

THE BIRDER

The official magazine of Birds SA Winter 2021 No 258



Linking people with birds
in South Australia

In this Edition

General Meetings resumed

A wide range of conservation issues

Showing off his red britches!



Mulga Parrot

(Photographed by Bob Daly at Gluepot, 13 April, 2021)

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CENTRE INSERT: No: 75 Matthew Symonds Clark, part 1: by Penny Paton

Cover image: An Australian Spotted Crake at Laratinga Wetland, in 2019; photographed by John Gitsham, who also designed the cover.

Graphic design: Ingrid Grigg

We welcome 38 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on page 35.

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

Birds SA aims to:

- Promote the conservation of Australian birds and their habitats.
- Encourage interest in, and develop knowledge of, the birds of South Australia.
- Record the results of research into all aspects of bird life.
- Maintain a public fund called the “Birds SA Conservation Fund” for the specific purpose of supporting the Association’s environmental objectives.

Diary of Events

The following is a list of the activities of **BIRDS SA**, **FLEURIEU BIRDERS (FB)** and **PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS (The Babblers) (PA)** for the next few months.

Further details of all these activities can be found later in 'The Birder'.

Sunday 30 May	Birds SA	Excursion to Narragi CP
Saturday 5 June	FB	Excursion to Scott CP
Saturday 12 June	Birds SA	No Field Trip—Long Weekend
Thursday 17 June	Birds SA	Excursion to Belair National Park
Sunday 20 June	PA	Excursion to Mundallio Station
Friday 25 June	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 27 June	Birds SA	Excursion to Kaiser Stuhl CP
Saturday 3 July	FB	Excursion to Cox Scrub
Saturday 10 July	Birds SA	Excursion to Glenthorne NP
Thursday 15 July	Birds SA	Excursion to Brown's Road, Monarto
Sunday 18 July	PA	Excursion to Whyalla CP/Point Lowy
Friday 30 July	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 1 August	Birds SA	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands
Saturday 7 August	FB	Excursion to Aldinga Washpool/Aldinga Scrub
Saturday 14 August	Birds SA	Excursion to Brookfield CP
Thursday 19 August	Birds SA	Excursion to Shepherd's Hill RP
Friday 27 August	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 29 August	Birds SA	Excursion to Hardy's Scrub/Onkaparinga NP
Saturday 4 September	FB	Excursion to Myponga Reservoir
Saturday 11 September	Birds SA	Excursion to Jenkins Scrub

President's Message

Hello everyone,

I am very pleased to advise you that we have reached agreement with the landowner of a 125ha block of native Woodland and scrub in Mount Compass for Birds SA to start looking after.

The site is in very good condition but there is scope to improve it for birds. For example, about 50 years ago a number of larger trees were removed, so there is a shortage of older trees containing hollows and other nest sites. One enhancement we can therefore make is to install nest boxes throughout the site, targeted to attract the specific species that we want to support.

Also, a weed problem exists in some parts of the property — notably gorse and blackberries. There are some spots that would benefit from replanting. We will be working with Trees for Life to undertake the required work, and we will be calling out in due course for input from our members in the form of working bees.

We will have access to the property at least quarterly to run members' fieldtrips, and we will be monitoring the results of our improvements with regular bird surveys; including we hope, bird-banding if we can obtain the required permissions.

This is an exciting development where we hope to make a good spot even better for birds. If any of our members live near Mount Compass and would like to have an ongoing role (large or small) in the development of this site, then please contact president@birdssa.asn.au

Our collaboration with Bush Heritage continues in May with our second bird survey of their Boolcoommatta reserve up near Silverton. Richard Woodland will be taking a team of about 12 volunteers for a long weekend to build upon the initial survey undertaken in November 2020. We aim to conduct these surveys at least twice a year to develop robust longitudinal data. If you are interested in taking part in these surveys please get in touch with Richard – see page 39 for his contact details.

It is very encouraging to see our membership continue to grow strongly as we regularly attract between 10 and 20 new members every month. Soon we will be breaching the 1000 member mark – a cause for celebration!

To support this influx of new members we had a very successful New Members' Field Day in March to Laratinga wetlands in Mount Barker. The 24 spots were snapped up overnight. On site the members were divided into teams of groups of four and allocated to an experienced guide who led a tour providing a strong educational focus; explaining the key identification features of the birds they saw, and related them back to images in the field guides. Following this success, we will be offering similar trips later in the year.

Our webinars continue to be very popular. We attract between 100 and 130 viewers each time, including perhaps 25% who are non-members and who are very welcome. We hope they will be attracted to subsequently join us. Perhaps this is one of the features that are driving our membership growth.

We are always looking for new and interesting topics for these webinars so we would be very pleased to hear from anyone willing to make such a presentation please contact webinars@birdssa.asn.au.

Happy birding!
Steven

John's Final Committee Meeting

John Gitsham was president of Birds SA for nearly four years (2016-2020) and prior to that, vice-president for 3 years (2013-2016). He was on the committee from 2013 to 2021 and has finally decided to step down.



John Gitsham at his final Birds SA committee meeting

(Photographed by Alan Burns)

In the Autumn Birder, Steven outlined John's contributions as president of Birds SA. John would like you all to know that he enjoyed the challenges in being president and being part of the changes — especially affiliation with BirdLife Australia and the Association's significant membership growth.

As editor of The Birder, I should like to add that, especially by designing the cover of each issue, providing some valuable articles and authorising the use of a professional graphic designer and coloured illustrations, throughout the document, he made a significant contribution to the transformation of our quarterly publication from a Newsletter to a professional-looking Magazine

Cynthia Pyle

Conservation Sub-committee

Duck and Quail Hunting

News from our Victorian friends, RVOTDS, (Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting) has alerted us to the illogical way changes have been made to the 2021 Victorian duck hunting season after data was released from a trial survey conducted by the Game Management Authority (GMA) and the Arthur Rylah Institute in November 2020.

The trial survey was established by the GMA to estimate the state-wide abundance of game duck species.

Changes announced in mid-April in Victoria include increasing the bag limit (number of birds able to be taken per day per hunter) from two to five ducks and removing the geographic restrictions that limited where Chestnut Teal and Grey Teal species could be hunted. Further information from RVOTDS can be found at: <https://www.regionalvictoriansotds.com/post-1/shooters-state>

The Victorian Government announced that the duck-hunting season will begin on Wednesday 26 May 2021 and last 20 days. This compares with the SA season, which commenced on 20 March 2021 and runs until 27 June 2021.

On 4 February 2021 ABC News reported that: "In recent years, the GMA has been repeatedly accused of failing to investigate and enforce duck shooting breaches."

In 2018, an internal report found it was "widely perceived" by both shooters and its own staff "to be unable to police [hunting laws] properly or to punish those who break them."

One could argue strongly that it is impossible for hunting regulations to be policed adequately in SA given the level of resources applied to this task.

Birds SA continues to ask the State Government why it supports the killing of native birdlife in the face of widespread public opposition on both sustainability and animal welfare grounds. We will endeavour to ensure that the hunting of native birds is given prominence as an issue in the lead-up to the next State Election in 2022.

Members of the Treasures not Targets Coalition, of which Birds SA is a member, have recently been running anti-duck shooting advertisements in the Adelaide Advertiser. The attached advertisement featured prominently in the Advertiser on Saturday 1 May 2021. Further advertising, aimed at better educating the public about duck and quail shooting, will be continuing throughout 2021 using a range of media platforms.

DUCK SHOOTING IS NOT A SPORT

Sport is a contest between equal opponents. A man with a shotgun vs a duck is carnage, not sport.

“ I cannot believe that shooting innocent ducks is actually a thing. This is not sport – it's cruel and it's nonsense. Stop it – be better people ”

*Jason Gillespie
Head Coach West End Redbacks, Coach Adelaide Strikers*

SA, we can do better

To support the campaign against cruelty, go to <https://www.facebook.com/Treasuresnottargets>
<https://treasuresnottargets.com/>

ADVERTISEMENT

Conservation Sub-committee *(continued)*

Off-road Vehicle Documentary

Birds SA Committee member Davide Gaglio has been working hard producing a documentary video that highlights the impacts on birdlife of off-road vehicles in coastal areas.

The documentary is nearing completion. It contains material showing the good work being done by some local Councils and volunteers to better protect birds as well as some of the irresponsible off-road vehicle behaviour which is of great concern. We expect the documentary to be launched mid-year and be used for educational purposes as well as firing up action to address the issues identified in the Off-road Vehicle Inquiry conducted by the State Government in 2019. There has been no obvious action to date from the State Government on the seven major recommendations from the Inquiry which were tabled in State Parliament in mid-2020. Of particular interest to Birds SA were recommendations 5. And 6. These were as follows:

The Natural Resources Committee recommends that the South Australian Government:

5. Further investigates the introduction of a permit system for off-road vehicle use in South Australia, such as exists in other states.
6. Undertakes an inventory in partnership with local government to identify areas which should be prohibited either seasonally or permanently, areas which could be opened for limited use, and areas where environmental impacts are likely to be lowest.

Use of off-road vehicles will be another issue which we will endeavour to ensure receives high prominence in the lead-up to the State Election in 2022.

TRAGEDY on Kangaroo Island *(from BirdLife Australia)*



Wheel tracks on Brownlow Beach

(Photo supplied by BirdLife Australia)

A tragedy on Kangaroo Island is a wakeup call when it comes to sharing the beach.

Earlier this month, 20 Red-necked Stints were resting on Kangaroo Island's Brownlow Beach when they were run over by a vehicle speeding along the sand. One of about 35



Dead Red-necked Stint — Brownlow Beach

(Photo supplied by BirdLife Australia)

species of migratory shorebirds found in Australia each summer, these weary travellers were killed while conserving energy in preparation for the long journey home.

While it's not illegal to drive vehicles along many of South Australia's beaches, this beach was a vehicle-free zone – although a poorly marked one. There are strict rules around sharing the beach with wildlife, but this crime demonstrates that these regulations are meaningless unless they are properly enforced and advertised with clear signage.

"These tiny birds fly up to 10,000 kilometres from Australia to return to their breeding grounds in Siberia, and they expend an enormous amount of energy to get there," says Dr Grainne Maguire, BirdLife Australia's Coastal Birds Program Lead. "To be mown down like this, just as they were ready to go, is a real tragedy."

Our beaches aren't just our playgrounds – they are also incredibly important breeding and feeding habitat for some of Australia's most threatened birds.

For more information on how to safely share the beach with our birds, visit: <https://birdlife.org.au/.../beach-nesting.../for-beach-users>

Conservation Sub-committee *(continued)*

Potential Sale of Land at Monarto Woodlands

In February 2021 Birds SA was contacted by The Kanmantoo-Callington Landcare Group, advising us of their concerns with the potential sale of land at Monarto to private buyers. The land in question is between Browns Road and Highland Road Monarto and is just to the north of the popular Browns Road birding area and adjacent to the area being re-vegetated by Bio-R near Frahn's Farm. The land is shown as four titles in the attached map. These four titles total approximately 177 hectares. Another adjacent block of land, within this area, of approximately 65 hectares is proposed to be transferred to the Department for Environment and

Water for the Lavender Trail. The five parcels of land currently fall within the portfolio of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA).

Birds SA has written to Minister Basham (PIRSA) suggesting that the land be transferred to DEW for conservation purposes. The importance of the area for woodland birds was stressed. It was also noted that retention of the land for conservation purposes would enable re-vegetation works to be undertaken, resulting in a large contiguous area of prime bird habitat.

Former Birds SA President, David Paton, strongly supports the suggestion to transfer the land to DEW. It is understood that Minister Speirs (DEW) is also highly supportive of the proposal.



Location of Land Parcels *(Map supplied by Kanmantoo—Callington Landcare Group)*

Conservation Sub-committee *(continued)*

Cat Management

Research by three environmental scientists, published in a book entitled ***Cats in Australia: Companion and Killer*** highlights the massive impact that pet and feral cats are having on Australian wildlife. Some key statistics from this book were:

- There are 3.8 million pet cats in Australia of which:
- 1.1 million (29%) are kept inside 24 hours a day
- 2.7 million (71%) are allowed outside to roam and hunt.
- On average, an individual roaming pet cat kills about 75 reptiles, birds or mammals per year.
- Pet cats kill 30–50 times more animals per square km around towns than feral cats do in the bush.
- Professor Chris Dickman, co-author of the book, said that each day cats (both pet and feral) are killing over 3.1 million mammals, 1.8 million reptiles and 1.3 million birds in Australia.

The Birds SA Conservation sub-Committee has been aware of difficulties faced by individual Councils in SA in trying to implement cat management practices which go some way to addressing these alarming statistics. Sub-Committee member David Andrewartha has contacted 68 Councils in SA to get feedback on their approach to cat management.

We also arranged for the CEO of RSPCA SA, Paul Stevenson, to address the sub-Committee on the Cat Management Plan for South Australia, published jointly by RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League SA. This Plan is available online at:

[Cat Management Plan for SA - RSPCA South Australia \(rspcasa.org.au\)](http://rspcasa.org.au)

The objectives of the Cat Management Plan for South Australia are to:

1. Improve the health and wellbeing of cats
2. Reduce predation of cats on native wildlife
3. Reduce cat-related nuisance complaints in the community.

The SA Plan identifies 25 Actions and those responsible for implementing these Actions.

Further key messages from Paul Stevenson's presentation were:

- **Owned Cats** — there is a need to educate the community about responsible cat management by controlling reproduction (de-sexing), identification (microchipping) and location control (containment on property), which could start with a curfew.
- **Semi-Owned or Un-Owned Cats** — remove these cats and rehome or humanely kill or de-sex and return.
- **Feral Cats** — humanely cull — need to develop better automated systems, building on the experience with the Felixer and not using 1080 poison. (The Felixer is a cat management system that uses light detection and ranging sensors to detect when a cat passes in front of the device. It then sprays the cat with a gel containing 1080 poison. When the cat licks its fur to remove the gel it ingests the poison.)
- **There is a need for a consistent and State-wide response** with a new Dog and Cat Management Act. The Act is due for review in 2022 and is the responsibility of Minister Speirs.
- The question of who is going to pay for cat management continually arises. Cat registration can provide a revenue source to enable Councils to manage the issue.
- Introduce mandatory cat detention periods for stray cats.
- Introduce cat trained animal management officers. (prevent inhumane treatment)
- Develop education materials for:
 1. Responsible Cat Ownership – including benefits of cat containment
 2. De-sexing programs and microchipping
 3. Semi-owned cats (fed but not housed animals)
 4. Standardised cat management (Dog and Cat Management Board website)



David Andrewartha and Chris Proud from the Conservation sub-Committee are currently developing a Birds SA policy for cat management. It is important for Birds SA to have this in place when the current Dog and Cat Management Act comes up for review in 2022.

Jeff Groves



FAIBS' Recent Projects

With the migratory birds well on the way in their journey to the northern hemisphere to breed, Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) have focussed on habitat projects along the Gulf St Vincent coastline in recent weeks.

Parham Red Dunes

In April a group of keen volunteers made their way to the Parham Red Dunes where selected tools and herbicide were used to control the remaining spiky Boxthorn bushes. Tree guards were also removed from previously planted native seedlings, followed by weeding around the plant bases. With the guards removed and taken away for recycling, that area of the Red Dunes looked natural again. This activity also provided the opportunity to check on the survival of species from past plantings over previous years, with encouraging results. An unexpected birding highlight during the morning was the spotting of six Brown Quail in nearby grasses!



Volunteers in the Parham Red Dunes

From left to right: Brian and Heather Cosh, Maree Merchant, Clive Palins, Lee Tan, Betty Brezovskis

Thompson Beach

In May, at Thompson Beach, the group joined Darren Kennedy (Adelaide Plains Council Coastal Conservation Officer) to contribute to a trial program where local species were planted and surrounded by cocoon protectors instead of the usual green plastic ones. It'll be interesting to compare the longevity of both plants and protectors using this technique.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who came out to these AIBS sites and volunteered considerable time and effort to complete the tasks at both events.



Brown Quail at Parham Red Dunes

(Photographed by Mary-Ann Van Tright, April 2021)

Friends of Adelaide International Birds Sanctuary *(continued)*

World Migratory Bird Day

A particularly exciting short film project to contribute to celebrations for the May 8th World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) was undertaken in March and April, thanks to a small grant from the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) based in South Korea. The film **'Winaityinaityi Pangkara—The Country of the Birds'**, premiered locally and internationally, and was made in a collaboration between FAIBS, the Bowerbird Collective, and Northern Kurna Elders. Bowerbird Collective members, Anthony Albrecht and Simone Slattery, are professional musicians, and filmmakers of international renown, currently travelling and building birding knowledge and compositional inspiration along the Flyway. They are well known for their multimedia musical performances including 'Where Song Began' which has been performed around Australia. Look it up on Google!

Their film **'Winaityinaityi Pangkara—The Country of the Birds'**, set in Winaityinaityi Pangkara (AIBS National Park),



Jeffrey Newchurch and Joan Gibbs during filming of the WMBD film *(Photographed by Anthony Albrecht, May 2021)*

is a first of its kind in foregrounding the voices of First Nations people along the Flyway in film. It includes beautiful footage of the Gulf St Vincent coastline where the migratory and resident shorebirds gather, with Northern Kurna Elders Jeffrey Newchurch and Lynette Crocker joined by Ecologist Joan Gibbs as they share moving insights into the cultural and environmental importance of this Country. The film also has a musical sound track consisting of compositions selected by the Bowerbird Collective.

The film was launched locally and internationally on WMBD through social media outlets, beginning with the FAIBS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/142775574407728>. It is also on YouTube: <https://youtube/pGZY6TLYKUg> and the EAAFP WMBD site. Access continues through these sites. We strongly encourage you to have look and post your comments.

FAIBS is extremely grateful to the EAAFP for the grant funding, and also for the many extra hours volunteered by the participants in the making of this very special film.

Already this year FAIBS volunteers have delivered eight activities, including bird ID sessions, rubbish collection and habitat restoration. Several members have also helped Aleisa Lamanna (Birdlife) with the World Migratory Bird Day Flock activity at St Kilda. Since January, over 460 hours of input to the Bird Sanctuary have been tallied.

BirdsSA and community members are always welcome to participate in FAIBS field activities, and if interested, further information about upcoming events is available on the Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Facebook page, or by emailing faibssa@gmail.com.



Aleisa Lamana of BirdLife admiring the birds that children painted at the WMBD activities.

(Photographed by Anna Woods)



Joanna (far left), Kelly and Greg enjoying lunch at the WMBD festivities. Aleisa admires a "colourful wader". *(Photographed by Anna Woods)*

Anna Woods

Birds of the Pages Conservation Park

A summary of a recent article on birds of The Pages Conservation Park

(Published in the Australian Bird Study Association (ABSA) journal *Corella* — Seabird Island Series, by Birds SA members Terry Dennis and Peter Shaughnessy).

Named by Matthew Flinders in 1802, The Pages islands lie at the southern entrance to Backstairs Passage, between Cape St Albans on Kangaroo Island (15km distant) and the Fleurieu Peninsula (13.5km distant). The Pages consist of two mostly bare rocky islands each less than 8ha in area, around 2km apart with a low wave-washed reef platform adjacent to the South Page.

A newspaper account of a visit to these islands in the early 1880s by 'a party of gentlemen' adventurers from Adelaide on the *SS Dolphin*, refers to the presence of hundreds of seals and 'seabirds of every possible description', including penguins, which were 'very plentiful'. The article also tells of a 'large number of seals' being shot and of a 'large eagle' also falling victim

to the parties' guns! (from the description given of prey remains at a nearby nest this was undoubtedly a White-bellied Sea Eagle).

Recognition of The Pages as an important location for seabirds first occurred with their inclusion in a series of Bird Protection Districts in 1909 under the Bird Protection Act of 1900. The *Corella* article comprehensively reports the bird species recorded on or at sea near the islands over more than 30 survey visits between 1987 and 2014 and includes data on colonial seabird breeding events for the Little Penguin, Crested Tern, Pacific and Silver Gull. Of particular interest are the annotated records of pelagic species, including the Southern Fulmar, Short-tailed and Fluttering Shearwaters, Brown Skua and Pomerine Jaeger; and of some unexpected passerines, such as a Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Australasian Pipit and even a lonely female Flame Robin in 1997. Besides more commonly encountered seabirds and shorebirds, other species of interest occasionally recorded on these barren isolated islands included the Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Barn Owl and Sacred Kingfisher.

A very interesting and well-researched article, drawn from the unique experience-base of these authors, following decades of involvement with seal and sea lion research projects across many islands in SA and elsewhere. Earlier SA offshore island avifauna articles by these authors in the *Seabird* series also appeared in *Corella* Vols. 31 and 32.

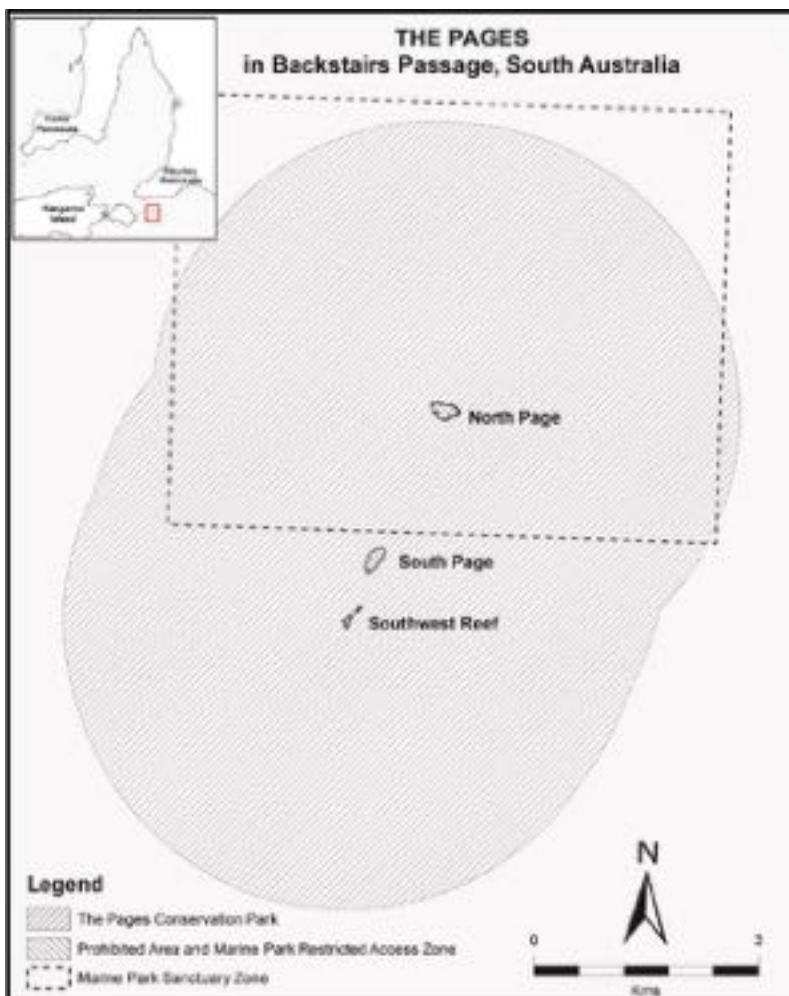
Terry E. Dennis and Peter D. Shaughnessy (2020). Seabird Islands Series, No. 269: The Pages islands in Backstairs Passage, South Australia. *Corella* 44, 77-80.

Digital (pdf) copies of The Pages article can be obtained from Terry at osprey842@gmail.com.

They are also available online from <https://absa.asn.au/corella-documents/volume-44/>.

Terry Dennis

Map provided by Sharie Detmar of the Coastal Management Branch of DEW



Views

of the Pages Conservation Park



A view of the Pages Islands from the air, looking north over South Page, with Fleurieu Peninsula in the distance (Photographed by Peter Shaugnessy in August 2008, looking from the co-pilot's seat in the helicopter)



An example of densely crowded nest placements (Photographed by Andrew Brooks in January 2011, in an active Crested Tern colony on St. Peter's Island)

The Overwintering Project

“The Bigger Picture” comes to Goolwa

The exhibition at the Signal Point Gallery is curated by Adelaide's Bittondi Printmakers Association.

Signal Point Gallery: The Wharf, Goolwa SA.

Gallery open from: Fri 4 June until Sun 4 July 2021.

Daily 10am to 4pm.

The official opening event is on Sat 5 June at 2pm.



Print produced by artist Geoff Gibbons

The Bigger Picture is a South Australian perspective on the Overwintering Project, which is an Australia-wide artists' initiative, established in 2016 by Kate Gorringer-Smith, that celebrates the miraculous journeys of migratory shore birds. This exhibition seeks to widen the focus by considering the changing environments that these birds encounter, due to effects of climate change, industry, land drainage, settlement, plastic pollution etc. and with particular reference to the South Australian coast and its specific local issues.

The exhibition will incorporate artist talks and workshops, aiming to inspire Fleurieu residents to become involved with The Overwintering Project. (<https://theoverwinteringproject.com>)

Images will depict landscape, seascapes, other birds and animals that inhabit the shoreline, and although Bittondi

is by definition a group of printmakers. We are deliberately stretching the boundaries of traditional handmade prints to include materials other than paper in 2d and 3d pieces, as well as artists' books, installations and collaborative works. There will be art works for sale.

Playing in the *theatrette* next to the exhibition will be a short video, 'Wrack or Ruin?' about shorebirds by local birder Jennifer Hiscock, as well as the sound poem 'On the wings of a Godwit' written by Kate Gorringer-Smith and performed by Simone Slattery and Anthony Albrecht.

For more information about the project contact: julia.wakefield@gmail.com or alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au (08) 8555 7000.



Etching by Geoff Gibbons showing one of the causes of loss of important feeding grounds for migratory shore birds.

Helping the birds

Thank You

On Tuesday the 23rd March there was a gathering at the Dublin Hotel of the best Migratory Wader specialists in South Australia.

These generous people donate their time, expertise, fuel and travel expenses to the monthly Migratory Wader Surveys across Gulf St Vincent from October through to April.

“Thank You” on behalf of the birds.

Kate Buckley



Photograph by B. Brezovskis

More Publicity for Birds?

A Birds SA member, Judy Harvey, from Mount Barker sent our President Steven Langley this example of a regular bird photo, with information, that is published in her local paper.

Darcy Whittaker, the recipient of a recent grant from the Birds SA Conservation Fund took the photograph. His research report will be published in the Spring Birder.

In the past, regular bird articles and stories were published in local papers from areas such as Coffin Bay and Strathalbyn. It is a pity that the practice has been discontinued.

It would be good to see publication of bird photos and information replicated in other South Australian regional newspapers, as a means of interesting the public and publicising birds in South Australia.

Cynthia Pyle

The grey shrike-thrush has a melodious and complex ringing voice.

(From the friends of Cox Scrub Conservation Park. Visit www.communitywebs.org/friendsofcoxscrub)



Past General Meetings

Friday, 26 February

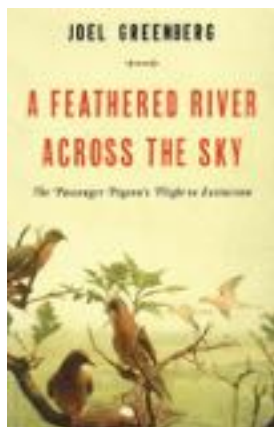
The speaker was John Hatch, and his topic was *Extinction and 'All That' with Special Reference to the PASSENGER PIGEON.*

Extinction is a gloomy word, depressing in most of its connotations, especially in biological terms.

In the BIRD WORLD it conjures images of the Dodo (1662), MOAS (1700s) as a group, the PARADISE PARROT (1927), the GREAT AUK (1844), THE LABRADOR DUCK (1875), the IVORY-billed (1958) and Imperial Woodpecker and unfortunately many more.

There are many centres of extinction of birds, often on islands, the Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand, being familiar cases.

In his talk, John concentrated particularly on one well-documented extinction, that of the Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*, (Linnaeus 1766), in the North America. It is probably one of the best documented and greatest and most tragic of all.



A couple of years ago, John started reading Joel Greenberg's, *'Feathered River Across the Sky'*, (Bloomsbury, 2014).

He put it away several times, not because it was boring or badly written, but because it was deeply depressing in showing humans' deplorable connection with nature! At times he was moved to tears.

The causes of species extinction are many and are shared across biological orders and classes.

In no particular order and often overlapping they are:

- Habitat loss in all its forms.
- Introductions of alien species including diseases.
- Human predation.

Humans are largely responsible for all of these!

The demise of the Passenger Pigeon is of such special interest partly because pigeons in general, along with parrots and rails, are prone to extinction. A recent estimate was that 30 of 80 recent extinctions were from these groups — a third of extinctions from about 10% of all bird species.

Behind all this is a natural rate of species loss, which is probably very slow most of the time and not really measurable.

The Passenger Pigeon was a large and beautiful pigeon confined to North America (Southern Canada and the eastern half of the U.S.A.)

It was intensely social, both in roosting, feeding, migrating/nomadism and nesting.

It was incredibly numerous and widespread. About 2-4 billion birds probably existed, but it declined and disappeared so quickly — in 30-40 years.

It was most directly destroyed by humans, mainly by hunting, but it was considerably affected by human technology and human societal factors, such as railways, telegraphy, guns and frontier culture.

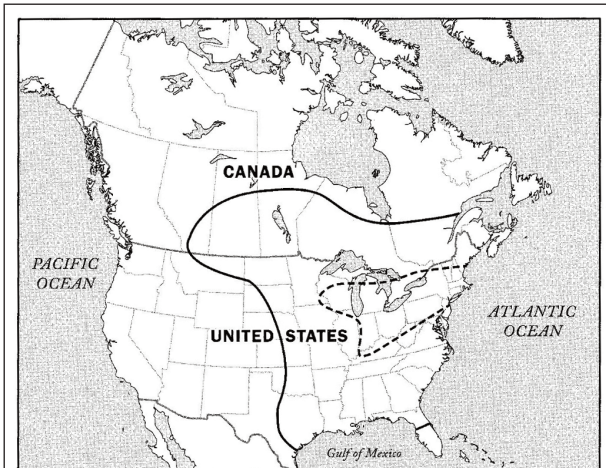
The Passenger Pigeon was a victim of its own biology because it was:

1. Intensely social. It nested and roosted in areas occupying many square miles.
2. A specialist feeder, eating only masts and acorns.
3. A commodity – marketable as cheap meat. Birds were taken by railway truckload into Chicago and other cities.

There were no property rights. Anyone could own a gun and use it anywhere. Even when it became scarce, there was no price rise and no decrease in demand.



Past General Meetings *(continued)*



The range of the passenger pigeon in North America. Solid line encloses area of normal distribution while dotted line depicts area where the species usually nested in greatest abundance. © Gary Antonetti/Ortelius Design, based on a map in A. W. Schorger, *The Passenger Pigeon: Its Natural History and Extinction*



Shooting wild pigeons in Northern Louisiana is based on a sketch by Smith Bennett and appeared in the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of July 3, 1875. Schorger considered this picture to be particularly accurate. (From the collection of Garrie Landry)

No real conservation ethic existed in 1860s. Some states and provinces passed legislations, but they were largely unenforceable.

By the 1880s rapid decline of the species, perhaps exacerbated by the flocks becoming too dispersed and too small for breeding.

The last wild birds were seen in the 1890s. Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon on earth died blind and alone in captivity in 1914.



Photograph of Martha at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. (From the collection of Garrie Landry; photographer unknown)

The Passenger Pigeon happened to live in the Wrong Place at the Wrong Time.

Europeans first noted Passenger Pigeons before about 1534. They were named by no less than Linnaeus 1766. They were incredibly numerous, numbering in billions until at least the 1870s. The last wild birds were seen in the 1890s.

Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon on earth died blind and alone in captivity in 1914.

What a Gross Blemish on Human kind!

As John French wrote, *'They were martyrs to our progress'*.

This was probably the fastest, most dramatic extinction in the modern, post-1600 era. Evidence suggests that it was primarily due to hunting, but clearly habitat destruction, was a factor. There was an almost unique combination of technology and culture.

The story of the Passenger Pigeon's demise fills us with great guilt and sadness.

***Vale Martha and your kind!
If there is a God, he should smite us.***

Past General Meetings *(continued)*

Friday March 26

John Hatch introduced the speaker, Brian Gepp, who described his trip to the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands and Macquarie Island.

The trip was aboard a 1984 built Russian icebreaker which was 71 metres long and designed as a spy/communication vessel. The trip left Hobart for Macquarie Island then travelled on to the islands off New Zealand. Biosecurity and contamination protocols were high, including the vacuuming of rucksacks to eliminate and introduced seeds.

Brian first showed photos of Snares Island, a small group of uninhabited islands 200 km south of New Zealand's South Island, onto which landing was not permissible. He showed photographs of Cape Petrels and Snares Penguins.

Enderby Island (not shown on the map), surrounded by cliffs and rocky shorelines, was home to the Auckland Island Banded Dotterel and a sub-species of the Double-banded Plover, which breeds in these subantarctic islands. Trees on the island are no more than 3m tall and are found only on the leeward side of the island. There is a boardwalk, constructed in 6m sections which traversed the 1m deep vegetation, which Brian described as cabbage-like mush. The Auckland Island Teal, a flightless duck species, has been re-introduced to NZ from birds that survived on offshore islands.

Auckland Island had been cropped for 10 years, following the arrival of settlers from Scotland. Species introduced over the settlement years, including pigs, rats, cats and cattle, had a drastic effect on the island's vegetation and bird species. In recent years rat bait has been dropped by helicopter and pigs were radio-tracked pre-eradication. However, the rats were the main predators of the island's birds. Local birds included the Light-mantled Sooty Albatross and the Auckland Island Pipit, a sub-species of the New Zealand Pipit, the Auckland Island Tomtit and the Auckland Island Cormorant.

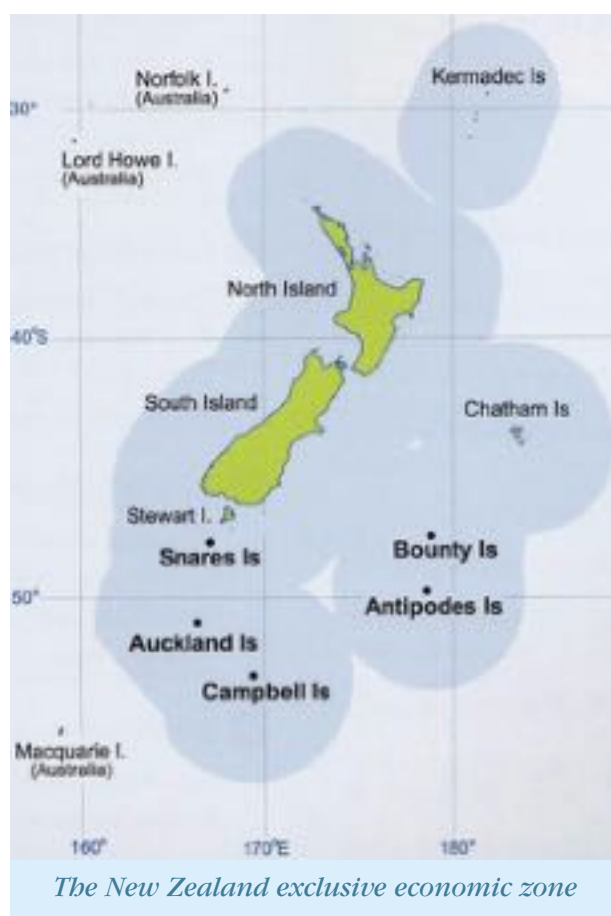


Boardwalk on Enderby Island

Brian described how male NZ Fur Seals controlled a territory and mated with any females that ventured through. This behaviour differed from that of other seals, where a single male controlled a harem of females.

Vegetation on the island included the Rata Tree, which grows up to 5m tall. Stumps existed on the island of larger trees cut down and coppiced, one containing an inscription from 1833. Greenhood orchids provided an example of a connection between Auckland Island and Gondwana Land of 550 million years ago.

Next to be discussed was Macquarie Island, which is an island 60km long and between 8km and 10km wide.



Auckland Island Pipit

Past General Meetings *(continued)*



King Penguins, including Juvenile

It achieved pest free-status in 2014, following 7 years of eradication efforts. Politically a part of Tasmania, Macquarie Island lies halfway between NZ and Antarctica.

It costs \$800 per person to go onto the island, which helps cover the \$4.0 million annual management cost. Brian explained how the Australian Government was moving the island's Station because big seas were eroding the part of the island on which the Station had been built. Two categories of ships brought people to the island — small ships, such as the one that Brian had toured on. This ship held 49 passengers and between 10 and 12 staff and the much larger ships which could bring up to 1,200 people. There were concerns for the sensitive biodiversity, should large numbers of people land on the island.

Young Elephant Seals spend some months ashore after being weaned, during which time their reserves of blubber diminish, until they leave the island for the sea. King Penguins, including juveniles, tolerate people as if they were rocks on the beach, especially when people get down as low as possible.

The colonies are noisy and smelly affairs, with over 200,000 pairs nesting. Royal Penguin colonies of over 250,000 individuals create traffic jams for birds moving



Penguin Megacity, Macquarie Island

to and from the sea. Orcas (Killer whales) are a constant threat to seals and penguins.

Brian described how in the 1970s 50% of the female staff were from New Zealand and seasons on Macquarie Island went for either a year from October/November to the next October/November or alternatively for the summer, with vessels dropping off individuals and picking them up on the return trip from Antarctica.

At the Station, fences have been erected to keep the Elephant Seals out and all non-combustible rubbish is removed from the island. The weather has exposed diesel pipes, creating a need to move the Station.

The island has many rocky areas, but the vegetation has recovered since the eradication of feral animals, including rats, rabbits and mice. It now grows over knee high. Meteorological balloons have been re-designed to be lighter using less material, hopefully decreasing contamination of the Southern Ocean.

Campbell Island, located over 1,300km south of New Zealand was the next New Zealand island described. The vessel is 20m high and waves up to 60metres are occasionally experienced in the waters around Campbell Island. Vessels attract the Campbell Island race of Black-browed Albatross as a source of food. The bycatch of fishing vessels is often discarded, to the benefit of these beautiful sea birds.

The Campbell Island Snipe was described as a rare, and hard to find, subspecies of the Subantarctic Snipe. It was disastrously affected by rats. By 2001 the rats had been eradicated with the Snipe is re-establishing from populations on nearby islands.

The Campbell Island Teal, which had declined to just a few pairs, had been re-introduced in 2001 after the eradication of rats.

The Southern Royal Albatross, one of the largest in the world, with a wingspan of over 3 metres would come close to people, provided people kept low when on the island. The Campbell Island Pipit was also briefly described.

Large lettuce-like plants grow on the island. Drought is possible, so the large leaves have evolved hairs and needles to restrict the loss of moisture. Despite being cloudy and windy, the climate on Campbell Island is not necessarily wet.

During World War II the Germans were a concern to the NZ government, and in recent years vegetation surveys had been undertaken on the island. In the early 1970s, the islands meteorological bureau was closed.

Multiple layers of clothing are necessary to combat the cold.

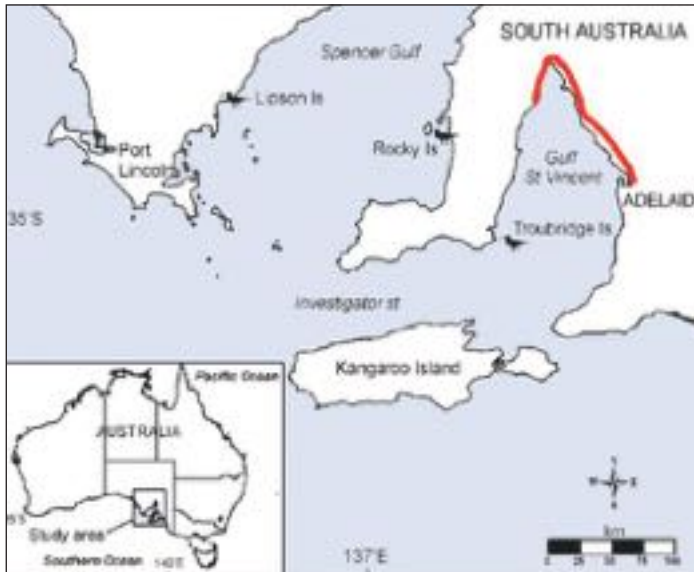
Alan Burns

Past General Meetings *(continued)*

Friday April 30

John Hatch introduced the speaker, Colin Rogers, whose topic was *Feeding and Roosting Habitat for Holarctic shorebirds in North of Gulf St. Vincent, a Birdwatcher's Perspective.*

The locations covered by Colin's presentation are shown by the red line in the map below.



Wader feeding locations in the north of Gulf St. Vincent

Migrant shorebirds frequent this area because:

- Primarily because it provides an abundant food supply.
- Migrants must moult body and flight feathers, and build fat reserves for the journey home.
- Both are very energy and hence food intensive activities.
- Food supply in Gulf St Vincent is sufficiently attractive to encourage some to make the extra journey from northern Australia.

They come from Siberia and Alaska via the East Asian Australian Flyway (EAAF), as shown by the map on page 21.

- Their principal requirement is food. Species differ in their food and habitat requirements. Soft mudflats are essential for long-billed birds, such as Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Eastern Curlew.
- mangrove, samphire and sandy/rocky Smaller birds such as Sand Plovers, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Pacific Golden & Grey Plover and bi-valve feeders like Great and Red Knot require mangrove, samphire and sandy/rocky coastal pools.

All birds require shelter in the form of safe and wind protected roosting sites at high tide.

Some feeding action on the mudflats requires the availability of soft deep mud or fine sand.

Food availability dictates the distribution of shorebirds in Gulf St Vincent.

Virtually no Red or Great Knot are found on the St Kilda mudflats or roosting in the Dry Creek Salt fields. Those two species are found in the northern part of the gulf from Thompson Beach to Mac's Beach. This is because plenty of bi-valves are found in the rocky areas of the northern gulf.

Black-tailed Godwit roost in the Dry Creek saltfields and very few elsewhere as they have historically been attracted to the 'fresh water' in Buckland Park Lake but they can also feed in the soft mud off St Kilda.

Coleman and Cook (2009) undertook detailed analysis of the habitat and the shorebirds it supports, from outer harbour to the army range.

Roosting options are available on floating seaweed wracks. Port Prime in the AIBS is a primary roost site in Gulf St Vincent. In large shallow pools on samphire flats such as south of Thompson Beach or in Clinton CP, on mangroves and in mangrove pools and islands and tracks in man-made saltfields and waste treatment plants.

According to Gulf St Vincent data 1979–2018 BirdLife Australia, (Close 2008, and Wilson 2000), the following species have been in noticeable decline in Gulf St Vincent since the 1980s.

- Black-tailed Godwit - 84%
- Great Knot - 40%
- Curlew Sandpiper - 95%
- Grey Plover - 86%
- Eastern Curlew - 72%
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper - 80%

The decline in shorebird numbers in Gulf St Vincent is above the average for Australian sites, suggesting diversion to other locations in South Australia and/or elsewhere in Australia; or increased dispersion within Gulf St. Vincent away from regularly monitored sites.

Close (2008) concluded that most of the decline in shorebirds in Gulf St Vincent was not due to factors in the gulf, but there have been subsequent local factors, such as degraded habitat in the Dry Creek Saltfields, giving rise to diversion of birds to other sites in South Australia.

Past General Meetings *(continued)*



Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in a saltfields pond when salt was being produced. The pond is now dry.

We have lost prime roosting sites and convenient access to observe: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Roost in pond XC 2 at Dry Creek Saltfield. This pond is now dry after salt production ceased in 2013.

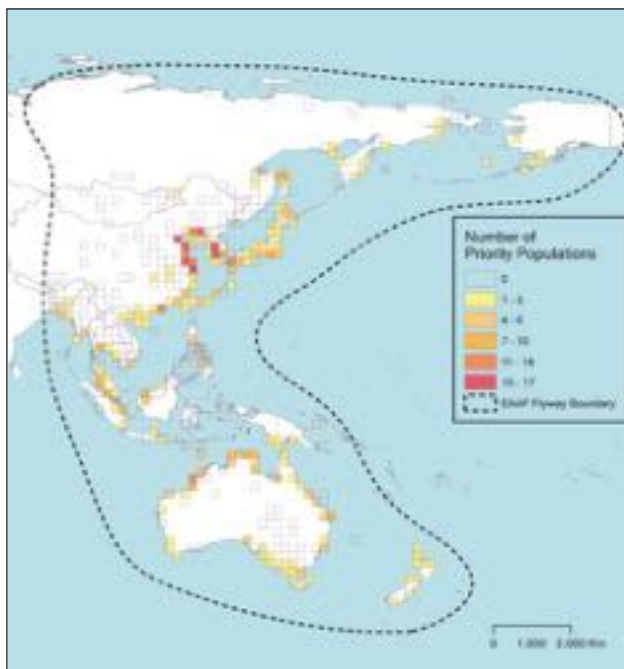
Local examples of diversions used by the birds include Bolivar Water Treatment Plant. Some of the ponds are allowed to dry out in summer

and with falling water levels they attract up to 2000 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-necked stints. Ponds below Bolivar also held waders when filled with recycled water. In Spencer Gulf, Port Victoria coast on Yorke Peninsula has large numbers of shorebirds including Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit. Return of Tolderol GR Wetland habitat has attracted significant numbers of fresh-water species: sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper and some Curlew Sandpiper.

What can be done to protect remaining shorebird habitat in Gulf St Vincent?

- Maintain and strengthen protections of the International Bird Sanctuary. Some restrictions on access are now in place but more may be needed, e.g. Thompson Beach, Bald Hill and Port Clinton.
- Rehabilitation of Dry Creek Saltfields?
- Resume salt production – best option for shorebirds and birdwatchers.
- Rehabilitate the pans and samphire landscape as in Bay XB 8 – not so good for shorebirds and no good for birdwatchers.

Rehabilitate the ponds south of the St Kilda Road with Bolivar water. Good for shorebirds and birdwatchers.



Critical areas of the EAAF, based on the number of priority shorebird populations supported in internationally important numbers.

Future General Meetings

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

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

- **May 28th.** John Gitsham, *"Pelicans of the Coorong"*.
- **June 25th.** Andrew Black, *"The Adelaide Rosella: what is it and what do we call it?"* (Some new research on this vexed question).
- **July 30th.** A Members Night. I am assembling the cast and have three people so far, but would like a few more offers in order to arrange a nicely balanced programme.

Past Excursions

Fleurieu Birders

The February Coorong Boat Trips

Fifty six people enjoyed the 4 special charters organised for birdwatchers with 14 per boat on the 4 sequential Wednesdays. The weather was great with only one hot day and enjoyed by all who attended. The birds were certainly worth the trip, while the staff and the lunch were excellent.

A total of 77 species was recorded and the results were sent to Michael Veenstra (Cruise the Coorong) for his records; as well as to the Birds SA data base.

The highlights varied each trip and the cameras were well used.

The Veenstras, who run the Spirit of the Coorong as well as the little boat, said the bird life this year was the best they had seen it for many years.

It was great to see the waders, Cape Barren Geese, Sea Eagle, Black Falcon, Black-faced Cormorant, Rufous Bristlebird, a murmuration of Starlings, Far Eastern Curlew, daddy Emu with 6 chicks, and all the other water birds, swans and ducks in such numbers.

Having knowledgeable birders on each trip helped the other people to identify the species.

With only 20-30 minutes spent on land, there was a rush to find the bush birds and hunt for the Rufous Bristlebird. While some Rufous Bristlebirds were heard, as far as I know only Ross Brittain obtained a good look.

The two skippers, Rupert and Lachie slowed the boat for us to enjoy the best views and we thanked them for that.

The five hours of the journey went far too quickly.

Wendy Phillips



"Daddy" Emu with young (Photographed by Kathy Moore on the Coorong, 24 February 2021)

Birds SA

Saturday 13 February Kinchina Conservation Park, Mount Lofty Ranges

At 414 ha, Kinchina Conservation Park forms the largest area of native vegetation in the Monarto Crown Lands region. Scattered throughout are numerous walking tracks that range through a variety of landscape and habitat types. The scheduled Birds SA walk started in the southern end of the park, at the end of Tower Road, where the Jailbreak Trail begins.

In retrospect, and for future reference, we would have been better off and more suitably rewarded for our efforts, had we focussed on any of the tracks flowing through the Rocky Gully creek, which meanders through the park to the north. The path we took was mostly mallee scrub; the alternative route is characterised by beautiful granite outcrops forming distinctive features. Had we done so, there would have been a chance of sighting a Diamond Firetail, Restless Flycatcher or a Hooded Robin.



"Pelican Wonders" (Photographed by Bob Daly on the Coorong, 3 February 2021)

Historical Series No 75.

Matthew Symonds Clark (1839 -1920)

Part 1 by Penny Paton

Symonds Clark's Family

As mentioned in the Historical Series piece on the Cromptons of Stonyfell (Paton 2017), the Crompton family arrived in Adelaide in 1860 with introductory letters to the Unitarian family of Francis Clark of 'Hazelwood'. The history of these two families is inextricably linked with another Unitarian family, the Martins, not only through intermarriage but also through their involvement in the Stonyfell wine and olive oil businesses (Warburton 1981). John Clark married Lucy Martin in 1858, Joseph Crompton married Susan Clark in 1866, Henry Martin married Ellen Clark in 1874 and Mathew Symonds Clark married Euphemia Martin, also in 1874. A fifth union between Henry Clark and Annie Martin did not eventuate, as Henry died of tuberculosis on what was to have been their wedding day (*op. cit.*).

That same Henry Clark founded the Stonyfell vineyards and, after the 1862 purchase by the Clark brothers and Joseph Crompton of an additional section further up the gully, they had 24 acres of grapes, a two-storied wine cellar and Stonyfell House. Over the next few years the Clark and Crompton partnership extended their holdings to 400 acres, with Joseph buying out the Clarks in the 1870s (*op. cit.*). Olives were first planted in South Australia (SA) in 1839, and in 1873 the Stonyfell Olive Company Ltd was founded, backed by the Clarks and others and managed by four generations of Cromptons. A crushing plant was installed in 1895 to deal with the produce of 10,000 trees over 100 acres (*op. cit.*).

Mathew Symonds Clark, known as Symonds Clark, was born in Birmingham on 19th January 1839, the youngest of eight sons and one of

eleven children born to Francis and his wife, Caroline née Hill (Horton *et al.* 2018). All the children in this family were given middle names and most were known by this middle name, which was unusual at that time. Following the death of two of their sons from tuberculosis (as well as a son who died in infancy in about 1831) and, at the suggestion of son, F. Owen Clark, who spent thirteen weeks in bed prior to his death in 1849, the parents decided to emigrate to a warmer climate (State Library of South Australia (SLSA) PRG 389, Series 9). No sooner was the decision taken, than their home 'Hazelwood' was sold and the family of ten boarded the 'Fatima' at Plymouth in February 1850. In Adelaide Francis Clark,

previously a silversmith, began an importing business which passed on his death in 1853 to his eldest son, A. Sidney Clark.

His widow and children moved just after Francis' death to what was to become the family home in the southern half of Section 298, Burnside. The home, which they christened 'Hazelwood' after their old home in England, had been built six years earlier by Thomas Burr, the Deputy Surveyor (Warburton 1981). As Burr had gone to the goldfields and Mrs. Burr died while he was away, the property of 45 acres was in a poor state when the Clarks first saw it in 1852.

There was a cottage of four small rooms, kitchen and cellar, with wide verandahs on most sides, a well of excellent water and a large garden planted with vines and fruit trees which the neighbours' cows and horses had defoliated. But the situation was beautiful – a paddock with "fine old gum trees and watered by what was then a permanent creek which murmured between sloping banks and contained small cray-fish and tiny fish that we caught with nets or a bent pin" (*op. cit.*). This was First Creek and most of the property was sold for a moderate price in the early twentieth century on

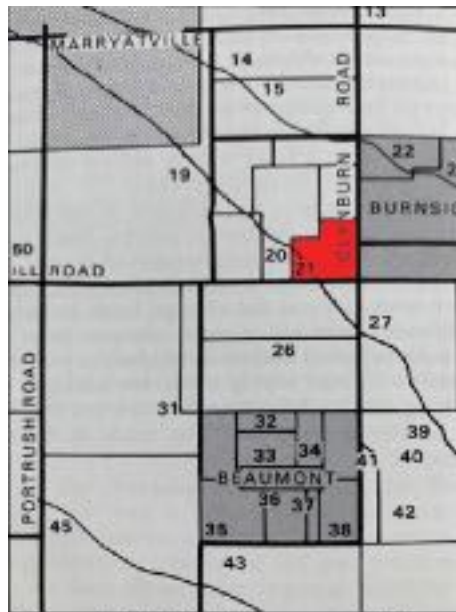


Figure 1 — Plot 21, on the corner of Glynburn and Greenhill Roads, owned by the Clark family from the early 1850s (from Warburton 1981)

the proviso that it was to be used for a public park. Initially Hazelwood Park was administered by the SA Department of Tourism but it was transferred to the Burnside Council in 1964 (*op. cit.*). Figure 1 shows the location of the Clark land, numbered 21, and bounded by Greenhill and Glynburn Roads, on a map from 1856-1860. Hazelwood itself was renovated and Figure 2 shows the home in an undated watercolour. The house, which stood near the corner of what are now Olive Grove and Hazelwood Crescent, was demolished many years ago (www 1*).



Figure 2 — Undated watercolour of 'Hazelwood', the Clark family home on First Creek, Burnside (from Warburton 1981)

Symonds Clark joined his older brothers, Sidney and (John) Howard, in the firm of Francis Clark and Sons, and later operated a land and estate agency and even later an accountancy business (www 2). In 1865 in company with his elder sister (Ellen) Rosa, Symonds Clark travelled to England, during which time he visited John Gould's shop in London and purchased his Handbook to Australian birds (Gould 1865). He took 29 live birds with him on the sea voyage (Clark 1889), having noted in his diary for 11th January 1865 the prices of birds that a Captain David Bruce of the 'City of Adelaide' had received in England for birds like Budgerigars, Cockatiel and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. Captain Bruce also told him that he thought "an educated *Gymnorhina leuconota* [Australian Magpie] would be worth from 50/- to 60/-." I presume this to be a talking magpie. Clark returned to South Australia on 6th May 1866 (SLSA PRG 389/7). In October 1867 he bought some birds for his future brother-in-law Fred Martin to take to England aboard the 'Goolwa' (*op. cit.*), presumably to be sold there on his behalf.

Symonds, married Euphemia (Effie) Martin on 29th August 1874 (Figure 3) and they lived at first at Hazelwood with the widowed Caroline and her unmarried daughter (Caroline) Emily. Caroline died in 1877 and in 1882 the couple with their four children moved into a newly-built home at 7 Third Street, Knightsbridge [now 7 The Parkway, Leabrook and later named Viterbo], where Effie was living when she died on 1st April 1941 (www 3). The Parkway is just north of the Hazelwood property between Knightsbridge Road and Rochester Street. Symonds and Effie had seven children (Horton *et al.* 2018), with one son dying as an infant in 1883 and a daughter, Millicent, dying in 1906 aged 25. Sutton (1929) indicated that Clark lived at 'Hilltop' Belair towards the end of his life, and this was probably one of the short-term moves away from Knightsbridge he and Effie made due to Symonds' ill health.

Brothers Howard and Symonds were both active in the Adelaide Philosophical Society and Symonds was a leading figure in the Royal Society of South Australia and influential in promoting and drafting legislation for wildlife protection (Horton *et al.* 2018). He was a foundation member of the South Australian Ornithological Association (SAOA), formed in 1899, and served as president in 1902–1903 and 1909–1910 and vice-president for two years (Blaylock 2000). Moreover, Symonds was a founding member of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union and was their auditor from 1901 to 1905 (*op. cit.*).



Figure 3 — Symonds Clark and his wife Effie, née Martin, possibly on their honeymoon in 1874 (from *The Hatbox Letters*)

*The bracketed www 1, www 2 etc. refer to web references, which will appear in full in the References at the end of part 3

The Natural History Diaries

Clark's natural history diaries from 1859 to 1916 form an important resource, documenting the array of birds and other animals then inhabiting the greater Adelaide region. There are nine small leather-bound notebooks with metal clasps (SLSA PRG 389/7), some written in ink and others in pencil, and quite hard to read due to their small size and difficult handwriting (Figure 4 shows a page from one of these notebooks). In some of the notebooks, his observations of wild birds and other animals are intermingled with notes on his extensive aviaries and, in others, the notes on wild animals are at the front and his aviaries are in the back. They are not in strict chronological order as Diary 9 is the earliest, dating from 1859-1862 (see Appendix for diary dates and transcription information). Diary 8, that from 1877, is predominantly about plants and a trip to Tasmania in October and November of that year.

Fortunately that giant of South Australia ornithology, both in stature and in merit, John Sutton (Paton 2002, Horton 2013 a,b, Horton 2014 a,b) wrote out in his very neat printing all the pertinent entries from five of these diaries (14/12/1862 to 10/1/1916) into an exercise book, held in the Bird Section of the South Australian Museum, Adelaide (SAMA). Sutton (1929) published extracts about two uncommon species of parrot (the Bourke Parrot and the Princess Parrot) and, although planning to publish more, he did not do so (Horton *et al.* 2018). Sutton (1929) explained that Clark's widow, Effie, donated her late husband's diaries from 1862 to 1916 to the SAOA. An SLSA volunteer transcribed Diary 1 (December 1862 to December 1863) and this transcript is available on the State Library of South Australia (SLSA) website. Horton (*et al.* 2018) suggested that the original diaries appeared to have been lost but were not aware at the time of publication that the diaries were held in SLSA (P. Horton pers. comm.).

There is very little of a personal nature in the diaries: no reflections on his attitudes to the animals he was clearly very interested in, nor of his family or friends. People only rate a mention if they relate an observation of an animal to him or bring one to him or if they accompany him on a field trip. Even his wife to be is mentioned rarely; for example, she gave him a Bush Stone Curlew that she had caught on 21st September 1860 (fourteen years before their marriage), but the bird escaped on the next day (SLSA PRG 389/7).

However, in an interview he gave in 1919, he talked lovingly of Australian birds, reflecting his affection for their beauty and their songs (www 4).

Many birds and other animals were caught or shot in order to identify them and also to preserve them for his collection. As early as 1867 he mentioned in the diaries that he had a walking stick powder gun that was loaded with a charge of large shot for shooting birds.

The diaries from when Symonds Clark was a young man of about twenty show that he was very interested in the preservation of animal specimens, particularly birds, but that his knowledge of techniques was basic and he did not have a mentor to guide him. Thus his early attempts at taxidermy often ended in failure and the discarding of objects, and one can only imagine the smell in his operating room and what his family had to put up with. Nevertheless he became more skilled and he had glass cases of mounted birds at his home, reportedly including the Little Lorikeet and Swift Parrot (Horton *et al.* 2018).

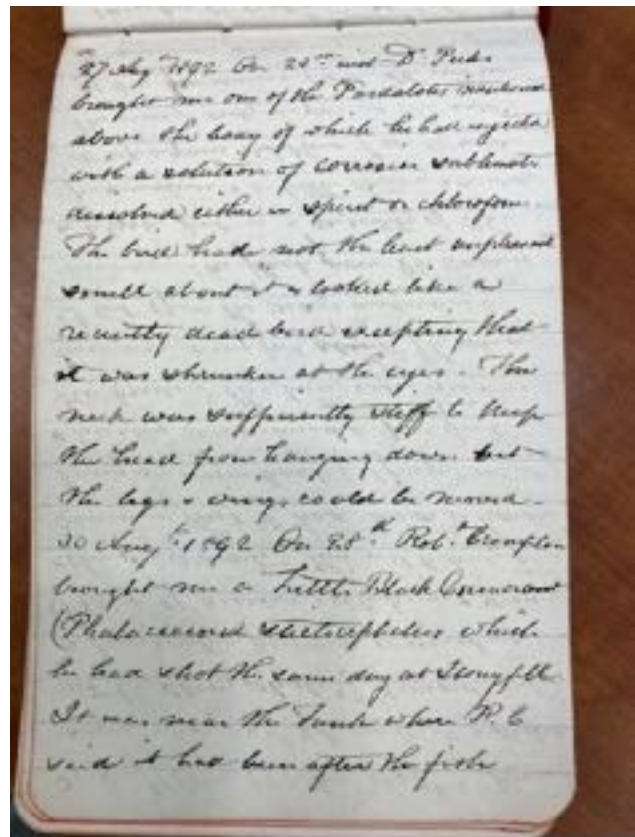


Figure 4 – Example of a page from Symonds Clark's journal in State Library of South Australia (courtesy of SLSA)

The diaries are peppered with accounts of trips into the foothills near his home and further afield, often in company with friends, like John Crompton

and A.M. Woods, on which they attempted to catch or shoot birds with which they were unfamiliar or which they were particularly interested in. Their actions need to be viewed in the light of the times, when bird books were few and far between, books were expensive and binoculars were rarely used. Clark mentioned a “field glass” in 1863 but this would have been of poor quality and he would not always have had it with him when observing birds. So seeing birds close up was an important part of their attempts to learn the species and their habits. I am surprised that Clark lived to the age he did when reading of the poisons in his armoury for skinning: he often used “Arsenical soap, Swainson’s recipe” or a solution of corrosive sublimate on the inside of skins when preparing specimens. He also seemed to be quite slow at taxidermy, often spending five to seven hours in preparing birds, but he was mounting as well as skinning some specimens. He used ants to clean up bones, as many of the carcasses were too old or badly damaged to prepare as skins. Despite his propensity to catch and kill some of the birds and other animals he encountered, he had a genuine love for nature and wild creatures, and was for some years the Secretary of the Adelaide Branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, before handing over to Mrs Ennis (Anon. 1921), as well as being the Treasurer for a time (www 5).

Unlike most of the other foundation members of the SAOA, Symonds was not a serious collector of skin or egg specimens, although he donated a small number of birds and other animals to SAMA between 1863 and 1876 (Horton *et al.* 2018). Most have been lost, apart from a skeleton of a Cape Barren Goose and the skull of a quoll, the head of which he removed from a specimen given to him. A dog killed the quoll near the River Torrens on 30th August 1868 and some remarkable sleuthing from the Mammals team at SAMA pieced together disparate information to conclude that the skull is their second oldest mammal specimen with a known collection date (www 6: SAMA Facebook Page for 7 August 2019). Eight specimens collected by Symonds Clark are in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, sent there by Edwin Ashby on 29th June 1923 (A. Black pers. comm. from information provided by staff at AMNH). They consist of two Brown Goshawks, an Australian Hobby and a female Regent Parrot collected on 20th December 1907, together with a Red-capped

Robin and three Crimson Rosellas, two collected in the Adelaide Hills and are therefore Adelaide Rosellas and a third collected on 29th December 1897, also likely to be an Adelaide Rosella.

Symonds Clark was keeping birds and, at times, other animals in captivity from at least 1859 and probably earlier as the family moved into Hazelwood in 1853, when he was about fourteen. As with taxidermy, he seemed to lack a mentor to advise on how to look after the animals in his aviaries and many died after short stays with him. His particular interest was parrots and his diaries have many entries about the purchase, keeping and breeding of various parrots and cockatoos.

Publications of Symonds Clark

While apparently of a “modest and retiring disposition” (Anon. 1921), Symonds was a fluent writer and contributed 22 articles, entitled “Zoological Recollections” to an Adelaide newspaper *The Evening Journal* (and reprinted in *The Adelaide Observer*) from 1889 to 1893 (Horton *et al.* 2018). Either his memory was prodigious or he kept a diary on the journey of the ‘Fatima’, as the first four articles dealt with the wildlife, including seabirds, encountered on the voyage from England in 1850 (when he was aged 11), and the remainder with Australian cockatoos and parrots. His experience with parrots in the field as well as with captive birds was also reflected in an address to the Royal Society of South Australia, which was later published (Clark 1889). Of the 61 species then recognised in Australia, Clark reported that 28 were in South Australia (SA), with seven or eight extras in the Northern Territory (then administered by SA).

Clark’s paper takes the form of an annotated list of the parrots occurring in SA and to his knowledge in the Northern Territory. He makes some fascinating comments about the occurrence of various species on the Adelaide Plains and the Mount Lofty Ranges (MLR), with which he was most familiar. For example, he had never seen a wild **Galah** nor a **Blue Bonnet**, but one of his brothers had seen black cockatoos with red in the tail on a trip to Encounter Bay via Willunga and Yankalilla in 1850 or 1851 and Symonds believed that such cockatoos had been seen in the hills east of Adelaide. We now know this species to be the **Glossy Black Cockatoo**, which used to occur in the Adelaide Hills but is now confined in SA to Kangaroo Island.

To be continued in the Spring Birder

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Nevertheless, and despite the day being overcast and there being the threat of a storm looming, those 20-or-so people in attendance – [they came and went, joined and left; it was a fluid and flexible arrangement] – enjoyed a pleasant morning of birding and bird-talk. Which is to say, the event evolved into something more about fellowship than the finding of feathered friends.

Of the 25 species seen, nothing out of the ordinary or unexpected was noted. Highlights were held to be the 6 Rainbow Bee-eaters and 1 Southern Scrub Robin, with honourable mentions going to the 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles, 2 Brown Goshawks, and 2 Southern Whiteface.

Stephen Ramm

Birds SA

Thursday 18 February Onkaparinga Wetlands

Sixteen members met at the oval car park and spent about an hour observing the activity of various species feeding and resting on a high tide in the adjacent lagoon. A highlight here was a couple of unsuccessful swoops by an Australian Hobby on silver gulls it had put to flight. We recorded 28 species at this location.

Given the hot weather we moved on to the Riverside West walking trail, which was our intended destination for this outing. We counted a total of 34 species here including 8 Stubble Quail, a Sacred Kingfisher, 50 Superb Fairywrens, 20 white-plumed Honeyeaters, 12 White-browed Babblers, 6 Dusky Woodswallows and 20 Red-browed Finches.

We were happy to return for an early lunch and respite from the heat at the Riverbend picnic area, which is well maintained and has a loo! Our outing resulted in a total count of 50 species.

Lynton Huxley

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 21 February Bowman Park

Thankfully it was a mild and sunny day after a week of very hot days when 8 birders came together in Crystal Brook. Two each came from Pt. Augusta and Whyalla and the others from Koolunga, Weeroona Island, Pt. Neill and Mambray Creek. We then drove about 4.5km north east of Crystal Brook to Bowman Park. As we entered the recreational reserve a flock of Common Starlings flew past and on the oval Willie Wagtails and White-winged

Choughs were fossicking about. We parked our vehicles and began walking around the buildings next to a red gum lined creek and garden area. Red Wattlebirds, Peaceful Doves, Red-rumped Parrots, many White-plumed Honeyeaters and an Owlet Nightjar were noted. On the ground a couple of Diamond Firetails and Grey Shrikethrushes caught our attention as Striated Pardalotes were looking into a hollow in a big sugar gum. As we followed a path around the old buildings and down into the creek, Yellow-throated Miners, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Common Blackbirds were in the shrubs, while Little Ravens and Black-faced Cuckooshrikes passed overhead. In the red gums Kookaburras laughed at us, while Common Bronzings warily watched our activities. We circled the garden and stopped back at our parking area to have smoko under the trees next to the oval. Two Peacocks wandered over to us to try and get something to eat as Flinders Ranges Adelaide Rosellas and Galahs sat in the trees while Welcome Swallows and Magpielarks patrolled the oval area. We heard the call of a Crested Shriketit and it then appeared in the trees above us. The lone male bird has been resident to this site for many years and seems to be desperate for a mate. After smoko and shriketit photographing we headed off along a track that follows the creek and found more Diamond Firetails plus Grey Butcherbirds, Mallee Ringnecks, Tree Martins, Australian Magpies, House Sparrows, Brown Goshawks and Grey Currawongs in a Kurrajong tree. There was very little water in the creek and the area looked very dry even allowing for the fact that it was the middle of summer. We enjoyed lunch back at the oval and added Rainbow Bee-eaters to our bird list. After lunch some of us



Crested Shriketit (Photographed by Bernie Haase in Bowman Park, 21 February 2021)

Past Excursions *(continued)*

climbed to a lookout on top of a hill covered with mallee trees, some in flower. We only found Weebills and another Grey Currawong. The view was pretty good though.

We had found total of 34 bird species. The birds of the day would have to have been the Crested Shrike-tit and the Diamond Firetails.

Bernie Haase

Birds SA

Sunday 28 February

Magazine Road Wetlands

A merry band of 21 birders assembled on a very pleasant sunny morning. The extremely low water levels did not promise well for birding. Many ponds were completely dry – whether by design or by accident, and this certainly affected species' numbers and density.

A Grey Shrike-thrush offered good views from the parking area and another was heard calling nearby. The vegetation appears to be in some distress as there are a number of dead and dying casuarinas at the start of the track and some areas are clearly struggling due to human disturbance.

An early stop to observe a small number of waders revealed a possible Pectoral Sandpiper amongst some Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and a small group of Black-fronted Dotterels. By spreading out along the track we were eventually able to obtain confirmatory views of the Pectoral Sandpiper. A Common Starling in transitional plumage was "spotted" — at least the body was as the head retained its juvenile brown plumage! From this vantage point there was at least some water visible and Australian Pelicans, Shelducks, Chestnut and Grey Teals and a lonely Hardhead were observed. A single Black-tailed Nativehen swam across the water and began to feed on the exposed mud. A small group of Royal Spoonbills were feeding close by, and a number of Pied/White-headed/Black-winged (delete as you wish!) Stilt were also present – the adults yapping away whilst the juveniles appeared much less concerned by our presence.

As we ventured further around the track the totally dry ponds held very little birdlife. Some White-fronted Chats were seen and the most numerous species of the day were the Welcome Swallows along the wire fences. As we headed back to the parking area a Brown Goshawk flew past and a very distant Whistling Kite was seen soaring overhead to add to distant views of a Swamp Harrier. Our total species count for the day was 49.

The drains along the expressway yielded a Nankeen Night Heron and a Little Egret. A small group of Superb Fairywrens also stopped by during the bird call.

Throughout the morning vehicles were constantly cruising along Magazine Road watching what we were doing. Our presence was clearly disrupting some nefarious activity and although we were not harassed that was probably due to our numbers. Think twice about visiting this area, especially alone or in small groups. SA Police and Salisbury council are aware of the situation but think of your own safety.

Birds SA will also be contacting the council regarding the water flows and maintenance of this important wetlands area. We also need to monitor the impact that the new Northern Connector and associated works have made on the area.

Richard Woodlands

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 6 March

Langhorne Creek

On a perfect still and sunny morning, a keen group of birders met at Frank Pott's Reserve at Langhorne Creek and travelled a short distance to the local cemetery.



Rainbow Bee-eater (Photographed by Bob Daly at Langhorne Creek, 6 March 2021)

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Common Bronzewing *(Photographed by Rose Slade at Langhorne Creek, 6 March 2021)*

Sixteen adults and two children took a gentle stroll around the perimeter of the cemetery. In the mixed bushland, we recorded sightings of 32 bushbird species including the Rainbow Bee-eaters, Peaceful Doves, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Superb Fairywrens and Tree Martins that held our interest. However while concentrating on the birds, we had to take care not to stand too long in one spot. The meat ants were active along the track.

Wendy and Bob had checked the Dog Lake area the previous week and decided the better option was to visit Murrundi Wetland at Wellington.

We left the cemetery at 10.30am and drove to Wellington. Approximately a third of the way along we sighted what we estimated to be at least a thousand Cape Barren Geese. They were feeding in paddocks and lucerne crops around a local dairy farm.

After a quick stop at the elaborately mosaic decorated toilet block, we moved to the nearby Murrundi Reserve, to be greeted by a cacophony of boom box music, water skiing boats, jet skis and general loud merriment, which did not bode well for bird sightings. We took the path adjacent to the river through several hectares of native revegetation; sighting Whistling Kites, Australasian Swamphens, Superb Fairywrens, Willie Wagtails, Weebills, many New Holland Honeyeaters and other birds, totalling 38 species.

As we sat around at lunch writing up the bird count, Alan Burns gave us a most informative and comprehensive talk, describing the ongoing progress in the creation of Glenthorne National Park. Ityamaiitpinna Yarta.

We look forward to returning to Murrundi Reserve and Wetland on a quieter day.

Merle Clarke

Birds SA

Saturday 13 March

Newland Head Conservation Park

It was wet and windy when I arrived at the park and the forecast for the rest of the day was not good. I was, to say the least, a bit surprised when 4 members and 2 guests turned up. We moved to the shelter of the bbq area to discuss what we might do. While we were talking the rain eased off so we decided to give it a go and moved off straight away.

Walking through the campground we spotted Australian Magpies and heard Grey Currawongs, moving up the hill in an easterly direction it was a while before the next bird, a Superb Fairywren, was heard. The bush was very quiet with no bird calls or even movement until finely we spotted some small birds in shrubs on the high side of the road, they turned out to be a small flock of Silvereyes. We turned left at the fork in the road and headed towards the large water tank, spotting a Crimson Rosella on the way. We passed through the gate into the animal-proof enclosure and inspected the results of the direct seeding that had been done 14 months ago. Many seedlings had sprouted.

Then the rain came down and we decided to head back and made for the old quarry area, not seeing any birds till we were nearly back at the campground. Passing through a stand of Allocasuarina we hit a mini hotspot and picked up Red-browed Finch, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Willie Wagtail and New Holland Honeyeater. After a coffee break the rain eased off and we travelled down to the beach. It was very windy but we managed Silver Gull, Pacific Gull, Crested Tern and White-faced Heron for a poor total of 17 species.

Winston Syson

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 14 March

Mt Gullet Beach Area

It was a lovely sunny morning when 11 birders came together at the highway parking bay at Mambray Creek. 3 from Pt. Augusta, 2 each from Pt. Pirie and Whyalla and 1 each from Wilmington, Weeroona Island, Adelaide and Mambray Creek. After we finished our greetings and waited for any late comers we drove off along the highway and turned off onto a dirt road that headed towards Spencer Gulf. As we drove along the road towards the coastal area we passed cropping paddocks, bluebush plains and then samphire flats. In the bluebush area there were small flocks of White-fronted

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Red-necked Stints in flight *(Photographed by Larry Gruitt in Mt. Gullett Beach area, 14 March 2021)*

Chats, White-winged Fairywrens, Australian Magpies and Galahs with the occasional Australian Pipit on the road. Near an old farm house a flock of House Sparrows flew around and some Little Ravens sat in a tree. A Collared Sparrowhawk was flushed out of the bushes as we stopped to look at a small dam, which had some water in it from a recent 12mm of rain. On the water were Grey Teal, a pair of Australian White Ibis and many Welcome Swallows darting around. A Grey Butcherbird, a pair of Common Starlings, Singing Honeyeaters and Elegant Parrots were added to our bird list. We drove on through the samphire flats sighting more White-winged Fairywrens and a Rufous Fieldwren before entering the Winninowie Conservation Park.

We crossed a small slippery mud flat that had been impassable a couple of days before and followed a coastal sand ridge overlooking the extensive tidal mud flats. The tide was high and we stopped to view flocks of Silver and Pacific Gulls and Caspian Terns on the beach with Red-necked Stints around them. We drove on along the sparsely shrub covered sand ridge and saw Crested Pigeons, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Australian Ravens and a White-winged Triller. At the end of the track there was a tidal creek flowing out of some mangroves and across the mud flats. Here we could see thousands of Red-necked Stints with Red-capped Plovers, Curlew Sandpipers and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers amongst them. Resting on the beach and flying about there were Pacific Gulls, Crested Terns, Pied Oystercatchers, Little Pied Cormorants and 57 Fairy Terns. Looking across the creek with our 'scopes we could see 7 Eastern Curlews and 2 Whimbrels. Some of us found our way across the creek and walked along the mud flats to get closer to the curlews and did manage to obtain some distant photos of them. Another larger mangrove-lined creek

prevented us from going any further but we did see Little Egrets, White-faced Herons, Australian Pelicans, Australian White Ibis and more Grey Teal. The mud banks in the gulf are exposed at low tide and there are flocks of waders on them, but it is very hard to get close enough to see them clearly. At high tide they rest in the inlets amongst the mangrove forest, which are also difficult to access and to get close to the birds.

We all headed back along the track and added Nankeen Kestrels and Tree Martins to the list. We drove up to the top of Mt. Gullett for our lunch and looked around the Mallee-covered hill on which birds was scarce, even though some of the trees were flowering. Little Ravens, Mallee Ringnecks, Australian Magpies, a Grey Butcherbird, a Nankeen Kestrel and a flock of Crested Pigeons were found. There were also many Yellow-throated Miners, which may have claimed the flowering trees and be driving any other birds away.

Forty bird species were found for the day, with the Eastern Curlews, Whimbrels, Curlew Sandpipers and Fairy Terns being the birds of the day.

Bernie Haase

Birds SA

Thursday 18 March Barossa Goldfields

Eighteen members attended on a fine autumnal day. The walk completed 50% of the Phoenix Circuit before we made for Bowden Cottage and lunch. The bird call produced a total of 34 species with the main highlight of the day being there were no Huxley bad jokes at Lunch!

Allan West



Musk Lorikeet *(Photographed by Rose Slade at the Barossa Goldfields, 18 March 2021)*

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Enthusiastic participants in the New Members Educational Field Trip (Laratinga, 21 March 2021)

Birds SA

Sunday 21 March

Laratinga

New Members Educational Field Trip

To provide new members with bird identification skills, a training session was organised at Laratinga Wetlands with the aim to limit attendance to 24. Attendees could then be assigned in small groups of four under tuition of an experienced birder. When the special trip was advertised, the quota was quickly reached. Given the enthusiastic response it is planned to have similar trips to cater for those who dipped out!

We had perfect weather conditions with good light to assist with colour identification etc. All participants were provided with a hard copy of the booklet '100 birds of Laratinga Wetlands' published by the local Mount Barker Council and also given a pack of 4 sheets containing information on the Bushland birds of the Adelaide Hills for future reference.

Feedback from participants was very positive, which is a great outcome, as we continue to seek ways to improve our services to newer members. I extend a special 'thank you' to the six 'expert trip leaders' for their commitment to supporting Birds SA.

Lynton Huxley

Birds SA

Sunday 28 March

Hart Road Wetlands, Aldinga Beach

It was pleasing that 19 members attended this field trip and the total species count was 46.

Jim Spiker

Birds SA

Thursday 1 – Wednesday 7 April

Easter Campout at Cantara Homestead

Our Easter Campout at Cantara Homestead in the Coorong National Park had an excellent turnout of over 40 members with quite a few being first time campout attendees. There was plenty of space for everyone to spread out in their tents and campers and also ample rooms in the homestead to accommodate those requiring a solid roof. We had cool nights of about 10C with a heavy morning dew and a few quite warm days of mid to high 30C temperatures so our birding surveys were a challenge for both us and our feathered friends. The homestead building provided respite from the sun and sea breeze and it was nice to also have the luxury of toilet and shower facilities at this campout.

The traditional Sunday brunch barbeque feast of bacon, eggs, tomatoes and mushrooms was consumed under the shade of the large veranda. Even though most claimed to be full – all of the pancakes cooked later were consumed along with some Easter eggs!

Beside the daily Homestead bird counts which included several walks over the sand dunes to the beach by some, survey trips were undertaken to Martin Washpool/Morella Basin CP, Chinamans Well walk, Tilley Swamp CP, Bunbury CP, and the Nruddie Ngoppun Trail at Salt Creek. The result of all surveys was a very pleasing total of 97 species being recorded for this campout. The individual site totals have been forwarded for our Birds SA records and to the NPWS Rangers to assist with their own local records.

Some of the species recorded included a recently deceased Little Penguin, Emu, Nankeen Night Heron, Collared Sparrowhawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Australian Hobby, Pacific Swift, Stubble Quail, Southern Emu-wren,

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Minnie and David Robertson *(Photographed by Lynton Huxley on the Easter Campout, April 2021)*



A group on the Chinmans Well walk *(Photographed by Lynton Huxley, Coorong National Park, April 2021)*

Spotted Pardalote, Weebill, Yellow Thornbill, Australian Golden (Western) Whistler and Silvereye. The Honeyeater species included Spiny-cheeked, Singing, White-eared, New Holland and Brown-headed. White-fronted Chat, Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird and Rufous Bristlebird were also seen.

On behalf of all participants, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to John Gitsham (Ranger in Charge of the Coorong NP) for his expert support in not only guiding us to various sites, but providing interesting historical information. We were all grateful for being able to use the excellent facilities of Cantara Homestead which made for a memorable 2021 Campout.

Lynton Huxley

Birds SA

Thursday 15 April Kyeema Conservation Park

Rain threatened several times but in the end only a few drops fell and in the main we had clear bright conditions for the 20 members who attended. It was pleasing to have another new and very keen young member Linkon Ferguson attend with his mum and sister. Bird sightings were constant and with a few experienced members on hand we were able to assist Linkon with a few 'lifers' which is always good encouragement.

We recorded 28 species during this very pleasant and enjoyable walk.

Lynton Huxley

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Friday 16–Sunday 18 April Lake Gilles CP

Friday 16th

On a partly cloudy but calm day two birders met at the tanks parking bay near the Iron Knob turnoff. One from Wilmington and the other from Mambray Creek. We travelled to Lake Gilles through long stretches of roadworks, which delayed our meeting with another birder from Pt. Neill at the conservation park's western entrance. We drove along the western boundary road and turned off onto a track where Southern Scrub Robins had been seen before and searched the area for them but had no luck. Other birds were found in the low scrub dominated by Mallee trees, including Spiny-cheeked, Singing, White-fronted, White-eared and Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Inland and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Weebills, Silvereyes, Grey Shrikethrush, Galahs, Australian Ravens, Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, White-browed Babblers, Grey Butcherbird, Common Bronzewing, Australian Ringneck, Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens and a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, which was the only Cuckoo we would find on the trip. We drove back to the road and on to the edge of Lake Gilles where we admired the view of the mostly dry lake with some damp areas from recent showers.

A little further on along the track we stopped for lunch and birding around the area. Here we saw most of the birds that were found earlier and added Dusky and Black-faced Woodswallows, Purple-backed and Turquoise Fairywrens, Jacky Winters, Mistletoebirds, Willy Wagtails, Grey Fantail, Mulga Parrots, Tree Martins,

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Black-capped Sittella (Photographed by Bernie Haase at Lake Gilles CP, 16 April 2021)

Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters feeding fledglings, Red Wattlebirds, Yellow-throated Miners, Rufous Whistler, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Southern Whiteface, Welcome Swallows, Australian Magpies, Rufous Treecreepers, a Crested Pigeon the only one we saw for the trip and the only hawk we found, a Collared Sparrowhawk. A pair of Restless Flycatchers entertained us for a while and we watched some White-plumed Honeyeaters which are not supposed to be found in this area. It was getting late and we had to travel across the park to get to Haskett Dam to meet another birder there the next day, so we drove on until we reached the place and set up camp. During the night Owlet Nightjars called out and flew around our camp.

Saturday 17th

It was a slightly foggy morning when we set off birding around the area with the calls of Crested Bellbirds nearby. We found almost all of the birds seen on the previous day and added to our bird list Western Yellow and Red-capped Robins, Gilberts and Golden Whistlers, Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Black-capped Sittellas and Inland either a Chestnut or a Copper-backed Quail Thrush and Common Starlings — the only introduced birds we saw for the trip. There were many Weebills, Inland Thornbills and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters in the area. The fellow birder that was supposed to meet us didn't turn up because, as I found out later, he had injured his back. We set off to follow the eastern park boundary to its northern end and to look for Western



Southern Boobook (Photographed by Larry Gruitt at Lake Gilles CP, 16 April 2021)

Grasswrens on the way. We left the Mallee and entered open Myall tree country where some rain had fallen from patchy thunderstorms the previous day, so we had to negotiate a small boggy patch on the way. This is where we stopped to look for Grasswrens but had no joy. Most of the birds we did find we had seen previously but our list was extended by adding Emus, Redthroats and 20 Black-capped Sittellas in two flocks which provided us with some photo opportunities.

The further north we drove the scarcer birds became and we stopped for lunch on a rise overlooking Lake Gilles where the track crosses into private land. We returned back along the track and stopped next to a small salt lake after finding some bird activity. Here we added White-winged Fairywrens to the list and saw 13 other bird species that we had seen before. An Emu was crossing the salt lake with two Red Kangaroos, we were definitely in Australia. We drove on along the boundary track, past the track by which we had entered and went on until we came to a dam where we set up camp. The dam was dry but many Common Bronzewing were still hoping to find water there from the recent showers.

Sunday 18th

It was a cool, clear morning when we set off birding around the area. Here we found 26 bird species, but no extra ones for the list. There were lots of Australian Ringnecks, White-browed Babblers, Weebills, Blue-breasted Fairywrens, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Jacky Winters. We decided that to take a look across the highway in the southern section of Lake Gilles Conservation Park so we headed to the O'Conner Dam area there. At the dam and its old ruins we found lots of Silvereyes and Weebills plus a photogenic Restless Flycatcher and Golden Whistler with a Western Yellow Robin. We walked around a small hill to look for Shy Heathwrens but only found a Crested Bellbird quietly searching for food on the ground and a Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring high above us. We drove on to another small rocky hill nearby finding lots of Inland Thornbills and Babblers with Turquoise Fairywrens. A Grey/ Brown Currawong flew away from us as we walked around the hill. As we returned along the track a coloured up, male Mistletoebird allowed us to get some photos. This was an area where Quail Thrush had been seen before, so we decided to look for them but no luck again. Instead we found a Gilbert's Whistler. The top of a head with big eyes could be seen looking at us from inside a hollow. As we approached a Southern Boobook flew out and onto a branch, allowing us to get photos. It was time to head home so we drove back to the highway and said our goodbyes.

A total of 62 bird species were found for the trip, with the White-plumed Honeyeaters found well out of their normal range being the bird of the trip, but a mention should be given for the other uncommonly encountered birds like the Restless Flycatcher, Southern Boobook, Western Yellow Robin, Gilberts Whistler, Blue-breasted Fairywren, Rufous Treecreeper, Copper-backed Quail-thrush and the flocks of Black-capped Sittellas.

Bernie Haase

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 1 May Randell's Vineyard, Currency Creek

Fourteen people met in the car park of the One Paddock Winery and drove the 4km to the private property on Sorrells Rd. We have surveyed it twice in spring over the last 2 years and expected it would be hard to find bush birds in autumn as it was very dry and not much was flowering.



Mistletoe Bird (Photographed by Bob Daly at Randell's Vineyard, 1 May 2021)

The Vineyard is on 800ha and is part of the largest revegetation project managed by (GWLAP) Goolwa, Wellington, Local Action Plan. Approximately 150,000 seedlings were planted surrounding the vines in open paddocks covered in veldt grass. There are no grazing animals on the property except for kangaroos and there is evidence of damage to some of the plants. The openness of the vegetation makes it easier to see the surrounding farmland looking towards Currency Creek and the Finnis River.

At our first stop we spread out, walking through the older eucalyptus area, interspersed with the 5-7 year old revegetation plantings. Here we found 23 species in one hour. The Elegant Parrots were in good numbers flying about with Red-rumped Parrots and Crimson Rosellas. The Honeyeaters, were: White-plumed, New Holland, Yellow-faced, both Wattlebirds, and one Spiny-cheeked. A Common Bronzewing took off, and Richard Smyth saw an Owlet Nightjar fly out of a hollow.

We drove on through the paddocks to an advantage point overlooking the Tookyerta Creek in the valley. Here we spotted a bird of prey resting in a tree full of Starlings. Checking it through my scope, we thought it was a Brown Falcon and Bob's photo later confirmed it.



Owlet Nightjar *(Photographed by Bob Phillips at Randell's Vineyard, 1 May 2021)*

At our 3rd stop, on a narrow dirt track we spotted 2 Fantail Cuckoos. This scrub area had many Tree Martins, and a few Welcome Swallows were flying high above us. The small bush birds included Red-browed Finch, Silvereye, Striated and Yellow Thornbill and Weebill, a few White-browed Scrubwrens and Mistletoebirds.

As we were about to leave and head off for lunch, Robyn Hillier looked into a hollow on a large eucalypt and amazingly spotted a well-camouflaged Owlet-nightjar. This discovery really topped the day as it was so hard to see!

Our final bird count held at Wally's Landing came to a surprisingly large 48 species for the morning with an Australian Pelican and a few Straw-necked Ibis flying overhead. It was a most enjoyable day and it was so important to see the difference that the revegetation has made on bird numbers and species. We can't wait to go back again next Year and see even more changes. The vineyard manager, Michael and Will Miles (GWLAP) will be pleased to get the survey report on this very special property near the Finnis.

Wendy Phillips

Birds SA

Sunday 2 May Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina

After passing over the Mount Lofty Ranges, a bright, sunny and cloudless autumn morning forecast what would prove to be a lovely day of birding in Tolderol Game Reserve. If there was a dark cloud of disappointment, it was the thunderclap of sporting game shooters out in the distant bays depleting the resident duck numbers. And so it goes.

The migratory waders were long gone and on their way back North, but there were still plenty of birds – 49 species in total for the day – to be seen and photographed, identifications to be discussed and debated, and accounts of recent sightings to be shared. Especially pleasing was to see, meet and talk with a significant number of either new members or members new to fieldtrips; hopefully the day was

sufficiently rewarding that they venture out again on another field trip. All up, 26 people made it down to Tolderol for the trip.

As ever – no matter the season or the particular bay under observation – the morning brought plenty of pleasing birding opportunities. After splitting into two groups and heading off on our separate ways, we regrouped later for the bird call. Across the morning we saw several representatives from the birds of prey crowd: 6 Swamp Harriers, 4 Black-shouldered Kites, 5 Whistling Kites and, perhaps the highlight, 1 Brown Goshawk. Other birds of note were the 14 Cape Barren Geese, 6 Yellow-billed Spoonbills, 3 Spotless Crakes, 2 Singing Honeyeaters and a lone Common Greenshank. (I know, you know, we all know that they don't technically 'count', but it does warrant mentioning that 2 Eastern Bluebonnets were seen 'on the way in'; not in the Reserve, but on the right side of the fence to be in Tolderol. Just saying.)

Thank you to all who took the time to participate; as my final time out as Trip Leader, it was a lovely note to end on.

Stephen Ramm

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Birds SA

Saturday 8 May Byards Road Wetlands, Reynella East

Our small group of 11 members and three visitors struggled finding car parks as there were over 100 runners competing in a 5km running event at this location. Luckily the majority of runners had finished by the time we commenced our walk at 8.30am. Birding was lean with some of the ponds dry but highlights at those locations included good views of Australian White Ibis (2), White-necked Heron (2), Red-kneed Dotterel (3), Little Black Cormorant (2) and a Little Pied Cormorant. A Collared Sparrowhawk was sighted several times and several large flocks of Galah (50), Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (40), Long-billed Corella (9) flew overhead. Most of our group also saw the three species of Lorikeet — Purple-crowned (4), Rainbow (20) and Musk (40).

With a darkening sky we returned to the now near empty car park for the bird call with the intention of moving onto Tangari Regional Park, but heavy rain put an end to that plan! Our tally was 38 Species (total of 380 birds).

Lynton Huxley



Keen birdwatchers at Byards Road Wetlands

(Photographed by Glenys Grivell, 8 May 2021)



Sophie's Patch at Easter

Birds SA ran a stall at Sophie's Patch, near Mt. Barker, over the Easter weekend. Alan Burns and Lou Jayleigh organised and set up the stall.

Members were asked, via the e-Newsletter, to volunteer a couple of hours over the Easter weekend to help run the stall, but the response was disappointing. Alan and Lou were obliged to staff the stall for several hours. Thanks especially to Lou who came back from Darwin on Saturday and spent her birthday on the Sunday at Sophie's and also for organising much of the weekend's effort. Sue Winwood was also very generous with her time over the weekend.

We were very lucky to have a double block for our stall, and it was most spacious and attractive. There were many easily accessible photos of birds, which were much admired. We also had bird photos that Sue Winwood had saved from past calendars, and these were handed out to children. All visitors were happy to receive handouts consisting of large sheets providing information about frogs, mammals, butterflies and other wildlife, as well as birds from different parts of South Australia. The Birds SA members operating the stall were very happy to answer visitors' queries about the birds found in their gardens and neighbourhoods.

Items for sale included nest boxes, and they proved very popular. Sixteen nest boxes and several copies of the book "*Wildlife of Greater Adelaide*".

Net total receipts to Birds SA for the weekend were about \$500.

Thank you from all Birds SA members to Alan, Lou and their volunteer helpers.

Cynthia Pyle

Future Excursions

Birds SA Contact: Lynton Huxley

Field Program Co-ordinator and Campout Organiser

Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038

Email: lyntonhuxley@gmail.com or
fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au

In the light of current COVID-19 protocols for South Australia we have prepared a program of field trips as outlined below. We will continue to monitor government constraints and keep you informed of any changes via our **e-News**.

Given Birds SA's duty of care obligation to you, our members, we do ask that:

- Members attend field trips only if they are well and have no cold or flu-like symptoms
- Members attending field trips comply with the COVID Safe Procedures implemented for our Field Trips including all relevant social distance restrictions
- Members attending field trips consider bringing personal hand sanitiser and a face mask for added personal protection.

If you have any queries or require further information please contact me at any of the contacts given above.

Information including Google Map, GPS location details and a bird species list for each excursion site is available from the Birds SA website (see User Menu – Go Birding).

Excursion Terrain Difficulty Ratings

Easy – generally flat terrain

Moderate – may include some short undulating gradients

Difficult – may include some continuous or steep gradients

What to bring:

- Personal hand sanitiser (facemask optional)
- Sun protection cream and a hat
- Sturdy footwear and long pants
- Drinking water
- Binoculars and or camera
- A chair/ stool and your lunch for our birdcall at the end of the walk

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 5 June

Scott C.P.

Meet at 8.30am in the first car park on Gould Rd.

TRIP LEADER: *Richard Smyth*

Birds SA

Saturday 12 June

Long Weekend — No Field Trip.

Birds SA

Thursday 17 June

Belair National Park (MLR) 13km

| **Moderate** |

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

TRIP LEADER: *Lynton Huxley*

The Babblers

Sunday 20 June

Mundallio Station

Meet at 8am at Carlton Parade, Cemetery

Birds SA

Sunday 27 June

Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park ((MLR) 60km.

| **Moderate** |

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

TRIP LEADER: *Richard Woodland*

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 3 July

Cox Scrub

Meet at 8.30am at the first car park closest to Ashbourne

TRIP LEADER: *Keith Jones*

Future Excursions *(continued)*

Birds SA

Saturday 10 July
Glenthorne National Park (AP) 17km

| **Moderate** |

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

TRIP LEADER: *Alan Burns*

Birds SA

Thursday 15 July
Browns Road, Monarto (MLR) 60km

| **Easy** |

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

TRIP LEADER: *Phil Cole*

The Babblers

Sunday 18 July
Whyalla CP/Point Lowly

Meet at 8am at Tanks/Iron Knob turnoff

Birds SA

Sunday 1 August
Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker (MLR) 34km

| **Easy** |

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

TRIP LEADER: *Cynthia Pyle*

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 7 August
Aldinga Washpool & southern end of Aldinga Scrub.

Meet at 8.30am at the Washpool on Button Rd. near the beach.

TRIP LEADERS: *Bob and Wendy*

The Babblers

Friday 19 to Monday 22 August
Witchelina Nature Reserve

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

Birds SA

Saturday 14 August
Brookfield Conservation Park (MM) 123km

| **Easy** |

Meet at 8.30am just inside the gate, approximately 35km east of Truro. The entrance is 2km past "8 mile corner" at a gentle left bend on an otherwise straight road.

TRIP LEADER: *Ali Ben Kahn*

Birds SA

Thursday 19 August
Shepherds Hill Recreation Park (MLR) 10km

| **Difficult** |

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

TRIP LEADER: *Lynton Huxley*

Birds SA

Sunday 29 August
Hardy's Scrub Onkaparinga River NP (MLR) 42km

| **Moderate** |

Meet at 8.30am by the CFS Station, 490 Blewitt Springs Road, Blewitt Springs.

TRIP LEADER: *Wendy Phillips*

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 4 September
Myponga Reservoir

Meet at 8.30am in the car park on Hansen Street at the start of the walking trail.

TRIP LEADER: *Pat Uphill*

Birds SA

Saturday 11 September
Jenkins Scrub (MLR) 61km

| **Moderate** |

Travel about 10km from Williamstown towards Springton, then turn right onto Mount Road. Meet at 8.30am at the entrance to the scrub on the left, opposite Murray Vale Road.

TRIP LEADER: *Richard Woodland*

New Members

We welcome the following 38 new members who have joined the Association in the past few months.



Male and female Cockatiels (Photographed by Trevor Cox at Laura mid-north, 10 February 2021)



Alan Burns and his friend Audrey

- Rose Castine Watervale
- Alyssia Bond Strathalbyn
- Dale Wache Warradale
- John Walker St Mary's
- Katrina Baker Norton Summit
- Samuel Savage Brighton
- John Deans Flagstaff Hill
- Nikki Grist Ridgehaven
- Barry Mitchell Aldinga
- Christopher Proud Adelaide
- Daniel Slater Macclesfield
- Angela Carpenter Torrens Park
- Susan Sweetman Forestville
- Lyndall Hughes Glen Osmond
- Graeme Newcombe Prospect
- Chris Young Stirling
- Paul Rogers Tea Tree Gully
- Janis Haynes Middleton
- Angela McLean Mount Compass
- Valda Young Edwardstown
- Glenda Glazbrook Alberton
- Kate Moffitt Littlehampton
- Skylah Green Mount Barker
- Richard Dolan McLaren Vale
- Christina Pike Littlehampton
- Eliza Meredith Balhannah
- Paul Warneke Keyneton
- Les Beyer Port Pirie
- Leanne Burch Dernancourt
- Maureen Allan Happy Valley
- Pamela Scanlon Port Noarlunga
- Linkon Ferguson Osborne
- Carole Migliarese Wynn Vale
- Robin Woods Port Elliot
- Merry Wickes North Adelaide
- Mary Crawford Flagstaff Hill
- Rachael Coggan Plympton Park
- Taylor Headland Kensington Park

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Membership Officer, Alan Burns. His mobile number is 0411 595 910.

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 not have been submitted yet, 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

25, 28/2/2021. Granite Island, MLR.

Garden, J. & Smith, Ed

2, 5/2/2021. Greenfields Wetlands, Magazine Rd, AP.

Kernot, G.

2 + 5 juveniles, 23/3/2021. Granite Island, MLR.

Matthews, S.

King Quail

2+, 14/2/2021. Goolwa Beach, MM. Photographed in suburban garden.

Thornhill, A.

Occasional reports received in recent years are believed to be birds escaped from captivity. It is unknown whether any have established free-ranging populations.

Great Crested Grebe

30, 13/4/2021. St Kilda saltfields, AP. Brooker, W *et al.*

Peaceful Dove

2, 4/4/2021. Mt Ive HS, NW.

Ed Smith

1, 8/4/2021. Nairne, MLR.

Karl Jones

Tawny Frogmouth

2 + 2 juveniles, 14/3/2021. Leabrook, AP. In suburban native garden.

Eaton, J.

Pacific Swift

20, 2/4/2021. Encounter Bay, MLR. Carpenter, G.

Southern Royal Albatross

1, 21/3/2021. Shelf off Port Macdonnell, MO. Also seen were 1 Northern Royal Albatross, 3 Campbell Albatross, 3 Buller's Albatross, 1 Gibson's Albatross and 2 New Zealand Wandering Albatross.

Harper, D. *et al.*

Flesh-footed Shearwater

75, 21/3/2021. Sea off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Harper, D. *et al*

Cattle Egret

1 in breeding plumage, 5/4/2021. Hindmarsh Island, Excelsior Parade, MM.

Calgan, S.

Intermediate Egret

1, 26/2/2021. Mawson Lakes, George St reserve, AP.

Harper, D.

Australasian Bittern

1, 10/2/2021. Second Valley, MLR. Photographed on coastal reef.

Warwick, D.

A very unusual place to see a bittern, but birds are known to move around a lot in late summer as wetlands dry up.

Nankeen Night Heron

1, 25/2/2021. Blackwood Hill Reserve, Magpie Creek, MLR.

Bate, G. & Hart, D.

1 immature, 11/2/2021. Seacliff, MLR.

Cook, S.

2, 28/2/2021. Whicker Rd wetlands, AP.

Rich, G.

Royal Spoonbill

15, 17/2/2021. Mawson Lakes, Elder Smith Drive, AP.

Hookings, M.

8, 1/3/2021. Whicker Rd wetlands, AP.

Newell, D.

30, 4/4/2021. Morella Basin, MM.

Harper, D.

Glossy Ibis

1, 1/3/2021. Whicker Rd wetlands, AP.

Newell, D.

Reported from the same site in the previous Magazine

Straw-necked Ibis

1 immature, 20/3/2021. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

2, 26/3/2021. East Parklands, Victoria Park, AP.

Reid, I.

3, 4/4/2021. Big Swamp, EP.

Drummond, L.

Few reports on EP.

White-bellied Sea Eagle

1, 4/4/2021. Morella Basin, MM.

Harper, D.

1, 10/3/2021. Salt Creek, Coorong, MM.

Gitsham, J.

Little Eagle

Pair + immature, 2/2/2021. Big Swamp, EP.

Carter, D. & P.

Bird Records *(continued)*

Square-tailed Kite

1, 2/3/2021. Highbury, MLR. Groves, J.
1, 3/3/2021. Pooraka, Manning Cr, AP. In suburban gum tree.

Currie, M.

Greater Sand Plover

4, 22/2/2021. Chinaman Wells, YP. Jack, T.

Hooded Plover

9, 22/3/2021. West Beach, Breakout Creek mouth, AP.

Edey, D.

Masked Lapwing

135, 3/2/2021. Just W of Port Lincoln, EP.

Carter, D. & P.

Sanderling

500, 22/3/2021. Rivoli Bay, Stoney Point, SE

Alcorn, M. & R.

800, 15/1/2021. Coorong Beach, Teatree Crossing – Murray Mouth, MM

Keith Jones

Red Knot

Several reports of good numbers prior to migrating.

175, 1/2/2021. Port Lincoln Marina, EP. Carter, D. & P.

700, 24/3/2021. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.

340, 22/2/2021. Chinaman Wells, YP. Jack, T.

145, 15/4/2021. Clinton CP, AP. Woodland, R.

Latham's Snipe

1, 14/2/2021. Whicker Rd wetlands, AP. Barnes, P.

Black-tailed Godwit

16, 18/2/2021. St Kilda Saltfields, AP. Increasing to 25 on 17/3 and 44 on 13/4.

Brooker, W. et al.

Eastern Curlew

7, 14/3/2021. Mount Gullet beach, LN. Haase, B. et al.

1, 5/4/2021. Smoky Bay, EP. Nottle, B.

11, 19/1/2021. Bird Island, AP. Shaughnessy, P.

Whimbrel

2, 14/3/2021. Mount Gullet beach, LN. Haase, B. et al.

8, 18/3/2021. Price Saltfields, YP. Jack, T.

13, 15/4/2021. Price Saltfields, YP. Rogers, C. et al.

Grey-tailed Tattler

1, 1/2/2021. Port Lincoln Marina, EP. Carter, D. & P.

1, 10/3/2021. The Bluff, Encounter Bay, MLR.

Carter, D. & P.

2, 18/3/2021. Chinaman Wells, YP. Jack, T.

Wood Sandpiper

1, 1/3/2021. Whicker Rd wetlands, AP. Newell, D.

7, 4/4/2021. Big Swamp, EP. Drummond, L.

Common Greenshank

110, 15/4/2021. Price Saltfields, YP. Rogers, C. et al.

Terek Sandpiper

4, 15/4/2021. Clinton CP, AP. Woodland, R.

Pomarine Jaeger

1, 21/3/2021. Sea off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Harper, D. et al.

White-winged Black Tern

3, 13/3/2021. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Harper, D.

Gull-billed Tern (*affinis*)

12, 15/4/2021. Clinton CP, AP. Some in breeding plumage, with 4 Australian Gull-billed Terns.

Woodland, R.

Little Tern

2, 6/3/2021. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.

2, 18/3/2021. Price Saltfields, YP. Jack, T.

Also 150 plus juveniles on 15/4/2021. Rogers, C. et al.

Fairy Tern

Reports of significant numbers from various sites.

90, 6/3/2021. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.

57, 14/3/2021. Mount Gullet beach, LN. Haase, B. et al.

248, 18/3/2021. Price Saltfield, YP. Jack, T.

15, 13/4/2021. St Kilda saltfields, AP. Brooker, W et al.

40, 15/4/2021. Clinton CP, AP. Woodland, R.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

12, 22/3/2021. Kanmantoo, MLR. Grant, T.

8, 4/4/2021. Hindmarsh Island, Vesta Drive, MM.

Calgan, S.

5, 6/4/2021. Mount Barker Summit, MLR. Barron, P.

More reports received from the eastern Mount Lofty Ranges and adjacent areas.

2 over, 25/3/2021. Malvern, Cremorne Street, AP.

Horton, P.

1+, 14/4/2021. Black Forest, AP. Kemper, C.

Usually visits the AP suburbs in November-January.

Musk Lorikeet

Several, Feb 2021. American River, KI. Barth, M.

Few reports from KI.

Bird Records *(continued)*

Purple-crowned Lorikeet

Larger than usual numbers in the western hills associated with profuse flowering of Grey Box Eucalyptus microcarpa trees.

12, 17/2/2021. Blackwood Hill Reserve, Magpie Creek, MLR.

Bate, G.

30, March 2021. Hawthorndene, MLR. Huxley, L. & K.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo

Immature, 9/3/2021. Highbury, MLR. Found dead, presumably after flying into window.

Bushell, C.

Rainbow Bee-eater

11, 4/3/2021. Middle Beach, AP.

Merchant, M.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

3, 11/4/2021. Globe Derby Park, Whites Rd wetlands, AP.

Robinson, N.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

3 flying south, 16/4/2021. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

Black-faced Woodswallow

4, 15/3/2021. N of Bowmans, AP.

Several previous southerly reports in this area.

Taylor, P.W.

Grey Butcherbird

1 immature, 10/4/2021. Goolwa Dunes, MM.

Gilbie, S.

White-winged Chough

6, 21/2/2021. Happy Valley Reservoir, Happy Valley Drive, MLR.

Pfeiffer, P.

12, 26/2/2021. Mount Barker, Yunkunga Rd, MLR.

Lloyd, R.

Australian Reed Warbler

3, 21/3/2021. Gawler Ponds, EP.

Wynne, G.

Very few reports from EP presumably due to the lack of reedbeds.

Tree Martin

Large numbers have roosted again at Leigh Street in the city from Jan-May. Also gatherings (presumed pre-migration) at the following sites:

200, 25/2/2021. Parkside, Alfred St, AP.

Brinsley, R.

300+, 22/3/2021. Port Clinton, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

Painted Finch

2, 14/2/2021. 100 km N Coober Pedy, Matheson Bore Rest Area, NW.

Ashdown, D.

4, 10/3/2021. 30 km N Quorn, FR. Brief view only as the birds flew off, but plain dark appearance and red rumps noted.

Brittain, R.

Previously reported from the southern Flinders Ranges as far south as Alligator Gorge in 1989 (see Black & Horton 2014 SA Ornithologist 40 for a review of the species in SA).

Diamond Firetail

2, 19/3/2021. 9 km SSE Mount Barker, MLR.

Barron, P.

2, 28/3/2021. Para Wirra NP, Hissey Loop track, MLR.

Jermakow, A.



Dear Colleagues,

*The Naming of Birds is a difficult matter,
It isn't just one of your holiday games,
You may think at first I'm as mad as a hatter,
When I tell you, a bird must have TWO
DIFFERENT NAMES.*

*First of all, there's the name that the family
use daily,*

*Such as Wren, Robin, Oriole or Bittern,
Such as Treecreeper, Mynah, Jacana or Noddy,
All of them sensible everyday names.*

*There are fancier names if you think they
sound sweeter,*

.....'

With apologies to TS Eliot

Supplied by David Hansman

Committee meetings are usually held in the Hawker Centre of the Waite Institute on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7.30pm.

BIRDS SA COMMITTEE

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Vice President.....	Richard Woodland	0488 229 394
Vice President.....	Jeff Groves.....	0401 125 510
Acting Secretary	Alan Burns	0411 595 910
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COMMITTEE EMAIL CONTACTS

If you wish to contact any committee member by email, use the email address: general@birdssa.asn.au and indicate which committee member you wish to contact. Your message will be forwarded to that person.

e-newsletter EDITOR

Anthony Collebrusco, e-newsletter@birdssa.asn.au

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian, Karen Donkin 0402 123 960
 Campout Organiser, Lynton Huxley..... 7009 5038
 Rare Birds Secretary, Brian Blaylock 0448 822 374

Port Augusta Birders (The Babblers)

Contact people: Peter Langdon 0457 708 859
 Greg Bannon 8648 6630, Bernie Haase 0419 863 834

Fleurieu Birders, a sub-group of Birds SA

Contact: Wendy Phillips 8555 0634 or 0414 248 648
 Neil Cheshire 8552 7904
 Email: fleurieubirders@gmail.com

BirdLife South East SA

Convener: Bob Green 0407 649 909
 Email: shriketit@bigpond.com

Conservation Sub-committee members

Jeff Groves (Chair), William Brooker, Phil Cole, Bill Breed,
 David Andrewartha, David Hansman, Rodney Attwood,
 Ali Ben Kahn

SA Rarities Committee (SARC) Members

Colin Rogers (Chair), David Harper, Julian Reid, Sam Gordon,
 Bob Green, John Hatch, Marilyn Browne, Graham Carpenter.

SA Bird Records Committee Members

Andrew Black (chair), Brian Blaylock (secretary and database manager), Graham Carpenter (Bird Records Secretary), Philippa Horton (SA Museum), Bob Green (SE), Ian Reid (NE), Lynn Pedler.

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

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The Committee reserves the right to lower or waive these fees.

Distant Relatives



A group of Budgerigars (Photographed by Philippa Horton at Witchelina, 8 October 2020)



Purple-crowned lorikeets near their nesting hole in a suburban stobie pole (Photographed by Greg Blackman at Ingle Farm, 9 April 2021)

Variations in black, grey and white

Peter McKenzie took all these
photographs at Port Clinton
in February 2021

Caspian Terns in flight
breeding (right)
and non breeding



Adult (on right) and
2 immature Fairy Terns



Top left: Asian Gull-billed Tern
Centre: Australian Gull-billed Tern (breeding)
Bottom left: Whiskered Tern (breeding)



Australian Gull-billed Terns, adult (left) and immature

Two raptors in flight



Spotted Harrier (Photographed by Trevor Cox at Elbow Hill, Eyre Peninsula, 8 January 2001)



Brown Falcon (Photographed by Peter Mckenzie at Alice Springs, October 2012)

In breeding plumage ... prepared for their long flight

Teresa Jack took all these photos in Autumn 2021



Marsh Sandpiper

(Photographed at Clinton CP in Autumn 2021)



Lesser Sand Plover

(Photographed at Bald Hill in Autumn 2021)



Lesser Sand Plovers

(Photographed at Bald Hill in Autumn 2021)



Red-necked Stint

(Photographed at Clinton CP in Autumn 2021)



Black-tailed Godwits *(Photographed at Chinaman Wells YP in Autumn 2021)*

Birds that spend time on the ground

All photographed by Trevor Cox



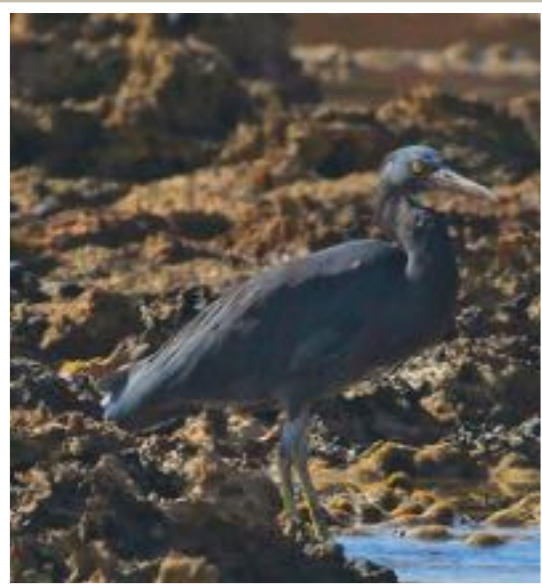
Flock Bronzewing

*(Photographed at Boolcoomata NE,
14 November 2020)*



Inland Dotterel

*(Photographed at Boolcoomata NE,
16 November 2020)*



Eastern Reef Egret

*(Photographed at Yanabie on Eyre Peninsula,
March 2021)*



Australian Painted Snipe
*(Photographed at Boolcoomata NE,
16 November 2020)*