

# THE BIRDER

Autumn 2020 No 253

## In this Issue

New Magazine Presentation

Murderous Millinery

Easter Campout Details



Linking people with birds  
in South Australia

The official magazine of Birds SA

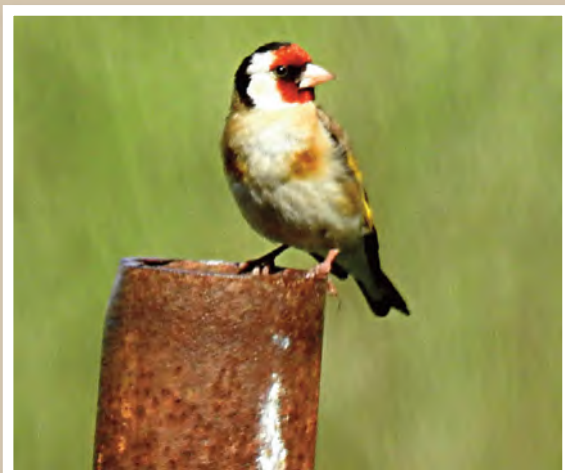


# Colourful small birds ...



*Left: Rainbow Pitta  
at Fogg Dam, NT  
(Photo: John Spiers)*

*Below: Rainbow Bee-eater adult  
feeding bee to immature  
near Bowman's, 11 Jan. 2019  
(Photo: Peter McKenzie)*



*Above: European Goldfinch  
at Whites Rd, 11 Dec. 2019  
(Photo: Greg Blackman)*



*Right: Red-capped Robin  
at Sandy Creek CP,  
June 2019  
(Photo: Richard Woodland)*



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## Centre Insert: SAOA Historical Series No. 71

MURDEROUS MILLINERY

**Cover photograph:** A White-faced Heron, photographed by John Gitsham at Laratinga Wetlands in January 2020. John also designed the cover of this magazine.

**We welcome a very pleasing 49 new members** who have recently joined the Association. Names are listed on page 41.

### 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.

# Calendar 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'.

Friday February 28	Birds SA	General Meeting (panel discussion)
Sunday 1 March	Birds SA	Excursion to Riverglades Wetlands, Murray Bridge
Saturday 7 March	FB	Excursion to Lawari CP etc.
Saturday 14 March	Birds SA	Excursion to Tolderol Game Reserve
Sunday 15 March	PA	Excursion to Wirrabara Forest
Thursday 19 March	Birds SA	Altona CSR Landcare Reserve
Friday 27 March	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 29 March	Birds SA	Excursion to Glenthorne NP
Monday 9 April to Saturday 14 April	Birds SA	<b>BIRDS SA EASTER CAMPOUT:</b> Cantara Homestead, Coorong National Park (Easy) <i>TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley</i>
Saturday 14 April	FB	Excursion to Myponga Reservoir
Thursday 16 April	Birds SA	No excursion, due to Easter Campout
Friday 17 April to Sunday 19 April	PA	<b>PORT AUGUSTA GROUP CAMPOUT:</b> Ironstone Hill Conservation Park to Whyalla Wetlands
Friday 24 April	Birds SA	AGM and General Meeting
Sunday 26 April	Birds SA	Excursion to Scott Creek CP
Saturday 2 May	FB	Excursion to Randal Vineyard, Currency Creek
Saturday 9 May	Birds SA	Excursion to Laratinga. Wetlands
Sunday 17 May	PA	Excursion to Carrierloo Station
Thursday 21 May	Birds SA	Excursion to Mudla Wirra Reserve
Friday 29 May	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 31 May	Birds SA	Apex Park Wetland Reserve
Saturday 6 June	FB	Excursion to Scott CP
Saturday 13 June	Birds SA	Excursion to Deep Creek CP

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

# President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Another year is with us and it will be a challenging year for our birdlife across Australia, especially the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. Many of our birds will be desperately trying to survive and recover in their destroyed habitat from the devastating fires that raged through Australia over the Christmas period. I was in New York City over Christmas and the fires received enormous coverage in the USA media. It was anxious watching from so far away, as I live in the Adelaide Hills, and have friends in the bushfire areas. If you ever go to New York City, go to the Rambles area of Central Park. It is fantastic for birding believe it or not!

Birds SA has offered the NPWS/DEW our assistance with bird surveys and any help we can give in the rehabilitation of burnt habitats across Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide hills. Birds SA is concerned with the ongoing populations and recovery of many species of birds on Kangaroo Island, but in particular the Glossy Black Cockatoo, Bassian Thrush, Western Whipbird and many other species and subspecies of our mainland birds. The other pressing issue is food sources for the surviving birds. Insects, seeds and nectar flow will be crucial for the survivors to continue on the island. Many conservation groups will be involved in rehabilitation, revegetation and general recovery programs. Donate where you feel is worthwhile and do get involved where ever you can, so we can get Kangaroo Island's unique biodiversity back up and running sustainably. Birds SA is also considering donating or setting up a recovery scheme — stay tuned!

Our Birds SA management committee is undergoing a few changes with new members joining and a few existing members resigning by the AGM in April. I would like to say a sincere thank you to all departing members of the committee (in particular to Kate Buckley, who did a magnificent job as Secretary) and for their contribution and dedication to making Birds SA a successful and thriving 'voluntary' conservation/ornithological association.

As our association grows (now over 990 members), I do ask members to be patient with our website and other association issues that arise and may frustrate you from time to time. It's a huge job for a few of our key committee members to manage the association. Remember we are all volunteers! To minimise the occasional frustrations of logging onto the website, particularly at membership renewal time, **please remember your passwords, and current email address.** Most of the problems we have encountered have involved only about 5% of the membership, and they have resulted from members not remembering their passwords or not informing us of a change to their email address.

Well, enjoy the autumn birding season and hopefully we will receive more good rains and a fast recovery of our damaged bird habitats across the state. Happy birding!

**John Gitsham**

Editor's  
note:  
A new look  
'Birder'

You will notice a most exciting change in the layout and presentation of this autumn's edition of 'The Birder'. In order to complement the ever-increasing number of our members, as well as the community's recognition of the status and influence of our Association in South Australia, your Committee decided to revolutionise the appearance of our Magazine. We have engaged a professional graphic designer, *Ingrid Grigg*, to format and present the magazine using her particular expertise.

I'm sure you will all admire the spectacular presentation of your Autumn Birder.

**Cynthia Pyle**



# Conservation Sub-Committee

## Birds SA Response to Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island Bushfires

Many individual Birds SA members have responded to the requests for donations from agencies that are providing short-term assistance to feed wildlife impacted by the fires and to rehabilitate injured animals.

Birds SA has a role to play in supporting longer term recovery activities. It is acknowledged that it will take some time to fully understand the extent to which birdlife has been affected by the fires and the best ways to assist with recovery. The National Parks and Wildlife Service SA has joined forces with Nature Foundation SA to launch the Wildlife Recovery Fund, designed to assist with the recovery and restoration of flora and fauna in fire-damaged regions across South Australia. Details can be found at:

<https://www.naturefoundation.org.au/support-us/wildlife-recovery-fund>



For more information visit:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/news-hub/news/articles/2020/01/wildlife-recovery-fund>

or

<https://www.naturefoundation.org.au/support-us/wildlife-recovery-fund>

Birds SA has contacted Brenton Grear, Acting Executive Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service SA, to outline some of the activities where Birds SA may be able to assist the Wildlife Recovery Fund in achieving its objectives. These include:

1. Conducting initial and ongoing assessments of bird populations in areas affected by the fires, including the status of bird sub-species that are endemic to the Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island.
2. Organising the provision of and installation of bird boxes or other appropriate bird-nesting infra-structure where these are needed.
3. Assisting with re-vegetation initiatives.

With its large membership base, it is reasonable to expect there will be enough participation by Birds SA members to make an impact on the recovery efforts. The Committee will endeavour to keep members informed of opportunities to become involved in this important work.

## Treasures not Targets Exhibition – Anti Duck and Quail Hunting Coalition

The final showing of the Treasures not Targets photographic exhibition for 2019 took place at the Stirling Laneways Market on November 24. As we had come to expect from previous shows, many viewers took the time to sit down and pen a personal letter to Premier Marshall expressing their opposition to the continued hunting of native birds in South Australia.

The Anti-Duck and Quail Hunting Coalition met Premier Marshall on November 24, 2019 to discuss the hunting issue. The Premier was sympathetic with the views of the Coalition and agreed to discuss the 2020 season with Minister Speirs. The Coalition argued strongly for a Closed Season in 2020 based upon the catastrophic climatic conditions as well as the animal welfare issues. The Coalition presented the Premier with a comprehensive dossier containing background data supporting our stance. The Premier indicated that independent research data on the views of the SA public on this issue would be very useful. The Coalition is currently pursuing this.

## Conservation Sub-Committee *(continued)*

Bill Breed, William Brooker and I represented Birds SA and Conservation Council SA at the Duck & Quail Open Season Stakeholder Reference Panel Meeting conducted by DEW on December 9, 2019. Birds SA argued strongly for no Open Season in 2020 for either ducks or quail because of the catastrophic climatic conditions in eastern Australia. Subsequently Minister Speirs made an announcement that a restricted Open Season for ducks would occur but there would not be an Open Season for quail. There were some discrepancies between what was summarised at the Reference Panel Meeting and the subsequent announcement by the Minister. Birds SA has raised a Freedom of Information Request to obtain a copy of the recommendations from DEW that went to the Minister on this subject.

### Off-road Vehicle Inquiry

As previously reported, Birds SA made a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Impact of Off-road Vehicles. John Gitsham and I were invited as witnesses to address the Natural Resources Committee of Parliament on September 26, 2019. This Committee is

comprised of Members of Parliament and is chaired by Josh Teague, the Member for Heysen. Mr Teague confirmed in mid-January that he was committed to completing the Inquiry as soon as possible and presenting the findings to both houses of State Parliament.

### Birds Surveys – Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant

Bill Breed, with assistance from John Hatch, Colin Rogers and William Brooker, has been leading regular bird counts at Bolivar, with Bill delicately negotiating with SA Water for access to the site. To the end of January 2020, 23 surveys had been conducted. The results have been outstanding, particularly with respect to the numbers of ducks counted. This site appears to be a very important SA refuge for waders and waterfowl.

*Jeff Groves*

*Below:*

**Ducks (predominantly Pink-eared) at Bolivar –  
7 Jan 2020** *(Photo: Jeff Groves)*





St Kilda never disappoints. At 9.00am on Sunday the 2nd of February, about 30 enthusiasts collected on the foreshore of St Kilda for a bird identification morning. Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) hosts a birding event on the third Sunday of each month, and this was our first 2020 event.

The tide was at its highest for the day. The weather was initially overcast and cold, and few Migratory birds were to be seen. About 23 Pied Oystercatchers were roosting with the Silver Gulls on the foreshore, and many Black Swans, together with Banded and Pied Stilts were to the northwest, towards the mangroves. With telescopes, we could see about 5 Common Greenshanks at that far location.



Above: **The Black Swans on the northern shore**  
(Photo: Phil Cole)

About 6 juvenile Pied Oystercatchers (pale legs, black tip on bill) were seen amongst the Pied Oystercatchers once they began moving about. They were indications of good breeding events this summer.



Above: **Juvenile Pied Oystercatcher (circle) adjacent to an adult Oystercatcher** (Photo: Jenny Hiscock)



## Friends of **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary** *(continued)*



Above: **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** (Photo: Mary-Ann Trigf)

Telescopes were set up, and as the tide receded, the sun came out and more birds joined the oystercatchers in the shallow water and exposed mudflats closer to our viewing area. It was a good opportunity for those new to identifying migratory birds to see Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers. Many Sooty Oystercatchers joined the closer birds as the morning progressed. We could see Rednecked Stints and more small flocks of sandpipers but they were barely visible across the bay behind the Black Swans.

Later in the morning, Caspian Terns, Whiskered Terns and at least 2 Fairy Terns joined us at the bay.

The next FAIBS activity will be held on **Sunday 15 March at Thompson Beach**. Meet at 8 30am in the car park at the end of Ruskin Rd for a shorebird ID session before we head out to the sand dunes for a rubbish clean up.

**Jenny Hiscock**



Above: **The busy foreshore** (Photo: Mary-Ann Trigf)

# Past General Meetings

## Friday November 29

This was an ever popular occasion — a Members' Night with five speakers. John Hatch introduced each speaker before their presentation.

### Mike Ashton

Mike's topic was "Birding Ashmore Reef, November 2018". Mike undertook a 9-day trip, which was primarily a pelagic trip, starting in Broome. The "Reef" is made up of four islands, with West Island being the main one where most of the birding activity takes place. The "Reef" is 35 hectares in area. The Blue Whale was among the 9 different species seen. The birds included Wilson Storm Petrel, Sooty Terns, Bridal Terns, Roseate Terns, many species of Petrel and Shearwater. Greater and Lesser Frigate Birds were nesting on East Island. Masked Booby, Brown Booby and many small shorebirds and waders. Vagrants show up at Ashmore Reef but nobody knows which way they are travelling. The Eastern Yellow Wagtail and Eurasian Tree Sparrow were also sighted. The trip Guides have been recording every bird they have seen in this area for about the last 30 years. They record species, numbers, where they have been seen and the GPS location. It is basically a scientific trip and fee-paying passengers help cover the cost. A total of 78 birds were seen, with 56 on Ashmore Reef.

### Richard Woodland

Richard's topic was "Clinton Conservation Park" Richard commented that many members will be familiar with the excellent birding available at Port Clinton but few undertake the tough walk into Clinton Conservation Park. Chris Purnell, of BirdLife Australia, approached Richard to ask if he would undertake the 2020 Shorebird count in Clinton Conservation Park (CP); so for the past 3-4 years the park has become his "patch". Richard does both the summer and winter shorebird surveys and goes to the Clinton CP at other times just for the pleasure of watching the numerous birds. The Conservation Park is very hot during the summer months and the clay soil at the Park can be treacherous during the winter. No vehicles are permitted to enter the park. You have to undertake all survey work on foot – but the pleasure lies in seeing 50-60 Red-necked Stints, or a Grey Plover fly over as you are walking. There are extensive mud flats, mangroves, samphire, and nitre-bush.

Richard has undertaken 22 surveys since Dec 2017. He has counted a total of 91 species comprising 22

shorebirds, 27 water/coastal birds, 42 land birds. The average distance he has walked per visit is 11km, and he has walked a total of 242km so far. Migratory waders he has seen include, Eastern Curlew, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Terek Sandpipers, Grey Plovers. 30 to 35 Eastern Curlews did overwinter this year, even though they showed some breeding plumage.

Many raptors frequent the area, including Whistling and Black Kites. Terns include: Australian Gullbilled, Caspian, and Common Gull-billed (*affinis*) and a Red-capped Plover nest was found in October 2019. But the most amazing find to date, Richard believes that on his most recent survey he saw a Grey Falcon. This has been reported to the Rare Bird Committee.

### Merilyn Browne

Merilyn focussed on "Birds and their bills". She showed delightful shots of birds from around the world. The Australian Pelican has the biggest bill of all followed by the Toco Toucan, Yellow-throated Toucan, and the Oriental Pied Hornbill, which can hold delicate morsels in its large beak. The Scale-throated Hermit has a long bill. The Sword-bill Hummingbird has a beak that is longer than the bird itself. Fishing Birds have a streamlined beak except for the Puffin and Osprey, they have a very different shaped beak. Kingfishers have long beaks. The Boat-billed Heron is a sweeping or scooping feeder rather than a stabbing feeder, then there is the "duck bill" shape, whereas the Merganser has a different shape, though it is considered to be a duck. Spoonbill is as the name suggests, and the Lesser Flamingo holds its head upside down to feed. The Eurasian Curlew is a large billed Wader then there is the small bill of the Red-necked Stint. The Avocet has the up-turned bill, while the Scimita, a South American woodcreeper, has a curved bill. The Spinebill has a curved bill to get into flowers. The Chough has a curved beak for digging. Seabirds – Albatross do a bill-clap as recognition to its mate. The Waved Albatross also does a bill clapping whilst the Fulmar has a distinct tube on top of the bill. Hooked bills occur in a range of sizes and species, the Macaw bill is huge, then the Long-billed Corella, down to the Lorikeet and Parrotlet, a South American bird. Raptors have a hooked bill. Owls have hooked bills too, like the Southern Boobook. The Butcherbird has a fine point. The bill of the Slaty Flowerpiercer has hook to pierce the base of tubular flowers to get to the nectar. Chunky Bills – woodpeckers, Crimson-crested, Little Woodpecker, White-barred Piculet and the Tawny Frogmouth which feeds at night on insects.



## Past General Meetings *(continued)*

Cross bills – they are seed eaters such as the Cactus Finch a large ground Finch with a very solid bill. Other Finches have finer bills. Then there are the small bills such as the Spotted Pardalote and Superb Fairywren. Marilyn had photographed the birds she described. The photographs shown below are two examples.

The first is Sword-billed Hummingbird, with a bill longer than its body (South America). The second is Black-and-yellow Broadbill with its very colorful blue bill (South-east Asia).



Above: **Sword-billed Hummingbird (South America)**  
(Photo: Marilyn Browne)



Above: **Black-and-yellow Broadbill (South-east Asia)**  
(Photo: Marilyn Browne)

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### David Robertson

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David's topic was "Skulkers" – meaning, the birds that you work so hard to see and often miss. Having travelled to Scotland to see the Capercaillie David discovered that it is only possible to see this bird in the open at a certain time of the year. Travelling in West Papua, rowing a little canoe with one driver and one passenger David paddled

across a river and sat until nearly midnight, in an attempt to see the Moluccan Scrub Fowl which follows its ancestors, the turtle by digging a hole and dropping its eggs into the hole. As David left the area around midnight and returned to the opposite bank, his wife Minnie was rowed across second. Minnie had to admit to David that the bird appeared just after he had left — and she did actually see it!



Above: **Moluccan Scrubfowl** (Photo: Pete Morris/Birdquest)

David and Minnie have travelled to New Zealand three times in an attempt to see the Kiwi – first on the South Island – second time on the North Island and the third time on their way back from the Cook Islands, when they hired a car and drove to the tip of the North Island where a small island is connected with a little isthmus. David said, "we could hear it – but unless it walked across the path you would never see it". They stayed the night in a chalet and found the next morning they could see evidence of where the Kiwi had been feeding right outside their chalet. Apart from being elusive, these birds share a special feature — they are all ground-dwelling birds.



Above: **Kiwi**



## Past General Meetings *(continued)*

**P.S.** David later sent the following information about their search for another elusive bird — the Zig Zag Heron.

The Zigzag Heron is largely nocturnal and lives in jungle swamps of the eastern Amazon. It is a small bird, about the size of a bantam (30 cm).

We stayed at a jungle lodge on the Rio Napo, one of the many tributaries of the Amazon. The lodge was next to a lagoon surrounded by swampy jungle.

One morning, at 5.20am, we set off in a canoe across the lagoon and down one of the jungle covered streams that fed the lagoon. It was pitch black.

Eventually we found a place where we could land and wait for the heron. The plan was that the guide would play his tape and the heron would emerge from the jungle. The guide said it had worked two days earlier, but I saw the boatman shake his head and I surmised that he was indicating that we were too late. And he was right. No heron!



Above: **Zig Zag Heron**  
(Photo: Andrew Spencer)  
Macaulay Library ML32801421

Two days later we set off even earlier at 4.45am. We disembarked at the same spot and waited silently in the pitch dark. Shortly after arriving I heard a faint hissing sound coming from some distance away. As it approached the sound became louder and louder. Then suddenly it was upon us— a jungle rain storm. It was like standing under a waterfall. With the noise of the rain and the downpour there was no chance the tape would work. The heron would never be able to hear it, let alone come out from under cover. Soaked to the skin we fled to a nearby bird hide on dry land and attempted to dry out.

Alas it was our last day. The next day we flew back to Quito. We were defeated, but we had tried.

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### Neil Cheshire

Neil had travelled to Yorkshire to see the **cliff-nesting seabirds** at Bempton in July and August 2019. Many species of cliff-nesting seabirds visit these cliffs. The area is a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserve. 400,000 seabirds nest there in about 30km of cliff face.

Most of the birds are concentrated in an area that is about 6km long. The cliffs are 110m high. The reserve is very well run with an Information Centre, a Café and platforms on promontories on the cliffs edge, so you can look back to see the birds. You can also take a 2-3 hour boat trip along the cliffs which includes a good commentary from the tour guide. The Northern Gannet now numbers 14,000 pairs. Its numbers were much lower in 1969 when the reserve was first set up. The Atlantic Puffin numbers 1500 pairs and are seen from April to July. It nests in fissures and burrows. It is not a cliff nester. There are 20,000 pairs of Razorbills. Most of their young have left the cliffs by mid-July. The Guillemot is an interesting bird. It lays eggs at the end of April. There is a 28 day incubation period. When the young are 3 weeks old, they jump from cliff into the sea, 60-80 meters below. They are not even fledged. The male feeds them at sea.

Neil saw a Kittiwake, and he mentioned that these birds nest on buildings. He also stated that Tree Sparrows are now very reduced in the UK.



Above: **Atlantic Puffin** (9/7/19, RSPB Bempton Cliffs)



Above: **Razorbills** (9/7/19, RSPB Bempton Cliffs)

## Past General Meetings *(continued)*

### Friday January 31

John Hatch introduced the Speaker for the evening, Chris Purnell, who is the Wetland Birds Program Manager for Birdlife Australia.

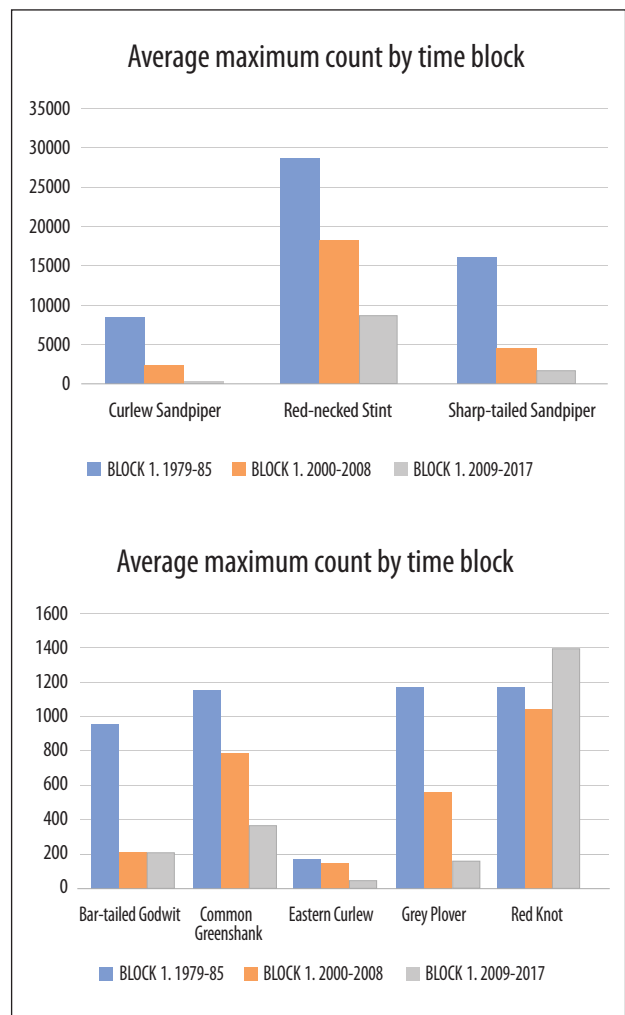
#### Chris Purnell

Populations of shorebirds are declining throughout the world. Their long-term survival will require managers and planners to identify and protect their habitats, identify and reduce the impacts of threats to their fitness, and identify population declines sufficiently early to limit their severity through sympathetic management. Shorebirds conservation has been recognised as a matter of national environmental significance in Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999), and also in several international conservation agreements to which Australia is a signatory.

Gulf St Vincent has long been recognised as a nationally and internationally significant area for shorebirds and a legacy of expertise within the Birds SA fold has identified 52 species of shorebird in the region to date. Through a project funded by the Adelaide Mount Lofty Natural Resources Management (NRM) and partnered with Birds SA, BirdLife Australia has been mapping and monitoring the gulf's shorebird population for 10 years. The project has collected 1,100 surveys documenting 18,800 shorebird records of 189 species, identified significant sites, the likely threats to their value and how land managers may mitigate those threats and/or restore value for shorebirds.

We define the "shorebird area" spanning from Port Adelaide to Black Point on the Yorke Peninsula. The mosaic of marine, coastal, inland and man-made habitats provides important feeding and roosting areas for migratory waterbirds, particularly shorebirds. These habitats include: expansive tidal flats, tidal creeks and estuaries, mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, tidal saltmarshes, tidal and supratidal claypans (sabkahs). These natural wetlands are supplemented by significant areas of artificial habitat including two large commercial saltfields (Price and Dry Creek), artificial stormwater detention wetlands, effluent water treatment ponds and a man-made ephemeral, freshwater lake. The project has identified that the area regularly hosts more than 24,000 shorebirds each year including more than 10,000 migrants of 13 species. Internationally significant populations (greater than 1% of the estimated flyway population) of Red-necked Stint, Sharptailed Sandpiper

and Red Knot have put the region on the map nationally and internationally. The Red Knot population is of particular conservation interest as it contains birds of two subspecies *rogersi* and *piersmai*. The gulf represents a unique mixing point for these populations of the federally listed Endangered Species and has observed an increase in population over the last 3 decades despite uniform declines in all other migratory species, in line with international trends. With the cumulative effects of threats throughout the East Asian—Australian Flyway driving these regional declines in migratory shorebirds in the region (**Table 1 below**), the conservation and appropriate management of key terminal migration habitats in Gulf St Vincent will be crucial to the national conservation effort.



**Table 1**  
**GSV migratory shorebird populations from 3 periods; 1979-1985 (estimates from Close 2008), 2000-2008 (estimates from Close 2008) and 2009-2017 (BirdLife S2020 data)** Average taken from top 5 counts per species over the project period.

## Past General Meetings *(continued)*

The South Australian Government, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and Natural Resources (DEWNR), Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges in conjunction with local councils should be commended in their efforts to secure shorebird habitat values through a large portfolio of works culminating in the declaration of the formulation of the **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park-Winaityinaityi Pangkara** and the successful listing of the site as an East Asian Australasian Flyway Network Site of significance. Birds SA and groups including the Friends of AIBS should be commended for their continued dedication to shorebird monitoring, site based advocacy and community engagement. Local efforts to inform the community of the ecological requirements and wide ranging threats related to shorebirds are in line with national initiatives and will be critical for the future of these populations.

**After 10 years of the shorebird population monitoring project in Gulf St Vincent, literature reviews, a review of development proposals, and managers' and stakeholders' workshops, it seems clear to BirdLife Australia that:**

- Only 8% of mapped shorebird habitat remains outside of the reserve system, Department of Defence Lands or active commercial salt operations (Price). The level of protection afforded to shorebird values by the various parks differs widely and should seek to be standardised.
- Disturbance and habitat loss/degradation are the two greatest threats to shorebirds in the region.
- Intensifying anthropogenic disturbance on the intertidal zone of Samphire Coast's northern Beaches (Port Prime to Parham) is having a deleterious effect on important shorebird habitat of international significance.
- Immediate intervention (DEWNR, PIRSA) is necessary.
- Highly threatened, internationally significant intertidal areas adjacent to Thompson Beach township should be included within the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park boundary.
- The increased severity and regularity of climate change induced storm events has highlighted the necessity for conservation of key intertidal retreat zones throughout the samphire coast.

- The artificial wetlands of the Dry Creek Saltfields have supported the greatest abundance of shorebirds in the region and add resilience to the regional population that is irreplaceable. Informed adaptive management of these habitats will be required to maintain shorebird populations now that salt production has ceased.
- Shorebirds (excluding Banded Stilt and Avocet) utilised only less than 15% of the saltfield environs when the commercial operation was active. Shorebird abundance and diversity appears to have remained consistent in the truncated site and "holding pattern" hydrology instated after 2013.
- The Dry Creek Saltfields site can provide unparalleled ecological community and tourism opportunities.
- Significant refuge habitat on Section Bank/Bird Island should be included in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park boundary and optimised by ongoing pest control and managing recreational activities.
- The Northern Connector Southern Gateway Project has had a deleterious effect on shorebird habitat in the Barker Inlet Wetlands. Consultation and inclusion of comments on design changes throughout the Lendlease design and implementation phase were inadequate.
- Planning and design for Northern Connector offset habitat should consult closely with BirdLife Australia, Birds SA, NR AMLR and DEWNR.
- The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary has significantly increased shorebirds' conservation awareness in the community, improved cross-sector and departmental collaboration and increased recognition of Gulf St Vincent as a significant shorebird site both nationally and internationally.
- Working groups administering the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary and the rehabilitation plan for the Dry Creek Saltfields should continue to consult the abundance of literature and expertise made available by experts in the development of future strategic planning for shorebird conservation.

Thanks once again to the dedicated Gulf St Vincent count team and their valiant leader, Kate Buckley.

**Chris Purnell**



**Chris Purnell's photographs provide some indication of the richness of the birdlife around Gulf St. Vincent**

*Below top: Bar-tailed Godwits  
Below bottom: Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper Red-capped Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
Top right: Curlew Sandpipers  
Middle right: Banded Stilts  
Bottom right: Red-necked Stints*



## 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 7.00pm and meetings start at 7.30pm.

We must vacate the premises by 10.00pm.



### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28

Panel discussion, chaired by Andrew Black. The panellists will be Penny Paton, Graham Carpenter, Lynn Pedlar and Philippa Horton, with Andrew Black as the moderator.

Your chance to ask questions of the panel of four who have diverse interests in birds.

### FRIDAY MARCH 27

TBA

### FRIDAY APRIL 24

The agenda for the **Annual General Meeting** on Friday 24 April 2020 is:

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 27 April 2019
3. Presentation of the Annual Report for 2019
4. Presentation of the Financial Report for 2019
5. Election of the Management Committee for 2020/2021
  - President
  - Two Vice Presidents
  - Secretary
  - Assistant Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Field Program Coordinator
  - Magazine Editor
  - Journal Editor
  - Bird Records Secretary
  - Membership Officer
  - Not fewer than three nor more than five ordinary Committee Members
6. Appointment of an auditor
7. Any other business of which notice in writing has been given by two members at a preceding meeting

*A presentation, TBA, will follow the AGM*



# Past Excursions

## BIRDS SA

### 9 November Magazine Road Wetlands

As usual for this location we had a good turnout of 18 people including 1 person on their first excursion. It was a calm, warm and clear day and there was plenty of water in all the ponds. This was in contrast to our previous visit in January when it was much drier, with no water at all in the farthest pond.

Starting from the car park, we dodged numerous trucks working on the Northern Connector and headed off along the centre trail. We immediately started seeing Black Swans with cygnets of varying ages (25), Pied Stilts (60), Australasian Swampheens (10), Pacific Black Ducks (40), Australasian Grebes (6), Hoary-headed Grebes (20), Pelicans (30), Great Cormorant (1), Little Pied Cormorants (15), Little Black Cormorants (4), Grey Teal (200), Chestnut Teal (20), Hardheads (2), Australian White Ibis (30), Great Egrets (6), Little Egrets (2), White-faced Herons (2), Eurasian Coots (20), Dusky Moorhens (3) and Black-tailed Nativehens (30). Whiskered Terns (30), Welcome Swallows (20) and Tree Martins (8) hawked about over the water and Rainbow Lorikeets (8), Silver Gulls (10) and Little Ravens (6) occasionally passed overhead. Reed Warblers (6) and Little Grassbirds (4) were heard and sometimes seen in the reeds beside the ponds.

While we were trying to sort out some sandpipers in the distance, we spotted a lone Little Eagle sitting in a tree on the edge of the site. It perched for a while and then took to the air flying away to the north. We returned to our scrutiny of other birds and identified 1 Marsh Sandpiper, 40 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, 8 Wood Sandpipers, 6 Red-



Above: **Curlew Sandpiper** (Photo: Phil Cole)



Above: **Common Greenshank** (Photo: Phil Cole)

kneed Dotterels, 6 Red-capped Plovers and approximately 50 Red-necked Stints. Some of the group also observed 1 Australian Crake, 1 Baillon's Crake and 3 White-fronted Chats. Royal Spoonbills (5) and Yellow-billed Spoonbills (4) also put in an appearance.

Due to the fact that there was water in the farthest pond we went to the nearby bird hide where there was a group of Australian Shelducks (20). Then we went up the track to the end of the site. We saw Magpie-larks (6), Superb Fairywrens (10), Willy Wagtails (6), Common Starlings (50), House Sparrows (20) and Common Blackbirds (3) along the boundary. We also spotted 2 Brown Falcons and we heard 1 Striated Pardalote in the distance.

Honeyeaters we saw during the morning included Singing Honeyeaters (8), New Holland (2), White-plumed (2) and Red Wattlebirds (3). Pigeons included 1 Common Bronzewing, 6 Crested Pigeons, 4 Spotted Doves and 6 Feral Pigeons. The bird count for the day was 57 species and the 'Bird of the Day' was undoubtedly the Little Eagle.

**Ali Ben Kahn**

## BIRDS SA

### 1 December Thompson Beach

With the weather forecast for high winds and rain, it was a relief on the journey to Thompson Beach that there were some sunny spells and little rain, and it looked like it might be better weather than forecast. Unfortunately, this was a false sign. Upon arrival at Thompson Beach, the southerly wind was reasonably strong and certain to hold the high tide in for a few hours.



## Past Excursions *(continued)*

It was a surprise that 20 members and visitors assembled at the meeting point. The rain held off while we did a short survey at the saltpan and also along the shoreline at the Northern end of the beach. We were entertained by a pod of dolphins close to shore, before moving on to the southern boat ramp. Not long after starting the survey at that end of the Beach the predicted rain arrived. It was gentle at first, but soon progressed to a wind-assisted horizontal downpour, which dampened the resolve of some participants. We called time-out and had a preliminary birdcall in the shelter. By that time the rain had eased and the remaining group moved on to Petrel Cove.

The final tally was 38 bird species and given the weather conditions this was not too bad. The most prolific species was Grey Teal (about 300). We saw eight species of waterbirds, with Pied Cormorant (26) and Australian Pelican (24) being the most abundant. We observed thirteen species of shorebirds, the most abundant being Red-necked Stint (100), and Common Greenshank (70). There were small numbers of Curlew Sandpiper (5) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (20) and only 3 each of Grey Plover, Great Knot and Red Knots. The weather was so bad that we only saw 20 Silver Gulls, but we did see 50 Whiskered Terns, 6 Greater Crested Terns and 3 Caspian Terns. The weather conditions were undoubtedly one reason for small numbers.

My thanks to those who attended, given the weather forecast, and especially to those hardy souls who remained until the end of the outing.

**Brian Walker**

## FLEURIEU BIRDERS

### 7 December Laratinga

It was warm and sunny when seventeen birders met for a late afternoon stroll around Laratinga Wetlands. Superb Fairywrens were running around our feet before we even set off and were regularly seen everywhere as were Red Wattlebirds, whilst a flock of Little Corellas was constantly overhead.

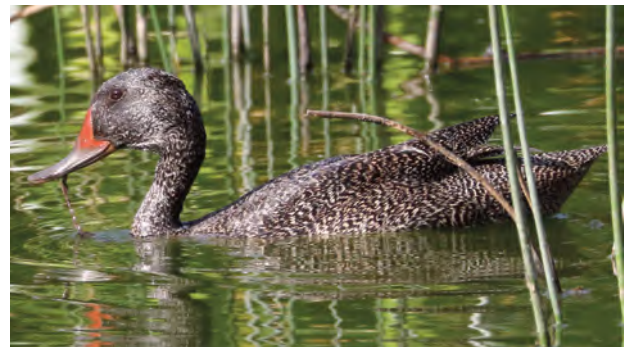
On the water the usual suspects were present including Grey and Chestnut Teals, Maned and Pacific Black Ducks, Hardheads, Australasian Shovelers and Eurasian Coots. The water's edge was patrolled by Purple Swamphens and Dusky Moorhens with a few Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterels. Only one pair of Pinkeared Ducks was

spotted, but it was difficult to appreciate their features as we were looking into the sun.

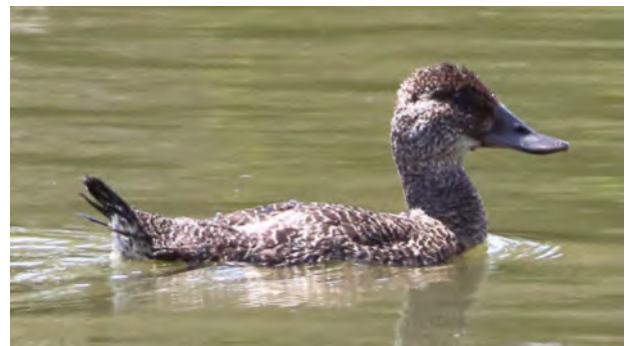
The walk was delayed by a pair of White-naped Honeyeaters feeding chicks whilst New Holland Honeyeaters were darting everywhere. On the return leg of the walk (anti-clockwise) we were treated to an excellent view of a male Freckled Duck which posed for the cameras! The second last pond presented us with a Nankeen Night Heron sitting on a branch just above the water. The last pond then produced a pair of Yellow-billed Spoonbills, which ended our walk on a high note.

In all we saw 47 species, with a Striated Pardalote heard but not seen. Later our tally increased by one when Bob Daly got home and checked his photos. One duck that could not be identified from the screen on the back of his camera turned out to be a female Blue-billed Duck. I wonder where the male was hiding.

**Peter Owen**



Above: **Freckled Duck**, at Laratinga, 7 December 2019  
(Photo: Bob Daly)



Above: **Female Blue-billed Duck** (Photo: Bob Daly)  
Could be mistaken for a Freckled Duck when you see them in the distance. This photo shows the pin-tail which is a give-away sign

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

### PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (The Babblers)

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8 December

#### Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden

A group of 16 birders met in the car park at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden in Pt. Augusta on a calm, warm morning. They came from Port Neill (3), Whyalla (2), Mambray Creek (2), Scotland (2) and Pt. Augusta (7). As we greeted each other, some White-fronted Honeyeaters were feeding on the eucalypt flowers above us, while flocks of Galahs drifted by. We then walked through the Eremophila garden where we observed more White-fronted, together with Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. Red Wattlebirds, Crested Pigeons, a Spotted Dove, Willie Wagtails and White-browed Babblers frequented the garden while Australian Ravens and a pair of Little Corellas flew past. As the group left the Eremophila garden area we followed the path towards the bush tucker and Mallee areas. More Galahs were resting in the trees and small flocks flew past while we observed White-plumed Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, Starlings, Purple-backed Fairywrens and Black Kites along with more of the other Honeyeaters we had already seen.

At the base of the sandhills just before the boardwalk lookout path a pair of Redthroat provided some photo shots as well as a first-time seen bird for some of the group. We followed the path along the base of the sandhills and up to the work compound and nursery area. Here we added Chirruping Wedgebills to the first timers' bird list. We headed back to the main building for smoko and to get some relief from the increasing heat. The forecast was for 43° in the afternoon.

Back under the veranda of the interpretive centre we found a pair of Crimson Chats in the courtyard area and Australian Magpies, a Common Bronzewing, Kestrels, a single Tree Martin and House Sparrows that were nesting under the roof of the building. We enjoyed some refreshing cool drinks and ordered our Christmas lunch choices before driving to the Redcliffs lookout area to look for beach birds. It was fairly quiet along the foreshore with only Silver Gulls, a Pied Cormorant, Pied Oystercatcher, Rainbow Bee-eater and a black-backed Australian Magpie added to the bird list, along with some more of the previously seen birds.

On the way back to our lunch some of us checked out the plainsbird hide and enjoyed some good views of White-winged Fairywrens. We saw a total of only 30 bird



Above: **Redthroat** (Photo: Bernie Haase)

species, and the birds of the day would be the pair of friendly Crimson Chats, the 12 White-fronted Honeyeaters, Chirruping Wedgebills and Redthroats.

Our Christmas lunch was served in the conference room as we watched photos on a big screen from 5 of the group's best photos taken during the year. There were photos from our monthly outings and campout trips to Koolunga area, Witchelina reserve, South Gap station and Munyaroo Conservation Park. Other photos were from members' trips to the north Queensland coast, Werribee wetlands, Eyre Peninsula area, Oodnadatta track, central Queensland and Cape York. We had all enjoyed a good birding day, both outside in the garden and inside in the cool of the conference room.

**B. Haase**

### BIRDS SA

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14 December

#### Myponga Reservoir Reserve

There were 21 members and visitors for our first excursion to this reserve, which had been opened for limited public use by the Minister earlier in the year. The weather was also very pleasant given recent hot spells.

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

We strayed from the excellent walking paths that had been constructed, in order to be nearer the water's edge and the many species of water birds, which included Black Swan (10), Australian Shelduck (20), Australasian Shoveler (11), Musk Duck (3), Grey Teal (30), Chestnut Teal (6), Hardhead (2), Eurasian Coot (300), Hoary-headed Grebe (100), Australian White Ibis (3) together with one each of Straw-necked Ibis, Yellow-billed Spoonbill and Great Egret. There were also good numbers of Pelican, Cormorant, Darter, White-headed Stilt and Masked Lapwing. Australian Reed Warbler (15) and Golden-headed Cisticola (2) provided plenty of good viewings and photographic opportunities.

The combination of open and timbered areas provided ideal habitat for many species, including Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Crimson Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Superb Fairywren, Striated Pardalote, Striated Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Australian Magpie, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail and Mistletoebird.

We gathered for lunch and the birdcall under some shady trees and were pleased to have identified 56 species during our walk.

I would like to mention here that a visiting twitcher from Seattle in the USA attended this excursion. Brian Heapstead was a great asset to our flock despite giving me a hard time throughout the walk! It was pleasing that Brian sent an email thanking us for a "memorable outing" and very useful assistance on other birding spots to visit during his stay in Adelaide. He also passed on some valuable information regarding the importance of follow-up on any leg band identification. I will write this up separately another time.

**Lynton Huxley**

**Right: 4 of the 1000 or so Little Corellas on the water's edge at Clayton.**

*(Photo: Bob Daly)*



## BIRDS SA

### 19 December Kaiser Stuhl CP

This excursion was cancelled, due to very high temperatures and consequent fire bans.

**Martyn Price**

## FLEURIEU BIRDERS

### 4 JANUARY Clayton Bay

15 people met outside Sails Café including a mother and daughter from Clayton who decided to join us after seeing details of the excursion on *facebook*.

After the 42° heat of the day before, the temperature was down to a cool 20°. We walked towards the caravan park along the shoreline and were shocked to see about 1,000 Little Corellas scattered over the grassy areas. They were up on the boat masts, on the jetty landings, drinking at the water edges, flying and squawking around the town. About 40 Galahs were amongst them. Sadly, the wetland birds normally seen here were nowhere in sight. Their absence could be due to the fact the water level in the Goolwa Channel is high this summer. The water is being held back at the Goolwa Barrage, making the area unsuitable for ducks and swans to feed. The wind was strong and in a southerly direction, with waves lapping at the shore. Even the water hens had disappeared.

We drove to the Eastern side of Clayton and walked on the track alongside Islandview Drive. Fortunately, it provided better viewing, especially around the *Ducks Hospital*, where we found 2 Black Swans with 3 cygnets,



## Past Excursions *(continued)*

about 50 Pelicans, 10 Great Cormorants, a few Little Black Cormorants, and about 60 Eurasian Coots; all in the sheltered lagoon. Two Swamp Harriers and 2 Whistling Kites were patrolling the reed areas in the distance.

A local resident found 2 Night Herons in the big, old pine tree. They were very hard to see, even when pointed out. We heard a Brush Bronzewing and were told they have recently been nesting there. A Peaceful Dove landed on the road and another was calling in the distance.

A few terns were flying, including Whiskered, Crested and one Caspian. Singing Honeyeaters were common, but only one New Holland Honeyeater was sighted as well as a few Red Wattlebirds. Goldfinches were found in small groups, while other small birds were hiding from the wind, making them harder to see; with only one Superb Fairywren sighted for a second.

We decided to buy a coffee at the Café at about 10.30 am and make the bird count on their veranda. We were most surprised to total 38 species at Clayton, after what we thought had been a poor day for birding. The option of driving on to Milang turned up a treat!

The wetland, known as *Kindaruar Lagoon*, was well worth a visit. With 16 Glossy Ibis present, Black-winged Stilts, White-faced Herons, Pacific Black Ducks, Shelducks, Teal, Coots, Australian White Ibis, Black Swans and a small group of waders, possibly Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (landing out of sight), it made up for the low numbers of waterbirds at Clayton Bay. We did not include these in the survey for Clayton because of the distance apart. Although some days are better than others, we still enjoyed the day.

**Wendy Phillips**

## BIRDS SA

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11 January

### Onkaparinga Wetlands

Eighteen members attended this excursion, which was held under a clear blue sky and only a gentle breeze.

Our meeting point at the Port Noarlunga Oval coincided with a high tide with the predominant species seen here being about forty Australian Pelicans sitting in the middle of the river on our arrival. The walk to the hill

overlooking the river mouth provided only distant sightings of Australian Pied Cormorants, Silver Gulls, Crested Terns and some keen surfers.

Our convoy then proceeded to the main focus for this excursion, which was the Onkaparinga Wetlands and it was here that most of the 46 species for the outing were observed. Galah, Little Corella, Superb Fairywren, Masked Lapwing, Grey Teal, Tree Martin, Rock Dove and European Goldfinch were the most prolific. It was pleasing to see four Cormorant species Little Pied (5), Little Black (2), Great (3), Pied (15) and a single Nankeen Kestrel.

**Lynton Huxley**

## BIRDS SA

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16 January

### Thompson Beach

Fortunately the weather forecast for this outing was much more promising than that for the December visit to Thompson Beach, although there were still fairly strong southerly winds holding the tide in. Sixteen members and visitors assembled at the meeting point and the outing once again commenced at the Northern saltpan where, in addition to a good count of gulls and terns, we found two juvenile Banded Stilts. A quick visit to the Northern end of the beach yielded 3 Fairy Terns, but no Ruddy Turnstones.

We then moved on to Petrel Cove, where the tide was still fairly high, but it did yield a good count of Common Greenshanks (30), 40 Red Knots and a single Great Knot.

We then moved on to the Southern boat ramp where we found 5 Pied Oystercatchers and, surprisingly, one Sooty Oystercatcher. At this stage we stopped for a birdcall, at which we tallied 38 species. As with the December outing the most common species was Grey Teal (300). We also saw six species of waterbirds, with Little Pied Cormorant being the most common (100). Only a small number of Red-Capped Plovers were recorded (6 compared with 40 in December), but we did record 40 Red Knots, 30 Common Greenshanks, 30 Curlew Sandpipers and 400 Red-necked Stints in a total of thirteen species of shorebirds. Gulls and terns were well represented in the count, with 100 Whiskered Terns, 80 Silver Gulls, 30 Greater Crested Terns, 20 Caspian Terns, 12 Pacific Gulls, and 3 Fairy Terns.

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

After the birdcall, we decided to have a walk on the trail at the southern end of the road. We did not add many species to the list, but did locate a further 21 Pied Oystercatchers and one more Sooty Oystercatcher.

The two additional species were added on this walk — Fairy Martin (2) and two neophema. The neophema were only sighted briefly in flight and there were differing opinions as to whether they were Elegant or Rock Parrots, so the identity was left as unresolved.

At the end of the day we tallied 40 species.

**Brian Walker**

### PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (The Babblers)

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19 January

#### Baroota Reservoir

On a slightly overcast and calm morning a group of 12 birders came together at the Mambray Creek highway parking bay. Four each were from Pt. Augusta and Mambray Creek, with one each from Whyalla, Pt. Pirie, Wilmington and Weeroona Island. We travelled towards Baroota reservoir via a dirt back road called the Cattle Track, which goes through open paddock country. There is some good remnant vegetation along the side of the road, and we found Singing Honeyeaters, Crested Pigeons, House Sparrows, Purple-backed and White-winged Fairywrens and Black-faced Woodswallow in the shrubs, as well as Nankeen Kestrels, Common Starlings, Australian Ravens, Galahs and Australian Magpies in the trees. In the open fields there were Australian Pipits, Horsfield's Bushlarks, Brown Songlarks and a Stubble Quail; while Tree Martins, Rock Doves and Welcome Swallows were flying past.

We entered the Baroota reservoir having obtained permission from SA Water and stopped near the entrance area to look for birds in the Red Gum lined creek that carries water flowing from the reservoir. The trees contained a large flock of noisy Little Corellas and a few Galahs, Little Ravens, Red-rumped Parrots, Whiteplumed and Singing Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, Peaceful Doves, Dusky Woodswallows, Australian Magpies, Elegant Parrots, a single Cockatiel as well as Rainbow Bee-eaters that were feeding their young and Silveryeyes that were feeding on the fruits of a big fig tree.

A flock of Rock Doves and House Sparrows resided in the buildings, while Purple-backed Fairywrens, Grey Shrike-thrushes, Willie Wagtails, Magpielarks, Blackbirds, and Diamond Firetails moved about in the undergrowth. Welcome Swallows, Tree Martins and a Collared Sparrowhawk were flying overhead. After having a feed of juicy figs we moved onto the base of the reservoir wall to have smoko. Here we added Kookaburras, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Flinders Ranges Rosellas, Rufous Whistler, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Weebills, White-faced Heron, White-browed Babblers and a Reed Warbler. As we drove on to the spillway area some Yellow-rumped Thornbills, White-winged Fairywrens and Pipits made themselves known. We stopped at the spillway and looked over the reservoir water body, which was very low. Four Rainbow Lorikeets flew past as we looked for waterbirds through our telescopes. Coots swam near us but most of the birds could only be seen in the distance. However, we could make out an Australian Shelduck, which was a first sighting by our group for this site. We would get closer to the mass of water birds when we reached the other side of the water body.

We drove on, crossed the dam wall and climbed to a high point that overlooked the area, observing the dry arm of the reservoir that usually yielded good waterbird habitat. We had to allow room on the track for a water truck to pass. The vehicle supplied water to some drilling rigs that were soil testing for the proposed pumped hydro power plant that may be built here. We drove around to the other side of the reservoir and stopped near the place where the waterbirds were much closer. Here we saw many Grey Teal, Pacific Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, Blue-billed Ducks as well as smaller numbers of Pink-eared Ducks, Musk Ducks, Hardheads, Hoary-headed and Australian Grebes. Along the shoreline there were Black-tailed Nativehens, Masked Lapwings and 14 Black-fronted Dotterels. A Sacred Kingfisher and a Wedge-tailed Eagle were also added to our bird list. As we drove out of the site Grey Butcherbird, Common Bronzewing, White-winged Triller, Australian Ravens and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills finished of our bird sightings. We had found 60 bird species at Baroota reservoir and 18 along the Cattle Track, bringing the total of different bird species for the day to 65. The birds of the day would have to be the Australian Shelduck, Diamond Firetail and Horsfield's Bushlark.

**B. Haase**

*SAOA Historical Series No 71*

# *Murderous Millinery:*

*History of the Bird Plume Trade with  
Special Reference to South Australia*

*By Penny Paton*



**Figure 1 – 1910 black horsehair lace,**  
stretched over a wire frame decorated with a whole bird of paradise,  
labelled James G. Johnson & Co. Newark. New Jersey  
<http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/the-bird-hat-murderous-millinery>



## Introduction

Philippa Horton provided me with a brilliant segue for this Historical Series on the bird plume trade in South Australia at the end of her piece on the SAOA Silver Challenge Cup (Horton 2019). She mused on the influence of the School Bird Protection Clubs, active in our state from 1910 to the late 1930s, on general attitudes to bird conservation and protection.

Any attempt to gauge their influence from the distance of 100 years must be speculative and anecdotal, but she decided that their timing was important as their inauguration followed the worldwide outcry over the use of birds and their feathers in the millinery trade. Figure 1 (on the previous page) shows an example of this practice. Figure 2 shows another example of the use of birds for decorative purposes.

The battle over the plume industry has been described as “one of the first popular movements in defense [sic] of the environment and was indicative of changing public attitudes towards natural resources, a significant transformation after an era of major industrialization and urbanization” (Zhang, web reference). The debate over what was termed “murderous millinery” involved amongst others milliners, ornithologists, women and hunters, and was most hotly contested in the UK and the US. The mid-nineteenth century saw the rise of the fashion for using birds and their feathers for trimmings, with skins of brightly plumaged birds

like hummingbirds and the plumes of egrets, birds of paradise and lyre birds being most highly prized. Such adornments had been recognised as an indication of high status and wealth, but what had been small-scale became a widespread practice amongst the growing middle classes (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plume\_hunting accessed 21/1/2020).



**Figure 2 — Victorian Taxidermied bird dome**  
<http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/the-bird-hat-murderous-millinery>

## The Americas

While many of the feathers were sold through auction houses in London, New York and Paris, large numbers of birds were sourced from the Americas, predominantly North America, Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil. Many species of birds were collected, but egrets and herons were the most highly prized for their ‘aigrettes’, or filamentous sprays of breeding feathers. Much of the collecting was carried out during the breeding season, as the birds could be readily targeted at

their nests. Of course this led to the death of the fledglings in the nests due to the killing of the parent birds. At first the environmental damage was unknown to the general public but, even when it became known, arguments raged over the continuation of the practice, due to the lucrative nature of the trade.

In the late nineteenth century conservative estimates were that five million birds were killed annually but the actual number is likely to be three or four times higher (Zhang, web

reference). In just one London auction room in 1902, 1,608 packets of heron plumes were sold and, each packet weighed about 30 ounces, making a total of 48,240 ounces (or 1,368kg). Estimates are that three or four birds were needed for an ounce of plumes, so over 192,000 birds were killed at their nests for that one auction house's annual sale. If we add in the two or three nestlings also left to die, then the number jumps to over half a million birds. Estimates vary but it seems that hunters targeted over 60 species of birds for the feather trade and 15 bird genera were involved. ([https://web.stanford.edu/group/stanfordbirds/text/essays/Plume\\_Trade.html](https://web.stanford.edu/group/stanfordbirds/text/essays/Plume_Trade.html) accessed 22/1/20).

Coastal wetlands close to population centres were the first to be exploited and the Florida Everglades, with their extensive wetlands and large colonies of egrets, were particularly vulnerable. The Great Egret and its more common, delicate relative, the Snowy Egret, were most highly prized, and by the end of the nineteenth century there was concern that some species would be exterminated by the trade. When the cruel practices at egret colonies were widely publicised, public sentiment turned against the use of heron and egret feathers, but then other birds were targeted such as seabirds on the Atlantic coast, West Coast terns, grebes, White Pelicans and albatrosses (*ibid.*). In 1886 an article in the magazine *Good Housekeeping* noted that a single hunter had killed 40,000 terns in one season at Cape Cod (*ibid.*).

The trade was very lucrative and a huge employer in the US; hence the strength of the vested interests in its continuation. In 1903 hunters were paid \$32 per ounce for plumes, making them twice as expensive as gold at the time and, in later years, plumes would fetch \$80 per ounce (*ibid.*). The millinery trade in the US in 1900 employed 83,000 people, and this was from a population of only about 8 million. Many spurious claims were made by vested interests, claiming that feathers were artificial or were moulted feathers from birds on foreign farms (*ibid.*).

Efforts to publicise and stop the killing of birds for the millinery trade began as early as the

1870s but gathered force in the next decade with the establishment of the first Audubon Society in 1886 by George Grinnell, the publisher of *Forest and Stream*, a sportsman magazine (Zhang, web reference). Grinnell condemned the hunting and use of birds for the millinery trade and was concerned that unregulated hunting would lead to the extinction of some species (Zhang, web reference). He believed that by publicising the cruelty of the trade, women would stop buying and wearing such headgear and, while this did prove to be true, it was to take 10 years for this to come to fruition. As conservation activities gained ground and legislation was enacted, the hunting fraternity became more desperate, with poaching and illegal hunting taking place in the first decade of the 1900s.

The story of Guy Bradley is instructive in the light of the battle between hunters and conservationists. In 1885 Guy, at 15 years old, and his older brother Louis, were scouts for noted French plume hunter Jean Chevalier on his trip to the Everglades. Their expedition of several weeks killed 1,397 birds of 36 species and they were paid more than \$20 per ounce (equivalent to \$500 in 2011) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plume\\_hunting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plume_hunting) accessed 22/1/20). Later Guy became a warden protecting birds from plume hunters, but was shot and killed in the Everglades in July 1905 while arresting poachers who were hunting egrets. The shooter was acquitted but this event, and another murder three years later, caused huge public outrage and inspired support for the Audubon Society (Zhang, web reference).

### **The Pacific and Australasia**

While New York and London were the biggest markets for birds and feathers for millinery, Paris was also important and birds were collected all over the world, including in the Pacific and Australasia. For example, Japanese hunters killed over 300,000 albatross, gulls, terns and other birds on Laysan Island in the North Pacific by in 1909. More would have been taken if officers of the US government had not arrested the hunters. The birds and feathers were destined for the Paris market (<https://open.sydneyuniversitypress.com.au/file>

s/9781743325452.pdf accessed 22/1/20). Bird of paradise feathers were highly prized and fetched the highest prices of any plumed bird. In 1913, one of the peak years for trade in birds of paradise, 80,000 skins were exported from New Guinea and, although World War I interrupted the trade from 1914-18, it was resumed after the war. However, by the early 1920s the European market for plumes had ceased (*ibid.*).

While collecting feathers and birds for the millinery trade occurred on a lesser scale in Australia than in some other parts of the world, some species were collected for this purpose. One source noted that fears were expressed for the Emu due to the large number killed for their feathers

(<https://fashioningfeathers.info/murderous-millinery/> accessed 21/1/20) and male lyrebirds were targeted due to their extraordinary tail feathers. The feathers were used as hat decorations, as patriotic home decorations and for curio hunters from other countries (<http://www.birdlife.org.au/australian-birdlife/detail/fashion-feathers-and-the-birth-of-the-conservation-movement> accessed 22/1/20). In 1910 two Sydney dealers sold 1,298 lyrebird tails, and 3,000 tails were exported in a three year period (*ibid.*). There was some collecting of egret feathers in Australia but I cannot find out how widespread this practice was. However, feathers were being imported for the local fashion industry. In 1912 for example, imports to the value of £92,000 were recorded (Newland 1923).

### **Opposition to the trade in the UK and the US**

In Great Britain protests against the plume trade began as early as 1868, when Professor Alfred Newton addressed the British Association on the destruction of birds for the millinery trade (Reid 1974). The outcry against the cruel hunting practices and the decimation of bird populations led in 1889 to the formation of the Society for the Protection of Birds (SPB), from 1903 to become the Royal Society (RSPB). Destruction of British birds like the Great Crested Grebe and the Kittiwake to decorate fancy hats and ruffs had led to earlier legislation like the Sea Birds Preservation Act of

1869 and the Wild Birds Protection Act of 1880 (<https://fashioningfeathers.info/murderous-millinery/> accessed 21/1/20). The RSPB called for the end to the use of birds and their feathers for fashion and for women to refuse to wear such items. Most of the RSPB members were women and they were moved by the emotional appeal of stories and photographs of egret colonies full of dead and dying adult and young birds.

Several Plumage Bills were put before the Parliament in the early 1900s, with the last unsuccessful attempt made in 1920, when a Bill failed to pass the House of Commons (*ibid.*). A member of that Parliament denounced women for the failure to pass the Bill, pointing to the continued use of feathers in women's headgear. Virginia Woolf came to the defence of her sex in her essay *The Plumage Bill*, in which she admitted that it was mainly women who bought and wore the decorated hats, but that it was men, as hunters and merchants, who turned killing into a commodity and a male parliament which had failed to pass the Plumage Bill. What she failed to concede though was that it was mainly women who were employed in the millinery business (*ibid.*). The Plumage Act was passed in 1921, but whether this was due to the humanitarian arguments, conservation arguments, falling numbers of plumes or the awkwardness of wearing over-sized and constraining hats for newly-emancipated women is unclear. Most likely all these factors played a part in the elimination of the bird plume trade.

In the US the formation of branches of the Audubon Society in 12 states, the crusading efforts of two women, Boston socialites Harriet Hemenway and her cousin Minna Hall, and the public outcry over the cruel practices of hunters, led to the passage of the Lacey Act in 1900. This prohibited transport between states of birds taken in violation of state laws (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-two-women-ended-the-deadly-feather-trade-23187277/> accessed 22/1/20). This law was poorly enforced and did little to stem the trade in bird plumes and it was not until the Weeks-McLean Law (or Migratory Bird Act) of 1913 that the hunting of birds for markets and the interstate transport of birds



were outlawed (*ibid.*). Several court challenges to Weeks-McLean led to the Supreme Court upholding a subsequent piece of legislation, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which effectively ended the plume trade in the US.

### The Australian Experience

While the hunting of wild birds for their feathers took place on a much smaller scale in Australia than in other parts of the world, the wearing of birds and their feathers for fashion was as much practised here from the mid-1870s as it was in the Northern Hemisphere. Birds and plumes were used as hat decorations and feathers were also used in fans (Fletcher 1984). Ostrich feathers were commonly used in combination with tortoiseshell or ivory sticks, but, as shown in Figure 3, black cockatoo tail feathers made for very eye-catching fans too (*ibid.*) In the 1880s an unsuccessful attempt

was made to farm ostriches in South Australia, but the venture was unable to compete with enterprises in South Africa, where the birds were native (*ibid.*).

In South Australia, a branch of the SPB was established in 1894, primarily to lobby against the fashion of using birds' feathers and skins for adornment, but it was interested in bird protection more generally and used the arguments of the more scientific and practical societies for its ends (Reid 1974). The South Australian branch included some prominent men and women among its associates, executive and members. Membership was 85 in 1895 but had grown to 525 by 1898 and 1,311 by 1909. Lady Victoria Buxton and Lady Tennyson, the wives of successive Governors, were Patronesses of the organisation and the associates included some of the cream of South



**Figure 3 — Fan of Black Cockatoo tail feathers and ivory, ca 1880 (Plate 152 in Fletcher 1984)  
Made in Darwin by Chinese settlers (photo P. Paton)**

Australian society — Mr and Mrs Robert Barr Smith, Right Hon. Samuel and Lady Way, Sir John Langdon and Lady Bonython — as well as members of parliament, clergymen and well-known scientists, including Captain White, J.G.O. Tepper, A.C. Minchin and John W. Mellor (Reid 1974). The scientists, together with M. Symonds Clark, who was a committee member, provided valuable links between the South Australian Ornithological Association (SAOA), the RSPB and a third organisation dealing with bird protection — the Fauna and Flora Protection Committee (FFPC) of the Field Naturalists' Section of the Royal Society of South Australia.

Women predominated in the SPB and Mrs Emily Playford, the Secretary from the Society's inception, was the driving force behind the formation of the local branch. She made speeches in favour of bird protection to groups like the Teachers' Association and women's groups, corresponded with the parent society and wrote letters to the newspapers publicising the movement. The RSPB played a most important role in bird protection in South Australia. Many non-scientists who would otherwise not have taken part in the movement were attracted to the SPB for emotional rather than scientific reasons. It is significant that the FFPC's attempt to introduce a Game Act Amendment Bill should fail but that the Bird Protection Bill sponsored by the SPB became law in 1900 (Reid 1974). The SPB was valuable for its connection to an international society with vast resources.

As well as using material from overseas in its arguments against the plume trade, Australia provided the rest of the world with ammunition to use against the cruelty of this endeavour. An Australian ornithologist and bird photographer, Arthur Mattingley, visited a heronry on the River Murray at Mathoura in New South Wales in early November 1906 (Mattingley 1907a). Among other species of heron and egret, Mattingley found a colony of about 150 White Egrets (now the Great Egret), which reportedly had been much larger before the plume-hunters had decimated the breeding birds there. On a return visit a month or so later to obtain photos of egrets feeding their young, Mattingley (1907b) was horrified to discover

“at least 50 carcasses of large White and smaller Plumed Egrets – nearly one-third of the rookery, perhaps more- the birds having been shot off their nests containing young. What a holocaust! Plundered for their plumes. What a monument of human callousness! There were 50 birds ruthlessly destroyed, besides their young (about 200) left to die of starvation!”

Mattingley (1907b) took a series of photographs of a nest of emaciated young egrets progressively becoming weaker and weaker through starvation. This series of photos is shown in figure 4, on the opposite page (*see end of article if you are unable to read the captions below the photographs*). It was his account and these photographs that were published around the world that helped to end the trade in bird plumes. They sent shockwaves through the bird communities of not only Australia but also the rest of the world. In London Mattingley's photos were published in a detailed supplement to the RSPB's quarterly magazine *Bird Notes and News*, which reached Paris, Amsterdam and Audubon Societies in the US, and they were displayed in towns and local newspapers. They were even used on sandwich boards and paraded around London (<http://www.artinsociety.com/feathers-fashion-and-animal-rights.html> accessed 22/1/20). The RSPB also republished seven of Mattingley's photographs in a booklet, *The Story of the Egret* (Robin 2001). His work galvanized the Australian Ornithologists' Union to take up the issue of the plume trade, leading to an interstate conference on bird protection in 1908 in Melbourne (*ibid.*).

The RSPB branch in South Australia operated at least until 1912 (Reid 1974). The SAOA holds material relating to the SPB/RSPB in its archives in the State Library of South Australia (SRG 652/14). These include reports and reprints from the parent society in Britain and most are stamped “Mrs. J. Playford “The Willows” Mitcham, Hon. Sec. for S. Australian Branch”. The hand-written note from Bob Brown accompanying the collection states that it was donated by Mrs Muriel White from her husband, Captain S.A. White's holdings via Gordon Ragless.

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PLATE VIII.



Starveling Egrets (Parents Shot for their Plumes).  
Young (*plumifera*) Calling to Passing Herons for Food, Waiting for the End.  
Young (*tineriensis*) All But Dead.

FROM PHOTOS BY A. H. E. MATTINGLEY.

**Figure 4 — The page that shook the world!**  
Source: *Emu* (1907, Vol 7, between pages 72 and 73)



## Long-term Effects of the Bird Plume Trade

While most bird populations recovered from the depredations of hunters for the plume trade, there were some casualties of the industry. The Carolina Parakeet, which was considered a serious agricultural pest, was killed in large numbers by farmers. This, combined with the destruction of forests and hunting for its bright feathers for the millinery trade, caused the Carolina Parakeet to begin declining in the 1800s; it was rarely reported outside Florida after 1860 and was extinct by the 1920s (<https://fashioningfeathers.info/murderous-millinery/> accessed 21/1/20). The Huia of New Zealand was likewise hunted for its feathers and was extinct by 1907 (*ibid.*). Its extinction was due to hunting, deforestation and the introduction of mammalian predators (<https://www.beautyofbirds.com/huia.html> accessed 24/1/20).

The debate over the balance between conservation of the natural environment and the needs of an industrial society, epitomised by the plume trade, is ongoing, although it takes different forms in the early years of the twenty first century.

## Acknowledgments

Philippa Horton ran her, as always, efficient and skilled eye over an earlier draft and made valuable suggestions and corrections. I am also indebted to Cynthia Pyle for her expertise in design which has turned my prosaic piece into an eye-catching and attractive product.

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## Captions for the photographs in figure 4

Starveling Egrets (parents shot for their plumes)

Young calling to passing herons for food.

Waiting for the end

Young all but dead

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

Right: Whistling Kite  
and Wedge-tailed Eagle

(Photo: Lindsay Ames)



### BIRDS SA

#### 26 January Paiwalla Wetlands

After meeting at Sunnyside Lookout and sorting out procedures we moved onto the wetlands car park. It was pleasing that 36 people attended, with many new members including 10-year-old Riley and his parents.

Given the large number, we split into two groups to circumnavigate the lagoon with the usual plan to be back for lunch and the birdcall at around 12 noon. The weather was perfect for our long walk around the shore and main levee bank and it was especially pleasing to see the positive interaction between experienced and new members.

The bird call provided us with an impressive total of 74 species (total of 2,115 birds counted) which included Black Swan (50), Freckled Duck (8), Musk Duck (6), Blue-billed Duck (2), Australasian Shoveler (10), Australian Pelican (50), four Cormorant species: Little Pied (6), Little Black (20), Great (10) and Pied (2), Australian Darter (14), Silver Gull (50), Eurasian Coot (100), Swamp Harrier, Black-shouldered, Black and Whistling Kite, Superb Fairywren (50), Red-rumped Parrot (20), Singing Honeyeater (20), White-plumed Honeyeater (20), Striated Pardalote (2), Sacred Kingfisher (2), Australian Reed Warbler (20), Little Grassbird (20), Tree Martin (30), White-browed Babbler (5), Black Falcon (2), Peregrine Falcon (3), Nankeen Kestrel (1) and Rainbow Bee-eater (16).

Our thanks must go to Steve Scowns and his team for maintaining this private haven.

**Lynton Huxley**



Above: Rainbow Bee-eater (Photo: Lindsay Ames)

### FLEURIEU BIRDERS

#### 1 February Goolwa Barrage and Beacon

It was disappointing to have to cancel this bird watch due to the wild, wet and stormy weather that was forecast.

The week before the weather was perfect and Bob and I counted 51 species from Barrage Rd to Beacon 19 at Goolwa.

The best bird sights can be seen lately at the **bird hide on Barrage Road** as the water level is perfect for close views of waders. Sixteen species have been counted in an hour there. A visitor recently photographed a Latham Snipe, and Spotted Crake are frequently seen.

**Wendy Phillips**

### BIRDS SA

#### 8 February Whites Road Wetlands

Fifteen members and one visitor met on a beautiful summer morning which heated up to about 29° at midday, at which time we found a nice shady spot, had lunch, and conducted the bird call.

Ten days prior to the outing the water levels in the ponds and adjacent waterways were very low, but following the 30mm of rain over the weekend of 31 January to 2 February most of the main ponds were approximately 80% full.

## Past Excursions *(continued)*



Above: **Brown Quail**



Above: **Chestnut Teal**

*(Photos by Lindsay Ames)*

The group managed to see 54 species and to hear two: Striated Pardalote and Little Grassbird. The total number of birds counted was a very low — 411. This compares with the February 2018 outing when 730 birds were present over 65 species.

Normally there would be hundreds of ducks representing six or seven species, but we managed a total of only 96 ducks, consisting of 6 Maned Duck, 50 Grey Teal and 20 each of Chestnut Teal and Pacific Black Duck. The highest counts in other waterbird species were 20 Eurasian Coots, 20 Pied Stilts 12 Australasian Grebes, 6 Australian White Ibis and 6 White-faced Herons. Twelve Red-kneed and 2 Black-fronted were the only dotterels present. No Silver Gulls or Black-tailed Nativehens were seen.

Of the other species seen the highest counts were 30 Superb Fairywrens, 20 Noisy Miners, 15 White-plumed Honeyeaters, 15 House Sparrows, 10 Rainbow Lorikeets, 10 Magpie Larks, and 10 Australian Reed Warblers were either seen or heard.

By far the highlight of the morning was the sighting of 6 Brown Quails, with most in the group seeing them at a range of 4 to 5m. They were moving about in fairly dense vegetation but did come into clear view more than once. Unfortunately we could not follow them for a longer view as they were behind some fencing that surrounds the road works.

After lunch and the birdcall, a small group moved to the area where White-winged Fairywrens have been reported. Following a very thorough search, a group of five or six individuals were seen and heard, but the group did not include any fully coloured males. In December 2019 as many as 12 individuals were present and there were reports of three females and two males feeding three nestlings in a very visible nest. So it appears that a small population is still about. It is not

clear however whether, after completion of the road works, we will be able to obtain closer access to any areas of their original habitat that may have not been affected by the construction.

Work on the Northern Connector is well advanced, and it is likely that this is the last Birds SA outing that will be unaffected by significant noise pollution caused by this roadway. There have been reports in the press that 930,000 native shrubs and trees have been, or will, be planted along the 15.5 km stretch of road. We could not find any evidence of these plantings anywhere near Whites Road.

**Rod Tetlow**

### PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (The Babblers)

9 February

#### Weroona Island and Port Pirie Wetland

##### *Weroona Island*

On a sunny and calm morning eight birders came together at the highway turnoff to Weroona Island. Four of them were from Pt. Augusta and one each from Weroona Island, Whyalla, Koolunga and Mambray Creek. As we waited for others some Australian Magpies, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Willie Wagtails, Starlings, Yellow-throated Miners, Welcome Swallows, Little Ravens, White-winged Fairywrens and Kestrels started the bird list for this area.

We crossed the causeway to the island, adding Australian White Ibis and Singing Honeyeaters to the list. We parked at the picnic area and found a dozen White-fronted Chats feeding on the ground, as Crested Pigeons, Galahs, Magpie-larks and Australian Ravens



## Past Excursions *(continued)*

flew past. Singing Honeyeaters, Australian Pipits and more Australian White Ibis were also seen. We moved on to the mangroves boat ramp area and found White-faced Herons, Little Egrets, Sacred Kingfishers, Greenshanks, Masked Lapwings, a Common Sandpiper, Little Pied Cormorants, Grey Shrike-thrush and a White-browed Scrubwren, but we could not photograph it. There was also a juvenile Brown Goshawk sneaking through the trees and mangroves.



Above: **Black Falcon**  
(Photo: Larry Gruit)

When we arrived at the main boat ramp area we were met by a flock of Crested Terns on the beach while Pelicans and Pacific Gulls floated on the water. Pied and Little Black Cormorants and Silver Gulls flew around and as we were having smoko a juvenile Swamp Harrier glided past. We drove on around the island and stopped where there was still some remnant native scrub that had not been cleared for housing developments. Here we found Red Wattlebirds, Tree Martins, Silvereyes and many House Sparrows to add to the bird list. Our last stop was next to some big mangroves where we had some good looks at more Silvereyes, Purple-backed Fairywrens, a New Holland Honeyeater and 2 more inquisitive White-browed Scrubwrens that still would not let us photograph them. A total of 40 bird species was found here. It was time to head off to Pt. Pirie and the wetlands there.

### **Pt. Pirie Wetlands**

We ate our lunch under some shady trees on a vacant block next to the wetlands and then walked into the reedy wetlands. The area had been very dry for some time until there had been some good rainfall at the start of the month, which had half-filled the wetland. Disappointingly the bird life was quiet with no Grassbirds or Reed Warblers calling but there were some Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, Australian White Ibis, Little Pied Cormorants, Magpielarks and a single Silver Gull at the waters edge, with Australian Ravens, Rock Doves, Whiskered Terns, Welcome Swallows and many Tree Martins flying overhead. We walked around the ponds and had to negotiate a washed out culvert on the way. A White-faced Heron and a Purple Swampphen lengthened our bird list. In the trees around the edge of the wetland we found an Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtails, Nankeen Kestrels, Spotted Doves, Red Wattlebirds and White-plumed Honeyeaters with young.

After a bird call back at the vehicles, with only 19 bird species seen, we decided to have a look for more birds at the John Pirie bridge beach area.

### **John Pirie Bridge Area**

The tide was running out exposing the mud banks as we parked after crossing the bridge. There was a Spotted Dove where we had stopped and then walked onto the bridge road overlooking the beach and mud flats. A pair of Pacific Black Ducks swam along the edge of the mangroves and White-faced Herons, Australian White Ibis, Masked Lapwings,

Pied Oystercatchers and Little Egrets fossicked about on the mud flats. A Crested Tern, a Pied Cormorant and Black Kites passed overhead, while a large flock of Silver Gulls rested on the beach. A pair of Musk Ducks swam on the water in the distance. We drove on to the end of the road and stopped to look for birds on the shore but there were none. In the scrub nearby a pair of Singing Honeyeaters and some White-winged Fairy-wrens moved about while a Black Falcon perched on a power pylon looked down on us while tearing apart a hapless bird in its talons. We found only 15 bird species here. We found a total of 50 different bird species for the day, with the White-browed Scrubwrens and the Black Falcon being the birds of the day.

**B. Haase**



Above: **White-faced Heron** (Photo: Larry Gruit)

# 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 will have 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.

- **Do not include a list of all the species seen.**
- **Reports should not exceed 500 words in length.**

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.

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

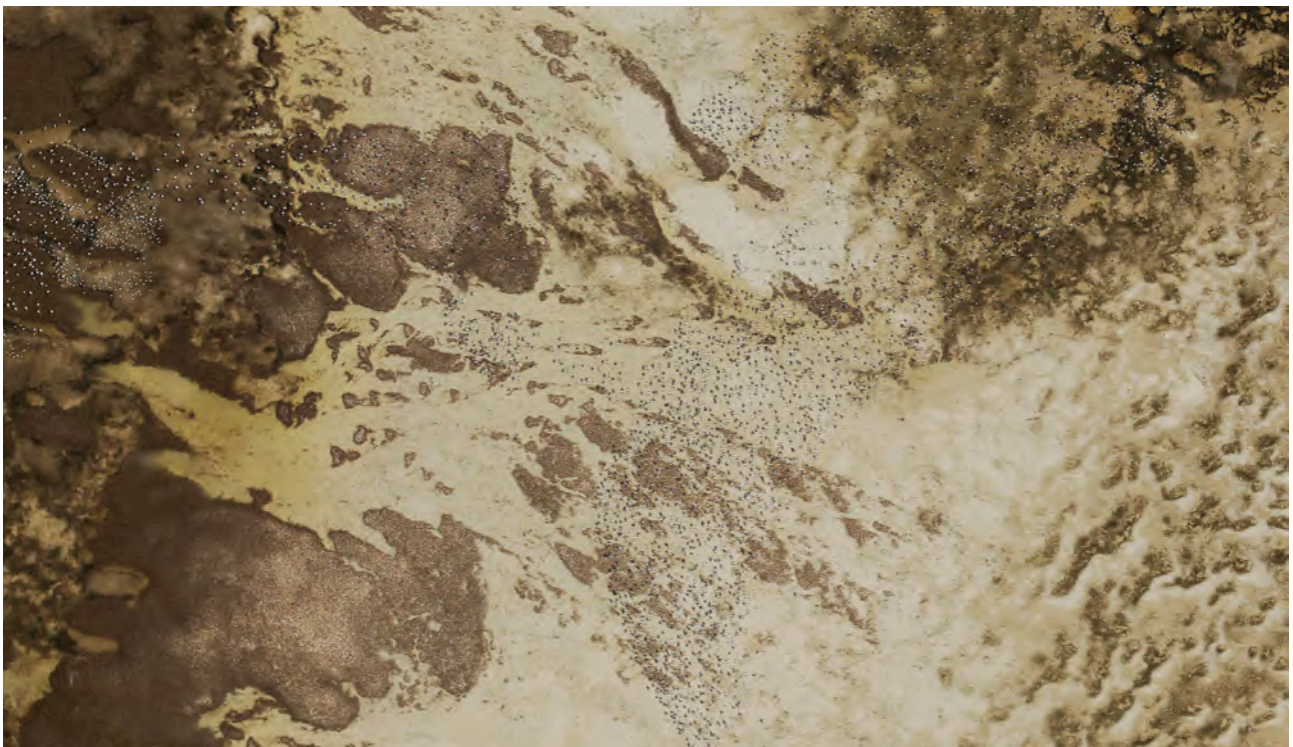
If a fire ban is in effect or the forecast temperature is above 36C in the area of a scheduled walk, the walk is automatically cancelled.

### **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)**

**Contacts:** Peter 0457708859 or Bernie  
0419863834, b.haase@telstra.com



Above: **Aerial view of Banded Stilts flying over sand hills** (Photo: Chris Purnell)

## Future Excursions *(continued)*

### BIRDS SA

**Sunday 1 March**  
**Riverglades Wetlands Murray Bridge**  
| Easy | (MM) 80km

Meet at 8.30am in the boat ramp car park at Avoca Dell. Drive to Murray Bridge town. Cross the bridge to the eastern side of the river and take the fifth turning left into Mitchell Ave. After 3.35km turn left into Murray Drive. At the foot of hill turn right and you will see the car park ahead.

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

### FLEURIEU BIRDERS

**Saturday 7 March**  
**Lawari C.P and revegetated areas on private properties**  
| Easy |

Meet at 8.30 at Ferryman's Reserve.

### BIRDS SA

**Saturday 14 March**  
**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 / Miles Ramm**

### PORT AUGUSTA GROUP (The Babblers)

**Sunday 15 March**  
**Wirrabara Forest and Block 9 Road**

Meet at 8,30am at Wirrabara Pub.

### BIRDS SA

**Thursday 19 March**  
**Altona CSR Landcare Reserve**  
| Moderate | (MLR) 55km

Meet at 8.30am. The Reserve is off Altona Road and only 2km NE of Lyndoch. Parking is available at the entrance gate.

**TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn**

### BIRDS SA

**Sunday 29 March**  
**Glenthorne National Park**  
| Moderate | (AP) 17km

Meet at 8.30am at the Ranger Station on Major's Road, O'Halloran Hill. This is on the south side of Majors Road, between Main South Road and the Southern Expressway. The property is 3km from north to south and up to 2.5km wide. If we cover the full property it will be a long walk.

**TRIP LEADER: Alan Burns**

### FLEURIEU BIRDERS

**Saturday 14 April**  
**Myponga Reservoir**

Meet at 8.30am at the car park at the start of the walking track

**TRIP LEADER: Pat Upill**

### BIRDS SA

**Easter Campout, 9 – 14 April**  
**Cantara Homestead, Coorong National Park** | Easy |

Full details on facilities and how to get there are provided separately in this issue of The Birder.

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

### BIRDS SA

**Thursday 16 April**

No excursion scheduled due to Easter Campout

### PORT AUGUSTA GROUP (The Babblers)

**Friday 17, Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 April**  
**Ironstone Hill Conservation Park to Whyalla Wetlands**  
**Campout (no facilities available)**

Meet at 9am at Whyalla Wetlands

### BIRDS SA

**Sunday 26 April**  
**Scott Creek Conservation Park**  
| Difficult | (MLR) 28km

Meet at 8.30am at the Almanda Mine Site car park area on Dorset Vale Road. Take the SE Freeway and leave it at the Stirling exit. At the roundabout, turn right to Longwood. After approx. 2.5 to 3km turn right towards Cherry Gardens, turning left into Dorset Vale Road about 2km before reaching Cherry Gardens.

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**



## Future Excursions *(continued)*

### The incredibly rare Scottish Hummingbird



Photo sourced by Gordon Patemen

#### FLEURIEU BIRDERS

**Saturday 2 May**  
Randall Vineyard, Currency Creek

Meet at 8.30am at the Old Currency Creek Winery car park.

**TRIP LEADER:** *Wendy Phillips*

#### BIRDS SA

**Saturday 9 May**  
Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker  
| Easy | (MLR) 34km

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

**TRIP LEADER:** *to be advised*

#### PORT AUGUSTA GROUP (The Babblers)

**Sunday 17 May**  
Carriererloo Station

Meet at 8am at the start of the Stuart Highway.

#### BIRDS SA

**Thursday 21 May**  
Mudla Wirra Reserve (Pengilly Scrub)  
| Easy | (67km)

From Adelaide take the M20 to Gawler then the Main North Road passing through Roseworthy. About 1km past the Grain Bunkers turn left onto Molloy Road. The reserve will be on your right after 5km and before you come to Mitchell Road.

**TRIP LEADER:** *Ali Ben Kahn*

#### BIRDS SA

**Sunday 31 May**  
Apex Park Wetland Reserve, West Beach  
| Easy | (AP) 10km

Meet at the Wetland Reserve car park located off Burbridge Road, West Beach. There are toilets near entrance of the carpark.

**TRIP LEADER:** *to be advised*

#### FLEURIEU BIRDERS

**Saturday 6 June**  
Scott Conservation Park

Meet at 8.30am at the first car park in Gould Road.

**TRIP LEADER:** *Bob Daly*

#### BIRDS SA

**Saturday 13 June**  
Deep Creek Conservation Park (Stringybark Camp)  
| Moderate | (MLR) 100km

The easiest way to get there from Adelaide is to travel along Main South Road to Myponga, then onto Normanville and Second Valley, past the Rapid Bay turn off, until you reach the little settlement of Delamere.

Immediately after the store at Delamere, turn left. This sealed 14km road leads to Victor Harbor, but the unsealed roads to Deep Creek Conservation Park and the camping grounds are clearly marked. Meet at the Stringybark camp area at 8.30am.

**TRIP LEADER:** *Ali Ben Kahn*

This year's Easter Campout will be at **Cantara Homestead in the Coorong National Park**, which is 230km or about 3 hours travel time from Adelaide. Since the Salt Creek Roadhouse is permanently closed, Meningie is the nearest place for fuel/supplies etc.

To reach Cantara Homestead from Adelaide:

- Take the South-eastern Freeway to Murray Bridge and on to Taillem Bend.
- Then take the Princess Hwy through Meningie, past Salt Creek.
- After you have passed 42 Mile Crossing look on your left for Cantara Road which links to Keith.
- Continue on the highway for about 1km and look for a dirt road on your right (Old Coorong Road) displaying a Birds SA sign that will lead you to a gate on your right (about another 500m) directly to the Homestead (*refer attached Maps 1 and 6*).

All main access roads to the park are suitable for 2WD vehicles, however some of the tracks within the park are accessible to 4WD vehicles only.

We have secured the Cantara Homestead for this camp. The homestead contains a kitchen as well as dormitory accommodation of 8 bedrooms that can sleep up to 15 people. ***If you wish to sleep in one of these dormitories, please make your bookings through the camp leader ASAP.*** Three showers and two toilets are a very short walk outside.

Campsites for those wishing to rough it in tents, caravans or motorhomes are available around these quarters. There is a combustion heater inside, but you must bring your own wood. If the fireban season has finished you will be able to use a campfire spot outside.

Camp access for Birds SA will be from 12noon on Thursday till 12noon on Tuesday 14th April (refer Notes on right).

This facility is not available for us to camp outside the above period. However, alternative National Park sites may be available should you wish to extend your stay. For information about the standard park fees and online booking conditions refer to:

[www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/booking](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/booking).

## NOTES

- Make sure you top up your fuel tank before you leave either Taillem Bend or Meningie;
- The homestead operates on rainwater catchment only. Water from the filtered tap in the kitchen is fit for drinking and cooking. It is recommended that you bring your own bottled water for drinking;
- Kitchen: has a gas stove and two fridges for our use. Some utensils are provided, but to be certain, bring any cooking utensils you may need. A gas barbeque is also available;
- Bedrooms: there are 8 share rooms, which can be used as bedrooms. One double bunk and 13 single beds are provided. You will need to bring all your own bedding;
- Bathroom: three showers and two toilets are available;
- The fee for a dormitory bed will be \$10 a night. Bring your own pillow, sheets and blankets. The fee for those camping (tent/ caravan) will be \$10 per person for the duration of the campout. The Camp Organiser will collect all campout fees and issue a receipt;
- Mobile phone coverage in this area is patchy so assume that you will be off the grid;
- If possible please bring a handheld UHF radio or vehicle mounted unit. We will use UHF Channel 14 for our Birds SA communication;
- We will be undertaking various birding surveys, which anyone interested in is invited to join;
- We will have the traditional Sunday gas barbeque lunch (bacon and eggs and/or pancakes – *you will need to provide the ingredients for the Committee Members present to do the cooking!*).

It would be most helpful if you could contact me on email: [lyntonhuxley@gmail.com](mailto:lyntonhuxley@gmail.com) to let me know you are planning to attend, or to obtain more information about this fun Birds SA Annual event.

**Lynton Huxley**

**Campout Organiser**

**Ph: 0498 466 092 or (08) 7009 5038 (home)**

The following six maps cover the whole Coorong National Park. The first one shows the whole of the National Park, and the remaining maps cover sections of the park in greater detail, from north to south.



# Coorong National Park

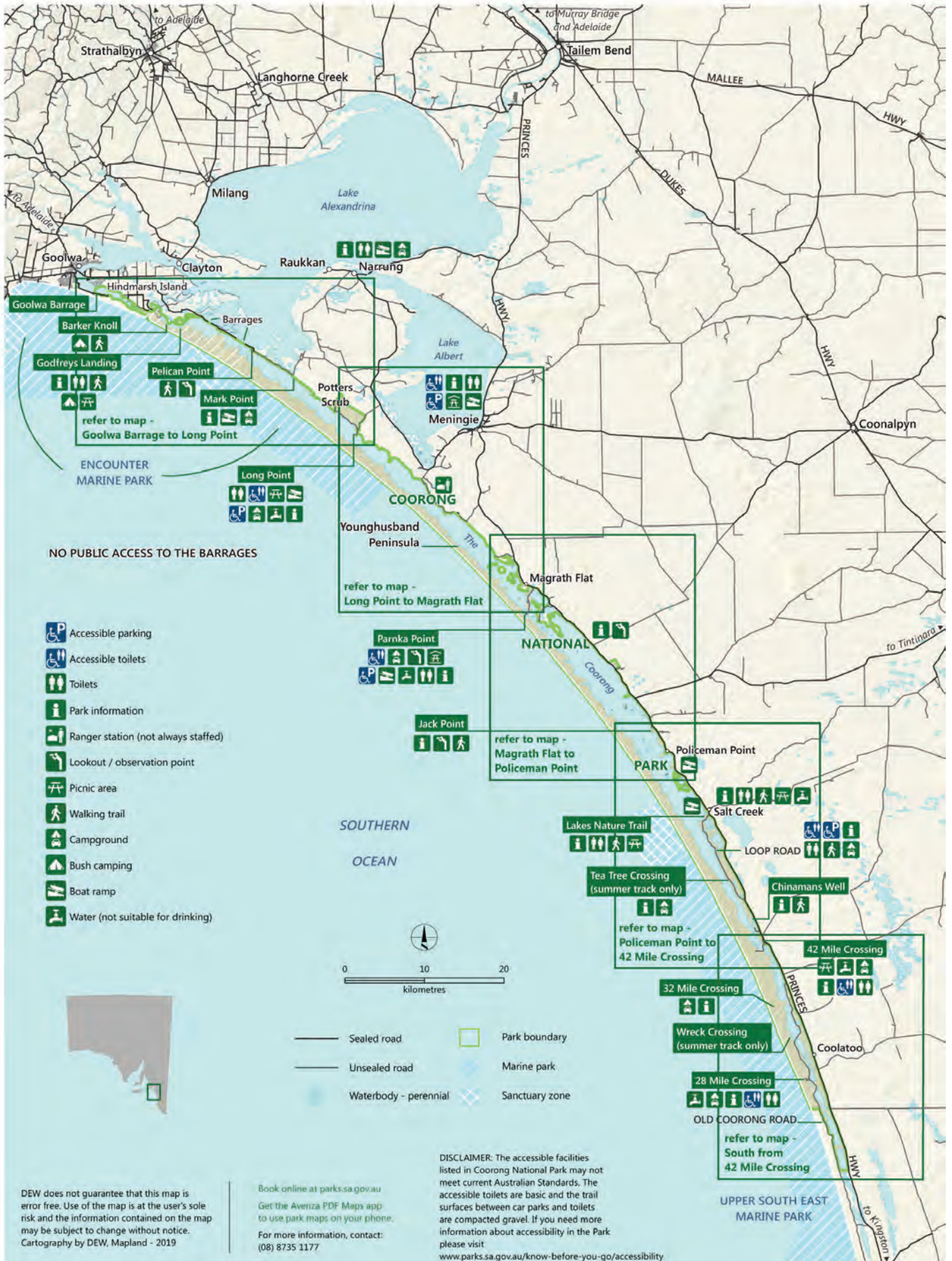
MAP  
1



Government of South Australia



National Parks South Australia









# Coorong National Park

## Long Point to Magrath Flat

MAP  
3



Government of South Australia



National Parks South Australia



- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Track
- Park boundary
- Built-up area
- Water - perennial, intermittent
- Marine park

DEW does not guarantee that this map is error free. Use of the map is at the user's sole risk and the information contained on the map may be subject to change without notice. Cartography by DEW, Mapland - 2019

Book online at [parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au)  
Get the Avenza PDF Maps app to use park maps on your phone.  
For more information, contact: (08) 8735 1177



# Coorong National Park

## Magrath Flat to Policeman Point

MAP  
4



Government of South Australia



National Parks South Australia



- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Track
- Walking trail
- Park boundary
- Water - perennial, intermittent
- Built-up area

DEW does not guarantee that this map is error free. Use of the map is at the user's sole risk and the information contained on the map may be subject to change without notice. Cartography by DEW, Mapland - 2019

Book online at [parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au)  
Get the Avenza PDF Maps app to use park maps on your phone.  
For more information, contact: (08) 8735 1177



# Coorong National Park

## Policeman Point to 42 Mile Crossing

MAP  
5



Government of  
South Australia



National Parks  
South Australia



- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Track
- Walking trail
- Water - perennial, intermittent
- Park boundary
- Marine park, sanctuary zone

DEW does not guarantee that this map is error free. Use of the map is at the user's sole risk and the information contained on the map may be subject to change without notice. Cartography by DEW, Mapland - 2019

Book online at [parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au)  
Get the Avenza PDF Maps app to use park maps on your phone.  
For more information, contact: (08) 8735 1177



# Coorong National Park

South from 42 Mile Crossing

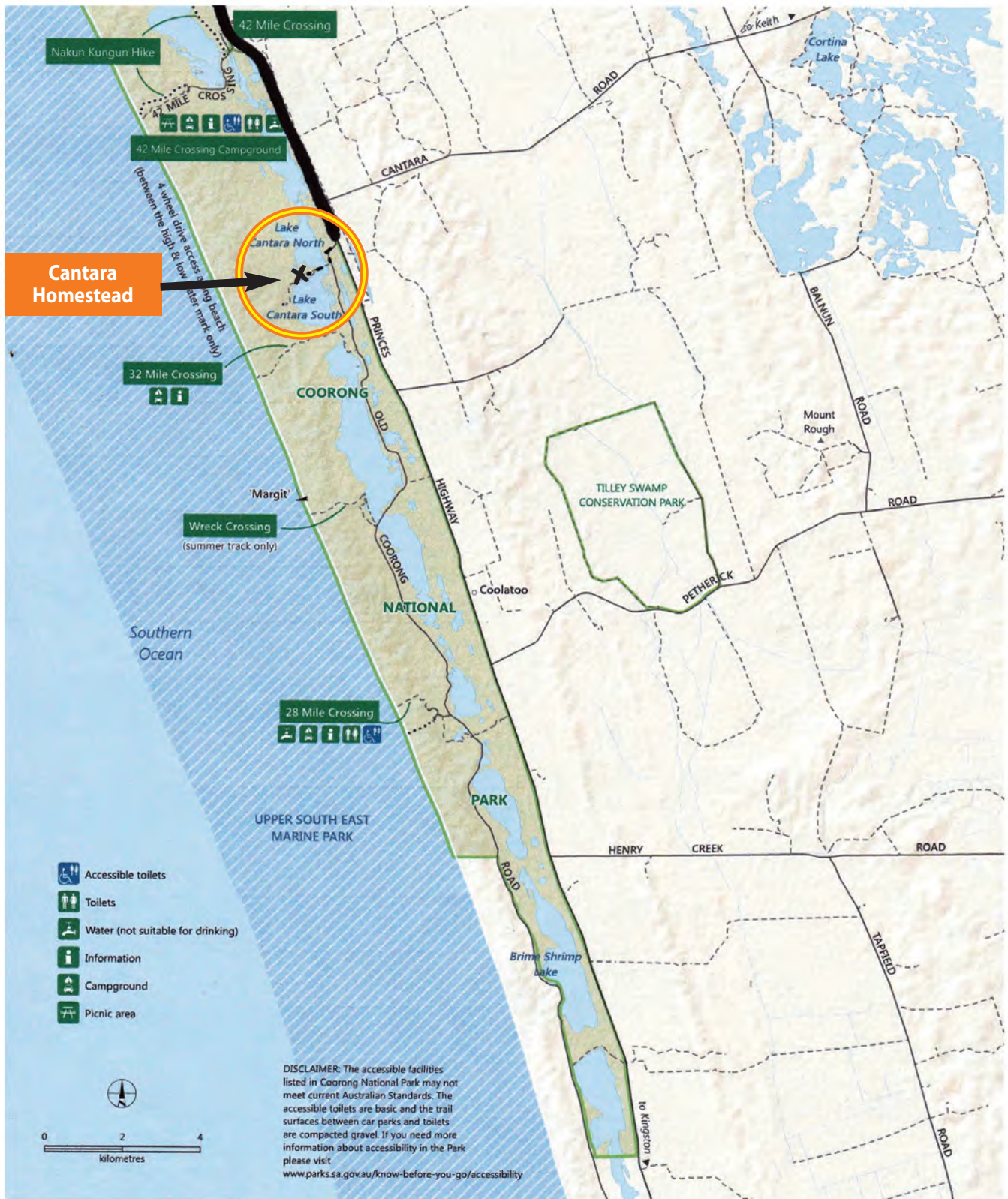
MAP  
6



Government of  
South Australia



National Parks  
South Australia



# 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](mailto: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).

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### Malleefowl

1, 24/11/2019. Moorunde Reserve, MM. Brindley, M.  
First report for area.

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### Brown Quail

*Ongoing reports from a few sites.*  
2, 1/11/2019. Hindmarsh Island boat ramp, MM. Miatt, H.  
Several, 27/11/2019. Goolwa Barrage, MM. Schmidt, L.  
2, 5/1/2020. Sir Richard Peninsula, MM. Edey, D. & Copley, P.  
1, 14/1/2020. Sheoak Flat, YP. Newell, D.  
30, 19/1/2020. Corny Point, YP. Spry, K.  
1+, 22/1/2020. Granite Island, MLR. Hall, R.  
6, 2/2/2020. Goolwa, Barrage Rd, MM. Edey, D. & Copley, P.  
2, 3/2/2020. Hallett Cove, MLR. Cook, S.

---

### Northern Shoveler

1, 30/12/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. Rogers, C.  
Also seen on 31/12/2019 D. Newell.

---

### Blue-billed Duck

1 female, 15/10/2019. Patawalonga, Tapleys Hill Rd, AP. Edey, D.

---

### Tawny Frogmouth

1, 19/1/2020. Marion, Oaklands Wetland, MLR. Cook, S.

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### Fork-tailed Swift

*Reports of small numbers only:*

2, 10/11/2019. Glengowrie, AP. Jones, K.  
10, 20/11/2019. Panorama, AP. Allen, J.  
5, 20/12/2019. Riverton, MLR. Smyth, J.  
10, 8/1/2020. Hindmarsh River, Victor Harbor, MLR. Laporte, O.  
50, 9/1/2020. Middleton, MM. Sparks, K.

---

### White-headed Petrel

1, 24/11/2019. Shelf off Port Macdonnell, MO. Harper, D.; Ramm, M. *et al.*

---

### Soft-plumaged Petrel

1, 24/11/2019. Shelf off Port Macdonnell, MO. Harper, D.; Ramm, M. *et al.*

---

### Little Penguin

3, 2/2/2020. Goolwa Channel, MM. Edey, D. *et al.*

---

### Intermediate Egret

1, 1/1/2020. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. Ed Smith  
Also 2 seen on 2/1/2020 W. Brooker.

---

### Australian Little Bittern

1, 20/11/2019. Buckleboo, EP. Flushed from cereal crop during harvesting, landing briefly on harvester and photographed. per B. West.  
*One previous report from EP, at Yannerby Swamp near Streaky Bay on 18 December 1979 (SA Ornithologist 28:140).*

---

### Nankeen Night Heron

1 immature, 22/1/2020. Burton, Springbank Waters reserve, AP. Robinson, N.  
1 adult, 3/2/2020. Marion, Oaklands Wetland, AP. Cook, S.

---

### Australian White Ibis

8 with nests, Oct 2019, Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR. Schmidt, L.  
New nesting site.

---



## Bird Records *(continued)*

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### Square-tailed Kite

*Lots of observations around Blackwood and the northern hills, plus a few sightings near Naracoorte SE*

- 1, 6/11/2019. Forreston, MLR. Slade, R.  
1, 11/11/2019. One Tree Hill, MLR. Prinz, F.  
1, 13/11/2019. 10 km N Naracoorte, SE. Dennis, T.  
1, 17/11/2019. Sandy Creek CP, MLR. Jones, R.  
2, 19/11/2019. Hale CP, MLR. Ben Kahn, A.  
1, 3 and 10/12/2019. Naracoorte, SE. Leddy, L.  
1, 25/12/2019. Panorama, AP. Allen, J.  
1, 31/12/2019. Blackwood, Wittunga Gardens, MLR. Scholz, C.  
1, 1/1/2020. Bellevue Heights, Heathfield Rd, MLR. Smith, G.  
1, 6/1/2020. Blackwood, MLR. Hillier, R.  
1, 6/1/2020. Forreston, MLR. Slade, R.  
1, 11/1/2020. Highbury, River Torrens, AP. Whatmough, R.  
1, 15/1/2020. Bellevue Heights, Sergeant Pde, MLR. Smith, G.  
Adult + immature, 20/1/2020. Forreston, MLR. Slade, R.  
1, 21/1/2020. Hillbank, AP. Potter, M.  
1, 21/1/2020. Salisbury Heights, AP. Hayward, L.  
1, 27/1/2020. Kaiser Stuhl CP, MLR. Colbourne, D. & Miles, J

---

### Black Kite

- 1, 31/8/2019. Port MacDonnell, Browns Bay, SE. Barrand, P. & R.

---

### Lewin's Rail

- Heard, 12/9/2019. Aldinga, Hart Rd Wetlands, MLR. Edey, D.  
1, 21/10/2019. Reynella, Byards Rd Wetland, MLR. Smith, Eddy  
Also seen on 22/10/2019 T. Bainbridge.  
1, 19/11/2019. Mount Compass, MLR. Rodda, B.

---

### Purple Swamphen

- 1, 13/10/2019. Whyalla sewage works, EP. Haase, B. *et al.*  
2, 13/10/2019. Whyalla Wetlands, EP. Haase, B. *et al.*  
*Few reports from the EP region.*

---

### Baillon's Crake

- 1, 13/10/2019. Whyalla sewage works, EP. Haase, B. *et al.*  
2, 20/10/2019. Reynella, Byards Rd Wetland, MLR. Bainbridge, T.  
1, 4/11/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. Axen, L. & J.  
1, 6/1/2020. Magazine Rd wetlands, AP. Mannzen, L.  
1, 7/1/2020. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. Connelly, H.

---

### Spotless Crake

- Pair + 3 juveniles, 5/12/2019. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR. Williams, K.  
1, 16/1/2020. Aldinga, Hart Rd Wetlands, MLR. Goland, G. & R.

---

### Greater Sand Plover

- 1, 27/10/2019. D'Estrees Bay, Wheaton's Beach, KI. Barth, M. *et al.*  
*Baxter's (2015) 'Birds of Kangaroo Island' lists 5 previous records from the island.*  
9, 10/12/2019. Port Clinton, YP. Taylor, P.W.  
3, 10/1/2020. Port MacDonnell, French Point, SE. Eaton, S.  
3, 21/1/2020. Port Clinton, YP. Syson, W.

---

### Banded Lapwing

- 1, 23/9/2019. Mount Barker Springs, MLR. Thompson, S.  
*Rarely reported in the hills in recent years.*

---

### Pectoral Sandpiper

- 1, 11/10/2019. Mungeranie wetlands, NE. Photos provided. Sothman, B.

---

### Great Knot

- 2, 17/11/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. Rogers, C.  
*Normally associated with intertidal wetlands.*

---

### Latham's Snipe

- 147, 21/9/2019. Robe, Fox Lake, SE. Campbell, J. & S.  
*This site is remarkably attractive to snipe.*

---

### Ruff

- 2, 1/11/2019. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. Rogers, C.

## Bird Records *(continued)*

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### Grey-tailed Tattler

1, 20/9/2019. Port MacDonnell, French Point, SE.  
Green, B.  
Also 2 seen on 5/10/2019 J. & S. Campbell.  
2, 21/1/2020. Port Clinton, YP. Syson, W.  
1, 30/1/2020. Coobowie, YP. Gunjko, J.

---

### Wood Sandpiper

2, 3/10/2019. Coward Springs, NW. Cannard, C.  
1, 8/10/2019. Cadney HS, NW. Cannard, C.  
10, 13/10/2019. Whyalla sewage works, EP.  
Haase, B. *et al.*  
1, 20/10/2019. Aldinga Washpool, MLR. Long, R.  
Also 1 seen on 23/11/2019 R. Goland.

---

### Oriental Pratincole

1, 9/12/2019. Kimba, EP. Photos provided.  
per Grund, R.

---

### Australian Pratincole

1, 28/10/2019. Little Bool Lagoon, Round Swamp, SE.  
Green, B. *et al.*

*Rarely reported in the SE region.*

---

### Long-tailed Jaeger

1, 24/11/2019. Sea of Port Macdonnell, MO.  
Harper, D.; Ramm, M. *et al.*

---

### Arctic Jaeger

1, 1/12/2019. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.

---

### Gull-billed Tern

1, 11/1/2020. Onkaparinga estuary, MLR. Of the Asian subspecies *affinis* – (see comment in last NL)  
Gordon, S.

---

### Adelaide Rosella

2, 21/1/2020. Walkers Flat, MM. Dean, D.

---

### Budgerigar

*Reported widely in southern regions in Nov-Dec but in low numbers.*

1, 2/11/2019. 9 km WNW Keith, MM. Sando, D.  
20, 9/11/2019. Carew, SE. Sando, D.  
20, 10/11/2019. Wolseley, Teatrick Reserve, SE.  
Leddy, L.  
9, 28/12/2019. Roseworthy, Pengilly Scrub, AP.  
Jones, R.  
3, 20/1/2020. Kelvin Powrie CP, MM. Sando, D.

---

### Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

*Lower numbers visited the AP this year than recent years.*

2 over, 17/10/2019. Frewville, AP. Sparks, K.  
2 over, 9/11/2019. North Adelaide, AP. Edey, D.  
2 over, 12/11/2019. Scotty's Motel, AP. Halliday, M.  
Several, 14/11/2019. Monarto, Browns Rd, MM.  
Feeding in Aleppo Pines. Yeend, R.  
Also seen on 21/1/2020 S. Eff.  
1 over, 15/11/2019. West Beach, Tapleys Hill Rd, AP.  
Edey, D.  
2 over, 16/11/2019. Brooklyn Park, AP. Edey, D.  
1 at nest hollow, 17/11/2019. Currency Creek, MM.  
Edwards, N.  
8 over, 23/11/2019. Fullarton, Cremorne St, AP.  
Horton, P.  
2 over, 11/12/2019. St Peters College, AP.  
Bansemmer, P. & B.  
2, 12/1/2020. Marino Rocks, MLR. Schneider, T.  
2, 15/1/2020. Birdwood, MLR. Smith, D.  
20, 19/1/2020. Marino, MLR. Sara, G.

---

### Southern Boobook

Pair + 3 juveniles, 21/11/2019. Lockleys, AP.  
Janders, R.  
Pair + 3 juveniles, 22/12/2019. Marion, Oaklands Wetland, AP.  
Heberle, K.

---

### Azure Kingfisher

Pair + nest, 10/1/2020. Donovans Landing, SE.  
Bainbridge, T.

*Not previously reported but has presumed to nest along the South Australian part of the Glenelg River.*

---

### Red-backed Kingfisher

*Southern reports from:*

1, 5/10/2019. Roseworthy, Pengilly Scrub, AP.  
Stracey, K.  
1, 17/10/2019. Rowland Flat, St Hugo winery, MLR.  
Harper, D.  
1, 17/10/2019. Whitwarta, River Wakefield, AP.  
Taylor, P.W.

---

### Superb Fairywren

1 male, 3/9/2019. West Beach, Tapleys Hill Rd, AP.  
First record from this site. Edey, D.  
1 male, 16/9/2019. West Beach, West Beach Rd, AP.  
Edey, D.  
1 male, 29/11/2019 and 11/1/2020. Marion, Oaklands Wetland, MLR. Cook, S.

## Bird Records *(continued)*

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### White-throated Gerygone

1, 12/10/2019. Altona Landcare Reserve, MLR. Possingham, H.  
1, 31/10/2019. Currency Creek, MLR. Stokes, M.

---

### Eastern Spinebill

1, 20/12/2019. 5 km N Laura, LN. In homestead garden. Bosch, S.

---

### Pied Honeyeater

1, 12/10/2019. Mambray Creek, FR. Haase, B.

---

### Crimson Chat

*Reported widely in southern regions including some breeding.*

2+, 15/9/2019. Rockleigh, MLR. Yeend, R.  
2, 16/9/2019. Pinkerton Plains, Light River, AP. Milde, S.  
3, 25/9/2019. Rockleigh, MLR. Modbury, U. & A.  
10, 27/9/2019. Kinchina CP, MM. Williams, R.  
2, 27/10/2019. Milang, Lake Rd, MM. Ed Smith  
50, 9/11/2019. Keith area, SE. Sando, D.  
Adult + juvenile, 17/11/2019. Halbury, AP. Taylor, P.W

---

### Black-chinned Honeyeater

1, 21/9/2019. Happy Valley, MLR. Matthews, S.  
*Formerly well established in the Morphett Vale – Happy Valley area but few reports in recent years.*

---

### White-fronted Honeyeater

5 and 2, 9 and 12/10/2019 respectively. Kaiser Stuhl CP, MLR. Possingham, H.  
1, 28/12/2019. Forreston, MLR. Slade, R.

---

### White-winged Triller

*More reports from southern areas into November*

Female, 27/8/2019. Beaumont, AP. Bradley, T.  
1, 11/9/2019. Scott CP, MLR. Oswald, G.  
1, 14/9/2019. Two Wells Golf Course, AP. Merigot, L.  
2 males, 16/9/2019. West Beach, West Beach Rd, AP. Edey, D.  
1, 18/9/2019. Near Roseworthy, AP. Rodda, B.  
12, 22/9/2019. 3 km N Rhynie, MN. Smyth, J.

30, 25/9/2019. Rockleigh, MLR. Modbury, U. & A.  
1, 5/10/2019. Lewiston, AP. Merigot, L.  
1 male, Oct 2019. St Peters, AP. Bansemer, B.  
1, 1/11/2019. Trott Park, AP. Bishop, D.  
1, 2/11/2019. Hayborough wetlands, MLR. Syson, W.  
1 male, 4/11/2019. Fullarton, Cremorne St, AP.

Horton, P.  
1, 6/11/2019. St Peters, 3rd Ave, AP. Bansemer, P.& B.  
2, 13/11/2019. Mavern, Fisher St, AP. Black, A.  
1, 17/11/2019. Windsor Gardens, AP. Stiller, K.  
1 male, 21/11/2019. Malvern, Eton St, AP. Horton, P.  
Pair, 2/1/2020. Kapunda, MLR. Jones, R.

---

### Olive Whistler

1, 26/9/2019. Caroline Forest, Picks plantation, SE. Haywood, B.

---

### Dusky Woodswallow

Adult + immature, 24/1/2020. Klemzig, Swan Ave, AP. Buckley, K.

---

### Grey Fantail

1, 5/10/2019. North Adelaide, Gower St, AP. Paton, P.

---

### Eurasian Skylark

1, 22/12/2019. Aberfoyle Park, MLR. Pfeiffer, P.

---

### Australian Reed-warbler

1, 11/12/2019. Adelaide Botanical Gardens, AP.  
One Little Grassbird also present. Bansemer, P.& B.

---

### Fairy Martin

60, 9/9/2019. Novar Gardens, Adelaide Airport, AP. Edey, D.  
50, 30/11/2019. West Beach, West Beach Rd, AP. Edey, D.

---

### European Goldfinch

1, 29/1/2020. Brinkworth, LN. Green, A.

---

### European Greenfinch

Several + juveniles, 26/1/2020. Virginia nursery, AP. Taylor, P.W.



# From the Library



## DVD 75

Dare, Greg & Alana

### **Birding England**

Adelaide. Sth. Aust. Double Dare Production, 2019

The HD documentary is a birding trip to England featuring birds seen in London, Minsmere, Frampton Marsh, the Pennines and the Farne Islands. It has been uploaded to YouTube and can be seen by Googling "Birding England Alana and Greg Dare" Or at [bit.ly/2pcAAWx](https://bit.ly/2pcAAWx) | *Running time: 25 minutes.*



598.07234 JONf

Jones, Darryl

### **Feeding the birds at your table : a guide for Australia**

Sydney, NSW : NewSouth, 2019.

ISBN 9781742236322

Feeding the birds at your table is designed to provide detailed, comprehensive advice and suggestions for people wishing to feed wild birds in Australia from their own backyards and balconies.



598.0994 TAY

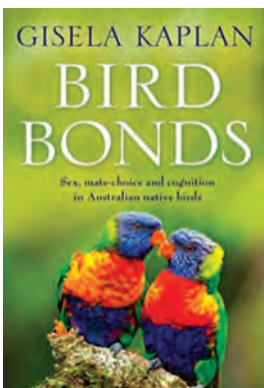
Taylor, Sue

### **Birding Australia's islands**

Oxford, England : John Beaufoy Publishing, 2019.

ISBN 9781912081134

An entertaining personal account of the author's birding expeditions to some of Australia's very special islands. Illustrated with beautiful close-up photographs of species and habitats, Sue Taylor describes her adventures on 22 of Australia's islands with humour and irrepressible enthusiasm. There are detailed and locator maps of every island featured in the book.



598.251 KAPb

Kaplan, Gisela

### **Bird Bonds : sex, mate-choice and cognition in Australian native birds**

Sydney, New South Wales : Pan Macmillan Australia Pty Ltd, 2019.

ISBN 9781760554200

Professor Gisela Kaplan, an eminent voice in animal behaviour, and particularly bird behaviour, draws on the latest insights in the evolution of particular cognitive and social abilities. She uncovers motivations and attractions in partner choice that are far more complex than was once believed. Based on a wealth of original research and complemented by illustrations and colour photographs, Bird Bonds is a valuable resource and a beguiling insight into the world of the birds around us.

## New Members

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

Tom and Alison Bullock .....	<i>Kensington Gardens</i>
Brian Gepp and Cate Gaughwin.....	<i>Nairne</i>
Julie-Anne Harris and John Mollenmans .....	<i>Toorak Gardens</i>
Mark McDermid and Kerry Ingram .....	<i>Echunga</i>
Leanne Hemer .....	<i>Clovelly Park</i>
Tim Chalmers .....	<i>Highbury</i>
Arabella, Matthew, Lachlan and Sam McInnes .....	<i>Torrens Park</i>
Theresa Burford .....	<i>Encounter Bay</i>
Pam Whetnall .....	<i>Hope Valley</i>
Mitchell Grivell .....	<i>Woodside</i>
Wyatt Egan .....	<i>Seaford Meadows</i>
Jenny Male and Brain Towler .....	<i>Norwood</i>
Alan and Lynn Sharkey .....	<i>Blakeview</i>
Rebecca Stummer .....	<i>Moana</i>
Kate Eatts .....	<i>Kent Town</i>
Christine Gates .....	<i>Semaphore</i>
Melville, Joyleen and Daniel Rowe .....	<i>Hope Valley</i>
Katherine Tyrrell .....	<i>Ashford</i>
Ethan Tan and Nina Linduska .....	<i>Plympton</i>
Morgan Witty .....	<i>Bridgewater</i>
Michael Green .....	<i>Flagstaff Hill</i>
Valerie Bradshaw .....	<i>Stonyfell</i>
Dianna Payne and Sen Flaherty .....	<i>Bugle Ranges</i>
Michael Lockett .....	
Alleen Mowat and Igor Kozemjakin .....	<i>Findon</i>
Rose and Peter Price .....	<i>Parkside</i>
Raechel Lewis and Django, Jimi and Ben Westmoreland .....	<i>Goolwa</i>
Ryan, Hugo and Daniela Ebeling .....	<i>Beaumont</i>
Les Coles and Ann Keenan .....	<i>Largs Bay</i>
Gordon Brooks .....	<i>Flinders Park</i>
Marilyn & Bruce Boss .....	<i>Willaston SA</i>
Isaac Parker .....	<i>Port Lincoln</i>

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



## Contact Details

**General Meetings** are held in the Hawker Centre at the Waite Institute, Waite Road, Urrbrae at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm.

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

Donations to the  
Birds SA Conservation Fund  
are tax-deductible

### BIRDS SA COMMITTEE 2019 – 2020

President .....	John Gitsham .....	0438900393
Vice President .....	John Hatch .....	8362 2820
Vice President .....	Jeff Groves .....	82632939
Secretary .....	<i>Position vacant</i>	
Treasurer .....	John Spiers .....	8333 0272
Assistant Secretary .....	Lou Jayleigh .....	0419447982
Journal Editor .....	Merilyn Browne .....	8339 6839
Magazine Editor .....	Cynthia Pyle .....	8264 5778
Field Programs .....	Lynton Huxley .....	7009 5038
Bird Records .....	Graham Carpenter .....	8297 5463
Membership Officer .....	Alan Burns .....	8381 2708
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# *Brown is beautiful ...*



*Left: Two young  
Tawny Frogmouths  
at Sunnydale Murraylands,  
20 Dec. 2019*

*(Photo: Sue Winwood)*

Its almost a "Where's Wally"  
as their camouflage is so  
excellent!

*Below: Striated Fieldwren  
at Narawntapu CP, Tasmania*

*(Photo: Richard Woodland)*



*Above: Dusky Robin  
at Adventure Bay, Tasmania  
(Photo: Richard Woodland)*



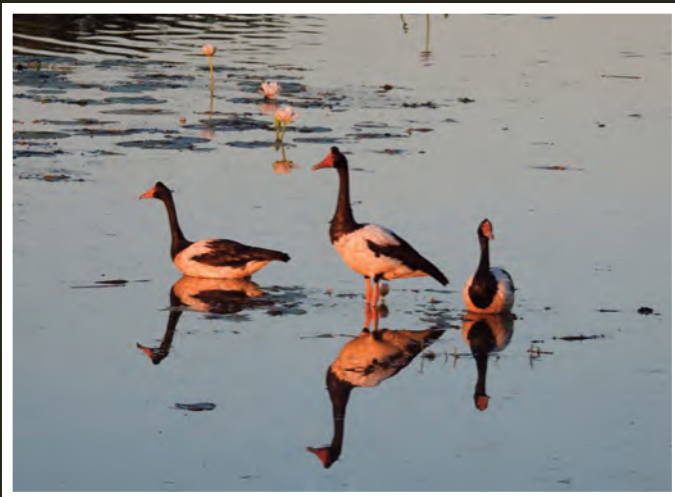
*Right: Little Grassbird  
at Laratinga, 3 Dec. 2019  
(Photo: Robert Rowland)*



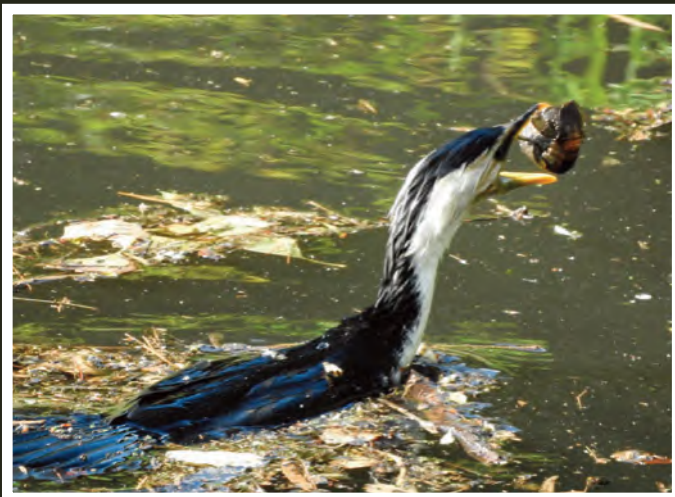
# *Studies in black and white ...*



*Left:*  
**White-breasted Woodswallows**  
yet to leave their overnight roost  
near Lake Kununurra, WA in 2019  
*(Photo: Terry Dennis)*



*Left:*  
**Magpie Geese**  
at Marlgu, WA in 2019  
*(Photo: Terry Dennis)*



*Left:*  
**Little Pied Cormorant with a Yabby**  
at Adelaide Botanic Gardens  
26 September 2019  
*(Photo: John Spiers)*