

Birds SA

Newsletter



LINKING PEOPLE WITH BIRDS

No 235

August 2015



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.

A Page of Parrots



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CENTRE INSERT

SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES NUMBER 53,
JOHN SUTTON'S OUTER HARBOR NOTES, PART 2

DIARY

The following is a list of Birds SA activities for the next few months. Further details of all these activities are given later in this Newsletter.

Aug 30 Sunday Excursion to Currency Creek Gorge

Sept 12 Saturday Excursion Porter Scrub CP

Sept 17 Thursday Excursion to Mt. Lofty Gdns.

Sept 25 Friday General Meeting

Sept 27 Sunday Excursion to Altona Reserve

October 3-5 Campout at Gluepot

Oct 10 Saturday Excursion to Wyndgate, Hindmarsh I

Oct 15 Thursday Excursion to Sandy Creek

Oct 30 Friday General Meeting

Nov 1 Sunday Excursion to Sir Richard Pen. Etc.

Nov 14 Saturday Excursion to Tolderol

Nov 19 Thursday Excursion to Hardy's Scrub

Nov 27 Friday General Meeting

Dec 6 Sunday Excursion to Riverglades etc.

Cover photo: Brown Falcon, photographed by Peter McKenzie at Robe, on 28th July 2015

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 18 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p23.

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SAOA COMMITTEE 2015 – 2016

President	David Paton	8344 8891
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Member	William Brooker	8381 8730
Member	John Spiers	8333 0272
Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	John Hatch	8362 2820

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	0402123960
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
	email imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au	
Campout Organiser	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Rare Birds Secretary	Colin Rogers	8336 3325

RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

BirdLife Southeast SA

Convener, — Bob Green shriketit@bigpond.com 8725 0549

IBA Coordinator/Newsletter Editor — Bryan Haywood

brytonwood@bigpond.com 8726 8112

Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact person: Neil Cheshire 8552 7904

Website: www.Fleurieubirdwatchers.org

Port Augusta group

Contact people: Peter Langdon 8642 5723, Greg Bannon 8648 6630,

Bernie Haase 0419 863 834

WEBSITE: birdssa.asn.au

2015 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 \$40.00 per half page and 10c per inserted leaflet (single sheet). The committee reserves the right to lower or waive these fees.

COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the November Newsletter is due by the October General Meeting (October 30). 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

President's Message/Tolderol News

Spring 2015 will be busy for Birds SA and its committee, since a series of events will be taking place in addition to our regular meetings and outings.

John Gitsham, John Hatch and John Spiers have been busy planning a short **WEA course on birds** aimed at people who have recently started or want to start bird watching. Their course will run this spring. If you would like to take the course please contact one of the Johns. Others on the committee have been busy guiding the design of a **new look** for the **Birds SA website**. The new website should be launched this spring. This new site will not only facilitate the provision and dissemination of information on birds and their conservation, but also encourage greater interaction between members and the general public. This will also facilitate a shift to delivering newsletters digitally for those who wish to receive material in this way.

Bird Week will occur in October and we are planning to run some short bird walks along the Torrens for the general public as part of those celebrations. If you would like to be involved and help with these please contact me but we will put out a call for volunteer guides closer to the date.

Around this time **Tolderol Game Reserve** should be filling with water and again providing habitat for some of the migratory shorebirds and other waterbirds. Last year's trial was a great success and this year with financial help from Birds SA a much larger area will be watered. Spring will close with the

Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC) at Flinders University from the 25-27 November (see separate advertisement). Friday the 27th of November is also the final general meeting for Birds SA for 2015. There is an advertisement for this conference on page 22.

As part of Birds SA's contribution to the AOC we will be running a series of field trips over the weekend of 28-29 November. There are three field trip options planned: one to the wetlands around St Kilda (Greenfields, saltfields etc) another to the Monarto woodlands that will include a visit to Laratinga wetlands, and a longer trip that will take in Tolderol, and wetlands around Goolwa and the Murray Mouth. Several people have already booked on these trips and Birds SA will help by providing guides and drivers. We already have a small list of volunteers to assist with these tours but we will need more. If you can help, please contact me by email (david.paton@adelaide.edu.au). We intend to have a practice run in mid-November for those helping run these trips.

David Paton

FUNDING INJECTION TO TOLDEROL GAME RESERVE WETLANDS

Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands, an internationally important managed wetland, is set to receive a \$10,000 funding boost by the oldest birding association in Australia, Birds SA.

The financial injection will help deliver environmental water to 67 hectares of man-made wetland providing rich feeding areas for

migratory shorebirds. These shorebirds once regularly visited the shores of Lake Alexandrina and Albert but are now restricted due to the maintenance of higher and less variable water levels. Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands, established in the 1970's, provide migratory sandpipers and other waterbirds with suitable habitat and help compensate for the lack of suitable lakeshore.

Last year when 35 hectares were flooded during a watering trial conducted by Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin, nine nationally-listed migratory shorebird species amongst a total of 45 water-dependant species used the area. This included over 200 critically endangered Curlew sandpipers and over 4000 Sharp-tailed sandpipers.

Funding from Birds SA, the Australian Federal Government via Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin and the donation of materials from SA Water and Wetland Habitats Trust and will allow the area of wetland to more than double and so more birds are expected this year. Watering is expected to re-commence in early October.

The next open day at Tolderol is Tuesday 2nd September where people can find out more about what's happening at the site. To register for the open day or find out more information please contact Regina Durbridge, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning phone (08) 8537 0808 or email: regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au

Kate Mason (DEWNR)

See p24 for more information about the open day at Tolderol.



Glossy Ibis and Black-winged Stilt observed during the environmental watering trial in 2014/15 (Photo: Helen Lewis).

Birds SA Notes & News

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Please advise me of any changes to your name, address, email address or telephone number by emailing me at membership@birdssa.asn.au.

Alternatively, 'phone the Treasurer using the number on page 3.

Brian Walker

WHAT'S IN AN IDENTITY, A BRAND, OR A LOGO?

Who are Birds SA? What do they do? It may not surprise you that many organisations like ours are not well known within our community. In our case, this is despite having one of the largest (if not the largest!) memberships for any environmental non-government organisation in SA. The Birds SA Committee has been discussing how to increase awareness of our existence because we believe we can use our large member base, enormous amount of knowledge and expertise, and our great social network to leverage better outcomes for birds and bird conservation in SA. Of course we also want to continue to provide great activities for members; and to help sustain these activities we need to maintain our membership by continually attracting new members.

The Birds SA Committee has been discussing how we achieve increased awareness and recognition for who Birds SA are, what we do, and what we have to offer. We agreed that a good first step would be to revisit and discuss Birds SA's identity.

The Committee has engaged an organisation known as **ecocreative*** to do this work for us. **Ecocreative** does a lot of work for the environmental sector in this state and is widely acknowledged for the quality of its work.

On the 1st of July most of the Committee met with ecocreative staff and discussed the above questions to provide the information needed to refresh our identity and brand. The exercise was enjoyable and has already provided the Committee with some great insights. For example, our branding has always put the focus on the birds, however, ecocreative

suggested that we should also 'show-off' the people behind the birds, because we are also about bird watching, which is about people. Of course – so obvious once pointed out to us!

We have also been advised that we need to make sure the language we use makes people feel comfortable — that they are in the 'right place' — a place that allows them to build the courage to make contact with us, whether by coming along to an event or enquiring about a bird. We all know that birding is quite a technical pursuit, and it takes a lot of time to build knowledge of birds and their identification. For beginners this challenge can be part of the attraction. However, because members of organisations like ours often have extensive expertise it can feel very 'cliquey' to newcomers. We certainly don't want this. We want to be welcoming – after all we are nice people! So we want to ensure that our identity – including our logo and the language we use in promotional materials — is welcoming to everyone in the first instance, especially to potential new birders!

Finally, you may not know that the South Australian Ornithological Association is the oldest organisation of its type in Australasia, having been established as in 1899, two years ahead of the formation of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (now Birdlife). Introduction of a 'common name' for the South Australian Ornithological Association — *Birds SA* – occurred relatively recently in 2001. This was a significant change to the identity to the organisation. Now we are ready to take the next step in the evolution of our identity.

In the coming months we will reveal a new brand, a new logo, a new look newsletter and websites, which will provide a sound footing for us to increase our efforts to link a lot more people with birds in South Australia. And why does that matter? I will allow Sir David Attenborough to sum it up: "No-one will protect what they don't care about, and no-one will

care about what they have never experienced".

Jody Gates

** ecocreative describes itself as a creative consultancy devoted to inspiring positive change for a sustainable society. You will find more details on its website — ecocreative.com.au.*

Cynthia Pyle

PROSPECTIVE WEA COURSE WHICH MIGHT INTEREST YOU!

In the next WEA Course Program, due out in early September, look out for:

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS AND BIRD WATCHING

It will be run on Wednesday evenings, 8.00-9.30 pm for six weeks, starting on October 14th and finishing on November 18th.

It will be run at the WEA in the city in Angas Street, where there is good parking and security.

The three tutors are all very experienced bird people with backgrounds in teaching.

It will cover a variety of topics such as:

- ***identification and the diversity of the world's birds**
- ***books, binoculars, telescopes, cameras, etc.**
- ***behaviour, breeding, migration and other features of birds' lives.**
- ***vocalisation, songs and calls**
- ***birdwatching as a fast growing hobby and contacts both here and abroad.**

There will be two field trips.

If you don't see the program then WEA's email address is admin@wea.sa.com.au or contact me, John Hatch for further information (8362 2820).

Conservation Sub-Committee Report

A delegation from the Sub-committee attended a Prescribed Burn Information Session on the 23 June 2015 conducted by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR). DEWNR committed considerable resources to this meeting with the following people presenting the topics described below. Specific questions put by members of the sub-committee are given in italics and our comments are placed within square brackets.

Tim Groves — Prescribed Burn Objectives & Targets

Fire management in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) is very challenging. There are about 50,000 people living in the hills within a mosaic of public and private areas. There is a history of large and devastating bushfires. People living in the hills have a range of values and so have a broad range of opinions as to what fire management actions should be taken. The challenge is to find a balance which maximises benefits and minimises impacts. DEWNR believes that active management is required and the 'do nothing approach' is not acceptable. The department is continually trying to learn from its experience to improve its operations and influence decision makers.

What are the Government's overall objectives for the burn program?

The SA State Government Target is to "Manage bushfire risks by reducing fuels across 5% of public land in high risk areas". Recommendation 56 of the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission called for a blanket annual rolling target of 5 per cent minimum of public land. Since that time fire protection authorities across the nation have moved away from blanket targets towards risk reduction performance targets. The SA approach is risk based. It equates to the burning of 1,350 hectares each year across public land. Over the last 5 years around 800-950 ha have been burnt and it is believed that 1,200 ha are

operationally feasible. Other fuel reduction methods can be used such as slashing, weed removal and mechanical thinning and may be more effective.

Additional large areas have been unintentionally burnt in recent times. Are these areas included in the annual area total target for the DEWNR burn program?

Yes, since 2003 DEWNR has conducted approximately 300 burns in the AMLR. About 6 burns (2%) have burnt beyond planned containment lines but no burns have escaped park boundaries.

In future fuel reduction should be based on a 'Whole of landscape' fuel reduction strategy as about 65% of native vegetation is privately owned and often close to human assets. This approach may reduce the burning required on private land but would present many challenges.

Ian Tanner — Effectiveness of Prescribed Burning, Fire Management plans and how burn areas are chosen

Since 2003 DEWNR has been developing Fire Management Plans across SA's fire prone landscapes. Risk assessments undertaken within these plans are significant drivers to where fuel reduction activities are to be undertaken. The data underlying planning (fuels, asset registers, fire behaviour modelling) are continually updated.

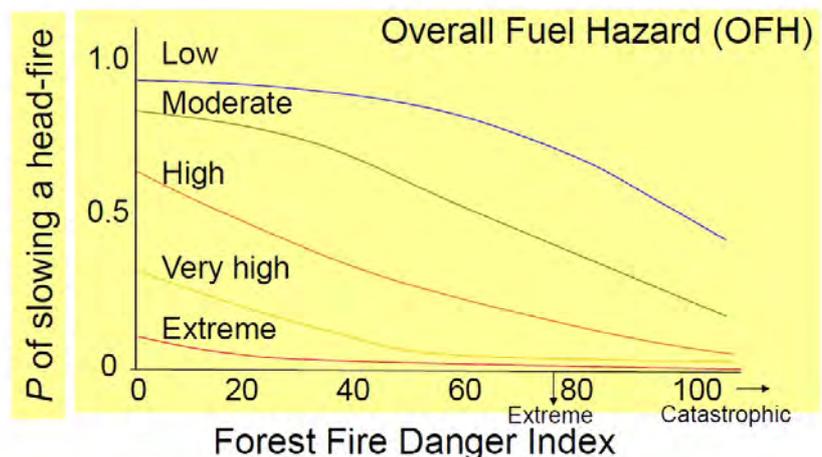
What evidence is there that burns

reduce the impact of large uncontrolled fires?

We have considerable evidence to support the effectiveness of prescribed burns. Basically prescribed burns have been shown to reduce the Overall Fuel Hazard (OFH).

[The Overall Fuel Hazard is the sum of influences of three factors (Bark Hazard, Elevated Fuel and Surface Fine Fuel Hazard). These precisely defined factors, and details of how they are to be assessed in a document, "Overall Fuel Hazard Guide" available from DEWNR. Fuel Hazard assessment includes an assessment of factors that determine both the ease of ignition and difficulty of fire suppression. Such factors may be fuel continuity, fuel height and proportion of dead material. Weather conditions also influence fire risk. The McArthur Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) was developed in the 1960s by CSIRO scientist A.G. McArthur to measure the degree of danger of fire in Australian forests. The formulation of the FFDI is based on the temperature, wind speed, relative humidity, and a component called the Drought Factor.]

The graph below shows the relationship between the FFDI, OFH and the probability of slowing and hence controlling a fire. Where OFH is "Low" the chance of slowing and hence controlling a fire is high, as long as the FFDI is not extreme or



Conservation Sub-Committee Report (cont)

catastrophic. If OFH is “High” or worse then the probability of slowing a fire is small even at low FFDI levels.

The Sampson Flat Bushfire provided a significant test for prescribed burn areas.

Fuel reduction thus serves to:

- protect properties and lives particularly when FFDI is not extreme,
- allow the vast majority of fires to be quickly controlled,
- reduce spotting and ember attack on assets by reducing bark fuel,
- expand the range of conditions in which suppression operations (water bombing, retardant drops, back burning) can be effectively and safely conducted.

How are the prescribed burn areas chosen?

A prescribed burn must have a specific management objective or objectives. Broadly these are to protect lives and property by fuel reduction or for ecological management purposes, or both. Specific locations are chosen through the development of Fire Management Plans. The risk assessment process guides the designation of fire management zones:

- Asset Zones (A Zones)
- Buffer Zones (B Zones)
- Conservation Zones (C Zones).

The primary objective within A and B zones is fuel management. Within A-Zones the Fuel Hazard should not exceed *MODERATE*, within B-Zones it should not exceed *HIGH*. Burning within C-Zones should be within ecological fire management guidelines.

Fuel Management Maps are accessible to the public at:

<http://www.envapps.sa.gov.au/firemaps/>

There they can see:

- Fire Management Zoning across Reserves
- Proposed Prescribed Burns
- Fire History
- Flora/Fauna data

Landscape Protection Burning in C-Zones is more controversial.

Objectives include to:

- Provide suppression opportunities to enable fires to be contained in the early stages (small fire fronts) before they reach people and property
- Prevent whole reserves, critical habitat patches from being burnt in a single bushfire event
- Provide refuges for wildlife during and following bushfires
- Minimise land/water degradation especially in catchments.

Burning in this zone depends on the risk reduction required, the resources available and ecological impacts. Decisions are made according to Ecological Fire Management Guidelines.

Kirstin Abley — Fire ecology, environmental assessments and ecological monitoring

Ecological burns may be conducted to manipulate habitat e.g. to remove old woody reeds and stimulate new growth for the benefit of the Southern Emu Wren. This was done along the Finnis River and in the Stipiturus Conservation Park. Ecological burns may also be valuable in ecological restoration, by assisting re-vegetation and stimulating germination of natives. Burning is a natural process in Australia but is now being done in an unnatural environment.

What assessments are made before and after a burn for both flora and fauna?

Initial planning is done, based on pooling staff knowledge, information from biodiversity experts and from Friends of Parks. An environmental assessment follows which combines further information from the Biological database of South Australia, the fire history of the area, expert advice, an on-the-spot or ramble survey and data collected by DEWNR on plant and animal responses to fire. The decision to proceed, to postpone or cancel a burn or use other measures to reduce fire

risk is taken based on these assessments.

To what extent does the potential impact upon fauna influence the way a burn is planned and conducted?

The plan may include various mitigating actions to reduce the impact of the burn such as:

- Exclusion zones
- Excluding surrounding areas from burning
- Hygiene procedures
- Changing the timing of the burn
- Protecting trees and hollows
- Conducting patchy burns
- Monitoring
- Cancelling or delaying the burn.

The timing of any proposed burn is important. In summer it is far too hot and dry to contemplate a burn, in winter it is often too wet for an effective burn. Spring is often the season chosen because:

- Soil moisture is high and burnt areas can regenerate faster,
- It is prior to the native growing season and can reduce competition by removing weeds,
- Burns tend to be of low intensity involving patchy burns while retaining stags [trees providing hollows or other habitat features] and woody debris.

[From the point of view of the birds it is bad time as it is the main breeding period. Nests and nestlings may be lost. Many plants also begin to grow in winter and early spring.]

Autumn is sometimes chosen as:

- There is lower seed mortality.
- Some species may be stimulated to germinate and,
- It opens up the canopy.

However there is low soil moisture and a higher risk of spreading *Phytophthora*.

[Autumn would seem to be a better time from the birds' point of view.]

Has the Commonwealth Government approved the Strategic Assessment of DEWNR fire Management?

Fire management activities undertaken by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) require

Conservation Sub-Committee Report (cont)

approval under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) if they are likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance (MNES). However, the strategic assessment provisions of the EPBC Act can enable these actions to proceed without requiring approval if undertaken under a policy, plan or program endorsed under the Act. Accordingly, this strategic assessment seeks endorsement of the Environmental Assessment and Management Procedure (DEWNR 2014) (the Policy).

Richard de Groot — Prescribed Burn Operations

Burns are planned and conducted by nationally accredited staff within DEWNR, Forestry SA and CFS. These people are trained in planning and conducting prescribed burns. DEWNR is supported on-ground by trained firefighters from CFS (DEWNR is a brigade of the CFS) and Forestry SA. The State Government conducts over 100 burns every year. Local CFS brigades are invited to attend all prescribed burns. A good deal of work is done before each burn. A PB Operations plan must be developed setting out burn objectives, prescriptions, lighting patterns, mitigation actions, crew tasking and escape contingencies. Some work may need to be done before the burn such as constructing control lines or taking mitigation actions.

A week before the burn there is a phone hook up with the Bureau of Meteorology, phone hook ups with all parties involved (CFS, DEWNR, SA Water and FSA, a weekly MLRFC burn advice, a media release and letter drops in the vicinity. Details are entered into CFS websites.

On the day:

- the latest 1 and 4 day weather forecasts are obtained,
- fuel moisture levels are confirmed,
- likely fire behaviour is calculated,

- a risk assessment is conducted,
- fire crews are briefed,
- a test burn is conducted,
- emergency agencies are informed,
- ignition is commenced,
- during the burn, fire behaviour and fire crews are managed
- the fire is monitored and conditions recorded.

After the burn weather conditions are continually monitored and crew resources are committed to mopping up and patrol for several days after the burn until the area is declared safe. Action reviews and reassessments are formally conducted and recorded to inform future actions.

Kirstin Abley — Post burn ecological monitoring

Monitoring is carried out after each burn. The aim is to address key knowledge areas and assess the effectiveness of ecological burns. For example we were asked whether unburnt habitat patches affect the survival of Southern Brown Bandicoots (SBBs). A careful survey confirmed that 9 out of 10 SBBs did survive. The surviving animals used habitat patches, adjacent unburnt habitat, and burrows. They colonised the burn site 3-4 years after the burn. Large unburnt habitat patches are therefore beneficial and it is important to provide adjacent unburnt habitat to enable populations to persist. Similarly Chesnut-rumped Heathwrens will use unburnt habitat patches and burnt habitats less than two years after a fire. They may even prefer regenerating habitat.

In what ways may Birds SA add value?

Birds SA can assist the preventative burning process by:

- assessing and providing comment on burns proposed,
- entering bird records into the Biological Database of SA,
- Becoming involved in monitoring projects.
- Providing the fire ecologist with interesting observations from

within burn sites – including how long it takes before species start using habitat for foraging, nesting etc.

The Birds SA members who attended came away with a much better understanding of DEWNR objectives, operations and the directives under which they operate in regard to preventative burning operations. In particular they had a fuller understanding of their approach to the balance between risk reduction and ecological impact. A letter was sent expressing our thanks to the Department. Their suggestions on ways in which Birds SA could be involved to better meet the objectives of both organisations should certainly be considered by our association.

John Spiers

Convenor, BirdsSA

Conservation Subcommittee.

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

Five years on from the first series of comprehensive White-bellied Sea Eagle and Osprey population surveys, Birds SA are supporting a follow-up project to assess stability or trends within these populations across all regions of South Australia ...



White-bellied Sea Eagle

Photo by Elizabeth Steele-Collins



'Port River' Osprey, photographed
on 28th July 2015 by Sharon Sharp

Have you seen these awe-inspiring birds in recent years?

The 2008-10 surveys confirmed that both species have small, isolated and declining populations in SA. The sea eagle breeding population was estimated at just 70-80 pairs (now found mainly on offshore islands) and the osprey with 55-65 pairs (SAO 37, p1-16). Both species are listed as Endangered in SA.

Members are assured that surveys are conducted in accord with DEWNR Scientific Permit and Animal Ethics Approval conditions and endorsed minimum impact protocols. Accordingly, members are asked not to approach nesting sites during the breeding season, however, incidental observations of these species and of pairs in particular, from anywhere in SA will be a greatly appreciated contribution to the project, and can be forwarded to, or discussed with:

Sharie Detmar - project coordinator
ph 0417 892 607 or; 0428 113 096
sharie_detmar@hotmail.com

or

Terry Dennis
ph 8524 5561 or; 0409 527 654
osprey842@gmail.com

Terry Dennis

Past General Meetings

FRIDAY APRIL 24

John Hatch introduced the speaker Jason van Weenen from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR). Jason has been a Species Ecologist for the past 18 years.

Jason's topic was "Impact Causing Species of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regions". He spoke about the Grey-headed Flying-fox, which became established in Adelaide in 2010. The species is highly social and listed as Vulnerable nationally (EPBC Act). Their diet includes nectar, fruit and leaves. They forage to about 50km from the roost site each night and can fly around 350km/night when travelling to other campsites. The colonies get into trouble when the temperature is 38°C+ with juveniles most affected. The colony size in SA at present is around 3000. The population is not 'breeding up'. The adults are persisting with an exchange between colonies interstate. There is no observable winter decline in colony size.

The second group that Jason spoke about was corellas (Little Corella and Long-billed Corella). Community concerns about corellas include noise, damage to trees, mess or health concerns, damage to assets and impacts on other native species. DEWNR does not manage impact-causing species unless there is a clear biodiversity conservation objective. The management responsibility generally lies with the land manager or the person experiencing the problem. DEWNR also promotes a philosophy that, where possible, communities should first look at the ways to 'live with wildlife' and provides advice, strategies, methodologies and policies to assist land managers to deal with impact causing species. The Little Corella is on the unprotected species list for SA and can only be taken by means of shooting for which a Hunting Permit is required. You need a Specialised Destruction Permit for any destruction of Little Corellas that

involves trapping and carbon dioxide narcosis. Non-lethal management methods include spotlights or lasers to disrupt roosting birds; scare guns, gas guns or bird fright; habitat manipulation; falcons and decoy feeding. There are a number of Corella management challenges.

FRIDAY MAY 29

John Hatch (ex Vice-President) introduced the speaker Marina Louter, a PhD candidate from the Bird Lab, Flinders University. Marina completed her Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Science in Biology at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. She has undertaken research work in the Seychelles and Brazil.

Marina's topic was "Thick-billed Grasswren behavioural ecology in zones of human impact" which is the title of her PhD project. Before talking about grasswrens Marina gave an outline of the work being carried out by other PhD students (Christine Evans, Petra Hanke, Katharina Peters and Amy Slender) at the Bird Lab.

An overview of her thesis

- What habitat characteristics (including grazing impacts) predict presence/absence of Thick-billed Grasswrens?
- Do habitat attributes predict nesting success?
- Does parental nest attendance predict egg predation?
- Do parents work harder to feed chicks in poor environments?
- Does habitat use correlate with habitat quality?

The Thick-billed Grasswren (TBGW) is restricted to the arid regions of Australia and it is a very shy and elusive bird. Their cryptic plumage makes it very hard to see them, especially on the brown-red coloured arid soil where this bird spends most of its time. You will not see this bird fly, as it spends most of its life on the ground, running, rather than flying. It is sedentary, meaning that it occupies a territory year round, and because of its small range and

poor dispersal abilities it is vulnerable to anthropogenic factors such as introduced predators and grazing. Marina's study was undertaken on Witchelina Station, an old sheep run of 421000 hectares purchased by the Nature Foundation of South Australia in 2010.

Mist nets were placed in suitable habitats along creek lines. A total of 164 individual birds were banded at Witchelina from 34 groups (40 chicks, 46 fledglings, 7 juveniles 29 adult females and 42 adult males). The morphology of each bird was taken as well as a DNA sample of its blood. Each bird was banded with a metal band and a unique combination of three colour bands for individual identification.

Tests of nesting success was carried out by comparing areas with previously heavy grazing to areas with less grazing, TBGW are highly specialized in selection of nest-site vegetation with 80% of all nests located in Blackbush (*Maireana pyramidata*). The nests are placed from 0.10 to 0.40m above the ground. Eggs hatch around 14 days after being laid. During 2013-2014, 37 active nests were found. Of these nests 29 fledged (76%), 5 were abandoned (13%) and 4 were predated (11%).

In-nest video monitoring was undertaken to find out who feeds the nestlings and the type of prey. Eight nests each were filmed during 2013 and 2014. In 2013 a total of 1342 feeding events were recorded of which 982 prey items were too small to identify (73%) and 360 items were identified to the level of order (27%). The majority of these were Orthoptera (grasshopper) (63%) and Lepidoptera (caterpillar/moths) (27%).

To answer questions about habitat use radio telemetry was carried out in 2014. Fourteen transmitters were attached to adult male birds to find out the home range size, the vegetation they use/need and their foraging behaviour. The average home range size was found to be

Past General Meetings (cont)

6.65 ± 4.10ha with almost no overlap between home ranges. There were no correlations between home range size and habitat parameters, such as grazing, vegetation structure and cover, insect abundance, bird densities and the number of neighbouring territories.

Of the three genera of Maluridae in Australia, the grasswrens (*Amytornis*) contain the highest proportion of threatened species as well as the only extinct infrataxa within the family. Tools we are using to determine what factors are important to protect the Thick-billed Grasswren include: genetics, demography, breeding biology, habitat needs and long term population monitoring.

Marina's project will be a valuable assessment of how grazing pressure influences nesting success and vulnerability to nestling predation, through observational comparisons among sites with different grazing impacts. This will be a useful data set for the management of the Witchelina property by the Nature Foundation of SA, and should allow them to monitor the progress of recovery from grazing as well as optimisation of the land use for Thick-billed Grasswren preservation. The research will provide useful lessons for other grasswren conservation programs elsewhere in Australia.

FRIDAY JUNE 26

This was a Members' Night and John Hatch introduced each speaker before their presentation.

Neil Cheshire described his trip to Kerala in southwest India with Roly Lloyd and showed photos of the many species seen including endemics. They spent eight days visiting Thattekad about 70km east of Kochi at the edge of the Western Ghats and also Munnar in November 2014. Neil showed photographs of White-cheeked Barbet (endemic), Malabar Grey Hornbill (endemic), Rufous Treepie, White-bellied Treepie, Indian Pitta, Malabar Trogon, Fork-tailed Drongo-cuckoo,

Black-rumped Flameback, River Tern, Malabar Parakeet (endemic), Malabar Barbet (endemic), Plum-headed Parakeet, Malabar Whistling Thrush, and Kerala Laughing Thrush (endemic).

Peter Gower showed a series of photographs featuring Whiskered, Gull-billed, Great Crested and Fairy Terns. The longest movement of the Whiskered Tern is 327km from ICI Salt Works, St Kilda (banded February 1980) and retrapped at Bool Lagoon (January 1985). The oldest bird from 80 Mile Beach, WA was banded in August 1982 and caught again in August 1998. A Gull-billed Tern banded at Roebuck Bay, WA in November 2008 and found at Bohai Bay, Hebei Province, China in April 2011 is the longest movement (6400km). The oldest bird was banded at Roebuck Bay in April 1994 and seen again in July 2012. A Greater Crest Tern banded in January 1986 at Eagle Islet, Lizard Island, QLD was found at D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Bruny Is, TAS in April 1995, a distance of 3000km. The oldest one is 32 years old and was banded at Penguin Island, Beachport, SA in December 1975 and found at Point Ricardo, East Gippsland, VIC in February 2008. The longest movement of the Fairy Tern was banded on West Cattle Island, Coorong, SA in February 2010 and sited at North Spit, Werribee, VIC in June 2013 (518km). The oldest aged bird (17 years) was banded at Walungup Lake, WA in November 1959 and recovered at North Fisherman Island, WA in February 1977. A Caspian Tern banded at Lake Balun, Hu - Han, Russia in July 1988 was recovered at Xuan Thuy Reserve, Vietnam, a distance of 3400km and the oldest age record was a bird banded off Mans Beach, Corner Inlet, VIC in February 1982 and recovered at Lawrence, NSW 23 years later.

Andrew Black gave details of the research he has been carrying out with Philippa Horton on 'Thornbills of Adelaide's coastal mangroves and shrublands'. Andrew acknowledged

the help of Graham Carpenter, Derek Carter, Kent Treloar, Peter Gower, Les Peters, Colin Rogers and Kym Murphy with photographs and information. Brown Thornbills occupy the Mount Lofty Ranges and Adelaide Plains south of Gawler River and Inland Thornbills replace Brown Thornbills north of Gawler River, extending in mangroves to Yorke Peninsula and the Mid North. Schodde and Mason 1999 reported that "In the coastal shrublands off east Gulf St Vincent north of Adelaide (both species) are sympatric", all 15 specimens being of one or the other species" whilst J Matthew in HANZAB 2002 said that "In coastal shrublands of east Gulf St Vincent the two taxa coexist", but with one specimen of 15 showing intermediate features". Recent observations found Inland Thornbills in mangroves at St Kilda, Port Gawler, Middle Beach, Port Wakefield; Brown Thornbills in Casuarinas at Buckland Park, in planted shrubs near Dry Creek Estuary, in Little Para wetlands at Whites Road. "In mangroves from Bolivar to Port Parham, unlike Inland Thornbills, they don't cock their tails and there are no pale tips on their tails" (Anon). They compared museum specimens (8 South Australian Museum and 7 Australian National Wildlife Collection) from east of Gulf St Vincent with skins of Brown Thornbill (Mount Lofty Ranges) *Acanthiza pusilla samueli*, Brown Thornbill (SE & Coorong) *A. p. pusilla* and Inland Thornbill (Yorke Peninsula & Mid-north). From research carried out the following conclusions have been made:

- Contact between Brown and Inland Thornbills in mangroves and shrublands of the eastern Gulf St Vincent coast occurs through a broad hybrid zone of undetermined northern extent
- Three phenotypes but no parental forms are identified within the hybrid zone
- Mangrove Thornbills are Inland-resembling hybrids and Brown-

Past and Future General Meetings/Past Excursions

resembling hybrids may be present only in non-mangrove habitats

Mike Ashton spoke about Orange-bellied Parrot monitoring at Melaleuca from 2-17 March 2015 with his wife. The purpose of the volunteer program is to obtain the following information about these birds:

- The minimum adult population size
- Productivity for the year — i.e. number of juveniles
- Survival of each year's adults and juveniles
- Survival of captive bred birds and their offspring
- Measurement of the use of supplementary food provided
- Observations of predators and competitors
- Observation of bird behaviour at feed tables
- Confirm sex of banded birds
- Use and occupancy of nest boxes
- Usage of feed tables at the hide and at Willson's house.

The major duties of volunteers are:

- To perform and record daily bird observations – dawn and dusk in 15 minute time slots for 2 hours
- Provide weighed seed daily at feed tables and remove and weigh old seed
- Maintain and clean feed tables, house, hide, etc.
- Observe and report on competitors and predators
- Order dry and soaked seed as required to ensure adequate supplies.
- Record daily image counts on camera traps
- Replace camera trap batteries and memory cards and order replacements as required
- Report daily to nominated contact person in PWS

- Brief incoming volunteers on current situation and talk with other visitors about the OBP recovery programme, and explain dos and don'ts as required.

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 SEPTEMBER 25

Amy Slender will be the speaker at this meeting. Her draft title is 'Biodiversity Offset Strategy for impacts on the eastern subspecies of the Thick-billed Grasswren, *Amytornis textilis modestus*'.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30

The speaker will be Ian Falkenberg. His draft title is 'The biology of South Australian birds of prey'.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27

Pre-Christmas Members' Night.

Please submit offers to present short talks and other items to Daniel Rogers before mid-November so that the whole programme can be arranged.

The talks will be preceded and followed by drinks and nibbles, so please bring a plate of food to share.

PAST EXCURSIONS

Anstey Hill Recreation Park & Angove Conservation Park — 16 May

Twenty-one members met at the gate of **Anstey Hill Recreation Park** on a typically fresh autumn morning. It was good to welcome a new club member Noel Christophersen, and two visitors, Cary and Keith from Maine USA.

Two groups set off in different directions and by the end of the walk, they had splintered into four groups. We also picked up two latecomers on the way back to lunch. In all 36 species were recorded with a total of 404 birds seen. Most common were Red Wattlebird and New Holland Honeyeater with good numbers of Red-browed Finch, Superb Fairywren, Weebill, Silvereye and Adelaide Rosella. We also counted 10 Grey Currawongs during the morning.

One group also visited the spot where the Tawny Frogmouth normally roost and were not disappointed as one was seen sitting quietly enjoying the sun. We then continued along Torture Hill Track, which is quite aptly named! At about midday we met at the gate, had lunch and did the bird call by which time the weather had changed to beautifully sunny.

After lunch, some members walked down to **Angove Conservation Park** — a small reserve. As most had not visited this site before, Roger Collier was kind enough to show us around. About 10 quite common species were seen on our short walk. We had a particularly good sighting of a female Mistletoebird feeding in a large mistletoe growth and surprisingly she seemed to concentrate on eating the green berries in the bush rather than the much larger quantity of red and orange berries available.

Rod Tetlow

Lowan Conservation Park — 21 May

The turnout for this walk was disappointingly low. Only five members met at the Bowhill turnoff on a chilly 9° morning. We then

Past Excursions (cont)

proceeded to the reserve and after one failed attempt, we did find the entry gate and parking area. The weather was changeable all morning and we had alternating periods of sunshine and cloud, but no rain.

The birding was not good from both a species and a numbers point of view. We only managed to see 15 species and hear two more. We counted only 62 individual birds. Our highest numbers for any species were 12 Weebill and 8 Jacky Winter.

We had an excellent sighting of a female Varied Sittella. She sat quietly on a bare branch in close full view for about 4 to 5 minutes. While we were all speculating exactly what she was doing, it became obvious that she was just waiting for the family because just then another five flew overhead. She immediately took off and joined them.

There was some "Trees for Life" activity in the park and we spoke to two friendly employees who were in the process of seeding a bare 45-hectare block within the reserve.

When we returned to the parking area for lunch and birdcall, it had become quite cold and miserable. While we were having lunch, two beautiful Mulga Parrots caught our attention. They were hanging around a hollow in a tree close by.

Rod Tetlow

Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park — 31 May

Eight people attended this excursion on a not very promising day weather-wise; although, in typical fashion, we all hoped for the best. It seems to be a common trait amongst birders to hope the weather will improve even in the face of evidence and forecasts to the contrary. Perhaps the most impressive thing is that we are so often right — to varying degrees. Perhaps the pessimists stay at home and only the hopeless optimists and bird tragics turn up on really dodgy days!

So in cool and overcast conditions we started off as usual along the

main track from the car park at the end of Cox Rd. Starlings were seen in moderate sized flocks near the edges of the park but at first there was a general scarcity of birds, which, even when present, were hard to see given the poor light. Further along a flock of approximately 15 Australian White Ibis were seen flying overhead, while we frequently spotted Galahs (80) and Rainbow Lorikeets (12). Crested and feral pigeons were also quite abundant. We saw four Eastern Rosellas, which was encouraging, as they do not seem to have put in much of an appearance anywhere so far this year. We took a meandering path through the scrub partly because there was no one present who knew the scrub really well and we had to follow our noses, bolstered by hazy memories of the map. However, it made for a bit of a change and we eventually arrived at the western edge by the coral lichen enclosure. On the way, we saw or heard Weebill, Golden Whistler, Mistletoebird and Yellow Thornbill. Honeyeaters included New Holland, Eastern Spinebill, White-plumed, Singing and Red Wattlebird. We also paused in several places to admire some early orchids, giving lie to the myth that 'those birdos tread everywhere and stomp down all the orchids', a comment once overheard from a member of a Society not entirely unrelated to native orchids.

After this we went along the northwestern edge of the park and then along the northern boundary adjacent to the new housing. Once again, there was some chagrin that we could not include in our final count species spotted in the wetlands just over the fence. Magpies were scattered about grazing on the grassy areas and Grey Fantails and Willie Wagtails flitted in and out of the bush and along the fence line.

About half way along the northern fence we had to shelter from a moderately heavy shower and, as

things were already rather soggy underfoot, decided to forgo exploring the pond/wetland based on previous experience that it can be quite hard to get to after wet weather.

In the end, we were quite lucky with the rain. It wasn't until we got back to the car park that it started to really belt down, and the birdcall was a hasty affair with the scribe hunched underneath an umbrella. We then jumped into our cars to eat our lunches before fleeing back home to dry clothes and nice warm houses. A total of 33 species was seen for the day, which was down on last year's total of 59, almost certainly because of the weather.

Ali Ben Kahn

Browns Road Monarto — 13 June

It was a typical cool June morning but with no rain forecast a happy group of 21 members met to wander through the Browns Road scrub. We agreed to split into two groups to explore the area but unfortunately, I soon 'lost' all but one of the ten that came under my wing for guidance. Mike Ashton was too polite to let me get lost on my own! Young Enid Pascoe enhanced her reputation by finding an Australian Owlet-nightjar perched on the edge of a hollow some distance from the walking track. Many struggled to pick up this bird until we were quite close. Those with cameras were very happy with this cooperative bird and Enid's keen eyes.

After a relaxed lunch break, we conducted the birdcall, which revealed we had seen 48 species. Non-Passerines included: Wedge-tailed Eagle (1), Brown Goshawk (1), Australian Owlet-nightjar (2), Southern Boobook (1), three lorikeet species: Purple-crowned (10), Musk (15) and Rainbow (20), Common Bronzewing (3). Passerines seen included seven Honeyeater species: New Holland (60), Brown-headed (15), White-naped (2), Spiny-cheeked (2), Singing (30), White-

Past Excursions (cont)

plumed (16), together with White-browed Babbler (26), White-winged Chough (30), Purple-backed Fairy-wren (6), Diamond Firetail (10).

Lynton Huxley

Laratinga Wetlands, Mount Barker — 18 June

Early arrivals fortified themselves with a hot coffee and discussed the gloomy conditions and light drizzle. Fortunately, at the scheduled start time, the sky stopped weeping and with the number of members reaching 23, it was agreed to commence a lap of these fabulous ponds. After the recent rain, all of the ponds now contained a reasonable water holding.

Members made their way in small groups at their own pace in overcast conditions. When completing the record of birds seen, a surprising total of 56 species had been observed. Birds seen in good numbers included 60 Pink-eared Ducks, 30 each for Australasian Shovelers, Grey Teals, Purple Swampheens, Dusky Moorhens, Masked Lapwings and Superb Fairy-wrens. Ten Freckled Ducks and one each of Nankeen Night Heron, White-browed Scrubwren and Collared Sparrowhawk rounded off a good day's birding with some new members getting their first sightings of several species.

Lynton Huxley

Black Hill Conservation Park — 28 June

This walk is known for its steep climb and almost as steep descent, but 15 members came along for the excursion. We began at the top of Addison Ave and ascended the Summit Trail to Black Hill itself. We then proceeded along the Black Hill Track and descended via the Summit and Ghost Tree Trails on the other side of the ridge. Everyone completed the arduous climb.

We stopped first to look over the old quarry area in search of the elusive Chestnut-rumped Heathwren but it

did not present itself. However, highlights along the way included numerous Eastern Spinebills, Silveryeyes and Rainbow Lorikeets. Several Golden Whistlers were seen and heard, including a glorious close view of a strikingly coloured male against the drab green foliage. Red Wattlebirds, Crescent Honeyeaters, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes were calling from the tops of trees and Grey Currawongs were screaming overhead. Just as we descended, we had a fantastic view of a soaring Wedge-tailed Eagle, cruising at the same height as the group. Curiously, only a single Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo was seen. As we returned to the start several Laughing Kookaburras were seen and, uncommon for this area, a single Dusky Woodswallow.

Finally, a visit to the quarry itself for a final look for the heathwren again proved unfruitful. Lunch was taken on the old tables behind the Wildflower garden. In all everyone enjoyed a pleasant morning, with a final count of 32 species.

Martyn Price

Wyndgate, Hindmarsh Island — 11 July

With dire weather predicted for Adelaide including hail, snow and gale force winds Karen and I set off in darkness to arrive on time at the arranged meeting spot on Hindmarsh Island. We had coffee and cake in the company of small flocks of House Sparrows and Common Starlings and waited. The sky was surprisingly clear and so was the road from the mainland! Karen tactfully raised the possibility that I must have upset too many people on the last field trips I had led. With that observation noted, we left for Wyndgate Homestead to undertake our own personal bird survey. Along the way and at the Homestead we identified the following 17 species — Black Swan (3), Pacific Black Duck (30), Grey Teal (50), Australian Pelican (1), Nankeen Kestrel (2), Spur-winged

Plover (4), Crested Pigeon (30), Red Wattlebird (1), Singing Honeyeater (2), Magpie Lark (4), Willie Wagtail (20), Australian Magpie (40), Little Raven (10), House Sparrow (40), Welcome Swallow (6), Common Starling (40) and Galah (4). We saw no parrots or Cape Barren Geese.

Unfortunately my hopes of seeing Shy Albatross or even a Wilson's Storm Petrel did not eventuate as the clear blue sky and moderate wind in the sheltered water near the Murray River Mouth only encouraged the expected numbers of Australian Pelican, Black Swan, Pied Oystercatcher, Caspian and Greater Crested Terns, Great and Little Pied Cormorant species.

Lynton Huxley

Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park and Tanunda Sewerage Ponds — 16 July

Eleven enthusiastic members braved a very crisp 5-degree morning and arrived at **Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park** for this outing. The walk proceeded in bright sunshine with very little cloud about.

It was good to welcome two of our new members, Greg and Sam Kretschmer, to their first walk with Birds SA. They live on a block not far from Kaiser Stuhl CP and passed on some interesting information about the Park, which they visit regularly.

The Scrub was looking good after the recent rain, but as there was very little blossom about the bird count, both species and total numbers, was disappointing. In all 24 species were seen and one other heard. Highest species numbers were 20 Superb Fairy-wren, 15 Eastern Spinebill, 12 Little Raven and Adelaide Rosella and 10 New Holland Honeyeater with the remaining counts being in single figures. Many Crescent Honeyeaters were calling, but only six came into view. We came upon a hyperactive group of six Eastern Spinebills who spent a couple of minutes in a frenetic chase in and out

Past Excursions (cont) / Future Excursions

the foliage. We also saw three pairs of beautiful Scarlet Robins. Total individual birds recorded for the morning was 133. There seemed to be more than the normal number of kangaroos about and they were certainly enjoying lounging about and soaking up the sun. At about noon the temperature had risen to 12 degrees and most of the group proceeded to the Bethany picnic spot. We also took advantage of the available sun and sat outside, avoiding the wind, to do the bird call. As is our normal practice some members then moved on to the **Tanunda Sewerage Ponds** where the temperature seemed to have cooled and there was a biting breeze. Seventeen species were recorded here. They included more than 220 Pink-eared Ducks, 25 Blue-billed Ducks, 14 Eurasian Coots, 12 Hardheads, 12 European Goldfinches and 10 Hoary-headed Grebes. The Pink-eared Ducks were quite skittish and flew up and down from pond to pond. In all 327 individual birds were seen at this site.

Rod Tetlow

FUTURE EXCURSIONS

Contact: Lynton Huxley

Field Trip and campout Co-ordinator

Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038

Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au or huxley@adam.com.au

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

A leader has been appointed for each excursion, but another person might like to write a report of the excursion. The report, submitted to the FTC, must include the number of attendees, birds seen or heard, the weather and any other interesting events on the day.

Saturday, 12 September: Porter Scrub Conservation Park (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 left into Lihou Road. 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 directly in front of you. Meet at the gate in the corner at 8.30am.

TRIP LEADER: Martyn Price

Thursday, 17 September: Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens (MLR) (19km)

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

TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow

Sunday, 27 September: Altona CSR Landcare Reserve (MLR) 55km.

Meet at 8.30am at the Reserve entrance at the top of Altona Road. Travel through Lyndoch towards Tanunda. As you leave Lyndoch town centre take the first left into Altona Road (just past the 100km speed limit sign).

TRIP LEADER: Brian Walker

Saturday, 10 October: 'Wyndgate' Hindmarsh Island (MLR) 100km.

Meet at 8.30am on the corner of Randell and Semaschko Roads Hindmarsh Island. If planning to arrive later that day, please proceed to the homestead off Denver Road. This will be the third survey of the birds in the area undertaken this year.

TRIP LEADER: Brian Blaylock

3-5 October: Campout at Gluepot Reserve

Details on next page

Thursday, 15 October: Sandy Creek: (MLR) 52km.

Meet at 8.30am at the northern carpark located at the end of Conservation Road, which is on the right, off the Gawler to Lyndoch Road about 10km east of Gawler.

TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn

Sunday, 1 November: Sir Richard Peninsula, Goolwa Ponds (MLR) 90km.

Meet at 8.30am at the car park west of the Goolwa Yacht Club. We plan to cover the area up to and around the southern boat ramp from the Yacht Club then travel onto Hindmarsh Island to the Murray Mouth and later in the day to visit the Goolwa Ponds.

TRIP LEADER: Winston Syson

Saturday, 14 November: Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina (LA) 85km.

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

TRIP LEADER: L Huxley

Thursday, 19 November: Hardy's Scrub Onkaparinga River National Park (MLR) (42km).

Meet at 8.30am by the CFS Station in Blewitt Springs.

TRIP LEADER: Martyn Price

Sunday, 6 December: Riverglades and Rocky Gully Wetlands Murray Bridge (MM) 80km.

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

TRIP LEADER: L Huxley

CAMPOUT 3-5 OCTOBER

The October Long Weekend Campout this year will be at Gluepot Reserve in SA's Riverland region (approx. 230km from Adelaide). Located 64km north of Waikerie, this property is managed by Birdlife Australia. Members are welcome to stay as long as they like, both before and after the weekend. On arrival, Members are requested to stop at the Visitor Centre to register and pay

Future Excursions (cont)

appropriate fees: either \$5 per vehicle for a day visit or \$10 a night per vehicle to camp. Birds SA will not collect any money. The Visitor Centre is very well set up with lots of pamphlets and brochures full of information. The map of the reserve is detailed and easy to follow, ditto for the maps concerning the numerous walks.

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

A map of Gluepot Reserve is given two pages after this one.

Please be aware that:

1. You will need to be self-sufficient with all food, drinking water, vehicle fuel, gas and camping equipment and **you are** responsible for taking your own **rubbish** out.
2. Due to quarantine requirement, you are not allowed to take fruit into the Riverland Fruit Fly zone. Detailed information is available from PIRSA (Primary Information and Resources SA) by phone or on their website.
3. Heavy rain may require the closure of property tracks. A handheld UHF radio or vehicle mounted unit is recommended. Mobile phone reception does not exist!
4. The meeting point will be at the Bellbird Campsite (whatever time you plan to arrive).

5. Camp ground facilities are limited to two drop-toilets - No holes are to be dug for personal toilets. Porta-potties can be used, but they must not be emptied into the long-drops.

6. There are no showers or potable water.

7. Planned camp activities include:

- Nightly 'Happy Hour' — you may consider sharing your favourite nibbles
- Nightly birdcall.

General Information, including how to get there

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

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

Alternatively, you could travel to Morgan from Adelaide, through Kapunda and Eudunda, then head towards Renmark until you reach the dirt road turn off, which is about 30km east of Morgan.

Once on the dirt road, which is negotiable in conventional passenger vehicles, just keep following it north. Periodically, there are signs indicating the way to Gluepot. It is necessary to travel through several gates, so make sure you close them again. Please note that if there is any rain the roads may be closed.

Ali Ben Kahn

Campout Leader

ali.benkahn@ncssa.asn.au

Phone: 0427 603 329

The next 2 pages show:

Bellbird Campsite layout & Gluepot Reserve Code for Camping Property Map

BIRD WATCHING FIELD TRIPS OF THE BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA, PORT AUGUSTA GROUP

Sunday 13th.September

Tania's Block, Stirling Nth. Service station, 8:00 am

Friday 3rd October, Saturday 4th October, Sunday 5th October, Monday 6th October

Camp Out – No facilities available
Lake Gilles Conservation Park, Tanks/Iron Knob turn off, 8:30 am

Sunday 15th November

Mt. Gullet Beach, Mambray Creek Parking bay, 7:30 am

Wear beach-walking footwear

Sunday 6th December

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Car Park 7:30 am

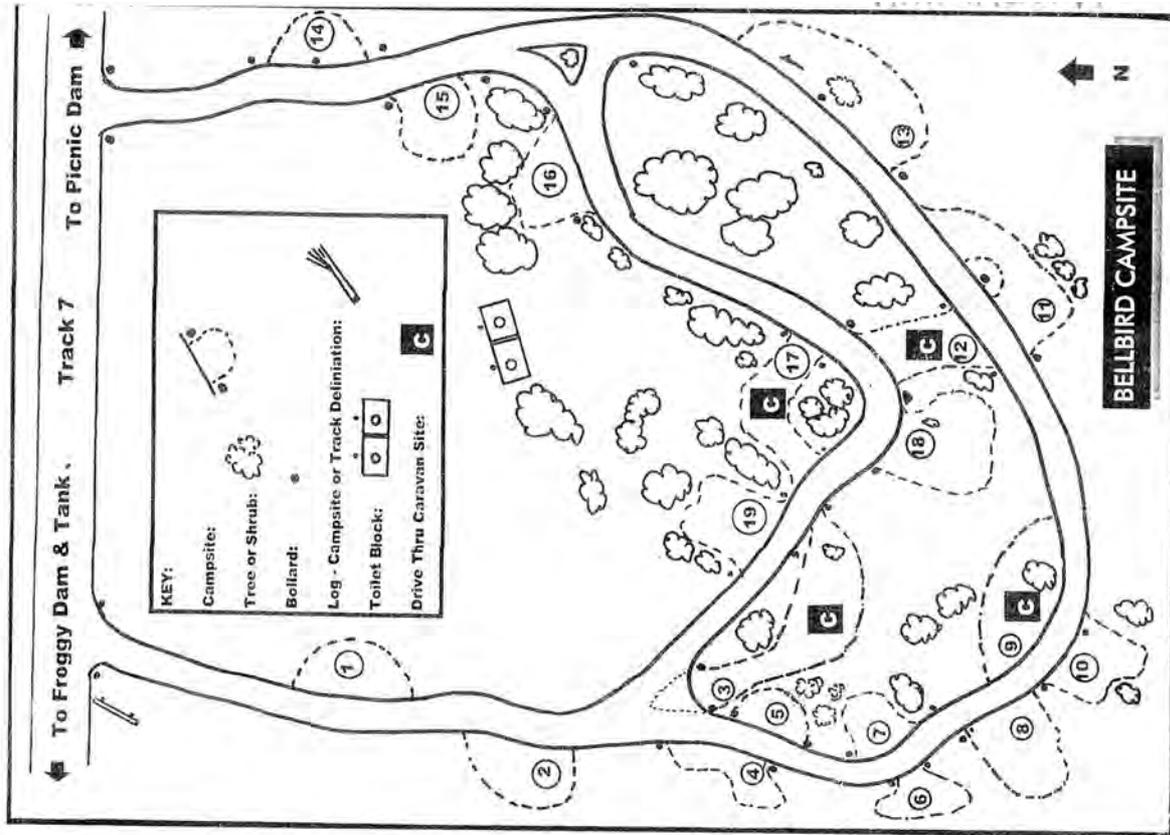
Christmas lunch in café

Please bring Sturdy footwear, Hat, Sun protection, Morning tea, Lunch if staying longer and Binoculars.

For further information contact:

Peter – 86425723, or Greg – 86486630, or Bernie – 0419863834. or b.haase@telstra.com

Campsite Layout & Regulations



MINIMUM IMPACT CODE FOR CAMPING AT GLUEPOT RESERVE

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

♦ **GAS FIRES ONLY AREA:**
No wood fires are allowed on Gluepot Reserve. To maintain threatened bird habitat and to reduce the risk of wildfire, only gas fires are permitted.

♦ **CAMPING GROUNDS:**
Camping grounds have been located in areas with immediate access to a variety of good birding habitats. Sites within the camp grounds have been located to optimise shelter and provide screening from other users. The naturalness of the camp areas will be maintained if impacts are kept to a minimum. **PLEASE CAMP ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS.**
All camping sites are designated to accommodate a vehicle, so please ensure that tracks are kept clear at all times.

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

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

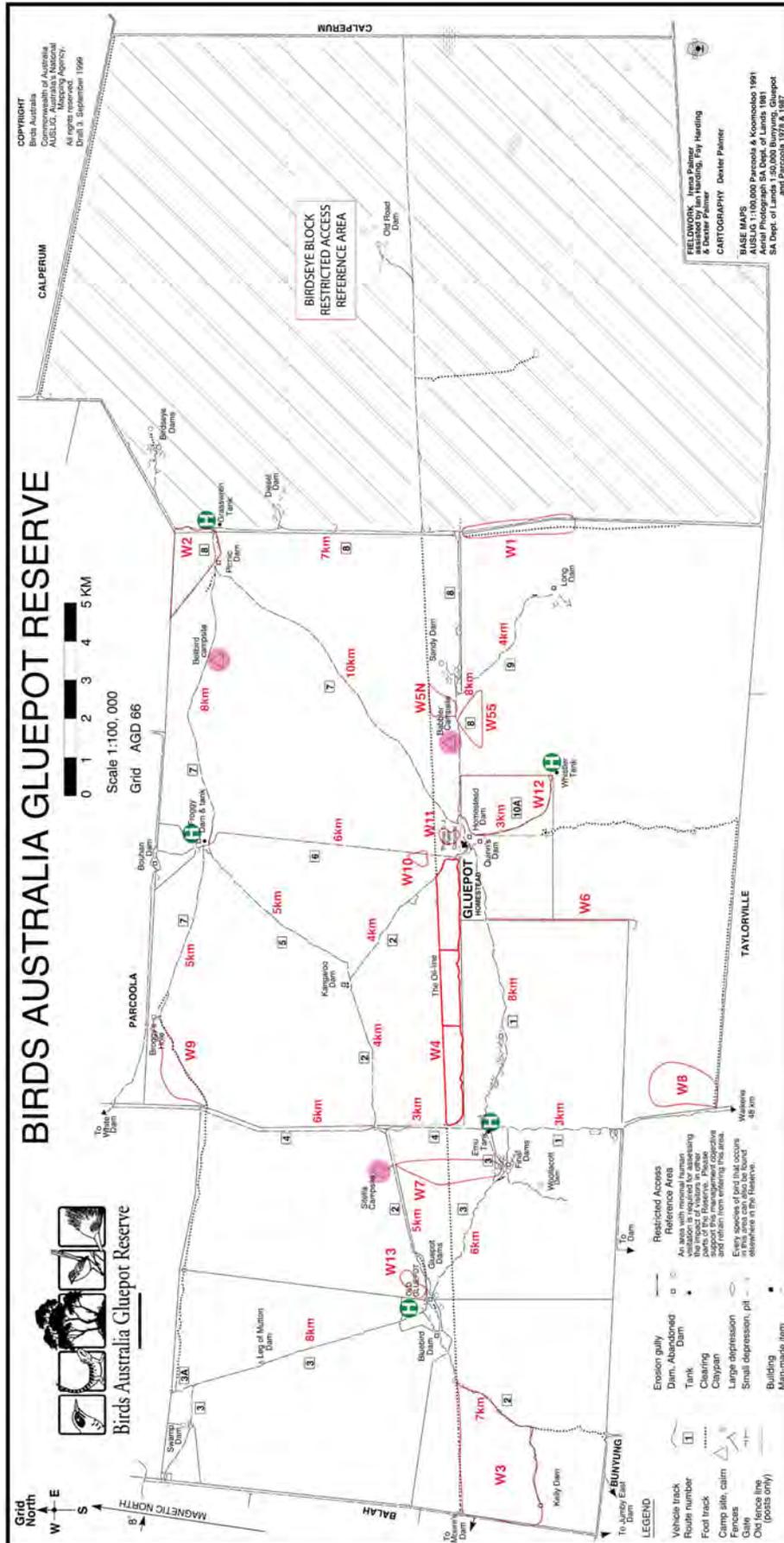
♦ **WATER:**
Water is a scarce resource on the Reserve and you will need to provide your own. A limited supply of wash-up water is available from the small tanks located between the toilets. It is not recommended that this water is used for drinking purposes.

♦ **PLEASE KEEP TO ACCESS TRACKS:**
To minimise disturbance to vegetation, please do not drive off the tracks. When you stop and leave your vehicle, please ensure that is not obstructing other vehicles.

♦ **RANGER ASSISTANCE:**
The Rangers, located at the Homestead, will be pleased to answer any queries you may have.

ENJOY YOUR STAY

Map of Gluepot Reserve



The following information is provided to help you enjoy your stay on Gluepot.

- When camping, please observe the **MINIMUM IMPACT CAMPING CODE** detailed on the reverse side of your Gluepot paper map.
- Swimming in the dams is not permitted. Many dams contain hidden hazards (weirs, dropweirs, etc) and some have several feet of sludge in their basins.
- Please observe the Reserve **40 kph** speed limit at all times – **15 kph** around the **Homestead area** to reduce the dust hazard.
- Please do not drive your vehicle after heavy or prolonged rain as tracks can become very slippery and dangerous.
- The Reserve conducts an ongoing **FERAL CONTROL PROGRAM** aimed at reducing goat and fox numbers. Please do not enter areas signed **"FERAL CONTROL"**.
- To enable you to find your way around the Reserve – and for safety reasons – a **TRACK NUMBERING** system has been devised. The map indicates the track numbers. Numbers are placed approximately 2 km apart on the **LEFT HAND SIDE** of tracks leading away from the Homestead. Should you become lost, find a track number, and keeping the numbers on your **RIGHT**, proceed along the track until you reach the Homestead.
- It is very easy to become disorientated and lost in native scrub. It is strongly recommended that if you intend walking out of sight of your vehicle, take note of the position of the sun relevant to the direction you intend walking. Preferably a compass or GPS device should be used and take your paper map with you.
- In the event of an accident etc, the Reserve maintains **HF, VHF and UHF** base radio systems. **VHF and UHF** radios are also installed in the Reserve **4WD**. Rangers may be contacted on the frequencies indicated on the sign in the **Visitor Centre**. Please note that the Ranger may not be at the Homestead or near the vehicle when you call and evening is the best time to ensure contact or at 9.00 am or 3.00pm, when weather readings are taken.

WALKING TRAILS (indicated by a red line with a triangle)

CAMPING GROUND (indicated by a pink circle)

ELEVATED BIRD HIDE (indicated by a green square with a cross)

7km = MILEAGE

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

Several groups, 3/6/2015. West Island, MLR. Flushed from grass and under Coprosma bushes.

Carpenter, G. *et al.*

2 groups, 6/7/2015. Sturt Gorge RP, east part, MLR.

Close, D.

Heard, 19/7/2015.

Balaklava, Rocks Reserve, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Barbary Dove

2, 20/5/2015. Port Clinton, YP.

Syson, W.

First report for YP, presumably deliberately liberated.

Spotted Nightjar

2, 14/7/2015. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM. Roosting in leaf litter in *Acacia saligna* plantation.

Doecke, N.

This species appears to disperse in autumn-winter when it may appear in areas near Adelaide.

Sooty Oystercatcher

1, 7/6/2015. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Rarely reported in the northern part of Gulf St Vincent.

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross

1, 2/6/2015. 20km SW Port MacDonnell, MO. Description and photos supplied.

Bell, T.



Buller's Albatross, photographed by R. Todd at Nene Valley Beach, SE on 21/4/2015

Buller's Albatross

1 beachwashed, 21/4/2015. Nene Valley Beach, SE.

Todd, R.

This is the first report of a beach-washed bird from South Australia. There have been several reports on pelagic trips in recent years, mostly in summer. Dr Philippa Horton of the South Australian Museum has provided the following information that identifies it from the similar Grey-backed Albatross.

"1. On the bill of the Grey-headed there is an obvious strip of black skin between the culmicorn and latericorn, and between the nostrils and the feathers of the forehead it is

particularly broad. This is not present in Buller's or in this specimen.

2. The culmicorn of the G-h is quite narrow; in Buller's and this specimen it is noticeably broader.

3. The G-h has a relatively shorter bill which therefore appears slightly chunkier; in Buller's and this one it is more elongate.

4. The G-h has narrow stripes of yellow on the mandibles, and on the tip of the upper mandible (maxillary unguis) the yellow is mostly restricted to the ridge. In Buller's, and this specimen, the yellow stripes are broader and the maxillary unguis is mostly yellow.

5. This specimen appears to have the white forehead of a typical Buller's, instead of grey as in the G-h."

Salvin's Prion

1, 12/7/2015. Hindmarsh Island, Sugars Beach. MM. Resting on shore before flying off.

Stokes, M.

See Rogers (*SA Ornithologist* 39: 45-57) for information on prions in South Australian waters.

Antarctic Petrel

1 beach-washed, 1/6/2015. Vivonne Bay, KI.

Per Baxter, C.

One previous record in SA, of a beach-washed bird at Middleton Beach on 7 September 1978 (see Roberts, SA Ornithologist 28:84). This record corresponded with a large number of beach-washed Southern Fulmars, another species associated with the Antarctic pack ice.

Little Black Cormorant

Up to 75, 7/2015. West Lakes, AP.

Hirst, P.

Bird Records (cont)

Great Egret

200, 21/6/2015. Bald Hill Beach, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Straw-necked Ibis

1, 6/2015. Felixstow, River Torrens,
AP.

Hyland, M.

Also reported in the city in last NL.

Grey Goshawk

White phase, 1/5/2015. 3km E
Pinnaroo, MM. Photographs
supplied.

Burman, D.

Australian Bustard

4, 10/7/2015. Willochra Plain, FR.
Langdon, P.

Double-banded Plover

30, 5/6/2015. Black Point, YP.

Tiller, M.

18, 7/6/2015. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Red Knot

*Overwintering waders reported
include:*

19, 7/6/2015. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

3, 12/7/2015. Hindmarsh Island,
Sugars Beach, MM.

Stokes, M.

Eastern Curlew

1, 7/6/2015. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

13, 14/6/2015. Thompson Beach
south, AP.

Carpenter, L.

Fairy Tern

22, 7/6/2015. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Little Corella

1000, 24/7/2015. West Parklands,
AP.

Carpenter, G.

1500, 8/8/2015. Waitpinga, MLR.

Syson, W.

*These reports indicate that large
numbers over-wintered in and
around Adelaide this year. Members
are encouraged to search for and
report local breeding.*

Rock Parrot

2, 3/6/2015. West Island, MLR.

Iawo, S, *et al.*

Musk Lorikeet

2+, 26/5/2015. Karoonda, MM.

Allan, J. & Carpenter, G.

*Appears to be colonising towns
throughout the mallee, where
ornamental trees provide food.*

Brown Treecreeper

3, 27/5/2015. Gawler, Dead Man's
Pass, MLR.

Hartland, D.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

1, 3/6/2015. West Island, MLR. In
coprosma bushes.

Carpenter, G.

Few reports from the MLR region.

Pied Honeyeater

2 males, 28/7/2015. Port Augusta
arid lands botanic garden, NW.

Langdon, P.

*First report from southern areas this
season. The dense plantings of
flowering Eremophilas at this site
provide a good opportunity to see
this species.*

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

*A few reports of this mobile species
from near Adelaide.*

1, 23/5/2015. Bluff, Encounter Bay,
MLR.

Carpenter, G.

2, 3/6/2015. West Island, MLR. In
flowering Tree Mallows.

Carpenter, G.

1, 9/8/2015. 10km S Port Wakefield,
AP.

Taylor, P.W.

Grey-fronted Honeyeater

1, 16/7/2015. Port Augusta arid lands
botanic garden, NW.

First report from this site.

Langdon, P.

Varied Sittella

Group, 7/5/2015. Mount Barker,
Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Daw, P.

First report from this locality.

6, 25/6/2015. Macclesfield, MLR.

Gitsham, J.

Golden Whistler

*We usually receive reports of
uncoloured birds from the AP during
winter so the following are unusual:*

1 male, 30/6/2015. Tusmore, AP.

Gould, G.

2 males, 19/7/2015. Gilberton, AP.

Paton, P.

Olive-backed Oriole

1 immature, 17 & 25/7/2015. Port
Augusta West, NW. In garden,
chased off by the local honeyeaters.

Langdon, P.

2 immatures, 18/7/2015. Altona
Scrub, MLR.

Stracey, K.

Grey Currawong

*More reports from suburban
Adelaide, including:*

1, 19/5/2015. Adelaide, Pulteney
Grammar School, AP.

Robertson, D.

2, 8-13/8/2015. Black Forest, South
Rd, AP.

Carpenter, G.

Jacky Winter

2 pairs, 23/7/2015. 9km NE Tarlee,
MLR. In Peppermint Box woodland.

Carpenter, G.

*Now rarely reported from the MLR
region.*

Rose Robin

Male, 15/6/2015. Blackwood, Cedar
Ave Reserve, MLR. Photos taken.

Gaughlin, C.

Photographed at same locality on
13/7/2015.

Matthews, S.

Rufous Songlark

2, 7/8/2015. St Kitts, MLR. Singing
in Red Gum woodland along creek.

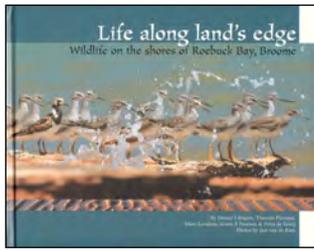
Carpenter, G.

Diamond Firetail

3, 2/8/2015. 3 km N Milang, MM.

Doecke, N.

News From the Library



590.99414 ROG

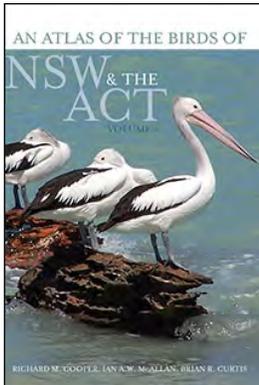
Rogers, Danny L.

Life along land's edge: wildlife on the shores of Roebuck Bay, Broome

Kensington, WA: Dept. of Conservation & Land Management, 2003

ISBN 073075540

A beautifully illustrated book, which describes the life cycles of migratory birds that visit Roebuck Bay, in Western Australia, and the many other forms of wildlife on which they depend.



598.2994 COO

Cooper, Richard

An atlas of the birds of NSW & the ACT, volume 1

Woolgoola, NSW: NSW Bird Atlases Inc., 2014

ISBN 9780957704732

This Atlas provides a comprehensive inventory and distributional analysis of the birds of NSW, the ACT and the waters of the western Tasman Sea.

This publication is the first of three volumes. Volume 1 presents information on the 183 species resident and migrant birds from the Emu to the Plains-wanderer. Later volumes will cover all remaining species. Details for each bird include current distribution, breeding distribution, seasonal and historical range changes and current status.



598.299423 BAXb

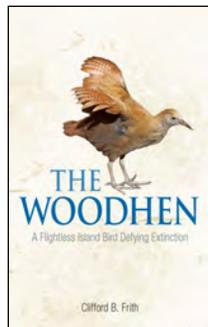
Baxter, Christopher Ian

Birds of Kangaroo Island : a photographic field guide.

Hindmarsh, S.Aust. : ATF Press, 2015

ISBN 9781921511189

This comprehensive account covers all 267 bird species recorded on Kangaroo Island, South Australia. Full colour photographs illustrate each species and information is provided on habits, habitats, breeding, status, abundance and distribution.



598.32099481 FRI

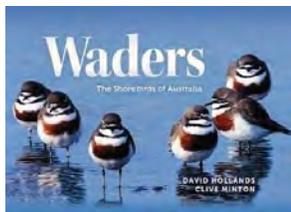
Frith, Clifford B.

The Woodhen : a flightless island bird defying extinction

Collingwood, Vic. CSIRO, 2013.

ISBN 9780643108707

This book tells the fascinating conservation story of the flightless Woodhen of Lord Howe Island. This unique large rail was at the very brink of extinction with just 15 individuals found in 1980, when bold and risky actions were taken to save it. The book begins with the discovery and ecology of Lord Howe Island. It then details the history of the Woodhen, its place among the rails and their evolution of flightlessness, the planning, implementation and trials, tribulations and successes of the captive breeding programme and the way in which the wild population recovered.



598.330994 HOL,

Hollands, David, **Waders : the shorebirds of Australia**

Melb.Vic : Blooming Books, 2012

ISBN 9781876473808

Waders! Few people can fail to be inspired and fascinated by them. Many make huge and hazardous migrations to and from distant parts of the Northern Hemisphere. Many take on colourful plumage for breeding, while others retain their full beauty throughout the year. This

book provides a comprehensive account of all the 80 Australian species. The book is written in an engaging, personal style with over 300 wonderful photographs.

Australasian Ornithological Conference 2015



Dates:

Scientific Program- Wed 25th to Fri 27th Nov 2015

Field Trips- Sat 28th and Sun 29th Nov 2015

Venue:

Flinders University Campus, Adelaide, South Australia

Website:

<http://www.birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/aoc>

Conference registration and abstract submission are now open!

[BirdLife Australia](#), in collaboration with [Birds New Zealand](#), is committed to holding biennial conferences that provide a regular forum for the exchange of information and ideas between avian-based researchers and conservationists throughout the Australasian region. The conferences are held in a variety of venues to give attendees an opportunity to explore the diverse birdlife in the region. This year the AOC will be held in Adelaide, South Australia.

Confirmed plenary speakers:

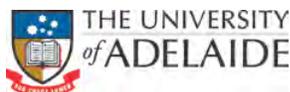
Kate Buchanan
Martine Maron
Leo Joseph
Mike Webster
Trevor Worthy

Field trip options:

Lower Lakes & Murray River mouth region, Wetlands, Woodlands (Adelaide Hills)

Local organising committee: [Dr. Todd McWhorter](#), [Dr. Sonia Kleindorfer](#), [Dr. David Paton](#)

Sponsors:



NEW MEMBERS

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

Sarah Marshall	ALDINGA BEACH
Cheryl Bawhey	CLARENCE GARDENS
Felicity Lyons-Reid & Andrew Harris	MYRTLE BANK
Elisha Brand	REDWOOD PARK
Paul Daw	HAWTHORN
Jenny Ball	PORT ELLIOT
Gregory, Carol, Sam & Ella Kretschmer	TANUNDA
Petra Ute Hanke & Christian Scholz	BELAIR
Jason van Weenen	SKYE
Rosemary McArthur	KENT TOWN
Michael Barth	KINGSCOTE
Peter Acland Hirst	BLACK FOREST
Bill & Evelyn Williams	MERBEIN

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our treasurer. His 'phone number is on p3.

Details of Photographs on pp2, 26 and 28

No:	Species	Photographer	Location	Date
1	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Peter McKenzie	Cape Otway, Victoria	16/05/2015
2	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Peter McKenzie	Byron Bay, NSW	02/06/2015
3	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Peter McKenzie	Cape Otway, Victoria	16/05/15
4	Eastern Rosella	Peter McKenzie	Adelaide Parklands	08/08/2015
5	Rainbow Lorikeet	Ed Lowrie	Black Hill	28/06/2015
6	Double-eyed Fig-parrot	Peter McKenzie	Lake Eacham, Queensland	23/11/2013
7	King Penguins	Merilyn Browne	Heard Island	11/2012
8	Pelican	Barbara Bansemer	Cleland Reserve	05/07/2015
9	Red-crowned Crane	Merilyn Browne	Japan	11/12/2013
10	Willie Wagtails	Barbara Bansemer	Birdsville	29/07/2015
11	Avocet	Colin Conor	Seagull Lake, nr Searcy Bay,	03/01/2015
12	Banded Stilt	Colin Conor	West coast	03/01/2015
13	Atlantic Puffins	Brian Walker	Staples Island, Northumberland	01/04/2015
14	Northern Gannets	Merilyn Browne	Quorn	22/04/2015

Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands OPEN DAY



You are invited to attend a Bird Monitoring and Information Day
with Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin staff
Come and find out about the exciting things that have happened at Tolderol

Wednesday 2nd September 2015

Bird monitoring — 8:00am
Information Session — 11:00am
Free BBQ Lunch — 12:00pm

Please RSVP by Thursday 27th August or if you have any specific dietary requirements,
Please contact Regina Durbridge on 0427 364 551
or email regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au
And don't forget to bring a chair!



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources



Birds SA



An Invitation to a Special Event

Discover the life at Morialta!

Morialta Conservation Park is celebrating its centenary in 2015. To mark the occasion, a BioBlitz is being held on the 18th and 19th of September. A BioBlitz is an event where scientists, naturalists and the public work together to record the biodiversity in a set location over a short period of time. Scientists and naturalists conduct biological surveys and take members of the public along to help collect, observe, record and learn. BioBlitz events are hands-on, scientific fun, designed around making discoveries, sharing talents, and igniting the interests of participants.



BioBlitz Events

How will the Morialta BioBlitz run?

The BioBlitz will run over two days. The first day is a Friday, with the daytime activities reserved for school classes. After the schools leave, survey activities with the public will begin. The events will run until about 10pm on the Friday nights to allow for nocturnal activities like frog searches, spotlighting for mammals, light-trapping of moths and acoustic recording of bats. On the Saturday, activities will commence around 9am and run until 4pm, with a variety of biological surveys, including birds, mammals, weeds, ants, orchids, soil fauna, and many more. All of the biodiversity we find will be recorded and shared through the Atlas of Living Australia.

Like to participate?

There are a number of ways in which you can participate. First, you can come along as a member of the public and join a survey, to help find and record the life at Morialta. Second, if you are an experienced survey leader, you could conduct a survey, in your area of expertise, taking members of the public with you. We will provide everything you need and volunteers to help record your findings. To find out more, visit the Discovery Circle website (www.discoverycircle.org.au), email us at discoverycircle@unisa.edu.au, or phone 8302 9999.

The Morialta BioBlitz is being run as a collaboration between UniSA (the Discovery Circle), the SA Museum, DEWNR, AMLRNRMB, and the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta. The event is supported by SGIC and the Campbelltown City Council.

More BioBlitz events?

The Morialta BioBlitz will be followed by two coastal events in November:

- **Hallett Cove Beach Coastal BioBlitz** (13th – 14th November)
- **St Kilda Mangroves BioBlitz** (27th – 28th November)

Join in and discover the life of Adelaide! To make sure you don't miss out on opportunities to participate in BioBlitz events and other nature-focussed projects, register for the monthly Discovery Circle eNewsletter at:

www.discoverycircle.org.au



Studies in (mostly) Black and White

7



8



9



10



11



12



Two Colourful Birds from the Adelaide Hills

Ed Lowrey took both these photographs on Birds SA Field Trips

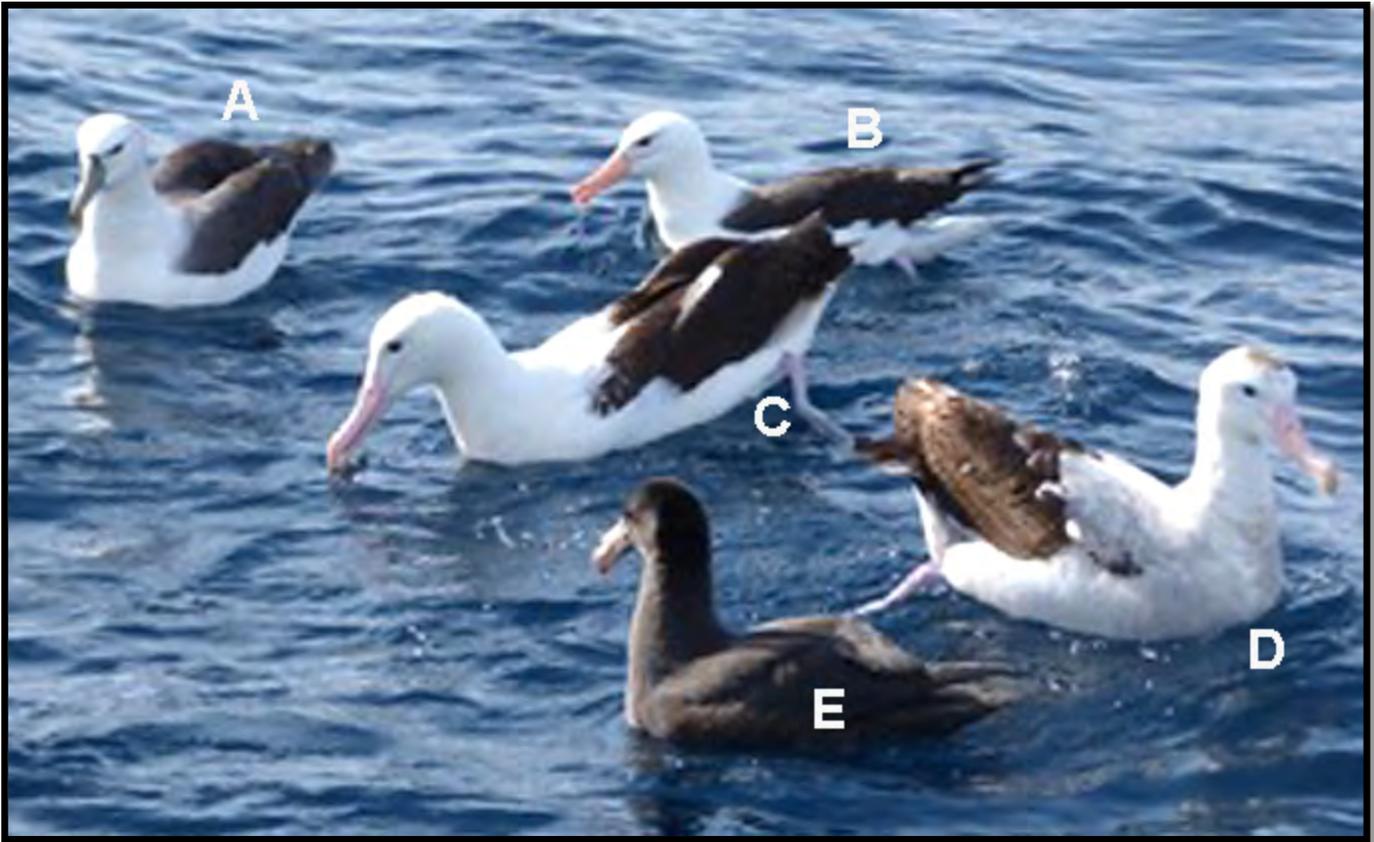


**Golden Whistler
photographed at
Black Hill on
28/6/1025**

**Scarlet Robin
photographed at
Kaiser Stuhl CP
on 16/7/1025**



Birds from Near and Distant Oceans



Can you identify the petrel and distinguish the 4 different albatross species?

The answers will be in the next eNewsletter and the November Newsletter.

The photograph was taken by Paul Taylor on a pelagic trip from Port MacDonnell on 24/05/2015

