

The BIRDER

The official magazine of Birds SA Autumn 2019 No 249



Linking people with birds
in South Australia



In this Issue

Accolades awarded to Birds SA members

Buy our Birds SA Merchandise

Citrine Wagtali visited Whyalla

Come and
celebrate
our rich bird
diversity!



Bring your
Binoculars!
and a Gold
Coin Donation
for Birds SA

LARATINGA BIRDFAIR 2019



BIRD TALKS

BIRD EXPERTS

GUIDED
BIRD WALKS

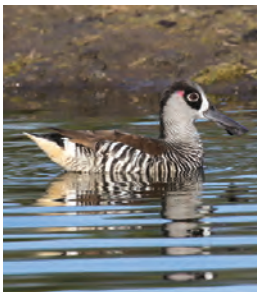
WORKSHOPS

BIRD
PHOTOGRAPHY

BIRD ID

NEST BOX
BUILDING

BIRD WATCHING
TECHNIQUES



SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER 10am - 4pm

Laratinga Wetlands
Bald Hills Road, Mount Barker

COMPETITIONS

MUSIC

GAMES AND
ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS

DISPLAYS

STALLS

FOOD AND
DRINKS



Program & speakers to be announced soon!



CONTENTS

Diary of Events	4
President's Message	5
South Australia's Birds are Anything but Boring	6
The D. L. Serventy Medal	7
Friends of the FAIBS	8
Two Special Birding Events	9
Fledglings' Activities	10
Birds SA Notes & News	11
Birds SA Merchandise	13
Is Killing Rats Killing Birds?	14
Boobies on Christmas Island, November 2018	15
If you go Down to the Beach Today ...	16
Past General Meetings	17
Future General Meetings	19
Past Excursions	20
Future Excursions	26
Bird Records	28
From the Library	31
RSPB Adelaide — 1894 to 1909	32
Members' Photo Gallery	35
Birds SA Contact Details	39

**CENTRE INSERT: SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 67,
ALFRED GEORGE EDQUIST**

John Gitsham designed the front page of this issue.

The cover photograph shows a Red-capped Robin photographed by Jeff Groves at Brookfield Conservation Park on 13th June 2016

We welcome 22 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p32.

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

Sunday 24 th Feb.	Birds SA	Excursion to Whites Road Wetlands
Saturday 2 March FB Old Noarlunga Township River walk		
Saturday 9 March	Birds SA	Excursion to Bushland Park, Lobethal
Thursday 21 March	Birds SA	Excursion to Cox Scrub CP
Sunday 24 March	PA	Excursion to Chinaman's Creek
Friday 29 March	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 31 March	Birds SA	Excursion to private property near Mannum
Saturday 6 April FB Excursion to Stiputirus C.P		
Saturday 13 April	Birds SA	Excursion to Kenneth Stirling & Mt. George CP
Saturday 13 April	PA	Excursion to White Cliffs & Pedler's Scrub
Sunday 14 April	PA	Excursion to Bundaleer Reservoir
Thursday 18 to Tuesday 23 April – Birds SA campout to Mary Seymour CP		
Friday 26 April	Birds SA	General Meeting + AGM
Sunday 28 April	Birds SA	Excursion to Byards Rd. wetlands, Reynella East
Saturday 4 May FB Excursion to Bullock Hill, Ashbourne		
Saturday 11 May	Birds SA	Excursion to Aldinga Scrub CP
Thursday 16 May	Birds SA	Excursion to Watiparinga Reserve, Eden Hills
Friday 17 May to Monday 20 May, PA, Witchelina Nature Reserve		
Saturday 1 June	FB	Excursion to Scott CP
Sunday 2 June	Birds SA	Excursion to Sandy Creek

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. It obtains its funding from memberships and donations from the public to run its programs and distribute its publications.

President's Message

HI FELLOW BIRDERS,

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable break over the festive season and managed to enjoy some great birding over that time. There was some excitement with a couple of rarities popping up over summer, a Scarlet Honeyeater seen at the Port Augusta Arid Lands Flora Reserve and a Citrine Wagtail seen by many birders at the Whyalla wetlands. A Tufted Duck was sighted over in Victoria at the Werribee Treatment Plant near Geelong in early January 2019, apparently the first official sighting in Australia of this northern hemisphere duck! Several South Aussies went over and got a big tick! So all the twitchers have had an exciting few months!

We have another busy year ahead of us with great field trips and general meetings planned. We have simplified our membership categories and are encouraging members to join and update the membership on line through our website; this will make it easier in the long term and less work load for our volunteer committee members who help run our now large Association. There have been a few hiccups in the process and some tweaking is still

needed to fine-tune it. Please be patient over the next couple of months, and please remember your password to access the Members' Page of the website. You can still pay your membership by cash/cheque on a General Meeting night if you don't wish to use the website system.

Birds SA is now offering a limited range of merchandise products with our logo on jackets, polo shirts and hats. Please access the merchandise website on the homepage of the Birds SA website to order and purchase through the company supplying the goods. We do not handle or stock the products or make a profit. This is to keep the cost down to Birds SA members. Please support the products and proudly wear hats, jackets etc. on field trips or whenever you go birding.

I have been busy with the Mt Barker Council organising the second 'Laratinga Birdfair' for Sunday, October 27th 2019, 10am to 4pm, to be held again (first one was in 2016) at the superb Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker. Please put this date in your diaries and come along to once more support this fantastic event. All profits from the event will go to Birds SA Conservation Fund.

On March 23rd, BirdLife Australia, will be running a workshop with Birds SA to support setting up Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in SA and trying to find a volunteer coordinator for this project in SA. The workshop will include some training for members who are interested in using the BirdLife Australia's BIRDATA system of bird survey recording while out birding. BIRDATA is a simple and effective way of recording your sightings when you are out and about, via an App for your phone or by using your desktop or laptop computer. All the data goes onto a national data-base and is accessible by all birders across Australia. I have been using it for about 12 months and find it simple and easy to use!

You will also notice our 'Newsletter' has been renamed 'Magazine', for two reasons, **1**: It is now too big to be a newsletter and **2**, to save confusion with our 'E-news' that is emailed out monthly to all members with an e-mail address. Also the Birder is not dated by the month anymore, but by the seasons as was the last issue, so enjoy this autumn's Birds SA 'The Birder' Magazine!

John Gitsham, Autumn 2019



John Barkia, President of Birdlife Australia, presenting the J.N. Nobbs Award medal to Birds SA member, Andrew Black
Andrew's acceptance speech is on the next page

South Australia's Birds are Anything but Boring

[On receipt of the 2018 J N Hobbs Medal from John Barkla, President of Birdlife Australia]

I thank David and Penny Paton and Philippa Horton for their nomination, and the Awards Subcommittee and Council of Birdlife Australia for honouring me with the presentation of the Hobbs Medal for 2018.

I feel fortunate to have had a lot of luck along the way, including being in a position to work in Ornithology in such an interesting place for birds, here in South Australia. I shall return to this point shortly.

I am most grateful for the support and encouragement of many, especially my wife Margie; but including among others, Philippa Horton, Leo Joseph, Dick Schodde, Graham Carpenter and Lynn Pedler; and, though no longer with us, Bob Brown, John Eckert and Shane Parker.

With mixed emotions I am both honoured and humbled to be named alongside many exceptional contributors to Australian Ornithology; Clive Minton, Pauline Reilly, Graham Pizzey, Graeme Chapman, Mike Carter among them and, in 2015 our State's first and most worthy Hobbs Medallist Lynn Pedler.

A recent visitor, a widely known and well credentialed authority on Australian birds, was incautious enough to remark among local company that he found South Australia's birds boring. I feel that he missed something significant, perhaps viewing our birds from the wrong perspective, because, in my view, South Australia's birds are anything but boring.

It is here that east meets west. We can fill the role that some in the Viola section of a Symphony Orchestra argue that they play, to provide the glue that binds the whole together.

We don't have the number of endemic species of Queensland, Western Australia or Tasmania, but we have many endemic subspecies and, perhaps of greater scientific interest, a number of examples in which separate eastern and western forms both occur in our State. Much of the explanation for this lies in a biogeographical construct named the Eyrean Barrier; a periodic arid intrusion at the longitude of Spencer Gulf, Lake Torrens and Lake Eyre, that has acted as a barrier to the movement of birds during several periods over the recent two million years or more. That barrier and the intervening periods of climatic amelioration have played a dominant role in the process of speciation among many southern Australian birds.

As a result, we have distinct species that are not in contact; Eastern and Western Yellow Robins, Brown

and Rufous Treecreepers, Chestnut and Copperback Quailthrushes; also species that are in contact or may overlap; White- and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, Superb and Splendid Fairywrens, Gilbert's and Red-lored Whistlers, two heathwrens, two fieldwrens.

There are also many species in which subspecies intergrade, emuwrens, scrubwrens, shrikethrushes, and others where they remain separate, Slender-billed Thornbills for example. Another interesting occurrence, probably unconnected with the Eyrean Barrier, is that two different Galahs meet in western SA, the eastern subspecies having expanded its range across most of the State only during the last century.

A further noteworthy phenomenon is where taxa that have diverged to the point of speciation (or arguably not quite) come later into secondary contact and interbreed with the formation of hybrid swarms. The hybridization of Mallee Ringneck with Port Lincoln Parrots of the Flinders Ranges provides a well-known and very familiar example. Much more recently, we have found that the Brown or Inland

Thornbills of mangroves and coastal shrublands north of Adelaide are apparently neither (or both) but are a hybrid swarm of those two indisputably distinct species.

Among grasswrens too there are good examples of the above-listed phenomena. The sister species Western and Thick-billed Grasswrens diverged across the Eyrean Barrier about one million years ago. The latter subsequently expanded across the Eyrean Barrier and about 400,000 years ago became divided once more. The two subspecies of our own

Short-tailed Grasswren probably separated at around the same time. The individual subspecies of Thick-billed Grasswrens seem to have diverged about 100,000 years ago. Similar events may well have shaped diversity within the Striated Grasswren group and further work on that and on other southern bird species that occur both in the east and the west of South Australia will continue to produce enlightening results. An example requiring further research will be found in the latest issue of the South Australian Ornithologist.

I have greatly enjoyed the study of South Australian birds and have found it to be exciting and rewarding and I know that all our members will go on enjoying our rich diversity of birds as I continue to do.

Andrew Black, 30 November 2018.



Slender-billed Thornbill
photographed by Teresa Jack

The D.L. Serventy Medal

The D.L. Serventy Medal may be awarded annually for outstanding published work on birds in the Australasian region. It has been awarded for the last 20 years and is the highest award offered to professional ornithologists by BirdLife Australia.

2018 Serventy Medallist, Leo Joseph



Leo Joseph has had a long-standing interest in birds—he was publishing field observations while still in high school—which has led him into a role as one of the world's preeminent experts on the systematics and evolution of Australian birds. Leo's detailed and considered approach to his research has led to some of the most robust work on Australian avian systematics yet produced. It has included detailed systematic revisions of iconic Australo-Papuan groups, such as lorikeets, gerygones, and honeyeaters. Much of his focus, however, is placing the systematics into a wider context of the changing Australian environment, reconstructing major events in the evolutionary history and relating these to biogeographic features, changes in climate and other factors that have created the patterns of diversification observed today. Leo's studies have been wide-ranging, covering birds from across the Australian continent and extending through New Guinea and the Pacific, and, from his nearly five years there, even in South America. Another aspect is considering how the results of his work have implications for conservation. Most recently, his program is extending into understanding the genomic basis of adaptation in birds.

Leo attended the University of Adelaide for his Bachelor of Science (1977-79), returning in 1981 for his Honours. After several years (1985-87) travelling

in South America, he came back to Australia and pursued a PhD at the University of Queensland (1989-94), looking at rainforest birds of eastern Australia and their history of habitat diversity. Following his PhD, he returned to South America on a Visiting Professorship in the Laboratorio de Evolución, Facultad de Ciencias, Montevideo, Uruguay (1994-97). In 1997 he was appointed as Assistant Curator in the Department of Ornithology at the then Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, United States. With nearly 200,000 specimens representing 90% of the world's species, the Academy's Ornithology holdings are one of the largest and most taxonomically complete bird collections in the world. A particularly significant component of it is the John Gould collection of Australian birds, important both scientifically and historically. While at the Academy, Leo carried out research on Australian birds, notably the Crimson Rosella complex, and conducted several major field trips to Australia.

In late 2005, Leo returned to Australia to become Director of the Australian National Wildlife Collection (ANWC), CSIRO, Canberra, a position he occupies today. As one of the most important collections of Australian and New Guinea birds in the world and certainly the most actively growing one, the ANWC is a major scientific resource for ornithology in Australia.

From those early days, Leo's list of publications now exceeds 200. His skills as a writer have been demonstrated in numerous articles for the non-specialists that are clear and informative, and without writing down to the reader. Regularly, he has been invited to contribute reviews of current topics relating to avian systematics and ornithological collections. He has served editor for the *South Australian Ornithologist* (1980-88) and *RAOU Monographs* (1983-88). In addition, he has sat on the editorial board of several journals, including *Emu - Austral Ornithology*, supporting and contributing to the journal for many years.

A hallmark of Leo's research has been its collaborative nature. He has teamed up with overseas scientists, and has worked with and/or supervised postdoctoral researchers and students to amass a body of work on the phylogeography and more recent evolutionary history of Australo-Papuan birds. Taxonomy and systematics are not scientific

The D.L. Serventy Medal (cont.)/FAIBS

areas that have been well supported in recent years and therefore contributors such as Leo, who engender enthusiasm for their topic and collective expertise in young researchers, are essential for the preservation of national capacity. This group of rising systematists, with Leo at the forefront, have, and promise to continue, to illuminate the finer details of the development of the avifauna of Australia and its neighbouring regions.

Nomination: Walter Boles

Leo's nominator, Water Boles wrote Leo Joseph's citation.

Birds SA thanks BirdLife Australia for giving permission for the citation to be reprinted from their Newsletter.

Cynthia Pyle

Extract about Leo Joseph from Birds SA Newsletter, May 2010

Leo first became associated with The SAOA as a teenage student in 1971. He completed a Bachelor of Science (majoring in Zoology and Genetics), at the University of Adelaide, South Australia in 1979 and an Honours degree in Genetics, also from the University of Adelaide, in 1981. In 1994 he was awarded a Ph.D. from the Department of Zoology, University of Queensland.

He was awarded Honorary Membership of the Association at the June 2010 General Meeting.

FRIENDS OF THE ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL BIRD SANCTUARY

Affectionately known as FAIBS, this group has been operating for just over two years and has been most appreciative of support from members of Birds SA during this time.

For those of you less familiar with FAIBS, it was established by a group of enthusiastic people who wanted to make a difference to our environment and specifically within the 60km of coastline running from Barker Inlet to Parham, which makes up the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. The Sanctuary coastline and inland habitat form a terminal feeding and roosting ground used by over 20,000 migratory shorebirds each year as they return over 12,000km from their northern breeding grounds in Alaska and the Russian Tundra. Within the Sanctuary is the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara (Kaurna language meaning 'Country belonging to all birds') covering 50km of coastline and 14,633 hectares.

FAIBS holds an activity day once a month within the Sanctuary, generally on the third or fourth Sunday. Activities have included rubbish removal, trail maintenance, revegetation, as

well as plant and bird identification and monitoring. Our first activity for 2019 will be a resident and migratory shorebird viewing morning at St Kilda on February 24th. If you would like to join us, at 8am on the St. Kilda Foreshore in front of the St. Kilda Community Hall on Beach Rd. ST. Kilda. Future events will appear on our Facebook page 'Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary', and enquiries are also welcome through our email address.

This group is keen to continue undertaking project work within the Sanctuary to protect the habitat of resident and migratory shorebirds and the various flora and fauna of the region, some of which are of international and national significance. We are actively applying for grants to assist us in our future endeavours under the leadership of our Chairperson Mary-Ann van Trigt.

As our 2019 Committee goes into action, FAIBS looks forward to welcoming Birds SA members and new participants of any age to our free activities. For those wishing to financially support the group's programs and resource development, membership for individuals or families is \$10 per annum.

Enquiries can be made by emailing faibssa@gmail.com

Anna Woods, Secretary, FAIBS



Mary-Anne Van Trigt received an award from the Conservation Council in recognition of all her work with the Friends of the International Bird Sanctuary.

Two Special Birding Events

An Exciting Discovery

On Boxing Day this year I paid a visit to Whyalla Wetlands, which I do on a regular basis. The early morning was cool, clear skies and very little wind, perfect for bird watching.

After an anticlockwise walk around the ponds to keep the sun behind me I arrived at what I call the North West pond, there I sat on a log by the edge of the pond.

Sitting there quietly with my camera photographing Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and a Whiskered Tern a strange bird flew across in front of me at first I thought maybe it was a Pipit, I looked a bit closer and thought, no its not. A Wagtail came to mind but I didn't know which one, I took 3 quick pictures of him then he flew off, after comparing the shots to some bird books it turned to be a Citrine Wagtail.

By Larry Gruitt



Citrine Wagtail

Editor's Note: According to Michael Morcome's Field Guide to Australian Birds, p326, Citrine Wagtails breed in northern and central Asia. In the northern winter they migrate to China, India and Southeast Asia. It occasionally occurs in the Indonesian islands and rarely in Australia. The few Australian records have been scattered around the coastline in widely different localities.

An Incredible Sight



No Standing Room!

Regent Parrots, Mulga parrots, Mulga Parrots and Mallee Ringnet Parrots, photographed by John Donkin at 6.30am on 12/01/19 at the Whistler Hide at Glupot. An early drink before a hot day!

Fledglings' activities

Birds SA continues to promote conservation and interest in birds through their "Fledglings" events. Because of the hot weather we waited until May for the very popular "Holding a Native Bird" event at Monarto. Birds SA is grateful to BioR, David, Penny and Fiona Paton for their time commitment and expertise over this two day event.

A Year 2 class at Bridgewater Primary School is known as the "Listening Lorikeets". What a joy it was to talk about birds with this group of enthusiastic students, then to go for a "Bird Walk" in their schoolyard. Each class member had prepared a question on something they wanted to know about birds — such as, "what have they got inside them"?

Year 10 Students at Wilderness School are planning for their futures. Birds SA, together with mammal and reptile specialists, were invited to give presentations to the girls. There was a focus on what birds occur in the Parklands, the area used by Wilderness girls for their PE classes.

Elizabeth Grove Primary School has a very special link with the Calvary Hospice, Elizabeth Vale. They wanted to "brighten up" a section of the garden at the Hospice with bird pictures, so that folk who are unwell had something of interest to view from the windows. These students also wanted information on Rainbow Lorikeets and the Crimson Rosella. Two visits were made to the school in order to cater for both Year 4/5 classes. The school has some wonderful gum trees and the students enjoyed using binoculars to look at both Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets, as well as to search for birds' nests. There are some budding ornithologists and artists in this group.

Birds SA was invited to the Official Opening of this garden section on Friday 30th November. It was heart-warming to see each student presented with a teddy bear, knitted by volunteers, as a reward for their excellent depiction of birds in the garden.

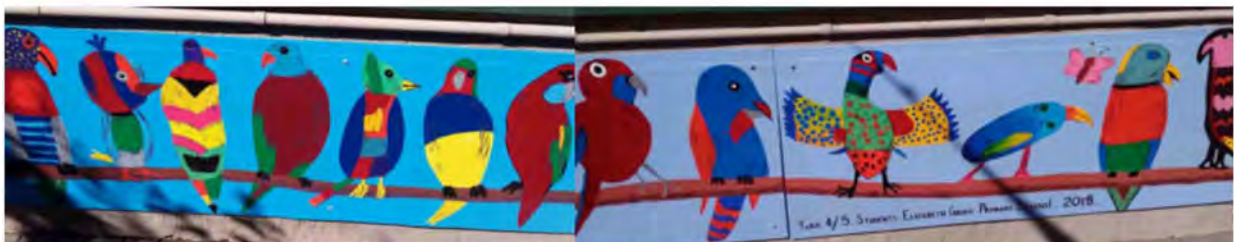
Kate Buckley



The student's pictures enhance the garden



Presentation of teddy bears



Some very interesting birds!

Elizabeth Grove Primary School's additions to the garden of Calvary Hospice, Elizabeth Vale

Birds SA Notes & News

SA RARITIES AND DISTRIBUTION SUBCOMMITTEE (SARDS)

Background

Since 2013 the SA Rarities and Distribution Subcommittee (SARDS) has combined the functions of documenting distributional records for SA and reviewing reports of rare birds in the State. These are core functions of authoritative regional bird groups in many parts of the world.

The verification and documentation of distribution have always been important to the SAOA but devolved to a single responsible person in the 1960s when Brian Glover published the first Annual Bird Report (for 1964). The Bird Records Secretary (BRS) has continued to collate such records for the Newsletter and Journal Bird Reports.

Vetting bird records became a much greater undertaking with the conduct of the bird atlases; of Australia (1977-1981, 1998-2002, and 'ongoing') and the Adelaide Region (1974-75, 1984-85 and 2012-14). SAOA subcommittees have taken total or partial responsibility for the validation of records for those projects.

In 2004 the Association was asked to collaborate with the Environment Department in the validation of collated bird records for SA, and in 2006 we were asked to assist in the preparation of bird maps for the revised edition of the *Census of SA Vertebrates*. This became the responsibility of a small Vetting Subcommittee — Andrew Black (chair), Graham Carpenter and Lynn Pedler, with input from Colin Rogers and John Hatch — who oversaw the work, with the development of validated maps by 2009. However, due to budgetary and staff shortages, these were not published as part of the on-line *Census*, as planned. This initiative was revived during 2018, when our Association undertook, ourselves to develop the maps to a publishable form.

The SA Rarities (Rare Birds) Committee was formed in 2006 at the suggestion of and under the guidance of John Fennell, who was its initial Secretary. Other members were those named above in relation to the Vetting Subcommittee. In 2013 Brian Blaylock — Association Secretary and Chair, Bird Records and Website Subcommittee, was added *ex officio* as the non-voting Secretary and Bob Green was added as a member in 2015.

Activities During 2018

Vetting

In late 2017, the Chairman received a request from BirdLife Australia to assess 180 SA records submitted to the ongoing atlas (birdata). The request was addressed by the Vetting Subcommittee in January 2018 and a further 18 records were received in February and April 2018 for their opinion.

The Bird Records Secretary (BRS) reviews all records submitted through the Association as well as reports posted on a variety of websites, for incorporation in bird reports for newsletters and the journal. The Vetting Subcommittee considers any that are unusual or otherwise of significance, at the request of the BRS.

Rare bird reports

The rarities committee considered ten records, numbered 96 to 105 during the year: Red-chested Buttonquail in Cleland CP, accepted as a possible escapee; Northern Shoveler, Coorong; White-rumped Sandpiper, Lake Alexandrina; Arctic Tern, Goolwa; Little Stint, Tolderol GR; White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Laratinga; Oriental Pratincole, Port Clinton CP; and Scarlet Honeyeater, Port Augusta West all accepted. The last is a first for SA. A report of Plains-wanderer at Gosse Spring, Stuart Creek Station near Lake Eyre South was judged unconfirmed. It is noteworthy that only one of the seven Plains-wanderer reports submitted to SARDS has been accepted as a confirmed sighting, yet many of those records are plausible and only one was judged an error. Because the species is rare and cryptic, observers have difficulty accessing sufficient diagnostic detail to allow confirmation. There is more to be learned about the Plains-wanderer in SA's arid zone. Another first for SA was a report of a booby, seen and photographed at Foul Bay YP in October 2012. It was probably an immature Brown Booby, but the Committee found that an immature Red-footed Booby could not be eliminated as an alternative possibility.

Field List

The 5th edition of *A Field List of the Birds of South Australia* was published in an on-line version in September 2017 by the Vetting Committee with Philippa Horton of the SA Museum, and revised in March 2018. It is posted on and downloadable from the Birds SA website (Blaylock, Black, Carpenter and Horton 2017). It is an essential document for all serious birders in SA.

Bird Maps

As noted above, budgetary constraints have prevented the completion of the on-line revised *Census of South Australian Vertebrates*. The Birds Section of the *Census* is another responsibility and product of SA Museum and Birds SA collaboration and the Birds chapter was posted in 2013 (Horton, P., Black, A. & Blaylock, B. 2013. Section 3: Birds. In Owens, H. & Graham, A. (eds.) *Census of South Australian Vertebrates*. Fourth edn. Dept. of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and South Australian Museum. <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Science/Information/census-of-sa-vertebrates>.) A revision,

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

incorporating all subspecies occurring in SA is in preparation.

Maps to complement the Birds chapter were stalled several years ago, as above, and an approach from the Vetting Committee to Helen Owens, Department of Environment and Water (DEW), in February 2018 resolved that Birds SA would undertake to vet and otherwise prepare distributional maps of SA's birds, based on the data retained by DEW, which includes, in addition to Biological Survey and other departmental records, Birds SA, BirdLife Australia, SA Museum and Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) records. The project is being conducted by Brian Blaylock, who receives data downloads from Helen and manipulates sources and mapping details, with Graham Carpenter and Andrew Black as vetters. As many will know, bird data maps, NatureMaps and, especially ALA maps, contain unvetted records and many can be readily seen to be erroneous. The distribution shown for some species is therefore unreliable, containing critical inaccuracies and showing records in whole regions where they are unknown. The maps being developed will eliminate obvious distributional errors as well as some records of potential interest that cannot be corroborated and in this sense are conservative. They will make it clear for birders to know, when they observe a bird, whether it is well documented from that place or nearby. It also follows that careful documentation of reports of birds seen beyond their known range, as shown on the map, will contribute to our overall understanding of the birds of SA.

Andrew Black 24 January 2019.

REPORTING A RARE BIRD IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Members who sight a bird that is unusual, or is known to be rare should go to the Birds SA website. Under the **Go Birding** tab click on **Reporting a rare bird in SA**. This will display full instructions of what to do, including a downloadable **Rare Bird Record Report Form**. Guidance as to what is a rare bird in South Australia is also provided in the form of a **South Australian Rare Birds Review List**. – Ed.

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Duck and Quail Hunting Reference Group Discussions

After some deliberation, William Brooker and I participated in the annual Duck and Quail Hunting Reference Group meeting on 10 December 2018, convened by the Department for Environment and Water. Birds SA reiterated its opposition to hunting of native birds and argued strongly for no quail season at all. This recommendation was based upon the fact that no verifiable data at all was presented to the meeting on stubble quail numbers or

distribution. As well, very little weight was given in the meeting to the severe drought conditions across eastern Australia nor to the annual Eastern Australian Waterbird Survey conducted by the University of NSW since 1983 which confirmed the continuing decline in waterbird numbers.

It is worth noting the figures presented to this meeting by CHASA (Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia). Based upon the data sheets returned by hunters, in 2018 the average number of ducks taken by hunters for the season was 43.5 birds and for quail it was 26.7. If all hunters with licences took these average numbers, it would total 80,118 ducks and 5,064 quail.

Minister Speirs has subsequently approved duck and quail hunting seasons to proceed in 2019. The duck season will run from 16 March to 30 June with a daily limit of 8 birds. The quail season will run from 16 February to 31 August with a daily limit of 15 birds. Both the duck and quail seasons will run longer in SA than Victoria and the daily limit for ducks in SA is larger than in Victoria so we can expect to see Victorians blasting away in our skies once their seasons have closed.

Birds SA has recently joined a coalition of organisations opposed to recreational hunting of birds which includes RSPCA and Fauna Rescue. This group is currently formulating strategies that will lead to an end to this activity in SA.

Other Activities

The Conservation Sub-Committee has a considerable number of other issues that it is currently pursuing. Included are:

- the impact of powered dinghy races within the Riverland Ramsar site
- the impact of a proposed mountain bike track at Hart Lagoon Waikerie (resolved for the moment)
- assessing the impacts on birdlife of actions arising from the Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission
- supporting Coffin Bay members who are seeking to obtain better protection for Pied Oystercatcher aggregations at Long Beach, Coffin Bay
- discussions with SA Power Networks on powerline insulation following the electrocution of two peregrine falcon fledglings at Old Noarlunga
- facilitating discussions with organisations that could potentially take on the management of Brookfield Conservation Park now that Conservation Volunteers Australia are no longer doing this
- bird surveys at Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Sub-Committee is always keen to hear of any bird-related issues that members become aware of, where actions by Birds SA to address these issues could result in positive outcomes.

Jeff Groves

BIRDS SA MERCHANDISE

Support our Association when you are out birding or on Birds SA field trips, the products are of high quality at reasonable prices! **You order, purchase and collect direct from the supplier; Birds SA does not carry or handle the stock**

Orders can be made at the following URL. <https://birdssa.orders.net.au>

OR: Phone: 1300 736 214: Address: 35 Beulah Road, Norwood.



Polo Shirts are available in the following colours:
Black, Navy Blue, Bottle Green and Bone
Cost: \$22.00



Adults Vests are available in the following colours:
Black, Navy Blue and Bottle Green
Cost: \$29.00



Sports Hats are available in the following colours:
Black, Navy Blue and Bottle Green
Cost: \$16.00



Men's Zip Polar Fleece Jackets are available in the following colours: Black, Navy Blue and Bottle Green
Cost : \$36.00



Women's Zip Polar Fleece Jackets are available in the following colours - Black and Navy Blue
Cost: \$33.00

Is Killing Rats Killing Birds?

The answer is a resounding YES! As early as 2012, the magazine Nature published information that chemicals in widely available rodenticides were accumulating in the bodies of animals, including birds of prey, and that in some cases this was leading to the death of the animals. Regulators in Canada and the USA moved fairly swiftly to restrict the sale of these rodenticides, but lawmakers in Australia have been much slower off the mark.

Rodent poisons fall into two general categories: **anticoagulants** and **non-anticoagulants**.

Anticoagulant rodenticides work by interfering with the activation of Vitamin K, a critical component in the production of blood clotting factors in the liver.

Non-anticoagulant rodenticides vary in their mechanism of action and include bromethalin, strychnine, cholecalciferol and zinc phosphide.

Anticoagulants fall into two camps, known as first and second generation (**SGARs**); with warfarin and coumatetralyl in the first camp and diphacinone, chlorphacinone, brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone in the second. First generation rodenticides require multiple ingestions of bait to result in toxicity while the SGARs require fewer feedings because they are highly toxic.

Rodenticides are toxic to many species of birds and mammals, with the time between exposure and development of clinical signs dependent on the specific chemical and the amount consumed. Specific clinical signs of anticoagulant poisoning include widespread bruising, bleeding into body cavities and blood in urine or faeces. Bleeding can occur internally or externally and can affect any part of the body.

In Western Australia a PhD student found evidence of SGARs in 73% of 73 boobooks that were found dead or euthanised due to injuries (Lohr 2018). More concerning was that 18% of these birds contained levels high enough to kill them directly.

Testing of more carnivorous bird species is taking place in Australia as it is likely that other species are being impacted by these chemicals, which are being investigated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. In North America

and Europe regulations are in place to end the retail sale of SGARs. However brodifacoum continues to be sold in large tubs by big chain agricultural supply stores in the USA because the new restrictions exempt bulk sales for agricultural use.

In Australia at least five varieties of SGARs are currently readily available from hardware and grocery stores across Australia. A quick check of my local Coles and Woolworths found several rodenticides: one contained a first generation anticoagulant (Double strength Ratsak in a yellow packet of pellets, active constituent, 0.5g/kg warfarin), while the others contained a SGAR, namely brodifacoum. These were Talon Rat & Mouse Killer, Wax Blocks

(black packet, active ingredient: 0.05g/kg brodifacoum), Talon Pellets (black packet, active ingredient: 0.05g/kg brodifacoum) and Ratsak Fast Action 5x20g packs (yellow packet, active constituent: 0.05g/kg brodifacoum). The top photo 1 shows part of a safer pack, containing warfarin), while the bottom one shows one of the widely available packs containing a more lethal poison.

Alternatives to using a rodenticide include trapping (but then how do you humanely kill the rat?), cleaning up debris in the garden or tolerating a degree of rat activity (which

is annoying I know having, I believe, lost all my tomato crop last year to rats).

But if you do decide to use a rodenticide then choose one containing a first generation anticoagulant and make sure that it is securely placed so that only rats and mice can access the poison.

Penny Paton

References

Lohr, M. 2018. Silent Night. *Australian Birdlife*. Vol 7, No. 3, September 2018.

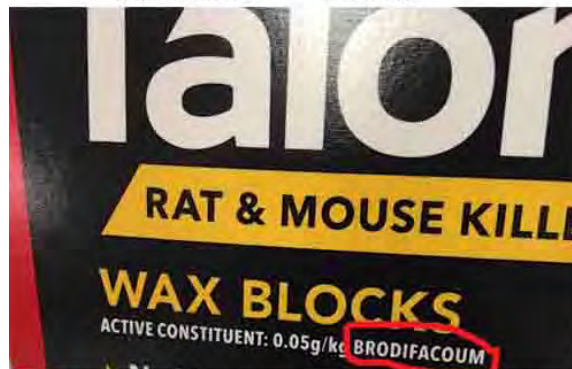
<https://cwhl.vet.cornell.edu/disease/rodenticide-toxicity#collapse3> (accessed 7 January 2019)

<https://www.nature.com/news/killing-rats-is-killing-birds-1.11824> (accessed 7 January 2019)

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/raptors-and-rat-poison> (accessed 7 January 2019)



Warfarin — safer



Brodifacoum — less safe

Boobies—on Christmas Island: November 2018.

3 of the 7 world-wide Booby species were present on Christmas Island with the Abbott's Booby the largest of the 3 species and the only one classified as **endangered**. This is because it breeds in the high plateau of the rain forest and with increased mining encroaching on the nesting area it has become more exposed to wind and erosion. It is thought there are only about 3,000 pairs left. The fledging's require a clear glide across the tree tops to the ocean and can easily become tangled in the forest trees.



Abbott's Booby Chick.
Unknown photographer.

*This hand raised Abbott's Booby chick called **Lucy** is being cared for by the National Park Ranger, and we watched it hand fed copious fish.*

Photo on left was taken before we arrived in Christmas Island and sent via email to us.. Photo on the right is the same chick we saw a few weeks later and is growing fast.



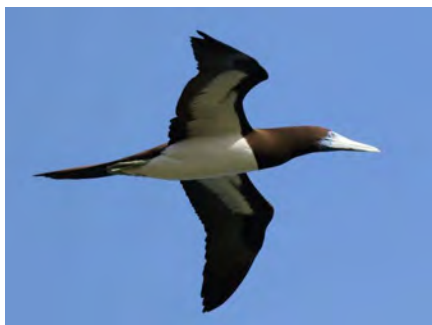
Red-footed Booby

These can be seen clearly roosting in the green foliage on the hillside not far from the shore. As with other boobies they raise only one chick. They build a bulky nest of sticks and leaves. You see them flying with the tropicbirds and frigatebirds all around the coast.

We found one brown morph of the Red-footed Booby —a juvenile on the right. Note the pink feet!



Brown Booby



The Brown Booby builds a nest on rocky ground around the cliffs on Christmas Island. Male and female look similar but the male has blue colouring on the bill around the eyes.

All photos taken by Bob Daly while birdwatching with Peter Barrand.

If you go Down to the Beach Today ...

I have been conducting monthly bird surveys in Clinton Conservation Park at the top of Gulf of St Vincent for the last 12 months. The area I visit is one of the less easily accessed, and for this reason has provided excellent birding with over 80 species seen across the year. Highlights would include over 30 Eastern Curlew, 60 Grey Plover, Terek and Curlew Sandpipers, Rock and Blue-winged Parrots and Samphire Thornbills and many more.

Additionally, I could have made notes of its size, shape, plumage (body material, colour, markings etc), the time, whether there were other people in the area, anything else I felt was relevant.

As I was on an isolated beach, I found some driftwood and a yellow container and used them to mark the location.

The SA Police station in Port Wakefield was closed so I rang the Police non-emergency number 131



Beware — Don't touch!!

On Sunday 30th December I was enjoying close views of a Greater Sand-Plover, and had already spotted a group of Eastern Curlew in their usual spot amongst the Caspian, Crested, Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns farther along the beach. I decided I would stay put for a while so I set up the scope and took off my backpack. As I did so I saw a silver cylindrical object in the sea grass behind me.

Now my background has been working with Explosive Ordnance (EO), so I recognised the item and knew what – and more importantly what not - to do. And it struck me that the correct actions in an occurrence of this type are very similar to those we employ in birding. Now in this case I knew exactly what the item was and the hazards it presented, but even if I hadn't, I would not have done anything wrong by treating it as if it were a bird.

I didn't attempt to touch or disturb it.

I noted the location – GPS, or location app on my iPhone.

I took photos – from a distance – of the item itself and the location it was in.

444. They passed my information on to their Bomb Response Specialists who contacted me directly. As this was a military item the task was then passed to the ADF at Edinburgh.

The item – a Marker Marine Mk25 – was destroyed by demolition charge the following day. At the ADF teams request I took them to the location, and I can assure everyone that no birds were harmed by the explosion! In fact, most of them barely reacted – too busy feeding I expect.

If anyone does come upon an item they think might contain explosives, whether on an isolated beach or a family members old war trophy, please do as I did: Don't touch it, take some details and report it on 131 444.

Richard Woodland

Past General Meetings

FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER

J.N. NOBBS MEDAL PRESENTATION

Our President, John Gitsham invited the President of BirdLife Australia, John Barkla, to present the J N Hobbs Award. John Barkla said that the J N Hobbs award is a special BirdLife award usually made at their AGM. He added that since the recipient this year is Andrew Black — a South Australian — it is appropriate that he presented the award tonight.. Andrew is only the second South Australian to win this award, which is an acknowledgement of his contribution to amateur ornithology. This award is a great honour in the “BirdLife” family.

ANDREW’S RESPONSE HAS BEEN PRINTED IN FULL ON PAGE 5.

John Barkla — President of BirdLife Australia

I have been a “life-long” birder and have seen all but 2 of the birds that nest in Australia, one being the Night Parrot and the other the Western Ground Parrot, and I am passionate about photography. I came from the Bird Observer’s Club of Australia (BOCA) and saw that by combining with Birds Australia we could make a difference to bird conservation. Extinction crisis — 238 species of Australian birds are threatened with extinction. BirdLife Australia is focused now on conservation. I am optimistic that we can make a difference. Of the 67 of our most critically endangered birds only 6 have a recovery plan. The Government is not doing what it needs to do. Less and less money is being spent on conservation. BirdLife needs to take a leading role. To be successful we need a greater profile. People do have the power to change Government habits. BirdLife has 135,000 Members. We need more. “Conservation Action Plans” are needed with a focus on outcomes — better conservation outcomes. Partnership with groups such as Birds SA are very important to BirdLife. For example, we have been instrumental in the translocation to Ngarkat of the Mallee Emu-wren. Hopefully this move will be the beginning of their recovery. We also work with various groups in other countries. In 2015 work was undertaken at the Geum Estuary, Republic of Korea, on the migratory shorebirds. We recognise that there are areas outside Australia where we need to have influence. Many Members of Birds SA are involved in monitoring and protecting beach nesting birds and have been part of the Hooded Plover recovery since 2000, along with other recovery programmes. The EPBC Act has failed. BirdLife through the programme of “Places You Love” and “Restoring the Balance” — working with other networks, we hope to stop the decline of birds, not just iconic species.

Urban birds are also declining. The “Aussie Back Yard Bird Count” was a huge success, 5,500 people were involved in SA. The BirdLife Data App captures information in a way that Scientists can use the data. KBA will replace IBA (Key Biodiversity Area) as we are adopting the international approach. There has been a staggering decline in all birds from 1985-2015 in the whole of Australia and South Australia is the worst.

Wildlife has the power to recover and people have the power to change

PELAGICS – THEN AND NOW — LEIGH SCHMIDT

My ancestors voyaged out to Australia from Britain in 1838. They noted the “sea birds” that they saw throughout the several months long journey, enduring fantastic storms in some places. They travelled from the Coast of England, to the Bay of Biscay, across the Indian Ocean to Cape Leuwin, eventually anchoring in the Port River 1838. A “Mother Cary” and “Boatswain with a long tail” were among the birds listed. On their arrival at the Port River they saw, “Eagles sitting on their nest and White Crows with black wings. Thousands of Pelicans, Duck and Teal lined the coast.” Following somewhat in his Ancestors footsteps, Leigh took a Pelagic Trip on a very modern vessel from Copenhagen around the coast heading towards Island (Iceland) and Greenland.

FRIDAY 31 JANUARY

John Hatch introduced the Guest Speaker, Jason van Weenen, who is an Ecologist, a Graduate from the University of Adelaide. He has been working for the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) for over 20 years. Jason has worked on reptiles, Koalas, Corellas, and Emu-wrens and now he works on and will give his presentation on “The Grey Headed Flying Fox’ arrival and establishment in Adelaide”.

Grey Headed Flying Foxes (GHFF) arrived in Adelaide in 2010. Prior to this only a few individuals had come into the State. Issues were occurring, on the East coast, which resulted in a small colony in Adelaide for a short time.

In Australia there are seven species of GHFF, loosely termed fruit bats. They are highly social animals that form colonies. There can be up to 80,000 bats in a colony, but there are often about 30,000.

There is only one population in Australia. There is considerable movement between their camps, and search for resources drives this movement. These bats are listed as vulnerable, since numbers appear

Past General Meetings (cont.)

to have dropped and the national population is about 600,000. They are still predominantly found along the East Coast, although expansion into southeastern Australia has occurred over the last 30 years.

Recently, there have been significant changes in their population structure. The changes have resulted in many more but smaller camps of just a few 1000 and they are often seasonal — spreading out across the country. Resource availability is the cause.

The GHFF here in Adelaide have one camp in Botanic Park where the animals spend their days. Some individuals base themselves at other locations, but the majority return to this camp.

These animals are nectar feeders, extracting the nectar from blossoms. Their national distribution is influenced by the flowering eucalypts. Observations in Adelaide show that they favour Spotted Gums and Lemon-scented

gums, which produce high nectar flows. They will also eat temperate and tropical fruits, fruits from palms and occasional leaf material. Figs and Morten Bay figs are favourites. They are taking

advantage of urban plantings. They drink by dripping their fur in water and sucking the water from their coats.

These bats can move about 350km in a night. They usually forage up to 50km from a roost site each night.

They depart just after dusk and will try to get back into camp an hour before sunrise. They do not do any foraging during the day. Some will fly back to the same resource each night and males will defend their resource.

However, we have found that some bats fly down to Victor Harbor and out to Sedan in one night.

People become really concerned that they have a flying fox camp in their yard, but they actually have a group that regularly feed there.

They mate in March. The young are born about September and October. Young are left in crèches when they become too heavy to carry, and they can fly by February to March.

The big issue for GHFF is the heat. They become stressed when the temperature rises above 42C and even when it is over 38C. If the young bats are unable to get into the shade or there is a prolonged

heat wave it impacts on the whole colony. Adults or young may perish. Undernourished young have been lost but none were lost in the recent heat wave. A thousand were lost in the Sampson Flat bush fire. When youngsters are in crèches they don't move, they do not go to get moisture, so then can die.

Diseases that they carry that can be transmitted to humans are *Lyssavirus*, which is like rabies and incurable if not treated in a timely manner, and the Hendra virus that is usually transmitted by being amplified through another host such as a horse. We remind people to stay away from the bats.

In 2010 there were just over 1,500 bats in SA. Then a colony of 50 appeared in the Botanic Gardens. They were moved to Botanic Park. The population has grown with the influx of bats from interstate. This is the driver of the colony increase, rather than from breeding. Only a few of the young have survived.

We have been anticipating that the colony will grow

until resources are stressed then the colony numbers will drop. This colony is up to 22,000 during winter. More recently their numbers went down to 17,000, and there are possibly about 12,000 now.

Animals in the

colony are in poor condition and the young are under-weight for their age.

The bats cause similar problems to those caused by lorikeets — giving orchardists a hard time. There are many different stakeholders dealing with GHFF. These include apple pear and cherry growers associations, Adelaide Council, Adelaide Airport, wildlife carers, SA Health, SA Museum, the University of Adelaide and SA Power Networks. They cause significant power outages. The vast majority have been in the last three years, corresponding with the animals' population growth. The Adelaide Botanic High School, within 50 metres of the camp, opened in February and GHFF will provide a key study focus for students.

Volunteer wildlife carers are rearing 50 orphan bats. When these are big enough to release the carers will drive them to the east coast.

Ongoing activities in the region are: participation in the National FF monitoring program, SA population monitoring, compilation of community sighting information to map foraging activity, camp management planning and heat stress event management.



One of Adelaide's Flying Foxes

Photograph from environment.sa.gov.au

Future General Meetings

FRIDAY 29 MARCH

Doctor Bill Breed will talk about his reflections as a field assistant to Doctor David Lack.

FRIDAY 26 APRIL (AGM)

Speaker TBA.

Updates will be published in our e-Newsletter and on our website.

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting on Friday 26 April 2019:

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 27 April 2018
3. Presentation of the Annual Report for 2018
4. Presentation of the Financial Report for 2018
5. Election of the Management Committee for 2019/2020
 - President
 - Two Vice Presidents
 - Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Field Program Coordinator
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Journal Editor
 - Bird Records Secretary
 - Membership Officer andNot fewer than three nor more than five ordinary Committee Members
6. Appointment of an auditor
7. Any other business of which notice in writing has been given by two members at a preceding meeting

FRIDAY 31 MAY

John Read will talk about a new book Among the Pigeons. It discusses the threat of cats to birds.

SOME NEWS FROM FLEURIEU BIRDERS

FLEURIEU BIRDERS missed out on their first event for 2019. This was to be a Twilight Outing with dinner to follow as planned for Saturday 5 January at Clayton. It was cancelled when the owners of the Café closed on that day for personal reasons. Due to the late notice it was difficult to change the venue and decision was made to cancel it.

The boat charters to Cruise the Coorong and view the abundant bird life down the Coorong proved popular with 3 tours arranged by Wendy for the 6, 13, 20 February. Some of our members suggested they would like to do it again this year after participating in previous excursions. This took the place of our normal schedule for February.



Thanks to David Robertson for supplying this cartoon

Past Excursions

SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2018: MANNUM WATERFALLS

Fourteen people attended the excursion, which was excellent considering the distances involved. Pleasingly, there were 2 visitors from Arizona and 1 member who had not previously attended an excursion. The weather was perfect being pleasantly warm with no wind.

First we investigated the area along the creek before heading up the gorge. In the car park we had spotted Black-faced Cuckooshrikes and Singing Honeyeaters and they both maintained a sporadic presence throughout the walk (10 and 30 respectively). White-browed Babblers (4) were seen on the opposite side of the creek. We could hear Peaceful Doves (10) doodle-ing and eventually saw some further along the track. A Black Kite put in an early appearance and being conscious that Mannum Waterfalls is a good site for raptors, we kept an eye on the sky. A Whistling Kite was observed carrying what was possibly nest-building material and more Black Kites were seen (5 in total). One sat conveniently in a nearby tree providing excellent views.

Along the creek, which contained some quite large pools of water due to recent rain, we encountered White-plumed Honeyeaters (10), Singing Honeyeaters (30), a New Holland Honeyeater (1), Superb Fairywrens (6), Magpie Larks (2), Striated Pardalotes (10), Australian Reed Warblers (6) and several Willy Wagtails (4). Little Corellas (10), Galahs (30), Adelaide Rosellas (2), Australian Ringnecks (8), Crested Pigeons (4), Red-rumped Parrots (4) and Elegant Parrots (5) were either seen in the trees beside the creek or passing overhead. Pacific Black Ducks (2) and a Little Black Cormorant were seen travelling between pools.

Tree Martins (40) were busily collecting mud. We also saw two Welcome Swallows and heard Striated Pardalotes (10). Suddenly, we spotted a Brown Falcon flying across the gorge with something in its mouth and, upon watching it land, realized it had a nest and a mate. Two small heads were observed craning up to receive the food from the adult accompanied by all the usual noise that characterises hungry chicks! We watched the nest for a while, but conscious that Brown Falcons are particularly sensitive to disturbance, soon moved off. A little further up the gorge we were treated to the sight of a Nankeen Kestrel dive-bombing one of the Black Kites. This went on for some time and afterwards we noticed 2 Kestrels on the cliff opposite, one carrying what might have been

nesting material. Perhaps they were constructing a nest, which could explain their determination to see off the Kites.

We walked back to the car park via the bushland by the road. We heard or saw Little Wattlebird (1), Grey Shrike-thrushes (4), Weebills (4), Australian Magpies (4), Little Ravens (8) and a single Grey Currawong. Our total was 37 species for the day, which included the 4 raptors — always a pleasure to see. Feral species included Starlings (30), Rock Dove (1) and Blackbirds (5).

Ali Ben Kahn

THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER: THOMPSON BEACH

A fine, slightly overcast morning saw 18 members assemble for the field trip. Early contact with the Victorian Wader Study Group established that they were planning to do some cannon netting on the middle area of the beach and we were advised to go to the northern end of Thompson Beach for the start of our outing. This worked out well, as with a high tide of over 2.6 metres at 0750, it was taking a long time for the water to recede.

The initial focus was on the sabka (salt pan) at the northern end of the township and a reasonable level of water provided the ideal habitat for many birds. Terns were the most abundant species with good number of Whiskered (300) and a similar number of Caspian Terns. A diligent search found 3 Greater Crested Terns and 6 Fairy Terns. We also saw a small flock of Red-necked Avocets (15) and Banded Stilts (5). These were complemented by a good group (~50) Common Greenshanks and around 200 Red-necked Stints. Also of note was a reasonable sized flock of Pacific Gulls, including quite a few juvenile birds.

Following a lengthy inspection of the sabka, we proceeded to the Southern car park to see if any waders had arrived on the beach. Maureen Christie advised that they had been unable to do any cannon netting and that the group was packing up. The group settled in, awaiting arrival of the shorebirds. We were not disappointed as large groups of Red Knots appeared after a short wait. At the peak there were around 1,500 Red Knots with about 6 Great Knots identified in the flock. We also observed a single Bar-tailed Godwit. Further north in the small mangroves were good numbers of cormorants and a few egrets.

Following the advice of a couple of members who had ventured to the tracks at the Southern end of the township, it was decided to take an early lunch and not go to that area. The final tally for the day was 52 species.

Brian Walker

Past Excursions (cont.)

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) SUNDAY 25TH NOVEMBER WEEROONA ISLAND

Ten keen bird watchers met at Weeroona Island, coming from as far away as Whyalla and Adelaide. Little Ravens and Galahs passed overhead and Sparrows, Yellow-throated Miners, Willie Wagtails, New Holland Honeyeaters, Rock Doves, Starlings, Welcome Swallows, Crested Pigeons and a Kestrel were seen in the trees nearby at the entrance to the Island. We noted Magpie Larks, Singing Honeyeaters and a Grey Butcherbird on the way. A White-faced Heron, Silver Gulls, White Ibis and Masked Lapwings were seen on the water's edge and a Red Wattlebird and Magpies sat in the trees, while a big flock of Pied Cormorants flew past. In the samphire and mangrove area Pipits and White-fronted Chats greeted us. Some Grey Teal floated on the water and more flew off over the mangroves. Red-kneed Dotterels and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers sat on the samphire shore and a Grey Shrikethrush called out from the mangroves. Tree Martins dodged about in the sky as Elegant Parrots passed by us. A flock of 19 Masked Lapwings quietly stood on a sandbank and a Rufous Whistler and Sacred Kingfisher called out from the mangroves along the northern side of the island. Black Kites glided overhead and a Blackbird was in the garden of one of the houses. Red-capped Plovers were on the shore along with Crested Terns, Pacific Gulls, Pied and Little Pied Cormorants and Whiskered Terns roosting. Little Black Cormorants, Pelicans and two Hoary-headed Grebes were on the water. A pair of Osprey flew along the coast passing over us. Silvereyes and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters were seen but no Fairywrens or Babblers. Looking through our spotting scopes we found Caspian Terns and Common Greenshanks amongst the other birds. On the south/eastern side we saw more Elegant Parrots and a couple of Emus. We had seen a total of 47 bird species, with the Osprey being the bird of the area.



Osprey, taken by Bernie Haase at Weeroona Island on 25th November 2018

PT. PIRIE WETLANDS

At the Pt. Pirie wetlands Yellow-throated Miners, Spotted Doves, Sparrows, Crested Pigeons and White-plumed Honeyeaters moved about in the trees, while Magpie Larks and Willie Wagtails stalked insects. Several Whiskered Terns searching

for insects were seen and high above us a single Great Cormorant flew by. Masked Lapwings, White Ibis, Silver Gulls and Rock Doves were seen gliding down to the water. Reed Warblers and Little Grassbirds could be heard in the Phragmites reeds. In the centre of the wetland ponds Grey Teal and Black Duck were swimming, while a Caspian Tern, White Ibis, Royal Spoonbills, Black-winged Stilts, Black-tailed Native-hens, Little Pied Cormorants and White-faced Herons were on the shore. In a smaller pond we saw Eurasian Coots, Hoary-headed Grebes and a Great Egret, as well as Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, Singing and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Crested Pigeons and Purple-crowned Lorikeets moving about in the trees around the wetlands. In a narrow reeded area with samphire flats abutting it were a pair of Red-kneed Dotterels and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and a single Red-necked Stint, Black Kites, Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows. Elegant Parrots, Nankeen Kestrels, Pacific Gulls and an Australian Grebe were seen. Nearby, young Eurasian Coots were swimming with their parents. Altogether we had seen 39 bird species. The bird of the place, were the Royal Spoonbills.

Bernie Haase.

SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER 2018: MANNING FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE, MCLAREN FLAT

A group of 22 members met at a locked gate to this property, but after a quick phone call to get the combination for the lock we were able to move cars off the narrow road verge. This Reserve is well managed by the Field Naturalists Society. Surprisingly our last official excursion was conducted in September 2013.

The weather was predicted to reach the mid 30s so it was very pleasant to start our shaded walk in the cooler morning conditions. In total we saw 29 species of which two were observed breeding and one on a nest. Interesting sightings included Australian White Ibis (5), Tree Martin (20), four cockatoo and four parrot species, Common Bronzewing (4, including one bird that sat tightly on its nest) and a pair of Striated Pardalotes mating. We also enjoyed great views of Australian Golden Whistler (6), Rufous Whistler (4 with one pair mating), Grey Shrikethrush (4), Mistletoebird (6), New Holland Honeyeater (10) and Superb Fairywren (12).

As we had been told of a breeding of Peregrine Falcons at a church tower in Old Noarlunga, the group decided to go there before having lunch and conducting the birdcall. Two young falcons were on the nest loft and resisting the persistent urgings from a parent bird to take flight. We had excellent views

Past Excursions (cont.)

enabling many of the camera birders to snap a few shots before heading off to a shady spot in town for lunch and our field trip bird call.

(NOTE: It is very sad to report that both young were electrocuted two days after our visit when they apparently landed on nearby power lines whilst learning to fly.)

Lynton Huxley

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER: AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN

It was a fine day with a slight breeze when 10 birders met in the A.A.L.B.G. car park. The usual birds were seen in the trees and shrubs of the garden area, 6 species of Honeyeaters amongst them. In the sandhills Rainbow Bee-eaters presented a colourful sight, and 4 Redthroats and Chirruping Wedgebills added to the highlights. We walked to the new vermin proof boundary fence to look at the progress of construction. After looking at a group of White-winged Fairywrens with some coloured-up males displaying and chasing each other around, we went to the Bluebush Plains bird hide. Here there were many Zebra Finches and nearby a Rufous Fieldwren, a Pipit and a Hobby. Back at the car park a White-winged Triller was found. Thirty one bird

species were seen and the birds of the day were the Rufous Fieldwren, Redthroat and Hobby.

We all then had our annual Christmas lunch in the Visitor Centre café and then spent the afternoon looking on a big screen at bird trip photos taken by group members during the year. Overall we all had a pleasant and enjoyable day.

B.Haase

SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER: TOLDEROL GAME RESERVE

Excursion cancelled due to heavy local rain.

THURSDAY 20 DECEMBER: APEX PARK WETLAND RESERVE, WEST BEACH

As the original destination for this trip, the Apex Park Wetlands at West Beach, has been closed for redevelopment until mid 2019, we met at the Ozone Reserve on Seaview Road at Henley Beach South near the Torrens Outlet. A group of around 18 members then walked along the northern side of Breakout Creek to Tapleys Hill Road and returned along the southern side. The weather was relatively mild with a good cloud covering making bird watching a pleasant experience. A total of 47 species were recorded for the morning with nothing unexpected.

Brian Blaylock



**Long-billed Corellas
Photographed by John Pearce along
Breakout Creek on 20/12/2018**

with vast areas of exposed mud, some dry. As expected, crakes were abundant, including ten Australian Crakes, one Spotless Crake, four Baillon's Crakes and a Buff-banded Rail. Common Bronzewings were also abundant and allowed us to approach quite closely. Ducks from the dry sewage pond have mainly taken up residence on the remaining pond and pond 11, with eight species observed, including: Pink-eared Duck, Freckled Duck, Australasian Shoveler, Chestnut Teal and Hardhead. Reed Warblers and Grassbirds were also common. In all 56 species were observed.

Martyn Price

THURSDAY 17 JANUARY: LARATINGA WETLANDS, MOUNT BARKER

Fifteen hardy souls gathered for a very hot morning's birding. Although above our automatic cancellation temperature (36C) and as there was no fire danger, the area is easy to traverse and access to drinking water was readily available, we decided to brave the 37C maximum expected and see what was out and about. Apart from a couple of walkers, and one with a dog, the only others we met were also birders. The water in most ponds was quite low,

Past Excursions (cont.)



Port Augusta Birders (the Babblers) enjoying lunch at Baroota Reservoir on Sunday, 20th January 2019

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

Sunday 20th JANUARY: BAROOTA RESERVOIR

It was a clear and calm morning when 13 birders came together in the highway parking bay at Mambray Creek. Seven were from Pt. Augusta, 2 from Adelaide and 1 each from Koolunga, Weeroona Island, Hawker and Mambray Creek. We headed off to Baroota reservoir via a back road named Cattle track. The area was dry but there had been about 45mm of rain a month before and there were some green patches of vegetation in lower areas where the water had collected. We stopped several times to look at the birds along the way. We saw several Horsfield's Bushlarks, as well as White-winged Fairywrens with young just out of the nest. We also saw White-fronted Chats, Pipits, a Brown Falcon, Black-faced Woodswallows and more. We found a total of 14 bird species along the track.

When we arrived at Baroota reservoir another birder from Pt. Pirie joined us. After unlocking the entrance gate with the key supplied by SA Water and driving a short way into the Red Gum lined creek area we began noting the birds. The creek had water flowing along it with reed beds containing Reed Warblers, together with a Spotless Crake hiding in the reeds. Many birds were moving around in the trees and shrubs, and Peaceful Doves, Little Corellas, Galahs, Rainbow Lorikeets and Honeyeaters could be heard and seen regularly. A Peregrine Falcon was seen flying past. We drove on along the creek to the reservoir dam wall and had smoko under the shady gums. The Kookaburras were laughing at us while White-browed Babblers and Variegated Fairywrens fossicked about in the shrubs, while Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Mistletoebirds and 5 species of honeyeaters sat in the trees. We moved on and crossed the spillway and then parked near the

water. The reservoir water level was low but there were quite a few birds on both the water and the shore. Black-tailed Native-hens, Masked Lapwings and Wood Ducks were on the shore and Hoary-headed Grebes, Coots, Great Cormorants and 8 species of Ducks were on the water. Blue-billed and Freckled Duck were the highlights. A Hobby was seen resting in nearby trees and photographed. As we drove on following the edge of the reservoir we crossed the dam wall and climbed up a hill with a steep cliff overlooking the water and along one of the inlet creeks. The water had receded back along from the creek arm but there were still plenty of birds to see. We enjoyed our lunch on the opposite side of the creek from the cliff face under the Red Gums that fringe

the reservoir. We moved on along the track at the edge of the water, stopping at vantage points to look at the birds on the water. Rainbow Bee-eaters, Tree Martins, Black-fronted Dotterels, Whistling Kites, Elegant Parrots, Dusky Woodswallows feeding young fledglings. Five Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo's were found sitting together in dead shrubs at the water's edge. Our last stop was where another inlet creek entered the main water body and a pair of Darters glided low over us while a Wood Sandpiper searched about amongst the dead trees left by the receding water.

We found a total of 65 bird species at the Reservoir area and with 6 other species added on from the cattle track, a grand total of 71 different birds had been observed. Not a bad days birding! The birds of the day were the Freckled and Blue-billed Ducks, Spotless Crake and Wood Sandpiper.

Bernie Haase.



Blue-billed Duck, photographed by Bernie Haase on Baroota Reservoir on 20/01/2019

Past Excursions (cont.)

SUNDAY 20 JANUARY: MAGAZINE ROAD WETLANDS, DRY CREEK

Eighteen people finally assembled at Magazine Rd after a bit of confusion over where the excursion would take place. Fears that Magazine Road was inaccessible due to road closures as part of the construction of the Northern Connector turned out to be groundless. This was good as our excursion was to double as part of the Shorebirds 2020 survey. The weather was warm and sunny with a light intermittent breeze and very pleasant.

So, after only a relatively short delay, we headed off to follow the trail around the ponds in a counter-clockwise direction. The first pond contained mainly Pelicans (25 in all), Little Pied Cormorants (10) and a couple of Little Black Cormorants so we moved on to the next pond where quite a number of birds were present. Whiskered Terns (40) were cruising over the water, Eurasian Coots (15) could be seen in the distance and there were Pacific Black Ducks (11 including hybrids), Australian Shelducks (4), Hardheads (1), Australasian Shoveller (1), Grey Teal (30) and Black Swan (4).

We progressed slowly around the ponds and saw Australian White Ibis (4), Royal Spoonbills (2), White-faced Herons (2), Dusky Moorhens (2), Black-tailed Nativehens (18), Australasian Swampheens (10) and Pied Stilts (20). Here and there we also spotted Black-fronted Dotterels (5), Red-kneed Dotterels (24, including 4 chicks looking like cotton balls on legs), Red-capped Plovers (4) and the occasional Masked Lapwings (4).

We were particularly pleased to see 8 Australian Crakes and 4 Baillon's Crakes as well as Marsh Sandpiper (3), Pectoral Sandpiper (3), Wood Sandpiper (6) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (70). White-fronted Chats (6) were seen in the Samphire and on the mudflats and Australian Reed Warblers (6) and Little Grassbirds (4) could be heard calling throughout the walk. Fairy Martin (1), Tree Martin (10) and Welcome Swallows (20) flitted about and we also saw Singing Honeyeater (10), New Holland Honeyeater (2), Red Wattlebird (2), Willy Wagtail (6), Superb Fairywren (2), Magpielark (8) and Crested Pigeon (10).

The further ponds were quite dry and there was only a rather desolate looking puddle in front of the bird hide. We saw 4 raptors: 1 Nankeen Kestrel, 1 Black Kite, 1 Whistling Kite and 1 Australian Hobby. Feral species included House Sparrow (10), Common Starling (80), Spotted Dove (6), Feral Pigeon (5) and European Goldfinch (10). The total number of species seen for the day was 55 and we were able to head for home before it got too hot.

Ali Ben Kahn

SATURDAY 9TH FEBRUARY: PAIWALLA WETLANDS

24 hardy Birds SA members braved the very windy conditions and sporadic rain to visit Paiwalla Wetlands near Mypolonga on the River Murray for the Saturday birding field trip.

They were rewarded with 69 species of birds seen throughout the wetlands and associated woodlands surrounding the area for the mornings birding.

Highlights were a couple of views of the resident Peregrine falcon, four Wedge-tailed Eagles flying together, over 1000 Eurasian Coots, 100s of Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows catching insects on the water surface. Many Rainbow Bee-eaters were seen still hanging around before they return to the northern parts of Australia and beyond. We enjoyed a couple of brief glimpses of two Sacred Kingfishers. A Ballion's Crake made Enid's morning of birding worthwhile, and a White-winged Black Tern pleased some of the other birders.

Overall it was a great mornings birding, with a great mob of Birds SA members enjoying the challenge of birding in strong winds and intermittent rain showers.

John Gitsham

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY: CRUISE THE COORONG BIRD CHARTER.

There was great excitement as 14 people met at 10.15 a.m. on the Goolwa Wharf to catch the little orange boat. The weather was calm and grey after a rare drop of rain earlier in the morning. Young Lachlan was our skipper and gave us an opportunity to do lots of slow cruising to get the best views of the birds as we headed for the Mouth of the River down the Goolwa Channel while giving us a bit of history



Eastern Curlew

Photographed by Bob Daly along the Coorong on 6/2/2019

Past Excursions (cont.)



All Aboard!

about the Storm Boy boats used in the movie. The tide was at its lowest for the day, exposing bits of bristle worm reef and sand spits along the way. This was excellent for birding.

Close to the mouth of the River, where the seawater mixes with the fresh water, birds were busy feeding. Flying about were Whiskered, Crested and Caspian Terns and we later found a couple of Fairy Terns amongst them. There were all five species of cormorants, with the Black-faced the most prominent. Eight duck species were seen but only a couple of Musk and Pink-eared Ducks were amongst them. The Swans were in good numbers too, feeding close to the Barrages.

After motoring down the Coorong we stopped at Baker's Knoll for a short walk through the sandhills to the ocean beach and instantly the Rufous Bristlebirds were heard calling in the scrub. They are very hard to see being so cryptic, but with luck on our side, two were sighted in a dry bush, 100-200 metres away from the track. The big lens cameras proved their worth in this situation! Later, we discussed the 3 species of Bristlebird. Miles checked his book and informed us where each species is found in Australia.

On the wild beach the Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers were feeding on cockles close to the shore. This kept Keith and a few others occupied for a while. While we were sitting in the boat ready for lunch to be served, along came a young Emu strolling along the shoreline. Even Lachlan, the Skipper, got excited and slid out of the boat to take a photo with his mobile phone as he had rarely seen one so close.

Motoring slowly along, trying not to bottom out in the shallow water and getting as close to the Ewe and Tauwiche Barrages as possible, we continued to see more birds. We found one Eastern Curlew feeding on the reef. This was a rare sighting and provided easy viewing from the boat.

Young Miles was given the task of counting the number of Little Black

Cormorants resting on the railing of the Ewe Barrage! Soon after he announced 140.

With so many highlights for the day it was just such an extraordinary experience for us all.

When we got back to the wharf and thanked Lachlan, we marked the record sheet (without numbers) and were surprised to find that we totalled 60 species. We all enjoyed seeing the Coorong and bird life looking so healthy.

This is a trip not to be missed if you have not experienced it before. Hopefully the next two charters have a similar successful day birding down the Coorong.

Wendy Phillips



Rufous Bristlebird

Photographed by Bob Daly at Bakers Knoll, near the Coorong, on 6/02/2019

Future Excursions

BIRDS SA

Field Program and campout Co-ordinator (FGC),
Lynton Huxley

Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038

Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au

Or lyntonhuxley@gmail.com

A leader has been appointed for each excursion, but another person might like to write a report of the excursion. The report, submitted to the Field Trip Coordinator, must include the number of attendees, birds seen or heard, the weather and any other interesting events on the day. The duties of the leader and scribe may be shared on the day.

The length of the report should not exceed 500 words.

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).

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 to enjoy our bird call at the end of the walk

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 SUB-GROUP 'FLEURIEU BIRDERS'

Contacts: Wendy Phillips/Bob Daly 8555 0634 or 0421376016 or <mailto:fleurieubirds@gmail.com>

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

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

SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY: BIRDS SA

Whites Road Wetlands (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 2 MARCH: FLEURIEU BIRDERS'

Old Noarlunga Township River walk

Meet at 8.30am at the car park near Market Square, Patapinda Rd., Old Noarlunga.

SATURDAY 9 MARCH: BIRDS SA

Anacotilla Springs Second Valley (MLR) 87km

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

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

THURSDAY 21 MARCH: BIRDS SA

Bushland Park, Lobethal (MLR) 43km

(Moderate). Meet at 8.30am in the Bushland Park carpark about 2km north of Lobethal on the Lobethal to Gumeracha Road. The entrance is on your left.

TRIP LEADER: Martyn Price

SUNDAY 24 MARCH: PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

Chinaman's Creek

Meet at 8am at the turnoff on Augusta Highway. Wear beach-walking footwear.

SUNDAY 31 MARCH: BIRDS SA

Private Property near Mannum (MM) 100km

(Easy) There are two options to reach this property, which is located at 10374 Hunter Road Cowirra. **Option 1:** take the Freeway to Murray Bridge and cross the River Murray at Murray Bridge. Take the Karoonda road out of Murray Bridge and travel on the eastern side of the river to Mannum. **Option 2:** Via Gumeracha, Birdwood, Palmer, and Mannum Ferry, turn left as you leave the ferry and the family house is just past the houseboat builder, approximately 100m from the ferry landing. Please park on the roadside. Allow about 1 to 1.5 hours travel time from Adelaide city to the property with the usual meeting start time of 8.30am.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Future Excursions (cont.)

SATURDAY 6 APRIL: FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Stipiturus C.P

Meet 8.30am at Strawberry Farm Car Park on the Mt. Compass Rd.

SATURDAY 13 APRIL: BIRDS SA

Kenneth Stirling (Wotton Scrub) & Mt George Conservation Parks (MLR) 27km

(Moderate to Difficult). Meet at 8.30am. Take the SE Freeway and leave it at the Bridgewater exit. Turn left towards Carey Gully, travel about 3km and turn right into Gum Flat Road. Travel about 1.6km to gate 2 on the right. We will move onto Mt George CP for Lunch.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

SATURDAY 13 AND SUNDAY 14 APRIL: PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

Saturday 13: White Cliffs and Pedler's Scrub.

Meet at 9.00am at Koolunga

Sunday 14: Bundaleer Reservoir. Meet at 9.00am Bunyip Reserve.

Some facilities are available if you wish to camp out.

EASTER CAMPOUT: BIRDS SA

Thursday 18 to Tuesday 23 April: Mary Seymour Conservation Park (SE) 360km

(Easy + fun time). Given the continued very dry conditions in the north of our State the campout will be in the southeast at Mary Seymour CP (last visited in 2013) and will provide an opportunity to also visit nearby Bool Lagoon, Big Heath and Glen Roy Conservation Parks. A visit to the outstanding Bourne's Bird Museum is also planned.

Take the M1 freeway to Taillem Bend and then the A8 to Keith where you change onto the A66 and drive through Naracoorte towards Coonawarra and Penola. About 17km south of Naracoorte, turn right at Bool Lagoon Road (large Bool Lagoon sign) and drive to the end of this road. At the T junction turn right onto Bool Lagoon West Road and follow the signs to and then drive past Bourne's Bird Museum until the road turns sharp left. The entrance to the conservation park is on your left, near the southwestern corner of the park. Our Birds SA signage will be posted from Thursday morning onwards.

There are no facilities in the park and pets and fires are not permitted. Whilst a portable toilet will be installed for the duration of the camp, participants will need to be self-sufficient with shelter, food and water supplies. A camping fee of \$15 per person covering the duration of the campout will be collected during the weekend and a receipt issued. The traditional Sunday gas barbeque lunch is planned (***but remember you will need to provide***

your own tucker — suggested bacon and eggs and/or pancakes — for the Committee Members present to do the cooking.

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

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

SUNDAY 28 APRIL: BIRDS SA

Byards Road Wetlands, Reynella East (AP) 22km

(Easy). Meet at 8.30am. Car parking on Byards Road is adjacent to these recently established wetlands, which cover an area of 21 hectares and have been extensively revegetated.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

SATURDAY 4 MAY: FLEURIEU BIRDERS'

Bullock Hill, Ashbourne. Meet 8.30am at the Greenman Inn Car Park, Ashbourne.

SATURDAY 11 MAY: BIRDS SA

Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park (MLR) 46km (Easy) Meet at 8.30am at the reserve entrance on Cox Road, opposite Aldinga Holiday Park.

TRIP LEADER: Alan Burns

THURSDAY 16 MAY: BIRDS SA

Watiparinga Reserve, Eden Hills (MLR) 20km

(Moderate). Meet at 8.30am. The Watiparinga Reserve entrance is at the end of Gloucester Avenue, Belair. Public transport is available on Bus Route 196 to Blackwood Station (Stop 22 on Gloucester Avenue, Belair). Alternatively catch the train from Adelaide to Blackwood and then Bus Route 196 to Adelaide and alight at Stop 22.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

FRIDAY 17 MAY TO MONDAY 20 MAY: PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

Witchelina Nature Reserve

Meet at 11am at Lyndhurst Pub. Campout facilities available — costs apply.

SATURDAY 1 JUNE: FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Scott C.P. Meet 8.30 am 1st Car Park off Gould Rd. Currency Creek.

SUNDAY 2 JUNE: BIRDS SA

Sandy Creek CP: (MLR) 52km

(Moderate) Meet at 8.30am at the northern car park located at the end of Conservation Road, which is on the right, off the Gawler to Lyndoch Road about 10km east of Gawler.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

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).

Northern Shoveler

1, 23/11/2018. Port Macdonnell, Middle Point, SE.
Green, B.
Report submitted to Australian rarities committee.

Blue-billed Duck

10, 20/1/2019. Baroota Reservoir, FR.
Haase, B. *et al.*

Brown Cuckoodove

1, 4/1/2019. Piccadilly, MLR. Feeding on mulberry fruits in garden. Photos taken.
Hunt, T.

As with the recent report of a White-headed Pigeon near Adelaide, there is speculation as to whether this tropical pigeon was a wild bird. There have been several records in Victoria in recent years.

Fork-tailed Swift

Many reports during December.

100 and 50, 15/10 and 1/11/2018. Whyalla, EP.
Smith, E.

20, 11/12/2018. Kingston, SE.
Carpenter, G.

90, 12/12/2018. Waitpinga Beach, MLR.
Fahey-Sparks, S.

100s, 27/12/2018 Victor Harbor, MLR.
Carpenter, G.

1, 29/12/2018. Whyalla Wetlands, EP
Brooker, W.

100, 29/12/2018. Whyalla, EP.
Smith, E.

950, 14/1/2019. Coorong, Parnka Point, MM.
Rudder, A. & Belder, D.

2, 14/1/2019. Middleton, MM.
Sparks, K.

Little Penguin

1, 6/2/2019. Ewe Island, MM.
Donovan, D.

Few reports inside Murray Mouth.

Australasian Bittern

1, 5/2/2019. 1km E Milang, MM.
Jack, T.

Little Bittern

1, 27/11/2018. Clayton Bay, MM.
Doecke, S.

6, 14/12/2019. Bool Lagoon, SE.
Green, B. *et al.*

Little Egret

1, 1/7/2018. American River, KI.
Horton, P. & Evans, M.

Royal Spoonbill

1, 5/11/2018. Royal Adelaide Golf Course wetland, AP.
Frontus, D.

3, 16/1/2019. Old Reynella, St Francis winery, MLR.
Connelly, H.

Square-tailed Kite

Pair + young at nest, 13/10/2018. Belair NP, MLR.
Copley, P. & Edey, D.

1, 3/12/2018. Panorama, AP.
Allen, J.

1, 8/12/2018. Hardy's Scrub, MLR.
Goland, R.

1, 24/12/2018. Lyndoch, MLR.
Dennis, T.

1, 4/1/2019. Forreston, MLR.
Slade, R.

Black Kite

1, 21/10/2018. Eden Hills, MLR.
Blaylock, B.

1, 4/11/2018. Lockleys, Mellor Park, AP.
Edey, D.

Osprey

2, 25/11/2018. Weroona Island, LN.
Langdon, P. *et al.*

Buff-banded Rail

1, 4/1/2019. Clare, Gleeson's Wetland, LN.
Horne, S.

Bird Records (cont.)

Spotless Crane

Pair + 2juveniles, 18/11/2018. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Reid, I.

Rarely reported breeding in SA.

1, 20/1/2019. Baroota Reservoir, FR.

Haase, B. *et al.*

Sanderling

1, 3/12/2018. Port Arthur, YP. Field notes supplied.

Lush, F. & West, J.

Pectoral Sandpiper

1, 30/10/2018. Port Gawler Rd, AP.

Johnston, D.

1, 14/11/2018. Lake Albert, 8.5km SW Meningie, MM.

Johnston, D.

1, 8/1/2019. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.

Rogers, C.

2, 17/1/2019. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.

Allen, J. & R.

2, 18/12/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Merchant, M.

6, 16/1/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Rogers, C.

Long-toed Stint

11, 16/1/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Rogers, C.

Great Knot

1, 5/1/2019. Reevesby Island, MO.

Solly, F.

Eastern Curlew

41, 17/11/2018. Mount Gullet beach, LN.

Haase, B.

Little Curlew

1, 31/10/2018. S of Bowmans, AP. In paddock.

Taylor, P.W.

Whimbrel

9, 12/11/2018. Price Saltfields, YP.

Jack, T.

2, 17/11/2018. Mount Gullet beach, LN.

Haase, B.

Few reports in recent years.

Ruff

1, 10/12/2018. St Kilda Saltfields, N of St Kilda, AP.

Carpenter, G.

1, 9/1/2019. Port Macdonnell, Dangar Point, SE.

Eaton, S.

1, 26/1/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Brittain R. & Diment, J.

Marsh Sandpiper

30, 16/1/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Rogers, C.

The largest group reported for many years.

Terek Sandpiper

1, 4/11/2018. Port Clinton, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

Subsequently seen by many observers till 4/12/2018

Oriental Pratincole

1, 13/11/2018. Port Clinton, YP.

Halliday, M.

Adult + immature, 9/12/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

MacIlwain, E.

1, 14/1/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Rogers, C.

Arctic Jaeger

2, 11/11/2018. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

2, 22/11/2018. Encounter Bay, MLR. Flying 1km inland during strong south winds.

Cheshire, N.

Little Tern

1, 24/11/2018. Port Macdonnell, Dangar Point, SE.

Harper, D. & S.

1, 30/11/2018. Murray Mouth, MM.

Brooker, W.

Eastern Koel

Several reports around Prospect area where seen in previous years.

1, 3/11/2018. Medindie, AP.

Loveder, P.

Male, 7/11/2018. Prospect, Labrina Ave, AP.

Paton, F

1, 8/11/2018. Prospect, AP.

Christy, P.

1, 24/12/2018. Prospect, Blackfriar's School, AP.

Lester, A.

Bird Records (cont.)

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

- 2, 31/10/2018. 4km W Callington, MLR.
Carpenter, G.
- 2, 7/11/2018. Nairne, MLR.
Berkin, M.
- Many reports from suburban Adelaide in November-December.
- 4, 23/10/2018. Park Holme, AP.
Sara, G.
- 5, 14/11/2018. Novar Gardens, Glenelg Golf Course, AP.
Edey, D.
- 30, 24/11/2018. Glenelg, Anzac Highway, AP.
Huxley, L. & K.
- 30, 28/11/2018. Glemelg Golf Course, AP.
Paton, P.
- 2, 1/12/2018. West Beach, Military Rd, AP.
Marshall, J.
- 4, 19/12/2018. Lockleys, AP.
Edey, D.
- 4, 19/1/2019. Tea Tree Gully, Angove Park Dr, AP.
Medlin, C.

Blue Bonnet

- 2, 31/12/2018. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR.
Steele-Collins, E.

Superb Fairywren

- 2, 14/11/2018. North Plympton, Brownhill Creek, AP.
Edey, D.
- 1, 21/12/2018. Netley, Brownhill Creek, AP.
Edey, D.

Southern Emu wren

- 2, 13/1/2019. Coorong, Godfreys Landing, MM.
Hopton, D.

White-browed Scrubwren

- 2, 15/1/2019. Hawthorndene, MLR. In suburban garden.
Huxley, L. & K.

Eastern Spinebill

A few unusual spring records from Adelaide Plains suburbs.

- 1, 1/11/2018. Warradale, AP.
Warnecke, T.
- 1, 3/11/2018. Oaklands Park, AP.
Buring, N.
- 1, 9 and 19/12/2018. Frewville, AP.
Sparks, K.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

- 1, 1/11/2018. Lashmar CP, KI. Photo and details supplied.

Kowalick, D. *et al.*
Previously reported from KI at Reeves Point in 2000 but not included in Baxter's (2015) 'Birds of Kangaroo Island' due to lack of supporting evidence.

Black-chinned Honeyeater

- 1, 8/12/2018. Lewiston, AP.
Merigot, L.

Chirruping Wedgebill

- Several, 7/1/2019. U-Dale Stn, 16 km N Morgan, MM.

Gardner, M.
Its status in this area is uncertain.

White-winged Triller

More spring reports from suburban Adelaide.
Pair, 19/10/2018. West Beach, West Beach Rd, AP.

- Edey, D.
1, 20/10/2018. Rose Park, AP.

Lewis, S.
1, 9/11/2018. Norwood, Osmond Tce, AP.

Lester, A.

Female, 14/11/2018. North Plympton, Brownhill Creek, AP.

Edey, D.
Male, 24/11/2018. Gilberton, AP.

Paton, D.

Fairy Martin

50, 17/10/2018. West Beach, West Beach Rd, AP.
Edey, D.

40, 14/11/2018. Novar Gardens, James Melrose Dr, AP.

Edey, D.
20, 15/11/2018. Lockleys, River Torrens, AP.

Edey, D.

Zebra Finch

4, 9/11/2018. Port Gawler Rd, AP.
Merchant, M.

Now very few reports from the Adelaide Plains and Barossa district, where it was formerly common.

Citrine Wagtail

1, 26/12/2018. Whyalla Wetlands, EP. Feeding around edges of lagoons.

Gruitt, L.
Subsequently seen by numerous observers to at least 5/1/2019. Previously reported in SA from Goolwa Sewage Works in May 1987.

From the Library



333.95160994 REC

Recovering Australian threatened species/ edited by Stephen Garnett, Peter Latch, David Lindenmayer and John Woinarski
Clayton South, Vic. CSIRO 2018.
ISBN 9781486307418

Australia's nature is exceptional, wonderful and important. But much has been lost, and the ongoing existence of many species now hangs by a thread. Against a relentless tide of threats to our biodiversity, many Australians, as well as government and non-government agencies, have devoted themselves to the challenge of conserving and recovering plant and animal species that now need our help to survive.



598.251 STR

Strycker, Noah

The magic and mystery of birds: the surprising lives of birds and what they reveal about being human
London, Souvenir Press 2014
ISBN 9780285642799

Noah Strycker has spent the last decade studying bird behaviour in some of the world's remotest places, including a penguin colony in Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, the Australian outback and the Galapagos Islands. He has observed almost 2,500 species of birds and has come to understand that birds are lively, unpredictable individuals loaded with personality. If you look closely enough, you'll find that birds have human counterparts. As we learn about birds, we gain insights into memory, relationships, game theory and the nature of intelligence itself. Drawing on cutting-edge scientific research, along with his personal experience, and colourful anecdotes, this book is a thoughtful and engaging look at how the lives of birds connect with humanity.

Ashley, Melissa,

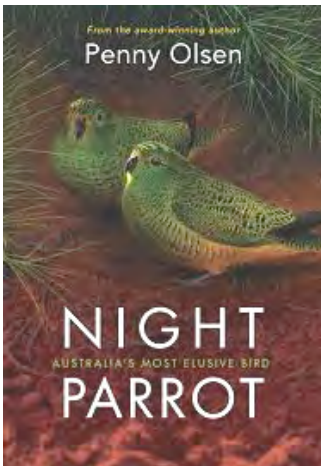
The birdman's wife

South Melbourne, Vic. Affirm Press, 2016.
ISBN 9781925344998



Inspired by letters from Elizabeth found tucked inside her famous husband's research, *The Birdman's Wife* takes the form of an intimate memoir of a woman whose talent and adventurous spirit led her from the glittering salons of London to the wilds of Van Dieman's Land and New South Wales. Artist Elizabeth Gould spent her life capturing the sublime beauty of birds that the outside world had never seen before.

From the Library (cont.)



598.710994 OLS
 Olsen, Penny
Night Parrot : Australia's most elusive bird
 Clayton South, Vic. : CSIRO Publishing, 2018

ISBN 9781486302987

For well over a century, the Night Parrot lured seekers into Australia's vast, arid outback. From the beginning it was a mysterious bird. Fewer than 30 specimens were collected before it all but disappeared, offering only fleeting glimpses and the occasional mummified body as proof of its continued existence. Protected by spinifex and darkness, the parrot attained almost mythical status: a challenge to birdwatchers and an inspiration to poets, novelists and artists. Night Parrot documents the competitiveness and secrecy, the triumphs and adventures of the history of the bird and its followers, culminating in the recent discovery of living birds

at a few widely scattered locations. It describes what we are now unravelling about the mysteries of its biology and ecology and what is still left to learn. Complemented by guest essays, illustrations and photographs from a wide variety of sources, this book sheds light on Australia's most elusive bird.

CD 21
 Holly, Doug
Sounds of Gluepot Reserve
 Adelaide, Locally Produced, n.d.



This CD presents the calls of 73 bird species found on Gluepot Reserve.

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

NEW MEMBERS

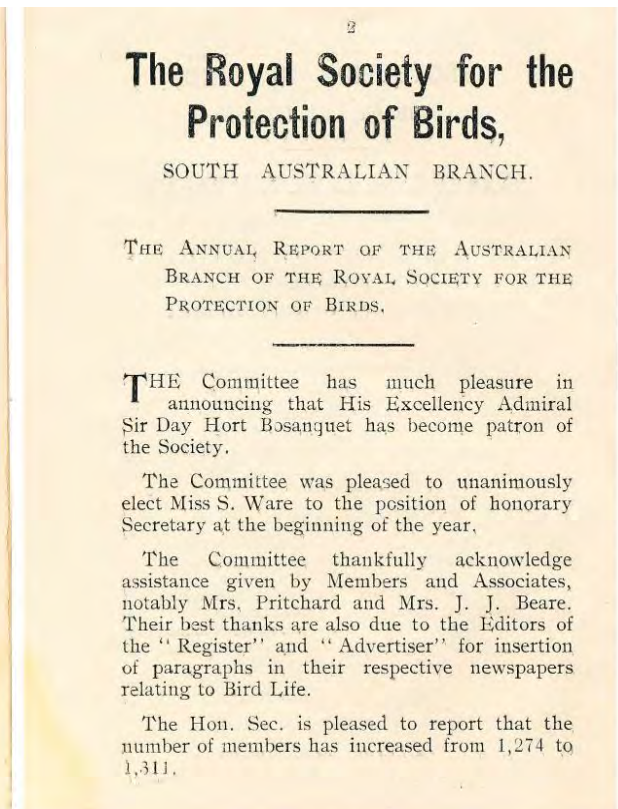
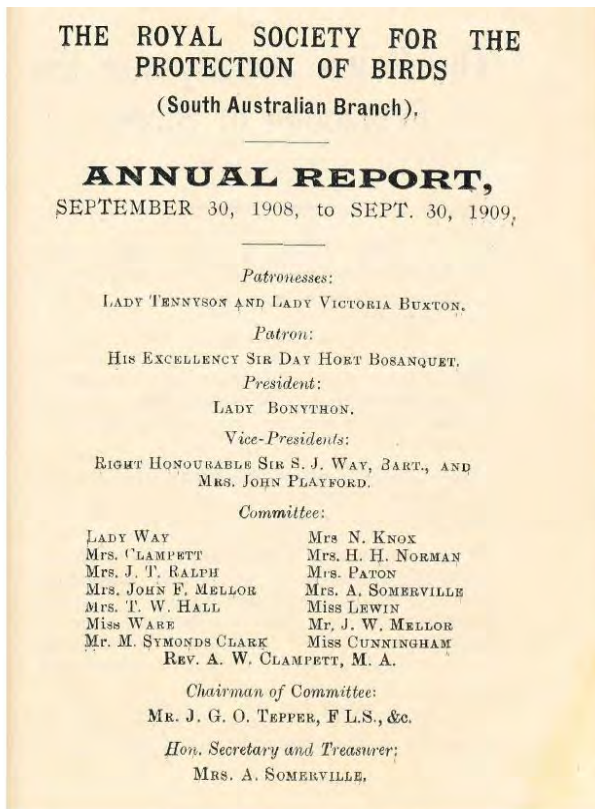
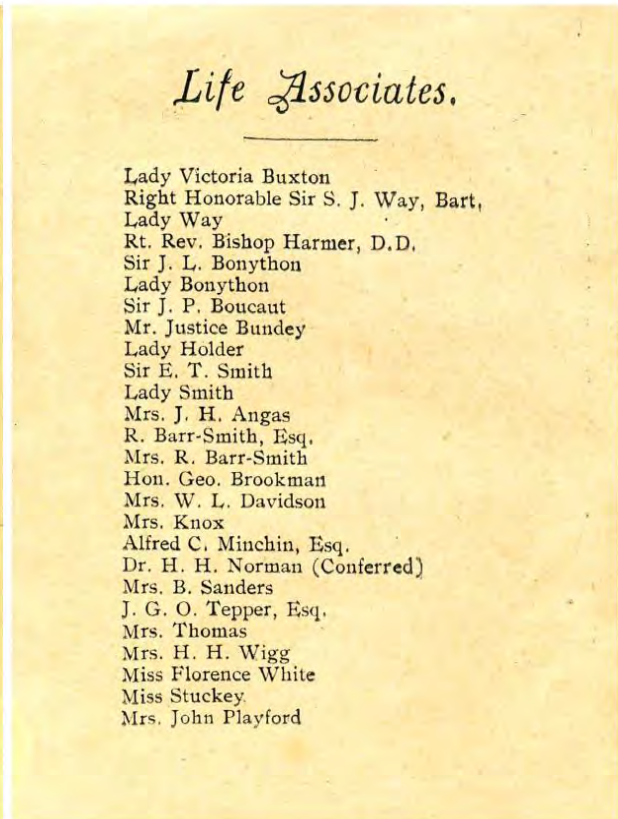
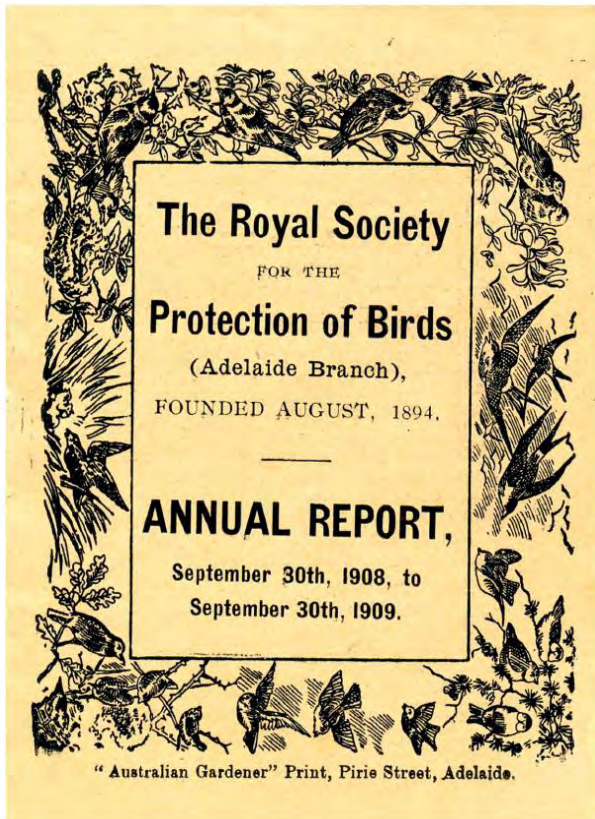
We welcome the following 22 new members, who have joined the Association in the past few months.

Neil Walter	KENSINGTON PARK	Heather Miatt	ENCOUNTER BAY
Rianne Wright	ABERFOYLE PARK	Pam DiLorenzo	STEPNEY
Allan Suter	CEDUNA	Diana Wright	HIGHBURY
Ralph Jones	PORT AUGUSTA WEST	Faye Tassell	KERSBROOK
Robert Kelly Wright	ADELAIDE	Clive Paling	HOLDEN HILL
Ian Buttfield	NORTH ADELAIDE	Di Markham	HAHNDORF
Robert Jones	WARRADALE	Kane Potter	CRAFERS
Dorothy Farmer	OSBORNE	Rosemary Anne Gardiner	MAGILL
Liz Matheson	MILE END	Margaret Beames	MEDINDIE GARDENS
Wendy Digby	ABERFOYLE PARK	Michael Jury	HINDMARSH ISLAND
Ian Philp	EVANDALE	Annie Hosking	MAGILL

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Membership Officer. Alan's phone number is on page 39.

RSPB Adelaide — 1894 to 1909

This interesting article about the RSPB Adelaide Branch was brought to my attention late last year. It was actually established in 1894, five years before our South Australian Ornithological Association (Birds SA), which was established in 1899. The RSPB Adelaide Branch disbanded shortly afterwards, in 1909.



RSPB Adelaide (cont.)

3

We still need more legislation in respect to birds, especially for the raising of the age at which gun licenses can be obtained from 14 to 20 years of age.

We are pleased to report that at the request of our State Government we sent a delegate to the Annual Conference of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union held in Melbourne on the 19th, 20th and 21st of November, 1908. Our delegate reported good work, and that fellow delegates from Tasmania and Victoria asked for copies of the South Australian Act for the Protection of Birds of 1900 and 1903, which Act has also been publicly favorably noticed by our parent Society in England.

Three delegates also attended our S.A. Conference on the subject of legislation necessary in connection with the ravages of Starlings. Our delegates reported that the Conference decided that it was necessary to destroy the Starlings.

The Committee wish to appeal most earnestly to all Members and Associates to try to bring fresh members into the Society.

Miss Ware found it necessary to relinquish the secretaryship by reason of pressure of other and previous honorary work. The resignation was accepted with regret and Mrs. A. Somerville was unanimously elected by the Committee to the position.

A SUGGESTION TO MEMBERS.

Subscriptions in stamps (one penny) are always acceptable.

4

BIRDS TO BE PROTECTED.

The birds to be protected under the new law are as follows:—

"It is illegal to kill, wound, possess, sell, offer to sell, or export any Protected Bird; or to take, destroy, or sell the eggs of any Protected Bird; or to sell or offer for sale the skin or feather of any Protected Bird, or any article made therefrom, or in which the same is used."

Penalty, from £1 to £25, and, in addition, the prescribed value of the bird.

"The foregoing does not apply to birds possessed as domestic pets, or to the owner or occupier of any garden or cultivated field killing or taking therein any bird mentioned in the Second List."

First List. Birds protected during the whole year, viz.:

- 1 Blue Doves, Thickheads, Shrike-tits, and Bell-birds
- 2 Dower-birds
- 3 Butcher-birds and all species of Crow-shrikes
- 4 Cape Barren Geese
- 5 Cuckoos
- 6 Diamond birds (or Pardalotes)
- 7 Fan-tails (or Wagtails) and Fly-catchers
- 8 Herons, Bitterns, and Egrets
- 9 Ibis and Spoonbills
- 10 Laughing Jackasses and Kingfishers.
- 11 Magpie Larks
- 12 Mopokes and Night-jars
- 13 Native Tits
- 14 Owls
- 15 Nut Piping Crow-shrikes (or Native Magpies)
- 16 Ptilots and Larks
- 17 Reed Warblers and Bush Larks
- 18 Robins
- 19 Sea-gulls

5

- 20 Stone Plovers or Night Curlews
- 21 Superb Warblers, Emu Wrens, Blue Wrens, and Wrens of all species
- 22 Swallows and Martins
- 23 Swifts
- 24 Terns or Sea Swallows
- 25 Tin-tacks and Ephthalauras
- 26 Tree Creepers
- 27 Thrushes
- 28 Wood Swallows
- 29 Emus
- 30 Black Swans

Second List. Birds protected during specified period, viz:

From 1st June to 20th December, both inclusive—Emus, Swans, Wild Geese (except Cape Barren Geese,) and Plovers.

From 1st August to 20th December, both inclusive—Wild Ducks and Bustard or Native Turkeys.

All other birds, native or imported, except those mentioned in the first and last lists, are protected from the 1st day of July to the 20th day of December, both inclusive.

Third List. Birds not protected, viz:—

- 1 Cormorants
- 2 Crows
- 3 English Chaffinches
- 4 English House Sparrows
- 5 English Starlings
- 6 Hawks
- 7 Rosella Parrots.
- 8 Silver Eyes
- 9 Snipe
- 10 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos
- 11 Wattle-Birds

Perhaps it is not generally understood how little trouble is necessary sometimes to sheet home an offence; people

5

are apt to suppose that they must lay an information and appear at the Police Court, but this is a mistake. If they see protected birds exposed for sale, or being carried through the streets, or witness any breach of the law by shooting, catching, etc., they need only inform the nearest constable, and the work of prosecution passes at once into his hands; even if it be necessary to follow an offender till a constable can be met with, surely this is a labor no real bird lover would shirk when the benefit of making an object lesson of some unscrupulous law breaker is considered; one or two examples of heavy fines being inflicted would have a most salutary effect.

CONSTITUTION.

1.—NAME.

The name of the Society to be "THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS" (England).

2.—OBJECTS.

The objects shall be set out in the following rules:—

1. That members shall discourage the wanton destruction of birds, and interest themselves generally in their protection.
2. That members shall refrain from wearing the feathers of any bird, not killed for the purposes of food—the ostrich only excepted.

3.

The Society shall consist of Members and Associates.

4.—OFFICERS.

There shall be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and a Committee, being Members, under whose management the Branch shall be carried on.

RSPB Adelaide (cont.)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure from 30th September, 1903, to 30th September, 1909.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Sept. 30, 1903.	By Balance in hand		By Printing and Stationery ...
Aug. 31, 1909	30 1 4	9 18 1	Postage ...
To Subscriptions	4 18 9	3 17 2	Hire of room for Meetings ...
" Savings Bank Interest to	3 7 7	2 0 0	Leaflets from England ...
June 30, 1909		3 5 5	Sundries
		18 7 7	Balance in Savings Bank
		3 13 11	" in Secretary's hands
	£38 7 8		£38 7 8

7

5.—COMMITTEE.

The Committee shall consist of not less than twelve (12) members, to be elected annually by the Members at the public meeting in October. Three members shall form a quorum, and the Committee shall elect the President, Vice President, Treasurer Secretary, etc. (who shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee), and all officers that may be needed, make Bye-Laws and Rules consistent with the above objects, and generally transact the business necessary for the well-being of the Society.

6.—ASSOCIATES.

Any person may become an Associate of the Society on paying the sum of 6d (children under 14 threepence) as registration fee, and agreeing to the objects of the Society, as set out in the Rules in Clause 2, which rules shall be printed on every card of membership.

7.—MEMBERS.

Associates may become Members of the Society on agreeing to pay not less than One Shilling annually, and Life Associates by a donation of One Guinea. Members are entitled to receive Annual Reports and notices of all General Meetings, etc. Any one distinguished in art, literature or science, whose name and influence would be a benefit to the objects of the Society, may be appointed Honorary Member by the Committee.

8.—HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS.

Any Associate or Member who shall bring into the Society (50) new Associates in one year, shall be appointed Honorary Life Associate.

9.—GENERAL MEETING.

An Annual Meeting of the Society shall take place in the month of October, at a time and place to be fixed by the Committee; at least fourteen (14) day's notice in writing shall be given to all Members, and a notice shall be inserted in the "Register" and "Advertiser."

10.

That the year end on September 30th.

Minutes of last meeting confirmed
 Proposed by Mrs Playford &
 seconded by Mr. Tepper that
 the Society be wound up & the
 balance in bank distributed
 as shall be decided.
 Proposed by Mr. Tepper seconded
 by Mrs. Mellor that the money be
 divided between Children's Hospital
 Strangers & Benevolent Society & Society
 for prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Minutes of last meeting confirmed.
 Proposed by Mrs Playford and seconded by Mr Tepper that the Society be wound up and the balance in bank distributed as shall be decided. Proposed by Mr Tepper, seconded by Mrs Mellor, that the money be divided between Children's Hospital Strangers & Benevolent Society and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Carried Unanimously.

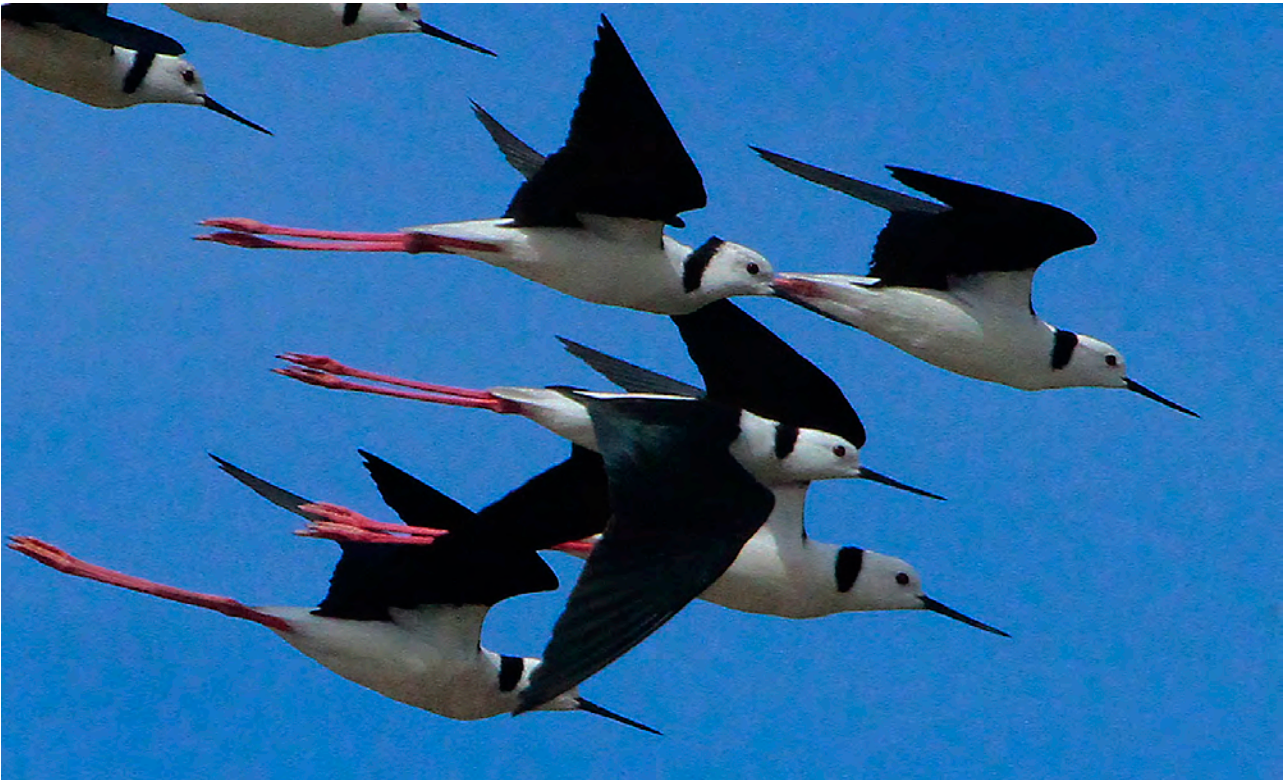
Members Photo Gallery

With apologies for all those excellent photos that I couldn't use.



Painted Button-quail – taken in 2108 by Bryan Haywood in an area of red gums nestled in amongst pine plantations near Nangwarry (SE region). This area is being restored after a large infestation of pine wildings were removed earlier this year. Two birds were seen which was very encouraging in an area of recovering open woodland which is a threatened habitat in the region.

Birds of a Feather flocking together, by Trevor Cox



White-headed Stilts at Tumby Bay, EP, on 26/8/2018

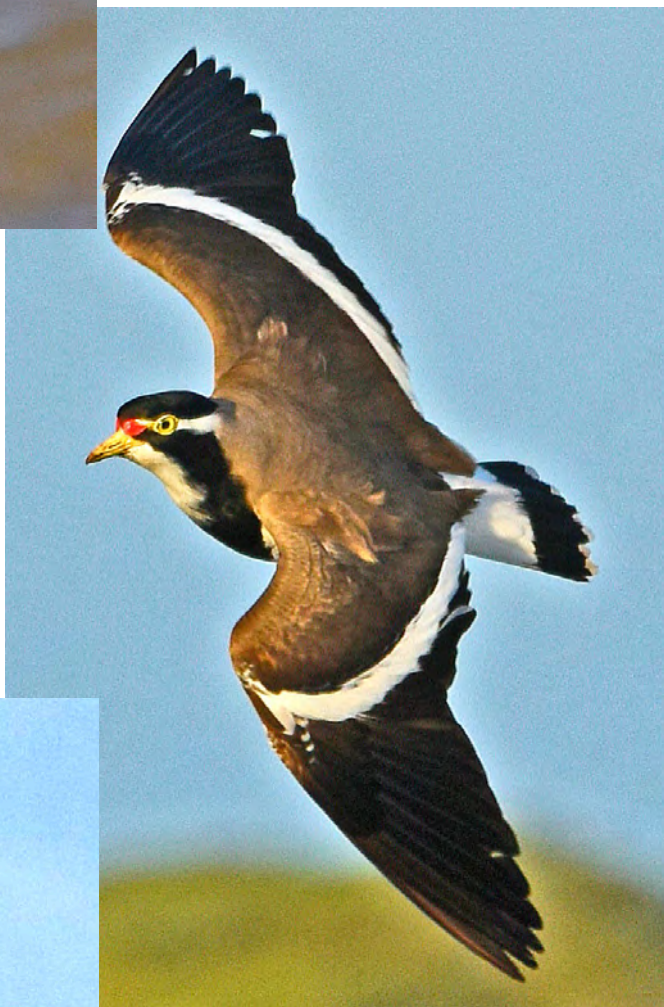


Zebra Finches at Port Augusta on 25/6/2018

Birds in Flight



Red Knot in partial breeding plumage, taken by Peter McKenzie at Port Clinton on 2/4/18



Banded Lapwing, taken by Peter McKenzie at Pine Point on 3/8/18



White-bellied Sea Eagle taken by John Pearce on the Hawkesbury River in 2018

Birds SA Contact Details

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

Committee Meetings are held at the above venue on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7.40pm.

Donations to the Birds SA Conservation Fund are tax-deductible

BIRDS SA COMMITTEE 2018 – 2019

President	John Gitsham	0438900393
Vice President	John Hatch	8362 2820
Vice President	Jeff Groves	82632939
Secretary	Kate Buckley	0428887786
Treasurer	John Spiers	8333 0272
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Journal Editor	Meryl Brown	8339 6839
Newsletter Editor	Cynthia Pyle	8264 5778
Field Programs	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Bird Records,	Graham Carpenter	8297 5463
Membership Officer	Alan Burns	8381 2708
Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	Stephen Ramm	0405282336
Member	Karen Donkin	8379 1173
Member	Beatrice Rogers	0423241856

COMMITTEE EMAIL CONTACTS

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

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

Your message will be forwarded to that person.

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian Karen Donkin 0402123960
Image Librarian John Spiers 8333 0272
email imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au
Campout Organiser Lynton Huxley 7009 5038
Rare Birds Secretary, Brian Blaylock 0448822374

Conservation Sub-committee members

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

SA Rarities & Distribution (SARDS) Members

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

Port Augusta Birders (The Babblers)

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

BirdLife South East SA

Convener: Bob Green 0407649909

Email: shriketit@bigpond.com

Fleurieu Birders, a sub-group of Birds SA

Contact: Wendy Phillips 85550634 or 0414248648

Neil Cheshire 85527904

Email: fleurieubirders@gmail.com

COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the WINTER 'Birder' is due by the April General Meeting (April 26). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD or a USB stick, emailed to the email address below, or typed/handwritten neatly.

magazineeditor@birdssa.asn.au

ABN 76 339 976 789

Print post number 100044337

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationers

WEBSITE: birdssa.asn.au

BIRDS SA SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2019

The annual subscriptions are:

Individual member	\$45.00
Family Member	\$55.00
Full-time Student	\$10.00
No age restriction	

All members receive a digital copy of both the magazine and journal. We also offer printed copies for an additional yearly fee of \$20.00.

The Birder is produced every three months and includes general news, conservation updates, bird sightings, and details of past and future meetings and excursions.

The 'South Australian Ornithologist' is Birds SA's scientific journal.

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

ADVERTISING IN 'The Birder'

Birds SA relies on the integrity of advertisers for the quality and nature of their products and services. We cannot guarantee them. Advertising is charged as follows: \$1.00 per line, up to \$40.00 per half page and 10c per inserted leaflet (single sheet). The Committee reserves the right to lower or waive these fees.

A Colourful Finish!



Galah

photographed by Trevor Cox
at Stone Hut (EP) on 15/10/2018



Orange-bellied Parrot

photographed by Mike Ashton
at Melaeuca, Tas. in March 2015



Eastern Rosella

photographed by Peter McKenzie
in Adelaide 1/7/18