

The BIRDER

The official newsletter of Birds SA

Summer 2018 No 248



Linking people with birds
in South Australia

In this Issue

Search for the Night Parrot in SA

Andrew Black awarded JN Hobbs Medal

SA Shorebird Alliance

The Bird of the Month

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Size: 10-11cm

Range: A common nomad found all over Australia in many habitats wherever there is mistletoe. Not present in Tasmania.

Voice: High pitched "Swee-swit" call.

Breeding: Breeds September to March, nomadic when not breeding.

Nest: A neatly suspended 'babies booty' shape made of plant-down and spider webs and sometimes caterpillar droppings, 3-4 white eggs.

(Ref: Slaters Field Guide to Australian Birds Second Edition)



This male Mistletoebird
Photographed by John Gitsham
at Gluepot Bird Reserve.

Above right: The Mistletoe fruit that the bird eats and then deposits the sticky seed on the tree limb.

Below right: A typical mature Mistletoe on a Gum tree. The Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that depends on a host to survive.

Birders



- Swallow-tailed
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Red-legged Kittiwake
- Ivory
- Sabine's
- Bonaparte's
- Gray-hooded
- Black-headed
- Little
- Ross's
- Laughing
- Franklin's
- Belcher's
- Black-tailed
- Heermann's
- Mew
- Ring-billed
- Western
- Yellow-footed
- California
- Herring
- Yellow-legged
- Iceland
- Lesser Black-backed
- Slaty-backed
- Glaucous-winged
- Glaucous
- Great Black-backed
- Kelp

Other people

SEAGULL!



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Birds SA is the trading name of the South Australian Ornithological Association Inc. established in 1899. Birds SA affiliated with BirdLife Australia in March 2018. Birds SA is a non-government, non-profit organisation and gets its funding from memberships and donations from the public to run its programs and distribute its publications.

CENTRE INSERT: SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 66, JOHN WHITE MELLOR, PART 3

The cover photograph shows a couple of Chestnut-breasted Whitefaces, photographed by Brian Blaylock at BonBon Station SA in August 2018.

We welcome **36** new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p16.

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 BIRDERS (PA)** for the next few months. Further details of all these activities and others can be found later in 'The Birder'.

Dec 2018

Saturday 15 Dec.	Birds SA	Tolderol Wetlands Game Reserve
Thursday 20 Dec.	Birds SA	Apex Park Wetland Reserve, West Beach
	Birds SA	No General Meeting for December 2018

Jan 2019

Saturday 5 th Jan.	FB	Twilight walk Clayton Bay
Friday 18 th Jan	Birds SA	General meeting, Waite Inst, Urrbrae
Sunday 20 th Jan	PA	Baroota Reservoir, Mambray Creek
Sunday 20 th Jan	Birds SA	Magazine Road wetlands, Dry Creek

Feb 2019

Wed 6 th Feb.	FB	Cruise the Coorong Boat Trip, Goolwa Wharf
Saturday 9th Feb.	Birds SA	Excursion to Paiwalla wetlands
Thursday 14 th Feb.	Birds SA	Excursion to Browns road, Monarto
Sunday 17 th Feb.	PA	Excursion to Bowmans Park, Crystal Brook
Friday 22 nd Feb	Birds SA	General meeting, Waite Inst, Urrbrae
Sunday 24 th Feb.	Birds SA	Excursion to Whites Road Wetlands

March 2019

Saturday 2 nd March	FB	Excursion to Old Noarlunga Township River walk
Saturday 9 th March.	Birds SA	Excursion to Anacotilla Springs, Second Valley
Sunday 24 th March.	PA	Excursion to Chinaman's Creek
Friday 29 th March.	Birds SA	General Meeting, Waite Inst, Urrbrae

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Summer is nearly on us again, it's been a great spring lots of interesting birds have been getting about. I have taken on the task of editing and producing this (Nov) summer issue of the Birder while Cynthia is away, I hope you like it. The front cover is a spectacular photo taken by Brian Blaylock while up at BonBon Station in the SA outback, it's a Bush Heritage reserve. The birds are the Chestnut-breasted Whiteface which was SA only endemic species, unfortunately it has since been seen in NT near the SA border a few years ago, and hence one of the reasons why we decided to change the old Birds SA logo (with that bird species) to the new logo, a generic species representing all birds in SA.

The committee with approval from the members have established a new and simpler membership system, see page six for details. We have cut **nine** different categories of membership down to **three** with a print option for those that still want it. The basic membership is digital only for our publications, hence the lower fees. This should make it easier on our committee, treasurer, membership officer, website and our members. Our association has grown very rapidly over the past few years and we have now over 850 members which is fantastic, but this comes with extra administration work for our volunteer committee members, hence why we are trying to streamline our processes to make it easier on everyone.

It's been a busy spring for birding and conservation. Birds SA has been very active doing lots of events and birding activities and we rely on the good will of our committee members and volunteers from the membership to help out with their time and energy at these events.

If you are interested in getting more involved with our Association as a volunteer or as a member on our committee please talk to one of the committee members or myself, we would love to have you joining us on events and activities!

Happy birding over summer! And have a merry Xmas and a Happy New year.

John Gitsham

President Birds SA



White-winged Fairywren, photo by Peter Gower

Birds SA Contact Details

General Meetings are held in the Charles 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.

COMMITTEE 2018 – 2019

President	John Gitsam	0438900393
Vice President	John Hatch	8362 2820
Vice President	Jeff Groves	8263 2939
Secretary	Kate Buckley	0428887786
Treasurer	John Spiers	8333 0272
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Journal Editor	Merilyn Browne	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 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
imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au
Campout Organiser Lynton Huxley 7009 5038
Rare Birds Secretary, Brian Blaylock 0448822374

Conservation Sub-committee

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

SA Rarities & Distribution (SARDS)

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

Port Augusta Birders

Peter Langdon 8642 5723
Greg Bannon 8648 6630
Bernie Haase 0419863834

Fleurieu Birders

Contact: Wendy Phillips 85550634 or 0414248648
Neil Cheshire 85527904
fleurieubirders@gmail.com

BirdLife South East SA

Convener: Bob Green 0407649909
shriketit@bigpond.com

COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the autumn 'Birder' is due by the January General Meeting (Jan18). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD or a USB stick, emailed to

newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au

or typed/handwritten neatly.

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BIRDS SA SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018

Members who choose Digital only membership only receive electronic versions of our newsletter, 'The Birder', and the Journal.*

The basic subscriptions are **Digital only**:

Individual Member.....\$45.00 p.a.

Family Membership.....\$55.00 p.a.

Full Time Student Member.....\$10.00 p.a.

***Plus additional \$20.00 p.a. if you want to receive the printed versions of 'The Birder' newsletter' and the Ornithological Journal.**

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.

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

Conservation Sub-Committee Report

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

In late June 2018 a letter from Birds SA was sent to Minister Speirs regarding the unacceptability of the harvesting by humans of crabs and molluscs within the AIBS and adjacent areas. Our letter included an excellent report prepared by Colin Rogers highlighting the impact of human activities at Thompson Beach on the food resources required by overwintering Red Knot and Great Knot (approx. 150 Red Knot and 30 Great Knot). Our June submission requested that a moratorium be placed upon human harvesting of crabs and molluscs for the whole year in the areas of the AIBS identified as important inter-tidal feeding zones for birds. This followed earlier Birds SA submissions to Minister Hunter and input to the AIBS Draft management Plan where we suggested a moratorium for several months prior to the departure of the migratory waders. The response from the Minister (dated 4 October 2018) made no commitment regarding restricting human activities. The processes described by Minister Speirs to manage this issue were little different from those received from Minister Hunter. From what Birds SA members have observed these processes are clearly insufficient in providing the birds with undisturbed feeding habitat. It was noted that Thompson Beach is not included in the AIBS National Park.

Laratinga Wetlands Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

David Andrewartha has been investigating the potential impact on birdlife at Laratinga Wetlands from the planned expansion of the wastewater treatment plant that feeds water to Laratinga. Birds SA member Kevin Williams has expressed concern that birdlife will be adversely affected. A meeting of the Mount Barker Council's Laratinga Working Group will take place on November 22. David Andrewartha and Jeff Groves will attend.

Duck and Quail Hunting Reference Group Discussions

Birds SA intends to participate in the annual duck and quail hunting reference group meeting convened by DEW. This meeting starts with the premise that an open season will be declared and arguments have to then be advanced to justify any restrictions on the timing of the seasons and the daily bag limits for ducks and stubble quail.

This process is flawed and relies on data that are highly questionable. This is particularly the case with stubble quail.

Birds SA has written to Minister Speirs detailing our concerns with the reference group process and noting the considerable resources that are required to provide meaningful, independent data. Our position is that if the Government is unable or unwilling to provide the independent, scientific resources proving that hunting is having no impact on the long-term sustainability of the species in question then the recreational hunting of these birds should cease.

Jeff Groves

BirdLife Australia's Highest Ornithological Award

J.N. Hobbs Medal 2018: Citation – Andrew Barham Black



Andrew Black completed formal training in medicine for his MBBS in 1963, and qualified as a Member of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1967. He practised as a specialist neurologist in Adelaide with appointments at Glenside, Adelaide Children's, and The Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, at the last of which he was Head of Neurology from 1987 to 1996. In his medical career, he made significant contributions to epilepsy, publishing over 30 papers as well as over 60 conference abstracts and presentations. Andrew served on various committees of the Epilepsy Society of Australia in 1991–2005, including a term as President from 1997 to 2000. He also served the Epilepsy Association of South Australia as a committee member and/or medical advisor for over 30 years from 1976 to 2007, and as a councillor for the Phoenix Society for a similar period from 1978 to 2008.

Andrew's interest in birds commenced in the late 1960s, when a sporting injury opened up time for a 'hobby'. In 1969, he joined the South Australian Ornithological Association and is an Honorary Life Member (since 1995), having served as President in 1974–1976, 1985–1990 and again in 2004–2007. He joined the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia in 1974 (serving as President in 1980–1984) and the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (now BirdLife Australia) in 1975. Subsequently, he served as an Executive Member of the Conservation Council of South Australia in 1977–1984, as a Councillor for the Australian Conservation Foundation in 1985–1987 and was a Member (government appointments) of the Native Vegetation Authority (1985–1995) and the Native Vegetation Council (1991–2001) in South Australia.

Conservation of habitats was a key motivation for Andrew's contributions across all these endeavours. The 1970s and 1980s were pivotal times for conservation in South Australia as extensive areas of native vegetation had already been cleared post-World War II for farming, and clearance was continuing and had to be curtailed. In that period, the focus was on securing areas of unallotted Crown Land as reserves rather than releasing them for agriculture. Andrew was prominent in delegations and meetings with government ministers that successfully lobbied to prevent further Crown Land from being released for agriculture. Several hundred thousand hectares of uncleared Crown Land were eventually gazetted as conservation reserves.

Clearance on private land continued, and further clearance without adequate justification needed to stop. As a consequence of further lobbying, South Australia was the first state to introduce controls on clearance of native vegetation, in May 1983, at first as a regulation under the *Planning Act 1982*, and then with the *Native Vegetation Management Act 1985*. The Act required formal application, assessment and justification before permission was

granted to clear native vegetation. Andrew Black served on the Native Vegetation Authority and Council, which reviewed applications and assessments for vegetation clearance, for >15 years. Around 95% of applications made between 1985 and 1991 were refused, essentially stopping broadacre clearance of native vegetation in South Australia.

It was entirely fitting that in January 2000, Andrew received an OAM in recognition of his significant service to conservation and the environment, to ornithology and to medicine, particularly in the field of epilepsy.

Andrew has continued to make contributions to ornithology (as well as conservation and medicine) since then, and in late 2003 he became an Honorary Research Associate in Ornithology at the South Australian Museum. His ornithological interests lie in the history of discovery, taxonomy, conservation status, and distribution of Australian birds. Grasswrens, birds in arid regions, particularly those of South Australia, are prominent. These interests are well reflected within his numerous publications, in excess of 50, and mostly published since 2003 and culminating in the book *Grasswrens: Australian Outback Identities* in 2017 (Black & Gower 2017). His attention to historical evidence and anomalies is meticulous and his publications are well-documented and richly informative. When required, he visited interstate and overseas museums in Europe and England, or mounted field expeditions to search inland areas for elusive species, often, but not always, to unravel something about grasswrens. Australian ornithology is the beneficiary of his commitment. His knowledge of birds and their distributions in South Australia has developed to such an extent during this time that he is now one of the few ornithologists trusted with reviewing the evidence of unusual sightings of birds in South Australia for both the state government's environment department and Birds SA, where he chairs their Rare Birds Committee.

Andrew Barham Black has made significant contributions to our knowledge of Australian birds through publications and service to ornithology and conservation and is a worthy J.N. Hobbs Memorial Medallist. Importantly this contribution has been made while also making substantial contributions to medicine, and service to his profession, as a neurologist. As such, Andrew has carried on that early tradition where people formally trained in medicine, the 'medicos', often also contributed to society more broadly through their love and study of natural history. Andrew is a fitting exemplar of that ilk.

Reference

Black, A. & Gower, P. (2017). *Grasswrens: Australian Outback Identities*. Axiom, Stepney, SA.

David Paton, University of Adelaide,
Philippa Horton, South Australian Museum
Penny Paton, Gilberton, South Australia

Citation from the Australian Field Ornithology 2018, 35, 111–112

Please note Andrew Black will be presented with the JN Hobbs Medal by John Barkla, President of BirdLife Australia on our last General meeting for 2018, the November Members Night.

Congratulations and well deserved Andrew, from all Birds SA members for your important contributions to Australian Ornithology.

2019

AOC



AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

3-5TH JULY

DARWIN

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Remember the date



Birds New Zealand



birdlife AUSTRALIA



Australasian Ornithological Conference

DARWIN 2019

Artwork by John Girdham - Darwin NT

News and Events

The Search for the Night Parrot in SA



Left: Birds SA President John Gitsham with a SA Museum specimen of a Night Parrot collected from the Gawler Ranges in 1870's.

Right: Penny Olsens new book, "Night Parrot, Australia's most Elusive Bird", just released in early September.



The Nature Conservation Society of SA and Birds SA have collaborated to do a scientific expedition to the Gawler Ranges and other possible locations in outback SA from December 2018 throughout 2019 at 3 month intervals. The expedition team will place eight sound recorders and remote cameras at known historical Night Parrot sites in the hope that they may record the Night parrot call (now that it's well-known) or if really lucky, capture a photo of the bird.

Aussie Backyard Bird Count 2018

Birds SA helped promote this year's Aussie Backyard Bird Count on behalf of BirdLife Australia for the first time. President John Gitsham got to do a lot of radio (ABC) and press publicity for the event, which went from 22nd Oct to 28th Oct during National Bird week. This event also gave Birds SA excellent publicity at the same time. Over 2.3 million birds were counted across Australia in that week, by 75,000 participants. The top three birds seen were Rainbow Lorikeet, New Holland Honeyeater and Australian Magpie.

Tolderol Open day

Sunday November the 18th was the Tolderol Open day for Birders and general public to view and go on mini-bus tours around the wetlands, this conservation zone wetland supports many hundreds of Migratory wader's species. Birds SA is a major supporter and funds on ground works in the conservation Areas of the Wetlands.

Twitchathon 2018

The annual BirdLife Australia Twitchathon was run across Australia on the weekend of 27th and 28th October, there were options of a 3hr, 12hr or 30hr Twitch to see how many bird species could be seen in those time frames. The teams were encouraged to get sponsorship. Overall they raised over \$35,000 which will go towards bird conservation projects around Australia.

WEA - Birds SA Introduction to Birds and Birdwatching Course 2018

The WEA Birds SA's Introduction to Birds and Birdwatching Course was a success again, with a full booked our group of 25 keen new birders, some of which have taken up memberships. Again the three John's (Hatch, Spiers and Gitsham) facilitated the course again for the 4th year.

Flourishing on the Fleurieu Festival (Like to learn your local birds?)

The 'Flourishing on the Fleurieu Event' held at 10am at Signal Point, Goolwa, Wednesday 26 September.

The 'Fleurieu' Councils including Kangaroo Island, Yankalilla, Victor Harbor and Alexandrina support this bi-annual event to promote activities for retirees. Fleurieu Birdwatchers have participated for a number of years BUT this was the first time we were asked to do a 'Come and Try' Event. The response was overwhelming and we had to limit the number of attendees to 40. Nearly all of these were new to birdwatching and not members of a group.



John Gitsham gave a PowerPoint presentation in the theatre on 'Introduction to Birdwatching' which judging by the questions asked was well received. We supplied a free morning tea and a chance to view Brenda Holden's and David Hamilton's beautiful bird art exhibition, before heading off to the barrage at Goolwa where Kate loaned out Birds SA binoculars.

Everyone got a chance to see birds of prey, ducks, terns, cormorants and small waders flying in a flock looking across from the barrage. The weather was perfect and with the mix of experienced birdwatchers amongst the new comers everyone got a chance to learn something new. We finished up the day here about 2 pm and had to forgo the other sites we originally planned to visit. Many thanks to John and Kate for agreeing to promote Birds SA at this event. **Wendy Phillips**

Shorebird 2020 Surveys

Dedicated Members of Birds SA undertook the November 2020 Shorebird Survey on Monday 12th. Over 30 folk took to the Coast of Gulf St Vincent at high tide, to count the various species of Migratory Waders that over-summer on our shores. This is a most important gathering of data for the future preservation of these birds and conservation of Gulf St Vincent. Wader numbers have been drastically reduced over more recent years, but we hope that by constant monitoring we can be a "voice" for their preservation. The best sighting of the day was over 1,000 Red Knot at Pt Prime! If you are interested in improving your skills at Wader Identification with the aim of joining our Shorebird Survey Team please contact general@birdssa.asn.au. **Kate Buckley**

Waterhouse Club to Innes NP

The President John Gitsham attended a three day expedition as one of five trip leaders with 30 members of the SA Museum's Waterhouse Club representing Birds SA, as the participant's studies native bees with Remko and Katja (Native Bee specialists) and Birds of the Yorke Peninsula and Innes NP. John gave a talk on birds as pollinators and did four guided walks for the participants over the three days.

SA Shorebird Alliance

The SA Shorebird Alliance (Birds SA is a founding member) supported a two day conference discussing the **BirdLife Australia's Migratory Birds Conservation Action Plan for SA**. It was held at Adelaide University from Thursday Oct 18th to the Friday 19th.

It was attended by four Birds SA members, John Hatch, Colin Rogers, John Gitsham and Graham Carpenter, along with many members from the SA Government DEW and various NRM regions and other NGO's. Robust discussions were had to come up with strategies, planning and actions on how to better protect and manage our migratory birds habitats and feeding/roosting areas when they visit SA from the Northern hemisphere,



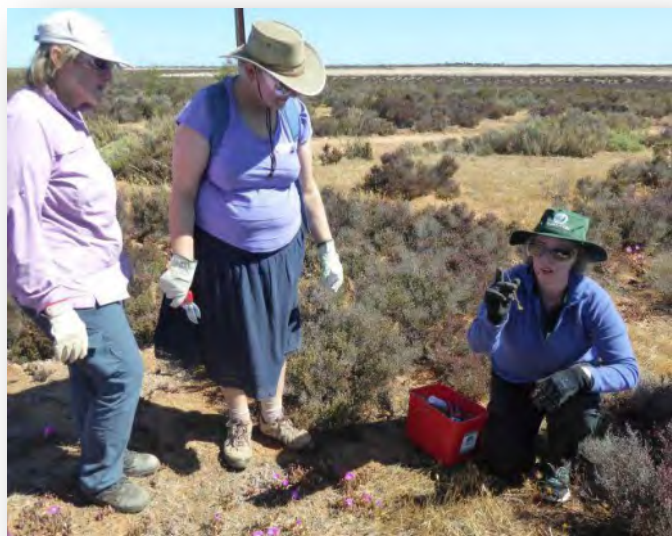
Red-necked Stint, Tolderol, Photo by John Gitsham

Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS)

Aware that care of habitat is so important to sustainability of the shorebird environment; a group of keen participants took part in a **Coastal Regeneration Workshop** at Parham in October. Conducted by Trees for Life educators Amelia Hurren and Randall Bates, the day was funded by the Volunteer Support Program (Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges). The aim was to train volunteers to become more effective in the care and future development of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) habitat. Topics specifically tailored to the Sanctuary included fundamentals of bush care, identifying native plants vs pests, weed control techniques, and methods of bush regeneration. Participants joined in classwork and fieldwork and enthusiastically agreed at the end of the day that it had been a most informative and useful experience which will enable them to better contribute to sustainable land care and biodiversity in the AIBS.

Photo right: Amelia Hurren explains weed selection and pulling techniques to Birds SA members and FAIBS participants Mary-Ann van Trigt and Maree Merchant.

Early arrivals to the workshop spent time scanning the foreshore at Parham for evidence of **returning migratory birds**. Along the AIBS coastline there are increasing sightings, including the critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew, the Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Greenshank,



Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, the Red Knot and the Great Knot. It's a great time to take your scopes and binoculars to the Sanctuary at times when high tides are receding, with areas like St Kilda and Thompson Beach being particularly rewarding for both migratory and resident shorebirds

November is when the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park (Winaitiyatyi Pangkara) and the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary have been jointly running activities during their time as the Park of the Month. Billed as **'The Adelaide Shorebird and Dolphin Festival'**, a range of fun and free events have been held at various locations on weekdays and weekends. Our thanks to Birds SA members who have also been involved in conducting walks and bird ID events as part of this Festival. Further information and registration for events still to take place can be accessed at www.parks.sa.gov.au/asdf

The **AGM for Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS)** will be held at the St Kilda Community Hall on Sunday, December 2nd, 10am-12.30pm. Anyone interested in AIBS is welcome to attend. A speaker, morning tea and scope / binocular viewing of migratory and shorebirds will be included on the day. As always, we're seeking enthusiastic, committed individuals to become members of the FAIBS Committee. The commitment would require attendance at monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, regular attendance at monthly activity days (3rd Sunday of each month), and support at FAIBS events. Please contact us at faibssa@gmail.com if you're interested in committee involvement. A reminder to FAIBS members that the \$10 **annual subs are due** in Dec 2018. They can be paid to a Committee member or by BSB (email [faibssa@gmail](mailto:faibssa@gmail.com) for specifics).



Photo above: Amelia Hurren preparing participants for weed control field experience.

Sophie's Patch Open Garden

Birds SA supported "Sophie's" Open Garden on November 10-12 with our Birds SA Stall. "Thank You" to the generous "Volunteers" who gave up part of their weekend to manage the stall. It is a great opportunity to promote Birds SA. Merinda Hyland and Barb Wheaton were at Sophie's Patch bright and early Saturday morning, with Sue Gredley and Sue Winwood managing the stall for the rest of the day. Bronwyn Mart started the day Sunday followed by Rose Slade and Alan Burns. Alan was the "Guest Speaker" his topic, "Creating a Bird Friendly Garden". John Gitsham managed the stall on Monday. If you would like to volunteer a couple of hours of your time for this activity in the future, please contact general@birdssa.asn.au **Kate Buckley**



Photo left: Birds SA stand at the ABC presenter Sophie Thomson's Open Garden weekend at Mt Barker, photo by Sophie Thomson.

Ornithological Information

Leucism & albinism

We have had a lot of reports lately about various white bird species, e.g. Magpies, Kookaburra and Currawongs, being seen around the state, this article from the internet by the British Trust of Ornithology might help explain the phenomena of Leucism.

Leucism



In leucistic birds, affected plumage lacks melanin pigment due to the cells responsible for melanin production being absent. This results in a white feathers, unless the normal plumage colour also comprises carotenoids (e.g. yellows), which remain unaffected by the condition. Although leucism is inherited, the extent and positioning of the white colouration can vary between adults and their young, and can also skip generations if leucistic genes are recessive.

The reduction of pigment in leucistic birds causes feathers to weaken and be more prone to wear. In some situations this can hinder flight, which, in addition to leucistic birds usually being more conspicuous, can heighten risk of predation. There is also evidence that leucistic birds might, on occasion, not be recognised or accepted by a potential mate. *(Photo of a Leucistic Dunnock)*



In our Abnormal Plumage Survey, 'leucism' is being used as an umbrella term to encompass a number of plumage irregularities that can be difficult to distinguish from each other. One of these is called 'progressive greying', which also results in white feathers. While leucism is heritable, progressive greying is not – but without knowing the history of a bird, these two conditions are difficult to tell apart.

'Dilution' is another condition that we have grouped under the category 'leucism' in our Abnormal Plumage Survey. Here, plumage colour often appears 'washed out' (i.e. 'diluted'). This

Collared Dove (pictured) is a good example of this. In dilution, melanin cells are present (unlike in leucistic birds) but produce less pigment than normal. White feathers can also be caused by chromatophore (pigment cell) defects, rather than an absence of melanin-producing cells. *(Photo of a Collared Dove with 'diluted' plumage)*

Albinism

Albinism also results in white feathers but true albinos are thought to be rare in the wild. Albinism is caused by a genetic mutation causing an absence of tyrosinase in pigment cells. An albino individual is unable to produce melanin pigments. This leads to a good diagnostic feature with which to distinguish leucistic and albino individuals – the colour of the eye.

Albinos have pink eyes while the iris pigmentation of leucistic birds remains dark. Most albino birds die soon after fledging, primarily as a consequence of their poor eyesight, and albino birds are not thought to progress to adulthood in the wild. As with leucistic individuals, albinos can retain carotenoid pigments if normally present in the plumage. A common misnomer is 'partial albino' – this is not possible since albinism affects the whole plumage of a bird, not just part.

Ref: <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw/gardens-wildlife/garden-birds/behaviour/plumage/leucism>

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following **36** new members, who have joined the Association in the past few months.

Nigel & Nic Koop and Ted Koop-Brown	Glenalta	Roberta Mitchell & 5 family members	Upper Sturt
Andrew Hall	Hallett	Colin & Charmaine Sanderson	Mount Compass
Gavin SpringBett	Rose Park	Kathy Arthur	Melrose
Luke Leddy	Padthaway	Angelica Jermakow	Hectorville
Chris Finch	Coromandel Valley	David Vranek	Vista
Julian Behrens	Adelaide	David Lindley	Parkside
Janet Fisher	Torrens Park	Roger Bourne	Fullarton
Gawain Letheby	Banksia Park	Lawrie Mortimer	Willunga
Chris Braham	West Croydon	Ron Kelertas	Swan Reach
Mary Chase	Unley	Denise Wilkey	Para Hills West
James Geddes	Atlanta (USA)	Gary Wright	Wilmington
Robyn Davis	Millswood	Sally Byard	Belair
Harry Beauchamp	Murray Bridge	Alex Nankivell	Klemzig
Mark Ward	Hawthorndene	Chris Haskett	Kingswood
Joel Omdahl	North Adelaide	Jenny Weaver	Thebarton

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Membership Officer. Alan's phone number is on page 6.



Ethical Behaviour Birdwatching Guidelines

- 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.
- The welfare and conservation of birds and their habitats are paramount.
- When watching and photographing birds, do so from a distance that does not disturb them.
- Limit the use of play-back calls, and never use them in heavily birded areas.
- Take special care during the birds' breeding season and do not disturb breeding birds or their nests.
- Birding in groups, whether organised or impromptu, requires special care to avoid disturbing birds.
- Birds SA members must lead by example by practising ethical behaviour when birding individually or on field trips and campouts.

Past General Meetings

Augusts General Meeting:

Sharie Detmar - "SA Review of the Status and Distribution of the White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Osprey in SA".

Growing up in a nature loving family on Yorke Peninsula, I decided to study Environmental Science. My particular interest has been with Coastal Management and has been the major part of my work within the Department for the Environment for 18 years.

As a "hobby" I became involved in researching the threatened coastal species. I would like to "Thank" Birds SA for their support in my research.

The Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle are important because they are both top shorebird predators, with no predators of their own. If you protect these two birds, you are by default protecting a much larger area of species. Both birds are in significant decline in South Australia. There is only a small and isolated population remaining.

Terry Dennis has been involved in "Coastal Management" in various ways for over 40 years and I have often sought his expert advice and assistance.

My research was on the White-bellied Sea Eagle and Osprey as both species are listed as endangered under State legislation. The research on these species up until 2008 was under-resourced or done 'piece-meal'. Terry's research over three years found that 80% of the White-bellied Sea Eagle population is on 'off shore islands'. Up until 2015 no protection methods were put in place. It was time for a significant study to be made of these birds.

In conjunction with Birds SA and others, we put together survey logistics and outlined the scope and planning of these surveys. The South Australian coast is a large area and breeding habitat is "off-shore", so some Grant funding was used to charter boats.

Disturbance minimization protocols were important because both breeds are sensitive to disturbance. We surveyed 500 metres from the Osprey and double that for the Sea Eagles.

We started seeing significant decline in the Osprey population from 14 down to 7, a 50% decline. We wanted to be sure that our surveys were robust and accurate, so work was carried out at Chowilla, Eyre Peninsula, islands off Coffin Bay and Pt Lincoln.

2016 was a particularly stormy year and it is not ethical to survey in bad weather, but we still got quite a few areas done and identified a new threat in Lincoln National Park, they held a "prescribed burn" which narrowly missed one nest and scorched another. Osprey sites also failed because of the storms, both from the swell and the wind.

We undertook field work over 3 seasons; we travelled over 45,000 kms, and did 210 field days and 20 boat trips. Over the three seasons we had so many wonderful volunteers who donated their time and resources I would like to say a very big "Thank You" to all the volunteers, and in particular to Helen Dennis for her patience and understanding of this important work.

Results – in 2010 we had 72 White-bellied Sea Eagles - 16 pairs on the mainland the rest on offshore islands. In 2017 only 14 were left on the mainland. The pressure

on these birds is from human impact. We also documented the significance of the Upper River Murray, the Coorong and both Gulfs as important foraging areas for these birds.

We have estimated that there has been a 20% decrease in their populations in the last 25 years – with a 40% decrease since colonisation. But if we go back to the mainland population estimation of 52 pairs down to 14 pairs, then the loss is over 70%.

Ospreys, 2010 = 58 pairs, 2017 = 43 pairs. This rapid rate of reduction is of huge concern to the viability of the population in South Australia. The loss has been across the whole range of the distribution but particularly on Kangaroo Is and Streaky Bay. On the mainland there has been a loss of 40% in the last 5-10 years. This puts more pressure on island habitat. Ospreys can't all move to the island because the Sea Eagles are there, and the two do not co-habit. Of the population that we still have, Ospreys tend to favour a particular primary nest site multi generationally, but we had a majority moving to another nest site which might further impact on their productivity.

We think that there are probably several reasons for the decline since 2010, anthropogenic on the mainland, environmental reasons affecting their hunting, presence of disease, parasites impacting on their body condition, food availability. We really need more urgent research to define the causes so that they can be mitigated. These birds are sensitive to disturbance during breeding season and SA is unique in that our breeding habitat along the coastal areas has few trees and no forests. They are also impacted by natural inter-species conflict, human, foxes, cats, but most of

the disturbance is human, such as the development and land use, - wind farms, mining, buildings, vegetation clearance. Recreation and land management activity can have a large impact, surfing, photography, rock climbing, land management activities done at the wrong time, such as weed management, wildlife monitoring, as well as aircraft - increasing impact by drones going into more remote areas.

Recreational activities have resulted in nests being abandoned or the birds "lofting" leaving the chicks exposed to predators such as Pacific Gulls and Ravens. Disturbance "above" the nest is the greater threat. There has been deliberate persecution such as egg collection, shooting, and deliberate photography. We have the dilemma – if you make the nest sites public in order to protect the birds, it could result in the reverse happening.

Despite being endangered there is no current protection policy in South Australia!

What can you do as bird watchers?

Knowing and understanding their issues, avoiding disturbance during breeding seasons – White-bellied Sea Eagles breed May to December, Ospreys from July to February. Both species are at a crucial point of their long-term viability in South Australia. If active management is not undertaken it is highly likely that their decline will continue. The key to conserving their population is to protect their breeding habitat and their prey resources to minimize disturbance thereby increase their breeding success and hopefully reoccupying previous breeding sites. In the short term the use of refuge buffers could protect the highly

disturbed sites, which are often in Parks, or in close proximity to developments.

I ask Birds SA to lobby the South Australian State Government to implement State wide "Management Plans" for both species and to develop buffer zones to prevent immediate loss. World figures do show that populations do recover if active conservation measures are implemented.

Septembers General Meeting:

Great Grasswren Tour 2016 by Peter Waanders

Peter Waanders has been a Birding Guide since early 2002. He takes people out on Grasswren Tours. Most birders have difficulty finding Grasswrens and identifying them.

Grasswrens are difficult birds to see, but rewarding when you do find them.

(Photograph and map shown of Rusty Grasswren, Winton Queensland, White-throated Grasswren, Kakadu) It was this unique sighting of the White-throated Grasswren that started my obsession with Grasswrens.

There are now 14 recognised species, including, Grey, Short-tailed, White-throated, Carpentarian, Pilbara, Sandhill, Rusty, Striated, Western, Thick-billed, Black, Eyrean, Dusky (Alice Springs), Kalkadoon (Mt Isa). (A map was shown where all species of Grasswren can be located, identifying the areas for each individual species and sub species.)

Peter has run air-tours to these remote regions to see the Grasswrens starting at:- Mildura, Striated Grasswren, (Grasswrens do not like wind or rain). Spinifex in Mallee is their habitat, so they can be seen at Gluepot as well. Mallee Emu-wren also favour this habitat.



Juvenile White-bellied Sea Eagle, Photo by John Gitsham

Whyalla - Western Grasswren, (split from Thick-billed Grasswrens.) Wild Dog Hill habitat of dense blue bush and prickly acacia is favoured by the Western Grasswren.

Hawker – Flinders Ranges, Short-tailed Grasswren (split from Striated), they have been declining since 2012, and continue to do so. There is concern over their survival. Habitat is open areas spinifex, rocky grounds

Leigh Creek - Thick-billed Grasswren, also found at Lyndhurst, along the Strzelecki, near Farina and at Witchelina, I think that there is a slow but steady decline of these birds as well. Habitat, they live in vast open areas of blue bush plains and prickly acacia.

Mungeranie - Birdsville Track, Eyrean Grasswrens in the dunes behind Mungeranie. Cane grass habitat.

Goyder Lagoon - inner Birdsville Track, Grey Grasswren. Habitat, large expanse of lignum.

Winton, Queensland, home of the dinosaur museum, Rusty Grasswren (split from Striated). Numbers seem stable. Habitat large areas of spinifex. Night Parrots and Hall's Babbler are also found in this area of granite plateaus.

Mt Isa – Carpentarian Grasswren – it looks similar to the White-throated but browner on the back. Habitat is the flat boulders in spinifex around Mt Isa where there are large areas of spinifex. Kalkadoon Grasswrens are also found in this area. They look like a Dusky Grasswren but they are now split.

Tennant Creek - Dusky Grasswren, most often found around Alice Springs, but there is a small population at Tennant Creek – may be another sub-species. Habitat, spinifex, boulders,

Uluru - Sandhill Grasswren, another split from Striated because DNA identifies them as separate species. Striated Grasswrens have been split into four. Habitat, sand dune, spinifex.

Kimberley - Mitchell Plateau, Black Grasswren. Habitat, rocky boulders,

Kakadu - Jim-Jim escarpment, White-throated Grasswren. Habitat, top of the escarpment which is flat.

The Pilbara Grasswren has now been split as well.



Striated Grasswren, Photo by Bellbird Tours

Octobers General Meeting:

Dr Emma Rowe, assisted and supported by Rob Brinsley. The title of her presentation is “Results from a repeat Wedge-tailed Eagle Populations Survey on the Fleurieu Peninsula in 2017.”

Dr Emma Rowe – Rob Brinsley did the field work for this project and Terry Dennis was the mentor.

The project came about because Terry Dennis had compiled the base-line data on the population of Wedge-tailed Eagles (WTE) on the Fleurieu Peninsula in 2005. There has been concern about their

numbers because of wind-farm developments. Wind-farms do have a negative impact on soaring raptor populations.

Rob Brinsley has many years of experience with surveying raptors and undertook this work 10 years after the base-line data was collected. The WTE is one of Australia’s iconic birds; it is an important top predator and scavenger. This raptor has declined in the south through habitat disturbance.

The number and distribution of WTE territories on the Fleurieu Peninsula was determined then, more than 10 years later 2016-2017 - the systematic re-surveying was undertaken. All former WTE territories identified in the base-line survey were re-surveyed. Extensive surveys of prospective habitat were also undertaken, and new and additional territories identified. Data comparisons were made with 2005-06.

The survey area was defined south and west to a line that joins Pt Willunga and Goolwa, including Northern Sellicks, a range of 1,540 square Ks. Observations were carried out July-Dec 2016, Jan 2017-Jan 2018. Observing birds for 1-2 hours to gather knowledge on their territories. We wanted to visit every territory on multiple occasions so that we could gather accurate data. When we started it was the beginning of the breeding season when WTE are very sensitive to disturbance – May to October. They can desert the nest if disturbed. Vantage points for the survey were done from a distance to avoid disturbance.

Terminology – “Territory Occupied” = when adult pair observed together during breeding seasons.

“Active Nest Territory” - where incubation behaviour observed.

“Successful Nest Territory” –where fledged young were recorded.

Disturbance factors - looking at where their nests were in relation to human activity:-

Low – no road, track walking trail or dwelling within 1000m.

Moderate – road track walking trail or dwelling 500-1000m from nest, High, <500m from nest.

Results – all 29 occupied territories from 2005 were rated - 28 as active, 25 that is 86% were occupied in 2017. 21 were confirmed as active. 23 new or additional territories were located. 5 had been flagged as confirmed in 2005. Total 48 occupied territories and 44 rated as active.

The male WTE is smaller than the female and she is quite dark. They like tall old dead trees to rest and overlook their territory. (Map of territories shown) Some nests can be quite close; the shape of territory can dictate this. Fresh lining of green leaves in active nests helps with temperature control and hygiene. Green leaves suggest that the nest is active. (photo shown of 6 week old chick and another “Branching” chick) “Branching” occurs at 11 weeks; this helps with calculating when eggs were laid and the chick hatched.

4 of the territories were classified active because young were seen on the wing with adults.

Productivity - 38 pairs (86%) successful fledged young. 28 pairs fledged a single young and 10 pairs fledged two young.

Results 4 territories were occupied but could not confirm as active – 2 territories occupied in 2005 were unconfirmed in 2017. Two territories that were active 2005 were abandoned in this survey – a bushfire had destroyed the nest in one territory and in the other the active nest was no longer present and there was no suitable habitat for alternative nest sites.

WTE can use the same nest for up to 40 years. (photo shown of nest built up over several years) Nest depth can be up to 4 metres. They are usually in large dominant trees, 10 metres off the ground. One nest was only 3 metres off the ground in creek habitat. That nest failed because the chick was exposed to the heat. Because of

human activity near-by the parents had to stay off the nest exposing the chick to the heat in this west-facing nest. Most nest trees are in secluded gullies and there was a preference for a cooler shaded aspect over a hot windy aspect. One nest was in open woodland and very visible. There was farm activity under that nest during the nesting period, but it was successful, showing that WTE can habituate to some human activities such as regular farm activity. In “high disturbance” areas the nests failed.

Egg laying spanned from mid-late June to the last week in September – young not fledged until end of January. It is important to realise that the egg laying can be later in the year. There was evidence of siblicide in one nest where there had been a clutch of 3 eggs. Siblicide occurs when the parents are off the nest and have to spend a long time away from the nest, either through hunting or disturbance.

The conclusion is that the population of WTE is stable across the Fleurieu Peninsula,

but we need to continue to monitor them because factors like rainfall can affect the population as well as human disturbance. Landowners showed great appreciation for these birds. The WTE has been misunderstood and persecuted. Post-mortems show that WTE rarely take lambs – they are seen feeding on dead lambs and it is assumed that they have killed the lamb.

Other threats do include disturbance to breeding habitat nest-sites, high density rural subdivision will cause habitat destruction, wind-farms are of concern, persecution continues, and drones are a problem because WTE will attack the drone and damage their talons.

We would like to express our appreciation to Birds SA for supporting this study, of over 10,000 kms travelled, 700 hours in the field, 300 hours writing, 1,000 on the project. Resources are required to do follow-up surveys. Most sites are on private property, so appreciation is expressed to the Landowners as well.



Wedge-tailed Eagle photographed by John Gitsham at Gluepot Bird Reserve 2016

SAOA Historical Series No. 66

John White Mellor (1868-1931)

Part 3, by Penny Paton

Mellor the Ornithologist (cont.)

Mellor wrote again to Frank Angel, the SAOA Secretary, in October 1917, giving examples of specimens of new birds shown by Captain White and himself at an SAOA meeting in February 1913. He asked Mr Angel to look through the SAOA records to find other examples of where he had shown birds at meetings. The matter escalated with a letter to the SAOA from the Director of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery, Edgar Waite, dated 8th November 1917, regarding assertions that Mellor virtually cleared a spit at Mallacoota, Victoria, of tern eggs and had refused to show specimens of *Amytornis merrotsyi* at an SAOA meeting. In response to this letter, the SAOA President, Alfred Edquist, wrote to Mr Angel asking him to call a special meeting of the Executive to deal with this matter. Angel replied to Mr Waite on the 15th November that the SAOA records failed to show that Mellor exhibited *Amytornis merrotsyi* at an SAOA meeting and, regarding the Mallacoota assertion, Waite needed to refer to Mr Mattingley in Melbourne or to the RAOU President, as the SAOA had no knowledge of this.

The record is silent on the result of this matter, but Mellor must have finally got his permit as he described taking specimens of the White-browed Treecreeper in October 1918 at Pungonda (Mellor 1919). A few years later on a trip to Western Australia he collected a Grey Honeyeater amongst other bird specimens from the Murchison district (SAOA Monthly Proceedings 1921; Anon 1921). He also continued to exhibit specimens at SAOA meetings throughout 1917, 1918 and 1919. The identity of the person who tried to block his collecting permit is unknown and Mellor seemed to have shown no rancour against the SAOA, attending meetings, contributing to the *South Australian Ornithologist* and generally continuing as he always had with his bird protection activities. He attended SAOA meetings and handed in Bird Notes most months until his death in 1931.

The allegation that he took most of the tern eggs at Mallacoota Inlet seems most out of keeping with his nature and other actions with regard to birds; for

example he described several attempts at 'Mellor Park' in December 1920 to repair a nest of White-plumed Honeyeaters damaged by wild weather (Bird Notes 1921). I have checked the *Emu* from this time to ascertain if there is any pertinent information regarding the Mallacoota excursion and can find a brief description of Little Terns nesting at Goodwin Sands (White 1915b, Chisholm 1915), with no discussion of specimens being taken. Philippa Horton (pers. comm.) verified that there are four Little Tern clutches in the South Australian Museum, Adelaide (SAMA), collected by Mellor in November 1914 from Mallacoota. As she states, this is hardly an unusual number of specimens for that time.

A description of a meeting of the RAOU Council on 7th May 1915 sheds a little more light on this matter (RAOU Council Meetings 1915). At this meeting Charles Barrett urged that restrictions be placed on collecting at RAOU campouts on the basis that, while museums required collections, only a few private individuals doing scientific work should be allowed to collect skins and eggs. This view was rebutted by Mr A.C. Stone, who claimed that but for collectors we would know little about Australian birds and that the Checklist Committee required more skins due to so many type specimens being held overseas. The debate over scientific collecting goes on to this day.

After his death in 1931, Mellor's collections were willed to his eldest son, then to his second son and then to his daughter, with each having two years to decide whether to accept the bequest or not. Otherwise they were to go to SAMA. In fact, the collection was passed to Mellor's cousin, S.A. White, who retained them in the absence of interest from any of the Mellor children.

I am grateful to Horton, Black and Blaylock (in press) for most of the information in the following three paragraphs. During his lifetime, Mellor donated small numbers of skins, mounts and eggs to SAMA and a few clutches reached the Museum via other collections. In 1960 and 1974, Muriel White (S.A. White's widow) donated 139 of Mellor's Sri Lankan skins to SAMA but his main skin collection was incorporated into the S.A. White collection, which

A Few Family Photos

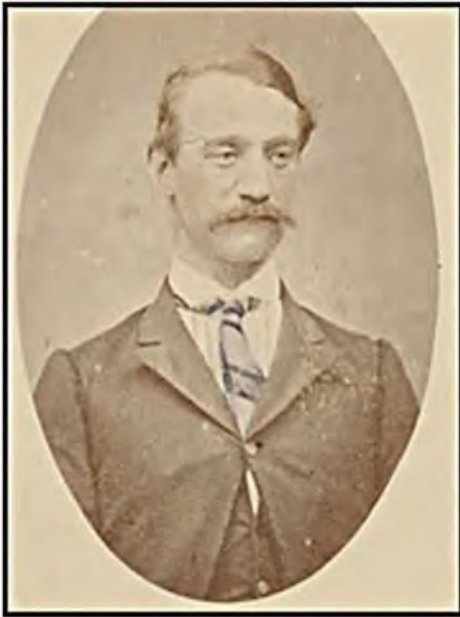


Photo 1 — Samuel White, father of S.A. White and brother of Eliza Mellor, photographed ca 1875 (From the collection of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 335/27/11)



Photo 2 — Martha Elsea (Patty) White, née Taylor, wife of Samuel White and mother of S.A. White, photographed ca 1887 (From the collection of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 335/28/21)



Photo 3 — William White, 2nd son of John White and Barbara née Willingale, 1837-1931, photographed ca 1870 (From the collection of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 335/39/2)



Photo 4 — Charles White, 3rd son of John White and Barbara née Willingale, 1845-1900, photographed ca 1880 (From the collection of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 335/41/1)



Photo 5 — Eliza Mellor née White, only daughter of John White and Barbara née Willingale and mother of John White Mellor, 1847-1919, photographed ca 1875 (From the collection of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 335/109/1)



Photo 6 — Mrs Sarah Taylor (née Rose, apparently christened Mary Ann), mother of Martha (Patty) White, and her granddaughter, Eva White (S.A. White's sister) photographed ca 1883 (From the collection of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 335/28/9)

went to SAMA in 1988. Due to inadequate labelling and poor skin preservation, it is possible that many of Mellor's skins were disposed of by the White family or are untraceable within the White collection.

However, Mellor's sizeable egg collection was in its own cabinet when S.A. White's collection came to SAMA in 1988. It consists of 1,026 clutches of about 440 species (this is less than the 500 species claimed in 1901 due to taxonomic changes since that time). Most of Mellor's skin and egg specimens are Australian and mainly South Australian, but there are 78 egg clutches from New Zealand and other countries. Mathews named several subspecies after Mellor but these are not recognised today, although he gave the Black Butcherbird the generic name *Melloria*, which after a period of non-recognition, has now gained generic status again. Also two of the birds described by Mellor are still recognised: the Short-tailed Grasswren *Amytornis merrotsyi*, Mellor 1919 and the Flinders Island form of the White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis [frontalis] flindersi*, described by White and Mellor (1913).

The Final Years

There were signs by the mid-1920s that Mellor's business affairs were foundering. Some of the land around 'Mellor Park' was subdivided in the 1920s (P. Horton pers. comm.), but still in 1925 one of his businesses was liquidated and another company was wound up, owing Mellor £51,000. He was virtually penniless after his investments collapsed and was fined for failing to pay land tax in 1927-28 and taken to court over personal debts in 1930. In 1927 Maud moved to Mylor with the children. There she ran a guest house, 'Valdanna', advertised as offering excellent service, cuisine, fishing, tennis and proximity to a bus stop. She died in 1951. J.W. Mellor continued to live at Lockleys, where he died suddenly of a stroke on 10th October 1931.

I am saddened that such a productive, useful and full life ended in financial and personal difficulties. Given Mellor's outstanding contribution to the SAOA and his national achievements, at first glance it is surprising that he was not made an SAOA Honorary Member. However after the honour was bestowed on G.M. Mathews in 1914, there were no other recipients until 1941 when Captain S.A. White was elected an Honorary Member, and a number of others were duly elected in the 1940s and 1950s (Reid 2000). As Mellor died in 1931, it could be said that he died too early to be so honoured.

In order to introduce some photos into Part III of the Mellor Historical Series I have included some family photos, as there is a rich resource of White and Mellor photos in the State Library of South Australia. The photos are of two generations of Whites – from Samuel White, the father of S.A. White and uncle of John White Mellor, and his wife Martha (Patty), through to Samuel and Martha's children, William, Charles and Eliza (the last-named the mother of J.W. Mellor (Photos 1-5). There is also a photo of Mrs Sarah Taylor, the maternal grandmother of S.A. White and her granddaughter Eva (S.A. White's sister) although, in the state records, her name is given as Mary Ann Taylor née Rose (Photo 6). The last photo



Photo 7 — Purportedly Martha (Patty) White and Maud Mellor (née Elliot), wife of J.W. Mellor, photographed ca 1895 (From the collection of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 335/28/22). However Maud was born in 1886, so this cannot be her if this photo was indeed from ca 1895 as she would have been only 9 years old then.

purports to be of Martha (Patty) White and Maud Mellor (J.W. Mellor's wife), but if the date of the photo, ca 1895, is correct then it cannot be Maud as she was only born in 1886.

Acknowledgements

Philippa Horton vastly improved both the content and the prose of this piece by her careful editing and wide knowledge of the history of Australian ornithology. I am also indebted to Philippa and her co-authors for permission to use information from their "in press" publication.

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Future Birds SA General Meetings

Note: No General meeting in December 2018, Xmas break.

*Friday, January 18th 2019, Ecologist Jason van Weenan from Dep. Environment & Water.

'The Grey-headed Flying Fox: arrival and establishment in Adelaide'.

*Friday, February 22nd 2019, BirdsSA members John Hatch and Jeremy Robertson.

'Birding in the West Indies'.

Shorebird Color Flagging Protocol on the EAAF (by color)

Upper leg	Lower leg	Country	Location
Black	Black	MYANMAR	
Black	Blue	PHILIPPINES	Philippines
Black	Green	THAILAND	Thailand Peninsular & Gulf of Thailand
Black	Orange	INDONESIA	Java & Bali
Black	White	CHINA	Chongming Island
Black	Yellow	MALAYSIA	(proposed)
Black	no flag	Used on some birds carrying satellite tracking devices.	
Blue	Black	CHINA	Hainan-Guangxi
Blue	Blue	JAPAN	Lake Komuke, Northern Hokkaido
Blue	Green	MONGOLIA	
Blue	Orange	JAPAN	Kyushu
Blue	White	JAPAN	Tokyo Bay
Blue	Yellow	CHINA	Bohai Bay
Blue	no flag	JAPAN	Shunkunitai, Eastern Hokkaido
Green	Black	CAMBODIA	
Green	Blue	CHINA	Jiangsu
Green	Green	(not allocated)	
Green	Orange	CHINA	Yalujiang
Green	White	SINGAPORE	Singapore
Green	Yellow	AUSTRALIA	Gulf of Carpentaria
Green	no flag	AUSTRALIA	Queensland
Orange	Black	INDONESIA	Sumatra
Orange	Blue	AUSTRALIA	Tasmania
Orange	Green	AUSTRALIA	New South Wales
Orange	Orange	(not allocated)	
Orange	White	SOUTH KOREA	Eastern Yellow Sea (old)
Orange	Yellow	AUSTRALIA	South Australia
Orange	no flag	AUSTRALIA	Victoria
White	Black	CHINA	Chongming Island(old)
White	Blue	CHINA	Taiwan
White	Green	NEW ZEALAND	South Island
White	Orange	SOUTH KOREA	Eastern Yellow Sea
White	White	(not allocated)	
White	Yellow	CHINA	Hong Kong
White	no flag	NEW ZEALAND	North Island
Yellow	Black	RUSSIA	Kamchatka
Yellow	Blue	AUSTRALIA	Northern Territory
Yellow	Green	VIETNAM	
Yellow	Orange	AUSTRALIA	SW Western Australia
Yellow	White	RUSSIA	Sakhalin Island
Yellow	Yellow	(not allocated)	
Yellow	no flag	AUSTRALIA	N Western Australia

When out observing shorebirds (waders) and you see some coloured bands on their legs, take note of the colour configurations, this will give you an idea of which country it was banded. Left is a chart with the colour leg band combinations as a guide.

Past Excursions

Fleurieu Birders Langhorne Creek, Saturday, 6 October 2018.

17 people met at 8.30 at Frank Pott's Reserve for this bird watch, including two who came from Florida USA, one from Murray Bridge, and the rest from a variety of Adelaide suburbs. Two people who attended the 'Come and Try Birding' Event held at Goolwa recently came for their first time since joining Birds SA.

We could not have had better weather and after we introduced ourselves, we scanned the huge River Red Gums alongside the Reserve for honeyeaters and pardalotes. We then drove down Lees Rd to the Langhorne Creek Cemetery on the eastern side of the town. This is one of the sites mentioned in the Alexandrina Council "Where to go Birding" and has been visited several times by the Fleurieu Birdwatchers in the past. It has Mallee vegetation all around the little cemetery, which is enclosed by a fence, and it provides a lovely habitat for some special mallee bird species. On arrival, I relayed the story to the group, about the two Rainbow Bee-eaters seen building a nest right into the ground on the main track a few years previously!

Suddenly Myles called out "Rainbow Bee-eaters above". This group of 7-8 were right on cue for all to opportunity for photos.

I had mentioned Variegated Fairywren to watch out for and then 3 males were spotted in one dry stick-like bush! Wow! What a great start!

Peaceful Doves were particularly vocal and a Common Bronzewing was booming softly in the distance. A variety of honeyeaters around included Noisy Miner, New Holland, the delightful Spiny-cheeked, White-plumed and Red Wattlebirds. A Laughing Kookaburra was heard. In the large gum trees along the creek

line there were lots of Galahs, parrots and lorikeets, and a few Red-rumps amongst them. White-browed Babblers were hiding in the low Mallee bushes and there was evidence where they had been nesting in the past. Two Red-capped Robins were seen along the roadside, along with Willie Wagtail and Grey Fantail.

After two hours birding around the Cemetery, we drove nearly 5 kms, towards Wellington to Gollam's Waterhole where we hoped to see a few waterbirds. This was a new site for us to visit. There is a shelter shed and a few seats by the water's edge of what appears to be a man-made water hole. The ducks took-off instantly mainly Pacific Blacks, a few Grey Teal and Eurasian Coots. Black-tailed Nativehen ran out of the low bush and a Black Kite circled above.

We rushed the bird survey count as the mosquitoes were about to cart us off! We abandoned lunch there and some people decided to go back to Langhorne Creek and some onto Tolderol, which was about a 10-15 min. drive away. The total count for the 2 sites was 45 species.

Wendy Phillips



**A Purple-backed Wren (prev. Varigated) seen
at Frank Potts Reserve, photo by Bob Daly**

Port Augusta Bird Group

Sunday, 21 October 2018.

Mt Maria, Wilmington

It was a lovely morning when 6 birders met in the main street of Wilmington. Three from Pt. Augusta and one each from Wilmington, Koolunga and Mambray Creek. After catching up on the latest birding information amongst us, we headed off to the Mt Maria path entrance through the local golf course. As we parked our vehicles a Common Bronzewing flew off and Rainbow Lorikeet and Red Wattlebird were feeding on the blossoms of some Eucalypts. A flock of about 300 Little Corella noisily settled in nearby trees as we walked along the path along the golf fairways towards Mt Maria. Magpies searched for food on the open ground as Galahs flew past. The boundary of the golf course has an area of mallee trees which was home to Brown-headed Honeyeater, Weebill and Striated Pardalote which were feeding young nestlings. Crested Pigeon and Yellow-rumped Thornbill fossicked about on the ground and screeching Purple-crowned Lorikeet whizzed past. Hawking for insects from taller trees was a single Rainbow Bee-eater as Flinders Ranges Rosellas squabbled with Mallee Ringnecks over nesting hollows. Moving on along through the golf course Black-faced Cuckooshrike, Australian Raven and Little Raven were seen and their distinctive calls heard. The raucous calls of Apostlebird were heard in the distance and upon closer inspection a group of 12 Apostlebird was found feeding on the ground. A small dam which still had some water in it had 2 Black-fronted Dotterel sitting on the bank and a Masked Lapwing nearby. We reached the edge of the golf course and the slope of Mt Maria rose in front of us, here there was open woodland with lots of fallen timber on the ground. Silvereye, White-plumed Honeyeater, Rufous Whistler, Grey Butcherbird, Jacky Winter, Sacred Kingfisher, Red-rumped Parrot and Brown Treecreeper feeding young in a hollow were found. A

White-faced Heron was also seen amongst the fallen timber. Walking on and up the slope to the top, Grey Shrikethrush, Dusky Woodswallow, Peaceful Dove, Willie Wagtail, White-browed Babbler and Tree Martin were added to the bird list. On our way back to the vehicles a Black Kite, New Holland Honeyeater and House Sparrow completed the list. After a quick smoko we headed off to Willowie Forest about 15km. away towards Melrose.

WILLOWIE FOREST

After we had parked our vehicles in the new carpark we could hear Rufous Whistler and see Weebill and Jacky Winter. The plan was to do a broad sweeping arch through the Eucalypt woodland and try to cover as much area as we could before having lunch in Melrose. A flock of chattering Brown-headed Honeyeater with young moved about in the trees with Red Wattlebird and Mistletoebird. A family of Little Raven with young fledglings were in the trees while Apostlebird foraged about on the ground. A Laughing Kookaburra, Australian Magpie, Rainbow Lorikeet and Australian Raven flew past as Yellow-faced and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Grey Butcherbird, Striated Pardalote, Magpielark, Rufous Whistler and a Black-faced Cuckooshrike moved about in the trees. Then the distinctive calls of White-winged Chough was heard and then four seen. Walking on through the woodland we came to an old farm yard area that had been cleared many years ago. Here there were Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Willie Wagtail, Sacred Kingfisher, Yellow Thornbill, Flinders Ranges Rosella, Grey Shrikethrush nest building, White-browed Babbler, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo and Galah. The woodland closed in as we moved on and the undergrowth thickened and Red Gums stood over us along a creek bed. Here we found a Grey Fantail, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill with young, Red-capped Robin, Australian Golden Whistler and an Inland Thornbill. A quick bird call in the carpark and it was time for lunch in the Melrose pub.

MELROSE

After an enjoyable lunch in the pub we went to the Melrose camping ground where Weebill, Little Corella, Grey Butcherbird, Common Blackbird, Laughing Kookaburra and a Sacred Kingfisher were quickly put onto our bird list. We walked along a Red Gum lined creek bed which is filled with dense scrub consisting of mostly introduced weeds. The Common Blackbird and House Sparrow felt at home here but there were also Grey Shrikethrush, New Holland and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Flinders Ranges Rosella. As we moved along the creek bed Inland Thornbill, Grey Fantail, Red Wattlebird, Rainbow Lorikeet, Australian Magpie feeding young and Magpielark lengthened our bird list. Emerging from the creekbed Silvereye and Purple-backed Fairywren made themselves known. We walked on along a road into the Melrose township and saw Crested Pigeon,

Little Raven, Black-faced Cuckooshrike, Common Starling, and Striated Pardalote nesting in holes and vents of an old stone building. We headed back to the camp ground finding Brown-headed Honeyeater and Galah there. After a quick bird call and some conversation with some of the local area inhabitants it was time to return to our homes. As we left Melrose a flock of about 100 Little Raven was seen feeding in a paddock and a Peregrine Falcon glided past. A total of 54 bird species were seen on the day and the birds of the day would have to be the Brown Treecreeper with young and the White-winged Chough which are on the edge of their distribution range and a Peregrine Falcon is always good to find.

Bernie Haase.



Photos of a Brown Treecreeper and a male Golden Whistler from the Port Augusta Group outing.

Campout for the Fleurieu Birders - Little Desert Park- Nhill, Vic. October 2018

33 people attended the Campout this year lead by Peter Owen from Friday 19 – Monday 22. Peter divided the group in half with Bob taking one group 30-40 km north east of Nhill to Glenlee State Forest Reserve, Hindmarsh Lake and Wimmera River at Jeparit the first day. Peter took the others starting at Keith Hateley Picnic Ground and the Kiata Camping Ground in the Little Desert National Park. We swapped over the next day and compared notes over dinner the following night.

Peter was fortunate to get the latest information on where to go to find the birds that had been seen by people attending the Cross-Border Campout earlier in the month. Targeted species were the elusive Malleefowl, Black Honeyeater, Gilbert's Whistler and Regent Parrot. This was a great help for us leaders as we checked out the sites before the group arrived and found where these birds were located.

The Little Desert Lodge grounds gave us opportunities to view the many small bushland birds. These included Rufous Whistlers, Red-capped and Hooded Robins. Honeyeaters included New Holland, White-eared, White-fronted, Brown-headed, White-naped, Spiny-cheeked, Yellow-plumed, Red Wattlebird, Noisy Miner. Weebills were frequently calling and Buff-rumped, Yellow-rumped, and Yellow Thornbills found. 'George' the Emu roamed freely undisturbed by us. The Red-rumped Parrot and Eastern Rosella were quite common, and an occasional Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, with Long-billed Corrella seen at the dry Hindmarsh Lake. This was where the Regent Parrots were nesting in the old dead eucalypt trees and created great viewing and photo opportunities. We found groups of White-browed and Masked Woodswallow and a few Dusky ones.

At the Little Desert Lodge Whimpey's Dam and a small watering pond were good spots to sit and watch the birds come in for a drink. The active Malleefowl mound was viewed by some hoping to get a glimpse or photo of the elusive bird without success.



White-fronted Honeyeater, photo by Bob Daly

However, I was the only one lucky enough to find one walking in the bush early Monday morning before leaving the Lodge and heading back home. The only other sighting was at the Keith Hateley Nature Walk, in the Kiata Sanctuary Picnic Ground on the previous Thursday, which Bob and David managed to photograph crossing the track.

Peter tallied the survey sheets on Sunday evening and 112 species were recorded for the weekend. The total for the Lodge site was 77 species. This was a **huge** result and it goes to show how important the Little Desert NP and other Mallee Parks are in preserving such important flora and fauna. The facility at the Lodge is perfect for large groups, but sadly we heard it is going to close down in November. Hopefully, it will be sold and continue to be managed for guests, bird lovers, school students, uni-students, and international visitors. Annie, (Peter's wife) arranged for the 'Karen' people who live in Nhill to cater Saturday night's meal in the camp kitchen and we enjoyed their traditional food. We thanked them both for all the preparation and hard work they did for the Campout and gave them a gift to show our appreciation. The only complaint: IT WAS NOT LONG ENOUGH!

Wendy Phillips

**Right: Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
at Little Desert Lodge, Nhill, Vic,
photo by Bob Daly**



Birds SA Past Excursions

Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park (Thursday 19 July)

Twelve members gathered for a clockwise walk on a morning that began with a threat of rain. Luckily the rain held off for most of the walk but as we neared the northern boundary we ascended into an eerie fog that stayed with us until we descended to a lower level whereupon it turned to light rain. On passing Horsehead Rock we kept a lookout for the track that used to head east but was closed some years back after a heavy storm badly damaged it. Unfortunately we were unable to locate it. Highlights included both White-throated and Brown Treecreepers, seven species of honeyeater including Yellow-faced, White-naped, Crescent and White-fronted, and a pair of Scarlet Robin.

We adjourned to Bethany Reserve for lunch and bird call where the rain really set in. In all 25 species were counted for the day. **Martyn Price.**

Jenkins Scrub (Little Mt Crawford Forest) (Saturday 11 August)

Five dedicated birders assembled for the walk with one being a new member and a first time 'excursioner' which was especially encouraging given the rather dire weather.

We spent the first 10 minutes huddled under the not very big sign at the trailhead while a moderately heavy shower passed overhead. After that, however, we were lucky and apart from some light drizzle, it remained relatively dry although it was very cold and a bit windy as we traversed the Nature Trail in a clockwise direction.

Our first sighting was of a lone Eastern Spinebill although we heard White-throated Treecreeper (10) and Crescent Honeyeater (6) all along the trail from the start of the walk. One New Holland Honeyeater was heard but not seen and towards the end of the walk Yellow-faced Honeyeater (2) and one White-plumed Honeyeater were seen. Nothing much was flowering so this lack of Honeyeaters was not surprising.

Adelaide Rosella (20) in several pairs and groups were seen and Galahs (10), Australian Magpie (3), Little Raven (4) and Grey Currawong (6) periodically flew overhead. Further along we heard and then saw Striated Pardalote (5) and at least 2 groups of Buff-rumped Thornbill (15). One group also contained some Striated Thornbill (5). Grey Fantail (2) were also flitting about the undergrowth.

We then traversed along the track adjacent to the road and this proved to be a bit of a hotspot. We saw Grey Shrikethrush (2) and some more Superb Fairywren (12). One White-browed Scrubwren was heard and then seen and a fleeting glimpse of a Brown Goshawk disappearing over the hill was the only raptor recorded for the day. Numerous Sulphur-crested Cockatoo were heard in the distance but

only one flew over the reserve. Our final brief sighting was of a Common Bronzewing flushed from the track.

We returned to the trailhead earlier than usual and one member who lives nearby generously invited us to her place for hot drinks, lunch and the bird call. This turned out well as shortly afterwards it started to rain in earnest and we even had a nice view of hailstones from her comfy lounge room window. Twenty one species was our total for the day which we thought was pretty good given the conditions. **Ali Ben Kahn**

Altona CSR Landcare Reserve (16 August 2018)

Driving to Lyndoch it appeared as though the outing might be called off. Heavy fog had cut visibility on the roads to about 150 -200m. Luckily it began to lift around 8:00am and was all but gone by the time the walk started at 8:30am. In all twelve members attended and we traversed the park in a clockwise direction. Highlights as always for this park were Diamond Firetails, Golden and Rufous Whistlers, Mistletoe birds, Brown Treecreepers and Red-capped Robin. We also encountered a group of White-winged Chough down near the pond, perhaps a first for the BirdsSA group. A single Dusky Woodswallow indicated spring was around the corner. Although there were numerous Musk Lorikeets only a single Rainbow Lorikeet was sighted.

We adjourned to one of the local residents properties after the walk for lunch. In all 46 species were counted for the day. **Martyn Price.**

Cox Scrub Conservation Park (15 September 2018)

The forecast for the September Saturday Field Trip to Cox Scrub was almost enough to have it cancelled. Cold overnight temperatures around six degrees, a maximum of 13 – 14 degrees forecast, very strong winds, some rain and possibly hail. Needless to say, this was not enough to put off the hardy band of 8 bird watchers from Birds SA who were ready to roll at 8.30am. The park had suffered an out-of-control prescribed burn back in May 2013 with about 350 hectares burnt out and many of those in attendance were keen to see how the vegetation and birdlife had recovered after more than 5 years.

The group took the usual route from the car park (off Bull Creek Road) and headed north east through the scrub, along the marked track. It was noticeable from the outset that many of the smaller plants had recovered well and were flowering and the track was wet from overnight rain. There were many smaller plants regenerating and doing very well.

Given the weather conditions, birds were not numerous, but the splashes of pink, yellow, and mauve across the landscape kept everyone entertained and it was good to see that regeneration of the park was ongoing and successful. Along the track in the bush we saw Scarlet Robin, Grey Fantail, Yellow-rumped and Brown Thornbill and frequently overhead were the blue and red flashes of the Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella, Dusky Woodswallow and the occasional Common Bronzewing.

As we ventured further into the park we kept an eye out for some of the rarer species, but whether it was the weather or the recovering nature of the park, nothing spectacular was seen. It was noticeable that as we walked uphill into the centre of Cox Scrub, that many of the older trees which provided valuable habitat and nesting opportunities for many species in past years, had suffered worst in the 2013 fire. At the fork in the track, one familiar old tree was a pitiful remnant. Much of the eucalypts were at quite a low level in the central hilly sections.

Grevilleas were doing particularly well and as we walked, 15 Straw-necked Ibis were seen over-head as well as a Collared Sparrowhawk and Galah, who were chewing out a possible hollow in a Pink Gum. The eucalyptus species were not flowering but Superb Fairywren kept the group busy and with Weebill, Australian Golden Whistler and a White-browed Scrubwren darting in and out of the foliage, it wasn't long before we were back at the car park for lunch. Then we were rained upon and small hail followed. With the wind blowing, the cloud quickly cleared and a quick walk along the boundary track added 24 Red-browed Finch, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo and a lone Black-tailed Nativehen to the morning's list. A nice group of 40 Tree Martin took the list to a total of 35 species. The group was happy with the thought that the park was well on its way to full recovery and providing habitat for a good number of species. **Alan Burns**



Above: Birders searching for birds at Cox Scrub CP, photo by Alan Burns

Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker (Thursday 20 September)

Nineteen people gathered on a cool and pleasant morning, overcast at first but clearing and warming as the day progressed. Much work has been done in tidying up, with much of the lake shore cover, shrubs, grasses and reedbeds, being removed, vastly reducing available cover for fairy-wrens and crakes. The eastern most effluent pond has also been drained and was devoid of most birdlife except the expected, Black-fronted Dotterel and Masked Lapwing (perhaps one bird sitting on eggs amongst the exposed gravel). Water levels were also generally high.

However, nesting building was still evident with Australasian Swamphen, Superb Fairywren, Red Wattlebird and Willie Wagtail all busy for breeding. Pacific Black Duck were observed with newly hatched chicks. An unusual White-plumed Honeyeater was spotted near the BBQ area, somewhat larger than the others in the group, and extremely pale in colour, the under-tail being bright yellow and body a whitish-yellow. It was not exhibiting any aggressive behaviour and was being treated as normal by the other White-plumed. Other highlights were three Baillon's Crake, a single Australian Crake, a roosting Nankeen Night Heron, Fairy and Tree Martins, Australian Reed Warbler and Little Grassbird. At lunch a small group of Red-browed Finches were observed feeding in the grass in front of the picnic area. In all 53 species and a deceased Little Black Cormorant were counted. **Martyn Price**

October Long Weekend Campout: Lawari Conservation Park Hindmarsh Island (29 September to 1 October)

For the 16 members that elected to camp-out, the weather conditions all weekend were ideal for birding. In addition about 12 members joined us for a day visit during the campout. We thank Stewart Hicks, Senior Ranger for his assistance in making the facilities of the Wyndgate Homestead available as a base for our members to operate from. Local members Wendy Phillips, Bob Daly and Win Syson assisted with guiding us around the Conservation Park on Saturday which was also greatly appreciated. We recorded 43 species around the homestead including an Eastern Barn Owl. Unfortunately that owl was found deceased on Sunday morning which was very sad.

Over the course of our stay we surveyed several diverse areas of the Park:

- Three separate new revegetation areas gave a species count of 28
- The Fishway and surrounds provided a species count of 38

Whilst not strictly part of the Park our visit to the beach area near the Murray Mouth provided a species count of 18.

On Saturday evening we had a very pleasant barbeque at a nearby private property and whilst weather conditions did not permit a bonfire we did participate in an entertaining night walk with the owners Chris and Karen Lane. The following morning we returned to do a bird survey (24 species), enjoy a relaxing morning tea and watch an impressive demonstration of how to fly a drone.

A side trip to Tolderol Game Reserve was undertaken on Monday and a productive count of 50 species was recorded at this site.

In summary the total count for the duration of this campout was 86 species. **Lynton Huxley**

“Anacotilla Springs”, Second Valley (Saturday 13 October)

Nine members (including three newbies) participated in this our fourth bird survey of Anacotilla Springs, a private property near Wirrina Cove. The weather was perfect with only a slight breeze and sunny conditions. Pamela and Rob were again on hand to guide us around their undulating hills and the Anacotilla River which flows through the property.

After birding we enjoyed our lunch and the hospitality of the owners by their “home”. It was pleasing that this survey provided three new species for this location (Little Wattlebird, Crescent Honeyeater and Red-browed Finch) in our total of 34 species. Three Wedge-tailed Eagle and 2 Nankeen Kestrel were observed flying overhead several times during our stay. We had really good sighting of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo roosting in the large gum trees. Other species that presented well for viewings included Superb Fairywren (30), Striated Thornbill (6) and Eurasian Skylark (2).

Members indicated they were keen for further visits to Anacotilla Springs and I will schedule another visit for early spring to see what species are about then. **Lynton Huxley**

Scott Creek Conservation Park (Thursday 18 October)

Ten birders met at the Almanda Mine car park on Dorset Vale Road. The Scott Creek valley was roofed with solid overcast and a very fine drizzle came and went for most of the morning. It had been raining here for the previous 24 hours and the ferns and long grasses were carrying lots of moisture. So we followed the gravel road south over Scott Ck and then up past the ruins of Mackereth Cottage to the start of Neville Rd. By returning along the same route our boots were kept fairly dry. A pair of Brush Bronzewing was an early highlight.

The Australian Golden Whistlers were in fine voice and we clearly saw a few brightly coloured males. The song was almost continuous, as we walked out from one whistler territory into that of its neighbour. The only other bird in reasonable numbers was the Striated Pardalote. The other birds were widespread but in low numbers. I assume that food was thinly scattered for we had the odd experience of seeing a solitary New Holland Honeyeater and a solitary Silvereye. At least the Striated Thornbill were in small groups.

There were no raptors seen and no swallows or martins. The three Dusky Woodswallow were all perching. The damp air and low temperature made it a bad morning for those that eat flying insects. We spent the last hour in a loop around the small reedy valley behind the Almanda site. Here our feet did get soaked but the two Mistletoebird and the pair of Scarlet Robin made it worthwhile. Three Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and a White-faced Heron then flew over our lunch-time bird call and we ended up with 35 species in total. **Graham Bate**

Porter Scrub Conservation Park (Sunday 28 October)

Fifteen birders, including three new members and one visitor met on a cool, partly cloudy morning. The combination of the bad light from overcast weather, tall stringy bark trees and small birds made for difficult birding, and at some points along the track birds could be heard calling but very few could be seen. In particular we heard White-throated Treecreeper calling from the commencement of the walk but it was only after about two hours into the walk that most of the group had actually seen one, and for the entire morning we only managed to see two.

It appeared that very little work had been done recently on the tracks in the park, and the outer fence line track seemed very indistinct. Consequently our walk was confined mainly down and back up the central access track, with a slight deviation onto a small side track on the way back.

In all we recorded 27 species seen and five heard. The total number of birds counted was very low at 127, and only three species managed double figures, these being 20 Grey Fantail, 12 Adelaide Rosella and 10 Striated Pardalote.

We did have reasonable views of five Black-capped Sittella, of the four species of honeyeater seen the most common was eight White-naped Honeyeater, we had good sightings of four Scarlet Robin both male and female, also six Australian Golden Whistler which again included both female and male, and two male Rufous Whistler.

Superb Fairy-wren were few and far between and only four were recorded, three Red-browed Finch were busy feeding on the track and the only thornbill species seen was six Striated Thornbill. Five Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo made a customary lazy fly-over with their very distinctive call. No raptors were recorded however some of the group had a brief look at what appeared to be one, but it could not be identified.

Of the five species heard and identified (by the more accomplished birders in the group) three were cuckoo, being Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo and Shining Bronze Cuckoo. We returned to the carpark at about midday for lunch and during the birdcall a Sacred Kingfisher flew over and landed on an open branch about 40 metres away. **Rod Tetlow**



Tree Martin, Innamincka Town Common, September 2018, photo by David Cox

Field Program & Campout

Coordinator (FPC), Lynton Huxley

M 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 1 1/2 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.

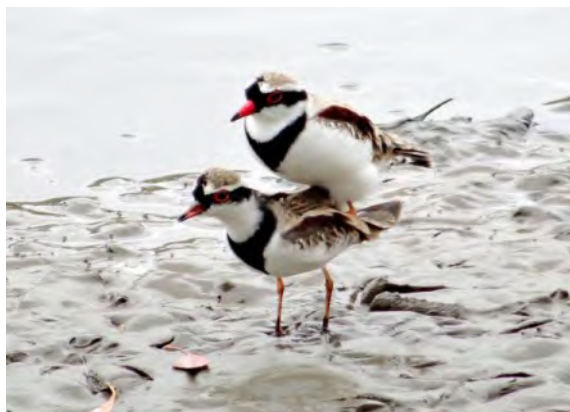
Birds SA FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Contacts: Wendy Phillips/Bob Daly 8555 0634 or m 0414 248 648, fleurieubirders@gmail.com

Birds SA PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS

Contact, Bernie Haase, m 0419 863 834, b.haase@telstra.com

Photo below of Black-fronted Dotterels mating by Greg Blackman. Laratinga wetland Nov 2018



Future Excursions

Fleurieu Birders Summer Excursions 2019

Saturday 5 January - Twilight walk Clayton Bay, meet at Sail's Restaurant 4pm. Option dinner afterwards 6pm. Bookings essential. To book the dinner Contact Wendy 85550634 or 0414 248 648 or email: fleurieubirders@gmail.com

Wednesday 6 February - Cruise the Coorong Boat Trip. Meet at the Wharf 9.45am this is at a reduced cost for the Special Charter to see the Waders. (14 people only) -- 2nd trip one week later if the first one fills up. Bookings essential on first on basis. Contact Wendy to book or for further details.

Saturday 2 March – Old Noarlunga Township River walk. Meet at 8.30 am at the Market Square Reserve.

Future Birds SA Excursions – 15 December 2018 to 9 March 2019

Excursion Terrain Difficulty Ratings:

- **Easy**- generally flat terrain
- **Moderate**- may include some short undulating gradients
- **Difficult** – may include some continuous or steep gradients

What to Bring:

- Sun protection cream and a hat
- Wear sturdy footwear and long pants (think snake protection)
- Drinking water
- Binoculars and or camera
- A chair/ stool and your lunch for our bird call at the end of the walk

Saturday 15 December: Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina (Easy) (LA) 85km. Meet at 8.30am. Take the road from Langhorne Creek to Wellington for approximately 5km and turn right into Dog Lake Road. Continue over a cross road, past a farm on the left hand side, pass through a gate, turn left on reaching the T-junction. Leave gates as you find them please.

TRIP LEADER: Tony Bainbridge

Thursday 20 December: Apex Park Wetland Reserve, West Beach (Easy) (AP) 10km. Meet at the Wetland Reserve carpark located off Burbridge Road, West Beach. There are toilets near entrance of the carpark.

TRIP LEADER: Brian Blaylock

Thursday 17 January: Laratinga Wetlands, Mount Barker (Easy) (MLR) (34km).

Meet at the carpark on Bald Hills Road, Mt. Barker at 8.30am.

TRIP LEADER: Martyn Price

Sunday 20 January: Magazine Road Wetlands, Dry Creek (Easy) (AP) 10km.

Meet in the car park area at 8.30am. If you are travelling northwards on South Road, continue onto Salisbury Highway heading east. The road bends to the north and there is one road off to the left. This is Magazine Rd. From the city, take Port Wakefield Road north, turning left up onto the Salisbury Highway heading to Port Adelaide. Once you are on the Salisbury Highway, you need to move over to the right hand lane so you are ready to turn right into Magazine Road Wetlands.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

Saturday 9 February: Paiwalla Wetlands (Easy) (MM) 90km.

Meet at the Sunnyside Lookout at 8.30am. Take the Murray Bridge to Mannum Road on the eastern side of the river from Murray Bridge. Stay on this road until just past the

**Contact: Lynton Huxley
(Field Program Co-ordinator
and Campout Organiser)**

Phone: 0498 466 092

or 08 7009 5038

Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au

or lyntonhuxley@gmail.com

turnoff to Bowhill on the right. Take the next turning left to Sunnyside Lookout car park.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Thursday 14 February: Browns Road, Monarto (Easy) (MLR) 60km.

Meet at 8.30am at Browns Road, Monarto, just off the old Murray Bridge Road. Leave the SE Freeway at the Callington exit. Drive through Callington and turn right onto the old Murray Bridge road. The junction is on the left at the top of the hill.

TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow

Sunday 24 February: Whites Road Wetlands (Easy) (AP) 16km.

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

TRIP LEADER: B Walker

Saturday 9 March: "Anacotilla Springs", Second Valley (MLR) (Difficult) 87km.

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

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley



"Well, of course, they're not going to be fooled if you don't stand on one leg!"



THE BABBLER

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Birds SA
PORT AUGUSTA GROUP

PROGRAM 2019

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Sunday 20 th . January 2019 --	Baroota reservoir --	Mambray Creek parking bay	8:00 am
Sunday 17 th . February 2019 --	Bowman Park --	Crystal Brook info. park (main st.)	8:30 am
Sunday 24 th . March 2019 --	Chinamans Creek --	turn off on Augusta Hiway	8:00 am (Wear beach walking footwear)
Saturday 13 th . \ April 2019 --	White Cliffs and Pedler's scrub --	Koolunga	9:00am
Sunday 14 th . /	Bundaleer Reservoir	Bunyip reserve	
	(Camp out - some facilities available)		
Friday 17 th . \			
Saturday 18 th . May 2019 --	Witchelina Nature Reserve --	Lyndhurst Pub	11:00am
Sunday 19 th . /	(Camp out - facilities available (costs apply))		
Monday 20 th . /			
Sunday 16 th . June 2019 --	Carriewerloo station --	Start of Stuart Hwy.	8:00 am
Saturday 13 th . \			
Sunday 14 th . July 2019 --	South Gap station --	Start of Stuart hwy.	8:00 am
Monday 15 th . /	(Camp out - facilities available)		
Saturday 17 th . \			
Sunday 18 th . August 2019 --	Munyaroo Conservation Park --	Whyalla Wetlands	8:30 am
Monday 19 th . /	(Camp out -- <u>No</u> facilities available)		
Sunday 15 th . September 2019 --	Bernies Block --	Mambray Creek parking bay	8:00am
Sunday 13 th . October 2019 --	Whyalla Wetlands & Effluent ponds --	Wetlands	8:00am
Sunday 17 th November 2019 --	Quorn local area --	Quorn Pool	8:00 am
Sunday 8 th . December 2019 --	Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden --	In Car Park	7:30 am (Christmas lunch in café & Showing of years best birding photos)

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

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

Bird Records

Collated by Graham Carpenter

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

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

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

Australasian Shoveler

Pair + 15 young, 5/10/2018. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR. Ducklings being predated by a Silver Gull.
Williams, K.

Freckled Duck

80, 6/9/2018. Koonchera WH, NE.
SA Museum Waterhouse Club

5, 1/10/2018. Mount Alma dam, MLR.
Johnston, D.

Barbary Dove

1, 12/10/2018. Bordertown, SE.
Green, B.

Members are encouraged to report this species so that its potential spread can be prevented.

Tawny Frogmouth

Nest + young, 8/10/2018. Sturt Gorge RP, MLR.
Nankivell, A.

2 pairs + young, 23/10/2018. Cobbler Creek RP, MLR.
Kernot, G. & Packham, C.

Southern Royal Albatross and Northern Royal Albatross

1 each, 23/9/2018. Sea off Port Macdonnell, MO.
Harper, D. et al

Cape Petrel and White-headed Petrel

1 each, 23/9/2018 sea off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Harper, D. et al

Few reports of Cape Petrel in recent years and none from land, in contrast to 1970s and 80s.

Australasian Darter

1 male, 20/8/2018. Craighburn dam, MLR.
Carpenter, B.

Royal Spoonbill

74, 9/8/2018. Port Gawler, Applebee Rd dam, AP.
Merchant, M.

2, 4/10/2018. Oaklands Wetland, Marion, AP.
Goland, R.

Buff-banded Rail

1, 7/10/2018. Oaklands Wetland, Marion, AP.
Crouch, A.

Lewin's Rail

1, 1/10/2018. Goolwa Barrage, MM.
Johnston, D.

1, 2/10/2018. Belair NP, Cherry Plantation, MLR. Calling in dense *Cyperus* along creekline.
Fuhlbohm, T.
First report from park.

Australian Crake

1, 7/10/2018. Oaklands Wetland, Marion, AP.
Crouch, A.

Australian Bustard

4, 19/8/2018. S of Wilmington, FR.
Kirby, C.

Bush Stonecurlew

1 heard, 7/9/2018. Karrawinnie WH, Cooper Creek, NE.
Kemper, C.

Pied Stilt

2, 21/10/2018. Oaklands Wetland, Marion, AP.
Goland, R.

Hooded Plover

2, 26/8/2018. Hallett Cove, Field River mouth, MLR.
Burns, A.

6 including pair + nest, 28/9/2018.
Normanville, MLR.
Stevens, P.

Pair +3 juveniles, 28/9/2018. Seacliff Beach, MLR.
per Close, D.

Pair + juvenile, 8/10/2018. Seacliff Beach, MLR.
Cakebread, A.
It is pleasing that this species is now regularly nesting on our suburban beaches, although the outcomes are uncertain.

Plains-wanderer

1 male, 9/9/2018. WNW of Koonalda, NW. Flushed from vehicle in Bluebush shrubland over Spear-grass. Many Little Button-quails also present.
Hopton, I.

Common Sandpiper

1, 9/8/2018. Port Wakefield, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

2, 13/9/2018. Onkaparinga Estuary, MLR.
Bradley, T.

1, 24 to 28/9/2018. Normanville, MLR.
Stevens, P.

Sanderling

1, 7/10/2018. Semaphore Beach, AP.
van-Trigt, M.-A.

Latham's Snipe

1, 7/10/2018. Myponga, Blockers Rd, MLR.
Jack, T.

Far Eastern Curlew

1, 15/8/2018. Reeves Point, KI.
Smith, S. & A.

1, 21/10/2018. Hindmarsh Island, Sugars Beach, MM.
Buck, S.

Painted Buttonquail

1, 1/9/2018. Scott CP, MLR.
Stokes, M.

2, 28/9/2018. Granite Island, MLR.
Haeblich, C.

White-fronted Tern

5, 6/8/2018. Beachport breakwater, SE.
Rogers, C.

10+, 7/8/2018. Port Macdonnell breakwater, SE.
Rogers, C.

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

2, 6/10/2018. Padthaway CP, SE.
Leddy, L.

This species has the potential to nest in this area. Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos nest nearby in large red gums over pasture and vineyards.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

1 part leucistic, 3/8/2018. Marino, MLR.
Munro, C.

2 part leucistic, Sept 2018, Eden Hills Primary School, MLR.
Ramm, M.

Also several early reports from suburban AP

3, 16/9/2018. Urrbrae Wetlands, AP. Feeding in pines.
Farmer, P.

25, 4/10/2018. Kooyonga Golf Course, AP. Feeding in pines and Sheoaks.
Pring, A.

1, 15/10/2018 and 7, 21/10/2018. Black Forest, AP. Flying east in evening.
Carpenter, G.

1 over, 25/10/2018. Fullarton, AP.
Horton, P.

Blue-winged Parrot

4, 6/9/2018. Koonchera WH, NE.
Murfet, D. et al

1, 6/10/2018. Halbury, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

10, 7/10/2018. Pinkerton Plains, AP.
Milde, S.

Regent Parrot

4+, 1/8/2018. Swan Reach, MM.
Rodda, B.

12, 6/10/2018. Blanchetown bridge, MM.
Nash, R.

Pallid Cuckoo

1, 22/8/2018. Munno Para interchange, AP.
Harper, D.
Few reports from southern areas in recent years.

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo

Reports from suburban AP:

1, 6/8/2018. Fullarton, Cremorne St, AP.
Horton, P.

1, 7/10/2018. Black Forest, AP.
Carpenter, G.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo

1, 27/8/2018. Colton, Rocky Valley Rd, EP.
Brittain, R. & Diment, J.

1, 21/10/2018. Padthaway, SE.
Leddy, L.

Red-backed Kingfisher

Southern record from:

2, 13/10/2018. Bowmans, S of, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Rainbow Bee-eater

Widespread records from Adelaide area, including:

2, 9/10/2018. Roseworthy, Pengilly Scrub, AP.
Prideaux, K.

1+, 21/10/2018. Redwood Park, AP. Flying over.
McHugh, R.

Purple-backed Fairywren

1 group, 11/9/2018. Cox Scrub CP, MLR.
Harrison, J.

One bird reported here on 25/1/1988 (SAOA NL 125), otherwise largely absent from MLR region.

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren

1, 22/8/2018. Scott CP, MLR.
Smyth, R.

Heathwrens were reported from the park (mostly south-east part) up until the 1970s but none since (David and Joan Paton (1980) SA Ornithologist 28:120-126).

White-throated Gerygone

1, 7/10/2018. Padthaway CP, SE.
Leddy, K.

Pied Honeyeater

4 immatures, 24/9/2018. Owen, Warnes Scrub, AP.
Warnes, M. & Steeles, C.

Black Honeyeater

2, 10/10/2018 and 3, 23/10/2018. 10 km E Balaklava, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Yellow Chat

1, 6/9/2018. Pandiburra Bore, NE.
Black, A.

1 male, 30/9/2018 and 1 female, 5/10/2018.
Coongie Lakes, NE. In dense ephemeral growth on drying lake edge.
Dahl, E.

White-browed Babbler

3+, 16/8/2018. Tokuremoar CP, MM.
Smyth, R.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike

2 or 3, 24/9/2018. Dry Creek forest reserve, SE.
Gordon, S.

White-winged Triller

Several reports from southern districts including:

1 male, 22/9/2018. Panorama, AP.
Allen, J.

1 male, 6/10/2018. Cox Scrub CP, MLR.
Gordon, S.

1 female, 19/10/2018 and 1 male 20/10/2018, 3km SSW of Lobethal, MLR.
Evans, M.

Black-faced Woodswallow

7, 9/8/2018. 14 km N Port Wakefield, MN.
Taylor, P.W.

4, 17/8/2018. 7km W Balaklava, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Dusky Woodswallow

3, 9/6/2018. Witchelina Stn, Tilterana Ck, NW.
Black, A. et al
First report from reserve, at north-western limit of range in SA

Grey Currawong

1, 29/9/2018. Frewville, AP.
Sparks, K.

1, 4/10/2018. Glen Osmond, Milton Rd, AP.
Bainbridge, T.

It will be interesting if this species establishes in suburban Adelaide as it is presumed to have bred last year.

White-winged Chough

4+, 21/10/2018. Willowie Forest, FR.
Haase, B. et al
At northern limit in SA

Apostlebird

Several, 6/10/2018. Melrose showgrounds, FR.
Mountford, Y.

6, 21/10/2018. Willowie Forest, FR.
Haase, B. et al
Has become a resident breeding species from the central FR south to the MLR/MN boundary over the last 20 years.

Rufous Songlark

1, 3/10/2018. 3 km SSW Lobethal, MLR.
Evans, M.

1, 10/10/2018. 9 km E Balaklava, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Bassian Thrush

1, 30/8/2018. Williamstown, Coppermine Rd, MLR.
Pearce, A.

1, 11/10/2018. 5 km SE Second Valley, (Springs Rd sanctuary), MLR.
Day, P.

Mistletoebird

88, Jun 2018, Witchelina Stn, NE. Large numbers in fruiting Box Mistletoes.
Cole, P.

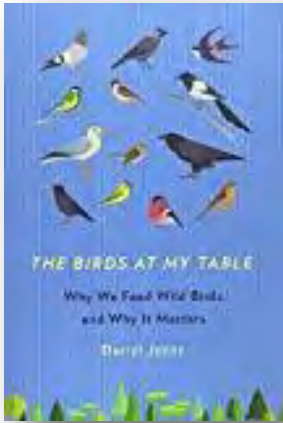
Zebra Finch

2, 14/8/2018. Keyneton, MLR.
Bennett, K.
Few reports from southern regions in recent years.



A Dusky Grasswren and a Western Bowerbird photographed by Bernie Hasse, while on his bush trip through SA, NT and QLD.

From the library..



598.07234 JON

Jones, Darryl

The birds at my table : why we feed wild birds and why it matters

Ithaca : Comstock Publishing Assoc., 2018.

ISBN 9781501710780

Discusses the history and scale of feeding wild birds. Outlines debates about the practice, highlighting key research findings and pointing out the issues that require further examination. Written in nontechnical language, thus making it accessible to the general public, birders, and academics.



598.17 FRA

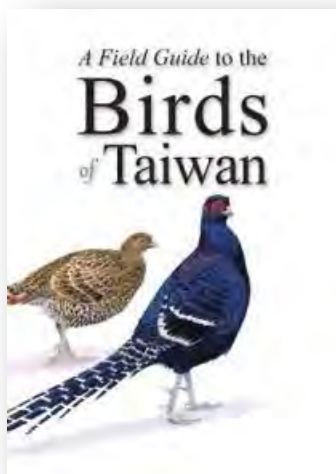
Fraser, Ian

Birds and their habitats

Clayton South, Vic. CSIRO, 2018.

ISBN: 978148630744

Everywhere we go there are birds, and they all have mysteries to be unravelled. These mysteries include the way they look, from bizarre to apparently mundane, why they live where they live, and the things they do, many of which are far too incredible ever to be imagined as fiction. *Birds in Their Habitats* is a collection of stories and experiences which introduce fascinating aspects of bird life, ecology and behaviour.



598.2951249 HSI

Hsiao, Mu-Chi

A field guide to the birds of Taiwan

Taipei, Taiwan : Wild bird Society of Taiwan, 2017.

ISBN 9789860550191

Covering over 670 species found in Taiwan and surrounding islets including 27 endemic species and 56 endemic subspecies, this new English edition of A Field Guide to the Birds of Taiwan features stunning artwork detailing seasonal, age, sexual, and subspecies differences in approximately 190 annotated colour plates, updated distribution maps, and concise but informative text dealing not only with identification but aspects of biology such as habitat, and voice.

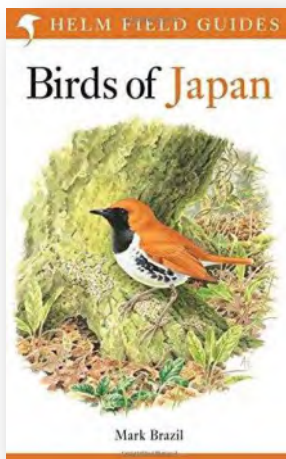
From the library..



598.33 SAD
Saddler, Harry
The eastern curlew
South Melbourne, Vic : Affirm Press, 2018.

ISBN 9781925584219

Every year around August, large flocks of Eastern Curlews leave their breeding grounds in the Arctic and embark on a perilous 10,000km journey to the coast of Australia. The birds cannot swim; if they become exhausted and fall into the ocean, they die. But it's a journey they have taken for tens of thousands of years; tracing invisible flyways in the sky in what is one of the most spectacular mass migrations in the animal kingdom. Following the Eastern Curlew along its migratory path, Harry Saddler explores how these incredible birds have impressed themselves on the cultures of the countries they fly through, the threat to their survival posed by development, and the remarkable ways these birds and humankind may be entwined.



598.2952 BRA
Brazil, Mark
Birds of Japan
London : Christopher Helm, 2018

ISBN 9781472913869

Japan is home to a spectacular and diverse range of birds, and this up-to-date text covers the identification, voice, habitat, behaviour, and range of all the species and subspecies found across the beautiful and fascinating Japanese archipelago.

The Birds SA Library catalogue is accessible online. The web address is <http://birdssa.libib.com/>

Members Photo Gallery 1



Young Whistling Kite, the Barrage, Goolwa, photo by Merilyn Browne



Great Cormorants at the Goolwa Barrage, photo by John Gitsham

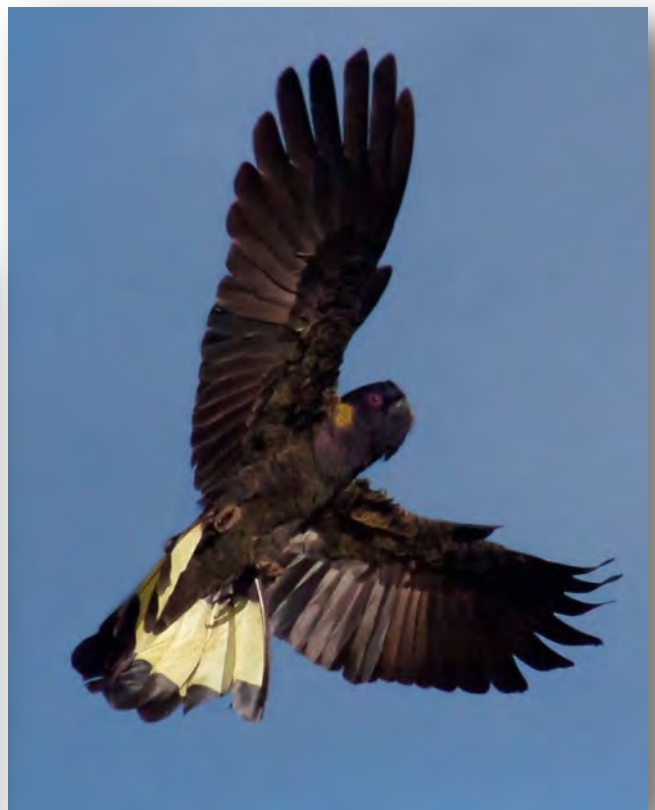
Members Photo Gallery 2



Redthroat, Photo by Ashley Grivell



**Australian Magpie, Montecollina Bore, Strzelecki
Track September 2018 photo by David Cox,**



**Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo,
Photo by Helen & Reg Connolly**

Members Photo Gallery 3



Bush Stone Curlew at Tyto Wetlands Ingham, Qld, Photo by Alan Pettigrew July 2018



Southern Ground Hornbill in Kruger NP, South Africa, Photo by Robert Rowland in July 2017

Members Photo Gallery 4



Restless Flycatcher, Photo by Ashley Grivell



Rainbow Bee-eater at Monarto, Photo by David Vranek, Jan 2018



Left: A Baillon's Crake at Laratinga, photo by John Gitsham and Right: A Great Crested Grebe at Goolwa photo by Jeff Groves



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MAY	Western SA splits	7 days
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JUN	Sabah (Borneo)	10 days
JUL	Nine Grasswrens	12 days
JUL	Savannah to Tropics	8 days
JUL	Red Centre Adventure	4 days
JUL	Centralian Grasswrens photo tour	15 days
AUG	Comfortable Nine Grasswren tour	16 days
AUG	Tropical & Far North Queensland	8 days
SEP	Best of Top End	7 days
SEP	Grey Falcon & Letter-w'd Kites	6 days
OCT	Six Grasswrens	7 days
NOV	Kangaroo Island birds & wildlife	4 days

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