

The BIRDER

The official newsletter of Birds SA

May 2018 No 246



In this Issue

Affiliation with BirdLife Australia

First combined function

Birds SA Gluepot Reserve Bus Trip

Rehabilitation plan at Aldinga



Linking people with birds
in South Australia

May Bird of the Month

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

Size: 18-23cm

Range: A common migrant that flies from Siberia to coastal, sub-coastal and inland wetlands throughout Australia, approximately 12,000 km.

Breeding: Breeds in Siberia during our Winter and feeds in Australia during Summer.



This bird photographed by John Gitsham at Tolderol wetlands is in non-breeding plumage.

and another wader

Greenshank



Photographed by Philippa Horton at the Onkaparinga Estuary, Port Nearlunga on 31/3/2018

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CENTRE INSERT: SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 64,
JOHN WHITE MELLOR, PART 1

John Gitsham designed the front page of this issue.

Ashley Grivell took the cover photograph of a Male Australian Bustard at Old Cork in Queensland on 22 August 2016

We welcome a pleasing number of 45 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p43.

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.

DIARY OF EVENTS

The following is a list the activities of **BIRDS SA**, **FLEURIEU BIRDERS' (FB)** and **BIRDS SA, PORT AUGUSTA BABBLERS (PA)** for the next few months. Further details of all these activities can be found later in 'The Birder'.

Sunday 27 May	Birds SA	Excursion to Lawari CP
Saturday 2 June	FB	Excursion to Mt. Billy CP and H
Saturday 9 June	Birds SA	Excursion to Talisker CP
SATURDAY 9 JUNE TO MONDAY 11 JUNE, PA GROUP CAMPOUT AT SOUTH GAP STATION		
Thursday 21 June	Birds SA	Excursion to Hardy's Scrub
Friday 29 June	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 1 July	Birds SA	Excursion to Anstey Hill CP
Saturday 7 July	FB	Excursion to Cox Scrub
Saturday 14 July	Birds SA	Excursion to Brownhill Creek RP
Thursday 19 July	Birds SA	Excursion to Kaiser Stuhl CP
Sunday 22 July	PA	Excursion around Yudnapinna to Carriewerloo roads loop
Friday 27 July	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 29 July	Birds SA	Excursion to Currency Creek Gorge
Saturday 4 August	FB	Excursion along Inman River Walk, Victor Harbor
Saturday 11 August	Birds SA	Excursion to Jenkins Scrub
Thursday 16 August	Birds SA	Excursion to Altona CSR Landcare Reserve
Sunday 19 August	PA	Excursion to Dutchmans Stern CP
Friday 31 August	Birds SA	General Meeting
Saturday 1 Sept.	FB	Excursion to Scott CP, Currency Creek
Sunday 2 September, no Birds SA excursion — Father's Day		
Sunday 16 Sept	PA	Excursion to Bernie's Block



White-faced Herons, photographed by Greg Blackman at Lake McIntyre, Millicent on 2/5/18

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

It is now the end of May and winter will be settling in. Most of the waders have returned to the northern hemisphere and the local birds will bunker down a bit, but winter is still a great time to go out and do some birding!

We have a new State government, and we hope they will manage and conserve our natural habitats to adequately sustain our birdlife and manage the correct water flows for our wetland birds. Birds SA will try to keep them accountable and will question their environmental tactics and policies when necessary.

I enjoyed a fruitful meeting in early April with the new Minister for the Environment David Speirs. He was enthusiastic and keen to do the right thing by the environment. We hope he will be a good voice for our birds and their habitats in South Australia — time will tell! Birds SA will keep him to account during the next four years of his term.

The Affiliation with BirdLife Australia has now been in place for two months. A PDF copy of the Affiliation Agreement has been put in the Members section of our Birds SA website for you to read, and you are invited to make any comments, to be considered at next year's Affiliation Review. In early May, Birds SA held a very successful joint function with BirdLife Australia, discussing ways in which Australia's environmental laws, have let our environment and our wildlife down badly over the past few years.

This combined BirdLife/Birds SA Environmental Laws Forum was held at the Waite Institute on the 3rd May and attracted a large crowd of 90 people to listen to the speakers, which included Associate Professor David Paton (immediate past President of Birds SA). Australia currently has the dishonourable title of the world's fastest deforestation record and species extinction rate. This has to stop or we will see ongoing mass local extinctions of our birdlife and other wildlife and the destruction of our environments. We also need to see appropriate environmental water flows down the River Murray to maintain the many wetlands and billabongs and to keep the Coorong healthy for our birdlife and the biodiversity that supports them.

For some good news — 'Birds in Backyards' is now upon us and I invite members to join in and count what's around. Go to BirdLife Australia's website for details.

Sixteen Birds SA members enjoyed a fantastic bird trip to Gluepot Bird Reserve and other birding locations over the weekend of April 20th to 22nd. They saw more than 122 bird species. This was the first of hopefully several Birds SA birding bus trips to Gluepot and other birding destinations around the state that I will organise at reduced rates just for Birds SA members.

So get out and enjoy your birding.

John Gitsham

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

Affiliation Accomplished!

Paul Sullivan CEO of BirdLife Australia and our President, John Gitsham, jointly signed the Affiliation agreement Between Birdlife Australia and Birds SA on 27th March. It will be reviewed in 12 months time to see how the affiliation is going and that both

parties are still happy.”

The ABC broadcast the affiliation story on the following Sunday, on the Deb Tribe Sunday morning radio show ABC 891. John Gitsham spoke for about 10 minutes on the importance of the Affiliation.



Birds SA affiliates with BirdLife Australia for stronger bird conservation in SA



What do you get when you affiliate Australia's oldest bird conservation organisation with Australia's second-oldest bird conservation organisation?

That's what Birds SA and BirdLife Australia are about to find out. After working independently to protect Australia's native birds for well over a century, Birds SA and BirdLife Australia have just signed an agreement that will see both organisations working side by side on a range of bird conservation and research projects across South Australia. One thing's for sure — South Australia's native birds will be the winners.

“This is an important step for Birds SA,” said John Gitsham, the President of Birds SA. “Working together with BirdLife Australia on initiatives and promoting people's appreciation and understanding of birds, we can have greater impact for birds and their habitats in South Australia.”

BirdLife Australia's CEO Paul Sullivan said the affiliation formalises a longstanding association between the two organisations. “BirdLife Australia works hard in South Australia to protect endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and threatened resident and migratory shorebirds. BirdLife led the campaign for an International Bird Sanctuary in Adelaide and the Gluepot Bird Reserve near Waikerie is at the centre of our work to fight the extinction of threatened Mallee birds”.

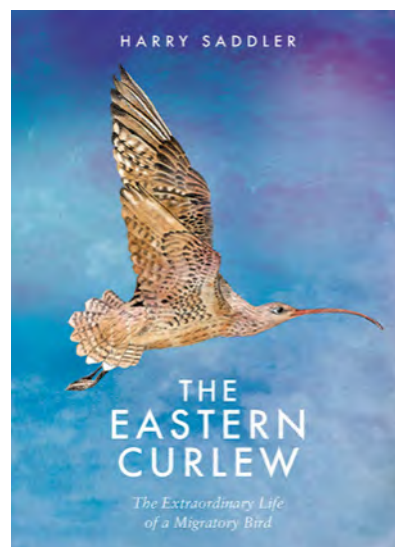


Birds SA president John Gitsham took the BirdLife Australia president John Barkla on a birding trip around the Adelaide Hills best birding locations on March 8th 2018.

“Many of Birds SA's members are already contributing to these programs. By working more closely with Birds SA we can achieve so much more for the conservation of birds right across the state.” BirdLife Australia has a network of branches and affiliates across Australia, including branches on Kangaroo Island and in the South East of South Australia.

COMING SOON! The Eastern Curlew

I heard recently about a soon-to-be released natural history book on the Eastern Curlew. I thought Birds SA members might like to know about it. Written by Harry Saddler, an Australian natural history scientist and published author (Google him for more information), the text focuses on the Eastern Curlew, following the species' breeding migration and interactions with people, from northern China to



Australia. It is a hard cover book published by Affirm Press with a RRP of \$30.00. Copies can be pre-ordered from Booktopia (an Australian on-line bookstore) via the link in the Publisher's blurb below. I have ordered one for myself and the pre-publication discount almost covered the postage cost.

The book will be out in July — something interesting to read in winter, before migratory shorebirds arrive back on our shores.

<http://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/the-eastern-curlew/>

Jean Turner

The first combined event for Birds SA and BirdLife Australia

The Community Forum Roadshow around Australia to act for the Birds and Nature to change Australian environmental laws to increase protection of our birds and their habitats.

More than 90 dedicated people (half were Birds SA members and the rest were from the various SA conservation groups) came out in the cold and rain to a very powerful and informative community forum Thursday night 3rd May at the Waite Institute. BirdLife Australia and Birds SA jointly conducted the forum, with the aim of changing our environmental laws to provide better protection for our birds and their habitats. Birds SA president John Gitsham and BirdLife's Kym Garrethad were MCs for the evening. A fabulous supper was organised by Lynton and Karen Huxley and the venue was organised by Kate Buckley.

Associate Professor David Paton gave a passionate talk about the plight of the Coorong and the Federal Governments inaction towards protection of a Ramsar site and the birds that try to live and feed there.

BirdLife Australia's Margaret Quixley described ways in which the Federal Environmental Laws need to be changed. There are countless examples of Australia's nature laws failing to protect our unique birdlife and their habitats. With one of the highest extinction rates in the world, the time for real change is now. Join us in calling on all major parties to commit to a new generation of national environmental laws to protect the places and birds we love.

Write to your local Federal Member of Parliament about your views and demand action!



Above left, Associate Professor David Paton (Immediate past President of Birds SA and Honorary Life Member) answering questions after his passionate and powerful talk. Above right, BirdLife Australia's Margaret Quixley handing out pre-addressed envelopes for the crowd to write to their local Federal MP about the need to change our Environmental Laws.

Below, an article in the Advertiser newspaper on Thursday 3rd May, John Gitsham also spoke on ABC Radio Adelaide 891 Morning Drive Show with David Bevan about the plight of the Fairy Tern and the Coorong.

THURSDAY MAY 3 2018 ADVERTISER.COM.AU

Vulnerable bird needs policy U-turn



ON THE BRINK: Fairy terns are at risk of extinction as their Coorong habitat deteriorates. Picture: ANDREW SILCOCKS

TORY SHEPHERD

A "GORGEOUS" South Australian bird, the fairy tern, is starving and on the brink of extinction, bird lovers say.

Ecology and birdlife expert David Paton, from the University of Adelaide, found an 82 per cent decline in the population from 1985 to 2010, but his latest research shows a further decrease.

The white bird has been declared "vulnerable" but bird lovers say its Coorong habitat is deteriorating, meaning less food – forcing the fairy terns to abandon their traditional nesting sites.

Birds SA president John Gitsham said it was an "urgent issue".

"The fairy tern is a gorgeous bird, beloved in SA, but its numbers are declining because our current legal framework allows their nesting areas to be disturbed at the height of breeding season," he said.

"The most important issue currently facing the environment in SA is mismanagement of water flows in the Murray Darling, particularly as it affects the biodiversity in vital places for wildlife such as the Coorong.

"We need to protect our natural environment and preserve our bird life, but the state and federal governments are ignoring science, putting commercial interests ahead of our unique and threatened species."

BirdLife Australia is calling on the Federal Government to better protect the bird and its environment.

"We're calling on Adelaide's bird lovers to join us in ensuring a future for SA's threatened birds," acting head of conservation Jenny Lau said.

"Current environment laws are vulnerable to politicisation which is pushing so many of our native birds towards extinction."

Associate Professor Paton will talk about his latest findings at an event tonight.

Meanwhile, he has warned the Coorong is dying despite the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Below the BirdLife Australia Team, L to R, Fiona, Kym, Margaret, Emma with Birds SA's President John Gitsham and Secretary Kate Buckley and Alesia after our first official combined Birds SA and BirdLife Australia event, the Community Forum.



Birds SA Gluepot Bird Reserve Bus Trip Friday 20th to 22nd April 2018



Seventeen keen Birds SA members ventured up the Riverland with President John Gitsham leading the group in a 22 seater mini-bus.

We stopped on the Friday at Laratinga and Paiwalla wetlands for some birding then onto Waikerie for the night. Very early Saturday morning it was onto Gluepot Bird Reserve for a full day of birding and Sunday back through Hart Lagoon, Ramco wetland and Brookfield CP.

Gluepot Bird Reserve, though very dry was a first for several members, bringing a few lifers for some.

A highlight was a Little Friarbird seen at the Old Gluepot Homestead and a flock of Major Mitchells putting on a good display for everyone! Also Hart Lagoon smothered with thousands of waterbirds, well over 1,000 to 2,000 Red-necked Avocets and many hundreds of Australian Shovelers and Pink-eared Ducks.

Our Bus driver Rob was fantastic and entertained everyone and became an excellent bird, kangaroo and wombat spotter



Young Miles Ramm was the gun birder of the trip, often seeing many bird species before we oldies could get our Binos to our eyes!

Over the weekend a total of **122 bird species** was seen by the members collectively from the various locations.

The accommodation at the Waikerie Holiday Park was very modern and comfortable.

Birds SA hopes to run more of this type of Birding Bus trips for members only in the future, stay tuned.

John Gitsham

Birds SA Notes & News

GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS



Bea Rogers and Bronwyn Mart supporting Birds SA

Photographed by John Gitsham



Barbara Wheaton and Cynthia Pyle at Sophie's Patch on Easter Sunday

Photographed by Alan Burns

Easter Weekend was again a very popular time for visiting "Sophie's Patch". Numbers were higher than usual because of the presence of Costa from the "Gardening Australia" ABC television programme and the launch of Sophie's new book. What a wonderful opportunity to promote birds and bird conservation at our Birds SA stall.

Our generous volunteers, Jody Gates, Sue Gredley, Sue Winwood and Rose Slade managed the stall on Saturday and were kept busy with many questions about birds.

Cynthia Pyle, Merinda Hyland and Barbara Wheaton worked on Sunday morning and were supported by Alan Burns. Alan then gave a presentation entitled "Is Your Garden Bird Friendly", with about 40 people stopping by to listen to his talk. Local Council members were present and were so impressed with Alan's presentation that they have asked him to speak to the Mt Barker Council. Well done Alan!

Sadly, we had no volunteers to manage the stall on Easter Sunday afternoon – one of the busiest periods at Sophie's Open Garden. Bronwyn Mart and Bea Rogers gave their time on Easter Monday and responded to questions from the interested public.

I would like to express my personal appreciation and that of Birds SA to the volunteers mentioned above. It is a fun experience and benefits the conservation of birds and their habitats.

Please contact me if you are prepared to volunteer at future events, a larger pool of helpers would prevent having to close the stall at crucial times.

Kate Buckley.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!!!!

Birds SA Membership numbers continue to grow each month. This is partly because of the marketing and advertising of our group on our website, and Facebook page. The increase is also due to our members contacting the general public at our Birds SA stall at a variety of events throughout the year, for example Easter at Sophie's Garden. Members volunteer 1 or 2 hours of their time to manage the stall. This simply means being prepared to talk to the general public who come by and may ask questions about birds that they have seen – or who just want to look at the photographs and sample Field Guides that we have. You do **not** need to be a bird expert, nor to have been in Birds SA for many years – just a smile on your face and the ability to share the joy of bird watching with those who show an interest.

Please support Birds SA by volunteering an hour or two of your time per year. Send your email address and contact telephone to me, I will then advise you when an event is coming up and you can choose whether you are able to commit your time for that event.

In appreciation.

Kate Buckley – Secretary

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

MISSING MILLIONS – FROM OUR TREASURER

A number of members have made direct deposits into Birds SA Bank accounts, but without a description to identify who they are. If you think that one of the deposits listed below matches a payment that you have made please send an email to me at either:

treasurer@birdssa.asn.au

or john_b_spiers@hotmail.com.

Deposits to Birds SA Adelaide Bank Cash management Trust (BSB 610-101 Account #:071113538):

Date	Description	Amount
17/10/2017	Gregory Johnston	45.00
29/3/2018	Sub and donation - Bendigo Bank	100.00

Deposits to Birds SA ANZ account (BSB 015-208 Account #: 4059-52042):

Date	Description	Amount
13/2/2018	Deposit	55.00
23/2/2018	Agent deposit	80.00
26/2/2018	Transfer from Bendigo Bank	100.00
10/4/2018	Humpage Andrew Ray	70.00

A donation of \$50.00 paid by Credit card was also received from Richard Smith on 22/02/2018. Richard is not on our members' list. Could he please contact me.

Thanks,

John Spiers Treasurer Birds SA

FLEURIEU BIRDERS CAMPOUT

Friday 19 October – Sunday 21 October 2018 at Little Desert Park, Nhill, Victoria.



Urgent:

Please contact Peter Owen our leader on 0477415591 to let him know if you are attending the Campout weekend. He needs numbers to plan the weekend's activities.

Peter has tentatively booked (put on hold) 10 Garden View rooms for us- but you need to do your own booking with the Little Desert Park. Phone 03 53915232 to book accommodation of your choice or email: info@littledesertlodge.com.au

Little Desert Lodge address 1457 Nhill-Harrow Rd. Nhill, Vic. 3418

Prices:

Garden View ensuite rooms are at \$140 per night and can sleep up to 3 dependent on the room selected.

Standard ensuite rooms are \$120 and, again can sleep up to three.

As discussed, we also have cheaper accommodation in the bunkrooms and plenty of camping sites available.

Campsites: powered \$38/per night, non-powered \$20/per night.

Meals are available on site if required.

There is a variety of accommodation at Nhill and Dimboola, the closest towns to the Little Desert Conservation Park.

Wendy Phillips, 8555 0634 or 0421376016

Or bob_daly@bigpond.com

COMMUNAL ROOSTING OF TREE MARTINS – A REQUEST FOR OBSERVATIONS

I would be interested to hear from anyone who has seen Tree Martins gathering in large flocks in the evening, anywhere in SA, at any time past or present.



Tree Martin
Photographed by Phillipa Horton
in Adelaide City on 2/6/2017

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

Tree Martins can often be seen during the day, swooping and sallying over trees or low over grass or water as they catch insects in flight. They may be in company with Welcome Swallows, but the martins have a more jerky or fluttering flight, and can be distinguished by their shorter tails and off-white rumps. Usually they are in small numbers or in small flocks up to 20-30 birds, but in the evenings in late summer and autumn they may form much bigger flocks of hundreds or thousands of birds prior to roosting for the night. They are recorded as sometimes gathering in large flocks on the ground, but it seems that they generally do their pre-roosting gathering in flight. Typically they swarm very high up (you may need binoculars to see them) then at about sunset one group after another will plunge downwards in a spiral flight to plummet into their roosting tree(s), until the whole flock is settled.

Following observations of Tree Martins roosting in a city street tree last summer-autumn and again this season, my colleague Philip Jones (SA Museum) and I would like to document this behaviour. There is relatively little in the published literature on communal roosting of Tree Martins, and almost nothing for SA, so any other observations of communal roosting or of large flocks gathering together in the evenings (prior to roosting) would be welcome. Thank you.

Philippa Horton, SA Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000.

philippa.horton@samuseum.sa.gov.au

FLEDGLINGS' ACTIVITIES

Fun for the children again at the annual BioR and Birds SA Fledglings weekend!

This event was originally booked for March but because of the prolonged hot weather, it was moved to May. Fortunately, the rain held off and the 35 Fledglings thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Some of the comments received:

"Josh and the girls really enjoyed themselves".

"Wow that was so awesome!!"

"We really enjoyed yesterday...we look forward to being involved in more activities in the future."

"Thanks very much. We had a great day and would love to be involved again if there was space another time. Thank you for organising a lovely event."

"Thank you very much for this Saturday – it was one of the best days the kids have had – they learnt so much – we will be back!!"

"Thank you and everyone else for the wonderful day. All of us loved it. The kids were rapt. Both fell fast asleep on the way home. It was all the excitement and concentration. We plan to make bird books with them. They can cut out pictures of the birds they saw and handled, stick them into scrapbooks and I'll write in the names. They are really hooked. So grateful to you all for all the effort."

I should like to extend the appreciation of Birds SA to the BioR team who gave up their weekend to work at the Fledglings Event. Those folk included, David, Penny and Fi Paton. Grace Hodder, Tom Hunt and several others. "Thank You"

Kate Buckley



Fi Paton has the children engrossed

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

Rehabilitation Plan at Aldinga

The Washpool, Blue Lagoon and Environs Management Plan has identified the need for habitat enhancement and management – including rehabilitation and revegetation, improvement and creation of diverse habitats and use of local native plant species. There are a limited number of undeveloped remaining shorebird/ wading bird habitats within Gulf St. Vincent and greater metropolitan Adelaide. This highlights the need to actively rehabilitate and restore the site for those species.

The adjacent map shows the location of area to be rehabilitated.

A draft revegetation plan for Aldinga Washpool, Blue Lagoon and surrounding areas has been developed. One of the main aims of this plan is to reflect the natural open character of the coastal wetland, including low sedge and saltmarsh plantings, dune and coastal heath and shrubland, tussock grasslands. Some open woodland tree plantings similar to the adjacent Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park are also proposed.

The plan has been developed from detailed botanical and ecological assessments that provided up-to-date information on vegetation types and locations of significant species in the area.

The proposed planting site consists of several land parcels owned by a number of state and local government bodies and historically has been used for many purposes. The aim of the draft plan is to guide pest plant control and revegetation works that will restore and maintain the health of the site.

The Management Plan (QED, 2007) outlines that the revegetation strategy must ensure that the Study Area will in time:

- Contain a characteristic assemblage of the species that occur in the reference ecosystems and that provide appropriate plant community structure;



- Consist of locally indigenous species to the greatest practicable extent;
- Include all functional groups necessary for the continued development and/or stability of the restored ecosystem or, if they are not, the missing groups have the potential to colonize by natural means;
- Be a physical environment that is capable of sustaining reproducing populations of the species necessary for its continued stability or development along the desired trajectory;
- Be integrated into a larger ecological matrix or landscape, with which it interacts through abiotic and biotic flows and exchanges;
- Have potential threats, to the health and integrity of the restored ecosystem from the surrounding

Giving them Wings (cont.)

- landscape, eliminated or reduced as much as possible;
- Be sufficiently resilient to endure the normal periodic stress events in the local environment that serve to maintain the integrity of the ecosystem;

- Be self-sustaining to the same degree as its reference ecosystems, and has the potential to persist indefinitely under existing environmental conditions.

The draft plan can be accessed via the following link: <https://bit.ly/2Km73PY>



Washpool Lagoon, July 2014

We are seeking local community feedback on the plan and would like to hear from you.

Please join us at a community meeting where you can ask questions and submit your feedback in person.

WHEN: Tuesday 29 May 7–8 pm

WHERE: Sellicks Beach Community Hall, William Eatts Reserve Riviera Road, Sellicks Beach.

RSVP is essential. Phone Seascapes Coordinator Damian Moroney on 8273 9116 or email Damian.Moroney@sa.gov.au.

If you are unable to attend the community meeting or would prefer to submit your feedback electronically, please email it to Damian.Moroney@sa.gov.au.

Past General Meetings



**White-necked Jacobin,
photographed by Brian Walker**



**Velvet-purple Coronet
photographed by Jeremy Robertson**

FRIDAY 19 JANUARY

John Hatch introduced the speaker, Colin Rogers. Colin spoke about "Birding the Seychelles, Mauritius and Reunion, 19-30 October 2017" with Birding Africa tour led by Michael Mills. In the Seychelles, islands visited were Mahe, Praslin Cousin, La Digue and Aride. From Mauritius, visits were made to Rodrigues Island and Round Island (Île Ronde).

He discussed the difficulty with identifying a pale morph of the Trindade Petrel found off Round Island. Some birds show the white lores typical of Herald Petrel (*P. heraldica*) whilst others show the short white primary shafts typical of the longer shafts found on Kermadec Petrel (*P. neigelcta*).

His target pelagic species for the trip were Barau's and Mascarene Petrel. The Barau's Petrel was photographed off a beach near St. Louis on the southwest coast of Reunion Island but the Mascarene Petrel was not found. Colin's final word was "Don't go with other professional twitchers."

Photographs taken in the Seychelles were Blue Pigeon, Seychelles Kestrel, Crab Plover, Saunder's Tern, Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher, Seychelles Magpie Robin, Seychelles Warbler, White Tern, Bridled Tern, Tropical Shearwater, Great Frigatebird, Lesser Frigatebird, Lesser Noddy and White-tailed Tropicbird. Photos from Mauritius included Pink Pigeon, Mauritius Kestrel, Grey White-eye and Trindade Petrel; Rodrigues Warbler from Rodrigues Island; and from Reunion the Reunion Flycatcher, Reunion Cuckooshrike and Reunion Swiftlet.

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY

John Gitsham introduced the speaker, John Hatch, who would talk about hummingbirds.

About 340 species of hummingbird are currently

recognised. The best field guide is *Hummingbirds: A Life-Size Guide to Every Species* by Michael Fogde and Marianne Taylor.

John Gould was so obsessed with hummingbirds that he wrote a six volume Treatise on them in 1849, including 32 or so of the presently known 340 species. He did not see a live one until 1857 and was 'astonished at their flight'. The great Alfred Russell Wallace was fascinated by them and wrote a wonderfully prescient paper on them in 1877.

They are confined in the wild to the New World from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, though the vast majority is confined to the New World Tropics. Approximate numbers are: Columbia 135 species, Ecuador 133, Brazil 84, Costa Rica 80, Chile 10, USA 16.

About 40 hummingbird species are lighter than a 5c piece and another 150 species weigh less than a 10c piece. Examples of migration include: Ruby-throated Hummingbird across the Gulf of Mexico 800–1000km, Rufous Hummingbird from Alaska to Mexico and Green-backed Firecrown from the tropics to the tip of South America.

Hummingbirds are not passerines i.e. perching birds, despite their appearance; but are related to swifts. They are similar but not related to the Sunbirds of Africa, Asia and to one in Australia (Olive-backed Sunbird of Queensland). Hummingbirds' similarity to these sunbirds are attributed to the process of convergent evolution — adaptation of unrelated species to similar conditions. They are nectarivorous birds. Their local language names reflect this, e.g. Spanish, Picaflor (flower picker); Aztec, Huitzitzil (rays of the sun); Mexican, Chuparosa (rose-sucker); Brazilian, Beija-flor (flower kisser) and Cuban, Zum Zum (flight). Hummingbirds are trapline foragers within their territories and are

Past General Meetings (cont.)

particularly aggressive towards other hummingbirds. A hummingbird's brain weight is relatively high. Their hippocampus is relatively larger than most vertebrates and they can remember up to 150 flower locations

Breeding is carried out completely by the female. She uses the "Falling Leaf" approach to nest and a moth-like flight to attract attention away from the nest.

Conservation issues: Hummingbirds were never really targets for humans as they are too small for food (an exception is Brazilian soup, which needs a hundred birds for one pot.) They posed no threat to crops etc. indeed they are great pollinators, and they were no threat to human life and limb. However, in the 19th century they were collected in huge numbers for decorating hats, badges, jewellery etc. Their main threat is **habitat loss**, as various habitats are cleared for agriculture. Fortunately so far few species have been lost. At present, a few are really endangered, but quite a few are threatened.

John showed photographs of Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Green-backed Firecrown, Giant Hummingbird, Peruvian Sheartail, Oasis Hummingbird, Andean Hillstar, Chilean Woodstar (endangered), Bee Hummingbird, Snowcap, Eastern Spinebill, Olive-backed Sunbird, Green Violetear, Scintillant Hummingbird, Magnificent (Rivoli's) Hummingbird, White-throated Mountain-gem, Magnificent Hummingbird, White-necked Jacobin, Crowned Woodnymph, Purple-throated Mountain-gem, Planalto Hermit, Brazilian Ruby, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Velvet-purple Coronet, Long-tailed Sylph, Purple-bibbed White-tip, Andean Emerald and Booted Racket-tail.

He acknowledged the photographers Colin Rogers, Brian Walker and Jeremy Robertson.

FRIDAY 23 MARCH

The speaker was Les Peters who came to Australia from England in 1964 and settled in Elizabeth. He showed a video about how he approaches the making of bird videos.

Some years ago, he gave a talk about how people approach bird watching and, if they were photographers, how this affects images they capture. He suggested there are three ways in which bird watchers and photographers tend to interact with birds. These were:

(1) "Targets of opportunity" — recording what you see, while walking around.

(2) "Sit and wait" can involve hides, camouflage, waiting by water or looking through a scope.

(3) "Parallel running" staying with birds, keeping the right distance until they get used to you.

The good news for people who weren't interested in photography was that the talk was more about "birdcraft" than photography — so not many people fell asleep.

Les's personal preferences — using the bird's eye height as the point of view, when this is possible; revealing the bird in its habitat; showing natural behaviour as well as details not

normally seen, such as action or colour. "I find bird behavior fascinating and put most of my efforts into capturing this". Hence he was prompted to take up wildlife video.

Les described the techniques used to obtain clips of a variety of species: Spotless Crake, Little Grassbird, Chestnut Teal, Australian Pelican, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Freckled Duck, Eclectus Parrot, and Australasian Shoveler. He also showed video clips taken by his friend Brian O'Leary of Golden Bowerbird, Grey-headed Robin, Forest Kingfisher and Superb Lyrebird. He continued with his own clips of Pallid Cuckoo and Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo with Superb



**Female Eclectus Parrot
photographed by Les Peters**

Past General Meetings (cont.)



Superb Fairywrens photographed by Les Peters

Fairywren, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Greater Crested Tern, Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Blue-billed Duck, Spotted Catbird, Red-browed Finch, Koala, Australian Crake, Hooded Dotterel, White-mottled Semi-slug, White-breasted Woodswallow, Australasian Swamphen, Satin Bowerbird, Eastern Spinebill, Satin Bowerbird and Victoria's Riflebird.

The Coalition Against Duck Shooting has used his videos of the Freckled Duck and Blue-billed Duck. Some of his videos (Green Catbird, Red-browed Finch and Victoria's Riflebird) were taken with a DSLR camera, a Nikon D800E with a Nikkor 70-200mm VR1 lens. He is working on a film about the extinction of the Platypus and Azure Kingfisher in SA. He provided a number of hints for success. The final videos were Purple-crowned Lorikeets, another one by Brian O'Leary of young Victoria's Riflebirds displaying and finally a Spotless Crake.

Les gave a list of hints for success: — know your birds; know your camera; watch the quality of the light; choose a suitable point of view/camera height; try to capture a clear catch light in the eyes and use a shutter speed that suits the action. A few extra points for a video: — choose speeds in multiples of

25 for your shutter speed; try not to go above 1/100th of a second – use ND filters and avoid rapid panning.

Future General Meetings

FRIDAY 29 JUNE

Harald Ehmann will give a talk entitled 'The story of Marbled Gums and Long-tailed (Princess) Parrots in the Maralinga Lands'.

FRIDAY 27 JULY

Members' Night, when the usual range of four or five speakers will show their photos and give short talks. Some spots are still vacant so please phone, email or approach John Hatch if you want to participate. He will not be at the May meeting, but will be at the June meeting. This will not be too late to for anyone to offer a contribution.

FRIDAY 31 AUGUST

Sharie Detmar and Terry Dennis will give a talk entitled 'A Review of the Status and Distribution of the White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Eastern Osprey in South Australia.'

Past Excursions

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER: BROWNS ROAD, MONARTO

It was great to see another good turnout of 25 members for this excursion. The weather was also ideal with little wind, a sunny sky and a mid 20C temperature. From the carpark we broke into small groups so as to maximise our bird survey of this popular location.

While the birds appeared to be a bit scarce at various times our bird call still resulted in a respectable total of 56 species being recorded which included flying overhead Straw-necked Ibis (2), Brown Goshawk (2) and Brown Falcon (2). Other sightings were Common Bronzewing (4), Crested Pigeon (2), Peaceful Dove (10), Australian Owllet-nightjar (1), Rainbow Bee-eater (1), Galah (50), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (1), Red-rumped Parrot (4), Crimson Rosella (10), Australian Ringneck (6), Purple-crowned Lorikeet (40), Rainbow Lorikeet (12), Musk lorikeet (3), White-throated Treecreeper (2), Brown Treecreeper (3), Variegated Fairywren (20), seven Honeyeater species included New Holland (20), Brown-headed (8), Spiny-cheeked (6), Red Wattlebird (30), White-fronted (1), Singing (6) and White-plumed (6).

Our list also included Spotted Pardalote (2), Striated Pardalote (12), Weebill (6), Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (2), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (20), Yellow Thornbill (8), White-browed Babbler (20), Australian Magpie (4), White-browed Woodswallow (10), Masked Woodswallow (1), Grey Currawong (6), White-winged Triller (1), Australian Golden Whistler (1), Rufous Whistler (4), Grey Shrikethrush (4), Willie Wagtail (4), Little Raven (10), White-winged Chough (30), Hooded Robin (1), Jacky Winter (2), Red-capped Robin (6), Welcome Swallow (3), Tree Martin (4), Silveryeye (6) and Diamond Firetail (20).

During our morning wanderings the call of a Mistletoebird and a Red-backed Kingfisher were heard.

It was another very sociable morning, and lunch rounded off another enjoyable bird outing for all participants.

Lynton Huxley

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER: BUCKLAND PARK

The start of the trip was a bit frustrating due to the fact that the Ranger was delayed in arriving and the Parks key that I had didn't work (also that I was a bit late in arriving). Anyway, we filled in time by some birding along the road down the boat ramp at Port Gawler. This provided some good views of Slender-billed Thornbills and helped to fill in the time.

The Senior Ranger (Tammy Leggett) gave an introductory talk outlining the extent of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary and work being undertaken to control feral animals (Fallow Deer) and weed species in Buckland Lake. Tammy advised that members are welcome to visit the site on days other than Wednesday and Saturday by climbing the gate. Outings by Birds SA can be held with advance notice to Tammy.

Including Tammy seventeen observers attended the Trip and at the bird call a total of 61 species were recorded (including the species seen along the road to the boat ramp). The water levels were still quite high and so the majority of birds on the lake were waterbirds, with a sprinkling of shorebirds around the edge of the lake. The main waterbirds seen were Grey Teal (~400), Black Swans (~300) and Australian Shelducks (~200). Members were provided with good views of a single Glossy Ibis, which appeared spectacular in the subdued light conditions. There were small numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Red-necked Stints, Red-capped Plovers, Banded Stilts and Pied Stilts. There were a reasonable number of Whiskered Terns throughout the site.

I think that all present enjoyed the opportunity to experience our first outing to Buckland Lake and our thanks go to Tammy for her time.

Brian Walker

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2017: LARATINGA WETLANDS, MT BARKER

A less than desirable summer's day was forecast and temperatures only nudged up to 16 C, with a totally overcast sky and occasional drizzle. However some of the 28 members that joined the field trip were still able to walk around without jackets. I suspect that they actually forgot to bring them but the drizzle was minimal and did not interrupt the day. Because of the size of the group members decided to fragment into smaller groups and travel their own routes around the wetlands with an agreement to gather for lunch at 12 noon at the BBQ area in order to collate the sightings for the day. Only at this time did we find out that a total of 61 species had been seen.

Water levels around the main ponds were down and so that muddy banks were exposed, which was good for the Black-fronted Dotterels. A good number of immature birds were seen, indicating some successful breeding this year.

There were a number of highlights. A few observers had seen 3 Crested Shrike-tits near the entrance to the wetlands. These birds are usually present but

Past Excursions (cont.)

move around the wetlands and are not always easy to find. Of the crakes only Australian (6 birds) and Baillon's (1) were seen. An area that had been previously favoured by Spotless Crake was overrun with vegetation, so a hat-trick was not achieved.

On the effluent ponds there were good numbers of Pink-eared Ducks in a large group vortex feeding and about 9 Blue-billed Ducks were also seen. A Peregrine Falcon was sighted flying over.

Other highlights were a single Nankeen Night Heron, as well as Willie Wagtail and Magpie-lark on nests, Elegant Parrot (1) and Red-rumped Parrots (6). Only one Freckled Duck was seen.

John Fennell

SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY: MURRAY MOUTH/MUNDGOO CHANNEL, BARRAGE ROAD TO BEACON 19 GOOLWA AND GOOLWA PONDS.

It was a cool overcast morning as 15 members assembled at or near the Goolwa Aquatic Club. The usual little mix up about the meeting place occurred, but that was soon solved. After an initial reconnaissance to the Barrage and finding the tide still in, we made the decision to do the Murray Mouth survey first.

First stop was the first car park, where we set up 'scopes and scanned the far (western) side of the Channel. There was great excitement when an Eastern Curlew was spotted; this was a first for some members. Also seen were Greenshanks, Black-winged Stilts and many Grey Teal. We then moved on to the Lookout car park and as usual when we scanned out towards the mouth most of the birds were a good walk out to the south over the sand. So off we trudged, and it was worth the walk! Species seen were Bar-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, 30 Pied and 2 Sooty Oystercatchers 400 Crested, 10 Caspian and 15 Whiskered Terns. The stand-out for most was 10 Fairy Terns.

The next stop was at the end of Mundoo Channel road and this was very rewarding. The first birds sighted were about 20 Cape Barren Geese feeding in a paddock among the cattle. Next were 20 Hoary-headed Grebes, Little Black, Little Pied, Great and Pied Cormorants. Wader species included Greenshank, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Red-kneed Dotterel. Crested and Fairy Terns were diving on a shoal of small fish which had been chased into the shallows. We counted 55 species for the Mouth and Mundoo.

The next stop was back over to the Barrage where the tide was well out with plenty of mud showing. Stand-out discoveries were 10 Greenshanks, 10 Red-necked Stints, 40 Red-kneed Dotterels and 2

Australian Crakes. Whistling and Black-shouldered Kite were added to the list, as was Royal Spoonbill. 20 Red-necked Avocet along with Black-winged Stilt were a joy to see. Also as usual there were big numbers of Grey Teal, coots and swans. We recorded 44 species for this site.

Lunch and bird call were taken in the Water Department grounds. After lunch several members called it a day and it was left to 5 diehards to travel to The Kessel Road Wetlands (Goolwa ponds) where only one pond had a significant amount of water. 18 species only were observed. The best birds were 45 Pink-eared Ducks, Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebes, Swamp Harrier and a single Weebill calling. I counted a total of 66 species for the day.

It was a pleasure to welcome two of our younger members who joined us for the day. Miles with his father Stephen and Seth with his father Greg, Both these boys showed so much enthusiasm, I was amazed at Miles' bird identification skills and his quick eye.

Winston Syson

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) FEBRUARY, WHYALLA WETLANDS & EFFLUENT PONDS

It was an overcast and windy day when five keen bird watchers met at the Whyalla wetlands car park. Two of the birders were from Pt. Augusta and 1 each of the rest were from Pt. Pirie, Wilmington and Mambray Creek. Red Wattlebirds were moving about in the trees in the car park as Silver Gulls flew past checking us out for any food scraps we may drop. A small flock of Little Black Cormorants and Silver Gulls were sheltering out of the wind behind an island in one of the ponds. A couple of Whiskered Terns flew above as coots, Hoary-headed Grebes and Grey Teal floated on the water, while Black-winged Stilts patrolled the shore. We walked on across a bridge observing a large group of Hoary-headed Grebes, and more Grey Teal plus Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Chestnut Teal, Common Greenshank, Red-kneed Dotterels and a Black-shouldered Kite landed in a tree nearby. As we moved on a large lawned area was home to Masked Lapwings, Black-tailed Native-hens, Magpie-larks and Magpies. Australian Ravens and Galahs flew over with Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins zig zagging through the sky. We came to a pond where the water was fresher and there were reeds and bulrushes. Sheltering and resting on the shore there were Pacific Black Duck, Freckled Duck, Hardhead, Wood Duck, Red-necked Avocets, Red-kneed Dotterels and an assortment of feral domestic ducks.

Past Excursions (cont.)

In the reeds coots, Purple Swamphens, Dusky Moorhens, Black-tailed Nativehens and a Spotted Crake were observed. More Hoary-headed Grebes and a few Australasian Grebes cruised about on the water while Little Pied Cormorants sat in a dead tree in the water. In the shrubs around the pond Crested Pigeons, Silvereyes, New Holland, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters were seen. Flocks of starlings and Rock Doves and a couple of Caspian Terns passed overhead. Moving on along the path system we headed back to the car park and saw White-winged Fairywrens in the bushes and Purple-crowned Lorikeets in the flowering gum trees nearby. Passing another pond Musk Duck, Little Egret and White-faced Heron were added to our bird list. We had our smoko and bird call out of the wind in a shelter and then headed off to the effluent ponds. In the car park a White-plumed Honeyeater was seen in a flowering gum tree, which is an unusual sighting in this area. 46 bird species were recorded here.

After a short drive to the Whyalla effluent ponds we stopped just before we reached the entrance gates to the SA Water facility and looked across a salt lake, which is on the edge of the treatment ponds. The wind was much stronger in the flat open area but we could see hundreds of birds lined along a long, narrow island in the salt lake. Through the spotting scopes we could see hundreds of Pink-eared Ducks with some Grey Teal, Black-winged Stilts, Red-capped Plovers and Red-necked Avocets. After opening the gates, allowed with kind permission from SA Water, we drove along a track passing some of the treatment ponds and could see lots of birds. We parked our vehicles next to some sheds and started noting the birds we could see on the ponds and tracks next to us. Silver Gulls, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Ducks and coots, were resting on the tracks avoiding the wind. On the edges of the ponds and on the water there were Black Swans, pelicans, Hardhead and many Hoary-headed Grebes. As we walked along a track Pacific Gulls, Caspian Terns, Whiskered Terns, Australian Ravens, Welcome Swallows, Rock Doves, starlings and Pied Cormorants flew by. We had to hold on to our scopes or they would have been blown away by the strong wind. Looking across more of the effluent ponds there were more Pink-eared Ducks, Black-winged Stilts, Red-necked Avocets and more of the birds we had seen already, but also Freckled Duck, Chestnut Teal, Banded Stilts, Musk Duck, a Red-kneed Dotterel, Red-necked Stints, shovelers, Little Pied Cormorants, Masked Lapwings and Pectoral Sandpiper. Back at the area where we had parked there is some Nitre

bush scrub and here we saw Variegated and White-winged Fairywrens, Magpielarks, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Silvereyes. There is a water outlet channel that flows along the track we came in on, which is lined by big Nitre bush and other shrubs. Here we found Little Grassbirds, Reed Warblers, White-faced Herons and Wood Sandpipers. More birds may have been found if it was not blowing a gale but we still noted 42 different bird species.

A total of 61 bird species was recorded, with the birds of the day being the Freckled Ducks, Wood Sandpipers and Pectoral Sandpiper. The Dusky Moorhens and White-plumed Honeyeaters were noted for not being in their normal areas of distribution.

Bernie Haase

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY: RIVERGLADES WETLAND, MURRAY BRIDGE

With a cooling breeze and occasional cloud cover the weather was nearly perfect for our 22 members to undertake a leisurely stroll around the perimeter of this wetland. The birds must have thought it was pretty good too, for 72 species were seen and no doubt a few more managed to avoid our binos and lenses this time.

Our sightings included Black Swan (20), Pacific Black Duck (40), Australasian Shoveler (2), Grey Teal (10), Australasian Grebe (10), Cormorants included Little Pied (10); Little Black (50) and Great (6), Australian Pelican (50), White-faced Heron (2), Straw-necked Ibis (20), Australian White Ibis (6), Royal Spoonbill (3), Yellow-billed Spoonbill (1), Australasian Darter (12), Swamp Harrier (2), Whistling Kite (6), all three Crake – Baillon's (2), Australian (8) and Spotless (8), Eurasian Coot (100), Wood Sandpiper (1), White-headed Stilt (4), Greater Crested Tern (4), Whiskered Tern (20), Australian Hobby (2), Brown Falcon (1), Red-kneed Dotterel (4), Little Corella (20), Musk Lorikeet (6), Crimson Rosella (6), Red-rumped Parrot (8), Superb Fairywren (100), Striated Pardalote (2), White-browed Babbler (10), White-plumed Honeyeater (20), New Holland Honeyeater (50), Welcome Swallow (20), Tree Martin (20), Australian Reed-Warbler (20) and Little Grassbird (10).

We were especially privileged to see 15 Black-chinned Honeyeaters, which really made our excursion memorable.

Lynton Huxley

Past Excursions (cont.)

FLEURIEU BIRDERS TRIP WITH “CRUISE THE COORONG” WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

14 Fleurieu Birders boarded the boat at the Goolwa Wharf at 09.45 am for a 5 hour journey hoping to circumnavigate Hindmarsh Island and pass through the Tauwitschere Barrage into the Coorong for a special bird watching charter. This was one of two charters planned a week apart to see the waders up close.

Matt our skipper informed us we could not go through the Tauwitschere Barrage on the day as the water level was not quite high enough, but we could get up close to the Barrages on the Coorong side where the bird life was plentiful.

After a few disappointed sighs we motored off adjacent to Barrage Rd. following behind the “Spirit of the Coorong” into the Goolwa lock together. A few fur seals were sleeping on the structures and posing for photos. The usual pelicans, cormorants, terns and gulls were resting on the eastern side of the Barrage.

As we approached the mouth of the Murray River Matt explained the history of the drought and floods and the dredgers required to keep the mouth open. Some fishermen were risking their lives in the wild surf hoping to catch the big Mulloway.

Black-faced Cormorants were noted due to the influence of the salt water once we passed the Mouth. An Eastern Curlew had been sighted in the area recently but not today. Waders were present on the sandbanks in good numbers mainly Red-necked Stints and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers with a few Greenshanks amongst them.

All 5 species of Cormorants were seen. There were Royal Spoonbill, White Ibis, Great Egrets, with some Little Egrets amongst them and many White-faced



Great Cormorant
photographed by Peter Owen at the boat's boarding gate on 21 February 2018

Hérons. Terns flying and resting along the shores were Caspian, Whiskered, Crested with a few Gull-billed.

There were 8 species of ducks and coots were in large numbers as were Black Swans. We were excited to see the male Blue-billed Duck up close and a good number of Musk Ducks together near the Ewe Barrage.

We landed at the “Snake Pit” and were told to lookout for the Rufous Bristlebird frequently spotted there but it decided to hide. Birds of prey were spotted, including Black-shouldered and Whistling Kites as well as Swamp Harriers and one Wedge-tailed Eagle. The 15 minute walk on land gave us a quick glimpse of a few honeyeaters. Emus drink from fresh water soaks along the Coorong and Matt

explained they are normally spotted from the boat, but we missed them. A few honeyeaters were about and wrens were heard in the low bush.

All in all it was a fabulous tour of the Coorong and we tallied 57 species along the way.

The skipper and his knowledge of the area was excellent, the lunch with its native spinach and muntrie cakes was also good to experience. Michael Veenstra owner of the boat and his team have a wonderful tour on offer. You can google “Cruise the Coorong” and check it out. We may plan another special bird watching charter next year!

Wendy Phillips



Black-faced Cormorant
photographed by Peter Owen at the Murray Mouth on 21/2/2018

Past Excursions (cont.)

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY: WHITES ROAD WETLANDS

A group of 28 members met on a mild and windless morning, and these pleasant conditions continued for the entire outing. Once again we were pleased to welcome some new members with varying levels of birding experience. Compared to the walk in September 2017 there had been a significant drop in the water levels in all the ponds which, at best, were probably only 15-20% full. The little creeks on either side of the bitumen track were bone dry. We first visited the ponds and then continued the walk along the bitumen track

all the way to where it ends at the Port Wakefield Rd. This latter part of the walk produced very little bird activity apart from honeyeaters and lorikeets.

Work on the Northern Connector roadway appears to be progressing very slowly, and there is not yet much visible evidence of the roadway that will eventually have a huge negative impact on the wetland. A large covered arena measuring 70m x 30m (I am informed) is in the process of being erected by the 'Riding for the Disabled' organisation. Some members witnessed a Collared Sparrowhawk hunting and almost catching an extremely agile and very lucky New Holland Honeyeater, who eventually managed to slip away into the foliage. Also interesting to see were a pair of Australasian Swamphens high up in a gum tree eating lerps. Adelaide birder John Seymour has published a paper on this very activity by the swamphen at Whites Road. Patches of trees were laden with lerps and at one spot eight Little Wattlebirds and many more Red Wattlebirds were very vocal as they flitted about eating off the leaves.

In all 65 species were seen and one, Striated Pardalote, heard, with a total of about 730 birds present. This compares to the September 2017 outing when 909 birds over 60 species were seen.

The middle pond was where most ducks were to be seen and eight species were recorded. Highest numbers were Grey Teal and Chestnut Teal being 30 and 50 respectively and 20 Pacific Black, the other five species were Maned Duck, Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead, Australian Shelduck and Australasian Shoveler. Other high numbers of waterbirds were 60 Eurasian Coots, 50 Black-tailed



Great Egret
photographed by Anna Lester at
Whites Road on 25 February 2018

Native-hens, 20 Dusky Moorhens and 10 Australasian Swamphens. Both Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes were seen as well as 15 Royal Spoonbills. One Glossy Ibis was in the middle pond, down from the seven or eight that had been here over the past weeks. Surprisingly, only one Silver Gull was present. Thirty Red-kneed Dotterels and 5 Black-fronted Dotterels were interspersed amongst the roosting ducks.

Three raptors, the Collared Sparrowhawk mentioned above, one Whistling Kite and one Nankeen Kestrel were seen.

Parrots seen were 30 Rainbow Lorikeets, 20 Musk Lorikeets and a couple of Adelaide Rosellas.

Highest numbers of honeyeaters were 60 New Holland, 20 White-plumed, 30 Red Wattlebirds and 50 of the ever present, and true to form aggressive, Noisy Miner.

The walk concluded at about midday and the group met, had lunch, and made the bird call.

After the bird call, a small number of members visited the area to where the displaced White-winged Fairywrens appear to have moved, and some were given a fleeting glimpse of three individual birds.

Rod Tetlow



Royal Spoonbills
photographed by Anna Lester at
Whites Road on 25 February 2018

Past Excursions (cont.)

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

SATURDAY 3 MARCH, CLAYTON BAY

A group of 15 birders met outside Sail's Café at 8.30 am with a mixture of Birds SA members, Fleurieu Birders and a few local residents. The weather was perfect, with 23C forecast and only a light breeze.

Carol Richardson, Clayton Nursery Manager, gave us a brief history of the revegetation along the shores of Lake Alexandrina on both sides of the township, explaining the effect of the 2007 drought and the development of the Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth (CLLMM) project to restore some of the damage. The town suffered badly with the government's decision to build the regulator across from Hindmarsh Island to the centre of the town thereby cutting off the natural flow. The lack of water at the time resulted in many people leaving the town and the vegetation dying. Just 2 years later it had to be removed at an enormous cost when the water came back. Carol explained that in restoring the environment they firstly had to remove large amounts of woody weeds and clear the areas before planting native bushes and local grass species. It is now looking beautiful.

We drove to the Boat Landing on the eastern side of the town and headed off on the walking trail from the boat landing up to the Clayton/Milang Rd. This is about 1 hour's walk if **not** birdwatching. Quite a few birds were flying overhead, including Black Duck, ibis, Caspian and Crested Terns, Cormorants, Little Pied and Great Black, a Royal Spoonbill, pelicans, and Galahs. One Swamp Harrier headed across the bay towards Goose Island. Swallows were resting on the wires with a few Tree Martins amongst them. Three Elegant Parrots feeding on the ground caught our attention and stayed for the photographers. A Peaceful Dove was calling and Singing and White-plumed Honeyeaters were about.

The massive Moreton Bay Fig tree and huge pine tree have not been removed as they are a permanent home to a number of Nankeen Night Herons and we had fun trying to locate them amongst the branches. One of the locals said they watch them fly out in the evening and have seen them in large numbers, 20-30 at times. Fortunately, these trees have **not** been removed. Today we found 5 Nankeen Night Herons, but expect



What a big Mouth!

photographed by Wendy Phillips
at Clayton Bay on 3 March 2018

more were hiding.

At the Duck's Hospital area some of the old roosting tree structures have fallen over so there were less birds using them than a year or so ago. A few pelicans and cormorants were roosting, and a couple of Black Swans and coots were in the calmer water. A Spotless Crake was found in the reeds, but it was reluctant to show itself to the trailers in the group. Luckily our youngest member did see it and said it was "a lifer" for him. We walked across sapphire flats along the "Gum Boot" trail, which is mowed by one of the volunteers, and found Golden Headed Cisticolas in the reeds. A few Black-faced Cuckooshrikes flew over. The views from the hillside were amazing. You can see right across to the Coorong sand hills from one side and Mt.

Barker the other. Bob disturbed a family of Brown Quails that quickly flew away. They were calling, but we were not able to flush them out of the long grass for others to see.

We followed the same track back to our cars and drove to the large swamp at the entrance of the town. Here we set up our scopes to view the ducks resting on the far bank and across the water. There were 7 duck species including 40 Freckled Ducks, 5 Hardheads, 6 Shovelers, 5 Pink-eared and one pintailed, which had us all guessing as it had its head turned and bill tucked in. Was it a Musk Duck or a female Blue-billed Duck? Most thought the latter. This swamp gave us another 10 species to add to our count of 63 for Clayton.

Some of us went on to Pt. Sturt after lunch and enjoyed two more walks. We did not do a count here but most of the group discovered a new area to visit in the future.

Wendy Phillips



Australian Pelican with Freckled Ducks

Photographed by Wendy Phillips at Clayton on 3 March 2018

Past Excursions (cont.)

SATURDAY 10 MARCH: SCOTT CP

This excursion got messy even before it started! Regrettably I got confused and also wrongly advertised that this trip was to occur at *Scott Creek Conservation Park*. Please accept my sincere apologies to any members who made the trip to *Scott Creek CP*.

The day was going to be another warm 35C plus, so it was pleasing that 11 members attended. The very dry summer meant that we had no problems crossing the waterless creek near the first car park and our walk along the track was under good shade; so when the path opened up it was agreed to retrace our steps rather than undertake a complete circumnavigation of the park. This allowed us to visit the dam near the second car park, but it had only a little pond of stagnant water and being close to midday lacked bird activity.

In total we recorded 26 species, which included a flock of 50+ Great Cormorants on their way to water. Our observations included sightings of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (3), Galah (10), Red-rumped Parrot (12), Elegant Parrot (1), Crimson Rosella (20), Brown Treecreeper (2), Superb Fairywren (10), Eastern Spinebill (1), Crescent Honeyeater (2), New Holland Honeyeater (12), Red Wattlebird (4), Striated Pardalote (10), White-browed Scrubwren (1), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (12), Striated Thornbill (4), White-browed Babbler (6), Australian Magpie (10), Crested Shrike-tit (3), Australian Golden Whistler (1), Willie Wagtail (4), Grey Fantail (10) and Little Raven (1). A Common Bronzewing, a Grey Shrike-thrush and a silvereye were heard.

As a comparison, when our members last visited Scott CP in July 2014 after good rains the bird count was 43 including three species of duck, a White-faced Heron and six Straw-necked Ibis!

Lynton Huxley

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

SATURDAY 10 MARCH 2018

Thompson Beach

It was a warm start to the day with high temperatures expected, when three birdwatchers met at Dublin, one was from Mambay Creek, one from Whyalla and one from Adelaide. We quickly left for Thompson Beach to catch the waders on the tide. Along Thompson Beach road we saw a Black-shouldered Kite and a Brown Falcon. On arrival at the beach we met another birder from Gawler. At our first sight of the beach there were many waders and seabirds. White-faced Herons along with some Great Egrets were sitting among the mangroves. We scoured the beach with our scopes finding Bar-tailed Godwits,

Curlew Sandpipers, Grey Plovers, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Masked Lapwings. Meanwhile closer to us Red-necked Stints and Red-capped Plovers were quietly going about their business. Also wandering on the mud amongst the mangroves were Little Egrets, Australian White Ibis and Common Greenshanks. We then moved south along Thompson Beach near a reserve, listening to the sound of a Grey Butcherbird; while Silvereyes and Musk Lorikeets flew overhead. From the beach we observed some distant Australian Pelicans, Black Swans and Grey Teal. Our group then met others from Birdlife Australia at the shed over morning tea. Two of our group then retired for the day, which left 2 of us moving up to the northern part of Thompson Beach looking for more birds, it didn't take long for us to observe some different species — a Ruddy Turnstone and a Double-banded Plover caught our eye.

Nearby more Red-necked Stints and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were running around, further out near the waters edge we saw Great Egrets, Little Pied Cormorants, Caspian Terns, Greater Crested Terns and a large group of White-faced Herons while a Mistletoe-bird and Singing Honeyeaters called out from the bush behind us. With an overall species count of 40 from the Thompson Beach area our party of 2 moved up to Webb Beach. The birds of Thompson beach for me were the Ruddy Turnstone and the Double-banded Plover.

Webb Beach

With the weather warming up and the wind dropping right off we stopped for a bite of lunch. With Red Wattlebirds, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters frolicking in the trees in the car park we decided to walk out onto the beach. With the heat shimmer on the beach, identifying some birds was a challenge. A surprise bird was a single Lesser Sand Plover wandering about with some stints. Common



Lesser Sand Plover

photographed by Larry Gruitt
at Webb Beach on 10 March 2018

Past Excursions (cont.)

Greenshanks, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Red-necked Stints and Red-capped Plovers were busy feeding around us.

Further out on a reef Pied Oystercatchers, Sooty Oystercatchers, Caspian Terns and Silver Gulls were resting in the heat, while Crested Terns were trying to keep cool in the pools. A small group of Grey Plovers nervously flew away. Australian Pelicans, Little-pied Cormorants and Pacific Gulls were also there.

With a total count of 18 species for this area we decided to move on. The standout bird here was the Lesser Sand Plover.

Sandy Point

Driving towards Port Wakefield we called in at Sandy Point near the Proof Range, Crested Pigeons were startled as we drove past the base. Approaching the mangroves a Willie Wagtail, Singing Honeyeaters and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters welcomed us. While walking along a track Masked lapwings sprung into life, some water birds included Australian Pelican, Caspian Tern, Little-pied Cormorant and White-faced Heron.

Elegant Parrots flew over as we started to move out of the area, Brown Falcons sat in the power pylons as we drove past, a large flock of Australian White Ibis flew in and settled in a stubby paddock. Then it was time we started looking for a campsite for the night.

SUNDAY 11 MARCH 2018

Clinton Conservation Park

After camping near the park we woke to a humid morning. Over breakfast a Singing Honeyeater calling out broke the near silence. White-fronted



Brown Thornbill

photographed by Larry Gruitt in Clinton CP
on Sunday 11 March 2018

Chats were nearby in the samphire. Rejoining the two birders we met previously at Thompson Beach we set off to the park entrance. After a 3km walk to the beach we began looking for birds. Soon after our arrival, we accidentally flushed Australian Pipits and Horsfield's Bushlarks. As we approached the beach a Whistling Kite was soaring over us, Silver Gulls were perching on the shrubbery, and a Grey Butcherbird called out from a dead tree.

Walking up the beach we were greeted with White-browed Scrubwrens scolding us from the dense bush. Setting up the scopes again revealed Red-necked Stints, Red-capped

Plovers, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Curlew Sandpipers.

As the wind was strengthening, Gull-billed Terns (including the Asian migratory race), Caspian Terns, Pacific Gulls and Silver Gulls crouched low on the mudflats.

A large number of Australian White Ibis were present while Great Egrets flew beyond the mangroves, raptors were represented by Black-shouldered Kite, Swamp Harrier and White-bellied Sea Eagle. The sight of the last 2 caused many of the waders to move away.

Moving up the beach we identified Grey Plovers, Common Greenshanks, White-faced Herons, and Pied Oystercatchers. Deciding to look further we again set up the scopes, being rewarded with views of a Far Eastern Curlew standing near a large group of Sooty Oystercatchers. In the nearby mangroves



Eastern Curlews, photographed by Larry Gruitt at Clinton CP on 11 March 2018

Past Excursions (cont.)

were a New Holland Honeyeater, a Brown Thornbill and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. The 4 of us walked back toward the vehicles seeing Yellow-rumped Thornbills and a Brown Falcon on the way. The White-bellied Sea Eagle, Asian Gull-billed Tern, Eastern Curlew were the birds of the day here.

Port Clinton

We all then drove a few kilometres down the road to Port Clinton. Looking through the scopes again, we picked up a White-faced Heron, a Pied Oystercatcher and a Sooty Oystercatcher. A large group of Australian White Ibis was also present. The beach was dotted white with distant Silver Gulls and Crested Terns, a single Ruddy Turnstone appeared between the mangroves and Red-necked Stints flew through and settled to feed. As we were viewing some Common Greenshanks an Osprey was flying behind us, while Little Pied Cormorants were, lined up in the bay.

A few Pied Cormorants and a Willie Wagtail were darting through the mangroves. A member of our group departed for home and that left the 3 of us having afternoon tea in town. New Holland Honeyeaters and Magpielarks were close by as we discussed the day's birding. The 3rd member of the group left for home, leaving the 2 birders from the Babbler group looking for a campsite. The Osprey was the bird of the day.

Parking Bay — Clinton Conservation Park

Finding this spot was a simple task. Before tea we thought it would be good to survey the area for birds, and Elegant Parrots fly over as we started the walk. 2 Great Egrets in the mangroves were sheltering from the wind. A Singing Honeyeater was calling in the distance. In the beach area a single White-faced Heron was hunched down, sheltering from in the wind, Red-necked Stints and Red-capped Plovers were feeding together, while Caspian Terns and Silver Gulls kept a low profile in the wind. Tree Martins wheeled overhead. As we prepared for tea, Australian Magpies, Red Wattlebirds and Magpielarks were chasing through the trees around us. Later we spotted a Rufous Whistler while a Black-shouldered Kite was hovering above.

MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018

Parking Bay — Clinton Conservation Park

This morning we decided to continuing exploring the site, and a Grey Butcherbird was our first dawn caller. As we walked into the mangroves we heard

Brown Thornbills and White-browed Scrubwrens. After a while they showed themselves and we photographed the birds with some success. A Grey Shrikethrush appeared together with a New Holland Honeyeater, Silvereyes. Welcome Swallows flew high above the mangroves. Moving to the beach area we saw Red-necked Stints, Red-capped Plovers and a large group of Little Pied Cormorants, as well as a few Crested Terns and Silver Gulls sitting on the beach.



White-browed Scrubwren
photographed by Bernhard Haase
at Clinton CP on 11 March 2018

As we prepared to to leave the parking area, 8 Royal Spoonbill flew rapidly by, while a Striated Pardalote and White-plumed Honeyeaters fed in the mallee. A flock of Purple-crowned Lorikeets flew noisily in and began feeding. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Singing Honeyeaters chased each other through the trees.

There was a good show of raptors here — Black Kite, Whistling Kite, Black-shouldered Kite and Nankeen Kestrel.

A good count of 62 species from Clinton Conservation Park made it a worthwhile stop. The birds of the Clinton Conservation Park

were the Royal Spoonbill and the White-browed Scrubwren. We left this busy holiday area and headed for Clements Gap Conservation Park.

Clements Gap Conservation Park

During lunch here we heard and saw Mistletoebirds, White-browed Babbler, Willie Wagtails and Singing Honeyeaters. Grey Shrikethrush and Singing Honeyeaters were calling from afar. After lunch we walked through the mallee near the church, where Variegated Fairywrens hopped about nervously, while Weebills and Brown-headed Honeyeaters danced through the canopy above. Moving on and looking skyward we were excited to see Fork-tailed Swifts as well as Tree Martins, with Galahs stirring from a tree as we walked past. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Australian Magpies moved around in the mallee. Red-capped Robins perched motionless, waiting for unsuspecting insects below.

We then decided to drive the perimeter track in the park. After a slow start more Variegated Fairywrens revealed themselves, and further on there were White-plumed Honeyeaters and Yellow-throated Miners. Stalking an isolated shrub we found 14 Yellow-rumped Thornbills sheltering from the warm afternoon sun. As we drove on, Little Ravens flew through at the northern end of the park. We left the vehicles to search an area, in which we identified Spotted Pardalotes, a Rufous Whistler and a Grey Butcherbird. Towards the end of the drive we walked again, and saw more Brown-headed and Singing Honeyeaters. An Inland Thornbill and a Whistling Kite rounded off the day and the long weekend. The bird of the day here would have been the Fork-tailed Swift.

Larry Gruitt

Past Excursions (cont.)

**THURSDAY 15 MARCH:
ONKAPARINGA WETLANDS**

Fourteen members met at the small lookout on Britain Drive to find the mudflats on the river were covered by a high tide. Silver Gulls and half a dozen pelicans occupied a sandbar and scattered Pied Stilts (formerly known as White-headed Stilts)

patrolled the little shoreline that was available. We decided to go exploring and headed south around the oval. There were only a few White-faced Herons and Masked Lapwings in the channels. We ventured upon two small ponds, which appear to be fed by urban run-off. The larger of the ponds held Grey Teal, Pied Stilts and to our great surprise three Royal and one Yellow-billed Spoonbill. A group of three Elegant Parrots flew in to drink whilst a flock of Galahs kept a close watch on proceedings from nearby trees.

Our next stop was a new walking trail called

Riverside Bend West which is past the rail bridge but before Riverside Bend picnic area. This provided access to another pond where we found an Australian Crake, Dusky Moorhens and Australian Swampheens. Continuing down the riverbank we spotted a pair of commoners in the form of a Greenshank and a sandpiper, both feeding on the opposite bank. It proved to a good area as we also saw seventeen Little Black Cormorants, a Great Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Egret and more pelicans. Unfortunately the sky was overcast which made it difficult for those with cameras. Walking back to the cars a couple of alert members



sighted a pair of Black-shouldered Kites doing a flyover.

Our last port of call was Riverbend picnic area where we did the boardwalk loop over the bone dry wetlands. We seemed to have heard more than we saw. We sighted Red-browed Finches, Superb Fairywrens amongst others and heard a Striated Pardalote, Grey Shrikethrush, Golden-headed Cisticola and Silvereye.

Our lunchtime bird call was a surprising 51 sighted and 4 heard which was very good considering the absence of mudflats and wetland water.

Peter Owen

**SUNDAY 25 MARCH:
PAIWALLA WETLANDS**

The weather was estimated to be quite warm, in the mid 30's but the morning conditions at Paiwalla were near perfect. I did get the day off to an unusual start by missing the turn off and leading half the group on a mystery extra few km. At the beginning of the walk our group of 22 members took time to reflect on the recent passing of Bill Mountain

who regarded this wetland as his favourite place to visit. *(Bill had led our previous walk here on 30 July last year, providing excellent current and historical information on this wetland habitat).*

Our walk around the main levy bank provided us with an unusual sight – there were hundreds of very large carp, dead or dying, in the shallow waters! We later learned that carp had entered through a broken trap and now with the assistance of recent sustained hot weather the pond was being allowed to dry which would naturally eradicate this pest species and allow for other conservation issues to be undertaken.

Past Excursions (cont.)

At our later than normal lunch members were able report a total of 64 species for the outing. This included Black Swan (6), Freckled Duck (2), Australian Shelduck (100), Pink-eared Duck (20), Australian Shoveler (3), Pacific Black Duck (6), Grey Teal (200), Australasian Grebe (3), Hoary-headed Grebe (60), Australian White Ibis (5), Straw-necked Ibis (1), Royal Spoonbill (5), Yellow-billed Spoonbill (12), Australian Pelican (100), three Cormorant species: Little Pied (4), Great (4) and Pied (1), Australasian Darter (6), Silver Gull (20), Caspian Tern (2), Australian and Spotless Crake (3 each), Australasian Swamphen (10), Black-tailed Nativehen (12), White-headed Stilt (20), Red-necked Avocet (6), Masked Lapwing (8), Red-kneed Dotterel (40), Red-capped Plover (4), Black-fronted Dotterel (15), Wood Sandpiper (1), Eurasian Coot (100). Birds of prey sighted included one each of Swamp Harrier, Black-shouldered Kite, Little Eagle and Nankeen Kestrel whilst there were twelve each of Black and Whistling Kites. Superb Fairywren (10), Red-rumped Parrot



Whistling Kite attacking Little Eagle
photographed by John Pearce at
Paiwalla Wetlands on 25 March 2018



Whistling Kite
Photographed by John Pearce
at Paiwalla Wetlands on 25 March 2018

(2), New Holland and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (4 each), Singing Honeyeater (6), White-plumed Honeyeater (10), White-browed Babbler (6), Grey Butcherbird (1), Willie Wagtail (5), Magpie-Lark (4), Little Raven (1), Welcome Swallow (12), Tree Martin (4), Australian Magpie (2), Little Grassbird (1), Australian Reed Warbler (1), Silveryeye (6).

Lynton Huxley

EASTER CAMPOUT 30 MARCH TO 2 APRIL: BALCANOONA STATION

Our Easter Campout at Balcanoona Station within the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park enjoyed an excellent turnout of thirty members, and it was pleasing that our South East, Riverland, Fleurieu, Port Augusta and Adelaide regions were represented. We also had a mixture of new and regular campout participants with a wide range of birding expertise.

Notwithstanding, everyone participated in a congenial and friendly manner that makes these events fun to attend.

We had very hot conditions during our stay (with mid to high 30s temperatures each day) and as there had been a sustained period of no rain, the National Park and surrounding properties were very dry. It was sad to see kangaroos and Emus struggling to stay alive, as were the trees, shrubs and grasses. These harsh conditions made our birding surveys more difficult but we were lucky to be able to retreat to the cool well-equipped kitchen and lounge of the old stone shearers' quarters building. It was nice to also have the luxury of full bathroom facilities at this campout.

The traditional Sunday brunch barbeque feast of bacon, eggs, tomatoes and mushrooms was consumed under the shade of the large veranda or in the cool kitchen. Since Liz had made a big bowl of her secret mix, containing syrup, lemon or sugar, heaps of pancakes quickly followed to quell any remaining hunger pangs. A special thank you to master chefs Graham Pascoe and Liz Carpenter for slaving over the unshaded outdoor barbeque to feed the masses. There was not a lot of movement

Past Excursions (cont.)

around camp after lunch!

Beside the daily Homestead bird counts (7 in total) survey trips to Grindell's Hut, Balcanoona Airstrip, Italowie Gorge, Nepouie Creek, Weetootla Gorge and Prism Hill were undertaken with a pleasing total of 66 species being recorded for this campout. The individual site totals have been forwarded to the Rangers to assist with their own records. Some of the species recorded included Emu, Black Kite, Whistling Kite, Collared Sparrowhawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Goshawk, Brown Falcon, Peregrine Falcon and Nankeen Kestrel. Cockatiel, Mulga Parrot, Australian Ringneck, Blue-winged Parrot, Elegant Parrot, Variegated, Splendid and White-winged Fairywren, Chirruping Wedgebill, Red-capped and Hooded Robin, Spotted and Striated Pardalote, Weebill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Southern Whiteface, Crested Bellbird, Rufous Whistler and Grey Shrikethrush. We saw six honeyeater species Spiny-cheeked, Brown-headed, Yellow-throated Miner, Singing, Grey-fronted and White-plumed.

On behalf of members I would like to record our thanks and appreciation for the support extended to us by the Senior Ranger Sian Johnson and Senior Cultural Ranger Arthur Coulthard. We were all grateful for being able to use the excellent facilities of the shearers' quarters, which made for a memorable 2018 Campout.

Lynton Huxley

COPLEY AND LEIGH CREEK 3 AND 4 APRIL 2018

Following a request from local community residents, a group of 12 members from the Easter campout volunteered to undertake a bird survey at several key locations including Retention Dam north of Copley and the Aroona Dam south of Leigh Creek. Our "dirty dozen" group really enjoyed the chance to see those habitat areas which many of us have shamefully only driven past previously.

Due to time constraints Retention Dam was surveyed twice. We did not walk around the whole dam but did walk from the northern 'beach' end to the area where the creek flows in. The spotting scopes allowed us to scan the far side quite efficiently. The 'overflow' water over the main road north of Copley on the way to Lyndhurst was only surveyed once from midday or two hours. This was not an optimum time for birding. Aroona Dam was surveyed once — around the base of the dam wall and also from the top car park area.

We were fortunate to have 12 experienced birders (*yes I have generously included myself*) with 5 spotting scopes, the usual binoculars and cameras

with telephoto lens to participate in this survey. In total we recorded 68 species, plus one bird that does not show on the bird record forms submitted for the three survey sites as it was seen by most of our group near the Copley Caravan Park and the main road. It was a Bustard, which is a really nice species to have a 'tick' for.

Thanks to Ann-Marree Taranto, Enice Marsh and the support of the local Adnyamathanha community ladies, fantastic accommodation at The Flinders Guest House at Copley was provided for six of our members who were not able to camp. The local community was delighted with our observations, and have extended an open invitation to Birds SA members travelling in that region to undertake further surveys. It is a destination I highly recommend for the amazing bird diversity.

Lynton Huxley

FLEURIEU BIRDERS SATURDAY 7 APRIL: NURRAGI CONSERVATION RESERVE

12 members met at the Punkulde (Milang to Finnis road crossing) entrance to the conservation reserve. This narrow strip of land was the railway corridor from Milang to Sandergrove and dedicated as a reserve in 1991. The reserve runs for over 12km and conserves remanent vegetation in this quite cleared area and as such is an important resource for many birds.

Today's outing was a walk northwest to Nurragi road and return. This most common species was Red Wattlebird with about 70 seen, an unusual number for this area. The next common species was Silveryeye with several good groups seen. We encountered Musk, Rainbow and Purple-crowned Lorikeets with Musk being the most numerous. We managed 4 raptors Whistling Kite, Brown Falcon, Australian Hobby and Collared Sparrowhawk. A question was asked about Brown Goshawk and I said they are just as likely to be here. When at home I looked at my data from 50 visits and found that I had recorded Brown Goshawk 7 times and Collared Sparrowhawk 10 times. The further we walked the quieter the birds. With Superb Fairywrens, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Weebill, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Thornbills giving us some spotting success. Toward the Nurragi siding Mallee Ringnecks

Past Excursions (cont.)

were seen, a great sighting as the species is a rarity for this area. The honeyeaters were Yellow-faced, Brown-headed, White-plumed, New Holland and Eastern Spinebill. Other birds encountered: were White-browed Babbler, Golden and Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, Willy Wagtail, Magpie, Little Raven, Mistletoebird, all in low numbers, and above us Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins, also low numbers. We spent over 3 hours in warm weather to record 41 species.

At the bird call an interesting bird cropped up. Some of our group mentioned treecreeper, I asked for more detail as I had never encountered them in this area. The discussion went perhaps White throated, no maybe Brown Treecreeper, as there was indecision and no good notes I decided to leave off any treecreepers, I hope this didn't offend anyone. When back home I did some research using Atlas of living Australia, Natural History of The Strathalbyn and Goolwa Districts. No records showed up on the Atlas and John Eckert mentions Brown Treecreeper at Sandergrove. I guess this is where local knowledge makes you aware of how important a good sighting and data are to record these rarely seen species. I have included this topic to make people alert to any treecreepers they may see along the corridor or if other members can verify the possibility of treecreepers still being here and we can all learn.

Denzel Murfet

PORT AUGUSTA BABBLERS

7 APRIL, EXCURSION, MUNDALLIO STATION

It was a lovely calm and sunny day when seven bird watchers met at the Carlton Parade cemetery in Pt. Augusta. Three from Mambray Creek, two from Pt. Augusta and one each from Whyalla and Pt. Pirie. We only had to drive about 5 kms. before we reached the Mundallio station boundary gate. The countryside was a flat plain covered by black bluebush and some areas of sandhills. We found some Rufous Fieldwrens and Australian Ravens and stopped to walk to an area of sandhills near the road. Willie Wagtails and Singing Honeyeaters flew about as we walked into the scrubby sandhills. A Crested Bellbird and Chirruping Wedgebills

were calling out in the distance and we later had sightings of them. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters chased each other about in the scrub as White-backed Swallows glided over us. A pair of Mulga Parrots were quietly chattering to themselves in a shrub as Galahs drifted lazily past. In the distance a very large flock of Little Corellas noisily flew past looking like confetti floating in the sky. Variegated Fairy-wrens could be heard in the bushes but were not seen until they were enticed into view. Crested Pigeons and White-browed Babblers were spotted as a Nankeen Kestrel hovered above us. As we walked back to our vehicles a Mistletoebird and a pair of Red-capped Robins were seen. Back at the vehicles a Brown Falcon was sitting on a blue bush and then joined by its mate and they cackled greetings as they awkwardly balanced themselves on top of the bush. We drove on to the homestead with a flock of babblers moving along the road ahead of us and groups of White-winged Fairy Wrens appearing occasionally. We met the owner at the homestead who told us of a Bustard sighting a few weeks previously, but we did not see it. At the homestead yard there were sparrows, starlings, a pair of Magpie larks, Grey Fantail, Welcome Swallows and Silvereyes.

We then drove along the red gummed Mundallio Creek towards the ranges. Yellow-throated Miners, magpies, Galahs, Redthroat and Mallee Ringnecks were seen as we found a big shady red gum under which to have lunch. A White-plumed Honeyeater and Weebills were in the trees and Tree Martins flew overhead. After lunch we walked along the creek further into the hills. Lots of Weebills were feeding in the foliage of mallee trees on the slopes and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Inland Thornbills, Southern Whiteface, Redthroat, Grey Fantails, Mistletoebirds and Grey Butcherbirds were in the creekline scrub. A single Wedge-tailed Eagle was keeping an eye on us from high in the sky as we got back to our cars. Some of the group had to leave to go to do other things and the remaining three vehicles continued into the hills along long gully track. The track follows a valley with mallee covered hills and some rocky outcrops with spinifex slopes. As we moved

Past Excursions (cont.)

along we found Striated Pardalotes, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike, Rufous Whistler, Grey-fronted and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, Grey Shrike-thrush, ringnecks and Emus. We reached the boundary to the next property and turned around and headed back to Mundallio creek. A Brown Goshawk glided past as we drove along the valley. When we reached the homestead and said thanks to the owner we took a different track back to Stirling North. Here there were Black-faced Woodswallows and an Australian Pipit. It was a good day out with a total of 47 bird species seen and I'm sure that if it was not so dry there would have been many more species seen. The birds of the day would be the Crested Bellbird, Redthroat and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters.

Bernie Haase.

SATURDAY 14 APRIL: CHARLESTON CONSERVATION PARK

Five members braved the inclement weather and met at the Charleston tennis courts, but before the walk commenced one changed his mind and quietly drove off. We commenced the outing in the rain, finished in the rain, with conditions for the two hours varying between light and heavy rain and windy to very windy. In contrast the walk in August 2017 was very wet underfoot, whilst this was very wet overhead. The temperature for the morning was static at a cool 14 degrees.

As was to be expected not many birds were about and we only recorded 11 species seen and three heard with a total of 78 birds counted. Most common were 20 White-winged Choughs, 15 Adelaide Rosellas, 12 Australian Magpies and ten each of New Holland Honeyeater and Grey Fantail. We spent some time watching two aggressive Little Wattlebirds defending their space against a couple of very persistent New Holland Honeyeaters. Their focus on territory quickly changed when a Collard Sparrowhawk landed in a tree close by and they all disappeared in a flash.

Not much else was happening apart from all of us getting really soaked, so we cut the walk short at 11 am and moved back to Charleston where we had our lunch and did the bird call in the tennis court shelter.

Rod Tetlow

Thursday 19 April: "Anacotilla Springs", Second Valley

We had perfect weather for our mid-week visit to this private bushland property near Wirrina Cove.

Pamela and Rob are wonderful hosts and greeted our seven-member group on arrival to explain the history and unique natural features of this property, including the permanent flow of the Anacotilla River. This was my third visit and it was amazing to see the progress made in just 12 months, including a very large shade sail erected for us to have lunch and under which to make our bird call!

Our members recorded a total of 33 species including sightings of 2 Pacific Black Duck on the dam water and a single Australian White Ibis roosting in a large gum tree. Three Wedge-tailed Eagles and two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos were observed flying overhead several times during our stay. Other species recorded were 20 Galah, 20 Little Corella, 2 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, 8 Crimson Rosella, 8 Rainbow Lorikeet, 12 Superb Fairywren, 20 New Holland Honeyeater, 4 Red Wattlebird, 6 Yellow-faced Honeyeater, 8 White-plumed Honeyeater, 4 White-browed Scrubwren, 6 Weebill, 4 Yellow-rumped Thornbill, 12 Striated Thornbill, 12 Australian Magpie, 1 Grey Currawong, 1 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, 4 Australian Golden Whistler, 2 Grey Shrikethrush, 4 Willie Wagtail, 20 Grey Fantail, 2 Magpie Lark, 6 Little Raven, 12 Welcome Swallow, 2 Silvereye, 20 Common Starling, 1 Mistletoebird, 2 Australian Pipit and two European Goldfinch.

Another visit to Anacotilla Springs will be scheduled for around September this year to further assist Pamela and Rob on identifying the bird species that are drawn to their property.

Lynton Huxley

SUNDAY 29 APRIL: BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION PARK

Twenty-eight people (including some late sleepy-heads who shall remain nameless) gathered for the excursion on a really lovely day, being clear and mild with no wind. Brookfield is located just north of Goyder's Line and on the southern fringe of the arid zone. There are 3 major habitat types in the 5534ha park: arid woodland, arid shrubland and mallee. Based on advice that the open, arid areas (i.e. the bluebush shrublands) were currently very dry and not very rewarding bird-wise, we decided to stick to the woodland and mallee areas.

After leaving the front gate where several birds were either seen or heard, including Restless Flycatcher and Crested Bellbird, our first stop was along the entry road. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters were calling and more Restless Flycatchers were heard. The Restless Flycatchers (6) proved rather elusive so that while many of us heard them, few actually saw them!

Past Excursions (cont.)

We then headed north to the Mallee Drive to explore the woodlands either side of the Charcoal Pits. As we drove along flocks of Mulga Parrots (12) and Australian Ringnecks (12) were seen flying overhead. Galahs (50) were seen either in pairs or flocks and 2 Purple-crowned Lorikeets flew over. In some low shrubs a group of 20 Southern Whitefaces flitted about on the side of the road.

Along the Mallee Drive we saw Varied Sittella (12), Brown Treecreeper (8), Weebill (10), Silvereye (10), both Splendid (12) and Variegated (4) Fairywren, Grey Fantail (6), Hooded Robin (3), Red-capped Robin (6), Jacky Winter (6), Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (4), Chestnut-crowned Babbler (10), Black-faced Cuckooshrike (8) and Brown Treecreeper (8). Honeyeaters consisted of Spiny-cheeked (20), Yellow-plumed (20), Singing (10), Red Wattlebird (15), White-eared (6), White-fronted (6), White-plumed (6), Yellow-throated Miner (6) and Eastern Spinebill (4). Other birds included Grey Shrikethrush (6), Grey Butcherbird (3), Crested Bellbird (6), Golden Whistler (3) and Gilbert's Whistler (1).

A definite highlight was the regular sighting of Chestnut Quailthrush of which 12 were seen. They almost seemed to be everywhere! Also sighted were two Southern Scrub Robins, which showed no fear and came quite close. Another welcome sighting was of Spotted Pardalote (4) to add to the more common Striated Pardalote (20). In contrast, there was a noticeable lack of raptors with only 1 Nankeen Kestrel observed.

We went to the picnic area for lunch and to do the bird call. Just as we arrived a group of approx. 30 White-winged Choughs flew across the road. We also saw several Dusky Woodswallows on our way out of the park. Overall, our total for the day was 49 species and despite the prolonged dry spell, it was a very enjoyable and rewarding trip.

Ali Ben Kahn

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Saturday 5 May

Newland Head Conservation Park

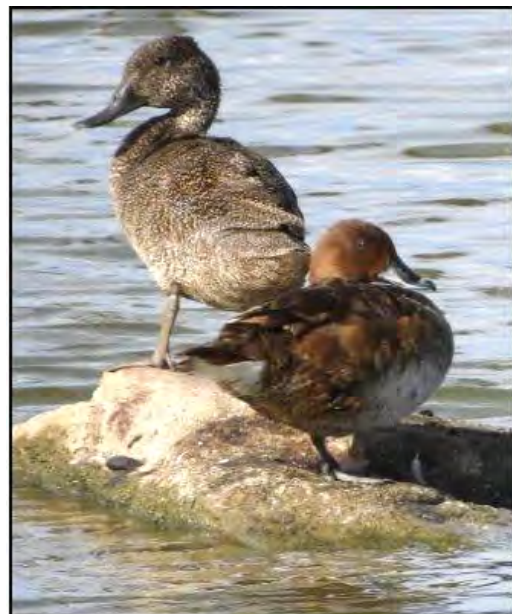
A small but eager group of 5 members gathered in the car park at Dennis Road camp ground. We started off the morning by doing a long range scan down to the ocean and were rewarded by sightings of 4 Australasian Gannets and two Greater Crested Terns. We then made a complete circuit of the camp ground adding Superb Fairywren, Silvereye, a male Australian Golden Whistler and Common Bronzewing.

We then drove to gate 3 Dennis Road, entered the park and travelled up the fence line and parked close to the Ridgeway walk. The walk took us

through old growth stringy bark forest with an understory of Banksias, Allocasuarina and Correa. The bird life is usually sparse along this walk at this time of year but we did pick up Eastern Spinebills, Crescent Honeyeaters — and soaring above us — a magnificent Wedge-tailed Eagle. Instead of following the track to the West we went straight ahead and through an area where The Friends of Newland Head are assisting with a Pygmy Possum survey. 13 nest boxes have been fixed to trees and are checked about every 3 months. At our most recent survey, we were very excited to find a total of 37 possums, including young.

Next we passed through a more open area between the old forest and a revegetation area. Many Red and Little Wattlebirds were charging about, along with New Holland Honeyeaters. Turning left at the end of the track we followed the fence line between the park and private property. This turned out to be very rewarding with 4 Scarlet Robins, Brown, Striated and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Weebills, Grey Fantails and Little Ravens. It was a long slow walk up the steep track and back to the cars.

Our next stop was to check out Waitpinga beach and Estuary. We were not disappointed, as we saw Hooded Plover (3) Pacific Gull (3) Masked Lapwing, coot, Dusky Moorhen, Chestnut Teal, Little Pied Cormorant and White-faced Heron to add to our list. To finish off the day we enjoyed lunch and bird call at Dennis Hut. The count for the day was 45 species.



Freckled Duck and Hardhead
photographed by Bernie Haase at the
Whyalla Wetlands in February 2018

Future Excursions

W. Syson
BIRDS SA
Field Program and campout Co-ordinator (FPC),
Lynton Huxley
Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038
Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au

A leader has been appointed for each excursion, but another person might like to write a brief report of the trip.

The report, submitted to the Field Trip Coordinator, must be no longer than 500 words — or about 11/2 columns of text. It must include the number of attendees, **highlights** of the birds seen or heard, the weather and any other interesting events on the day. One or two photographs of birds seen on the excursion would make welcome additions.

The duties of the leader and scribe may be shared on the day.

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.

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Contacts: Wendy Phillips/Bob Daly 8555 0634 or 0421376016

BIRDS SA PORT AUGUSTA BABBLERS

Contact, **Bernie Haas**, 0419863834,
b.haase@telstra.com

Contact in Lynton's absence:

Alan Burns (*standing in for Lynton Huxley*)
Field Program Co-ordinator

Phone: **0411595910 or 8381 2708**

Email: **fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au**
or **caburns1@bigpond.com**

Sunday 27 May: Lawari Conservation Park
(‘Wyndgate’) Hindmarsh Island (MLR) 100km.

Meet at 8.30am on the corner of Randell and Semaschko Roads Hindmarsh Island. If you are late please proceed to the homestead off Denver Road.

TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips

SATURDAY 2 JUNE — FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Mt. Billy and Hindmarsh Falls.

Meet at 8.30am in the Hindmarsh Valley Hall car park on the right hand side of the road when you turn into Hindmarsh Tiers Road from the Victor Harbor Road.

TRIP LEADER: Pat Uppill.

Saturday 9 June: Talisker Conservation Park (MLR) (95km)

Meet at the General store in Delamere at 8.15am. From there we will drive onto Talisker, a small park based on the old silver-lead mine area. A side trip to another area for lunch and further bird watching will fill the day.

TRIP LEADER: Alan Burns

SATURDAY 9 JUNE TO MONDAY 11 JUNE — PORT AUGUSTA BABBLERS

South Gap Station,

Meet at 8.30am at start of Stuart Highway — Campout, facilities available.

TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haas

Thursday 21 June: Hardy's Scrub Onkaparinga River National Park (MLR) (42km).

Meet at 8.30am by the CFS Station, 490 Blewitt Springs Road, Blewitt Springs.

TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips

Sunday 1 July: Anstey Hill Conservation Park (MLR) (18km)

Meet at 8.30am at Gate 3 on Perseverance Road, Tea Tree Gully (approximately 0.8km from the North East Road end). After lunch, a visit to the nearby Angove Conservation Park has been planned. Access to Angove CP is via Bowen Road, Tee Tree Gully.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ban Kahn

SATURDAY 7 JULY — FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Cox Scrub

Meet at 8.30am in the main car park on the Goolwa Rd, 7 km. south of Ashbourne.

TRIP LEADER: Keith Jones.

Saturday 14 July: Brownhill Creek Recreation Park (MLR) (10km).

This park is in the Adelaide Foothills at Mitcham along Brownhill Creek Road. Meet at the car park past the Caravan Park at 8.30am.

TRIP LEADER: Brian Blaylock

Future Excursions (cont.)

Thursday 19 July: Kaiser Stuhl CP (MLR) (60km)

Meet at 8.30am at the Tanunda Creek Road CP gate. The Park is located in the Barossa Valley, 12km southeast of Tanunda. From Tanunda take the main Tanunda to Angaston Road (Mengler Hill Road) for 8km to the southerly turn off onto Tanunda Creek Road. The Park is approximately 4km along this road.

TRIP LEADER: Martyn Price

SUNDAY 22 JULY — PORT AUGUSTA BABLERS

Yunapinna to Carrierloo roads loop

Meet at 8am at start of Stuart Highway.

TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haas

Sunday 29 July: Currency Creek Gorge (85km).

The Gorge is 6km north of Goolwa on the Goolwa-Strathalbyn Road. Meet at 8.30am in the Lions Park on the northern side of the road just past the 80km limit in Currency Creek, when travelling from Goolwa.

TRIP LEADER: Neil Cheshire

SATURDAY 4 AUGUST — FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Inman River walk, Victor Harbor

Meet at 8.30am in the car park on Bay Rd., Victor opposite the Victor Harbor Library.

TRIP LEADER: TBC.

Saturday 11 August: Jenkins Scrub (MLR) (61km).

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

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

Thursday 16 August: Altona CSR Landcare Reserve (MLR) 55km.

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

TRIP LEADER: Martyn Price

SUNDAY 19 AUGUST — PORT AUGUSTA BABLERS

Dutchman's Stern CP

Meet at 8.30am at Quorn Pool

TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haas

SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER — FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Scott C.P., Currency Creek.

Meet at 8.30am in the First Car Park on Gould Rd. coming off the Deep Creek Rd.

TRIP LEADER: Bob Daly

Sunday 2 September: It is Father's Day so there will be no Birds SA excursion.

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER — PORT AUGUSTA BABLERS

Bernie's Block

Meet at 8.00am in Mambray Creek parking bay

TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haas



**Black-chinned Honeyeater
photographed by Brian Walker
at Riverglades Wetland
on 15 February, 2018 (see p 20)**

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

More scattered reports from widespread localities.

- 2, 12/2/2018. Port Augusta West, NW.
Langdon, P.
- 2, 21/2/2018. Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Garden, NW.
Langdon, P.
- Pair + 4 juveniles, 1/3/2018. Onkaparinga RP, MLR.
Brooker, W.
- 1, 15/3/2018. Coffin Bay, EP.
Oneil, B.
- 1, 22/3/2018. Goolwa Barrage, Beacon 19, MM.
Jack, T.
- 9, 1/4/2018. Wedge Island, MO.
van Weenan, J.
- 1, 12/4/2018. Mutton Cove, AP.
Walker, S.
- 16, 20/4/2018. Goolwa Barrage, Beacon 19, MM.
Spiers, J.
- 20+, 23/4/2018. Sturt Gorge RP, east end, MLR.
Close, D.
- 3, 25/4/2018. Little Bool Lagoon, SE.
Leddy, L.

Barbary Dove

- 1, 30/4/2018. Balaklava, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Australasian Shoveler

- 60, 12/2/2018. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.
Williams, K.
- 4, 18/2/2018. Whyalla Sewage Works, EP.
Langdon, P. *et al.*

Freckled Duck

- 9, 18/2/2018. Whyalla Wetlands, EP.
Haase, B. *et al.*
- 1, 18/4/2018. Onkaparinga Wetlands, South Rd, MLR.
Bainbridge, T. & Tyler, I.

Hoary-headed Grebe

- 1, 20/4/2018. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR.
Williams, D.

Diamond Dove

- 1, 1/3/2018. American River, KI. On powerlines.
Pridham, T.
- Not previously reported from KI although difficult to determine if a wild bird.*

Fork-tailed Swift

Many reports in Feb and March, including relatively large nos. at Point Sturt MM on 23 March.

- 50, 21/2/2018. Port Clinton, YP.
McKenzie, P.
- 4, 23/2/2018. Cox Scrub CP, MLR.
Black, A.
- 20, 23/2/2018. Black Forest, AP.
Carpenter, G.
- 120, 10/3/2018. Port Elliott, MLR.
Syson, W.
- 50, 10/3/2018. Woods Well, MM.
Nash, R.
- 19, 12/3/2018. Clements Gap CP, LN.
Haase, B. *et al.*
- 4, 17/3/2018. Paiwalla Wetlands, MM.
Potter, S.
- 300, 23/3/2018. Newland Head CP, MLR.
Syson, W.
- 720, 23/3/2018. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM.
Doecke, S.

Great Egret

- 1, 26 & 28/2/2018. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR.
Williams, D.
- 2, 6/4/2018. Millbrook Reservoir, MLR.
Stratford, J.

Bird Records (cont.)

Yellow-billed Spoonbill

1, 20/4/2018. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR.
Williams, D.

Australian White Ibis

Numbers increasing around Adelaide including:

35, 12/2/2018. Adelaide, Light Square, AP.
Carpenter, G.
20, 23/3/2018. Adelaide, Pennington Gardens, AP.
Horton, P.
115, 25/3/2018. Waite Oval, AP.
Pring, A. & Horton, P.
100, 20/4/2018. Pasadena High School, AP.
Carpenter, G.

White-bellied Sea Eagle

Many reports near Adelaide suggesting a nesting site near Torrens Island (in mangroves) and possibly Murray Lakes.

1 immature, 15/2/2018. Price Saltfields, YP.
Jack, T.
1, 20/2/2018. Williamstown, Coppermine Rd, MLR.
Flying over.
Pearce, A.
1, 22/2/2018. Millbrook Reservoir, MLR.
Moyle, B. & Jury, T.
1 adult, 26/2/2018. Millbrook Reservoir, MLR.
Feeding on juvenile Australasian Darter.
Rodda, B.
1 immature, 12/3/2018. Port Arthur, YP.
Woodland, R. & Buckley, K.
1, 15/3/2018. Chinaman Creek, LN.
Langdon, P.
2 immatures, 23/3/2018. Saint Kilda, S of, AP.
Carpenter, G.
2 adults, 25/3/2018. Port River, Torrens Island, AP.
Price, M.
1 immature, 26/3/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.
Koch, P.
1, 3/4/2018. Middleton, MLR.
Mitchell, P.
Adult + immature, 8/4/2018. Price, YP.
Castle, D.
Immature, 8/4/2018. Little Bool Lagoon, SE.
Leddy, L.
1 immature, 9/4/2018. Goolwa Sewage Works, MM.
Brooker, W.
1 immature, 17/4/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.
Syson, W.

1, 21/4/2018. Port Gawler, AP.

Wilson, V.

1 immature, 28/4/2018. Sellicks Beach, MLR.
Flying over.

Gordon, S.

1 immature, 2/5/2018. Pellaring Flat, MM.

Carpenter, G.

Square-tailed Kite

1, 23/2/2018. Bellevue Heights, MLR.
Carpenter, G.
1, 3/3/2018. Forreston, MLR.
Slade, R.
2, 11/3/2018. Warren Reservoir, MLR.
Bainbridge, T. & Edwards, N.

Black Falcon

1, 29/4/2018. Pasadena, AP. Flying over.
Allen, J.

Buff-banded Rail

1, 16/2/2018. River Torrens, Frome St, AP.
Oerman, G.

Australian Bustard

Several reports from southern regions, reflecting dry conditions inland.

1, 3/2018. Port Augusta, Shack Rd, NW.
Langdon, P., per
1, 6/4/2018. Whitwarta, AP.
Taylor, P.W.
1, 10/4/2018. Owen, S of, AP.
Steeles, C.
1, 22/4/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.
Lee, B. & R.
2, 27/4/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.
Stevenson, A.
1, 29/4/2018. Mallala, Pinkerton Plains, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Sooty Oystercatcher

19, 15/3/2018. Middleton Point, MM.
Syson, W.
9, 25/3/2018. Bald Hill Beach, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Red-kneed Dotterel

Relatively large numbers in southern districts.

60, 6/3/2018. Mutton Cove, AP.
Merchant, M.
43, 22/3/2018. Goolwa Barrage, Beacon 19, MM.
Jack, T.

Bird Records (cont.)

Curlew Sandpiper

2400, 12/3/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Koch, P.

The largest group reported from SA for several years.

White-rumped Sandpiper

1, 16/3/2018. Near Mosquito Point, MM.

Rogers, C. & Koch, P.

The second report from SA, to be submitted to SA Rarities Committee. The first was from St Kilda saltfields on 15 Jan 1988 (SA Ornithologist 29:161).

Pectoral Sandpiper

The most records for many years over the last few months.

2, 18/2/2018. Whyalla Sewage Works, EP.

Langdon, P. *et al.*

4, 5/3/2018. St Kilda saltfields, S of St Kilda, AP.

Brooker, W. & Rogers, C.

2, 23/3/2018. Saint Kilda, S of, AP.

Carpenter, G.

6, 1/4/2018. Tolderol GR, MM.

Harper, D. & S.

2, 19/4/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Hatch, J.

Long-toed Stint

1, 26/3/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Koch, P.

1, 1/4/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Harper, D. & S.

Whimbrel

13, 15/2/2018. Price Saltfields, YP.

Jack, T.

Few reports in recent years.

Ruff

1, 12/2/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Koch, P.

1, 4/4/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Brooker, W. & Cox, J.

Painted Button-quail

4, 1/4/2018. Arkaroo Rock, FR.

Bone, I.

A northerly record.

White-winged Tern

2, 19/4/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.
Coming into breeding plumage.

Hatch, J.

1, 30/4/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Donkin, J.

Gull-billed Tern

Two reports of the smaller migratory subspecies,

affinus.

2, 15/3/2018. Chinaman Creek, LN.

Langdon, P.

1, 7/4/2018. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Fairy Tern

50, 21/2/2018. Port Clinton, YP.

McKenzie, P.

50, 20/3/2018. Port Clinton, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

50, 8/4/2018. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

2, 2/2018. Kaiserstuhl Forest Reserve, MLR.

Pearce, A.

Musk Lorikeet

Several, 4/3/2018. Ardrossan, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

25, 10/3/2018. Thompson Beach, AP.

Haase, B. *et al.*

Blue-winged Parrot

3, 8/4/2018. Glendambo, 11km SE. NW

Lishmund, O.; Perry, E. & Winterbottom, J.

30, 29/4/2018. Bowmans, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Eastern Barn Owl

1, 27/4/2018. Mawson Lakes, AP.

Harper, D.

1, 27/4/2018. Adelaide, SA Museum, AP.

Hall, D.

Sacred Kingfisher

6, 21/4/2018. Port Gawler, AP.

Wilson, V.

1, 28/4/2018. Arno Bay, EP.

Nottle, B.

Many reports from mangroves and vicinity in autumn-winter.

Superb Fairywren

3, 28/2/2018. West Beach, Apex Park, AP.

Paton, P.

1, 25/4/2018. Felixstow, Lochiel Park, AP.

Hyland, M.

Slender-billed Thornbill

2+, 23/3/2018. Saint Kilda, N of, AP.

Carpenter, G.

Much of the taller samphire used by this thornbill is dying off, with no birds found near Port Gawler in a recent survey.

Yellow Thornbill

3, 21/2/2018. Glenelg Golf Course, AP.

Paton, P.

Bird Records (cont.)

Eastern Spinebill

Many reports from eastern suburbs west to South Rd.

several, 15/3/2018. Black Forest, AP.
2, 21/3/2018. Malvern, AP. Carpenter, G.
1, 18/4/2018. Mitchell Park, AP. Black, A
2, 20/4/2018. Norwood, AP. Butler, L.
2, 25/4/2018. Netherby, AP. Lemka, J.
1, 4/2018. St Peters, AP. Bansemer, B.
2, 4/2018. Magill, AP. Bansemer, B.
5, 4/2018. Banksia Park, AP. Eaton, F. & J.
Several, 4/2018. Gilberton, AP. Noble, C. & Walker, B.
Paton, P.

Orange Chat

Several, 14/3/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.
2, 23/4/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. Koch, P.
Rodda, B.

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater

3, 28/4/2018. Point Sturt, MM. First report from area.
Doecke, N.

Striped Honeyeater

1, 1/5/2018. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM. Also first report from area.
Doecke, M. & S.

Ground Cuckooshrike

1 immature, 30/4/2018. Cherryville, MLR. Feeding on ground in grassy paddock.
Cramond, G.

One previous report from MLR of 2 flying over Anstey Hill on 9 March 1982.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike

1, 7/4/2018. Nangwarry, SE. Edwards, L.
Few reports from SA in recent years.

Australian Golden Whistler

Male, 13/4/2018. Fullarton, Cremorne St, AP. Horton, P.
2, 25/4/2018. Felixstow, Lochiel Park, AP. Hyland, M.

Dusky Woodswallow

20-30, 25/4/2018. Gilberton, AP. High overhead.
Paton, P.

Grey Currawong

1, 21/2/2018. Highbury, AP. Pyle, C.
1, 6/3/2018. Westbourne Park, AP. Allen, J.
4, 15/3/2018. Black Forest, AP. Carpenter, G.
1, 20/3/2018. Black Forest, AP. Hirst, P.
1, 15/4/2018. Unley Oval, AP. Sparks, K.

Grey Fantail

2, 25/4/2018. Felixstow, Lochiel Park, AP. Hyland, M.

White-winged Chough

8, 14/3/2018. Happy Valley Reservoir, MLR. Bradley, T.
First report at this site for many years.

Red-capped Robin

Male, 23/3/2018. Lobethal, 3km SSE, MLR. Evans, M.

Satin Flycatcher

Female, 13/3/2018. Clarendon, MLR. Found dead. Williams, K.
Several previous reports of post-breeding dispersal to the Adelaide region in late summer-autumn, mostly of female-plumaged birds.

Tree Martin

1000, 21/2/2018. Port Clinton, YP. McKenzie, P.

Bassian Thrush

1, 8/2/2018. Mount George, Peacock Rd, MLR. Doecke, N.
1, 10/3/2018. Upper Sturt, MLR. Gillam, S.

Common Starling

10000+, 13/3/2018. Ceduna foreshore, EP. Came into roost in Aleppo and Norfolk Island pines.
Carpenter, G.

Beautiful Firetail

2, 26/4/2018. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM. In planted sheoaks.
Doecke, N.

Black-chinned Honeyeater

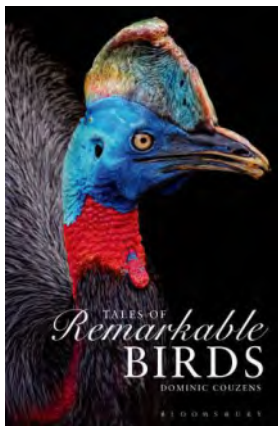
~ 15. 15/2/2018. Riverglades, RM. Huxley, L. *et al.*

From the Library



598 BAR
Barnes, Simon
The Meaning of Birds
London: Head of Zeus, 2016
ISBN 97817849707

One of our most eloquent nature writers offers a passionate and informative celebration of birds and their ability to help us understand the world we live in. As well as exploring how birds achieve the miracle of flight; why birds sing; what they tell us about the seasons of the year and what their presence tells us about the places they inhabit, This book muses on the uses of feathers, the drama of raptors, the slaughter of pheasants and the infidelities of geese.



598.251 COU
Couzens, Dominic
Tales of remarkable birds
London: Bloomsbury, 2015.
ISBN 9781408190234

This book divides the world by continent and takes a series of extraordinary stories from each to illustrate a great diversity of bird behaviour. Each continent has about five or six stories, each described in 1500 to 2000 words and examining the truths and the mythology behind the example being discussed.



598.71 TOF
Toft, Catherine A.
Parrots of the Wild: a natural history of the world's most captivating birds.
Oaklands, Cal: University of California, 2015.
ISBN 9780520239258

Parrots of the Wild explores recent scientific discoveries and what they reveal about the lives of wild parrots, which are among the most intelligent and rarest of birds. The authors discuss the evolutionary history of parrots and how this history affects perceptual and cognitive abilities, diet and foraging patterns, as well as mating and social behaviour. The authors also discuss conservation status and the various ways different populations are adapting to a world that is rapidly changing.



598 VAR
Varesvuo, Markus
Birds: Magic Moments
London: New Holland, 2011
ISBN 978178009075

This volume showcases 150 photographs of birds in the wild. Each bird is identified with its common name and its Latin name. A short description accompanies each photograph.

Birds SA Strategic Plan 2017-2020 – Issues and Actions

The following issues and actions arising from the Strategic Planning discussions which took place in September 2017 will be pursued over the January 2018 to December 2020 time frame. Target timing and responsibilities have been assigned for all these actions. The Birds SA Management Committee will review the Strategic Plan Action List on a regular basis and its status will be reported in the minutes of the Management Committee.

External Issues –Government Policies, Decisions and Actions

ISSUE	ACTIONS
Habitat Loss & Conservation Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary statement for Birds SA website 2. Ongoing monitoring in conjunction with BirdLife Australia
Diminishing level of resources within DEWNR for environmental work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate to members results of Conservation Council questionnaire to all major political parties on commitments to DEWNR for environment work 2. Develop relationship with Minister post Mar 2018 election.
Water flows (all rivers) & wetland management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation sub-Committee to monitor via Conservation Council, DEWNR & other publicly available sources 2. SA Conservation Council & BirdLife Australia will be the two prime advocates for improvement actions
AIBS Management – too much focus on people, not enough on the birds	Birds SA will take a higher profile in AIBS and in advocating for a more appropriate balance – affiliation with BirdLife Australia will assist with this
Increasing use of parks for human recreation at the expense of conservation and rehabilitation	Birds SA to continue to provide recommendations to DEWNR on park management plans

External Issues – Most Important External Issues Affecting Future Success of Birds SA

ISSUE	ACTIONS
Lack of community understanding of bird conservation issues and benefits. Declining connection of people with nature.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue WEA education program. 2. Continue ABC talkback segment 3. Continue to promote Fledglings activities 4. Publish press releases on key issues
Collaboration with other conservation groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affiliation with BirdLife Australia 2. Maintain strong linkages with CCSA, BioR, Nature Foundation SA, Bush Heritage Australia, SA Field Nats.
Attracting young members to Birds SA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue Fledglings program 2. Support activities to attract 20-30 age group via students Birds SA has supported
Lack of public recognition and acknowledgement of Birds SA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to develop the relationship with DEWNR for survey work etc. 2. Continue the John Hatch ABC segment 3. Distribute press releases for matters of prime importance for SA birds 4. Ensure Birds SA receives appropriate recognition in joint programs with BirdLife Australia 5. Continue WEA course and introduce other courses when opportunities arise
Lack of bird diversity and the large scale of restoration efforts required	Birds SA will increasingly support restoration projects by actively participating where feasible and by publicising through Facebook and other Birds SA communications.

Birds SA Strategic Plan 2017-2020 – Issues and Actions (cont.)

Internal Issues – Most Important Internal Issues Affecting Future Success of Birds SA

ISSUE	ACTIONS
Need to build a younger membership, not just fledglings – (also raised in external issues)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support activities to attract 20-30 age group via students Birds SA has supported 2. Encourage university students to submit papers
Small number of members doing the majority of the work (all volunteers)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advertise for support in the e-Newsletter, The Birder and through personal approach. 2. Encourage members to fill vacant Committee positions
There is a need for succession planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President will work on nurturing a potential successor over the next 2-3 years. 2. All Committee members will consider succession planning for their positions.
Encourage donations for research projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalise process for generating relevant research projects – include the potential for joint projects with BirdLife Australia 2. Identify initial project/s 3. Communicate details to Birds SA members
More extensive liaison with regional areas (e.g. Eyre Peninsula) required	Continue strong links with Port Augusta Babblers and Fleurieu Sub-group
Capacity/skill set to make the best use of social media	

Internal Issues – Birds SA Projects, Programs and Services

ISSUE	ACTIONS
Bird of the month presentation at every general meeting	A volunteer will make the “Bird of the Month” 10-minute presentation at the start of each general meeting.
Photographs at monthly meetings to be labelled clearly to assist new and young members	All presenters at general meetings will be encouraged to label images of birds with the common English name for the species
Consider an annual Birds SA calendar and introducing hats, shirts etc. carrying Birds SA logo.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate preparation and costs for a 2019 calendar. 2. Investigate potential items and costs for merchandising by Birds SA
Review the roles of The Birder, website, Facebook – avoid unnecessary duplication	Continue to ensure that there is no undue duplication of material. All articles in all media platforms to be reviewed to ensure that they are concise.
Bird sighting data electronically formatted	Develop and implement a policy for where Birds SA enters and retrieves bird data.
Longer excursions for members, motel accommodation, not camping	Identify potential excursions. Conduct a trial to determine uptake and identify any issues.
Build number of surveyors through ‘pairing’ or short courses	Investigate the potential to recruit more surveyors. Affiliation with BirdLife Australia may provide opportunities.

Our Contact Details etc.

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 2018 – 2019

President	John Gitsham	0438900393
Vice President	John Hatch	8362 2820
Vice President	Jeff Groves	82632939
Secretary	Kate Buckley	0428887786
Treasurer	John Spiers	8333 0272
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Journal Editor	Meryl Brown	8339 6839
Newsletter Editor	Cynthia Pyle	8264 5778
Field Programs	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Bird Records,	Graham Carpenter	8297 5463
Membership Officer	Alan Burns	8381 2708
Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	Brian Blaylock	0448822374
Member	Karen Donkin	8379 1173
Member	Beatrice Rogers	0423241856

COMMITTEE EMAIL CONTACTS

If you wish to contact any committee member by email, use the email address below:

general@birdssa.asn.au and indicate which committee member you wish to contact.

Your message will be forwarded to that person.

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

Conservation Sub-committee members

Jeff Groves (Chair), William Brooker, Phil Cole, Bill Breed, David Andrewartha, David Hansman, Rodney Attwood, Nigel Gammon

SA Rarities & Distribution (SARDS) Members

Andrew Black (Chair), Brian Blaylock (Secretary), Graham Carpenter, John Fennell, Bob Green, John Hatch, Lyn Pedler, Colin Rogers

Birds SA Port Augusta Babblers

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

BirdLife South East SA

Convener: Bob Green 0407649909

Email: shriketit@bigpond.com

Fleurieu Birders

Contact person: Wendy Phillips 85550634

Email: bob_daly@bigpond.com

Website: www.Fleurieubirdwatchers.org

COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the AUGUST 'Birder' is due by the July General Meeting (July 27). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD or a USB stick, emailed to the email address below, or typed/handwritten neatly.

newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au

ABN 76 339 976 789

Print post number 100004337

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationers

WEBSITE: birdssa.asn.au

BIRDS SA SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018

Members who choose to receive electronic versions of our newsletter, 'The Birder', and the journal receive a discount of \$10 per year.

The basic subscriptions are therefore:

Ordinary Member (electronic only)	\$50.00
Ordinary Member (print)	\$60.00
Family Member (electronic only)	\$60.00
Family Member (electronic)	\$70.00
Student (electronic only)	\$10.00

Government Concession Holders receive a discount of \$5.00 per year.

Members paying by credit card will be charged \$1.50 per transaction.

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.

Members' Photographs



Crimson Rosella sub-species

Green Rosella

photographed by John Newland
at the Bay of Fires, Tasmania
on 20 February, 2018

NEW MEMBERS

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

Tina Woods and Tracy Sinclair	LYNDOCH	Susanne Scarborough	SEAFORD RISE
Stephanie Wyton and David Donovan	TENNYSON	David and Suzanne Thorn	VICTOR HARBOR
Mark Friswell, Stella Jacobs, David and Jonathan Friswell	ERINDALE	Patricia and Brian Simpson	STRATHALBYN
Margaret Wallace	ADELAIDE	Alan Nairn	UNLEY
Kevin Back	MYLOR	Mary Clausen	WOODSIDE
Antoria Wilson	HAWKER	Sue Scott	MOUNT TORRENS
Noel Christophersen	NURIOOTPA	Joy Peter	HAPPY VALLEY
Jenny Day	LYNDOCH	Stewart Andrews	PROSPECT
John and Helen Hastings	LARGS BAY	Kanako Tanahashi	SEATON
Erdem Mustafa	PARAFIELD GARDENS	Adrian Shackley	GAWLER
Liz, Donald and Mark Needle	LOBETHAL	Dominica, Mark Lee, Jordi, and Maia Thomson	GOLDEN GROVE
Diane Carter	ALDGATE	Elizabeth Bannister	BORDERTOWN
Graeme Taylor	LITTLEHAMPTON	Graeme Finlayson	CRAFERS
Tina Woods and Tracy Sinclair	LYNDOCH	Ian McPhee Chapman	CAMBELLTOWN
Stephanie Wyton and David Donovan	TENNYSON		

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

Our Favourite Bush Birds



Diamond Firetail (juv)

photographed by Gordon Pateman
in Monarto Woodlands on 29 April 2018



Spotted Pardalote

photographed by Bob Daly on 18/4/2018
at Monarto Woodlands



Beautiful Firetail,

Photographed by Greg Blackman at
Cape Otway, Victoria on 27 April 2018



Female Red-capped Robin

photographed by Gordon Pateman
in Monarto Woodlands on 19 May 2018