

THE BIRDER



The official magazine of Birds SA Summer 2021 No 260



Linking people with birds
in South Australia

In this Issue

September meeting and excursions with Birds SA
Port Augusta group 'The Babblers'

Bird Boxes sold at Sophie's Patch weekend

Going Cuckoo!

These photographs were taken by Gordon Pateman at Kinchina (Rocky Gully)



Black-eared Cuckoo



Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo



Pallid Cuckoo

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CENTRE INSERT: No 77 Mathew Symonds Clark (1839 – 1920), part 3 by Penny Paton.

Cover image: Galahs at Gluepot Reserve, photographed by John Gitsham who also designed the cover of this issue.

Graphic design: Ingrid Grigg

We welcome 53 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on page 20.

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.

Calendar 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'.

Saturday 4 December	FB	Excursion to Ponds at Beyond, <i>Christmas Breakup</i>
Saturday 11 December	Birds SA	Excursion to Myponga Reservoir
Sunday 12 December	PA	Excursion to Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden
Thursday 16 December	Birds SA	Excursion to Barossa Goldfields
Saturday 8 January	Birds SA	Excursion to Thompson Beach
Sunday 16 January	PA	Excursion to Baroota Reservoir
Thursday 20 January	Birds SA	Excursion to Riverglades Wetlands, Murray Bridge
Tuesday 25 January	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 30 January	Birds SA	Excursion to Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park
Wednesday 2 February	FB	"Cruise the Coorong"
Saturday 5 February	FB	Excursion to Myponga Reservoir
Saturday 12 February	Birds SA	Excursion to Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina
Sunday 13 February	PA	Excursion to The Bluff & Block 9 Road, Wirrabara
Thursday 17 February	Birds SA	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker
Tuesday 22 February	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 27 February	Birds SA	Excursion to Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park
Saturday 5 March	FB	Excursion to Lawari C.P. Hindmarsh Island
Saturday 12 March	Birds SA	Excursion to Paiwalla Wetlands
Thursday 17 March	Birds SA	Excursion to Apex Park Wetland Reserve, West Beach
Sunday 20 March	PA	Excursion to Chinaman's Creek, Mt. Grainger
Tuesday 22 March	Birds SA	General Meeting
Sunday 27 March	Birds SA	Excursion to Onkaparinga Wetlands
Saturday 2 April	FB	Excursion to Mt. Billy and Hindmarsh Falls
Saturday 9 April	Birds SA	Excursion to Brown's Rd, Monarto
Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 April, PA Campout at Refuge Rocks		

President's Message

Dear Members

I'd like to open with a very warm welcome to all our new members who have joined in 2021.

That's because there are so many of you — more than 150 in fact! That is an incredible nearly 20% surge in our membership and takes us over 1000 members!

It's fantastic that so many more people are joining us in our love of birds and our quest to preserve them and their habitats.

We are now one of the largest conservation bodies in South Australia, and our larger voice matters as we need to influence the State Government and Local Councils.

An example of this is how we are working closely with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to expand the Brown's Road woodlands near Monarto with the acquisition of 180ha of farmland currently owned by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) — also a Government body).

Those of you who have been to Brown's Road will know what a fantastic birding spot it is.

The plan is for DEW to arrange the purchase and for Birds SA to work with other conservation bodies to contribute to the revegetation. If this goes ahead it will link with David Paton's Frahns Farm BioR initiative and create a very significant habitat reserve for woodland birds. We'll keep our fingers crossed!

I hope you all enjoy the Summer and get out to see all those wonderful birds in South Australia. Remember that our website has many suggestions for places to see birds right across the State, complete with lists of birds you might see there.

All the best
Steven

Steven Langley, President Birds SA
M: 0490 802 176

19th century wood engravings of British birds **FOR AUCTION**

Following my birding companion Stephen Walker's death on 26 September after a short battle with cancer, his family asked me to accept several bird paintings, including ten hand coloured woodcut engravings. Earlier this year Stephen assisted my recording of rosella plumages on the Fleurieu Peninsula and in March 2005 we had together observed a probable Western Quailthrush near Emu Junction at the eastern edge of the Great Victoria Desert (S A Orn 34, 275-279).

The ten woodcut prints are the work of master engraver Benjamin Fawcett and are from 'A History of British Birds' (1850-57) by the naturalist and pioneer in bird protection Francis Orpen Morris.

Birds depicted are [Carrion] Crow, Hooded Crow, Rook, Red-backed Shrike, Chough, Wheatear, Roller, Bee-eater,

Hoopoe and Whimbrel. They are in matching frames in good condition.

Morris's monograph was highly valued and further editions were published around 1860 and in 1891. I cannot say from which edition these have come but prints from all appear to carry equal value when available for sale. Copies of all but the shrike and bee-eater can be viewed by googling Francis Orpen Morris and checking 'Antique Prints...' which will take you to Darvill's Rare Prints and see that most are valued unframed at between \$US35.00 and \$US45.00.

The ten will be offered to members by silent auction, either individually or as a set, and the sum raised will be donated to the Birds SA Conservation Fund.

Andrew Black



Chough



Hoopoe



Wheatear



Crow

Conservation sub-Committee

Off-road Vehicles

The documentary video *On The Right Track*, produced by Birds SA Committee member Davide Gaglio, highlights the major problems for birdlife of off-road vehicle use in coastal areas. The documentary was premiered at the Birds SA General Meeting on 31 August 2021 and by late October had been viewed approximately 1,400 times on YouTube.

Davide Gaglio presented the documentary to a meeting of the SA Greens on 6 October 2021.

In discussions with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) we have learnt that the Department intends to conduct a workshop to explore how some of the recommendations from the 2019 Parliamentary Inquiry into the Use of off-road Vehicles might be implemented.

The workshop will involve councils, relevant State Government departments, conservation groups and other stakeholders. The aim is to conduct the workshop before the end of this year.

One major item for discussion will be a possible permit system, which will require decisions to be made on where Off-road Vehicles will be allowed and where they will be restricted on a permanent or seasonal basis.

It is gratifying to finally see some activity from the State Government to address the multiple issues with off-road vehicles that were identified in the 2019 Inquiry.

Rocket Launching Operation at Whalers Way, Eyre Peninsula

Birds SA has provided a formal response to the Environmental Impact Statement for this project. Our response is on the Birds SA website in the **Policies and Statements** area.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) response was similar to an earlier Birds SA submission made to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, prompted by an Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act* Referral for this project.

* The EPBC Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places—defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance.

It was reported that the initial “trial” launch at the Whalers Way site on 16 September 2021 was unsuccessful, with the launch vehicle catching fire.

The fact that launch operations were permitted to commence on the site prior to a response to the EPBC Referral from Canberra and prior to the close of public EIS feedback at the State level indicates a serious flaw in the approval process for projects such as this.



Vehicle impact at Long Beach, Coffin Bay (Photo supplied by Doug Clarke)

Conservation Sub-committee *(continued)*

Changes to the Act Covering Pastoral Lands in SA

As previously reported in *The Birder*, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA late last year requested comments on the draft of a new Bill entitled *Pastoral Lands Bill 2020*. The new legislation is proposed to cover the management of approximately 39 million hectares of SA pastoral land and would supersede the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*.

The draft Bill caused alarm amongst many organisations and individuals. Major issues of concern include:

- The focus on the primacy of pastoral grazing and the near total removal of conservation and environment protection requirements.
- The removal of stock maxima from leasing conditions.
- The potential that properties operated largely for conservation purposes could be in breach of the Act. This would cover properties such as Witchelina and Hiltaba (Nature Foundation), Bon Bon and Boolcoomatta (Bush Heritage), and possibly Gluepot (BirdLife). This is because there could be an obligation to raise livestock on all leases.
- The extension of maximum lease terms from 42 years to 100 years – effectively granting freehold to leaseholders.
- The composition of the Pastoral Board, where the requirement to have at least one member with knowledge and experience with conservation has been removed.

The Native Vegetation Council (NVC) submitted a detailed response to the draft Bill. This is highly recommended reading and can be found on the NVC website: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-committees/native-vegetation-council>

In an interview on ABC radio on 8 December 2020, Minister Basham, the SA Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, indicated that a team was working on re-drafting the proposed new Bill to address some of the issues raised by both pastoralists and conservation organisations.

The Outback Advocates organisation is seeking to reject the new Bill in its entirety and has gathered over 12,000 signatures for a petition. Birds SA members are strongly encouraged to consider this petition, the details of which are at the following link: <http://chnng.it/ZSnnwSV7SD>

Birds SA will continue to maintain close consultation with Conservation Council SA to keep abreast of further developments. It is expected that the proposed Pastoral Act change will be a prominent and contentious issue in the lead-up to the March 2022 State election.

This is an incredibly important matter for South Australia. The potential impacts on birdlife are profound.

Duck & Quail Hunting

The Treasures not Targets anti-duck hunting coalition, has recently sought to raise public awareness of opposition to duck hunting via several highly visible campaigns. Unfortunately, one of these initiatives has been subject to censorship by the company providing the advertising space and it appears, at the time of writing, that this avenue for public education cannot be pursued. The following message is one of those that were rejected.



RSPCA SA has been running an anti-duck hunting advertisement on Channel 7 throughout November 2021.

Conservation Sub-committee *(continued)*

SA based duck shooters represent less than 0.05% of the SA population, that is, less than one-twentieth of one percent. Surveys have consistently shown that a large majority of South Australians are opposed to duck hunting (once they are aware that it takes place).

I am often asked why is Birds SA so concerned about such a small group of people. There are compelling reasons:

- Although few in number, the impact of shooters on bird populations can be significant. Some of the best habitats in the State for waterbirds are declared Game Reserves.
- Shooters kill non-target species in error and disrupt the non-target birds using these wetlands.
- The duck hunting season can run for three months or more and the quail hunting season (if declared) is much longer.
- If a full season is declared the bag limits have, in some years, been 12 birds/hunter/day for ducks and 25 birds/hunter/day for quail.

- Just one of the animal welfare atrocities committed by shooters is one too many. Below are images of a magnificent, healthy, Pink-eared Duck and another, which was retrieved by volunteers after suffering horrendous damage to its bill from a shotgun blast.

Fortunately, no open seasons were declared for Stubble Quail in SA in 2020 and 2021 due to the lack of verifiable data on population size and distribution.

One has to ask the question:

Why are neither Labor nor the Liberals in South Australia prepared to end this archaic activity even though they admit privately they don't support it and the majority of South Australians don't support it?

Jeff Groves

Conservation sub-Committee



A healthy Pink-eared Duck
(Photographed by Ian Wilson)



Pink-eared Duck with shotgun blast damage to its bill *(Photograph supplied by Treasures not Targets Coalition)*

Viewing of Documentary Video

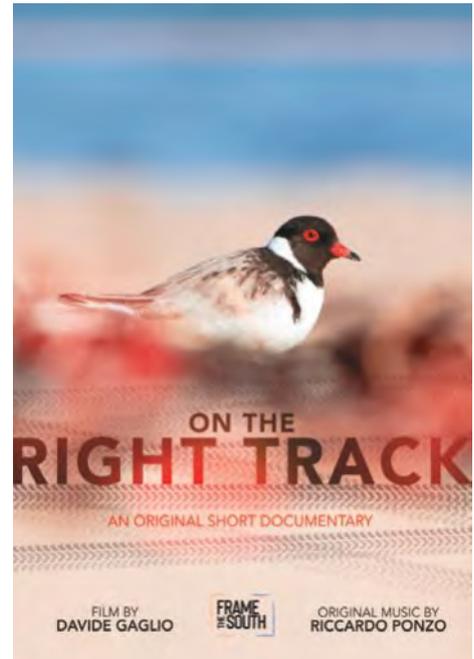
Attendees at the August General Meeting were treated to the premiere of the documentary video *On The Right Track* produced by Birds SA member Davide Gaglio.

The documentary highlights the impacts on birdlife of off-road vehicles in coastal areas. Davide took questions from the audience and it was obvious that many Birds SA members had witnessed the same issues that were demonstrated in the video. Many of those who viewed the video commented on the compelling images that Davide had captured.

The video can be viewed at: [On The Right Track - YouTube](#)



Davide Gaglio,
'On The Right Track' documentary producer



Artworks
by Jorji Gardener
Adelaide Hills Artist
Printmaker and Birdwatcher

The focus of my art practice is to highlight the connections we have with the natural world.

Working from my studio in the Hills I am surrounded by beautiful birds & nature, which inspires and informs my art work.

Original art work makes a great gift for Xmas or Birthdays and I donate 50 % of profits to Birdlife Australia, so your support helps our fabulous feathered friends!

Visit my website or call me to arrange a studio visit..

jorjigardener.wixsite.com

0431372446



Held at the Standpipe Hotel, Port Augusta West

SECRETS of Secret Rocks

The guest speaker was John Read, who with his ecologist partner, Katherine Moseby, owns Secret Rocks, a property on Eyre Peninsula, 36km east of Kimba. Located between the Middleback Ranges and Lake Gilles and covering 259kms², the property consists mainly of Mallee scrub and Chenopod (saltbush) scrubland.

John and Katherine's company, Ecological Horizons, is a part of the Middleback Alliance, which includes The Department for Environment and Water (DEW), SIMEC Mining and other local landholders. This alliance works to protect and preserve endangered species including the Malleefowl and the Sandhill Dunnart. John and Katherine bought Secret Rocks with the aim of working to recover the landscape and assist endangered species.

John listed a number of threats in the landscape, which as targets, are relatively free of controversy within the public domain.

- Fire
- Foxes
- Goats
- Rabbits

John explained how National Parks and Wildlife (NP&W) fire ecologists patch burn to break up the vegetation and reduce the threat of large scale fires. This process aims to protect endangered plants and birds within the region. The arid land of Eyre Peninsula has adapted to fire over thousands of years. John mentioned some of the bird species that were seen before the large fires of December 2019 and January 2020, including Scarlet-chested Parrots and chat species.

During these large fires, John spent 20 days fire-fighting. A fire that had lasted just 2 hours in 2011 had produced a fire scar that had helped to stop the progress of the 2019/2020 fires.



Mallee Scrub and Saltbush country

Past General Meeting: Secrets of Secret Rocks (continued)

Goats had become a problem. Areas from which livestock had been removed in an effort to assist the vegetation recovery, still saw little regeneration, especially of the understorey. Previously, when livestock grazed on the property, few goats had been seen. Ecological Horizons used a technique involving Judas goats, where an individual goat is radio collared and tracked and used to muster the wild goats. Over 11 years and using 4 or 5 Judas goats with radio collars, goat movements and habitats were better understood, leading to the removal of about 2,500 in 2013. In recent years numbers have fallen to about 200, big mobs of goats are now rare and most native plants have responded well to the reduced grazing pressure. Some plants have begun to re-shoot from the base, including Sea Box (*Alyxia buxifolia*) and a number of *Eremophila* species.

Explorer Edward John Eyre was the first European to see Secret Rocks. More recent visitors have introduced a number of weed species. Many native plants failed to regenerate after patch fire burning and the removal of goats, due to the weed problem. Direct seeding and planting of native plant species has occurred.

In the early days, visitors from Whyalla would stay over weekends to shoot rabbits with 50 to 60 pairs being shot in a weekend. Since the introduction of the Calicivirus in 1996, rabbit numbers have fallen dramatically.

The Bounceback program, instigated by South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (NP&WS SA) in response to limited regeneration following removal of grazing livestock from National Parks in the Flinders Ranges, involved aerial baiting of foxes over a 664 square kilometre area. This dramatically reduced the fox numbers. This resulted in an increase in Yellow-footed Rock Wallabies and also allowed Malleefowl chicks to emerge without predation. Prior to the December 2019 fires, heatwaves around 47 degrees were experienced. During this period a Malleefowl with a radio transmitter, which had survived for more than 2 years, died over 2 extremely hot days.

Malleefowl mounds were surveyed to provide an indicator of bird survival rates. In 2012 Malleefowl would be seen on most days, but now they are rarely seen and



Past General Meeting: Secrets of Secret Rocks *(continued)*

there are fewer active mounds. Around 20 active mounds were recorded in 2012 and just a handful remained active by 2020. This was seen across Eyre Peninsula, around Cowell and other places. In 2012/2013, 3 or 4 Malleefowl were run over each year. Now it is rare to see a Malleefowl run over on the local roads.

John and Katherine had worked hard to increase Malleefowl numbers for many years, but despite their efforts, numbers continued to fall dramatically. John's research had further shown that 5 out of 9 Malleefowls were being killed each year by cats and foxes. These predators were identified by taking DNA swabs of the remains of killed birds.

John spoke about a wattle that is rare to the Kimba and Cowell area, called Chalky Wattle (*Acacia cretacea*), which was restricted to an area of about 2 football fields. They grow 3-4 metres tall and have very fragrant lemon yellow flowers. Some of the area containing wattles was fenced and the fire burnt some within the fenced area and some outside the fenced area. After some months, it was obvious that some of the plants outside the fenced area did not survive, but inside the fenced area, where the ground was protected from grazing animals, the species bounced back.



Malleefowl pair tending their mound



Herbivore exclusion fencing, Secret Rocks

Past General Meeting: Secrets of Secret Rocks (continued)



Emerging Malleefowl chick

Not only did *Acacia cretacea* survive, but other plants regenerated inside the fenced area, after the fire, Understorey plants, including native grasses, also self-regenerated. It was noticed that *Triodia scariosa* (Porcupine Grass) had re-established itself inside the fence, whereas none had regenerated outside the fence. Although this prickly grass is not palatable to Red Kangaroos, it is readily eaten by Euros (*Osphranter robustus*), removing much of it from the landscape. Across the Flinders Ranges, the Euro has dramatically impacted the understorey plants, including *Triodia*, other native grasses and plants such as Grevilleas.

Herbivore grazing was identified as a threat to habitat restoration and initially a 5m x 5m enclosure fence was built. This enclosure saw the re-emergence of 3 local acacia species.

Scats (animal 'poo') were collected and examined, and it was found that per square metre, there were 2 goat scats, 2 rabbit scats and 10 kangaroo scats. Many of the kangaroo scats were fresh, in comparison to the goat and rabbit scats examined, which were much older.

Kangaroos (and Euros) were the main herbivores but were difficult to control. Euros eat the tougher Porcupine Grass and Kangaroos eat the softer grasses, but together they have had a huge impact on the vegetation of the region.

Foxes were controlled to a degree, but in tandem, cats and kangaroos were providing a serious threat to the ongoing work of John and Katherine at Secret Rocks and something more had to be done.

In 2017–2019 with the help of DEW, Green Corps and Landcare programs (federally funded) and the Community Fund for the proposed National Radioactive Waste Repository, John and Katherine (Ecological Horizons) established a 900ha enclosure which required 12km of feral fencing. It was located on the main road between Whyalla and Kimba.

Now the Federal Government is financing an area 4 times that size, including an extension to the fencing requiring bulldozing and grading along the 18km fence line. Called Mallee Refuge, the site will be home to re-introduced native plants and animals, including the local Corona Daisy from Corona Hill. This is a short-lived daisy species, which germinates in winter and shrivels in the summer heat. Goats, sheep and kangaroos had previously almost eaten it out. The focus of Mallee Refuge is to eliminate herbivores and protect the 6 endangered plant species of the Eyre Peninsula.

In addition to the feral-proof fence, with its floppy top, John's invention, Felixer, would be used to target feral cats within the enclosure. This invention distinguishes cats from other animals and sprays them with a poison gel, which the cats then lick off and ingest. This method is target specific and can remove cats that often won't take baits. The Felixer operates at 4 metres, is silent and deadly and photos are taken every time the unit fires poison. These units are extremely efficient and the cats are dead in 9 hours. Felixers have been used successfully to eradicate cats on Christmas Island.

Mallee Refuge has seen the re-introduction of native species such as the Western Barred Bandicoot, of which 15 were reintroduced in 2020 and last week 2 pouched young were found in one female. Other species to be reintroduced next year include Red-tailed Phascogales and the Western Quoll which were reintroduced in the Flinders Ranges 6 years ago. These animals eat rabbits.



Setting up the Felixer

Past General Meeting: Secrets of Secret Rocks *(continued)*

Ecological Horizons and the Mallee Refuge site is successfully bringing back endangered species to the Eyre Peninsula. John invited anyone to come to the Mallee Refuge site on Secret Rocks, where walks are free.

John added that controlled burns by DEW often failed to work and that we need to try new procedures, otherwise disastrous hot fires will continue. In order to succeed, we needed to take risks.

He also believes that as a society, Australia needs to harvest kangaroos as a resource. The impact of kangaroos, bettongs, wallabies and Euros in all National Parks across Australia was significant and, although numbers are increasing, there are few effective management programs.

The experience at Roxby Downs/Arid Recovery, an earlier site where John and Katherine had worked, was an example where Burrowing Bettongs were introduced into a large feral proof enclosure in 1998 and numbers increased to around 6,000. The problem now is that kangaroos and other macropods are destroying the lower level vegetation. Plant species such as Ruby Saltbush are being eaten out and this is affecting numbers of Stick-nest Rats, which eat this succulent saltbush. An overabundance of macropods with no predators is the problem. Kangaroos are not seen as a pest, like other feral animals, but John believes that we should manage this resource before high numbers result in animals suffering from starvation.

Recently 4 million kangaroos died as a result of a lack of food but much of the vegetation had been removed from the landscape before the animals perished. John believes that this resource needs to be managed in National Parks and individuals should be encouraged to eat kangaroo meat.

The requirement for cats to be registered has not yet been worked out satisfactorily but Australia does lead the world in this issue. John questioned why councils are enforcing cat curfews, when cats actively hunt during the day. He suggested that cat free zones would be a way of controlling the problem in sensitive areas such as sand dunes.

On the kangaroo issue, John suggested that the DEW was cagey in regard to stated kangaroo numbers. He believed that counts, accurate or not, were not important. It was more important to measure the height and density of the grasses and if there are too many kangaroos, the grass would be lower than 10–15cm and other species would suffer as a result.

John commented that the vocal minority had resulted in cats being protected and free to hunt indiscriminately.



Goat and rabbit control alone isn't enough

Euthanasia of wild cats could help control cat-borne diseases and it was estimated that the cost of cat diseases to the Australian Health Budget was around \$6.0 billion annually. It is thought that cat diseases caused birth defects and 15% – 25% of Alzheimer's disease cases, and mental health cases were also thought to be cat disease related. Even traffic accidents and suicides to a degree were thought to be cat disease related. John mentioned that bandicoots had been seen to be affected by this disease.

Cats could be microchipped when registered and detected from up to 100m away. John believed that this should be mandatory, especially when cats live in homes that are located near to National Parks.

In summary, John believes that fencing of habitat is crucial to protect the lower vegetation from kangaroos and other herbivores. Fire can severely damage habitat, so controlled burns made in an ecologically sustainable way are needed but, even if not done perfectly, some burning is better than no burning. Weeds will often prevail where macropods eat out the native plants so kangaroos need to be controlled. This makes direct seeding and planting of natives more effective and acacias will shade out many weeds and help revegetation and restoration. John also advised that when working with larger areas, patience and persistence are required. Windmill Grass is a native which can effectively out-compete weeds such as Salvation Jane.

Alan Burns

Rehabilitation

after bushfires of the Kangaroo Island Glossy Black Cockatoo population

The speaker was Karleah Berris, who leads the Kangaroo Island Glossy Black Cockatoo Recovery Program, a real conservation success story.

Prior to the summer of 2019/20, the Kangaroo Island Glossy Black Cockatoo Recovery Program had been making good progress for about 25 years. In that time, protection of nests from predators and competitors, revegetation with the glossies' sole food tree, the drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) and installation of nest boxes had resulted in the Glossy Black Cockatoo population more than doubling since 1995. By late 2019, the Recovery Program had planted >250ha of drooping sheoak woodlands, were managing 283 nest trees to keep predators and competitors out and had also been involved in projects that planted >100ha of drooping sheoak woodlands on the southern Fleurieu Peninsula to encourage glossies to expand their range to the mainland once again.



One of the Glossy Black Cockatoo nestlings that hatched after the 2019–2020 bushfires on eastern KI (Photograph supplied by Landscape South Australia Kangaroo Island)



Sheoak feeding habitat burnt during the fires (Photograph supplied by Landscape South Australia Kangaroo Island)

Past General Meeting: Rehabilitation of KI Glossy Black Cockatoo *(continued)*

Then in December 2019, bushfires started on Kangaroo Island. In early January, extreme fire danger weather caused the fires to spread rapidly and to engulf almost half the area of the island. During the 2019/20 bushfire season, 54% of the Glossy Black Cockatoos feeding habitat was burnt within a matter of weeks. This habitat will regenerate, but it will take decades to produce seed and become feeding habitat once again. So for at least the next 15-20 years, the Glossy Black Cockatoo population is reliant on the remaining 2300ha of unburnt sheoak left. A population census 9 months after the fires was encouraging, with 454 Glossy Black Cockatoos recorded, indicating that very few had died as a direct result of the fires. However the full effects of the habitat loss had not yet been realised. A follow-up census 21 months after the fire recorded 377 Glossy Black Cockatoos, and evidence that in some areas the cockatoos were stripping the sheoak trees of all seed, and that food resources may be limiting. It is not yet known if the population will decrease further over time, or whether it has already stabilised in response to the lower food availability. But a census in October 2022 is already planned, and should shed more light on the long-term impact of the reduced amount of feeding habitat.

For now, staff at the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board are focusing on what they can do. We are planting around 7000 sheoaks each year post-fire, as sheoaks planted at a good spacing on cleared land can produce seed in as little as 5 years, much sooner than the thick post-fire seedling regeneration that is coming up.



A pair of Glossy Black Cockatoos persisting in the heavily burnt areas of western KI

(Photograph supplied by Landscape South Australia Kangaroo Island)



A new nest box, with staff installing a predator exclusion collar to protect the nest box once installed

(Photograph supplied by Landscape South Australia Kangaroo Island)

We are also continuing to protect all known nest hollows and nest boxes from predation and competition, so pairs that do choose to breed have the best chance of successfully raising a young. We are also installing nest boxes in locations where large numbers of natural hollows and nest boxes were lost in the fires. We are recording Glossy Black Cockatoos in areas of Kangaroo Island that we have not seen them in before. They are seeking out new foraging areas, much to the delight of landholders who have planted sheoaks over the past 20 years and are now being rewarded with glossies on their properties. Long-term, it will be important to protect the remaining sheoak woodland from fires, and to plant more sheoaks to ensure the Glossy Black Cockatoos have alternative food sources if another fire occurs. In order to undertake this work, we have been fortunate to receive funding from World Wide Fund For Nature Australia, Nature Foundation, and the Australian Government Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Fund. If you would like to help the Recovery Program, you can donate to our Rescue Fund with Nature Foundation here (<https://www.naturefoundation.org.au/how-to-help/donate/glossy-black-cockatoo-recovery-program>) or sign up to our newsletter to receive information on volunteering opportunities here (<https://confirmsubscription.com/h/r/43EA171BC59F80A92540EF23F30FEDED>). For more information, go to our website: <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/plants-and-animals/native-animals/glossy-black-cockatoo-recovery>

Karleah Berris



A BIRDERS' PARADISE ON KANGAROO IS.

'Possum Ridge'

Nestled in secluded casuarina bushland with stunning views over serene Pelican Lagoon and only 5 km from wild and wonderful Pennington Bay

\$180 p/n + cleaning (min. 2 nights)

2 double bedrooms and 1 bunk room (sleeps 8)

Contact Daniel on 0402 219 131





2021 has been an eventful year for FAIBS with members and supporters participating in over 18 shoreline and local community events. Winter and cusp weeks have seen the volunteers out in the Sanctuary involved in habitat restoration including rubbish removal, repairs and revegetation plantings. In the other months, the focus on shorebird ID and education has continued in locations stretching along the eastern Gulf St Vincent coastline, with particular interest in the amazing departing and returning migratory birds. FAIBS partnered with BirdLife to continue with the 'Birds 'n Biccies' summer viewing program, although with Covid requirements at the time, participants had to supply their own morning tea rather than the previous sumptuous spreads at a local community shed!

This year, more FAIBS volunteers have also become involved in bird counts along the AIBS shores, with regulars including Magazine Road, Thompson Beach and Port Prime in their visits. This spin off from interest aroused by Kate Buckley and during the monthly birding



Bar-tailed Godwits (Photographed by Mary-Ann van Trigt)

activities organised by FAIBS, reinforces the broader outcomes the group is always working towards, and is such a valued contribution to shorebird monitoring in the area.

Earlier this year a special World Migratory Birds Day (WMBD) project was the making of a short film in AIBS funded by the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership. This involved FAIBS teaming with professional film makers and musicians, Simone Slattery and Anthony Albrecht of the Bowerbird Collective, and Karna Elders Jeffrey Newchurch and Lynette Crocker, to highlight Indigenous knowledge embedded in the Sanctuary. The film, 'Winaityinaityi Pankara - The Country of the Birds' has been viewed widely nationally and internationally through social media, and was featured at FAIBS' October WMBD celebration at St Kilda. It can still be accessed through YouTube. Jeffrey and Lynette both spoke at the October viewing event, reminding us again of how special and precious the AIBS area and its birds are to all of us. Both speakers were sincerely thanked for all they put into the film and their continuing efforts to spread knowledge and understanding about the significance of AIBS.



FAIBS birders at Pt Gawler
(Photographed by Mary-Ann van Trigt)

Friends of Adelaide International Birds Sanctuary *(continued)*



Propagation workshop at Two Wells

(Photographed by Anna Woods)

A number of our volunteers have also been enthusiastically involved in propagation workshops conducted at the Two Wells Nursery. These have been facilitated by Darren Kennedy, Northern Coastal Conservation Officer, in partnership with Green Adelaide and the Adelaide Plains Council. The native local species will be planted in the AIBS hinterland during future working bees.

FAIBS final shorebird viewing event for 2021 was held on Sunday November 21st, 8-11am, at Thompson Beach. Many interested people attended and enjoyed

viewing both resident and migratory birds using the FAIBS 'scopes. We're always chuffed by the 'Wow!' moments when someone gets a first-time close up sighting of one of the special birds present in the area — usually a precursor to the well-known cliché 'I'll be back!' for more!

Beyond these events, FAIBS continues to contribute to the AIBS Partnership Group and other local organisations, as well as having input to particular concerns including the St Kilda Mangroves, and minimising shoreline disturbances. These activities are so critical to the longer-term survival of our shorebirds. The FAIBS Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the St Kilda Community Hall on Saturday Dec 4th with Aleisa Lamanna as feature speaker on 'Trends from Shorebird Monitoring'. Details of the event can be accessed on the FAIBS Facebook page while RSVPs are necessary through Eventbrite.

Finally, we wish to sincerely thank all those who have contributed to these many hours of bird viewing, education and habitat care. DEW/AIBS Rangers Warrick Barnes, Andrew Cowley and Phillip Dudley have been instrumental guides and contributors, while we continue to be very grateful for the support Birds SA gives to FAIBS.

We wish you all well in your lives and birding in the coming year.

Anna Woods



Locals at St Kilda foreshore *(Photographed by Mary-Ann van Trigt)*

New Members

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

Tayla Wilson.....	<i>Pooraka</i>
Andrew Sinel	<i>McLaren Flat</i>
Justin Brown	<i>Cockatoo Valley</i>
Jean Hancox.....	<i>Bellevue Heights</i>
Beverley & Glenn Langley	<i>Cherry Gardens</i>
Maurie Breust	<i>Chiton</i>
Julie Christie & Craig Moritz.....	<i>McLaren Vale</i>
John Munn	<i>Adelaide</i>
Robyn Gibbes & Paul Jennings	<i>Lyndoch</i>
Jan & Peter McKay	<i>Craigmore</i>
Dean & Penny Hooper	<i>Quorn</i>
Kathy Underwood	<i>Semaphore</i>
Margaret & Tim Woonton	<i>Black Forest</i>
Richard Croll	<i>Whyalla</i>
Marie-Christine Lamy	<i>Ridgehaven</i>
Isabel & Samuel Pollock	<i>Ridgehaven</i>
John Cobb.....	<i>Marino</i>
Jonathon Hewitt.....	<i>St Peters</i>
Laura & Simon Tidesley	<i>Semaphore</i>
Ellen Shute	<i>Reynella</i>
Claire Petrie	<i>North Adelaide</i>
Nathen, Ethan & Albert Church	<i>North Adelaide</i>
Bruce Baker	<i>Rostrevor</i>
Kate Barrett.....	<i>Prospect</i>
Michael & Penelope Damp	<i>Pt Lincoln</i>
Susan Allport.....	<i>Reynella</i>
Andrew Mitchell.....	<i>Nth Adelaide</i>
Fiona & Brooke McLeay	<i>Penneshaw, KI</i>
Gerda Boyce	<i>McLaren Vale</i>
George & Angela Stolz.....	<i>Ashton</i>
Scott Smith	<i>Hewett</i>
Wendy & Robert Morris	<i>Seaford Meadows</i>
Kathy Harbison	<i>Gilberton</i>
Rebekah Stopp.....	<i>Seaton</i>
Kames Douglas	<i>Mooney Ponds, VIC</i>
Katrine & Ian Milne	<i>Albert Park</i>
Neil Semple	<i>Mornington, VIC</i>
John Seymour.....	<i>Banksia Park</i>

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

Future General Meetings

The Thebarton Community Centre is unavailable for the dates of our early 2022 General Meetings.

We are currently looking for another venue.

Details of future General Meetings will be circulated in the e-Newsletter.

CORRIGENDA

The Adelaide Rosella

Regrettably our report in the spring Birder of Andrew Black's presentation was from a preliminary draft rather than an agreed revised version. We wish to clarify some sections that might have confused an already complicated subject.

The Crimson Rosella complex refers to all entities within the species. It includes the Adelaide and Yellow Rosellas but is not limited to those occurring in South Australia, as suggested in the first heading. The Adelaide Rosella is not a subspecies and has no scientific name at present, nor has its main population.

Gregory Mathews' reclassification of the Crimson Rosella included his naming Adelaide and Yellow Rosellas as subspecies. He later named Flinders Ranges rosellas, until then regarded as Yellow Rosellas, as another subspecies, and finally, he included Ashby's Fleurieu Peninsula subspecies. The Adelaide Rosella thus comprised three, *adelaideae*, *subadelaideae* and *fleurieuensis*.

We misspelled taxonomic and wrongly titled the cited genetic studies as 'classification'. We also referred to groups with common ancestors in an attempt to avoid referring to mitochondrial DNA clades. The following was intended for publication.

- The Adelaide Rosella is grouped genetically among all members of the Crimson Rosella complex south of the Hunter River in New South Wales
- Crimson Rosella populations to the north are in two separate genetic groups
- Within its group, it is generally distinct from the Yellow Rosella
- Its nuclear DNA is clustered with KI Crimson Rosellas but not with Yellow Rosellas or other Crimson Rosellas

'Andrew's recommendation' is an alternative idea to be tested by further analysis.

From the Defence Shed Port Adelaide website:

Defence Shed Port Adelaide has been asked to assist Birds SA in building a number of nesting boxes to place in the community for our native birds to make home.

Project Complete, 30 October 2021

It was a splendid day at the Defence Shed with a special visit by members from Birds SA, Anita Smyth, Steven Langley and Richard Woodland for the completion and handover of the nesting boxes.

Birds SA members were all very impressed with our nesting box production and all of them will be placed in their specific bird species' environment. It was a pleasure to meet the members and we're proud to be involved with Birds SA and the collaboration of this project.

After the formalities the traditional Defence Shed BBQ was enjoyed with big thanks to Michael for cooking the BBQ ... good job mate, cooked to perfection!



On the job, building a nesting box



Anita Smyth, Steven Langley and Richard Woodland meeting with Defence Shed members at the handover of the completed nesting boxes.

Contributions from our Members

Innes National Park

Lawrie and I went to Southern Yorke Peninsula for a weekend and enjoyed a trip around the Innes National Park. I had printed off a checklist from the Birds SA website so I would have a ready reference.

It was really disappointing to see that many birds, including plentiful and common species, were not mentioned on the checklist. Around the Stenhouse Bay area we saw Singing Honeyeaters, New Holland Honeyeaters and Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters. We also saw an Eastern Reef Egret (grey morph) along this part of the coast.

Around the West Cape lighthouse area we saw what looked most like a Chestnut-rumped Heathwren. Its habitat seems to match this area. We saw a Grey Currawong with both white windows in the wings and a white tail bar. This was along the Stenhouse Bay walk.

We saw Australian Magpies and Willie Wagtails throughout the park.

We enjoyed a cruise on a charter boat, and the owner said he was expecting some birders this week to check on the Osprey and Sea Eagle nests on the cliffs near

Pondalowie Bay. I don't know if they were from Birds SA or another organisation.

The little brown sea birds following the boat from Wedge Island back to Pondalowie Bay appeared to be Short-tailed Shearwaters. They were roughly the size of seagulls but with a wider wingspan. The only seabird on the list is a Brown Skua but all the Skuas appeared to show some white. The birds we saw had none. I note that a sighting of a Brown Skua is recorded in the Spring Birder magazine. Although this description is on the Birds SA bird list I cannot find a "Brown" Skua in any of my bird books.

We did see a Sea Eagle while we were at historic Inneston. Unfortunately, we followed a noisy group around the old town, so we didn't see many other birds there.

Plentiful camping spaces are available and a number of cottages are available for rent. I really appreciate all the work that goes into bird records and the availability of locality guides.

The checklist on the Birds SA was apparently revised in December 2017.

I feel that a thorough review of the list should be undertaken and it would even make a good spot for a future campout.

Jill Mortimer



Rufous Fieldwren

(Photograph provided by Jill and Lawrie Mortimer, October 2021)



Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

(Photograph provided by Jill and Lawrie Mortimer, October 2021)

Contributions from our members *(continued)*

Duck in Distress

The Pink-eared Duck was caught on a barbed wire fence that crossed a shallow lake on the Kalamurina boundary.

The bloke I was with waded out to it and rescued the bird. It had the feathers and some skin damage, but the wing was not broken. We released the duck and it swam out to the rest of the flock. It could flap its wings but was too sore to fly. Hopefully it survived.

Bernie Haase



The trapped, injured Pink-eared duck

(Photos supplied by Bernie Haase, September 2021)

Book Review

The most perfect thing: Inside (and outside) a Bird's egg

Author: Tim Birkhead

Reviewed by Richard Woodland

"I think that, if on pain of death to name instantly the most perfect thing in the universe, I should risk my fate on a bird's egg."

Thomas Wentworth Higginson

I recently listened to the audiobook "The Falcon Thief" concerning the trade in rare raptors and their eggs. This included passages about various egg collectors and the lengths they go to establish their collections. This quote is included as an explanation of sorts as to why these men become so obsessed with amassing something which they cannot display or share.

When I saw the title in the SA Public Library I thought I would give it a try, and I am very glad that I did. Tim starts the book describing the egg-collecting activities in Victorian Yorkshire, specifically the collection of Guillemot eggs (a northern hemisphere seabird). The eggs of the Guillemot vary in shape, colour and markings within the same nesting colony, and birds which laid unusual eggs were specifically targeted. The collectors knew when to collect an egg so that the bird would lay again, which would also be taken and so on and so on. One pair with a unique egg colouration are believed to have never hatched an egg in 24 years due to the egg collectors. This book is not just about the Guillemot or even British birds, it moves between the Americas, Eurasia, Africa and Australasia.

Tim takes us on a fascinating journey through the formation and laying of the egg. Along the way he deals with subjects such as why some eggs are white and some coloured, why are they so many different shapes and sizes, what determines clutch size, and the all important question - which end of the egg comes out first!

The author moves between science, history, trivia and myth with ease, never once losing the reader's attention. The science is explained clearly but without losing the magic of the process.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and will soon start "Bird Sense" by the same author.

Contributions from our members *(continued)*

Magpielarks at Hindmarsh

A pair of Magpielarks recently nested on Port Road above the footpath across the road from the Brewery and Channel 7. There were two young in the nest, and they both looked like females.

The parents were very protective, calling out loudly when anyone walked past.

They weathered one of the severe storms that have recently occurred, with the female camping on top of them. When I took this photograph, they were almost ready to fledge.

Alan Burns



Magpielarks nesting (Photographed by Alan Burns at Port Rd, Hindmarsh)

advertiser.com.au Sunday, October 24, 2021 | NEWS 25

Our own birdman twitches a record big year



Mike's top SA birds to spot

- CAPE PETREL**
The prettiest deep-sea bird
- WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE**
The iconic eagle in Australia
- SPLENDID FAIRY-WREN**
Stunning small blue bird
- FLAME ROBIN**
Migrates to SA from the western states over winter. Gorgeous colours
- SPINIFEX PIGEON**
Found in the APY Lands
- RED-LORED WHISTLER**
My 375th bird for the year - a very rare bird found in the Mallee
- REGENT PARROT**
One of my favourite parrots
- RUFIOUS GRASSWREN**
(also called Sandhill Grasswren)
A desert species, hides in the spinifex located on red sand dunes
- MAJOR MITCH-HELL COCKATOO**
My favourite parrot

Bird enthusiast Mike Potter at Laratinga Wetlands in Mount Barker. Picture: Brenton Edwards

Pictures: Mike Potter

Extract from the Sunday Mail, Sunday October 24, written by Clare Peddie

TYNDALE Christian School principal Mike Potter is having what birdwatchers call “a big year”.

Popularised by the 2011 comedy movie of that name – starring Jack Black, Owen Wilson and Steve Martin – it’s a term used to describe birdwatcher’s attempts to break records for the most species spotted in a calendar year.

Last weekend, perfectly timed at the start of National Bird Week,

Mr Potter beat the South Australian record by chalking up his 375th find – a red-lored whistler, in the Murray Mallee.

He said it had been a “great adventure” that had taken him all over the state, traversing more than 40,000km in his spare time, on weekends and school holidays.

Submitted by David Robertson

Historical Series No 77.

Mathew Symonds Clark (1839 - 1920)

Part 3 by Penny Paton

Other bird species mentioned in the diaries

It is regrettable that Symonds Clark did not publish even a list of all the birds he recorded from Hazelwood, which would have complemented Crompton's (1915) paper on the species he and his brothers had seen at nearby Stonyfell over the period from about 1880 to 1915. I have produced a table of the species Clark reported from Hazelwood or nearby suburbs from his diaries, taken from Sutton's transcription of five diaries and from my notes from the other four diaries in the SLSA (Table 1). This table is not a comprehensive list and seems to be missing bird species that I would have expected to be present in the Burnside area at the time Clark lived there. However, although Clark did own a pair of binoculars, he was often without them when he was observing birds and he does not seem to have been a topnotch bird observer of the calibre of his good friend, Robert Crompton, or the likes of Captain S.A. White. In particular he seems to have missed some small bird species like White-fronted Chat and Fairy Martin, described as "very common" and "fairly common" respectively at Stonyfell by Crompton (1915). The parrot tribe is excluded from the notes as they have been covered in the in Part 2.

Many bird species absent from Table 1 were recorded by Crompton (1915). It is impossible to tell whether Clark missed these species or whether they did not occur at Hazelwood. Species that Crompton recorded as common or fairly common and which Clark could have observed were Stubble Quail, Brown Quail, Painted Quail, Peaceful Dove, Masked Lapwing, Australasian Bittern, Cape Barren Goose, Pacific Black Duck, Great Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant, Spotted Harrier, Black Kite, Australian Hobby, Brown Falcon, Tawny Frogmouth, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Fairy Martin, Jacky Winter, Hooded Robin, Rufous Whistler, White-browed Babbler, Brown Songlark, White-fronted Chat, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Crescent

Honeyeater, Common Starling, Common Blackbird, European Goldfinch and European Greenfinch.

Some species were seen rarely or only once by Crompton (1915), like the Silver Gull, Red-backed Kingfisher and Australian Reed Warbler and yet others were rarely recorded, like the Diamond Firetail. So it is not surprising that Clark did not record these rare species. However for the Australian Golden Whistler, a brightly-coloured bird with a very distinctive and loud call, which admittedly Crompton (1915) described as "Not at all common", Clark said, when he saw it on Kangaroo Island in 1887, that it was the first time he had encountered this species. And this was despite numerous trips into the MLR in the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s.

Symonds Clark described trips to various parts of Australia and especially South Australia in his diaries. For example he visited Macclesfield in



Tawny Frogmouth
photographed by Lynton Huxley
in Shepherds' Hill RP on 19/08/2021



White-fronted Chat

(Image by Ann Houghton and used courtesy of the photographer and the Birds SA website photographic gallery)

March 1860 and on other occasions, the Reedbeds property of William White in January 1869, the Onkaparinga River on several occasions; Port Elliot, Port Victor [Victor Harbor] and Goolwa in the early 1870s, the Murray River via Eudunda in 1892, Port Lincoln and surrounds in 1895, Mt Torrens and Balhannah in 1897 and the National Park at Belair in 1910. He also spent several days on at least two occasions (1867 and 1869) staying at Dr Kelly's at McLaren Vale. Dr Kelly was a winemaker as well as a medical doctor and in the 1860s William Lennox Cleland spent a number of years learning the art of wine-making from him at his winery 'Tintara'. Cleland and Clark spent time together observing and collecting birds near McLaren Vale in February 1867.

Of particular interest to ornithologists is Clark's record of a Spotted Quailthrush shot by JC (presumably John Crompton) near Kangarilla on 25th June 1867; this species is now believed to be extinct in the Mount Lofty Ranges, as there have been no sightings for about 35 years.

From 1877 there are many diary entries related to staying at Port Willunga, where Joseph Crompton and Symonds both owned land from 1882. The Martin family bought an old stone, slate-roofed cottage there also in 1882 and it was used for holidays by the extended family (Dowie 1999). Symond's brother, John Howard Clark, also had a house at Port Willunga, where he may have

spent his last years and where he died of tuberculosis on 20th May 1878 (www 7).

I was perplexed on reading two accounts of waterbirds in relation to a bath that was outside the Hazelwood home until I read in Warburton (1981) that Henry Clark (Symonds' brother and farm manager until 1858) had constructed a change room and a swimming bath for his nieces and nephews. The first of these references related to 28th July 1866, when Symonds Clark saw a White-breasted Cormorant [a pied cormorant but identity unsure] flying over and "A.S.C. [Algernon Sidney Clark] told me that it went down to the bath and that he saw it sitting on the edge of the bath. I believe I had only once before seen one of these birds at Hazelwood." Another diary entry referred to a heron near the bath.



Australasian Bittern

(Image by Kevin Williams and used courtesy of the photographer and the Birds SA website photographic gallery)

The Historical Series on Mathew Symonds Clark will conclude with Part 4 in the next issue of The Birder.

Table 1. Bird species from Hazelwood and surrounding suburbs reported by Symonds Clark, 1862-1916.

Bird species	Notes
teal species	Most likely to be Grey Teal (recorded by Crompton 1915)
Black Swan	Fly over day and night quite often
Australian Owlet-nightjar	In February 1869 recorded hearing the call many times at night
Pallid Cuckoo	ca. 9/1888 – 1 shot at Kensington Park
Common Bronzewing	Occasional wild bird coming to aviary birds
Buff-banded Rail	Single birds in the garden, all 1860s records
Black-tailed Native-hen	18/11/1872 – 1 on Tusmore Road
Bush Stonecurlew	Several in 1860s; 17/2/1867 - juvenile at Chambers Ck; Sep 1895 – Robert Crompton reported tame bird sitting on eggs, Stonyfell
Banded Lapwing	26/5/1863 - heard
Little Black Cormorant	28/8/1892 – 1 shot by Robert Crompton at Stonyfell, in fish tank
Great Egret	17/3/1884 – 1 shot opposite Orphanage Paddock
White-faced Heron	Usually single birds in the 1860s through to 1890
Nankeen Night Heron	10/12/1876 – bird; 13/1/1880 – 3 birds
Australian Pelican	22/9/1864 – flock flying over Adelaide
Collared Sparrowhawk	12/1892 – 1 shot at Norwood
Brown Goshawk	At aviary occasionally and birds shot 1869 and 1894
Wedge-tailed Eagle	24/5/1864 – 1 flying over
Whistling Kite	23/5/1866 – caught by Mr Austin near Stonyfell
Eastern Barn Owl	Several records – heard and seen
Australian Boobook	Numerous records – heard and seen
Azure Kingfisher	23/5/1876 – 1 bird; 5/9/1863 – possible sighting
Laughing Kookaburra	Several records, all from 1860s
Sacred Kingfisher	6/1/1890 – 1 shot Hazelwood; 26/04/1904 – 1 caught Knightsbridge
Rainbow Bee-eater	24/10/1875 – 1 on telegraph lines, East Parklands
Nankeen Kestrel	23/9/1869 – 1 shot near Hazelwood
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
Galah	
Cockatiel	
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	
Musk Lorikeet	
Swift Parrot	
Budgerigar	
Neophema species	
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	
Little Lorikeet	
Adelaide Rosella	
Red-rumped Parrot	
Rainbow Lorikeet	
Brown Treecreeper	11/1868 – 1 caught, possibly at Hazelwood
White-throated Treecreeper	25/6/1863 – some in Chambers Ck. gully
Superb Fairywren	29/8/1863 – 1 Kensington; single birds 1867 and 1868 garden
Eastern Spinebill	1860s records from Stonyfell and Chambers Ck. gully
Red Wattlebird	A few to many, with 25 shot eating fruit on 5/1/1870
Little Wattlebird	22/6/1875 – a good many
Regent Honeyeater	16/4/1863 – 2 females shot; 19/5/1864 – 2 or 3; 13/7/1870 – 1
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	21/6/1864 – 1 shot Stonyfell; 4/2/1872 – damaging grapes this year
Orange Chat	Jan 1869 – Mr F.G. Waterhouse (of SA Institute Museum) says at Magill
Noisy Miner	20/5/1863 – several possible miners between Hazelwood and Mitcham; 18/5/1863 - 1
Black-chinned Honeyeater	In the table of Volume 1 of the diaries but no notes; his identification of melthreptids was uncertain
White-naped Honeyeater	Quite a few records; this appears to have been the most common melithreptid

Table 1 (cont.)

Bird Species	Notes
New Holland Honeyeater	Quite a few records
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Early Aug 1875 – 2 birds, probably this species
White-plumed Honeyeater	Quite a few records and young one caught May 1874
Spotted Pardalote	22/6/1864 – 1 at Stonyfell; 28/10/1860 – probably nest in gravel pit
Striated Pardalote	Quite a few records
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Many records; 23/2/1863 – many birds; 15/7/1866 – 2 nests Tusmore Road
Dusky Woodswallow	Quite a few records, more from 1860s; 21/7/1863 – 1 st for season
Masked Woodswallow	First seen near Adelaide at Enfield, October 1875; also at Hazelwood in other years
White-browed Woodswallow	First seen near Adelaide at Enfield, October 1875; also at Hazelwood in other years; 2/10/1898 - at Hazelwood, but not seen for ca. 20 years
Grey Butcherbird	18/3/1863 - several
Australian Magpie	Rarely mentioned but this may have been due to its commonness
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	Several records from 1868 (many in May), 1872 and 1890
Crested Shriketit	Heard in 1863, 1866 and a young one with an adult on 15/11/1868
Grey Fantail	First sighting in May 1863
Willie Wagtail	Nesting November 1873 at Hazelwood and September 1863 at Knightsbridge
Magpielark	Recorded in the 1860s and 1870s then 20 birds together in May 1888 and a “good many” in March 1889 suggesting increasing abundance
Little Raven	Presumably this species (called crows by Clark), a “good many” in the Parklands in November 1863, and at Hazelwood a “great many” in January 1863 and eating apricots in February 1873
Scarlet Robin	At Stonyfell a nest in sheoak August 1863 and a pair shot in May 1864
Red-capped Robin	11/10/1868 – a bird on Tusmore Road, the first for many years and one bird in same place a week later
Flame Robin	1 caught by cat in May 1874 and 1 found dead in South Kensington in April 1901
Welcome Swallow	Seen at Hazelwood in 1863 and in June 1864 – “some but not nearly so many as previously”
Tree Martin	A good many at Hazelwood in August 1863 and in June 1864 – “some but not nearly so many as previously”; a dead one in August 1869
Silvereye	1 shot at Hazelwood 30/5/1860 and a great many in the garden at Stonyfell in March 1863
Mistletoebird	1 on Greenhill Road in October 1864 and at Hazelwood, 1 in October 1866, 1 in July 1868, 1 in April 1869, 1 in May 1869 and 2 in the vines in February 1872
*House Sparrow	September 1868 – Clark believed that there were many at Mt Gambier and near Melbourne; December 1873 – 100s in Mt Gambier; September 1868 – Mr Slape had birds nesting at Magill “the first instance I have heard of these birds being acclimatised (in a wild state) in the neighbourhood of Adelaide”; 1874 – numbers at Norwood; 28/10/1875 – 2 birds near Hazelwood (previously not seen any closer than at Mrs Ferguson’s a mile away)
Red-browed Finch	1 shot in Second Creek on 14/7/1860; 1 bird in Second Gully Creek on 20/9/1863 and 2 on 14/5/1864; at Hazelwood some “close to house” on 11/7/1869 (not seen often on the Adelaide Plains) and many on 30/3/1873
Zebra Finch	1 at Stonyfell on 10/1/1869
Australian Pipit	10/11/1867 nest with 3 eggs

Terrible news for wild birds in France

By BirdLife Europe and Central Asia

President Emmanuel Macron has just re-authorised horrific bird trapping practices which only have their place in history books.

BirdLife's French Partner, LPO, reports.

Unbelievable but true:

French President Emmanuel Macron is endorsing bird poaching! The day after the World Conservation Union's World Congress in Marseille, where he declared his determination to raise the stakes of biodiversity protection to the level of the battle against climate change, and on the eve of his presidency of the European Union, the French President is preparing to authorise the trapping of more than 110,000 wild birds, even though the French Council of State and the European Court of Justice have recently declared this practice illegal.

The draft ministerial orders aim to authorise the trapping of:

- **106,500 Eurasian Skylarks** (*Alauda arvensis*) with horizontal nets and drop cages in four départements of the South-West of France (Landes, Gironde, Lot-et-Garonne and Pyrénées-Atlantiques), even though this species is in continuous decline in France and in Europe (there has been a 35% drop in its breeding numbers in the past 15 years in France);
- **1200 Northern Lapwings** (*Vanellus vanellus*) (a near-threatened species in France), 30 Eurasian Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis apricaria*), 5800 Song Thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*) and Eurasian Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) using flap nets or slipknots (also known as the "Ardennes tenderie"). From today until 6 October, LPO encourages the French people to take part in the online public consultations of the Ministry of Ecological Transition in order to oppose these draft decrees.
- **Public consultation** on the draft orders relating to the capture of 98,702 Eurasian Skylarks by means of pikes in the Landes, Gironde, Lot-et-Garonne and Pyrenees-Atlantiques
- **Public consultation** on the draft orders relating to the capture of 7798 Eurasian Skylarks with matoles in Landes and Lot-et-Garonne
- **Public consultation** on the draft order on the capture of 1200 Northern Lapwings and 30 Eurasian Golden Plovers with nets in the Ardennes
- **Public consultation** on the draft decree on the capture of 5800 Song Thrushes and Eurasian Blackbirds in the Ardennes



Eurasian Skylark (Photo by Bob Brewer)

On 6 August 2021, following appeals by LPO, the French Council of State **ruled that** so-called "traditional" practices of trapping wild birds through derogations under the EUs **Birds Directive are illegal**. This followed the **historical decision** of the French Council of State, which had confirmed on 28 June 2021, after consultation with the Court of Justice of the European Union, the illegality of hunting with lime sticks in five départements of the PACA region.

The ruling caused an outrage among several members of the French Parliament who spoke out **In support of "traditional" hunting** and publicly called on the government to issue new decrees so that hunters could continue to trap. The new decrees being prepared are illegal. BirdLife Europe supports LPO's demands for their immediate suspension before the Council of State if they are ever signed.

Allain Bougrain Dubourg, President of the LPO, said:

"I am scandalised by the cynicism and clientelism of the President of the Republic, which raise questions about his real convictions. While the global scientific community is warning us about the risk of mass extinction of wild species, our government is reducing biodiversity to an electoral bargaining chip. Hunting outside the legal framework is poaching. And what makes this all the more appalling is that this is only a leisure activity."



*Allain Bougrain Dubourg,
President of the LPO*

Article supplied by Alan Burns

Birds SA has recently reduced the number of public events that it has attended and/or hosted. The committee is now working on so many projects that resources and volunteers are tight, but there is still one event, held twice annually, which Birds SA considers its premier event. Sophie's Patch at Mt Barker is held in autumn and spring and this November it was a great weekend for birders and gardening people alike. The weather was kind — except for the thunderstorm on the Saturday morning!

The garden gets better every year and with the good rains this winter, it was green and much of it was in full bloom. It was looking simply beautiful and the many quirky garden features provide something of interest for everyone. The Birds SA display was again of a high standard and attracted many interested visitors.

The 3-day event in Sophies Patch at Mt Barker is used by Birds SA to promote bird knowledge and conservation and inform the public about the many activities and work undertaken by Birds SA.

It is usual to gain new Birds SA members following this event, which attracts around 3,000 visitors over the 3 days, with many coming from across South Australia.

I extend a big thank you to the 27 Birds SA members who volunteered to help. Three or more people were rostered for each 6 scheduled sessions. Some family members & friends also helped out in the busy times, so a big thankyou to them also.

All those who attended said how much they enjoyed being there to talk about birds to the visitors, as well as meeting other Birds SA members.

Alan Burns and his friend Martin set up the big display on Friday night.

Thank you to those people who opened up the display on Sunday and Monday mornings and packed up at the end of each day. This was not a simple task and we welcome any suggestions so that things can be improved, ready for April 2022.

The bird boxes made by the Defence Shed members at Port Adelaide created a lot of interest and talking points. Fifteen boxes were sold with interest being shown in future purchases. The photo display is always of interest and creates many questions

about identifying birds in visitors' gardens. The biggest bird issue discussed was "How do I get rid of the Noisy miners?"

There were also a number of comments about seeing the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flying across the metropolitan area.

The visitors were pleased with the free handouts of the bird photo sheets from the 'old' National Resources Management (NRM) and the children enjoyed a free bird picture.

Thanks also to Jeff Groves who attended with his wife June to display the beautiful Duck photos and talk about Birds SA's anti-duck shooting policy, which aims to stop all duck shooting in South Australia.

The visitors were very interested in the displays, photo handouts and hat badges for sale, and happy to talk to our volunteers about the birds in their gardens. Advice on which plants to grow to attract birds, water baths and which Field Guides to buy were all given and general tips on how to identify birds and keep records well received.

So special thanks to the following members who volunteered to help. Our list of volunteers has grown and will be most useful for future events. We couldn't run this sort of a display over 3 days without this wonderful help and many friendships between Birds SA members were made or strengthened over the weekend. If you are thinking about volunteering, it is not difficult and many people are willing to help you. Please send Sue Winwood an email if you would like to join in the fun and you get to look around Sophie's garden for free.

A huge thank you to Claire & Roger Bourne, Jim & Wendy Smith, Kathy Moore, Cynthia Pyle, Hazel Cowie, Merinda Hyland, Maxie Ashton, Chris & Harold Bates-Brownsword, Rose Slade, Betty Brezovski, Lee Tai, Bronwyn Mart, Pam & Lawrie Stevens, Liz Carpenter, Dorothy Farmer, Heather McQuade & Graham Walter, Jeff & June Groves. This willingness to volunteer demonstrates just what a wonderful and important association Birds SA has become.

Alan Burns & Sue Winwood
membership@birdssa.asn.au



Birds SA members with visitors at Sophie's Patch



Wendy Smith, Hazel Cowie, Kathy Moore and Jeff Groves



The Birds SA table & display



Jim Smith with a future member



Cynthia Pyle checking the display items



Maxie Ashton & Chris Bates-Brownsword with 2 interested visitors



Chris Bates-Brownsword with visitors



Bird boxes for sale from the Mens Defence Shed Pt Adelaide



Jim Smith with Hazel Cowie & Claire Bourne

Past Excursions

Birds SA

Saturday 14 August

Brookfield Conservation Park

This excursion consisted of 15 people including a visitor who owns an adjacent property to the north. The park was much drier than expected, as we had hoped the area had received some of the recent rain that fell further south. However, our local visitor said they'd still only received about 100mm over the past 12 months and nothing much over the last few weeks. As a result, things seemed very quiet at first and we began to worry that we wouldn't see many birds.

However, as we moved about we started to find birds, although none in very large numbers. Mostly they appeared in ones or twos across the landscape or in the usual 'hotspots'. Pairs of Galahs (30) flew across periodically and we were lucky enough to see Bluebonnets (6), Mulga Parrots (4) and Mallee Ringnecks (6). Crested Pigeons (10) were scattered about and one person was lucky enough to see an Australian Owllet-nightjar. A Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo and a Black-eared Cuckoo were also recorded.

A Chestnut-crowned Babbler's (18) nest was observed with some of the birds going in and out. Other birds recorded included White-browed Babblers (6), Brown Treecreepers (2), 7 species of honeyeater: Brown-headed (2), Singing (20), Spiny-cheeked (20), White-eared (7), White-fronted (1), Yellow-throated Miners (5) and a single Red Wattlebird. Some Chestnut-rumped Thornbills (30) were seen carrying nesting material and other thornbills seen included Inland (1) and Yellow-rumped (15). We also saw Weebills (30) and Southern Whitefaces (20). Fairywrens included Splendid (12), Purple-backed (2) and a single Superb. Crested Bellbirds (4) were heard several times but scarcely seen. Red-capped Robins (10) were very active and a single Hooded Robin was observed.

We were particularly interested in a Chestnut-crowned Babbler's nest with some of the birds (18) flying in and out. Babblers live in family groups of up to about 20 birds. They build several large dome-shaped stick nests (not 'cup' nests) that are used for communal roosting as well as for breeding. Hence, you often see birds going in and out, since they roost and sleep in their nests all year round. They are also communal breeders and when they have young the whole group helps to feed the young.

Chestnut quail-thrush

(Photographed by Matthew Polatayko at Brookfield Conservation Park, 14 August 2021)



Juvenile male Red-capped Robin *(Photographed by Matthew Polatayko at Brookfield Conservation Park, 14 August 2021)*



Chestnut-rumped Thornbill *(Photographed by Matthew Polatayko at Brookfield Conservation Park, 14 August 2021)*



Past Excursions *(continued)*



Splendid Fairywren (Photographed by Matthew Polatayko at Brookfield Conservation Park, 14 August 2021)

There were also Striated Pardalotes (12), Little Ravens (20), White-winged Choughs (30), Varied Sittellas (2), Grey Fantail (1), Silvereyes (3), Mistletoebird (1), Jacky Winter (1), Grey Shrikethrush (2), Australian Magpies (20), Grey Currawongs (2), Grey Butcherbird (1) and Rufous Whistlers (5).

After lunch and the birdcall at the picnic area we were pleasantly surprised to see that although we hadn't seen as many individual birds as hoped, the species count for the day was 43 (1 added later and seen while driving out).

Ali Ben Kahn

Birds SA

Thursday 19 August Shepherds Hill Recreation Park

This walk is rated as difficult and that may have influenced our small attendance of 9 members. The weather was mild with plenty of light for those with cameras. We chose to take the River Red Gum Loop, which passes through the archery field (no shooters that day) and partially up the Viaduct Track before returning along the same route to our vehicles and the birdcall. The total species seen was 27.

The trees in this Park are large and contain plenty of hollows, so it was no surprise that there was plenty of activity from competing species. A pair of Maned Duck was also seen entering and leaving a large hollow. Luckily for any future young, that hollow was not too far off the ground! Other nesting species observed included Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Red-rumped Parrot,

Australian Magpie and Australian Raven; proving how valuable this Park and its old trees, just 10km from the city centre, is to our native birds.

On our return journey one of our keen-eyed members spotted a Tawny Frogmouth on its somewhat feeble nest. While keeping our distance we had excellent views of this bird and marvelled at how well it blended into the tree branch. (See page 2 of the Historical Insert for a photograph of this bird.)

Lynton Huxley

Birds SA

Sunday 29 August Hardy's Scrub, Onkaparinga River National Park

Fourteen people met at the CFS shed Blewitt Springs and drove to the park's main entrance at gate 16 on Chapel Hill Rd. We walked along the 4-5km track through the scrub, stopping regularly to hear and see the birds. This little piece of scrub is a delight to visit. The walk is relatively easy, with only one moderate hill in the centre.

One of our members said she remembered riding a camel through the scrub before it became a Conservation Park in the 1980s. The camels were kept at a property at Kangarilla and transported to provide rides at various locations.

Farmland and vineyards now surround Hardy's Scrub, but fortunately it was saved from development. It remains a good example of native vegetation and it is now part of the Onkaparinga Park managed by the Mount Lofty Ranges Landscape Board. Some tiny orchids were flowering and the acacias added colour to the bush with the first day of spring almost here.

While it had been wet during the week, the weather stayed fine for us. The birds were hard to sight along the narrow track, as you had to watch where you walked. Being able to recognise the bird calls helped us to identify them in the thick bush and on this occasion we had ticked 5 as heard including the 2 Cuckoos, Fantailed and Horsfield's bronze.

We stopped for a while at the halfway spot near the little dam which was full after the good winter rains. We walked slowly for the rest of the morning, enjoying the scenery and listening for birds.

I was surprised that the total species came to 39 for the day, thanks to some experienced birdwatchers. A 1992 record for Hardy's Scrub was sent to me later from one of our Fleurieu birdwatchers and it shows some of the birds recorded on that day are rarely sighted now in the

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Mount Lofty Ranges. These included the Hooded and Scarlet Robins, Beautiful Firetail, Crested Shrike-tit and a few more.

This shows the importance of our new records to which we are contributing today. In 20-30 years' time we hope they will show good results of the restoration work that has been taking place throughout the Adelaide Hills and beyond with the massive plantings and re-connected environments. Only time will tell if it has been successful in bringing back the small bushbirds!

Wendy Phillips

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 4 September

Myponga Reservoir excursion cancelled

Although 13 people arrived for 8.30 start the rain persisted and it was only good for ducks! We had no choice but to abandon it and we will reschedule it for next year.

Wendy Phillips

Birds SA

Saturday 11 September

Jenkins Scrub excursion cancelled

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Saturday 11 September

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden

On a fine day with a slight breeze 39 birders came together in the Australian Arid Lands Botanical Garden (AALBG) car park. The large number of birders was because the Birds SA monthly meeting was held in Pt. Augusta with the aim of including birders from outside the Adelaide area. The event would also show the big city-based people some of the regional area birding sites and hopefully they would find a new bird for their personal bird lists. While we were in the car park some Crested Pigeons, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds, Little Corellas, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and a small flock of Budgerigars started off the bird list. We were divided into four groups, with a local Babblers group birder leading each group. We all set off in different directions into the extensive garden area. I led my group into the open bluebush plains which covers about half of the site. The wind was picking up and the area was looking dry with only dry, stunted annual plants growing. As we walked past the eremophila garden area we saw Singing Honeyeaters, Welcome Swallows, Yellow-throated Miners and a flock of fast-



White-winged Triller (Photographed by Richard Croll at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, 11 September 2021)

flying Cockatiels. A look across the bluebush plains didn't seem to promise that we would see many birds, until a Brown Falcon glided over us followed by some Galahs. We could hear some birds calling in some distant large Black Bluebushes and Acacia shrubs so headed in that direction. Here we found Chirruping Wedgebills, Zebra Finches, White-browed Babblers, White-winged Fairywrens, White-winged Trillers and Southern Whitefaces. As we circled around following the tracks towards the plains birdhide a Nankeen Kestrel hovered overhead while Australian Pipits ran along the track and White-fronted Chats fed on the ground. An attempt was made to lure any Rufous Fieldwren in the area to show itself, but with no luck. We had to allow a Brown Snake to cross the track in front of us and then get past without exciting it. At the bird hide there were only Singing Honeyeaters and White-winged Fairywrens, so we walked back to the Visitor Centre passing Sleepy Lizards, Bearded Dragons and small skinks on the way. As we had smoko, we learned that the other groups had seen a Little Eagle, Pallid Cuckoo, Rock and Spotted Doves, Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Blackbirds and Mistletoebirds. After smoko our group walked into the garden area finding Australian Magpies, House Sparrows, Tree Martins, Australian Ravens, Willie Wagtails, Magpielarks and Purple-backed Fairywrens. In the sand hills area we found Redthroats, Crimson Chats and a Black Kite. Back at the visitor centre for lunch, we learned that the other groups had also seen Rufous Whistlers, Grey Fantails and a White-fronted Honeyeater. After lunch there was still time to go birding at the Red Banks Lookout area of the garden before the monthly meeting. Here we found Silver Gulls, Pied Oystercatchers and Masked Lapwings at low tide with the wind blowing strongly. A Red-capped Robin was seen on the boundary fence as we left.

Past Excursions *(continued)*

A total of 46 bird species were found with the Redthroat, Chirruping Wedgebill and Little Eagle being the birds of the day. Some of the other visitors had included the White-winged Fairywrens, White-winged Trillers, Cockatiels and Crimson Chats in their highlights list.

Bernie Haase

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 12 September Bernie's Block, Mambray Creek

A cold breeze was blowing and some cloud was around when 41 birders met in the parking bay at Mambray Creek. After the morning greetings and covid form filling we all drove to Bernie's 70ha block about 2km away in the direction of the national park. We divided ourselves into four groups again as we did the day before, with a local Babblers group member leading each one. We set off with two groups going along the creek, one



Little Raven Chick (Photographed by Richard Croll at Mambray Creek, 11 September 2021)



Yellow-throated Miner (Photographed by Richard Croll at Mambray Creek, 11 September 2021)

upstream and one downstream and the other two groups walking through the native pine woodland in opposite directions. The groups would then cross over the revegetated paddock and swap locations, then meet at the house for smoko. Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Welcome Swallows, Peaceful Doves, Crested Pigeons, Emus, Black Kites and Willie Wagtails were on the bird list before we left the house area. The group I was leading were in the woodland and we had soon sighted Galahs, Little Ravens and Mallee Ringnecks. At the property boundary near a neighbouring farmhouse there were Starlings, Sparrows, Rock Doves and a Brown Goshawk. Walking on through the trees a large flock of White-browed Babblers were fossicking through the undergrowth while Magpie Larks and Magpies searched for insects near them. There is a lone Red Gum tree in the pine woodland that hosted in and around it Striated Pardalotes, Little Corellas, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Kookaburra, Elegant Parrots and Yellow-rumped Thornbills. We then walked across the old paddock which has been revegetated with scattered trees and shrubs and has natural regrowth cover of Black Bluebush. Here we found White-winged and Purple-backed Fairywrens, while a Whistling Kite was gliding overhead. As we entered the Red Gum-lined creek area, Yellow-throated Miners greeted us. We saw Flinders Ranges Rosellas, Grey Butcherbirds, Rufous Songlarks and nesting Common Bronzewing as we moved along the creek and returned to the house for smoko.

The other groups had also seen White-plumed Honeyeaters and White-faced Herons in their travels. The wind was picking up and there were some light showers of rain as we returned to the creek and continued walking along it. Red-rumped Parrots, Red Wattlebirds, Weebills, nesting Grey Butcherbirds and we found more Purple-backed Fairywrens and Nankeen Kestrels as we crossed the paddock and re-entered the woodland. White-winged Trillers and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills heralded us into the native pines, while Dusky Woodswallows quietly glided through the air above us. As we moved along the woodland tracks several small flocks of Budgerigars flew past and Grey Shrikethrushes were in the house garden. We had our bird call seated under the veranda while enjoying a BBQ lunch.

A total of only 43 bird species were found, which is less than we usually amass, probably due to the low rainfall and reduced plant growth. Better seasons had attracted the birds elsewhere. There was no outstanding bird of the day, but the White-winged Trillers, Rufous Songlark and Budgerigars stood out as nomadic visitors.

Bernie Haase

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Birds SA

Thursday 16 September Scott Creek Conservation Park

Eleven people ventured into the far west of Scott Creek Conservation Park (SCCP) to 'The Panhandle'. This part of SCCC has a diverse habitat for birds and native animals. It varies from wide open cleared land yet to be reclaimed by native vegetation, to some wild scrubby stringybark forest that feels almost primeval – down to unfriendly plants that poke, prick and sting. There is permanent water in a large farm dam as well as in a creek that runs practically all year round. The entry via Gate 20, takes you into a regenerating mess of mid-height scrub that is anything but attractive. However, the little birds love it.

The 11 watchers encountered 41 species during the morning. We walked along two circuits, one in the flat scrubby area and then down along the creek line. The bush is too impenetrable for a group activity.

At this time of the year, honeyeaters are the dominant species. We saw Brown-headed, Crescent, White-naped, and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters as well as Eastern Spinebills and Red Wattlebirds. The thornbills were obvious – Browns, Buff-rumped and Striated along with Red-browed Finches. Larger species included White-winged Choughs, Little Ravens, Australian Magpies and Grey Currawongs whilst a Collared Sparrowhawk put in a brief overhead appearance. Several Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes showed off their breeding success this season. Australian Golden Whistlers were vocal and visible while less obvious were Mistletoebirds and Scarlet Robins. The usual suspects from the Cockatoo and Parrot families were present in good numbers. There was a good representation from 'water' birds, which included a cameo appearance from a Sacred Kingfisher. A Fan-tailed Cuckoo performed its 'arpeggio' calling and was complemented by a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo.

It provided an entertaining morning for birdlovers on what was a perfect birding day in a great location.

Jim Spiker

Birds SA

Sunday 26 September Anacotilla Springs, Second Valley

It was a pity that only 5 members attended this walk as the weather was quite pleasant on the day. Our hosts Pamela and Rob were in the middle of moving into their new home on the property but once again took time out

to ensure we got around the property and joined us for lunch and the bird count. I am most grateful for their efforts to continue the development and preservation of Anacotilla Springs for our birds.

We started our walk from the location of the new residence and had good views of Eurasian Skylark, Australian Pipit, Wedge-tailed Eagle and Nankeen Kestrel on our wanderings down to the Anacotilla River. This lower area of the property is sheltered from wind and has large gums and other vegetation suiting a different clientele of feathered friends including a pair of Red-rumped Parrots. At the area around the dam we saw only Pacific Black and Maned Duck. The walk along the riverbank kept us entertained with Galahs, Little Corellas, Crimson Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Superb Fairywrens (15), Grey Shrikethrushes, Grey Fantails (4), Red-browed Finches and Black-faced Cuckooshrikes. Several times we saw small flocks of Tree Martins (12) and Welcome Swallows (20). In total we saw 34 species.

I appreciate the opportunity for Birds SA to access to this property and the genuine hospitality provided to us by Pamela and Rob. It was especially great to also have a welcome ride in the back of the farm ute up to our parked cars!

Lynton Huxley

Birds SA

October 2021 Campout Caroona Creek Conservation Park

Attendance at this campout was probably affected by a forecast of heavy rain, thunderstorms and strong winds but still 17 hardy members decided to brave those predicted conditions. In the end we were fortunate with only showers during the evenings. We used the 'Old Shed' campground as our base, which provided excellent shelter for those with tents and our evening social events.



Happy hour in the Shed *(Photographed by Lynton Huxley, October 2021 Campout)*

Past Excursions *(continued)*



White Throated Gerygone *(Photographed by Lynton Huxley, October 2021 Campout)*

For members who had arrived early we used Friday for reconnaissance to plan for the rest of the long weekend. This was very helpful as only a few had some memory of past visits. Vegetation in the Park had benefited from some rain earlier in the year, with some Mallee and other plants in flower, but obviously more rain was needed.

The best day for birding was Saturday with a foggy start clearing to a sunny and very warm day with almost no wind! We drove to Tourilie Gorge and for the next 4 hours worked our way along the main creek, several tributaries and ridge lines before returning to the cars and a short drive and lunch at a very nice shelter for Heysen Trail bush walkers on Caroon Creek. With full stomachs and a rest from the morning stroll and heat, small groups set off to locate birds at this location.

We had some rain on Saturday evening, with most in the early hours of Sunday. The wind started to become a bother for birding so we headed off for a drive to a creek and some scrub we thought would be more protected from the wind. It was more pleasant there and we managed to record several new sightings to add to our bird list. Back at the camp the wind had definitely increased, so awnings were packed away and the camp battened down. The next 30 hours were only for the bravest to go birding in areas that offered some respite. Some decided to head home early and the remainder packed up for home and other destinations on Tuesday morning just as the wind had finally started to abate.

Overall our bird count was an impressive 62 species (531 individual birds) including a White-throated Gerygone,

a Ground Cuckooshrike, a Magpielark and a Western Whistler, which were all new to our Birds SA website bird list for this Park. Southern Boobook and Australian Owlet-nightjar were heard calling each night of our stay, but none were sighted. White-fronted Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Red-capped Robin, Hooded Robin, Rainbow Bee-eater, Red-backed Kingfisher, Peregrine Falcon, Collared Sparrowhawk, Emu, Australian Ringneck, Elegant Parrot, Mulga Parrot, Variegated Fairywren and White-winged Fairywren were some of the birds recorded. We also saw a mixed flock of Masked and White-browed Woodswallows (20 each). Two active Brown Falcon nests were recorded. We think they contained young rather than the birds sitting on eggs. We also saw a Black-faced Cuckooshrike on its nest.

Two members witnessed an Australian Hobby pluck a small bird (honeyeater?) out of the air as it was coming in to land in front of them. It then did a fly-by with the bird within 10m of them and took it up to its nearby nest. Not long after they managed to photograph a Brown Falcon swoop onto a large snake and carry it off!

Caroon Creek Conservation Park proved to be an excellent choice for our campout. It was pleasing to see how well members interacted and assisted each other with camping chores and with the identification of species in some adverse conditions. Once again the importance of holding social campout events for the enjoyment of our members and to update our knowledge and records of the birds of South Australia was validated.

Lynton Huxley

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 2 October Pangarinda Arboretum

A group of ten happy birders set out on the Saturday of the long weekend, on a perfect sunny morning, to explore Pangarinda Botanic Garden, not far from the River at Wellington. As we began our walk through and around the 30ha garden, we heard a pair of Grey Shrikethrushes calling some distance away. This magnificent garden is a New Holland Honeyeater "Central Park". We estimated that at least 200 or more of these very active honeyeaters were flying and feeding on the many flowering native plants. We also saw a few White-plumed, Singing, Spiny-cheeked, Yellow-faced honeyeaters and many Red Wattlebirds.

One lone currawong mingled with the Little Ravens, Australian Magpies and a Magpielark. We spotted Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Striated Pardalotes, Willie

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Superb Fairywrens (Photographed by Bob Daly, Pangarinda Arboretum, 2 October 2021)



Zebra Finch (Photographed by Bob Daly, Pangarinda Arboretum, 2 October 2021)

Wagtails and many Superb Fairywrens. One Wedge-tailed Eagle flew over and one Common Bronzewing streaked by. About ten White-browed Babblers came into view but flew straight past, not giving us enough time to take a photo, but it was pleasing to see a reasonable sized group. We saw Spotted Doves, Peaceful Doves, Crested Pigeons, Galahs, a Kookaburra, a pair of Red-rumped Parrots and four Purple-crowned Lorikeets and a Pelican, together with a couple of Blackbirds, several European Goldfinches and at least a dozen House Sparrows that were congregated around the shelter shed, hoping for some lunch crumbs.

Just before we reached the seated area to eat our lunch and do our count, we were able to photograph a pair of Grey Shrikethrushes. These birds have such a beautiful call.

If any of our readers and friends decide to visit this fantastic botanic garden please be warned to take plenty of mosquito repellent! The mozzies were fierce!

Total Count: 35 species for the morning.

Merle Clarke

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 17 October

Bandt Gorge

It was a lovely clear, calm and cool morning when 10 birders gathered at the Quorn pool. Four from Pt. Augusta, two from Quorn and one each from Whyalla, Wilmington, Weeroona Island and Mambray Creek. With some local knowledge from the Quorn birders it was decided to drive about 8 km. along the road to Hawker and turn off and head west to Bandt Gorge that cuts through some low hills on the edge of the Willochra Plain. As we turned off the main road and passed through a gate a Black Kite glided above us and a little further on we stopped to look at some White-winged Fairywrens in a green patch of nitre bush and grass. The area was looking quite green and in relatively good condition from rains in July and some follow up rains. A female Orange Chat sat on a bush allowing us to get some photos and upon closer inspection a young nestling was found hiding in the undergrowth. Some Chirruping Wedgebills were also nesting in a boxthorn and Rufous Fieldwrens called out from the tops of the bush nearby. A single Purple-backed Fairywren was seen as well. We drove on towards the gorge passing Pipits, Zebra Finches, Crested Pigeons and a Galah. As the road entered the gorge area a Common Bronzewing whizzed past and after we had all parked, a pair of

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Orange Chat chick (Photographed by Bernie Haase at Bandt Gorge, 17 October 2021)

Wedge-tailed Eagles rose up from the top of the rocky cliffs. In the low trees and scrub in the flood out area there were Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Black-faced Woodswallows, Willie Wagtails, Magpies, Red-capped Robins, White-browed Babblers, Yellow-throated Miners and Yellow-rumped Thornbills. In the trees higher up the hills Mulga Parrots called out and Elegant Parrots flew about while a Kestrel hovered in the sky. The Red Gums in the creek hosted Striated Pardalotes as we drove on through the gorge. The foot hills have a Black Oak trees area and here there were Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and Rufous Whistlers and in the surrounding open grassland there were lots of Southern Whiteface, White-winged Trillers and more Black-faced Woodswallows hawking for insects. We followed the Yarrah Vale road to a high ridge top behind the Yarrah Vale homestead and stopped for smoko and enjoying the extensive view over the Willochra Plain.

Yarrah Vale Gorge

We back tracked to the Yarrah Vale Gorge track and drove about 1.5 km. to the gorge itself. It is a short but steep sided gorge covered in Mallee trees with Red Gums in the creek. The mallee was flowering so we found a place to park and went birding. In the flowering trees there were Weebills, White-fronted, Singing, Spiny-cheeked and Brown-headed Honeyeaters with young fledglings. In the other trees and scrub there were Red-capped Robins feeding young, White-browed Babblers, Grey Shrike-thrush, Rufous Whistlers, Inland and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Peaceful Doves, Mulga and Elegant Parrots, Galahs and Little Corellas. A Brown Goshawk silenced the birds briefly as it drifted through the trees and a Wedge-tailed Eagle watched from high above. It was warming up and nearing lunch time, so we headed back towards Quorn along the Arden Vale road with a plan to have a look at the Mt. Arden reservoir on the way.



Orange Chat

(Photographed by Bernie Haase at Bandt Gorge, 17 October 2021)



Red-capped Robin

(Photographed by Jude Owen at Bandt Gorge, 17 October 2021)

Mt. Arden Reservoir

After parking on the road going to the reservoir we had to walk about 500m to get to the water. As we walked along a Red Gum lined creek there were Weebills, Striated Pardalotes, Peaceful Doves, Red Wattlebird, Singing, White-plumed and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Willie Wagtails, White-winged Trillers, Mallee Ringnecks, Galahs, Sparrows and Black-faced Woodswallows in the trees and Purple-backed Fairywrens in the undergrowth. The Mallee on the hillside and near the reservoir yielded more honeyeaters and a murder of about 60 Little Ravens that occasionally noisily rose above the trees and then settled again. Some Australian Ravens also drifted past while Magpies searched for food in the grass. A dark bird was spotted high in a Red Gum and thinking it was another Raven didn't interest us until upon closer inspection it turned out to be a Black Falcon and it had a nest with 2 young birds in it. The Falcon flew off as we got closer and joined its mate watching us from their high vantage point in the sky. There were Kestrel and Raven wings below the nest and what looked like a dead Raven in the nest, so there was plenty of food around for the young. We climbed the wall and looked over the about quarter full reservoir. There was a good mix of water birds but none in great numbers. The most numerous were Hoary-headed and Australian

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Grebes, then Grey Teal, Wood Duck, Coots, Hardhead, Black Duck and one Musk Duck and a Freckled Duck. There was also a single Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and a pair of Black-fronted Dotterels. A flock of Tree Martins and some Welcome Swallows darted about chasing insects. As we returned to the vehicles we added Sacred Kingfishers, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Crested Pigeon, Dusky Woodswallows and Red-rumped Parrots to our bird list. After a late lunch we decided to have a look at the Quorn effluent ponds.

Quorn Effluent Ponds

We drove through Quorn and on to the ponds and as we arrived a murder of about 100 Little Ravens flew over the ponds and on towards the rubbish dump nearby. On the ponds we saw quite a few Wood Duck, Grey Teal and Pink-eared Duck with a few Black Duck, Musk Duck, Masked Lapwings, Black-tailed Native-hens, Hoary-headed Grebes and a single Hardhead. Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows darted about while a flock of Rock Doves and a Black Kite circled overhead. In the low bush around the ponds were White-winged Fairywrens and on the pond banks Magpies chased a Willie Wagtail while White-fronted Chats searched for food. A Zebra Finch sat on the fence next to a line of Sparrows while a

Kestrel dived on an unsuspecting morsel in the grass. It was getting late so we all said our goodbyes and headed off home.

A total of 66 bird species were found for the day, with the Freckled Duck and the Black Falcons with young being the birds of the day.

Bernie Haase

Birds SA

Thursday 21 October Cox Scrub Conservation Park

Twenty five members attended the excursion filling the small car parking area at gate 1. After the normal welcome and COVID talk we agreed to stay in one group and tackle most of the Emu Wren hike, with the option that if members found the terrain too difficult they could take one of the shortcut trails.

The Park had obviously benefited from recent rains with a colourful carpet of flowering plants. New Holland Honeyeaters (60) were plentiful and we had good views of Western Whistler (8) but overall our long uphill stroll was occupied with the extraordinary variety of flowering plants and listening to the botanists in the group. Some took the first shortcut track but most soldiered on and were rewarded with Elegant Parrot (15), Grey Fantail (6) Grey Shrikethrush (6), Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (8) and Scarlet Robin (3).

The Emu Wren track is rather long so we took the second shortcut to re-join the track near gate 2. This proved most productive to our overall bird species tally of 48 for the outing. This Park is a wonderful place to visit at this time of the year. It is pleasing to note how well the Stringybark, Banksia and dense understory have recovered from recent bushfires.

Lynton Huxley

Southern Whiteface

(Photographed by Jude Owen at at Bandt Gorge, 17 October 2021)



Purple-backed Fairywren

(Photographed by Jude Owen at at Bandt Gorge, 17 October 2021)



Brown Thornbill

(Photographed by Rose Slade, Cox Scrub Conservation Park, 21 October 2021)



Past Excursions *(continued)*



Beautiful Firetail *(Photographed by Rose Slade, Cox Scrub Conservation Park, 21 October 2021)*



Happy birders at Cox Scrub
(Photographed by M Huxley, 21 October 2021)

Birds SA

Sunday 31 October **'Cowirra', Mannum**

The weather couldn't have been better for our 24 birders to walk through this private property, a former dairy farm owned by the Haythorpe family. A grandson of the original farmer, Ben, is progressively turning this spacious tract adjacent to the River Murray into his own 'garden' with a mix of local and exotic plants. Red river gums, river box, and various versions of acacia, melaleuca, eremophila, callistemon, grevillea, hakea, quandong, correa and other plants he has propagated from seeds, abound, as they develop and display their bulk and blooms, to attract an array of land and water birds along with the inevitable raptors.

Such was our luck under stunning blue skies and kind sunshine on this day to record 55 different bird species seen, with 3 more heard. This is the most we have recorded in the 3 years Birds SA groups have been seasonally visiting the property and monitoring the incoming birds — a real tribute to Ben's ongoing planting efforts.

Each visit we usually have a highlight, and it would be fair to say that today's was the sighting of 2 Rainbow Bee-eaters, not noted here previously, and there to be observed flitting between high perches to what appeared to be a burrow in a nearby dune. Such gorgeous displays of their vibrant colours! On the other hand, missed today but seen on other visits were Brown Quail.



Male Red-rumped Parrot *(Photographed by Rose Slade at 'Cowirra', Mannum, 31 October 2021)*

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Serenity at Cowirra *(Photographed by Anna Woods, 31 October 2021)*

While many of the species were small in number, we finished the morning content with range and quality rather than sheer numbers of particular birds. Delights included Black Kites and Whistling Kites whirling in and out of each other's aerial territory, Pied Stilts, Masked Lapwings and Reed Warblers in and around the soggy areas, Grey Butcherbirds and one Pied perched for panoramic views, Superb Fairywrens among the saltbush, a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, one Striated Pardalote, several Weebills, White-browed Babblers, Silveryeyes, and two each of Grey Shrikethrush and White-fronted Chat. Among the honeyeaters were the Singing, New Holland and White-plumed, joined by 2 Red Wattlebirds.

Cockatoos and parrots seen performing today were Little Corellas, Galahs, and 2 each of Rainbow Lorikeets, Red-rumped Parrots, Adelaide Rosellas and Yellow Rosellas. Heard were Musk Lorikeets, a Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike and a Little Grassbird. In and around the river's edge, we were treated to Australasian Swamphen and Maned Duck families, with Australian Pelican, Australian White Ibis, one Straw-necked Ibis, various Cormorants and three Australian Darters also making appearances.

In all, it was a very pleasant and satisfying morning ramble around the farm and then enjoying the river vistas and birds during the count on the house property riverside lawns. Once again, our thanks go to Ben and the Haythorpe family for hosting our visit.

Anna Woods

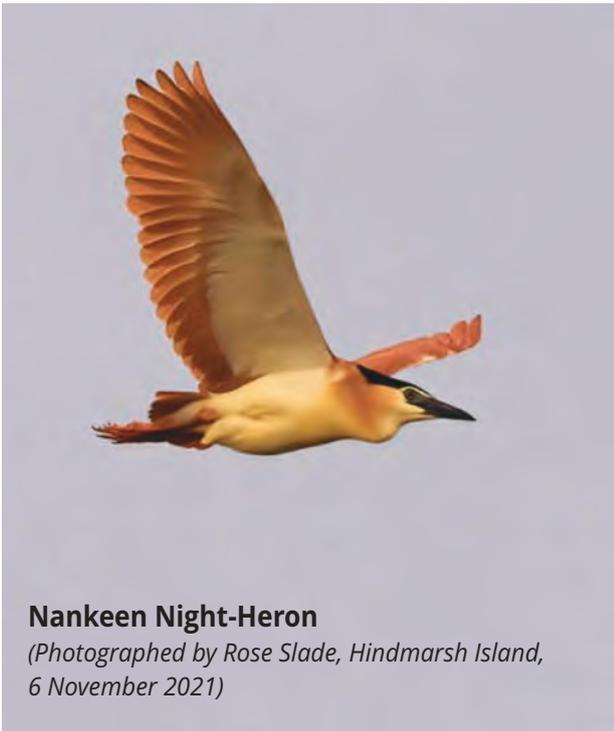
Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 6 November Hindmarsh Island – Lawari Conservation Park & Coorong National Park

The weather forecast of thundery showers didn't deter 14 birders from our morning meeting at the Information Bay on Hindmarsh Island. We decided to visit 3 sites about the SE part of Hindmarsh Island, within the Lawari Conservation Park — Mundoo Channel, the Murray Mouth and Chapel Rd., respectively and the Coorong National Park. At the Mundoo Channel site, we were greeted with good sightings of 3 Nankeen Night Herons that obligingly took to the air from their roosts in the adjacent pine trees. At this time of the day, the tide was ebbing, giving us a good opportunity to see waders and other waterbirds foraging in the shallows. Overhead, Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows were feeding on the ever-present mosquitoes. Our insect repellents were working overtime! We followed the track into the Lawari Conservation Park, where we saw Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Pied Stilts, a solitary Common Greenshank, Black Swans with their cygnets, a Great Egret, Whiskered Terns and a small flock of Australasian Shelducks. Arriving back at the cars, we drove to the end of the Mundoo Channel Road, and walked through the Samphire beds, looking for White-fronted Chats. We successfully sighted a small flock of both males and females that were characteristically perched at the top of the samphire bushes. We then headed around to the Sugars Beach and Murray Mouth Lookout site.

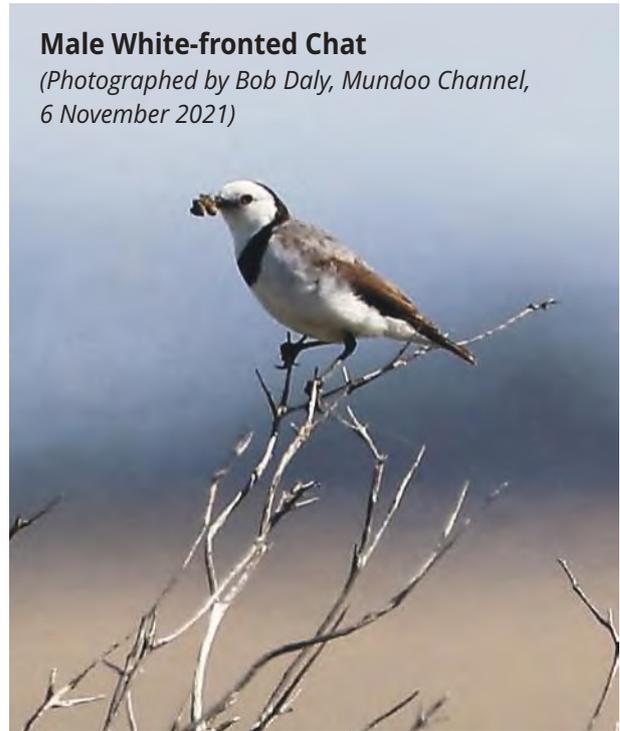


Dog off the lead with some wary Sharptailed Sandpipers *(Photographed by Bob Daly, Sugars Beach, Coorong National Park, 6 November 2021)*



Nankeen Night-Heron

(Photographed by Rose Slade, Hindmarsh Island, 6 November 2021)



Male White-fronted Chat

(Photographed by Bob Daly, Mundoo Channel, 6 November 2021)

Using our ‘scopes to view the other side of the channel, we were rewarded by seeing many Grey Teal, Red-necked Avocets, a number of Caspian and Crested Terns, and Red-capped Plovers, as well as a pair of foraging Pied Oystercatchers. Several Fairy Terns were also sighted – their small size, bright yellow bills and the fact that they were resting alongside the much larger Caspian Terns, greatly helped us with their identification. Immediately in front of us, on this side of the channel, a small flock of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were avidly foraging. At the Murray Mouth Lookout,

scopes were again the order of the day. On the eastern side of the mouth, we saw Australian Pelicans, Whiskered Terns and Pied Cormorants. We saw several raptors around this area, including Black-shouldered and Whistling Kites and a Brown Falcon.

Our third site at Chapel Road was an excellent area with very high numbers of migratory waters, including Red-necked Stints and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. All four species of terns (Caspian, Crested, Whiskered and Fairy) were present, as were large numbers of Red-necked Avocets, 5 Cape Barren Geese, about 30 Australasian Shelducks and Black Swans and Australian Pelicans. We also saw several more raptors, including Swamp Harriers and Nankeen Kestrels.



Interaction between Birders — benefit of group birding activities *(Photographed by Wendy Phillips on Hindmarsh Island)*

On our return to the Information Bay to have lunch and do the Bird Count, there were White and Straw-necked Ibis in the fields and small numbers of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. Also, while we were driving back, we were lucky to dodge our only heavy downpour of rain for the whole outing. Our final count amounted to 60 bird species seen, and 1 additional one (Grey Shrikethrush) heard. Overall, it was a very enjoyable outing.

Keith Jones

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Birds SA

Saturday 13 November Jenkins Scrub

A brave group of 11 birders assembled at the car park in defiance of the weather forecast. In the car park area the first birds of the day were Yellow-faced and Crescent Honeyeaters, and these 2 species were observed throughout the trip - often at close quarters.

The group included two new members - Alan and Rae Rainbird - welcome to you both.

We followed the track ascending the rise. We heard plenty of calls but did not see much activity, probably due to the wind. The native vegetation was in vigorous bloom and we soon found our first "hot-spot" with a Grey Fantail, a pair of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and several thornbills. The Little Brown Jobs (LBJs) were as active as ever but eventually it was agreed that they were Buff-rumped Thornbills. A male Eastern Spinebill also made a brief flypast. The path here is narrow and it was difficult to make progress. It seemed every step forward caused more birds to appear. As we continued the ascent we could hear (but not see) Superb Fairywrens and Striated Pardalotes. We also heard a Fan-tailed Cuckoo calling clearly but alas we did not see or hear it again. Climbing to the highest (and most windswept) section of the track we saw more thornbill species - a couple of yellow, some yellow-rumped and several striated.

At the point where the track turns east (where the old mine shaft is) there was yet another group of mainly Striated Thornbills feeding actively. The Birders stood in

a small group and were surrounded by thornbills, several of which were within arm's reach. It is only when they are so close that you can appreciate just how tiny they are. After a long pause to enjoy this spectacle, we moved onto the descending Mt. Crawford Peak track as there was obvious bird activity on the lower ground. We saw Striated Pardalotes feeding young and entering nest holes, several Superb Fairywrens posing on top of bushes, Crimson Rosellas and Kookaburras. In the lower ground we also observed a pair of Rainbow Lorikeets, Red Wattlebirds and Australian Magpies.

Returning to the actual track, we paused again to watch the Striated Pardalotes before moving on. Along the top part of the track we heard but could not locate Grey Shrikethrushes, but had several good views of male Crescent Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills. As the track descended back to Mount Road, we heard a White-throated Treecreeper, but could not see it. As we followed the track along Mount Road we saw Grey Currawongs, and in a final patch of scrub, Silvereyes and a couple of Golden Whistlers - probably an immature and a female.

The track at Jenkin's Scrub is only a mile long (1.6km) but was quite productive, especially given the recent weather. A total of 24 species was seen with 2 more identified by calls. The flora alone was probably worth the trip, but most of the species we saw were also quite confiding.

Thank you to Maree, Rod, Clive, Rose, Barbara, Peter, Alan, Rae, Allan and Bonny for braving the weather and making it such an enjoyable morning.

Richard Woodland



Cruise the Coorong

A special 5 hour birdwatching charter trip for members: \$105 per person

Join our special birdwatching tour for members on the *Cruise the Coorong* boat.

When the first trip is full, the next trip will be one week later, on the following Wednesday.

I will take people's names and email addresses and when I have a full boat you will be notified with a link direct to the boat company for payment and dietary requirements.

We expect to see 60 bird species along the way!

- 14 passengers only
- Dates from: 2 February 2022
- Departs: 10am from the Goolwa wharf. Returns: 3pm
- Morning Tea and Lunch included (with vegetarian option)
- 1 or 2 stops along the way

Contact: Wendy Phillips to book
Phone: 0414 248 648
Email: wendy_phi@bigpond.com

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

The following field trips have been scheduled, but are subject to complying with any COVID protocols for South Australia that exist at the time of the field trip. Monitor government constraints and, if in doubt check for any changes via our e-News.

Given Birds SA Duty of Care obligation to you, our members, we do ask that:

- You attend field trips only if you are well and have no cold or flu-like symptoms;
- You observe and comply with the COVID-Safe Procedures implemented for our field trips, including all relevant social distancing restrictions;
- You consider bringing personal hand sanitiser and a facemask for added personal protection.

If you have any queries or require further information please contact the Field Trip Coordinator Lynton Huxley on 0498 466 092 or lyntonhuxley@gmail.com.

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 4 December

Ponds at Beyond, Christmas Breakup **Easy**

Meet at 4pm at the Aquatic Centre car park off Waterport Rd. Hayborough.

Walk starting at 4pm and then BBQ if allowed.

TRIP LEADERS: Wendy and Bob

Birds SA

Saturday 11 December

Myponga Reservoir Reserve (MLR) 60km **Easy**

Meet at 8.30am in the car park off Hansen Street, Myponga (the Myponga Memorial Hall and public toilets are on this corner). The Myponga Reservoir Reserve is near the town of Myponga on the Fleurieu Peninsula, about one hour's drive south of Adelaide via Main South Road.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 12 December

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden **Easy**

Meet at 7.30am in the Botanic Garden car park.

Christmas lunch in café and showing of year's best birding photos.

Birds SA

Thursday 16 December

Barossa Goldfields (MLR) **Moderate**

Meet at 8.30 am at Bowden Cottage on the corner of Allandale Road and Para Wirra Road at the top end of Para Wirra Conservation Park. There is a car park on Allandale Road near the corner and some parking in front of the Cottage. There is a toilet and some picnic tables at the Cottage and we will explore the Phoenix trail (about 5km).

TRIP LEADER: To be advised

Birds SA

Saturday 8 January

Thompson Beach (AP) 61km **Easy**

This excursion will commence at 8.00am to coincide with the high tide. PLEASE BRING A SCOPE IF YOU CAN. To get there, travel north on the Port Wakefield Road taking a left turn into Dublin. The large brown and white sign directing you to the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary is very clear. Follow the road past the Dublin Oval for about 10 km – it becomes Ruskin Road and is the T junction joining The Esplanade. Turn right on the Esplanade and follow this road to its end. Car parking is along the road so please park with safety in mind. Lunch and bird call site will be determined on the day.

TRIP LEADER: Kate Buckley

Future Excursions *(continued)*

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 16 January
Baroota Reservoir

Meet at 8.00am in the Mambray Creek parking bay.

Birds SA

Thursday 20 January
Riverglades Wetlands Murray Bridge (MM) 80km

Moderate

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

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Birds SA

Sunday 30 January
Kaiserstuhl 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: Ali Ben Kahn

Fleurieu Birders

Wednesday 2 February
"Cruise the Coorong"

I have made arrangements to charter the little orange boat specially for birdwatchers to see the Waders and other water birds again for 2022.

Time: 10am-3pm boarding at the Goolwa Wharf

Cost: \$105 each, includes M/T and Lunch

People must register with me first and when I have reached a maximum of 14 people I will contact the boat owner and he will send payment details.

If there is more interest I will charter another trip one week later.

CONTACT: Wendy Phillips

Email: wendy_phi@bigpond.com or

Phone: 0414 248 648

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 5 February
Myponga Reservoir **Easy**

Meet at 8.30 in Myponga Reservoir car park, Hansen St, Myponga.

TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips

Birds SA

Saturday 12 February
Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina (LA) 85km

Easy

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

TRIP LEADER: William Brooker

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 13 February
The Bluff & Block 9 Road, Wirrabara

Meet at 8:30am at the Wirrabara Pub.

Birds SA

Thursday 17 February
Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker (MLR) 34km **Easy**

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

TRIP LEADER: Cynthia Pyle

Birds SA

Sunday 27 February
Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park (MLR) (46km)

Meet at 8.30am at the reserve entrance on Cox Road, opposite Aldinga Holiday Park.

TRIP LEADER: Alan Burns

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 5 March
Lawari C.P. Hindmarsh Island **Easy**

Meet at 8.30 on Randell Rd. at the information bay near Hindmarsh Island Landcare.

TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips

Future Excursions *(continued)*

Birds SA

Saturday 12 March

Paiwalla Wetlands (MM) 90km **Easy**

Meet at the Sunnyside Lookout at 8.30am. Take the Murray Bridge to Mannum Road on the eastern side of the river from Murray Bridge. Stay on this road until just past the turnoff to Bowhill on the right. Take the next turning left to Sunnyside Lookout car park.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Birds SA

Thursday 17 March

Apex Park Wetland Reserve, West Beach (AP) 10km

Easy

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

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 20 March

Chinamans Creek, Mt. Grainger

Meet at 8:00 am at the Chinamans rd.Hwy. turnoff. (Wear beach walking footwear)

Birds SA

Sunday 27 March

Onkapinga Wetlands (MLR) 32km **Easy**

Meet at 8.30am at Port Noarlunga Oval Car Park off Britain Drive.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

White-eared Honeyeater
*(Photographed by Matthew Polatayko,
Brookfield Conservation Park,
14 August 2021)*

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 2 April

Mt. Billy and Hindmarsh Falls **Moderate**

Meet at 8.30 On Tiers Rd. Gate one, near Pambula Rd. Hindmarsh Valley.

TRIP LEADER: Pat Uppill

Birds SA

Saturday 9 April

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

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

CAMPOUT

Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 April

Refuge Rocks

Meet at 8:30 am at Whyalla Wetlands carpark. **(No facilities available)**



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

1, 24/10/2021. Magdala, AP.

Girdham, L. & Steeles, C.

2, 31/10/2021. Pengilly Scrub, AP.

Smith, Ed

Still the odd report from SA (plus reported regularly from Granite Island MLR)

Musk Duck

30, 14/9/2021. Big Swamp, EP.

Harper, D. & S.

1, 17/10/2021. Mt Arden reservoir, FR.

Haase, B. *et al.*

1, 28/10/2021. Point Boston sewage works, EP.

Adelaide Ornithologists Club

1, 3/11/2021. Clare, Gleeson's wetland, LN

Cook, S.

Plumed Whistling Duck

2, 29/9/2021. Millicent, Lake MacIntyre, SE.

Boyle, S. *et al.*

Freckled Duck

1, 17/10/2021. Mt Arden reservoir, FR.

Haase, B. *et al.*

Spinifex Pigeon

1, 2/10/2021. Coongie Lakes, NE.

Potter, M. & Reid, I.

White-faced Storm Petrel

1, 4/10/2021. West Beach, AP. Seen 50-100 m offshore in heavy seas.

Hatch, J.

The nearest significant breeding site is Wedge Island of Yorke Peninsula, but there could be unknown nesting areas nearer to Gulf St Vincent.

Cattle Egret

3, 28/7/2021. Whyalla hockey club, EP.

Croll, R.

1, 27/10/2021. Nullarbor RH, NW.

Stracey, K. & Dodd, L.

White-necked Heron

1, 20/10/2021. Pinnaroo Wetlands, MM.

Lawton, O.

Australasian Bittern

Heard, 4/11/2021. Onkaparinga Wetlands, MLR.

Pearson, R.

Australian Little Bittern

Heard, 31/10/2021. Bremer River mouth, Lake Alexandrina, MM.

Rich, G.

Both bitterns have distinctive and diagnostic calls.

White-bellied Sea-eagle

1, 28/10/2021. Clayton Bay, MM.

Crouch, A.

Square-tailed Kite

1, 10/8/2021. Belair NP, Karka Oval, MLR.

Schmidt, L.

pair nest building, 24/9/2021. S of Morgan, MM.

Dennis, T. *et al.*

Also nested along the River Murray near the Victorian border in the 1980s.

1, 21/10/2021. Anstey Hill CP, MLR.

Sparks, K.

1, 23/10/2021. Monarto Zoo, MM.

Kalvas, J.

Buff-banded Rail

1, 14/9/2021. Goolwa, South Lakes Golf Course, MM.

Smyth, R.

1, 15/9/2021. Panorama, Gully Reserve, MLR.

Allen, J.

1, 23/10/2021. Globe Derby Park, White Rd Wetland, AP.

Coddington, P.

1, 30/10/2021. Buckleboo, Karinya Farm, EP.

West, B.

1, 1/11/2021. Reynella East, Byards Rd wetland, MLR.

Peter, J.

Lewin's Rail

Heard, 29/8/2021. Swanport Wetlands, MM.

Reid, I.

Bird Records *(continued)*

Baillon's Crake and Spotless Crake

1 each, 5/9/2021. Dulkaninna Bore drain, NE.
Taylor, P.W. & Moore, G.
Also one each seen at same location on 18/10/2021 by
Brittain, R. & Diment, J.
1, 15/9/2021. Roseworthy stormwater pond, MLR. One
Australian Spotted Crake also present.
Milde, S.
1, 31/10/2021. Port Adelaide, Perkins Dr stormwater
pond, AP.
Smith, Ed

Greater Sand Plover

1, 12/10/2021. St Kilda saltfields, AP. Roosting in trial
breached pond now subject to tidal flows.
Rogers, C. & Brooker, W.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

1, 11/10/2021. 30 km WNW Cadney Park RH, NW.
Attracted to large blue tarpaulin erected for shade.
Wandered around and flew off after a few minutes.
SA Museum Waterhouse Club

Long-toed Stint

1, 10/10/2021. Noora Evaporation Basin, MM. Photos
supplied.
Doubikin, N.

Latham's Snipe

8, 7/10/2021. Onkaparinga Wetlands, MLR.
Bainbridge, T.

Whimbrel

1, 18/10/2021. Reeves Point, KI.
Stracey, K. & Dodd, L.
1, 24/10/2021. Port Clinton, YP.
Taylor, P.W.
1, 1/11/2021. Clinton CP, AP.
Taylor, P.W. & Moore, G.

Wood Sandpiper

1, 2/10/2021. Port Clinton, YP. Normally associated with
freshwater habitats – this bird was feeding on tidal
mudflats amongst mangroves.
Taylor, P.W.

Terek Sandpiper

10, 1/11/2021. Clinton CP, AP.
Taylor, P.W. & Moore, G.
The largest number reported from the Adelaide area.

Painted Button-quail

1, 31/10/2021. Pengilly Scrub, AP.
Smith, Ed

Oriental Pratincole

1, 3/11/2021. Port Macdonnell, Danger Point, SE. In
breeding plumage.
Stracey, K. & Dodd, L.

Common Gull-billed Tern

6, 10/9/2021. Clinton CP, AP. Four still in breeding
plumage.
Woodlands, R.
6 reported at same location on 1/11/2021 by Taylor, P.W.
& Moore, G.

Arctic Tern

2, 19-20/10/2021. Port Macdonnell harbour, SE.
Roosting in group of 1000 Crested Terns. Also present
were 5 Antarctic Tern, several White-fronted Tern and
one Common Tern.
Rogers, C. & Hull, S.

Antarctic Tern

2, 15/8/2021. Port Macdonnell, SE.
Smith, Ed & Green, B.
Also one reported on 22/8/2021 by Rudder, A. & Belder, D.

Crested Tern

2, 22/9/2021. Murbpook Lagoon, N of Blanchetown, MM.
Roosting near 50 Caspian Terns.
Brittain, R. & Diment, J.
Surprisingly few reports along the River Murray.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

*More reports from suburban Adelaide, particularly north
and west of the city. Possibly a flock displaced by recent
bushfires.*
50 over, 3/9/2021. Black Forest, Dryden Rd, AP.
Kemper, C.
20 over, 13/9/2021. Fullarton, AP.
Horton, P.
80, 26/9/2021. Semaphore, AP.
Hartland, D.
30+, 5/10/2021. Pennington, AP.
Owens, H.
2, 2/11/2021. West Beach Rd wetlands, AP.
Edey, D.
1, 2/11/2021. Tanunda, St Hallett winery, MLR.
Steeles, C.
2 over, 4/11/2021. Mile End, AP.
Edey, D.

Blue-winged Parrot

3, 8/9/2021. S of Bowmans, AP.
Taylor, P.W.
8, 10/9/2021. Yorkeys Crossing, NW.
Moore, M.
1, 4/11/2021. Port Gawler, AP.
Tildesley, L.

Bird Records *(continued)*

Eastern Koel

1, 3/9/2021. Prospect, Milner St, AP.
 1, 4/9/2021. Prospect, Ballville St, AP.
 Male, 5/9/2021. Prospect, AP.
 1, 18/9/2021. Prospect, Church Lane, AP.
 Dragovic, M.
 Paton, F.
 Potter, I.
 Potter, S.
No reports of breeding in SA yet. Wattlebirds are a common host elsewhere.

Azure Kingfisher

1, 22/8/2021. Piccaninnie Ponds outlet, SE.
 Rudder, A. & Belder, D.

Red-backed Kingfisher

1, 28/9/2021. Manning Reserve, McLaren Vale, MLR.
 Goland, R. & G.

Superb Fairywren

4, 30/10/2021. Light River, Pinkerton Plains, AP.
 Milde, S.
A northerly record.

Western Gerygone

Nest building, 14/9/2021. 5 km SSW Edilillie, EP.
 Harper, D. & S.
 Heard, 6/10/2021. Katarapko CP, Bookpurnong, MM.
 Rudder, A. & Belder, D.

White-throated Gerygone

1, 3/10/2021. Caroon Creek CP, LN.
 Huxley, L. & Pascoe, E. Birds SA Campout

Orange Chat

2, 10/9/2021. Clinton CP, AP.
 Woodland, R.

White-winged Triller

1 female, 6/9/2021. Manning Reserve, McLaren Vale, MLR.
 Goland, R. & G.
 Pair + 3 juveniles, 28/9/2021. Scott Creek CP, MLR. In area burnt by recent bushfires.
 Spiker, J.
 1, 17/10/2021. West Beach wetlands, AP.
 Whatmough, R.

Olive-backed Oriole

Increasing numbers of records in the Adelaide – MLR area.
 1, July 2021, McLaren Vale, MLR.
 Hancox, A.
 1, 7/8/2021. Belair NP, Joseph Fisher picnic area, MLR.
 Schmidt, L.
 1, 29/10/2021. Stirling, Woorabinda Reserve, MLR.
 Rich, G.
 Also observed there on 31/10/2021 by Heikaus, A. & Moritz, M and Glover, J.

Grey Fantail

1, 14/10/2021. Fullarton, Fisher St, AP.
 Horton, P.

Flame Robin

Coloured male, 21/10/2021. Boolcoomatta Stn, Mundianna Dam, LN. Feeding among flowering Bluerod *Stemodia florulenta* near dam.
 Bourne, R.; Laubscher, A. & S.

A very unusual record – again possible displaced by bushfires in eastern Australia.

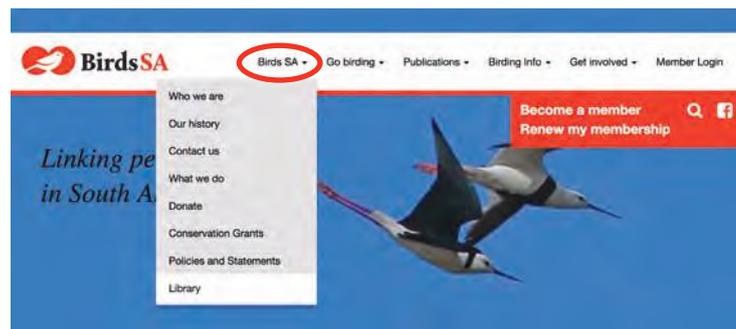
Painted Finch

1, 4/9/2021. Davenport Ranges, NW.
 Girdham, L. & Steeles, C.
 3, 5/10/2021. Amata sewage works, NW.
 Harper, S. *et al.*

From the Library

Due to the major building refurbishment at the WAITE Institute from August 2021 to March 2022, access to the Birds SA library will not be possible as all the resources are in storage.

You can still check our online catalogue for details of resources and can be accessed at this address <https://birdssa.libib.com/> or via the Birds SA Website <https://birdssa.asn.au>





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*Thank you to Members for supplying so many beautiful photos for the magazine.
Unfortunately there is only room for a limited number, but please keep sending them in!*

Parents and their Young

Pelicans guarding their crèche

*(Photo supplied by John Gitsham,
North Pelican Island, December 2020)*



Parent and young Striated Pardalote

*(Photographed by Gordon Pateman,
Brown's Road, 23 October 2021)*



Black Falcon guarding its nest

*(Photographed by
Richard Croll,
north of Quorn,
22 October 2021)*



Mother and recently hatched chick - Masked Lapwing

(Photographed by Gordon Pateman, Adelaide, November 2021)