

The BIRDER

The official newsletter of Birds SA August 2017 No 243

A Bumper Issue!

36 pages

all in full colour!!



Birds SA

Linking people with birds
in South Australia

CONTENTS

President's Message	4
Birds SA Notes & News	5
Giving Them Wings	10
Friends of the AIBS	11
Past General Meetings	13
Future General Meetings	16
Past Excursions	17
Future Excursions	25
Bird Records	27
About our Association	31
Photos from Members	32

John Gitsham designed the front page of this issue.

Peter Gower took the Photograph in September 2014. It shows a Thick-billed Grasswren looking for food on the gravelly ground at Witchelina Nature Reserve, North of Leigh Creek.

We welcome 11 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p2.

CENTRE INSERT: SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 61, GREGORY MACALISTER MATHEWS PART 1

DIARY

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

Sunday 27 August	Excursion to Charleston CP
------------------	----------------------------

Saturday 9 September	Excursion to Whites Road Wetlands
----------------------	-----------------------------------

Thursday 21 September	Excursion to Bushland Park, Lobethal
-----------------------	--------------------------------------

Friday 29 September	General Meeting
---------------------	-----------------

30 September to 2 October — Long Weekend Campout, Hallelujah Hills

Saturday 14 October	Excursion Tolderol Game Reserve
---------------------	---------------------------------

Thursday 19 October	Excursion to Belair National Park
---------------------	-----------------------------------

Friday 27 October	General Meeting
-------------------	-----------------

Sunday 29 October	Excursion to Anacotilla Springs
-------------------	---------------------------------

Saturday 11 November	Excursion to Browns Rd. Monarto
----------------------	---------------------------------

Thursday 16 November	Excursion to Buckland Port Gawler
----------------------	-----------------------------------

Friday 24 November	General Meeting (Christmas Members' Night)
--------------------	--

Birds SA aims to:

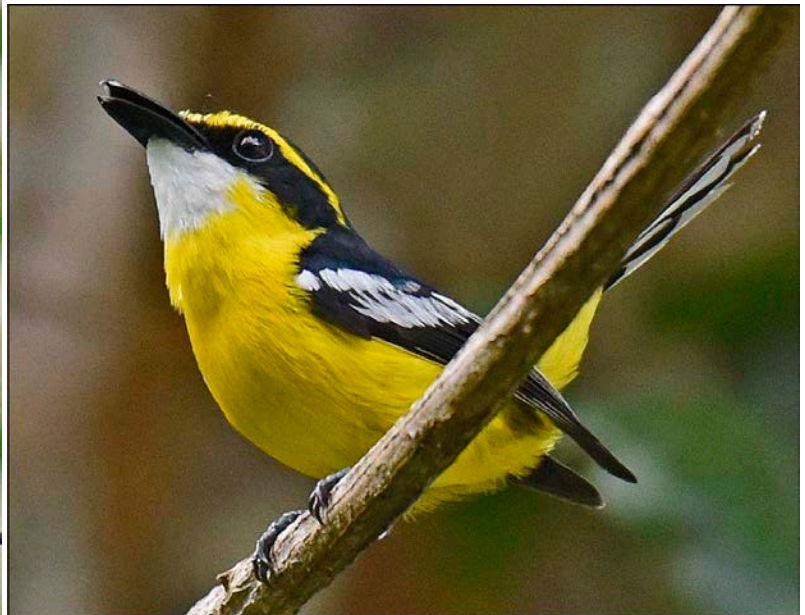
- Promote the conservation of Australian birds and their habitats.
- Encourage interest in, and develop knowledge of, the birds of South Australia.
- Record the results of research into all aspects of bird life.
- Maintain a public fund called the "Birds SA Conservation Fund" for the specific purpose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

Spectacular Photos

Taken by Peter McKenzie at Julatten
On 12 and 13 January 2017



Barred Cuckooshrike



Yellow-breasted Boatbill



Metallic Starling

President's Message

Hi fellow Birds SA members

Hope you all have had a great time birding and seen some wonderful birds over the past two months. Over the last couple of months the committee has been busy changing and updating some of our processes to make being a member easier and more efficient for the association to function. Our membership renewal section on our website has had a makeover to simplify things. We've also got our Facebook page active again to better inform our social media members about Birds SA's activities and relevant stories and information. The committee is endeavouring to keep the Association up to date and relevant going into the future. Please feel free to comment and give suggestions on any further improvements we can do to make it more enjoyable to being a member of Birds SA.

In this month's President's message, I'll briefly cover one of my pet topics that I continuously hear about, "Ethical Birding".

We all love our birding and for some, like myself enjoy photographing birds in the wild as well. Most of the time we don't disturb our feathered friends while out enjoying nature, but it's worth thinking about the possible impacts we could have on birds while pursuing our hobby or profession!

I'm sure none of us deliberately wish to harm or disturb birds in the wild; we enjoy watching their behaviour and get great pleasure or scientific data from our observations and interactions.

Bird watching, together with bird photography, is becoming a fast growing hobby in Australia. With that comes great responsibility to ensure that at all times the birds' welfare is considered first and foremost.

We have all been guilty of over-staying our welcome when enthusiastically viewing or photographing birds in the wild and wanting to get a bit closer for that better view or great photo opportunity. Suddenly, the bird flushes leaving its chicks vulnerable or takes off while feeding or looking for food.

If this happened once or twice a day it's not too serious, but in a well-visited birding location where these birds could be flushed several times a day,

this would be disastrous for the birds' welfare and probably its chicks.

Waders in particular must gain up to 30% of their weight before migrating back up to the Northern Hemisphere for breeding. They have a limited time to do so over our summer, so imagine if these birds are constantly disturbed not only by dogs, vehicles on the beach, fishermen etc., but also by us innocent birders wanting to see these stunning creatures closer up. Obviously, I'm not saying don't view them or photograph them, but use common sense and don't spend too much time too close to them, get what you need, either ID or that good photo and move back to a safer distance where you can watch their behaviour safely without undue disturbance.

Obviously never disturb nests with eggs or chicks, nesting hollows or modify/cut branches to get closer views of birds. I can't believe that people behave in this way! So, never tap hollows to entice birds or their chicks to look out of the entrance to see if it's a goanna climbing the trunk. That is just not ethical behaviour at all, and is potentially an illegal activity violating the

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 playback 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

National Parks & Wildlife Act.

It is also important that when viewing or photographing birds on private property, you must get the owner's permission first before entering on their land. One bad experience for a landowner can lead to future refusal of access to all other birders.

Birdcall "playback" is so easy now with new Bird ID Field Guide phone apps. Everyone has access to most Australian birdcalls on their mobile phones, the playback volume is suitable for attracting or distracting the bird to come out of the bushes and have a look to see who is invading their territory.

In an area of infrequent use by birders, this isn't too much of a problem, as long as it isn't constantly played to get that great photo or potentially scare the bird away from its territory or make it vulnerable to attack by a predator while exposing itself to the new intruder! The big problem occurs when the playback calls are constant on a daily basis at popular birding locations visited by well-meaning birders and photographers.

President's Message (cont.)/Birds SA Notes & News

Popular locations, for example Browns Road, Monarto or Laratinga wetland could be visited by up to 3 or 4 birders/photographers per day, every day. The potential for the local birds to stop breeding, be disrupted from feeding and be vulnerable to attack from a predator is greatly increased. So it's probably safer not use playback at all at those popular birding locations. Also, the birds are generally used to people to some degree and are usually easily seen. Photographing night birds of prey with flash can temporarily blind the bird and disorientate it for some time, making it also vulnerable to flying into obstructions or falling prey to larger predators, so limit flash use to a bare minimum or use a deflecting/defusing shield so the flash isn't directly firing into the birds eyes.

The new phenomenon of Drone aerial photography has potentially serious impacts on nesting and wading birds. Their use is now banned in SA National and Conservation Parks. Also birds of prey get very upset with Drones, thinking that a new challenger is entering their territory. They have been known to attack and destroy Drones, but can suffer injuries in the process.

Even our Scientist/Ecologists can at times be guilty of placing undue stress on birds while doing research, with bird banding, mist netting etc.

They too need to be careful about the extent to which they carry out their research; though they have to go through ethics approval first from their Universities and get scientific permits from DEWNR. At the end of the day, as birders, photographers, researchers etc., we just need to think about our impact on birds and their habitat and consider that we well-meaning bird lovers and scientists need to have an awareness and consideration of the welfare of birds first. Admittedly, some birds don't seem bothered by intrusions into their daily life, but certainly others are affected. So next time you are birding, photographing birds or monitoring, think about the birds first before your birding pleasure or data collecting and give them a bit of space to get on with their lives. Remember to lead by example and we will all get to see birds in our favourite places in years to come.

Our 'Ethical Birding Policy' can also be seen by clicking the link on the Birds SA website.

John Gitsham
President Birds SA

Birds SA Notes & News

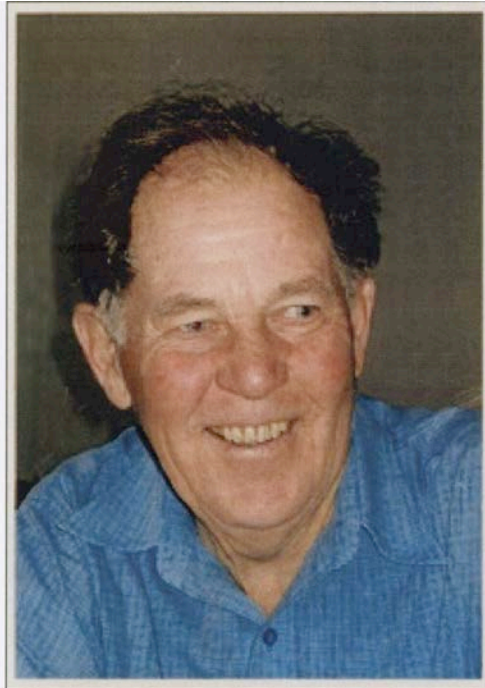
Farewell to Bill Matheson

Long time and distinguished SAOA member William Matheson (always called Bill) died on May 20th 2017. A celebration of his life was held on June 8th at Bill's church, Morialta Uniting Church, on a cool but sunny day. On such a day Bill would probably have been in the bush. He loved the outdoors and all that it stood for.

Over 150 people were present and several members represented Birds SA. For those with a bird

connection, the lovely "Morning has Broken" started the proceedings and its third line was wonderfully apt, "Blackbird has spoken like the first bird". I am not sure whether Bill would have preferred a native bird, but I am sure he would have approved of this fine singer.

Bill was born in 1928 and lived much of his early life in the country. He studied land and agricultural matters at University and joined the South Australian Ornithological Association in 1964. His job as a soil conservationist, later as a conciliator for the Native Vegetation Act meant that contact with birds was frequent and deep. He moved to Adelaide in 1972 and served as Treasurer, Vice-



Bill Matheson

President and President of SAOA in the 1970s and 1980s.

I first came to know this quiet and dignified man when he was one of the four editors for the SAOA, *Birds, Birders & Birdwatching 1899-1999*, commonly known as the Centenary Book, of which I was also an editor. Bill's contribution was always thoughtful, well expressed and put to the rest of us in his characteristic calm way. When Bill spoke, we all listened.

Bill loved nature and this permeated his life. His interests went beyond birds, to plants, habitat and landscape, but birds were I think special. He was blessed in that his professional life was conducive to his hobby and I am sure that Bill would have said that he had had a long and rewarding life.

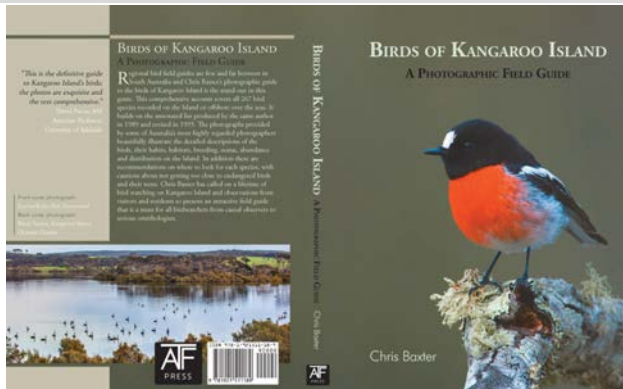
In his latter years he was not as well or active as he would have wished, but he still retained his interest in the natural world and it remained a source of pleasure and comfort to him.

John Hatch, August 2017

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

Chris Baxter – A Passionate Ornithologist

I was asked to write a brief obituary for Chris for *The Birder* and I could find no better account than his own words from the *Birds of Kangaroo Island*, published in 2015. This epic 577-page book is a fitting tribute for a life-long passion for watching and documenting birds on his beloved island. Chris was softly spoken and self-deprecating, yet made his views known in an unambiguous fashion. His love of birds was only exceeded by his love for his family — his wife and four sons — and we share their sorrow at a life cut too short.



Chris Baxter spent his childhood on a soldier settlement farm at Karatta on far southwestern Kangaroo Island, attending Karatta Primary School and later Parndarna Area School. For 30 years Chris worked as a ranger for SA National Parks & Wildlife, with the first 15 years on KI, mostly at Flinders Chase National Park. His 15 years on the mainland, based at Port Augusta as a wildlife ranger with desert parks, developed his love and knowledge of semi-arid and arid bird fauna. On his return home to KI in 2002, Chris became a wildlife tour guide with KI Wilderness Tours. His lifelong interest in the natural world developed at an early age and he has been a passionate ornithologist for the past 40 years. Chris has had multiple scientific papers published in the *SA Ornithologist* and wrote *An Annotated List of the Birds of KI*, first published in 1989 and revised in 1995.

Penny Paton

Conservation Sub-Committee

1 Closer links with like-minded organisations

A number of the sub-committee's members have taken on the roles of "champions" for organisations that have similar or complementary aims to Birds SA. The role of the champions is to establish appropriate contacts with these organisations and to set up a two-way exchange of information on activities and initiatives of mutual benefit that could be publicised via each organisation's communication

channels. These members and the organisations they have agreed to champion are:

BirdLife Australia: John Gitsham & William Brooker
Nature Foundation SA: Phil Cole & David Hansman
Field Naturalists Society of SA: Brian Blaylock
Nature Conservation Society of SA: John Gitsham
Bush Heritage Australia: Simon Brealey
BioR: John Gitsham

Jeff Groves is to be the Birds SA representative at future meetings of the Conservation Council of SA, replacing John Spiers.

We also note that Jean Turner, BirdLife's Samphire Coast Stewardship Project Officer is retiring. Aleisa Lamanna will be their local BirdLife Australia project officer. She is currently working on the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board's new "Sharing our shores with local wildlife" programme.

2 Tolderol.

Bird surveys, organized by the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association were conducted at Tolderol on 2nd May and 7th July. Tolderol is in excellent condition and the birdlife was abundant. In the May count about 100 Curlew Sandpipers in non-breeding plumage were seen. These would be young birds spending the winter in Australia. Good sightings of bitterns and Long-toed Stints as well as many species of ducks have been recorded. The data gathered is submitted to the regional Natural Resources Management Board.

Our Management Committee has approved a further grant of up to \$4,000 for the provision of water and repair of the levee banks at Tolderol.

3 Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

Birds SA has written to both Primary Industries and Natural Resources SA (PIRSA) and the Department of the Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) expressing the misgivings of Birds SA with respect to the human impact of crabbing and pipi gathering on birdlife within the AIBS. An "Interim Management Statement for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park — Winaityinaityi Pangkara" has been published and is available on the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board website. A final statement will be issued in spring 2017 with an opportunity for us to comment.

4 Laratinga Wetlands

The President, John Gitsham, has met Mt Barker Council representatives as well as Birds SA member, Kevin Williams, to settle outstanding issues with respect to the "snipe area" of the wetlands west of Laratinga.

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)



Presentation by Lend Lease

5 Northern Connector Impact on Bird Habitat (White's Road Wetlands)

Our Vice-President Jeff Groves and Birds SA member, Rod Tetlow, have been in discussion with Lend Lease Corporation, the construction company building the Northern Connector, regarding the impact of the project on adjacent wetlands, particularly White's Road. As a result, on August 14th, the Birds SA Conservation sub-committee hosted a presentation by Chris Podger, Environmental Manager for the project, Stuart Cooney, the Ecologist contracted by Lend Lease and Laura Otradjian, the Lend Lease Stakeholder Engagement Manager. Laura provided the background to the project including the priorities placed upon it by the State Government. Chris presented a more detailed project overview, the likely impact on birdlife and presented some of the options already being pursued to mitigate its effect on the environment. Approximately 35 Birds SA members attended the special meeting. A Wetland Working Group has been formed to provide external comment on the project design with respect to environmental issues. Birds SA is participating in this group. Lend Lease staff and its ecologist are clearly committed to minimising the loss and damage to the bird habitat for Whites Road wetlands and adjacent areas. The presentation was well received by the members, who asked many questions. Several issues raised in question time are being followed up by Jeff and Rod.

6 The State of the Murray River

A letter on behalf of Birds SA will be sent to the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and the relevant Commonwealth officer strongly supporting the submission by BirdLife Australia opposing reductions to environmental water flows. The

statement by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists was discussed. The feeling within the sub-committee is that it may be too early to make judgements on whether the Murray Darling Basin Plan is working or not. One bit of good news is that the Commonwealth Water Holder is to employ a second officer in South Australia to monitor river conditions and that he/she is to be stationed at Goolwa.

John Spiers

"Feet and Feathers", Fledglings Activity

Prior to the 26th May General Meeting, another Fledglings activity was held, this time at the Hawker Centre. Even though Friday night is the culmination of a busy week for all school age children, we had 15 applicants for this event.

I would like to express my personal gratitude and that of the parents and Fledglings to David Paton. His presentation methodology held the interest of all children whose ages ranged from 6 to 14 years – a highly skilled educator!

The focus of the evening was on 'feet and feathers' when identifying a bird. David brought along some exhibits so that the children could get a close look at wing feathers, colour variation and to note the difference in the toes of various species. Formal instruction took place in the Lecture Theatre, followed by a "game" to develop recognition, remembering and recounting skills.

All written feedback from participants suggested that they would have liked the Fledgling Activity to have lasted longer – at least 45 minutes! This provides a clear indication that the Fledglings were engaged.

Birds SA are very grateful to David for giving his time and expertise to help prepare the next generation of Bird Conservationists, and I would like to express

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

my gratitude to the Members of the Birds SA Management Committee who supported this event in various ways:

John Gitsham for drawing the silhouettes used in the competition and for keeping members attending the General Meeting in the foyer until the Fledglings had finished.

Merilyn Browne for scanning the silhouettes and preparing and printing the competition sheet, then driving down to Adelaide to deliver them to me.

John Hatch for volunteering to assist with the Fledglings and keeping law and order at the display table, and for assessing the competition winner.

Karen Donkin for attending the door and being so professional in escorting parents and children through the maze of the Hawker Centre – all done with a smile.

A special thank you to the Birds SA Members who attended the May General Meeting for their patience and understanding in waiting in the foyer until the Fledgling activity was finished.

Kate Buckley

Kangaroo Culling at Sandy Creek

(and other reserves in the Adelaide Region)

In the March issue of 'The Birder' Jason van Weenen argued the case for the culling of Western Grey Kangaroos *Macropus fuliginosus* in nature reserves, including Sandy Creek. However, at a time in the history of South Australia (SA) when the extinction of further native species of mammals and birds is a continuing threat, we should be cautious before adding fuel to the fire.

I am reminded by the observations of Charles Darwin when he visited Australia during the voyage of HMS 'Beagle' around the world. While travelling inland from Sydney to Bathurst in January 1836, he attended a kangaroo hunt. While no kangaroos were encountered, 'The greyhounds pursued a kangaroo rat * into a hollow tree, out of which we dragged it'. In his diary Darwin remarked on the decline in native animals, 'A few years ago since (sic) this country abounded with wild animals'.

Darwin's warning proved prescient, in view of the subsequent disappearance of many mammals, especially marsupials. 27 species or sub-species of mammals have been lost since 1788. Perhaps SA has suffered more than most. Although the Toolache (*Macropus greyi*) is a partial exception, as hunting was a factor in its extinction in 1924, most marsupial extinctions in SA and elsewhere have been the consequence of three adverse factors: habitat clearance, predation by cats and foxes and competition from rabbits.

In view of the substantial loss in species of Australian mammals we should hesitate before culling any native species. In the past species have

been lost because, as they occurred in large numbers, it was assumed that their future was assured. Of the seven species of bandicoots that once lived in the Adelaide region, only one survives, the Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isopodon obselus*). Because of continued predation by exotic species, its existence may not be secure.

As mentioned in my earlier letter (November 2016), I don't believe the disturbance to native vegetation at Sandy Creek justifies culling kangaroos. It is difficult to obtain information on recent and current kangaroo numbers in the reserve. Has there been a substantial increase in population on the reserve and adjoining properties? And how many kangaroos have been culled? Until recently rabbits had been a problem at Sandy Creek. As rabbit control has not been long achieved it seems reasonable to curtail culling of kangaroos, at least for the present.

Jason refers to the threats to native fauna caused by fires. These of course include prescriptive burns, especially when control is lost, as in the Cox's Scrub fire in May 2013. If means can be devised to prevent such extensive destruction of flora and fauna in reserves, the Department of the Environment Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) will indeed deserve our thanks. Any damage caused by kangaroos must be miniscule when compared with the loss of vegetation during uncontrolled burns, which can result in the disappearance of endangered plants and birds from a region.

*Darwin's Kangaroo Rat was probably a Rufous Rat-kangaroo, more commonly called a Rufous Bettong *Aepyymnus rufescens*.

Reference

Darwin C 'The Voyage of the Beagle' 1906, London, JM Dent & Son, 424.

David Hansman

July 26, 2017



Eastern Yellow Robin
Photographed by Alan Pettigrew
in northern NSW on 17/7/2017

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

Two Special Events in September

A lecture at the Maritime Museum

126 Lipson Street Port Adelaide
Friday 22 September at 6.00 pm

'The bird collections of the Baudin Expedition 1800-1804'

This lecture tells the story of the journey undertaken by **Justin Jansen** to uncover and discover the bird related items of the expedition captained by Nicolas Baudin.

It will tell the story of visits to the various collections in Europe and the results of these visits. All have been subjects for a PhD-dissertation.



At the monthly meeting, 29 September

Peter Gower and Andrew Black will discuss and illustrate their recently published book

'Grasswrens, Australian Outback Identities'.

Copies of the book will be available at an introductory price of \$40.00 (normally \$45.00) \$5.00 will go to the Conservation Fund for each copy sold by Birds SA

(See more information on page 16)

KEEPING Birds SA FUNCTIONING

Birds SA is a complex organisation that could not possibly function without the efforts of the large number of people who freely give their time and energy to carry out a wide range of essential tasks.

A few of these people are on the Management Committee, while others form a variety of sub-committees; and many tasks are carried out by people who are not part of any committee or sub-committee.

Kate Buckley and I have combined to compile a list of the titles and tasks associated with to the Association's wide range of activities. We feel that anyone thinking about accepting a position or volunteering to carry out a task within the Association would like to know what is involved. The list is three pages long!

The tasks associated with a typical monthly meeting, as an example, include booking the venue, opening the building, conducting the meeting, recording the minutes, organising, introducing and thanking the speaker — as well as providing a 'thank you' gift. Then other people provide, organise and wash up the supper after the meeting and someone has to stay and lock up right at the end. Monthly meetings form only a part of Association's many activities. Other activities include excursions and campouts, publication of this document and the Journal, the Fledglings Programme, running stalls at events, the WEA course, the Library... The list goes on and on!! Several busy people contribute to at least two of the Association's many activities. It would be great to have some extra volunteers!

P.S Please contact one of us if you would like a copy of our list of all tasks.

Cynthia Pyle

A COLOURED 'BIRDER'!!

By the time you reach this page, you will have noticed that this issue is totally in colour, not just the outside pages. This is a trial, and may be just a one-off — wait and see!

Of course, this issue will cost more to produce than previous issues, so we would like some feedback from you to find out what you think about various options. The cost of printing both the Birder and the Journal is included in your annual subscription. Members who receive their Birders electronically are saving the Association both the printing cost and any postage, but not everyone has a computer! Should we have a two-level subscription regime? Some people prefer a booklet and are willing to pay extra for it, while others are happy to save money by reading it on their computers or printing out their own copies. Of course we have to be kind to concession members, many of whom will be the people without computers. Please let us know what you think!

Cynthia Pyle

THE 'DINNER' IDENTIFIED

Page 23 of the May Birder contained a photograph taken by Brian Walker showed a Collared Sparrowhawk devouring the last remnants of its dinner. Members were asked if they could identify the species of the 'dinner'.



One guess was Noisy Miner, but another member pointed out that the tarsus is too short for a Noisy Miner. The most likely victim is one of Brian's neighbour's pigeons — see photo. It would have made a good meal!

Cynthia Pyle

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

Extracts from the July e-news of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

Writing the draft management plan starts

During March and through to the end of May, Bird Sanctuary staff asked: "what should our management plan include?"

Now that this preliminary consultation has closed, the analysis of comments is helping to aid the writing process and development of a draft management plan.

A feedback report has been written on what was heard over the 9 community drop-in sessions and during the two months the community was able to comment online via the government's YourSAY online portal. The report is available on our webpage.

Over 130 people participated at the meetings or digitally and the comments they made have been themed by Bird Sanctuary staff to get an understanding of the main points a management plan should include. These themes will play a big part in helping shape the content of the draft management plan, which will be available for formal comment in August.

13 themes came out of the discussions. The themes are:

- Mangrove Trail
- Education or awareness
- Water
- Tourism/Visitors
- Access
- Horses
- Motorbikes and 4WDs
- Staffing & Signage
- Dogs
- Feral behaviour
- Species and habitat protection
- Facilities and infrastructure
- Crabbing and fishing

Education program in the Bird Sanctuary for motorbikes and off-road vehicles

A community awareness and education program commenced in the Bird Sanctuary for motor bikes

and off-road vehicle users over the Anzac Day long weekend (Sunday 23rd & Tuesday 25th April). Contact with the community and visitors extended from the northern section of the Bird Sanctuary between Parham and Light Beach and extended south to include the Port Gawler Conservation Park and adjoining beach areas.

The main concentrations of motorbike riding were in the Parham, Port Prime, Thompsons Beach, Light Beach and Port Gawler Beach areas. The largest group of motor bikes was encountered at Port Prime with 10 vehicles and trailers and motorbikes and about 30 people over the 2 days with a further 25 people spread over other locations. Whilst many of the motorbike riders were unhappy about not being able to ride their unregistered motorbikes in these areas in future, most were accepting of this advice.

Similarly at Port Gawler Conservation Park, bike riders were unhappy about not being able to ride their unregistered motorbikes along beaches. However riders were advised that they can legally ride their motor bike at the Port Gawler off-road park, a private business catering for off-road vehicle activities.

Additional community awareness and education programs will be undertaken in June to inform motor bike riders of the Bird Sanctuary, National Park and the laws around motor bike riding in the area.

To further improve awareness of the sanctuary within the community, main entry signs were installed the week prior to the education program including a sign installed on the Light Beach road a few days prior to the long weekend. This road has been closed to public access for some time to protect important coastal habitat, but the gate has been the subject of ongoing vandalism with padlocks and chains being cut and removed from the gate on a regular basis. To date, only one sign has been damaged and vandalised at Port Prime.

Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS)

Over the last three months our group has been continuing its focus on revegetation and clean up days within the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. The efforts of our members have resulted in the planting of nearly 2,000 tube stock plants in the Port Gawler and Thompson Beach areas. Despite the weather at this time of year not always being to our liking, we continue to attract an average of 15 people to our activities, which are arranged and co-ordinated by our dedicated Department of the Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) rangers.

The enthusiasm displayed by the participants in our group's activities is refreshing with a recent clean up morning at Port Gawler seeing our cage trailer and ute tray completely filled half an hour earlier than our expected finish time! That of course left more time for a chat with a warm cuppa and opportunity to check out the 'scope and see the many Red-necked



Clean-up proceeds at Port Gawler

Stints and Red-capped Plovers that were foraging in the foreground, which made for a lovely top-off to great morning. All our activity days have enjoyed a convivial atmosphere and have been filled with a collective sense of purpose and achievement by all involved. We appreciate and thank everyone who has participated and are always ready to welcome newcomers.

As part of our activity days we always have a 'scope and shorebird identification booklets on hand so that any interested persons can view the birdlife, hone their identification skills, and perhaps add a new and exciting bird to their list. One of our members recently sighted a Terek Sandpiper at St Kilda after attending a FAIBS activity.

It has been encouraging that we continue to see new faces at our activities and to meet people who are genuinely interested in all aspects of the Sanctuary. Local residents are beginning to hear about our activities and join our group, which bodes well for building up a sense of stewardship about this valuable resource that is the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.



Recent Plantings by FAIBS at Port Gawler

Friends of AIBS (cont.)

Future Events

The following activities are being arranged in consultation with our DEWNR Rangers;

Sunday 17th September:

Working bee on Thompson Beach walking trail

Sunday 15th October: Plant Identification workshop

Save the dates! Further information will be provided.

Membership

Anyone interested in becoming a member of our group please contact the committee at FAIBSSA@gmail.com.

Membership is \$10 per annum, renewable each December.

There are a number of benefits from becoming a financial member including:

- Access to free training and activity sessions through our association with Friends of Parks and DEWNR (e.g. bird and plant identification, snake awareness, field techniques, First Aid training and more)
- Parks passes
- Updates on our calendar of activities and member priority for inclusion in events



A Terek Sandpiper sighted at St. Kilda



Over-wintering Red-necked Stints at Port Gawler

Past General Meetings

FRIDAY 28 APRIL

John Hatch introduced the speaker for the evening Arkellah Irving from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) who for the last four years has been a Co-ordinator for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. Arkellah described the work she has been doing on the AIBS. Since starting in the role in late 2014 she has been absolutely inspired by the sheer number of people who are incredibly passionate about this landscape, who have studied the coast and salt fields, who have watched, recorded and learnt about the ecology across the sanctuary and even tagged the birds that visit the sanctuary; tracking their travels as they fly half way across the world. What a story! These community champions, organisations, councils and families have been caring over a long time for this land and the creatures that call it home; each contributing in their own way towards protection for this place and each having their own dreams, ambitions and fears for the future.

Put simply, this project is about protecting a key habitat for migratory birds and, given its location, supporting community leadership for the management and social and economic benefit that can be derived from establishing the sanctuary. This vision has come out of the 2014 *Roundtable of Possibilities*, which initiated stakeholder engagement, conversations with a range of people, the Minister's policy direction, and sessions within DEWNR facilitated by The Australian Centre for Social Innovation. It is a simple vision that is resonating with people and will provide a good grounding for establishing the sanctuary.

The design and development of the Bird Sanctuary aim to apply new models of innovative engagement, connecting with new constituencies across the northern parts of Greater Adelaide and the Adelaide plains and beyond. The project seeks to combine the outcomes of protecting migratory bird habitat together with providing for climate change adaptation by means of social inclusiveness, economic opportunity and building a model of a community-owned, resourced and managed Bird Sanctuary.

Her main role has been the gathering together of a wide range of people and organisations to work collectively in order to develop a management plan for the area. This has led to the formation of "The Collective", which includes representatives from government departments, local councils, aboriginal people, conservation groups, landholders and primary produces. "The Collective" has been meeting regularly for the past eighteen months and no member receives payment.

We are combining with aboriginal people from the start to protect and manage the area, ensuring that these communities continue as caretakers of the lands. Aboriginal (Kaurna) people have retraced their family and song lines and rediscovered language and created a plan.

In just over one year we have

- Held the first Adelaide Shorebirds Festival (2,500 people attended)
- Held various events, public meetings, workshops, training days etc.
- Launched various social media platforms
- Aligned over 35 organisations to a common vision
- Convened a leadership roundtable, taskforce groups and data working groups
- Adopted various tools to map the planning process
- Looked at the data to determine what actions will have the greatest impact
- Submitted the site as an EAAF Network Site

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary is the first national park created in South Australia in ten years.

FRIDAY 26 MAY

John Hatch introduced the speaker Dr. Jeremy Robertson. The topic of his talk was "South Africa – Inspiring Students". Jeremy described the involvement of students from Flinders University in 2014 and 2015 for a two-week project in the Masebe Nature Reserve in the UNESCO Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, Limpopo run by the not-for-profit Wildlife and Ecological Investments (WEI) organization. From 2016 Flinders University and WEI entered a formal partnership and extended the project with an additional two weeks in the Balule Game Reserve adjoining Kruger National Park.

During the time the students carry out

- Bird point counts – five counts first thing every morning in different parts of both reserves.
- Veldt condition assessments – grasses, herbs and trees are identified and measured to assess the carrying capacity for wild herbivores, which is a core part of the management plan for both reserves.
- Environmental education activities – visit local schools to interact with the school children and increase their environmental awareness.
- Insect survey techniques – learn the different techniques and try them out with a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable entomologist at Masebe

Past General Meetings (cont.)

- Herbivores surveys – assess numbers of wild herbivores on day drives at both reserves and nocturnal spotlighting at Masebe.
- Predator monitoring with camera traps at Balule G.R.
- A three-night tour of Kruger National Park.

Jeremy showed photos of the birds and other wildlife that the students had encountered.

30 JUNE 2017

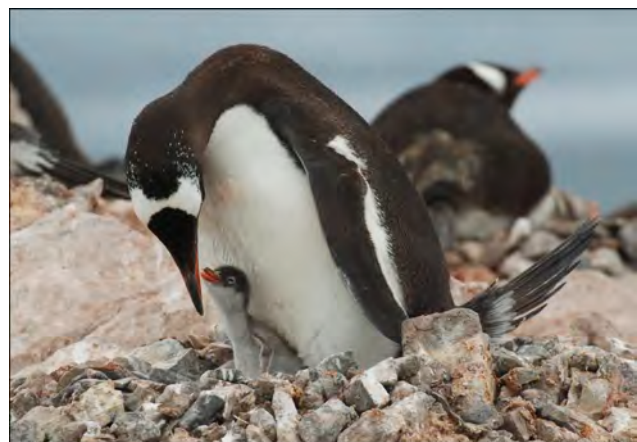
John Hatch introduced Marilyn Browne whose talk was entitled Tip to Tip. It described a trip from the tip of South America to the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula with Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures. Marilyn illustrated her talk with many photographs of the birds she had seen and of some of the other wildlife she had encountered. Birds photographed around Ushuaia included Flying Steamer Duck, Crested Duck, Red Shoveler, Rock Shag, Blackish Oystercatcher, Brown-headed Gull, Dolphin Gull, Buff-winged Cinclodes, Ochre-naped Ground Tyrant, Austral Negrito and Yellow-bridled Finch. The following birds were photographed in the Falkland Islands: Black-browed Albatross, Southern Rockhopper Penguin, Falkland Islands Steamer Duck, Ruddy-headed Goose, Magellanic Penguin, Gentoo Penguin, Brown Skua, Striated Caracara, Blackish Cinclodes, Sedge Warbler, Cobb's Wren, Austral Thrush, Long-tailed Meadowlark, White-bridled Finch, Sea Cabbage (*Senecio candicans*), Kelp Goose, Yellow-billed Teal, Silver Teal, Black-crowned Night Heron, Two-banded Plover, Rufous-chested Plover. South American Snipe, Correndera Pipit, Wandering Albatross and Slender-billed Prion. At Shag Rocks South Georgia Shag, Cape Petrel, Common Diving Petrel and at South Georgia King Penguin, Yellow-billed Pintail, Antarctic Fur Seal, Southern Elephant Seal, Antarctic Tern, South Georgia Pipit, Light-mantled Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Snow Petrel, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Black-backed Storm Petrel, Blue Petrel, Antarctic Prion and Southern Giant Petrel. On the Antarctic Peninsula and Deception Island there were South Polar Skua, Chinstrap Penguin, Gentoo Penguin and Snowy Sheathbill. On the return to Cape Horn Leopard Seal, Crabeater Seal, Humpback Whale and Peale's Dolphin were observed.



Black-browed Albatross



Snow Petrel



Gentoo Penguin

Jeff Davies, principle Bird Artist and Coordinator of the new 'Australian Bird Guide' book will be our Guest Speaker at the General Meeting of Birds SA, Friday Oct 27th 2017.

He will talk about preparing the artwork for the Bird plates and why things are different with the book, plus also a selection of new ID concepts with difficult species pairs etc.

Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start.

Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite Institute, Waite Road, Urrbrae



All current Birds SA members free entry.

Be early, limited seating available!

Non-members are welcome, but we would appreciate a \$5 entry/donation towards our Birds SA Conservation Fund. <http://www.birdssa.asn.au>

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 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.45pm.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Peter Gower and Andrew Black will present their recently published book:
'Grasswrens, Australian outback identities'.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

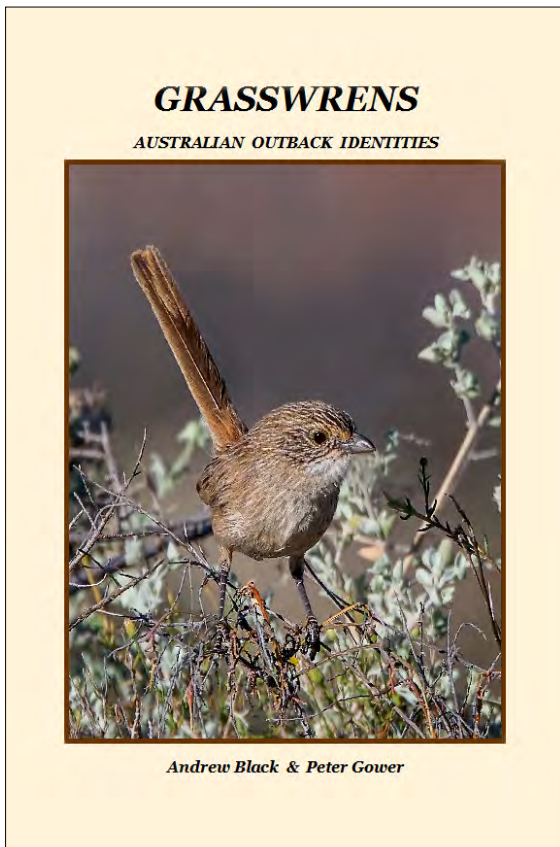
Jeff. Davies, main artist for the recently published CSIRO Bird Guide will talk about his role as Artwork Manager and artist for the book.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24

Christmas Members' Night.

We already have several offers of short talks (15 minutes or so), but John Hatch would be more than happy to receive some more.

The talks will be preceded and followed by drinks and nibbles, so please bring a plate of food to share.



INTRODUCTORY PRICE

\$40

(Normally \$45)

at Sept & Oct Birds SA meetings.

Hard cover, 155 pages.

Includes photographs of all species and subspecies, plus habitats, location maps and a thorough history of discovery and naming, with references.

Email orders from:

gowerphotos@gmail.com

Postal orders from:

Peter Gower

PO Box 989

Strathalbyn SA 5255.

Postage and packing extra \$10 per copy.

(Normal price after October.)

Past Excursions

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) MARCH, 2017 EXCURSION

MUNYAROO CONSERVATION PARK

Saturday 11th

Three bird watchers met at the Whyalla wetlands on a clear day with a slight breeze. One was from Whyalla, one from Pt Augusta and the third from Mambray Creek. The bird watchers from Whyalla and Pt Augusta had already collected a list of 39 bird species while waiting at the wetlands. We waited for more people to join us, but we were it, being a three-day camping trip with no facilities probably discouraged others from coming.

We drove along the Lincoln highway and turned off at the Moonabie station road leading on to the Murninnie shacks area. At the shacks we turned south and entered the Munyaroo Conservation Park. Following a dirt track along the coast we passed through open samphire flats and sighted some Pipits. The track was then in open Mallee and coastal dune country and a bit soft and boggy. On our first drive onto the beach area we saw Grey Butcherbirds, Silver Gulls, Pacific Gulls, White-faced Herons, Australian Ravens, Red-capped Plovers, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, Red-necked Stints, Crested Terns, Caspian Terns and Welcome Swallows. The member from Pt Augusta had been sick with a all week and was feeling unwell. He decided he would not be able to continue on our trip and left us to return home. The two of us left continued along the coastal road finding Mistletoebirds, Inland Thornbills, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Splendid, Variegated and White-winged Fairywrens, Weebills, Spiny-cheeked and White-fronted Honeyeaters and Silvereyes; and we heard an Australian Owletnightjar in the mallee behind the dunes. On several stops on the beach areas a Black Swan, Common Greenshanks, Australian Pelicans, Little Pied Cormorants and a Brown Songlark in the seaweed, were added to the list. Two Brown Falcons flew over us and landed on the tidal flats, which was an unusual sight.

When we reached the southern end of the coastal track we turned west and followed the park's southern boundary track. This track passes through low mallee country. Many Spotted Pardalotes could be heard, and occasionally seen in places. Striated Pardalotes, Port Lincoln Parrots, Red Wattlebirds, Grey Shrikethrushes, Grey Currawongs, Australian Magpies, Mulga Parrots, Tree Martins, Crested Bellbirds, Purple-crowned Lorikeets and a single Red-capped Robin were found. The robin is the first robin I had seen for some time, which is unusual. We heard what sounded like Splendid Fairywrens,

but when we got a good look at them they turned out to be Blue-breasted Fairywrens. While looking at the wrens an Osprey glided and hovered over us for a while, seeming out of place in the mallee country. We stopped to look at a Malleefowl's mound that had been used during the last breeding season, but had been dug up by foxes judging by the droppings left there. As we progressed along the boundary track we saw lots of Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, some Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, more White-fronted Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds, Spotted Pardalotes, Crested Bellbirds, Grey Shrikethrushes, Mulga Parrots, Variegated Fairywrens and heard Australian Owletnightjars again. We saw White-fronted Honeyeaters, Dusky Woodswallows and White-browed Babblers; and we heard a Gilberts Whistler. We noticed a bird running along the track in front of us and when we stopped to get a look it turned out to be a lovely male Chestnut Quail-thrush. If I had a good camera built into my binoculars, I would have taken some great pictures of that bird. We drove the full length of the southern boundary and then turned around and drove back to the coast and set up camp near the beach. During the night a Tawny Frogmouth landed in the trees above us, and we heard more Owlet Nightjars.

Sunday 12th

The next morning was cool, calm and overcast and we heard a Southern Boobook well before sunrise and Common Bronzewing a bit later on. We ate our breakfast and walked to the beach. Many Tree Martins were darting about above us and we could hear and see White-fronted, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds, Mistletoebirds and Grey Butcherbirds. Our first Galahs flew past as we stepped onto the beach. The tide had just turned and was falling. This was perfect timing to see the shore birds, as the tide goes out fast and is a long way out at low tide. White-faced Herons and Pacific Gulls were the first shore birds to greet us. As the spotting scope followed the beach around, a group of fourteen Pelicans stood out amongst Caspian and Greater Crested Terns. Pied Cormorants and Silver Gulls rested or flew around the water's edge. Groups of Red-capped Plovers and Red-necked Stints patrolled the beach with some Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers. A pair of Grey Teal swam about in the water. We moved along the beach disturbing Silvereyes and White-browed Scrubwrens in the coastal scrub. A single Little Pied Cormorant was sitting near a group of Fairy Terns and two Ruddy Turnstones mingled with the plovers and stints. Two Common Starlings flew past and three Nankeen Kestrels darted about over the beach

Past Excursions (cont.)

and water. A small flock of Common Greenshanks thought we were too close and flew off in front of us. As we headed back more White-browed Scrubwrens were seen and a Southern Scrub Robin inquisitively circled us. There would have been more opportunities of some good photographs if only I had a camera/binocular setup. Babblers, Inland Thornbills, Grey Shrikethrushes and we saw Variegated Fairywrens near our camp.

After packing up our camping gear we drove back along the southern boundary track and turned onto a track heading north crossing the park. In this mallee area we saw White-eared, White-fronted, Yellow-plumed and Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Weebills, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Splendid Fairywrens, Inland Thornbills, Red Wattlebirds, Yellow-throated Miners, Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, Jacky Winters, Dusky Woodswallows, Port Lincoln Parrots and of course White-browed Babblers. As we drove north the mallee gave way to Western Myall and Bluebush country. Here we saw some Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Grey Butcherbirds, Southern Whitefaces, Emus, Australian Magpies, a Grey Currawong, Mistletoebirds having a territorial dispute and our first and only Crested Pigeon. We turned west now to follow the northern boundary towards some rocky hills country. As we climbed into the hills a Wedge-tailed Eagle glided past and then we entered older growth mallee country. Here there were more Yellow-plumed and White-fronted Honeyeaters, Weebills, Mulga Parrots, Port Lincoln Parrots, Dusky Woodswallows and Purple-crowned Lorikeets. The wind was blowing strongly and we probably would have found more birds here if it had been calmer. As we travelled along the ground became sandier and there was more open mallee scrub. Here we saw Black-faced Woodswallows, Welcome Swallows, Australian Magpies, Emus, Southern Whitefaces, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Grey Shrike-thrushes, Grey Butcherbirds, Grey Currawongs, a Collared Sparrowhawk and our first Willie Wagtail. Continuing along the track it became sandier as we climbed and traversed more wooded mallee, native pine and spinifex country. It was getting late and we set up camp.

Monday 13th

We heard more Australian Owlet-nightjars during the night and there was some light drizzle and fog. In the morning we were awoken by the strange-sounding calls of Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters that had a slightly different dialect here. As we were having breakfast on a beautiful calm, cool morning a Common Bronzewing landed near us and was

drinking the dew covering the gum leaves on the ground. After breakfast we walked towards a small valley lined by spinifex and mallee to look for grasswrens but with no luck. On the way a Brown Falcon sat watching us from a tree as a big mob of Miners noisily passed by and Tree Martins darted about overhead. The valley was full of Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters with some Singing Honeyeaters and Weebills, Mulga Parrots, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, currawongs, Australian Ravens, butcherbirds, babblers, Galahs, Grey Shrike-thrushes, Port Lincoln Parrots and bellbirds. We climbed over a spinifex-covered hill still without finding any grasswrens and entered a mallee and pine area. Here it was quiet until the noise of squabbling Inland Thornbills attracted our attention and the attention of Chestnut-rumped and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Silvereyes, Willie Wagtails and Blue-breasted Wrens. A Collared Sparrowhawk was then in the area as well as Striated Pardalotes, Splendid Wrens, Mistletoebirds, Jacky Winters and Variegated Fairywrens. As we were packing up our camp a strange whistle was heard and on looking up four Ground Cuckooshrikes flew over us. We tried to follow them on foot but lost sight of them as they disappeared into the distance.

We continued along the boundary track heading west and stopped on a stony rise covered with broom bush to look for grasswrens and then looked in some mallee nearby. Here there were White-eared and White-fronted Honeyeaters, wattlebirds and Little Ravens. We drove further along the sand dune track, which was now heading south along the western boundary and found more Inland Thornbills, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and a Purple-gaped Honeyeater. When we reached the southwestern corner of the boundary we left the park and made for a road that leads back to the Lincoln Highway. Near the highway we had a quick look in the Munyaroo Conservation Reserve. Here we found more White-faced, White-eared and Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Spotted Pardalotes, Red Wattlebirds and Weebills. We also found an old Malleefowl's mound.

We found 78 bird species over the weekend.

B. Haase.

Shepherds Hill Recreation Park — 18May

Despite the forecast of damp weather the morning was dry with the sun occasionally appearing through the clouds. The walk took our group of twelve members along the River Red Gum Loop and partly up the Viaduct Track. The number of bird species seen was not particularly great, only 23, and of these the parrot family was the most represented in numbers as well (Adelaide Rosella, Eastern Rosella,

Past Excursions (cont.)

Rainbow Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah and Little Corella).

Brian Blaylock

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) MAY 2017 EXCURSION, CARRIERWLOO and WARTAKA STATIONS ROAD

A group of ten bird watchers met at the start of the Stuart highway on a fine and calm day. Six people were from Pt Augusta, two from Koolunga, one from Whyalla and one from Mambray Creek. Our first stop was at Lake Dempsey, on the outskirts of Pt. Augusta west. The area had received good rains recently and the salt lake was about half full of water. The countryside was green with fresh plant growth. We could see many water birds on the lake but the first birds we saw when we pulled up were a pair of bustards close to us. However, they soon flew off further along the lake's edge. On the lake there were about a thousand Grey Teals, three hundred Black Swans, two hundred Pink-eared Ducks, a hundred Coots, fifty Hoary-headed Grebes, Chestnut Teals, Silver Gulls, shovelers, Masked Lapwings, Whiskered Terns and White-faced Herons. In the surrounding area we found White-winged Fairywrens, White-fronted Chats, Singing Honeyeaters, Willie Wagtails, Australian Ravens, Magpielarks, Brown and Rufous Songlarks, Welcome Swallows and Common Starlings. The convoy of six vehicles turned off the Stuart highway onto the Carrierwerloo Road and travelled along for about seven km where there was some bird activity and some Black Oak trees. The countryside was green but not as lush as it was near Pt. Augusta. Here there were Crested Pigeons, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos, a passing White-faced Heron, Galahs, Blue Bonnet Parrots, Mulga Parrots, Orange and White-fronted Chats, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Rufous Fieldwrens, Southern Whitefaces, White-browed Babblers, Chirruping Wedgebills, Black-faced Woodswallows which were nest building, Willie Wagtails, Australian Ravens, Magpielarks, Pipits and Brown Songlarks. The highlight of this stop was a pair of Ground Cuckoo-shrikes that allowed us to view them up close. Further along the road there were Brown Falcons, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Magpies and Little Corellas. We passed the Carrierwerloo shearing shed where shearing was in full swing and continued on to South Four Mile Dam for lunch passing more Rufous Fieldwrens and a Cinnamon Quailthrush. On the dam we found Pink-eared and Black Ducks, Grey Teal, Hoary-headed Grebes, Eurasian Coots, Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterels and about a hundred Black-tailed Nativehens. Nearby were Emus, Crested Pigeons, Horsfield's Bronze

Cuckoos, Brown Goshawks, Galahs, White-winged Fairywrens, Orange and White-fronted Chats, Singing Honeyeaters, Whitefaces, Babblers, Magpies, Grey Butcherbirds, Magpie-larks Welcome swallows and six Redthroats that were having a ding dong territorial singing and squabbling competition. After lunch we headed to Carrierwerloo homestead and then turned onto the road to Wartaka station. Just past the homestead we stopped to look in a sandy/rocky hills area with Spinifex, Mallee, and Mulga trees. A pair of Grey Fantails greeted us, and Mulga Parrots, Spiny-cheeked, Singing and White-fronted Honeyeaters, Striated Pardalotes, Weebills, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Babblers, Grey Butcherbirds, Red-capped Robins, Jacky Winters, Mistletoebirds and another Ground Cuckoo-shrike were seen. We travelled on along the road to Wartaka and added to our list, Nankeen Kestrels and Port Lincoln Parrots. After passing Wartaka homestead we followed the road towards the Eyre highway and stopped at a small patch of Black Oaks where we added Inland Thornbills to our list as well as more Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Redthroats, babblers and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes. The next stop was at Venara White Dam where there was an Emu, more Grey Teal, Crested Pigeons, Singing Honeyeaters, Grey Butcherbirds, Willie Wagtails as well as Australasian Grebe and we had some good viewings of a pair of Western Grasswrens. Nearing the Eyre Highway intersection we stopped at Wire Dam and added Crested Bellbird to the day's bird list. A total of 62 bird species was seen for the day. The highlight birds for the day were the Bustards, Ground Cuckoo-shrikes, Cinnamon Quailthrushes and Western Grasswrens.

Bernie Haase.

Sir Richard Peninsula and Goolwa Ponds – 28 May

After an initial hiccup about the meeting place, 21 members came together on a cool but calm morning. We set off in convoy to our first stop, which was the bird hide on Barrage Road. Due to the large amount of water there was little to see. We then moved on to the SA water depot in front of the Barrage and as soon as we entered an Australian Hobby was spotted perched high in a Norfolk Island pine and 2 Nankeen Kestrels were in a pine close by. We then crossed the barrage; the gates were open to let extra water flow through. The area was alive with birds, Crested Terns were crash-diving into the water, cormorants in large numbers were diving on the fish and Australian Pelicans were very busy. We counted hundreds of birds perched on the barrage. We moved on to beacon 19 and added Great Egret, Whistling Kite

Past Excursions (cont.)

After an initial hiccup about the meeting place, 21 members came together on a cool but calm morning. We set off in convoy to our first stop, which was the bird hide on Barrage Road. Due to the large amount of water there was little to see. We then moved on to the SA water depot in front of the Barrage and as soon as we entered an Australian Hobby was spotted perched high in a Norfolk Island pine and 2 Nankeen Kestrels were in a pine close by. We then crossed the barrage; the gates were open to let extra water flow through. The area was alive with birds, Crested Terns were crash-diving into the water, cormorants in large numbers were diving on the fish and Pelicans were very busy. We counted hundreds of birds perched on the barrage. We moved on to beacon 19 and added Great Egret, Whistling Kite and Hoary-headed Grebe to the list. The weather had got very cold and we had one heavy shower. After a quick bird call and a hot drink the count was 41 species.

We then travelled on to the Mundoo channel on Hindmarsh Island. This was very rewarding with an Australian Hobby swooping down and plucking a small bird from the top of a pine tree. Three Nankeen Night Herons flew out of the same pines. Over on the far bank an estimate of 1000 Australian Pelicans was made and hundreds of cormorants were flying to and fro. Forty Great Egrets were also counted.

Our next point of call was the Murray Mouth. It was very cold and windy. The highlights were 31 Pied Oystercatchers, 2 over-wintering Bar-tailed Godwits and 6 Red-capped Plovers. We moved on to Chapel Road and spotted a male Musk Duck and 4 Red-kneed Dotterels. The count for the Island was also 41 species.

We rounded off a very busy day at the Goolwa ponds. The overflow area on the opposite side of the road from the ponds was the most productive site with Black-fronted Dotterel, Spotted Crake. 12 Australian White Ibis and Brown Falcon added to our list of 53 species for the day.

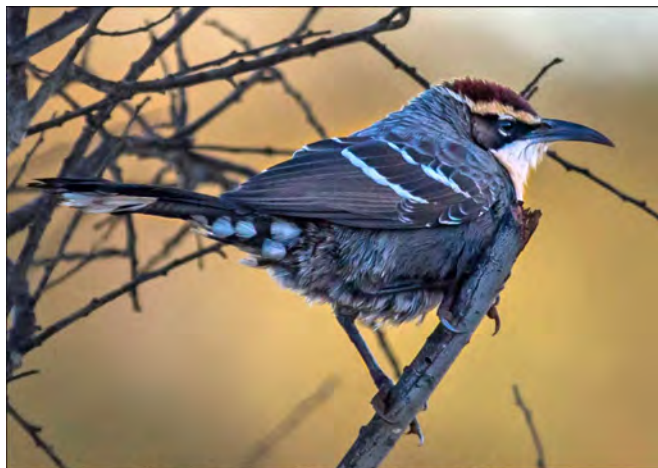
Win Syson

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) JUNE, 2017 EXCURSION

BENDLEBY RANGE and HUNGRY RANGE

Saturday, 10th June

Two bird watchers met at the Carrieton pub on a freezing but clear morning. One was from Whyalla and the other from Mambray creek. We would meet another birdo from Pt Pirie at Bendleby Range. We arrived at The Springs homestead in mid-morning and booked into the camp ground. A mob of about 20 Apostlebirds greeted and wandered about amongst us as we set up our camp. We had a quick lunch and went birding around the homestead area which has Red Gum creek lines, scattered mallee and Black Oak areas and open grass land plains. The dams were almost dry and the low, annual vegetation was dry or stunted but the perennial plants looked green and healthy. Amongst this we found Mallee Ringnecks, Yellow-throated Miners, Striated Pardalotes, Australian Magpies, both white



Chestnut-crowned Babbler

Photographed by Larry Gruitt on the Bendleby Range on 10th June 2017

and black backed forms and lots of hybrids, Little Ravens, Australian Ravens, Magpielarks, Crested Pigeons, Galahs that were looking for hollows to nest in, Red-rumped Parrots, Grey Butcherbirds, Inland, Chestnut-rumped and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Willie Wagtails, Tree Martins, Red-capped Robins, Redthroats, Variegated

Fairywrens, Spiny-

cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Weebills, Rufous Whistlers, Grey Fantails, Brown Falcons, Nankeen Kestrels, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Wood Ducks, Little Corellas, Southern Whitefaces, Emus, pipits and Common Starlings. Not a bad list for the broader homestead area. The next area we stopped at was along the Gum Gorge track, which follows a Red Gum creek through low hills with Mallee and Native Pine areas along the western side of the Bendleby Range. Here we added White-browed Babblers, Mulga Parrots, Mistletoebirds, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes and Chestnut-crowned Babblers. It was agreed that the bird of the day was the Chestnut-crowned Babblers.

Sunday, 11th

We awoke early in the morning to be greeted by freezing conditions with frost covering our camping

Past Excursions (cont.)

gear, but the sky was clear, there was no wind and it promised to be a lovely warm day. We all headed off to have a look around the camp ground and homestead area and found nearly all the birds we saw the day before but added Chestnut-crowned Babblers that were fossicking around in the camp ground and were unusually quiet and used to people, allowing us to get close to them. An Elegant Parrot flew past overhead as did 3 Ground Cuckooshrikes. Welcome Swallows were also added to the homestead area list. On the open plains areas there were lots of pipits moving about, and many small flocks of Galahs were flying past. After breakfast we decided to drive to Hidden Valley along the track that follows the eastern side of the Bendleby Range. We saw more of the birds we had seen previously and stopped at Solleys Well, where the Galahs were starting to nest in the Red gums, and added Silvereyes to our list. At the Hidden Valley camping area there were several Redthroats and Grey Shrikethrushes. 5 Elegant Parrots sat in the Red gums watching us and we saw Grey Fantails and Variegated Fairywrens, but these have been unusually scarce during our trip. We left the area and headed to Dinnertime Springs via 4 x 4 tracks over the ranges. *En route* there were more Grey Shrikethrushes and Redthroats and at the Dinnertime Springs area Little Crows and a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo were added to the bird list. It was getting late so we returned to camp along the Gum Gorge track, disturbing 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles off a dead roo on the way. The birds of the day were the up close Chestnut-crowned Babblers and the Ground Cuckooshrikes.

Monday, 12th

We awoke to another frosty morning, scraped the ice off the camp table, had breakfast and headed off to the Hungry Range to the southeast of the Bendleby Range. On the way we added a hobby to the bird list. We stopped at the North Hills Bore area and watched a pair of Mulga Parrots climbing into mallee tree hollows looking for a suitable nesting spot. Here there were also a lot of Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Magpies, most of them hybrid coloured forms. Dusky Woodswallows and Jacky Winters were added to the trip bird species list. We travelled along the Back Track and crossed onto the Front Track and stopped in a couple of likely looking places to look for Short-tailed Grasswrens, but with no luck. We did add Red Wattlebird to the list and there was a flock of about 20 Little Crows scattered through the mallee, calling to each other. From the western side of the range we drove across to the eastern side via a Ridge Top Track, a proper 4 x 4 track. We didn't see a lot of birds here but there must be some other

bird species living in some of the gorges we could see down into. We came out of the hilly area and followed the East Fence Track passing more likely birding areas, including some likely Thick-billed Grasswren country. Unfortunately we were running out of time and had to get back to pack up camp. Another proper 4 x 4 track over the range had to be traversed, the North Fence track, and we headed back to camp. Here we packed up, said our goodbyes and headed off to our homes. The birds of the day were the Australian Hobby and the Red Wattlebird, which are on the edge of their range according to the Bird data recording web site. A total of 50 bird species were found for the trip, but in better seasons there are recordings of many more species found in the area.

Bernie Haase.

Jenkins Scrub – 22 June:

Twelve members gathered for this walk. It was cold at first but it warmed up as the morning progressed. A little cloud developed but not enough to cover the sun. We took the right hand track from the car park at the end of Murray Vale Road and headed toward the south-eastern section. In contrast to the walk at Horsnell Gully a couple of weeks earlier the atmosphere was rather silent with very few birds calling. Most abundant were Yellow-faced and Crescent Honeyeaters, the latter readily visible. In contrast, New Holland Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills were scarce. White-throated Treecreepers were calling in various areas of the park. Other highlights included three Scarlet Robins and Buff-rumped, Brown and Striated Thornbills, groups of Silvereyes flying through and a single Mistletoebird. A walk along the now open southern boundary as the pine trees have all been harvested yielded only Australian Magpies. On returning to the car park we encountered a large group of White-winged Choughs, hardly making any sound, No raptors were observed although we may have had a possible sighting of Collared Sparrowhawk quickly disappearing over the treetops. In all 26 species were recorded for the morning.

Martyn Price

Horsnell Gully CP – 28 June

Fifteen members gathered for what turned out to be a fine morning, in contrast to our last couple of visits. From the car park on Horsnell Gully Road we headed up the Main Valley Track until the route began to climb. At this point two members continued on and circled back via the quarry track. The rest returned and took the Rockdale Hill Track until we met Old Coach Road, where we turned around and returned to the carpark. The air was still and full of

Past Excursions (cont.)

bird sound especially the squeaking of lorikeets, whistling of currawongs and cawing of ravens. A little way from the carpark we encountered two Spotted Pardalotes excavating a hole in the side of the rocky bank. Many members were able to get excellent photographs. Several other signs of breeding were evident including a Grey Currawong just beginning its nest in a small gum tree just off the track, and Striated Pardalotes and a White-browed Scrubwren feeding juveniles. Honeyeaters were in abundance especially New Holland, Yellow-faced and White-naped Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds and Eastern Spinebills. Other common birds included Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeets and smaller numbers of Musk Lorikeets. Silvereyes were quite numerous but the extremely chestnut flanked subspecies not as abundant yet. Two Wedge-tailed Eagles were observed soaring overhead. A single Australasian Grebe was seen on the small pond on Old Coach Road near the quarry. In all we recorded 32 species for the morning.

Martyn Price

Altona CSR Landcare Reserve — 2 July:

Thirteen people gathered on a rather chilly morning that turned into a beautiful day with only an occasional light breeze. It was particularly pleasing to welcome three new members who had not been on an excursion before.

We traversed the reserve in a clockwise direction along the usual route and almost immediately began hearing and seeing small birds, which turned out to be mostly Yellow Thornbills. Many of us were looking forward to seeing Red-capped Robins and we weren't disappointed. They appeared on a fairly regular basis (10 in total) and we were able to get some good views of both male & female birds. We also saw one Hooded Robin.

Honeyeaters included Eastern Spinebill (12), Crescent (2), New Holland (12), Red Wattlebird (10), Yellow-faced (6) and White-plumed (6). Maned Goose (12) were also very active and clearly checking out potential nesting hollows. Peaceful Doves (6) were heard and finally seen however, unusually for Altona, no bronzewings were either seen or heard. Galahs (6), Red-rumped Parrots (3), Crimson Rosellas (16), Rainbow Lorikeets (8) & Musk Lorikeets (3) put in an appearance along with the usual curious and cheeky Grey Fantails (4).

When we arrived at the lookout above the North Para River we observed the old Wedge-tailed Eagle nest in the distance above the waterhole and also saw a water rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*.) swimming in the water and periodically emerging onto nearby rocks. A Pacific Black Duck was also enjoying the waterhole and a Little Pied Cormorant

flew along the river. We were then thrilled to see several Diamond Firetails in nearby bushes and on powerlines overhead.

Other birds encountered were Australian Magpies (4), Grey Currawongs (6), Laughing Kookaburras (2) and Little Ravens (8). Also Rufous Whistlers (4) and Grey Shrikethrushes (2) made for a nice background of birdcalls. Towards the end of the walk we visited the small wetland but it was dry so we headed back to the carpark and lunch. After lunch we held the birdcall to find we had encountered 39 species for the day.

Ali Ben Kahn

Reedy Creek (Mannum Waterfalls Reserve) — 15 July:

Twelve members met at 8.30am on a cold 3° morning. Two of the group, Stephen Ramm and son Miles (10) are new members and were on their first Birds SA outing. It was great to have a pair of bright young eyes on the lookout, and Miles proved to be an enthusiastic birder whose company was enjoyed by all.

The weather quickly warmed up and in no time at all it turned out to be a beautiful sunny winter's day.

In past years part of the track has been a little challenging but upgrade work has been done on some of the more difficult areas, including the installation of more steps, which has made the walk a lot easier. The waterfall at the top of the path was flowing reasonably strongly and the park in general was looking very good.

Total individual birds for the day was a low 232 covering 38 species seen, and one heard. At the bird call we recorded 38 species, but later in the day Gordon Pateman submitted a photo he had taken in the morning which clearly showed a White-necked Heron was flying over, so I have included this one extra species in the count. Not a very good species count compared to the Birds SA list of 110.

Highest numbers seen were a flock of about 25 House Sparrows, 20 each of Red-rumped Parrots, Little Ravens and Common Starlings. There were 15 Australian Ringnecks and 12 each of White-plumed Honeyeater and Galah.

Four raptor species were present including four Nankeen Kestrels, one Brown Falcon, two Whistling Kites and four Black Kites, two of which appeared to be involved in some kind of nesting activity.

Both the flying White-necked Heron and two Royal Spoonbills in flight were additions to the bird-list for this site.

We arrived back at the car park at about 11.45am, had our lunch and made the bird call.

Rod Tetlow

Past Excursions (cont.)

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) JULY, 2017 EXCURSION WARRAKIMBO ROAD Sunday, 16th July.

It was a clear but cold day with an icy wind blowing when four bird watchers met at the start of the road from Pt Augusta to Warrakimbo station. Two of them were from Whyalla, one was from Pt. Augusta and the fourth was from Mambray Creek. The road follows the railway line to Leigh Creek and then passes through the Flinders Ranges and joins the Hawker to Lyndhurst road. Our scheduled trip to Wilkatana station had to be cancelled due to stock mustering commitments there.

Not far out of Pt. Augusta we stopped to watch a big flock of Galahs and we spotted White-fronted Chats, Little Ravens, Pipits and Brown Songlarks. We travelled on to Emeroo station and stopped just past where earth-moving equipment is being used to construct a new solar energy farm, and looked around in a creek that had some thicker scrub in it. Here there were Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos, White-winged Fairywrens, Singing Honeyeaters, Redthroats, White-browed Babblers, Chirruping Wedgebills, pipits, Brown Songlarks, Rufous Songlarks, Tree Martins and some Emus. As we were moving along the road we saw some Wedge-tailed Eagles, a flock of Little Corellas, more White-fronted Chats and a single Elegant Parrot.

We stopped for smoko at Depot Creek and saw 4 Wedge-tailed Eagles circling above us while a kestrel, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, Striated Pardalotes, Australian Magpies, Willie Wagtails, Australian Ravens and Welcome Swallows were added to our list. As we left the Red Gum Creek a big flock of Little Corellas was flying past in the distance. We passed Wilkatana station and then Yadlamulka station without seeing many birds due to the strong wind blowing over the open bluebush country. We only saw pipits and the occasional fairywrens disappearing into the bushes. Then a flash of bright yellow caught my eye and we stopped to look at a group of Orange Chats feeding on the ground. A lovely male White-winged Fairywren sat on top of a bush and then another one and then another one, with more wrens moving about with them. As we walked about even more male fairywrens popped up and we counted about 32 White-winged Fairywrens altogether and a few Variegated Fairywrens. There must have been a lot of food around here as there were more Orange Chats, Southern Whitefaces, Chirruping Wedgebills, Red-capped Robins, Zebra Finches and a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo. A group of 12 White-browed Babblers were noisily moving along with us

and in amongst them was a single Chestnut-crowned Babbler. It must have been separated from its own flock and joined the White-browed Babblers for company.

Further along the road there were Crested Pigeons and more pipits and Australian Ravens. We stopped in the Willochra Creek for a late lunch and found a Rufous Fieldwren and a Redthroat near the creek and more Galahs, Little Corellas, Yellow-throated Miners feeding young birds, Tree Martins, a Kestrel and Wedge-tailed Eagles. New birds for the list were Whistling Kites nesting, Black Kites, a pair of nesting Black Falcons, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes and a Grey Butcherbird.

We passed Warrakimbo station and saw a flock of Black-faced Woodswallows and more Orange Chats, Little Ravens and pipits. It was getting late when we joined the main road and headed for Hawker and then on back home. We listed 39 bird species for the trip and the birds of the day were the Black Falcons, Chestnut-crowned Babblers and Rufous Fieldwrens.

Bernie Haase

“Anacotilla Springs”, “Anacotilla Springs”, Second Valley – 20 July:

Owners, Pamela and Rob contacted Birds SA inviting us to undertake a bird survey of their bushland property near Wirrina Cove. The property enjoys the permanent flow of the Anacotilla River. The weather earlier in the week had been quite bleak with strong winds and heavy rain but the 11 members in attendance enjoyed calm and sunny conditions. Pamela and Rob guided us around the undulating hills and informed us of the property's history and their plans to restore the land for ecological tourism.

Our members recorded a total of 33 species including sightings of 4 Maned Geese and 4 White-faced Herons all roosting in a number of the large gum trees throughout the property. One Wedge-tailed Eagle and 2 Brown Goshawks were observed flying overhead several times during our stay. Other species recorded were 30 Feral Pigeons, 2 Laughing Kookaburras, 40 Galahs 10 Little Corellas, 20 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, 12 Crimson Rosellas, 30 Rainbow Lorikeets, 30 Superb Fairywrens, 2 Eastern Spinebills, 20 New Holland Honeyeaters, 10 Red Wattlebirds, 2 Yellow Throated Miners, 20 Striated Pardalotes, 4 White-browed Scrubwrens, 8 Yellow-rumped Thornbills, 20 Australian Magpies, 4 Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, 2 Grey Shrikethrushes, 1 Willie Wagtail, 20 Grey Fantails, 3 Magpie Larks, 12 Little Ravens, 2 Scarlet Robins, 1 Eurasian

Past Excursions (cont.)

Skylarks, 1 Welcome Swallow, 6 Tree Martins, 2 Silvereyes, 20 Common Starlings and 4 Australian Pipits.

Members were keen to make further visits to Anacotilla Springs and I have scheduled a revisit in late spring as there should be more bird activity then.

Lynton Huxley

30 July: Paiwalla Wetlands

While the weather was cold and wet in Adelaide, conditions at Paiwalla Wetlands were near perfect for the 23 members who arrived for this excursion. The sun shone most of the morning and with no wind the temperature was in the mid-teens. A show of hands revealed that most had not previously visited this wetland so we were most fortunate to have Bill Mountain in attendance as he has excellent knowledge of this wetland habitat and gave invaluable historic information as well as a keen eye on species present.

We were pleased to have one of our fledgling members Miles Ramm attend with his dad. Miles got some 'lifers' and honed his skills with notes on each sighting.

Our long walk around the main levy bank provided

us with an impressive total of 70 species which included Black Swan (6), Musk Duck (12), Blue-billed Duck (12), Australian Shoveler (12), Australian Pelican (50), four cormorant species: Little Pied (20), Little Black (6), Great (50) and Pied (1), Australasian Darter (6), Silver Gull (8), Eurasian Coot (100),



Wedged-tailed Eagle
photographed by John Pearce
at Anacotilla Springs on 20th July 2017

Swamp Harrier, Black-shouldered, Black and Whistling Kites, Nankeen Kestrel and Brown Falcon, Superb Fairywren (50), Red-rumped Parrot (12), Singing Honeyeater (10), White-plumed Honeyeater (20), Striated Pardalote (6), Sacred Kingfisher (2), Crested Shrike-tit (2), Little Grassbird (30).

Lynton Huxley

NEW MEMBERS

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

Michael Patrick Metz	NORWOOD
Richard Morris	MOUNT BARKER
Brian Preece	SALISBURY
Natasha Margaret Clare Raynor	MARINO
Karl Jones	NAIRNE
Philip Adrian and Celia Dianne Redhead	LITTLEHAMPTON
Miles and Stephen Ramm and Perdita Hope	EDEN HILLS
Carola Doris Sanders	HAHNDORF

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Membership Officer. His 'phone number is on page 31.

Future Excursions

**Field Program and campout Co-ordinator (FGC),
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 Coordinator, 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.

Saturday 9 September: Whites Road Wetlands (AP) 16 km. Meet at 8.30am. Head north on the Port Wakefield Road. At 1.5km after passing the Salisbury Highway Bridge, turn left into Globe Derby Drive and continue on this road until it meets Whites Road. Turn right and continue to the end. The Park entrance is on the left.

TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow

Thursday 21 September: Bushland Park, Lobethal (MLR)(43 km) Meet at 8.30am in the Bushland Park car park about 2km north of Lobethal on the Lobethal to Gumeracha Road. The entrance is on your left.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

Long Weekend Campout 30 Sept-2 October: Hallelujah Hills (MN) (140km)

NOTE: Our campground access will commence from 11am on Saturday 30 September and Members should plan their arrival after that time. Hallelujah Hills is one of two heritage agreement properties owned by Worlds End Conservation Pty. Ltd. between Roberstown and Burra in the Mid North. The Association's secretary, Brian Blaylock, is a Director of Worlds End Conservation Pty. Ltd. The property is 414 hectares in area between Gregurke Road and Hallelujah Hills Road with the

campout area off Gregurke Road through a locked gate, **which will be opened late on Saturday morning.** Members need to be self-sufficient including all water, food etc. No shower or kitchen facilities are available but a porta-loo will be provided.

During the weekend we can also visit Read Creek Hills, which backs onto Hopkins Creek Conservation Park and Mimbara Conservation Park. Our official campout activities will occur between 1pm on Saturday 30th August and 1pm on Monday 2nd September. We must be off the property by 3pm on Monday. During this camp, participants will be asked to pay a flat \$20 per vehicle fee, which covers one or more days. I will issue a Birds SA receipt for your payment.

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

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley – 0498466092

Saturday 14 October: Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina (LA) 85km. Meet at 8.30am. Take the road from Langhorne Creek to Wellington for approximately 5km and turn right into Dog Lake Road. Continue over a cross road, past a farm on the left hand side, pass through a gate, turn left on reaching the T-junction. Leave gates as you find them.

TRIP LEADER: **To be Advised**

Thursday 19 October: 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. This is our third attempt in the last 12 months to bird survey this iconic Adelaide Park – the first was cancelled due to very hot weather and the second only partially walked due to heavy rain!

TRIP LEADER: David Williams

Sunday 29 October: “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 into Wirrina Cove Resort, Paradise Drive, you have gone about 700m too far!)

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Future Excursions (cont)

Saturday 11 November: 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

Thursday 16 November: Buckland, Port Gawler (AP) (45km). Meet at 8.30am at the corner of Port Gawler and Applebee Roads at Port Gawler. From the City head towards Two Wells on the Port Wakefield Road and turn left onto Port Gawler Road (it is about 4km before you reach Two Wells).
TRIP LEADER: Brian Walker

Sunday 26 November: Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker (MLR) (34km). Meet at the car park on Bald Hills Road, Mt. Barker at 8.30am.
TRIP LEADER: John Fennell



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

PROGRAM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2017			
<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Saturday 30 th .September \			
Sunday 1 st .	October 2017 -- Argadells station (\$50/vehicle) --	Quorn pool	8:00 am
Monday 2 nd .	October / (Camp out \$10pp/night - facilities available)		
Sunday 22 nd .	October 2017 -- Chinamans creek --	turn-off on Hiway one	8:00 am
	(Wear beach walking footwear)		
Sunday 12 th	November 2017 -- Dutchmans Stern cons. park --	Quorn swimming pool	8:00 am
Sunday 3 rd .	December 2017 -- Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden --	In Car Park	7:30 am
	(Christmas lunch in café)		
Please bring Sturdy footwear, Hat, Sun protection, Morning tea, Binoculars and Lunch.			
For further information contact :-			
Peter - 86425723 / 0457708859 or Bernie - 0419863834 / b.haase@telstra.com			

Bird Records

Collated by Graham Carpenter

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

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

Still a few reports from widespread localities.

5+young, 8/4/2017. Pick's Swamp, SE.

Green, B.

3, 13/5/2017. Lake Hope, NE.

Reid, J.

30, 14/5/2017. Granite Island, MLR.

McKenzie, P. & Gould, G.

Northern Shoveler

Male, 17/5/2017. Hindmarsh Island, south shore, MM.

Murfet, D. *et al.*

Male, 31/7/2017. Coorong, Cantara Rd, MM.

Various birders including Smith, Ed & Garden, J. Presumably the same bird. Two previous reports in SA from Coongie Lake in 1979 and Buckland Park Lake/St Kilda saltfields in 1986-7 published in SA Ornithologist.

Musk Duck

1, 28/6/2017. Aldinga, Hart Rd wetlands, MLR.

Eaton, F. & J.

7, 1/7/2017. Port Arthur, YP. On sea.

Taylor, P.W.

Plumed Whistling Duck

10, 22/3/2017. Bool Lagoon, SE.

Bourne, J. & P.

Pink-eared Duck

11, 19/5/2017. West Beach, West Beach Rd wetlands, AP.

Edey, D.

Blue-billed Duck

1male + 2 females, 6/6/2017. Patawalonga, North Glenelg, AP.

Edey, D.

Pair with 5 ducklings, 7/6/2017. Greenfields Wetlands, AP.

Stenhouse, P.

Freckled Duck

Several reports of small groups in southern areas.

1, 22/4/2017. West Lakes, Semaphore Park, AP.

vanTrigt, M-A.

3, 15/5/2017. Inman Valley, Mt Alma Rd, MLR.

Johnston, D.

1, 18/5/2017. West Beach, Apex Park, AP.

Edey, D.

1, 5/5/2017. Victor Harbor, Hayborough Wetlands, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

25, 27/5/2017. Clayton Bay, MM.

Doecke, N.

11, June 2017. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K. & L.

1, 2/6/2017. 2 km NW Yorketown, YP.

Letheby, R. & Halliday, M.

1, 22/7/2017. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Edey, D. & Copley, P.

6, 28/7/2017. West Beach, Apex Park, AP.

Edey, D.

Barbary Dove

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

Edey, D.

8, 19/6/2017. Salisbury East, Benaud Ave, AP.

Merchant, M.

Spotted Nightjar

1, 17/3/2017. Tonsley, Mitsubishi site, AP. Rescued from construction site.

Carter, E.

Occasional unusual reports in the Adelaide area, mostly in autumn, suggesting regional movements. Many nightjars (nighthawks) are migratory in other countries.

Great Egret

210, 13/6/2017. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

The intertidal mud flats along the eastern Gulf St Vincent appear to be an important area for this and Little Egrets.

Bird Records (cont.)

Cattle Egret

A few reports from near Adelaide including:

1, 18/6/2017. Onkaparinga wetlands, MLR.

Tiller, M. *et al.*

2, 7/6/2017. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetlands, AP.

Macllwain, E.

12, 21/6/2017. Milang, MM.

Macllwain, E.

1, 25/7/2017. 1km S Port Wakefield, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Up until the 1990s up to 100 were seen every winter in the Mt Compass district. These may have been birds that formerly bred at Lake Albert.

Wandering Albatross

10, 14/5/2017. Shelf off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Rogers, C. *et al.*

Also seen on this pelagic trip were 1 Sooty Albatross, 1 Light-mantled Sooty Albatross and 1 Soft-plumaged Petrel.

Australasian Bittern

2, 4/6/2017. Tolderol GR, MM.

Smith, Ed

Also 1, 20/6/2017.

Brooker, W

and 1, 29/6/2017.

Cheshire, N.

Straw-necked Ibis

1, 25/4/2017. Port Wakefield, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

1 imm., 6/5/2017. Black Point, YP.

Tiller, M.

White-bellied Sea Eagle

1 imm., 22/3/2017. Bool Lagoon, SE.

Green, B.

Adult, 20/5/2017. Lockleys, Mellor Park, AP. Flying over.

Edey, D.

Adult, 30/5/2017. Myponga Reservoir, MLR.

Lawrence, R.

Adult, July 2017, Wardang Island, YP. Roosting on lighthouse.

Barr, M.

Adult, 30/7/2017. Lenswood, 3.5 km S, MLR.

Pedler, R. & West, B.

Sea-eagles have previously been reported visiting reservoirs in MLR during autumn-winter.

Hooded Plover

11, 22/6/2017. Middleton Beach, MM.

Syson, W.

Little Eagle

1, 2/6/2017. Trott Park, MLR.

Black, A.

Very few records near Adelaide in recent years. Members are requested to report any sightings.

Square-tailed Kite

1, 31/7/2017. Hillcrest, AP. Photo supplied.

Roberts, C.

Unusual winter record.

Australian Crake

3, 19/5/2017. West Beach, West Beach Rd wetlands, AP.

Edey, D.

4, 23/6/2017. Nullarbor Roadhouse, NW.

Carew, A. & D.

Black-tailed Nativehen

8, 19/5/2017. West Beach, West Beach Rd wetlands, AP.

Edey, D.

200, 16/7/2017. Port Wakefield golf course, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

This species occasionally occurs in very large numbers in winter in southern areas, presumably following wet seasons in eastern central Australia, often with lesser numbers of Australian Spotted Crakes.



Hooded Plover
Photographed by Trevor Cox
at Port Neill EP on 23/4/217

Bird Records (cont.)

Australian Bustard

1, 12/6/2017. Redhill, 11 km N, LN.

Gates, J.

In the same area on 13/6/2017.

Vanlaarhoven, J.

1, 18/6/2017. Redhill, 5 km N, LN.

Pedersen, L.

1, 1/7/2017. S of Burra, LN.

Amos, N.

Sooty Oystercatcher

1, 16/5/2017. West Beach, AP.

Edey, D.

14, 29/7/2017. Port Clinton, YP. Rarely seen in northern Gulf St Vincent.

Taylor, P.W.

Red-necked Avocet

2000, 22/7/2017. Langhorne Creek, 20km E, MM.

Edey, D. & Copley, P.

32, 25/7/2017. Port Wakefield, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Double-banded Plover

35, 15/4/2017. Kingston, SE.

Black, A. *et al.*

20, 3/6/2017. Coorong, Marks Point, MM.

Rogers, C.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

3, 4/6/2017. Tolderol GR, MM.

Rogers, C.

Very unusual winter record.

Curlew Sandpiper

Reports of numbers of wintering birds indicate a good breeding season in 2016, following a very large decline in numbers in recent years.

160, 29/6/2017. Tolderol GR, MM.

Cheshire, N.

300, 21/7/2017. Thompson Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Long-toed Stint

1, 4/6/2017. Tolderol GR, MM. Very unusual winter record

1 on 20/6/2017

Rogers, C.

1 on 20/6/2017

Brooker, W

1 on 24/6/2017

Rogers, C

Rogers, C.

Latham's Snipe

1, April 2017. Greenpatch Farm, EP.

Bebbington, L.

Few reports from EP. Note also that the very similar Pin-tailed and Swinhoe's Snipe 'winter' in Western Australia, so could potentially also occur here.

Broad-billed Sandpiper

1, 3/6/2017. Coorong, Marks Point, MM.

Rogers, C.

The first report for several years.

Little Curlew

1, 10/4/2017. Bool Lagoon, SE.

Bourne, R.

Marsh Sandpiper

1, 20/6/2017. Tolderol GR, MM.

Brooker, W. & Rogers, C.

3 on 26/6/2017.

Rogers, C.

Again, few winter reports of this wader.

Terek Sandpiper (photo p12)

1, 21/5/2017. St Kilda causeway, AP. Photos taken.

vanTrigt, M-A.

Gull-billed Tern

12, 6/6/2017. Port Clinton, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

Kelp Gull

2ad+2imm, 15/4/2017. Kingston, SE.

Black, A. *et al.*

Antarctic Tern

1 imm., 14/5/2017. 1-2 km off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Rogers, C. *et al.*

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

35, 9/5/2017. Pandie Pandie HS, Diamantina River, NE.

Reid, J.

A regular site for this inland subspecies (e.g. Birds SA Newsletter 222).

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

350, 15/7/2017. Millicent, Facey Rd, SE.

Syson, W.

Several large flocks near Adelaide including:

250, 20/5/2017. Scott Creek CP, MLR.

Spiker, J.

Largest group seen locally for many years.

100, 28/7/2017. Newland Head CP, MLR.

Syson, W.

Bird Records (cont.)

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

30, 23/6/2017. Gluepot HS, MM.

Kerr, I.



Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

Photographed by Trevor Cox at Kokatha, NW.
November 2016

Regent Parrot

5, 15/5/2017. Bakara CP, MM.

O'Malley, B.

Superb Fairywren

3 uncoloured, 18/5/2017 and 28/7/2017. West Beach, Burbidge Rd Apex Park, AP.

Edey, D.

2, 19/5/2017. Cambelltown Golf Course, AP.

Hyland, M.

2, 9/6/2017. Klemzig, River Torrens, AP.

Hyland, M.

Construction of stormwater wetlands and associated plantings give some hope that wrens will return to suburban Adelaide

Yellow-rumped Thornbill

7, 19/5/2017. West Beach, West Beach Rd wetlands, AP.

Edey, D.

Yellow Chat

imm male, 7/6/2017. Mirra Mitta Bore, NE. Photographed in reedbed.

Newell, D.

Ground Cuckoo-shrike

7, 22/5/2017. 17 km W Morgan, MM.

Sothman, B. & Lloyd, R.

Olive-backed Oriole

1, 11/5/2017. Brookfield CP, MM.

Sothman, B. & Lloyd, R.

Grey Fantail

1, 9/6/2017. Campbelltown, Lochiel Park wetlands, AP.

Hyland, M.

Restless Flycatcher

1, 25/5/2017. Mambray Creek, FR.

Haase, B.

Flame Robin

imm male, 28/6/2017. Highland Valley, MLR. At bird bath.

Watkins, A.

Tree Martin

2800, 8-9/5/2017. Adelaide, Leigh St, AP.

Horton, P. *et al.*

Roosting in single larger Manchurian Pear tree with about 20 House Sparrows. Birds first seen swarming high above city approaching dusk, then slowly descended before spectacularly rushing into roost amidst commuters in less than a few minutes. Reported to have been roosting at this site every night in lesser numbers over the previous few months. Birds had left area by mid-May after leaves fell.

There have been previous reports near Adelaide of big flocks that presumably gather prior to migrating northwards in autumn, but not of large communal roosts in urban areas. Musk and Rainbow Lorikeets also have communal suburban roosts in autumn-winter, often in relatively small trees in well-lit car parks such as at Castle Plaza shopping centre, Edwardstown.

About our Association

General Meetings are held in the Hawker Centre at the Waite Institute, Waite Road, Urrbrae at 7.45pm. Doors open at 7.15pm.

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

President	John Gitsham	0438900393
Vice President	John Hatch	8362 2820
Vice President	Jeff Groves	82632939
Secretary	Brian Blaylock	0448822374
Treasurer	John Spiers	8333 0272
Assistant Secretary	Kate Buckley	8261 7197
Journal Editor	Merilyn Browne	8339 6839
Newsletter Editor	Cynthia Pyle	8264 5778
Field Programs	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Bird Records, Membership	Graham Carpenter	8297 5463
Member	Simon Brealey	8390 3666
Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	Alan Burns	8381 2708
Member	Karen Donkin	8379 1173
Member	Beatrice Rogers	0423241856

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: Wendy Phillips 85550634
Website: www.Fleurieubirdwatchers.org

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 November Newsletter is due by the October General Meeting (October 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



Striated Pardalote
Photographed by John Pearce
at Paiwalla on 30 July 2017

Members' Photographs

Trevor's Waders on Eyre Peninsula



Red-kneed Dotterel, photographed by Trevor Cox at Big Swamp Port Lincoln on 20/5/2017



Curlew Sandpiper photographed by Trevor Cox at Port Neill on 30/10/2016



Ruddy Turnstone, photographed by Trevor Cox at Port Neill on 18/3/2017



Pacific Golden Plover photographed by Trevor Cox at Cowell on 6/3/2017

Some Familiar Friends



Australasian Grebe photographed by Jeffery Robinson at Laratinga in November 2017



Dusky Moorhen photographed by Alan Pettigrew in Brisbane on 12/08/2017



Australian Golden whistler, photographed by Jeffery Robinson at Morialta in November 2016.



Pied Butcherbird, photographed by David Cox at Hidden Vale, inland of Brisbane of 1 May 2017

AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE 2017

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



EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION NOW OPEN UNTIL JULY 1st

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION ALSO OPEN

<http://aoconference.org/>



DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

Flying High



Eastern Osprey, photographed by Trevor Cox at Port Neill on 16/4/2017



Greater Crested Tern photographed by Jeffery Robinson on the southern shore of Troubridge Island in November 2016



Magpielark, photographed by Trevor Cox at Laura, on 19/5/2017

A Grand Finale!!



Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher
photographed by Peter McKenzie at Julatten on 11/1/17