

# The BIRDER

The official magazine of Birds SA Spring 2023 No 267



Linking people with birds  
in South Australia



## In this Issue

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Wind farm dilemma  
Scourge of the Noisy Miner  
Call for volunteers

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP, Birds SA

Honorary memberships are prestigious awards bestowed to past and present members of Birds SA by the *South Australian Ornithological Association* for distinguished service to the Association or in the cause of Ornithology generally.

<b>1995</b>	Andrew Black OAM	<b>2010</b>	Graham Carpenter
<b>2002</b>	Robert Brown ( <i>deceased</i> )	<b>2010</b>	Leo Joseph
<b>2002</b>	H John Eckert ( <i>deceased</i> )	<b>2010</b>	Lynn Pedler
<b>2002</b>	Richard Schodde OAM	<b>2010</b>	Max Waterman OAM
<b>2002</b>	David Vincent ( <i>deceased</i> )	<b>2014</b>	Trevor Cowie ( <i>deceased</i> )
<b>2007</b>	David Paton	<b>2022</b>	Brian Blaylock ( <i>deceased</i> )
<b>2007</b>	Penny Paton	<b>2023</b>	John Hatch

### *King of the Fishers!*



**Kookaburra dealing with a fish** (Photographed by Teresa Jack at Hogwash Bend, Riverland, Friday 26 April 2023)

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## **CENTRE INSERT No 83: Dr Alexander Morgan (1867–1934) Part 3 by Penny Paton.**

### **Cover image: Southern Scrub-robin**

Photographed by Ashley Grivell in the Bangham Conservation Park, SA, 15 November 2021. The cover of this magazine was designed by John Gitsham.

**Graphic design:** Ingrid Grigg

**We welcome 17 new members** who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on page 16.

*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'.

## September

Saturday 2 September	FB	Excursion, Pangarinda Botanic Garden, Wellington East
Saturday 9 September	Birds SA	Excursion, Scott Creek Conservation Park, Cherry Gardens
Sunday 10 September	PA	Excursion, Wirrabara Forest Reserve, Wirrabara
Thursday 21 September	Birds SA	Excursion, Belair National Park, Belair
Sunday 24 September	Birds SA	Excursion, Kinchina Conservation Park, Rocky Gully
Tuesday 26 September	Birds SA	General Meeting, Waite Institute
Friday 29 Sep – Mon 3 Oct	Birds SA	Long Weekend Campout, Hallelujah Hills

## October

Saturday 7 October	FB	Excursion, Scott Conservation Park, Currency Creek
Sunday 8 October	PA	Excursion, Bernie's Block, Mambray Creek
Saturday 14 October	Birds SA	Excursion, Whites Road Wetlands, Globe Derby Park
Thursday 19 October	Birds SA	Excursion, Lobethal Bushland Park, Lobethal
Sunday 29 October	Birds SA	Excursion, Myponga Reservoir Reserve, Myponga
Tuesday 31 October	Birds SA	General Meeting, Waite Institute

## November

Saturday 4 November	FB	Excursion, Beyond Ponds, Hayborough
Friday 10 Nov – Mon 13 Nov	PA	CAMPOUT, Cowell/ Arno Bay/ Whyalla Wetlands
Saturday 11 November	Birds SA	Excursion, Buckland Lake, Port Gawler
Thursday 16 November	Birds SA	Excursion, Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens, Crafers
Sunday 26 November	Birds SA	Excursion, Cox Scrub Conservation Park, Ashbourne
Tuesday 28 November	Birds SA	General Meeting – Members Night, Waite Institute

## December

Saturday 2 December	FB	Excursion, Kessell Road Ponds, Goolwa
Saturday 9 December	Birds SA	Excursion, Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve, Happy Valley
Sunday 10 December	PA	Excursion, Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Pt Augusta
Thursday 21 December	Birds SA	Excursion, Onkaparinga River Wetlands, Pt Noarlunga South

\* Please note there is no General Meeting in December.

# President's Message

## ***Hello everyone***

Birds SA is run entirely by volunteers. As well as providing enjoyment and education for our members, we are committed to doing our best to make a difference for birds and for the environment.

We've had some important recent success including:

- Persuading *SA Power Networks* to change the design of their Stobie poles to prevent electrocution of coastal raptors such as Ospreys and White-bellied Sea Eagles.
- Persuading the Malinauskas government to trial a vehicle driving ban on a number of beaches in National Parks across the state.
- Developing a large Native Seed Orchard for native grasses and shrubs to provide the undergrowth seeds which will underpin future restoration projects.

We want to do more but we are limited by our most precious resource – volunteers!

We recognise that not everyone can make an ongoing commitment – that's fine. There are still lots of ways you can help – even as a one-off, or in patchy stints.

Please see the article below left with details of the areas you could help with.

Thank you!!

**Steven**

Steven Langley, President Birds SA  
M: 0490 802 176

***Want to make a difference?  
Got a little bit of time?***

## **How you can help**

### **Volunteering skills we need include:**

1. Book-keeping
2. Collating our monthly eNewsletter
3. Persuasive Writing (eg government submissions )
4. Organising/co-ordinating
5. Supporting the Membership team
6. Liaising with our partners and councils in various campaigns
7. Project Management
8. Helping with our Facebook page
9. Education – collating and spreading knowledge, especially for new members
10. Helping with webinars
11. Volunteer co-ordinator

We are also looking for new members on our Management Committee. You don't have to be the world's best birder – just want to make a difference by supporting the running of our wonderful organisation. Commitment can be limited to attending monthly meetings on Monday evenings. Younger members and women are particularly encouraged.

*Thank you!*  
**Steven**

## **Editorial Team**

### **UPDATE**

The BIRDER magazine continues to grow – and with that growth comes extra work and more hands needed on deck – so we now have an editorial team of three volunteers working to ensure that we maintain a high standard of magazine for our members.

This has required some restructuring and provision for succession planning. Former Editor Cynthia Pyle will take on the role of Consultant Editor, Chris Bates-Brownsword will take on the role of Editor, and Julie-Anne Harris will become Assistant Editor.

**Please keep your stories and photos coming (*include name, location, and date*) – we love to receive them. Send all contributions to the single email address used for The Birder: [magazineeditor@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:magazineeditor@birdssa.asn.au).**

# Conservation Sub-Committee

## Proposals to conserve SE Coastal Lakes under review

In May 2023, the SA Government released proposed changes in management arrangements for six coastal wetlands in South East SA (Lake Bonney SE, Lake George, Lake St Clair, Lake Eliza, Lake Hawdon North and Mullins Swamp). Together these lakes cover around 25,000 ha of coastal wetland habitat, all of which is currently unalienated crown land. A number of threatened birds can be found here including critically endangered migratory shorebirds, Orange-bellied Parrot, Australasian Bittern and other rare and threatened coastal species. Significant portions of Lake Bonney and Lake George are proposed to be added to the conservation estate, while all of the remaining wetlands will be entirely within the conservation estate. Together, these changes would increase the area of wetlands protected in conservation parks by 13,340ha.

However, it is important to note that the lakes are within an area under a Native Title claim and that *“Final decisions regarding the management of the lakes will not be made until the Native Title claim is formally resolved.”*

Birds SA Conservation Sub-committee responded to the public consultation and would particularly like to thank Bryan Haywood for his expert advice and input.

### Lake George

Lake George is a large (6,327 ha) wetland bounded on the south-western side by Beachport CP. It is proposed that the entire northern basin and the eastern area of the middle basin will remain unalienated crown land with no change to current management conditions or recreational use. The south-western portion (1,427ha) adjoining Beachport Conservation Park (CP) would be proclaimed a conservation park (see Fig.1).

Birds SA supports the proposal but argued that the entire lake, including camping and recreational areas, should be managed under a similar regime, not via the patch-work approach which has been suggested. Different areas will be under different rules and levels of compliance which will cause greater impacts. New recreational areas (i.e., camping) should be placed in already degraded areas and not within high value riparian areas, as proposed. We also argued that hunting should not be allowed in the non-protected section for animal welfare and conservation reasons, and that hunting is incompatible with the other extensive recreational activities in the lake.

### Lake Bonney SE

Lake Bonney SE is a large (8,654ha) wetland bounded on the ocean side by Canunda National Park.

It is proposed that the eastern side of the northern basin will remain unalienated crown land with no change to

current management conditions or recreational use. A significant portion (about 80%) of the rest of the lake (about 6,850ha) would be proclaimed as a CP.

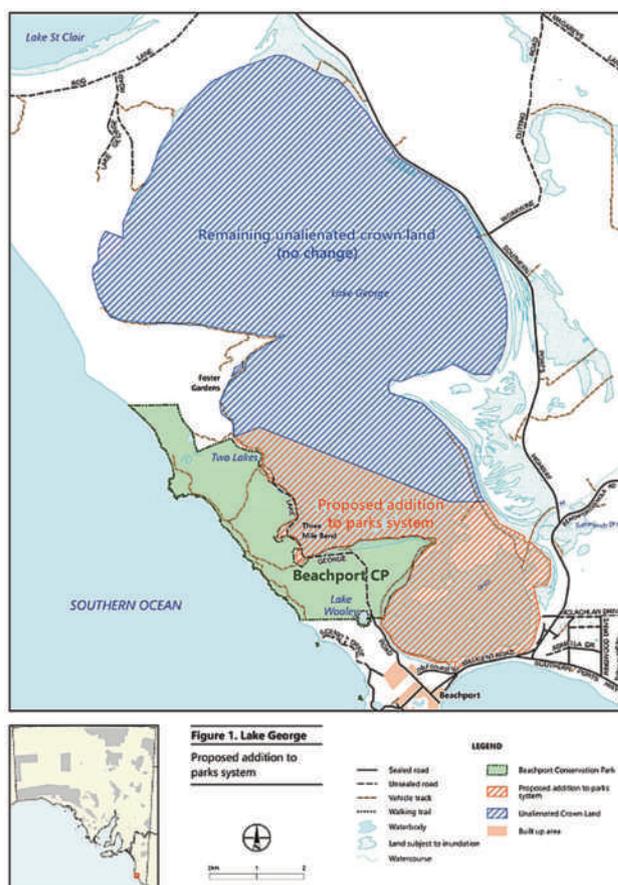
Birds SA supports this proposal although we argue that hunting should not be allowed in the non-protected area. We also argued that the eastern/inland edge of the lake should be fenced to prevent livestock access.

### Other wetlands to be conserved

All of the remaining wetlands – Lake Hawdon North (2,327ha), Lake Eliza (4,670ha), Lake St Clair (2,490ha), and Mullins Swamp (246ha) will be proclaimed as CPs. Birds SA queried whether the CP areas follow existing property boundaries, or whether sections would be negotiated with neighbours to ensure the best conservation outcome, for example, protection of riparian vegetation around the edges of the lakes to minimise livestock incursions.

In summary, these proposed changes represent a very significant expansion in the area of important coastal wetlands that would be proclaimed as CPs. With some changes they could achieve even better outcomes for coastal and wetland species.

**Ray Nias**



### Lake George: Proposed addition to parks system

Source: Department of Environment and Water, 2023  
<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/se-coastallakes-project>



## FAIBS priming for Spring

With warmer weather on the way heralding the return of the migratory shorebirds to the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS), Friends of AIBS (FAIBS) will soon be taking their scopes out to the coastline to share shorebird viewing experiences with their volunteers, birders and other interested community members. We look forward to catching sight of more than the flock of 22 Double-banded Plovers recently seen along AIBS shores, these beautifully feathered little shorebirds most likely having just flown in from New Zealand.

Winter months have focussed on habitat rehabilitation plantings in the Sanctuary hinterland, with volunteers from FAIBS, their 'Weeds 'n Seeds' group and Two Wells Nursery propagators joining together to get close to 3,000 local native species in the ground around Parham, Port Prime and Light Beach. Green Adelaide/Adelaide Plains Council Coastal Conservation Officer Danny Millbanks, along with DEW/AIBS Rangers Adam Pannell, Tim Howard and Jeremy Tsavaris have been instrumental in sourcing plants and equipment as well as supporting volunteers on planting days. The group has been very fortunate to have had several of their events blessed by unexpected brilliant fine weather, unlike the overcast wet conditions in the city - a great boost to energy and high spirits! Many thanks to all who've put in so much valuable time and effort and made the collaboration so enjoyable.

None of this could happen without the ongoing input from the FAIBS Committee, and as the AGM scheduled for December draws closer, we are on the lookout for people passionate about shorebirds and habitat and willing to have a go at leadership and assisting roles. The Committee meets one evening a month, and participation can be face to face or online. If you're interested in finding out more, let us know by emailing [faibssa@gmail.com](mailto:faibssa@gmail.com), with the option of also attending an upcoming committee meeting to get the feel of how things happen with FAIBS.

Meanwhile, some FAIBS members continue to be involved in regular shorebird counts and other bird monitoring activities in the wider Adelaide area. The following FAIBS events for all-comers are scheduled for **Sunday 17 September**: AIBS Clean-up morning around



### Double-banded Plovers recently in AIBS

*(Photographed by Ian Forsyth)*



### Busy FAIBS planters at Pt Prime

*(Photographed by Anna Woods)*

Parham – meet at 10am at the Parham Sports and Social Club, and **Saturday 14 October**: World Migratory Bird Day event including shorebird viewing through scopes. Details of times and locations of these events are still to be confirmed and will be emailed to our volunteers. They will also be posted on the FAIBS Facebook page closer to the date.

Good news also comes with the completion of improvements to the trail at the southern end of Thompson Beach, now wheelchair and walker accessible. Nicely timed with Spring and more birds arriving in the area.

All enquiries to [faibssa@gmail.com](mailto:faibssa@gmail.com)

**Anna Woods**

# Past General Meetings

Tuesday 30 May 2023

## Adelaide Zoo: A Conservation Story

Presented by Chad Crittle,  
Assistant Curator



Chad Crittle, speaker for the evening introduced himself by saying that although he was currently the “Assistant Curator of Carnivores and Ungulates” at Adelaide Zoo, his real passion was birds, in particular the breeding of captive birds for release into the wild. Chad mentioned that he had appeared on the television show ‘Hard Quiz’ – *thought he looked familiar* – where his specialist subject was “Australian Zoos”. An interesting experience, even if he didn’t win! Chad manages a team of 18 people in his role at the zoo, and describes it as a place of “fun chaos”, which he enjoys.



Chad Crittle, Assistant Curator, Adelaide Zoo

Born on Sydney’s northern beaches, the wildlife Chad saw in his growing up days were mainly Rainbow Lorikeets, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, and blue-tongued lizards. As a child he loved to visit the zoo, which the family did annually.

In 1997, Taronga Zoo started bird flying shows and seven-year-old Chad was enthralled. He loved watching owls and kites, but the day he saw a blue and gold Macaw land on a lady’s hand, became etched in his memory. When the zoo began a school holiday program called “Youth and the Zoo”, 13-year old Chad worked regularly alongside the keepers.

When Chad turned 18, he was employed as a zookeeper and began



A blue and gold Macaw



Chad complete with his Farrah Fawcett hairstyle, as he described it, is seen holding Herbie, the Barking Owl.

(For those old enough to remember, Farrah’s iconic and much imitated hairstyle was a feature of the late 1970’s TV series *Charles Angels*.)

## Past General Meetings *(continued)*



**Flamingos - Greater** *(left)* and **Chile** *(right)*



**Orange-bellied Parrot**

Currently, Zoos SA is home to over 1,000 individual avian specimens across 100 species, and supports 3 breed for release programs, one translocation program, and four in-situ projects.

Chad talked fondly about the **Palm Cockatoos** which have resided at the zoo since 1907, including 4 chicks hatched from one pair, with the mother bird now in her mid-80s. The birds have been used as subjects by researchers in

Queensland undertaking facial recognition studies, which have shown that individual birds can be identified from photographs.

**Regent Honeyeaters** are also a focus, and Zoos SA has been involved since the recovery program was established, with over 25 birds hatched at Adelaide Zoo. The Zoo provides direct support to management of this project, as well as others in the field, one being song variation for Regent Honeyeaters.

The Zoo's long involvement in the care of the **Orange-bellied Parrot** is something Chad is "super passionate" about. Currently, there are 600 birds in human care in Australia, and all can be accounted for because 75% are captive bred, and of the remaining 25%, one parent is captive bred. As of 2021, 15 Orange-bellied Parrots from the zoo were released into the wild at Lake Connewarre in Victoria, hoping they'd meet up with birds returning from breeding grounds in Tasmania. Chad is in no doubt that success with the birds was a major factor in attracting funding. He also spoke of Zoos SA's breeding successes with endangered Swift Parrots and current involvement in the recovery of the endangered Plains Wanderers (there is a population at Monarto, although not on exhibit).

At 19, Chad was offered a 3-year contract in Cairns as Supervisor of Bird Shows. He said he was like "a kid in a candy shop". He accepted the job, packed his bags, and didn't tell his parents until he was about to leave for the airport. He also spent 3 months in the USA as an intern with Birds of the World show at the Texas State Fair, working with Blue Throated Macaw specialist Steve Martin and his collection of stunning birds. Chad got to know about fundraising in this environment, in which the public was invited to donate \$1 (cash) per bird. In a hectic 3-week period they raised \$120,000.

Chad touched on the history of Adelaide Zoo, which celebrated its 140th Anniversary the previous week. During its entire history, the Zoo has always celebrated its birds, and was famous for its flamingos which arrived in the 1800s, the last two of which were named *Chile* and *Greater*. *Greater* had passed when Chad arrived at the zoo, and *Chile* shortly afterwards. Chad met his wife (who was a bird keeper and is now a panda keeper) at the Zoo. He talked about the Minchin family who were directors of the zoo for three generations and lived onsite in the house named for them, which remained the residence of zoo directors until the 1970s.

### Palm Cockatoos



### Regional Development

Since 2021, Chad has been Convenor of the Bird Taxon Advisory Group which guides the direction for bird programs in the region, as well as specific issues relating to managing birds in human care. Currently, this body is working on the first Regional Species plan for birds, a mammoth undertaking underpinning future conservation goals and decision making within the region. At the end of his very entertaining presentation and following enthusiastic applause, Chad answered questions about conservation issues, including choosing "what to save", and factors affecting these programs - like available habitat, what species the Zoo's partners are working on, the impact of natural disasters, etc.

## Past General Meetings *(continued)*

### Tawny Tales

In June this year, at Adelaide Zoo with rellies visiting from New Zealand, we saw the pair of young Tawny Frogmouths, pictured at right, perched in the walkthrough area outside the gate leading into the rainforest. Alongside was a notice asking the public not to allow the birds into the enclosure when opening the gate. Our party (which included a 2-year-old in a pram) was less than a metre from the birds, and we wondered about disturbing them as we passed. We need not have worried. They remained completely still like little sentinels, as we entered the enclosure. We found the whole thing (including their russet feathers) quite intriguing, so I contacted Chad Crittle to see what he could tell us.



Chad explained that the birds were both partially reared by people, so are not scared of humans at all, and that's one of the reasons they decided to put them in the walkthrough area, as they were the perfect individuals for the job. He added that in the rainforest area is another pair of frogmouths, and sometimes people would see a frogmouth sitting either side of the door and try to usher one through. So, the sign is designed to let people know that there are two separate pairs. He also said that the pair pictured above are younger, and trace their lineage back to the east coast race of tawnys, which have more rufous in their feathers than the race around Adelaide.

**Chris Bates-Brownsword**

## Election of Management Committee

### Committee members approved at the AGM 30th May 2023

Steven Langley ..... President  
 Jeff Groves ..... Vice President  
 Vacant ..... Vice President  
 Roger Bourne ..... Secretary  
 Vacant ..... Assistant Secretary  
 Anita Smyth ..... Treasurer  
 Vacant ..... Assistant Treasurer  
 Lynton Huxley ..... Field Program Co-ordinator  
 Graham Carpenter ..... Bird Record Secretary

Sue Winwood ..... Membership Officer  
 Philippa Horton ..... SA Ornithologist Editor  
 Cynthia Pyle ..... Consultant Editor  
 Ray Nias ..... Member  
 Claire Bourne ..... Member  
 John Gitsham ..... Member  
 Alan Burns ..... Member  
 Vacant ..... Member

#### Editorial Team

Cynthia Pyle ..... Consultant Editor  
 Chris Bates-Brownsword ..... Editor  
 Julie-Anne Harris ..... Assistant Editor

## Long Serving Members' Certificate Presentation

It is always with great pleasure that Birds SA acknowledges members who have held a membership of Birds SA for 25 years or longer.

Every year, Certificates are presented at the Annual General Meeting for the preceding years. The Certificates are calculated from the annual year the member joined, e.g. 25 years (Bronze), 30 years (Silver), 35 years (Gold), 40 years (Platinum) and 50 years (Titanium).

We now have two members who have been members of Birds SA for 59 years, so next year we are preparing a new Diamond level.

The following members have been committed to Birds SA for many years, and we are proud to acknowledge their allegiance to our Association. They are the foundation of Birds SA. Certificates presented on 30 May 2023 were:

### 25 Years: BRONZE

*Bill & Esther BREED* who joined on 30.05.1997

### 30 Years: SILVER

*Lyn & Terry GOULD* who joined on 29.05.1992

*Colin ROGERS* who joined on 12.10.1992

*Frances ROBERTSON* who joined on 31.07.1992

### 35 Years: GOLD

*Enid PASCOE* who joined on 28.05.1987

### 40 Years: PLATINUM

*Trevor & Jan LINES* who joined on 28.05.1982

### 50 Years: TITANIUM

*Peter & Pearl SCAPENS* who joined on 24.11.1972

*Peter LANGDON* who joined on 26.02.1971

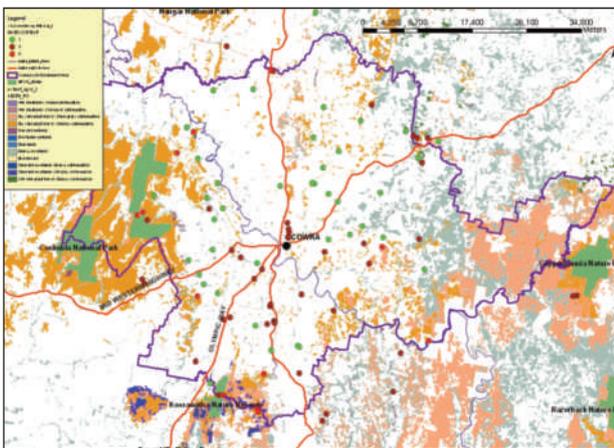
Tuesday 27 June 2023

## Long-term Trends of Birds in the Cowra District NSW – Summary Points

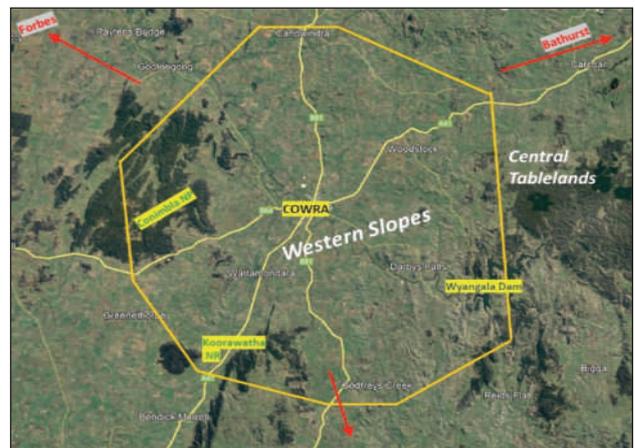
### Cowra Woodland Birds Program, Bird Life Australia

Presenter: Julian Reid

*Dr Julian Reid of the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University, Canberra, is a community ecologist with extensive experience in biological survey programs in arid Australia and monitoring of woodland birds in south-eastern Australian temperate woodlands. He has also conducted conservation research into the Endangered populations of the Cocos Islands Buff-banded Rail and the Night Parrot. Julian completed a PhD at ANU in 2014 on the structure and diversity of bird communities in the Australian arid zone.*



**Figure 1:** Cowra location & Shire boundary; primarily farming, cropping and grazing. Core business of CWBP: Quarterly surveys of birds at 132 survey sites – 94 currently active – 20 years of near-continuous monitoring (covid19!)



**Figure 2:** Google Earth map of Cowra study region showing extensive clearance of native vegetation away from the major ranges of the western Great Dividing Range

The Cowra Woodland Birds Program, a group and series of projects within BirdLife Australia, was initiated in 2001 by a small number of Cowra farmers and townsfolk, Birdlife conservationists and birders, and scientists. The main function of the group has been to conduct quarterly surveys of land birds at a wide range of dryland, mainly woodland, sites in the Cowra district (western Slopes, NSW; see map). Surveys began in autumn 2002 and continue to the present time, using the standard 2-ha, 20-minute Atlas census protocol.

In 2001-02, Twitchathon funds were used to support an ANU Honours student who established the original 70 survey sites on private (farms, bush blocks) and public (conservation, road, water and travelling stock reserves) land. In all, since 2011 almost 130 sites have been surveyed, with 95 sites balanced across five broad habitat types comprising the current mix. Apart from funding for revegetation and restoration works –

partnering with landholders, the Cowra Shire Council, and NRM organisations (NSW Government) – the long-term bird monitoring project (the core of CWBP activities), is run voluntarily by a small committee with enthusiastic support from birders assembled for one weekend each quarter, including Cowra locals and many from various parts of eastern NSW and the ACT. Over 100 birders have participated, and long-term surveyors are rotated through the sites to ensure that this source of potential bias can be accounted for statistically.

Cowra sits in the north-east of the extensive “NSW South-western Slopes Bioregion”. Over 80% of the native vegetation in this bioregion has been cleared, making it the most denuded and fragmented of the 18 Bioregions in NSW. Its bird fauna is an interesting blend of eastern and western elements, with Brown and Inland Thornbills occurring in parapatry in the western half of the Cowra district. The area lacks the narrowly distributed wet-

## Past General Meetings *(continued)*

forest specialists (like Superb Lyrebird, Red-browed Treecreeper, Pilotbird, Lewins Honeyeater and Olive Whistler), having more affinities with the Bassian avifauna than Eyrean, e.g. Noisy Miner not Yellow-throated; Chestnut-rumped not Shy Heathwren; rosellas not bluebonnets. However, there are exceptions, e.g. Purple-backed not Variegated Fairy-wren. Arid-zone species like Diamond Dove, Black-eared Cuckoo, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and Pied Honeyeater seek refuge in the Cowra district when the inland dries out. Temperate woodland bird communities predominate in the remnant woodlands in the heavily cleared agricultural parts of the region, although their composition has been highly altered and degraded due to local extinctions (Emu, Malleefowl, Bush Stone-curlew, Crested Bellbird) and severe declines of key woodland bird species (Swift Parrot, Turquoise Parrot, Brown Treecreeper, Southern Whiteface, Regent Honeyeater, Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetail). The flagship Superb Parrot is locally and seasonally abundant in the Cowra district, as the species actively expands its range eastwards and southwards into colder regions. In the least disturbed, most intact open-forest habitats associated with major ranges, local bird communities are distinctly richer than equivalent Mount Lofty Ranges' bird communities. Some of our Cowra sites for instance, have seven species of co-existing thornbills, White-browed Scrubwren, Speckled Warbler and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, >15 species of honeyeater, two species of gerygone, and three species of whistler (with seasonal variations). Seven species of Australo-Papuan robins occur in the district, namely Flame, Hooded, Red-capped, Rose and Scarlet Robin, Eastern Yellow Robin and Jacky Winter. Although generally declining, characteristic woodland species like Brown Treecreeper, White-throated Gerygone, Black-chinned Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler, Crested Shrike-tit and Rufous Whistler are still reasonably widespread in better-class roadside and on-farm remnant vegetation. But what of the long-term trends in bird species we have now monitored for 21 years?

A generous donation from Isobel Crawford and the estate of the late Tony Howard, allowed detailed analysis of the first 17 years of the survey in a project administered by the ANU. This enabled Drs Julian Reid and Nick Nicholls (CSIRO), with statistical oversight from Dr Wade Blanchard of the ANU, to model the long-term trends of 105 bird species. A powerful class of regression models – generalized linear (and additive) mixed models (GLMMs and GAMMs) – meant that some spatial-temporal dependencies and the imbalance in survey effort among sites could be modelled - whilst also accounting for the fixed effects of season and broad habitat type that could be expected to influence the probability of occurrence of a species at a site at a certain time of year. The primary variable of interest was “Time”



### The six declining bird species of the Cowra district

*Clockwise from top left:*

**Grey-crowned Babbler** (Photo by Dee Jostanovic),  
**Brown Treecreeper**, **Diamond Firetail**,  
**Black-chinned Honeyeater**, **Speckled Warbler**,  
**Hooded Robin** (Photos by Graeme Chapman)

(date of survey), and we investigated whether long-term changes in reporting rates of the 81 most frequent species followed any of six broad patterns of change over time: none (i.e. random scatter); simple linear (or straight line, i.e. increase or decrease); and curves of increasing complexity with one (akin to a quadratic curve) to four “turning points” allowed by fitting splines (a class of generalized additive models) to the survey data – see the panel of species’ graphs which illustrate these different sorts of trends. We attempted to fit 34 different models and used model fit criteria (AIC) to determine which variant fitted the data most parsimoniously. Model variants allowed for the inclusion of Season and Habitat, as well as for an interaction between Habitat and Time. Selection of a model with a Habitat-Time interaction meant that the species’ long-term trends differed between habitat types. The other 24 species, having too few detections to analyse comprehensively, were assessed for “simple linear” (straight-line, or no) trends only, with a possible habitat interaction. In fact, straight-line fits to all 105 species by

## Past General Meetings *(continued)*

habitat type, were modelled so that the results could be compared with the few other long-term, region-specific, woodland bird monitoring schemes in Australia, such as the Mount Lofty Ranges (NCSSA-UQ) project.

Trends analysis revealed, for the 81 most frequent species at least, that reporting rates of most bird species in the Cowra region fluctuated widely over the period 2002-18. More species had complex long-term trends (spline fits of order 2 to 5) than the 18 with either no statistically significant trends over time (6 species: Crimson Rosella; Tree Martin; Striated Thornbill; Brown Thornbill; White-browed Scrubwren; Speckled Warbler) or straight-line trends (12: 7 significantly increasing- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo; Sacred Kingfisher; Yellow Thornbill; White-throated Treecreeper; Yellow-faced Honeyeater; Pied Butcherbird; Grey Butcherbird; 3 significantly decreasing- Willie Wagtail; Restless Flycatcher; Diamond Firetail; and 2 steady or mixed- Eastern Rosella; Grey-crowned Babbler). Also, there were very few species that displayed similar fluctuating trends over time – we conclude that most species were idiosyncratic in their responses to whatever intrinsic (e.g. birth-death processes) or extrinsic (environmental) drivers of population dynamics, i.e. most species were “doing their own thing”. There was little evidence therefore of a “coherent community response”, an old-fashioned community ecology concept, largely discredited. There was one remarkably constant pattern observed at 20 sites, however, generally midway through the study, and this involved consistent changes in bird community composition after invasion by, or increased abundance in, Noisy Miners. Subjective interpretation of whether long-term trends overall were up, down or “up-and-down steady” for the 63 species with complex trends over time, added 27 species to the “Increaser” pile and 24 to the “Decreasers”. Of the most common species, therefore, I adjudged more species to be increasing overall than decreasing – so, not all bad news. However, many of the increasers are what can be termed “junkbirds”- Crested Pigeon, Galah, Little Corella, Dollarbird, Red Wattlebird, Noisy Friarbird, Blue-faced

Honeyeater, Striped Honeyeater, White-winged Chough, Apostlebird, Pied Currawong – large, often-aggressive species. Population increases in these species indicate negative trends in the natural environment.

Some other species judged to have decreased in addition to those listed above, included Red-rumped Parrot, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater, Black-chinned Honeyeater, White-browed Babbler, White-winged Triller, Crested Shrike-tit, Dusky Woodswallow, Australian Magpie and Zebra Finch. Additional increasers, not in the junkbird category, included Whistling Kite, Weebill, Western Gerygone, White-throated Gerygone, Spotted Pardalote, White-eared Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Gilbert's Whistler and Grey Fantail – species, apart from the Kite and widespread Weebill, generally typical of the extensive open forested environments.

Noisy Miners had the greatest rate of increase in reporting rates among the increaser group, while Peaceful Dove had the strongest rate of decline. Multivariate analyses that examined changes in composition of bird assemblages over time, in conjunction with site-based summaries of changes in Noisy Miner abundance, revealed that 20 of 89 sites with at least 25 censuses, i.e. 7+ years of data, had trended in a negative direction (more Noisy Miners, fewer small birds), while seven sites, including four revegetated sites, showed significant overall improvement – fewer Noisy Miners over time and more small woodland-dependent birds over time. Noisy Miners already dominate virtually every site in a ‘degraded habitat’ state. Of grave concern is the steady transformation of former ‘moderate quality habitat’ sites to a Noisy Miner dominated assemblage consisting almost entirely of bird species larger than the miner. That some sites trended in the other direction, affords some hope for the future.



*Figure 3: Our main activity is the systematic monitoring of birds, currently at 94 sites, using the BirdLife 2-ha, 20-minute survey protocol – count data. 7 spp of thornbill regularly occur here – it took me a while to be confident that we had both Brown and Inland Thornbill. Striated reach their western limits here, Chestnut-rumped their eastern limits. Plus Yellow, Buff-rumped, and Yellow-rumped. Speckled Warbler, White-browed Scrubwren, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, both Gerygones. Too dry, too far west for the wet forest specialists like lyrebird, satin bowerbird, red-browed treecreeper – eastern*

*Photos: W Chad, G Dabb, J French*

## Past General Meetings *(continued)*

### Other results were briefly summarised.

- Many species exhibited a decline in reporting rates during the Millenium Drought, before rebounding to lesser or greater degrees.
- There was a striking contrast in overall trend direction between
  - 1) birds typical of the extensive open forests associated with the major ranges, that trend being UPWARD, and
  - 2) birds usually found in remnant woodland patches and agricultural landscapes away from the ranges and in more fertile and productive landscapesMany of these species showing DOWNWARD trends, including some common species typically associated with open country that have generally benefited from the wholesale conversion of pre-1850 natural vegetation to farmland (Willie Wagtail, Australian Magpie).
- Most Threatened and Declining species were recorded too infrequently to model, but of these most appeared to be declining, e.g. Painted Button-quail, Little Eagle, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike and Plum-headed Finch (further population and conservation research required)"
- Many rarer Threatened and Declining birds tend to occur at greater abundance in the more productive, extensively forested sites on the lower slopes of the ranges, suggesting that over time, they are steadily being 'squeezed' out of existence in the Cowra landscapes.
- Fenced-off revegetation patches, subject to limited grazing and frequently having a cover of dense grassy swards, provide important habitat and refuge for several small bird species, particularly finches. Fencing off patches of remnant woodland and limiting grazing have the same effect.
- Large-scale revegetation (10 ha to whole of farm) provides habitat for many woodland-dependent bird species and, if greatly ramped up, offers good prospects of improving the long-term persistence of many declining woodland bird species.

- **By far the strongest proximate threat to woodland bird conservation in the Cowra district is the expansion and increasing abundance of Noisy Miners.**

Birdlife Australia is currently conducting an experimental culling and monitoring program across various farms around Cowra.



### Revegetation:

Clover paddock being planted in September 2005, 1600 seedlings across 40 prepared plots on 4 ha.

Results from the Cowra Woodland Birds Program tell a tale of two landscapes – diverse and healthy bird communities in the extensively forested ranges in the margins of the Shire, contrasting with Noisy Miner-dominated, increasingly impoverished, bird communities in the extensively-cleared, broad valley sides and alluvial floors typical of the majority central portions of the district, largely used for mixed farming.

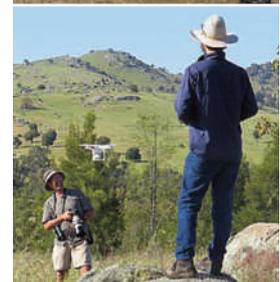
*Julian Reid*



Figure 4:

### Socialising and exchanging bird news and other gossip

Of course, we keep returning to Cowra to have a good birding time and catch up with those we've become good friends with over many years. BBQs, dinners, talks, field trips, twitchathons - and we have run several bird identification sessions for both surveyors and Cowra folk to increase our knowledge and sharpen our monitoring skills.



Tuesday 25 July 2023

## Members Night

*Jeff Groves introduced the three speakers who presented at Members' Night*

### Birds SA Library

*Karen Donkin (Librarian), Terri Randle (IT specialist)*

The first speaker was Karen Donkin, who has looked after the Birds SA Library since 2007. Karen spoke about the ongoing need to find a more permanent home for the Library which will need to be relocated within the next 18 months – 2 years. The ideal space would cater for Birds SA meetings, and the Library on one site, but Karen welcomed any suggestion at all that members might have. The Library is currently located at The Joinery, 111 Franklin St, Adelaide, in the conference room upstairs, and is open fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month (see dates in monthly e-newsletters). She encouraged members to go and have

a look at the library's wonderful collection of over 800 books, 30 CDs and 70 DVDs.

Karen then introduced her colleague Terri Randle, who is responsible for IT work related to the Library, and Terri provided an excellent pre-recorded instruction video clearly setting out how to access the online catalogue, searching by author, title, bird species, country, etc. This video will be uploaded to the Birds SA Website.

Prior to the meeting, Karen and Terri held a book sale and revenue raised for the Library was an impressive \$250. Thank you to Karen, Terri and our book-buying members!

### Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant

*John Hatch*

The second speaker, John Hatch gave a talk about regular bird surveys at Bolivar, conducted by himself, Colin Rogers, Bill Breed and William Brooker over the past 5 years. The group has conducted some 72 surveys, resulting in two papers. The first paper asked the question "Is this a really important bird habitat" – answered on the very first visit, when they found tens of thousands of ducks, including 5,000 Pink-eared Ducks and up to 1,000 Blue-billed Ducks.

The second paper queried whether Bolivar was a special refuge for birds in periods of drought, and luckily at the time a drought period was taking place, followed by periods of heavy rain, which gave one full cycle, although it was acknowledged that 5 years was not really sufficient to draw definitive scientific conclusions.

John described his talk as more of a general nature, recalling interesting things encountered during these surveys. Of approximately 100 species observed over the 5-year period, only 25% were passerines, the others were mostly waterbirds. White-bellied Sea-Eagles seen on 50% of visits, Swamp Harrier about 1 in 3 visits, 1,000s of

swallows, 100s of martins (due to propensity of flying insects), but Fork-tailed Swifts (in two flocks of about 90) were only seen once in the 72 visits. White-winged Fairy-wrens were seen quite often. He also mentioned seasonal abundances of Magpie Larks (between March and May) and seasonal flocks of Willie Wagtails.

Notably absent were Dusky Moorhen or Purple Swamphen which have never been seen, and Spotted Crakes only seen on two occasions. No thornbills have been seen.

Several birds with unusual plumage have been recorded including Grey Teal and Pacific Black Duck, and also 'eclipse' phases of Chestnut Teal. Ray Swaby's documented observations in March 1983 showed only 2 species of duck in markedly different numbers from John's group's observations. One, the Australasian Shoveler, where Ray recorded 3,000, but they've only seen about 150 at any one time, and the other was Chestnut Teal, which may be the result of regression of mangroves, and perhaps the difficulties of identification, probably without telescopes in those days.

## Past General Meetings *(continued)*

### Congregating Birds

#### Jeff Groves

The third speaker, Jeff Groves, gave a pictorial presentation titled: "Congregating Birds" featuring about 30 beautiful photographs of groups of birds, sometimes in huge numbers, ranging from Ducks, Stilts and other waterbirds, to Corellas, Cockatoos, Martins, Swallows and Apostlebirds.



Left: **Dusky Woodswallows, Mannum SA**

Above: **Apostlebirds, Mt Carbine QLD**

Photographed by Jeff Groves

## Birds SA Future General Meetings

General Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month in the newly refurbished Charles Hawker Centre at the Waite Institute, and start at 7.30 pm.

Dates are listed below, and topics will be published in future monthly e-newsletters.

- Tuesday 26 September 2023
- Tuesday 31 October 2023
- Tuesday 28 November 2023
- Tuesday 30 January 2024

**Note:** No General Meeting in December

*If members have a particular topic or speaker they would like to suggest, please contact Jeff Groves or John Gitsham.*

## New Members

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

Bradley Clarke-Wood .....	Brunswick VIC
Quentin & Trudy Gore .....	Crafers SA
Sarah Brickwood .....	Whyalla Norrie SA
Ian Mawby .....	Aldinga Beach SA
Meredith Hosking .....	Prospect SA
Margaret Evans .....	Lobethal SA
June Edwards .....	Forestville SA
Lauren Cho .....	Payneham SA
Kevin & Catisha Coburn .....	Gawler SA
Steven O'Sullivan .....	Wynn Vale SA
Helen McSkimming .....	Aldinga Beach SA
Peter Copley .....	Maylands SA
Joseph Tan .....	Hallett Cove SA
Deborah Smith & Hans Grauwelman .....	Scott Creek SA

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Membership Officer, Sue Winwood at [membership@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:membership@birdssa.asn.au)

# Congratulations Alan!



Congratulations to BirdsSA member Alan Burns, finalist in the 2023 SA Environment Awards. Alan, who was nominated for his dedication to supporting wildlife and championing community open spaces at Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiipinna Yarta, is seen here receiving his Certificate of *Commendation for Landscape Management* from Deputy Premier Dr Susan Close on World Environment Day, 5 June 2023. (See Alan's update on Glenthorne in this issue on page 26)

## Get to know your Conservation Fund

You may not be aware that donations to Birds SA currently go into the Conservation Fund. The fund was established in 2007 as a tax deductible, public fund to help financially support projects that increased knowledge of our birds, particularly for conservation purposes, through the awarding of small research grants. This important fund has sponsored a wide range of research projects by students and other experts over the years. Funding for bird research projects like these is not easy to obtain and the *Birds SA Conservation Fund* fills an important niche for supporting such projects locally. A few thousand dollars can make a significant contribution, especially to student projects.

Recently, the guidelines that underpin the Conservation Fund were revised to make a range of improvements. Increased total amounts can now be applied for upfront, by students and qualified experts, to a maximum of \$10,000 per project. We usually fund up to \$3,000 but can make it higher for projects longer than a year. We are in the process of developing some clearer priorities to help guide applicants towards projects of key concern (for example, adaptation to climate change, or determining effectiveness of management interventions).

Remember that all donations to the fund are tax deductible. For an organisation to have this classification, the *Australian Tax Office* requires that a specific Committee oversee the administration and management of the fund, and that at least three people on the committee have a level of responsibility in our community (*Responsible Persons*). This helps ensure that all generous donations to organisations are used wisely, and in accordance with the formal Rules of the organisation.

Many of you will know that for many years, up until 2010, the old *Projects and Research Sub-Committee* assessed grant applications. Since then, The Conservation Fund Committee we know today, has managed the *Birds SA Conservation Fund*.

Recently, three new members came onto the Conservation Fund Committee – Leo Joseph, Brian Walker and Charles Moore have joined existing members Jody Gates (Chair), Bea Rogers and Anita Smyth (Secretary) to provide a diversity of skills and the necessary experience to assess project applications. Details of the Fund can be found on our website <https://birdssa.asn.au/get-involved/conservation-grants/>.

**Jody Gates**



# Off-shore Wind Farm Proposal for Bass Strait

**Ray Nias, Chair Conservation Sub-Committee**

*with help from Heather Webster and thanks to Colin Rogers for species list and additional information.*

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## About the project

The Commonwealth Minister responsible for the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021, has issued a notice to declare an area open for the development of wind farms in the Southern Ocean, extending from Warrnambool in Victoria to Port MacDonnell, off the coast of South Australia. This will allow for the construction of windfarms, noting that offshore renewable energy projects must share the area with other users and interests. Within this area is the proposed Southern Winds Offshore Wind Project which involves 77 'bottom-fixed' wind turbines, two offshore substations and associated infrastructure.

The area proposed is influenced by the Bonney Upwelling, a natural ocean phenomenon resulting from spring winds driving a change in ocean currents that powers a nutrient upwelling which supports fish, seabirds, seals, krill and whales. The continental shelf and the Bonney upwelling act as a flyway-foodway along which resident seabirds feed, and it forms part of a global migration route and feeding area for several seabirds that breed in Australian and New Zealand waters and others that breed in the Antarctic and migrate into the Pacific.

While Australia has a clear and urgent need to implement renewable energy, this objective must not be achieved by inflicting damage on other important aspects of the environment. Birds SA will be making a formal submission to register our objections to this proposal and this article aims to provide information to members and encourage each of you to register your views.

## Impacts on birds

Negative impacts can result from the turbines themselves and from vehicle movements, seabed disturbance, lights and vibration, and the vortices generated by changes in wind patterns. Wind farms require transformer structures, cables, meteorological masts and long-term consideration of eventual disposal of these massive structures should be recognised. The structures are usually glass fibre/epoxy matrix composites to withstand all weather, but both materials are hard to break down and traditionally, the industry has dealt with leftover wind turbines through landfill. Hence any assessment should be on whole-of-life considerations. While land-based wind energy production is often cost effective, the case for ocean-based generation is less well developed.

There is significant evidence from windfarms operating in the Northern Hemisphere that they have a range of negative impacts on birds beyond the obvious one of collisions. These impacts depend on the species and include disorientation, displacement due to disturbance, habitat loss and barrier effects (Drewitt and Langston, 2006). Based on studies of comparable birds in the Northern Hemisphere, Reid et al. (2022) have provided an overview of the impact of offshore wind farms on birds in Australia.

What we perceive about a wind farm, for example, an elegant moveable sculpture is not what birds and other animals see or hear. The weather in Bass Strait is notoriously rough and often subject to low visibility due to low cloud cover which also increases the risks for birds.

The collection of data about birds at sea is difficult. Bird sightings may be highly seasonal, vary from night and day and rarely include information about flight path heights. This lack of information alone suggests that wind farms should be located where potential impacts on birds are minimised.

Sixty species of seabird have been recorded from local bird watchers' day trips off Port MacDonnell since 2003. These include a number of species listed as threatened nationally and judged by Reid et al (2022) to be at the highest risk of impact from offshore wind farms:

- Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta* (Endangered)
- Northern Royal Albatross *Diomedea sanfordi* (Endangered)
- Southern Royal Albatross *D. epomophora* (Vulnerable)
- Wandering Albatross *D. exulans* (Vulnerable)
- Campbell Albatross *T. impavida* (Vulnerable)
- Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri* (Vulnerable)

The area is also part of the migratory route for Critically Endangered birds such as the Orange-bellied Parrot and Far Eastern Curlew.

In addition, many thousands of Short-tailed Shearwaters *Ardenna tenuirostris* feed and breed in the region after their epic migration across the Pacific Ocean each year. There are a number of other species that are listed as threatened at a state level such as the Furneaux White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*.

## Off-shore Wind Farm Proposal *(continued)*

With the information on bird species, which is available, additional weight needs to be given to the fact that many of these recorded species have long lives, are characterised by low productivity and slow maturation rates. This amplifies the potential impacts of bird losses. Little information is available on raptors, with southern osprey and sea eagle numbers important to consider.

Beyond the species themselves, Australia must consider its existing international commitments and agreements. Australia's international efforts to protect the feeding grounds of migrating shorebirds across the East Asian - Australasian Flyway loses credibility if we engage in activities on our own shores which threaten their existence. All the albatross that occur in the area are also covered by the international Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP) to which Australia is a signatory (see: <https://www.acap.aq/>).

While the current Australian Government has made many commitments to reducing our climate impact, constructing wind farms along this coast creates additional risks for many seabirds which are already threatened.

The promises of action to protect the environment recorded by the current government need to be supported by actions not just words.

### Summary

1. There is a strong case for Australia investing in renewable energy.
2. Decisions about the form and location of renewable energy generating facilities need to minimise harm to the environment.
3. The proposed location of wind farms in the ocean between Warrnambool and Pt MacDonnell pose significant risks to important and endangered birds.
4. Australia's international credibility as a supporter of migrating shorebirds and seabirds would be threatened by allowing increased risks to endangered birds on our own territory.

### References

Drewitt, A.L. and Langston, R.H.W. (2006) Assessing the Impacts of Wind Farms on Birds. *Ibis*, 148, 29-42. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1474-919X.2006.00516.x>

Reid, K., Baker, G.B., and Woehler, E. (2022), Impacts on birds from Offshore Wind Farms in Australia, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra. CC BY 4.0. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications>

### Further Information

For more information on the area proposed and to have your say, see Overview of the Proposed Area – Southern Ocean Region and the Marine Users, Interests and the Environment in the Southern Ocean Region supporting documents available on the Consultation Hub <https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/oei-southern-ocean>

# Binocular reviews

*with John Gitsham*

## Kite Optics 12x42 Stabilizer Binoculars – \$1,899.00 AUD

(Available from Photo Co Camera House, Central Market, Adelaide)



A new kid is in town **Kite Optics Stabilizer Binoculars** (a Belgian company, binoculars made in Japan). This brand, new to Australia, is an outstanding binocular, although the initial appearance is a bit odd compared to traditional binoculars because of the brilliant stabilization mechanism installed within.

Kite optics is competing with well entrenched birding binoculars like Leica and Swarovski, and other binoculars Zeiss and Nikon. Birdwatchers are fussy about their binoculars; I have been fortunate to have a test pair of the 12x42 Kite Binoculars to try out for few months while birding in many and various conditions.

My initial impression of the binoculars was that they felt different; focusing knob is at the front, but comfortable to the fingers, eye pieces are adjusted separate to bino body - you just adjust one and the other follows. The real kicker is the sensational stabilization feature which holds the image perfectly still, no matter the wind conditions or how long you focus the binoculars on a bird, no shake whatsoever, just like watching a film, steady cam for binoculars! Maybe a good market potential for older birders?

The eye diopter ring would be better with graduated stops and the focus ring could be a bit smoother, but overall, a magnificent pair of binoculars. Optically I couldn't see any difference to my Leica binoculars, even in bad light conditions. The minimum focusing distance is 4m, and binocular weight without 4 x AA batteries is 720gm, which is pretty good for their size.

The Stabilization effect lasts 120 hours on 4 x AA batteries but the binoculars can be used without stabilization if batteries go flat. Kite Optics offer a 30-year warranty. They are bright to look through, are nitrogen filled and waterproof to 1 m for about 7 mins, very much like other leading brands. I feel there is a niche in the birding binocular market for these wonderful modern techno Binoculars. It's a bit like the introduction of Electric vehicles, it may just take time for birders to embrace the technology.

**Pros:** great optics, excellent stabilization, good quality and solid construction, comfortable to hold while viewing birds, lightweight.

**Cons:** neck strap not very good, eye diopter ring would be better in increments, and they're a bit bulky in shape (but light), which may take some getting used to.

**KITE OPTICS®**



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The innovative APC 42 redefines your experience in nature observation. Just as light and just as bright as conventional 42mm roof prism binoculars, but stable. And not the kind of stability you may have experienced before... but an entirely new level of stability. Observe in the strongest winds, observe as long as you like. See details as if you are watching a film.

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## Ashley and Glenys Grivell are off travelling again

Birds SA readers will recall the Grivell's stunning photos of *'Birds of the Wet Tropics'* in our last issue. Ashley and Glenys have once again left Adelaide's winter behind and are travelling in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. They plan to be on the road for several months, and along the way we have been fortunate enough to receive some of their photos, which we've included below. After camping overnight at Woomera on June 1, they drove to Coober Pedy, Alice Springs and then towards Katherine. By late June they were 1,000 km southeast of Darwin, where they branched off to the tiny remote fishing community of Borroloola on the banks of the McArthur River in the Gulf of Carpentaria. They also visited Caranbirini Conservation Reserve south of the town. They found a Great Bowerbird in his bower near Pine Creek. Ashley said, *"the females were visiting so he had a busy time trying to impress them with his special dance and displaying his lilac crest"*.

Late July found them in Darwin, where they spent several days, until they decided that too many people, too many dogs and glaring sunshine made for difficult birding, so they set up camp by the Howard River *"pleased to have peace and quiet again."* Ashley said they were much enjoying the weather, 35 degrees every day, although a bit more cloud cover would have been welcome for taking photographs because the harsh sunlight up north washes the colour out of the birds.

By early August, they started to make their way west, camping for the night of August 2 at the small town of Timber Creek, 200 km east of the WA border, famous for its barramundi. And that's where we will leave them as this issue of the Birder goes to print – and they continue their search for the western race (coronatus) of the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren – *"no luck yet"* said Ash *"but we are fairly confident we can find them around Kununurra."*

**One week after writing this, Ashley and Glenys found their Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, and sent a striking photograph (pictured right) taken by Glenys, of a male (sub-species Coronatus) in cane grass along the Ord River in Kununurra WA on 8 August 2023.**



**Red-headed Honeyeater**  
(Photographed by Glenys Grivell at Mule Creek, 60 km north of Borroloola NT, on 22 June 2023)



**Sandstone Shrike-thrush**  
(Photographed by Ashley Grivell Caranbirini Conservation Reserve, near Borroloola NT, on 25 June 2023)



**Gouldian Finch** (Photographed by Glenys Grivell at Edith River Crossing NT, on 5 July 2023)



**Purple-crowned Fairy-wren**

# *Around the Birdbath*

The first of what I hope to be many more 'open birdbath events', took place on February 25, 2023, near Forreston, which is about 3 km northeast of Gumeracha in the Adelaide Hills. Interested birders were encouraged to register in advance, and a total of 13 people (which included three helpers) attended the event.

After an extremely hot week, my property received over 10 millimetres of rain – the first rain for two months. This was very welcome but resulted in me looking out the windows on Saturday morning and seeing absolutely nothing! As it was too late to cancel, I thought participants would have to work hard to see any birds, since they no longer needed to come in for a drink. The property has a small trail, which is adjacent to other vegetation planted over the last 20 years.

By 4.00 pm the weather started to brighten somewhat, and as invited, some birds showed up for the event! Although not in great numbers, during the first couple of hours we viewed several species including Red-browed Finch, Grey Fantail, Eastern Spinebill, and Striated and Yellow-rumped Thornbill. Tree Martins circled above, and other species were observed in the perimeter, including Superb Fairywren, Goldfinch and Crimson Rosella. A short walk further on enabled some people to see both Western and Rufous Whistlers, as well as Scarlet Robin (3), Buff-rumped Thornbill (2) and a Yellow-Faced Honeyeater. Those who stayed on, saw both Red and Little Wattlebird, and a Common Bronzewing. Laughing Kookaburra and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo were also heard.

Refreshments and pleasant company were enjoyed during what turned out to be a sunny if somewhat cool afternoon. A total of 32 bird species were recorded, and some donations made to Birds SA.

It is hoped that more Birds SA members will open their birdbaths or properties to small groups of members during the warmer weather, including those suitable for people with reduced mobility. These occasions are also a great opportunity to encourage members to consider the benefits of setting up their gardens with birdbaths, perches, and suitable habitat for birds.

**Rose Slade**



Spotted Pardalote, 23 February 2023



Goldfinch, 16 January 2022



Young Red-browed Finches, 23 January 2023



**A view from Rose's bird friendly property near Forreston**

*All photographs above taken by Rose Slade*

# Some interesting sightings reported to the Rarities Committee

After a relatively quiet period during the Covid epidemic, reports to the BirdsSA Rarities Committee (SARC) have begun to pick up. Two recent trends of interest are the number of reports of Eastern Yellow Wagtail and Yellow-crested Penguins of the genus *Eudyptes*.

## Eastern Yellow Wagtails

Recent reports of Eastern Yellow Wagtail kicked-off with a sighting by Peter McKenzie and Kathy Tiller at Fox Lake Bird hide on 9-10 November 2021. That was followed on 28 September 2022 with a sighting by Paul Taylor at Bald Hill Beach. On 18 May 2023, Marjan Kashoek located an Eastern Yellow Wagtail showing breeding plumage at the St Kilda Beach and on 11 June 2023 Lorraine and Jim Walford found another in breeding plumage at the Cowell boat ramp swamp on Eyre Peninsula. These birds are illustrated in Figure 1 (i) to (iv).

Inspection reveals that the birds in photographs (i) to (iii) are the nominate Eastern Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla tschutschensis*, identified by the broad white supercilium (eyebrow). Birds in photographs (i) and (ii) are in non-breeding plumage so not showing much yellow plumage while (iii) is in breeding plumage consistent with its name as a Yellow Wagtail. The bird in photograph (iv) has an almost all dark grey hood with no obvious eyebrow and a bright yellow body and is likely the sub-species or race of Eastern Wagtail, *M. t. macronyx*. The birds at Fox Lake and St Kilda beach were present for some time and at the time of writing the bird at St Kilda Beach was still present and seen and photographed by many. The other two were present only briefly with the bird present at the Cowell boat ramp swamp only recorded by the original observers.

Figure 1



(i) Fox Lake Robe



(ii) Bald Hill Beach



(iii) St Kilda beach



(iv) Cowell boat-ramp swamp

## Some interesting sightings reported to the Rarities Committee *(continued)*

### Yellow-crested Penguins

As was the case with the Yellow Wagtail, Yellow-crested Penguins do not always show yellow crests! Adults as illustrated in the field guides do show obvious yellow crests, but immature birds do not. Unfortunately for us in South Australia those are the ones most likely to come ashore during winter in South Australia. This year there have been three species of Yellow-crested Penguins reported to the committee. The first was reported by Julia Dangerfield and came ashore at Port MacDonnell on 8 February. Final identification of this bird has yet to be determined but it appears to be a Royal Penguin, *E. schlegeli*. The second was a Fiordland Penguin recovered from Middleton Beach on 29 June by Justin Biddle. The third was an immature Northern Rockhopper Penguin recovered from Goolwa Beach and taken into care by Wildlife Welfare Organisation at Goolwa. Unfortunately, none of these birds survived.

Both the Royal and Fiordland penguin are showing yellow crests, but the Northern Rockhopper Penguin is

not showing any yellow crest at all. That complicated identification but the Goolwa bird is distinguished from the other two possible taxa of Rockhopper Penguin by the black skin at the base of the bill and the under-flipper pattern. In that respect if you ever come across an unusual penguin on the beach it is always useful to get clear photographs of the head and under flipper. Another useful feature to look for is the white streaking on the cheek shown by Fiordland Penguins, as in Figure 2 (ii) but absent in other species. The position of the Yellow-crest and the bill structure are also useful identification features.

The Birds SA Rarities Committee welcomes reports from anyone who may encounter a bird rarely, or never previously seen in SA. The procedure for submitting a report is outlined on the BirdsSA webpage under the dropdown menu under Birding Info. From that page it is also possible to click a link to the list of recent and current cases.

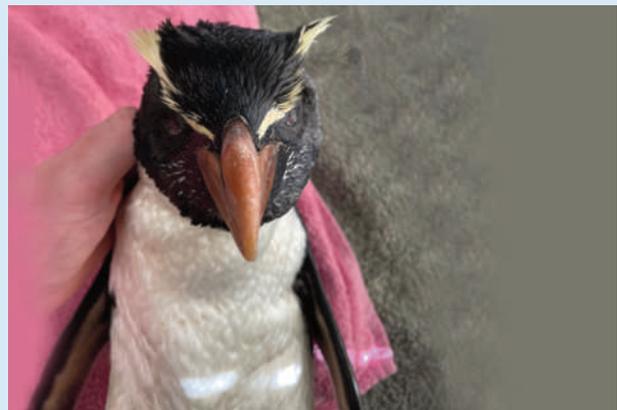
**Colin Rogers**

Chair, BirdsSA Rarities Committee (SARC)

Figure 2



(i) Royal Penguin Port MacDonnell



(ii) Fiordland Penguin Middleton Beach



(iii) and (iv) Immature Northern Rockhopper Penguin, Goolwa Beach



# The Redthroat at Red Banks

In June this year, I paid my second visit to Red Banks, a Conservation Park 17km east of the town of Burra and 170km north of Adelaide. I'd heard that Red Banks was a great place for birding, and that the little Redthroat can be seen there. Now I don't call myself a Twitcher, but I do like to see all the birds possible to see in a particular area. Perhaps I am a Birder, but with Twitcher tendencies? In any case, the Redthroat is a beautiful little bird, and I was keen to add it to my Excel spreadsheet. It would be a 'lifer' for me.

I invited a new friend along, a lady I had just met while out birdwatching, who also owned a small campervan and was a keen Birder. We agreed to drive there separately, meet around lunchtime, and stay one night in the campground. I arrived first, and shortly afterwards received a phone call (which was lucky as there is minimal phone coverage in the area). She said she was by the church at Red Banks and wondered where I was. Turns out there is a town also called Red Banks near Mallala!

The first time I went to Red Banks was in April this year. It was a very quiet day bird wise, and I didn't get to see a single Redthroat. The main birds around on that day were Mulga Parrots, Brown Treecreepers and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. However, I didn't mind a bit as I was smitten with the landscape. It is not called Red Banks for nothing.

The second time I went, in June, was the day I saw my first Redthroat. I parked my van and had a short wander. For the first few minutes there was no bird activity at all, so I decided to have a cup of tea, sit on my van step and just quietly wait. Sure enough, within 5 minutes a little bird came hopping into view and I was excited to see a distinctive patch of red on the throat. As it had not spotted me in my makeshift bird hide, I was able to take some lovely photos and enjoy watching it for a while.

Now that I had accomplished that important mission, I was free to explore the area further. I decided to complete the Landscapes of Change walk which follows the creek until it reaches two dams then loops back over the hill to the day area. There had been a lot of rain, and



**Redthroat** (Photographed by Sue Hammond at Red Banks, June 2023)



**Grey Butcherbird** (Photographed by Sue Hammond at Red Banks, July 2023)

the dams were full. In one dam I spied a lone Australasian Grebe and some Pacific Black Ducks in the next one. There was also a Wedge-tailed Eagle circling lazily above.

Last week it was good to see some other birders there. One trusted me enough to point out some tree hollows in which an Owllet-nightjar can often be found. They were empty at the time, but I will check the hollows out next visit. These people had driven up for the day, which is definitely doable as it is only a 2-hour drive from Adelaide – but it is a treat to be able to camp out, be up at first light and stay out till dusk without having to dodge the wildlife on the drive home.

I talked with the others for a while, then decided to walk along the creek as far as the dams, and back along the same route. This time the ducks were absent, but the little Grebe was still there, paddling around, all alone as before. Further along the creek I also spied a Grey Butcherbird sitting on a branch intently focused on something below. As I watched, it suddenly flew down and instantly reappeared with what looked like a huge grasshopper in its mouth. It spent a while puzzling

about what to do with it, turning it this way and that. I was trying to capture the moment, clicking away with my camera, when suddenly between clicks the grasshopper disappeared. One minute it was in the bird's beak, and the next minute it had gone. I will never know whether it was gulped down whole, or had managed to escape and live to tell the tale.

Red Banks is a wonderful place to visit, and I highly recommend it. Among the birds I spotted were Red-capped Robin, Southern Whiteface, Singing Honeyeater, White-browed Babbler, Variegated Fairy-wren, a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and a Nankeen Kestrel. Unfortunately, there were also Starlings, House Sparrows, and to my dismay, a feral tabby cat peering out from behind a bush in the campground. I have never been there in spring so am very much looking forward to seeing how the bird activity increases as the days lengthen – Red Banks, here I come again!

**Sue Hammond**

**UPDATE**  
July 2023

## Glenthorne National Park – Ityamaiitpinna Yarta

Many people in Adelaide will know about Glenthorne National Park – *Ityamaiitpinna Yarta* at O'Halloran Hill - and about the journey by residents who have struggled since 1996 to ward off housing development on the site. On 21 June 2018, the State Government (David Speirs MP) signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the *University of Adelaide* to buy back the property. Signing of the contract of sale in October 2019 (for just \$1.10) finally allowed the area to become a National Park, and on 28 May 2020, the Glenthorne property and adjacent O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park were officially proclaimed as Glenthorne National Park – *Ityamaiitpinna Yarta* by His Excellency, the Honorable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia.

In just 3 short years since that time, so much has happened on the 208-hectare (500 acre) site, not the least being the planting of more than 200,000 trees and shrubs across the property to establish habitat for wildlife.

Recently, following a lot of hard work, the Adventure Playground opened on Sunday 30 July 2023.

This playground aims to get children and families back in touch with nature. Built in the newly established creek line, this adventure playground /nature play site is an amazing array of naturally built structures and is the best of its type in South Australia, if not Australia. Just ask the families and children who were there at the opening. As a National Park, this Adventure Playground is open 7 days a week with free entry. We expect large numbers of visitors as the weather warms and word spreads.

### **Adventure Playground at Glenthorne National Park – *Ityamaiitpinna Yarta*, opened on 30 July 2023**



For many decades, the stormwater running off Majors Road on the northern boundary was directed into an underground 900mm pipe, only to re-surface 500m into the property, away from the old asbestos-ridden CSIRO buildings. These buildings have now been removed, along with thousands of tonnes of brick, concrete, steel and other materials, and the former CSIRO site has had the creek line restored to something resembling its natural condition. Recently, a Yellow-billed Spoonbill was seen in one of the filtration ponds just off Majors Road, a first for the property.

The other major development announced recently is the Majors Road Interchange or *On/Off Ramp*, costing \$120m. Many locals were originally against this project, deeming its footprint too large, with too many trees, as well as the land from the Glenthorne National Park, to be lost.

The re-designed on/off ramp project is now essentially contained within existing Southern Expressway boundaries with no impact to significant vegetation, and minimal impact to the National Park as a whole. Although some vegetation will be lost, it is vegetation from the construction of the original Southern Expressway. The *Dept of Infrastructure and Transport* (DIT) is currently working with DEW and the *Friends of Glenthorne National Park* to offset this lost vegetation with plantings within the Glenthorne National Park – *Ityamaiitpinna Yarta's* western boundary. This offset planting is crucial, as the vegetation on that side of the National Park is a wildlife corridor, as well as the home to several small bird species, including Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Willie Wagtails, Grey Shrike-thrushes, Superb Fairywrens and many more.



## Historical Series No. 84

### Dr Alexander Matheson (Mat) Morgan (1867-1934).

#### Part 4 by Penny Paton

Like so many of the early South Australian ornithologists, Morgan was an active conservationist. As we saw earlier in this piece, he decried the senseless shooting of seals on Althorpe Island, and he conducted inspections of the island sanctuaries in the Coorong with other SAOA members (Sutton 1933). He acted as an expert witness in a court case in 1901, when a man was charged with having sold two sandpipers, contrary to the *Bird Protection Act 1900* (Reid 1974). Morgan's identification of the birds, claimed to be snipe by the defendant's counsel and backed by the acting curator of the museum, as sandpipers protected under the Act, carried the day. Morgan also contributed articles on bird life and protection to a special section of the Education Gazette centred on Bird and Tree Day, to help foster interest in bird conservation amongst school children (Reid 1974).

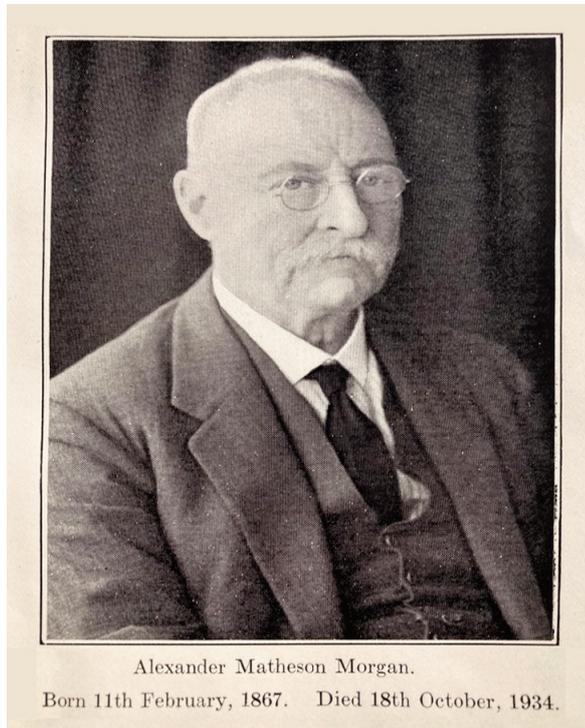
Whittell (1954) states that Morgan was a member of the Flora and Fauna Board (*viz.*) of South Australia. The Fauna and Flora Board of South Australia (FFBSA) was set up to administer the newly formed Flinders Chase reserve in 1919. An obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald corroborates that he was appointed to the FFBSA as Professor Wood Jones' successor (www 4). Wood Jones left Adelaide in about 1926 or 1927 so it is likely that Morgan succeeded him about then. Morgan did make several trips to Kangaroo Island (KI) and the paper he co-authored in *Emu* mentioned that bones of the extinct KI Emu were collected by the FFBSA at Kelly Hill Caves in 1926 (Morgan and Sutton 1928). This is further elaborated on in the pages of the *South Australian Ornithologist* (SAO) (Anon 1926), in which John Sutton recounted that bones of the extinct KI Emu had been found at Kelly Hill caves on a visit from 21-23 May 1926 by Professor Wood Jones, Dr Morgan, Mr Eldridge and Mr Burgess.

As described in Part 2, Morgan was a serious egg collector, starting as a child when attending Geelong Grammar School between 1880 and 1885 (Mason and Pfitzner 2020). He donated his extensive egg collection to the SA Museum in 1931 and 1934, but other clutches collected by Morgan came to SAMA via the Parsons and McGilp collections. Mason and Pfitzner (2020) were able to document 514 egg clutches collected by Morgan between 1880 and 1932, of which 502 are in SAMA.

Morgan was also instrumental in finding South Australian contributors for G. M. Mathews for his monumental publication on Australian birds. Morgan stayed with Mathews during his residence in England in 1908; we know this because Mathews wrote to S. A. White in April 1908 stating that Dr Morgan had suggested that White might help him by contributing notes to his *Birds of*

*Australia* (Howard 2017). In fact, South Australian ornithologists were major contributors to the 12 volume *magnum opus*, with White, Morgan, Mellor, Cleland and others sending many notes on bird distribution and habits to Mathews. Morgan also supplied A. J. North with many bird notes of his field experiences (Mason and Pfitzner 2020).

We have already noted that Morgan was integral to the success of the SAOA and, to a lesser extent, the RAOU, but he was also a corresponding fellow of the American Ornithologists Union (Mason and Pfitzner 2020). A little-known fact is that Morgan was interested in anthropology – he was a founding member of the Anthropological Society of South Australia and donated his collection of weapons and stone implements to SAMA (Mason and Pfitzner 2020).



**Figure 8.** Photo of A. M. Morgan with his Obituary in the *South Australian Ornithologist*, Volume 13 (1935).

As well as his ornithological prowess, Morgan was an esteemed medical practitioner. He served as President of the Ophthalmic section of the British Medical Association, and was a member of the American College of Surgeons and a founding member of the Australian College of Surgeons (www 4) and President of the South Australian branch of the Australian Medical Association 1908-09.

On rereading a Historical Series on Walter Cain (Bradley 2004), I came across a reference to Dr Morgan having suffered a heart attack on 1 March 1933. This explains the references to Morgan's non-appearance at the March 1933 AGM of the SAOA and expressions of sympathy on his illness at that time (Anon 1933b). After this heart attack, his ornithological endeavours were curtailed and he died the following year, on 18 October.

As always, I am indebted to Philippa Horton for casting her eye over earlier drafts of this piece and for providing information on Morgan specimens in SAMA, but all errors and omissions are mine alone.



**Figure 9.** An early photo of Laura (1886), where Morgan lived from 1893 to 1897 (SLSA SRG /14/12).

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*The author apologises that there are errors in the references – this has occurred due to the large number of references and the publication of four parts over a 12-month period.*

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**Figure 10.** Figure 10. Mail truck on the Birdsville Track stopped at Clifton Hills letter box, 1930. Morgan made an epic trip to Clifton Hills Station with the lessee in the winter of 1930 (SLSA B 69530/84).

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## July 2023 UPDATE : Glenthorne National Park – Ityamaitpinna Yarta *(continued)*

Announced on 18 July 2023 by the *Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Tom Koutsantonis*, this project includes budgeted funding up to \$200,000 for a native plant nursery to be built by DIT on *Riding for the Disabled* (RDA) land, across Majors Road from the National Park, and operated and maintained by the *Friends of Glenthorne National Park*, in collaboration with the RDA SA. This is an extremely exciting development, as it will give the Friends a new and lasting home, where they can continue to expand their current conservation and re-vegetation activities into the future. The Friends look forward to working with DIT and the RDA, as well as involving other conservation groups such as the *Friends of Marino Conservation Park* and the *Native Orchid Society of SA*.

No doubt, in the coming years, the birdlife of the southern suburbs will benefit from the increase in native plants, as well as the increased plant diversity generated by the new nursery. It is also likely to attract many more volunteers from the community to get involved in native plant propagation.

*The Friends of Glenthorne National Park* have been working on the property for over 21 years, and since 2002 have removed many weeds and planted thousands of native plants. Over this time, *Birds SA* have held several Field Trips to Glenthorne Park, and the Friends have conducted bird surveys in the area.

Over the years, 85 bird species have been identified, including Western Whistler, Grey Fantail, White-plumed Honeyeater, Musk Duck, Australasian Shoveler, Freckled Duck, Black-fronted Dotterel, Superb Fairywrens, and just in the last few months, Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo, Straw-necked Ibis, and a White-fronted Chat.

Given the amount of money spent across Federal, State Government and local council (City of Marion) totalling



### Announcement of Nursery Opening, 18 July 2023

*Left to right:*

**Neill Dunlop**, Project Manager, Majors Rd Project, Acciona Construction Aust

**Michael Marks**, Project Manager, Dept Infrastructure & Transport

**Sean Bonham**, Executive General Manager (Vic, SA, NT, WA) Acciona

**Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP**, Minister for Infrastructure & Transport, SA Government

**Bob Kirby**, Friends of Glenthorne National Park Inc Committee

**Jean Haselgrove**, Friends of Glenthorne National Park Inc Member

**Alan Burns**, Friends of Glenthorne National Park Inc, Public Officer & former President



around \$17 million, the asset to the State as it currently stands is enormous, and the environmental and educational benefits into the future immeasurable. We currently have *Flinders University* working on archaeological sites within the park and the *University of Adelaide* constructing native grasslands under a PhD project funded to \$80,000. Thanks to all involved, especially former *Minister for Environment and Water* and the current *Leader of the Opposition, David Speirs*, whose vision helped make the community's dream a reality. We hope to see you and your family there one day soon for a picnic, a play in the adventure playground as well as a spot of bird watching along the watercourse trail. You won't be disappointed.

**Alan Burns**

## What an emotional roller coaster!

On Sunday 21 May, Paul Taylor and I were privileged to be the guests of Di Campisi, Publicity Manager, at the viewing of *Flyways - The untold story of migratory shorebirds* at the Palace Nova Cinema.

This film has global significance. Randall Wood has carefully linked the migratory journeys of the amazing Red Knot, Africa; Eastern Curlew, Moreton Bay, Queensland; and Hudsonian Godwit, South America – all making their long journey to the Arctic.

*Flyways* is a beautiful piece of documentary filming, capturing amazing shots of the birds in flight at eye level, and close-up shots of the bi-valves, the important food source for the Red Knot. Seeing a chick of any migratory wader has been a dream of mine! The clarity of the filming took me right to their 'scrape'.

Discussion and detail of the care taken when tagging any of these birds was evident, as was the difficulty in traversing the terrain that the birds favour. Quite a few members of the Migratory Wader Survey Team of Gulf St Vincent could easily relate to the treacherous mud and the mosquitoes.

Being transported with the beautiful photography was only part of the afternoon. The decimation of the habitat of migratory waders in all parts of the world brought us back to earth with a thud!

I felt the disgust of folk in the theatre at the sight of all the plastic waste when the birds flew back to South America.

We need to look at our own habits, our own waste, and ask questions about our own behaviours. Plastic won't end up on our remote shores if we don't use it!

The decimation of important feeding habitats on their long journey north is evident in other countries, in particular China. But what are we doing in Australia, in particular, South Australia, to protect their feeding grounds? Thompson Beach, once one of the very important feeding areas for Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit, has been 'raked' to extinction over the last few years. What are we doing to protect Gulf St Vincent?

Birds SA Members can help to support these amazing birds by becoming part of the 'Survey Team'. Monitoring the variety of species, the numbers of each species, arrival and departure times, is all very important information that can be gathered by anybody who has a passion to protect migratory waders.

Dedication is rewarded with an almost personal link to the birds, such as Paul Taylor has with the Bar-tailed Godwit, AKK. He has been noting its presence at Gulf St Vincent for years, along with the arrival and departure of the Common Sandpiper at a particular site.

I would like to thank Di for her generosity and encourage Birds SA members to see this important film, and to get involved in the protection of migratory waders and their habitat.

**Kate Buckley**

### Red Knot

(Photograph by Paul Taylor)



**Hooded Plover** (Photographed by Julie-Anne Harris at Wauraltee Beach, April 2023)



**Friends of the Hooded Plover  
Yorke Peninsula volunteer group**

## Plover Lovers win Community Grant

BirdLife Australia's Friends of the Hooded Plover Yorke Peninsula volunteer group recently received a Bite-sized Grant from the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board to purchase hats printed with their distinctive logo. Volunteers will now be more easily recognised as they survey beaches on the Yorke Peninsula during our hotter months, protecting Hooded Plovers (affectionately known as Hoodies) and promoting awareness of our vulnerable beach-nesting birds.

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of vehicles being driven on Yorke Peninsula's beaches, and the work of the volunteers is now more important than ever. Volunteers spend time monitoring Hoodies, identifying their nesting sites, recording data, putting up signs and fences to protect nests, and talking with beach-goers.

Hoodies breed from August to April, and each year brings new challenges as they struggle to find a piece of undisturbed space on the beach. These little birds are so vulnerable to predators and beach activity, that they have a 90-95% nest failure rate, and only a 2.5% chance of survival from egg to fully fledged adult.

The good news for Hoodies is that with help from volunteers and the public, nest survival rates can increase dramatically. The Friends of the Hooded Plover Yorke Peninsula volunteer group welcomes new members. If you would like to find out more about how you can help, please contact Nanou Cabourdin, Volunteer Regional Coordinator, Friends of the Hooded Plover @ [nanou.cabourdin@icloud.com](mailto:nanou.cabourdin@icloud.com).

*Julie-Anne Harris*



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## Friend of our shorebirds and Lifetime Achiever –

*Maureen Christie* of Carpenter Rocks



Counting birds at the Saemangeum seawall in Korea in 2007 (Photo Penny Johns)

for Environment and Water, Green Adelaide and the University of Adelaide's Environmental Institute. It recognises an individual living in SA who has made an outstanding contribution to protecting the state's environment. In Maureen's case, one lifetime doesn't seem nearly long enough to record all that she has achieved in her 79 years on the planet.

In 2021, Maureen was also presented with the prestigious **Serventy Conservation Award** which recognises wildlife conservation work not done as part of a professional career, but which is awarded to those who "labour in the field for a love of nature and a determination that it should be conserved – often non-scientists who have earned their conservation skills through sheer hard work".

In the same year, her work as an environmental champion and community educator was recognised, being one of 19 women celebrated on the **2021 South Australian Women's Honour Roll**. In a ceremony at



Government House, Maureen received her certificate from the Governor, *Frances Adamson AC*, on behalf of the *Minister for Human Services, Michelle Lensink MLC*, who was also present. (see photo left)

And it doesn't stop there. On the King's Birthday this year, Maureen Christie was awarded a **Member of the Order of Australia** Medal for her commitment to wildlife conservation, so in September 2023 she will make another trip to Government House to receive her award. When congratulated on this achievement, with typical modesty Maureen said: "I was quite blown away; I am also quite embarrassed by it because in the field I am in, there are so many other people who do so much work, and lots of

people who do more than I do. It is a huge honour and I hope I can use it to increase awareness of shorebirds and the challenges they are facing."

Maureen is a Victorian, who moved to South Australia in 1994, following early retirement. Growing up in the country, surrounded by bush, her love of nature has been with her all her life, and she sees it as different from the volunteering she does, although this has become a major part of her life. Her work in wildlife conservation involved an early interest in Orange-bellied Parrots before shorebirds gradually played an ever-increasing role in her life. In 1995 she started out as a field assistant with the *Victorian Wader Study Group (VWSG)* before training as a bird bander and cannon-netter, receiving her Australian A-class bird banding authority with cannon-netting endorsement in 2001.

In 2005, in order to conduct wader and tern monitoring in the south-east, Maureen founded *FOSSE (Friends of Shorebirds SE Inc)* and has been Secretary/Treasurer ever since. From that time, FOSSE has worked in close collaboration with the VWSG to catch and band waders, the objectives being to protect waders and terns and their habitat. These groups also protect other beach nesting species such as Hooded Plover and Oystercatchers. Whilst FOSSE collaborates with other groups like VWSG for banding, they also initiate their own counting.

An award (not listed above) and one which Maureen says is extremely dear to her, is the **VWSG Clive Minton Medallion** (a Medal of Merit for Outstanding Contribution to the Victorian Wader Study Group), awarded annually to an exceptional member. Maureen is only the fourth recipient of the Medallion.

In March 2016, Maureen, the above two groups, the *Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG)* and others (including Birds SA) were involved in public consultation during a 2-year campaign to limit the impact of *beach wrack* harvesting on shorebirds and their habitat. Beach wrack is the accumulation of organic material washed up onto the beach by the tides, which eventually breaks down and is recycled back into the system. Wrack includes algae, sea grasses and some invertebrates such as sponges and soft corals and is a primary source of nutrients for shorebirds. It also contains sand, which when deposited near dunes, provides an anchor and fertiliser for dune plants. Maureen explains that the sea grass we are used to in the Gulf St Vincent is different from the seaweed they set out to protect in south-east SA. The threat came from commercial overharvesting using heavy machinery and important shorebird areas not being protected until migrants had departed. The

## 2023 Lifetime Achiever Award *(continued)*



Maureen releasing  
Banded Stilt chicks,  
Coorong 2006

Banded Stilts Lake Bonney  
SE summer count 2012  
*(Photo: Paul Wainwright)*

occasional trailer load that might be taken by people for mulch was never an issue and was not discussed. Whilst many groups were included in the public consultation, it was FOSSE, with support of data from VWSG and AWSG that held the *Department of Environment* to account by taking them to the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal*.

Maureen regards the successful outcome of this campaign, which involved a negotiated settlement with the Federal Minister for the Environment, the SA Minister for Agriculture, Food & Fisheries, and Australian Kelp Products Pty Ltd as *"the most outstanding achievement of my life"*. Only possible as a result of thousands of volunteer hours spent on fieldwork, data analysis and advocacy over many years, the tribunal led to the *SA Beach-cast Marine Algae Fishery* being reorganised. At the conciliation meeting, Maureen's group was told that they were the *"only ones to bring science to the table"*. Throughout the process, FOSSE was willing to negotiate with government and industry for a favourable outcome. The fact that the ruling came under federal jurisdiction, rather than state, was a vital component in the successful outcome.

Maureen's involvement as a collaborator and a collector of data in shorebird research has led to her being listed on 35 published scientific articles, and she has been recognised as a significant contributor to the scientific knowledge of shorebirds in Australia. As an educator, she has worked tirelessly conducting workshops for children and community groups, raising awareness of the many challenges facing shorebirds such as rising sea levels, land reclamation of their habitat, and increased recreational and commercial use of our beaches.

Maureen is passionate about people sharing the beach with the birds, reminding us that whilst we use the beach for recreation, for them it is their home, so we really do need to make room for them.

**Chris Bates-Brownsword**

***Have you downloaded the  
Member Jungle app  
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Member Jungle is the member management system Birds SA uses to monitor subscriptions and memberships. (The green jumping tiger is the icon)

It is a secure system for your subscription payments that automatically sends you receipts and emails and allows us to send individual and bulk emails to many members about various issues. It also monitors all payments, membership numbers, new members and renewing members, as well as those whose memberships have expired or been removed.

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Once you open the APP and register and create a password, you can then login and see your membership information.

You can then manage your account; subscriptions and memberships on your mobile phone anywhere, anytime. You can register for events, and you will get notified if a Field Trip is cancelled. The Birder is there to read, there's information about Member Jungle and a link to the website as well as a link to contact the membership team. Your membership Card is also there.

**I'll be interested to hear what you think.**

If you have any questions about the APP, please email me.

**Sue Winwood**

Membership Officer:

[membership@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:membership@birdssa.asn.au)

## Past Excursions

### Birds SA

#### Saturday 13 May Glenthorne National Park – Ityamaiitpinna Yarta

It is always a joy having Birds SA members visit the Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiitpinna Yarta. So many enthusiastic birdwatchers, some new, some experienced, but all with binoculars and eyes keenly looking for anything that moves and interested in seeing the new National Park, some for the first time.

It is vitally important in the life of this National Park, that we gather accurate baseline data before the revegetation grows and bird numbers increase dramatically, as we hope and expect they will. Revegetation started at Glenthorne in late 2020, so things are still in the early stages, with much of the paths and earthworks even newer.

An excellent group of 17 keen birdwatchers departed the ranger station compound and headed east, down to the retention ponds, constructed to clean the storm water before it enters the water course. The weather was 20 degrees, sunny and calm. Along the water course some of the larger, more common birds were seen, mainly Rainbow Lorikeets. There were a few close sightings of Musk Lorikeets, as well as Galahs and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, and a pair of Eastern Rosellas in full colour in the sunlight. We followed the track past the small billabong and a few White-faced Herons and White-plumed Honeyeaters were disturbed. Striated Pardalotes were seen in the eucalypts.



**New Glenthorne dam** (Photographed by Alan Burns at Glenthorne National Park, 13 May 2023)



**Superb Fairy-wren** (Photographed by Robert Gulley at Glenthorne National Park, 13 May 2023)



**Australian Pipit** (Photographed by Robert Gulley at Glenthorne National Park, 13 May 2023)

The most active bird area on this trip was again the main central dam. Water levels had been very high in recent months, but it was good to see that the levels had dropped sufficiently for Black-fronted Dotterels (3) to be spotted along the water's edge. These birds are regulars and have been for some time. The group walked the track on the western side of the dam, and enjoyed the seats and logs placed for birdwatchers to rest and take in the birds. Amongst the Wood Ducks (6), Pacific Black Ducks (10) and Grey Teal (7), one Hardhead was spotted. This species had disappeared for some time when water levels were high, so it was good to see duck numbers increasing again, especially the Hardhead. Australasian Grebes (8) were very active, as were Dusky Moorhens (12) and Eurasian Coots (15). Superb Fairy-wrens were heard and seen amongst the undergrowth at the water's edge. Yellow Thornbills (2) were also seen.

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

After lunch we decided to walk south along the War Horse Drive to the direct sown Wallaby Grass fields where Stubble Quail had previously been sighted. No luck on this day, but most did see a small number of Australian Pipits. In this area a PhD student from the University of Adelaide was working on restoring grasslands and had the ground scraped to remove weed seed and soil to a depth of about 10cm. This was an attraction to birds with Australian Magpies and Magpie-larks picking insects from the newly exposed ground. Later we learned that Robert Gulley had taken a photo during this walk, of what we all agreed was a White-fronted Chat on the edge of this scraped ground. Robert had joined a select group of Birds SA members who were the first to spot a new species to this park. The most notable of this group being John Speirs who spotted a Freckled Duck in May 2019 on the large dam, the first and only one of this species to ever be seen at the Glenthorne National Park.

After most of the group departed, I drove around the perimeter fire track and spotted two Laughing Kookaburras and most importantly, a pair of Red-rumped Parrots in a native pine (*Callitris gracilis*) on the eastern boundary, another first for the Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiipinna Yarta. All up, a great day's birdwatching with 38 species seen and most importantly, two new species recorded into the baseline data.

**Alan Burns**

### Birds SA

Thursday 18 May

#### Whites Road Wetland

Twelve people gathered on a day that was initially cool and overcast, but which gradually became sunny with a light breeze. Due to the amount of rain in recent times, all the ponds were relatively full and water was pooled in other low lying areas.

Waterbirds encountered included Australian Wood Duck (aka Maned Duck) (20), Pacific Black Duck (60), Pink-eared Duck (12), Freckled Duck (2), Hardhead (1), Black Swan (2), Chestnut Teal (40), Grey Teal (20), Eurasian Coot (30), Dusky Moorhen (6), Black-tailed Native-hen (12), Australasian Swamphen (20), Australian Crake (1), Australasian Grebe (30), Hoary-headed Grebe (15), and Pied Stilt (8). White-faced Heron (3), Little Pied Cormorant (1), Masked Lapwing (3), Silver Gull (50), Australian Reed-Warbler (1), Welcome Swallow (6), and Australian White Ibis (10) were also present.

As usual at this site, there were many Rainbow Lorikeets (200+) which wheeled about making the usual racket. Also present were Musk Lorikeet (30), Adelaide Rosella (2), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (1) and Galah (6). Superb Fairy-wren (40) were prolific as were New Holland

Honeyeater (20). Other honeyeaters included White-plumed (20), Noisy Miner (20) and Red Wattlebird (10).

We were lucky to see some raptors comprising Australian Hobby (2), Whistling Kite (1) and Black-shouldered Kite (1). Other 'bush birds' included Laughing Kookaburra (2), Striated Pardalote (4), Australian Magpie (10), Dusky Woodswallow (2), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (4), Grey Fantail (4), Willie Wagtail (8), Magpie-lark (20), and Little Raven (2).

Feral species encountered were Rock Dove (12), Common Starling (10), Common Blackbird (1) and House Sparrow (10). The bird call resulted in a total of 52 bird species for the day.

**Ali Ben Kahn**

## Port Augusta Bird Group - The Babblers

Saturday 20 – Sunday 21 May

### Catninga Station

#### Saturday

On a cold and overcast morning, three birders from Port Augusta, Port Neill and Mambray Creek, met in Stirling North. Mount Brown, usually clearly visible, was shrouded in thick cloud as we drove to its base in the Flinders Ranges, birding along the way. The country looked very dry, and the birds we saw were mainly along the roadside where the plants looked healthier due to water runoff from the road surface. Elegant Parrots, White-winged Fairy-wrens, Redthroat and an injured Wedge-tailed Eagle were found.

As we arrived at the Catninga boundary we were met by Emus, and at a shearing shed we saw Rock Doves and Starlings. Further along was a dead tree full of Elegant Parrots and some Red-rumped Parrots. At the homestead another birder from Port Augusta joined us, and we met the property owners and discussed our birding plans. While having our smoko we saw a flock of



**Silvereye** (Photographed by Bernie Haase at Catninga Station, May 2023)

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

Galah and Sparrows feeding on the hay feed for the horses and cattle, while Blackbirds moved about in the house garden.

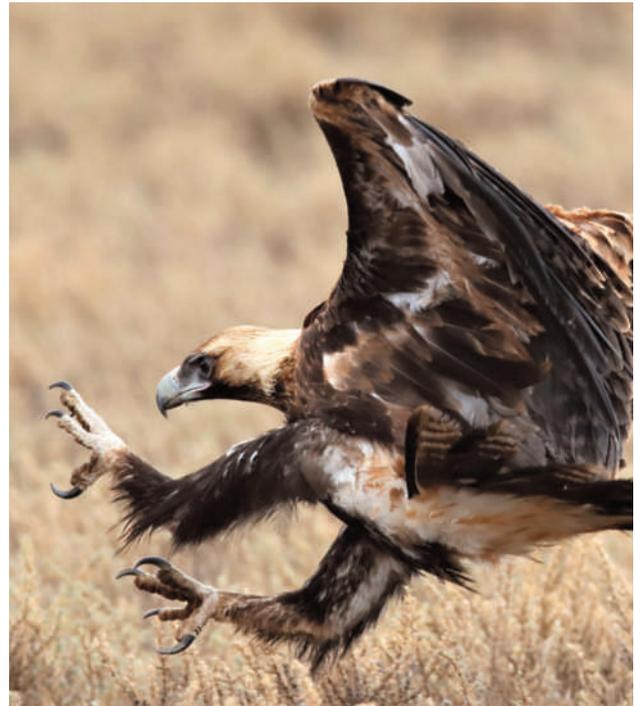
Walking around the homestead area and following the bird activity through the flowering mallee trees, we found Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Striated Pardalotes, Little Ravens, Mallee Ringnecks, Mistletoebirds, White-browed Babblers, Willie Wagtails, many Silvereye, Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, a Black Kite, Weebills, Red Wattlebird, Redthroat, Purple-backed and White-winged Fairy-wren, Grey Fantails, Inland Thornbills, Rufous Whistlers, Red-capped Robin, Magpies, Magpie Larks and Wedge-tailed Eagles. Not bad for a couple of hours walking under low cloud with occasional light drizzle!

After lunch we drove along tracks north of the homestead that pass over undulating foothills cut by creeks. The area is covered with mallee and an understory of scrub. We found more of the birds we had seen earlier and added Grey Butcherbirds, Mulga Parrots, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Australian Ravens and Grey-fronted Honeyeaters to our list. We were expecting to see more species of Honeyeaters with the mallee trees in flower but none were found. In an open bluebush plain area there were flocks of Southern Whiteface, some Chirruping Wedgebill and a Brown Falcon. By this time it was getting late and we set up camp in the homestead area. Overnight there was light drizzly rain but not enough to break the dry spell.

### Sunday

The morning was cold with low cloud, and we changed our plan to walk up Peter Good Gully, instead driving south along the hills to Woolundunga Springs. Not far from the homestead we crossed a Red Gum creek with more Elegant Parrots in the trees, and added Yellow-throated Miners to our bird list. As we drove along the track through a bluebush plain we found more of the birds seen the day before. We stopped to walk to some mallee trees at the base of the hills, where we found more Elegant Parrots and watched some Mallee Ringnecks diving into the wet gum leaves and having a bath. They got so wet they could barely fly but seemed to be enjoying themselves!

As we drove on and neared the Woolundunga Springs area, we saw a flock of Black-faced Woodswallows and Starlings busily searching for insects amongst the bluebush, occasionally joined by Pipits. At the springs, which was Port Augusta's first water supply, we parked and had smoko. More Elegant Parrots, Yellow-throated Miners, Galahs, Crested Pigeons, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Striated Pardalotes, Magpies, Mallee Ringnecks and Little Ravens were seen in the Red Gum trees around us.



**Wedge-tailed Eagle** (Photographed by Judy Owen at Catninga Station, 21 May 2023)

Next we walked into the jungle of native and weed plants lining the flowing spring water creek. Grey Fantails greeted us through the light drizzle and Red-capped Robins, Yellow-rumped, Inland and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Purple-backed Fairy-wrens, Redthroats, Silvereyes and Willie Wagtails moved about in the undergrowth. A Wedge-tailed Eagle glided past, while in the trees above were Peaceful Doves, Rufous Whistlers, Grey Shrike-thrush, Red Wattlebirds, Kookaburras and a Western Whistler, which was only identified later when looking at the bird photos. We thought we had found a Chestnut-rumped Heathwren that was calling out from some bushes at the base of the hills further up the creek, but upon closer inspection it turned out to be a Redthroat mimicking their call. Chestnut-rumped Heathwren must be in the area for the Redthroat to learn their call.

We stopped for lunch in the creek on the way back before climbing a hill with a patch of mallee on it. Here we found more of the small understory birds seen before and Grey Butcherbirds. On the way back to our vehicles Australian Ravens, Welcome Swallows and Zebra Finches were added to our bird list. We passed Emu on our way back to the homestead before heading home.

A total of 48 bird species were found over the weekend. The birds of the trip were the Grey-fronted Honeyeaters, Chirruping Wedgebills and Western Whistler, with a special mention to the numerous Elegant Parrots and Redthroats.

**Bernie Haase**

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

### Birds SA

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#### Sunday 21 May Friends of Mylor Conservation Park

Early in 2023, the Friends of Mylor Conservation Park asked Birds SA to conduct a workshop on birds and birdwatching to help their members better understand and enjoy the birdlife in their area. A workshop was organised for mid-May, and the binoculars owned by Birds SA for just such a purpose were made available for use at the workshop.

Despite it being a cold and drizzly day, approximately 17 eager participants gathered at the home of the group coordinator near the park in Mylor. We began with a general talk about birds and birdwatching, including understanding the importance of birds, the use of field guides and apps, birdwatching excursions, Birds SA membership, and more. Afterwards we went outside and practiced how to properly use binoculars and how to best find birds. Despite the discouraging weather, enough birds were found to keep things interesting and enable people to practice their newly acquired skills.

Very positive feedback about the workshop was received, with everyone enjoying the morning and finding it a useful and educational exercise.

*Ali Ben Kahn*

### Birds SA

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#### Sunday 28 May Manning Flora & Fauna Reserve, McLaren Flat

It was a miserable, cold and damp morning, and by 8.25am the leader was considering what else he might do if no-one showed up, when suddenly six people arrived! Truly a testament to the resilience of birders! Wrapped up warmly and with our wet weather gear on we set off in an anti-clockwise direction from the gate on Kays Road.

Birds were relatively sparse, which was no surprise. We saw a Common Bronzewing and heard Laughing Kookaburras (2). Other birds, mostly flying overhead, included Rainbow Lorikeets (20), Adelaide Rosellas (4), Little Corellas (2), Galahs (4) and Elegant Parrots (2).

Striated Pardalotes (20) were quite common, as were New Holland Honeyeaters (40). Other birds seen or heard included White-throated Treecreepers (2), Superb Fairywrens (6), Eastern Spinebills (6), Red Wattlebirds (4), Yellow-rumped Thornbills (8), Mistletoebirds (2), Grey Currawongs (6), Australian Magpies (6), Grey

Shrikethrush (2), Grey Fantails (4), Little Ravens (6) and Tree Martins (30).

The rain started in earnest as we reached the bottom of the hill where several species were seen together in a small area. Unfortunately, viewing them was hampered by the rain but we did our best! We then trudged our way back to our starting point by which time the rain had eased.

Feral species seen were Common Starlings (6) and Common Blackbird (1). The bird call resulted in a total of 23 species for the day.

*Ali Ben Kahn*

### Fleurieu Birders

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#### Saturday 3 June Cox Scrub Conservation Park

It was a warm, calm and sunny morning when a group of sixteen birders gathered in the park. The birds were quieter in the gum trees along the fire track but they increased in numbers and voice as we walked along. A couple of Golden Whistlers (Western Whistlers) made an appearance, flitting coquettishly around the foliage of the gum trees, pausing now and again to show themselves before disappearing into the background.

We took one of the walking tracks that goes up the hill. Bird life was not plentiful, but the first of many Elegant Parrots we were to see flew past. A curious Grey Shrike-thrush flitted about in the cup gums and the first of numerous Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins appeared overhead. A couple of Common Bronzewings took off from the path to find refuge in the scrub. It was along this path that a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo was heard and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo was spotted.



**Red-browed Finch** (Photographed by Richard Smyth at Cox Scrub Conservation Park, 3 June 2023)

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

As we turned right on top of the hill the first of the Dusky Woodswallows appeared. Later, at the bird count it was estimated that there were well over 20 of them. A flight of about a dozen Brown-headed Honeyeaters sprinted through the gums having announced themselves with their calls. Other honeyeaters seen were Eastern Spinebill, Yellow-faced, Tawny-crowned, Crescent, and New Holland Honeyeater, and both Little and Red Wattlebirds. If there had been a prize for the most prolific bird of the day the New Holland Honeyeaters would have won!

Laughing Kookaburras made their presence known with their loud calls and rapid movement through the higher trees. There were plenty of Silvereyes and a few Thornbills, Weebills and Striated Pardalotes. Other species recorded included Musk Lorikeet, Rainbow Lorikeet, Adelaide Rosella, Superb Fairy-wren, Grey Currawong, Australian Magpie, Blackfaced Cuckoo Shrike, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Magpie Lark, Little Raven, Australian Wood Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, and a single Red-browed Finch. We heard just one Common Blackbird.

As we were having lunch a flight of Straw-necked Ibis flew overhead with one Australian White Ibis amongst them. A Wedge-tailed Eagle also flew over our lunch spot. Altogether we saw 43 bird species.

A small puddle on a fire track at the southern end of the park has recently featured on Facebook, as it has been attracting lots of birds. Some of our group had a look on their way home and were lucky enough to see a Buff-banded Rail.

*Edith St George*

### Birds SA

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Saturday 10 June

#### Browns Road, Monarto

**26 Birds SA members** braved the early morning misty rain and pea soup clouds for a wonderful walk through the outstanding Browns Road reserve near Monarto. This reserve has been a hot spot for South Australian birders for many years, and rarely fails to deliver a good selection of bird species.

The group was split into two groups, one group with me and the other with expert birder Bill Alcock, a long-time Birds SA member. It was satisfying to see about six new Birds SA members join the walk and visit the Browns Road site for the first time.

No birder was disappointed. Even in the misty rain, numerous bird species showed themselves, ranging from White-browed Babblers, many Striated Pardalotes, Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Hooded Robins, and plenty of Diamond Firetails. The most photographed Owllet Nightjars in Australia showed themselves twice to the

groups. As the rain stopped and the clouds dissipated, other species appeared: Mallee Ringneck Parrots, Brown Treecreepers, Rufous Whistlers, Red-capped Robins, Southern White-faces, Wedge-tailed Eagle, the ever-present White-winged Choughs, Red-Rumped Parrots and many more. A Restless Flycatcher was heard but not seen. It was interesting to note that the New Holland Honeyeater appears to be becoming the more dominant Honeyeater species there these days, eclipsing the once common resident, the White-plumed Honeyeater. The increasing abundance of Diamond Firetails is exciting. They're becoming very common at Browns Road now, particularly over the past 12-18 months, and it is good to see their return in healthy numbers.

The group finished with morning tea and an enthusiastic chat in the car park area, satisfied they had seen a good selection of woodland bird species during the morning walk. A total of 44 bird species were seen – not bad considering the miserable weather conditions for the first hour!

*John Gitsham*

### Birds SA

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Thursday 15 June

#### Shepherds Hill Recreation Park

I left home in steady rain, confident that no one would turn up for the day's excursion. When I arrived in the carpark the rain had eased to a light drizzle, and I saw Ben out scanning the trees! Now as Ben had driven from Gawler, I knew he would have to be rewarded with a tour of the park. Just before the nominated start time, 14 members and visitors had gathered and the rain had cleared, so the trip was definitely on! Our visitors included four enthusiastic young boys: Caleb, Mitchell, Ethan and Levi, who all had good birding skills and knowledge.



**Tawny Frogmouths** (Photographed by Julie-Anne Harris at Shepherds Hill Recreation Park, 15 June 2023)

## Past Excursions *(continued)*



**Musk Lorikeets** (Photographed by Julie-Anne Harris at Shepherds Hill Recreation Park, 15 June 2023)

From the carpark we took our usual track towards the archery range, temporarily diverted by a rabbit hunt when one was spotted in the bushes. Back on track we continued to the range, where one of the archers came over to say hello, and the boys were rewarded with an impromptu archery education session.

We proceeded towards the main Adelaide to Melbourne rail line, carefully crossing several sections of the dirt track that were underwater. Musk (50) and Rainbow (200) Lorikeets were by far the most dominant species throughout our walk. Other species sighted included Australian Magpie (40), Grey Currawong (6), Galah (20), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (6), a pair of Little Corella, Superb Fairywren (12), Adelaide Rosella (12), Eastern Rosella (6), Maned Duck (4), Little Pied Cormorant (1), Striated Pardalote (2) and Grey Fantail (4). Kookaburras were heard throughout the walk, but chose not to show themselves.

When we were almost back to the carpark we were rewarded with a pair of Tawny Frogmouth roosting on a low branch. Our tally for this memorable excursion was 27 bird species.

**Lynton Huxley**

### Port Augusta Bird Group – The Babblers

#### Sunday 18 June Carriererloo Station

On a clear, cold and calm morning, six birders congregated in Port Augusta at the start of the Stuart Highway. Two of our group came from Port Neill, and one each from Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Wilmington and Mambray Creek.

We drove about 5 km along the highway before turning off onto the road to Carriererloo homestead. About 7 km

along the road a flock of Black-faced Woodswallows moving about in a patch of black oak trees caught our attention, and we stopped to observe them. A flock of Zebra Finches flew in, and we heard Chirruping Wedgebills calling from nearby bushes, so we decided to have a walk and see what else was in the area.

In the air Welcome Swallows darted about and Australian Ravens passed overhead. The sparse shrubs and bluebush sheltered White-browed Babblers, Rufous Fieldwrens, White-winged Fairy-wrens, Southern Whiteface, Willie Wagtails, Chirruping Wedgebills and Emus. In the trees were Black-faced Woodswallows, Zebra Finches, Singing Honeyeaters, Blue Bonnets, Mulga Parrots, Magpies, Crested Pigeons, Red-capped Robins and a Grey Butcherbird.

We drove on and stopped for smoko at the Carriererloo shearing shed dam, which was about half full. Here we found Grey Teal, Pink-eared Duck, a single Pacific Black Duck, Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterels, a Hoary-headed Grebe, White-fronted Chats, Pipits, Galahs, Magpie Larks, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, and more of the birds seen before.

Continuing along the road we noticed the bushes looked healthy, and the annuals had started to grow and give the area a green tinge. Our next stop was Four Mile Dam, which was almost full, with a shallow area of water in the catchment leading into the dam. Here we saw a large flock of Black-tailed Native Hens scurrying about, and more Black-fronted Dotterels, White-fronted Chats, Grey Teal, Pink-eared Ducks and a White-faced Heron. The large nitre and goosefoot shrubs growing in the flooded areas sheltered White-browed Babblers, Purple-backed Fairy-wrens, Chirruping Wedgebills, Magpie Larks and a couple of Western Grasswrens. The dam itself only had a pair of Australasian Grebes on it. In the surrounding sparse myall trees and bluebush we saw Redthroats,

White-winged Fairy-wrens, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Willie Wagtails and Emus.



#### Welcome Swallow

(Photographed by Colin Elliot at Carriererloo Station, 18 June 2023)

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

### Peregrine Falcon

*(Photographed by Larry Gruitt at Carriererloo Station, 18 June 2023)*



**Western Grasswren** *(Photographed by Bernie Haase at Carriererloo Station, 18 June 2023)*

Flying above were a Wedge-tailed Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Australian Ravens and Welcome Swallows.

Driving on, we turned onto the road to Yudnapinna Station and then followed a track to Gunter's Gorge. Here we had a late lunch and walked into the small gorge. In the mulga trees were Crested Pigeons, Mulga Parrots, Port Lincoln Parrots, and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. The gorge was lined with gum-barked coolibahs patrolled by Yellow-throated Miners and a Grey Butcherbird. The steep rocky cliffs surrounding the creek were home to a pair of Peregrine Falcons that watched our progress as we walked along the gorge.

As it was getting late and was one of the shortest days of the year, we headed back to our vehicles for our long drive home. On our way out we found some Inland and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and Red-capped Robins. We had a quick stop at Gunter Dam to see if there were any Western Grasswrens around, as we had seen them here years ago, but could not find any. By the time we drove back to the highway the sun was setting on what had been a long but enjoyable day.

A total of 43 bird species were found. The birds of the day were the Peregrine Falcons and Western Grasswrens, with a special mention to the Rufous Fieldwrens, Redthroats and Chirruping Wedgebills.

**Bernie Haase**

## Birds SA

Sunday 25 June

### Little Mount Crawford Native Forest Reserve (Jenkin's Scrub)

A hard-core group of five birders ignored good sense and severe weather warnings to assemble early in the morning at Jenkin's Scrub. A Crescent Honeyeater perched on a bare twig next to the plucky few, and gave an excellent demonstration of the species' vocal ability. Was this a good omen, were our feathered friends going to ignore the cold and gusty conditions and reward us for our bravery? We shall see!

As we ascended the left-hand track we heard plenty of calling, but the swirling wind made precise location of the singers difficult to determine. The light was poor, making it hard to detect what little avian movement was occurring, and even harder to identify.

We had several good close views of both genders of White-throated Treecreepers doing their thing amongst the stringybarks. Superb Fairy-wrens were heard, but were tricky to actually see as they were mainly sheltering amongst the Xanthorrea. Crescent Honeyeaters continued to call but proved elusive to the eye amongst the bare branches. A few small groups of Thornbills were seen amongst the tree canopies, but as they can be challenging to observe in good light it was even more challenging as the gloom descended.

Several Grey Fantails were observed, and these at least put on their usual show darting around and spreading their fans as if they feared being missed. At the highest point of the track we saw an Emu before it saw us and took flight, later sneaking back towards us. A Western Whistler was heard calling but could not be located.

There were a number of pairs of Crimson Rosellas seen moving through the trees, as well as a Common Bronzewing and Red-browed Finches. Grey Shrike-thrushes put in appearances as well as more Thornbill species and a couple of Grey Currawongs.

By the time we began our descent towards Mount Road the birds appeared to have had enough, and the wind was gusting with even greater vigour and threatening to bring a drenching. As we walked along Mount Road towards our start point we chanced upon Australian Magpies, a Striated Pardalote, and some more Thornbills in the canopy testing our identification skills yet again. In a fitting end just before we reached our journey's end, some White-winged Choughs could be heard emitting their mournful cries. At least we didn't have a flock of Kookaburras laughing at us!

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

Rose very kindly invited us to conduct the bird call at her home nearby, where we enjoyed coffee and biscuits in comfort, and saw nearly as many birds as we did on the walk. A total of 18 bird species were seen on the excursion with 2 more heard.

**Richard Woodland**

### Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 1 July 2023

#### Hindmarsh Island

On a cool, and slightly breezy, winter's day, thirteen hardy members assembled at the Information Bay on the Hindmarsh Island side of the bridge. Thirteen proved to be a lucky number.

We visited five different sites on the island, on what proved to be a very productive morning of birdwatching. Our first destination was overlooking the Goolwa Barrage from the Hindmarsh Island seaward side. Here, there were many water birds bobbing around on the waves and we had good views of Pacific Black Duck (2), Australasian Shoveler (6), Chestnut Teal (6), Grey Teal (100), Hardhead (6), Australasian Coot (50), Hoary-headed Grebe (2) and Black Swan (20). Perched on the barrage and on posts in the water were Australasian Pelicans (6), Little Pied Cormorants (20) and Little Black Cormorants (2). About thirty seals were sheltering on the land at the Hindmarsh Island end of the barrage and entertained us with their squabbling.

From the barrage, we headed inland along Randall Road and stopped on a rise to look out over an area of wetlands. Numerous species were identified in this location, including a gathering of Black-tailed Native-hen (70), Pied Stilt (40), Great Egret (3) and Australian White Ibis (8). A lone Australian Shelduck was seen. We also saw White-faced Heron (4), Masked Lapwing (2), Nankeen Kestrel (2), a Black-shouldered Kite and a Whistling Kite.



**Expectant birders** (Photographed by Bob Daly on Hindmarsh Island, 1 July 2023)



**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** (Photographed by Bob Daly on Hindmarsh Island, 1 July 2023)

We then ventured further along Randall Road to a private property that we had been given permission to visit. About fifteen years ago, this property was totally overgrown with Aleppo Pines and the owners have done an amazing job of clearing away all the pines and revegetating the area with native trees and shrubs. We were able to see a number of woodland bird species in this area including Superb Fairy-wren (10), Red-browed Finch (2), Grey Fantail (3), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (3), Brown Thornbill (2), Silvereye (15), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (3), a White-browed Scrubwren, a Brown Goshawk, and a male Western Whistler.

Our next stop was at Mundoo Channel and Hunters Creek. Everyone in the group got excellent views of several adult Nankeen Night Herons that were flushed from their roost in pine trees. We then ventured on foot into the Lawari Conservation Park, walking over a bridge across the fishway in Hunters Creek. Here we managed to record Golden-headed Cisticola (2), Little Grassbird (1), Elegant Parrot (2), Brush Bronzewing (3), and an Australasian Darter.

Our last destination was the Murray Mouth. Many birds were congregated at the eastern end of the beach, including Caspian Tern (100), Crested Tern (100), Red-necked Avocet (30), Sooty Oystercatcher (30), Australian Pied Oystercatcher (30), Pied Cormorant (1), Black-faced Cormorant (5) and a single, White-bellied Sea-Eagle flying east over the Murray Mouth.

Those of us without other commitments returned to the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Plant Nursery for lunch and bird call. In summary, it was a friendly and enjoyable morning, and a total of 72 bird species were seen and heard.

**Richard Smyth**

## Past Excursions *(continued)*

### Birds SA

Saturday 8 July

### Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park

The Birds SA excursion on Saturday 8 July 2023 was one which I didn't think would go ahead. As excursion leader, I was determined that should anyone turn up, I would be there to lead, and had organised members of the Friends of Aldinga Scrub to attend and show us some of the highlights. It rained the day before with over 12mm at Noarlunga, and the overnight temperature dropped to 9 degrees. The forecast for Saturday morning wasn't much better!

When I arrived at 8.30am, mist falling, the brave Ali Ben Kahn was already there and soon two hardy Friends of the Aldinga Scrub arrived. We decided to proceed.

We headed north along the Boomerang Track, thinking that if the weather deteriorated any further we would call it a day. Despite the cold and with few birds calling, we proceeded. How lucky was I to have Julie Burgher and Julie Turner from the Aldinga Friends to help spot birds and plants, with both being highly skilled in both aspects. Ali added a further level to the expertise on hand.

The vegetation in the park was in very good condition given the favourable rains we had for a few years. I had never seen so many sun orchids, with their large, flat

green leaves almost everywhere we went. Rock ferns were also prolific. Despite seeing few flowering orchids, I was reassured that native orchid species still survived in such numbers. Evidently it takes fire to promote flowering of the fire orchids.

One of the first birds seen, up high in a distant dead tree, was a female Mistletoebird. Several females were seen before we found a well-coloured male. Birding was hard work, with Rainbow Lorikeets and Superb Fairy-wrens the only birds easily seen. We pushed on. As we passed the Bearded-copper Orchid enclosure, one was spotted outside the enclosure, protected by a strategically placed eucalypt branch. This rare orchid is fenced to keep herbivores from destroying them, with other plant species also benefiting. It was interesting to see in a corner of the enclosure some Lacy Coral Lichen, which had been translocated from the main patch in the northwest corner of the park. It appeared to be doing very well.

The original lichen spot is also fenced for its protection and this area is well-known for Weebills and other small birds. One of the highlights of the walk was a close-up view of a Yellow Thornbill, which searched for insects in a bush just a metre away. It flew out of the bush, hovered for a moment, and then returned to the bush, all in close vicinity to me. It was an amazing sight!

Other interesting birds seen on the return walk included an Eastern Spinebill, always a favourite, White-plumed Honeyeaters (4), and several Western Whistlers (4), mainly females. Mistletoebirds (15) were a highlight that morning, and while we ate lunch and completed the birdcall a White-browed Scrubwren, Crested Pigeons (4) and a Blackbird were added to the list.

A total of 26 bird species were seen on a rather cold, windy morning, but it was the company and the amazing knowledge of three of the four birders that was the real highlight. Thanks to the two Julies and Ali for making the morning so memorable.

**Alan Burns**

*Clockwise from top left*

#### **Examples of park vegetation**

*Lacy Coral Lichen, Fire Orchid, Flowering Sundews, Mosquito Orchids, Rock Fern*

*(Photographed by Alan Burns at Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park, 8 July 2023)*



## Past Excursions *(continued)*

### Port Augusta Bird Group (The Babblers)

Sunday 16 July  
**Mundallio Station**

It was a chilly but calm and clear morning when 12 birders met next to the Port Augusta Cemetery on Carlton Parade: two each from Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Whyalla, Port Neill and Adelaide, with one each from Wilmington and Mambray Creek.

We drove along Depot Creek Road for about 5 km before turning off to Mundallio Station. The area was mainly a chenopod plain dominated by black bluebush with a large area of sand hills. We stopped when we spotted some White-fronted Chats, White-winged Fairy-wrens and Pipits, and walked into the sand hill area. A Kestrel sat on a fence post as small flocks of Galahs lazily drifted past. Crested Pigeons, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters and Zebra finches were in the low shrubs, and Chirruping Wedgebills called out nearby.

We split into small groups and searched around in the scattered sand hill scrub. White-browed Babblers, Purple-backed Fairy-wrens, a Red Wattlebird and Red-capped Robins hid in the bushes while Elegant Parrots sat quietly on the shrubs. Mallee Ringnecks noisily flew away from us as Australian Ravens and Wedge-tailed Eagles passed overhead. A Black-eared Cuckoo and several Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos were found.



**Brown-headed Honeyeater** (Photographed by Richard Croll at Mundallio Station, 16 July 2023)



**Elegant Parrot** (Photographed by Bernie Haase at Mundallio Station, 16 July 2023)



**Southern Whiteface** (Photographed by Richard Croll at Mundallio Station, 16 July 2023)

A Pallid Cuckoo was discovered later when we looked at the photos taken by our group.

We drove on towards the Emeroo Range part of the Flinders Ranges, passing more White-winged Fairy-wrens that would have been worried by the Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos. We heard and briefly saw Rufous Fieldwrens as we drove along Mundallio Creek. The red gum lined creek had Grey Butcherbirds, Elegant Parrots, Kestrels, Starlings, a Blue Bonnet, Mallee Ringnecks, Flinders Adelaide Rosellas, Yellow-throated Miners and Chirruping Wedgebills in the trees and shrubs, as we stopped for a late smoko. The property owners were having a BBQ nearby and chatted with us.

There was a bit of bird activity in the area, and we split up and searched through the creek and adjoining mallee areas. The mallee trees had lots of Weebills and some Red Wattlebirds, Striated Pardalotes, Grey Fantails, a Mistletoebird, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes moving about in the foliage. At ground level there were many Southern Whiteface and some Yellow-rumped and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Redthroats, Purple-backed Fairy-wrens, White-browed Babblers, Magpies and a

## Past Excursions *(continued)*



**Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** (Photographed by Judy Owen at Mundallio Station, 16 July 2023)

Common Bronzewing. In the creek we added Rufous Whistlers, Australian Ravens, Tree Martin, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Willie Wagtails and Welcome Swallows.

We drove along a valley between the hills called Long Gully, which is predominantly lined by mallee tree woodland with some open areas with low shrubbery. We stopped for a late lunch at an open area and saw more of the birds we had seen in the creek area, as well as Emus, Galahs, Inland Thornbills, Brown-headed and White-fronted Honeyeaters, Silvereyes and Grey Currawongs.

We drove on dodging some roadside erosion and fallen timber along the way, and stopped when we heard the call of a Gilbert's Whistler. A pair came close enough for us to get photos, and more Redthroats and Purple-backed Fairy-wrens were seen. As it was getting late we stopped and waited for the tail-end of our convoy to catch up. While waiting we found some Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters and Grey Shrike-thrush to add to our bird list. When the others caught up we discovered they had been delayed due to finding some Western Whistlers.

The sun was descending behind the hills as we drove back along Long Gully to Mundallio Creek, and added a Black-shouldered Kite that was perched on top of a dead red gum to our bird list. We arrived at the homestead where we thanked the owners and said goodbye, and added Magpie-larks and a Blackbird from the house garden to our list. On the way back to Stirling North a Brown Falcon was the last bird we saw on Mundallio.

A total of 58 bird species were found. The bird of the day was the Gilbert's Whistler, with a special mention to the Black-eared Cuckoo, Chirruping Wedgebills, Rufous Fieldwrens, Redthroats and Western Whistlers.

**Bernie Haase**

## Birds SA

Thursday 20 July

### Laratinga Wetlands

Half a dozen keen birders turned up to Laratinga Wetlands on this rather wet and blustery day. After an unpromising start, the weather cleared and there were only a few light showers throughout the morning. Water levels were very high in all ponds, with no mudflats evident. This resulted in less diversity of birdlife than has been seen at Laratinga Wetlands in the past.

The only waders seen were a few Masked Lapwings and a single Black-fronted Dotterel at the wastewater ponds. While there seemed to be few birds around, many of those we saw were quite obliging, hanging about for their photo opportunity. Highlights included pairs of Blue-billed Ducks and Australasian Shovelers, Hardhead (20), Australian Spotted Crake (a first sighting and on one group member's wishlist), Crested Shrike-tit (on the wishlist of another group member), a male Western Whistler, Australian Reed-Warbler, several Little Grassbirds, and Spotless Crake (4).

By the end of the morning, 50 bird species had been recorded. All in all, an enjoyable and productive morning.

**Bonny Vogelzang**



**Crested Shrike-tit** (Photographed by James Allan at Laratinga Wetlands, 20 July 2023)

## Thick-billed Grasswrens at Balcanoona

Lynton Huxley's report of the Balcanoona Easter Campout (The Winter 2023 Birder pp 33-34) included observations of Painted Finch, Bourke's Parrot and Thick-billed Grasswren, all rarely identified in the area. I wondered if Short-tailed Grasswrens might have been seen in the Gammons, but Thick-billed Grasswrens have never been reported from the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. I was keen to obtain details.

During surveys of Thick-billed Grasswrens (Black, Carpenter and Pedler SAOrn 37, 60-75, 2011) our closest records to Balcanoona (as the grasswren flutters) were from Petermorra Creek on the Strzelecki Track near the north-eastern extremity of the Flinders Ranges (subspecies *raglessi*) and near Wirrealpa Homestead east of Blinman (about 75 km southwest, subspecies *curnamona*). A little closer to the north but still 90 km distant was an observation by Gordon Ragless near the western shore of Lake Callabonna in July 1985 (SAOA newsletter 119 p 9) which we could not corroborate during our surveys. We later found grasswrens nearer to Lake Frome on Wirrealpa Station but still about 75 km distant.

Which grasswren was seen 'in the sand dune swales at the Lake Frome shelter' on Balcanoona Station?

### The observations

I first caught up with Bill Alcock who had briefly seen two grasswrens 'disappearing over the dunes'. He was confident that they were grasswrens, being able to compare their size with fairywrens on the dunes and he had seen Rufous Fieldwrens on the flat near the lake. But he was unsure of the species, commenting that the habitat seemed more suitable for Eyrean Grasswrens, which occur to the east of Lake Callabonna, not much farther to the north than the closest Thick-billed Grasswren record.

The first to see a grasswren, on 6 April, the day before Bill, were Mike and Jenny Ashton. Like Bill, they are experienced observers of grasswrens and have travelled the country to see all 13 species (as of present counting!). They watched a single bird over about a minute, seeing it fly up to perch about a metre above ground, drop back after about ten seconds and run to the other side of the bush. For a grasswren, its cocked tail was relatively short,



**Thick-billed Grasswren subspecies *curnamona***  
(Photographed by Scott McGregor on Wirrealpa Station)

although longer than a Short-tailed Grasswren. Its thick bill had a down-curved upper profile but was not as heavy as the Eyrean Grasswren's which they felt confident they had excluded on the basis of plumage differences.

### Interpretation

The observations on Balcanoona Frome paddock are about 55km due north of a report of two Thick-billed Grasswrens seen northwest of Frome Downs Homestead by Janette Diment and Ross Brittain on 18 August 2020 (The summer 2020 Birder, p 9). That record was itself a range extension of about 30 km northeast of sightings of subspecies *curnamona* on Wirrealpa Station. Records of subspecies *raglessi*, including the one near Lake Callabonna, are substantially more distant and it is unlikely that the Balcanoona birds represent remnants of a connecting population. More likely they are outliers of the *curnamona* population that have dispersed beyond their core distribution.

Movements of grasswrens are poorly documented. They are weak fliers, yet there are occasional records of Thick-billed Grasswrens 100 km or more beyond established distributional limits. We have much to learn and observations such as these add to the sum of knowledge.

**Andrew Black**  
23 July 2023

# Future Excursions

The following excursions have been scheduled, but are subject to cancellation or change due to weather conditions or the closure of a site for conservation requirements. It is important that you check the **Birds SA website and / or Facebook page for any updated information. Updates will be provided 24 hours prior to the commencement of any affected excursions.**

Please be aware of our **Hot Weather Protocol:** if a Fire Ban is in effect, or the forecast temperature is 36C or above in the area of a scheduled excursion, that walk is automatically cancelled.

We ask that members only attend field trips if they are well and have no cold or flu-like symptoms.

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). Distances provided with excursion information below are km from Adelaide.

## 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

If you require any further information contact:

**Lynton Huxley**

*Field Program Co-ordinator and Campout Organiser*

**Phone: 0498 466 092**

**Email: [fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au) or [lyntonhuxley@gmail.com](mailto:lyntonhuxley@gmail.com)**

## Fleurieu Birders

**Saturday 2 September:**

**Pangarinda Botanic Garden** **Moderate** 107 km.

Meet at 8.30am at the entrance on Pangarinda Drive, Wellington East.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Wendy Phillips*

## Birds SA

**Saturday 9 September**

**Scott Creek Conservation Park** **Moderate** 28 km.

Meet at 8.30am at Gate 20 located on Frith Road, which runs off Dorset Vale Road, Cherry Gardens. This area of the Park was spared from the devastating fires last year.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Jim Spiker*

## Port Augusta Bird Group - The Babblers

**Sunday 10 September**

**Wirrabara Forest Reserve** **Moderate**

Meet at 8.30am at Wirrabara Hotel, High Street, Wirrabara.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Bernie Haase*

## Birds SA

**Thursday 21 September**

**Belair National Park** **Moderate** 13km.

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

EXCURSION LEADER: *Lynton Huxley*

## Birds SA

**Sunday 24 September**

**Kinchina Conservation Park** **Easy** 69 km.

Meet at 8.30am at the Cypress Hill Trail car park at the junction of Maurice Road and the main railway line to Melbourne. To get there from Adelaide, follow the South Eastern Freeway and take the exit north towards Monarto. Follow Ferries McDonald Road, turn right onto Old Princes Highway, and then take Maurice Road on your left. The car park about 2.5 km along this road.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Ali Ben Kahn*

## Birds SA

**29 September to 3 October**

**LONG WEEKEND CAMPOUT – Hallelujah Hills**

**Easy – Moderate** 140km.

**Note:** our campground access will be from Friday morning 29 September until Tuesday afternoon 3 October. Hallelujah Hills is one of two Heritage Agreement properties owned by Worlds End Conservation Pty Ltd between Roberstown and Burra in the Mid North. We have been granted access through Ali Ben Kahn, a member of Worlds End Conservation Pty Ltd.

To get there from Roberstown, head north (towards Burra) on Worlds End Highway for approximately 12 km. Turn left into Gregurke Road, a dirt road on the left just before some buildings, and continue for approx 4 km until the road makes a sharp turn to the left. The entrance to the camping area is on the right just before

## Future Excursions *(continued)*

the turn, and is signed. Follow the track for approx 500m to the camping area near the shed. Note: please DO NOT drive into the central area where there is a rain gauge and regenerating native grasses. All camping and vehicles are restricted to the left of the track and in the cleared areas near the shed.

The property is 414 hectares in area between Gregurke Road and Hallelujah Hills Road. The campout area is off Gregurke Road through a locked gate and this will be opened on Friday morning. During the weekend we can also visit Read Creek Hills, which backs onto Hopkins Creek Conservation Park. As Red Banks Conservation Park is nearby we plan to have an outing there too. Members will need to be self-sufficient, including all water and food. A porta-loo will be available. No shower or kitchen facilities are available. .

Our official campout activities will be from 8.30am on Saturday 30 September to 1.00pm Tuesday 3 October. We will need to be off the property by 3.00pm on Tuesday. Participants will be asked to pay a \$40 per vehicle fee (covering one or more days). A Birds SA receipt will be issued on payment.

It would be most helpful if you could register your intention to participate using the Birds SA Member Jungle app. You may also contact Lynton Huxley by email at [lyntonhuxley@gmail.com](mailto:lyntonhuxley@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance or to get more information about the event. We look forward to seeing you there!

EXCURSION LEADER: *Lynton Huxley* (0498 466 092)

### Fleurieu Birders

**Saturday 7 October**

**Scott Conservation Park, Currency Creek** **Moderate** 74 km.

Meet at the first car park on Gould Road, turning off Deep Creek Road.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Bob Daly*

### Port Augusta Bird Group - The Babblers

**Sunday 8 October**

**Bernie's Block** **Easy**

Meet at 8.00am in the parking bay on the railway side off Augusta Highway, Mambray Creek.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Bernie Haase*

### Birds SA

**Saturday 14 October**

**Whites Road Wetlands** **Easy** 16 km.

Head north on Port Wakefield Road. Approximately 1.5 km after passing under Salisbury Highway, turn left onto Globe Derby Drive. After about 1 km, the road turns to the right: this is Whites Road. Turn right and continue to the end. The Park entrance is on the left. Meet at 8.30am.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Clive Paling*

### Birds SA

**Thursday 19 October**

**Lobethal Bushland Park** **Moderate** 43 km.

Meet at 8.30am in the car park about 2 km north of Lobethal at 25 Kenton Valley Road. The entrance is on your left.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Rose Slade*

### Birds SA

**Sunday 29 October**

**Myponga Reservoir Reserve** **Easy** 60 km.

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

EXCURSION LEADER: *Lynton Huxley*

### Fleurieu Birders

**Saturday 4 November**

**Beyond Ponds, Hayborough** **Easy** 81 km.

Meet at 8.30am at the Fleurieu Aquatic Centre on Waterport Road, Hayborough.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Win Syson*

### Port Augusta Bird Group - The Babblers

**Friday 10 November to Monday 13 November**

**Cowell / Arno Bay / Whyalla Wetlands** **Moderate**

**CAMPOUT** – facilities available, costs apply. Meet at 9.00am. Further information available from Bernie Haase at [b.haase@telstra.com](mailto:b.haase@telstra.com).

### Birds SA

**Saturday 11 November:**

**Buckland Lake, Port Gawler** **Easy** 45 km.

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

EXCURSION LEADER: **\*\* Volunteer required\*\***

### Birds SA

**Thursday 16 November**

**Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens** **Moderate** 19 km.

Meet at 8.30am in the lower car park off Lambert Road. To get there, leave the South Eastern Freeway at the Crafrers Interchange and follow Piccadilly Road for about 3 km before turning left onto Trigg Road.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Lynton Huxley*

## Future Excursions *(continued)*

### Birds SA

Sunday 26 November

Cox Scrub Conservation Park

**Moderate** 66 km.

The Park is located 70 km south of Adelaide and approximately 5 km south of the town of Ashbourne on Bull Creek Road. Meet at 8.30am in the northern car park.

EXCURSION LEADER: **\*\* Volunteer required\*\***

### Fleurieu Birders

Saturday 2 December

Kessell Road Ponds, Goolwa **Easy** 83 km.

Meet at 4.00pm for a Christmas break-up. The bird walk will be followed by tea at the rotunda on Porter Street, Goolwa. BYO food and drinks. Chairs and BBQ available. Finish at 6.30pm.

### Birds SA

Saturday 9 December

Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve

**Moderate** 20 km.

Meet at 8.30am in the car park opposite the roundabout at the junction of Chandlers Hill Road and Kenihans Road, Happy Valley.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Ray Nias*

### Port Augusta Bird Group - The Babblers

Sunday 10 December

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden **Easy**

144 Stuart Highway, Port Augusta West. Meet in the car park at 7.30am. Bird watching, followed by Christmas lunch in the cafe and showing of the year's best birding photos.

EXCURSION LEADER: *Bernie Haase*

### Birds SA

Thursday 21 December

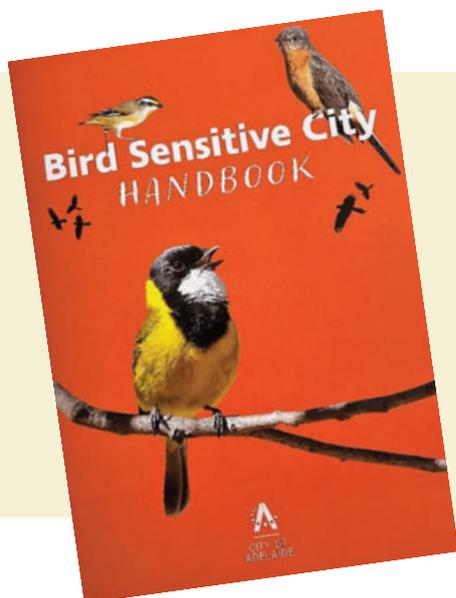
Onkaparinga River Wetlands **Easy** 32 km.

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

EXCURSION LEADER: *Ali Ben Kahn*



**Eastern Yellow Wagtail** (Photographed by Richard Croll at St. Kilda Beach SA, 16 June 2023)



The Adelaide City Council has just added to their website a 26-page booklet called Bird Sensitive City Handbook. Birds SA is one of the groups which supported and contributed to this publication. A PDF of the booklet can be downloaded from the website by opening the **Biodiversity in Adelaide** link, scrolling down to **Park Biodiversity** and selecting **+Birds** from the list.

For those interested, the Biodiversity group has provided a limited number of hard copies (at no charge) for collection from the Council office at 25 Pirie Street in the city.

# 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](mailto: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).

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### Malleefowl

2, 5/7/2023. Lincoln NP, EP.Branson, M.

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### Australasian Shoveler

5 males, 10/5/2023. West Beach stormwater pond, AP.  
Edey, D.

Also 1 seen on 29/5/2023 by D. & P Carter.  
15, 29/6/2023. Saint Kilda, AP. Kaashoek, M.

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### Musk Duck

*Several reports from the mainstream and lagoons along the river following the flood.*

3, 21/5/2023. Border Cliffs, MM. Carpenter, G.  
5, 2/6/2023. Morgan Ferry, MM. Rosemary Lloyd  
5, 3/6/2023. Paiwalla Wetlands, MM. Rich, G.  
2, 15/6/2023. Cadell Lagoon, MM. Hammond, S.  
2, 24/6/2023. Morgan CP, MM. La May, V.

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### Black Swan

3, 4/5/2023. Victoria Park, Pakapakanthi Wetlands, AP.  
Reid, I.  
100, 25/7/2023. Aldinga Washpool, MLR. McConnell, G.

---

### Pink-eared Duck

5, 10/7/2023. West Beach stormwater pond, AP.  
Carter, D. & P.

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### Freckled Duck

420, 18/6/2023. Millicent, Lake MacIntyre, SE. Boyle, S.

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### Hoary-headed Grebe

1, 5/6/2023. Grange, AP. In sea just offshore.  
Shaughnessy, P.

*Rarely reported from the sea off suburban beaches.*

---

### Diamond Dove

1, 1/6/2023. Salter Springs, MLR. Steeles, C

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### Spotted Nightjar

1, 19/6/2023. Pinkerton Plains, AP. Milde, S.  
1, 20/6/2023. S of Balgowan, YP. Moody, S.

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### Wilson's Storm Petrel

2, 20/6/2023. Streaky Bay, Little Islands, EP.  
McKay, J. & G.

---

### Fiordland Penguin

1 beach-washed, 29/6/2023. Hayborough Beach, MLR.  
Biddle, J.

---

### Australasian Gannet

17, 6/6/2023. Off Port Clinton, YP.  
Taylor, P.W. & Moore, G.

---

### Australasian Darter

*Larger than usual numbers reported along River Murray including:*

20, 21/5/2023. Border Cliffs, MM. Includes nest with  
young in red gum overhanging river. Carpenter, G.  
65, 22/5/2023. Paringa, MM. Carpenter, G.  
15, 3/6/2023. Paiwalla Wetlands, MM. Rich, G.  
Also 13 reported there on 14 June by M. Merchant.  
15, 5/6/2023. Blanchetown, MM. Falconer, R.  
Also one female, 30/6/2023. Naracoorte  
council depot, SE. Mahoney, B.

---

### Great Egret

*Larger than usual numbers reported in drying lagoons along River Murray including:*

200, 7/5/2023. Murray Bridge, Narooma Wetland.  
Borchardt, D.  
123, 8/5/2023. Long Flat, MM. Borchardt, D.  
100s, 19/5/2023. Mypolonga, MM. Mildwaters, J.  
100, 21/5/2023. Border Cliffs, MM. Carpenter, G.  
200+, 8/6/2023. Ponde, MM. Mildwaters, J.

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### Cattle Egret

1, 27/4/2023. Aldinga Washpool, MLR. Bainbridge, T.  
2, 29/4/2023. Tolderol GR, MM. Ames, L.  
1, 12/6/2023. Dublin, AP. Letheby, R.  
1, 17/6/2023. Farm Beach, Mount Dutton  
Bay, EP. Puckridge, Y.& F.  
1, 27/7/2023. Port Wakefield, AP. Taylor, P.W.

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### Intermediate Egret

Up to 6, 18/6 to 2/7/2023. Ponde, MM. On receding  
floodwaters on river flats. Up to 50 Great Egrets, 40  
White-necked Herons, 10 Yellow-billed and 20 Royal  
Spoonbills also present.

West, A., Jack, T.; Hopton, D.; Ed Smith, Heikaus, A. &  
Moritz, M. *et al.*

1, 25/6/2023. Caloote, MM. Lange, J. & Mildred, J.  
1, 23/7/2023. Cowirra Swamp, MM. Rich, G. & Fowler, A.

## Bird Records *(continued)*

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### Australasian Bittern

16, 27/5/2023. Picks Swamp, SE. Green, B.  
1 flying over, 26/7/2023. Myponga Reservoir, MLR. Bainbridge, T.

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### Yellow-billed Spoonbill

30, 12/6/2023. Pompoota, MM. Jack, T.

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### Straw-necked Ibis

28, 24/4/2023. Hope Valley Reservoir, MLR. Gordon, S.  
1, 30/6/2023. Whyalla Wetlands, EP. Croll, R.

---

### Straw-necked x White Ibis

1, 5/5/2023. Port Clinton, YP. Taylor, P.W.

*Previous reports of hybrids from the Port Wakefield area reported in SA Ornithologist 46:61, and mixed pairs have nested at Outer Harbor, Bird Island since 2002.*

---

### White-bellied Sea Eagle

Immature, 12/5/2023. Black Forest, AP.  
Flying high over towards south-west. Carpenter, G.  
Immature, 24/5/2023. Innamincka, NE. Hatch, J.  
1, 12/7/2023. Middle Beach, AP. Carter, D. & P.

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### Black-breasted Buzzard

1, 30/4/2023. 7.5km S Parachilna, FR.  
Horton, P. & Evans, M.

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### Osprey

1, 10/5/2023. Barmera, Lake Bonney, MM. Letheby, R.  
Also reported there on 28-29 May by Jack, T. and Leddy, L.

1, 13/7/2023. Aldinga Reef, MLR. Feeding offshore.  
Jones, K. and Thompson, J.

*A nesting tower has recently been erected nearby at the mouth of the Onkaparinga River.*

---

### Black Falcon

1 overhead, 6/6/2023. Botanic Gardens, Adelaide, AP. Chasing a flock of corellas. Smith, G.

---

### Buff-banded Rail

*A number of recent reports from widespread localities.*

1, 4/5/2023. West Beach storm-water pond, AP.  
Edey, D.

Also seen on 10/7/2023 by Carter, D. & P.

1, 11/5/2023. Robe, Lake Butler, SE. Carter, D. & P.  
2, 12/5/2023. Lake Robe, SE. Carter, D. & P.

1, 17/5/2023. Hayborough Wetlands, MLR. Weinert, D.  
1, 21/5/2023. Henley Beach, AP. In suburban garden. Muir, K.

1, 21/5/2023. 1 km E Vivonne Bay, KI. Baxter, D.  
1, 25/5/2023. Saint Kilda, AP. Steeles, C. & Girdham, L.

1, 28/5/2023. Mannum, MM. Mildwaters, J.  
1, 28/5/2023. Cowirra, MM. Edey, D. & Copley, P.

1, 1/6/2023. Cox Scrub CP, MLR. Caldecott, G.

Also seen on 3/6/2023 by Phillips, W. et al.

2, 6/6/2023. Reynella East, Byards Rd wetland, MLR. Matthews, S.

1, 14/6/2023. Cowell foreshore, EP. Croll, R.

1, 10/7/2023. Tintinara, Lake Indawarra, SE. Harris, E.

1, 11/7/2023. Vine Vale, MLR. Wilksch, S.

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### Lewin's Rail

1, 24/4/2023. Tolderol GR, MM. Hatch, J.

1, 26/6/2023. Mount George CP, MLR.

In dense patch of blackberry. Hunt, T.

Calling from reedbed, 13/7/2023.

Salisbury Heights, Little Para River, AP. Hayward, L.

---

### Australian Spotted Crake

2, 29/5/2023. American River, KI. Buick, I.

2, 29/5/2023. West Beach storm-water pond, AP. Also 3 on 13/6 and 10/7. Carter, D. & P.

1, 5/6/2023. Whyalla wetlands, EP. Croll, R.

4, 11/6/2023. Cowell foreshore, EP. Walford, E.

2, 14/6/2023. Vivonne Bay, Harriett River, KI. Buick, I.

1, 19/6/2023. Happy Valley Reservoir, MLR. Very, P.

12, 11/7/2023. West Beach storm-water pond, AP. Edey, D.

---

### Black-tailed Nativehen

*A few reports of large numbers in southern regions.*

*Irruptions of this species into southern regions tend to coincide with the previous black-tailed Nativehen reports, with the last following wet years in the mid 1970s.*

1, 26/4/2023. Paradise, AP. Cellier, G.

1, 3/6/2023. West Beach storm-water pond, AP.  
Edey, D. & Russell, V-J.

100, 5/6/2023. Port Wakefield golf course, AP. Taylor, P.W.

100, 6/6/2023. Saint Kilda, AP. Henderson, D.

1000, 14/6/2023. Wellington, MM. Jack, T.

2, 9/7/2023. Victoria Park, Pakapakanthi Wetlands, AP. Pace, D.

Also 5 seen on 17/7/2023 by C. & R. Bourne.

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### Australian Bustard

1, 17/5/2023. Templers, AP. Girdham, L.

1, 4/7/2023. Farrell Flat, MN. Trengove, I.

---

### Sanderling

2, 16/6/2023. Murray Mouth, MM.

One bird with breeding plumage. Moore, G. *et al.*

---

### Whimbrel

1, 24/4/2023. Port Clinton, YP. Letheby, R.

1, 15/5/2023. Clinton CP, AP. Taylor, P.E. & Moore, G.

1, 14/7/2023. Thompson Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.

1, 23/7/2023. Port Prime, AP. Van Trigt, M-A. & Bell, W.

---

### Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

6, 24/7/2023. Price Saltfields, YP. Jack, T. *et al.*

*An unusual winter record for a species that usually departs Australia from May-August.*

## Bird Records *(continued)*

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### Painted Buttonquail

1 found dead, 24/4/2023. Reynella, Sherriffs Rd, MLR. Mary, E.  
Pair + juvenile, 11/5/2023. Woodcroft, MLR. Brooker, W.  
1, 13/6/2023. Edinburgh, AP. Woodland, R.

---

### Antarctic Tern

2, 8/7/2023. Port MacDonnell, SE. Rogers, C. & Hull, S.

---

### White-fronted Tern

12, 24/7/2023. Port MacDonnell harbor, SE. Bartram, K.

---

### Little Corella

800, 6/6/2023. Middle River, North Coast Rd, KI. Paterson, C.  
*Increasing numbers on KI where they have been reported nesting in red gums along Cygnet River and in sugar gums on the north coast.*

---

### Scarlet-chested Parrot

Up to 100, 27/4 to 10/7/2023. Gluepot Reserve, MM. Johnston, G., McConnell, G, and Taylor, P.W. *et al.*  
*Such large groups have not been reported in the MM since the 1960s, when many were allegedly trapped for the bird trade.*

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### Bourke's Parrot

6, 12/6/2023. Nepabunna, FR. Crammond, G.

---

### Blue Bonnet

2, 10/3/2023. Monarto, Browns Rd, MM. Laubscher, A.&S.

---

### *Many reports of Fan-tailed and Pallid Cuckoos from the Adelaide area.*

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### Fan-tailed Cuckoo

1, 17/6/2023. Owen, AP. Steeles, C.  
1, 20/6/2023. Black Forest, Dryden Rd, AP. Feeding on 'woolly-bear' caterpillars in suburban veggie garden. Carpenter, G.  
2, 10/7/2023. Bowmans, AP. With 6 Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos along roadside. Taylor, P.W.

---

### Pallid Cuckoo

1, 30/5/2023. Bowmans, AP. Taylor, P.W.  
4, 21/6/2023. South Hummocks, MN. Taylor, P.W. & Moore, G.  
1, 24/6/2023. Tokuremour CP, MLR. Edey, D.  
1, 30/6/2023. Hallett Cove boardwalk, MLR. Birch, B.  
1, 30/6/2023. Naracoorte, SE. Laycock, H.

---

### Dollarbird

1 immature, 20-31/5/2023. Vivonne Bay, KI. Baxter, D.  
*First reported on KI in April-May 1978, with occasional records since.*

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### White-throated Treecreeper

1, 3/7/2023. Woodcroft, MLR. First report in area, in Grey Box woodland. Brooker, W.

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### Striated Pardalote

200, 21/5/2023. Border Cliffs, MM. Loose flock feeding in canopy of red gums. Carpenter, G.

---

### Eastern Spinebill

*Relatively late reports from suburban AP this year*

1, 1/5/2023. St Peters, Harrow Rd, AP. Breed, E.  
1, 14/6/2023. Black Forest, AP. Kemper, C.  
1, 25/5/2023. Cumberland Park, Cardiff St, AP. Carpenter, G.  
Heard, 26/6/2023. Rose Park, AP. Hansman, D.

---

### Orange Chat

1, 18/5/2023. Tolderol GR, MM. Jack, T.  
4, 3/6/2023. Taldra, MM. Potter, M.

---

### White-fronted Honeyeater

12, 6/6/2023. Swan Reach CP, MM. In flowering mallees. Slade, R. & Georg, D.

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### Ground Cuckooshrike

5, 14/6/2023. Beltana, FR. Story, R.

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### Golden Whistler

*This is the former south-eastern subspecies 'youngi' that has recently been split from 'fuliginosa' (Western Whistler), the common breeding 'golden whistler' near and west of Adelaide. The range and particularly breeding range is poorly known in the SE region. Birds disperse widely in autumn-winter.*

1, 29/5/2023. Aldinga Beach, MLR. Burgher, J.  
Pair, 5/7/2023. Valley Lake, SE. Huon, C.  
1, 6/7/2023. Naracoorte Caves, SE. Possingham, H.  
1, 11/7/2023. Custon, SE. Possingham, H.

---

### Pied Butcherbird

2, 3/6/2023. Taldra, MM. Potter, M.  
1, 15/6/2023. Ponde, MM. Tildesley, L.  
Adult, 30/7/2023. Birdwood, MLR. Photographed in garden. Lewis, A.  
*A bird reported from Angaston in the last newsletter.*

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### White-winged Chough

*Correction from last Birder*

20, 19/3/2023. Should read **Scott Creek CP**, not Scott CP. Spiker, J.  
1 group, 21/6/2023. Little Bool Lagoon, SE. Leddy, L.

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## Bird Records *(continued)*

### Red-capped Robin

*Many reports in the Adelaide area:*

Male, 19/5/2023. Kilburn, Bank St., AP.  
 Found dead. Thurmer, J.  
 Male, 2/6/2023. Dudley Park, AP. Bruer, M.  
 1 female, 3/6/2023. Saint Kilda, AP. Heness, R.  
 Also 2 females seen on 6/6/2023 by D. Henderson.  
 Female, 4/6/2023. Aldinga Scrub CP, MLR. Thompson, J.  
 Pair, 6/6/2023. Garden Island, AP. Carter, D. & P.  
 Also a male seen on 18/7/2023 by S. Sharp and 1 on  
 1/7/2023 by M. Blake  
 1 immature, 6/6/2023. Patawalonga Creek, AP. Edey, D.  
 Female/immature, 7/6/2023.  
 West Beach storm-water pond, AP. Edey, D.  
 Male, 8/6/2023. Salisbury Park, AP.  
 Rehabilitated after flying into window. per Gredley, S.  
 Female, 10/6 – 2/7/2023. 5km SW Victor  
 Harbor, MLR. Carpenter, G.  
 Pair, 15/6/2023. Hallett Cove CP, MLR. Challis, R.  
 Female, 25/6/2023. Forreston, MLR. Georg, D.  
 Female, 28/6/2023. Point Sturt, MM. Henderson, D.  
 1, 2/7/2023. Bullock Hill CP, MLR. Dunning, S.  
 Male, 2/7/2023. Smithfield,  
 Munno Para Shopping Centre, AP. Wallace-Blair, J.

### Flame Robin

Female, 10/5/2023. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.

### Bassian Thrush

2, 3/7/2023. Mount Alma, Polworth Rd, MLR. Reid, J.  
 2, 19/3/2023. Kuitpo Forest, MLR. Laubscher, A. & S.

### Eastern Yellow Wagtail

1, 18/5/2023. Saint Kilda, AP.  
 Feeding among washed up seagrass  
 along coast. Kaashoek, M.  
 Subsequently seen by numerous observers,  
 latest on 25/7/2023 by S. Stachurski.  
 1, 11/6/2023. Cowell foreshore, EP.  
 Feeding around tidal pools on  
 samphire flat. Walford, E. & L.  
*Both birds exhibited yellow underparts indicative of  
 breeding plumage, suggesting that birds had undertaken  
 'reverse migration', where birds migrate in the opposite  
 direction.*

### Brush Bronzewing

1, 18/6/2023. Aldinga Scrub CP, MLR. Hudson, N.  
 2, 24/6/2023. Tokuremour CP, MLR. Edey, D.

## From the Library

The library is located upstairs in the boardroom of the Conservation Council SA, in The Joinery, 111 Franklin Street, Adelaide.

The library will be open every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 12:30 – 3:30 pm

#### Here are the dates until the end of 2023.

**August** ..... Friday 11 and 25  
**September** ..... Friday 8 and 22  
**October** ..... Friday 13 and 27  
**November** ..... Friday 10 and 24  
**December** ..... Friday 8 and 22

The book sale held on 25 July 2023 at Members' Night was very successful. Revenue raised for the library was approximately **\$250.00**. A big thank-you to all who assisted in making the book sale such a success.

At this meeting Terri Randle gave a presentation on how to access and use the library's online catalogue. A short video of this presentation will be uploaded to the Birds SA website.



Access to the library catalogue via the Birds SA website:

<https://birdssa.asn.au>

or directly at:

<https://www.libib.com/u/birdssa>

## BIRDS SA COMMITTEE

President.....	Steven Langley .....	0490 802 176
Vice President.....	Jeff Groves.....	0401 125 510
Vice President.....	Vacant	
Secretary .....	Roger Bourne	
Assistant Secretary .....	Vacant	
Treasurer.....	Anita Smyth	
Assistant Treasurer .....	Vacant	
Field Program Co-ordinator.	Lynton Huxley.....	0498 466 092
Bird Record Secretary,.....	Graham Carpenter .....	8297 5463
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SA Ornithologist Editor.....	Philippa Horton .....	8271 4388
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Member .....	Claire Bourne	
Member .....	John Gitsham.....	0438 900 393
Member .....	Alan Burns .....	0411 595 910
Member .....	Vacant	

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](mailto:general@birdssa.asn.au) and indicate which committee member you wish to contact. Your message will be forwarded to that person.

## MEMBERSHIP CONTACT

If you have any queries about your membership, Email: [membership@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:membership@birdssa.asn.au)

## e-newsletter EDITOR

If you wish to place material in the monthly e-newsletter please send it to [general@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:general@birdssa.asn.au)

## FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian, Karen Donkin .....

Campout Organiser, Lynton Huxley.....

## Port Augusta Birders (The Babblers)

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

## Fleurieu Birders, a sub-group of Birds SA

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

## BirdLife South East SA

Convener: Karen Hunt 0437 487 687 Email: [gr.kehunt@bigpond.com](mailto:gr.kehunt@bigpond.com)

## Conservation Sub-committee members

Ray Nias (Chair), Jeff Groves, David Andrewartha, Ali Ben Kahn, Bill Breed, Chris Proud, David Hansman, Greg Johnston, Fran Solly, Karleah Berris, Rodney Attwood, Bryan Haywood.

## SA Rarities Committee (SARC) Members

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

## SA Bird Records Committee Members

Andrew Black (chair), 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. Members: Jody Gates (Chair), Leo Joseph, Charles Moore, Beatrice Rogers, Anita Smyth, Brian Walker, David Paton (participates when conflicts of interest arise).

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ABN 76 339 976 789

Print post number 100004337

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationers

**WEBSITE: [birdssa.asn.au](http://birdssa.asn.au)**

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