

The BIRDER

The official magazine of Birds SA Autumn 2022 No 261



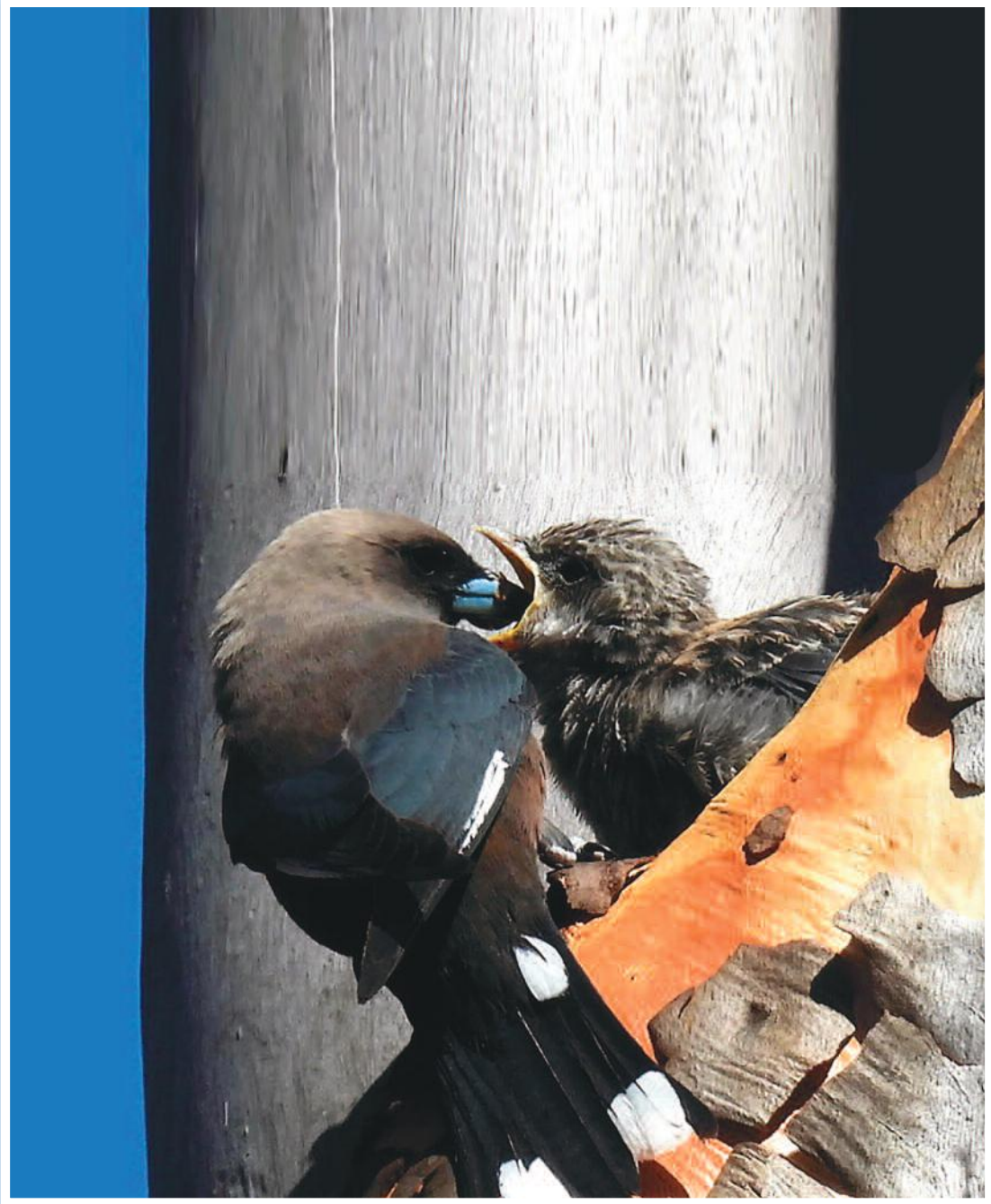
Linking people with birds
in South Australia

In this Issue

Grant for development of Minko Scrub

Back to the Waite soon!

Dinnertime!



Dusky Woodswallow feeding its young

(Photographed by Gordon Pateman, Monarto Woodlands, 20 December 2021)

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CENTRE INSERT: No 78 Matthew Symonds Clark (1839 – 1920), part 4 by Penny Paton.

Cover image: A Long-billed Corella on Linear Park, Adelaide, in 2021 (It is eating Pecan fruit). Photographed by Jeff Groves. The cover of this Magazine was designed by John Gitsham.

Graphic design: Ingrid Grigg

We welcome 42 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on page 23.

Birds SA is the operating 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'.

MARCH

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|--|
| Thursday 17 March | Birds SA | Excursion to Apex Park Wetland Reserve |
| Sunday 20 March | PA | Excursion to Chinaman's Creek Mt. Grainger |
| Sunday 27 March | Birds SA | Excursion to Onkaparinga Wetlands |
| Tuesday 29 March | Birds SA | General Meeting |

APRIL

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| 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 — CAMPOUT at Refuge Rocks Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers | | |
| Thursday 14 to Tuesday 19 April — EASTER CAMPOUT at Gluepot Reserve Birds SA | | |
| Tuesday 26 April | Birds SA | General Meeting |

MAY

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| Saturday 7 May | FB | Excursion to Waitpinga and Newland Head |
| Saturday 14 May | Birds SA | Excursion to Buckland Park, Port Gawler |
| Sunday 15 May | PA | Excursion to Carrierloo Station |
| Thursday 19 May | Birds SA | Excursion to Mt. Lofty Botanic Gardens |
| Sunday 29 May | Birds SA | Excursion to Ridley CP |
| Tuesday 31 May | Birds SA | General meeting |

JUNE

| | | |
|--|----------|------------------------------|
| Saturday 4 June | FB | Excursion to Nurragi Reserve |
| Saturday 11 to Monday 13 June — TWO-NIGHT CAMP at Brookfield Birds SA | | |
| Saturday 11 to Monday 13 June — CAMPOUT at Oratunga Station Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers | | |
| Thursday 16 June | Birds SA | Bushland Park, Lobethal |

President's Message

Dear Members

After being pretty much isolated from Covid in South Australia, our members will have seen that in the last few months we have had to adapt to the Omicron outbreak. We have held our January and February meetings online over Zoom, and the Management Committee has done the same with its monthly and Planning meetings. This technology is clearly a lot better than nothing and indeed has some advantages, but we are missing the socialising aspect of our meetings, so we are looking forward to getting back to "normal".

Or a new normal! We are promised that the refurbishment of the Waite Institute at Urrbrae will be complete in time for our March meeting on Tuesday 29 March. We don't know what Covid rules will apply then, but hopefully at least 90 of us should be able to gather. Details will follow in the e-Newsletter.

One problem with the refurbished Waite Institute is that there is no space for our library. This is quite a problem

as now we need to find somewhere to house the library – somewhere where our members can access it during the week. So it needs to be relatively central, accessible but secure. Any ideas? Email: general@birdssa.asn.au.

We have been successful in being awarded a \$10,000 grant to support our activities at Minko Scrub near Mount Compass. This will really help to accelerate our work there. We have to spend this by 31 October 2022. This means that we are going to need plenty of volunteers for bird surveys, bird banding and vegetation control, as well as general project management, planning and co-ordination. If you think you can help in any way please email minko@birdssa.asn.au.

All the best
Steven

Steven Langley, President Birds SA
M: 0490 802 176



Supplied by Lynton Huxley

Off-road Vehicles

In previous issues of The Birder we have highlighted the impacts on birdlife of off-road vehicles, particularly in coastal areas. The Parliamentary Inquiry into the Use of Off-road Vehicles, conducted in 2019, came up with a list of recommendations to address the many issues identified in the Inquiry by local councils, 4WD clubs, Birds SA, BirdLife Australia and others. These issues were graphically illustrated in the documentary "On The Right Track", produced by Birds SA member Davide Gaglio, available on YouTube at: [On The Right Track - YouTube](#)

After the passage of 18 months since the findings of the Inquiry were tabled in State Parliament, DEW conducted an online forum at the request of Minister Speirs on 6 Dec 2021, facilitated by an external consultant, to discuss options to address beach driving issues. Minister Speirs opened the workshop. Birds SA participated in the discussions and highlighted the human safety issues, the dangers to beach-nesting and beach roosting birds and the impact of vehicles on bird food resources. We proposed that permit systems be introduced, similar to those used in NSW, which clearly identify where vehicles are permitted and where they are restricted on a seasonal or permanent basis.

After a delay of more than two months since the workshop, DEW have published a summary of the workshop outcomes and the next steps proposed. This was a high level summary that covered all the issues that have previously been raised numerous times over many years in relation to off-road vehicles but provided no specific actions to address these issues. The only commitment made was that "a discussion paper is currently being prepared which will canvas specific options for management."

Meanwhile, yet another report of migratory shorebirds being killed by off-road vehicles received prominence on the ABC recently. This time the incident occurred on Goolwa Beach involving Red-necked Stints. Refer to: [ABC report Goolwa Beach](#).

Goolwa professional photographer, Leon Mead, discovered over 20 dead birds on an early morning walk, concluding that they had been impacted by a speeding vehicle on the beach.

Elsewhere in the ABC report, where beach speed limits were being discussed, Alexandrina Council Mayor Keith Parkes said:

"The beaches are full of children on busy days; they play up near the high water mark then run into the water. It's really dangerous."



Goolwa photographer Leon Mead with dead Red-necked Stints (Photograph: Bea Mead)

It was also reported that Mr Parkes said the increasing number of users, many who camp near the Murray Mouth, also meant more rubbish was getting left behind, with a security patrol retrieving two ute loads a day on weekends.

 **The use of vehicles on beaches is clearly out of control in South Australia. The slow pace of action to address these issues is plainly unacceptable for both birds and beachgoers.**

Duck & Quail Hunting

On 20 January 2022 Minister Speirs announced open seasons for duck and quail hunting in South Australia. Details of these seasons are as follows:

DUCKS | Saturday 19 March – Sunday 26 June

- Bag Limit: 8 ducks per hunter per day
- Species permitted to be hunted:
 - Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australian Shelduck, Wood Duck, Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead
- Bool Lagoon closed for hunting

Conservation Sub-committee *(continued)*

QUAIL | Saturday 30 April – Sunday 31 July 2022

- Bag Limit: 20 birds per hunter per day
- Species permitted to be hunted: Stubble Quail
- Region: Whole of the State except for reserves, sanctuary zones, wilderness protection areas and wilderness zones

Five members of Birds SA participated in the Open Season Reference Panel Meeting conducted by DEW on 21 Dec 2021. This annual meeting begins with the assumption that open seasons will be declared (as allowed by legislation) and arguments are then put by attendees for any restrictions sought. Birds SA and Conservation Council SA sought a highly restricted duck season based upon the 2021 data presented by DEW. Key aspects of these data were:

Eastern Australia Aerial Waterbird Survey (conducted since 1983 by UNSW):

- total waterfowl abundance of 49,704 was only 25% of the long-term average and only one year since 2006 has been lower
- all game species abundances were below long-term averages, with six out of eight species continuing to show long-term continuing declines

SA Wetland and Waterfowl Surveys (conducted by DEW since 2003)

- the SA wetland and waterfowl surveys equalled the highest number of sites ever covered and encompassed the largest area ever covered
- the total game duck abundance for the SA surveys of 23,627 was well below the long-term average of 65,321
- Grey Teal abundance of 7,715 was well below the long-term average of 42,389
- Hardhead, Chestnut Teal and Pink-eared Duck abundances were significantly below long-term averages

Birds SA requested DEW to commence the process to remove Australasian Shoveler from the SA game bird list as abundance numbers from the previously mentioned surveys have reached levels so low that the survival of this species in SA appears to be threatened. Hunting of this species has not been permitted in SA in recent years. Abundance of Australasian Shoveler recorded in the 2021 Eastern Australia Aerial Waterbird Survey was only 3% of the long-term average and for the 2021 SA Wetland and Waterfowl Survey it was only 5% of the long-term average.

From a conservation perspective it is to be hoped that the extensive rainfalls in inland South Australia in January 2022 lead to a recovery in duck numbers for those species that typically take advantage of these conditions, such as Grey Teal and Pink-eared Duck.

Birds SA will continue to advocate the banning of duck and quail hunting on both conservation and animal welfare grounds. Much of this advocacy will be done via our participation in the Treasures not Targets Coalition.

One of the current initiatives of the Coalition is to display the anti-hunting message on two prominent billboards in Adelaide. One of these billboards is on Port Road near the intersection with George Street Thebarton.

Port Road Billboard *(Photograph: Jeff Groves)*



I recommend reading the article by Geoff Russell of POND (Protect Our Native Ducks), on the wounding and crippling of ducks — see page 16 of this issue. The issues discussed provide powerful reasons why Birds SA opposes the archaic activity of duck and quail shooting.

Good News for Tolderol

On 1 Dec 2021 there was an announcement that \$10M has been pledged by the State and Commonwealth Govts to improve shallow wading habitat in the Coorong and Lower Lakes.

Small-scale wetland management infrastructure will be constructed at three priority wetland sites at Tolderol, Waltowa and Teringie with regulators, pumps, pipes and earth works put in place to manage water levels to improve the extent, quality and duration of inundation. Construction is expected to commence later this year.

Jeff Groves

Conservation sub-Committee



FAIBS returns to Gulf St Vincent shores

19th February — Thompson Beach

Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) summer birding program got off to a slower start than usual this year due to Covid constraints.

However patience was rewarded in mid-February when changing event requirements and perfect early morning, late summer conditions at last drew FAIBS birders out to view a thrilling array of shorebirds at Thompson Beach.

Scopes and binoculars enabled identification of migratory birds colouring up prior to beginning their amazing annual journey of some 10,000km to northern hemisphere tundra areas to breed. Incredibly, later this year these birds will return to Gulf St Vincent shores, with their new offspring following once they have fledged.

Red Knots and Grey Plover were seen roosting and pecking at the sands with feathers enhanced in colour and texture, while flocks of tiny Red-necked Stints alternated flashes of white and silhouetted black as they flew around in sculptured group whirls before landing en masse to continue feeding up prior to their fast approaching international journey. Ruddy Turnstones and Common Greenshanks were also building condition around the seagrass islands.

Among the resident shorebirds were Great and Little Egrets, White-faced Herons, Pacific Gulls, Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers, Little Pied Cormorants, Australian Pelicans, Masked Lapwings and the inevitable Silver Gulls. A Whistling Kite made a cursory flypast, choosing not to linger.

Viewers were careful to keep their distance from the shorebirds to avoid disturbing their feeding routines. For the migratory birds, any unnecessary flight at this time of the year represents a depletion of the energy needed to complete their long breeding journey.

FAIBS is hopeful that we will be able to continue warmer weather bird viewing along the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary shores before moving into our winter habitat restoration program. Information about ongoing events can be found on the FAIBS Facebook page. Enquiries can be made by emailing faibssa@gmail.com

Anna Woods

All eyes on birds at Thompson Beach

(Photographed by Anna Woods, 19 February 2022)



Vale Ann Dasborough



Ann Dasborough

Longer term Birds SA members will remember Ann through her unfailing attendance at meetings, and at the campouts. She was so keen that she meticulously recorded the proceedings of every meeting in a notebook.

She was a lovely lady, friends of many, with hobbies that included the Gem and Mineral Club, square dancing, photography (she had an enormous wheelie case of photograph albums), fitness and walking groups, and of course, birding. She had a keen interest in environmental matters, and even back in the 1980s wrote about the degradation humans were inflicting on the earth.

She described herself as a bushie from Queensland, raised on the back of a horse. Schooling started via correspondence, with her first school attendance at age 13. Her family moved to South Australia when she was 18. For most of her working life she was at Harris Scarfe in various clerical and managerial positions. On her retirement she bought a Subaru Liberty wagon, and used this to get to her group activities, which often included camping in remote spots. Her tent was an early self-erect heavy canvas one. Somehow she got it in and out of her car, right up to her last campout in October 2013, when she was 80.



Ann on a campout (Photographed by Barbara Bansemer)

I got to know Ann at my first campout, at Caroon Creek about 20 years ago. Ann took me under her wing and taught me how to identify the call of a weebill, which sounds like "I'm a weebill" or "I'm a pretty little weebill". She was right!

She was quite a poet as well. Birds SA members camped at Mary Seymour well before we used portable toilets on trailers may remember the smart new thunderbox that replaced the disreputable old contraption. Ann produced a poem to celebrate the occasion, which was very funny.

This was written in 1987:

Welcome Willie Wagtail

*The willie wagtail is always neat
Dressed up in black and white
It seems he simply cannot stand still
And sings both day and night
Though just a tiny little chap
He shows no sign of fear
And loudly chatters and attacks
The cat that comes too near
You simply could not fail to like
His song "Sweet Pretty Creature"
And there is another bonus too
He is an insect eater!*

Ann's very active life came to an abrupt halt in April 2014, when she suffered a severe stroke. After weeks in hospital she was moved to Resthaven at Mitcham, with the hope that she would regain function. Sadly this did not happen, and while she regained the ability to speak and think, and loved visits from friends and family, she was never able to walk again. An electric wheelchair provided a little freedom, and allowed her to join friends for lunch or a cinema visit. She read widely, and I kept her supplied with Birds SA magazines. A few months before the end, she developed inoperable cataracts, reading became difficult, and she could no longer use her wheelchair. She died peacefully just before Christmas at age 88. Seven Birds SA members attended her funeral.

Barbara Bansemer

Some Mysteries and Puzzles about EVOLUTION

Evolution states that it is the survival of the fittest. Whichever organism can exploit itself or its surroundings will have an advantage over its neighbours and will survive and succeed. This means continuous probing of its surroundings. Most fail but some succeed otherwise there would be no evolution.

Mankind has come to believe that all evolutionary changes are for the good of the organism but what we consider as good (or bad) may not be so for the organism.

I have often wondered why species and their behaviour came to exist. Some changes or behaviours seem not to be beneficial

For example, when a Crested Pigeon takes off it can be heard 50 metres away. Why? It was sitting quietly in a tree unnoticed by anything until it gave its position away and alerted every predator in the neighbourhood.

Similarly, why do parrots make such a racket when they fly? With small ones such as lorikeets it does not make much difference but with a big slow flying Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo it is asking for trouble from nearby raptors. It is like a B29 bomber advertising its flight to a supersonic F111 fighter. But parrots seem to have one ability that other birds do not. The ability to use their

feet for eating. What advantage does this give them over other birds?

It is said that owls have stereoscopic vision to enable them to hunt. But is that what it is for? Even with lowlight vision I doubt if an owl can see a mouse at 50 metres in thick woodland, but it can certainly hear it. I suspect that the stereoscopic vision is to avoid obstacles when flying at night. The ability to detect infra-red information given off by their prey would be far more useful. And if stereoscopic vision is so useful, why don't daytime raptors have it. Hawks do just as well without it.

How did cuckoos come to develop the ability to place their eggs in other birds' nests and have the eggs hatched and chicks reared successfully? Placing eggs in the nests of the same species is well known, but in other birds' nests? At the start it must have had considerable failures, because surely it cannot have been successful first time around. If it had been other birds would have followed but they have not. What was the starting point? Lay one egg in the nest of another species and see what happens? And even if it did work, what stops the cuckoo chick imprinting on its foster parents? But they don't.

They fly away equipped with everything they need to know as a cuckoo. They learn nothing from their actual carers and would not recognise them if they saw them.



Pied Currawong “parent” and Channel-billed Cuckoo Chick (Source: www.waratahsoftware.com.au)

Mysteries about Evolution *(continued)*

Once cuckoos were successful, why did other species not follow suit? And another puzzle: cuckoos parasitise passerines (song birds), but cuckoos evolved long before passerines so what did they parasitise then and not do so now? If so, what caused the change? There would seem to be an advantage with non-passerines because they are generally much bigger than passerines and thus more suitable for bulky cuckoo chicks.

Is migration a result of evolution? Organisms exploit their environment. If food, shelter and breeding possibilities are nearby why not use them – before something else does? If the move can be permanent fine, but if the climate or food supply is seasonal then the organisms must return to where they came from. This explains some migration but not all.

Consider the Black-winged Monarch, Red-bellied Pitta and Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo. All migrate from PNG to breed on the tip of Cape York in our wet season. Why? What has Cape York got that PNG has not got in abundance?

The Swift Parrot, the Orange-bellied Parrot and a race of Silvereye breed in Tasmania but risk their survival by migrating to the mainland, Other Tasmanian species do

not. If they can survive the Tasmanian winter why can't the Migratory Three? Captive-bred OBP when released in southern Australia migrate to Tasmania. What on earth for?

And having found somewhere to winter why don't the migratory birds stay there and breed?

This concept is not so fanciful. In Sri Lanka there are two races of the Little Ringed Plover (a rare vagrant to Australia). One lives along the mountain streams, is resident and breeds there. The other winters on the lowland jheels (lakes) having bred thousands of kilometres away in Siberia. The same species. Their very slight differences are only apparent in the hand.

That is the what of evolution but not the why and certainly not the how. It has been argued that it is due to very slight genetic changes. But when I look at a millipede, each pair of legs perfectly coordinated with the pair in front and the pair behind I wonder how long that would take from a simple single celled organism. It reminds me of a description of infinity: 'If you have an infinite number of monkeys and an infinite number of typewriters, sooner or later you will end up with Shakespeare.

David Robertson

2-FOR-1 TASTINGS

AT THE

PERTARINGA CELLAR DOOR



At Bec Hardy Wines and Pertaringa, everything we do is inspired by nature, from the vineyard to our branding.

The Bec Hardy Wines logo features the red-browed finch, which is one of a plethora of bird species found at Bec's Topsy Hill garden and at the Pertaringa cellar door.


Exclusively to members of Birds SA, the team at Bec Hardy Wines is excited to offer 2-for-1 tastings at the Pertaringa cellar door in McLaren Vale.

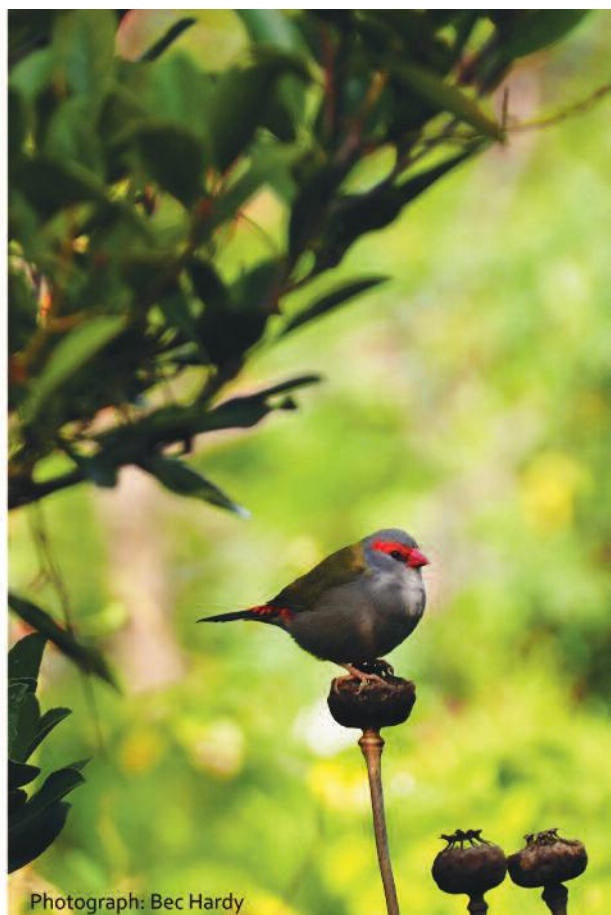
Simply quote the below promo code in cellar door or when booking online:

bechardy.com.au/pertaringa-cellar-door

THEBIRDER2FOR1

Pertaringa cellar door | 327 Hunt Rd, McLaren Vale | Open 7 days

BEC HARDY WINES IS A PROUD
SUPPORTER AND LIFE MEMBER OF  **Nature**
Foundation



Photograph: Bec Hardy

Past General Meetings

30 November 2021

Guest Speaker: **Richard Woodland**

Defence Shed and Boolcoomatta Surveys

Richard provided an outline of collaboration with the Defence Shed to produce nesting boxes for sale by Birds SA. He highlighted the importance of the Defence Shed to former members of the Defence Force and other front-line workers. Richard also noted that the project had featured in a recent newspaper issued by the Defence shed and that the newspaper had a circulation of 100,000 readers. Richard also noted that the Defence Shed had won the 2021 Wellness and Inclusion award under the Health Engagement Learning and People scheme. He provided an update on survey activity at Boolcoomatta and Bon Bon reserves, which are being carried out by Birds SA members on behalf of Bush Heritage. He noted that Bon Bon is a former sheep station located 650km North-west of Adelaide and that facilities accommodated a survey team of 6 to 8 people. Richard detailed some of the bird species seen at Bon Bon and added that Boolcoomatta is also a former sheep station located 470km North-east of Adelaide and its facilities accommodated a survey team of up to 16 people. Richard outlined some of the challenges and lessons learned from the surveys, which would result in improved surveys in future.



Australian Pratincole

(Photographed by Andre Laubscher at Bob Bon Reserve, October 2021)

Guest Speaker: **Richard Martin**

Cooktown to Darwin in August and September 2021

Richard gave a presentation on his trip from Cooktown to Darwin including the Atherton Tablelands, Savannah Way, Cobourg Peninsula and Kakadu National Park. Richard showed photographs of some of the birds that he saw in his travels, culminating with a sighting of two Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeons at Ubirr in Kakadu National Park.

Guest Speaker: **Neil Cheshire**

Dragons and Damsels of Tolderol

Neil gave a presentation on his quest to photograph Dragonflies and Damselflies at Tolderol over the past four years.

Neil outlined the distinguishing characteristics of each group, noting that there are 21 species of dragonfly and 11 of damselfly in South Australia. Neil illustrated his presentation with photographs that he had taken of the most commonly seen species at Tolderol.



Common Bluetail *Ischnura heterosticta* ♂

(Photographed by Neil Cheshire at Tolderol)



Australian Emperor *Anax papuensis* dragonfly pair laying eggs

(Photographed by Neil Cheshire at Tolderol)

Past General Meetings *(continued)*

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* with dragonfly meal

(Photographed by Neil Cheshire at Tolderol)



Guest Speaker: David Andrewartha

Birds of Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe

David gave a presentation on a 12-day safari to Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe illustrated with photographs of habitat and birds seen on the safari. David's presentation was assisted by Peter Pangani Moyo, tour guide on the safari. Photographs included Masked and Sociable Weavers; Greater Flamingo; Pied and Malachite Kingfishers; African Fish-eagle; Maribou Stork; Little Bee-eater; Lilac-breasted Roller; Southern Carmine Bee-eater; Grey Lourie; and African Finfoot.

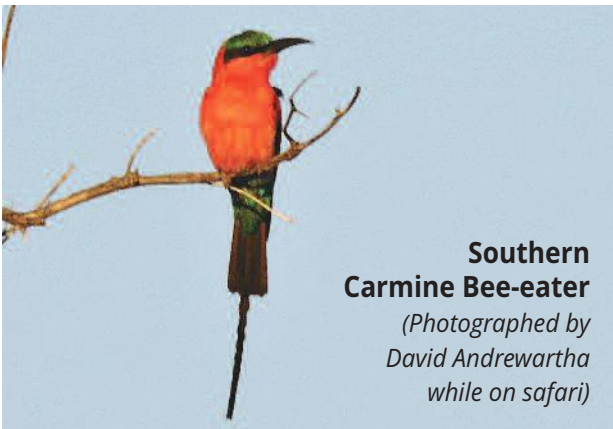
African Fish Eagle

(Photographed by David Andrewartha while on safari)



Southern Carmine Bee-eater

(Photographed by David Andrewartha while on safari)



25 January 2022

Guest Speaker: Hugh Possingham

"To Count or not to Count"

In a zoom meeting, John Hatch introduced this month's guest speaker, Hugh Possingham, Chief Scientist for Queensland. Hugh who is known for his work and research in conservation, conservation biology, ecological modelling and spatial planning, is also a mathematician and avid birdwatcher. Hugh's talk tonight, titled "To count or not to count", looked at the quality and volume of bird data which has grown rapidly over the last decade and the statistical methods that can be employed in utilising this data. Hugh discussed a variety of ideas about why we monitor birds, the best ways to count birds, the role of citizen scientists (that is us), old bird data, and some of the most meaningful things we can all do now. Hugh gave a highly entertaining and fascinating talk augmented with examples from his many years of research and experience in the Mount Lofty Ranges and the upper South East of SA.

Hugh started by listing his thoughts about counting. His five basic points were:

1. All data is good, as long as it is stored in an accessible place, we need more data.
but:
2. What we are missing is writers, analysts, synthesisers, communicators, ...
3. The three phases of citizen science are: space, time and management.
4. A good understanding of statistics is useful but not essential. It is necessary to plot, present, discuss the data. Classical statistics has many problems.
5. If you want to start a project, repeat something that been done before. Long-term consistently collected data, such as our Mt. Lofty Ranges bird data, are very rare.

Probably the most common form of biodiversity information available contains, as a minimum, a list of species present and the number of birds of each species recorded.

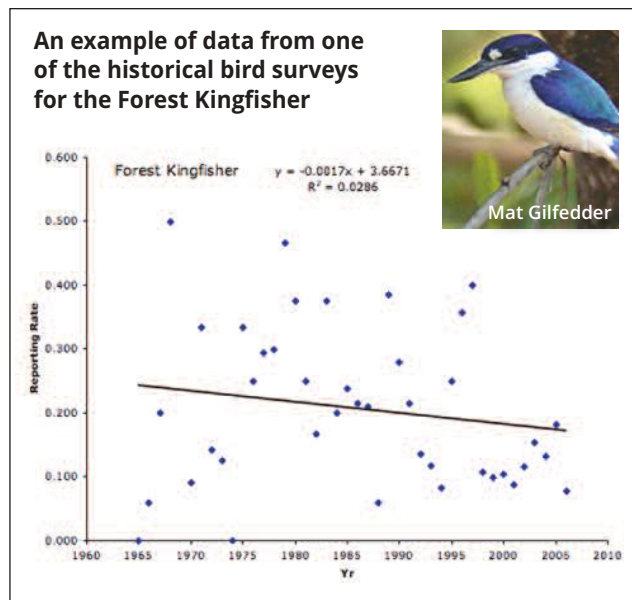
However, this information does not mention the area and/or time of the recording.

Past General Meetings *(continued)*

In 1999, D. C Franklin carried out a study that aimed to provide evidence of disarray amongst granivorous bird assemblages in the savannas of northern Australia, a region of sparse human settlement. His results, which were published in *Biological Conservation* **90:53-68** provided presence-only historical data, based on the following assumptions:

- the length of list is a substitute for effort
- if a bird species is less frequent on lists of the same length as time passes, it is in decline

Historical bird surveys were carried out in South East Queensland, on six 1:100,000 map sheets between 1964 and 2006.

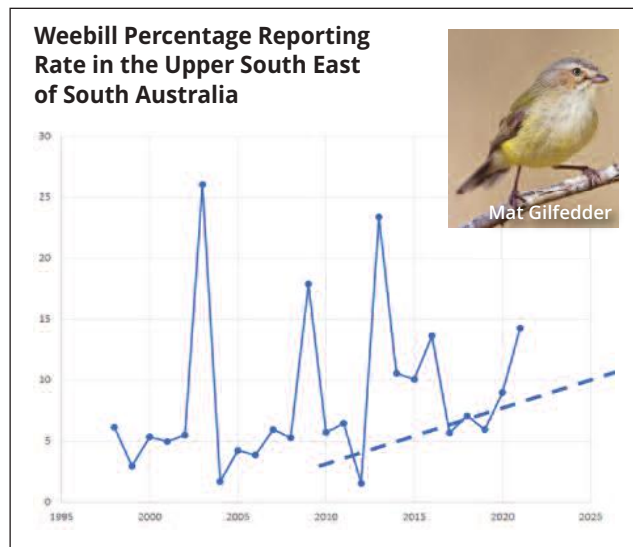
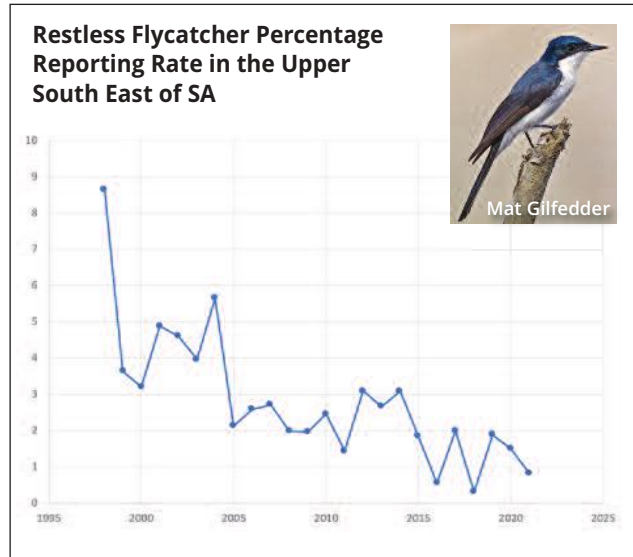


A total of 74,061 observations were made on 10,967 lists.

For the analysis, species were deleted if there were less than 20 observations. Only 3 lists were deleted for this reason, while 257 species provided enough data for reasonable analysis. The data were considered to be messy. The “old” birders said that they already knew the patterns we uncovered

The advantages of List Length Analysis are that it makes use of invaluable historic data (enter your old data into eBird/Birddata), and it can be used to calibrate more recent datasets of different quality. It can detect declines and increases, and easily estimate the magnitude and certainty of those changes. It yields the probability that there has been a decline of a given size; since, for robust datasets, results agree with traditional methods (tested from a 13 year systematically collected data set from near Adelaide). It is especially robust for moderately common species. Unfortunately, we lack analysts, writers, synthesisers and interpreters.

Having set the background to the type of surveys he used, Hugh described two examples of list length analysis and interpretation of the data in the Upper South East of South Australia.



When you need to interpret your measurements and write the story, think of all the ways in which any pattern could be misinterpreted. Discuss the patterns with friends, and apply the following limitations:

1. Science progresses, not from one definitive paper but the assembly of many disparate lines of evidence.
2. Write the story in three different ways for three different audiences.
3. Does anyone actually care? What is the point of all these data that has been collected in **The Threatened Species Index: www.tsx.org.au**

Past General Meetings *(continued)*

The three phases of citizen science are space, time and management

A good understanding of statistics is useful but not essential. Plot, present, discuss. Classical statistics has many problems:

1. What sort of data transformation should I do?
What statistical test should I do? Is 5% the appropriate level of statistical significance?
2. Big data? Artificial intelligence? Who cares?
3. Think, graph, look and be open-minded
4. Is 20 min 2 ha counts the best thing to do? How many? How often?

If you want to start a new project, repeat something that was done before, and/or test management actions.

HugePossum RETIREMENT PLAN

- Learn how to take a bird photograph
- Repeat Upper South East Fire Survey
- Repeat surveys in SW Ngarkat
- Write bird lists and guides to all USE parks
- Continue, expand and communicate Mount Lofty Ranges bird surveys
- Birds and plants of heathlands
- Assess the outcomes from habitat restoration
- Support citizen science - <https://citizenscience.org.au/ala-project-finder/>
- Support the Threatened Species index - www.tsx.org.au
- Blog a year in the life of Oxley Creek Common
- 36 two hectare counts in a day? Plus an eBird list

Have fun, be kind, count stuff

Hugh Possingham

BirdLife Australia board
eBird Australia board @HugePossum
h.possingham@uq.edu.au
0434079061 – text first

Mat Gilfedder's photos — gilfedder.smugmug.com

Future General Meetings

Hopefully future General Meetings will be held at the Waite.

No information about topics and speakers is yet available.

It will be found in the monthly e-Newsletters.

Southern Carmine Bee-eaters in the treetops

(Photographed by David Andrewartha while on safari in Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe)





HOW SHOTGUNS Wound and Cripple Ducks

Geoff Russell – POND (Protect Our Native Ducks Inc)

IT'S JUST PHYSICS

The 1960s saw the race to put the first person on the moon, culminating in the 1969 moon landing. It was a golden age for physics.

The principles of shotgun operation are also just physics and were worked out by shotgun and general arms maker Winchester during the same period. A shotgun fires a cluster of 140-180 pellets which spreads out as it travels through the air. Winchester confirmed the statistical distribution of those pellets. They also suspended thousands of live ducks on special trolleys so they could flap their wings; and then shot them with highly accurate electrically controlled shotguns. They counted the dead and kept the injured in pens and

measured how long it took them for them to die^{2,6}. It was truly cruel and macabre science and illustrated how little concern shooters have for the suffering of these gentle animals.

THE RESEARCH

The pattern of the pellets is random

Whether a shotgun pellet breaks a wing bone and brings down a duck or “merely” smashes a leg and allows the duck to keep flying is entirely outside of the shooter’s control. A pellet may knock out an eye, but leave the bird still able to fly. Three pellets may hit a duck but pass right through the body without rupturing any major organ and leave the duck able to fly.



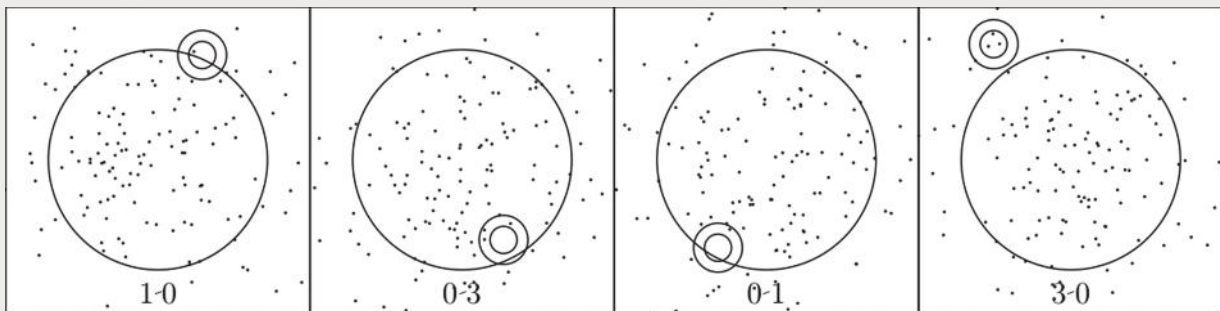
How Shotguns Wound and Cripple Ducks *(continued)*

Accurate shooting doesn't mean less wounding

Below are 4 typical patterns you would see if you fired a shotgun at a piece of white board from 35 metres. The large circle is 76 cm in diameter. Each square shows the result of shooting twice (141 pellets in each shot) at a duck. The inner small concentric circle is the area (in profile), to scale, of the vital regions of a Pacific Black duck: heart, head, lungs and wing bones. The outer circle represents the rest

of the body; without feathers. It can be determined mathematically that the shape used to represent the duck doesn't matter, only the area. The two numbers under each pattern are the number of pellets hitting the vital region (inner circle) or rest of the duck (outer annulus). You can see how easily it is for only 1 or 2 pellets to hit the duck, even when the shooter's aim is very good and they miss the 50 km/h flying duck by as little as 30-40cm.

Smaller pellets allow more pellets to be packed in each shot shell, but each pellet is less lethal.



DEFINITION A "crippled" duck is one which is "downed" but not retrieved

If you watch a shooter, it is fairly obvious when a duck is seriously injured enough to be brought down. Wildlife Researchers have done studies watching shooters. Typically 1 in 4 downed birds escapes. Other macabre studies involve ducks being seriously injured deliberately and then tracked with radio collars show that most cripples die.



DEFINITION A "wounded" duck is any duck hit by pellets but not retrieved

Road accidents don't all result in personal injury, while others cause minor injuries, some of which are serious enough to require hospitalisation or major surgery. Likewise, sometimes shooters miss altogether and cause no injuries. Sometimes they cripple, which is a serious injury, but other times they just wound. As with human injuries, some wounds will appear trivial initially, but go on to become infected or otherwise cause death and suffering.

Researchers⁸ have captured and X-Rayed samples of ducks before a single shot has been fired during a duck shooting season. They find large numbers with pellets embedded in their bodies.

All duck shooting research confirms high wounding rates

All duck shooting research, whether by shotgun makers or wildlife researchers, confirms that crippling isn't a rare event, but common and unavoidable. The largest and most recent high-quality study of shooter cripple rates involved over 2,200 duck shooters in Canada in the 1980s⁷. For every 10 ducks bagged, around 6 escaped.

How Shotguns Wound and Cripple Ducks *(continued)*

This is the only large study where shooters didn't know they were being watched. A smaller, but still large study of 1,270 US shooters⁵, known to be highly skilled, counted 25 escaped crippled birds for every 100 ducks bagged. In this study, shooters knew they were being watched. Over and above the birds seen to be crippled, X-ray studies confirm large numbers of wounded ducks. Between 1957 and 1973, 45,210 ducks were caught and X-Rayed in Victoria. Around 9.2 percent contained pellets embedded in their bodies⁸. Fairly obviously, large ducks can more easily survive a wounding and this was reflected in the findings.

A large study¹ on much bigger birds (Canada Geese) looked at birds obviously hit but remaining airborne, and found around one goose hit but not retrieved for each goose retrieved. Many ducks will not have survived being wounded to be sampled and X-Rayed. Only 6.2 percent of small Grey Teal contained pellets, while 19 percent of the much larger ducks contained embedded pellets. Three decades later, in 2006, researchers in Greenland X-Rayed 993 Eider ducks, which are a little larger than Mountain ducks, and found 22 percent had embedded pellets from being wounded⁴. Some things don't change — like the laws of physics that govern shotgun pellet patterns.

What about modern studies?

The first estimate of duck cripple and wounding rates was in 1953³ and subsequent studies during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s gave results consistent with the range of the two large studies mentioned above. The laws of physics haven't changed so recent studies are scarce. An exception is a 2015 study⁹ on Mourning Doves, similar in size to Stubble Quail (i.e. very small, about 120g) found 40% of doves hit were crippled, meaning downed but not retrieved.

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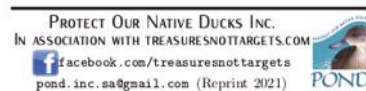
THE EMPATHY OF CHILDREN

A MURDEROUS SPORT

*In the calm, misty stillness at daybreak
A shotgun blast breaks the silence.
The ducks, the keepers of the lake,
Don't stand the slightest chance.
I call this murder, not sport!
The bird never had any chance,
No power, ammunition or warning.
She did not expect such injustice
In the cold autumn air of the morning.
I call this murder, not sport!
Half dead, this poor helpless bird
Struggles to hold on to life.
No-one had given her the word,
Allowing her to avoid all this strife.
I call this murder, not sport!
The hunters with belts full of shot
Raise their guns to the sky and take aim.
Never content with what they've got,
They not only kill but they maim.
I call this murder, not sport!
Let's hope that in future days
We'll see what damage we've done
And we'll protect all birds and change our ways,
Relinquishing our guns.
There's no need to murder for sport.*

Sally Cameron

Year 8, Mt Gambier SA



Past Excursions

Birds SA

Thursday 18 November

Tangari Regional Park and Byards Road Wetlands

Twelve members attended this excursion which was listed for Tangari Regional Park. Unfortunately, it appears the birds had not been told of our visit and their variety and numbers were much less than normally seen here. Red Wattlebird, Noisy Miner and Striated Honeyeater (30 of each species) and White Plumed Honeyeater (20) were the predominant sightings.

Given the lack of bird species we decided to venture to the nearby Byards Road Wetland for a quick survey. Here we had sightings of 28 species including a Willie Wagtail sitting tightly on its nest less than 1.5 meters off the ground along the entry path and its mate perched nearby.

Lynton Huxley

Port Augusta Bird Group (The Babblers)

Fri 19 November – Mon 22 November

Cowell Area

Friday 19 November

It was a grey, overcast morning when 4 birders met up in the Whyalla wetlands carpark, One each from Pt. Augusta, Pt. Pirie, Whyalla and Mambray Creek. At Cowell, we would be joined by 2 members from Adelaide and our local guide from Pt. Neill. We had a quick look around the wetlands before heading off to Cowell; finding several nesting Pied Stilts, many Black-tailed Native Hens and in the best pond an ever-increasing flock of mongrel domestic geese and ducks. Large Carp have also been seen feeding on the frogs here. Why do people have to wreck what was a good native habitat and turn it into a foreign pest animal and plant infested area?

We drove about 100km to Cowell and met our fellow birders at the caravan park where we would be staying. After settling into our varied accommodation, we decided to have lunch in town. We then headed off to drive around to the Franklin Harbour Conservation Park at the southern side of the harbour. We stopped at the beginning of the road into the park to look at a flock of Banded Lapwings and take some photos. The road was wet in places but it did not provide any problems. We looked for birds on a mud flat with oyster farms in the distance and found hundreds of Red-capped Plovers

and Red-necked Stints with many Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Silver gulls, Great Egrets and Pied Cormorants. There were also Grey Plovers, Whiskered and Caspian Terns, Masked Lapwings, Pacific Gulls, Grey Teal and Welcome Swallows in the coastal area while in the scrub-covered low dunes we found Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Grey Butcherbirds, Australian Ravens and big flocks of Common Starlings. We travelled on to the harbour entrance finding Spotted Scrubwrens, Inland Thornbills, Purple-backed Fairy-wrens and Silvereyes on the way.

At the entrance we walked along the beach with a strong wind blowing and found most of the birds seen before but added Pied Oystercatchers, Pied Stilts, White-faced Herons, Pelican, Ruddy Turnstones, Black-faced, Little Black and Great Cormorants, a Grey-tailed Tattler and lots of Greater Crested Terns. We returned to the park entrance finding Brush Bronzewing, Black-tailed Native-hens, Crested Pigeons, White-winged Trillers and a Little Button-quail on the way. We decided to have a look at the ocean beach at The Knob a few kilometres away where we found more of the birds already seen as well as Fairy Terns, one of which landed next to us. In the scrub nearby there were Rock Parrots, Kestrel, Little Ravens and more Spotted Scrubwrens. The paddocks along the road yielded White-fronted Chat, Skylarks, Brown Songlarks, Pipits and more Starlings.



Female Rufous Whistler (Photographed by Bernie Haase in the Cowell area, November 2021)

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Saturday 20 November

We awoke to a wet and windy morning and concluded that it would be best if we stayed on sealed roads for the day instead of wet and muddy dirt roads. Arno Bay was only 43km. from Cowell and had a mangrove boardwalk to access some good birding spots, so we went there. The wind was blowing and light rain was falling as we pulled up in the boardwalk carpark. Willie Wagtails greeted us we donned our wet weather gear and Black Duck and Hoary-headed Grebes swam on the tidal creek next to us. As we walked along the boardwalk towards the beach Silver and Pacific Gulls glided above us while Singing Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, Welcome Swallows and Brush Bronzewing moved about in the mangroves. At the end of the boardwalk we sheltered in a covered viewing platform and saw Pied and Little Pied Cormorants, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Red-capped Plovers, Red-necked Stints, Pied Oystercatcher, Pelican, Greenshank, Caspian and Crested Terns and an Osprey.

As we returned back along the boardwalk Galahs flew over and White-fronted Chat, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Crested Pigeons, Elegant and Rock Parrots were added to the bird list. Back at the carpark Blackbirds, Spotted Doves and Starlings became the feral birds on our list. The boardwalk continues on along the tidal creek through the mangroves and here we came across Grey Shrike-thrush, Whiskered Tern, White-browed Babbler, Magpie Larks, Little Ravens, Tree Martins, Kestrel, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo and a Hobby. We then went into town for lunch and added Skylarks, Red Wattlebirds and Sparrows to our bird list.



Splendid Fairy-wren *(Photographed by Jude Owen in the Cowell area, November 2021)*



Hooded Plover *(Photographed by Bernie Haase in the Cowell area, November 2021)*

It was decided that we would try to find some Hooded Plovers as some of our group had never seen them, so we went to Port Neill, another 34km. away. Our local guide took us to a beach that they were known to frequent and sure enough two Hooded Plovers could be seen moving along the beach. We cautiously approached them to get some photos and found an area that had been roped off that contained a nest containing 2 eggs. Another bird was seen further along the beach and we left them alone.

We drove on to a high viewing point that overlooked a rocky island close to shore and it was home to hundreds of Silver Gulls, Black-faced and Pied Cormorants and also some Sooty Oystercatchers, Ruddy Turnstones, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Pacific Gulls, Whiskered Terns and a juvenile White-bellied Sea Eagle. The fields next to us had a few singing Eurasian Skylarks and lots of Common Starlings in it. We drove around the town and found Willie Wagtails, House Sparrows, Common Blackbirds, Spotted Doves, New Holland Honeyeaters, Welcome Swallows, White-browed Babbler and Magpie Larks. As we left the town we saw Little Ravens, Nankeen Kestrels and a Grey Butcherbird. It was time to return to camp for a seafood meal at the pub.

Sunday 21 November

It was another grey overcast and windy day, and it was time to have a good look around our camp area. The caravan park is situated in mallee scrub bordering the edge of Franklin Harbour and its mangrove coast provides a variety of habitats for birds. The park area is home to Willie Wagtails, House Sparrows, Common

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Mulga Parrots *(Photographed by Bernie Haase in the Cowell area, November 2021)*

Blackbirds, Common Starlings, Rock Doves, New Holland Honeyeaters, Magpielarks and Australian Magpies. The Mallee in and around the park is home to Weebills, Striated Pardalotes, Red Wattlebirds, Yellow-throated Miners, Grey Shrikethrushes, Mulga and Port Lincoln Parrots, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Horsfields Bronze Cuckoo, Owllet Nightjar, Australian and Little Ravens, Barn Owl, Brush Bronzewing, Grey Butcherbirds, White-browed Babblers, Purple-backed Fairywrens, Inland Thornbills and Crested Pigeons. The mangrove coastal area is home to Silver Gulls, Masked Lapwings, Welcome Swallows, Little Egrets, Ospreys, Rainbow Bee-eaters and Tree Martins. Thirty four bird species were found and the coastal area was being battered by strong winds at the time.

It was time to leave the coast and go inland to look at some Mallee and hilly areas. We drove to Swallows Nest Mallee area only about 5kms. north of Cowell. Here we walked along a track through some preserved Mallee scrub and found most of the birds seen at the caravan park area, plus White-browed, Masked and Dusky Woodswallows, Singing, Brown-headed and White-eared Honeyeaters, White-winged Trillers, Galahs, Jacky Winters, Grey Currawong, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Turquoise Fairywrens, Rufous Whistler, Red-capped Robins, Western Yellow Robins and Spotted Pardalotes. Our next stop was at Ulbana Reservoir about 13km away in the hills. We arrived when it was time for lunch and while we were eating we saw Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, White-browed Babblers, Purple-backed Fairywrens, Weebills and Striated Pardalotes. We then walked to the empty reservoir wall finding and photographing some Turquoise Fairywrens on the way.



White-browed Woodswallow on nest
(Photographed by Jude Owen in the Cowell area, November 2021)

A pair of Brown Falcons cackled to each other overhead while a Common Bronzewing whizzed past. Back near the vehicles we saw and then found a pair of Gilberts Whistlers. We saw an Australian Pipit as we drove out of the hills and headed towards Cleve to have a look at the Yeldulknie Reservoir. We arrived at the reservoir after about a 36km drive. There were more of the birds we had seen before but we did add some Grey Teal and Rainbow Lorikeets. As we still had some daylight time we went back to the road near the Franklin Harbour coast to look for some Eastern Curlews that had been seen at the oyster lease lookout area.

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Pacific Gull *(Photographed by Bernie Haase in the Cowell area, November 2021)*

The tide was low and some Red-capped Plovers, Red-necked Stints, Silver Gulls and a Caspian Tern were on the rocky beach. As we walked out along the shore with our spotting 'scopes we could see Great Egrets and Pied Cormorants in the mangroves and further along there were three Eastern Curlews. The mangroves also sheltered some Spotted Scrubwrens, Inland Thornbills and White-fronted Chats. It had been a busy day on which we had found with 61 bird species.



Dusky Woodswallow *(Photographed by Jude Owen in the Cowell area, November 2021)*

Monday 22 November

We packed up our gear and said our goodbyes to those heading home. Four of us then decided to look at some old growth Mallee on Starr road about 15km south of Cowell. When we arrived, we saw Skylarks and Brown Songlarks singing in the fields while Black-shouldered Kites watched from the tops of trees. We disturbed a Stubble Quail as we walked to the Mallee patch.



White-browed Woodswallows *(Photographed by Jude Owen in the Cowell area, November 2021)*

Past Excursions *(continued)*

It appeared that this area of Mallee had been spared from clearing and never been touched because the trees were old big and hollowed. Galahs heralded our arrival as Rainbow Bee-eaters and Dusky Woodswallows glided above us. A Grey Butcherbird, Willie Wagtails, Starlings, Yellow-throated Miners, Striated Pardalotes and Crested Pigeons moved about in the trees as a Spotted Harrier slowly glided past.

As we walked through the trees we found Port Lincoln Parrots, White-winged Trillers, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Nankeen Kestrels, Silvereyes, Weebills, Horsfields Bronze Cuckoos, Yellow-rumped and Inland Thornbills, Red-capped Robins, Mulga Parrots, Rufous Whistlers, Grey Shrikethrushes, White-browed Babblers and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes. We found a pair of nesting White-browed Woodswallows as well as nesting Brown Goshawks with young about to leave the nest. Near the edge of the Mallee area, as we were leaving, some Southern Whitefaces and White-fronted Chats made themselves known. After a quick lunch in Cowell we all headed of back to our homes.

We had found a total of 97 bird species over the four days. The birds of the trip would have to be the Hooded Plovers, Eastern Curlews and Fairy terns, with a mention of the Grey-tailed Tattler, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Osprey, Yellow Robins, Gilberts Whistler and the Little Egret which was out of its usual distribution range.

Bernie Haase



Rainbow Bee-eater *(Photographed by Jude Owen in the Cowell area, November 2021)*

New Members

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

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Andy Saunders..... | Mt Barker |
| Raye-Lene Yates..... | Solomontown Port Pirie |
| Vaughan Rattley | Minlaton |
| Fred Duncker..... | Flagstaff Hill |
| Liza & Robert Helps | Port Noarlunga South |
| James Craig..... | Woodville West |
| Dianne Glouftsis | Prospect |
| Freda McCausland | Dernancourt |
| Tim Robson | Ironbank |
| Robert & Miwa Hutchinson | Two Wells |
| Simone Symonds | Somerton Park |
| Noel Richards..... | Woodcroft |
| Beatrice Resch | Hyde Park |
| Mary Beamond | Glenside |
| Rob Marotta | Valley View |
| Ashley Sykes..... | Redwood Park |
| Chen Su..... | Lightsview |
| David Kotlowy | Woodville West |
| Marianne Treffers..... | Cumberland Park |
| Ady James, Sarah Szita, Hayden James & Leona James | Paradise |
| Zelma & Alex Shearer..... | Glandore |
| Mark Van Leuven..... | Urrbrae |
| Keryn Kay | Murray Bridge |
| Ian Buick..... | American River |
| Carmel Romeo | Highbury |
| Julie Riordan..... | Norwood |
| Mila Smolicz-Van Breda | Goodwood |
| Carolyn Cotter..... | Encounter Bay |
| Col Elliott | Port Pirie |
| Sacha And Gordon Ure | Port Elliot |
| Ione Saint | Naracoorte |
| Peter Coats..... | Blackwood |
| Robert Gulley | Flagstaff Hill |
| Dave Ranger | Sheidow Park |
| James Douglas | Glenelg |

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

Birds SA

Sunday 28 November Whites Road Wetlands

Twentyone people assembled for the excursion on a calm, clear and warm day. Several were first-timers and it's great to see new faces on such a regular basis.

We traversed the ponds in a clockwise direction and noticed immediately that water levels were very high, which meant there was little chance of seeing crakes, dotterels and other birds that like to lurk along muddy edges. House Sparrows (10) were present near the gate and we soon started seeing Noisy Miners (50) that seemed to be everywhere. Pacific Black ducks (20) with ducklings were present in several places and we also saw a couple of Australasian Grebes sitting on nests. We also saw Superb Fairywrens (20) and White-winged Fairywrens (3).

Ducks encountered during the walk were Pink-eared (2), Grey Teal (5), Chestnut Teal (12) with ducklings and Blue-billed Ducks (4). Other waterbirds included Black Swans (6) with cygnets, Hoary-headed Grebes (2), Australian White Ibis (10) White-faced Herons (4), Australian Pelicans (4), and Little Pied Cormorants (2). We were excited to encounter a Buff-banded Rail with a largish chick grazing beside the track just beyond the main group of ponds.

Along the track we saw Galahs (2), Little Corellas (2), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (1) Rainbow Lorikeets (10), Musk Lorikeets (10), Adelaide Rosella (1) and Red-rumped Parrots (2). White-plumed Honeyeaters (30) were the most common Honeyeater after the Noisy Miners.

Many Grey Fantails (15) were scattered around, while Reed Warblers (20) and Little Grassbirds (8) were heard calling and occasionally seen in the reeds around the ponds.

As the day warmed up and the number of cyclists increased, the enthusiasm of the group to proceed all the way to the road underpass waned and only a hardy few went all the way to the end. The rest of us retreated to some shade near the entrance gate where we had lunch and made the bird call. In all, we recorded 53 species. After lunch many of us went a short distance along the road to where White-winged Fairywrens are seen regularly and we located several (3) birds. It's encouraging to know that since the construction of the North-South Motorway, which went right through an area previously known as a reliable place to see them, White-winged Fairy-wrens are persisting in the general area.

Ali Ben Kahn

Successful Breeding ... at Whites Road Wetlands

Photographed by Brian Walker, Sunday 28 November, 2021



Eurasian Coots



Blacks Ducks



Buff-banded Rails



Chestnut Teals



Australasian Grebes

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Fleurieu Birders

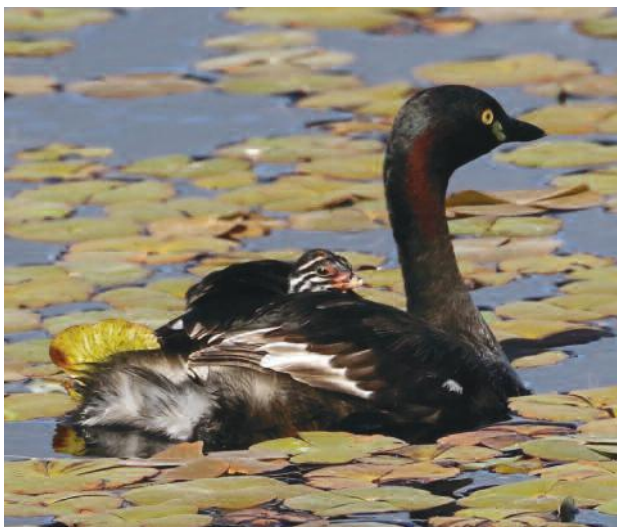
Saturday 4 December The "Ponds at Beyond"

Ten local birders met at 4pm in the carpark of the Fleurieu Aquatic Centre off Waterport Road and walked slowly along the bitumen track, through the housing estate that hugs the wetlands and the numerous ponds. This took us 2 hours to meander before our Xmas BYO bbq tea at 6pm.

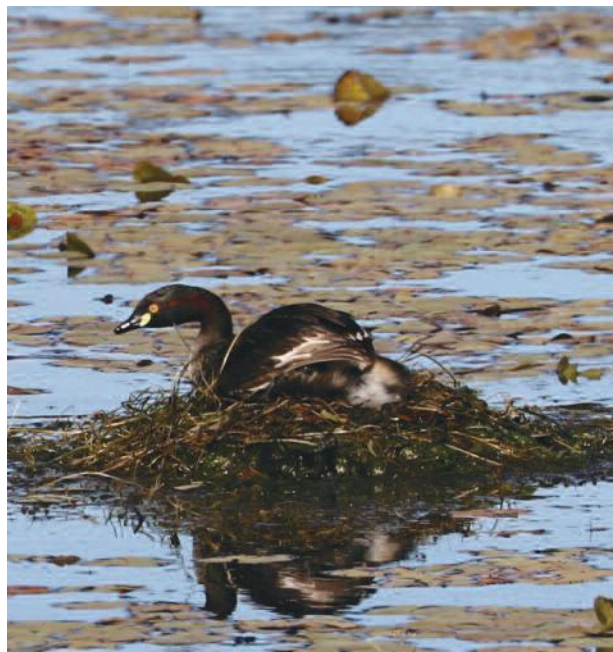
We were lucky with the weather this time around with sunshine and light winds. When we planned the outing last December, Bob and I were the only ones to brave the 60km/hour winds.



Little Pied Cormorant with dinner *(Photographed by Peter Owen at the Beyond Estate, 4 Dec 2021)*



Grebe with baby on back *(Photographed by Bob Daly at the Beyond Estate, 4 Dec 2021)*



Australasian Grebe on nest *(Photographed by Bob Daly at the Beyond Estate, 4 Dec 2021)*

There was so much activity all around us with the small bush birds in the developed gardens and the understory of the eucalyptus scrubby bush. Here we sighted a few Superb Fairywrens, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Red-browed Finches, Silvereyes and a Goldfinch. A Striated Pardalote and a Grey Fantail were calling. Rainbow Lorikeets flew over in pairs and a mob of 130 squawking Little Corellas flew off to Victor. There were also small groups of Galahs and 5 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.

However it was the waterbirds that put on the best show. So many were nesting or had young ones trailing along behind them. This gave everyone an opportunity to get some good photos of ducks, swamphens, grebes, and Little Pied Cormorants; the highlight being an Australasian Grebe with a chick on its back. The Black Swans had 5 cygnets and mated again a few months later since we were told they had another 5 that had just fledged. It was good to see a Royal Spoonbill in breeding plumage in the tall reeds. One swan's head was only just seen.

The developers of Beyond Estate have created a fabulous habitat for birdlife and to see so many birds nesting and rearing young, shows what can be done. The residents keep an eye on the breeding birds and are happy to chat to anyone walking by.

We tallied 46 species for the afternoon. Everyone thought the BBQ was a good way to finish off the year.

Wendy Phillips

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Birds SA

Saturday 11 December Myponga Reservoir Reserve

A group of 14 Birds SA members and one guest assembled in the carpark for this trip. The tracks and car parking have been improved by SA Water as part of the Government's initiative to open the reservoirs to the public.

This year's winter rains meant that the water level was quite high, which affected the waterbird count with only 6 species of ducks observed, of which Grey Teal and Hardhead were the most prolific with 12 individuals. To compensate for this a number of Musk Ducks came very close to the water's edge providing excellent views for the birders. The most numerous waterbirds were Eurasian Coot (200), Little Black Cormorant (60) and Little Pied Cormorant (40). A single male Australian Shelduck stayed far out in the centre of the water as did a single Australian Pelican. Four Great Cormorants were mixing with their little cousins in a feeding flock.

Following the track, we saw several White-faced Herons and Australasian Swamphens in the fringe of reeds along the water's edge. A Little Grassbird was heard but not seen, and a handful of Reed Warblers flashed around in their usual manner. At the new pontoon an immature Australasian Darter made a very quick flypast.

The track passes through areas of native trees, pines and paddocks so the birding was quite varied.

Amongst the pines we saw a pair of Scarlet Robins, and several Red-browed Finches and Grey Fantails. Returning to the main track we observed Eastern Spinebills, White-plumed and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Superb Fairywrens and a Mistletoebird, appropriately enough in the plentiful mistletoe on the native trees at the track junction. Striated Pardalotes were calling but we saw only one bird. A pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles circled overhead and they were the only raptors seen for the day.

We saw a total of 47 species and only heard 3 more. We saw only 16 species of water/wetland birds but this is probably due to the availability of water elsewhere on farm dams etc.

Thank you to Wendy Phillips for providing local knowledge and (trying) to keep us moving along.

Thank you to all attendees.

Richard Woodland

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 12th December Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden

It was a lovely clear morning when 13 birders met in the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden carpark. Five were from Port Augusta, 3 from Adelaide, 2 from Pt. Neill and 1 each from Whyalla, Wilmington and Mambray Creek. As we were making our morning greetings and Covid form-filling Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, along with Red Wattlebirds were moving about in the trees. Crested Pigeons and Australian Magpies were feeding on the ground and a flock of Yellow-throated Miners noisily chased all other birds. We decided to look along a track that led away from the main garden area, and then on to the screening belt plantings between the entrance road and suburbia.

The calls of Chirruping Wedgebills enticed us as we walked along through the rare plants section where White-plumed Honeyeaters and White-browed Babblers fossicked about in the canopy or on the ground. As we followed the track towards the screening belt we located the Chirruping Wedgebills and a pair of screeching Purple-crowned Lorikeets and Australian Ravens flew overhead. Galahs flew past in pairs or small groups and a Collared Sparrowhawk was seen sneaking through the



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (Photographed by Bernie Haase at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, 12 Dec 2021)

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Southern Whiteface (Photographed by Richard Croll at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, 12 Dec 2021)

treetops. We heard the scolding calls of a Redthroat and a pair made themselves known as they moved about with a flock of White-winged Fairywrens.

As we entered the screening belt plantings our interest was taken by a big insect being harassed by Red Wattlebirds. It was found to be a giant Robber Fly with a damaged wing. We took some photos and moved on.

Being close to the residential area House Sparrows and Spotted Doves were present. After we left the screening belt we walked through the garden areas. We saw Purple-backed Fairywrens, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Welcome Swallows, Willie Wagtails, Southern Whitefaces, Crimson Chats, Budgerigars and more Chirruping Wedgebills. We also saw Redthroats and White-winged Fairywrens as we headed for the main building for smoko. After we had enjoyed our smoko we decided to split into groups to cover more area before our Christmas lunch. Some birders went through the



Christmas lunch (Photographed by Bernie Haase at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, 12 Dec 2021)



Larry and Richard (Photographed by Bernie Haase at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, 12 Dec 2021)

main garden area, others into the sandhills and others to the plains bird hide. We added to our bird list Brown Songlark, Nankeen Kestrel, Whistling and Black Kites, Zebra Finches, White-fronted Chats and Magpie-larks. Later some of us drove to the Redcliffs area overlooking the gulf and found Pied Cormorants, Silver Gulls, Pied Oystercatchers and a Wedge-tailed Eagle. A total of 35 bird species was seen and the birds of the day would be the Redthroats, Chirruping Wedgebills and Crimson Chats.

The Christmas lunch was in the restaurant with more birders joining us. After our lunch, we enjoyed viewing the best bird photos taken during the year on the conference room big screen. These included some rare and unusual birds, some stunning beauty or action shots and some photos to make us laugh. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Bernie Haase



Bird photo watching (Photographed by Bernie Haase at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, 12 Dec 2021)

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Birds SA

Thursday 16 December Barossa Goldfields

I fear malicious malcontents had spread bad vibes about me as only 7 people turned up! Or maybe it was just pre- Christmas shopping commitments and the test match.

Any way a fine time was had by all in glorious sunshine, starting off cool but gradually moving to warm/hot. Weariness was setting in on completion of the 4.5km Phoenix walk. A cool Pale Ale for lunch would have been nice but I had to make do with a cheese sandwich and coffee from home.

The highlight was 4 Tawny Frogmouths sitting quietly on a low branch not 3m from the path. I should mention that the stress of leading caused me to walk right past them and a kind attendee chased after me, calling me back. Other sightings included Rufous Whistler, White-browed Babblers, Varied Sittellas, Superb Fairywrens, Elegant Parrots and Striated Pardalotes

We saw 28 species and heard another one. We did not see any honeyeaters or robins so maybe a spring visit would be better at this location.

Allan West

Birds SA

Saturday 8 January Thompson Beach

A mild morning with hardly any breeze saw 24 members gather for an 8am start at the northern end of Thompson Beach. Given the recent increase of COVID cases around Adelaide we were especially careful to ensure compliance to the rules and so limit infection. A small group of fishermen was already in the water doing their thing to coincide with the high tide so we started with a walk along the levy to explore the feeding birds on the inland mud flats. We saw 20 Singing Honeyeaters, 3 Elegant Parrots, 2 White-Fronted Chats, 1 Black Kite and 6 White-Browed Babblers.

With the tide receding slowly most of us moved down to where the water drained back to the sea and obtained good sightings of 200 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and a larger number (400) of Red-necked Stints. As usual there was a good number of 30 Ruddy Turnstones and 10 Pacific Gulls including several immature birds.

Unfortunately, due to my lack of experience we left our visit to the southern end of the beach a little too late, resulting in many species there being too far out to

facilitate good identification features for less skilled members. 18 Greater Crested Terns, 25 Grey Plovers, 18 Red-capped plovers, 30 Common Greenshanks, 6 Pied Oystercatchers, 3 Sooty Oystercatchers, 20 Little Pied Cormorants, 20 Australian Pelicans, and 25 Curlew Sandpipers. The sightings of 25 Curlew Sandpipers and 3 Fairy Terns were pleasing as numbers for those species had evidently been generally low in recent years.

We retired to the usual rest area in Dublin for lunch, a good chin wag and the bird count. The final tally for the day was 43 species, including 26 species of shorebirds. Given my lack of experience monitoring and identifying shorebirds I was very appreciative of the support of Mary-Ann VanTrigt, Brian Walker and others in guiding the group.

Lynton Huxley

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 16 January Baroota Reservoir

It was an overcast and grey day when six birders met in the Mambray Creek parking bay. Two each from Pt. Augusta and Whyalla and one each from Wilmington and Mambray Creek. After we filled out the Covid forms we headed off to Baroota reservoir via the Cattle Track back road. The track was a stock road and still has some good remnant native vegetation along it and is surrounded by paddocks or grazed low bushland. Some Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Mallee Ringnecks, Crested Pigeons and Kestrels were seen in the more shrubby area at the start of the track. As we moved along the shrubs thin out and the Bluebush and grasses dominate. Here we found White-fronted Chats, lots of Pipits, Brown Songlarks, Black-faced Woodswallows, Stubble Quail and



Reed Warbler (Photographed by Bernie Haase at the Baroota Reservoir, 16 January 2022)

Past Excursions *(continued)*

White-winged Fairywrens. As we drove past a nearby homestead there were some Welcome Swallows, Little Ravens, Australian Magpies and House Sparrows. A Wedge-tailed Eagle sat in a tree in the distance and Emus strolled around in a paddock. We stopped several times to look at some Horsfield's Bushlarks and flushed a pair of Little Button Quail and more Stubble Quail. A pair of Brown Falcons sat on the bushes waiting to pounce on anything that moved in the undergrowth. Near the end of the track some Rock Doves were drinking at a leaky water bore.

We accessed the Baroota reservoir area with permission from SA Water and noticed that the big old pump house and switch room / office area had been demolished and removed leaving a big levelled open area. We met two other birders from Nelshaby and one from Pt. Pirie at the gate. Along the Red Gum lined creek in the trees there were Peaceful Doves, Little Ravens, Dusky Woodswallows, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, a Spotted Dove, Sparrows, Rock Doves, Crested Pigeons, White-plumed, Singing and New Holland Honeyeaters. In the bushes and on the ground there were Purple-backed Fairy-wrens, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Willie Wagtails, Silvereyes and Blackbirds. Flying overhead were Welcome Swallows and a single Tree Martin and in the reeds growing in the creek were Reed Warblers and a Little Grassbird. We drove on to the reservoir wall and stopped for smoko amongst the big Red Gums. Here we found Flinders Ranges Rosellas with some very green young birds amongst them. Also Sacred Kingfishers, Grey Shrike-thrush, Magpie Larks, Galahs, Yellow-throated Miners, Grey Butcherbirds, White-browed Babblers, Kookaburras, Red Wattlebirds, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and more White-plumed Honeyeaters feeding young birds. Three Wedge-tailed Eagles soared on the thermals high overhead. We moved on to the top of the spillway area overlooking



Birders at Baroota *(Photographed by Cole Elliot, 16 January 2022)*



Horsfield's Bushlark *(Photographed by Richard Croll at the Baroota Reservoir, 16 January 2022)*



Brown Songlark *(Photographed by Bernie Haase at the Baroota Reservoir, 16 January 2022)*

the reservoir water which was below half full. Here we could see lots of waterbirds scattered over the water and saw Grey Teal, Wood Duck, Musk Duck, Blue-billed Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Pink-eared Duck, Australian Grebes and Coots, while on the shore some Masked Lapwings and White-faced Herons moved amongst the resting waterbirds. A Kestrel flew past as we drove over the reservoir wall and stopped on top of a hill that abruptly dropped off and looked over an inlet arm of the reservoir that usually was full of water and birds, but it was almost dry. We drove on around to the other side of the water body and walked to the edge of the water with our scopes and had better looks at the birds on the water and opposite bank adding Little Pied Cormorant and Hoary-headed Grebes to our bird list. We had lunch under the gums that lined the high water level around the reservoir and saw Red-rumped Parrots, Rufous Whistler, Common Bronzewing, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, Mistletoebird, Mallee Ringnecks, Little Corellas and some Rainbow Lorikeets screeched past overhead. After lunch we looked at the end of the water where the low water had exposed a mud flat and found a Red-kneed Dotterel and Black-fronted Dotterels. It was time to head home and on the way out a Collared Sparrowhawk was seen feeding two young birds.

Past Excursions *(continued)*



Stubble Quail *(Photographed by Bernie Haase at the Baroota Reservoir, 16 January 2022)*

A total of 66 bird species were found with 21 species found along the Cattle Track and 56 species at Baroota reservoir. It had been a good day out. The birds of the day would have to be the Horsfield's Bushlarks, the Stubble and Little Button Quails and the lovely coloured-up Blue-billed Ducks.

Bernie Haase

Birds SA

Thursday 20 January

Riverglades Wetlands and Paiwalla Wetland

The forecast was for mid to high 30 degree temperatures; but given the river bank setting, nine members were present at our usual spot opposite the Adel Grove campground. After completing the COVID safe check-in and outline of the walk we headed off to the bridge at the start of the levy bank. To our surprise the bridge was barricaded – no explanation just that the walk beyond the high cyclone gate was closed – No Trespassing!

Several options were discussed back at the cars but given the hot conditions predicted we opted to visit Paiwalla Wetland with the blessing of Steve Scowns. Before we left a bird call revealed a total of 27 species for the carpark area.

We arrived at Paiwalla just after 9am, so the sun was now above the cliff tops and it was quite warm. Our trip allowed us to meet the large group of working supporters of this important wetland who were undertaking various weed reduction and water management jobs. The ponds were either empty or very low to assist with their tasks. It was good to see that, due to our donation of funds last year, a variety of bird boxes were proudly hanging high in the trees. Given the conditions we got back for our lunch and bird call quite weary but were pleased with our sightings of 44 Species.

Lynton Huxley

Birds SA

Sunday 30 January

Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park

Twenty seven people were present, including as is now frequent, several new faces and a couple of nearby residents who were able to provide useful local knowledge. It was a warm clear day with little or no breeze and we followed the Stringybark Loop in an anticlockwise direction.

We encountered Peaceful Doves (3), Common Bronzewing (5), Laughing Kookaburras (5), Rainbow Bee-eaters (4), Sacred Kingfishers (4), Galahs (3), Adelaide Rosellas (20) and Musk Lorikeets (10). We saw both White-throated and Brown Treecreepers (6 and 8 respectively) while Superb Fairywrens (60) seemed to be everywhere!

Honeyeaters recorded were Eastern Spinebills (2), Crescent (40), New Holland (40), Brown-headed (1), White-naped (30), Yellow-faced (10), White-plumed (10), Red Wattlebirds (10) and Little Wattlebird (1). We also saw Buff-rumped Thornbills (12), Yellow-rumped Thornbills (6),

Striated Thornbills (8) and Weebills (10). Scarlet Robins (6) appeared on a regular basis, while Rufous Whistlers (2), Grey Shrike Thrushes (8), Grey Fantails (12), Red-browed Finches (5), White-winged Choughs (10), Willie Wagtail (1), Diamond Firetail (1) and a Western Whistler (aka Golden Whistler) also put in appearances.

We saw two raptors during our walk, a Peregrine Falcon and a Wedge-tailed Eagle. We also spotted a Little Pied



Scarlet Robin *(Photographed by Rose Slade at the Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park, 30 January 2022)*

Past Excursions *(continued)*

Cormorant flying over and Tree Martins (30) flying above. Australian Magpies (4), Grey Currawongs (4) and 3 Little Ravens were also recorded.

After the walk we went to the picnic ground in Bethany where we enjoyed our lunches and made the bird call. Our species count for the day was 41.

Ali Ben Kahn

Fleurieu Birders

Wednesday 2 February Bird watching trip "Cruise the Coorong"

This was the first of the 4 charters organized for Birds SA members. We met on the Goolwa wharf at 9.45am and headed off through the Goolwa Barrage into the Coorong National Park in the little orange boat, skippered by Rupert and his assistant, Callum. The wind was cold and blowing strongly from the southeast, but this did not deter our spirits as it was cosy and warm inside the cabin. Passing through the lock we could see the fur seals lulling about on the structure, resting after feeding on fish nearby.

On the other side of the barrage the usual waterbirds were present, including gulls, cormorants, pelicans, spoonbills, egrets, White Ibis, Black Swan, a few ducks including one female Musk Duck and a Whistling Kite. The tide was low at 10.30 am so we did not have to travel far to observe the migrant waders feeding on a sandbar. These were mainly Red-necked Stints, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Curlew Sandpipers. There were Masked Lapwings, Greenshanks and Black-winged Stilts scattered amongst them. One duffer, (me) got excited and told everyone to watch for a special bird to pop up.



Members on a beach walk *(Photographed by Wendy Phillips, Coorong National Park, 2 February, 2022)*



Eastern Curlew *(Photographed by Neil Cheshire, Coorong National Park, 16 February 2022)*

I said it was a Great Crested Grebe! Then out popped a Pied Cormorant with just his head and neck showing. It sure tricked me!

Travelling towards the mouth we could see the terns resting on the sand and that gave us a good comparison of their sizes from the Caspian, Crested to the tiny Fairy Terns. The latter had bred on the tip of the Youngusband Peninsular next to the mouth of the river and new signage had been installed by the Landscape Board to warn 4-wheel drivers to keep away from their nesting site.

Three dredges are working constantly in the Goolwa Channel to keep the river mouth open. This has changed the landscape. The dredged sand has formed



Black-faced Cormorant *(Photographed by Rose Slade, Coorong National Park, 2 February 2022)*

Past Excursions *(continued)*



(Left) Caspian Terns, young with adult and (right) Fairy Terns (Photographed by Bob Daly, Coorong National Park, 9 February 2022)



new sandhills. Several excavators sit ready to move the long black pipes around to spread the sand to other areas. The Murray Mouth is moving closer to Goolwa. In fact, we were told it is now 6 km from where it was first located!

The wildlife does not appear to be affected by all this activity. The waterbirds, particularly the swans have never been so plentiful. We saw thousands and thousands of them. There were cygnets of various ages and one pair had 2 cygnets that appeared recently hatched, which seems strange so late in the season. The other unusual sighting was the enormous number of Australian Shelducks present. The explanation for this, Rupert explained was thought to be the fresh water coming through the Tauwichee Barrage. SA Water had opened 40-60 gates to release water coming down from the Darling and Murrumbidgee Rivers. This was mixing with the usual saline water of the Coorong.

We stopped for an hour to enjoy our lunch and some of us walked through the sandhills to the Southern Ocean, listening for honeyeaters and the elusive Rufous Bristlebird. The wild beach was deserted with only a few Australian Ravens to be seen. Back at the landing site, a few Superb Fairywrens and Singing Honeyeaters were sighted. A couple of Pied Oystercatchers were feeding along the shoreline. During the return trip, we spotted a few raptors: Whistling Kite, Swamp Harrier and a Hobby. Unfortunately, we did not see any White-bellied Sea Eagles. They are usually found much further south. Luckily, we spotted one Emu amongst the vegetation to add to our total. The ducks were Pacific Black, Grey and Chestnut Teals and a few Australasian Shovelers. We did not make an official count, but I tallied 44 species.

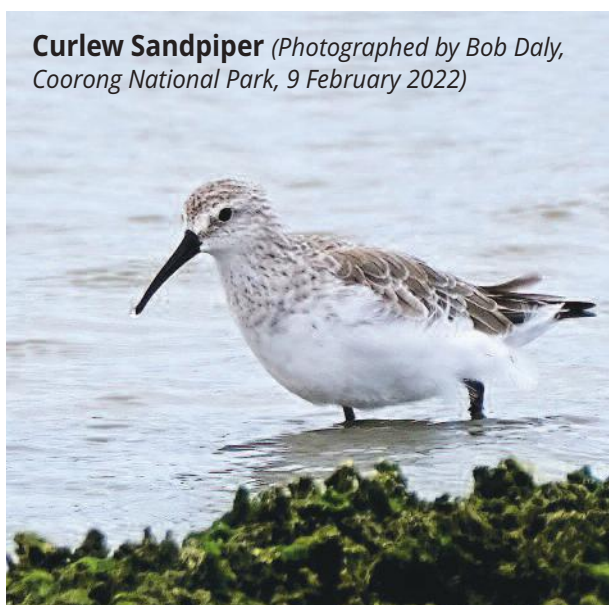
Overall, everyone enjoyed their experience. Lunch and Morning tea were delicious, while the skippers were flexible and offered us the best places to position the boat to view the waders.

We came away with a feeling of joy and optimism, just to see the volume of birdlife thriving in the Upper Coorong. We all need to be uplifted in the times of environmental woes and birds provide this experience 100% of the time.

The Spirit of the Coorong company offers a range of tours; and they are all worthwhile. You can check them out on the website or at their office on the Wharf at Goolwa.

Wendy Phillips

Curlew Sandpiper *(Photographed by Bob Daly, Coorong National Park, 9 February 2022)*



Past Excursions *(continued)*

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 5 February Myponga Reservoir

This trip had been cancelled since 4 boat trips were actually going in February. However, a few people showed up as they had not read the e-News. They sent this letter to myself and Steven Langley the next day!

Dear Wendy and Steven,

I went to the above field trip and arrived at 08:00 to be surrounded by birds and 31 Western Grey Kangaroos. By 08:15 I had a list of 20 species and I still hadn't left the carpark. By 08:30 there were 3 cars and 4 people for the event: myself, Edith, a long term Fleurieu Birder and Gordon and Sacha, two new members.

We decided it was such a good day that we would do the trip even though no one else had turned up. We spent about 3 hours walking along the reservoir to the woodland and then back. It was fantastic and we saw 43 species. I attach the Field Trip List. I do not know who I should send this to, so please excuse me for sending it to you two. You are the only people at Birds SA I know. I do not know the difference between the two columns BR and NO, so I recorded all the quantities under NO (number?). Also, I couldn't find Australian Wood Duck so I put it at the end.

Once home, I checked the website and found that the day had been cancelled. I am very pleased I did not know this in advance as I had a very good day and I think the others did too. Edith and I helped Gordon and Sasha with their birding so hopefully they will be back for another visit soon.

*Regards,
Lindsay Pheasant*

Wendy Phillips

Birds SA

Saturday 12 February Tolderol Game Reserve

This Field Trip was cancelled due to high water levels, and more importantly, a lack of birds!

William Brooker

Port Augusta Bird Group (The Babblers)

Sunday 13 February The Bluff Lookout

On a fine morning eight keen birders met at the Wirrabara pub, two each from Pt. Augusta and Nelshaby and one each from Pt. Pirie, Weeroona Island, Pt. Neill

and Mambray Creek. The day was to heat up to the high thirties and the area was looking quite dry as the creeks in the area were empty. All the rain that had been falling over the north, west and south of the state had mostly by-passed the southern Flinders. We filled out the usual Covid form and drove off to the Wirrabara forest and onto the recently opened Bluff lookout road. It is a sealed, narrow and steep in places road that leads to a carpark about 2kms. north of the true Bluff summit.

There is a great viewing platform overlooking the Spencer Gulf, Pt. Pirie and surrounds. The hill top is covered in tall Eucalypts, Acacias and dense scrub with exposed rocky cliff faces. The bird life was rather scarce though with Dusky Woodswallows and Rainbow Bee-eaters hawking for insects overhead and Grey Fantails flitting about in the trees. Silvereyes and Inland Thornbills moved about in the dense scrub. A small wren like bird was spotted near the open cliff edge and upon closer inspection it was seen several times again and identified as a Chestnut-rumped Heathwren. We tried to get photos of it but it would not hold still long enough to get a good shot.

We returned back along the narrow road and descended to where we could all park our vehicles safely and there was more bird activity. We were in a small valley with a dry creek lined by big Red gums and Acacia scrub. Grey Fantails chased bugs along the roadside and the sound of New Holland Honeyeaters filled the area. Some of the gums and Mistletoe plants were flowering attracting them and some Red Wattlebirds that could hold their own against the New Hollands. In the trees were also Weebills, Striated Pardalotes, Silvereyes, Flinders Adelaide Rosellas, Red-rumped Parrots and Magpies. In the scrub we found Grey Shrike-thrush, Purple-backed Fairy-wrens, Inland Thornbill and a Common Bronzewing, while Rainbow Bee-eaters glided about.

It was lunch time so we drove to the Wirrabara forest picnic area. While having our lunch there were Grey Shrikethrush, Red Wattlebirds, Weebills, Striated Pardalotes, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Grey Fantails and a juvenile Collared Sparrowhawk in the trees. Being a picnic area there were also some friendly Australian Magpies. Even though it was warming up we decided to walk to the old forest nursery further along the creek about 1.5km. As we moved along we found Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, a Common Blackbird, White-winged Choughs, New Holland and Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Willie Wagtails, Kookaburras, Flinders Adelaide Rosellas and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. After looking at the arboretum of mostly exotic trees and the old nursery ruins we returned adding Silvereyes, Purple-backed Fairywrens, a Common Bronzewing, White-browed Babblers and Galahs to the bird list.

Past Excursions *(continued)*

We left the picnic area and drove to Block Nine Road which winds through farming country, pine forest and native forest. Birds were getting scarce due to the heat and dryness, but we did stop in an area of native forest where we found Willie Wagtails, Weebills, Peaceful Doves, Rainbow Bee-eaters, White-plumed Honeyeaters, a Grey Shrike-thrush and lots of Tree Martins. We usually find Rufous or Golden Whistlers in these areas but not this time. It was getting hot now so we all headed off home.

A total of only 29 bird species were found this trip but we still had an enjoyable time, even though not a single decent bird photo was taken. The bird of the day would have to be the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren.

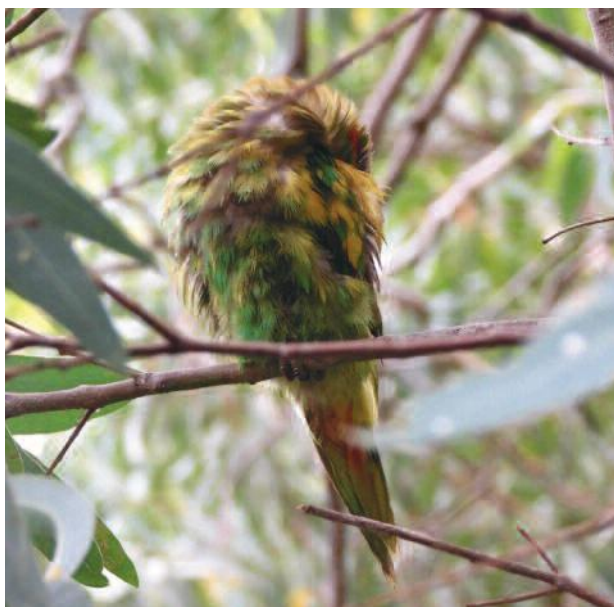
Bernie Haase

Birds SA

Thursday 17 February

Laratinga

Twentytwo members and guests arrived at Laratinga on a pleasantly cool morning. After everyone had signed the necessary paperwork in the carpark, we decided to gather by the facilities to plan our procedure for the morning. Judging by the time taken for people to walk from the carpark to the meeting point, my initial concept for conducting the excursion was reinforced. With so many different birds to see, it would be impossible to remain as a group as we walked around the variety of ponds. We divided informally into small groups, with the aim to meet back by the facilities at 11.30am.



Young Musk Lorikeet (Photographed by Rose Slade at Laratinga, 17 February 2022)

There was certainly the usual Laratinga variety of birds, including many fledglings, for everyone to enjoy. Most members obtained excellent views of both Spotted and Spotless Crakes. A Crested Shrike-tit, Blue-billed ducks, about 50 Reed Warblers and 10 Little Grassbirds added to the bird count. One person saw the first Brush Bronzewing that she had ever found at Laratinga. A European Goldfinch chick provided a highlight for another member. The only disappointment was the fact that the treatment ponds were dry, resulting in a shortage of Pink-eared Ducks. Only one was seen.

When we gathered back at our starting point for lunch and the bird call, everyone commented on the very pleasant morning we had all enjoyed and the very large number of fairywrens we had seen.

Between us, we had counted 51 species.

Cynthia Pyle



Blue-billed Duck (Photographed by Rose Slade at Laratinga, 17 February 2022)



Grey Teals (Photographed by Rose Slade at Laratinga, 17 February 2022)

Future Excursions

Birds SA Contact

Field Trip Coordinator, Lynton Huxley

Phone: 0498 466 092

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

If you have any queries or require further information, please contact the Field Trip coordinator.

Given current COVID-19 protocols for South Australia we have prepared a program of field trips and the 2022 Easter Campout as outlined below. We will continue to monitor government constraints and keep you informed of any changes via our e-News.

Given Birds SA Duty of Care obligation to you, our members, we 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.

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

Excursion Terrain Difficulty Ratings

Easy – generally flat terrain

Moderate – may include some short undulating gradients

Difficult – may include some continuous or steep gradients

What to bring:

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

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 5 March

Lawari C.P, Hindmarsh Island

Meet at 8.30am in the carpark near HLG Nursery, just over the bridge.

TRIP LEADER: Wendy

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 carpark

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 20th March

Chinaman's Creek, Mt Grainger

Meet at 8.00am at Chinaman's Rd. Highway turnoff. Wear beach walking footwear

Birds SA

Sunday 27 March

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

Meet at 8.30am at Port Noarlunga Oval carpark off Britain Drive.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 2 April

Mt. Billy CP and Hindmarsh Falls

Meet at 8.30am at Hindmarsh Falls carpark

TRIP LEADER: Pat Uppil

Future Excursions *(continued)*

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

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 April

Refuge Rocks — Camp out

Facilities available, costs apply

Meet at 8.30am in Whyalla Wetlands carpark

Birds SA

Thursday 14 to Tuesday 19 April

Easter Campout at Gluepot Reserve **Easy**

Full details on facilities, including how to get there are provided on pages 38–45.

TRIP LEADER: *Lynton Huxley*

Birds SA

Sunday 24 April

No activities — Long Weekend

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 7 May

Waitpinga and Newland Head C.P./Parsons Beach

Meet at 8.30 am in Newland Head Camping area.

TRIP LEADER: *Edith St. George*

Birds SA

Saturday 14 May

Buckland Lake, Port Gawler (AP) 45km **Easy**

Meet at 8.30am at the corner of Port Gawler and Applebee Roads at Port Gawler. From the City head towards Two Wells on the Port Wakefield Road and turn left onto Port Gawler Road. It is about 4km before you reach Two Wells.

TRIP LEADER: *B. Walker*

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 15 May

Carrierloo Station

Meet at 8am at the start of the Stuart Highway

Birds SA

Thursday 19 May

Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens (MLR) (19km)

Meet at 8.30am in the lower carpark off Lambert Road. Leave the SE Freeway at the Crafers Interchange and follow the Piccadilly Road for about 3km. Then turn left into Trigg Road.

TRIP LEADER: *Lynton Huxley*

Birds SA

Sunday 29 May

Ridley Conservation Park (MM) (126km)

Head towards Swan Reach via Sedan, turning right towards Mannum at the ETSA Substation (just prior to where the road starts dipping down to the river). Travel along this road about 5km. Meet at 8.30am at the northern end of the CP, which starts on the right.

TRIP LEADER: *Richard Woodland*

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 4 June

Nurragi Reserve — or Private Vineyard, Finnis TBC

TRIP LEADER: *Wendy*

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Saturday 11 to Monday 13 June

Campout at Oratunga Station

Facilities available, costs apply.

Meet at 10.00 am at Blinman Pub.

Birds SA

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June: Long Weekend

Two-night camp at Brookfield Conservation Park

(MM) 123km **Easy**

Meet at 8.30am just inside the gate, approximately 35km east of Truro. The entrance is 2km past “8 mile corner” at a gentle left bend on an otherwise straight road. No Caravans please, just tents and camper trailers for this one. Gas cooking only — no wood fires other than the one fire pit (provided we supply the timber).

TRIP LEADER: *Ali Ben Kahn*

Birds SA

Thursday 16 June

Bushland Park, Lobethal (MLR) (43 km)

Meet at 8.30am in the Bushland Park carpark about 2km north of Lobethal on the Lobethal to Gumeracha Road. The entrance is on your left.

TRIP LEADER: *Ali Ben Kahn*

The Easter Campout this year will be at Gluepot Reserve in SA's Riverland region (approx. 230km from Adelaide). Located 64km north of Waikerie, this property is managed by Birdlife Australia. Members are welcome to stay as long as they like before and after the campout. On arrival, members are requested to stop at the Visitor Centre to register and **pay appropriate fees: either \$5 per vehicle for a day visit or \$15 a night per vehicle to camp. Birds SA will collect \$5 per person attending to cover some campout costs.** The Visitor Centre is very well set up with a good supply of pamphlets and brochures full of information. The map of the reserve on page 41 is detailed and easy to follow, as are the maps describing the numerous walks.

We have secured the Bellbird Campsite for exclusive use as our base for members. (Refer to **Attachment A, page 39** for the Bellbird site layout details and the Minimum Impact Code for Camping at Gluepot Reserve). This is an excellent campground with 19 designated campsites, some of which are quite large, so with some sharing of sites, 23 campsites should be available. Members are asked to choose the minimal area they require, so that we can accommodate as many as possible, for we must stay within the boundaries of the campground and the sites marked. Once the campground is full, people will have to travel to one of the other campgrounds (either Sitella or Babbler).

A Property Map is provided in **Attachment B, page 41**. Additional Visitor Information is provided in **Attachment C page 42**.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT:

1. **All attendees MUST comply with our Birds SA COVID Safe Plan. If you feel unwell please do not attend!**
2. You will need to be self-sufficient with all food, drinking water, vehicle fuel, gas and camping equipment and you are responsible for removing your own rubbish. Please also note that wood fires, pets and firearms are NOT permitted on the Gluepot Reserve.
3. **Due to quarantine requirements, you are not allowed to take fresh fruit and vegetables into the Riverland Fruit-fly zone. These food items may be purchased from Riverland towns such as Renmark, Waikerie or Morgan. Detailed information is available from PIRSA (Primary Industries and Resources SA) by phone or on their website.**
4. Heavy rain may require the closure of property tracks. A handheld UHF radio or vehicle mounted unit is recommended. **Mobile phone reception does not exist!**

5. The meeting point will be at the Bellbird Campsite, at whatever time you plan to arrive.
6. Camp ground facilities are limited to two drop-toilets. No holes are to be dug for personal toilets. Porta-potties can be used, but they **must not** be emptied into the long-drops.
7. There are no showers or potable water.
8. Planned camp activities include:
 - Daily bird survey activities;
 - Nightly 'Happy Hour' — you may consider sharing your favourite nibbles;
 - Nightly birdcall.
9. **We will have the traditional Sunday gas barbecue lunch (bacon and eggs and/or pancakes. You will need to provide the ingredients for the Committee Members present to cook for you.**

GENERAL INFORMATION *including how to get there*

Gluepot Reserve is a large (54,390 ha) area of Mallee Scrub. Birds Australia purchased Gluepot Station in 1997 and it is now a very popular bird watching spot.

Upon arriving in Waikerie, cross the river on the ferry and head north to the Morgan to Renmark Road. There is a place called Taylorville and, next to the Kindergarten/Playgroup/Primary School/Community Centre/Church building, there is a dirt road heading north with a sign that says "Gluepot 50".

Alternatively, you could travel to Morgan from Adelaide (through Kapunda and Eudunda) then head towards Renmark until you reach the dirt road turn off on your left, which is about 30 kilometres east of Morgan. Refer to **Attachment D, page 43** for detailed track access directions).

Just keep following the dirt road north. There are periodical signs indicating the way to Gluepot. It is necessary to travel through several gates, so make sure you close them again. **If there is any rain the roads may be closed.**

Please contact me on email: lyntonhuxley@gmail.com to secure your attendance or to obtain more information on this fun Birds SA Annual event.

Lynton Huxley

Campout Leader

lyntonhuxley@gmail.com

Phone: 0498 466 092



MINIMUM IMPACT CODE FOR CAMPING AT GLUEPOT RESERVE

Welcome to Gluepot Reserve, a unique area of vital importance for the conservation of many species of birds, reptiles and plants. You can assist in the conservation of Gluepot Reserve's natural significance by adhering to the following code.

GAS FIRES ONLY AREA

No wood fires are allowed on Gluepot Reserve. To maintain threatened bird habitat and to reduce the risk of wildfire, only gas fires are permitted.

CAMPING GROUNDS

Camping grounds have been located in areas with immediate access to a variety of good birding habitats. Sites within the camp grounds have been located to optimise shelter and provide screening from other users. The naturalness of the camp areas will be maintained if impacts are kept to a minimum.

PLEASE CAMP ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS. All camping sites are designated to accommodate a vehicle, so please ensure that tracks are kept clear at all times.

RUBBISH

Litter is unattractive and may cause harm to wildlife. Please carry all rubbish out with you, as no bins are provided.

PROVISION OF TOILETS

Toilets are provided at each campsite for your convenience. Please assist management by not using these facilities for disposal of rubbish. Please lower the lid after use.

WATER

Water is a scarce resource on the Reserve and you will need to provide your own. A limited supply of wash-up water is available from the small tanks located between the toilets. It is not recommended that this water is used for drinking purposes.

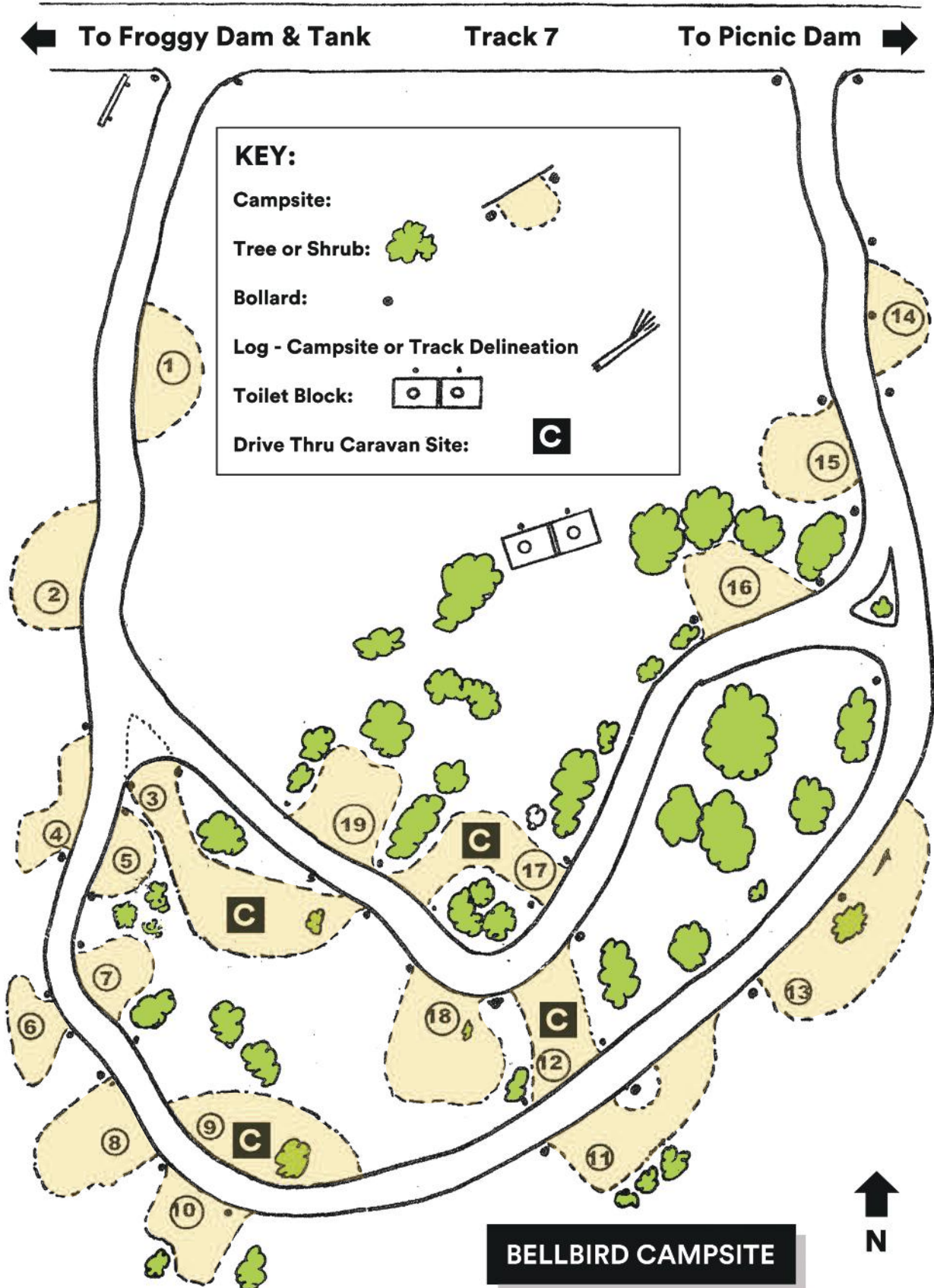
PLEASE KEEP TO ACCESS TRACKS

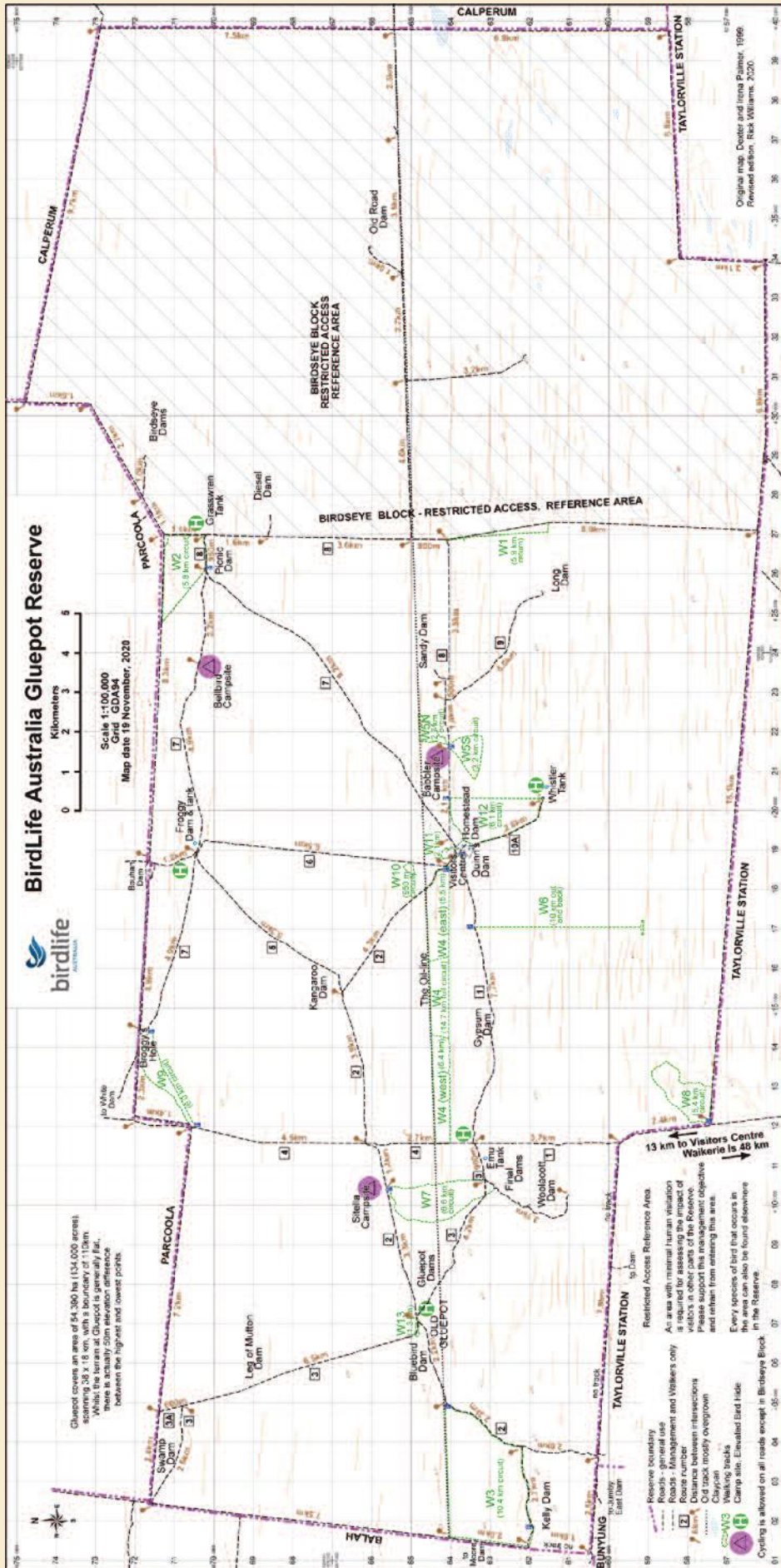
To minimise disturbance to vegetation, please do not drive off the tracks. When you stop and leave your vehicle, please ensure that it is not obstructing other vehicles.

RANGER ASSISTANCE

The Rangers, located at the Homestead, will be pleased to answer any queries you may have.

ENJOY YOUR STAY







Gluepot Reserve | Visitor Services and Information



1. Gluepot is located about 64kms from Waikerie, which is on the Sturt Highway (Highway No. 20) about 200kms from Adelaide.
2. Information can be obtained at the Waikerie Visitor Centre, Strangman Road, Waikerie – phone 8541 0720. Information will include a map and directions.
3. Visitors should proceed into Waikerie, cross the Murray River on the car ferry and then follow the fingerboards as displayed.
4. Additionally, there are signposts at the turnoff to Waikerie on the Sturt Highway, at the junction of Taylorville and Morgan-Renmark Roads (10 kms from the ferry), at Lunn Rd (another 3 kms) right turn, just past the Christadelphian Church on this corner, and along the track into Gluepot.
5. Distance is 64kms, 50 km of which is unsealed and approximate travelling time from Waikerie is 1.5 hours depending on vehicle, road conditions and driver.
6. If travelling from Morgan along the Goyder Highway (MorganRenmark Rd) the Gluepot turnoff is 31 kms and if travelling from Renmark it is 83kms
7. Tracks are usually suitable for 2WD and medium caravans when dry. However, after approx 15mm of rain they may be closed or affected by water and suitable for 4WD only. Phone 8892-8600 for advice after rain.
8. Visitors are advised that they will travel through private property reaching the Gluepot boundary. You should avoid stopping, and under no circumstances camp. You should be aware of the possible presence of kangaroos, cattle, or other feral animals and drive accordingly, and all gates should be left as found.
9. **On Gluepot Reserve, there are no fires of any sort permitted except gas fires (these may also be banned on a total fire ban day), no pets, and no firearms.**
10. Fees are \$5 per vehicle per day for day visitors and \$15 per vehicle per night for camping.
11. Visitors must be self-sufficient and provide everything they need including your own water, food, fuel etc. They must also remove all their rubbish.
12. There are three camp grounds on the reserve – Babbler, Bellbird and Sitella. These are equipped with long drop toilets. We DO NOT take bookings for camp sites and we DO NOT ALLOW generators.
13. There is an extremely well equipped Visitor Centre at the homestead area where visitors may self-register and obtain maps, bird lists, walk brochures, etc. about facilities on the reserve.
14. It is advisable for visitors to adhere to the marked walking trails on the reserve and exercise extreme caution if you venture away from marked trails, as it is very easy to become lost in the Australian mallee scrub.
15. It is also advisable for walkers to carry a GPS and/or compass and if you become lost to follow the instructions on the walk brochure (obtainable from the Visitor Centre) to navigate their way to safety.
16. Whenever possible visitors will be greeted by resident Rangers who will be only too willing to assist by answering questions etc.
17. All visitors need to be aware that summer conditions in Gluepot can be extremely hot (temperatures can reach 40°C) and you must take precautions against heat stroke—carry plenty of water, wear proper clothing, use sunscreen etc.
18. All visitors need to be aware that the Riverland area is a fruit fly exclusion zone. Travel restrictions apply to some fruit, vegetables and plant products. Please check the website https://fruitfly.sa.gov.au/travelling_restrictions for up-to-date information. **SA residents note that as of July 2021 the 'bring a receipt' rule is no longer recognised.**
19. Gluepot email is gluepot@gluepot.org and Rangers (if at the homestead) may be reached on (08) 8892 8600.
20. Further information about the reserve can be obtained at our website www.gluepot.org.

Travelling to Gluepot Reserve


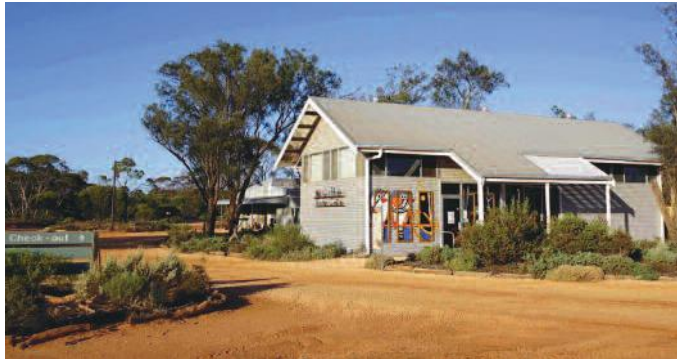
1. **Note that the only way to Gluepot Reserve is via Lunn Road**, as described below. Some satellite navigation systems direct users via other routes that end at a locked gate, denying access to Gluepot Reserve.
2. From Adelaide, travelling to Gluepot via:
 - a. Blanchetown and Waikerie. In Waikerie take the ferry across the Murray River, and travel approx 10km to reach the Goyder Highway (B64) tee intersection. Turn left & travel 3.5km to the Gluepot turnoff to the right, at Lunn Rd. The turnoff is sign-posted and the Glenlock Christadelphian (Ecclesia) Hall is located on the corner at the turnoff.
 - or*
 - b. Morgan to Gluepot. 30km east of Morgan on the Goyder Highway (B64) on the left, is the Lunn Road turnoff to Gluepot.. The turnoff is sign-posted and the Glenlock Christadelphian (Ecclesia) Hall is located on the corner at the turnoff.
3. The 48km of unsealed road from the turnoff to Gluepot Visitor Centre is suitable for most types of vehicle. Sections of the road will become slippery after rain and the road may be closed by the Rangers if enough rain has fallen to make the road unsafe for travel. If the road is closed it will be stated on the Gluepot sign observable on the left hand side on Lunn Road just after passing the Christadelphian Hall. The road initially passes a pig farm on the left hand side and then through several cattle paddocks. This section of the road can be rough. The road also passes through six gates, the first of which is usually open and the next 4 are usually closed. Occasionally farm workers may leave one or more of the closed gates open if they are working in the area. Leave the gates as you found them on your arrival. Please never leave a closed gate open after passing through.
4. **In detail, from the turnoff at Lunn Rd. It is helpful to set your trip odometer to 0.0**

| Trip odometer | Location | Images |
|---------------|---|--|
| 0.0km | Sign-posted Lunn Rd turnoff to Gluepot from highway. Glenlock Christadelphian Church on corner. (signs should all be pointing in same direction, north) |  |
| 1.5km | Pass through a gate that is usually open. You will then pass a piggery on the left. | |
| 2.0km | <p>This gate is usually closed. It contains signs warning about trespassing and use of security cameras.</p> <p>Gluepot visitors are permitted to continue past the gate, as sign-posted on the gate.</p> |  |
| 3.0km | You will pass a cattle watering point. Take care if there are cattle nearby. | |

Travelling to Gluepot Reserve (continued)

| Trip odometer | Location | Images |
|---------------|---|--|
| 4.0km | This gate is usually closed. |  |
| 5.4km | You will pass another cattle watering point. | |
| 6.6km | This gate is usually closed. There is an overhead powerline just before gate. There is a Gluepot sign on the left approx 30m after the gate. The road veers to the left. |  |
| 16.6km | This gate is usually closed. This is the entrance to Taylorville Station, a conservation reserve adjoining Gluepot.. There is a 'Gluepot 32km' sign on the gate. The road veers to the left (west). |  |
| 17.8km | The road reaches a fork near a corner. Take the sign-posted 'Kent Track' sharply to the right. There is a Gluepot sign on the left as you travel around the bend. | |
| 37.0km | Gluepot entrance. Pass through the open gate. The Gluepot sign is on the left. |   |

Travelling to Gluepot Reserve (continued)

| Trip odometer | Location | Images |
|---------------|--|---|
| 40.6km | You will pass the sign-posted water tank, Emu Tank on the left. Almost immediately after the tank, take Track 1, a sweeping corner to the right. |  |
| 48.5km | Arrive at the Gluepot Visitor Centre. There are self-registration facilities in the Visitor Centre. Copies of the Gluepot Reserve map and information pamphlets are available here. The Homestead is approximately 400m north of the Visitor Centre. |  |

Gluepot Reserve has 3 campgrounds – **Babbler**, **Bellbird** & **Sitella**.

They are marked on the map (Attachment B) as 

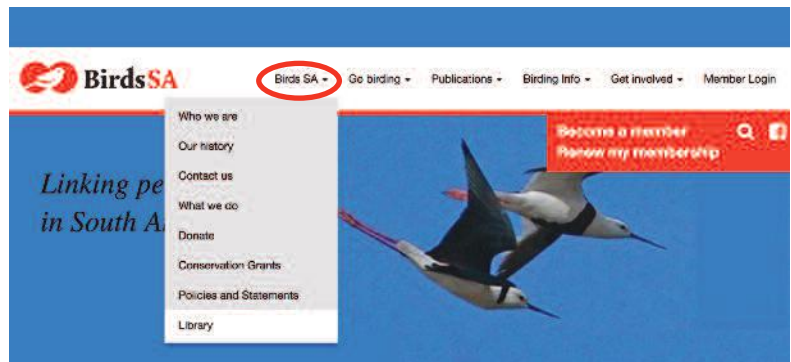
Babbler is the closest to the Visitor Centre, being approx 4km to the east.

From the Library

Unfortunately there is no space in the refurbished Waite for our library. We are currently seeking an alternative venue.

Access to the library is not possible at present, as all the resoures 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>



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).

Stubble Quail

2, 25/11/2021. West Beach stormwater basin, AP.
Edey, D.

Widespread reports of this quail from southern regions over spring-early summer.

Common Diving Petrel

1 beach-washed, 23/12/2021. Goolwa Beach, MM.
Found exhausted, taken to fauna rehabilitation.
per Rogers, C.

White-chinned Petrel

35, 28/11/2021. Edge of shelf off Port MacDonnell, MO.
Also seen were 4 White-headed Petrels.
Harper, D. & S.

Australasian Bittern

1 heard, 4/11/2021. Onkaparinga Wetlands, MLR.
Pearson, R.

Australian Little Bittern

Heard, 8/11/2021. Tolderol Game Reserve, Bay 14, MM.
Brooker, W.

Straw-necked Ibis

1, 17/1/2022. Adelaide, Rymill Park, AP. Child, A.
Small numbers reported to be now nesting with Australian White Ibis at Bird Island, Outer Harbor.

White-bellied Sea-eagle

Several reports of birds inland, possibly enroute to reservoirs for feeding.

1 over, 2/12/2021. Craighburn, MLR. Kirby, G.
1 over, 3/12/2021. Brownhill Creek, MLR. Leitch, E.
1 immature over, 15/12/2021. Bull Creek, MLR.

1, 6/1/2022. Barossa Reservoir, MLR. Hopton, D.
Letheby, R.

Square-tailed Kite

Several reports away from known breeding sites at Belair and near Para Wirra.

1, 7/11/2021. Chandlers Hill, MLR. Matthews, S.
1, 12 & 23/12/2021. Lyndoch, MLR. Dennis, T.
1, 28/12/2021. Kaiser Stuhl CP, MLR. Phillis, T.
1, 28/1/2022. Mengler's Hill, MLR. Kretschmer, G.

Osprey

2 over, 3/1/2022. Bolivar, Northern Connector, AP.
Edey, D. & Copley, P.

Buff-banded Rail

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

Also one juvenile reported later in month by T. Jack.
1, 15/11/2021 and 2, 22/11/2021. Lochiel Park wetlands, AP.

Gordon, S.
Adult + juvenile, 28/11/2021. Globe Derby Park, White Rd Wetland, AP.
Prideaux, K.

Baillon's Crake

Several reports from created wetlands around the northern suburbs.

1, 16/11/2021. Salisbury, George St wetlands, AP.
Gordon, S.
2, 16/11/2021. Para Hills, Paddocks Wetlands, AP.
Gordon, S.
2, 21/11/2021. Greenfields, George St wetlands, AP.
Harper, D.
3 + 2 juveniles, 22/11/2021. Port Adelaide, Perkins Dr stormwater pond, AP.
Jack, T.

Lesser Sand Plover

1, 20/1/2022. Price SF, YP. Brooker, W. *et al.*
2, 24/12/2021. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.
Few reports from SA in recent years.

Oriental Plover

1, 6/11/2021, 40 km E Woomera, NW. Poole, J.
120, 29/12/2021. Lake Macdonnell, EP. Roosting nearer the coast in hot weather.
Harper, D. & S.

Hooded Plover

2 + juvenile, 8/1/2022. Near Lake Horn, W of Cummins, EP.
Brittain, R. & Diment, J. & V.
Occasional breeding reports from subcoastal salt lakes.

Common Sandpiper

1, 26/1/2022. Hope Valley Reservoir, AP. Kaashoek, M.

Bird Records *(continued)*

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

1000, 2/12/2021. Buckland Park Lake, AP. Also present were 140 Curlew Sandpiper, one Pectoral Sandpiper and 6 Black-tailed Godwit.

Brooker, W. & Rogers, C.

Although flooded infrequently in recent years due to low winter rainfall and diversions of the Gawler River upstream, this freshwater wetland remains very important to water birds in the AP region.

Curlew Sandpiper

125, 29/12/2021. Lake Macdonnell, EP.

Harper, D. & S., Suter, A.

Bar-tailed Godwit

2, 5/11/2021. Aldinga Washpool, MLR. Goland, R. & G. Also 2 present there on 6/11/2021 (T. Jack) and 1 on 13/11/2021

(T. Bainbridge)

154, 14/1/2022. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.

40, 17/1/2022. Goolwa Channel, MM. Edey, D. *et al.*

Black-tailed Godwit

1, 20/12/2021. Clinton CP, AP. Woodland, R.

11, 22/12/2021. Bolivar Sewage Works, AP.

Breed, B. *et al.*

Eastern Curlew

16, 20/1/2022. Light Beach, AP. Largest number seen here.

Walker, B. *et al.*

Whimbrel

1, 1/11/2021. Clinton CP, AP. Taylor, P.W. & Moore, G. Also one present on 20/12/21 seen by R. Woodland.

12, 20/12/2021. Price SF, YP. Brooker, W. *et al.*

1, 20/1/2022. Bird Island, Outer Harbor, AP. Bartley, K.

Red-necked Phalarope

1, 20/12/202. Price SF, YP. Still present on 20/1/2022.

Brooker, W. *et al.*

Marsh Sandpiper

22, 4/1/2022. Tolderol GR, MM.

Brooker, W.

Oriental Pratincole

1, 3/11/2021. Port Macdonnell, Danger Point, SE.

Stracey, K. & Dodd, L.

1, 23/11/2021. Price SF, YP.

Brooker, W. *et al.*

Brown Skua

1 beach-washed, 19/1/2022. Seacliff Beach, MLR.

Cobb, J. & W.

White-winged Black Tern

1, 23/11/2021. Price SF, YP.

Brooker, W. *et al.*

2, 29/11/2021. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Taylor, P.W. & Moore, G.

1, 29/12/2021. Lake Macdonnell, EP.

Harper, D. & S., Suter, A.

Gull-billed Tern

6, 1/11/2021. Clinton CP, AP. Of the migratory subspecies affinis.

Taylor, P.W. & Moore, G.

8 also present on 20/12/2021 roosting on mudflats with 20 Australian Gull-billed Terns.

Woodland, R.

Bridled Tern

Up to 20, 31/12/2021. Islands WSW of Ceduna, EP. Display flights and carrying nest material indicative of breeding.

Harper, D. & S., Suter, A.

Little Tern

4, 27/11/2021. Murray Mouth, MM.

Rich, G.

Also 3 present on 30/11/2021.

Edey, D.

Gang Gang Cockatoo

1 male, 10/11/2021. Para Wirra NP, MLR.

Letheby, R.

A few reports from MLR in recent years presumably of escaped birds.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

Widespread reports from northern and western parts of AP/MLR in November and December.

2, 25/10/2021. Thompson Beach North, AP.

Lester, A. & Buckley, K.

2, 25/10/2021. Light Beach, AP.

Noble, C. *et al.*

2, 25/10/2021. Webb Beach, AP. Weir, M. & McIlwain, H.

Several, 6/11/2021. Parafield, AP. per Potter, M.

Several, 7/11/2021. Mawson Lakes, AP. Fairbairn, H.

100, 12/11/2021. Hindmarsh Island, Captain St Rd, MM.

Haskett, C.

4, 13/11/2021. Cowandilla, AP.

Carpenter, G.

2, 15/11/2021. Para Hills, MLR.

Harper, D. & S.

2, 15/11/2021 and 4, 22/11/2021. Lochiel Park wetlands, AP.

Gordon, S.

5+, 16/11/2021. Bolivar Sewage Works, AP. Kemper, C.

10, 22/11/2021. Cobbler Creek CP, MLR. Kaashoek, M.

2, 22/11/2021. North Para River, Tanunda, MLR.

Schiller, T.

1, 25/11/2021. Blakiston, MLR.

Fennell, J.

11, 26/11/2021. Salisbury Heights, Little Para River, MLR.

Kaashoek, M.

Bird Records *(continued)*

1, 30/11/2021. Edinburgh, AP. Whatmough, R.
6, 6/12/2021. Bolivar, AP. Taylor, P.W.
2, 7/12/2021. Elizabeth East, AP. Wetherall, D.
2, 8/12/2021. Elizabeth Grove, AP. per Wetherall, D.
2, 13/12/2021. Elizabeth Interchange, AP. Harper, D.
2, 13/12/2021. 5 km WNW Springton, MLR. Edey, D. *et al.*
1, 7/1/2022 Kilburn, AP. Kemper, C.

Australian Ringneck

4, 3/1/2022. 2km SW Melton, YP. Edey, D. & Copley, P.
Few reports from YP in recent years.

Black-eared Cuckoo

1, 24/11/2021. Goolwa North, MM. Jones, K.

Superb Fairywren

Encouraging reports from revegetated watercourses across AP. Habitat enhancement by City of Adelaide could re-establish them in the city.

2, 18/1/2022. Novar Gardens, Brownhill Creek, AP. Edey, D.
5, 22/11/2021. Lochiel Park wetlands, AP. Gordon, S.
2, 30/12/2021. Glenelg North, Brownhill Creek adjacent Navaid Rd, AP. Edey, D.

White-throated Gerygone

1 or 2, 12/12/2021. Goolwa Sewage Works, MM. Photographed while feeding in planted eucalypts. Haskett, C.
One reported by various observers over the following few days.

Black-chinned Honeyeater

8, 8/1/2022. Clayton Bay, MM. Renton, M.
2, 9/1/2022. Happy Valley, Mandalay Drive, MLR. Brooker, W.
7, 13/11/2021. Victor Harbor, Inman River, MLR. Haskett, C.
2, 14/11/2021. Nangawooka Flora Reserve, MLR. Haskett, C.

Varied Sittella

2, 1/11/2021. Woodcroft, E of Vines Golf Course, MLR. First report for area. Brooker, W.

White-winged Chough

8, 18/1/2022. Happy Valley Reservoir, MLR. Peter, J.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail

1, 9/11/2021. Robe, Fox Lake, SE. Feeding amongst samphire around lake edge. McKenzie, P. & Tiller, K.
Seen and photographed by numerous observers over the following week.

Beautiful Firetail

Several, 8/12/2021. Deep Creek CP, MLR. In extensive area of 5-year old dense revegetation of oak-bush (*Allocasuarina striata* and *A. muelleriana*), Totem Poles *Melaleuca decussata* and Myrtle-leaf Wattle *Acacia myrtifolia* planted intentionally to attract this species. Carpenter, G.



Purple-backed Fairy-wren
(Photographed by Gordon Pateman at Rocky Gully, 23 February, 2022)

BIRDS SA COMMITTEE

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| President..... | Steven Langley | 0490 802 176 |
| Vice President..... | Richard Woodland..... | 0488 229 394 |
| Vice President..... | Jeff Groves..... | 0401 125 510 |
| Secretary | Roger Bourne | |
| Treasurer..... | Anita Smyth | |
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| Bird Records..... | Graham Carpenter | 8297 5463 |
| Membership Officer ... | Alan Burns | 0411 595 910 |
| Member..... | John Hatch..... | 0401 082 489 |
| Member..... | Raymond Nias | 0414 917 297 |
| Member..... | Jeremy Robertson | 0449 201 775 |

Committee meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE EMAIL CONTACTS

If you wish to contact any committee member by email, use the email address: general@birdssa.asn.au and indicate which committee member you wish to contact.

Your message will be forwarded to that person.

e-newsletter EDITOR

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

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SA Rarities Committee (SARC) Members

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

SA Bird Records Committee Members

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

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COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the WINTER 'Birder' is due by the end of April 2022. Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded a USB stick, emailed to the email address below, or typed/handwritten neatly.

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All members receive a digital copy of both the Magazine and the Journal. We also offer printed copies for an additional yearly fee of \$20.00

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

The 'South Australian Ornithologist' is Birds SA's scientific journal.

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

MEMBERS PHOTO GALLERY

*Please send in your photos, from your bird trips or from your own birding activities,
for inclusion in our Magazine 'The Birder'*

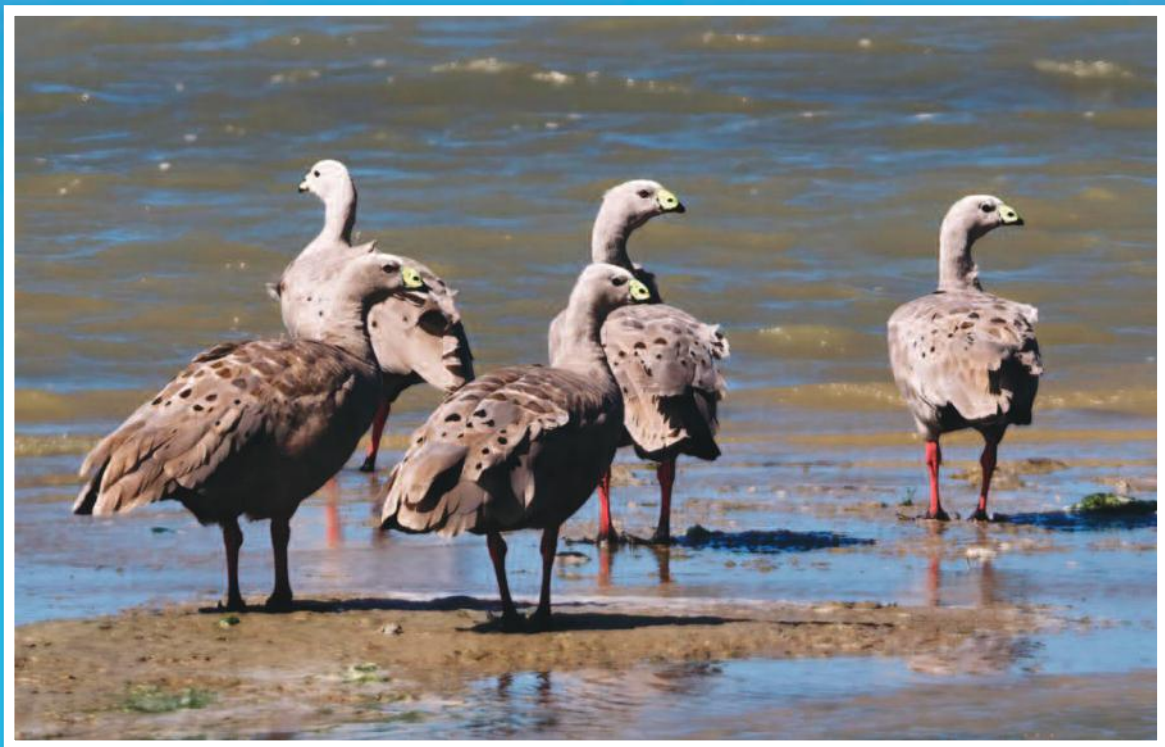
I've been up all night!



Nankeen Night Heron

(Photographed by Anna Lester at St. Peter's Billabong, December 2021)

Cape Barren Geese



Cape Barren Geese in flight and on the shoreline

(Photographed by Rose Slade on Hindmarsh Island, 4 March 2022)

Let's go out on a limb!

A pair of Chestnut-breasted Whiteface

*(Photographed by Bernie Haase at
Bon Bon Reserve, October 2021)*

