## **White-bellied Sea-eagle**

Immature, 1/4/2017. West Beach, AP.

Edey, D.

## **Osprey**

1, 18/3/2017. SW of Rapid Bay, MLR.

Whatmough, R.

## **Lewin's Rail**

adult +juveniles, 1/2017. Tolderol GR, MM.

Rogers, C.

# Bird Records (cont.)

## Little Curlew

- 5, 10/3/2017. St Kilda Saltfields, east ponds, AP.  
Rogers, C.  
1, 18/3/2017. Bald Hill Beach, AP.  
Coddington, P. et al.  
1, 19/3/2017. Bald Hill Beach, AP.  
Fennell, J, Taylor, P.W. et al.  
1, 8/4/2017. Tolderol GR, MM.  
Stracey, K.

## Australian Bustard

- 1, 15/4/2017. Moculta, MLR.  
Stead, M.

## Plains-wanderer

- 1, 12/3/2017. Chowilla Floodplain, MM.  
Cosh, H.

## Pectoral Sandpiper

- 1, 11/3/2017. Buckland Park Lake, AP.  
Rogers, C.

## Long-toed Stint

- 6, 11/3/2017. Buckland Park Lake, AP.  
Rogers, C.  
1, 4/4/2017. Port Wakefield, AP.  
Taylor, P.W.

## Wood Sandpiper

- 17, 4/2/2017. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd,  
AP.  
Rogers, C.

## Gull-billed Tern

- 3 overhead, 16/1/2017. Mullaquana, EP.  
Smith, E.

## Thick-billed Grasswren

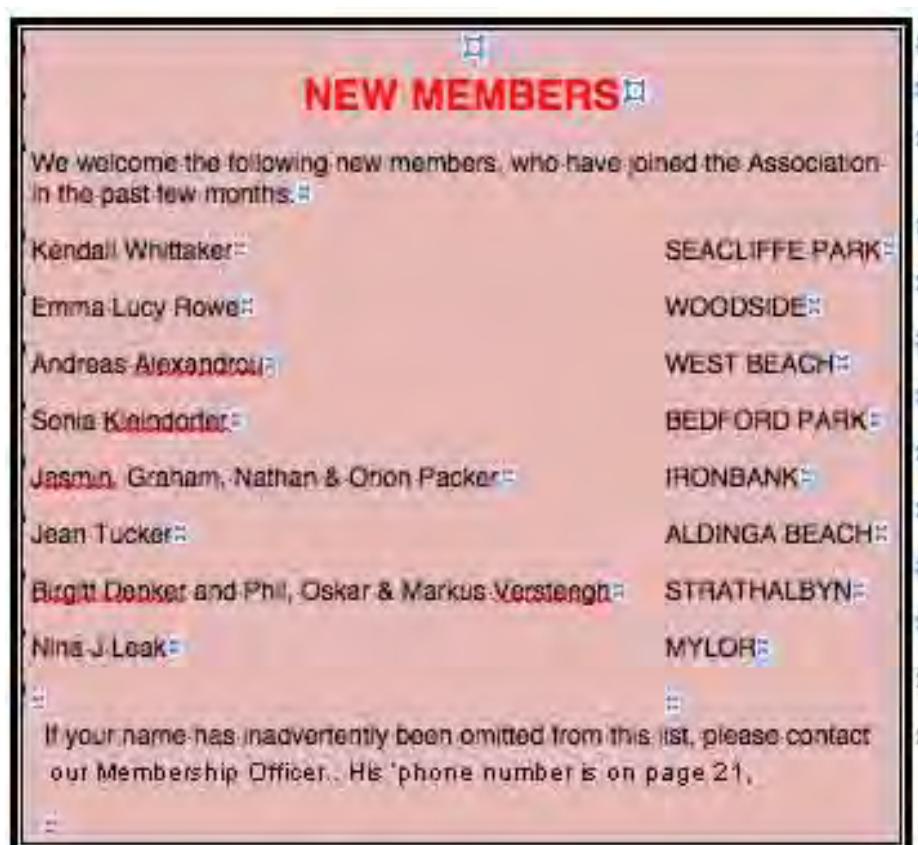
- 2, 28/1/2017. Old Barratta Strn, LN.  
Rich, C.

## Chestnut-rumped Heathwren

- 1, 13/4/2017. Mount Gawler Forest, MLR. *In eucalypt regeneration from Sampson Flat bushfires.*  
Carpenter, G.

## Dusky Woodswallow

- 21, 31/3/2017. 3km SSE Lobethal, MLR.  
Evans, M.  
*This species is sometimes known to form large groups in autumn.*





# 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 2017 – 2018

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Member	Karen Donkin	8379 1173
Member	Beatrice Rogers	0423241856

## FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

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

## Port Augusta Group of Birds SA

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

## BirdLife SE SA

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## Fleurieu Birdwatchers

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

## 2018 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.

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## COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the August Newsletter is due by the July General Meeting (July 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.

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## Guidelines for Ethical Behaviour When Bird Watching

- 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**

# **AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE 2017**

**Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Geelong, Victoria  
8th - 11th November, 2017**



**EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION NOW OPEN UNTIL JULY 1<sup>st</sup>**

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION ALSO OPEN**

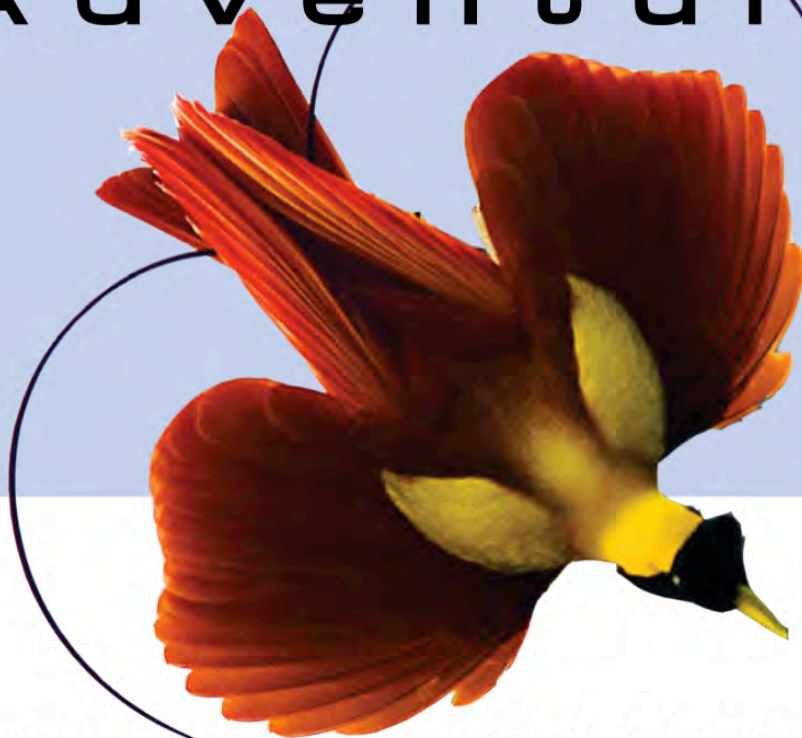
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# Dinner Time!



## **Collared Sparrowhawk**

**photographed by Brian Walker at Banksia Park on 23rd January 2017.**

Can you identify the species of its 'Dinner'?

**Details of photographs on page 24**

<b>No:</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Location of Photograph</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Heather Connolly	Reynella	2017
2	Yellow billed Spoonbill	Peter McKenzie	Laratinga	13/2/2107
3	Light Mantled Sooty Albatross (immature)	Sam Gordon	Port Macdonnell	14/5/2017
4	Australian Pelican	Anna Lester	Magazine Rd. Wetlands	16/2/2017



# Patterns of Flight

