

the BIRDER

The official magazine of Birds SA

Winter 2020 No 254



Linking people with birds
in South Australia

In this Issue

A great collection of members' stories
and photographs

A heartfelt thanks for your contributions

From your editor, Cynthia

Backyard Birding Antics

Greg Blackman recently photographed the antics of these New Holland Honeyeaters in his Adelaide backyard.

Thank you for some interesting and amusing pictures, Greg.



Why are you watching us bathing?



Many heads are better than one



How did we get so wet and miserable?



A good shaking

A Spin dryer

Two approaches to quick drying



You won't believe what she said to me!

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Centre Insert: SAOA Historical Series No: 72,

EDWIN ASHBY, PART 1

Cover photograph: An Adelaide Rosella, photographed by John Gitsham at Macclesfield in October 2019. John also designed the cover of this magazine.

Magazine layout: Designed by Ingrid Grigg

We welcome 13 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are on page 14.

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.

Ignoring social distancing



Purple-backed Fairy Wrens (Photographed by Gordon Pateman at Kinchina (formerly Rocky Gully) on 26th February, 2020)



Tawny Frogmouths (Photographed by Anne Kirk at Shepherd's Hill Reserve on 19th February 2020)

President's Message

Hi to Birds SA Members

The past 3 months have been a very challenging and sometimes stressful time for all of us and for the Association. The Covid-19 virus has caused an almost total standstill of our daily lives including cancellation of all Birds SA activities — General meetings, Field trips and our popular Easter Campout. Hopefully by the time this magazine reaches you, things (during this strange time) should be settling down and starting to get back to some kind of normality. South Australia has fared reasonably well from the Coronavirus compared with other states and countries. Our self-isolation and social distancing have obviously worked.

The Birds SA Management committee decided to continue meeting from April via 'Video conferencing' with 'Zoom'. Our meeting worked quite well, so we were able to keep the administration running behind the scenes, discuss issues and produce another 'Birder' magazine, with slightly different content from the usual magazine. The 'SA Ornithologist' Journal should also be out soon.

I must thank retiring Committee members Marilyn Browne, who did a magnificent job as Editor of the Journal for many years (which is now being edited by Philippa Horton (ex SA Museum Ornithological section Curator) assisted by Penny Paton).

Also, I would like to give my thanks to retiring Committee member Bea Rogers, who worked very hard towards improving the Association's Rules and Policies. We now have four new Committee members.

Stephen Langley and Davide Gaglio are Ordinary Members, and they bring many years of Ornithological knowledge between them from overseas experiences. We also have Philippa Horton, our new Journal Editor, and a new Secretary Jim Spiker who has taken on the role during these strange times of Covid-19.

Well done Jim and welcome to all four new Committee members. We are still looking for a suitable Treasurer; fortunately John Spiers is kindly staying on until the AGM, now most likely at the end of September this year.

I've heard that many of our members have been doing plenty of backyard birding or walking in their local park and birding while exercising during the Covid-19, good on you!

I hope to see you all back for our General meetings and Field trips soon.

Keep well and safe and I'll see you soon.

John Gitsham

Editor's note

I express my thanks to the many members who responded to my request for material to fill the spaces in this magazine that arose from cancellation of our usual meetings and excursions. I am sure you will enjoy reading the wide range of articles that people have sent me, as well as admiring their variety of photographs.

Cynthia Pyle

P.S. And special thanks to Sue Winwood for supplying the very relevant message



Request for Volunteers — Kangaroo Island

In late February Birds SA received a request from the Director of Conservation and Wildlife, Department for Environment and Water, seeking volunteers to undertake assessments on Kangaroo Island in the wake of the devastating bushfires. It was very pleasing to see that 20 Birds SA members offered to participate. The COVID-19 restrictions meant that the assessments could not proceed as initially planned. At the time of writing, the future of these surveys is unclear.

A small team from BirdLife Australia undertook some initial assessments in February. The results of these investigations are reported on page 10.

Birds Surveys – Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant

As reported previously, Bill Breed, with assistance from John Hatch, Colin Rogers and William Brooker, has been leading regular bird counts at the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant. Up to 10 March 2020, 26 surveys had been conducted. Visits to the site have been suspended because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Once surveys are resumed Bill Breed intends to gather bird data for a season with a more normal rainfall level (possibly 2020) and compare these with the ultra-dry periods experienced in 2018-2019. Some interesting observations from the data already acquired include:

- Pink-eared Duck numbers remained around 5,000 for all of 2019 but had fallen by more than 50% in March 2020, following significant rainfall across the State in February.
- Blue-billed Duck numbers peaked at approximately 1,200 in June 2019. By March 2020 numbers had fallen to around 300 birds.
- Other duck species whose numbers exceeded 1,000 during 2019 were Grey Teal, Hardhead, Australian Shelduck and Pacific Black Duck.
- Australasian Shoveler numbers peaked briefly in July 2019 at approximately 150 birds.
- Red-necked Avocet numbers rose dramatically in December 2019 to about 1,000. By late January 2020, Avocet numbers had dropped to zero.
- Two adult and two juvenile White-bellied Sea Eagles were observed in January 2020.

Birds SA greatly appreciates the support of SA Water and Allwater in allowing us access to this important bird refuge.

Duck and Quail Hunting

In late December 2019 Minister Speirs declared a restricted open season for the hunting of native ducks in SA. The season runs from March 28 to May 31 inclusive. Hunters are permitted to shoot six species of ducks. These are Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australian Shelduck, Australian Wood Duck and Pink-eared Duck. The daily bag limit is four ducks per hunter per day, with no more than one Australian Shelduck or Pink-eared Duck permitted per day.

Birds SA participated in the Duck and Quail Open Season Stakeholder Reference Panel meeting conducted by DEW in December 2019 and argued strongly for no duck or quail season in 2020 because of the catastrophic weather and vegetation reports presented, the highly concerning results from the Eastern Australia Aerial Waterbird Survey and the complete lack of reliable data for Stubble Quail population and distribution. Birds SA's opposition to all hunting of native birds was made clear in this meeting. Birds SA followed up by letter with Minister Speirs shortly after the meeting imploring him to declare no season in 2020 for either ducks or quail.

Minister Speirs subsequently declared no quail-hunting season in 2020, which was an encouraging sign. The fact that a restricted duck season was declared was also somewhat encouraging. Birds SA has, in the past, been unclear as to how the outcomes from the Stakeholder Panel Meeting are transmitted to the Minister and how the final decisions on an open season are made. We made a Freedom of Information request on 16 January 2020 to obtain a copy of the recommendations from DEW to Minister Speirs. This revealed that DEW provided the Minister with two options for both duck and quail, these being:

- No open season or
- A restricted open season

It is now clear that the Minister makes the final decision.

Approximately one third of permits issued for hunting ducks and quail in South Australia are issued to Victorians. We hope that the border restrictions and camping restrictions in SA Parks, Game Reserves and Crown Land in response to COVID-19 have prevented Victorian hunters coming to this State. Victoria announced a 2020 open season for Stubble Quail running from April 4 to June 30 with a daily bag limit of twenty birds. Victoria announced a restricted duck season running from May 2 to June 8 with a daily bag limit of three birds. The mismatch between start dates in Victoria and South Australia is concerning.

Conservation Sub-committee *(continued)*

Treasures not Targets – Anti Duck and Quail Hunting Coalition – Phone Survey

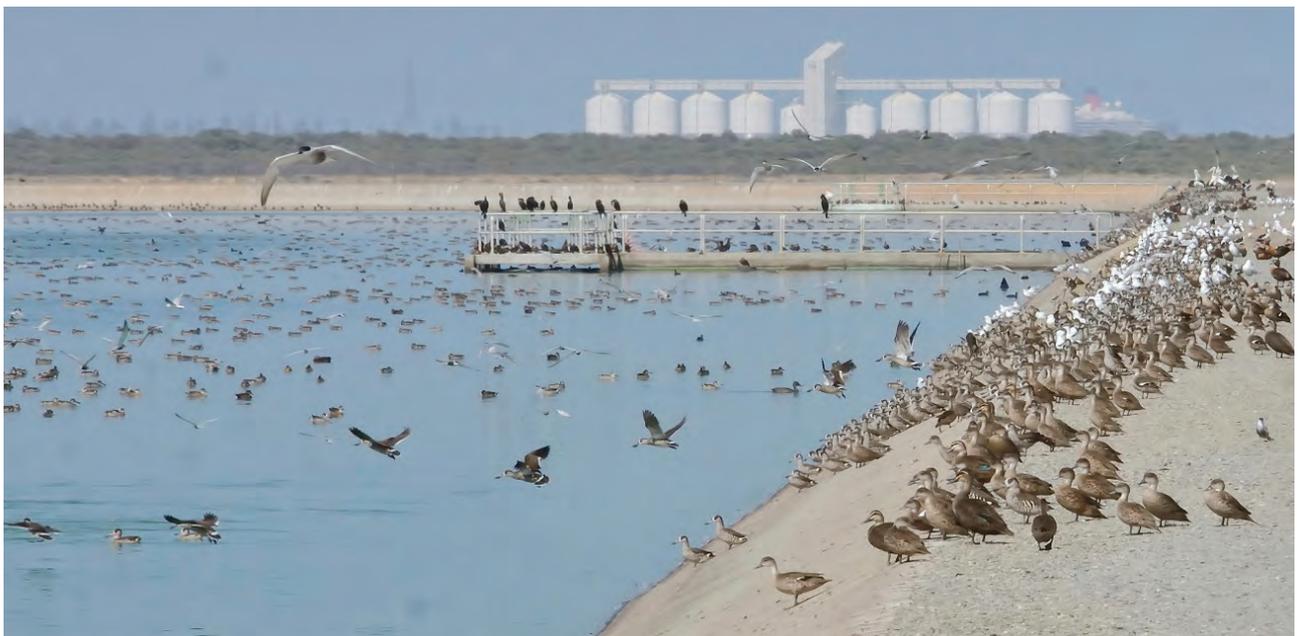
The *Treasures not Targets* coalition, of which Birds SA is a member, commissioned market research company ReachTEL to conduct a phone survey in SA in March 2020 to determine public attitudes to the shooting of native ducks and quail. The survey focussed upon three marginal State electorates, these being King, Adelaide and Newland. A total of 1,015 responses was evaluated. Some notable results from this survey were:

There is clearly more work to be done in raising public awareness of this issue, since more than half of the respondents were unaware that shooting of native ducks and quail is permitted. The level of support for those members of Parliament who would work towards ending the hunting of native birds was notable. With the survey revealing strong support for a ban on the shooting of native ducks and quail, there are compelling grounds for questioning the continuance of this archaic activity. Based upon permits issued in 2019, duck and quail shooters represent less than 0.106% of the South Australian population.

	Adelaide	King	Newland
<i>Unaware that shooting of native ducks & quail for sport is permitted in SA.</i>	57.99%	58.03%	57.75%
<i>Think that duck & quail shooting should be banned in SA.</i>	78.12%	70.79%	76.76%
<i>Would support their local State member of Parliament if they worked to end shooting of native birds in SA.</i>	78.78% (13.13% undecided)	72.99% (15.33% undecided)	76.76% (12.32% undecided)

Jeff Groves

Conservation sub-Committee



Bolivar—January 2020 (Photo: Jeff Groves)



... A passionate birder

FAIBS farewells a treasured Friend

On April 17th we received the very sad news that FAIBS Treasurer Joe Dafoe had passed away after battling a short-lived but very aggressive illness. A passionate birder and family man, Joe will long be remembered for his generosity of spirit and highly valued contribution in sharing his love and respect of nature and birds with FAIBS and so many others. His wideranging technical and birding knowledge and skills influenced and inspired many an experienced and aspiring birder, and his years of tireless travels and observations facilitated significant contributions to innumerable shorebird and bush bird surveys. Threaded through all this was his dry, wry sense of humour, always such an asset in the often focussed and precise birding milieu.

As a very capable and true friend and Friend, Joe was for FAIBS both Treasurer and a treasure. FAIBS members and many others in the birding world will sorely miss him. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Jill and family who gave such dignity to Joe as his final days became inevitable.

Mary-Ann van Trigt and Anna Woods

It was a huge shock to all of the “Shorebird Monitoring Programme” workers to hear in January 2020 that Joe Dafoe was no longer able to participate in survey work due to the sudden diagnosis of cancer. Joe had still been walking many kilometres per day and undertaking Shorebird Survey work in December.

Joe was very generous with his time and expertise. He willingly shared his high-level identification skills with folk who were new to the testing art of identifying migratory waders, and always with a smile.

The Shorebird Monitoring Programme, formerly known as the “2020 Shorebird Survey” will be the poorer with the loss of Joe’s support. He will be missed.

Kate Buckley



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
(Photo: P. Corcoran)

From the President

BirdsSA member Joe Dafoe passed away on 17th April with his family at his side. He had suffered from a cancer that proved terminal.



Before his death Joe very generously bequeathed his complete collection of 'The Handbook of the Birds of the World' (16 volumes) to the BirdsSA library.

He was a popular member and will be missed. Only his direct family were able to be present at his funeral. I have given our condolences to his wife Jill and their family.

John Gitsham

The information and illustration below demonstrate the nature, extent and value of this collection. Members will benefit enormously from access to all these magnificent books.

Information from the following website: <https://www.nhbs.com/handbook-of-the-birds-of-the-world-16-volume-set-special-volume-book>

The *Handbook of the Birds of the World*

(HBW) is a multi-volume series produced by the Spanish publishing house Lynx Edicions in partnership with BirdLife



International. It is the first handbook to cover every known living species of bird.

All 16 volumes have been published. For the first time an animal class will have all the species illustrated and treated in detail in a single work. This has not been done before for any other group in the animal kingdom.

Shorebird Monitoring Programme

I extend a hearty thanks to the many members who donated their time and energy to undertake the Migratory Wader survey work in the summer of 2019-2020.

Some of these people travel many miles over the summer period to monitor the wader numbers and then ensure that their findings are logged into the database. We survey each site at least once a month at this time of year.

Tony Flaherty, Manager, Coast and Marine, Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges, is the driver behind this ongoing monitoring work and is supported by Chris Purnell of BirdLife Australia. Most of the folk on the ground undertaking the survey work are Birds SA Members.

In the summer season 2019-2020 the Migratory Wader numbers were disappointing at most survey sites, in particular, the Red Knot numbers were much lower than usual. ***It will be interesting to learn whether Chris Purnell can make any assumptions as data continues to be analysed.***

We are always keen to train more members in wader identification. If you are willing to travel, able to walk some distance on uneven surfaces, and would like to learn this valuable skill please contact me.

Thank you to Paul Taylor for permitting the use of his beautiful photographs.

Kate Buckley

Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) in Hibernation

While our precious migratory birds are wending their way north to breed, the Friends of AIBS, like all other Friends of Parks groups, have had to call a halt to their field trips until we are free of the Covid-19 threat. Throughout the winter months we had planned for habitat restoration and plantings, and we still have hopes that some of this may occur before the winged international travellers return. We will notify all members and people on our contact list as soon as we know it's safe to venture out. Meanwhile, we are fortunate to have resources from BirdsSA, Birdlife and our own personal collections to study up and practice identifying the subtly plumed migratory birds that



Eastern Curlew (Photo: Paul Taylor)



Grey Plover (Photo: Paul Taylor)



Red Knot (Photo: Paul Taylor)

inhabit our shores. A number of our members have been enhancing their isolation time journeying with the Grey Plover through Andrew Darby's recently published book, 'Flight Lines', while others have been building ID skills by perusing the photos in the FAIBS Facebook page albums. Above all, keep well and keep birding in whatever way you can.

Mary-Ann van Trigt and Anna Woods

Kangaroo Island Rapid Assessment Bird Surveys

Following the bushfires on Kangaroo Island (KI) that burnt close to half the island, BirdLife Australia, Natural Resources KI and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) have been working together to understand the impact of these fires on the island's bird populations.

In late February, BirdLife Australia sent a team of three experienced ecologists, Rebecca Boulton, Luke Ireland and Tom Hunt, to undertake rapid assessment surveys for birds across public land on KI. The team recorded all birds observed, but particularly targeted priority species identified by BirdLife Australia such as the KI Southern Emu-wren, KI Western Whipbird and Bassian Thrush. Surveys were largely conducted in unburnt patches of vegetation within the fire scar to determine what species were still present. However, unburnt vegetation on the east end of the island and therefore beyond the fire scar, was also surveyed.

Remarkably, KI Southern Emu-wrens and KI Western Whipbirds were encountered in nearly all survey areas within the fire scar. However, these observations were either within, or not far from areas of intact habitat, so their capacity to move between isolated remnants of unburnt vegetation

is unknown. Only a single pair of Bassian Thrush was located during the surveys.

Although results were encouraging, there is still a real concern for the long-term recovery of these priority birds on the west end of Kangaroo Island, given the extent and severity of these fires. With few refuges remaining, birds will need to persist in small numbers in unburnt areas until the surrounding vegetation regenerates. It could take many months, or even years, to regrow suitable food and cover. Dry climate, overgrazing and competition for resources will only compound their survival challenge — while any movement and foraging across the exposed areas of the fire scar will seriously magnify their risk of predation.

Continued, standardised, species-specific monitoring is crucial over the coming months and years. Once it is safe to do so, BirdLife is planning to access and survey the unburnt areas not visited in February, and to resurvey those identified as priority refuge sites from our previous visit.

Thanks to Rebecca, Luke and Tom for their huge effort in undertaking the surveys, support from KI Land for Wildlife, Natural Resources KI and DEW. Stay tuned for more updates to come on this collaborative project.



Kangaroo Island Rapid Assessment Bird Surveys *(continued)*



Southern Emu-wren

(Photographed by Tom Hunt in Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Island, February 2020)



Immature Western Whipbird

(Photographed by Tom Hunt in Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Island, February 2020)

Birds SA Donation to Kangaroo Island (KI) Glossy Black Cockatoo Recovery Fund

Overview

The KI Glossy Black Cockatoo Recovery Program is one of Australia's leading examples of how good governance, strategic planning, community commitment and appropriate resources can effectively reverse the decline of a critically endangered species. However, this successful program has been badly impacted by the January 2020 bushfires that destroyed much of Kangaroo Island.

Birds SA Donation:

Birds SA has donated \$1,000.00 to help this important program to bounce back from the impact of the KI bushfires.

Background: Glossy Black Cockatoos

Glossy black-cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) were once widespread across the southeastern part of Australia, but can now only be spotted in two sections of the country – from eastern Queensland to Mallacoota in Victoria, as well as an isolated population on SA's Kangaroo Island. They have a highly specialised diet — the seeds of the drooping she-oak.

What makes the KI Glossy so special?

Kangaroo Island has a unique subspecies of Glossy, (*Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*) which is smaller but has a bigger bill than the subspecies that occurs along the east coast of Australia.

What happened in South Australia?

These black cockatoos were once flying high on SA's mainland, but during the 1970s there were large-scale clearances of the glossies' habitat of woodland in open forests to make way for development. These clearances took out much of the glossy's food of she-oak seeds and nesting sites in tree hollows. By the 1990s the glossy population was extinct from mainland SA and had dwindled to about 150 on Kangaroo Island.

The Glossy Black Cockatoo Recovery Program

This was established in 1975 to conserve and grow the Kangaroo Island population, and encourage natural reintroduction to mainland South Australia, based largely on the mantra "**No she-oaks, no glossies**".

Kangaroo Island Rapid Assessment Bird Surveys *(continued)*

Quantifiable Success

The Recovery Program has been wonderfully successful to date.

- Doubling Population from 158 to 373 birds (N.B. only a single egg per clutch)
- 260 hectares of she-oak planted on KI + 145 hectares on mainland SA
- 295 nests protected from possums
- 140 artificial nests installed, raising more than 250 young

Impact of KI Fires

- 59% of drooping she-oak woodland (glossy feeding habitat) was within the burned area.
- Significant Impact on Nest sites — not yet quantified

Fightback 2020 – 5 key actions

To address this setback, the immediate plan is to:

- 1 Survey and map all surviving she-oaks in the burned area.
- 2 Plant more she-oaks on private property.
- 3 Replace artificial nests damaged by fire (where appropriate) and add more nests to other areas.
- 4 Protect all existing nests from possum predation.
- 5 Conduct a detailed population census in September/October.

Q: What impact will \$1000.00 have?

A: *“We can grow a she-oak seedling and buy a tree guard to protect it when it is planted for \$4.50 per seedling, which equates to around \$2700 to plant a hectare of she-oak. It takes 6-10 years to produce food.*

It also costs around \$150 to protect a nest from possum access and maintain the nest, and that protection will last 2-4 years (depending on rainfall, tree growth, bee activity etc.). ”

You can download the South Australian Glossy Black Cockatoo Newsletter from the following website:

<https://naturalresourceskangarooisland.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r>



Male and Female Glossy Black Cockatoos

Past General Meetings

Friday February 29

Vice President John Hatch announced that this meeting would have a new format. It would be a **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**.

Andrew Black hosted the session

He started by introducing the panellists and giving a summary of each of their qualifications, and experience. The panel consisted of Lynn Pedler, Graham Carpenter and Penny Paton who are Honorary Life Members of the Association, and Philippa Horton. Many of the panel had joined the association as junior members, and all have made significant contributions in areas as diverse as taxidermy, revegetation on farms, natural history, bird atlases, threatened bird species and habitat management.

Andrew then asked for questions from the floor. **All the questions are given in bold.**

1 Where can birders find data concerning birds observed on excursions?

Excursion data sheets go to Brian Blaylock. Birds SA data is entered into the BDSA (Biological Databases of South Australia), along with data from the SA Museum, Birdlife Australia etc.

From the discussion, it became clear there are numerous databases circulating that store bird-related

data. Birdpedia Australia', an international database for storing bird observations, was mentioned. Mobile phone apps have been developed for frogs and orchids, and similar apps could be developed to store information collected on bird excursions. One member enters her bird sightings in 'Birddata' the app used by Birdlife Australia. It was also suggested SA Birds could develop its own database.

2 Where can 'pure' Pacific Black Ducks be found?

I.e. How far north does one need to go to find pure birds? It was reported that ducks around the Broughton River appear to be pure, or very close to pure. City and suburbs may have higher populations of hybrids. True Black Ducks can be identified by olive-yellow-brown or 'orangey' coloured legs.

3 Have any important fossil birds been found in SA?

Examples given of SA fossil birds were the *Genyornis* at Lake Callabonna, megapodes in the Naracoorte Caves, and the Kangaroo Island emu. Lake Eyre Basin is a source of fossil birds.

The Flinders University Paleontology Society is a potential source of information. Dr. Elen Shute of Flinders University is an expert on bird fossils.



The meeting's host with four of the panel members

From left: Graham Carpenter, Lynn Pedler, Philippa Horton, Penny Paton, Andrew Black (host).

4 Undulating (up and down) versus flat (gliding) flight patterns

There was some discussion regarding these two different methods of flight. Differing morphology may be the reason. To categorise these differences would be an interesting subject of study.

5 Bird Deaths between Goolwa and Victor Harbor

There have been reports of numerous bird deaths between Goolwa and Victor Harbor. Which bird species is involved and what is the reason for the deaths? It was suggested the birds may be Short-tailed Shearwaters. One potential reason for deaths may be strong southerly winds affecting young birds.

6 Pine Tree Removal from Glenthorne National Park and Happy Valley Reservoir.

Pines are being removed from Glenthorne National Park and Happy Valley Reservoir and are being replaced by natives. Happy Valley has 100 Ha area of pines no longer considered of economic value. Also reported is the observation that 'massive numbers' of smaller birds are disappearing from the suburbs and Mt Lofty Ranges. Large birds such as Galahs and magpies are still common.

7 Value of Hazard Reduction Burns

There was some discussion regarding the value of hazard reduction in minimising the effects of bushfires. Comments included: that it is not a 'saviour' or 'panacea', and that on a catastrophic fire danger day, hazard reduction is of no value at all. Hazard reduction is labour intensive, and the 'window' for planned burns is becoming smaller. Sometimes hazard reduction burns become uncontrollable ('get away') and can cause more damage than a wildfire. It was also noted that hazard reduction doesn't prevent canopies from burning. Some reduction burns can be of use, but they are not a 'quick fix'.

One member suggested that the state's Hazard Reduction Committee could be invited to a general meeting to discuss the process of hazard reduction burns.

8 Impact of the Fires on Kangaroo Island Pine Plantations

There was some general discussion on the value of pine plantations as suitable habitat for birds. It was noted that pine plantations on Kangaroo Island 'burnt well', and that the speed of burning through plantations was accelerated, due to the density of planting. Pine trees form an important food source for Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. A member commented that a pine plantation is a better alternative to native bush than a bare paddock, and that native scrub adjacent to pines can carry a significant number of small birds, despite the pines forming a monoculture.

9 Impact of Fire on the Glossy Black Cockatoo population of Kangaroo Island

There was some discussion on the impact of the fire on the large stands of Drooping Sheoak on KI. Drooping Sheoak, *Allocasuarina verticillata* is the main food source for Glossy Black Cockatoos on Kangaroo Island. Slatey Oak, *Allocasuarina muelleriana* normally forms 5% of the cockatoos' diet, however it is not known how much Slatey Oak remains on the Island due to the impact of natural senescence and the bushfire. It was not known if there would be a shift to any other food sources, but several possibilities were noted.

It was reported that 59% of their habitat has been impacted, and 75% of the population has been affected. Some birds have flown away, and some are wandering around the western part of the Island. Large groups are also using the eastern end of the Island. It was questioned as to whether the flocks can survive until the Sheoaks regrow. It will take 5 to 10 years for the trees to reach suitable maturity. There is a possibility some birds may move to Deep Creek, on the Fleurieu Peninsula, where 170 Ha of Sheoaks were planted in the 1990s.

10 Slender-billed Thornbills

Andrew Black initiated a discussion on one of the subspecies of the Slender-billed Thornbill (*Acanthiza iredalei rosinae*), by asking if any of the audience had seen these birds. Discussion followed on sightings, and on the origins of nomenclature of the subspecies. Members reported that Sapphire Thornbills have been observed on east coast of Gulf St. Vincent, at Port

Past General Meetings *(continued)*

Gawler, Middle Beach and Port Wakefield. The subspecies has been observed at Point Clinton and Price.

Penny Paton provided a background to the origins of the subspecies name, and their links to famous individuals in ornithology. One subspecies has been named after Captain Samuel Albert White's wife, Ethel Rosina Toms. The subspecies *iredalei* is named after Gregory Mathews' assistant Tom Iredale.

11 If Cuckoos evolved before Passerines, what did they use as a host pre-passerine?

The fossil record provides little information regarding this question. However, it was suggested that prior to the arrival of passerines, cuckoos were not parasitic. Rather, it was the successful response of cuckoos to changes that resulted in evolution of parasitism upon passerines.

12 Striated Grasswren Sightings

There have not been any recent sightings of Striated Grasswrens at Gluepot, but Karl Jones saw some at Billiat relatively recently. There are few records from eastern Eyre Peninsula. Munyeroo is one of the few places where they have fairly recently been seen. Karl Jones, Lynn Pedler and Graham Carpenter are the only members who have reported seeing them on Eyre Peninsula.

They used to be found east of Murray Bridge, but they have disappeared from that area.

.....
The panel, and Andrew Black as moderator, were thanked for their participation in the question and answer session.

The Association thanks Diana Koch for taking these minutes.

We hope that General Meetings will resume in the not-too-distant future.

You will receive up-to-date information in the e-Newsletter and on the website.



New Members

We welcome the following 13 new members who have joined the Association in the past few months.

Stephen Fuller and Deidre Knight
Pennington

Karen Vidler and Brendan Ruck
Woodforde

Dean O'Broin
Belair

Enoch Choy
Sevenhill

Helen Macilwain and Michael Weir
Semaphore

Jorji Gardener
Bridgewater

Andrew Chew
Myrtle Bank

Graeme Shields
Adelaide

Mark Parnell
Eden Hills

Noel Ward
Auckland, New Zealand

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

Past Excursions

Birds SA

20 February Sandy Creek CP

Twenty-five people attended this excursion on a beautiful day with perfect weather. Once again we had several new members as well as other members who don't usually come on excursions venturing out for either the first time or after a long break.

We made our usual anti-clockwise traverse starting from the Conservation Rd carpark and immediately started to notice how dry it was and how relatively few birds were around. This continues a trend we have noticed over the last few years in this conservation park as not only has it had very little rain, it also has an extremely large population of kangaroos. As usual we stopped to look at the grazing exclosures installed by David Paton many years ago. These areas show a stark contrast between areas grazed by roos and those that are not.



Little Wattlebirds

(Photographed by Lindsay Ames at Sandy Creek CP, on 20th February 2020)

During the walk we saw several types of Honeyeaters: Brown-headed (2), New Holland (15), Eastern Spinebill (4), Little Wattlebird (4) and Red Wattlebird (4). Weebill (10) and several Thornbills were observed: Striated (10), Yellow-rumped (10), and Yellow (6). There were also the usual White-winged Chough (15), Striated Pardalote (3), White-browed Babbler (2), Magpielark (4),



Red-capped Robin

(Photographed by Rose Slade at Sandy Creek CP, on 20th February 2020)

Willie Wagtail (1), Little Raven (12), Australian Magpie (10) and Grey Currawong (3). We were serenaded by Rufous Whistlers (4) and it's always a pleasure to see Red-capped Robins (8). Parrots and lorikeets included Galah (12), Musk Lorikeet (3), Rainbow Lorikeet (10) and Crimson/Adelaide Rosella (12). Superb Fairywren (6) and White-throated Treecreeper (2) were also present. We were very pleased to also see several Rainbow Bee-eaters (4) as they would soon be heading north.

We added Common Bronzewing (4), Peaceful Dove (1) and Feral Pigeon (40) to our list and later, as we were having lunch, a single Masked Lapwing flew overhead.

Towards the end of the walk we spotted a raptor flying overhead. This bird sparked much discussion and it was decided to post the photo on the Australian Bird ID



Immature Square-tailed Kite

(Photographed by Lindsay Ames at Sandy Creek CP, on 20th February 2020)

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Rufous Whistler

(Photographed by Graham Crooks at Sandy Creek CP, on 20th February 2020)

Facebook page to see if anyone could identify it. It turned out to be a rather tatty immature Square-tailed Kite (thanks to Sam Gordon for the ID) which brought our tally of raptors to 3 when added to 1 Brown Goshawk and 1 Little Eagle. The total number of species for the trip was 33.

Unfortunately, this was the last excursion before the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) restrictions came into force as



Little Eagle hassled by ravens

(Photographed by Graham Crooks at Sandy Creek CP, on 20th February 2020)

the scheduled excursion to Altona Landcare Reserve on 19 March had to be cancelled due to a fire ban. At least bird watchers know how to entertain themselves in the great outdoors until/unless more drastic travel restrictions are imposed. So, until we all meet again keep safe and see you in a happier future.

Ali Ben Kahn

Birds SA

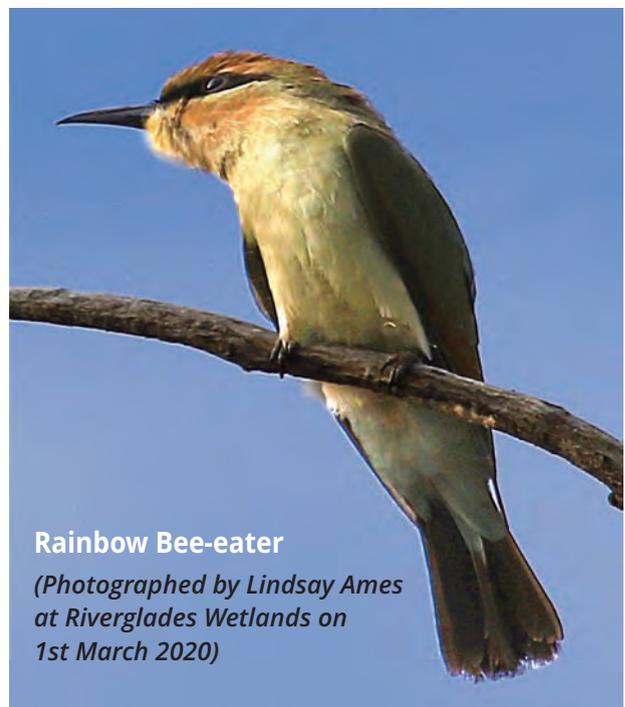
1 March

Riverglades Wetlands Murray Bridge

This location is a great spot for seeing a variety of species and is easy to traverse at a leisurely pace for experienced or beginner birdwatchers. The weather was very kind with a gentle breeze and some cloud cover for the 15 members who attended, including four newbies to our field trips.

A total of 51 species was recorded including the usual sightings of Black Swan (4), Pacific Black Duck (20), Grey Teal (2), Australian White Ibis (4), Straw-necked Ibis (40), Caspian Tern (2), Australian Pelican (30), Australasian Darter (6), White-faced Heron (4), Whistling Kite (3), Eurasian Coot (3) and Dusky Moorhen (6). It was also good to have sightings of Pied Stilt (4), Royal Spoonbill (2), Yellow-billed Spoonbill (3) and a lonely Great Egret. Cormorants seen included Little Pied (5), Little Black (1) and Great (6).

Other sightings recorded included Rainbow Bee-eater (4), Australian Hobby (2), Crested Pigeon (30), Peaceful Dove (2), Galah (40), Red-rumped Parrot (10), Rainbow Lorikeet (6), Musk Lorikeet (2), Superb Fairywren (6), White-plumed Honeyeater (4), New Holland Honeyeater (50), Red Wattlebird (20), Welcome Swallow (6),



Rainbow Bee-eater

(Photographed by Lindsay Ames at Riverglades Wetlands on 1st March 2020)

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Australian Pelicans

(Photographed by Lindsay Ames at Riverglades Wetlands, on 1st March 2020)



Rainbow Lorikeets

(Photographed by Lindsay Ames at Riverglades Wetlands, on 1st March 2020)



Nankeen Kestrel

(Photographed by Miles Ramm at Tolderol, on 14th March 2020)

Australian Reed-Warbler (3), Little Grassbird (2), Noisy Miner(10), Australian Magpie (6), Black-faced Cuckooshrike (1), Willie Wagtail (6), Grey Fantail (1), Magpie-lark (6) and Little Raven (10).

While we were having our lunch and birdcall we added Australian Ringneck (3), which landed in the branches above us.

Lynton Huxley

Birds SA

14 March Tolderol

We all gathered at the information sign at 8:30am, keen for a good day's birding. Safety around Tolderol was explained, and we all confirmed that none of us were showing any symptoms of Covid-19. Those present were divided into two groups. Each group would visit different areas of the reserve at different times of the day. In bay 17 there were large numbers of both Grey Teal and Australasian Shovelers, Black Swans, Pelicans, Great Cormorants, Swampheas, Pied

Stilts, Red-capped Plovers, Silver Gulls, as well as Whiskered, Caspian and Crested Terns. There were also several species of overwintering migratory birds, such as Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Red-necked Stints, Common Greenshanks, and Black-tailed Godwits. Of note was a single Double-banded Plover from New Zealand. Whistling Kites and Swamp Harriers were scaring the smaller waders up into the air, While Nankeen Kestrels and Hobbies were perching on dead branches or tables. Superb Fairywrens concealed themselves in the lignum, as did the Little Grassbirds, Australian Reed-Warblers and Goldenheaded Cisticolas. We looped our way to the area around bays 7 and 8, where we saw many White-fronted Chats, a Singing Honeyeater, European Goldfinches, Welcome Swallows, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbills, and 20 Wood Sandpipers.

It was starting to get hot, as it was the middle of the day, so we made our way back to the information sign for lunch and the birdcall. The total number of species seen was 48, with the highlights being Double-banded Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, and Singing Honeyeater.

Miles Ramm

Past Excursions *(continued)*

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (The Babblers)

15 March

Wirrabara Forest, Picnic Area

It was a fine day when seven birders met at the Wirrabara pub. Two of each were from Pt. Augusta and Whyalla and one each from Koolunga, Weeroona Island and Mambray Creek. After a brief stop to look at the Red-capped Robin painted on the silo we drove on several km to the Wirrabara Forest picnic area. The sound of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos greeted us as we parked our vehicles, while chewed up pine cones on the ground provided more evidence of their presence.

Red Wattlebirds, Crimson Rosellas, Galahs, a Rufous Whistler, New Holland and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were moving about in the trees; while the calls of White-winged Choughs could be heard. We walked along a track up a hill following the sounds of birds. Grey Currawongs were calling and flying past. Some of them had clear white wing patches and others had no patches at all. The population in this area is predominately *melanopteral*, but intergrades with species have been recorded. Weebills provided us with some close-up views, along with Grey Fantails and Silvereyes. Black-capped Sittellas and Striated Pardalotes fossicked about in the treetops while an Inland Thornbill, Common Bronzewing, a Grey Shrikethrush and a Blackbird were in the lower scrub. We moved back down the hill and followed the dry creek line towards the old plant nursery area. Here we added Little Ravens, Golden Whistler, Magpies, Yellow Thornbills, Brown-headed Honeyeaters,



Golden Whistler

(Photographed by Larry Gruitt in the Bangor area, on 15th March 2020)

a Kookaburra and a Scarlet Robin. A flock of about 50 White-winged Choughs noisily congregated along the creek line and watched us intently. At the old nursery area a flock of Yellow-rumped Thornbills provided some photograph opportunities as Little Corellas, Crested Pigeons, a Willie Wagtail and House Sparrows extended our bird list. As we returned to the picnic area for lunch Purplebacked Fairywrens moved through the bush with us. During our lunch break an Eastern Spinebill gave us some more photo shots. We made our bird call and had found 32 bird species here. We then returned back towards Wirrabara and turned off to drive along Block Nine road.



Female Scarlet Robin

(Photographed by Bernie Haase in Wirrabara Forest, on 15th March 2020)

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Block Nine Road

The narrow, windy dirt road goes through pine plantation and native forest areas, including areas that are recovering from the Bangor fires of January 2014. We stopped in a creek line that had some bird activity and were pleasantly surprised by several Golden Whistlers allowing us to get some good views of them. Dusky Woodswallows, Brown-headed, White-plumed and New Holland Honeyeaters, Scarlet Robins, Blackcapped Sittellas, Crimson Rosellas, a Rufous Whistler, Weebills and Tree Martins were in the trees, while White-browed Babblers, Purple-backed Fairywrens, Inland Thornbills, a Willie Wagtail and a Grey Shrikethrush moved through the scrub. We travelled a little further along the road and added Rainbow Bee-eaters, Galahs, Elegant Parrots and a Nankeen Kestrel — the only raptor for the day. We left the Block nine road and travelled to the Bangor area.



Eastern Spinebill

(Photographed by Bernie Hasse in Wirrabara Forest area, on 15th March 2020)



Kookaburra at sunset

(Photographed by Judy Owen in Wirrabara Forest area, on 15th March 2020)

Bangor Area

The Bangor Village area consists of a few houses, farms and a winery. The vineyards had attracted a flock of Little Ravens and Red Wattlebirds and in the paddocks Magpies, Australian Ravens and many Galahs looking for food. The gum-lined creek was home to Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, Rainbow Lorikeets, Crested Pigeons, Weebills, Magpielarks, Welcome Swallows and Yellow-throated Miners. We drove past a house with Apostlebirds in the yard and stopped on the Pt. Germein gorge road to look for Crested Shriketit that had been seen in the area before. We did not find any though but we did find more Crimson Rosellas, Redrumped Parrots, Kookaburras, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Willie Wagtails, Dusky Woodswallows and a single Starling. We had found a total of 47 bird species for the day with birds of the day being different subspecies of Grey Currawong, the big mob of White-winged Choughs and the Sittellas, Golden Whistlers and Eastern Spinebills.

It may be a while before there is another bird trip report due to the dreaded virus preventing future trips.

B. Haase

Historical Series No 72. Edwin Ashby (1861-1941)

Quaker, Naturalist and Plant Enthusiast.

Part 1 by Penny Paton

Early Life

Many South Australians know the botanic gardens at Blackwood as 'Wittunga', but I wonder how many know that it was the gift of the Ashby family to the state? The patriarch of the family, Edwin Ashby, came out from England on a visit for his health in 1884-87 and then migrated with his elder sister in 1888. Edwin was born in Pleystowe (sometimes written Plaistow) near Capel in Surrey on 2nd November 1861, to James Ashby, tea merchant, and his wife, Eliza née Sterry. He was a delicate child and received little formal education, but was encouraged in his natural history pursuits by both his parents who were able field naturalists (Robertson 1979).

After working in the South East of the state at wattlebark growing, Edwin returned to Adelaide and joined his cousin's business. His cousin, Ernest Charles Saunders, was a Quaker and, by 1894, was listed as a sharebroker and mining agent in Adelaide. Ernest, who died aged 92 in 1946, his wife Emily Constance, and two of their children, Maurice and Una, are buried in the Quaker section of the West Terrace Cemetery. By 1896 the firm of Saunders and Ashby was operating as land agents and sharebrokers from the Royal Exchange Building in King William Street (www 1*). They were responsible for floating many mining companies and syndicates and between 1890 and 1910 Edwin Ashby was closely involved in the mining industry, as liquidator, chairman of directors and director of more than 40 companies (Horton *et al.* 2018).

Family

Edwin Ashby married Esther Maria Coleman (Essie) on 6th May 1890 in the Friends Meeting House at Mt Barker. Esther was the daughter of Arthur Coleman and Lucy née May, who were married on 8th December 1858, also at the Friends Meeting House at Mt Barker. Lucy's parents, Joseph and Hannah May, had emigrated from Hertfordshire in 1839 with their eleven children and Joseph's brother, establishing a farm at 'Fairfield', Mt Barker (www 2). Arthur died in 1867, two months before the birth of their fifth child, Esther. A few years later Lucy took the children back to England so they could be educated at a Friend's School there (*ibid.*). In 1880 she returned, aged 46, to live at her family's home, 'Fairfield', presumably with at least some of her children.



Photo 1 — Keith and Alison Ashby in vegetable garden, with orchard and eucalypt scrub behind, Wittunga ca 1904 (courtesy, State Library of South Australia B70984/7)

Edwin and Esther initially lived in North Adelaide, where their four children were born: Ivan Edwin (1893-1920), Arthur Keith (1896-1971), Gwenyth Sterry (1898-1900) and Alison Marjorie (1901-1987). Saunders and Ashby owned much of Eden Hills (immediately to the west of Blackwood) and developed the suburb, with Edwin building his home at Wittunga in 1902 on the corner of what are now Shepherds Hill Road and Sherbourne Road. The sandstone and brick house still stands near this corner, although it was extensively damaged in a bushfire in 1934 and then rebuilt. A formal English garden grew up around the house, while a large vegetable garden and orchard were planted out by 1904. Photo 1 shows the garden and orchard in their infancy.



Photo 2 — The Ashby Family at Wittunga, ca 1910
L-R Standing — Ivan, Edwin, Keith: seated
Essie, Alison, Essie's mother Lucy Coleman
(Courtesy, State Library of South Australia B78904/5)

Edwin and Esther's private life was not without tragedy; they lost their third child, Gwenyth, at the early age of 17 months and, in 1920, their eldest child Ivan died at the age of 27 years, after a long illness. He was diabetic from birth but, despite this, studied medicine and was described by his niece, Enid Robertson, as "a brilliant medico" (www 3).

Their youngest child, Alison, was a shy child afflicted with a stutter and educated mainly at home. She shared her father's passion for native plants and vowed at an early age to paint every Australian wildflower. She received some painting tuition from well-known botanical illustrator Rosa Fiveash and painted in watercolours and on china. Caring for her bedridden mother became her chief preoccupation until Essie's death in 1943, after which she collected cuttings and seeds of Australian plants for cultivation at Wittunga. She travelled extensively in her home state and in Western Australia, collecting plant specimens for the herbaria in Perth and Adelaide (Robertson 2007).

Alison owned the north-western part of the Wittunga Farm and in 1957 donated her section, known as

Watiparinga, to the National Trust of South Australia, with two stipulations: that it was never to be built on and that the capital for the endowment she made for its maintenance was to be preserved. The 32 ha property had been extensively cleared and farmed, but Alison's vision was that the area should be planted with Australian natives. Later work, spearheaded by her niece, Enid Robertson, led to Watiparinga's restoration as an exemplar of grey box woodland, now a nationally threatened ecological community. Alison's 1500 paintings of native plants are housed in the Herbarium of South Australia and 240 of them have been turned into postcards that display her skill as a botanical artist. In later life Alison moved to Victor Harbor where she delighted in walking and planting native plants on her nephew's property, Mt Alma, at Inman Valley. She was laid to rest in a simple Quaker ceremony at the Inman Valley cemetery in 1987 (Robertson 2007).

Esther's mother, Lucy Coleman, lived at Wittunga for the last 20 years of her life: she died in February 1926, aged 94 years.

Photo 2 depicts the extended family at Wittunga. Edwin and his wife Essie lived at Wittunga until their deaths in 1941 and 1943 respectively.

Wittunga History

Subdivision of the Blackwood, Eden Hills and Belair area occurred before 1881, when a syndicate invested in land there along the proposed route of the railway (www 4). Some land clearance occurred in the 1870s for farming and then, in the 1880s and 1890s, the railway line and tunnels were constructed through what is now Watiparinga Reserve. The workers and their bullock teams traversed Watiparinga and adjacent land to move between the Belair Hotel and their work sites via rough tracks, some of which are still in use today as fire and access tracks (*ibid.*). The syndicate attempted further subdivision along the railway route but economic depression halted their plans. Ashby and Saunders purchased some of the land prior to 1902, with further purchases in 1911, by which time subdivision was more attractive, as the Eden Hills Railway Station was opened in April 1912.

I have been unable to find out exactly how much land was purchased by Edwin Ashby for Wittunga Farm, but it must have been at least 47 ha, as Watiparing is 32 ha and the Wittunga Botanic Gardens to the south-east, but not adjoining, is 15 ha. In addition some of the land was subdivided in the 1960s. Also in the 1930s an additional block was added to the Wittunga Farm; this 26 ha block immediately west of Watiparinga Reserve is now known as Ashby Reserve and comprises Sections 2202 and 2203, Hundred of Adelaide (www 4). So by the 1930s the Ashby family owned and managed at least 73 ha of land. At the time of purchase, some of this land was cleared, while other parts were clothed in native vegetation.

A commercial apple and pear orchard occupied part of Wittunga Farm while cattle, sheep and pigs were also farmed (www 5). The portions of the estate that became Watiparinga and Ashby Reserve were used for livestock grazing, so these areas were partially cleared, fertilised with superphosphate and sown to pasture (www 6).

Edwin Ashby the Ornithologist

Ashby gave up his position in the business, Saunders and Ashby, in 1914 at the comparatively young age of 53, but continued to operate a business from home. He became quite a wealthy man and this enabled him to travel widely and to pursue his many natural history interests, which included birds, plants, lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) and chitons, a type of mollusc.

A founding member of the South Australian Ornithological Association (SAOA) and the AOU (Australasian Ornithologists' Union), the early name of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union (RAOU), Ashby also served both organisations in executive positions and published widely in their journals. He was Vice-President of the SAOA for five annual terms between 1902 and 1933 and became President in 1903-04, 1912-13, 1920-21 and 1927-28. Ashby was auditor for the AOU from 1901-05, a council member of the RAOU from 1916-1923, Vice-President in 1922-23 and 1924-25, and President from 1925 for two years (Blaylock 2000). He was also an active member and President (1898-1900) of the Field Naturalists' Section of the Royal Society of South Australia and a member for many years of its Native Fauna and Flora Protection Committee.

Ashby published over 80 scientific papers on ornithology and collected bird skins and the occasional egg clutch and nests, but was not a serious egg collector. His passion for ornithology started at an early age, as evidenced by his trips to various parts of Australia in 1884-1887 when he was

just 'visiting' Australia. For example, as a 24-year old, Ashby collected two specimens of the Orange-bellied Parrot from Grange in November 1886, and saw "numbers" of them feeding in the flat behind the sandhills there (Ashby 1927a). Also in 1886 he travelled widely through Victoria and went to Tasmania, just the first of a many trips to the Apple Isle (Ashby 1917a, 1917b, 1920a, 1925, 1927a). He was also exploring South Australia, as evidenced by a comment in a paper written later in life, which also shows his attention to detail and his scientific bent, even in his twenties (Ashby 1926a):

"On the 9th September, 1886, the late James G. McDougall and the writer were collecting in the wild country near Cape Spencer, at a spot called Sandy Point, the south-western extremity of Yorke Peninsula, South Australia; here we found a Crow-Shrike's nest with one egg (which is described later in this paper) and made a skin of the bird. In December of the same year the writer met Mr. McDougall by appointment at the Public Library, Adelaide, bringing the skin of the *Strepera* with him. Together we compared it with Gould's figures and identified it with Gould's figure and description of *S. arguta*, the Hill Crow-Shrike of Tasmania."

Of course this bird we now know as the Brown Currawong *Strepera versicolor intermedia*, a subspecies of the Grey Currawong that occurs in the Gawler Ranges and Yellabinnna and on Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas.

Some of Ashby's interstate trips were made in concert with the annual RAOU Congress and Campout, which states took in turns to host. This was so of Ashby's 1920 visit to Western Australia (WA), when the first Congress and Campout took place there, due to the recent completion of the Transcontinental Railway. However it was not his first visit to the West; in 1888, the year he moved to Australia permanently, Ashby was at Broomehill (then called Eticup) in the southwest of WA. In a discussion of the then vexed taxonomy of the Yellow-throated Miner complex (including Dusky and Black-eared Miners), Ashby (1922) mentioned that he saw an acacia species (*Acacia acuminata*, Jamwood) there, this being favoured habitat for Dusky Miners. Then in August 1901 he travelled widely through WA, spending time in Perth and Moora and on Dirk Hartog Island, which lies off the coast between Geraldton and Carnarvon and would have been quite a remote spot in 1901 (Ashby 1901, 1922, 1929a).

Following the RAOU congress in 1920, Ashby and fellow South Australian, J. W. Mellor (the subject of SAOA Historical Series Nos 64-66, Paton 2018,

a,b,c), travelled to Moora, Dongara, Watheroo and Geraldton, observing and collecting birds in October 1920, at times in company with Messrs. Bullock and Orton (Ashby 1921). His last trip to WA took place in October 1927, when he attended the 26th RAOU Congress in Perth, at which as retiring President he delivered an address on the educational value of the study of ornithology (Ashby 1928a). His wife and his daughter, Alison, accompanied him on this occasion. Following the Congress some members attended the campout at Nornalup, in the Great Southern region of WA, between Walpole and Denmark. Ashby and Le Souef (1928) published a paper on the avifauna observed at the Nornalup campout, which was noteworthy for the paucity of bird species and comparative paucity of specimens encountered by the group of enthusiasts. Ashby did use his time to great effect in his pursuit of chitons, spending two days in a sheltered bay near Nornalup Inlet, where he gathered what was “probably the best collection of chitons” that had been made in the State to that date (Pollard 1928).

Following the camp at Nornalup Ashby and fellow RAOU member, Dr Chenery from New South Wales, caught the train from Perth to Geraldton. Ashby was such an avid collector that he gave Chenery some heart-stopping moments by leaving the train at stops and only just getting back on board before being left behind (Horton *et al.* 2018). They spent time at Geraldton and on Dirk Hartog Island, where Ashby left Chenery (Ashby 1929a, Ashby 1930). While on Dirk Hartog Island, Ashby indulged his other passion by making a collection of chitons (Ashby 1929b).

Ashby embarked on a long trip from the Peron Peninsula up the coast to Carnarvon and then southwards across the Gascoyne, Wooramel and Murchison Rivers to Mullewa, a distance of 675 miles (Ashby 1930). Despite their transport of a truck and the mail motor failing them badly, he documented the birds seen and collected on this hurried and uncomfortable trip. He collected a specimen of what he thought was a new species of cuckoo-shrike, which he named *Coracina gascoynensis* (Ashby 1929c). This bird is now regarded as a subspecies of the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae subpallida* (Horton *et al.* 2018). What was then thought to be a type specimen of this bird was destroyed like so many of Ashby’s skins in the fire of 1934 (Condon 1941).

Ashby’s exploration of New South Wales spanned several decades, with the earliest trip I can locate being in 1907 when he spent a short time at Cowra Creek in the Macannally (*sic*) Ranges, north-east of Cooma. These steep ranges are now in the

Macannally State Conservation Area. Ashby was particularly interested in noting the nests, scratchings and playgrounds of the Superb Lyrebird, although he did not locate any birds (Ashby 1907). Ashby was probably in the district due to his interest in mines, as the Cowra Creek area was noted for its gold mines and Ashby’s informant was a Mr Murray, a significant player in the mines there from the late 1890s (www 7). Ashby was desirous of introducing lyrebirds to suitable parts of South Australia, including the Adelaide hills and Kangaroo Island, but nothing came of this.

A weekend in the Blue Mountains in June 1915 gave Ashby the opportunity for some birdwatching and collecting (Ashby 1915a). He noted the birds he saw but, despite sitting for half an hour by a Superb Lyrebird nest, this species eluded him again. In September 1923 Ashby was again in New South Wales, this time at Point Clare on the western side of Brisbane Water near Gosford and further north up the coast at Port Stephens (Ashby 1924). His descriptions of the environment and birds are quite lyrical and this paper demonstrates his acuity at aligning bird species with their preferred habitats. From the rented accommodation at Port Stephens overlooking the harbour, Ashby explored the almost unspoilt bushland, delighting as much in the flora as the birds. On 20th October 1926 Ashby made the most of a brief visit of just 30 minutes to the bush in the National Park (presumably Royal National Park) at Port Hacking, south of Sydney. In the resulting short note he described the bower of a Satin Bowerbird, the nest of a Rock Warbler, the elusive Superb Lyrebird and several Striated Herons feeding in the mud and observed from a boat (Ashby 1927b).

In August 1928 Ashby, his wife and daughter Alison drove from Adelaide to Wentworth, via Eudunda, Morgan, Renmark and Mildura, with the return trip via Renmark, Loxton, Waikerie, Swan Reach and Truro (Ashby 1929d). Unlike some of his articles, this one describes many of the bird species recorded at stops along the way and also lists the specimens he collected.

Edwin Ashby part 2 will be published in the Spring edition of The Birder.

*The bracketed www 1, www 2 etc. refer to web references, which will appear in full at the end of the Ashby series.

Future Excursions

Future Birds SA Excursions — 13 June to 12 September 2020 and October 2020 Campout

You are all aware the Covid-19 virus has necessitated cancellation of all excursions until we receive Commonwealth or State Government advice lifting restrictions and permitting resumption of gatherings for recreational purposes. We are fortunate that here in South Australia the virus has only had a low infection and death rate, assisted by our early implementation of self-isolation.

Our planned resumption of field trips and other activities will occur once it is deemed safe to do so. Advice on field trip dates, locations and trip leaders will be circulated via our e-Newsletter. Given Birds SA duty of care obligation to you our members we do ask that when you attend future excursions:

- You are well and have no cold or flu-like symptoms;
- You observe any ongoing social distance restrictions;
- You bring personal hand sanitiser and a facemask until those requirements are no longer deemed necessary.

If you have any queries or require further information please contact the Field Trip Coordinator Lynton Huxley on 0498466092 or lyntonhuxley@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Regarding parking for Brown's Road, Monarto

Recently Birds SA was contacted by an officer from the Rural City of Murray Bridge concerning numerous complaints about people parking on Brown's Road, Monarto without pulling off the road. Although this road has low volumes of traffic, it is bad practice to park on roads and leave your vehicle, as it causes a hazard for other road users.

The observations made are that the culprits are opportunistic birdwatchers getting a tick! We have been asked to put a message out to our members to please take care on Council roads and pull off the road as far as possible for your safety and that of other road users. We are also reminded that there is a parking area on Browns Road to facilitate safe bird watching.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance with addressing this matter.

John Gitsham

DIY Excursions

Since the cancellation of all official Birds SA excursions, members have been taking their own, DIY excursions, making sure they were obeying all the 'lockdown' rules in effect at the times of their excursions. I'm sure we'd like to thank all the members who have sent in these accounts.

This excursion took place even before the lockdown.

Unofficial (Birds SA) Excursion

Boundary of Altona Landcare Reserve 19 March

As Ali stated in her report of the February Sandy Creek excursion there was a fire ban on 19th March, so that the Altona Landcare Reserve excursion was officially cancelled. However, six members of the Association were unaware of the existence of the fire ban. We had all reasoned that the forecast temperature of 35C was one degree below the official cut-off value of 36C, and the excursion would therefore proceed. When we discovered that the gate to the reserve was locked, that there were only six of us and no leader, one of the group consulted his mobile phone and we finally found out about the fire ban. However, we had all come out to go birding, the morning was still cool, and there was an inviting path through the scrub just outside the boundary of the reserve. We decided to take our own unofficial bird walk along this path. It was a pleasant 1.5km walk from the park entrance to the nearest road — Baritt Road — beyond which there was no further scrub.

As we walked along the path, we observed a range of the species we would have expected to see in the reserve. The highlight was a very obliging male Red-capped Robin.

A special treat, seen fairly close to the path, was a large banksia bush in full flower. Unfortunately none of us had a camera to record its glory.

On our short walk we saw 18 bird species, which were later recorded on Birdpedia. We enjoyed our lunches in comfort in the Lyndoch rotunda. It had been a very pleasant morning, although not quite what we had expected.

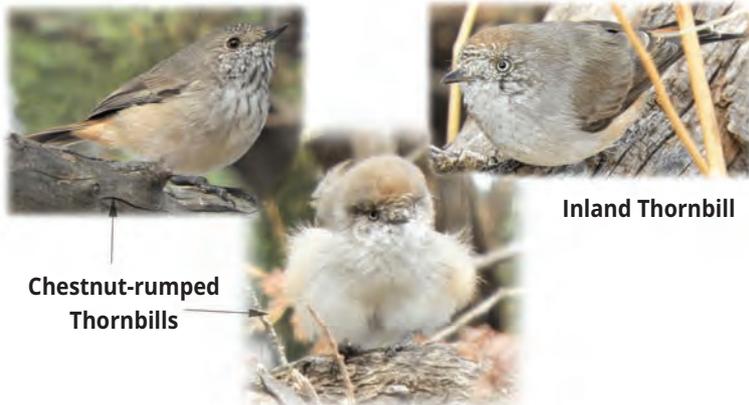
Cynthia Pyle

Bernie's Block, Mambray Creek

18 April

Due to the Corona virus cancellation of the April scheduled birding trip to Ironstone Conservation Park, I decided to enjoy a birding outing on my place at Mambray Creek. It was a calm and partly cloudy day when I stood under my veranda and watched Welcome Swallows trying to build a nest in the veranda railings. Crested Pigeons, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds, Peaceful Doves, Willie Wagtails and White-browed Babblers moved about in the garden and a pair of Sparrows was nesting in the implement shed. Tree Martins and Dusky Woodswallows hawked for insects overhead as Emus walked past.

I set off through the native pine woodland heading to the eastern end of the property, to get the sun behind me as I walked back through the woodland. More Crested Pigeons, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Peaceful Doves and Babblers were noisily calling out and chasing each other about. I think the breeding season is going to be early this year. At the eastern boundary, which borders the national park I could hear thornbills calling out and I stalked through the bush after them. I found Chestnut-rumped Thornbills fossicking about in the shrubs and trees and on the ground were Yellow-rumped Thornbills. As I was watching them a pair of Yellow Thornbills came close to watch me. Unfortunately I could only take a couple of photos of them, as they were constantly moving. Rufous Whistlers, Grey Fantails, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Red-capped Robins and many Silvereyes added to the calls and movement in the trees. I also saw a single female Golden Whistler, which is a rare sight here. As I moved through the trees I saw Little Ravens, Australian Magpies, Laughing Kookaburras, Grey Butcherbird, Galahs, Little Corellas and Yellow-throated Miners perched in the tree tops or flying past. More



Chestnut-rumped
Thornbills

Inland Thornbill

Three Thornbills

*(Photographed by Bernie Haase at Mambray Creek,
on 18th April 2020)*

Emus were booming and grumbling close by as some squabbling Inland Thornbills chased each other about watched by Southern Whitefaces as a Black-shouldered Kite hovered overhead. I heard an uncommon call and found it to be from some Yellowfaced Honeyeaters, which are not often seen here. I returned to the house to have a quick smoko and watched Magpielarks at the bird pond. I then moved on through the woodland. Red-rumped Parrots were feeding on the ground and Dusky Woodswallows were feeding on Mallee rice flower berries, covering the shrubs and gorging themselves. A pair of noisy Galahs announced the arrival of a Collared Sparrowhawk and actually chased the hawk away. As I approached a big Red gum tree there were Elegant Parrots looking into hollows while Weebills and Striated Pardalotes gleaned food off the leaves. Mallee Ringnecks and a Grey Shrikethrush quietly sat in the trees while Purple-backed Fairywrens moved around in the shrubbery. It was time for lunch back at the house.

After lunch I walked along the edge of the woodland and across the revegetated paddock area finding Whitewinged Fairywrens, Black-faced Woodswallows, a Kestrel and a pair of Whistling Kites. Mistetoebirds were feeding on the fruits of a mistletoe growing in some prickly acacia trees as I entered the Red Gum lined creek. The raucous calls of Apostlebirds heralded their approach and White-plumed Honeyeaters squeaked out from the trees. A pair of Australian Ravens and Purple-crowed Lorikeets flew past uttering their distinctive calls. I flushed a pair of Common Bronzewings from their feeding ground as Crimson Rosellas and Common Starlings moved about in the trees. More Kookaburras, Red Wattlebirds, Peaceful Doves, Magpie Larks, Red-rumped Parrots, Ringnecks,

Miners, Purple-backed Fairywrens and Galahs were added to the list. Then a distinctive bird call I had heard for the last four days and flying past was a Ground Cuckooshrike. This is a new bird for this area and a few days earlier allowed me to get some photos of it. At the same time I was taking photos of it an even more unusual

DIY Excursions *(continued)*



Olive-backed Oriole

(Photographed by Bernie Haase at Mambray Creek, on 18th April 2020)

bird joined it perched in the tree they were in. It was a juvenile Olive-backed Oriole and I didn't notice it until I was looking at the Ground Cuckooshrike photos. Two unusual bird sightings in one day and both in the same tree! The next day I went looking for it in the woodland and after playing a birdcall tape it reappeared and allowed me to get some good photos of it. They have both moved on now, but I have the proof to show any sceptics.

I saw a total of 54 bird species on the eight

hours of birding day, with the Ground Cuckooshrike being the bird of the day and the Golden Whistler, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Inland Thornbills worth a mention because they are uncommon on Bernie's block. Oh, did I tell you about the Olive-backed Oriole that was here a couple of days earlier.

B. Haase

Excursion to Myponga Dam

28 March

I went on a birding excursion this morning around the new walking track at Myponga town, along the dam. I was the sole participant.

The water level was quite low, so the walking track was perhaps 100m away from the water. I had to walk through some high grass in order to get near the water. There was a flock comprising 50 Australian Shelducks, 200 Eurasian Coots, 20 Black Swans, 20 Great Cormorants, 5 Australian White Ibis, 2 Masked Lapwings, 6 Black-fronted Dotterels, 2 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and 2 Hoary-headed Grebes. I did not see other ducks.

As I left the shore near a creek outlet I became aware of my situation — walking through long grass — and



Red-bellied Black Snake *(Photographed by Heather Connolly, by Myponga Dam, 28th March 2020)*

started to sing "go away snake" loudly. However this sounded pretty silly, so I practised "Advance Australia Fair", AND I do not lie; there was a magnificent Red-bellied Black Snake on bare ground beside the creek. A magpie was bothering it and I only managed to take 2 photos before it vanished.



Two views of Great Cormorants *(Photographed by Heather Connolly, by Myponga Dam, 28th March 2020)*



Australian Shelducks *(Photographed by Heather Connolly, by Myponga Dam, 28th March 2020)*

I walked onto the nice wide well-made walking track, and proceeded to walk through the native forest for a while. I did not see many birds, but I did manage Australian Magpies, Magpielarks, Rainbow Lorikeets, Noisy Miners, Little Ravens, Galahs and, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.

Your **HELP** is Needed!

Wanted: Records of Striated Grasswrens from Eyre Peninsula and the Yellabinna

Andrew Black, Graham Carpenter and I are currently working on a project to review the status of the little known populations of Striated Grasswren on Eyre Peninsula and in the Yellabinna region north of Ceduna (Googs Track and the surrounding area). We are currently collating records to obtain a better understanding of these grasswrens' historic and current distribution, and to help us develop future surveys. We are now seeking any unpublished personal records that will help with this project.



Striated Grasswren on Eyre Peninsula in 2017
(*Photographed by Karl Jones*)

We would like the locations and dates of these records to the best accuracy possible (even general information is useful though), as well as any additional information which may have been noted at the time, such as habitat, number of birds, notes on behaviour, and possible indications of fire (i.e. if seen in regenerating vegetation).

If you do have records of these grasswrens, you can send the information to me, Karl Jones, at karl.koch.jones@outlook.com. Any information will be much appreciated and will be acknowledged with published results of the study.

Karl Jones

Help wanted from photographers of SA Godwit and Knot

Exactly which sub-species of both Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit occur in South Australia is unknown. Basically the sub-species of both divide along east/west lines, with a large gap with very limited numbers along the southern coast of Australia between Queenscliff and the Northern lagoon of the Coorong (to be honest I'm not sure of the section between the Murray Mouth and Adelaide).

Those that have been banded in the SE have been juveniles en-route to New Zealand, and assumed to be individuals of the eastern sub-species. Increasing evidence appearing that for both species there is a mix of both sub-species in South Australia.

With improved cameras, and more people taking photos of waders, we can learn a lot. I am hoping that I can entice people who are confined to home to check their files and share relevant photos.

What do we need in a photo?

- **Red Knot** — breeding plumage.
- **Bar-tailed Godwit** — views of their rump. Photos of godwit in flight are particularly useful. Not only can the sub-species be determined but such photos can also give some indication of the ratio of each.

Your photos must have been taken in South Australia. We will need the name of the photographer, as well as the date and the location where the photos were taken.

My end of the bargain will be to organise an expert to check the photos out. The photographer will be given feedback, even if it is just to say that a decision on the sub-species could not be made! And no photo will be used in a publication without prior consultation with the photographer! (I hope that covers everything)

Earlier this week I received an email with attachments totalling 26MB. There probably needs to be a limit of something like 10MB per photo so that I can send it on. I don't know my computer's limit...

Please send this information to anyone you think who might be interested in helping with this investigation. Hopefully we will make some progress in solving this puzzle.

Maureen Christie

08 87380014; 0427 380014

twinpeppercorns@gmail.com

Winter Visitors

Most birds that migrate to South Australia are here in spring and summer. But around my "local patch" on the northern Adelaide Plains, there are a few birds that regularly visit this area in the cooler months.

Silvereyes arrive here in March and remain until about October. A few Red-capped Robins and Grey Fantails appear in April and stay through the winter. This is also the time for Pallid and Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos, as well as the occasional Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

Uncommon but regular visitors in late April and May are Bluewinged Parrots. These are in transit while migrating north to the Flinders Ranges and perhaps beyond. They return through the Adelaide Plains in early spring. Blue-winged Parrots are normally in small numbers, but in May last year (2019) an exceptional number of over 80 birds appeared near Bowmans (about half way between Port Wakefield and Balaclava).

The northern coastline of Gulf St. Vincent receives Doublebanded Plovers, autumn and winter visitors from New Zealand. Most migratory shorebirds are here over summer, but a few immature birds overwinter. A recent trip to Bald Hill Beach revealed several Red-necked Stints, 4 Bar-tailed Godwits, 2 Grey Plovers, a couple of Ruddy Turnstones, and an Eastern Curlew, all appearing as if they will stay for the winter.

There is the chance of seeing a rare bird during the middle of the year. In the cooler months for the last 2 years, at least 2 Australian Bustards have been around the Adelaide Plains and Mid-north. It is quite likely that an unusual bird will be seen this winter. Perhaps I'll find a Flame Robin in my local area!

Paul Taylor



Blue-winged Parrot
(Photographed by Paul Taylor
near Bowmans in May 2019)

Bird Trivia—Collective Nouns

*Thanks to the Macquarie Dictionary and the BirdCare Conservation Society Inc SA Magazine.
(The BirdCare Association closed in 2019)*

Collective Nouns are very idiosyncratic, intriguing and often very apt as word descriptions of large gatherings of birds. However the nouns used do vary in English speaking countries.

These words are believed to date back to Medieval times and were possibly used by hunters in the beginning, however a few have become part of our vocabulary and are appropriate & interesting.

As birders we all use collective nouns for groups of birds e.g. colonies, flights, flocks, and rafts but there are some that are specific to some bird families and species.

How many do you know and use? (Answers are on page 35)

- 1 Eagles
- 2 Petrels
- 3 Crows
- 4 Ravens
- 5 Herons
- 6 Choughs
- 7 Finches
- 8 Quail
- 9 Swans
- 10 Hawks
- 11 Penguins
- 12 Doves
- 13 Sparrows
- 14 Starlings
- 15 Plovers
- 16 Swallows
- 17 Lapwings
- 18 Pigeons
- 19 Snipe
- 20 Owls

A Good News Story for a Shorebird

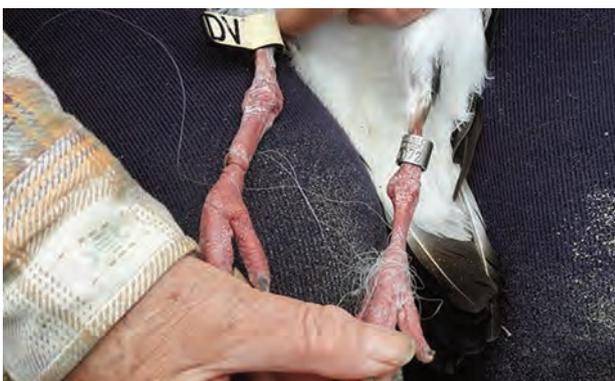
Bird/dolphin/whale entangled in fishing line. How often have you read that headline? And how often does it end badly? Not always!

Friends of Shorebirds SE recently received an SOS from Parks Vic, Warrnambool. A Pied Oystercatcher at Killarney had both legs tangled in fishing line and it was constantly tripping up as it struggled to feed. The rescuers were successful on their second visit to free the bird. The bird lay quietly as the long piece of line was unwound. It was so tight that it had cut one of its legs. It flew a short distance, ate a large worm, and joined its faithful mate who had stayed near by all the while.

Interestingly, the bird had previously been caught and was wearing a yellow leg flag inscribed DV, along with a metal band. So we knew who 'tangles' was. It had originally been banded in Corner Inlet, near Wilson's Promontory in Victoria in 2011, and was next sighted in Westernport Bay, Victoria, then Mimosa Rocks National Park, NSW, then back to Westernport Bay before moving to Killarney, then Westernport Bay again and lastly back to Killarney!



Pied Oystercatcher entangled with fishing line
(Photo: Rebecca Hall)



Pied Oystercatcher with fishing line on legs
(Photo: Sarah Campbell)



Pied Oystercatcher with line removed
(Photo: Sarah Campbell)

As can be seen from the photo neither the flag nor the band were implicated in the entanglement.

Australian Seabird Rescue advise that entanglements are all too common. Ninety per cent of injuries sustained by sea and shorebirds are caused by discarded fishing tackle and line. Birds of all sizes, from sandpipers to pelicans, can become entangled with line around legs or wings (or both!). It's not only debilitating, it can eventually cause a slow and painful death. Hooks swallowed by birds can cause horrific internal injuries. Fishers are asked to please dispose of all unwanted fishing tackle and line responsibly. And if you see a shorebird with a flag, you can contribute to our knowledge of these beautiful birds, by emailing flagging@awsg.org.au.

Jeff Campbell and Maureen Christie
Friends of Shorebirds SE



Pied Oystercatcher with mate after line removed
(Photo: Rebecca Hall)

Christmas Island / Cocos Keeling

In late November 2019 we decided to make a return trip to Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling. We had previously been 5 years beforehand participating in Bird and Nature Week, but this time we went with 14 other birders from across Australia. We all stayed at a hotel in Perth the day before the flight and met our fellow birders over dinner.

The most notable change on Christmas Island was the reduced number of birds circling the island. There were a few species that we did not see at all, the most notable being the Noddy. The island was particularly dry for the time of year and even the red crabs had not migrated, as they need rain and for the moon to be in the right phase. Many crabs had made it to the shoreline up on the rocks just waiting for the time to go down to the beach.

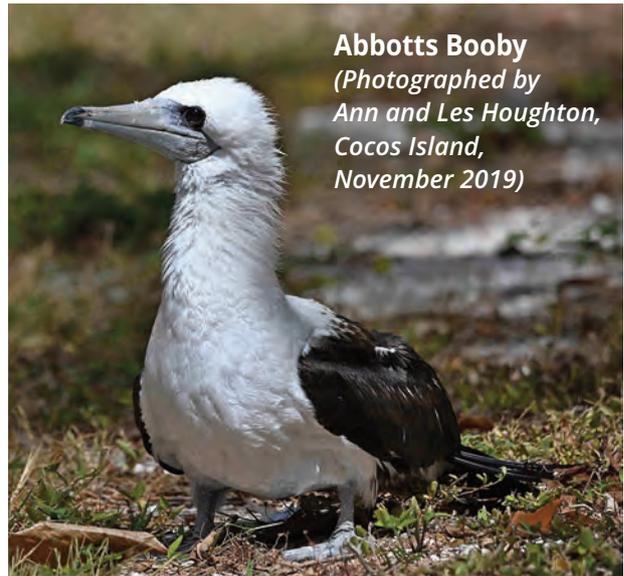
One day the group set off to see the Abbott's Booby nesting sites, and when we arrived there we found a young Booby on the ground. We did not seem to bother it. However, as we were worried about the dense forest from which it could never take flight, we called National Parks. The rangers arrived and the bird tried to take flight into the forest and landed on a low branch in a difficult position, so the rangers decided to chop the tree down with a hand saw (it was a weed species) and they safely caught the bird and took it back with them. The next day we went to their compound in which they were caring for a number of different birds.

We found 'our' Booby sitting on a gate while the rangers went in and out of the compound to feed the other birds. The Booby just sat there taking it all in, quite unconcerned. We heard that it later took flight — a good result.

While we were checking out the birds along the shoreline at Flying Fish Cove I came across a lovely small Striated Heron and took many photographs of it fishing



Striated Heron with a stick (possibly chopstick) poking out from under its wing (Photographed by Ann and Les Houghton, Cocos Island, November 2019)



Abbotts Booby
(Photographed by Ann and Les Houghton, Cocos Island, November 2019)

from the rocks. On inspection of the photographs I noticed a protrusion from the bird and showed it around but nobody could identify it. It appeared to me like a chopstick protruding from just under the bird's wing — facing forwards. It did not hinder the bird at all but it looked uncomfortable to me.

Overall it was good to see more of the Island on this visit, and especially not seeing any Crazy Ants this time. They had previously been prolific, so their eradication by National Parks is a fantastic result.

We went on to Cocos Keeling, and saw some changes there too, mainly along the coastline on West Island where huge sandbags have been placed. For this reason, the area was not quite as picturesque as we remembered it. We went on the motorised canoes with the specific aim of seeing the Saunders' Tern. It was a hot day with a great deal of glare, but we finally found them on little shell-encrusted mounds along with many other species. It was well worth the trek.

A number of other bird groups were also on Cocos, and the word was out that the Japanese Mugimaki Flycatcher had been seen, so we joined a group to try and see it. We set up across the road from a previous sighting and it took a long time but it did appear although the photographs hardly capture it, as the bird is very small. The other vagrant we went looking for was the Javan Pond Heron. It was far easier to find near the Island dump in a very strange landscape, which looked like little icy islands with the Pond Heron fishing for black 'worms'.

Overall it was a great trip with a wonderful group, and we left thinking we would like to do it all over again - perhaps in 5 years...

Ann and Les Houghton

The Bogey Bird

It is four a.m. I have my thermos, snacks and plenty of water packed and I am driving to the Gluepot Reserve, three and a half hours away. I want to be there in time for the day's inaugural preening and celebration.

My first visit there netted a Brown Falcon, so early it wasn't disturbed by my paparazzi approach to photography; a host of Southern Whiteface, and a noisy scuffling of Mulga Parrots — all first time experiences for me. There is a sense of wonder in seeing a new bird, alongside a sense of satisfaction as I cross more birds off my wish list. On an earlier visit I photographed a group of birds at the Emu Tanks hide and amongst the constantly rearranging feathered bodies, there were glimpses of a 'strange' bird with a white face. I have tentatively identified this scrap of half hope half portrait as a White Fronted Honeyeater and would really love a clear photograph.

For me photography is a journey. There is the first record, often a retreating tail view, even though the bird was clearly present and facing forward just micro-moments earlier. The second level follows, where the bird consents to remain a bit longer because it is heavily engaged in a game of hide and seek with the flora, the lighting and incidentally, my camera. However, I may now have a reliable photo. The third stage is reached when I can actually match my picture to a field guide and then, finally, and very occasionally we all get so

familiar with each other that photography is no more difficult than recording a family event.

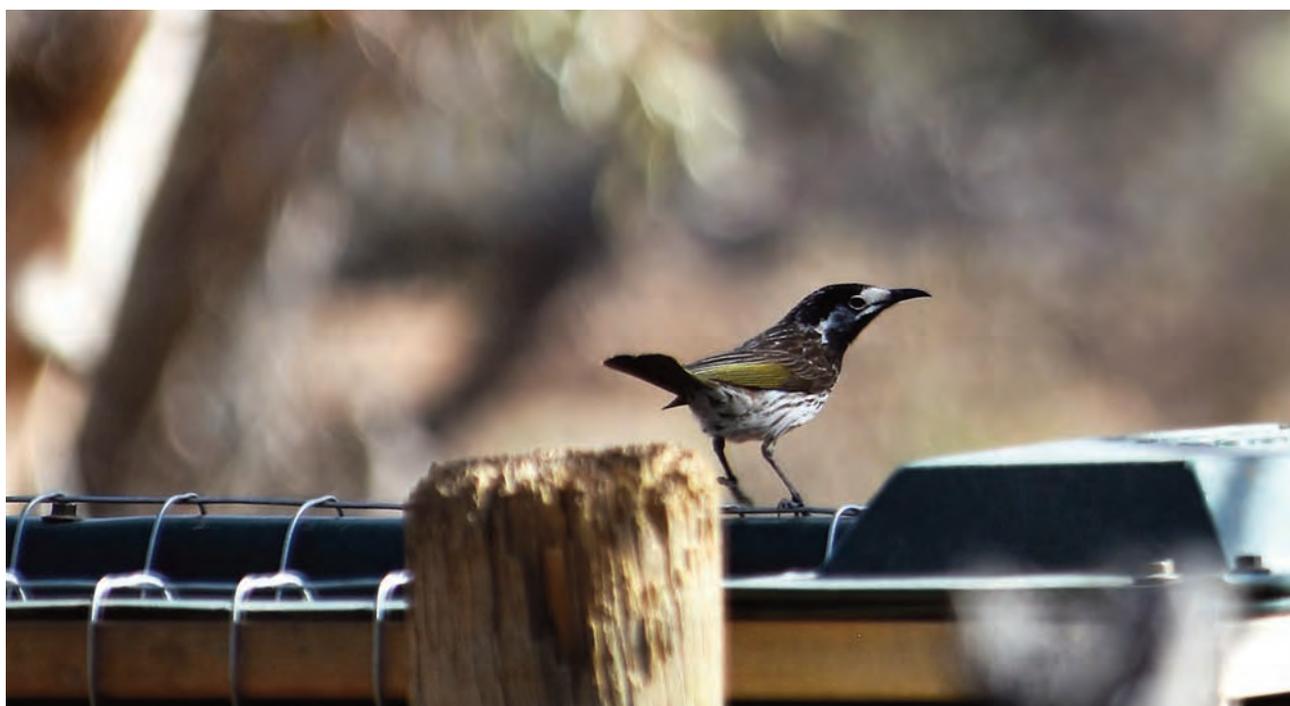
This particular bird is no stranger to many. In fact in my last two trips to Gluepot, my bogey had been present just before I arrived — in a group of three no less; or according to reliable testimony, appeared just after I had left! My hopes are high though, and really how can you not enjoy a day up here?

Today I have planned to try the Emu Tanks hide where I caught my first view. Maybe he's a local to this area? Then I look along the walk from the Homestead to the local hide. Finally I try the Froggy Tanks area where I am also confident that he has been. Of course if there are too many distractions along the way this plan will fall by the wayside, where I no doubt will also be, tracking exhaustively a bird of which it will turn out that I already have quantities of photos of — thank you Yellow Plumed Honeyeater!

A beautiful day, two lizards and some Common Bronzewing, the usual festival of honeyeaters in their drinking, bathing and vocalising blitz, and this character finally appears, shyly wends in and out of the trees and camera view and then consents to land just long enough for a third level identification shot.

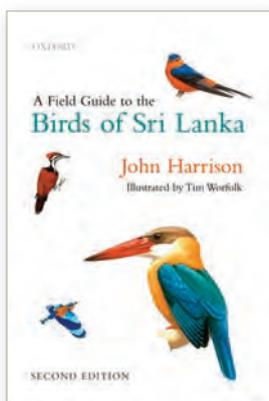
I will just have to go back, maybe several times, for the next level...

Dallas Tomalin



A 'third level identification shot' (Photographed by Dallas Tomalin at Gluepot)

From the Library



598.295493 HAR

Harrison, John

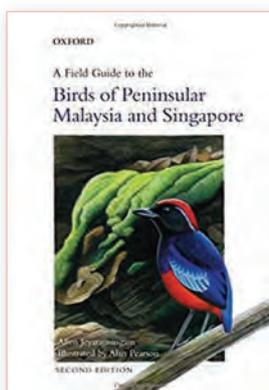
A field guide to the birds of Sri Lanka

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011

ISBN 9780199585670

All of Sri Lanka's official avian species are described in the text and depicted in a collection of stunning color plates. The text highlights the important identification features such as plumage variations, size, calls and songs, range, distribution, and status for every species. The plates illustrate the various plumage variations for each bird, and show the birds perched and also in flight, where relevant to their identification.

The introduction to the guide describes briefly some of the best sites for watching Sri Lanka's abundant avifauna.



598.29595 JEY

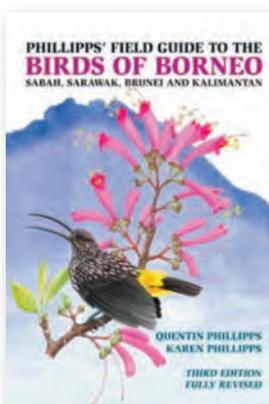
Jeyarajasingam, Allen

A Field Guide to the Birds of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012

ISBN 9780199639427

This comprehensive field guide to the birds of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore, covers all 673 species known to occur in the region. The birds are illustrated in a series of 74 stunning full-colour plates. The plates illustrate the various plumage variations for each bird, and show the birds perched and also in flight, where relevant to their identification.



598.295983 PHI.3

Phillips, Quentin

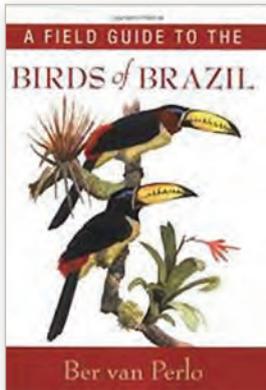
Phillipps' Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo: Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and Kalimantan

Oxford: John Beaufoy Press, 2014

ISBN 9781909612150

This third edition is comprehensive and a user-friendly guide to the birds of Borneo. It features handy, facing-page format and illustrates and describes all 673 species, including 59 endemics. The book contains more than 2,000 superb full-color images, providing multiple large views of each species, and 567 color maps. It describes and maps Borneo's top 90 birding sites as well as including identification plates to the birds of Kinabalu and other habitats.

From the Library *(continued)*



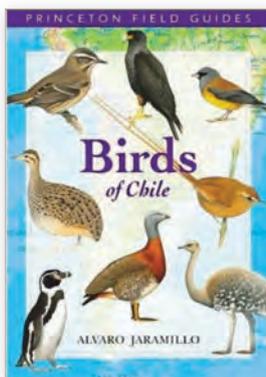
Perlo, Ber van

A field guide to the birds of Brazil

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009

ISBN 9780195301557

Brazil's bird diversity is one of the richest in the world. This book is the first comprehensive field guide to the birds of Brazil, featuring 187 beautifully drawn full-color plates with 1796 species accounts, including a distribution map for each species. The volume contains information on bird features, habitat, calls, and species distribution, and pays special attention to the species endemic to Brazil.



598.2983 JAR

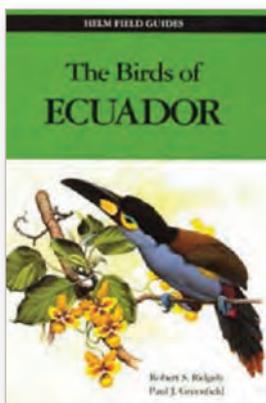
Jaramillo, Alvaro

Birds of Chile

Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2003

ISBN 0691117403

This field guide to the birds of Chile, has 97 color plates with succinct text and maps on facing pages for quick reference and easy identification. All 473 known species breeding in or visiting Chile, from the Andes in the north down to the tundra and sub-Antarctic rainforest of Tierra del Fuego in the south. It also covers offshore places such as Easter Island as well as the Antarctic Peninsula and adjacent islands, plus the Falklands and South Georgia. It is compact, portable, and user-friendly.



598.29866 RID

Ridgely, Robert

The birds of Ecuador

London: Christopher Helm, 2001

ISBN 0713661178

This field guide contains 96 full-colour plates and facing pages of descriptive text, colour map of Ecuador and nearly 1600 distribution maps. All species are illustrated in full colour, including migrants and vagrants and visually distinctive subspecies. The text focuses on the field identification aspects of each species, including their behaviour, vocalisations and nest appearance.

Bird Records

Collated by Graham Carpenter

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

birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au or phone 8297 5463.

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

Brown Quail

6, 2/2/2020. Goolwa, Barrage Rd, MM.
Edey, D. & Copley, P.
2, 3/2/2020. Hallett Cove, MLR.
Cook, S.
1, 17/2/2020. South Plympton, AP. In suburban yard.
Squire, E.

Brush Bronzewing

1, 30/3/2020. Angaston, Gravel Pit Rd, MLR.
Kretschmer, G.
Scarce in the northern MLR region.

Fork-tailed Swift

1, 16/4/2020. Port Vincent, YP.
Wilson, G.

Northern Royal Albatross

1, 22/3/2020. Continental shelf off Port MacDonnell, MO.
Harper, D., Potter, M. et al.

Buller's Albatross

2, 22/3/2020. Continental shelf off Port MacDonnell, MO.
Harper, D., Potter, M. et al.

Kermadec Petrel

1, 22/3/2020. Continental shelf off Port MacDonnell, MO.
Harper, D., Potter, M. et al.
First SA report of this Pacific seabird. Details and photos forwarded to SA Rarities Committee.

Short-tailed Shearwater

Large numbers of young Short-tailed Shearwaters migrate around our coast after leaving their nesting islands off the west coast, on their way to the northern Pacific. Southwest winds drive many into the gulfs.

1000s reported at several sites in Gulf St Vincent over 30 April – 2 May, including:

30/4/2020. Hallett Cove, MLR. Lloyd, H.
30/4/2020. West Beach, AP. Sparks, K.
1/5/2020. Brighton, AP. Crouch, A.
1/5/2020. Glenelg, AP. Sothman, B.
2/5/2020. Port Noarlunga, MLR. Owen, P.
2/5/2020. Hallett Cove, MLR. Gaglio, D.
2/5/2020. Semaphore, AP. Fairbairn, H.

Also birds blown inland:

1, 1/5/2020. Croydon Park, AP. Flesher, L.
1, 3/5/2020. Plympton, AP. per Buckley, K.

Northern Giant Petrel

1, 3/3/2020. Venus Bay, EP. Foster, G. & H.

Little Penguin

3, 2/2/2020. Goolwa Channel, MM. Edey, D. et al.
Few reports near Adelaide in recent years.

Intermediate Egret

1, 2/3/2020. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP. Gordon, S.

Little Egret

1, 21/3/2020. Marion, Oaklands Wetland, AP. Cook, S.

Royal Spoonbill

2, 18/1/2020. St Peters Billabong, AP. Breed, E. & B.

Bird Records *(continued)*

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

1 subadult, 26/3/2020. Adelaide, Botanic Park, AP.
Flying around fruit-bat colony.

van Weenen, J.

Whistling Kite

1 overhead, 22/4/2020. Lockleys, AP.

Edey, D.

Square-tailed Kite

1, 21/4/2020. Williamstown, Coppermine Rd, MLR.

Pearce, A.

A late report from a regular locality.

Black Kite

1, 28/3/2020. Danger Point, SE.

Campbell, J.& S.

Lewin's Rail

Heard, 16/2/2020. Reynella East, Byards Rd wetlands, MLR.

Ed Smith

1, 25/4/2020. Hindmarsh Valley, Sawpit Rd, MLR.

Brittain, R. & Diment, J.

Baillon's Crake

1, 18/2/2020. Reynella East, Byards Rd wetlands, MLR.

Goland, R.

Spotless Crake

2, 31/3/2020. Aldinga, Hart Rd Wetlands, MLR.

Goland, R.

Pacific Golden Plover

1, 11/4/2020. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetlands, AP.

Randle, T.

Sanderling

1300, 29/1/2020. Danger Point, SE.

Campbell, J.& S.

Red Knot

80, 2/4/2020. Goolwa Barrage, MM.

Newell, D.

Long-toed Stint

1, 5/5/2020. Tolderol GR, MM.

Brooker, W. & Rogers, C.

Bar-tailed Godwit

85, 13/3/2020. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

46, 2/4/2020. Goolwa Barrage, MM.

Newell, D.

Black-tailed Godwit

1, 14/3/2020. Barker Inlet wetlands, AP.

Heikaus, A.

Whimbrel

3, 13/3/2020. Carpenter Rocks, Pelican Point, SE.

Campbell, J.& S.

Ruff

1, 29/1/2020. Danger Point, SE.

Campbell, J.& S.

1, 11/2/2020. Lake Bonney, SE.

Campbell, J. & Anderson, R.

Grey-tailed Tattler

2, 8/3/2020. St Kilda, AP.

Tyrrell, K.

1, 26/3/2020. Port Clinton, YP.

Tiller, K.

1, 22/4/2020. Port Clinton, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

Common Greenshank

114, 11/2/2020. Lake Bonney, SE.

Campbell, J. & Anderson, R.

Painted Button-quail

3, 21/3/2020. Hindmarsh Island, Mills Rd, MM.

Jack, T.

Arctic Jaeger

1, 13/3/2020. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Also reported at this locality on 1 December 2019.

Whiskered Tern

20, 6/2/2020. River Torrens, Pinkie Flat, AP.

Baldacchino, P.

Bird Records *(continued)*

Common Gull-billed Tern

Birdlife Australia's 'Working List of Australian Birds' (August 2019) now separates the Australian Gullbilled Tern (Gelocheledon macrotarsa) from the migratory Common Gull-billed Tern (Gelocheledon nilotica), of which the subspecies affinis is now regularly reported from Australia.

2, 15/3/2020. Bald Hill Beach, AP. One bird in breeding plumage.

Taylor, P.W.

Bridled Tern

2, 6/3/2020. Robe, SE. Roosting on rocks. Report submitted to SA Rarities Committee.

Holwell, I.

One or two pairs nested at Baudin Rocks off Robe in the 1970s, a locality now rarely visited by birders. Also one at Carpenter Rocks in summer 2001-2 (Newsletter 181) and Cape Northumberland in June 2004 (Newsletter 192). The similar Sooty Tern was reported from the SE in 2001 (Newsletter 180), and bred at Coffin Bay EP in the 1970s.

Gang-gang Cockatoo

1, 27/3/2020. One Tree Hill, MLR.

Halliday, M.

A pair was previously photographed at Ironbank in Feb 2013. Both reports presumably relate to escaped birds.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

1 overhead, 13/4/2020. Salter Springs, Days Hill Rd, MLR.
Greenshields, M.

8, 19/4/2020. Lower EP. Photos taken.

Solly, F.

The remnants of a population that breeds in the Koppio Hills and migrates to western EP. Aleppo Pines are now an important food source.

7, 21/4/2020. Currency Creek gorge, MLR.

Newell, D.

235, 25/4/2020. Reynella East, Byards Rd wetland, MLR.

Ed Smith

70, 28/4/2020. Gumeracha, MLR.

Hartland, D.

250, 29/4/2020. Clarendon, MLR.

Rayment, G.

Included are four birds showing varying degrees of leucism, where patches of yellow replace black.

Swift Parrot

6, 16/2/2020. Mount Gambier, SE.

Green, B.

Elegant Parrot

Several, 13/4/2020. Arno Bay boardwalk, EP.
Photos provided.

Turnbull, D.

Its status on southern EP is poorly known.

Blue Bonnet

1, 24/2/2020. Robe, Gaol Ruins, SE.

Guilfoyle, J.

Superb Fairywren

Coloured male, 30/1/2020. Unley, Hughes St, AP.

Fotheringham, D.

White-browed Scrubwren

1 immature, 8/2/2020. Gilberton, AP.

Paton, P.

Eastern Spinebill

Several reports from AP including:

1, 30/3/2020. St Peters, AP.

Bansemar, B.

1, 9/4/2020. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

1, 12/4/2020. Oaklands Park, AP.

Buring, N.

1, 13/4/2020. Burnside, High St, AP.

Spiers, J.

1, 25/4/2020. Clarence Park, CF Page Memorial Park, AP.

Carpenter, G.

Black-chinned Honeyeater

1, 21/3/2020. Port Elliott, Brittain St, MLR.

Barron, P.

2, 12/4/2020. Reynella East, Merlot St, MLR.

Ed Smith

White-naped Honeyeater

1, 14/3/2020. Barker Inlet wetlands, AP.

Heikaus, A.

2, 9/4/2020. Tanunda, MLR.

Blackwell, S.

5 over, 10/4/2020. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

Ground Cuckoo-shrike

1, 15/4/2020. Mambray Creek, FR. First report from home property.

Haase, B.

Bird Records *(continued)*

Red-lored Whistler

1, 11/1/2020. Cooltong CP, MM.

Mannzen, L.

Olive-backed Oriole

1 immature, 15/4/2020. Mambray Creek, FR. First report from property. Photographed in the same tree as the cuckoo-shrike!

Haase, B.

Previous report from FR in the Quorn township on 7 April 2013 (NL 226) and at Brindana Springs on 4 May 2011 (NL 219).

Dusky Woodswallow

6, 27/4/2020. Frewville, AP.

Sparks, K.

White-breasted Woodswallow

2, 29/3/2020. Port Pirie, LN.

Mudge, C.

In recent years a group has established in the Port Augusta township (most records over summer) so may also have colonised Port Pirie.

Little Woodswallow

1, 17/2/2020. Hiltaba HS, NW.

Glover, J.

A spring-summer breeding visitor to the Gawler Ranges, with numbers varying between years.

White-winged Chough

4+, 28/2/2020. Black Hill CP, Addison Rd, MLR.

Jermakow, A.

13, 9/4/2020. Waite Conservation Reserve, MLR.

Bird, P.

Brown Songlark

1, 7/3/2020. Beaumont, AP. Caught under bird netting to protect fruit.

Bradley, T.

Bassian Thrush

1, 5/4/2020. Stirling, Pine St, MLR.

Browne, M.

Diamond Firetail

2, 28/3/2020. Angaston, Gravel Pit Rd, MLR.

Kretschmer, G.

ANSWERS

to Bird Trivia Quiz on page 26

1. Convocation (*Eagles*)
2. Wreck (*Petrels*)
3. Murder (*Crows*)
4. Unkindness (*Ravens*)
5. Siege (*Herons*)
6. Chattering (*Choughs*)
7. Charm (*Finches*)
8. Bevy (*Quail*)
9. Herd (*Swans*)
10. Cast (*Hawks*)
11. Colony (*Penguins*)
12. Flight (*Doves*)
13. Host (*Sparrows*)
14. Murmuration (*Starlings*)
15. Congregation (*Plovers*)
16. Flight (*Swallows*)
17. Deceit (*Lapwings*)
18. Flock (*Pigeons*)
19. Walk (*Snipe*)
20. Parliament (*Owls*)

(Additions and comments are welcome but no discussion will be entered as to the accuracy of this list!)



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

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

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and indicate which committee member you wish to contact. Your message will be forwarded to that person.



Birds SA Committee participating in a Zoom meeting on 11th May 2020

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magazineeditor@birdssa.asn.au

ABN 76 339 976 789

Print post number 100004337

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationers

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Lunchtime for some Parrots



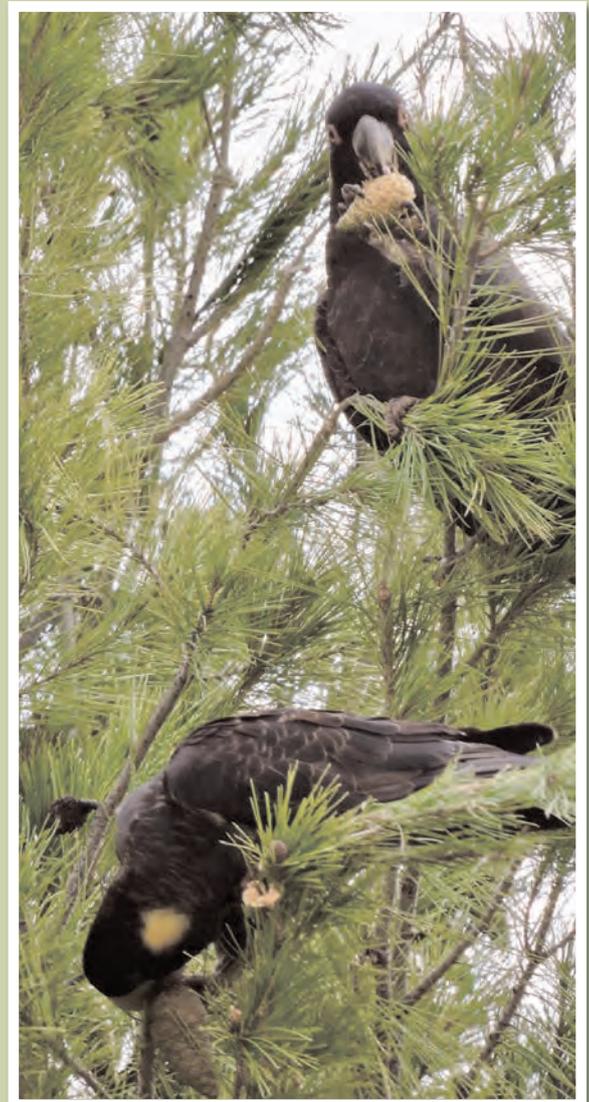
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (Photographed by Jeff Groves in Anstey Hill Recreation Park on 3rd April 2020)



Long-billed Corella (Photographed by Jeff Groves on River Torrens Linear Park on 14th March 2020)



Eastern Rosella (Photographed by Jeff Groves on River Torrens Linear Park on 25th March 2020)



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos
(Photographed by Wendy Digby at Glenthorne National Park on March 2020)

*Bush birds
come in different shapes, sizes and colours*



White Winged Cough (Photographed by Bernie Haase in the Wirrabara Forest area on 25th March 2020)



Horsefield's Bush Lark (Photographed by Peter Mckenzie at Price Saltfield on 29th January 2020)



Yellow Thornbill (Photographed by Rose Slade at Sandy Creek on 20th February 2020)



Grey Fantail (Photographed by Larry Gruitt in the Wirrabara Forest area on 25th March 2020)

In, Around and Over Water



Pied Stilts (Photographed by Jeff Groves at St. Kilda on 10th March 2020)



Critically endangered Eastern Curlews (Photographed by Jeff Groves at St. Kilda Saltfields on 15th January 2020)



Red-kneed Dotterel (Photographed by Greg Blackman at White's Road Wetlands on 11th December 2019)



A Bar-tailed Godwit with Red Knots (Photographed by Bob Daley, just downstream from Goolwa Barrage on 9th April 2020)