The BIRDER

The official magazine of Birds SA Spring 2022 No 263

Birds SA

Linking people with birds
in South Australia

In this Issue

How very eyecatching!

Red-capped Robin

(Photographed by Rose Slade during the campout at Brookfield Conservation Park, June 2022)

Contents

CENTRE INSERT No 80: Apollos Harrison Gouge (1825–1912) Part 2 by Philippa Horton.

Cover image: Black-browed Albatross
Photographed by Craig Greer at Port Macdonnell, 16 July 2022.
The cover of this magazine was designed by John Gitsham.

Graphic design: Ingrid Grigg

We welcome 52 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on page 26.

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'.

PLEASE NOTE:

At the time of printing, information about many of the future Birds SA excursions was unavailable. Please check the e-newsletter for upcoming excursion details.

SEPTEMBER		
Saturday 3 September	FB	Excursion to Bullock Hill CP, Ashbourne
Friday 16 September *to* Monday 19 September	PA	**CAMPOUT at Bon Bon Station Reserve**
Tuesday 27 September	Birds SA	General Meeting
Friday 30 September *to* Tuesday 4 October	Birds SA	**CAMPOUT at Lawari Conservation Park**
OCTOBER		
Saturday 1 October	FB	Springmount CP
Sunday 9 October	PA	Bernie's Block
Tuesday 25 October	Birds SA	General Meeting
NOVEMBER		
Saturday 5 November	FB	Hindmarsh River Walk, Victor Harbor
Sunday 17 November	PA	Devil's Peak, Quorn area
Tuesday 29 November	Birds SA	General Meeting
DECEMBER		
Saturday 3 December	FB	Stan Farquar Reserve and Nangawooka Arboretum

President's Message

Hi Everyone

I am very pleased to advise you all that we have found a new home for our library. We have a fabulous library of hundreds of books, journals, DVDs and more. All these are available free of charge for our members to view and borrow – for instance international field guides when you go on holiday.

The library used to be housed in the University of Adelaide's Waite Institute where we hold our monthly meetings. However a university refurbishment ousted the library last winter and it has been in storage ever since.

We have now found a new home at the Conservation Council's offices at 111 Franklin St. Adelaide. Members will have access one afternoon every 2 weeks and there will also be the online ability to request that a book is brought to a General Meeting for them to borrow. Full details to be provided in future e-news and in the Birder. We need to recognise that provision of this facility involves considerable effort from our librarian team led by Karen Donkin, as well as cost in rental, insurance etc. It is therefore important that the library is well used.

We have used a $30,000 grant from SA Government to invest in a Native Seed Orchard in partnership with the Kanmantoo-Callington Landcare Group and installed on a Landcare member's property near Callington. This Orchard will provide us with a source seed of native grasses and shrubs needed for future revegetation schemes — for instance at Monarto. We will need some volunteers for raising seedlings, as well as support with planting and harvesting — see forthcoming editions of e-News.

Activities are progressing at our Minko "reserve-lite" at Mount Compass. We have installed 40 nestboxes and have used our nestbox inspection camera to look in a few boxes from the first batch and found we already a guest — a ring-tailed possum! Hopefully we will have some feathered occupants when we next inspect the nest boxes in early October.

All the best
Steven
Steven Langley, President Birds SA
M: 0490 802 176

New Rules

for the South Australian Ornithological Association (Birds SA)

At the Birds SA Annual General Meeting held on 31 May 2022 new Rules for the Association were approved by a vote of the members present.

The new Rules, dated 19 May 2022, were developed following consultation with the Committee and members and supersede the Rules that had been in place since July 2006.

In preparing the new Rules a number of essential requirements had to be satisfied:

- The Rules had to meet the requirements of the current South Australian Associations Incorporation Act 1985. The ***Example of Rules for an Incorporated Association*** published by Consumer and Business Services SA provided valuable guidance.
- The Rules had to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth Register of Environmental Organisations in order for the Association to be endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient.
- Related to this, the Rules had to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements of the Australian Tax Office and the Commonwealth environment department.

The new Rules of the Association can be viewed on the Birds SA website in the **Policies and Statements** area.

Conservation sub-Committee

Birds SA Position Statement: Recreational Motor Vehicles and Threatened Coastal Birds

Disturbance to threatened birds on beaches by motor vehicles has been an issue in South Australia for decades. In addition to the impact on birds, concerns about motor vehicles on beaches have also been raised in relation to public safety and amenity, and damage to protected areas and the natural environment. In spite of the many discussions and recommendations developed since 1977, very little has been achieved in addressing the negative consequences of vehicles on beaches.

In July, Birds SA developed a Position Statement that clarifies the position of the Association on the matter of recreational vehicle impacts on threatened coastal birds, and to provide impetus for implementing the actions that are required to protect people and the coastal environment.

In simple terms the Position Statement calls for seasonal or temporary closures of beaches to recreational vehicles where this activity is shown to have a significant impact on endangered, vulnerable or rare birds as defined by the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. Access to beaches should be managed through a state-wide permit system with appropriate enforcement and public education about environmentally friendly beach use.

The Birds SA Position Statement is available on the Birds SA website on the Birds SA/Policies and Statements page.

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Blue Carbon Project

Blue Carbon refers to the capture and storage of carbon by coastal ecosystems and vegetation such as sea-grasses, samphire and mangroves. The Federal Government's Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration Grants provide funding over 4 years from 2021–22 to 2024–25 for implementing on-ground projects that restore degraded coastal wetland ecosystems in Australia. One of the successful grants announced in July was for a major coastal restoration program covering 12,400ha of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) National Park, nearby crown land and adjoining private properties. The $2.9m grant together with substantial additional private and corporate funding was developed by The Nature Conservancy and partners, including Birds SA. The project aims to restore natural tidal flows into stranded wetlands, improving both the ecological health and extent of these local ecosystems and improving habitat for birds and other native species. Partners include Kaurna, the South Australian Department for Environment and Water, Adelaide Plains Council, Flinders University, The University of Adelaide, Birds SA, BirdLife Australia, and the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.

Restoration works at Tolderol Game Reserve wetlands

When wet, the marshes at Tolderol provide vital habitat for migratory waders over summer as well as over 50 waterbird species. The management of environmental water delivery at Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands is guided by a voluntary, community-based working group convened by Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board (MRLB) and National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS). Working Group representation includes Birds SA, Conservation & Hunting Alliance of SA, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, neighbouring landholders and community members.

At Tolderol, water is delivered into the bays via pumping to facilitate foraging habitat for a diverse range of waterbirds, typically targeting migratory shorebirds. The existing water delivery system at Tolderol GRW allows only three of the 21 bays to be independently watered from the pumping station. This setup means that the ideal shorebird habitat within individual bays is routinely compromised to facilitate water delivery to bays further along the delivery chain. In some scenarios, this means compromising habitat in up to three bays before the target bay receives water at the end of the delivery chain. The intermediary bays in the delivery chain typically need to be filled to transport water to the next bay in sequence. This delivery chain process can take weeks, with regular infrastructure monitoring required to ensure bays fill as intended.

A new project aims to improve the water delivery system so that all 21 bays can be watered independently, thereby increasing the productivity of watered bays and significantly improving environmental outcomes. Funding for these works was announced in December 2021. These on-ground works will commence in late spring/early summer 2022 and be completed in winter 2023. MRLB Wetlands Team and NPWS, together with the Tolderol GRW Working Group, will ensure that some basins are kept watered through the proposed construction period to ensure some habitat is available to shorebirds through the shorebird season (August 2022–April 2023).

Conservation sub-Committee

(continued)

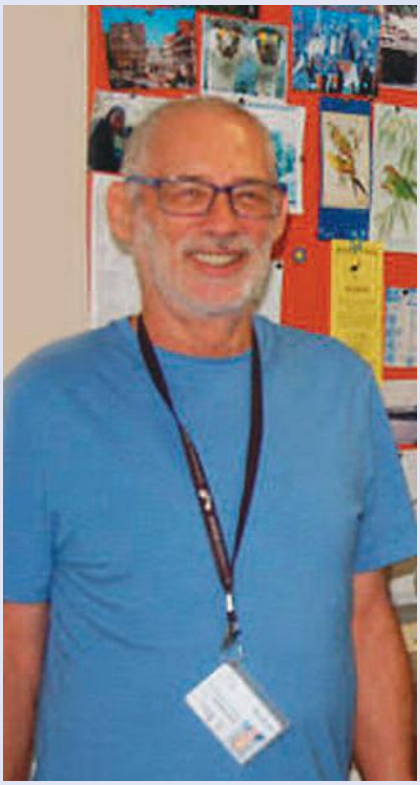
Call for regionally-based members to join the Conservation Sub-Committee

Over the next few months, the Conservation Sub-Committee will be seeking at least two new members who are based outside of the Adelaide metropolitan area. We are keen to hear from any member that has a knowledge and interest in bird conservation and is willing to be active in promoting the conservation priorities of Birds SA in their region. Priority issues for the Sub-Committee in the past year include State Government environmental policies (e.g., the Pastoral Lands Act), impacts on threatened shorebirds, management of coastal lakes of South eastern South Australia and the Coorong; as well as woodland protection and restoration. Sub-committee meetings are held in person at the Waite campus of Adelaide University and on-line via Zoom at 6:30pm on the second Monday of each month. If you are interested, please send a short summary of your expertise and interests to the chair; Ray Nias at ray.nias@birdssa.asn.au

Ray Nias

Conservation sub-Committee

Vale Brian Blaylock



Brian Blaylock

(Photographed by Philippa Horton)

Members will be saddened to learn of Brian Blaylock's death on the morning of Monday 8 August 2022.

Brian was our longest serving Honorary Secretary, serving from 2000 to 2018. Beyond his duties and term as secretary, he contributed tirelessly to the functioning of the Association and to serve the birding community in a voluntary capacity, without expectation of reward or recognition. Yet belated recognition through Honorary Membership was planned and its proposal will be presented posthumously to members at the 30 August meeting.

Brian had an extensive knowledge of several branches of the natural sciences but especially Ornithology. His skills in information technology allowed him to make a sustained contribution to Birds SA through his management of bird record data and a number of public and Association facilities provided through the website.

In November 2019, Brian began to suffer from recurring pancreatitis and, after a number of procedures, pancreatic cancer was diagnosed in April 2021. In July 2022 his condition deteriorated, and he entered the Mary Potter Hospice on 27 July. His funeral took place graveside at Wirra Wonga, Enfield Memorial Park on Monday, 15 August 2022 at 12:30pm. A Celebration of Life will also be held in September.

Brian's family have asked in lieu of flowers for donations to the Birds SA Conservation Fund, established in 2005 at Brian's initiative. Members will wish to be generous to this cause in honouring his lasting legacy.

Andrew Black

Vale Wally Klau

BirdLife Australia is sad to announce the passing of Wally Klau AO on 28 June.

It's also a sad day for Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve, as Wally has made significant contributions over many decades to Gluepot and to ornithology in general.

Wally was a valuable member of the Gluepot Reserve Management Committee for nearly 21 years. In this capacity, he provided valuable advice on the study of birds in general on the Reserve and particularly Endangered Black-eared Miner. He was one of only a handful of ornithologists in Australia with an intimate knowledge of the ecology of this species.

He readily guided, mentored and assisted tertiary students and other bird banders conducting research on Black-eared Miners on Gluepot Reserve as well as the broader Riverland Biosphere Reserve and Murray–Mallee in South Australia.

In addition to extensive research and bird banding in the field, Wally was instrumental in introducing educational programmes focused on bird banding for visitors, including school children and families; to South Australia's National Parks and Gluepot Reserve. He involved children and adults in actual bird banding and mist netting activities and made a significant contribution to developing an awareness and understanding of the value of bird banding activities in SA.

This dedication and tireless work over more than 30 years has been undertaken as a volunteer and represents a significant and outstanding contribution to education in the field of ornithology.

Few, if any, bird banders in South Australia have contributed so much towards developing an understanding and awareness of ornithology, bird banding and educating the community of the ecological importance of birds in the environment.

Wally was also a valuable member of the Black-eared Miner Recovery Team and has made a significant contribution through his research and bird banding studies. Further, he was an integral part of the translocation process of the Black-eared Miner to re-establish the population in areas of mallee where the species had disappeared.

Wally Klau *(Photographed by James Newcombe, from Weekend Notes* www.weekendnotes.com*)*

Wally's studies of the Black-eared Miner expanded to determine the number of birds that survived the 2007 bushfires in Gluepot Reserve. His fieldwork and findings have been vital in ensuring that management actions on Gluepot Reserve can be implemented for the future survival of the species in fire affected areas.

His expertise, skills and knowledge in mist netting, bird identification and habitat requirements have been invaluable and vital in ensuring the survival of this species into the future.

In 2009, Wally was awarded the Order of Australia for his outstanding contribution to the field of ornithology.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Ian Falkenberg
from Birdlife e-news
submitted by Sue Winwood

Friends of
Adelaide International
Bird Sanctuary

Overwintering with FAIBS

Winter birding pleasures in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) inevitably focussed mostly on the resident shorebirds, with the conveniently located St Kilda beach area harbouring quite large numbers of Black-winged Stilts, Australian White Ibis and Royal Spoonbills in recent times. A few moments of extra excitement have occurred with the odd sighting of migratory birds such as Eastern Curlew and Red-necked Stints, especially when the more northerly Gulf St Vincent foreshores have been explored. Some of these birds must have been overwintering. However by late July reports started to come in indicating some early landings of returning migratory birds. Of particular interest was the arrival of a Common Sandpiper at Port Wakefield. By September, 'scopes will be out and birder enthusiasm building as flocks increasingly enter our local skies and take refuge on the AIBS shores to roost, hungrily feed up and restore energy – hopefully with as little human disturbance as possible.

With further details appearing on the Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) Facebook page, a shorebird viewing activity is being planned for World Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, Oct 8th, with more viewing events on the FAIBS calendar for Sunday, October 16th and Sunday November 20th. Anyone interested in joining in will be most welcome, with the focus on identifying migratory birds. FAIBS 'scopes will be there for all-comers to use.

'Many hands make light work' has become somewhat of a FAIBS mantra over the winter months with volunteers planting around 1000 seedlings in the hinterlands of Light Beach and Parham. The fortnightly Weeds and Seeds program has also removed many invasive species, freeing up land for future plantings of local indigenous species and bird attractors. In addition, a land care clean-up and tree guard collection has taken place at Port Prime, along with a Beachcombing and Plant Walk at Thompson Beach.

These weeding and planting efforts are part of on-going projects to rejuvenate the dunes particularly around Light Beach, and have been made possible by grants from the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, Adelaide Plains Council (APC)Plane /Green Adelaide and Friends of Parks.

Special thanks to the DEW/AIBS Rangers, the APC and Green Adelaide Coastal Conservation Officer, and the dedicated, enthusiastic FAIBS volunteers whose contributions have enabled significant improvement and resilience to occur in this fragile local ecosystem.

FAIBS planters in action
(Photographed by Anna Woods at Light Beach)

The Rice family helping with planting
(Photographed by Anna Woods at Light Beach)

Egrets in flight
(Photographed by Mary-Ann Van Trigt at Light Beach)

Overwintering with FAIBS *(continued)*

FAIBS volunteers at Light Beach *(Photo by Anna Woods)*

FAIBS will continue its Weeds and Seeds programme, involving weed control work with volunteers at Light Beach, through October and November. This group gathers for 2 -3 hours on Monday mornings, starting at 10am. New volunteers are always welcome. Enquiries and RSVP's go to Kirsty at faibssa@gmail.com.

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary is an ideal place for individuals or groups to survey in order to contribute to the Great Southern BioBlitz (GSB) being held over October 28th-31st. This will be an international period of intense biological surveying in spring that aims to record all the living species, including birds, within local government areas across the Southern Hemisphere. As well as highlighting the immense spread of biodiversity across this huge area, it also engages the public in Citizen Science data collection and nature education. You can participate in AIBS or in other areas of interest, or perhaps nearer your home. If you'd like to take part, find out how by going to: https://www.greatsouthern bioblitz.org/. This address can lead you to the iNaturalist site where you can register to be involved.

Finally, some of you will have heard about Milly Formby and her 'Wing Threads – Flight around Oz' educational adventure mirroring distances and pathways of migratory birds in her microlight aircraft. Milly is a Migratory Shorebirds Project Officer with BirdLife Australia, and will be heading into the Adelaide and AIBS area in spring after crossing the Nullabor Plane as a solo pilot. Along the way she is meeting local communities and spending time in schools raising awareness to the incredible journeys and threats to migratory birds seen in Australia. Look out for her! Her future plans are to follow the pathway of the migratory birds along the East Asian-Australasian flyway. Her progress can be tracked at https://wingthreads.com/flight-around-oz/.

Questions and further information about FAIBS programs can be sought from faibssa@gmail.com.

Anna Woods

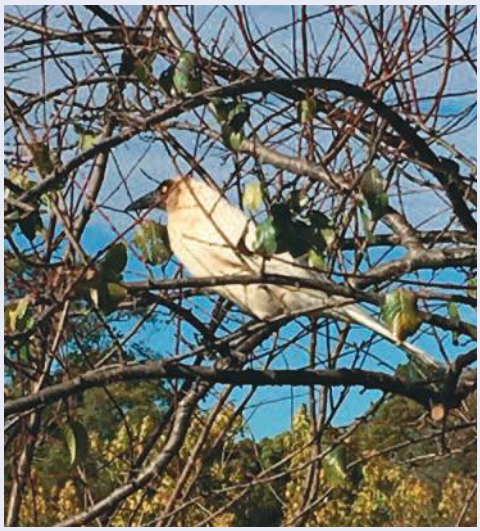
An interesting snippet!

Leucistic* Pied Currawong

I had the amazing experience of seeing a mostly white currawong at my home in Bridgewater on July 25th this year. It was the second time I had seen this bird; (I'm assuming it's the same one). The previous sighting was in the same place in May 2020. On this second visit, the white currawong was accompanied by a regular Pied Currawong.

Lynn Moses

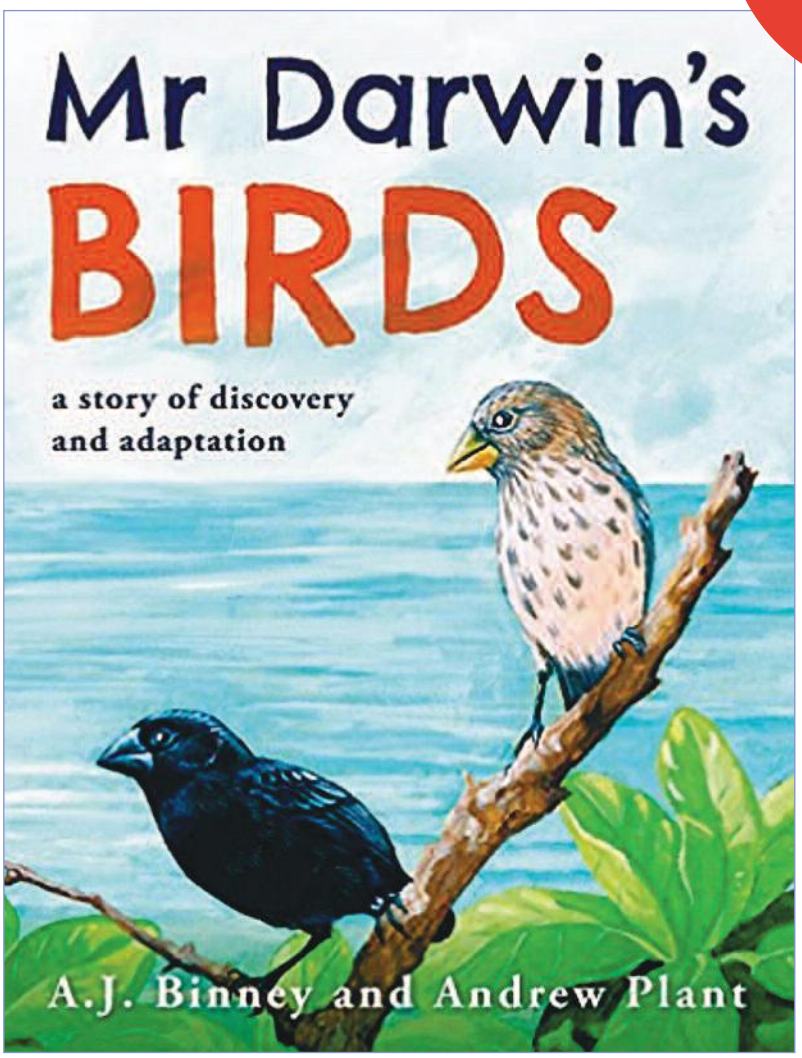
**A Leucistic animal is one that has whitish fur, plumage or skin due to a lack of pigment.*



Photographed by Lyn Moses in May 2020

Photographed by Lyn Moses in 2022

NEW Release



ALLAN BINNEY is a local science communicator and has recently published his first book called *"Mr Darwin's Birds"*. The book seeks to introduce the concepts of natural selection and evolution to the early primary school age children and uses the example of the arrival of Darwin's finches onto the Galapagos Archipelago.

The book has been lavishly illustrated by Melbourne artist Andrew Plant and features some lovely images of the fauna of the Galapagos Islands.

The book is self-published and more information and resources are available on Allan's website (ajbinney.net) or if you would like to purchase a copy please contact Allan direct:

Allan Binney
Address: 9/10 Fairford St, Unley SA 5061
Mobile: 0421 282 649
Email: ajbinney1984@gmail.com

The story of the short life of Francis Willughby cannot be told without giving due credit to his (fortunately for us), longer-lived friend, collaborator, and initially at least, tutor John Ray. Without the skill and dedication of Ray in editing and publishing their work then the world of natural science may have been very different.

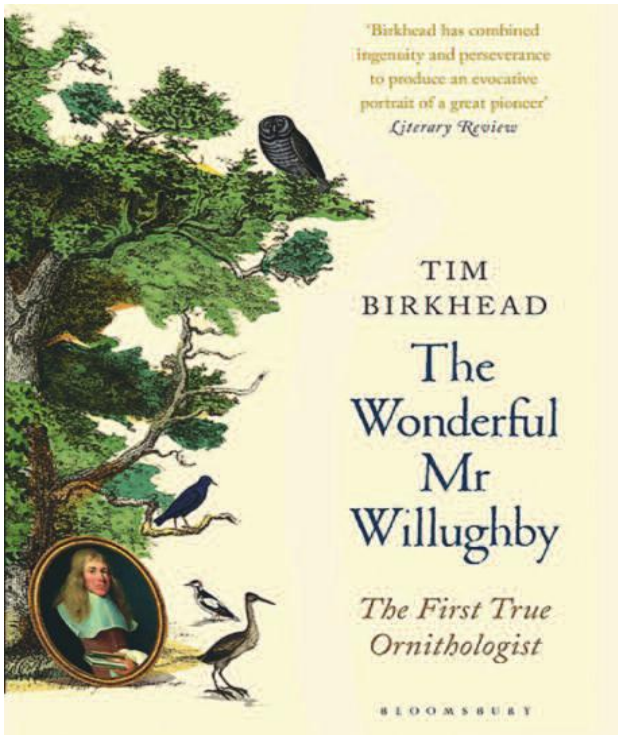
I was drawn to this book by my high regard for the author's study of bird eggs in "The most perfect thing". He mentions Willughby and Ray as the first real ornithologists – quite an impressive claim – and so it was in great anticipation that I placed a hold on this book through the magnificent SA Public Library Network.

It can be said that before Willughby and Ray, the world of birds was a much smaller place. Indeed, it was generally held in academic circles that everything of significance that there was to be known had already been discovered, mainly by the ancient Greeks and Romans. Furthermore, the reason why anything was as it was, could be explained by the simple phrase that it was God's grand design. Therefore, birds could fly because God wanted them to, and people could not for the same reason.

In mid-17th Century England, a group of men began to exchange ideas that challenged these notions – given that the Puritans had just come to power in the Civil War this could have been politically unwelcome! John Ray was himself a lay minister and struggled with the evidence that he and his friends gathered, as it appeared to question the ancient knowledge.

What was remarkable about Willughby and Ray is that rather than accepting the ancient knowledge to be true, they went out to into the field to discover the truth for themselves. They travelled around Britain collecting specimens, conducting dissections, making notes and observations and asking themselves why things were as they were. They questioned why a creature would take such a form, what were its advantages in doing so and wondering how it could come to be. They spoke to local people as they travelled and soon learned that many species were widespread but had different names in different locations. They decided that there needed to be a scientific method for naming animals and plants, and their ideas were later an inspiration for Linnaeus and his binominal classification system.

Not content with exploring Britain they and several companions undertook a long and arduous journey around Europe, noticing abroad many species which occurred at home, and many which did not. In this period before public museums, they arranged their



travels so that they could examine the great collections held in private hands throughout Europe.

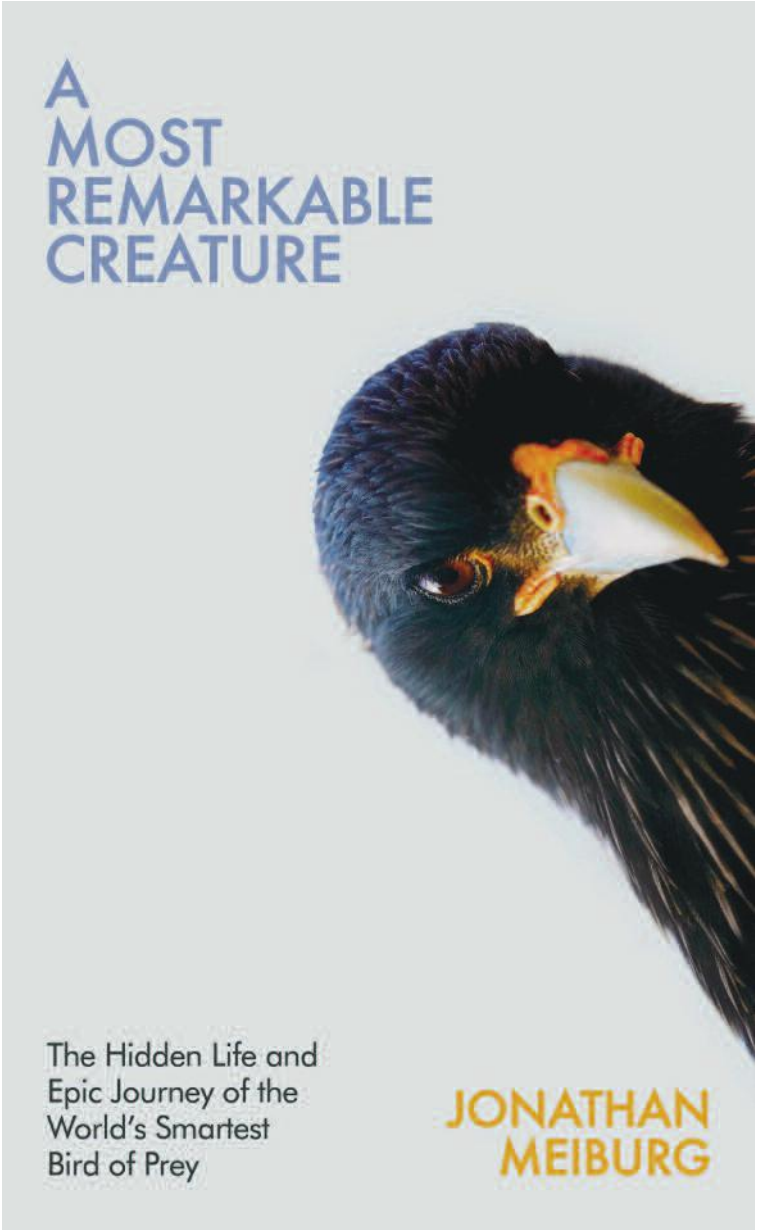
Willughby was often beset with ill health, and their travels must have taken a toll on him. Eventually they returned home and Willughby took over the running of the family estates. Sadly, Willughby died aged only 36 in 1672. In his will he made provision for Ray, and Ray took it upon himself to edit and publish their works. The first, "Three books of Ornithology" was published in Latin in 1676. A friend suggested it would be better to publish in English, and Ray completed this in 1678. Subsequent works were on Fish (1686) and Insects (1710 after Ray's death).

These men were at the forefront of radical change, setting us on the path to modern scientific thought and were early members of the Royal Society. It was Willughby who presented to the Society the first paper on the life cycle of insects.

This is not a book about birds as such, but there is so much in it which speaks to us about the manner in which we see the world around us. For example, Aristotle believed that because he saw robins for part of the year and redstarts for the other part of the year, then the robin must transform into the redstart. He knew that birds could migrate, he had seen storks do so, but did not believe that such small birds would be able to and so they must transform into another form, or hibernate. It took several centuries, physical hardship, danger but above all the minds of the Wonderful Mr Willughby and the Remarkable Mr Ray to challenge this.

Richard Woodland

This year is the 40th anniversary of the invasion and reclamation of the Falkland Islands, and during a search of the SA Public Library Network I was drawn to this book. Having served two tours in the Islands and been intrigued by the species looking out from the cover I decided to borrow the book.



I will start by quoting from the book:

> *"Unless you live south of the Rio Grande, chances are you've never even heard of caracaras. But if you try to imagine ten separate attempts to build a crow on a falcon chassis, with results falling somewhere between elegant, menacing, and whimsical you wouldn't be far off."*

The book takes you from the windswept freezer of the Falklands, through South America to the rainforests of the Guyanese Shield via the Andes and the vast pampas grasslands on a journey to meet this remarkable family. There is also a detour into the somewhat shady manner in which a small population was introduced into wildlife parks in the UK.

It also takes you back in time to ponder how these species came to be so different from other raptors, even their cousins the true falcons. The author discusses the isolation of what is now South America and the evolution of its megafauna, and the Great American Biotic Exchange when the South and North were joined again. It is surely no accident that ravens and crows, a similarly intelligent family, have expanded around the world to fill the same niche as the Caracaras do in South America.

The Caracaras are sociable birds, they cooperate within their groups in breeding, defence and feeding, they are very inquisitive and show real ability in learning and memory. But two things which stand out are that they appear to enjoy play for its own means, and that they see humans and other animals as opportunities to be exploited.

The Striated Caracara, or Johnny Rook as it is known in the Falklands, is well known to be inquisitive and mischievous. They are unafraid of humans and will approach, usually on foot, and look you straight in the eye. They seem to be challenging you to either feed them or amuse them. They will steal anything they take a fancy to, even the hat off of your head as the sailors on the Beagle discovered. Darwin wrote extensively on them in his journal, and yet science has largely ignored them as a family.

There is much to recommend in this book, which is easy to read and hard to put down. I especially enjoyed the author's account of his journey into Guyana to see the Red-throated Caracara. But the real star is always the Johnny Rook.

Richard Woodland

Past General Meetings

Tuesday 31 May

John Hatch introduced the speaker for the evening — Ray Nias. Ray's topic dealt with **Islands as protectors of diversity**.

Facts which tell us why we need to focus on islands to protect biodiversity include:

- Islands occupy less than 5% of the world's land mass, BUT they have the highest concentration of animal and plant species diversity due to their isolated geography and species evolution over millennia
- 80% of known extinctions since 1500 have taken place on islands
- 40% of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) critically endangered species currently inhabit them
- Islands are the epicenter of extinction but also provide a major opportunity for biodiversity conservation

Approximately 1030 islands contain highly threatened native vertebrates as well as information on the presence or absence of invasive vertebrates. Of these, 779 (76%) contained at least one invasive vertebrate species. Mammals are the most common invaders on these islands. The three most common invasive animals are rats, ungulates (especially goats) and cats. 76% of all the islands with invasive species contain rats.

Over 1000 successful vertebrate eradication projects have taken place on nearly 800 islands. Techniques have been developed and refined over the past 30 years to eradicate rodents from islands in order to restore seabird colonies and island ecosystems.

Polynesian Ground-dove *(Photo: Island Conservation)*

A project was completed in 2015 to remove a number of invasive species from six different islands in French Polynesia. This project was led by a partnership that included Birdlife International, Island Conservation and the Ornithological Society of Polynesia otherwise known as Manu. The project demonstrated amongst other things the power of partnerships, and that scaling up is the way to go if we want to generate the greatest return on our conservation investment.

The region has a number of endemic and threatened species such as the Polynesian Ground Dove and is one of the few islands to support the Titi or Tuamotu Sandpiper. The project was undertaken specifically to recover these two critically endangered species and the endangered Polynesian Storm Petrel, but many other plant and animal species also stood to benefit.

Staging for the project began in Tahiti with 92 tonnes of rodent bait, 30,000 litres of helicopter fuel, three bait spreading buckets; as well as equipment and supplies necessary for the project to be loaded onto a coastal freighter before being shipped to the project sites. The island ship hopped its way from Tahiti down to Tureia before rendezvousing with our helicopter at Vahanga. Bait, fuel and other supplies were offloaded on Vahanga and Tenarunga before moving to Mangareva for staging on Kamaka and finally Temoe. It took about five days to complete the offloading process. As soon as the offloading process was complete, the ship departed and bait application targeting rats began. Following as closely as possible best practice guidelines for rat eradication on tropical islands, we completed two bait applications at 30kg/ha with an interval of 18 days between applications.

Treating the atolls was interesting as they are complex from an aerial bait application standpoint. It's like flying a big doughnut. You can only fly so many straight lines before having to change direction. Over the period of bait application, cats were targeted by a team on Tenarunga.

We successfully removed five invasive vertebrate species from five sites. For reasons we don't fully understand, Polynesian rats survived on Kamaka, the only permanently inhabited island targeted. Despite the failure on Kamaka, we more than doubled the area of secure habitat for the Ground Dove and the Tuamotu Sandpiper and increased the number of potential nesting sites for the Polynesian Storm Petrel.

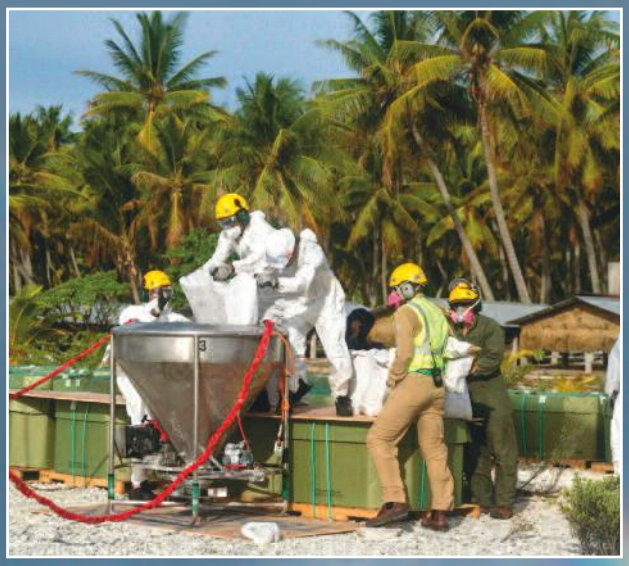
For the Ground Dove and the sandpiper the project may very well contribute to their down-listing over the next few years.

The project also provided a more sustainable future for seabird populations in the region.

Ray Nias

Summarised by Cynthia Pyle

Tuamotu Sandpiper
(Photo: Island Conservation)



Loading bait-buckets, French Polynesia
(Photo: Island Conservation)

Uplift of bait-buckets, French Polynesia *(Photo: Island Conservation)*

Tuesday 28 June

John Hatch introduced the speaker, South-Australian-born Leo Joseph, a distinguished ornithologist who is now Director of the Australian National Wildlife Collection, CSIRO, Canberra. His talk was entitled **'Tales of "Golden" Whistlers in Australia and a researcher's ups and downs'**.

Until 1956, the term "Golden Whistler" included 60-70 subspecies that were spread over a variety of (mainly coastal) regions of Australia, as well as the Bismarck Archipelago, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji.

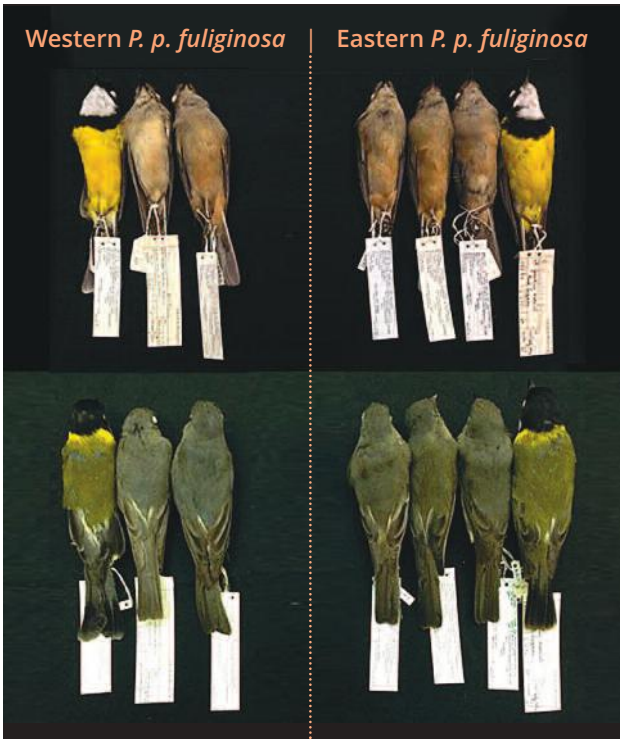
Until 1967, Australia was considered to have Golden, Robust and Black-tailed Whistlers.

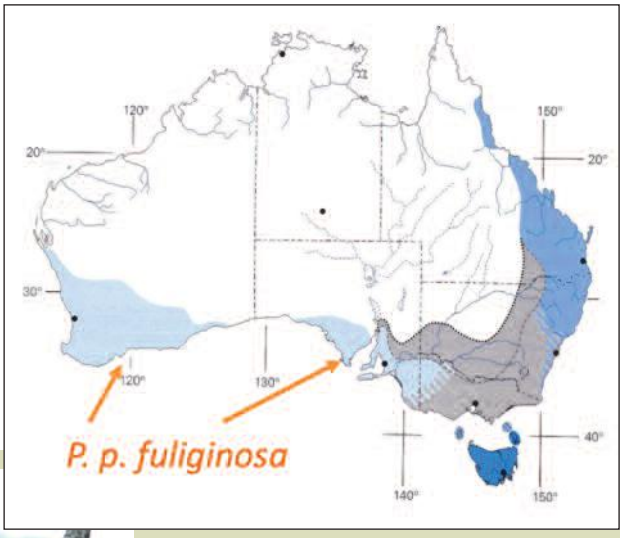
Then, Ian Galbraith published an article in **Emu 67** entitled "The Black-tailed and Robust Whistlers *Pachycephala melanura* as a Species Distinct from the Golden Whistler *P. pectoralis**"

His article included the following statements — "The Golden, Black-tailed and Robust Whistlers of the Checklist (R.A.O.U. 1926) are at present regarded as belonging to a single species, *Pachycephala pectoralis* (R.A.O.U, 1960). This is largely because of the situation outside Australia, where they are represented by a vast array of very distinct populations, occupying hundreds of islands from Java to the Moluccas to New Caledonia and Tonga.

In several areas within this range, extremely different pectoralis, and many males of both species are black-tailed. *If one of the existing names is to be retained*, "Black-tailed Whistler is preferable. It is at least a translation of the valis species name, black-tailed females. However, if a new English name is acceptable, "Mangrove Golden Whistler" would be much more appropriate.

In 1999, Schodde and Mason proposed the distribution shown in the map and photographs below.





Female Plumages are Key

Left: **Mangrove Golden Whistler – western**

Right: **Mangrove Golden Whistler – eastern**

Perhaps there was nothing else to explain and study!!

Apparently, there were many more questions to answer, and a series of maps and photographs of dead whistlers were presented to enlighten the audience.

Two examples of such questions were:

1. If *P. occidentalis* and *P. p. fuliginosa* are different species, why are they so similar?
2. Why was there a huge sampling gap in Western Australia?

A series of expeditions attempted to answer these, and other questions. Leo presented a series of maps, photographs and charts illustrating the results of such excursions.

A 2017 trip to fill the sampling gap, using better genetic data, found that between 2014 and 2018, Improved lab methods coupled with better genetic data supported Leo's predictions that all the new Western Australian samples, as far east as the border with South Australia, would be Western Whistlers.

The new nuclear DNA data after the 2017 field trip produced the results for South Australia that are shown in the map below.

These results indicated the presence of the Western Whistler, *P. f. fuliginosa* as well as the Golden Whistler, *P. pectoralis.*

After showing a series of distribution maps resulting from the 2017 excursion and more powerful Nuclear DNA methods, Leo concluded that Nuclear DNA *methods* 2008–2014 were far less powerful than nuclear DNA methods after 2014. However, the signal had already been there!!

Leo then concluded that the details had been too much for a Tuesday night; but he would be happy to elaborate.

Cynthia Pyle

based on Leo Joseph's Powerpoint Presentation

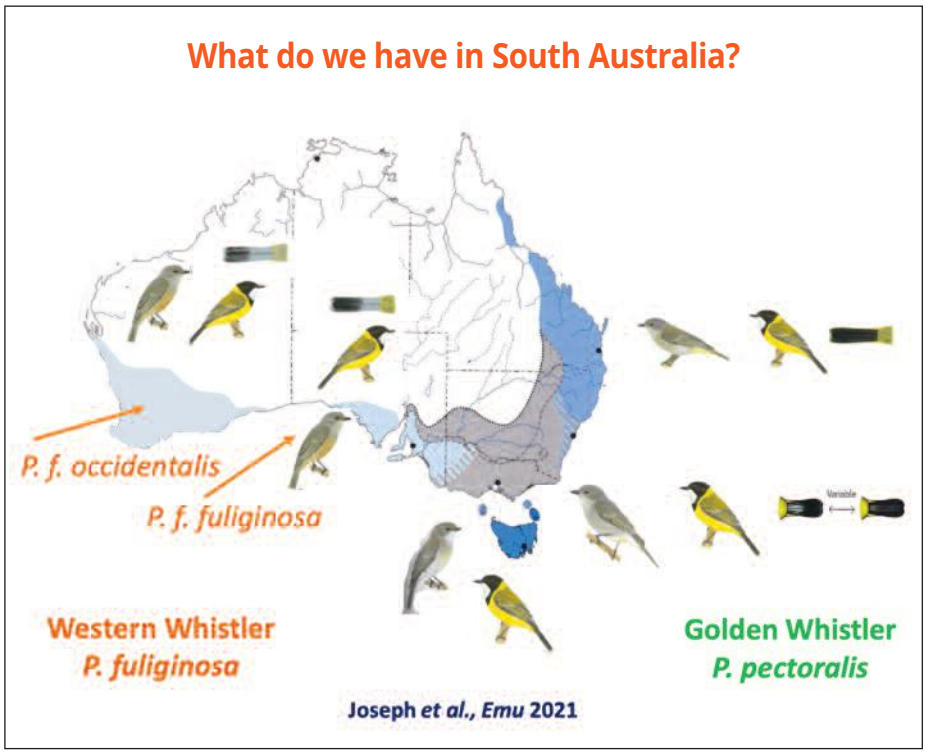
ANWC Collection Manager Alex Drew on the 2017 expedition for the whistler study.

(Image Leo Joseph)

References

Andersen *et al.* 2014. ZJLS 170: 566-588

Results of the Harold Hall Australian Expedition, No. 3. Previous numbers in this series appeared in Emu 64: 1-5 and 6: 113-115



A beautiful 'Golden Whistler'!

Tuesday 26 July

This general meeting at the Waite Institute was a Members' night, in which four of the Association's members gave 10 minute presentations.

The four presenters and their topics were:

- David Paton, who spoke on the **Bio•R project**
- Keith Jones, spoke about **Oystercatchers**
- Jeff Groves made a photographic presentation called **'Cockatoo Capers'**
- John Hatch gave a talk entitled **'When the Desert Blooms'** about a recent trip along the Birdsville Track after heavy rain.

Bio•R

Building habitat for woodland birds

Sitting on Adelaide's doorstep is the Mt Lofty region, one of just 15 nationally recognised biodiversity hotspots in Australia. Despite this listing, many of the plants and animals that live here face imminent extinction, including many woodland birds.

Charismatic, colourful bird species, like the Scarlet Robin, Restless Flycatcher and Diamond Firetail, will not be around in the future.

These species, along with many others, are disappearing because we have cleared too much native vegetation. South Australia was aware of this 40 years ago, when the State legislated to prevent further large-scale vegetation clearance in the 1980s – by then just 10% remained.

Despite ceasing to clear native vegetation, many woodland birds have continued to decline. Why? Because there is insufficient habitat left. The Mt Lofty region used to support 110 woodland bird species. With just 10% of the habitat remaining, half of these bird species will disappear. Ten species have already vanished and a further 50 species will vanish. BUT they don't have to.

The good news is that it is not too late to prevent these losses because there is a lag between clearing native vegetation and the eventual disappearance of plants and animals. Many species can hang on for decades in the remaining snippets of native vegetation, but nevertheless they slowly decline and eventually disappear. This period, when species slowly disappear, is known as 'paying the extinction debt'. This is a debt that current generations of South Australians pass on to future generations. But equally, this period provides a 'window of opportunity' to stop the imminent loss of species. Stopping the loss is achieved by putting back woodland habitat on some of the cleared land before it is too late.

The cover of native vegetation across the Mt Lofty region must increase from its lowly 10% to around 30% if we are to keep the species we have today for future generations to enjoy. This is a staggering 150,000 hectares of additional habitat.

Bio•R is about re-establishing the habitats that our wildlife need in order to survive. We don't just plant trees and hope the wildlife comes – we reconstruct what the animals need and underpin this with monitoring and ecological research so that the habitats are also self-sustaining and resilient.

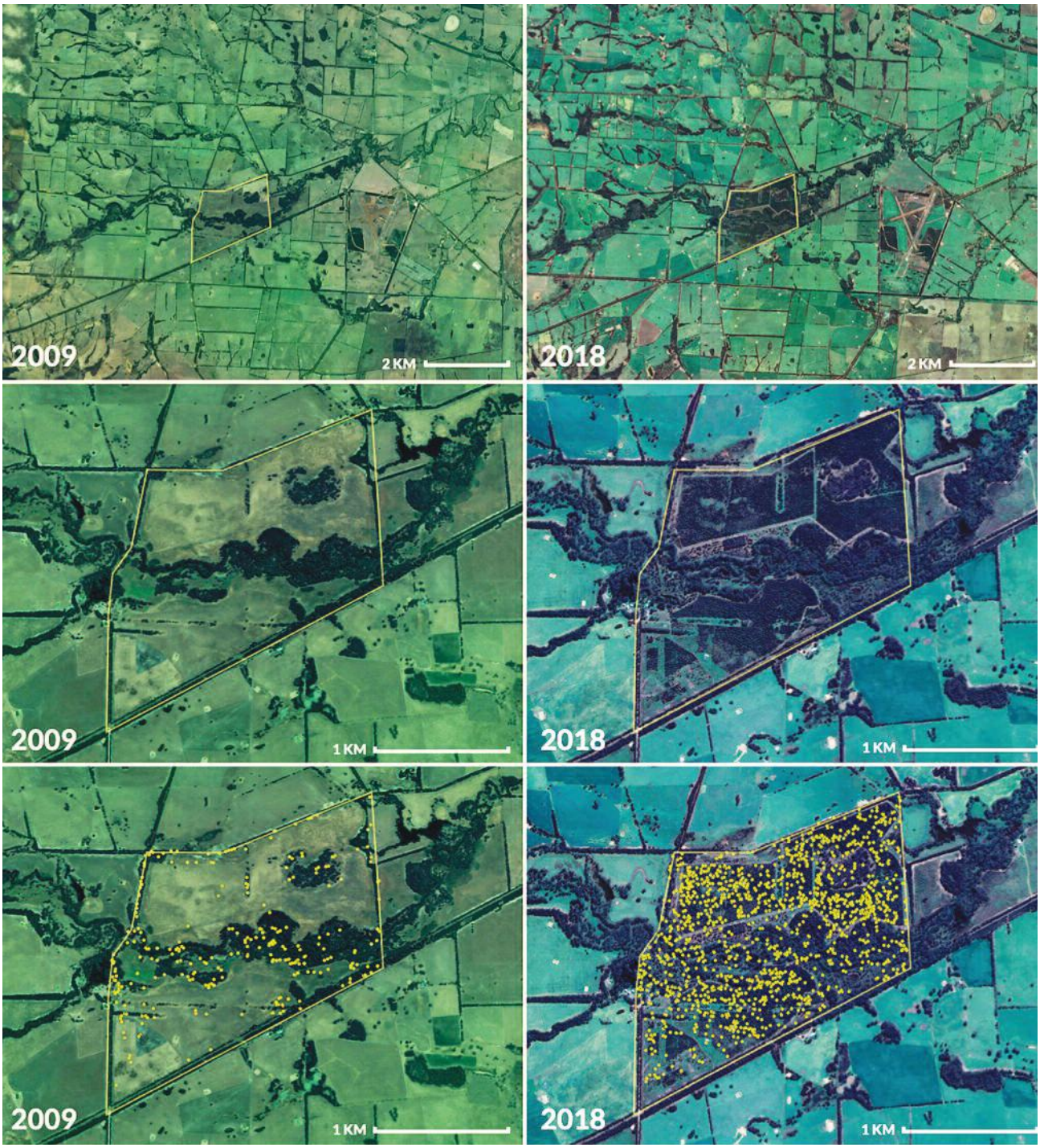
With Bio•R's current capacity, we can comfortably plant about 10-20ha of cleared land per annum with a diverse mix of plant species. By 2030, we aim to be planting a substantial area and in 25 years, at least 1000 ha per year. And, if we reach these targets and continue growing our activities, then we will deliver the 150,000 ha that are needed within 100 years within the Mt Lofty region.

Bio•R is a grass-roots organisation and has been around for over 15 years reconstructing habitat, some of which now successfully supports some of our declining woodland birds. For example, Cygnet Park Sanctuary on Kangaroo Island was set aside for restoration about 20 years ago and now supports an additional 175ha of diverse habitat across what were bare paddocks. In less than 10 years those bare paddocks have gone from supporting less than 1 bird per hectare (mainly magpies) to around 10 birds per hectare. Of the 30-40 species of birds being supported by the plantings, 13 are species that are now listed as vulnerable or endangered following the fires on Kangaroo Island. Similarly, the numbers of Glossy Black Cockatoos that the property supports has jumped dramatically from 2-4 in 2007; to 16-20 in the years immediately prior to 2019-2020 fires; to a peak of 30-40 immediately after the fire before dropping back to around 20. **Figure 1** shows the landscape level changes that the revegetation works on Cygnet Park have delivered. Bio•R is now looking to deliver similar outcomes across the Mt Lofty region and has started restoring habitat on a 550ha area known as Frahns Farm, near Monarto.

Past General Meetings *(continued)*

In 2016 Bio•R had made a long-term commitment to re-establish structurally and floristically diverse habitat on cleared land in the Monarto region. For the next two years we followed the standard revegetation methodology of planting seedlings of trees and shrubs across cleared land, and guarding these plants with corflute and wire mesh. Despite watering, typical survival after one year was 15% and often much less. The Department for Environment and Water also contracted other similar plantings and these were no more successful and often less. Those that did survive, however, have been contained within their corflute or wire mesh guards by heavy grazing from kangaroos.

Figure 1: Aerial views of Cygnet Park Sanctuary in 2009 *(left)* and 2018 *(right)* at two scales (top four images) and the locations of birds detected during a census undertaken in 2009 and another undertaken in 2018 (bottom images) before and after habitat re-establishment.



In 2019 Bio•R changed its approach to constructing habitat on cleared area in this region. We now do the following:

1. Erect a kangaroo-proof fence around large areas (ca 100-200 ha at a time) and reduce the numbers of kangaroos to negligible numbers. This is cost effective because seedlings no longer need to be individually guarded. This is much better for the plants too as they can spread out laterally and branch naturally. It also means that plants that spread out along the ground can also be planted.
2. Grade or scrape the top 5-10cm of topsoil away. This greatly reduces issues with weeds and eliminates seed banks and any of the allelopathic chemicals used by some weeds to stop other plants from growing. This however does not entirely stop re-invasion of weeds but gives the native plants a head start. The graded topsoil is left *in situ* in mounds (usually parallel and about 5-10m apart).
3. Drill planting holes for seedlings with a 45cm diameter augur.
4. Follow this with direct seeding with a diverse mix of native grass and herb seeds.
5. The next phase involves allocating plant species across the graded area, where the plants are arranged to provide some structural heterogeneity (e.g. areas with higher density plantings interspersed with lower density plantings as well as species changing. Furthermore, we typically allocate 5 or more individuals of a single species near each other to enhance pollination rates (and hence subsequent seed production and self-sustainability of the plants).
6. Before planting the seedlings into the pre-dug holes a planting bowl is built. This bowl is 5-10cm deep and 30-40cm wide into which the seedling is planted and watered in. The upper lip of this bowl is not as high to allow any water running off from the slope to flow into the bowl. This bowl essentially increases effective rainfall reaching the seedlings, at least in the initial years, aiding their establishment.
7. In addition, these planted areas have been designed so that the seedlings (and native grasses) can be watered efficiently by using a water truck, if and when required (as opposed to the labour-intensive task of individually watering each plant).

The above methodology has been used in recent planting programs from 2019 onwards and the survival rates of the seedlings exceed 95% during the first year. Furthermore, the growth of the seedlings is substantially greater than was being achieved under the standard planting methods. The areas that have been direct seeded with native grasses typically have 20 or more native grasses establishing per square metre. In 2022 over 40,000 seedlings from over 100 plant species were planted across 20ha of Frahns Farm with hundreds of volunteers assisting. Those same 20ha were also direct seeded with native grasses and herbs.

Importantly the above methodology allows a much greater diversity of plants to be included in planting programmes. In fact, the limitation on this diversity is the ability to propagate some of the hard-to-propagate species in adequate numbers. Bio•R continues to manage these plantings, undertaking weeding when required, while monitoring the performance of the plants, whether they are setting viable seeds (a precursor to being self-sustaining) and whether the re-planted areas are supporting wildlife, particularly birds.

The probable limiting step in the immediate future will be a shortage of seeds (particularly native grass seeds) and the ability of nurseries to deliver the number of plants needed. To this end Bio•R has invested in a native grass seed orchard (established on Frahns Farm) which should produce more than 100kg of seed per annum. We have also invested in our own plant nursery (10,000 seedling capacity) with associated glass houses to supplement the numbers and diversity of seedlings we purchase from other plant nurseries. Soon accessing sufficient land will become the rate limiting step.

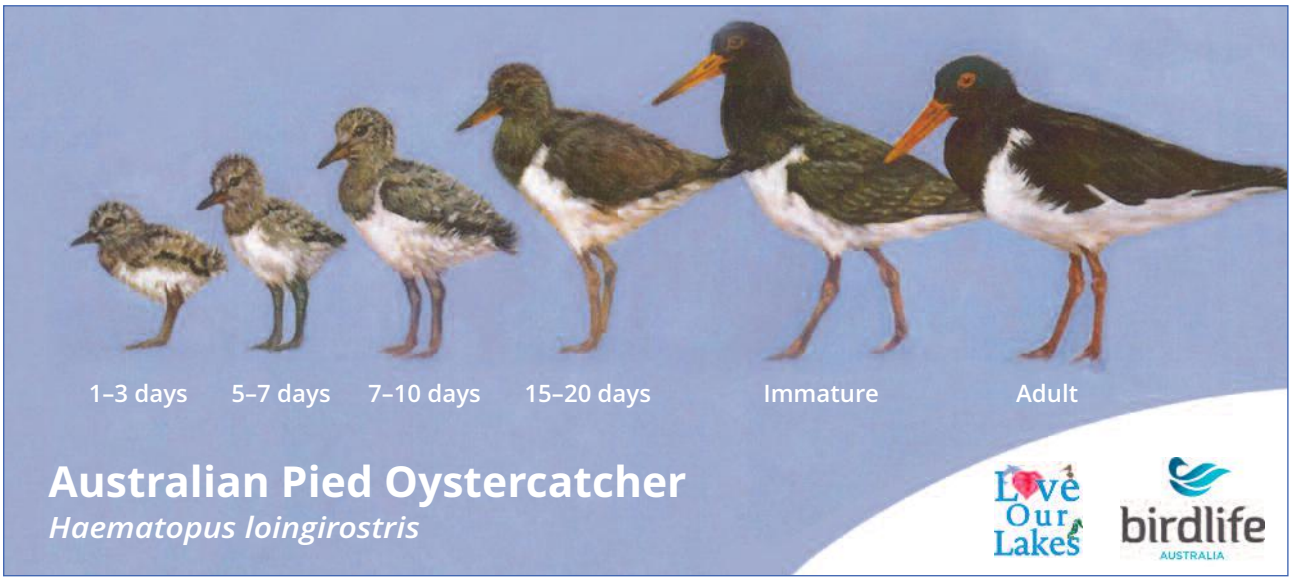
If you are interested in helping Bio•R build the habitats that the birds need then please visit Bio•R's website at www.bior.org.au for more information. Enquiries can be sent to info@bior.org.au

David Paton

Monitoring Australian Pied Oystercatchers

by Keith Jones

Improving our understanding of their Conservation Status in SA



Conservation Status

In 2014, there were about 13,000 Pied Oystercatchers in Australia. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria, and globally, their status is of least concern. They are endangered in New South Wales, and widely distributed in small populations in all other states except Victoria and Tasmania, where their status is secure. In SA, they are assessed as rare, under the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife (SANPW) Act (1972).

Threats include:

- Storm Surges in nesting areas
- Natural and feral predators (ravens, marine raptors, goannas, foxes, cats);
- Human disturbance (dogs, off-road vehicles, pipi and baitworm harvesting);
- Habitat loss (coastal development, freshwater flooding of estuaries)

These birds are strongly territorial, and their territorial size depends on the productivity of their environment. They nest in coastal areas from estuaries to ocean beaches. They form pairs for life. Their fledgling rate is highly variable — from 7% to 37% per annum. Parental care is provided to post-fledging.

Non-breeding adults form flocks, that may be either foraging or roosting.

Here is one example of Team Oystercatcher's monitoring work. Ten sites were monitored on the South Eastern Fleurieu Peninsula between the seasons 2011/2012 and 2021/2022. The sites monitored are shown on the image below.

South eastern Fleurieu Peninsula monthly monitoring: 10 sites, 2011//12 to 2021/22

The parameters monitored were:

- **Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers**
- **Dogs and Beach Walkers**
- **Off-road vehicles**
- **Pipi fishers, and since 2017/18 Pipi biomass**
- **Barrage Flow**
- **Beach Wrack and tidal height.**

SA Regional Pied Oystercatcher **POPULATION TRENDS**

Region	Duration	Monitoring Groups	Population trend
South-East SA	Bi-annually since 2018, Nov, April	Friends of Shorebirds SE	**STABLE**
Coorong Lagoon & Ocean Beach	Since 1981, summer and winter counts	University of Adelaide, AWSG, Birdlife Australia	**DECLINING**
SE Fleurieu coast	2011/12 – 2021/22, monthly	Team Oystercatcher	**STABLE**, high interannual variability
NE Kangaroo Island	2015/16 – 2021/22, monthly	Team Oystercatcher	**STABLE**
NE Gulf St. Vincent (sthn Samphire Coast)	2016/17 – 2021/22, monthly	Shorebirds 2020, Team Oystercatcher	**DECLINING**
Long Beach, Coffin Bay	Bi-annually, 2011- 2018	D. Clarke, Birdlife Australia	**DECLINING**

Summary

We need to update our knowledge and understanding of the following aspects of of the Pied Oystercatchers' situation for the whole of South Australia:

- Conservation status, including long term population trend information, and degree of human disturbance.
- Movements in order to determine zones where management of human activities, such as driving on beaches, is needed.
- Comparative levels of breeding success in different regions, and reasons for any variations.

Acknowledgements

Data and photos from Team Oystercatcher volunteers, including Dave Potter, Jean Turner, Peter Hastwell, Barry Simes. Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) members, Fleurieu Hoodie volunteers, Birdlife Australia volunteers, Friends of Shorebirds South-East (FOSSE) members.

Further information can be obtained from the following sources:

- Bi-annual Team Oystercatcher Newsletters
- Publications and Newsletters available on SA Shorebirds Foundation Web-site: www.sashorebirds.org
- Conservation assessment of Australian Pied Oystercatchers. Taylor, I.R. (2014) International Wader Studies, 20: 116 – 128.

Cynthia Pyle

based on Keith Jones' Powerpoint Presentation

Pied Oystercatchers

(Photo supplied by Team Oystercatcher)

Cockatoo Capers

Jeff Groves' presentation at the July General Meeting consisted of a series of photographs illustrating the amusing activities, or 'capers' of several cockatoo species.

Cockatoo Capers

When the Desert Blooms
('Boom and Bust')
A Trip along the Birdsville Track

May 23–25, 2022

Participants:

Bob Sothman, Roly Lloyd and John Hatch

These three people had previously made trips along the Birdsville Track — in early November 2020 and mid-July 2021.

Each of these trips included THREE days actually on the Track between Maree and the Queensland border.

The two photos below, taken at approximately the same location illustrate the difference between the vegetation in October 2019 and May 2022.

Birdsville Track - South of Mungerannie, October 2019

Birdsville Track - South of Mungerannie, May 2022

The more interesting birds seen on this trip were:

Plumed Whistling – Duck (14)
Flock Bronzewing
Diamond Dove (120)
Black-breasted Buzzard
Grey Falcon
Spotted Harrier
Australian Bustard
Inland Dotterel (20)
Cockatiel (300)
Budgerigar (3,500)
Grey Grasswren
Eyrean Grasswren
Banded Whiteface
Red-browed Pardalote
Crimson Chat (25)
Orange Chat (300)
Yellow Chat
Gibberbird
Pied Honeyeater (12)
Cinnamon Quail – thrush (12)
White-breasted Woodswallow (15)
White-backed Swallow

Australian Bustard (female)

Inland Dotterel (nest and two eggs)

Cynthia Pyle

based on John Hatch's Powerpoint Presentation

Future General Meetings

General Meetings are now held in the newly refurbished Waite Institute. They start at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 27 September

To be advised

Tuesday 25 October

David Paton will be talking on **Kangaroo Damage to Habitat**.

Tuesday 29 November

Members' Night. Please contact John at: johnharveyhatch@gmail.com
if you would like to make a presentation.

John Hatch

New Members

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

Kasun Abeydeera ..... Magill
John Coleman ..... Forestville
Shane, Adele & Marcus Canney
and Kylie Booth..... North Brighton
Pauline Baltussen ..... Littlehampton
Fran Solly ..... Port Lincoln
Bronwyn Woodward ..... Keilor Park, VIC
Cathy Deland ..... Humbug Scrub
Sarah Lyons ..... Maslin Beach
Robert Andersson ..... Mount Gambier
Lydia Callaghan ..... Christies Beach
Krystal Alastaire ..... Old Reynella
Peter Moller ..... Lockleys
David & Ninette Ellis ..... St Peters
Jon Tickle ..... Adelaide
Angel Benjamin..... Aldinga
Christine Sedunary ..... Broadview
Amanda Vallance & Thomas Tolley..... Burnside
Jenny Lewis ..... Blackwood
Steve & Carol Delve ..... Brighton
Caleb & Danielle Milligan ..... Seaview Downs
Joanne & Peter Berndt ..... Flagstaff Hill
Brittany Norris & Chris Grant ..... Forest Range
Ian Willcocks ..... Yankalilla
Tessa Jones ..... Aldinga Beach
Steve Jude ..... Port Lincoln
Mark Leedham..... Adelaide
Christine Denman ..... Mannum
Patrick Reed ..... Exeter
Debby Wilkes ..... Victor Harbor
Rebecca Prince ..... Crafers
Ronald & Margaret Taylor ..... Modbury
Rob & Matilda May ..... Waterfall Gully
Anita Corbran ..... Williamstown
Ann Prescott ..... Myrtle Bank
Kate Mcleod ..... Aldgate
Kenneth Day & Dimity Knight ..... Eden Hills
Diana Gillat & Denis Mathews ..... Nuriootpa
David & Karen Fatchen ..... Freeling

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

Historical Series No 80.

Apollos Harrison Gouge (1825 to 1912)

Part 2 by Philippa Horton

From the biography of Apollos Harrison Gouge in Part 1, we see that he was a man of many talents, energetic, enterprising and capable. Some of the public works he constructed during his 15 years in Adelaide until 1863 still exist today, such as the now decommissioned Thorndon Park Reservoir (Figure 1). Had he been more cautious with business dealings and less scandalous in his private affairs, Gouge could have been remembered as a significant contributor to South Australian colonial history. His collection of mounted birds may even have found a museum home, to be admired to this day.

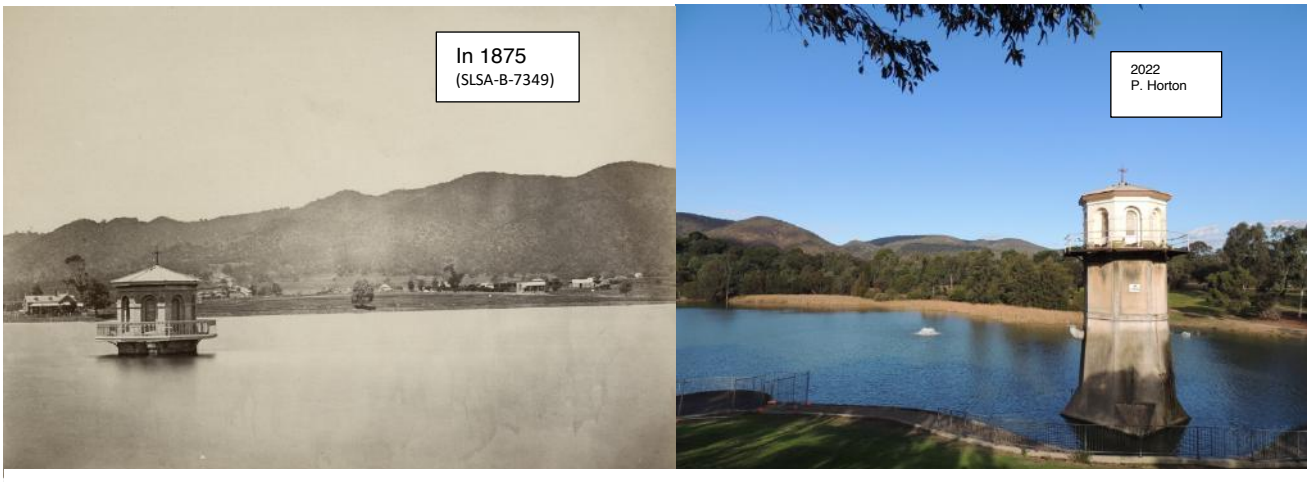


Figure 1-Thorndon Park Reservoir

With valve house and water tower, built by Gouge between 1857 and 1860

The only details of Gouge's bird collection are in the newspaper article[1] describing the inaugural soirée of the South Australian Institute (incorporating the SA Museum) on 29 January 1861, for which Gouge had lent his collection of English and colonial birds, insects, shells, corals, weapons and 'other curiosities'. The anonymous author of the lengthy article noted that the collection was 'most valuable' and described some of the cases of birds, focusing particularly on those of English specimens. They contained the following (with probable identifications of Australian species in bold):

1. a pheasant and 'specimens of Old England's field birds' – quail, English magpie, woodcocks and partridges.
2. a cuckoo, several species of the 'land and water rail', thrush, etc.
3. a hummingbird, 'blue wren' [probably **Superb Fairywren**], several honeyeater species, robin, etc.
4. a spoonbill and 'birds of the families of Psittacinae, Passerinae, Scansores, and Gallinacae.'
5. 'a very beautiful specimen of the Nankeen crane, well set, and gazing upwards.' [**Nankeen Night Heron**]
6. a **Glossy Ibis** and 'solitary bittern' [**Australasian Bittern**], 'the latter bird having been caught by Captain Sturt, and mentioned by him in the diary of his last expedition.'
7. 'a great variety of the Citasinae' [*sic*], including a 'pink-crested cockatoo' [**Major Mitchell's Cockatoo**]. Also 'specimens of the shrike or butcher bird, kingfisher, honey-eater, &c., and a remarkably fine regent bird [**Regent Bowerbird**], the beautiful black and golden plumage of which was shown to the fullest advantage.'
8. a pigeon, thrush, goldfinch, 'titmouse', kingfisher, chaffinch, bullfinch, 'golden-crested wren', and 'many other English singing birds.'

9. a 'Recurvirostra' [**Red-necked Avocet** although Pied Avocet cannot be ruled out], an owl, and a 'goatsucker' [nightjar].
10. a white cockatoo, white falcon, mopoke, bird of paradise, laughing jackass [**Laughing Kookaburra**], owl, English pheasant, doves, 'emeu [*sic*] wren' [probably **Southern Emuwren**], and various other passerines.
11. 'numerous small cases, containing owls, longshanks, laughing jackasses [**Laughing Kookaburra**], parrots, and others'.
12. 'a magnificent specimen of the English sea-gull'.
13. parrots, including 'a remarkably rare specimen of the *Pezoporus Formosis*, or **ground parrot**'; also a bee-eater [**Rainbow Bee-eater**] and a 'blue mountain' [**Rainbow Lorikeet**].
14. 'colonial specimens, comprising principally mountain [**Australian Shelduck**] and shovel ducks [**Australasian Shoveler**].' Also a 'white heron', coots [**Eurasian Coot**] and 'goatsuckers', a bittern, and a tern.

Some of the Australian birds are notable. The 'solitary bittern' collected by Charles Sturt on his last expedition in 1844–46 was probably an Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Figure 2), which he had found on the Murray River. Sturt (1849) listed this and Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* in the Appendix to his narrative of the expedition but the latter was almost certainly White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica* (Cooper *et al.* 2014). Sturt lived in Adelaide from August 1849 until returning to England in March 1853 (Gibney 1967) so could have given the bittern directly to Gouge.

Figure 2— Australasian Bittern photographed by Philippa Horton in the South Australian Museum

Major Mitchell Cockatoos reportedly occurred on the northern Adelaide Plains (Clark 1890), so Gouge may have obtained his specimen locally, but at least by the 1860s they were available as cage birds (Clark 1890). So too were Regent Bowerbirds[110], which do not occur in SA, so Gouge may also have obtained this bird from a dealer. Alternatively, he may have obtained it and the bird of paradise on a trip he made to Melbourne with his son in December 1859[111].

All the other Australian birds could have been acquired locally. In Part 1 we learnt that Gouge was adept with a shotgun and also that he kept birds, including native species, in his home aviaries; most likely he preserved them as mounts when they died. His Ground Parrot (now extinct in SA) probably came from its swampy habitats of the Adelaide Plains and Mount Lofty Ranges; the specimen B52429 in the SA Museum that was collected at the Reedbeds in 1850 shows that this population was still extant by the time Gouge arrived in Adelaide.

In addition to his bird collection, Gouge also lent for the 1861 soirée his collection of insects, mostly collected on Kangaroo Island. Earlier in January 1861 Gouge had hosted a group of friends on the island to view a steam sawmill he had purchased at Cygnet River for £750 the previous year[112–116], so it is possible he had visited the island often. The insect collection was housed in several cases and 'comprised specimens of nearly every class'[1], probably meaning of every Order.

Gouge also lent his New Caledonian collection. In October 1860 Gouge had sailed on the steamer *Omeo* to Melbourne[117], travelled on to Sydney, and departed 20th October on the barque *Sophie* for New Caledonia[118]. There he planned to negotiate with the French authorities for the construction of public works including railways[119]. He furnished them with estimates of construction costs[120] but the plans never came to fruition and he returned to Adelaide in late December 1860 on the steamer *Aldinga* from Melbourne[121]. He was not empty-handed however, bringing about 30 New Caledonian native plants for the Adelaide Botanic Gardens[120], hundreds of shells, samples of corals and minerals, a native canoe, and other artefacts, all of which he had on display at his North Terrace home in the weeks before the soirée[122]. The newspaper article describing the soirée stated the shell collection was housed in two display cases and included many cowrie species, bivalves, polished abalones, snipes bill shells, nautilus, Triton's trumpet and spider conch. George French Angas reportedly considered one of the bivalves to be a new species, which he intended to describe[1]. Adams and Angas (1863) did describe a new bivalve and a new gastropod from New Caledonia but did not name the collector of either, noting only that the type specimens were in Angas's collection.

As detailed in Part 1, by October 1863 Gouge was declared insolvent. He sold property, including the specimen collections, and fled the colony. However, at some time during the year 1 October 1862 to 30 September 1863, he made a donation to the SA Institute Museum, the curator Waterhouse (1863) having listed him among donors. Unfortunately, we do

not know what he donated but it was most likely bird specimens, Waterhouse (1863) noting that 'the principal additions made have been in Ornithology'. Even more unfortunately, most bird specimens from Waterhouse's era have not survived (Horton *et al.* 2018), so Gouge's donation is likely to have been lost.

On 30 November 1863 Gouge's collections were offered for sale at auction[82]. They comprised '25 cases of stuffed birds (principally South Australian) including many rare and valuable specimens', two cases of insects from China and one from SA, '2 very large cases of shells, probably the finest assortment in the colony', and a case of copper ore specimens from SA. The auctioneers added that the collections were 'the result of 15 years care and labour. Nothing equal to it has ever been offered for sale in this colony.' It seems unlikely however that Gouge collected the insects from China, as there is no record of him travelling in that country; most likely he bought that particular collection. A day after the sale, the same newspaper noted that 'Mr. Gouge has been making this collection for many years, and some of the specimens were really very good; but as a whole they did not show to advantage in the rough home-made cases that contained them.'

The auction house that sold Gouge's collections appears to have ceased operating during World War II, with no archived records in the State Library of SA, so determining the purchaser of Gouge's collections is probably impossible. When on display at the SA Institute soirée, Gouge's specimens were described as 'not classed' or 'not classified' from which we can assume they were unlabelled, so even if they survived today, they are unlikely to be identifiable as Gouge's. A valuable representation of the original avifauna of Adelaide has been lost.

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Graham Carpenter for alerting me to the 1861 newspaper article describing Gouge's collection, and to Louise Stallard for genealogical information on Louisa Herring.

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AT = *The Adelaide Times*
DC = *The Daily Colonist* (Victoria, British Columbia)
SAA = *The South Australian Advertiser*
SAR = *The South Australian Register*
SAWC = *The South Australian Weekly Chronicle*
SMH = *The Sydney Morning Herald*
TAM = *The Age* (Melbourne)
TRA = *The Register* (Adelaide)

1. Inaugural soiree of the South Australian Institute. *SAA* 23/2/1861: 3.
2. Contract for the Waterworks Reservoir. *AT* 5/10/1857: 2.
3. Advertising. *AT* 25/7/1850: 1.
4. Port Adelaide. *The South Australian* 24/10/1850: 2.
5. A champagne dinner. *AT* 13/3/1851: 2.
6. Shipping intelligence. *The South Australian* 15/5/1849: 2.
7. To surveyors and others. *AT* 13/12/1851: 4.
8. Police court. *AT* 21/10/1851: 3.
9. Married. *SAR* 19/6/1852: 2.
10. Bench of magistrates. Transfers. *SAR* 14/9/1852: 3.
11. Star Inn. *SAR* 2/8/1852: 2.
12. Star Inn Concert Room. *AT* 27/7/1853: 1.
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14. Auctions *AO* 9/12/1854: 1.
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16. Old time Unley and Unley Park. *TRA* 23/12/1902: 6.

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21. Shipping intelligence. *AO* 23/8/1856: 5.
22. Retirements and promotion. *TRA* 1/7/1914: 9.
23. Double Dublin stout. *AT* 18/9/1856: 3.
24. Amusements. *SAR* 31/10/1856: 1.
25. Contract for the Waterworks Reservoir. *AT* 5/10/1857: 2.
26. The reservoir at Thorndon Park. *SAR* 18/4/1859: 2.
27. The Waterworks. *SAR* 5/6/1860: 3.
28. Railway to Kapunda. *SAA* 11/10/1859: 2.
29. The Wallaroo railway. *SAR* 16/8/1861: 2.
30. Wallaroo Railway. *SAR* 26/11/1862: 5.
31. Kadina and Wallaroo Railway and Pier Company. *SAR* 27/7/1863: 3.
32. Wallaroo and Kadina railway. *AO* 9/5/1863: 5.
33. Port Elliot. *SAR* 18/6/1862: 2.
34. Opening of bridges in the south district. *SAR* 3/8/1863: 3.
35. Victor Harbor Works. *SAR* 4/7/1862: 1.
36. Victor Harbor Steam Saw Mills. *SAA* 18/10/1862: 1.
37. The Advertiser. *SAA* 14/9/1863: 2.
38. Opening of the Victor Harbour Tramway and Victoria Jetty. *SAR* 9/8/1864: 3.
39. Death of Pioneer. *DC* 6/1/1912: 1.
40. Licensed Victuallers' Association. *SAR* 1/2/1859: 3.
41. Municipal Elections. *SAR* 2/12/1858: 2.
42. Municipal Council. *SAR* 31/1/1860: 3.
43. New omnibus to the Bay. *SAA* 13/11/1858: 1.
44. Morning trip to the Bay. *SAA* 18/12/1858: 1.
45. Auctions. *SAA* 11/5/1859: 4.
46. A good speculation for the summer. *SAA* 22/8/1859: 1.
47. The Mochatoona Copper Mining Company. *SAR* 16/6/1859: 3.
48. Cumberland Mining Company. *SAA* 17/5/1861: 1.
49. Kulpara Mining Company. *SAR* 25/4/1861: 3.
50. Auctions. *SAR* 27/10/1863: 4.
51. To brewers and others. *SAR* 16/3/1861: 1.
52. Public notices. *SAR* 20/12/1862: 1.
53. South Australian Agricultural and Horticultural Society's show. *SAR* 14/2/1862: 3.
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55. Wednesday's hailstorm. *SAR* 24/10/1862: 2.
56. Sporting. *AO* 10/3/1855: 4.
57. Pigeon shooting. *SAA* 17/5/1861: 3.
58. Pigeon match. *SAR* 28/2/1863: 2.
59. The Brighton races. *SAR* 23/2/1853: 2.
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61. A tiger. *AO* 22/5/1858: 5.
62. The monster Royal Bengal tiger. *AO* 22/5/1858: 1.
63. Exports. *AO* 11/9/1858: 5.
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65. A grand concert. *SAR* 17/7/1852: 2.
66. Complimentary banquet to Mr. McKinlay and party. *SAA* 13/11/1861: 3.
67. Banquet to Mr. McKinlay and party. *SAR* 9/12/1862: 3.
68. Kadina. *SAWC* 3/10/1863: 2.
69. South Australian Society of Arts. *SAR* 28/1/1861: 1.
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81. Auctions. *SAR* 27/11/1863: 4.
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91. Mr. Apollos Harrison Gouge. *AO* 23/4/1864: 5.
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94. Auction sale. *DC* 31/3/1881: 2.
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111. Shipping Intelligence. Cleared out. *AO* 31/12/1859: 4.
112. Shipping intelligence. Arrived coastwise. *SAR* 28/1/1861: 2.
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114. Auctions. *AO* 11/8/1860: 1.
115. Insolvency court. *AO* 27/10/1860: 3.
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117. Shipping news. Cleared. *SAA* 8/10/1860: 2.
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Genealogical information was derived from Ancestry https://www.ancestry.com.au and the Genealogy SA database https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-database-search

Surviving the heat:

Where do birds go during heatwaves?

Janet Gardner[1], Marina Louter[2], Suzanne Prober[1], Lynda Sharpe[3]
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With ongoing climate change the frequency, intensity and duration of heatwaves is increasing. But how do birds fare in the face of extreme heat? Can their behaviour buffer them from soaring temperatures and what components of habitat offer life-saving shelter?

Investigating these questions was one of the aims of our multi-year study of Jacky Winters (*Microeca fascinans*) living in mallee woodland at Calperum Station Reserve in South Australia's Riverland. Jacky Winters are small insectivorous birds belonging to the robin family, Petroicidae, and are common at the site (**Fig 1**). At Calperum, temperatures have soared in recent decades and the annual number of days ≥42°C has more than doubled over the past 25 years, making the site ideal for addressing these questions. Despite our awareness of rising temperatures, we know little about what birds do to stay cool and avoid the impacts of life-threatening temperatures.

Fig 1. A Jacky Winter, Microeca fascinans, in mallee woodland on Calperum Station Reserve, South Australia *(Photo: Janet Gardner)*

Body temperatures above 45°C are fatal for birds, and to survive heatwaves they must dissipate excess heat to maintain body temperatures below lethal levels, a particular challenge when temperature extremes are prolonged over many hours. By following individual birds on mild days and hot days, we found that Jacky Winters displayed a broad repertoire of behavioural responses to heat – so called behavioural thermoregulation – adjusting their behaviour to limit heat gain and to increase heat dissipation. Indeed, a bird's behaviour was highly nuanced and responsive to environmental conditions (**Fig 2**).

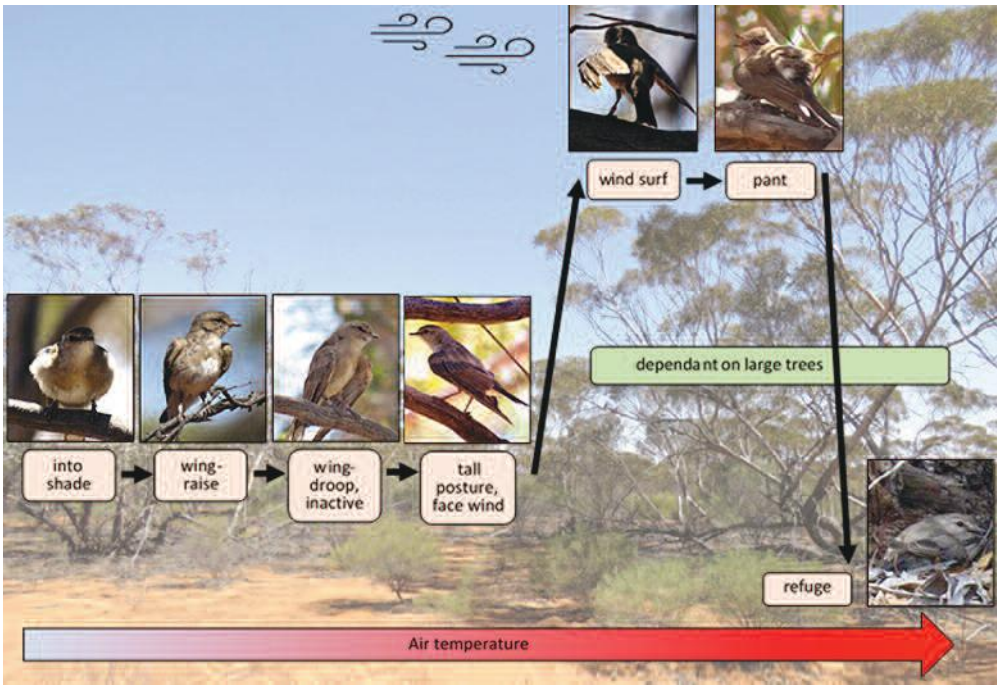

Fig 2. The effect of increasing air temperature on the cooling behaviours and microhabitat use of Jacky Winters in mallee woodland. *(from Sharpe et al. 2022)*

Birds moved into the shade when air temperatures exceeded 28ºC on average, reducing physically demanding activities and social interactions. As temperatures increased, they adopted postural changes that facilitated convective cooling, and by 34ºC about half their time was spent actively managing their heat load. As temperatures reached the high 30sºC, Jacky Winters moved to high perches to capitalize on the cooling effect offered by stronger winds, exploiting the heat gradient whereby body heat moves to cooler air. As air temperatures approach the bird's 40ºC body temperature, however, the heat gradient is reversed and birds will absorb heat from their environment rather than lose it. In such conditions, the only way to avoid heat gain is to pant, using evaporative cooling to prevent body temperature from reaching dangerous levels. Panting for prolonged periods seriously increases the risk of lethal dehydration (**Fig 3**).

To our surprise, once air temperatures reached the 40sºC Jacky Winters moved to the ground, sheltering in tree-base hollows and shaded crevices; they did not perch on the ground in any other circumstances (**Fig 4 a, b**). They remained in these refuges, often sharing them with other small passerines (**Fig 5**), until air temperatures dropped to about 38ºC, sometimes for up to 8 hours, emerging only after dark. Although the use of such refuges might be life-saving during temperature extremes, the behaviour comes at a cost: foraging is impossible and Jacky Winters lost body mass during heatwave events.

Fig 3. Two Jacky Winters exhibiting symptoms of dehydration on a morning following a 47ºC day *(Photos: Janet Gardner)*

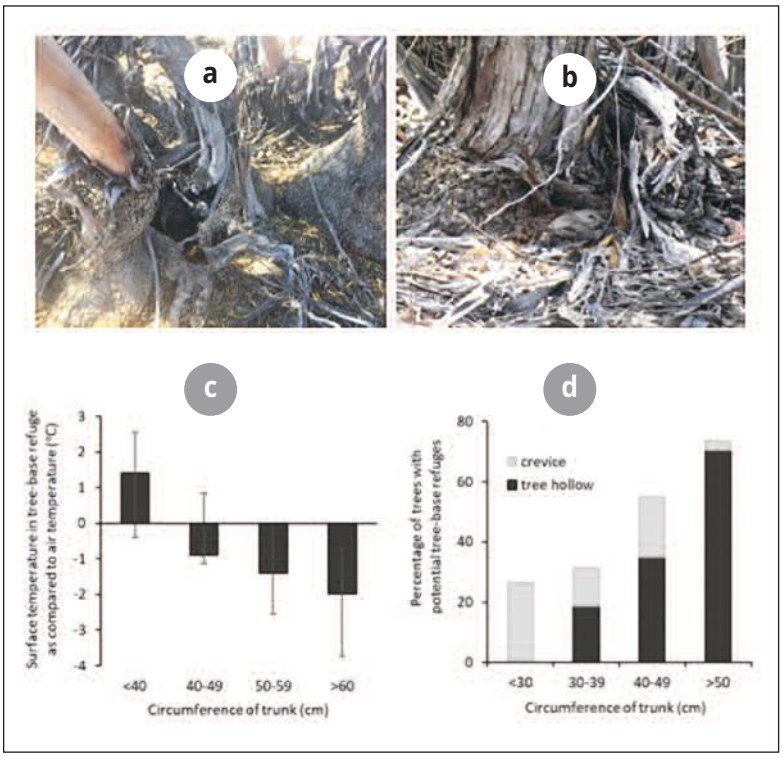

Fig 4. Tree-base refuges: (a) a tree hollow and (b) a Jacky Winter sheltering in a crevice. (c) Mean difference between the surface temperature in a tree-base refuge and air temperature (at mean air temperature of 39.5ºC) and (d) the percentage of mallee eucalypts with potential tree-base refuges by tree size. *(from Sharpe et al. 2022)*

Fig 5: Mixed-species aggregations of small passerines sheltered together in tree-base refuges, including chestnut-rumped thornbills. *(Photo: Janet Gardner)*

To test whether such refuges afforded a thermal advantage, we measured surface temperatures of microsites on hot sunny afternoons when air temperatures were between 39 and 47°C. We found that the temperature difference between microsites was as high as 35°C on the hottest days (**Fig 6**). For example, at air temperatures >44°C, sun-exposed sand was 77°C, shaded leaf litter 50°C and tree-base refuges were 42°C. Tree-base hollows were significantly cooler than all other locations we measured, on average 2°C cooler than air temperature (**Fig 4c**). While the presence of trees and leaf litter ground cover reduced surface temperatures, tree size had the greatest influence: the larger the mallee eucalypt, the cooler the surface temperature at its base, including within refuges (**Fig 4c**). Furthermore, the best quality refuges, tree-base hollows, were only found in the largest mallees and were rare at the site (**Fig 4d**).

Overall, Jacky Winters showed flexible behaviour to manage heat loads but the effectiveness of their behaviour was dependent on the quality of available habitat. The importance of large trees for survival became apparent during heatwaves: 29% of our banded adult population disappeared within 24 hours of air temperatures reaching a record-breaking 49°C and are presumed to have died (**Fig 7**).

Fig 7: A jacky Winter nestling, just prior to fledging, found dead during a heatwave when air temperature reached 44.6 °C. *(Photo: Marina Louter)*

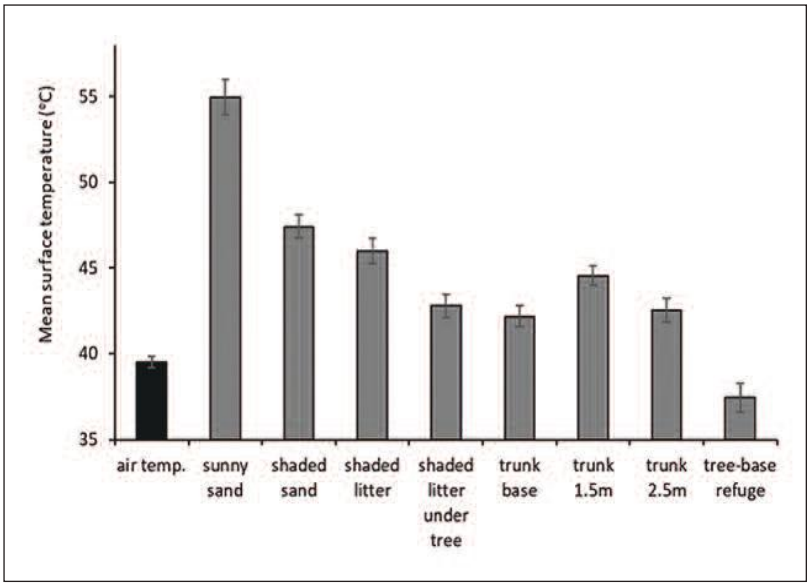

Fig 6: Mean surface temperature of habitat substrates at a mean air temperature of 39.5°C on sunny afternoons.
(from Sharpe et al. 2022)

These deaths appeared to be concentrated in parts of the study area that did not contain large trees, although we are yet to verify this quantitatively. Such events are not rare at the site and during the two-month-long period of heatwaves in 2018, 20% of adults were lost, compared with only 6% during the previous two months. Eggs and nestlings are also susceptible to heat extremes and all 41 clutches and 21 broods exposed to air temperatures >42°C died.

Our study suggests that tree-base hollows, limited to mature trees, are critical for survival during extreme heat events. There is thus an urgent need to manage fire in mallee landscapes to promote persistence of large trees. Ongoing studies are needed to quantify how wild individuals respond behaviourally to heatwaves and which fine-scale components of habitat serve as thermal refuges, to assist in guiding climate adaptation management as the climate warms.

We thank Birds SA for their support of this work and The Australian Landscape Trust for access to Calperum Station.

Further reading

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Black-eared Miners at Gluepot

The Riverland (formerly Bookmark) Biosphere Reserve comprising Gluepot and surrounding properties is the stronghold of Black-eared Miners (Baker-Gabb 2003). Yet at the Easter Campout at we found it difficult to be certain how many were present among the miners at Gluepot. After some discussion on the points of distinction between Black-eared and Yellow-throated Miners, most suspected that both were present in mixed colonies but there were many that were hard to pick and were presumed to be hybrids (note the pale-rumped individual illustrated in Lynton Huxley's report on page 37 of the Winter Birder).

Towards the end of our stay, Dawn Burchardt obtained a number of photographs at the 'Whistler' and 'Old Gluepot' bird hides and on Track 9. A great variety of phenotypes can be recognised in her photos, some very like Black-eared Miners but others more like Yellow-throated Miners. My feeling was that most looked intergradient to some degree and I could not decide if any was the pure form of either miner.

The Black-eared Miner has long been recognised as endangered, as a result of habitat change and hybridisation, for example in Action Plans for Australian Birds of 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020 (Garnett and others) and by Australian and international authorities, but its taxonomic status remains contentious, as species or as a subspecies of Yellow-throated Miner. Genetic studies in the 1990s suggested that it was distinct, but the research was incomplete and remains unpublished (see Horton et al. 2013 Birds in Census of SA vertebrates for a review). Successive recovery plans were developed and implemented (Backhouse et al. 1997, Baker-Gabb 2003) that included property acquisitions and conservation management, as well as translocations and selective culling. The number of colonies has been reviewed by surveys, showing evidence of recovery to the pre-management total (Boulton 2014, 2019 unpublished) after earlier substantial decline (Clarke et al. Action Plan 2010). In the Action Plan 2020, Boulton et al. estimated the number of mature individuals at about 500 (400-1000), based on an earlier estimate of about two adults per colony and correcting for other factors. The estimated total is unchanged since the previous Action Plan.

More information is on the way. Dr Katherine Harrisson and Masters student Jessica Presnell at La Trobe University are exploring the threat to the Black-eared Miner from hybridisation through a project titled ***'Genomics to understand hybridisation between the endangered black-eared miner and the abundant yellow-throated miner.'*** Dr Harrisson commented on the importance of genetic data in understanding what is actually going on in the population and how to ensure the Black-eared Miner's long-term survival. She countered fears that increasing hybridisation will lead to genetic swamping and loss of unique species' traits by observing that hybridisation is not always a bad thing but can benefit small, inbred populations by introducing new genetic diversity.

The La Trobe team are part of a collaborative programme with Federal funding to sample from a number of the 200 identified colonies for genetic analysis, announced early in July by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board (Sophie Landau ABC Riverland). The aims included assessing the level of interbreeding and correlating the purity of a bird's appearance with its genetics. Researchers will also "strategically remove key Yellow-throated Miners from Black-eared Miner habitat".

This is close to a good Black-eared Miner with a nice black sub-moustachial stripe, though some yellow frontal feathering is a Yellow-throated trait and the rump is only pale grey so one might infer that it is not genetically 100%.

Black-eared Miners at Gluepot *(continued)*

This bird appears closer to a Yellow-throated Miner with pale throat, rump and tail tip.

A group of 13 miners and a female Mulga Parrot at Whistler Tank. The two upright birds at left look like Black-eared Miners. The third bird is slightly paler. All others appear to be hybrids with pale rumps and tail tips evident in several.

Rebecca Boulton assures me that most colonies are substantially 'purer' than the Whistler Tank group: many being between 50% and 100% phenotypically Black-eared Miner. The evidence providing correlation between phenotype and genotype is eagerly awaited. I am grateful to Dawn, Rebecca, Katherine and Leo Joseph for input to this note. I can supply reference details for interested readers.

Andrew Black

27 July 2022

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Bitten by the Birdwatching Bug!

I have been bitten badly by the Bird Watching Bug, and I remember distinctly the exact moment it bit.

It all started with a friend from my tennis group bringing in his bird photos. He would describe his latest adventure camping out in the middle of nowhere and rising at first light to get the best shot. We all secretly thought he was just a little mad. However, they were excellent pictures and as I had recently retired I thought it would be a good time to have a go at drawing. So I asked if I could have some of his photos, from which I could learn to draw. He said, ever so politely, 'go take your own photos', and handed me an old copy of a bird identification book. Hmm, I hadn't really thought of that but it might be an idea. So I got myself a second hand Nikon Coolpix B700 and took it down to my next camping trip to Meningie where I took some pictures of Welcome Swallows and Pelicans, and I was pleased with the results.

Once back at home, I noticed some birds cavorting around in my bird bath, and it was fun taking pictures of them. I learnt they were called New Holland Honeyeaters. A few days later I happened to look out the window and noticed a bird I had never seen before hopping about in my Salvia shrub. It had interesting orange and brown colours, and its tiny wings were beating like a humming bird as it dipped its beak into the purple flowers. I raced to get my camera, but it was too late. It was gone and I would probably never see it again. I looked through my bird book and found it was called an Eastern Spinebill. I kept my camera in the room in case it would return the next day. Sure enough, as soon as the sun came up, there was the little bird again. The camera clicked, and the Bug bit that day.

Eastern Spinebill
(Photographed by Sue Hammond in her Happy Valley garden)

Sue, hiding from the rain, under the footbridge at Perry's Bend, Port Noarlunga.

My new found goal in life was to see what other birds were out there and hopefully to get a good picture of them. The next day I took my camera to the wetlands on Byards Road with the only aim in mind to photograph birds. I saw White-faced Herons, Masked Lapwings and some little birds in the trees which I recognised from my childhood as Silvereyes. It felt a little strange and I felt self-conscious as people passed by.

I saw my first new-to-me bird at Tangari Regional Park. I managed to get a good photo and once home, I found a bird in my book with the exact markings. It was a White-plumed Honeyeater. It was now a voyage of discovery, and a feeling of serendipitous delight every time I left the house with my camera. I started visiting parks around me which I had never been to. I saw my first Mistletoebirds at Sturt Gorge, and Dusky Moorhens and Eurasian Coots at Oaklands Park Wetlands.

I joined Birds SA and noticed a family friend was also a member. He has now become a valued mentor and encouraged me to start noting down the birds I had seen. As a research librarian by profession, this appealed to me and I have now set up a Microsoft Excel spread sheet to keep track of when and where I see my new-to-me birds.

Bitten by the birdwatching bug *(continued)*

Welcome Swallow
(Photographed by Sue Hammond at Meningie Caravan Park)

Golden-headed Cisticola
(Photographed by Sue Hammond at Perry's Bend, Port Noarlunga)

White-eared Honeyeater
(Photographed by Sue Hammond at Lowan Conservation Park)

Birds SA field trips are invaluable. They are a way to meet like-minded people who collectively have a wealth of experience and knowledge to learn from. My first trip was to Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens. I pointed out some lovely 'baby ducks' on the pond, and was told they were actually Australasian Grebes. We saw the elusive Bassian Thrush, which I only caught a glimpse of as I was hurriedly trying to find it in the viewfinder of my camera whilst everyone around me was exclaiming about the interesting markings on the bird.

My greatest challenge was to try and identify the tiny birds flitting around in trees, and moving far too quickly to have a good look at them. I learnt the tiniest bird in Australia is a Weebill, and I got my first proper identification and picture at the Glenthorne National Park Ityamaiitpinna Yarta. I have also managed to snap the little Thornbills: the Brown Thornbill at Tangari, the Yellow-rumped at Glenthorne NPIY, the Striated Thornbill near Meadows, and lastly the Chestnut-rumped near Lowan Conservation Park.

I have learnt to stop muttering to myself and blaming the birds for staying out of view and tormenting me on purpose. I have learnt to be patient and enjoy the walk and the bird calls. So many times the birds have eventually presented themselves and posed in the best light for me. It shouldn't be hard work. Recently at Lowan CP, we heard many varied birdcalls, but we saw no birds for at least 15 minutes. However suddenly a White-eared Honeyeater appeared and posed considerately for a photo. And at Perry's Bend we heard the calls of the Golden-headed Cisticolas amongst the reeds. After 10 minutes or so of quiet watching and waiting, one or two ventured out and posed patiently for pictures.

One of my most memorable experiences is coming across a very aptly called clattering of Choughs at Browns Road, Monarto. Though it actually sounded more like a murderous screech of Choughs. I had never seen Choughs so was keen to come across them one day. As I quietly walked down a path amongst the trees, I saw a large, black bird ahead of me on the ground. As I approached closer, there was suddenly a massive screeching and I would say at least 50 Choughs suddenly flew up around me into the trees. I sat down and spent 15 minutes or so watching them slowly fly down and resume their activities on the ground. I felt so privileged to be alone amongst such amazing birds.

A whole new dimension to my life has been opened up and I have so much to look forward to. I have all the seabirds to discover, and will learn how to identify the raptors. I have a long planned trip to the middle of Australia coming up which now will have the added excitement of seeing birds which aren't in South Australia. I can see other interests opening up as well, as I start paying attention to the diverse habitats around me, and the efforts of various groups of people trying to conserve and improve those habitats. I am so grateful to my tennis friend for providing the original inspiration, and the people I have met since who provide mentorship and encouragement. Hope to see you all out on the field somewhere!

Sue Hammond

Request for information on
Breeding White Ibis

Of the three species of ibis native to Australia, the White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) are undoubtedly the most familiar. White Ibis have become conspicuous inhabitants of coastal cities in southern Australia and earned themselves the unenviable moniker of "bin chicken". They have not always been urban birds though.

White Ibis used to be birds of inland wetlands. But as the area of natural wetlands has declined, so have White Ibis, particularly in the Murray-Darling drainage basin. The decline in wetlands is primarily a result of people building locks and barrages that generally prevent water flow into wetlands. This increases the amount of water available for human use. The Murray-Darling is the largest river system in Australia and supplies about 40% of the country's irrigated agricultural production. Allocation of water between the environment (which includes wildlife) and various human uses is the difficult and controversial job of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

The area of natural wetlands in the Murray-Darling basin has reduced by 60%, from an average of 350,000 Ha during the 1980s to an average of 140,000 Ha in the past ten years.

So urban White Ibis seem to be environmental refugees, leaving places where they can no longer find a home in search of a better place to live. Many cities have constructed wetlands in urban parks that can be suitable places for ibises to nest. Also, the way we manage our waste means that food is often easier to find for ibises in urban environments. Like human refugees, city ibises have received both positive and negative responses.

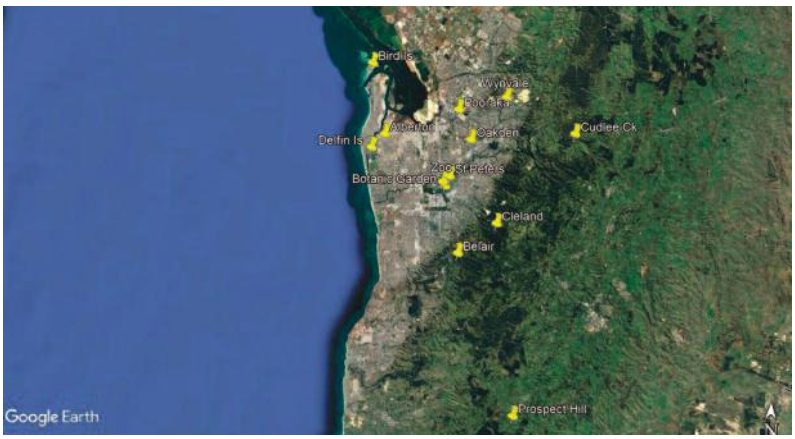
Urban White Ibis first attracted wide attention when some unfortunate birds were hit by a plane that was taking off at the Brisbane airport in 1984. The plane made an emergency landing. Although I imagine the passengers and crew had some frayed nerves, no people were hurt. Nevertheless, the incident attracted a lot of attention and raised concerns about a (then) recently established breeding colony of White Ibis near the airport. Over the past forty years attitudes to White Ibis have changed. Ibis are now one of the most popular urban birds, according to Birdlife Australia.

Despite this popularity, under some circumstances White Ibis have been perceived as a nuisance. Ibis roosts and breeding colonies can be noisy and smelly.

White ibis showing red underwing and markings on the back of the head that develop when they are breeding
(Photographed by Greg Johnston)

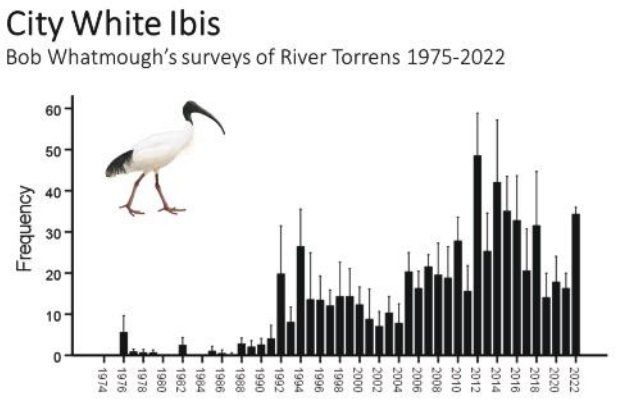
White ibis lay three eggs in shallow nests of sticks
(Photographed by Greg Johnston)

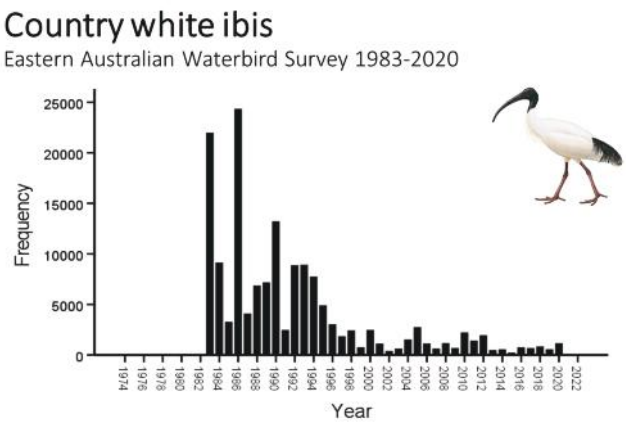
Request for information on Breeding White Ibis *(continued)*



Ibis colonies near Adelaide

In the past, complaints about ibis were often managed in a piecemeal fashion, usually by local councils. However, ibis show no awareness of political boundaries. They may breed in one council area and forage in another. Removal of trees used by roosting or breeding ibises may result in the ibises (and therefore the "problem") moving to another location, possibly in another council area.





So, we have a native, protected species of bird that has moved into cities as their natural wetland habitats are disappearing. Much of what we know about ibis in more natural areas does not translate to urban ibis. To help ibis and people live together we need to better understand the biology of urban white ibis. We need to understand how ibis use and respond to the urban environment at a scale that makes sense to the ibis themselves. To this end the Green Adelaide Landscape Board have recently started a project to better understand White Ibis use of landfill waste management sites and other urban areas, why ibis breed where they do, what stimulates them to form new colonies and ibis movement patterns across the Adelaide region.

White Ibis seem to have established themselves as breeding birds in Adelaide within living memory. This provides us with an opportunity to reconstruct the history of White Ibis in Adelaide, as a basis for the Green Adelaide White Ibis project.

To my knowledge White Ibis first bred here in 1990. Since then, ibis have increased in abundance and have formed at least thirteen breeding colonies near Adelaide. However, this is unlikely to be the whole story.

To help build a complete picture of White Ibis in Adelaide I am seeking information on any ibis breeding colonies in the Adelaide region. I am keen to document both current and past colonies. Where do White Ibis breed? When did ibis start breeding at each colony? Do they breed at the same time of year in each colony? How many breeding pairs are there in each colony? Has this changed over time? Have some colonies come and gone, while others remain?

If you have any historical or recent observations or records of white ibises breeding around Adelaide, I would love to hear from you:

Greg Johnston
email: greg.johnston@flinders.edu.au,
mobile: 0455 473 013.

The results of the White Ibis project will be shared as the project develops. Hopefully, the project will find ways for the people of Adelaide to live more harmoniously with White Ibis – refugees of our own making.

Greg Johnston

Past Excursions

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 4 June
Nurragi Reserve, Finnis

Excursion cancelled due to inclement weather.

Port Augusta Bird Group (The Babblers)

Saturday 11 June – Monday 13 June
CAMPOUT at Oratunga Station

Saturday 11 June

After an early start to the day and driving for hours through overcast, drizzly and in places foggy conditions, seven birders came together at Blinman in lovely clear and sunny weather. Two each were from Whyalla and Nelshaby and one of each was from Pt. Augusta, Pt. Neill and Mambray Creek. The place was busy with many other tourists so we headed off to Oratunga station, which is about 5km northwest of Blinman.

When we arrived, we met the owner who showed us around the shearers' quarters. We then settled our gear into the rooms and enjoyed our lunch. As we were eating, a pair of friendly Red-capped Robins joined us. We then had a look around the homestead area which is surrounded by low hills and an area of flat grassland. Native pines dominate, with some patches of mallee and scrub. We found Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, Dusky Woodswallows, Yellow-rumped and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Weebills, Australian Magpies white backed and hybrid black-backed forms, Australian Ravens, Grey Butcherbirds, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Galahs, Nankeen Kestrels, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Mallee Ringnecks and some Mallee cross Port Lincoln hybrids and Southern Whiteface preparing to nest in some stockyard fencing.

Weebill *(Photographed by Trevor Cox at Oratunga Station, June 2022)*

We still had time to have a look along the Glass Gorge Road and drove about 3km to Glass Well. At this location, there are some old ruins and there is water in the creek, so we walked around the area looking for birds. We passed a mob of Emus on the way and added Grey Shrikethrushes, White-browed Babblers, Mulga Parrots, Rufous Whistlers, Inland Thornbills, Common Bronzewings, Peaceful Doves and Yellow-throated Miners to our bird list. There were also more Red-capped Robins, which we found at every birding stop during the trip. We returned to Oratunga, and while we were eating our tea a flock of Apostlebirds visited us. During the night a Boobook Owl was heard. 28 bird species were found in the few hours we had.

Sunday 12 June

We awoke to a freezing morning with a heavy frost and ice covered vehicles. It was decided to let things defrost and look for birds around the area. Willie Wagtails, Crested Pigeons and on a nearby hill Redthroats and Grey-fronted Honeyeaters added to our local area list. After it had warmed up in the sunny and calm conditions, we drove along the Glass Gorge Road stopping to look at some cliffs and finding Nankeen Kestrels nesting in a small hole in the cliff that was soaking up the early sun. We walked to some cliffs in the shade but found no birds here because it was so cold. We did find some Striated Pardalotes along with Weebills in the Red Gums along the creek.

Rufous Whistler
(Photographed by Richard Croll at Orutanga Station, June 2022)

We drove on a few km and turned off on a track that led to an open area with a Red Gum creek running through it. Here we found many more Crested Pigeons, more Red-capped Robins, Grey Fantails, Tree Martins and all the birds we had previously recorded. After lunch we drove on along the Gorge Road, stopping to look at some Purple -backed Fairywrens. About half way along the Glass Gorge road we stopped at First Spring and walked in to where the spring is in the bed of a Red gum lined creek. It is a lovely spot with some clear pools of water amongst the rocky small water falls. Here we found most of the birds already found and added Little Corellas, Collared Sparrowhawk, Zebra Finches, Elegant Parrots, Singing Honeyeaters, White-winged Fairywrens and more Red-capped Robins. It was getting late and we still had to drive about 11km along a windy, narrow in places, road to get to the Parachilna Gorge Road and on to Blinman.

As we arrived back at Oratunga some Little Corellas and a Horsfields Bronze Cuckoo were added to the homestead area list. A Barn Owl was seen during the night at the shearing shed but we could not find it in the morning.

Monday 13 June

It was another chilly morning but not as icy as the previous morning. We packed our gear back into the vehicles and some of the group had to leave, but the rest decided to have a look at an area of Mallee gums nearby. As we walked across a grass and onion-weed flat area we added Australian Pipits to the bird list. In the Mallee it was fairly quiet with birds we had seen already, including more Red-capped Robins. We returned to the shearers' quarters and headed to Blinman for lunch and look at a photographic exhibition. We said our goodbyes and all headed back to our homes.

A total of 45 bird species were found with no waterbirds found probably because they are all up north with all the water currently inland. The birds of the trip were the Redthroat and the numerous Red-capped Robins. The hybrid Ringnecks and Australian Magpies in this inter zone area were also of interest. We had managed to add 6 new species to the Oratunga Station bird list.

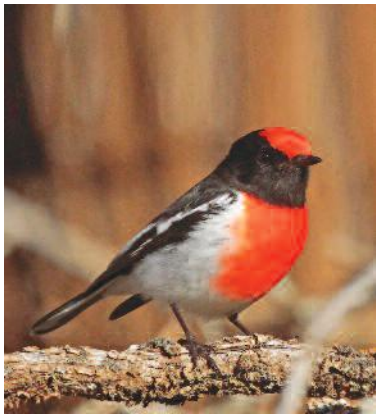
I returned home via the Wirrealpa to Martins' Well road and found some White-fronted Honeyeaters, Black-faced Woodswallows, Chirruping Wedgebills and Chestnut-crowned Babblers along with more of the birds seen before in a patch of flowering *Eremophila duttonii*'s.

Bernie Haase

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
(Photographed by Trevor Cox at Oratunga Station, June 2022)

Grey Fantail
(Photographed by Richard Croll at Oratunga Station, June 2022)

Purple-backed Fairywren
(Photographed by Richard Croll at Oratunga Station, June 2022)



Red-capped Robin
(Photographed by Trevor Cox at Oratunga Station, June 2022)

Birds SA

Saturday 11– Monday 13 June
Brookfield Conservation Park
Mini Campout

The 'mini campout' was a new event for Birds SA and turned out to be a great success, so hopefully there may be more in the future. A total of 13 people visited the Reserve between 11th and 13th June with some coming for a day trip and 7 people staying overnight. We were lucky enough to be able to use the scientific camp not usually accessible to the public. It is located in the restricted area (similar to the Birdseye Block at Gluepot) and has a fantastic camp kitchen and a couple of options for staying overnight e.g. bunkrooms and permanent tent type accommodation.

The weather wasn't very auspicious being quite grey and dull for most of the time. The reserve was rather dry, having missed out on much of the rain experienced elsewhere in South Australia.. It was also the middle of winter so not many birds were calling. Therefore, while we didn't see a great many individual birds in some areas, we nevertheless managed to achieve an overall total of 26 species.

We visited the area around the scientific camp, the Charcoal Pits, the picnic area and a few other places to cover the different habitats within the reserve. Species observed included Emu (1), Brush Bronzewing (2), Mulga Parrot (6), Australian Ringneck (3), Little Corella (100), Galah (60), Weebill (100) and White-winged Chough (20). Honeyeaters included White-eared (2), Spiny-cheeked (3), Yellow-throated Miners (8), Singing (3) and Yellow-plumed (50). There were a great many Splendid Fairywrens (40) and quite a few Southern Whitefaces (10). We also saw 3 Chestnut Quail-thrush which is always a treat. Other species included Grey Butcherbird (4), Gilbert's Whistler (1), Red-capped Robin (6), Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (30), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (20), Grey Currawong (2), Australian Magpie (5), Willie Wagtail (1), Little Raven (2), Australian Raven (5) and a single Mistletoe Bird.

Ali Ben Kahn

Birds SA

Thursday 16 June
Bushland Park (Lobethal)

Bushland Park was devastated by the Cudlee Creek bushfire in December 2019, leaving much of the reserve completely burnt out. It has been interesting and encouraging to see the regeneration since then although, of course, it will take time for bird numbers to recover. In the meantime, 18 people gathered on a very grey and unprepossessing-looking day in the middle of winter. At first things weren't looking too good as far as birds were concerned. However, it wasn't windy, the rain held off and we gradually started to see some birds.

At the pond near the car park we spotted Maned Ducks (2), Pacific Black Ducks (6), Australasian Grebe (1), Little Pied Cormorant (1), Australasian Swamphens (2), Dusky Moorhens (4), Eurasian Coots (8) and 1 Masked Lapwing. We then followed the fire-break track along the eastern boundary and then turned north-west onto the track leading to one of the reservoirs. We saw only a few birds such as Australian Magpies (6) and Grey Currawongs (2) at first but soon numbers started to pick up. When we reached the reservoir, an eagle-eyed observer saw a tiny crimson spot across the water on the other bank which turned out to be a Scarlet Robin. Fantastic bird spotting, in my opinion!

Due to it being rather soggy underfoot we then followed the main centre track south rather than visiting Butterfly Gully which we heard was very wet. Some of the group ascended to the 'lookout' on the way back and then descended via the ridge back to the picnic area where we had lunch and did the bird call.

Other birds encountered during the walk included Common Bronzewings (6), Galahs (12), Little Corellas (3), Sulphur-crested Cockatoos (4), Adelaide Rosellas (12) and Rainbow Lorikeets (20). We also saw White-throated Treecreepers (4), Superb Fairywrens (40), Silvereyes (8) and 1 Welcome Swallow. Honeyeaters included Crescent (1), New Holland (4), White-naped (2), Yellow-faced (2) and Red Wattlebirds (15), Grey Shrikethrushes (2), 1 Willie Wagtail and 1 Magpielark, 6 Australian Magpies, 5 Little Ravens and 2 Grey Currawongs. Thornbills included Buff-rumped (6) and Striated (10)

Introduced species included 1 Common Starling, 1 Common Blackbird, 12 House Sparrows, and 6 European Goldfinches. Overall, our species count was 36 for the day.

Ali Ben Kahn

Birds SA

Sunday 26 June
Kenneth Stirling (Wottons Scrub) CP

Nine birders met on a very cold, overcast morning.

The weather did not improve much and there was intermittent drizzle throughout the walk. As is usual for this time of year the park was very wet underfoot in places.

Birds, both species and numbers, were very low and we only managed 18 species seen plus three species heard with a total of 89 individuals seen.

Highest numbers were 20 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, 12 Adelaide Rosellas, 10 Galahs and six each of Australian Magpies, Striated Thornbills and a Maned Duck. One Maned Duck was perched at a large tree hollow probably 15 metres above the ground.

We finished the walk at about 11.30 am by which time three of the group had already left.

The remaining six members proceeded to Mt George.

Mt George CP

The weather had not improved at all and once again this 45 minute walk was done in drizzly conditions.

As was the case at Wottons Scrub, birds were few and far between with only nine species seen, six heard with two White-faced Herons at a nest. Highest numbers were ten Galahs, and four each of Australian Magpie and Superb Fairywren. We saw a meagre total of 28 birds.

We then had our lunch and made the bird calls.

Rod Tetlow

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 2 July
Langhorne Creek Cemetery *and* Gollan's Waterhole/Mosquito Creek

Gathering at Frank Pott's Reserve at 8.30am on the edge of Langhorne Creek, everyone was warmly dressed for the 7°C at the beginning of the day. There was one patch of blue sky showing in the southeast, while the rest of the sky was under cloud cover. Ten birders drove a short distance from the meeting point, then set out walking along the surrounds of the Langhorne Creek cemetery amidst the well grown native plantings of 1990. Peter arrived late from Willunga, making it 11 members.

Rainbow Lorikeets bathing in the fork of a gum tree *(Photographed by Lorrie Mortimer at Langhorne Creek Cemetery, Saturday 2 July 2022)*

Dusky Woodswallows *(Photographed by Bob Daly at Langhorne Creek Cemetery, Saturday 2 July 2022)*

A good number of brightly coloured Rainbow Lorikeets and a few Musk Lorikeets greeted us and we observed more as we continued our walk. White-browed Babblers showed themselves along the way, busily moving about on the trees and on the ground. Graham said he badly wanted to see Rainbow Bee-eaters at the Cemetery, but now knows that he will have to come back later in the year.

Honeyeaters were feeding amongst the blossom of various gum trees. These included Singing, White-naped, New Holland, Noisy Miner, together with Little and Red Wattlebirds.

A Little Raven was seen flying past and a Whistling Kite was seen up high. Superb Fairywrens were seen and heard in several places.

Little Corellas were in large numbers in the neighbouring paddocks, and a few Galahs flew over. Always a thrill to see (especially on a dull day), was the brilliant contrasting colour of a Golden Whistler. This held our attention for some time as it flew from branch to branch. A few Dusky Woodswallows rested on the fence for a while.

Members Group at Gollan's Waterhole
(Photographed by Wendy Phillips, Saturday 2 July 2022)

After 2 hours at the Cemetery, we decided to move on to Mosquito Creek Reserve, as it was not far down the road towards Wellington. The Langhorne Creek Community and local schoolchildren and their teachers have had a lot to do with the restoration and development of this site since 1988. *Calostemma Purpureum* (native Garland lilies) grow here and flower between January and March.

A charming wooden sign by the creek bed indicates Gollan's Waterhole, but today there was NO water in the pool, therefore no ducks and consequently no "Hordes of Hungry Mosquitoes!" In fact, there was hardly a bird to be seen.

We sat down for the bird count at the entrance to the Reserve The sun came out and we could hear Kookaburras calling. We tallied 29 species over the two sites and just before we left a female Rufous Whistler appeared close by making it 30 species for the day.

After lunch some of the group went on to Tolderol for the afternoon.

Pat Simpson

Birds SA

Saturday 9 July
Shepherds Hill Recreation Park

It was a dank and dismal morning when 12 of us assembled at the start of the walk. Four new recruits formed part of the group showing a little more enthusiasm than the rest of us.

Apart from a pair of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flying over, there was little out of the ordinary for the first part of the walk. About 20 minutes in, whilst following the creekbed, we chanced upon a pair of Mistletoebirds that kept us entertained for a good five minutes. A first time sighting for some members.

Sightings were rather few and far between. As we worked up onto higher ground a passing train flushed out a Common Bronzewing. Along the top of the ridge track a Grey Currawong posed politely for the cameras.

Returning to lower ground we found a party of Red-rumped Parrots, 6 male and 1 female, which we were able to observe quite closely for several minutes. Immediately after this, a flock of 30 Straw-necked Ibis flew high overhead.

Returning to the car park we sat down for drinks and carried out the bird call surrounded by 8 Maned Ducks who objected rather vocally to our presence.

The total count of the birds seen during the excursion was: Noisy Miner (20), Galah (12), Adelaide Rosella (12), Magpie (20), Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (2), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (12), Little Raven (6), Grey Fantail (2), Rainbow Lorikeet (10), Grey Currawong (6), Mistletoebird (1 pair), Common Bronzewing (1), Red Wattlebird (6), New Holland Honeyeater (10), Red-rumped Parrot (15), Maned Duck (8), Eastern Rosella (8), Straw-necked Ibis (30), Striated Pardalote (12), Superb Fairywren (5),White-browed Scrubwren (1), Weebill (1), Silvereye (2).

Kookaburras were heard throughout the walk, but chose not to show themselves.

I took over the walk at the last minute due to Lynton contracting covid. He graciously emailed me all the documentation along with his standard joke sheet, which the group thanked me enthusiastically for not using.

Clive Paling

P.S. Most of the above is factual.

Port Augusta Bird Group (The Babblers)

Sunday 17 July
Wilmington – Mt. Maria

It was a cold, windy and occasionally drizzly morning when five keen birders came together in Wilmington. As we were waiting for any latecomers we noticed a line of about sixty feral Rock Doves sheltering under the eaves of the pub. A fake owl on top of the roof didn't seem to worry them but a Peregrine Falcon that shot past checking out its next meal made them scatter. In the trees and gardens nearby there were Red Wattlebirds, Purple-crowned Lorikeets, New Holland Honeyeaters, Sparrows and Apostlebirds.

Jacky Winter *(Photographed by Bernie Haase at Wilmington, Sunday 17 July 2022)*

Mistletoebird *(Photographed by Bernie Haase at Wilmington, Sunday 17 July 2022)*

We drove a short distance to the Mt. Maria car park and as we were getting ready to walk along the path to the top, the cold wind was blowing off the paddocks and rain clouds drifted past. I thought it was going to be a bad day for birding. The weeds were struggling to grow, as were the crops in the paddocks due to the lack of rain, adding to the apprehension of not seeing many birds. On the nearby golf course there were Red-rumped Parrots, an Australasian Kestrel and Australian Magpies. The mount is covered by open woodland of Mallee, Blue Gums and at the top some Sugar Gums; with some sparse shrub understorey and abundant fallen timber. When we entered the trees on the sheltered side of the mount the wind dropped and there was a constant noise of birds all around us. The Peppermint Box mallee was flowering and mobs of Purple-crowned and some Rainbow Lorikeets, White-plumed and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds, Yellow-throated Miners and Dusky Woodswallows were all feeding and squabbling over the best flowers.

As we walked along the track a pair of Little Ravens flew past while on the ground and at lower levels there were Willie Wagtails, White-browed Babblers, Grey Shrikethrushes and Brown Treecreepers that that seemed to be camera-shy. In the tree canopy the birds that were not occupied with feeding on the flowers were Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Mallee Ringnecks, Flinders Adelaide Rosellas and Striated Pardalotes. Nearing the top of the mount the track passed through an open area with some low scrub and here we found some Jacky Winters, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Southern Whitefaces and a Singing Honeyeater. On our return down the hill after admiring the view in the cold wind, we saw some Galahs and an Australian Raven. After a bird call and late smoko in the carpark we headed off towards Melrose and the Willowie Forest.

Willowie Forest

The car park we entered was quite crowded because of all the mountain bikers that were using the new facilities and bike tracks that have been built throughout the forest area. It is a National Park that is supposed to be there to protect the open woodland and its ecosystems but money seems to override these objectives. We had a late lunch in the car park, avoiding the crowds in the sheltered seating area and the covid super spreaders. As we were eating, the Weebills, Striated Pardalotes, Mistletoebirds and a Grey Butcherbird moved about in the trees, while Australian Magpies, Crested Pigeons, Little Ravens, Galahs and an Australasian Kestrel were in the paddocks across the road.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *(Photographed by Bernie Haase at Wilmington, Sunday 17 July 2022)*

We walked through the open woodland crossing the numerous bike tracks, ignoring the yells of bikers and found Red Wattlebirds, Rainbow Lorikeets, Grey Fantails, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and many Peaceful Doves. In an area of more open Acacia scrub there were Yellow-rumped and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Willie Wagtails, White-browed Babblers, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Red-capped Robins, Silvereyes and a Black-shouldered Kite.

Back in the woodland there were Red-rumped Parrots that kept moving out of good photograph range as we walked along, along with Grey Shrikethrushes, Mallee Ringnecks, Rufous Whistlers, White-plumed Honeyeaters and inquisitive, but constantly moving Brown-headed Honeyeaters. The Jacky Winters allowed us to take some photos of them as they hawked for insects. Back at the car park the crowd had died down, and after bird call we all parted and headed for home. It turned out to have been a better day than was anticipated, given the weather conditions.

A total of 43 bird species was found, with the birds of the day being the Peregrine Falcon, Brown Treecreepers, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters; and a mention for the mass of Purple-crowned Lorikeets and other birds feeding on the flowering Mallee trees.

Bernie Haase

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 6 August
Scott Conservation Park

Perhaps dissuaded by a forecast of cold, showery weather, six hardy members (four locals and two from Adelaide) met at the northern car park in the cool, but fine, morning air. With no sign of rain, one of the group, that would be me predicted that it would wait until we were having lunch before it rained!

Scott CP was in fine fettle with the vegetation thriving, the new signage welcoming, and the walking tracks well maintained. All we needed now were birds!

Several species greeted us from the adjacent farmland including the ubiquitous Australian Magpies (5) and Little Ravens (3). We could also hear a Grey Currawong from somewhere in the park.

We began our walk to the north-eastern corner of the park and were treated to Red-browed Finches (2), Striated (10) and Spotted (2) Pardalotes and a female Golden Whistler in this area (later, we also enjoyed views of several males). At the end of this spur track were

Wood Duck in a tree *(Photographed by Bob Daly at Scott Conservation Park, Saturday 6 August 2022)*

Australian Wood Ducks (13) in the adjacent paddock and two were examining a nesting hollow in an old Eucalypt, for future use.

We then cut across country back towards the main "circular" track and could hear both Fan-tailed Cuckoos (one was sighted) and Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos calling. We also saw White-browed Babblers (5) and Grey Shrike-thrushes (3), as well as a large contingent of Tree Martins (30) hawking insects in the open areas.

We crossed several creeks, going down and up the specially installed steps, and made our way back towards the southern car park. Along the way we observed the usual parrot species including Elegant Parrots (10), Red-rumped Parrots (6), Galahs (20), Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos (2), Little Corellas (2), Crimson/Adelaide Rosellas (25), Rainbow Lorikeets (2), Musk Lorikeets (6), and heard at least one Sulphur Crested Cockatoo and a Purple-crowned Lorikeet.

Having surveyed the walking track's creek-crossing to the southern car park and finding it okay to cross when we returned, we headed further south to the south-east corner of the park. Here we had excellent views of White-throated Treecreepers (2) and more Grey Fantails (8). A pair of Brown Goshawks were circling above us,

White-throated Treecreeper *(Photographed by Bob Daly at Scott Conservation Park, Saturday 6 August 2022)*

Brown-headed Honeyeater *(Photographed by Bob Daly at Scott Conservation Park, Saturday 6 August 2022)*

allowing us to see the size difference between the female and the male. We also recorded Welcome Swallows (2), a Kookaburra (1) and a Willie Wagtail (1); and heard several Silvereyes.

We back-tracked to the southern car park and then followed the road back to our cars at the northern carpark where we had lunch. Of course, it began to rain just before the Bird Call

There were not a lot of Honeyeaters seen, perhaps reflecting the scarcity of blossom. We did record Brown-headed Honeyeaters (9), New Holland Honeyeaters (12) and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters (3) as well as Red Wattlebirds (2). Of the smaller birds, we saw Weebills (2), White-browed Scrubwrens (2), Superb Fairywrens (6), Brown Thornbills (2) and a Buff-rumped Thornbill carrying a feather (nesting material?).

Overall, it was a very enjoyable and productive morning, in which a total of 34 species was sighted and a further 5 species were heard.

Richard Smyth

Port Augusta Bird Group (The Babblers)

Sunday 14 August 2022

Gum Glen Station

On a cold and partially cloudy morning six birders came together at the Quorn pool car park, two were from Pt. Augusta and one each from Whyalla, Pt. Neill, Adelaide and Mambray Creek. After some talking and waiting for latecomers, we headed off along the road to Hawker. We crossed the Willochra plain and the Wirreanda Creek bridge turning onto the Springfield road. Here we met Dean Hooper who owns Gum Glen station. After giving us an introduction to his property and its conservation areas we drove on to the nearby Sugar Loaf Creek, also known as Crows' Nest Creek. The creek is a typical rocky, Red Gum lined waterway and the surrounding area is undulating low hills covered in Bluebush and sparse Acacia scrub. The area has been in drought conditions, with very little herb growth and dry black bluebush. There is some patchy greenery in areas where any rain had collected and soaked in.

As we drove to the creek a Black Kite circled overhead and a Pallid Cuckoo called out from the top of an Acacia Victoriae. Higher in the sky some Ravens were harassing a Wedge-tailed Eagle. The big Red Gums were full of the calls of Weebills and a couple of Striated Pardalotes, mingling with the soft twittering calls of Elegant Parrots and Red-rumped Parrots. A small flock of Little Corellas and some Australian Ravens flew along the creek.

We slowly drove along the creek bed finding Mallee Ringnecks, Australian Magpies, Nankeen Kestrels and Crested Pigeons. We saw movement in some lemon

Rufous Fieldwren *(Photographed by Bernie Haase at Gum Glen Station, Sunday 14 August 2022)*

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *(Photographed by Jude Owen at Gum Glen Station, Sunday 14 August 2022)*

grass in the creek bed. At first it looked like an Australian Magpie, but when it moved out into the open, the black wings and light grey body revealed the bird to be a Ground Cuckoo-shrike. As we stopped and crept up to it more of them came into view as they concentrated on looking for food, but at a distance. We encroached within their comfort zone and six birds took to the air emitting their loud, high pitched whistling calls. They didn't fly too far away and as we spread out to find them a bird was found sitting on a nest in a big dead Red Gum. As we looked at the nest site we found the birds were still building their nest and allowed us to get some photos of them. There were some happy birders as we returned to our vehicles, especially those who had never seen a Ground Cuckoo-shrike before.

We moved on along the creek bed stopping for smoko near some ruins of an old house and Dean told us about its history. Some Galahs, Grey Butcherbirds, Mulga Parrots, Tree Martins and Yellow-throated Miners were added to our bird list. The miners were the only honeyeaters we saw for the day; probably because of the dry conditions and very few flowering plants. The Ground Cuckoo-shrikes were still in the area flying and calling out as we drove back along the creek. We left the creek and drove across open and very dry Black Bluebush country that looked as if no bird would live in, but then a pair of Chirruping Wedgebills appeared as well as a Rufous Fieldwren. We were heading to a fenced off area where Plains Wanderers had been seen some years ago and stopped there for a late lunch and hopefully to find them again. There was a small dam with some healthy and green blackbush that we first focused on, finding more Rufous Fieldwrens and some Redthroats and White-winged Fairywrens. We spread out and walked over the area looking for Plains Wanderers but expected and had no luck; although some Emus, Australian Pipits, a Kestrel, Australian Ravens, a Wedge-tailed Eagle and a Brown Falcon made the bird list look a bit better. It was getting late so after thanking Dean for his hospitality and saying our goodbyes we headed off back to our homes.

A total of only 26 bird species had been found, with the birds of the day obviously being the Ground Cuckooshrikes, with a mention to the Rufous Fieldwrens, Redthroats and Chirruping Wedgebills.

Bernie Haase

Future Excursions

CONTACT
Lynton Huxley
Field Program Co-ordinator and Campout Organiser
Phone: 0498 466 092
Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au

The following field trips have been scheduled, but are subject to complying with COVID protocols for South Australia that exist at the time of the field trip. Please monitor government constraints and when appropriate check for any changes via our e-Newsletter.

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

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

If you have any queries or require further information please contact the Field Trip Coordinator Lynton Huxley on 0498466092 or email to: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au.

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

PLEASE NOTE: At the time of printing, information about many of the future Birds SA excursions was unavailable. Please check the e-newsletter for upcoming excursion details.

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 3 September
Bullock Hill Conservation Park, Ashbourne

Meet at the Greenman Inn Car Park, Main Rd. Ashbourne at 8.30am. **Moderate – Hard**

TRIP LEADER: *Edith St. George*

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Friday 16 to Monday 19 September
Bon Bon Station Reserve

Camp out — facilities available. Meet at Glendambo Pub at 10.30am on Friday 16th September.

Birds SA

Friday 30 September – Tuesday 4 October
CAMPOUT: Lawari Conservation Park

See page 46 for details.

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 1 October
Springmount Conservation Park

Meet at the junction of Mt. Alma and Thompson Rd. GPS -35.447 138.534 at 8.30am. **Easy**

TRIP LEADER: *Bob Daly*

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 9 October
Bernie's Block

Meet at the Mambray Creek Highway parking bay at 8.00am

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 5 November
Hindmarsh River Walk, Victor Harbor

Meet at the end of Bridge Tce at 8.30am. **Easy – Moderate**

TRIP LEADER: *Wendy Phillips*

Port Augusta Bird Group: The Babblers

Sunday 17 November
Devil's Peak, Quorn area

Meet at Quorn Pool at 8am

Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 3 December
Stan Farquar Reserve and Nangawooka Arboretum.

Meet at the Aquatic Centre Car Park, Waterport Rd. Hayborough at 4pm for a walk followed by a BYO Christmas tea at Nangawooka Rotunda.

Birds SA | October **CAMPOUT**

Lawari Conservation Park

Friday 30 September – Tuesday 4 October

If the current level of Covid-19 restrictions in South Australia are maintained we are planning to proceed with the October long weekend campout, provided we remain confident that it is safe for all members attending, and we can comply with our COVID safe plan as registered with SA Health. Obviously the situation could change, so to maintain communication regarding this event **it will be necessary for all participants to pre-register with the Campout Organiser — via email: lyntonhuxley@gmail.com to secure your attendance**.

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

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

The October long weekend Campout this year will be at **Lawari Conservation Park located at the eastern end of Hindmarsh Island, near the Murray Mouth at Goolwa**. Just 100km south from Adelaide this location will enable most members to also participate on a day excursion basis if they wish (*if choosing this option please arrange to be at the homestead by 8.30am on your chosen day)*.

To get there: Cross over the bridge onto the island at Goolwa and stay on Randell Road for about 8km then turn right at Semaschko Road. Continue on this road for about 1km, and then turn left onto Denver Road. Continue for approximately 4km and our base for the camp 'Wyndgate Homestead' will be on your left.

The Homestead has a shower, two toilets, a fully equipped kitchen and some rooms that can be used for limited numbers to stay in communal accommodation (please make your dormitory bookings through the camp leader ASAP). There are plenty of camp sites for those wishing to use tents, caravans or motorhomes. Alternatively you may choose to book accommodation at nearby places such as Goolwa.

Camp access for Birds SA will be from noon on Friday 30 September to noon on Tuesday 4 October and a fee of $20 per person for the weekend will be collected from those staying on the property (to cover some costs and to boost our Birds SA Conservation Fund). The Campout Organiser will issue a receipt for all fees collected.

If possible, please bring a handheld UHF radio or vehicle mounted unit as we will use UHF Channel 14 for our Birds SA communication over the weekend. Mobile phones should work around this location, so if you arrive late call Lynton on 0498466092 for directions to our current birding location.

Our resident Fleurieu Birds SA members will assist with guiding and sharing their best birding spots at this location with us. I encourage new and younger members to join us at this fun event to improve your bird watching skills and knowledge.

Lynton Huxley
Campout Organiser
Phone: 0498 466 092 | *Email:* lyntonhuxley@gmail.com

Bird Records

Collated by Graham Carpenter

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

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

Note that the list includes reports of rare or vagrant species to South Australia that may not have been submitted yet, or formally accepted by the Birds SA Rarities Committee (SARC). Members are encouraged to submit records of rare and vagrant species in SA to the Committee (refer to list of species and information on the Birds SA website).

Brown Quail

1, 30/4/2022. Adelaide Botanic Gardens, AP. Edey, D. & Russell, V-J.
2, 23/5/2022. West Beach stormwater pond, AP. Carter, D. & P.
6, 9/6/2022. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.
3, 17/7/2022. Parham, AP. Merchant, M.
Several, 21/7/2022. Pinkerton Plains, AP. Milde, S.
2, 17/7/2022. Mirra Mitta Bore, NE. Ashdown, D. & Leach, E.

Magpie Goose

1, 24/4/2022. Millicent, Lake McIntyre, SE. Boyle, S.

Plumed Whistling Duck

14, 24/5/2022. Mulka Stn, Birdsville Track, NE. Hatch, J.; Sothman, R. & Lloyd, R.

Blue-billed Duck

70, 14/7/2022. Leigh Creek retention dam, FR. Leach, E. & Ashdown, D.

Australian Shelduck

Pair at hollow, 8/7/2022. Carisbrooke Park, Salisbury Park, AP. Hayward, L.
Small numbers breed in tree hollows along the Little Para and Gawler Rivers.

Diamond Dove

Additional records of possible wild birds in southern regions following an expansion in numbers in northern SA in response to good conditions.

1, 12/4/2022. West Beach stormwater pond, AP. Edey, D.
1, 18/6/2022. Cummins, Albert Ln, EP. Wallace, S.

Flock Bronzewing

5, 23/5/2022. Lake Harry, NE. Hatch, J.; Sothman, R. & Lloyd, R.

Barbary Dove

26, 14/4/2022. Gawler Belt, Xavier College, AP.
Largest group reported in SA. Harper, D.

Wilson's Storm Petrel

1, 10/6/2022. Venus Bay boat ramp, EP. Formosa, J.

Buller's Albatross

9, 19/6/2022. Shelf off Port Macdonnell, MO. Harper, D. *et al*.

Australasian Darter

A few recent reports from southern regions.

1 immature, 25/5/2022. Reynella, Vines Golf Club, MLR. Brooker, W.
1, 6/6/2022. Belair National Park, Playford Lake, MLR. Newman, L.
1 immature, 22/7/2022. Port Wakefield, AP. Taylor, P.W.
1, 24/7/2022. Elder Park, Adelaide, AP. de Heus, T.

Cattle Egret

1, 24/5/2022. Whyalla, Eyre High School, EP. Croll, R.
1, 31/7/2022. Edinburgh, West Ave, AP. Parkyn, G.

Intermediate Egret

1, 23/7/2022. Millicent, Lake MacIntyre, SE. Boyle, S.

Eastern Reef Egret

1, 24/4/2022. Onkaparinga River, Brittain Dr, MLR. Bainbridge, T.
1, 5/6/2022. Onkaparinga wetlands, MLR. Mortimer, J.
1, 12/6/2022. Aldinga Reef, MLR. Mortimer, J.

Glossy Ibis

1, 4/6/2022. Port Gawler, AP. Tildesley, L.
Also present on 11/7/2022. Merchant, M.
Small numbers visit AP during winter.

White-bellied Sea Eagle

2, 19/4/2022. Port Elliott, Pullen Island, MLR. Rodda, B.
1, 4/7/2022. Mullinger Swamp CP, SE. Possingham, H.
1 immature, 28/7/2022. Robe Obelisk, SE. Archer, A.

Lewin's Rail

2, 21/5/2022. Tolderol GR, MM. Petho, J.
Also 2 present on 7/6/2022. Brooker, W.

Spotless Crake

2 heard, 2/6/2022. West Beach, Patawalonga Creek, AP. Edey, D.

Bush Stonecurlew

3, 24/5/2022. Lincoln NP, Surfleet Cove, EP. Dare, A. & G.
Reports from the park have increased following intensive fox control.

Banded Stilt
4, 17/4/2022. 1 km N Glendambo, NW. Read, L.
Also 23 present on 13/7/2022. Abbott, C.
c.1000, 20/5/2022. Island Lagoon, NW part, NW. Carpenter, G.

Common Sandpiper
1, 28/7/2022. Port Wakefield, AP. Taylor, P.W.

Long-toed Stint
1, 24/5/2022. Tolderol GR, MM. Brooker, W.

? Western Sandpiper
1, 19/4/2022. Bald Hill Beach, AP. A small wader with longish down-curved bill photographed on tidal mudflats. Report submitted to Birds Australia Rarities Committee awaiting consideration. Taylor, P.W.

A notoriously difficult wader to identify in non-breeding plumage with no previous confirmed reports from Australia.

Painted Button-quail
1, 16/5/2022. Billiatt CP, MM. Edey, D.
1, 18/5/2022. 1 km N Schell Well, MM. Edey, D. & Cosh, H.& B.

Common Gull-billed Tern
7, 28/4/2022. Bald Hill Beach, AP. One in breeding plumage. Taylor, P.W.
4, 23/7/2022. Clinton CP, AP. One in breeding plumage. Four Australian (Gull-billed) Terns also present. Woodland, R.

Antarctic Tern
1, 29/7/2022. Port MacDonnell harbour, SE. Allen, W.

Crested Tern
1 dead, 26/7/2022. Halbury, AP. Found dead by local farmer in house gutter. An unusual inland report 30 km from the coast. Taylor, P.W.

Glossy Black Cockatoo
1 male, 23/7/2022. Deep Creek CP, Trig Campground, MLR. Thompson, J.
1 or 2, 1/8/2022. Fishery Bay, MLR. In patch of Drooping Sheoaks. Haskett, C.

First confirmed reports from mainland SA for many years following a number of reported sightings over the last 50 years (see Joseph 1989 SA Ornithologist 30:202 and Baird 1986 - SA Ornithologist 30: 38).

Musk Lorikeet
2, 21/5/2022. Crystal Brook, Bowman Park, LN. Ravell, R.
25, 22/5/2022. Georgetown Cemetery, LN. Carpenter, G.
4, 18/6/2022. 5 km N Laura, FR. Bosch, S.

Few reports from the LN or FR north of the Clare Range.

Barn Owl
Several reports from suburban Adelaide.

1, 14/7/2022. Port Adelaide, Dock 2, AP. Roosting inside City of Adelaide ship under restoration.
1, 24/7/2022. West Lakes shore, AP. Lazaris, E.
1, 3/8/2022. Glen Osmond, MLR. Near Cross Rd, flying over at night. Rich, G.

Inland Dotterel
Nest + 3eggs, 23/5/2022. Lake Harry, NE. Hatch, J.; Sothman, R. & Lloyd, R.
Pair + 2 juveniles, 6/6/2022. Coward Springs, NW. Cook, D. & K.

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren
2, 27/6/2022. Mount Crawford Forest, Airstrip Rd, MLR. In area extensively burnt by the Sampson Flat bushfire in Jan 2015. Edey, D.

Surveys by Marcus Pickett found that birds had recolonised former sites in this area within 2 years, 8 moths of the fire, despite a lack of unburnt refuges nearby.

Eastern Spinebill
Widely spread in AP suburban areas this year, and present later than usual. Also reported from the Clare Range.

2, 22/5/2022. 3 km W Leasingham, LN. Bellchambers, K. & dePreu, N.
1, 14/6 and 27/6/2022. Clare, LN. Trengove, J. & I.
1, 23/5/2022. Thebarton, AP. Koop, A.
1, 26/5 and 6/6/2022. Netherby, Netherby Ave, AP. James, J.
1, 8/6/2022. Lockleys, Malurus Ave, AP. Edey, D.
4, 14/7/2022. Adelaide Botanic Gardens, AP. Long, R.
1, 14/7/2022. Vista, AP. Groves, J.
2, 18/7/2022. Frewville, AP. Sparks, K.
1, 20/7/2022. St Peters, AP. Bansemer, B.
1, 23/7/2022. Marleston, Major Ave, AP. van Weenen, J.
1, 25/7/2022. Fulham Gardens, AP. Woods, A.
1, 31/7/2022. Lockleys, Pierson St, AP. Edey, D.
1, July 2022. West Croydon, AP. Braham, C.
1, July 2022. Rose Park, AP. Hansman, D.
3, July 2022. Athelstone, AP. Cellier, G.

Yellow Chat
1 male, 24/5/2022. S of Mungeranie, NE. Identified among photos taken of Orange Chats. Hatch, J.; Sothman, R. & Lloyd, R.

Normally confined in SA to vicinity of wetland vegetation, but presumably disperses during wet periods.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater
1, 7/6/2022. 4 km E Salter Springs, LN. Smyth, R.
1, 8/6/2022. 4 km W Hamilton, LN. Smyth, R.
6, 13/6/2022. Brookfield CP, MM. Rich, G. & Fowler, A.

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
4, 7/6/2022. 4 km E Salter Springs, LN. Rarely reported from this district. Smyth, R.
2, 8/6/2022. 4 km W Hamilton, LN. Smyth, R.

Grey-fronted Honeyeater
2, 8/7/2022. Near Owen, AP. Feeding in planted eucalypts. Steeles, C.

First record for the AP region. Normally occurs in semi-arid mallee often with spinifex, south to the Flinders Ranges (south to near Crystal Brook) and the northern Murray Mallee (north of the River Murray). Also (rarely) reported further south from areas of regrowth mallee subject to past clearance or woodcutting (south to about Billiatt CP) and west of the River near Mount Mary. At these locations they have established small colonies for several years, indicating that they are able to disperse and find areas of structurally suitable habitat.

Black-chinned Honeyeater
2, 5/6/2022. Victor Harbor, Nangawooka Flora Reserve, MLR. Harrison, J.
6, 23/6/2022. Largs Bay, Claughton Rd, AP. Feeding in garden eucalypts and grevilleas. Millington, L. & Douglas, A.
1, 23/6/2022. Penrice, Kalimna Rd, MLR. Suljajic, A.

White-naped Honeyeater
1, 27/4 and 18/5/2022. 3 km W Leasingham, LN. Bellchambers, K.
1, 9/5/2022. Adelaide, Franklin St bus depot, AP. In flowering Spotted Gums with New Holland Honeyeaters. Carpenter, G.
3 flying over, 9/5/2022. Black Forest, Dryden Rd, AP. Carpenter, G.
2, 7/6/2022. 4 km E Salter Springs, LN. Smyth, R.
1, 8/6/2022. 4 km W Hamilton, LN. Smyth, R.

Chestnut Quailthrush
1, 22/5/2022. Sceale Bay CP, Seagull Lake, EP. Cooper, J.

Rufous Whistler
Further reports from West Beach.
1, 23/5/2022. West Beach stormwater pond, AP. Carter, D. & P.
Also 1 immature present on 1/6/2022. Edey, D.

Olive-backed Oriole
1, 12/6/2022. Yattalunga, MLR. Letheby, R.
1 immature, 16/7/2022. Kalamurina Stn, NE. Bellchambers, K. *et al*.

A previous report from the NE region by L. Pedler in Sept 1982 (SA Ornithologist 29:118)

Grey Currawong
1 overhead, 22/4/2022. Everard Park, South Rd, AP. Edey, D.
1, 11/5/2022. Adelaide Botanic Gardens, AP. Edey, D.
2, 22/5/2022. Victoria Park, AP. Heikaus, A.
1, 14/6 and 3/8/2022. Frewville, AP. Sparks, K.
1, 3/8/2022. St Peters billabong, AP. Edey, D.

Grey Fantail
3, 1 and 10/6/2022. West Beach stormwater basin, AP. Edey, D.
1, 14/7/2022. Adelaide Botanic Gardens, AP. Long, R.

Restless Flycatcher
1, 30/6/2022. Brownhill Creek wetlands, Novar Gardens, AP. Edey, D.

Has not been reported from suburban AP for a long time (?1940s) so it would be great to get them back as regular visitors!

1, 17/7/2022. Dulkaninna Wetlands, NE. Wynne, G.

A winter visitor to the NE region.

White-winged Chough
6+, 10/6/2022. Belair National Park, Queen Jubilee Dr, MLR. Carpenter, G. & B.

Has recently recolonised the Park after a long absence.

17, 26/6/2022. Happy Valley Reservoir, MLR. Peter, J.

Red-capped Robin
1 female, 17/4/2022. Gillman, Whicker Rd wetlands, AP. Carter, D. & P.
Male, 19/6/2022. Norwood, Osmond Tce, AP. Walton, S.
Pair, 22/7/2022. Port Clinton, YP. Letheby, R. & M.

Flame Robin
Male, 19/5/2022. Strathalbyn, MLR. Esplin, T.
Male, 18/6/2022. Boston, EP. Photographed on front lawn. Thomas, M.

First report from EP, and follows the unusual recent report of a male at Boolcoomatta Station.

Skylark
1, 2/5/2022. Adelaide Airport, AP. Carter, D. & P.
1, 14/5/2022. Gillman, Whicker Rd wetlands, AP. Carter, D. & P.

Painted Finch
30, 12/5/2022. Witchelina Stn, Termination Dam, NW. First report from the reserve. Cole, P., Horton, P. *et al*.
1, 10/7/2022. Witchelina Stn gorge, NW. Slade, R. & George, D.

Contact Details

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	
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Assistant Treasurer	Vacant	
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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

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Contact Anthony if you wish to place material in the monthly e-newsletter

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

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Campout Organiser, Lynton Huxley..... 7009 5038

Port Augusta Birders (The Babblers)
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Greg Bannon 8648 6630, Bernie Haase 0419 863 834

Fleurieu Birders, a sub-group of Birds SA
Contact: Wendy Phillips 8555 0634 *or* 0414 248 648
Neil Cheshire 8552 7904 Email: fleurieubirders@gmail.com

BirdLife South East SA
Convener: Bob Green 0407 649 909 Email: shriketit@bigpond.com

Conservation Sub-committee members
Ray Nias (Chair), Jeff Groves, David Andrewartha, Ali Ben Kahn, Bill Breed, Chris Proud, David Hansman, Greg Johnston, Rodney Attwood.

SA Rarities Committee (SARC) Members
Colin Rogers (Chair), David Harper, Ian Reid, Sam Gordon, Bob Green, John Hatch, Merilyn Brown, Graham Carpenter.

SA Bird Records Committee Members
Andrew Black (chair), Graham Carpenter (Bird Records Secretary), Philippa Horton (SA Museum), Bob Green (SE), Julian Reid (NE), Lynn Pedler.

Conservation Fund Committee
This Committee assesses applications for research grant funding, and reports to the Management Committee. Members: Jody Gates (Chair), David Paton (when conflicts of interest arise), Beatrice Rogers and Anita Smyth.

POSTAL ADDRESS

c/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE 5000

COPY DEADLINE

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

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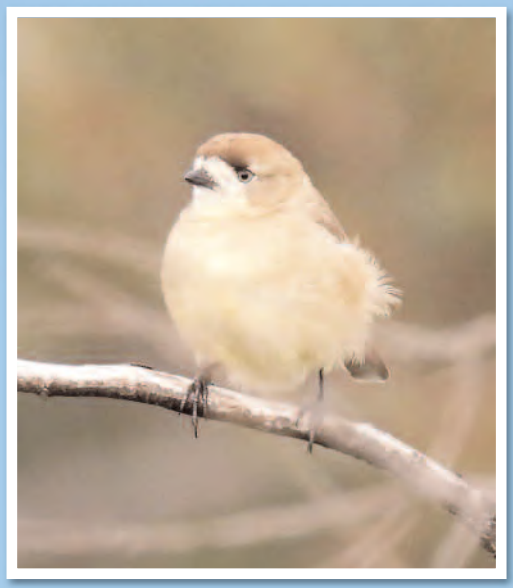
The Committee reserves the right to lower or waive these fees.

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

Spotted Harrier
(Photographed by Richard Croll at Arno Bay boardwalk, 18 June 2022)

Western Grasswren
(Photographed by Richard Croll near Iron Baron, 24 August 2022)



Southern Whiteface
(Photographed by Gordon Pateman at Kinchina CP (Rocky Gully), June 2022)

A Magpie-lark making itself handsome
(Photographed by Peter Roodhouse at Marla, June 2022)

Black-shouldered Kite

(Photographed by Peter McKenzie at Port Wakefield, 29 July 2022)