

Birds SA

Newsletter



No 226

May 2013



Birds SA is the operating name of The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.

c/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000

The Aims of the Association are:

- To promote the conservation of Australian birds and their habitats.
- To encourage interest in, and develop knowledge of the birds of South Australia.
- To record the results of research in regard to all aspects of bird life.
- To maintain a public fund called the "Birds SA Conservation Fund" for the specific purpose of supporting the Association's environmental objectives.

Bird Families

Gordon Pateman took all these photographs — Details p18



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CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 44,
JOHN SUTTON, Part 1

SAOA COMMITTEE 2013 – 2014

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| President | David Paton | 8344 8891 |
| Vice President | John Hatch | 8362 2820 |
| Vice President | <i>Vacant</i> | |
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| Assistant Secretary | Kate Buckley | 8261 7197 |
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| Field Program Coordinator | Lynton Huxley | 7009 5038 |
| Bird Record Secretary | Graham Carpenter | 8297 5463 |
| Membership Officer | <i>Vacant</i> | |
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| Member | Lou Bartley-Clements | 0418858037 |
| Member | Robert Rowland | 83881790 |
| Member | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| Member | <i>Vacant</i> | |

DIARY

Following is a list of Birds SA activities for the next few months. Further details of all these activities are given later in the newsletter.

| | | |
|---------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| June 2 | Sunday | Excursion to Swan Reach CP |
| June 15 | Saturday | Excursion to Porter Scrub CP |
| June 20 | Thursday | Excursion to Charleston CP |
| June 28 | Friday | General Meeting |
| June 30 | Sunday | Excursion to Lowan CP |
| ***** | | |
| July 13 | Saturday | Excursion to Brown's Rd. Monarto |
| July 18 | Thursday | Excursion to Horsnell Gully CP |
| July 26 | Friday | General Meeting |
| July 28 | Sunday | Excursion to Ridley CP |
| ***** | | |
| Aug 10 | Saturday | Excursion to Kenneth Stirling CP etc. |
| Aug 15 | Thursday | Excursion to Onkaparinga Wetlands |
| Aug 30 | Friday | General Meeting |
| ***** | | |
| Sept 1 | Sunday | Excursion to Narrinyeri Hills |
| Sept 14 | Saturday | Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands |

Cover photo: White-tailed Tropic Bird, photographed by Kay Parkin on Christmas Island February 2013

General meetings are held in the Hawker Centre at the Waite Institute, Waite Road, Urrbrae at 7.45pm. Doors open at 7.00pm.

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

Donations to the Birds SA Conservation Fund are tax-deductible

New Members

We welcome 12 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p16.

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

| | | |
|-------------------|--|------------|
| Librarian | Karen Donkin | 0402123960 |
| Image Librarian | John Spiers | 8333 0272 |
| | email imagerlibrarian@birdssa.asn.au | |
| Campout Organiser | Graham Bate | 8270 3041 |

RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

BirdLife Southeast SA

Convenor, — Bob Green shriketit@bigpond.com 8725 0549
IBA Coordinator/Newsletter Editor — Bryan Haywood
brytonwood@bigpond.com 8726 8112

Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact Person Judith Dyer 8555 2736
Email dyer.jm@gmail.com

WEBSITE birdssa.asn.au

2013 SAOA SUBSCRIPTIONS

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Single membership | \$50 |
| Family/household membership | \$60 |
| Single concession* | \$45 |
| Family/household concession* | \$55 |

Student members (full-time students under 25 years) \$10

*Pensioners and people experiencing financial hardship can obtain concessions. Apply in writing to the Treasurer, Birds SA.

ABN 76 339 976 789

ADVERTISING IN THE Birds SA NEWSLETTER

SAOA relies on the integrity of advertisers for the quality and nature of their products and services. We cannot guarantee them. Advertising is charged as follows: \$1.00 per line, up to \$20.00 per quarter page and 10c per inserted leaflet (single sheet). The committee reserves the right to lower or waive these fees.

COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the August Newsletter is due by the July General Meeting (July 26). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD, emailed to either of my email addresses, or typed/handwritten neatly.

- newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au
- cpy62284@bigpond.net.au

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationer

President's Letter

There have been some recent changes to the Birds SA Committee. I have taken over as President from Jeremy Robertson who has been in the position for 5 years. This is simply a case of one busy academic from an ivory tower being replaced by another. Expect little change. Jeremy will still be actively involved giving presentations and serving on the Journal Sub Committee amongst other contributions, and we wish him well as he will now have more time for different pursuits. The real work for Birds SA, however, is done by the Secretary, the Treasurer, one or more Vice Presidents and several sub-Committees *inter alia*.

The other major change to the Management Committee and the running of Birds SA affairs is that Trevor Cowie has stepped down after several decades serving as the Field Program Co-ordinator. During that time Trevor has overseen a substantial growth in the numbers of Birds SA field trips. Such has been the growth that a sub Committee may now be needed to do the work that Trevor did with aplomb. That Birds SA saw fit to honour his services with Honorary Life Membership is a fitting tribute that acknowledges Trevor's significant contribution.

To a large extent the wellbeing and future of associations like Birds SA depend on having an active Committee that manages the Association on behalf of its members. I note with concern, however, that the same small band of people continue to serve and manage the Association with limited new blood joining the Committee. A vibrant Association not only needs strong membership but also a bevy of members willing to be responsible for running the business of the Association. The current Management Committee still has some vacancies. Please consider offering your services.

I have grown up and spent most of my life in South Australia. A grandfather and mother, both having also served terms as President of this Association, nurtured my interests in birds and natural history. During my watch, ongoing declines in distributions and abundances of birds in South Australia stand out. This was a period in which there was limited additional vegetation clearance. Declines in birds were also

A grandfather and mother, both having also served terms as President of this Association, nurtured my interests in birds and natural history.

prominent during my grandfather's and mother's watches, largely associated with vegetation clearance. I am passionate about the need to take action to prevent ongoing declines. That the birds are still declining despite cessation of broad scale vegetation clearance in this state around 1980 suggests that it is no longer sufficient to simply protect and manage what habitat remains. There is now a growing and urgent need to re-establish habitats to prevent a host of local extinctions. In my forbears' times, the Regent Honeyeater and Spotted Quail-thrush could still be found in the local Mt Lofty Ranges but not now. Other species are now queuing to join them. There is still time to take action but time is running out.

While the majority of species show declines, a few species have shown or are showing dramatic increases. Members of Birds SA are involved in some of the monitoring programs that have been established to detect some of the changes, but detecting if species are declining is often difficult

when numbers get low. Birds SA could and should do more to document changes in our birds. As a general rule bird watchers and Birds SA tend to rejoice and celebrate the unusual species that are detected at sites while common or abundant species tend to be ignored. Common and abundant species today are tomorrow's declining species.

Birds SA members are on the whole bird watchers. Bird watchers tend to go to a handful of places where they can see a good range of birds, with the chance of seeing unusual or atypical species. For example lots of people go to Laratinga wetlands near Mt Barker, Greenfields wetlands and Barker Inlet or to the planted woodlands off Browns Rd at Monarto, but not to places in between. This results in a lot of information from a few sites and virtually

nothing from anywhere else, and certainly not from places that traditionally support few birds. As a consequence Birds SA does not have a good sense of how bird populations have changed and are changing across parts of South Australia, and we certainly do not have the data to support changes in distribution and abundance. If we are not adequately informed and aware, then we cannot expect anyone else to be. Many of us, however, are aware that there are species that are declining and others that are increasing but we have been and continue to be very poor at capturing these changes, let alone trying to turn them around. Part of the reason for this (and it is true throughout the 114 years of the Association) is that we document the unusual and not the usual. I would like to see the Association become much more effective in capturing the usual while dwelling a little less on the unusual.

To an extent, repeating the Bird Atlas of the Adelaide region aims to start doing this. The study region includes

President's Letter(cont)/Birds SA Notes & News

Kangaroo Island, the Fleurieu Peninsula, the Mt Lofty Ranges and adjacent plains, and stretches to just beyond Port Wakefield (in the NW) to just beyond Morgan (in the NE) and to just beyond Salt Creek (in the SE). To date some 2,500 lists of birds have been collected, containing around 40,000 records of birds. While this is a great start, many of these lists are from repeated visits to the same site or come from urban or peri-urban locations. Furthermore, the lists are strongly skewed to a few key sites, such as Laratinga, favoured by bird watchers; while many parts of the study region remain poorly covered. This is particularly true for the area north and east of Para Wirra out to the Murray River and beyond. Maps showing the poorly covered areas will be available on the web site soon, if they are not already available. I am always happy to enlist additional people to help collect information for the atlas. If you are interested please contact me by email ([david.paton@adelaide.edu.au](mailto: david.paton@adelaide.edu.au)) with a postal address for despatching some cards and some more detailed instructions on how to fill the cards.

David Paton

BIRDS SA NOTES & NEWS

Please will you advise any changes to your name, address, email address or telephone number via email to [membership@birdssa.asn.au](mailto: membership@birdssa.asn.au). Alternatively, 'phone the Treasurer using the number on page 3.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RARITY AND DISTRIBUTION SUB-COMMITTEE

Following receipt of the 2012 Annual Report from the pre-existing Vetting and Rare Birds Subcommittees the Management Committee approved their formal amalgamation as the South Australian Rarity and Distribution Subcommittee (SARDS). Its members are those who have constituted the Birds SA Rare Bird Committee (SARC), Colin Rogers (Secretary), Graham Carpenter, John Fennell, John Hatch, Lynn Pedler and Andrew Black (chair); also included is the

Association Secretary Brian Blaylock *ex officio*.

The distributional function is relatively informal, with Bird Record Secretary Graham Carpenter checking for unexpected distributional records and, when appropriate, obtaining corroborative information from observers. Sources of records are many with at least three web sites now providing reports from S.A. Other sub-committee members monitor the sites for important records but we do encourage members to submit their unusual or unexpected records to Graham directly. Some records require a broader approach to vetting, such as unusual distributional reports submitted to Birdlife Australia's ongoing atlas. In addition we are doing our best to ensure that bird lists included in the Association's e-newsletter and other publications are as reliable as possible. Although generally incomplete, such lists invariably lengthen over time.

SARC was set up along similar lines to those for the national (Birdlife Australia) Rarity Committee BARC but while BARC deals with true national rarities our general criterion is to review reports of any bird with an average annual report rate in S.A. of 1.5 per year, or fewer. The list is shown on our web site and can be found on pages 15 and 16. We encourage submissions, using the Rare Bird Record Report form downloadable from the web site, but can accept them less formally through an approach to any member of the sub-committee who will assist in preparing a formal submission. Naturally not all reports result in acceptance and it might appear intimidating for some to subject their observations to such scrutiny. We have all experienced this feeling when making a claim before a sceptical authority figure, for example when being asked to complete an Unusual Record Report Form (URRF) for one of Birdlife Australia's bird atlases. Such scepticism translates into an appreciation that the record is potentially an important one and the feeling fades over time. It is also important to know that these records

are not dismissed or discarded but are retained as unconfirmed reports.

Last year 2012 was a less active one for SARC, partly because of the absence overseas of individual committee members but the resulting backlog is being addressed and 13 submissions have been considered already in the first quarter of 2013. Accepted records include two for Eastern Grass Owl, and others for Rose Robin, Mottled Petrel, Black-bellied Storm Petrel, Gould's Petrel, Great Shearwater, Light-mantled Albatross and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. A tropicbird sighting has been recorded as a probable Red-tailed Tropicbird.

Andrew Black

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Dry Creek Salt Fields

The Conservation Sub-committee has started to look seriously at the issue of the future of the Dry Creek Salt Fields. It seems clear that production of salt and soda is no longer economically viable in Australia and that manufacture will cease in South Australia, as it has already done in Victoria. We have not been able to discover any definite timetable but it seems clear that closure may be only a few months away, or at most, a couple of years. When this occurs it will not be feasible to maintain the Salt Fields as they are given the cost of pumping water through the system and the cost of even a few staff to physically maintain the ponds. An article in the most recent issue of Australian Birdlife on the Moolap wetland (pages 16-17) gives a foretaste of what is likely to then happen. Although decommissioned in 2007 the Moolap wetlands have continued to be an important feeding and roosting site for migratory shorebirds but are now threatened by residential development.

In South Australia the threat of development has already started even though the Salt Fields are still functioning. A plan to build 10,000 homes on the Dry Creek Salt pans was unveiled in the electronic newspaper Adelaide Now on 15th March, 2013. See the link below:

Birds SA Notes & News (cont)

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/plan-to-build-10000-homes-on-dry-creek-salt-pans/story-e6frea6u-1226597893759>

The salt pans' owner, Ridley Corporation, is apparently in talks with the State Government about building the homes on land west of Salisbury Highway and Port Wakefield Rd. This is a revision of an earlier plan that was shelved in 2008 called "Venice of the South". The area involved here is 980 hectares. Ridley also leases many hectares to the north from the Land Management Corporation. When salt production ceases, the fate of that land is uncertain. The sub-committee is attempting to find out what, if any, plans there might be. Unfortunately we have to bear in mind that the S.A. state government is cash strapped and pro-development. If we are to have any impact on what happens we need to become involved in the planning process as soon as possible. Does any member know whether there have been any studies into the use of the salt pans by the birds? We need to know species and numbers but we also need to understand other things such as:

- how much nutritional input is obtained from the sea and mudflats and how much from the salt pans themselves,
- where exactly they roost,
- differences between species,
- where they might move to if the Salt Fields are developed,
- the minimum area that will need to be set aside to provide adequate protection for the population of birds now using the Salt Fields,
- the fate of the pans if water is not pumped into them — would they dry out, be invaded by mangroves, revert to saltbush?
- how much (numbers, proportion, species) of the total migrant bird population using St. Vincent Gulf use the area currently designated for housing.
- will they be able to re-locate if all this land is developed?

- What will the impact be on the other wetlands around Barkers inlet?

We regard the Salt Fields as top of the list on bird conservation issues in South Australia at the present. Fortunately the economic downturn has slowed developments down and we need to use the breathing space this gives us as well as we can. Input from everyone is required. Hopefully the State government will see the madness of engaging in large-scale development on a coast subject to rising sea levels where it will be a challenge to simply maintain existing infrastructure.

John Spiers

Council Watch

The Conservation sub-committee of Birds SA is charged with doing what it can to protect our native birds. Whenever we hear of a development that could, or would, affect their habitat we try and investigate the situation and make representations to the relevant authority. For us to be effective we need to hear of any proposed actions as early as possible. It takes time to investigate a situation properly and time to prepare an appropriate response. We believe that it is very important to get our facts straight and to develop a firm but courteous response. Submissions that show ignorance of the situation or are impolite are not likely to carry much weight. There is also always a cut-off date for delivering submissions and the time given is always short.

In a few Council areas we have a number of enthusiastic people who provide us with an early warning of impending changes in their Council area. These are people such as Kevin Williams and Bob Snell of Mt. Barker Council, Dr. Rachel Westcott and Emilis Prelgauskas of Murray Bridge Council, Kate Buckley of Mallala Council and Bob Huxtable of Ecowatch from Kangaroo Island. Their input has been most useful and has enabled us to get a number of submissions off in good time. We would now like to extend this network to cover as many Council

areas as possible, at least in the Fleurieu Peninsula and we therefore invite you to join Council Watch!

What we would like you to do is quite simple:

- locate the important areas for birds in your council area.
- undertake to visit these areas about once every three months and look for any significant changes in an area or its surrounds.
- undertake to keep tabs on any developments occurring in your council area that might affect the important areas you have located. This involves visiting the Council website on a regular basis and reading the agenda and minutes of Council meetings. If there is significant development there is usually a detailed plan attached which may include an "Environmental Impact Statement". In addition, there are often requests for a public submission and a cut-off date for receiving that submission. If you know, or could get to know, people within the Council they are also valuable sources of information.
- Inform the sub-committee of anything that may be significant by contacting me (John Spiers: by e-mail at john_b_spiers@hotmail.com or phone (83330272).

Note that we are not wanting to always be negative and oppose everything. We believe it is also very important to let Councils know that we appreciate any of their actions that are good for the environment.

It works best if there are two to three people working together in an area. If you are interested please let me know your Council area and the contact details of at least one member of your group.

We look forward to hearing from you.

John Spiers
Birds SA Conservation Sub-committee.

Miscellaneous Items

David Robertson supplied the following article, from The Weekend Australian of July 23-24 2011.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Skyscrapers make ideal eyries for hawks in New York City

I first see him on Fifth Avenue. Twelve floors up and perched precariously on an ornate ledge overlooking New York's Central Park, he looks as if he's about to jump. Right foot first, he shuffles forward and leaps into the air.

But he doesn't fall. Whisky-and-cream coloured wings stretch out in a span of almost 1.5m as he circles over the park. This is Pale Male, a wild red-tail hawk that for two decades has nested and raised more than 20 offspring in the heart of New York City.

Before the arrival of Pale Male — so called because of his unusually pale colouring — city nesting by a red-tail had never been witnessed.

The bird's 90kg nest was built on the windowsills of apartments that sell for more than \$US15 million, and it's little wonder Pale Male has become uptown New York's top feathered celebrity.

The hawk's penthouse perch, his string of nestmates and wild lifestyle have been the subject of many US newspaper columns, television shows, feature-length documentaries and best sellers. His most intimate moments are played out openly for all to observe, as though he were a reality show contestant.

And there's much to observe regarding Pale Male's other halves. Involving a string of beautiful red-tales, Pale Male's love life reads like an avian soap opera featuring the disappearances, deaths and reappearances of its female protagonist.

In 1992, Pale Male's first romance was with a bird the public dubbed First Love. Less than a year into their relationship, an injury saw First Love moved from the park to a rehabilitation centre.

A red-tail known as Chocolate then caught Pale Male's eye. In 1995 they are believed to have had chicks together, but a few months later Chocolate was found dead; she had been killed in a collision.

Within months Pale Male was sighted with a new red-tail. In March 1996, this bird was confirmed as First Love; she'd made her way back after release from the rehabilitation centre. However, the reunion only lasted until the end of 1997, when First Love ate poisoned pigeon and died.

Then came a new lady hawk, Blue. Chicks followed but her motherhood was short-lived. By the summer of 2001 Blue was missing believed dead. The next year, Lola appeared on the scene. After disappearing Lola was presumed dead last year.

Now with a mate referred to as either Ginger or Lima, Pale Male is a father again. The family's goings-on in their twiggy residence can be seen from the model boat lake in Central Park. Here, just by glancing up, visitors and New Yorkers alike have watched the couple bring up their chicks.

Other typical sightings include novice hawks taking first flights and parents bringing back fast-food treats in the form of small birds, squirrels and rodents

Much of the hawks' kill comes on the Ramble, 13ha of ragged woodland and glades midway up Central Park.

Following Pale Male's flight path, I decide to head for the Ramble. Leaving the lake behind, I walk west for 15 minutes until I am surrounded by the thousands of trees that make the Ramble a mini-wilderness. Instead of honking horns I hear birdsong. Fresh air replaces exhaust fumes and people-packed footpaths give way to feathered residents flitting through trees.

It's so busy and full of life, it's as if I've left the city and entered a natural metropolis where tens of thousands of trees serve as woody skyscrapers, their branches al fresco apartments for a fantastic diversity of bird life.

With more than 270 species sighted here the Ramble is often described as the best birdspotting venue in the US. At various times of the year the Ramble is home to birds such as downy woodpeckers, tufted titmice, kingbirds, grey catbirds flycatchers and cedar waxwings.

I've been in the Ramble less than 10 minutes and already I've seen elms heavy with bright yellow warblers and oak branches swaying under the weight of boisterous eastern bluebirds.

Just out of the Ramble, down by the waterside there are green herons, snowy white egrets and all sorts of ducks and waders.

Beneath the waters of Turtle Pond are native snapping turtles that, when hungry enough will bite at small dogs and consume ducklings and goslings with bone-crunching relish.

Squirrels and woodchucks hiding in the Ramble meet similar fates from merlins and kestrels.

Just like Manhattan, Central Park never sleeps.

After dark bats stretch their wings and raccoons sift through the undergrowth, while above three types of owls patrol the night sky, eyes shining, talons ready.

If I could fly with Pale Male over Manhattan, Central Park, which makes up 6% of the island, would look like a green oasis in the middle of an otherwise grey granite cityscape. I'd see, too, how the skyscrapers and apartment blocks below form a circle around the park, their concrete arms keeping Manhattan's original wild child safe and sound from the ways of the big bad city.

Sarah Evans

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

MIGRATORY BIRDS, CITIZEN SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY (& UNCERTAINTY)

HOW CERTAIN DO WE NEED TO BE BEFORE WE DO SOMETHING?

Multiple lines of evidence are telling us that many species of migratory birds are in crisis. It's a global problem crossing multiple national borders and there are no easy solutions. It's also a problem that needs to be addressed quickly yet our political leaders have largely consigned it to the too-hard basket. One of the reasons for this is a desire for scientific certainty before action is taken.

Demanding certainty

The profile of science has risen dramatically in policy making in recent years. Whether it's climate change mitigation, the Murray Darling Basin Plan or the appropriateness of super-trawlers fishing our territorial waters, all are talked about in terms of whether the science is certain. But what happens when government demands certainty in the science before acting, but won't fund the studies to provide that certainty? And when it comes to endangered species, not acting can lead to irreversible loss.

Migratory shorebirds are a point in case. Many groups of migratory shorebirds appear to be showing widespread decline. Recent research on migratory birds and shorebirds in Japan and around Australia indicate that some species appear to have declined by anywhere from 30% to 80% in the past 15 to 30 years.

When faced with potential biodiversity losses such as those in shorebirds, decision makers often require high levels of certainty regarding any negative impacts of

human activity on ecosystems before doing anything. They are unlikely to support the typically costly actions to avoid impacts until they have strong evidence (even though this flies in the face of the Precautionary Principle, see box).

Unfortunately, such evidence can be difficult and expensive to deliver. Resources are scarce, and there has been under-investment in data collection for the past several decades. The unfolding evidence of large declines in migratory shorebirds exemplifies a rare long-term data set collected by volunteers that shows just how much information is needed to deliver strong evidence.

It is important that governments act now based on the best available evidence, and that the lack of certainty around some parts of the shorebird story not be used as an excuse for inaction.

Remarkable journeys

Many shorebirds make remarkable journeys around the planet, at times coming together in clouds of birds that defy human comprehension. And it's not just one or two closely related species that make these journeys. Migratory shorebirds that visit the coasts and wetlands of Australia are very diverse. They come from breeding areas in the Arctic tundra, the steppes of central Asia, or large meadows found within boreal forests.

Many of the young are able to find their own food only days after hatching in the far north, and a few weeks later, most fly south independently with no help from their parents or other experienced guides.

Most fatten up before they leave, in some cases to over 80% above their typical weight. They put on up to 5% weight gain per day in just a couple of weeks. These birds depart on their migrations looking like over-inflated footballs with wings, and yet some are known to fly up to 12,000 km for over eight days non-stop across the Pacific. Gauging favourable winds, using the sky as a map and engaging a variety of little understood built-in navigation systems, they literally navigate their way across the globe. And yet the length of their migration makes them vulnerable if any critical staging post along the way is under threat.

Damaging developments

Most migratory shorebirds feed in the non-breeding season on invertebrates living under the mud and sand. On their northern migrations these birds must stop at least once at habitats rich in food to fatten up again. One of the most important and widely used areas to stop and refuel is in East Asia's Yellow Sea.

There is growing evidence that the critical refuelling habitats in the Yellow Sea are declining rapidly. In fact many decision makers in these areas view intertidal habitats as an easy place to reclaim cheap land from the sea for other uses, something that has been witnessed in the past in many wetlands of Australia. The increasing popularity of these kinds of developments over the past few decades can easily be seen from space. Consider the two satellite images of Bohai Bay (the

Giving them Wings (cont) / Past and Future Meetings



The Changing Coastline of Bohai Bay, China, 1975 to 2010

innermost gulf of the Yellow Sea) in China taken in 1975 and 2010.

Evidence of declines in migratory shorebirds, combined with the enormous loss of refuelling habitats, is sparking conservation planning efforts throughout the flyway (the name given to these migratory routes). The evidence is even convincing some of the most skeptical decision makers of declines. Unfortunately, many shorebird conservation advocates believe action may come far too late, if at all.

Citizens and shorebirds

It's been noted in many places that citizen science focused on birds, which are relatively easy to monitor, may provide a barometer of the level of threat associated with increasing human activity on the planet. I believe monitoring migratory shorebirds is a particularly valuable activity in this respect. Indeed, without the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who have dedicated themselves to monitoring these birds across Australia and Japan for decades, we would have little idea that they appear to be in trouble.

Further work in this area, harnessing the combined observations of citizens from multiple locations, is determining the scale of declines across migratory shorebird species. It's helping us identify other factors aside from habitat loss in East Asia that may be reducing populations.

The threats to migratory shorebirds span a variety of interconnected habitats across the globe, from

growing ecological imbalances in the Arctic, to large-scale degradation at inland non-breeding wetlands in Australia, such as the Coorong. As work continues I'm hopeful that the web of causes of declines in migratory shorebird populations can be untangled so that sufficient and compelling evidence can be delivered regarding what is needed, and where, to reduce impacts to these birds.

It is striking though that had it not been for the long term efforts of volunteers (such as the Australasian Wader Studies Group) we would have no idea of the problem or its scale, and still less hope of beginning to formulate solutions. Which begs the question: What about all those species, including other migratory shorebird species, that have not been monitored by an army of volunteers for over 30 years? We know almost nothing about some of these species. What if the canaries we have enough data to look at seriously, and which we know are in trouble, are among the hardest birds in the mine?

Robert Clemens (EDG, University of Queensland)

Published in Decision Point #67 - March 2013

<http://decision-point.com.au>

PAST GENERAL MEETINGS FRIDAY JANUARY 25

Greg Kerr introduced the speaker for the evening Dr David Robertson to talk on the birds of Sri Lanka. David and his wife, Minnie went to Sri Lanka with the Singapore Natural History Society from the 2nd to the 14th of March 2012 with the group and from the 15th of March to the 3rd of April by themselves. David said that Sri Lanka was about 430km long by 240km wide and contains 426 bird species. The human population is about 20 million mostly Sinhalese (74%), Tamils (18%) and Muslims (9%). The northern part of the country has only recently been opened up to tourism since the cessation of the war. David showed photographs of the following birds - House Crow, Blue Magpie, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Spot-winged Thrush, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Orange-billed Babbler, Brown-capped Babbler, Hanging Parrot, Painted Francolin, Jungle Fowl, Small Barbet, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Crested Drongo, Green Pigeon, Paradise Flycatcher, Brown-headed Flycatcher, Indian Pitta, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Painted Stork, Lesser Whistling Duck, Asian Openbill, Little Grebe, Brown-headed Gull, Red-wattled Lapwing, Indian Pond Heron, Whiskered Tern, Yellow-billed Babbler, Orange-billed Babbler, Swallow, Little Green Bee-eater, Blue Rock Thrush, White-eye, Paddyfield Pipit and a cardboard box for House Sparrows to nest in. He

Past and Future Meetings (cont) / Past Excursions

also showed some photographs of the countryside and the effects of the war in Sri Lanka.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22

John Hatch introduced the speaker for the evening Colin Rogers. Colin's topic was "Identification of prions from digital photographs taken at sea in South Australian waters".

Colin stated that most authorities e.g. HANZAB, Christidis & Boles, IOC identify six species within two groups. The "Fairy" group comprises the Fulmar and Fairy Prion and the "Whale-birds" contain Slender-billed, Antarctic, Salvin's and Broad-billed Prion.

Identifying each species:

- The first step is the width of the black tail spot (not really a band)
- All four species of whale-bird have a narrow black tail spot with two or three grey outer tail feathers.
- Both Fairy and Fulmar Prions have a broad black tail spot and only the outer tail feather is grey
- Other plumage features mentioned in field guides e.g. facial pattern, although useful, are not diagnostic

Actual identification of the six species rests on the bill structure. Three key dimensions play a prominent role in identification – length of bill, width of bill and depth of bill. However John Cox in his 1980 paper Some remarks on the breeding distribution and taxonomy of the prions (*Procellariidae: Pachyptila*) (Records of the South Australian Museum, Volume 18) found that the bill dimensions of adjacent species do not form disjoint sets.

Therefore not all species can be identified, even in the hand! There is an overlap in bill length and width between some species

So what can be done?

While acknowledging that we cannot identify every prion at sea or even in the hand, we can identify the bill structure of the six species listed in the literature for some birds photographed in South Australian waters

Colin showed diagrams of the bill structure and distribution of each species and then photographs of each one taken off Port MacDonnell.

He concluded that although there is uncertainty about prion taxonomy it is possible to photograph examples of all six species identified in HANZAB in South Australian waters. However, this does not establish the scientific basis of the six species or that they have been correctly allocated to species!

FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held in the Charles Hawker building of the Waite Institute on Waite Road Urrbrae on the last Friday of every month except December, public holidays or prior to a long weekend. The doors are opened at 7pm and meetings start at 7.45pm.

FRIDAY JUNE 28

Reece Pedler. Will talk on 'Investigating Banded Stilt movements and ecology using satellite telemetry.' (Very topical with the imminent closure of the Salt Fields)

FRIDAY JULY 26

Mid-winter Members Night.

I have two or three offers of speakers already, but the more the better. If you have a ten to fifteen minute talk, slide show etc., please contact me before the end of June and I will put together a set of offerings. These meetings have been most enjoyable in the past and it is up to you, all members, to think about doing something.

A supper of delicious soups will be provided before the meeting.

FRIDAY AUGUST 30

Mike Moore will talk about 'Ogyris Butterflies in South Australia.'

This topic is a little out of the ordinary, but these are a colourful and beautiful group of rather rare, dry country butterflies that are well represented in South Australia. They fly, are sometimes eaten by birds and live in familiar habitat. Mike is a bird-watcher as well.

Let's enjoy something a little different!

PAST EXCURSIONS

EASTER CAMPOUT

Mary Seymour CP, Lower SE, 28/03 to 2/04/2013.

We returned to a favourite area after six years away and the trifecta of Mary Seymour, Big Heath and Bool Lagoon was again a winning combination. The strong wind that greeted the Thursday arrivals died away at dusk and the calls of Owllet-nightjars, Barking Owls and a Boobook were heard in the night. Friday's dawn walkers saw the local Southern Emu-wrens while the pair of Painted Button-quail (seen on the park access road the previous evening) continued to show themselves occasionally.

Jack and Pat Bourne (Bool locals and long term Birds SA members) had previously warned me that the area had just had an extremely dry spring and summer. There was a chance that birds might be a bit scarce. However, there were plenty of birds to be seen and we attracted some autumn rain. The first light showers came through on Friday afternoon, after Jack Bourne had led a convoy up to Little Bool. He surprised us with a view of standing water, thousands of shelducks, many other water birds and over one hundred beautiful brolgas. We stopped in at the Bourne's Bird Museum on the way back to camp. If you have not been there for a while, I can tell you that the collection of mounted birds has grown and grown.

Saturday started with an early walk along the park's southern boundary, where the Restless Flycatchers displayed for us. The Friday arrivals were then taken to Little Bool for their share of the Brolgas, spoonbills and other water birds. By noon the rain had set in, and it continued on and off until early evening. A very cosy happy hour was held under a tarpaulin shelter.

The next morning an early light ground mist cleared into a mild and sunny Easter Sunday. At 7:30 we drove to Big Heath CP and birded along the Woodland Walk and the Red Gum Swamp track. A few people then drove the park boundary track while the main group returned

Past Excursions (cont)

to camp for a bacon, egg and pancake late brunch. Congratulations to Bert May and his band of brothers for another wonderful Easter cook-up. In the mid-afternoon we were visited by Bill and Robyn Moorhouse whose family own *Cowarry*, the property just south of Mary Seymour CP. They reported that the Barking Owls were in their usual tree just past the homestead and invited the camp along for a viewing. We'd been hearing the owls each night, but now we had a great look at these imposing birds. The experts took photos. Many thanks to the Moorhouses for returning on Sunday, as their first attempt at 'owling' had been rained off the day before.

While some walked Mary Seymour again on Monday morning, another group decided to revisit Little Bool. Others were inspired by the stories of quail and Blue-winged Parrots that the Big Heath boundary drivers had brought back the day before. At least 22 Brown Quails, 40 Blue-winged Parrots and 2 Button-quails were seen by those who drove the rutted 5 hours around Big Heath. They also saw an Emu-wren and Beautiful Firetails. We thought Bert and Dru may have been lost in Big Heath, but they drove into camp just as the clock struck happy hour. We should have known!

Tuesday greeted us with a dawn shower, then a fine day followed as most people packed and left before lunchtime. The roads on departure were similar to the arrival — huge flocks of Red Wattlebirds flying in and out of the adjacent vineyards.

We had 22 campers and listed 71 bird species at Mary Seymour. Big Heath yielded 59 species and Little Bool, 52. Much is owed to Jack and Pat Bourne for their advice, their local knowledge and for joining in at our happy hours.

Graham Bate

Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens - Eurilla CP

13 April

Eighteen people arrived at the gardens expecting the gates to open at 8:30am for a 9:00am walk; but found that the gates only open at that time on weekdays. At weekends and holidays gates open at 10:00am. Several people left but finally a gardener arrived to start work, asked if we were waiting to get in and kindly opened the gates for us at 9:30am. Highlights of the day were three Bassian Thrushes, one of which sat in a tree and allowed photos. A male Scarlet Robin in a yellow-leaved autumn tree was a lovely sight. Also seen were Eastern Spinebills, Grey Fantails, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, three Laughing Kookaburras, plus the usual birds — Red-browed Finches, Grey Currawongs, White-browed Scrubwrens, Adelaide Rosellas, Brown Thornbills, White-throated Treecreepers and the usual waterbirds, including, both Australian and Hoary-headed Grebes, Australian Wood Ducks, Pacific Black Ducks, Eurasian Coots, Dusky Moorhens and Black Swans. In all 37 species were counted.

Enid Pascoe

Greenfields Wetlands - Dry Creek

18 April

A mild day saw 19 members gather for a leisurely walk around the wetlands. The water level in the pond closest to the parking area was too high to observe any crakes while the pond near the hide was almost dry. Very early in the walk we were greeted by overhead views of a Little Eagle and a Black Falcon, two unusual sightings for this area. Other rare sights were Freckled and Pink-eared Ducks, which are becoming more common of late. A single female Musk Duck was also spotted. Near the hide we were able to get close to several hundred, late departing, Red-necked Stints, many of which were showing breeding plumage. A careful study failed to turn up any Little Stints amongst them. Sharp-tailed, Marsh and Wood

Sandpipers were nowhere to be seen and had presumably already departed for the north. Other species included a few Red-necked Avocet, many Red-kneed Dotterel, and both Black-winged and Banded Stilts, both male and female Darters (flying overhead), and Black-tailed Native-hen. A sighting of Spotted Crake by a couple of late leavers was a nice surprise. In all 58 species were counted.

Martyn Price

Bullock Hill

11 May

Eleven members met at the Ashbourne Oval before driving to the entrance of the Bullock Hill Conservation Park on Haines Rd.

Although the weather was overcast with a light wind, the morning was mild with lots of bird activity, as everyone walked along Haines Rd. A total of 41 species were observed with a lot of New Holland Honeyeater activity in the blossom on gum trees throughout the walk. Brown-headed, White-plumed, and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were also present.

Other interesting species included Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Southern Whiteface, Crested Shrike-tit and Mistletoebird.

Peter Gower

Mt George

16 May

Along with our regulars we were joined by several newcomers and their children. Although the day began with periods of sun and shade, by late morning the increasing cloud resulted in a continuous downpour, lasting for about 20 minutes. However, it was during this downpour that we experienced the greatest bird activity, allowing us to have views of Golden Whistler, Scarlet Robin, White-throated Treecreeper and Grey Fantail, as they frolicked in the rain. Although, for the most part it was a quiet day, sightings also included Red Wattlebird, Crescent and White-naped Honeyeater, Superb Fairy-wren and a large group of White-

Past Excursions (cont) / Future Excursions

browed Scrubwrens. A pair of Rainbow Lorikeets would frequently zip past overhead. At the golf course dam we observed a single Pacific Black Duck, a Dusky Moorhen and a couple of Eurasian Coots. No raptors or the usual Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos were seen or heard but in the car park the Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were their usual raucous selves, occasionally joined by the odd Galah, Crimson Rosella or Rainbow Lorikeet. In all, 27 species were recorded.

Martyn Price

FUTURE EXCURSIONS

Convener: Lynton Huxley

Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au

Tel: 08 7009 5038

Note: Lists of species recorded at the locations visited can be reviewed at www.birdpedia.com

Sunday June 2: Swan Reach CP (MM) (113km) The park is situated approx 16km east of Sedan on the road to Swan Reach. Meet at the entrance into the park, which is on the right opposite the road into Yookamurra, at 8.30am.

Saturday June 15: Porter Scrub CP (MLR) (44km)

From Lobethal take the road to Gumeracha. As you climb the hill with the brick kilns on the left, look for and take a right hand turn into Schubert road, which comes up quickly at the top of the hill as the main road bears to the left. Take the first turn left into Lihou Rd. This comes to a cross road with the left hand turn being the continuation of Lihou road. When the road reaches a sharp right turn the park is actually directly in front of you. Meet at the gate in the corner at 8.30am.

Thursday June 20: Charleston CP (MLR) (38km)

Meet at 8.30am by the tennis courts in Newman Road, Charleston. We will move on to the CP from meeting point.

Sunday June 30: Lowan CP (MM) (130km)

Travel to Mannum. Cross the river on the ferry and follow the road to Purnong. Approximately 29km along this road is a crossroad, the left turn being to Bowhill. We meet at this crossroad at 8.30am. Then we will head south for about 13km, turning left at a multiple road junction. After lunch we may return via Glenburr road.

Saturday July 13: Browns Road, Monarto (MLR) (60km)

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

Thursday July 18: Horsnell Gully CP (MLR) (12km)

Meet at 8.30am. Travel up the Old Norton Summit Road and turn right into Horsnell Gully Road. This leads to a quarry gate just before which, on the right, is a track leading into the park.

Sunday July 28: Ridley CP (MM) (126km)

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

Saturday August 10: Kenneth Stirling/Wotton Scrub CP & Mt George CP (MLR) (27km)

Meet at 8.30am. Take the SE Freeway leaving it at the Bridgewater exit. Turn left towards Carey Gully, travel about 3km and turn right into Gum Flat Road. Travel about 1.6km to gate 2 on the right. We will move to Mt George for Lunch.

Thursday August 15: Onkapinga Wetlands (MLR) (32km)

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

Sunday September 1: Narrinyeri Hills (MLR) (72km)

This site is part of the Monarto Forest old growth area. Birds SA has been given access to record sightings on the owners' behalf as well as for ourselves. We will meet at 8.30am pulling off as much as possible along the road side, as no actual car park exists. To get there starting from the South Monarto cross roads on the (old) Princes Highway, travel towards Murray Bridge for approx 5km. Turn left into Maurice Rd. Less than 2km along this road you will note that you are beside a railway line. Approximately 2km further from there, on the right, is where this site starts. If you miss the entry point you will see a lot of commercial buildings on your left. The entrance is not obvious unless you are on foot.

Saturday September 14: Laratinga Wetlands (Mt. Barker) (MLR) (34km)

Meet at 8.30am in the dirt car park on Bald Hills Rd, a little to the West of the original parking area.

October Long Weekend Campout Thursday, October 3 to Monday, October 7

Antro Woolshed, Bimbowrie Conservation Park

Bimbowrie, is about 30km from Olary on the way to Broken Hill.

Ian Falkenberg wants us to look for Plains Wanderers and Grass Wrens.

More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Brian Blaylock

Bird Records

Collated by Graham Carpenter

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

Please send all reports to the Bird Records Secretary at birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au or phone 8297 5463.

Note that the list includes reports of rare or vagrant species to South Australia that may yet to have been submitted 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 website).

Brown Quail

Additional reports including from YP and KI:

4, 17/2/2013. Salt Creek mouth, Coorong, SE

Pedler, L. & R.

3, 4/3/2013. Mac's Beach, YP.

Jack, T.

1, 14/3/2013. Little Dip CP, SE.

Green, B. & T.

7, 15/3/2013. Bay of Shoals, Shoal Bay Winery, KI.

Baxter, C.

Group, 8/4/2013. Inman River, MLR.

Edward Smith

1, 18/4/2013. Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, NW.

Langdon, P.

Magpie Goose

3000, 28/1/2013. Bool Lagoon, SE.

Bourne, J. & P.

These are presumably progeny of birds released there in the 1980s (See Harper, M. 1990 SA Ornithologist 31:44-47).

Cape Barren Goose

14, 2/2/2013. Port Macdonnell, Pick's Swamp, SE.

Green, B. & Moore, L.

Blue-billed Duck

300, 5/2/2013. Murray's Lagoon, KI. In deeper water with coots and Musk Duck.

Baxter, C.

Freckled Duck

Several reports of good numbers from southern regions.

2, 4/2/2013. Inman Valley, Mt Alma Rd, MLR.

Cutten, D.

40, 18/2/2013. Morella Wetland, Salt Creek, SE.

Pedler, L. & R.

100s, 26/2/2013. Tolderol, MM.

Peek, P.

190, 16/4/2013. Lake Harry, NE.

Pedler, L. & R.

12, 17/4/2013. Hindmarsh Island, Goolwa Channel, MM.

Brooker, W.

Great Crested Grebe

1, 30/1/2013. Port Macdonnell, Riddoch Bay, SE.

Campbell, J.

This species is occasionally reported from sheltered coastal waters.

Spotted Nightjar

4, 2/7/2012 and 1, 20/4/2013. Koolunga, 7km NE, LN. First records from this locality.

Pedler, L. & R.

Fork-tailed Swift

Widely reported but in low numbers in Feb and March.

150, 17/2/2013. Emu Bay, 20 km N, KI. Flying low over sea.

Dennis, S.

50, 24/2/2013. Murray Mouth, MM.

Doecke, N.

300, 11/3/2013. Waitpinga Beach, MLR.

Stracey, K.

50, 12/3/2013. Kingscote, KI.

Baxter, C.

30, 12/3/2013. Beachport, SE.

Birds SE

Several, 27/3/2013. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

30, 27/3/2013. Milang, Kindaruar Rd, MM.

Doecke, N.

50, 27/3/2013. Bluff, Encounter Bay, MLR.

Dennis, T.

6, 27/3/2013. Murray Bridge, MM.

Hampel, T.

Several, 13/4/2013. Jamestown, N of, LN.

Carpenter, G.

Australasian Darter

1, 23/2/2013. Chapman River mouth, KI.

Brittain, R. & Diment, J.

1, 25/2/2013. Western River mouth, KI.

Brittain, R. & Diment, J.

5, 25/3/2013. St Kilda Salt Fields, AP.

Lloyd, R.

Australian White Ibis

20-25, 4/3/2013. South Parklands, Peacock Rd, AP.

Balfour, P.

See note in last NL regarding increased numbers around Adelaide.

Spotted Harrier

1, 25/2/2013. Emu Bay, KI.

Brittain, R. & Diment, J.

Rarely reported from KI.

Square-tailed Kite

1, 2/2/2013. Cobbler Creek RP, AP.

Steeles, C.

1, 3/2/2013. Altona Landcare Reserve, MLR.

Steeles, C.

Black Kite

1, 4/3/2013. Fullarton, AP. Low overhead.

Horton, P.

Brolga

17, 13/4/2013. Clayton HS, 2km S, NE.

Bannister, J.

Buff-banded Rail

2, 5/4/2013. American River, KI. Feeding on beds of low samphire exposed at low tide.

Baxter, C.

Bird Records (cont)

- 1, 14/4/2013. Thorndon Park Reservoir, AP. Hatch, J.
- Spotless Crake**
1, 14/2/2013. Millicent, Lake McIntyre, SE. Boyle, S. & Pounsett, R. *Surprisingly few records from SE.*
- Banded Stilt**
11, 17/1/2013. Semaphore Beach, AP. Carpenter, L.
12000, 16/4/2013. Lake Harry, NE. Pedler, L. & R.
- Double-banded Plover**
1, 22/3/2013. Aldinga, Snapper Point, MLR. Lush, F. & Reed, A.
17, 24/4/2013. Black Point, YP. Tiller, M. et al.
- Pacific Golden Plover**
54, 17/2/2013. Hindmarsh Island, Sugars boat ramp, MM. Brooker, W.
- Banded Lapwing**
84, 16/2/2013. Coorong, Long Point, MM. Burns, A.
Large numbers at coastal wetlands are usually associated with hot days.
- Australian Painted Snipe**
1, 10/1/2013. Millicent, Lake McIntyre, SE. Jones, A.
- Pectoral Sandpiper**
1, 5/2/2013. Murray's Lagoon, western shore, KI. Baxter, C.
- Terek Sandpiper**
1, 9/3/2013. Goolwa Channel, near Rushy Is, MM. Brooker, W.
- White-winged Black Tern**
3 uncoloured, 29/1 to 6/2/2013. Rush Lagoon, KI. Whiskered Terns also present. Baxter, C.
- Photographs provided. First record from KI.*
4 to 5, 25/3/2013. St Kilda saltfields, AP. Lloyd, R.
- Fairy Tern**
60, 13/2/2013. Coorong, Cattle Island, MM. Nesting on small islet. Syson, W.
- Elegant Parrot**
43, 14/2/2013. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR. Steele-Collins, E.
2, 21/3/2013. Edilillie, 2km W, EP. Carpenter, G.
- Rock Parrot**
22, 17/2/2013. Hindmarsh Island, S side Sugars boat ramp, MM. Brooker, W.
27, 19/3/2013. Kingscote, tidal swimming pool, KI. Baxter, C.
- Regent Parrot**
12, 4/4/2013. Sutherland, 1km E, LN. Sparks, K.
Further west than usually reported.
- Powerful Owl**
1, 26/1/2013. Snow Gum Forest Reserve, SE. Farnes, R.
See Haywood, B. 2010 SA Ornithologist 36:1-8 for details on reports in SA.
- White-browed Scrubwren**
1, 23/4/2013. Kensington Gardens, AP. Found dead in garden, forwarded to SA Museum. Beer, A. & P.
- Weebill**
4 + old nest, 1/4/2013. Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, NW. Langdon, P.
Recently found and evidently breeding at this site.
- Pied Honeyeater**
A group reported by several observers at Mannum Waterfalls Reserve, MM, in February. 8, 16/2/2013. Stracey, K.
- 12, 17/2/2013. Edward Smith
group, 18/2/2013. Stokes, M.
5, 24/2/2013. Fennell, J.
17, 11/3/2013. Koolunga, 7km NE, LN. *First record for locality.* Pedler, L. & R.
- White-fronted Honeyeater**
1 adult, 1/4/2013. Waitpinga Cliffs, MLR. At bird bath. Steele-Collins, E.
Honeyeaters from the drier regions sometimes disperse into the MLR in autumn.
- Crested Shrike-tit**
2, 23/2/2013. Mount Barker Creek, Hartley, MM. Ashton, R.
1, 14/4/2013. Mount Pleasant township, MLR. Nye, G.
- Olive-backed Oriole**
1, 7/4/2013. Quorn township, FR. Collis, M.
A sub-adult bird photographed at garden bird bath. First report for the region.
- Pied Butcherbird**
1, 13/4/2013. Murray Bridge, MM. Hampel, T.
See Eckert, J. 2006 SA Ornithologist 35:52-56 for discussion of species' spread down the Murray valley.
- Forest Raven**
1, 3/4/2013. Morella Wetland, Salt Creek, SE. Pedler, L. & R.
Identified by deep, hoarse, call and heavy bill. Well north of previous reports to about 10 km N Kingston.
- White-backed Swallow**
2, 23/2/2013. Mount Barker Creek, Hartley, MM. Ashton, R.
4, 2/3/2013. Chinaman's Wells, YP. Jack, T. & Treloar, K.
Surprisingly few previous records for YP.

Rare Birds Current Review List, February 2013

Phasianidae:

Excalfactoria chinensis (Linnaeus, 1766) – King Quail

Anatidae:

Dendrocygna arcuata (Horsfield, 1824) – Wandering Whistling Duck

Tadorna radjah (Lesson, 1828) – Rajah Shelduck

Anas clypeata Linnaeus, 1758 – Northern Shoveler

Anas querquedula Linnaeus, 1758 – Garganey

Spheniscidae:

Aptenodytes patagonicus J.F. Miller, 1778 – King Penguin

Eudyptes pachyrhynchus G.R. Gray, 1845 – Fiordland Penguin

Eudyptes robustus G.R. Gray, 1845 – Snares Penguin

Eudyptes sclateri Buller, 1888 – Erect-crested Penguin

Eudyptes moseleyi Mathews and Iredale, 1921 – Northern Rockhopper Penguin

Eudyptes chrysolophus (Brandt, 1837) – Macaroni Penguin

Diomedidae:

Phoebastria palpebrata (J.R. Forster, 1785) – Light-mantled Albatross

Procellariidae

Thalassoica antarctica (J.F. Gmelin, 1789) – Antarctic Petrel

Pagodroma nivea (G. Forster, 1777) – Snow Petrel

Halobaena caerulea (J.F. Gmelin, 1789) – Blue Petrel

Pachyptila vittata (G. Forster, 1777) – Broad-billed Prion

Pachyptila salvini (Mathews, 1912) – Salvin's Prion

Pachyptila desolata (J.F. Gmelin, 1789) – Antarctic Prion

Aphrodroma brevirostris (Lesson, 1831) – Kerguelen Petrel

Pterodroma inexpectata (J.R. Forster, 1844) – Mottled Petrel

Pterodroma leucoptera (Gould, 1844) – Gould's Petrel

Pterodroma cookii (G.R. Gray, 1843) – Cook's Petrel

Procellaria cinerea J.F. Gmelin, 1789 – Grey Petrel

Procellaria westlandica Falla, 1946 – Westland Petrel

Puffinus pacificus (J.F. Gmelin, 1789) – Wedge-tailed Shearwater

Puffinus gravis (O'Reilly, 1818) –

Great Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus (Brünnich, 1764) – Manx Shearwater

Puffinus assimilis (Gould, 1838) – Little Shearwater

Hydrobatidae

Fregatta tropica (Gould, 1844) – Black-bellied Storm Petrel

Oceanodroma leucorhoa (Vieillot, 1818) – Leach's Storm Petrel

Pelecanoididae:

Pelecanoides georgicus Murphy & Harper, 1916 – South Georgia Diving Petrel

Phaethontidae:

Phaëthon rubricauda Boddaert, 1783 – Red-tailed Tropicbird

Ciconiidae:

Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus (Latham, 1790) – Black-necked Stork

Ardeidae:

Ixobrychus dubius Matthews, 1912 – Australian Little Bittern

Egretta picata (Gould, 1845) – Pied Heron

Fregatidae:

Fregata ariel (G.R. Gray, 1845) – Lesser Frigatebird

Accipitridae:

Lophoictinia isura (Gould, 1838) – Square-tailed Kite (only if outside MLR)

Accipiter novaehollandiae (J.F. Gmelin, 1788) – Grey Goshawk

Turnicidae:

Turnix pyrrhothorax (Gould, 1841) – Red-chested Buttonquail

Charadriidae:

Pluvialis dominica (Stadius Müller, 1776) – American Golden Plover

Charadrius hiaticula Linnaeus, 1758 – Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius Scopoli, 1786 – Little Ringed Plover

Jacaniidae:

Irediparra gallinacea (Temminck, 1828) – Comb-crested Jacana

Pedionomidae:

Pedionomus torquatus (Gould, 1840) – Plains-wanderer

Scolopacidae:

Limnodromus griseus (J.F. Gmelin, 1789) – Short-billed Dowitcher

Limosa haemastica (Linnaeus, 1758) – Hudsonian Godwit

Numenius minutus Gould, 1841 – Little Curlew

Tringa totanus (Linnaeus, 1758) – Common Redshank

Tringa flavipes (J.F. Gmelin, 1789) – Lesser Yellowlegs

Calidris minuta (Leisler, 1812) – Little Stint

Calidris fuscicollis (Vieillot, 1819) – White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris bairdii (Coues, 1861) – Baird's Sandpiper

Limicola falcinellus (Pontoppidan, 1763) – Broad-billed Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis (Vieillot, 1819) – Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Phalaropus fulicarius (Linnaeus, 1758) – Red Phalarope

Glareolidae:

Glareola maldivarum J.R. Forster, 1795 – Oriental Pratincole

Laridae:

Leucophaeus pipixcan (Wagler, 1831) – Franklin's Gull

Xema sabini (Sabine, 1819) – Sabine's Gull

Onychoprion anaethetus (Scopoli, 1786) – Bridled Tern

Onychoprion fuscatus (Linnaeus, 1766) – Sooty Tern

Sterna paradisaea Pontoppidan, 1763 – Arctic Tern

Sterna vittata J.F. Gmelin, 1789 – Antarctic Tern

Stercorariidae:

Stercorarius maccormicki H. Saunders, 1893 – South Polar Skua

Columbidae:

Ptilinopus regina Swainson, 1825 – Rose-crowned Fruit Dove

Cacatuidae:

Callocephalon fimbriatum (J. Grant, 1803) – Gang-gang Cockatoo (only if outside KI)

Rare Birds Current Review List, Feb 2013 (cont)

Psittacidae:

Psitteuteles versicolor (Lear, 1831) – Varied Lorikeet
Aprosmictus erythropterus (J.F. Gmelin, 1788) – Red-winged Parrot
Polytelis alexandrae Gould, 1863 – Princess Parrot
Lathamus discolor (Shaw, 1790) – Swift Parrot
Neophema chrysogaster (Latham, 1790) – Orange-bellied Parrot
Pezoporus wallicus (Kerr, 1792) – Eastern Ground Parrot
Pezoporus occidentalis (Gould, 1861) – Night Parrot

Cuculidae:

Eudynamis orientalis (Linnaeus, 1766) – Pacific Koel
Scythrops novaehollandiae Latham, 1790 – Channel-billed Cuckoo
Cacomantis variolosus (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) – Brush Cuckoo
Cuculus optatus Gould, 1845 – Oriental Cuckoo

Tytonidae:

Tyto novaehollandiae (Stephens, 1826) – Masked Owl
Tyto longimembris (Jerdon, 1839) – Eastern Grass Owl

Caprimulgidae:

Eurostopodus mystacalis (Temminck, 1826) – White-throated Nightjar

Apodidae:

Apus nipalensis (Hodgson, 1837) – House Swift

Ptilonorhynchidae:

Chlamydera maculata (Gould, 1837) – Spotted Bowerbird

Meliphagidae:

Conopophila whitei (North, 1910) – Grey Honeyeater
Grantiella picta (Gould, 1838) – Painted Honeyeater
Philemon corniculatus (Latham, 1790) – Noisy Friarbird
Epthianura crocea Castelnau & E.P. Ramsay, 1877 – Yellow Chat

Pomatostomidae:

Pomatostomus temporalis (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) – Grey-crowned Babbler

Cinclosomatidae:

Cinclosoma punctatum (Shaw, 1795) – Spotted Quailthrush
Cinclosoma marginatum Sharpe, 1883 – Western Quailthrush

Campephagidae:

Lalage tenuirostris (Jardine, 1831) – Common Cicadabird

Dicruridae:

Dicrurus bracteatus Gould, 1843 – Spangled Drongo

Rhipiduridae:

Rhipidura rufifrons (Latham, 1801) – Rufous Fantail

Monarchidae:

Myiagra rubecula (Latham, 1801) – Leaden Flycatcher
Monarcha melanopsis (Vieillot, 1818) – Black-faced Monarch

Petroicidae:

Petroica rosea (Gould, 1840) – Rose Robin
Petroica rodinogaster (Drapiez, 1819) – Pink Robin

Hirundinidae:

Hirundo rustica Linnaeus, 1758 – Barn Swallow

Locustellidae:

Eremiornis carteri North, 1900 – Spinifexbird

Estrildidae:

Neochmia modesta Gould, 1837 – Plum-headed Finch

Motacillidae:

Motacilla tschutschensis J.F. Gmelin, 1789 – Eastern Yellow Wagtail
Motacilla citreola Pallas, 1776 – Citrine Wagtail
Motacilla cinerea Tunstall, 1771 – Grey Wagtail

Plus any species not included in the Field List of the Birds of South Australia (2008)

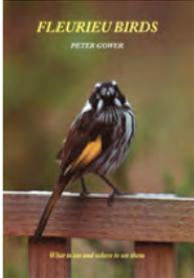
NEW MEMBERS

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Lesley Rosenthal & Berry van Vuuren | MAWSON LAKES |
| Steve James & Jacqui Clare Johnson | GLANDORE |
| Edward Patrick Smith | SHEIDOW PARK |
| John & Suzanne Glover | MYRTLE BANK |
| Rose Slade | GUMERACHA |
| Chris Cannizzaro | MORPHETT VALE |
| Leslie John Woods | UNLEY |
| Kate Gregson | PROSPECT |

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our treasurer. His telephone number is on p2.

From the Library



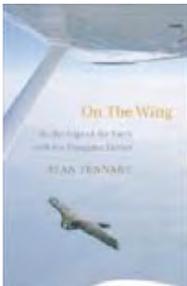
598.299423 GOW

Gower, Peter

Fleurieu birds: what to see and where to see them

Stepney, South Australia: Axiom, 2012

This is a field and location guide for the birds seen on the Fleurieu Peninsula. It contains hundreds of photographs showing birds in their habitats and notes about each species, as well as descriptions of 42 parks and reserves where birds can be seen. This guide is a wonderful reference and is beautifully produced.



598.91 TEN

Tennant, Alan

On the wing: to the edge of the earth with the Peregrine Falcon

London: Secker and Warburg, 2005

In this extraordinary journey, Alan Tennant recounts his attempt to track the transcontinental migration of the majestic Peregrine Falcon — an investigation no one before him had ever taken to such lengths. He travelled from the windswept flats of the Texas barrier islands to the Arctic and then south again into the Caribbean.



DVD 45

Bowerbird: playboy of the Australian rainforest. Produced by Partridge Films.

Canungra, Queensland: O'Reilly's Green Mountain Store.

This fascinating glimpse into the private life of the amazing Satin Bowerbird was filmed entirely in the rainforest surrounding O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse in Queensland.



DVD 46

Albert lyrebird: Prince of the Rainforest. Photography by Glen Trelfo; script by Peter O'Reilly Snr. and Glen Trelfo.

Canungra, Qld: O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse.

Glen Trelfo, a brilliant naturalist and photographer, has been on the trail of the elusive Albert lyrebird for many years. He has captured for the first time on film the dance and display, song and mimicry of this shy and mysterious bird.

From the Library (cont)



DVD 47

Life on the Edge of the Eucalypt Forest. Photography by Glen Trelfo; script by Peter O'Reilly Snr.

Canungra, Queensland: O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse, (200?)

This documentary features the retreating eucalypts and the distinctive wildlife that live there. Some exquisitely beautiful, some rare and endangered, on the sunny side of the divide in the Eucalypt Forest" -- Cover.



KIT

Spyder2express: monitor calibrator

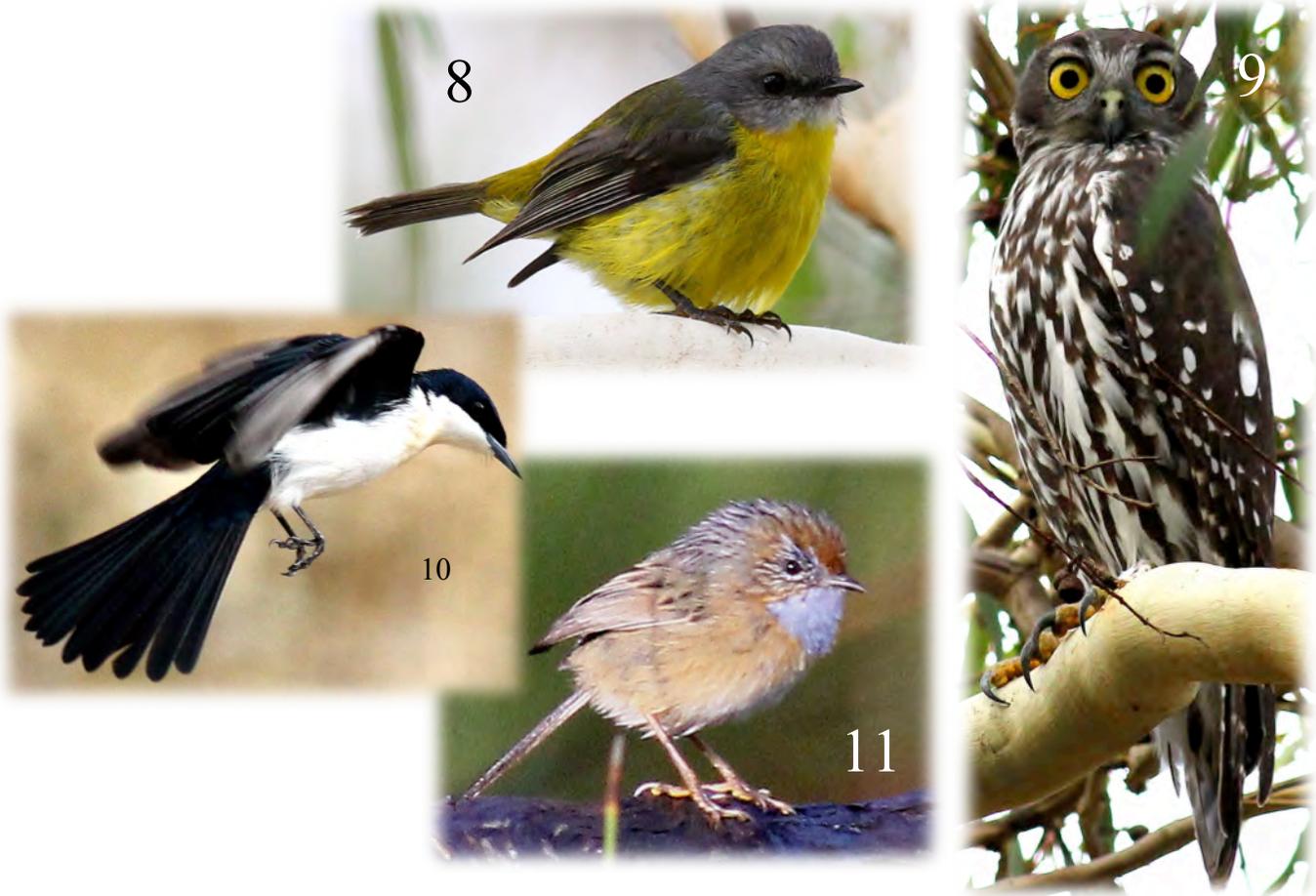
Spyder2express monitor calibrator adjusts the colour on your monitor so your photos appear more accurately. Easy-to-use right out of the box, this award winning proven technology helps you calibrate your monitor. The before and after viewing feature lets you compare your display with and without calibration.

Details of Members' Photographs

| No: | Species | Photographer | Location | Date |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Wood Duck | Gordon Pateman | Around Adelaide | 22/01/2013 |
| 2 | Black Swan | Gordon Pateman | Around Adelaide | 17/12/12 |
| 3 | Eurasian Coot | Gordon Pateman | Around Adelaide | 21/12/2007 |
| 4 | Pacific Black Duck | Gordon Pateman | Around Adelaide | 18/10/2007 |
| 5 | Emu | Gordon Pateman | Around Adelaide | 10/10/2012 |
| 6 | Magpie-lark | Gordon Pateman | Around Adelaide | 11/11/2012 |
| 7 | Willie Wagtail | Gordon Pateman | Around Adelaide | 27/9/2007 |
| 8 | Eastern Yellow Robin | Helga Kieskamp | Mary Seymour CP | Easter 2013 |
| 9 | Barking Owl | Helga Kieskamp | Mary Seymour CP | Easter 2013 |
| 10 | Restless Flycatcher | Helga Kieskamp | Mary Seymour CP | Easter 2013 |
| 11 | Southern Emu-wren | Helga Kieskamp | Mary Seymour CP | Easter 2013 |
| 12 | Great Egret | Peter McKenzie | Greenfields Wetlands | April 2013 |
| 13 | White-breasted Water Hen | Margie Tiller | Cocos Island | March 2013 |
| 14 | Red-necked Avocet | Peter McKenzie | Greenfields Wetlands | April 2013 |
| 15 | Pelican | Greg Blackman | Port Vincent | 18/5/2012 |
| 16 | Royal Penguin | Margie Tiller | Macquarie Island | 14/12/2012 |

Photographs from the Easter Campout

Taken by Helga Kieskamp, March 28 to April 2: Mary Seymour CP, SE.
Details on p18



A Birdo's Paradise — Plus Observe Glossy Black-Cockatoos feeding!



Enjoy a special holiday at American River, within walking distance of all attractions.

Stay in a well-equipped three-bedroom cottage amid surroundings that are perfect for bird watching. Just bring your own sheets and towels, and clean the cottage before departing.

Birds SA members and friends pay only \$48 per double per night plus \$9 for each additional person.

Please contact Chris or Pam Cooper on 08 70703392, or email cccoopers@adam.com.au for further information and website links to *Possums Watch*.

A Miscellany of Water Birds

Details on p18

