

The BIRDER

The official magazine of Birds SA Spring 2019 No 251



In this Issue

Meeting with Minister for the Environment, John Speirs



Linking people with birds

in South Australia

2 October Campouts — Gluepot & Kangaroo Island

Birds SA celebrating 120 years

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!



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CENTRE INSERT: SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 69,
FRANK ELLIOT PARSONS, PART 2

The cover photograph shows an Australasian Bittern photographed by Bob Green in May 2019 at Eight Mile Creek, near Port MacDonnell, SE. John Gitsham designed the cover of this magazine.

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.

We welcome 44 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p34.

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.

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 1 Sept.	Birds SA	Excursion to Manning Flora & Fauna Reserve
Saturday 7 Sept.	FB	Excursion Muntiri Eco-lodge
Saturday 14 Sept.	Birds SA	Excursion to Tolderol Game Reserve
Sunday 15 Sept.	PA	Excursion to Bernie's Block
Thursday 19 Sept.	Birds SA	Excursion Shepherd's Hill RP
Friday 27 Sept.	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 29 Sept.	Birds SA	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands
4th to 7th October, Birds SA October long weekend campout		
Saturday 5 October	FB	Excursion to Black Swamp at Currency Creek
Saturday 12 October	Birds SA	Excursion to Cowirra
Sunday 13 October	PA	Excursion to Whyalla Wetlands
Thursday 17 October	Birds SA	Excursion to Byards Rd. Wetlands
Friday 18th to Wednesday 23rd October, Fleurieu Birders' Kangaroo Island campout		
Friday 25 October	Birds SA	General Meeting
Saturday 26 October	Birds SA	Excursion to Anacotilla Springs
Saturday 2 Nov:	FB	Excursion to Nangawooka Reserve
Sunday 3 Nov	Birds SA	Excursion to Bushland Park, Lobethal
Saturday 9 Nov.	Birds SA	Excursion to Magazine Road Wetlands
Sunday 17 Nov.	PA	Birding around Quorn local area
Thursday 21 Nov.	Birds SA	Excursion to Belair NP
Friday 29 Nov.	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 1 December	Birds SA	Excursion to Cleland CP
Saturday 7 Dec.	FB	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands
Sunday 8 Dec.	PA	Excursion to Arid Lands Botanic Gardens
Saturday 14 Dec.	Birds SA	Excursion Myponga Reservoir Reserve
Thursday 19 Dec.	Birds SA	Excursion to Kaiser Stuhl CP

Two Campouts!!

Birds SA: Gluepot Reserve, 4 to 7 October

Fleurieu Birders: Kangaroo Island, 18 to 23 October

President's Message

Hi Everyone

I will start by giving particular thanks to our Vice-president Jeff Groves for the magnificent job he does as Chair of the Birds SA Conservation Subcommittee. He oversees a large number of major conservation issues facing our birds and their habitats in South Australia and excels in letter writing and acting as an advocate on behalf of the association.

Birds SA is a non-profit, voluntary organisation that is made up of members who are dedicated to birds and their conservation. I express my thanks to everyone that supports me as President of Birds SA, as well as the Association and the outcomes we are trying to achieve. Members give up their valuable volunteering time in today's crazy fast paced world. I look forward to members' continued support for our committees as Birds SA grows. We aim to educate the public, promote the welfare of birds and be their voice for conservation in South Australia.

We are coming to the end of winter and look forward to spring, which brings a flurry of new growth, blossoms, nectar flows and breeding birds. Migratory birds will start arriving over the next month and I, along with many members would like to see adequate water flows down the Murray River. The Coorong could again provide the prime habitat for migratory birds that fly so far down from the northern hemisphere to feed over our summer. The Coorong needs as much support as we can provide, as it is still not receiving enough natural flows from the river to sustain it environmentally. We must exert

pressure on our state and federal governments and politicians to look after South Australia and the Coorong. At the same time, Birds SA and our members must continue to support alternative migratory bird habitats like Tolderol and the Australian International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS), as these areas provide important habitats that support the birds we all love seeing over summer.

Our birds and the places we love are continually being challenged by urban and commercial developments, mining, land clearing etc. and are putting more pressure on the remnants of quality habitat that the birds need. Australia's environmental laws are weak and need to be strengthened. About 25 Australian bird species are on the brink of extinction within the next 10 years. We need to "act for the birds" and put pressure on our governments to improve protection of our natural assets for the future.

Birds SA (South Australian Ornithological Association) is 120 years old this year. We are the oldest still operating Ornithological group in Australia. I have written a small article for this issue of the Birder, highlighting some interesting information from an old copy of the 'SA Ornithological Journal' from 1914. I hope you will find that it makes interesting reading.

I am looking forward to the fine spring weather and hope to see you birding out somewhere in the open air.

John Gitsham



Bird of the Spring Season — compiled by John Gitsham

Birds SA Notes & News

Shorebird Surveys

The 2018-2019 Shorebird Surveys are drawing to a close, with the Winter Count happening on 4th of July.

To show gratitude to the generous folk who brave early mornings to count the Migratory Waders several times over the summer-season, BirdLife Australia held a luncheon on 20th June at the Largs Pier Hotel. The surveyors who could attend were grateful for this acknowledgement.



Tony Flaherty addressed the group and acknowledged the many years that Birds SA have gathered data on the Migratory Waders, with special mention made of people such as David Close.



Chris Purnell presented Tony with a beautiful print of "Latham's Snipe".

Please contact general@birdssa.asn.au if you would like to be trained in the identifying of Migratory Waders with the thought of joining the Survey Team.

Kate Buckley

2020 Shorebird Winter Survey

Thursday 4th of July was the date set for the Winter Survey. However, heavy rain on the preceding weekend resulted in very boggy conditions at some sites, making it impossible to undertake the Surveys. Wet conditions and personal issues meant, that the surveys were carried out when and where it was possible.

Certainly, "photo of the survey" went to Paul Taylor who snapped this beautiful Double-banded Plover, at his particular survey place. This was a migratory bird of a different kind.



Double-banded Plover

Photographed by Paul Taylor on 4th July 2019

If you are interested in learning how to identify migratory birds, with the thought of joining or assisting our "Survey Team", please contact general@birdssa.asn.au.

"Thank You" to everyone who was involved in the Winter Survey.

Kate Buckley



Azure Kingfisher

Taken by David Cox
on the Daintree River on 17/07/2019

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

FLEDGLINGS NEWS



Fledglings at 'The Gums', Tranmere

School holidays – time for new adventures!

The Gums Landcare Group invited Birds SA to give a Bird Presentation on Monday 8th July followed by a "Bird Walk" around the beautiful Gums Reserve, Tranmere, on Tuesday 9th July. Adults and Children enjoyed this new experience. Rainbow Lorikeets were the most prolific of the 10 species sighted, with participants being thrilled by their bright colours, seen through binoculars for the first time. The carolling of the Australian Magpies was the best "bird sound" of the day. It was with interest that folk noted both Noisy Miners and Australian Magpies with nesting materials.

I would like to express my gratitude to Anna Lester and Miles Ramm for their assistance with this activity. Miles' expertise was very much enjoyed by the children. A great role model!

On Friday 12th of July the Fledglings "Bird Walk" was to be held at Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker.

"Thank you" to the large number of Birds SA Volunteers who were prepared to make the trip to Mt Barker to support this activity. In particular, "Thanks" to Miles Ramm, and John Gitsham, but unfortunately the event was postponed until September due to inclement weather.

Kate Buckley.

Who is that bird named after?

Baillon's Crake

Porzana pusilla

Baillon's Crake is named after Jean Francois Emmanuel Baillon (1744-1802). He was a lawyer, as well as a collector and naturalist from Abbeville, France. Baillon provided many materials, including marine and aquatic birds, which are on display at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. He died age 59.

His son Louis Antoine Francois Baillon (1778-1851) was also a naturalist and collector.



Reference source: *Whose Bird?* B Beolens & M Watkins Pub. 2003

Conservation Sub-Committee Report

Treasures not Targets Exhibition – Anti Duck and Quail Hunting Coalition

The Treasures not Targets exhibition of spectacular duck photographs enjoyed a successful showing at The Joinery (the headquarters of Conservation Council SA) on June 27,28 & 29. This exhibition is being presented at several venues throughout 2019 and includes educational material on the more disturbing aspects of hunting these birds. Of note at The Joinery was the large number of attendees who were prepared to sit down at the venue and write a personal letter to Premier Marshall expressing their opposition to the continued support being given by the State Government to the hunting of ducks and quail

The coalition of organisations opposed to hunting met with Susan Close MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, in June, to better understand the Labor Party views on this issue. Ms. Close agreed to come back to the coalition with the official Labor Party position as soon as possible. She advised that a Select Committee would be needed to inquire into the issue before any legislative change could be considered. Clearly, bi-partisan political support will be required.

From various public statements it appears that neither Premier Marshall nor Minister Speirs are supporters of duck and quail hunting in South Australia. Following is the response from Minister Speirs when asked a question about hunting when

he addressed the General Meeting of Birds SA on May 31 (taken from the minutes recorded at that meeting):

“I do not have the support in the current Government or Opposition to ban this. I am no fan of duck or quail hunting. We have tried to curtail the length of the season and align the South Australian season with the Victorian season. Many people would know that the Premier has made known his dislike of this activity – I would urge people to contact the Premier if you believe that duck hunting should be curtailed or banned altogether in South Australia. I think that it is a sport that is dying out and dying out rapidly, I don't know anyone of my generation who does this. There is very little future for duck and quail hunting in this state but there is little political appetite to see it banned in this state at this stage. There is a lack of science around quail hunting, that we could be allowing an activity to occur that may lead to the extinction of a species that we have little knowledge of. We need to work together.”

The anti-duck and quail hunting coalition is continuing to work on a range of strategies to have this hunting banned in SA.



Australian Wood Duck – Treasures not Targets Exhibition – photographer Glenn Pure

Conservation Sub-Committee Report (cont.)

Off- road Vehicle Inquiry

The Natural Resources Committee of the SA Parliament has initiated an Inquiry into the impact of Off-road Vehicles in SA. This Inquiry will examine

- The efficacy of the current regulatory and legislative framework;
- The impact on the environment, particularly protected and coastal areas;
- Impacts on the State in areas such as tourism, recreation, land rehabilitation and loss of biodiversity.

A very broad definition of “vehicles” and “off-road” is adopted for this inquiry. Birds SA has made a submission to this Inquiry focussing upon off-road vehicle impacts on birdlife and bird habitat. The Birds SA submission concentrated upon national parks, conservation parks, recreation parks, reserves and areas under the jurisdiction of State Government Departments and local councils. Use of off-road vehicles on private land was not considered. In addition to looking at the issues more broadly, three case studies were presented in the Birds SA submission covering coastal environment issues, trail bike issues in some conservation parks and the impact of aluminium dinghy races within the

Riverland Ramsar area. Off-road vehicle damage to Long Beach at Coffin Bay was the example used for coastal environments.

BHP Olympic Dam Expansion

Birds SA is aware of several submissions that have been made to the Commonwealth in response to an EPBC Act Referral relating to the expansion of underground mining operations at Olympic Dam. These responses from BirdLife Australia and a coalition comprised of Conservation Council SA, Friends of the Earth and the Australian Conservation Foundation relate to the proposed Tailings Storage Facility 6 and the likelihood of associated Evaporation Pond 6. These types of waste facilities are lethal for birds and, as yet, a reliable solution to prevent bird deaths has not been found. When a previous expansion was proposed for Olympic Dam, the Federal EPBC Act Assessment and Decision in 2011 stated that BHP: “*must not construct Evaporation Ponds for the purpose of the expanded mine*”; and to: “*phase out the use of Evaporation Ponds as soon as practical*”.

Jeff Groves



Vehicle tracks on Long Beach at Coffin Bay

Australasian Ornithological Conference

July 3rd to July 5th 2019 Darwin, NT.

About ten SA delegates attended the Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC) at Darwin in July. I went with Bob Green (Birdlife SE /Birds SA) and Les Moore (Birds SA). The other South Australian delegates were also Birds SA members. A total of 350 delegates from 7 different countries attended the jam-packed and interesting conference. Every day the temperature was a balmy 32 degrees.



A full lecture theatre

Away from the conference excellent birdwatching was available, either privately searching your own locations, or by joining guided bird trips by Northern Territory (NT) Bird Specialists Luke Paterson and Sarah Burgess.



A group of keen birders

I highly recommend these two guides if you're going birding around Darwin.

By the end of our stay, we had sighted more than 150 species. I personally saw 46 lifers!

The conference was a great success, I highly recommend members to attend these conferences. They are held every two years at different locations, and the next one, in 2021, will be in Auckland, New Zealand.

Most of the talks were about various conservation and research projects that were taking place around

Australia and New Zealand, together with the great efforts that are being made to save species and their habitats. Australia is facing a pending extinction crisis if things keep going in their current direction. However, great work is being done to try and slow down or reverse this trend.

Dr Leo Joseph gave an enlightening Plenary speech about the changing world of genetics in birds and the advances in our knowledge of DNA. It is becoming very confusing, with birds now being split, new ones joining other groups, others leaving and joining others. Watch this space!



John and Emma

Emma Montgomery from Mt Barker Council and I gave a joint presentation on behalf of Birds SA about Laratinga Wetlands. We described its function as a community effluent facility as well as a top bird and birding hot spot. We stressed the collaboration between a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) and local government to promote birds and birding.

John Gitsham



Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) have recently held several activity days in the Sanctuary.

On Sunday 16 June a planting day at Port Gawler saw 40 volunteers eagerly get to work and revegetate an area of habitat that had been compromised by off-road vehicle use.

By the time our BBQ lunch had been prepared by the Two Wells Lions Club, 1,000 locally sourced seedlings had been planted and another off-road vehicle pathway had been closed off.



Enthusiastic workers celebrate a job well done



Effects of off-road vehicles

On Sunday 14 July, despite a drizzling and overcast morning 12 FAIBS volunteers joined members of the Thompson Beach Progress Association to conduct a clean up and perform some fencing repairs. Even though the duration of the activities was reduced due to rain, a positive impact was made. A great camaraderie developed as the morning was rounded off in the Thompson Beach Community Shed with participants enjoying hot drinks, cookies and conversation. It was pleasing to have multiple generations, local people and visitors to the area taking part. Everyone was motivated by the knowledge of how important care of this habitat is to the sustainability of the thousands of resident and migratory birds that feed here in variable numbers through the seasons.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES IN THE SANCTUARY

Migratory Shorebird ID sessions

Once the migratory shorebirds arrive we will be holding shorebird identification mornings in the Sanctuary. Join our email list or check out our



1,000 seedlings planted

Facebook page for further details. Spotting scopes, binoculars and identification brochures will be supplied.

'Park of the Month' November

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary in partnership with the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary will be Parks SA 'Park of the Month' for November. A range of fun and family friendly events will be held throughout the month. Activities often include ranger guided walks, cultural events and more. Details for each month are not released until closer to the occasion. We encourage you to check FAIBS Facebook page or Parks SA **Park of the Month** website to get involved.

If you would like to join in our activities please visit the FAIBS Facebook page or contact us via email on faibssa@gmail.com

Mary-Ann Van Trigt

Birds SA celebrating 120 years (1899-2019) of ongoing bird conservation and scientific research in SA

By John Gitsham, President Birds SA — 2019

Birds SA (The South Australian Ornithological Association) is celebrating its 120th year of ongoing operation as an important bird conservation and scientific research association for the protection and study of birds in South Australia. After very humble beginnings, we have grown to nearly 900 members across the State and in March 2018 we affiliated (Ironically, read below) with BirdLife Australia.

From the SA Ornithologist Journal Vol 1, Jan 1914 "The History of Ornithology in SA":

On December 18th, 1884, the Public Library and Museum was opened and Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S., who had been appointed preparator about six months previously, enthusiastically set to work to gather together another reference collection. As the cabinets gradually became filled several ornithologists, notably Dr. A. M. Morgan, Captain S. A. White, who follows in his father's footsteps, Messrs. J. W. Mellor, Edwin Ashby, and M. Symonds Clark began using the growing museum collection, they discussed ornithological matters with Mr. Zietz, and from time to time gave to, and exchanged specimens with him.

About the year 1898, Mr. Zietz proposed the formation of a bird club in Adelaide and with this idea in view, spoke to several of his friends. The scheme was cordially supported and a meeting was held to consider the advisability of forming an association. It was at first suggested to form a branch of the Royal Society, but on second consideration this was thought to be inadvisable, as this science was of no interest to most of its members, and to be of any use the members must be trained systematic ornithologists.

The inaugural meeting was held at Dr. A. M. Morgan's residence, 27 Angas Street, Adelaide, on March 17th, 1899. Those present were Dr. Morgan, Messrs. A. H. C. Zietz, J. W. Mellor, F. R. Zietz, E. Ashby, M. S. Clark. Dr. Morgan was voted to the chair.

It was resolved that a Society to be called the South Australian Ornithological Association be formed.

It is also interesting to see that some of the original rules that were adopted at the time continue today at our General meetings (which were originally held the first Friday of every second month), and the use of the bird record book that is still passed around the room on the night of the meetings:

Rule 9. A record book shall be kept in charge of the Secretary, to which all members shall at convenient times have access, and in which they may record any ornithological observations of interest they may make.

Also of note is the formation of the 'BirdLife Australia's' early configuration as the *Royal Australasian Ornithologist's Union* was formed from SAOA (Birds SA) as it was known then:

At the meeting of this Association on September 11th, 1899, Mr. A. J. Campbell, F.L.S., was present

as a visitor. A conference was held with this gentleman regarding the formation of an Australasian Ornithological Union to hold annual meetings in the capitals of the various colonies.

The idea was warmly supported, but the members thought it advisable that the local Associations should still continue their work, thereby keeping up local interest; and that these societies should appoint delegates to attend the inter-colonial congresses. Mr. Campbell thanked the South Australian Association for its suggestion, and congratulated South Australia on having such a society, more especially as it was the first of its kind in Australia.

The following year a representative of this Association went to Melbourne to attend the preliminary meeting, to consider the formation of this proposed inter-colonial union. At this meeting the "Australasian Ornithologists' Union," since re-christened "The Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union," by Royal command, was formed and a committee appointed to draw up rules, to be presented to the various colonies for approval. The first Annual Meeting of the R.A.O.U. was held in Hobart in 1906.

Also of interest is that the *Gould League*, which was famous in Victoria in the 1950-70s for school children, appears to have actually started in SA in 1910 and a **Silver Challenge Cup** was a prize to be awarded to a school annually for the best students 'Bird Observation and Essays on Bird Life in SA'.

In April 1910, Mr. A. G. Edquist, a member of the Association, and head of the nature study in State schools brought forward a scheme for training the children with a view to making them observant bird lovers. A league was formed, called 'The Gould League for the Protection of Birds'. School clubs were also formed, although these clubs were optional for the scholars. The Association gave a silver challenge cup for competition in essays on bird life. The cup was to be held by the winning school for the ensuing twelve months. This league is doing incalculable good as the desire to kill birds and rob their nests is gradually becoming eliminated. This movement has already become an important factor for bird protection and as time goes on will become more so.

The Silver Challenge Cup was displayed to members at the June Meeting 2019. It is currently in the SA Museum and will be going into the State Library archives. Perhaps we should restart this award within the schools today to encourage a new breed of young birders?

JG July 17th 2019

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

An extract from the Winter edition of the Natural Resources, Adelaide and Mt. Lofty Ranges eNews.

A small bird called Sandy is just one sign of the success of Hooded Plover conservation work over the past decade.

Sandy, with the leg flag YL, hatched at Seacliff in January but was photographed in June at Semaphore, indicating that this season's chicks were on the move.

The conservation project, supported by the board, volunteers, [BirdLife Australia](#) and councils, has led to a significant increase in the number of chicks fledging along the Fleurieu Peninsula, including 11 this season.

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Coast and Marine Manager Tony Flaherty said volunteer Mary-Ann van Trigt spotted Sandy and another youngster with a group of adult Hooded Plovers.

"After breeding the birds form feeding flocks around the coast until the next nesting season, which can start as early as August. They will become more territorial and settle into breeding pairs," he said.

Hatching success has almost doubled at sites where temporary signs and rope fence are used to stop eggs being crushed and keep dogs out. There are now 27 known breeding pairs in the region.



**Sandy at Semaphore beach, Adelaide
Photographed by Mary-Ann Trigt**

**Insights into the life of a migratory shorebird –
How cool is this!**



**Great Knot, photographed by Mary-Ann Van Trigt
at Thompson Beach on 25th March 2019**

With the migratory shorebirds soon to return to our shores I would like to share a story of one Great Knot sighted at Thompson Beach this March. This beautiful bird was sighted at the end of Ruskin Road and because it was flagged we were able to obtain an insight into the wonders of the life of migratory shorebird.

Below are its known travel details;

Banded on 29.08.2010 in Roebuck Bay Broome WA.
Sighted again in Broome 13th September 2010
Then not seen until it was recorded 4 times in Broome again in Sept 2012.
Vanished until sighted Back in Broome 23.01.16.
Spotted in China Yalu Jiang near North Korea Border 09.05.2016.
Then in Kamchatka, Russia 04.07.2016.
Vanished for a while and was seen again in Kamchatka Russia 27.06.18
And now at Thompson Beach 25.03.19.

We encourage people to report sightings of flagged shorebirds as long-term sighting data can provide valuable information for scientific research purposes. Report flagged bird sightings to; flagging@awsg.org.au
If you would like to find out more about migratory shorebirds please contact our group and join us on some of our bird identification outings.

Mary-Ann Van Trigt

Past General Meetings

N.B. For full reports on all Speakers please refer to the General Meeting Minutes on the website

Friday May 31

Guest Appearance by the Minister for the Environment, Hon. David Speirs, MP.

Our President, John Gitsham stated that the Minister's appearance is the first time since the inception of the Association that a sitting Minister for the Environment has spoken to members at a General Meeting.

The Minister commented that a large group of people are interested in our environment and bird life in South Australia. He was more than happy to accept the invitation to come and speak with Birds SA Members and he looks forward to continuing the relationship with Birds SA. There is a lot we can learn from working together with this group.

He first became involved in the environment in South Australia as a Member of the 'Friends of Lower Field River' at Hallett Cove. With this entry into Friends Groups he became heavily involved in conservation, in particular, coastal conservation, and represented Hallett Cove on the Marion Council. This led him to stand for election to the State Parliament.

His great interest is in raptors. He is interested in talking to members of the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) staff to tell them that he would like to see a recovery programme for Ospreys in South Australia.

His focus is back to basics — getting our water resources right; farming done in ways that protect our soils for the future; biodiversity; connecting-up landscape projects; environmental change at a higher and broader level.

The Government is rebuilding the capability of National Parks. It is looking for pathways for members of the Department for the Environment, who might be looking for a career change that could lead to them becoming Park Rangers.

The Government's philosophy is one of helping people to fall in love with our natural environment. It would like people go out into our environment and enjoy it. We are opening-up some of our Reservoirs for people to enjoy walking and bird-watching. We are making our National Parks more accessible. The more people go out into the environment the more

they will want to protect it.

Questions and Answers

Two questions from the President of Birds SA, John Gitsham:

Birds SA has a policy which opposes hunting of native birds. As you know we have an open season on ducks and quail in South Australia. Our opposition to this open season is shared by many other organisations including RSPCA, Fauna Rescue SA and BirdLife Australia. Our stance is based on both animal welfare and sustainability issues. Between a quarter and half of all birds shot are maimed and not retrieved, many suffering a slow, painful death. Birds SA and many other South Australians believe that it has no place in a civilised society in the 21st century. What do you recommend that Birds SA do in order to have this activity banned in SA?



**The Minister for the Environment
Hon. David Speirs**

Answer: I do not have the support within the current Government or Opposition to ban this activity. I am no fan of duck or quail hunting. We have tried to curtail the length of the season and align the South Australian season with the Victorian season. Many people would know that the Premier has made known his dislike of this activity. I urge people to contact the Premier if you believe that duck hunting should be curtailed or banned

altogether in SA. I think that it is a sport that is dying out and dying out rapidly, I don't know anyone of my generation who is involved in this activity.

There may be very little future for duck and quail hunting in this State but there is little political appetite to see it banned at this stage. There is a lack of science around quail hunting. It is distressing that we allow an activity to occur that may lead to the extinction of a species of which we have little knowledge. We need to work together.

Past General Meetings (cont.)

Question: Minister, you are aware of the issue of motor vehicles tearing up the beach at Long Beach, Coffin Bay, and that this is a problem on DEW beaches across the State. It disturbs the roosting site for large aggregations of Pied Oystercatchers and other shorebirds, damages the native vegetation and sand dunes and makes the beach difficult to walk along. We have been making representations to your Department and yourself on behalf of some Coffin Bay residents to have motor vehicles banned from this beach and to make sure that dogs are on leads and under control. There is a clear discrepancy between what your Officers are saying is the level of anti-social behaviour at this site and what the local residents are showing us with a plethora of photographic images. There is no community need for motor vehicles to be on this beach at all except perhaps emergency services and DEW vehicles. The signs and education programmes are clearly not working.

What will you and your Department do in the immediate future to eliminate this self-indulgent hoon driving on the beach and allow the beach to return to a state that is usable by law abiding local residents and the shorebirds?

Answer: I am aware of this issue. I don't know why people would want to drive a 4x4 vehicle on the beach. You cannot interact with nature when you are enclosed in a 4x4. We have to get better at this. I have been down to Little Dip, which suffers significant damage and is of particular concern. I have met with Doug Clarke and I have been out to the beach in question at Coffin Bay. I think that we do have to look at restrictions in National Parks. I have referred the matter of 4x4 vehicles on beaches to the Natural Resources Committee to consider the terms of reference for authorised and unauthorised vehicles. There needs to be investigation of the destruction of flora and fauna, economic benefits, positive and negative social impacts, various approaches adopted by Local Councils, including opportunity for a State-wide approach to dealing with this problem. This should get underway in the second half of 2019. I would expect Birds SA to be a key contributor.

Question: In our hopes for the future of our precious birdlife, habitat is a priority. The Native Vegetation laws of 1985 and 1991 were critical advances in habitat protection. South Australians are rightly proud of these historical actions, which led the nation. It is widely held that the biodiversity-conservation purpose of the 1991 Act was compromised under recent Labor administration. What are your Government's intentions towards

reinforcing and strengthening this essential legislation?

Answer: We have no plans to wind back the legislation. Our Government has been interested in dealing with native vegetation and we should be proud of our Native Vegetation Laws. They are the tightest Native Vegetation Laws in Australia in some ways. We have recently seen some pleasing reforms to Native Vegetation Laws, in terms of improved surveillance. Changes include use of satellites and drones for gathering data, giving us a better grasp of what is happening and where there is inappropriate behaviour. We lead the nation in investigating and working beside landholders, looking at ways they can ensure that where Native Vegetation is cleared there is a real incentive to ensure that restoration occurs. There is a real opportunity around carbon credits, and native vegetation methodologies are still being developed and coming into fruition. If we give value across multiple farming enterprises and let farmers have opportunities to realise value in retaining and enhancing native vegetation, I think carbon credit will create an incentive for restoring native Vegetation across the State.

From the Floor:

Question: What would you say has been your greatest achievement in your portfolio?

Answer: I have only been in the position for 14 months. If I am granted my request in the budget, to get that upswing in the DEW funding — a turnaround — it will be a very substantial achievement.

I have achieved my vision of 2016, which was to create Glenthorne Farm as a National Park. It is far from complete, but we are almost to the point of having it transferred to the DEW as a National Park — linking it with other areas to develop linked National Parks. It will engage thousands of people and weave a National Park into our suburbs.

Question: What are your views on many people's concerns that State Governments are allowing tour operators to develop precious areas in National Parks.

Answer: You are clearly referring to the Kangaroo Island project, which commenced with the previous Government, which gave \$832,000 to the Australian Walking Company (AWC). That Government established the Great Walking Trail. Bird watching holidays and walking holidays bring the highest value in tourist dollars. Those are the kinds of people we want to attract. People who will bring the most dollars are those who want higher quality holidays. AWC is a good company with a strong

Past General Meetings (cont.)

reputation. The contracts were signed before we came into power. A series of light pods in Flinders Chase National Park, are proposed. The Pods really have quite a minimal impact – but it is the access track that is of concern. They have a cumulate effect of 1.5 hectares. We have reduced the Pods by 20%, we have reduced the access pathways by approximately 2km. This project will happen in one form or another. If we are looking at these types of projects in the future, we have to work with Friends Groups. When working with people in parks we need to consider the footprints already created in our National Parks. These are the areas where we should be looking for accommodation, not greenfield areas. We need to consider the conservation dividend – what should the businesses be contributing. The people who want to visit these areas also want to know that their dollars are contributing to conservation. I have put the Department on notice. We were well down this track when I became Minister. Flinders Chase will happen in some form or another, but it will not happen in the form in which it was originally planned.

A Vote of Thanks to the Minister was proposed by John Gitsham and supported by all present.

Friday May 31

John Hatch Introduced the Guest Speaker, Doctor John Read, who presented to the Association a copy of his recently published book: **Among the Pigeons – the role of predators.**

For the last 30 years John has really been looking at cats. Animals not previously seen can be found inside feral cats. They eat just about everything. Analysis shows that they eat rabbits and hopping mice; and when these numbers drop, they switch to other prey. Cats are not only confined to areas around towns. They are everywhere on the continent, including out in the Simpson Desert.

A survey of domestic cats undertaken by Associate Professor David Paton in suburbs has been duplicated in NZ, UK and USA. The capture rate of some bird species exceeds the production rate of those birds. Even if a cat is kept indoors most of the time and only catches 2-3 birds a year, every second house has a cat and that adds up to more than the production rate.

In 1906 the impact of feral cats was noted. Most of the public don't care and not much has happened in that time. It is now increasingly important to keep cats indoors. Putting a bell on your cat does not provide adequate protection for birds. The cat just learns to walk more stealthily.

Feeding these stray cats, known as “community cats” is counterproductive. Cats are fast breeders. One cat can produce 40 kittens in a year. Research

done around the world shows that cats don't form a colony. They are solitary animals. Sometimes they will co-exist, forming a clowder of cats, the collective term for a group of cats, but they are solitary. We need to sterilize 90% of the cat population to have any impact.

There are hot spots of cat disease that affect a whole heap of wild life and can affect humans. Pregnant women should wash their hands after touching cats, there is a direct link between cat disease and birth defects.

Cat welfare organisations around the world don't like the idea of euthanasia. If you don't euthanise and you keep bringing cats into welfare organisations, then the only way to cope is to let the cats out again! In a “no kill” animal welfare society in USA in 2009 they distributed 80,000 ton of cat food for unowned cats. Statistics show that ‘high end’ cat food is rich in Mackerel, Salmon and Tuna – these marine resources are being depleted for the feeding of cats!! We are wasting resources on cats.

The issue is with their welfare, our health and protection of wild life.

We have worked on a project with a focus of “if you can't keep cat numbers down, then get our wildlife to become more cat alert”. This was trialled at Roxby Downs with Bilbies. The Bilby did learn, but in the end the project was not effective – cats killed them all.

Other innovations are “soft-jaw” leg hold traps, and the development of the “Felixer”, the groom trap. Cats are fastidious and the Felixer works by spraying toxins onto the cat. The sensor detects that the animal passing in front of it is a cat, and the device sprays the toxins onto it. The gel is fired out at 60 metres per second. Data shows that the risk of hitting anything other than a cat is very low.

Dingoes play an important role in the ecological



The Felixer
From the website Thylation.com

Past General Meetings (cont.)

balance. Where dingoes are present there are fewer cats.

The Felixer has been put in places where the Night Parrot has been re-discovered, for the protection of this rare bird. The innovative machine is very expensive and is still being refined.

Friday June 28



John Hatch Introduced the Speaker, John Gitsham, who presented **Impressions of Gluepot**, an account of his 18-year involvement with the Gluepot Reserve near Waikerie. John has been a member of Birds SA for about 20 years, has an interest in nature and wildlife, and is a semi-professional photographer. He has been Vice President, and is now President of Birds SA. John has been a driving force in the resurrection of Tolderol. In 2001 he was working at Yookamurra Sanctuary when he met Duncan MacKenzie who encouraged him to join the Gluepot Committee. He has stepped down from this role whilst he is President of Birds SA, but will return to the Gluepot Committee in the future. He has run the bird watching courses at Gluepot Reserve for the last 18 years. The Reserve consists of 55,000 hectares of remnant Mallee and over 280 bird species have been recorded there. It is part of the Bookmark biosphere, which was established in 1999. At that time, Gluepot was known to have one of the last Black-eared Miner populations. The owners wanted to burn the area, but the Department for the Environment prevented them, so they decided to sell the property instead. \$300,000 was raised in a couple of months and Gluepot Reserve was purchased. A considerable amount of work has been done since that time. There is a designated Research area called Birds-eye Block that is closed to the public so that it offers a place of escape for the birds. It is common to see 60-80 species at Gluepot, but the Black-eared Miner and the Grass-wren can be elusive. The habitat varies from Spinifex to low Mallee, Blue-bush, Black-oak and stands of Callitris Pine — a variety of habitat that is perfect for a variety of birds and provides great photography

opportunities. Since the fires in 2006 Native Grasses have increased. There are about 9 marked walks on the reserve. John helped to set up some of those walks. It is also a great area to ride a Mountain Bike for bird watching activities. Volunteers keep Gluepot running, there are no paid staff. The reserve contains three great camping locations, but visitors do have to be self-sufficient and no fires are permitted. In 2002-3 a Grant from the State Government enabled the beautiful **Michael Hyde Visitors Centre** to be built. Michael did all the botanical mapping of Gluepot. The Ranger's Residence has been fully restored and there is currently a 5-year waiting list to be a Volunteer Ranger at Gluepot. The historical shearing shed has, with grant funding, become an Environmental Education Centre where Bird Courses, Bird Photography and Nature Photography courses are run and other environmental events occur. The bird courses at Gluepot prompted the initiation of the current Birds SA Workers Education Association (WEA) Courses. Gluepot has won many awards and has inspired management programmes for running reserves around the world. Since the 2006 wildfire that started in Taylorville and crept into Gluepot and got out of control, intruding into nearly half of the Birdseye Block, prime Black-eared Miner country, fire-breaks have been cleared. It takes a long time for Mallee to recover from fire. The philosophy of Gluepot since then has been, protection of the old trees and habitat, while encouraging regrowth of habitat for birds. John does not have a bird-banding licence, but he has learned how to band birds from Wally Klau. Wally has been the main bird-bander at



Mallee Scrub on Gluepot Reserve

Past General Meetings (cont.)

Gluepot and he has assisted many researchers who are not licensed. Bird banding must be for scientific research. Currently there are 18 Mallee Fowl Grids on Gluepot. The Friends of Gluepot are involved in this survey work. John has been Bird Guiding at Gluepot for many years and escorted the Audubon Society's visit to Gluepot in 2016. It was a privilege to take these people around in the Gluepot Bus. He has been running Gluepot Bird Courses every year since 2002, and the 2-day course is always fully booked. Through these Gluepot Courses, WEA Courses and Natural Resources Management (NRM) he has probably inspired 500 people to become involved in birding. He has always remembered the words of Joan Paton – "you need a Mentor" – to help you choose binoculars, with bird identification, to instruct you in the ethics related to bird watching and to share the passion. John thinks he can achieve this by running Bird Courses and in September he will run his 19th course at Gluepot.

All but two of the dams at Gluepot have been bulldozed, in an attempt to return the area to its natural landscape. The two dams left: at the Homestead and opposite the Visitors Centre, are surrounded by feral-proof fences. Raised water platforms have been especially designed for birds. Bird Hides have been erected near these water points creating excellent photography opportunities. Remote cameras have been set up on these watering points and on the Mallee Fowl nests to aid research.

After John had completed his talk, Lynton Huxley reported that Birds SA will have their October Long Weekend Campout at Gluepot Bell-bird Campsite, which has been booked.

Friday July 26 – Members' Night

John Hatch introduced the following speakers;

1. Greg Sara, Indonesian Birds of Paradise.

Greg and Judy Sara travelled through parts of Indonesia with a Seatrack, Wallace Sails & Trails Tour. Judy took all the bird photographs Greg showed. The first illustration showed the route they travelled, including Raja Ampat.

Greg has always admired the work of Alfred Russel Wallace who visited the Malay Archipelago in 1854 and described it as "the land of the Orang-Utang and Birds of Paradise."

Wallace was a contemporary and friend of Darwin, and corresponded with him about this special area.

Greg and Judy's tour followed the faunal line that Wallace drew in 1859 and which separates the ecozones of Asia and Wallacea, a transitional zone between Asia & Australia.

He showed photos of the three Birds of Paradise that they saw. All had beautiful colours with amazing

tails. Wallace's Standardwing, which has long white tail feathers (much admired by collectors) the Red Bird of Paradise and the Wilson's Bird of Paradise, both with interesting curled black tail feathers (almost plastic looking). The Wilson's Bird of Paradise constructed an interesting display using a group of saplings. It stripped off all the leaves of the lower branches, removed the leaves from the site and created a space under the trees in which to attract a female.

Greg encouraged any member who was interested in this area to read the book The Malay Archipelago by Alfred Russel Wallace, first published in 1869. It is a Penguin Classic and is still in print.



Wilson's Bird of Paradise

Photographed by Judy Sara on Waigeo Island, Raja Ampat Regency, West Papua, Indonesia.

2. Stephen Ramm, The Australian Gannet

A family birding trip to the Southeast included a trip to see the Australian Gannets in Victoria at Point Danger and Lawrence rocks. A local contact took him and his family to see the Point Danger Colony.

Stephen admitted that he was not an experienced birder but that this visit increased his interest in these birds and he was interested to find out more about them and why they were in this colony at Point Danger. He did some research to discover that the original colony was on the offshore island of Lawrence rocks. He also discovered that in 1873 there were 200 pairs and in 1996 3,100 pairs. Currently 6000 pairs are packed onto that small island. In 1995 the overflow of birds set up the colony on Point Danger on the mainland. The colony is protected by the community with a feral proof fence and is not open to the public. However, contact with a local person enabled him and his family to have access to the colony.

Past General Meetings (cont.)

He showed a distribution map and pointed out the colonies in offshore locations: the Victorian colonies, the SA colony at Cape Jaffa and two in NZ. He showed photographs of these elegant and beautiful birds and gave detailed descriptions. He gave a very good Gannet call.

He discussed and gave a very amusing description of the agonistic displays, with beautiful photos of breeding displays, preening, and a fledgling.

He mentioned that another species of gannets, Cape Gannets are occasionally seen at Point Danger.

His photos of the feeding flight of the birds were excellent and he encouraged anyone who hasn't



Australian Gannets with fledgling photographed by Stephen Ramm in 2019 in Point Danger Reserve, Portland, Victoria

seen them to visit Victoria or Cape Jaffa in SA.

Stephen's animated, interesting and enthusiastic talk was most appreciated by members.

3. Davide Gaglio. Bird Photography as a Tool for Science.

Davide is an Ornithologist who was working in South Africa, researching prey-carrying seabirds including African Penguins, cormorants and gannets. There was a large population of pelagic fish for the seabirds, but due to overfishing the seabird population had been severely depleted.

He concentrated on Crested Terns, a bird whose numbers were increasing, so he was curious to know what they were eating. These birds are normally single prey loaders, which means they carry one fish at a time in their beak to feed their young. He used his camera to get photos of the birds carrying the fish and from those photos he identified the ten different fish species caught, together with the size and length of the fish. The prey included: anchovies, herrings, sardines, sole, pilot fish, even sharks, octopus and a mole cricket.

During the breeding season he photographed multi-prey loads, when the birds were carrying up to eleven fish in their beaks. These photos have been

published in many scientific journals. Interestingly one photo identified a Crested Tern that was thirty four years old.

Currently scientists are using photos to study the moults of birds, and the diets of different species, such as Black Skimmers.

Combined with Citizen Science activities and their photographs and Facebook photos etc., scientists are researching, writing and publishing papers without going into the field. Google is being used for Geographical variations in Kestrels, while U-Tube photos and videos are also contributing scientific information. Google Earth is being used by birdwatchers to record birds they have seen.

Davide urged all photographers to avoid disturbing the birds, especially their nests, to obtain photographs.



Greater Crested Tern

photographed by Davide Gaglio on Robbin Island, South Africa in 2105

4. Peter Martin. Lord Howe Island.

In May 2019 Peter visited Lord Howe Island, which is in the Pacific Ocean east of Sydney. British settlers travelling to Norfolk Island accidentally discovered Lord Howe Island in 1788.

Peter showed photos of the geographical aspects of this beautiful area, including Mount Gower, the settlement, beaches and the offshore islands. It is a volcanic landscape and extends out to Balls Pyramid where the Phasmid Stick Insect (thought to be extinct) was recently re-discovered. As soon as settlement occurred, birds quickly became extinct. Three species were extinct by the 1850s and another 3 were gone by 1915. Now most feral animals have been removed from the main island and 209 species of birds have been recorded. Peter showed photographs of birds (some endemic) on the island. These included; Emerald Dove, Golden Whistler, currawong, kestrel, kingfisher and silvereye.

The famous Lord Howe Island Woodhen was becoming rare due to predation by rats and cats but

Past General Meetings (cont.)/Future General Meetings

eradication of these feral animals has resulted in a successful breeding program and the numbers of birds have increased. Another rat baiting program is currently underway and all the Woodhens are in a secure area.

In May there were few shorebirds, but Peter showed photographs of Golden Plovers, boobies, Brown Noddies, Grey Ternlets, Flesh Footed Shearwaters and Red-Tailed Tropicbirds. Peter also mentioned 30,000 Providence Petrels were in the area around the island and Balls Pyramid.

5. Lou Jayleigh. Birds of Singapore

In April 2019 Lou and her son visited Singapore on a birding trip. Lou said that Singapore is an easy birding location, because it contains a high density of birds and is an easy island to move around. However, it was very hot & humid.

The island contains about 300 parks and reserves. Some of them are quite large and all are well sign posted. She visited Singei Buloh Wetland Reserve,



Spotted Wood Owl

photographed by Lou Jayleigh in 2019
in a park around Singapore

which was very dry; but she did see bitterns and storks. Lou showed photos of the birds she saw in

Pasil Ristown Park. These included sunbirds, tailorbirds, woodpeckers, pigeons, robins, owls, nightjars, flowerpeckers and many kingfishers. Singaporeans are very reserved and no bird tours were available. However bird sightings were posted on Facebook.

Lou gave a few tips for travelling in Singapore. She suggested using taxis as they are cheap; and when birdwatching follow the paparazzi in the parks to find the birds.

She also showed photos of the other creatures she saw which included snakes, lizards, monkeys and many crocodiles.

FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held in the Charles Hawker building of the Waite Institute on Waite Road Urrbrae on the last Friday of every month except December, public holidays or prior to a long weekend.

The doors are opened at 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.45pm.

Friday September 27.

Greg and Judy Sara will speak on their trip to Sulawesi. This island has proved to be a popular birding destination for Australians.

Friday October 25

Chris Hedger and others from The Department of Environment and Water (DEW) will talk about the Mallee Emu-wren Translocation Project.

Friday November 29

This will be another Members' Night when four or five speakers will give short talks on a variety of subjects. These occasions have always proved very popular and I still have spots available for this meeting. Please contact me, John Hatch, if you would like to participate. There is plenty of time to work up that short talk or assemble those photos! Don't be shy. Several people have really enjoyed giving a talk when they finally took the plunge.

Further details on the November speakers will be provided on line.

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

Past Excursions

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

4 MAY: BULLOCK HILL CP

17 Birders met at Ashbourne in The Greenman car park. We then drove in convoy to Bullock Hill Conservation Park. The weather was partly cloudy with light winds, so good for our outing.

The leader decided to take the group east along the southern boundary for the start. The first sighting for all to see was a Brush Bronzewing out in the open paddock next to the park. The rest of the track east proved hard birding with only squabbling New Holland Honeyeaters at the fore. They were our most abundant species with over 100 counted. A few people at the front saw an Eastern Spinebill. Heading into the park was seen by per where the open woodland meets the dense prickly Acacia brought more birds for us to see. Elegant Parrots were a highlight with 20 recorded. As we headed further up the hills to the Northern boundary of this more open section some more interesting birds were recorded. These were Southern Whiteface 1, Hooded Robins 2, Peaceful Doves 3 and Red-browed Finches 20.

Our walk took just over 3 hours to complete and our final tally was 34 species. We recorded only one raptor being a Brown Falcon gliding high above us. Three people, who had left the group early recorded the only Golden Whistler. They relayed the message to the leader. Other interesting sightings were Sulphur-crested Cockatoos 7, Red-rump Parrots 10, Red Wattlebirds 10, Brown-headed Honeyeaters 5, Striated Pardalotes 12, Dusky Woodswallows 2 and the unusual sighting of only one White-browed Babbler.

Denzel Murfet

BIRDS SA

11 MAY: ALDINGA SCRUB

Rain throughout summer and early autumn 2019 had been scarce until the first days of May. In the 10 days leading up to the Aldinga Scrub field trip, 52mm had fallen at nearby Noarlunga; but despite this recent rain, the Aldinga Scrub still showed the signs of stress caused by lack of rainfall. The weather that day was a cool 15° and the wind was a breezy 30km/hr. Bird numbers were below expectations.

Thirty enthusiastic birders met at the Cox Road entrance and headed north along the Yacca Track. Early sightings were a trio of Black-faced Cuckoo Shrikes, numerous White-plumed Honeyeaters and a small family of Superb Fairywrens. Standouts for the morning were a male Golden Whistler, a single Crested Shrike-tit, several flocks of Elegant Parrots and an Australian Ringneck, identified as a Port

Lincoln Ringneck subspecies, possibly an aviary escapee. Numerous Western Grey Kangaroos were also sighted in the park that morning, relatively close to the track and in range for photographs.

The group headed northeast to the wetlands that on previous trips had yielded numerous water birds including a reasonable number of duck species. On arrival 6 Pacific Black Ducks took flight but the wetlands contained no other wetland birds and the water level was low. Also missed were the often seen Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

Further on, the vast wetlands were completely dry, revealing just a pair of Masked Lapwings and Dusky Woodswallows hunting insects on the wing. The group headed east to the fence line and then headed south back to the park entrance. The birdcall over lunch revealed 37 species with further highlights including numerous Eastern Rosellas (15), Elegant Parrots (50), Eastern Spinebills (3), Mistletoebirds (5) and a dozen Dusky Woodswallows.

After lunch, many of the group ventured to the Aldinga Washpool, a first visit for many and a pair of Black-winged Stilts were seen feeding close to the road and Welcome Swallows were capturing insects in flight.

The author then ventured back to Aldinga Scrub for a short walk west along the Boomerang Track, a known spot for birds such as the Red-browed Firetail and Grey Fantail. A Common Bronzewing and a Grey Fantail were spotted, which added two more to the day's list for the Aldinga Scrub, taking the list to 39.

Alan Burns



Black-winged Stilt
photographed by Alan Burns
in Aldinga Washpool on 11/05/2019

Past Excursions (cont.)

BIRDS SA

16 MAY: WATIPARINGA RESERVE, EDEN HILLS

Twenty people gathered for this excursion in a remnant Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) grassy woodland that lies adjacent to Shepherds Hill Recreation Park. The property belongs to the National Trust.

Unfortunately, it proved almost impossible to obtain a reasonable map of the property and any walking trails, as even on the National Trust website, the area was treated as just a bit of an add-on to Shepherds Hill. Therefore, we had to just 'give it a go' which resulted in the discovery that only a relatively small area was realistically accessible from our starting point (Gloucester Ave, Belair). Trails leading to the lower section of the reserve and then on into Shepherds Hill were extremely steep and slippery. As a result our excursion was shorter than usual.

We started on top of the hill and headed along the ridgeline where we encountered mainly parrots, cockatoos and lorikeets. These included Adelaide Rosellas (20), Sulphur-crested Cockatoos (10), Rainbow Lorikeets (30), Musk Lorikeets (12), Galahs (4) and Eastern Rosellas (10). Magpies (20), Grey Currawongs (4), Little Ravens (6) and Red Wattlebirds (40) were also present.

Some of the group then braved the steep descent down towards the Viaduct Track while others took another track back towards higher ground. Between the two groups we saw or heard New Holland Honeyeater (1), Eastern Spinebill (1), Grey Fantail (1), Mistletoebirds (2), Weebills (10), Striated Thornbills (4), Striated Pardalotes (40), Silvereyes (15) and Grey Shrikethrush (2). A lone Crested Pigeon was also seen.

After a short foray beside the railway track both groups re-converged and continued back to the car park where we had an early lunch and held the bird call. Twenty species were listed for the day.

Ali Ben Kahn

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

MAY 2019: WITCHELINA NATURE RESERVE

Friday, 17th

It was a lovely sunny day when four keen birders met at Lyndhurst before we headed off to Witchelina nature reserve for our weekend campout. Two were from Whyalla and one each from Pt. Pirie and Mambray Creek. On the way to Lyndhurst a quick stop at Retention Dam, just north of Copley, yielded 28 bird species with the Blue-billed Duck, Freckled Duck and Great Crested Grebe the stand-out species. We had a look at the old Farina township that is being restored by volunteers on the way to Wichelina, but unfortunately the bakery wasn't open. We arrived at the homestead after lunch and met the

rostered caretakers, both who are members of our local bird group from Quorn. The drought was very evident during our trip from down south. All the dams and watercourses were bone dry, the ground was bare and bird sightings were very low. After some discussion and smoko it was decided to go to Kingston Well, which is about 15km from the homestead. We drove along a dusty track that followed red gum lined creek beds and over rocky undulating hills. Birds were hard to find until we arrived at the Kingston Well area, which contained a patch of Mallee scrub along a watercourse. Rufous Fieldwrens and Black-faced Woodswallows were found before we were at the old well and we found 13 bird species in the mallee and surrounding bluebush scrub. The highlights were Mallee Ringneck, Mistletoebird, Rufous Whistler, Common Bronzewing and a Collared Sparrowhawk. We returned to the homestead to settle in and plan our next day's birding routes.

Saturday, 18th.

We awoke early to walk around the Witchelina homestead area. The dam was dry but there are a few watering points: at the homestead, the dam and the shearing shed. The area is mainly bluebush-covered rocky undulating hills cut by small, scrub-lined creeks and large Red Gum creeks. 21 bird species were found including the usual Australian Ravens, Galahs, Willie Wagtails, Crested Pigeons, White-winged Fairywrens, White-plumed and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, hundreds of Zebra Finches, etc. White-browed Babblers were here but not seen anywhere else on our trip so far. Mistletoebirds were found almost everywhere due to the Mistletoe flowering, while Mulga Parrots and a Collared



Black-breasted Buzzard
Photographed by Bernie Haase
on 17/5/2019 at Witchelina

Sparrowhawk made our bird list more interesting.

Past Excursions (cont.)

The highlight was a Black-breasted Buzzard, which appeared to be almost starving, allowing us to approach it to take photos while it was on the ground.

We decided that we would undertake the 'Witchelina dunes and wildflowers' drive, which goes to the southern half of the property circumnavigating Termination Hill. It is mostly undulating rocky and hilly terrain covered with bluebush and saltbush with some grassland gibber plains. There are extensive sand dunes at the southern end of the track and some Red Gum creek lines. Many Wedge-tailed Eagles were conspicuous as we travelled, while Chirruping Wedgebills, Black-faced Woodswallows, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters and Mistletoebirds were common. Other birds found were a Little Button Quail, Brown Falcon, White-backed Swallows, Pied and White-fronted Honeyeaters, Blue Bonnets, Elegant Parrots, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Crimson Chats and flocks of Little Crows. A single Emu was seen and it looked in poor condition. 22 bird species were found along the track. We returned to the homestead and saw the surprising defeat of the Labor party on the TV and wondered what was going to happen to Australia's natural environment under the business at any cost orientated Liberals.

Sunday, 19th.

On another fine day we headed off towards the hilly north western part of the property, led by the caretaker and fellow birder, via the rarely visited Berlina Well and on to Rischbieth Well. At Berlina Well we found 13 bird species, with the usual birds seen previously and a White-winged Triller, Elegant Parrots, Variegated Fairywrens and many Tree Martins. As we travelled on through a valley of sculptured rock formations and stopped for lunch we added Chestnut-rumped Thornbills to our bird list. These would be the only t13/8/2109at Shornbills found during the trip. At Rischbieth Well we looked at the old homestead ruins and also found 9 bird species with more White-winged Trillers, Mulga Parrots, a Rufous Whistler and 4 Mistletoebirds feeding on the numerous Mistletoe plants growing on the *Acacia victoriae* there. It was getting late so we headed back home through some hills that had been an extensive old copper mining area; but there were very few birds thanks to the drought. A total of 47 bird species were found on Witchelina, with the birds of the area being the Black-breasted Buzzard and the Pied Honeyeaters.

Monday, 20th

We packed up our gear, checked our vehicles,

repaired a flat tyre and said goodbye to our fellow birder caretakers and headed back towards Farina. A short stop on the way to look for Thick-billed Grasswrens proved fruitless. We had decided to go north to Marree and then on to Muloorina waterhole to look for birds there. This was a good choice as it is a lovely hot artesian bore overflow, with a large waterhole full of reed beds and surrounded by shady coolibah trees. The first birds to greet us were 3 Brolgas strolling around and not afraid of us. I suspect they were the pets of the nearby station homestead. We found 47 bird species here over the rest of the day and next morning. A flock of Masked Woodswallows flew high overhead and around the waterhole area we found Black-faced and White-breasted Woodswallows, Magpie Larks, Black Duck, Grey Teal, Black-fronted Dotterels, Reed Warblers, Little Grassbirds, Black and Whistling Kites, Peaceful Doves, a Purple Swampphen, Coots, Black-winged Stilts, Tree and Fairy Martins, White-backed and Welcome Swallows, White-browed Babblers, Variegated Fairywrens, White-winged Trillers, Grey Fantail, Australasian Grebes, Spotted and Spotless Crakes, Darter, Sacred Kingfisher, Blue Bonnets, Black Swans with cygnets, Swamp Harrier, Brown Falcon, 3 Black-breasted Buzzards, White-plumed and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, many sparrows, etc. The Plum-headed Finches a tourist said he saw were actually sparrows. The birds of this area are the Black-breasted Buzzards, Swamp Harrier and the Brolgas.

B.Haase.

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

1 JUNE: SCOTT CP

It was a fine, overcast, cool, calm morning. 22 birders met at Scott Conservation Park for the outing. Unfortunately, some members were unsure of the starting location and parked in the eastern (second) car park toward the Strathalbyn road. This worked fine as we were able to split the group to make the walk more manageable. Another plus is the creek crossings have had steps added to help getting down and up the banks.

The group I led did the northwestern end first. This small stretch proved very good with many Striated Pardalotes searching knotholes and vying for partners. Also, along this track we found White-naped and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, White-throated Treecreepers, Kookaburras, the only Golden Whistler, large numbers of Purple-crowned Lorikeets and some Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos flew over. As we passed the very eroded creek a few

Past Excursions (cont.)

members sighted some Brown Treecreepers. Once over the first creek crossing, the 3 Lorikeet species, Crimson Rosellas and Galahs produced a noisy environment. It was difficult to hear and find other birds, but a few White-browed Babblers did quickly cross our path and 2 Wood Ducks flew off from the small dam area. Just before the second creek crossing 2 Mallee Ringnecks were sighted amongst the Elegant and Red-rumped Parrots. After the second crossing we came to the internal track and turned east. While on this track we met the other group so could compare and note what else to lookout for. Buff-rumped Thornbill was one the other group had seen. Our group did find Striated Thornbill, Eastern Spinebill, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Crescent Honeyeater, Tree Martin, Silvereye and Grey Shrike-thrush while heading to the Eastern boundary. The dam at the East corner was dry but we did sight Welcome Swallows and hear Weebills. We went back over the third creek crossing then west along the road and back to our cars. The trip had taken about 3 hours.

Both groups were together for lunch and bird call. We all agreed that Purple-crown Lorikeet was the most abundant species seen, with over a hundred being recorded. The other bonus was everyone could get good views and hear the differences compared with the Musk Lorikeets — the second most common species recorded. While we were having lunch some Red-browed Finches showed themselves to give us a final tally of 39 species.

Denzel Murfet

BIRDS SA

2 JUNE: SANDY CREEK

Twenty-three people attended the excursion in uncertain weather. Fortunately the threatened showers didn't arrive while we were there. We started from the Conservation Road car park and proceeded in an anti-clockwise direction along the northern and then western boundary tracks.

Being a rather cold and grey day, birds were a bit sparse to start with apart from Peaceful Doves (40) which seemed to be calling everywhere. One Crested Pigeon was also recorded. As we continued other birds started appearing including Adelaide Rosellas (10), Galahs (10), Musk Lorikeets (10), Purple-crowned Lorikeets (4), Rainbow Lorikeets (8) and Red-rumped Parrots (30) of which we got very good views as they inspected hollows and posed nicely on dead trees and branches.

Honeyeaters included Brown-headed (10), New Holland (30), White-plumed (6), Yellow-faced (6), Eastern Spinebill (6) and Red Wattlebird (10). Thornbills also put in regular appearances with Buff-rumped (1), Striated (1) and Yellow (20) as well as Weebills (2), Striated Pardalotes (50), Silvereyes (6),

Brown Treecreeper (1), Superb Fairywrens (10), White-browed Babblers (12), Black-faced Cuckooshrike (1), Golden Whistler (1) and Rufous Whistlers (2).

When we reached the southern quarry we cut across to visit the exclosures installed many years ago (and a couple obviously more recently) by David Paton and other researchers to monitor grazing impacts, particularly grazing by kangaroos. Even the most cursory glance at what was growing inside was a salutary lesson on the impact of too many kangaroos within the reserve. We then joined the Wren Circuit and headed northwards.

Red-capped Robins (12), Grey Fantails (4), Willie Wagtails (4) and White-winged Choughs (50) were a cheerful accompaniment along this part of the trail. Other species seen included Grey Currawong (6) Little Raven (20) and Australian Magpie (6). One Whistling Kite and one Brown Goshawk were also seen, these being the only raptors observed. In all, thirty-six species were recorded for the day.

Ali Ben Kahn

BIRDS SA

15 JUNE: BROOKFIELD CP



White-winged Chough

photographed by Rose Slade
in Brookfield CP on 15/6/2019

Past Excursions (cont.)

On a beautiful Saturday morning, 22 keen birders and photographers met at the gate to Brookfield Conservation Park. After a quick introduction and welcome to some new members, and a bit of birding around the car park, the group walked down the track to the old homestead. We stopped half way along this track, and decided to split ourselves up into 4 groups. Two groups continued to walk along the track, whereas the other two decided to walk into the open scrub on the left hand side of the track. In this section of the park, we saw several small flocks of Mulga Parrots and Australian Ringnecks, a few Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Little Ravens, Striated Pardalotes, Chestnut-rumped and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Weebills, Grey Shrikethrushes, Hooded and Red-capped Robins, Mistletoebirds, Brown Treecreepers, and 1 Tree Martin, which was seen flying over the track. Several other interesting birds were seen in this area, such as small groups of Southern Whiteface, Chestnut-crowned Babblers, Varied Sittellas, an Australian Pipit, a Brush Bronzewing, and two Crested Bellbirds. The last were a lifer for some people.

After everyone had walked back to the parked cars, we headed down to the old homestead. On the way, some people were lucky enough to see a Hairy-nosed Wombat dive into its burrow. When we got to the old homestead, we saw a large flock of Galahs sitting in one of the tall trees, along with 1 Yellow-throated Miner, 6 White-winged Choughs, and 1 Little Pied Cormorant flying off in the distance.

As there weren't many other birds around the homestead, we decided to head into the Mallee area of the scrub. We stopped half way along the northern track, and walked into the Mallee in search of Chestnut Quail-Thrushes. No quail-thrushes were seen, but 1 was heard calling. In this area, we saw small flocks of Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, along with nesting Australian Ringnecks. After stopping here, we headed to the charcoal pits to look for a Gilbert's Whistler that had been seen there recently. We didn't find any whistlers, but one member of the group did find an old florin coin, which dated back to the 1930s, lying on the ground. After looking at the charcoal pits, we walked across the road to look for fairywrens, but we could not hear or see any, so we headed to the picnic area for lunch and a bird call. While we were eating lunch, we noticed millions of small black bugs on the ground. After a closer look, they resembled miniscule slaters.

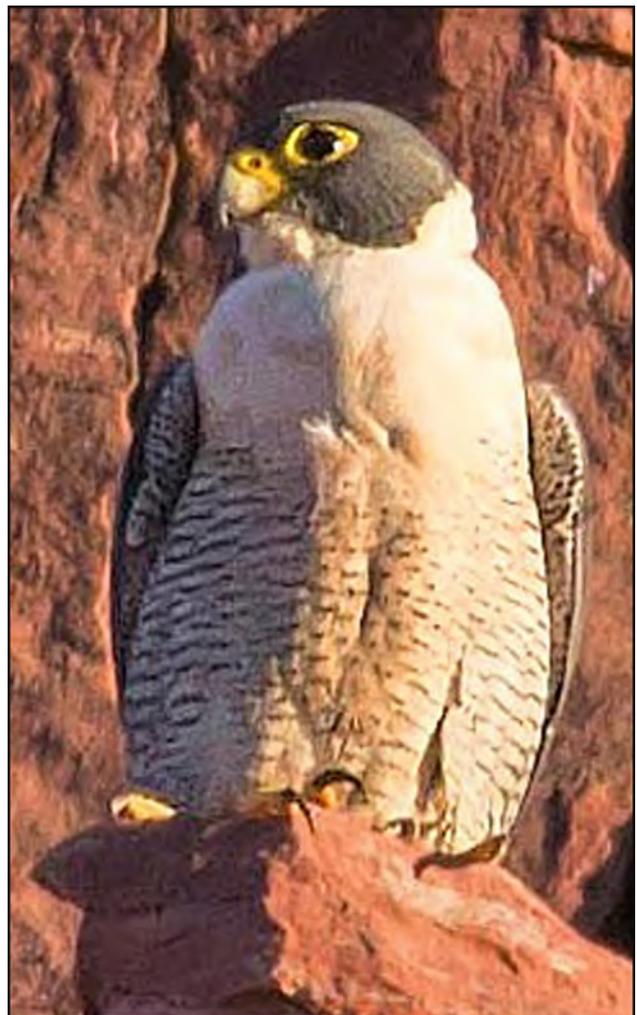
During the day, we had recorded 39 birdspecies, with one of those being heard only. After the bird call, we said our farewells and slowly departed the park. Brookfield Conservation Park is a beautiful

place with a great variety of habitats and many opportunities to experience rewarding birding. It is well worth a visit.

Miles Ramm

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) 16 JUNE: CARIWERLOO STATION

A group of 8 people met at the start of the Stuart highway in Pt. Augusta on a fine day for bird watching. We drove towards the turnoff to Cariewerloo station, stopping briefly to look at Dempsey Lake, which contained some water after recent rain. The only birds on the lake were Grey Teal and some Chestnut Teal. After we had driven along the Cariewerloo road for about 6km, skirting ponds of water on the way, we stopped near a patch of Black Oak trees and found a flock of 150 Galahs as well as Rufous Fieldwrens, White-winged



Peregrine Falcon

**Photographed by Larry Gruitt on 16 June, 2019
at Cariewerloo Station**

Past Excursions (cont.)

Fairywrens, White-fronted Chats, Pipits, Crested Pigeons, Southern Whitefaces, White-browed Babblers and a Willie Wagtail at ground level. In the trees and sparse shrubs there were Black-faced Woodswallows, Chirruping Wedgebills, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Australian Ravens, Starlings and Blue Bonnets and passing overhead were Wedge-tailed Eagles and Tree Martins. The countryside was still bare from the drought effects but the recent rain had brought life back into the bushes and shrubs, and there was a green tinge on the ground from the emerging herbs. We drove on and stopped for smoko, finding more of the birds we had seen before but added an Australian Magpie and Welcome Swallows, plus nesting Blue Bonnets. At the Carriewerloo shearing shed and dam, which had some water in it, there were Pink-eared Ducks, Grey Teal and Masked Lapwings at the water, while in the Red Gums around the dam were a flock of Little Corellas, Galahs, Magpies, Australian Ravens, Magpie-larks, Mistletoebirds, Singing Honeyeaters, Grey Butcherbirds and a Wedge-tailed Eagle. Another eagle, Welcome Swallows and a Whistling Kite glided overhead while a Willie Wagtail, babblers and Chirruping Wedgebills moved about in the bushes. A flock of House Sparrows were resident in the shearing shed area. Our next stop was for lunch at South Four Mile Dam where a Common Bronzewing, Variegated Fairywrens, Black-eared Cuckoo, Brown Falcon and Redthroats, that allowed us to get some good photos of them, were added to our bird list. We decided to go to Gunter Dam to look for Western Grasswrens in the area we had seen them before, but none were found. We did add Emus and Mulga Parrot to the list. Our last stop for the day was at Gunter Gorge where we found a Jacky Winter, Yellow-throated Miners and a pair of Peregrine Falcons. On our way back to the main road Port Lincoln Parrots and 9 more Mulga Parrots lengthened the bird list. 40 bird species were found for the day, with the birds of the day being the Peregrine Falcons, Black-eared Cuckoo and photogenic Redthroats.

B. Haase.

BIRDS SA

20 JUNE: JENKINS SCRUB

Twentyeight hardy members gathered on a very cold winter morning for this outing. Although rain was forecast for Adelaide we were lucky and it remained dry throughout the morning and only warming slightly. This was in sharp contrast to the last trip here that abandoned due to hail!

Travelling clockwise along the trail accessed opposite Mount Road we noticed that apart from very vocal Crescent Honeyeaters it was fairly quiet with only an occasional Rosella, Treecreeper or

Thornbill uttering any sound. The results of the storm a few weeks ago were very evident (lots of rain and high winds) with many trees blown over due to the waterlogged ground and numerous branches snapped off. Clearing of the pine forest to the south probably exacerbated the effects of the wind as there is no longer a wind break on that boundary. However, we did see 24 species including 4 Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters (a first at this location for Birds SA I believe). Other species of interest included Purple-crowned Lorikeet (30), Crescent (25) and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters (20), Eastern Spinebill (10), Buff-rumped (6), Yellow (11) and Striated Thornbills (4) and a single male Scarlet Robin. After an early lunch, one member stayed behind and managed to photograph a White-fronted Honeyeater, another first for this park. Although it was a very cold morning, a good time was had by all.

Martyn Price

BIRDS SA

30 JUNE: WHITES ROAD WETLANDS

17 members met on a cold 7° winter morning. It was cool and fairly windy for most of the walk with occasional patches of sun, and the temperature increasing to 14° for the bird call. The group included three new members, Lindsay Ames, Judith Gooden and Denise Wilkey. Little Ted Koop-Brown also joined us and brought his binoculars along to help his dad identify the birds. There were also a few members who had not previously visited Whites Rd. Work on the new northern connector freeway is fairly advanced and it is now evident how very close this



Royal Spoonbills
photographed by Lindsay Ames
at Whites Rd. on 30/6/2019

Past Excursions (cont.)

huge six-lane construction passes by the main western pond. Following the recent rains all but one of the ponds was full to overflowing, and new ponds appear to be forming along the creek bed adjacent to the bitumen track. This may be due to some change brought about by the road development. The high water levels had an impact on the species that are commonly seen here as no dotterels, crakes, egrets or stilts were around.

Notwithstanding the absence of so many species, we still managed to see 55 species and hear one, Striated Pardalote. The total bird count was 796. This compares with the February 2018 outing where 730 birds were counted over 65 species, and the September 2017 outing that produced 909 birds over 60 species. Apart from 100 Silver Gulls, ducks were the most abundant birds and included 70 Pacific

Black Ducks, 50 Chestnut Teals, 30 Grey Teals, 12 Pink-eared Ducks, 8 Hardheads and two Maned Ducks. Also present were 8 Freckled Ducks. They have been regular seasonal visitors since February 2017 and in September 2018 over 100 individuals were present. We counted one Hoary-headed Grebe and 4 Australasian Grebes. There were 43 Royal Spoonbills and 10 White Ibises,

15 Eurasian Coots, 5 Dusky Moorhens, 6 Australasian Swampheens and one solitary Black-tailed Native-hen.

Lorikeets were split evenly with 30 of both Rainbow and Musk. There were 12 each of Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Red-rumped Parrot. Also 30 White-plumed Honeyeaters, 20 New Holland Honeyeaters, 10 Singing Honeyeaters and one Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater. Five raptor species were seen being one Black-shouldered Kite, one Whistling Kite, one

Collard Sparrowhawk, one Peregrine Falcon and two Nankeen Kestrels. 50 Welcome Swallows were seen at various points during the walk, and along the bitumen track there were 5 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, 4 Laughing Kookaburras and two Grey Shrikethrushes. At the beginning of the walk a few flocks of Silvereyes passed overhead probably numbering about 40. We met at 12.45 had lunch and made the bird call.

After lunch we moved to an area outside the wetland, about 200 metres from the Whites Rd gate. A few of us were lucky to get a fleeting glimpse of a fully coloured male White-winged Fairy-wren. He seemed to be in the company of six or seven female/eclipse birds. This is an area about 300 metres from their original habitat, which was destroyed by the roadworks. They have been seen here before in recent months and hopefully they have now successfully relocated.

Rod Tetlow

FLEURIEU BIRDERS 6 JULY: NEWLAND HEAD CP

A good turnout of 25 birdwatchers assembled at the visitor parking area at the Newland Head camp ground on a pleasant sunny morning. After a short discussion we decided to do the Waitpinga Estuary and beach area first. With plenty of water in the creek and some overflow making a nice size pond many species were soon

spotted including Black-tailed Native Hen, Eurasian Coot, Black-fronted Dotterel, Pacific Black Duck and both Grey and Chestnut Teals, White-fronted Chat and Australian Pipit. Moving on a sharp-eyed birdo spotted a Brown Falcon perched on a shrub at the top of a sand dune. Many photographs were taken. We then proceeded to the beach. There was no sign of the Hooded Plovers many were hoping to see but we did add Gannet and Crested Tern that were crash-diving on a school of fish way out to sea.



Silvereye on a flowering yacca, photographed by Bob Daly at Newland Head on 06.07/2019

Past Excursions (cont.)

From the beach we walked over the large sand dune and back to the campground picking up Singing Honeyeater, Silvereye and Crimson Rosella. We then moved into the park proper and up through the old quarries and through the gate and into the recently erected Kangaroo proof fence. Birds were a little scarce at this stage but we had a good look at a Crescent Honeyeater feeding on the top of a large flowering Yacca. Moving on through the gate at the top of the enclosure we headed north down the fence line that divides the park from private land. Several Grey Currawongs were seen along with Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Willie Wagtails and the resident semi-tame Emu. Red Wattlebird and New Holland Honeyeater were present in large numbers as we walked down the track, and then 4 Black-faced Cuckoo Shrikes flew low over our heads.

We then turned west down by another newly erected enclosure and headed towards the Ridgeway Walking Trail picking up Golden Whistler, Grey Shrikethrush and then really good views of Purple-crowned Lorikeet feeding on a flowering gum.

It had been a long hard walk to this point and a few people were flagging, so we had a very short rest at the picnic table and away we went up the steep climb to the top of the walking trail. Again very few birds were seen in this section, which was strange as several plant species were in flower. At last we reached the top of the trail and it was thankfully downhill back to the campground. In this section we picked up Common Bronzewing and Grey Fantail.

Back at the car park chairs were quickly set up as people rested their weary legs. From our resting place we were able to view the estuary, and Yellow-billed Spoonbill along with Great Egret were added to the list. Our bird count was interrupted when a Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo was heard calling and then a keen-eyed Wendy Phillips spotted it sitting on a log just in front of us. Finally a Black-shouldered

Kite was spotted in the distance. Bird count revealed we had seen or heard 53 species for the day – a just reward for the 12.8km walk.

Winston Syson

BIRDS SA

13 JULY: RIVERGLADES WETLANDS, MURRAY BRIDGE

Unlike previous hot January / February visits to this location our mid-year field trip was a cold 7° to 12° with rain showers, but this did not deter a cheerful band of 15 members determined to go birding.

Surprisingly (to me at least) our species count was greater than we had recorded during our visits in the hotter months. Our total of 59 species included Australasian Shelduck (1), Black Swan (12), Pacific



White-winged Fairywrens
photographed by Lindsay Ames on
13/07/2019 on South Gap Station

Black Duck (30), Australasian Swamphen (12), Eurasian Coot (30); Australasian Darter (12), Cormorants included Little Black (12) and Great (6); Australian Pelican (10), White-faced Heron (1), Australian White Ibis (4), Straw-necked Ibis (7), Whistling Kite (2), Black-shouldered Kite (1) Black Kite (1) Masked Lapwing (2); Silver Gull (20); Rock Dove (6); Spotted Dove (3); Crested Pigeon (6); Galah (400); Little Corella (3); Red-rumped Parrot (30); Crimson Rosella (2); Rainbow Lorikeet (3); Musk Lorikeet (2); Superb Fairywren (12); Honeyeaters included White-plumed (20),

New Holland (20), Red Wattlebird (12); Noisy Miner (20); Australian Magpie (4); Black-faced Cuckooshrike (1); Willie Wagtail (1); Magpie-lark (6); Little Raven (6); Welcome Swallow (6). Members also heard Laughing Kookaburra, Grey Shrikethrush and Little Grassbird. These are included in the total species count.

Whilst having lunch we had several brief but heavy showers, but also some periods of clear blue sky which allowed all to have good sightings of two Little Eagles soaring above! On the drive out of the car

Past Excursions (cont.)

park most members also had another sighting of the Buff-banded Rail hunkered under a shrub near the caravan park entrance.

Lynton Huxley

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) JULY 2019 EXCURSION SOUTH GAP STATION

Saturday, 13th

It was a clear but cold day when 6 birders met at the start of the Stuart highway. Three of them were from Pt. Augusta and 1 each were from Adelaide, Pt. Neill and Mambray Creek. We drove along the highway to Bookaloo and turned off onto the road to South Gap. Road workers are constantly working on the road because it is used for access to the Carapateena mine site. The country was very dry although there was a tinge of green to the landscape from a recent rain. The birds were scarce until we got to the Whittata area and we found Crimson and White-fronted Chats, Southern Whitefaces, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Black-faced Woodswallows, White-browed Babblers and Willie Wagtails moving about on the ground. Blue Bonnets, a Crested Bellbird and a Brown Falcon were in the Mulga trees and Wedge-tailed Eagles were flying overhead. We drove on to the South Gap woolshed, passing mine vehicles and road trains on the way. The station owner met us and set us up in the shearers' quarters. Two more birders from Pt. Augusta were waiting for us and after lunch we headed off towards the main homestead. The owner's wife and sons had also joined us and we stopped at George's Dam to find Pink-eared Ducks, Grey Teal, Variegated Fairywrens, Mulga Parrots, a Grey Butcherbird, an Emu, a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Welcome Swallows, Tree Martins and a single White-fronted Chat. The next stop was Gypsum Dam that is ringed by River red gums. Here we added White-plumed and Singing Honeyeaters, Crested Pigeons, Australian Ravens, Pipits and Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos to our bird list. We drove on, looking at interesting plants on the way until we arrived at the homestead. After a cup of tea we returned to the shearer's quarters and settled in.

Sunday, 14th

It was another cold and partly cloudy morning when we went birding around the Woolshed Dam area. There were no water birds on the dam but in the trees around the dam were Magpies (black backed), a Mistletoebird, Magpie-larks, Grey Shrikethrush, Yellow-throated Miners, Zebra Finches, Common Bronzewing and a Collared Sparrowhawk. A flock of about a 100 Galahs flew past in loose groups. We

had a good time watching and photographing a mixed flock of Southern Whitefaces, Variegated and White-winged Fairywrens, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and a White-fronted Chat — all feeding on the ground and allowing us to get close to them. We also saw a flock of 6 Sparrows. We decided to drive to the northwest part of the property to a cane grass swamp area, passing some dams with a little water in them, but very few birds. The swamp was dry as expected with no birds to find so we travelled on along the western boundary. The area consists of sand dune ridges and swales with Mulga and Black Oak trees dominating. We stopped for lunch and some birding finding Blue Bonnets, Magpies (white backed), Galahs, Grey Butcherbirds, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Southern Whitefaces, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Mulga Parrots, Australian Ravens, a Wedge-tailed Eagle and a new bird for the list — Red-capped Robin. We drove on to the Whittata area and back to the woolshed along the busy main road. We didn't find many birds for the day other than at the camp area, but it was an enjoyable day.

Monday, 15th

We packed up our gear and cleaned up the facilities, and then walked to the nearby sand dune area. It was cloudy, cold and windy but nice in the sheltered treed areas in the swales between the dunes. A couple of Emus, more Black-faced Woodswallows, Red-capped Robins, a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, White-browed Babblers, Southern Whitefaces, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, with a Yellow-rumped Thornbill, an Inland Thornbill that was mimicking a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Grey Shrikethrush, Crested Bellbird and a pair of Rufous Whistlers. We returned to the camp, said goodbye to the owners, headed back to the Whittata area and turned off to look at the Soak Well area, which has a flood plain. This was dry of course, but we saw 7 Banded Lapwings, Starlings and more Crimson Chats, plus some of the other birds we had already seen. We moved on, stopping to look for Splendid Fairy-wrens in likely looking areas, but with no luck. We enjoyed lunch at Wangamoodla Dam with another scarce Emu. We had seen only 4 Emus this trip and not many kangaroos either, due to the drought. An Owlet-nightjar was added to the list here. It was time to head home as some of us had some distances to travel. We had found a total of 45 bird species, with the birds of the trip being the Owlet-nightjar, Banded Lapwings, Collared Sparrowhawk, Crested Bellbird and Crimson Chat.

B. Haase

Past Excursions (cont.)

BIRDS SA

18 JULY: TANGARI REGIONAL PARK, WOODCROFT & BYARDS ROAD WETLANDS REYNELLA EAST

Seventeen members fronted up for this midweek excursion on a coolish morning with the threat of rain at any moment. We were delayed at the start due to an abandoned black BMW vehicle in the car park with its windows down. Despite leaving our fingerprints everywhere, I believe at this point no members have been arrested!

Our local guide Heather led the group along the well-worn tracks of this Park. The light was poor, which made most birds sighted hard to photograph or pickup with the binoculars. While we counted a total of only 22 species we were constantly seeing Wood Ducks roosting in the trees near large hollows. Breeding for them must be very near. The predominant species sighted here included Little Corella (50), Long-billed Corella (6), Galah (30), Musk Lorikeet (25), Rainbow Lorikeet (20), Red Wattlebird (15), Noisy Miner (10), Eastern Rosella (12), Purple-crowned Lorikeet (8), and New Holland Honeyeater (6). Since we had completed the walk by 10.30am we agreed to relocate to Byards Road Wetlands and complete a survey of that site as well. Recent and sustained rain had transformed the Byards Wetlands since our visit in April this year, during which 39 species were recorded. The ponds were now nearly full and the vegetation was obviously more luxuriant. However, the total species noted this time was down to 29. The main species seen included Welcome Swallow (20), Rock Dove (15) New Holland Honeyeater (10), Noisy Miner (15) Common Bronzewing (3), Striated Pardalote (3), White-plumed Honeyeater (6), Superb Fairywren (4), Musk Lorikeet (3), Crimson Rosella (2), and Eastern Rosella (2). A single Black-fronted Dotterel was seen on the edge of one pond, while Australasian Swamphen (4), Dusky Moorhen (2), Eurasian Coot (6), Pacific Black Duck (10), Maned Duck (10), Grey Teal (2) and Hoary-headed Grebe (3) were enjoying the deeper water.

It turned out to be an enjoyable morning – no rain, no hassles and some good birding.

Lynton Huxley

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

3 AUGUST: NURRAGI

16 Adults and 5 children met at the main entrance to Nurragi Conservation Reserve on the Eastern end of the track. This was the old railway line that came off the main Adelaide to Victor Harbor line and branched off from Sandergrrove to Milang. The line closed in 1970 and the Strathalbyn Field Naturalists recognised the importance of the small amount of remaining Mallee vegetation along the line.



**Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
photographed by Bob Daly
at Nurrangi on 3.8.2019**

Considering 98% of the original vegetation has been cleared for farming, this little pocket of bushland was thought to be worth saving and the National Trust and the Friends of Nurragi now manage it. Many rare plants are to be found here.

Although it was a very grey day, it was calm and there was no rain. We could hear a number of birds calling, but we had to work hard to find them in the poor light.

Finding birds with nesting material in their beaks provide special highlights. A pair of Spotted Pardalotes had a group of us spellbound, as they had drilled a small round hole into the ground near the fence line. Babblers were photographed with nesting material as well.

As we walked through the reserve the thornbills had us all guessing! Weebills were noisy and we found Yellow-rumped, Buff-rumped and Yellow Thornbills. A tiny nest was spotted with a side entrance. It was believed to be a Weebill's.

Several Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoos were calling in the distance. A Peaceful Dove was sighted and later a Brush Bronzewing reported.

Past Excursions (cont.)

Eight species of Honeyeaters, including one Yellow-plumed, were seen. Brown-headed were particularly noisy and seemed to be the most abundant for the day. Spiny-cheeked were also heard in the distance, but as the eucalypts were not flowering yet, it was hard to see them close up.

The 5 kids attending all found other objects of interest including old cow bones. They particularly enjoyed climbing the trees near the car park while we had lunch and made the bird call.

Four people extended their walk further west to Nurragi Rd. and found a few more species. We saw a few parrots flying overhead and thought they were Mallee Ringnecks and found out later they were spotted near a tree hollow further down the road.

We tallied 36 species in this little reserve. In warmer weather when more plants are flowering there will be more.

Wendy Phillips



Josie, Nina and Emile Adam
in front of a 'Snoggle-goggle plant'



Brush Bronzewing

Photographed at Arno Bay on 31/03/2019



Common Bronzewing

Photographed at Laratinga on 09/01/2109

Trevor Cox photographed both birds

Future Excursions

Field Program and Campout Co-ordinator (FGC)
Lynton Huxley
Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038
Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au
Or lyntonhuxley@gmail.com

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

Photographs for The Birder, taken by any member of the group, are always welcome.

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

Reports should not exceed 500 words in length.

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 for 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 Haase, 0419863834,
b.haase@telstra.com

BIRDS SA

Sunday 1 September: Manning Flora & Fauna Reserve, McLaren Flat (Easy) (MLR) 32km. Meet at 8.30am at the Manning Reserve track entrance located off Kays Road about 500meters from the junction with Whitings Road.

TRIP LEADER: Stephen Ramm

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Saturday 7 September: Muntiri Eco-lodge

Meet at 8.30am on corner of Kindarura Rd. and Finnis-Clayton Rd, near Clayton Bay.

TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips

BIRDS SA

Saturday 14 September: Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina (Easy) (LA) 85km.

Meet at 8.30am. Take the road from Langhorne Creek to Wellington for approximately 5km and turn right into Dog Lake Road. Continue over a cross road, past a farm on the left hand side, pass through a gate, turn left on reaching the T-junction. Leave gates as you find them please.

TRIP LEADER: Stephen Ramm

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

Sunday 15 September at Bernie's Block

Meet at 8.00am at Mambray Creek Parking Bay.

TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haase

BIRDS SA

Thursday 19 September: Shepherds Hill Recreation Park (Difficult) (MM) 10km.

Meet at 8.30am at the car park on Ayliffes Road. The car park is located approx. 500m east of the intersection of Main South Road and Ayliffes Road.

TRIP LEADER: Brian Blaylock

BIRDS SA

Sunday 29 September: Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker (Easy) (MLR) 34km. Meet at the car park on Bald Hills Road, Mt. Barker at 8.30am.

TRIP LEADER: John Gitsham

BIRDS SA

OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND CAMPOUT (from 4th to 7th) will be held at Gluepot Reserve in SA's Riverland region (approx. 230km from Adelaide).

Full details of all arrangements for this campout are provided immediately following the Future Excursions information — on pages 35 to 37.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Future Excursions (cont.)

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Saturday 5 October: Black Swamp at Currency Creek

Meet 8.30am at the Currency Creek Winery car park, Winery Road, Currency Creek.

TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips

BIRDS SA

Saturday 12 October: Cowirra, a private property adjacent to the River Murray, Mannum (Easy) (MM) 100km.

There are two options to get to this property 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. Park on the roadside please. 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: Anna Woods

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

Sunday 13 October: Whyalla wetlands and effluent ponds.

Meet at the wetlands at 8.00am

TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haase

BIRDS SA

Thursday 17 October: Byards Road Wetland, Reynella East (Easy) (AP) 22km.

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

FLEURIEU BIRDERS 2019 ANNUAL CAMPOUT

Friday 18th to Wednesday 23rd October

Kangaroo Island

Campout Organiser, **KEITH JONES (mob: 0439 295 990, email: docjones@bigpond.net.au)**

BIRDS SA

Saturday 26 October: Anacotilla Springs, Second Valley (Difficult) (MLR) 87km.

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

travelled about 700m too far!)

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Saturday 2 November: Nangawooka Reserve, Meet at 8.30am at the car park off Waterport Rd, just off the main Victor Harbor and Adelaide road.

TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips

BIRDS SA

Sunday 3 November: 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: Lynton Huxley

BIRDS SA

Saturday 9 November: Magazine Road Wetlands, Dry Creek (Easy) (AP) 10km. Meet in the car park area at 8.30am. If you are travelling northwards on South Road, continue onto Salisbury Highway heading east. The road bends to the north and there is one road off to the left. This is Magazine Road. From the city, take Port Wakefield Road north, turning left up onto the Salisbury Highway heading to Port Adelaide. Once you are on the Salisbury Highway, you need to move over to the right hand lane so you are ready to turn right into Magazine Road Wetlands.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

Sunday 17th November, Birding around the Quorn local area

Meet at 8.00am at the Quorn Pool.

TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haase

BIRDS SA

Thursday 21 November: Belair National Park (Moderate) (MLR) 13km.

Meet at the car park inside the main gate off Upper Sturt Road, Belair at 8.30am. Note that car parking spaces are limited, so an alternative may be to park at the golf club and walk through to the meeting spot.

TRIP LEADER: David Williams

BIRDS SA

Sunday 1 December: Thompson Beach (Easy) (AP) 61km.

This excursion will commence at 8.00am (the high tide of approx. 2.59m is at 7.05am).

Travel north on the Port Wakefield Road to the Thompson Beach turnoff, on your left as you reach Dublin. Follow this road for about 10km and meet by the toilet facilities at Thompson Beach.

TRIP LEADER: Brian Walker

Future Excursions (cont.)

FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Saturday 7 December, Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker

Meet at **4pm** at the main car park Bald Hills Rd., Mt Barker

Note: After walk there will be a picnic tea.

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)

Sunday 8 December, Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens

Meet at the car park at 7.30am,

Note: Christmas Lunch in Cafe and showing of the year's best birding photos!

TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haase

BIRDS SA

Saturday 14 December: Myponga Reservoir Reserve (Easy) (MLR) 60km. Meet at 8.30am in the carpark off Hansen Street, Myponga (the Myponga Memorial Hall and public toilets are on this corner). The Myponga Reservoir Reserve is near the township of Myponga on the Fleurieu Peninsula about one hour drive south of Adelaide via Main South Road.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

BIRDS SA

Thursday 19 December: Kaiser Stuhl CP (Moderate) (MLR) 60km.

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

TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following 44 new members, who have joined the Association in the past few months.

Erik Dahl	Kersbrook	Michael Butt & Lisette Knobel	Flagstaff Hill
Lindsay Ames	Athelstone	Tim Sayer & Katie Clerk	Aldinga Beach
Sally Russell	North Haven	James, Cressida, Cy & Phoebe O'Hanlon	Walkerville
Geoff Squires	Strathalbyn	Noelene Magnusson & David Forster	Mitchell Park
Sam Bee	Athelstone	William, Janet & Kate Barratt	Tusmore
Bruce Eric Clarke	Kensington Park	Melanie, Daniel, Jasper, & Oscar Les	Basket Range
Keer Bu	Torrens ville	Karina, Graeme, & Georgia Bascombe	Tea Tree Gully
Bethany Treglown	Tranmere	Ian & Carole Forsyth	Gawler South
Graeme Walter	Encounter Bay	Dallas Tomalin	Para Hills
Judith Gooden	Nairne	Marg Bowyer	Paradise
Patricia Barrow	Goolwa	Jonathan Bowles	Glengowrie
Andrew Barker	Glenside	Leanne Lawrence	McLaren Vale
Sally Townsley	Goolwa South	James Condon	Croydon
Lee Tai	Enfield	Gary Wilson	Balaklava
John James	Netherby	Emiko Artemis	Encounter Bay
Tony Merchant	Black Forest	Ann Ricketts, Elizabeth Kerr & Margaretha Harcombe	Kersbrook

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Membership Officer, Alan Burns. His phone number is 8381 2708.

Birds SA October Campout 4-7 October 2019

The October Long Weekend Campout this year will be at Gluepot Reserve in SA's Riverland region, approximately 230km from Adelaide. This Reserve consists of a large (54,390ha) area of Mallee Scrub. Birds Australia purchased Gluepot Station in 1997 and now manages the property. It has become a very popular bird watching spot. Members are welcome to stay as long as they like before and after the weekend. On arrival, Members are requested to stop at the Visitor Centre to register and **pay appropriate fees: either \$5 per vehicle for a day visit or \$10 a night per vehicle to camp. Birds SA will not collect any money.** The Visitor Centre is very well set up with many pamphlets and brochures full of information. The map of the reserve is detailed and easy to follow, as are the maps describing the numerous walks.

The adjacent map provides directions for reaching the reserve from Waikerie.

Alternatively, travel to Morgan from Adelaide, through Kapunda and Eudunda, and then head towards Renmark until you reach the dirt road turnoff about 30km east of Morgan.

Once on the dirt road, which is negotiable in conventional passenger vehicles, keep following it north. Periodically, there are signs indicating the way to Gluepot. It is necessary to travel through several gates, so make sure you close them again. Please note that if there is any rain these roads may be closed

Please be aware that:

1. You will need to be self-sufficient with all food, drinking water, vehicle fuel, gas and camping equipment and you are responsible for taking your own rubbish out.
2. Due to quarantine requirements, you are not allowed to take fruit into the Riverland Fruit Fly zone. Detailed information is available from Primary Information and Resources SA (PIRSA) by phone or on their website.
3. Heavy rain may require the closure of property tracks. A handheld UHF radio or vehicle mounted unit is recommended. Mobile phone reception does not exist!
4. The meeting point will be at the Bellbird Campsite, whatever time you plan to arrive.
5. Camp ground facilities are limited to two drop-toilets. No holes are to be dug for personal toilets. Porta-potties can be used, but they **must not** be emptied into the long-drops.
- 6 There are no showers or potable water.
7. Planned camp activities include:

- Nightly 'Happy Hour' – you may consider



DIRECTIONS TO GLUEPOT RESERVE

1. TURN LEFT OUT OF SHELL SERVICE STATION.
2. TAKE FIRST TURN RIGHT TO FERRY.
3. AFTER FERRY CROSSING, FOLLOW BITUMEN ROAD TO MORGAN/RENMARK ROAD – 11 KM.
4. TURN LEFT AND TRAVEL 3 KM TO CHRISTADELPHIAN CHURCH ON RIGHT - LUNN ROAD.
5. TRAVEL 1.5 KM DOWN GRAVEL ROAD TO FIRST GATE
6. FOLLOW SIGNS TO GLUEPOT.

sharing your favourite nibbles; and

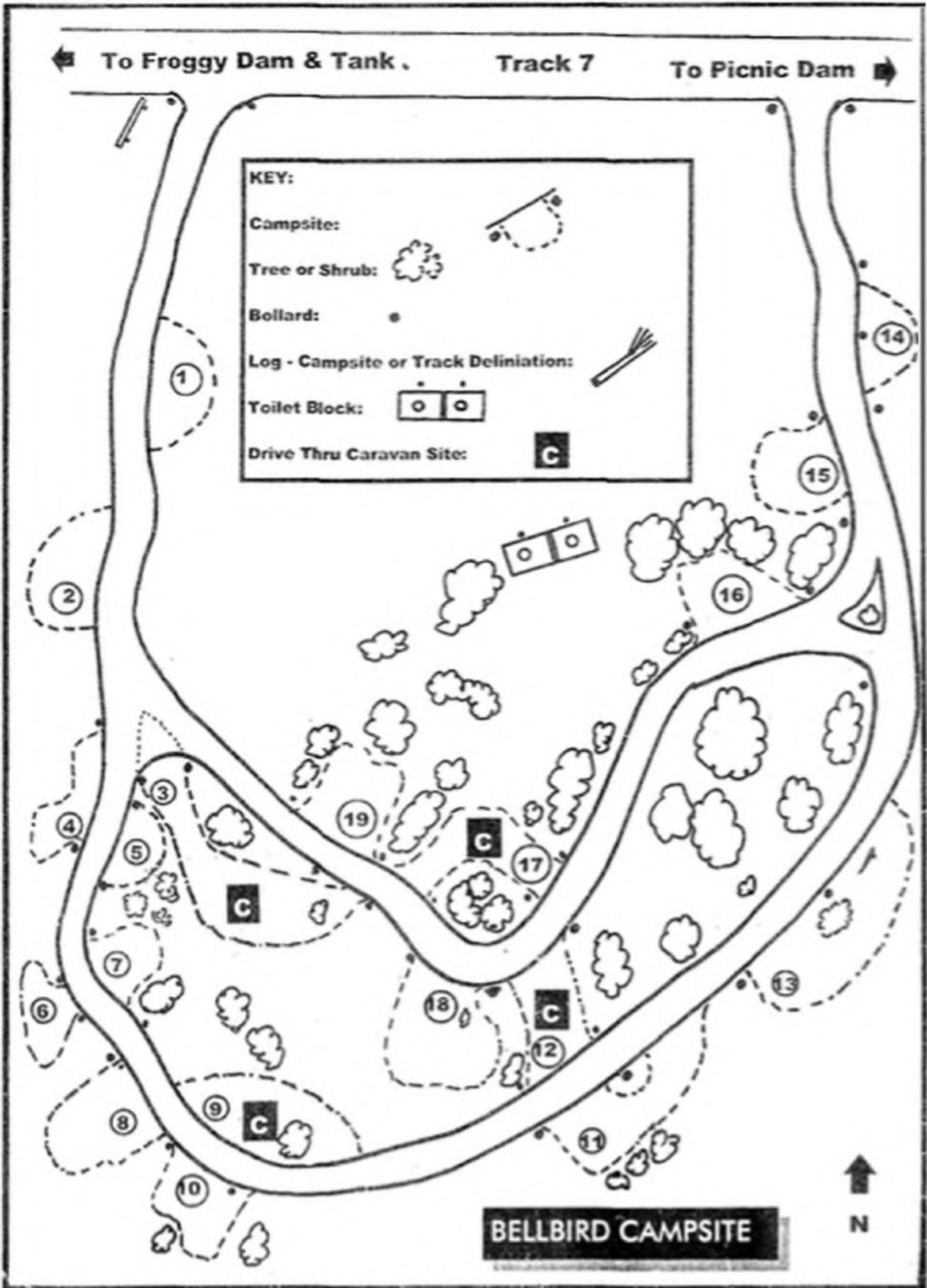
- Nightly bird call.

We have secured the Bellbird Campsite for exclusive use as our base for members. Refer to the map on the next page for the Bellbird site layout details. This is an excellent campground with 19 designated campsites, some of which are quite large; so with some sharing of sites, 23 campsites should be available. Members are asked to choose the minimal area they actually need, so that we can accommodate as many people as possible. We must stay within the boundaries of the campground and the sites marked. Once the campground is full, people will have to travel to one of the other campgrounds (either Sitella or Babbler).

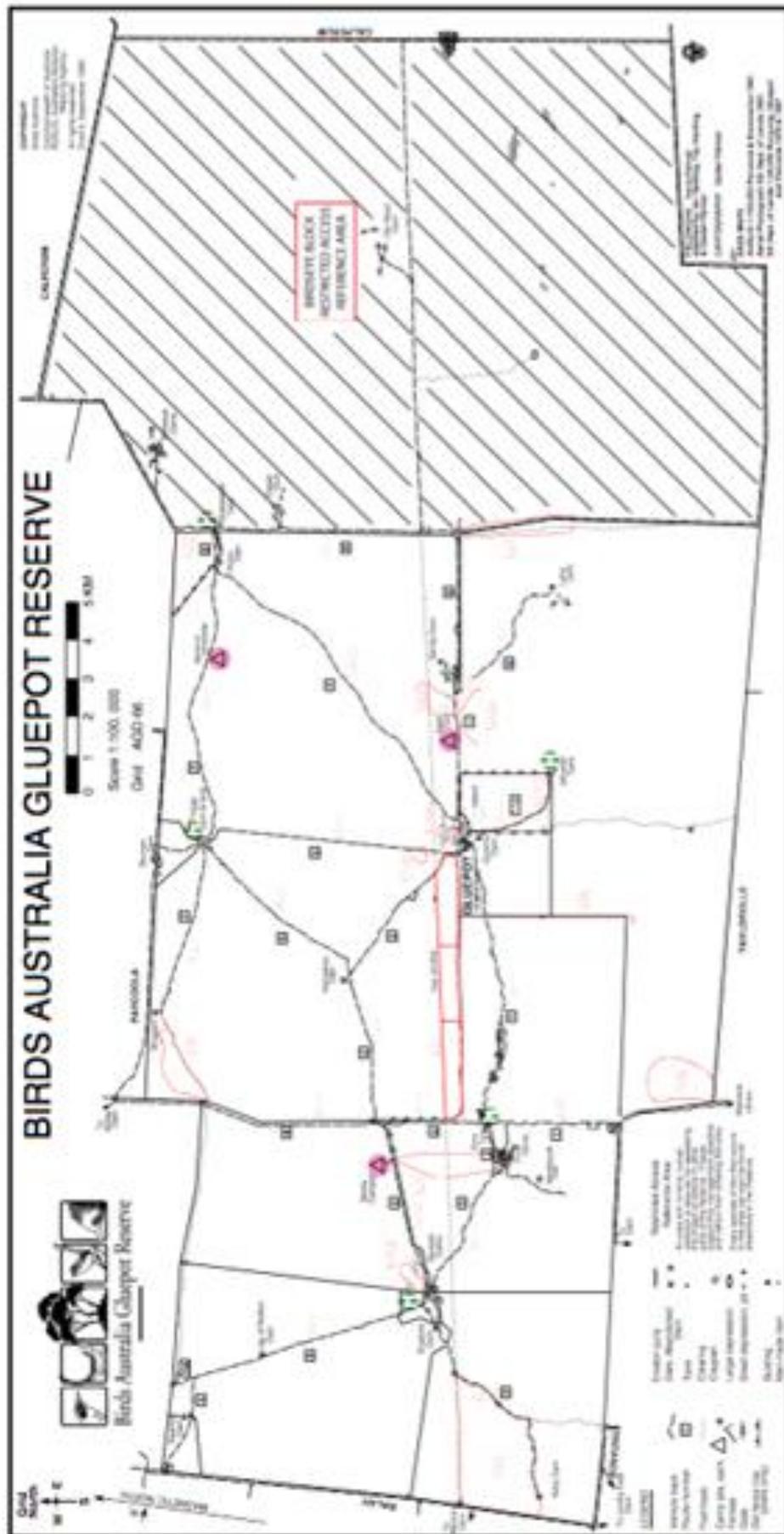
A Property Map and as well as the map of the Bellbird campground are provided on the following pages. Contact me if you require an Additional **Visitor Information** brochure.

Lynton Huxley
Campout Leader
lyntonhuxley@gmail.com
Phone: 0498 466 092

Birds SA October Campout 4-7 October 2019 (cont.)



Birds SA October Campout 4-7 October 2019 (cont.)



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 Birds SA website).
Bird Records

Peaceful Dove

12, 26/4/2019. Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Brown Quail

1, 12/5/2019. S of Meningie, MM.

Jack, T.

1 group, 30/6/2019. Granite Island, MLR.

Pace, D.

1, 12/7/2019. Kalamurina Wildlife Sanctuary, Warburton Ck, NE.

Bellchambers, K.

Great Crested Grebe

10, 17/5/2019. Leigh Creek retention dam, FR.

Haase, B. *et al.*

Blue-billed Duck

Additional reports of large numbers, including:

270, 14/4/2019. Bundaleer Reservoir, FR.

Haase, B. *et al.*

50, 17/5/2019. Leigh Creek retention dam, FR.

Haase, B. *et al.*

1200, 6/6/2019. Bolivar Sewage Works, AP.

Breed, W. *et al.*

15, 27/6/2019. Mount Alma Dam, Inman Valley, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

Freckled Duck

Additional reports from southern areas.

1, 19/4/2019. Thorndon Park Reservoir, MLR.

Treglown, B.

1, 5/5/2019. Glenthorne Farm, MLR.

Burns, A.

626, 19/5/2019. Millicent, Lake McIntyre, SE.

Boyle, S. *et al.*

400, 26/5/2019. Millicent, Lake McIntyre, SE.

Syson, W.

1, 27/6/2019. Mount Alma Dam, Inman Valley, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

2, 17/5/2019. Leigh Creek retention dam, FR.

Haase, B. *et al.*

Northern Royal Albatross

1, 28/7/2019. Off Port MacDonnell, MO.

Steeles, C. *et al.*

Various beach-washed seabirds reported following southerly storms in June and July, including:

Wandering Albatross

Imm. beach-washed, 15/7/2019. Noarlunga, MLR.

Reddin, B.

Grey-headed Albatross

Imm. beach-washed, 18/6/2019. Stokes Bay, KI.

Barth, M.

Southern Fulmar

1 live beach-washed, 5/6/2019. Murray Mouth, ocean beach, MM.

Grundy, S. & C.

1 beach-washed, 7/6/2019. Beachport, SE.

Tsernjavski, P.

Also reported beach-washed in WA, Vic, Tas and NSW in early June. Previous influxes in SA were in 2009 and 2005, with several sightings throughout the 1970s.

Fiordland Penguin

1, 30/7/2019. Flinders Chase NP, Weir Cove, KI. Seen swimming offshore.

Colbourne, D. & Miles, J.

Australasian Darter

2, 27/7/2019. Salt Creek, MM.

Green, B.

Bird Records (cont.)

Royal Spoonbill

170, 23/5/2019. St Kilda, AP.

Merchant, M.

Grey Goshawk

1, 20/4/2019. Rennick Forest, SE.

Green, B.

Letter-winged Kite

1, May 2019. Penola, SE. *Bird found exhausted, taken to be rehabilitated on Kangaroo Island and later released in SW Queensland.*

White-bellied Sea Eagle

Interesting reports from inland waters in the SE

1, 12/4/2019. Mount Burr Swamp, SE.

Haywood, B. & Theobald, M.

1, 26/4/2019. Mullinger Swamp, SE.

Kester, B.

1 immature, 4/5/2019. Port MacDonnell, Picks Swamp, SE.

Green, B.

Adult, 25/5/2019. Tennyson Beach, AP.

Donovan, D.

1, 8/6/2019. Bool Lagoon, SE.

Leddy, L.

Australian Bustard

More reports from the agricultural regions

1, 23/5/2019. Lochaber, SE.

Bourne, S.

1, 3/7/2019. 7 km SE Bowmans, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

1, 11/6/2019. Tolderol, Dog Lake Rd, MM.

Diment, J. *et al.*

Still present 20/7/2019. Tolderol, Dog Lake Rd, MM.

Fennel, J. & O'Neil, B.

4, 28/7/2019. Stirling North, FR.

Wallace, S.

Hooded Plover

8, 18/5/2019. Semaphore, AP.

van Trignt, M.-A.

8, 9/6/2019. Tennyson Beach, AP.

Donovan, D.

Relatively large groups for the Adelaide area.

Black-tailed Godwit

1, 24/4/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Brooker, W.

2 present on 3/5/2019.

Rogers, C. & Hatch, J.

Little Curlew

1, seen on both 1 and 16/2/2019. Mundoo Island, MM.

Grundy, S. & C.

Grey-tailed Tattler

1, 13/6/2019. Saint Kilda, AP.

Merchant, M.

Painted Button-quail

1, April 2019, Willunga, MLR.

Houghton, L.

Blue-winged Parrot

70, 14 and 24/5/2019. Bowmans, Erith Rd, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

100, 4/6/2019. Padthaway, SE.

Leddy, L.

1, 9/6/2019. 2 km SSW Mindarie, MM.

Edey, D. & Russell, V-J.

Also 2, 2 km E Wanbi, and 2, 1 km W Cobera, 1km W, MM.

Edey, D. & Russell, V-J.

Eastern Rosella

1, 28/4/2019. Murray Bridge, MM.

Doecke, L.

Superb Fairywren

2, 22/4/2019. Lochiel Park wetland, AP.

Hyland, M.

Heard, 8/6/2019. West Beach, West Beach Rd, AP.

Edey, D. & Copley, P.

Yellow Thornbill

3, 8/6/2019. West Beach, West Beach Rd, AP. *First report from this area.*

Edey, D. & Copley, P.

Reported nearby by P. Paton at Glenelg Golf Course in Feb 2018 (Newsletter 246).

Buff-rumped Thornbill

8, 23/6/2019. Rockleigh, MLR.

First report from area.

Bansemmer, B. & P.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

1, 19/5 and 10/6/2019. Forrestone, MLR. 10+ present on 6/7/2019. *Feeding in planted SA Blue Gums.*

Slade, R.

Unusual report from MLR region.

Bird Records (cont.)

White-fronted Chat

5+, 13/7/2019. Montecollina Bore, NE.

Ley, T.

Rarely reported from the NE region, usually in winter.

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater

Numerous reports from wetter forested districts, including:

1, 14/4/2019. Eaglehawk Waterhole, SE.

BirdLife South East SA

2, 30/6/2019. Cox Scrub CP, MLR.

Woods, L.

1, 3/7/2019. Mount Crawford Forest, Jenkins Scrub, MLR.

Rodda, B.

1, 19/6/ and 8/7/2019. Forreston, MLR.

Slade, R.

4, 20/6/2019. Mount Crawford Forest, Jenkins Scrub, MLR.

Price, M. *et al.*

Black-chinned Honeyeater

1, 29/4/2019. Willaston, Robinson Rd, AP.

Dennis, T.

1, 12 and 28/5/2019. Port Elliott, Gregory St, MLR. Also 2 on 18/7/2019.

Syson, W.

1, 21/6/2019. Yilki, Tabernacle Cemetery, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

White-fronted Honeyeater

100+, 13/4/2019. Eaglehawk Waterhole, SE.

BirdLife South East SA

1, 10/6 and 3/7/2019. Forreston, MLR.

Slade, R.

White-browed Babbler

4, 11/6/2019. Noarlunga Downs, River Rd, MLR.

Pearson, R.

White-winged Triller

Early seasonal reports from southern areas including:

1, 3/7/2019. Golden Grove, AP.

Cates, C.

1 male, 25/7/2019. 6km E Port Wakefield, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

3, 28/7/2019. Loxton, MM.

Kieskamp, H.

4, 28/7/2019. Bowmans, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Golden Whistler

1, 22/4/2019. Lochiel Park wetland, AP.

Hyland, M.

1 male, 3/5/2019. Gilberton, AP.

Breed, E.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike

1 dark morph, 21/4/2019. White Cliffs, Koolunga, LN.

Pedler, L.

Olive-backed Oriole

2 adults, 3/6/2019. Tanunda, St Hallett winery, MLR.

Rodda, B.

Seen subsequently by various observers.

Dusky Woodswallow

6, 12/7/2019. Kalamurina Wildlife Sanctuary, Warburton Ck, NE.

Bellchambers, K.

Few reports from NE region.

Pied Currawong

8, 24/4/2019. Valley Lake, SE.

Green, B. & T.

This species is now reported in the lower SE throughout the year, but has not been recorded breeding there yet.

Grey Fantail

1, 22/4/2019. Lochiel Park wetland, AP.

Hyland, M.

3, 8/6/2019. West Beach, West Beach Rd, AP.

Edey, D. & Copley, P.

Restless Flycatcher

1, 9/6/2019. Pinkerton Plains, AP.

Milde, S.

Now rarely reported from AP, but moves widely in the winter months.

White-backed Swallow

6, 3/5/2019. Avon, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Zebra Finch

20, 28/4/2019. Near Padthaway, SE.

Leddy, L.

Few records from the SE region.

SAOA Historical Series No 69

Frank Elliot Parsons (1882 to 1968)

Part 2, by Penny Paton

Pterylography

Pterylography is the study of the feather tracts of birds. From the early 1940s, Frank turned his ornithological attention to publishing his book on pterylography. Examples of his detailed sketches have been included throughout this article, as well as in the first part of his life story, which was published with the Winter issue of 'The Birder'.

Ragless (1969) relates a story about how Frank Parsons was probably the first ornithologist to see the Mallee Whipbird (generally regarded as a subspecies of the Western Whipbird but recently proposed as a separate species), but he did not publish or claim the record as it was only a sight record. He was obviously of the old school of collectors who liked to have a bird skin to prove the identity of a species, particularly given that they did not have the use of field guides and digital cameras with zoom lenses. In either 1914 or 1915, when Parsons was surveying near Loxton in the Hundred of Pyap, he "was resting while the men were cutting a line in the Mallee when the bird came close to him and erected its crest. Years later when he saw the bird to the north of Pinnaroo, he remembered his earlier experience. He is quite positive of this sight record" (Ragless 1969). The species was not 'discovered' until 1920, when the birds were heard and their nests and eggs found in Victoria, and the first specimen was not taken until 1932 (Howe and Ross 1933).

Ill-health in the early 1940s forced Frank to abandon collecting birds and active field work and he turned his ornithological attention to publishing on pterylography — the study of the feather tracts of birds. While it was known from pre-Linnean times that feathers on

birds were distributed in specific patterns over their bodies, it was not until the early nineteenth century that pterylography became a branch of avian anatomy (Clench 1970). From his experience in collecting and skinning birds, Frank would have handled many birds of various species and in the early 1920s he began to study the feather tracts and wing shapes and sizes of a number of Australian bird species.

The introduction to his book on pterylography indicates that he collected this information over 16 years prior to his sickness and the Foreword by Sir John Cleland states that this branch of avian anatomy is useful for taxonomy (Parsons 1968).

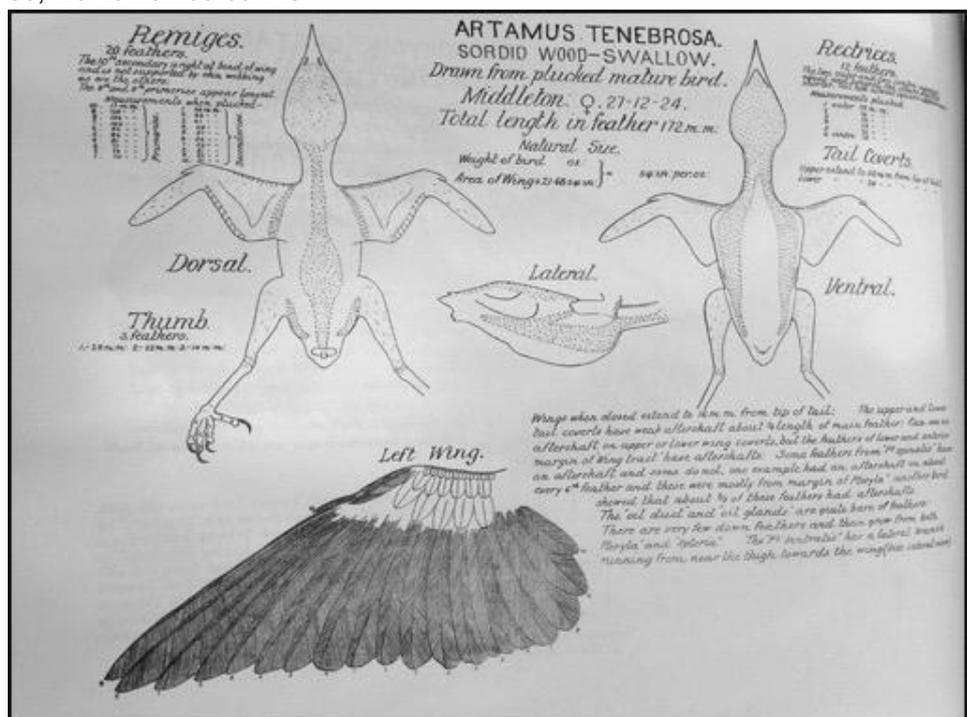


Illustration 6 — Wing and feather tracts of Dusky Woodswallow from Parsons (1968) Pterylography

The original drawings that form the basis of this book are held by the CSIRO in Canberra (Ragless 1969). An introductory page, shown as Illustration 1 in part 1 of Parsons' history, describes the structure of a feather, illustrated in great detail and annotated to show the quill, shaft, after-shaft, barbs, barbules and barbicels. In all, 27 species or groups of birds are covered, ranging from non-passerines like a prion, goshawk and stint to passerines such as Willie Wagtail, New Holland Honeyeater and Australian Magpie. For each species is given the location for the bird pictured, the number of remiges (wing feathers) and rectrices (tail feathers), a description of the bird's feathers, and the shape and size of the wing, all illustrated by a drawing of one wing, and the feather tracts on the ventral and dorsal surfaces of the bird (Illustrations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9). At the back of the book are notes on flight and a summary document of information on all the birds' bodies that contributed to the study (Illustration 7). Parsons' interest in flight was shown also by his addressing the SAOA on this subject and this address was later published (Parsons 1930). The publication on pterylography is noteworthy for its attention to detail, the fine line drawings and the neatness of the printed annotations, all testaments to Parsons' skill as a draftsman, no doubt honed in his profession as a surveyor. Early in his time as an SAOA member, in May 1920, Frank wrote to the

Secretary shortly after his election as Vice President, tendering his resignation from the position. In his words:

"I must thank the members for having elected me, but it appears to be giving offence to one of our number, who has not been backward in expressing it. I trust that my resignation will again bring contentment and harmony, which has been the greatest factor in making our monthly gatherings so thoroughly enjoyable and useful."

The record is silent on whom the unnamed member was and the Committee accepted his resignation with regret (SAOA Correspondence, SLSA). However, this letter illustrates the nature of the man: generous in offering to resign rather than cause disharmony, and apparently not harbouring ill-feelings towards the organisation. Indeed later in the same month, he wrote to the SAOA Secretary, indicating that he had examined the skin collection of the late Dr Angove (the subject of Historical Series 46-48, Paton 2013, 2014a, 2014b) but found that weevils had destroyed the skins. He suggested that the SAOA should attempt to secure Angove's egg collection and the field notes, so that the same fate should not befall them.

Species	Locality	Date	Sex	Total Length	Spread of Wings in Inches	Weight in Ounces	Square Inches Area of Wings	30 inches per sq. of Bird	Remarks
<i>Petroica phoenicea</i> Flame Robin	GOOLWA	8-6-30	♂	5 1/4	9	.5	14.99	30.00	Skin in collection
<i>Petroica ewingii</i> Hooded Robin	Sturt SA	18-6-25	♂	6 3/4	5 7/8	7/8	19.20	21.94	
<i>Seisura meviata</i> Restless Flycatcher	Mt Lofly	18-3-26	♂	7 1/2	11 1/2	.74	30.44	41.13	Skin in collection
<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i> Willie Wagtail	Glen Osmond	15-6-30	♂	8 1/2	11 3/4	1 1/24	25.76	32.53	
<i>Rhipidura preissi</i> Grey Fantail	Mt Lofly	17-3-26	♀	6	7 5/8	.26	12.78	49.15	
" "	"	29-1-25	♂	5 5/8	7 7/8	1/4	13.80	55.20	
<i>Neositta pileolata</i> Black capped Sittella	Crafers	11-6-27	♂	4 3/4	10 3/4	.47	17.05	36.28	
<i>Chamaea leucophaea</i> White throated Tree Creeper	Mt Lofly	5-4-26	♀	6 5/8	10 1/4	.83	16.81	20.24	
<i>Dicaeum himalaicum</i> Mistletoe Bird	Paradise	27-8-29	♂	3 1/2	6 3/4	.31	8.38	27.03	
<i>Zosterops lateralis</i> silveryeye	Glen Osmond	18-6-25	♂	4 1/2	6 1/2	1/82	8.44	24.55	
" "	Mt Compass	24-6-29	♀	4 3/4	7	3/8	9.40	25.70	Skin in collection
<i>Meliphaga inescens</i> Singing Honeyeater	Kimba	26-4-26	♂	8 3/8	11 1/2	1.	22.78	22.78	
<i>Meliphaga novaehollandiae</i> Yellow-bellied Honey-eater	Mt Compass	24-6-29	♀	5 1/4	7 3/8	.44	10.82	24.6	
<i>Meliphaga plumula</i> Yellow-bellied Honey-eater	Kimba	26-4-26		6 1/2	8 3/4	.66	15.50	23.48	
<i>Meliphaga persuata</i> White-plumbed H. Eater	Blackwood	27-3-26	♀	6 1/2	9 3/8	.625	13.70	21.92	
<i>Meliphaga lewinii</i> White-eared H. Eater	Kimba	26-4-26		7 1/2	9 3/8	.81	22.36	27.60	

Illustration 7 — Example page of notes on birds that form the basis of Parsons (1968) Pterylography

Frank Elliot Parsons – later life

In about 1936 Parsons became interested in butterflies (Ragless 1969), an interest he shared with another SAOA member and friend, Frank Angel. Together with Frank Angel and Frank's twin brother Sidney, he traversed Australia collecting specimens (Ragless 1970) and became an authority on the subject of the Lepidoptera. Trips were made to Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory and it was in Central Australia that he found a new form, which Frank Angel described and named *Ogyris hewitsoni parsonsi* (Ragless 1969). Modern taxonomy does not recognise this subspecies or indeed even this species, but suffice it to say it is probably one of the *Ogyris* sp. of butterflies in the family Lycaenidae – the blues and coppers.

A good tennis player in his early years, later in life Parsons excelled at bowls and billiards (Ragless 1969). He suffered from osteoarthritis for many years and used two sticks for walking (one can be seen on the ground in the photo of him as an older man on his knees, Photo 1). Frank's wife, Ethel, died in 1956 and, while engaged in fieldwork near Marino in pursuit of butterflies, Frank's heart was overtaxed and he died on 22nd December 1968 (Reid 2000).



Photo 1 — Frank Parsons in later life
(from South Australian Ornithologist Vol 25 (4): 86)

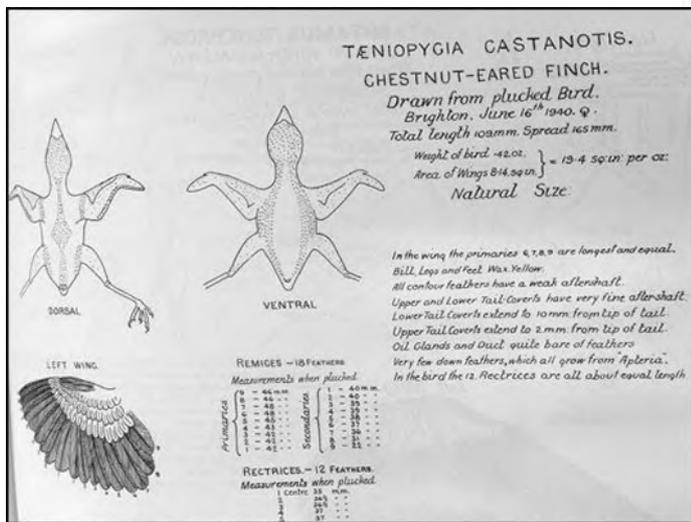


Illustration 8 — Wing and feather tracts of Zebra Finch from Parsons (1968) Pterygraphy

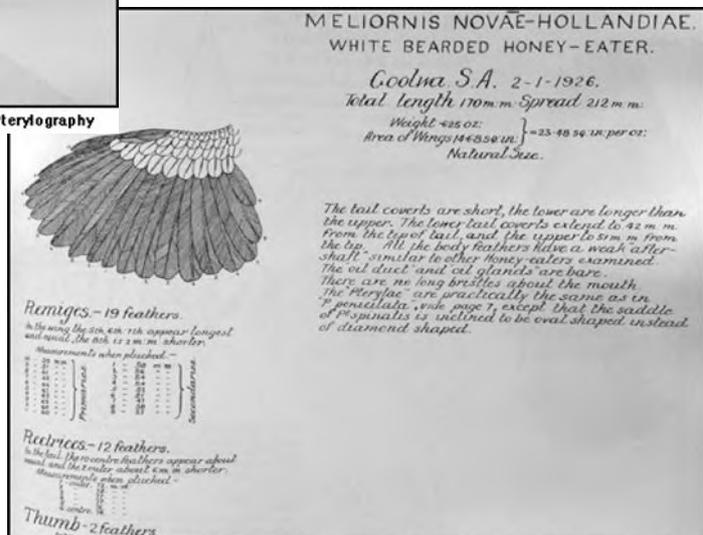


Illustration 9 — Wing of New Holland Honeyeater from Parsons (1968) Pterygraphy

Acknowledgements

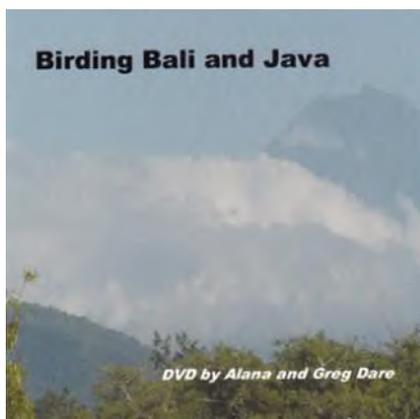
As always I am indebted to Philippa Horton for her generosity in providing additional information, in careful editing and for unflinching cheerfulness in dealing with my many emails.

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Penny Paton

From the Library



DVD 71

Greg and Alana Dare

Birding Bali and Java

Adelaide. Sth. Aust. Double Dare Production, 2018

Running time: 40 minutes

This documentary is a birding trip to Bali and Java in June 2017. It features the Bali Myna as well as one hundred other birds. It has been uploaded to YouTube and can be seen by googling 'Birding Bali and Java Alana and Greg Dare' or at bit.ly/2D81CUE



DVD 72

Greg and Alana Dare

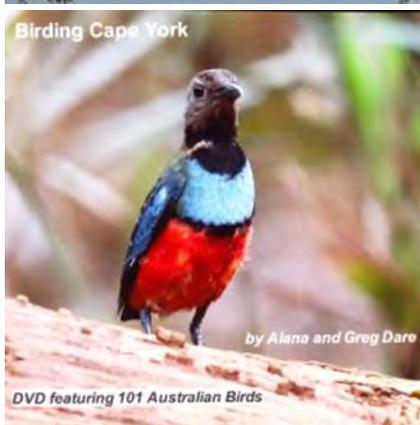
Birding Tolderol Game Reserve, South Australia

Adelaide. Sth. Aust. Double Dare Production, 2018

Running time : 12 minutes

This documentary is a birding trip to Tolderol wetlands at the edge of Lake Alexandrina in Sth Aust. It features 37 bird species including waders, terns, raptors, quail, crakes and rails. It has been uploaded to YouTube and can be seen by googling 'Birding Tolderol Alana and Greg Dare' or at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2m3HsmBEig>



DVD 73

Greg and Alana Dare

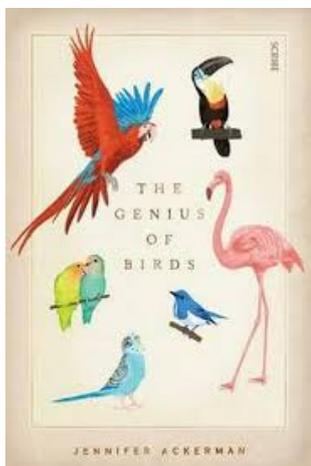
Birding Cape York

Adelaide. Sth. Aust. Double Dare Production, 2019

Running time: 30 minutes

This HD documentary is of three trips to Cape York Peninsula. Featuring three other Adelaide birdwatchers plus 101 bird species including Red-bellied Pitta, with film of their courtship behaviour.

This can be seen on YouTube, Google Australian Birds "Birding Cape York"



598.251 ACK

Ackerman, Jennifer

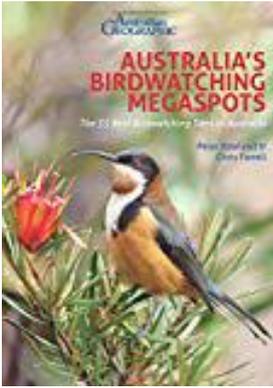
The genius of birds

Brunswick, Victoria : Scribe Publications, 2016.

ISBN 9781925106879

Birds are astonishingly intelligent creatures. In fact, according to revolutionary new research, some birds rival primates and even humans in their remarkable forms of intelligence. Like humans, many birds have enormous brains relative to their size. Although small, bird brains are packed with neurons that allow them to punch well above their weight. In "The Genius of Birds," acclaimed author Jennifer Ackerman explores the newly discovered brilliance of birds and how it came about.

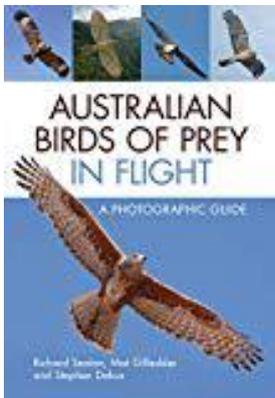
From the Library (cont.)



598.2994 ROW
Rowland, Peter & Farrell, Chris
Australia's birdwatching megaspots : the 55 best birdwatching sites in Australia

Oxford, England : John Beaufoy Publishing Ltd, 2018.
ISBN 9781912081660

This fully illustrated guide describes over 60 of the best sites for viewing both common and rare species. Organised by state, detailed descriptions of each site cover the type of terrain and specific spots at which certain species are likely to be encountered. A fact file for each site details how to get there; facilities; nearby services and accommodation. Key species for each site are also listed.



598.910994 SEA
Seaton, Richard, Gilfedder, Mat, & Debus, Stephen
Australian birds of prey in flight : a photographic guide

Clayton South, VIC : CSIRO Publishing, 2019.
ISBN 9781486308668

Birds of prey spend most of their time in flight and, when viewed from the ground, they are notoriously hard to identify. This is a photographic guide to the eagles, hawks, kites and falcons flying high above you. Individual species profiles describe distinguishing features and the text is supported by detailed images showing the birds at six different angles and poses, using photographs from many of Australia's leading bird photographers. Annotated multi-species comparison plates highlight key features that can help differentiate birds of prey in flight. This book will be of value to anyone who wants to learn more about Australia's birds of prey, and will provide a useful reference for identifying soaring birds in the field, and also while trying to identify images from your own camera.

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



Australian Hobby

photographed by Trevor Cox at Tumbay Bay on 01/02/2019

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

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Your message will be forwarded to that person.

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

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Members Photo Gallery

With apologies to members whose excellent photos I was unable to use

Loving Couples!



Galahs

photographed by John Pearce
at Whites Rd. on 30/06/2019



Black Swans

photographed by John Pearce

Some Colourful Birds



Family of Musk Lorikeets
photographed by Bob Daly
on 14/08/2019 at Scott CP



Bourke's Parrot
photographed by Bernie Haase
at Witchelina on 17/5/2019



Purple-crowned Lorikeets
photographed by Bob Daly at Scott CP on 25/06/2019

Unusual Meals

With stories



I saw this Masked Lapwing foraging behind our house in Murray Bridge and was surprised when I saw the size of the worm it pulled out of the ground.

What also surprised me was that of my seven Birds of Australia guide books, only one (What Bird is That) made any reference to the food of this bird, and that was insects, small crustaceans and herbage. No mention of worms. So I asked Mr. Google what Masked Lapwings ate and the first "hit" in large letters was worms.

Masked Lapwing

photographed by Gordon Pateman
at Murray Bridge in July 2019



Eastern Rosella and Adelaide Rosellas

photographed by Trevor Cox on Eyre Peninsula on 09/01/2019

Young Eastern Rosella begging for food from an Adelaide Rosella, which eventually fed it briefly

A Page of Contrasts



Osprey

Photographed by David Vranek on Kangaroo Island in October 2018



White-browed Babblers

Photographed by Anna Lester in the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in June 2019



Double-barred Finches

photographed by Bob Daly at Pungalina in June 2019



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2019		
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SEP	Grey Falcon & Letter-w'd Kites	6 days
OCT	Mallee Photo tour	4 days
OCT	Six Grasswrens	7 days
NOV	Western SA Splits & Specialties	7 days
NOV	Kangaroo Island birds & wildlife	4 days
DEC	South-west WA Endemics	7 days
2020		
FEB	Magical Malaysia bird photo tour	8 days
FEB	Dubai Area short tour	4 days
FEB	Exotic Ethiopia	12 days
MAR	Tantalising Thailand	16 days
APR	Costa Rica 400+ species	16 days
JUL-DEC	more Grasswren & other Australian tours	



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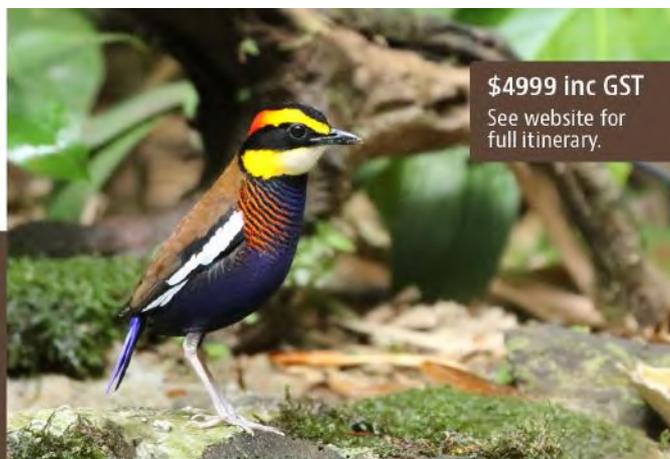
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