



Linking people with birds  
in South Australia

# The Birder

No 239

August 2016



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**BIRDING ETHICS**

**WELCOME TO 'THE BABBLERS'**

**FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER**

**Pre-Christmas Members' Night.**

Please submit offers to present short talks and other items to Daniel Rogers.

### **Birds SA aims to:**

- Promote the conservation of Australian birds and their habitats.
- Encourage interest in, and develop knowledge of, the birds of South Australia.
- Record the results of research into all aspects of bird life.
- Maintain a public fund called the "Birds SA Conservation Fund" for the specific purpose of supporting the Association's environmental objectives.

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**Rose Robin**

Photographed by Kay Parkin  
at Blackwood in June 2016

## DIARY

The following is a list of Birds SA activities for the next few months. Further details of all these activities can be found later in 'The Birder'.

Sunday 28 August	Excursion to Sturt Gorge RP
Saturday 10 September	Excursion to Cox Scrub CP
Thursday 15 September	Excursion to Kaiserstuhl CP
Friday 30 September	General Meeting
<b>1-3 October, Long weekend campout, Kingston Area (SE)</b>	
Saturday 15 October	Excursion to Hardy's Scrub
Thursday 20 October	Excursion to Jenkins Scrub
Friday 28 October	General Meeting
Sunday 30 October	Excursion to private bushland property
Saturday 12 November	Excursion to Aldinga Scrub CP
Friday 25 November	General Meeting — Members' Night

**Cover photo:** Mallee Ringneck, photographed by Trevor Cox at Lawrie Reserve, Naperbee on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015.

### **New Members**

We welcome 23 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p 15.

# President's Message

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I do not intend to continue as Birds SA President after this year. Birds SA is charting a new course and the committee is advancing a range of new initiatives that I support. These are around community engagement and educating people about birds. I understand that other long serving members of the Committee also wish to retire next April. Birds SA members need to be aware of this. There are hard-working people on the committee that will be able to fill some of the vacant spots — but a healthy organisation needs regular turnover of its committee. Of all the positions that might fall vacant next April, the President is the easiest to fill because the workload is minor compared to other positions on the committee. Seriously, it is time for other members to become involved in running the Association.

You might ask: Why does David want to move on? The answer is simple — I want to commit a lot more of my time and effort into driving substantial conservation and restoration programs. Birds SA has been contributing in these areas — by assisting with the purchase of Buckland Park Lake, contributing to re-establishing some water bird habitat at Tolderol, and engaging with the International Bird Sanctuary. These are great

initiatives, but these in themselves they are small-scale in comparison with what is needed to prevent species losses. They also focus on water birds and not the bush-birds that are also in serious peril. There has never been enough habitat set aside for woodland birds in the Mt Lofty region, and as a consequence the changes in abundances and species distributions is staggering for this region. It beggars belief! For example How many of you can recall seeing the once widespread and common Zebra Finch in the Mt Lofty region in recent years? Politicians do not want to know about this and government agencies turn their backs on these issues. Few appreciate that it is possible to make a difference and prevent further losses. It is not too late. However, preventing species losses requires significant amounts of additional habitat to be generated. It also requires the remnant patches of vegetation that have been set aside for conservation to be well managed. I have been visiting many of our conservation parks across the Mt Lofty region for more than 40 years and I am just staggered with how much these parks have changed in that time, particularly in the last couple of decades. Rather than droughts and controlled burns, widespread over browsing by kangaroos is eliminating the understory



**One of the fenced enclosures at Sandy Creek Conservation Park showing the re-established shrub layer following exclusion of herbivores. Photo David Paton**

## **President's Message (cont.) / Birds SA notes & news**

in our parks. This has serious consequences for our birds. For example, visit Sandy Creek and observe the grazing out of the heathy shrub layer. Some 15 years ago I had a series of fenced enclosures established on some of the areas that had lost their understoreys. The heathy shrubs, notably Flame Heath (*Astroloma conostephioides*) have re-established along with other species. Inside these small plots is now a healthy understorey of small trees, shrubs and grasses, as I remember the place from 40 years ago. Outside the plots there are none and if one finds a live Flame Heath nearby it will be heavily defoliated, a bonsai plant or nearly dead. These are plants that are hard to re-establish from seed. Recently, additional fenced enclosures have been placed in the areas that have been bare for at least a decade and these have not seen any recovery to date. Elsewhere in the park where there is still the occasional plant, young plants have appeared within other fenced enclosures. Ultimately, if the grazing continues then there will be no heathy understorey and the park will look like a poor quality grassy woodland, because even the grasses are heavily grazed to the point of producing no seeds. There is comparable evidence of heavy grazing in other parks. Look at what is happening at Cromer or Charleston and elsewhere to plants like *Banksia marginata*, *Acrotriche depressa*, *Pultenaea*, *Dillwynia*, *Leptospermum*, *Allocasuarina* grasses, *Lepidosperma* — all heavily grazed. Although fenced plots inform they do not solve the issue of overgrazing and we are not going to fence every reserve. Ultimately the kangaroo populations in the region (and the koalas) will need to be culled. Herein lies part of my dilemma. I am not convinced that the members of Birds SA would like someone who represents them (not necessarily on this issue) calling for a concerted effort to significantly lower the population densities of kangaroos. This idea will offend some of you, but from my perspective overgrazing by kangaroos is now the most serious process threatening conservation reserves and their biota — including the birds that these reserves are meant to conserve — in the Mt Lofty region at least. I am a pragmatic conservation biologist and I need to be disencumbered of responsibilities to an organisation so that I am free to drive changes.

**David Paton**

### **CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

The sub-committee discussed the following issues at its meeting on 8th August:

#### **Tolderol**

Planting has continued on the site. The planned planting of 5,000 seedlings has been completed. Good rains in the area should ensure a good take. The new piping has been laid, allowing watering of Bay 17 to be achieved this spring. A good birding season for Tolderol is expected. The Ranger in charge has let us know that he is not against installation of a hide or hides, whether temporary or

permanent. The possibility of Birds SA making a funding contribution towards this end was raised at General Committee by John Gitsham and received approval in principle.

#### **Duck and Quail hunting**

The sub-committee agreed that Birds SA should be represented at the annual Duck and Quail Open Season Stakeholders Reference Panel meeting in December. The sub-committee has written to Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, expressing concern that established protocol regarding the opening of a season this year went against the scientific advice that conditions were unsuitable.

#### **Laratinga**

Preparations for the Bird Fair 23rd October continue apace with good work being done by the Council Environmental Project Officer, Emma Montgomery. Work on restoring the Snipe habitat is complete. There is a good deal of water in Laratinga at the moment and as a consequence the main birds to be seen are ducks.

#### **The State of the River Murray.**

There has been good rainfall in the catchments of Victoria and New South Wales. As a result Hume Dam will fill and soon spill, while Dartmouth Dam is above 50% capacity. This means that there will be unregulated flow in the River Murray system during spring, and likely full water allocations including for environmental water. In SA, planning is underway for raising the weir pool to increase areas of floodplain inundation. Nature Foundation SA, with their allocation of water from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, is planning to use about 6.7 gigalitres of water this year for environmental watering on wetlands between the Border and the Lower Lakes. Most of the wetlands are privately owned and the environmental watering is in partnership with the owners (Phil Cole)

#### **Future directions for the Conservation Sub-committee.**

The sub-committee discussed the lack of positive outcomes being achieved by our submissions to authorities, and how we could be most effective in achieving conservation outcomes in the future. An effective procedure may be taking part in and supporting educational activities, practical conservation and public relation exercises. We agreed to make a discussion on these roles the major topic in our next meeting.

#### **Simon Brealey & John Spiers**

# Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

## WELCOME TO 'THE BABBLERS (THE PORT AUGUSTA GROUP)

The Committee is pleased to welcome the Port Augusta Group ('The Babblers') as an official group of Birds SA. The Babblers encourage all members of

Birds SA to join their outings and all members of the Port Augusta Group are encouraged to join all activities of Birds SA.

Details of The Babblers outings are included in The Birder and, as from this issue, reports on the group's outings will also be included.

## BIRDS SA, BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA AND THE STATUS OF BIRDS IN SA

In the May Newsletter Doug Johnston raised an important question about the status of birds in SA. He questioned David Paton's comment that, away from the Mount Lofty Ranges, our "assessments are at best based on hunches."

As one whose hunches sometimes make a questionable contribution to the debate I make some further comment.

Firstly, David's view would probably have related to conservation status, rather than merely distribution. I agree that information on the former is sadly inadequate. Regarding the latter, the two organisations are perhaps closer together than many would know. Many Birds SA members have contributed to BLA's past and continuing Atlases and all records from both groups are incorporated in the State's Biological Database, whose verification is overseen by our own Rarities and Distribution Subcommittee, which BLA consults, about records of questionable validity in SA. This is ongoing and it is important to emphasise that some of Birdlife Australia's maps (in [birddata.com.au](http://birddata.com.au)) contain records that have not been validated. Likewise, the Atlas of Living Australia contains many unvetted (and incorrect) records. Databases such as these will generally contain up to 5% erroneous data. Compare the current map of Australian Raven distribution with that in 'Ravens in the Adelaide Region' (*SA Ornithologist* 38, 24-27 2012).



**Frank Gordon  
(Port Pirie)**

**Chris Baxter  
(Kangaroo Island)**

**Peter Langdon  
(Port Augusta)**

**Bernie Haase  
(Mambray Creek)**

## Some of the Babblers enjoying their July trip to Telowie Gorge

BLA's **English Names Committee** has recently been expanded and, as a new member, I hope to be in a position to influence the names of some SA birds. Currently the Adelaide Rosella is unlisted, and neither are long established names for the distinctive Turquoise and Black-backed (Splendid) Fairywrens. I will be happy to hear from members with an interest in such matters.

**Andrew Black**

[abblack@bigpond.com](mailto:abblack@bigpond.com) or 8272 7271

## INVITATION TO TWITCHATHON

This year Birdlife Australia is running a National Twitchathon, and for the first time in many years South Australians can participate formally. The Twitchathon will take place on the weekend of 29/30 October.

The aim is to identify (see or hear) as many different species of bird as possible within a set time frame. There are various competitions to suit all levels of enthusiasm and skill: there will be a 24-hour race, a 12-hour race and the new "Birdathon". Teams can compete in any of these three competitions and raise sponsorship and donations to contribute to bird conservation. Funds raised in South Australia will go directly to support the new Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

For entry details, or for further information please see the Birdlife pages: <http://birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/national-twitchathon>, contact me directly by email at [iand Reid@gmail.com](mailto:iand Reid@gmail.com), or follow the South Aussie Birding facebook pages <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southaussiebirding/>. A page for donations via Just Giving will be operational very soon.

It would be great to see as many as possible participating, so form a team, grab your bins, dust off your ID skills, and join in the fun!

**Ian Reid**

# *Giving them wings*

## *conserving threatened species*

### **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary**

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (IBS) is being created to help protect resident and migratory shorebirds that gather along the coast of Gulf St Vincent in the northwest of Adelaide.

The proposed Bird Sanctuary will cover a 60 kilometre stretch of coast, from the Barker Inlet to the township of Port Parham. This includes sections of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary and Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park.

As well as creating a safe haven for migratory and local shorebirds, the Bird Sanctuary will help improve the quality of the water entering the gulf, protect the coastline from the impacts of climate change and provide opportunities for local and international tourism.

Bird watching is a popular hobby around the world and the Bird Sanctuary presents significant economic opportunities for South Australia through sustainable nature-based tourism.

The State Government has committed \$1.7 million over four years (2014-18) for the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the Bird Sanctuary. This investment includes establishing a national park for the sanctuary, re-vegetation works, signage and tourism infrastructure.

### **THE BIRDS**

Up to 27,000 migratory and resident shorebirds visit the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary area each year.

The resident shorebirds that visit across Australia include Black Swan, Red-capped Plover, Sooty Oystercatcher, Banded Stilt and Royal Spoonbill.

The migratory shorebirds that visit from across the globe include Grey Plover, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Great Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit.

Many of these migratory shorebirds travel from as far away as Siberia and Alaska, passing through up to 22 countries as they travel the East Asian-Australasian Flyway to reach the coast of Gulf St Vincent.

Some of these shorebirds are listed as threatened species such as the Curlew Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot and Great Knot.

The creation of the national park for the Bird Sanctuary will ensure these birds have a safe haven for the future.

### **OUR PROGRESS SO FAR**

Through a new model of community engagement called Collective Impact a management plan is being developed to detail the use of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

The management plan will detail the use of the Bird Sanctuary and national park whilst mitigating activities that may be damaging to the birds and their habitat. The management plan is expected to be released in mid-2017.

Late in 2016, the first section of the new national park for the Bird Sanctuary will be established. This will ensure recreational use of shorebird sensitive areas are monitored to protect native flora and fauna.

The full creation of the national park for the Bird Sanctuary is expected to be complete by late 2017.

Download the Bird Sanctuary project milestones achieved since announced in March 2014 up until January 2016.

### **EXPERT WORKSHOPS**

The Bird Sanctuary project team is calling on people with expertise in shorebirds conservation, local economy, global conservation of shorebirds, wellbeing and cultural wellbeing to take part four upcoming workshops.

The four workshops will be held between June and December 2016 to explore what it will take to create a sanctuary for shorebirds. The workshops will aim to define key elements in creating a sanctuary for shorebirds and identify data available plus more.

To register your interest, email [arkellah.irving@sa.gov.au](mailto:arkellah.irving@sa.gov.au) with your name, best contact details and area of expertise. Places are limited.

The above information is an extract from the IBS website:

<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtlof/tyranges/plants-and-animals/adelaide-bird-sanctuary>

You can subscribe to their newsletter by clicking on **subscribe** in the "Stay in Touch" section towards the bottom of the page. Extracts from the IBS Newsletters will be included in future issues of 'The Birder'

# Past General Meetings

## FRIDAY 29 APRIL

John Gitsham introduced the speaker Greg Kerr, Regional Behavioral Ecologist, Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula based at Port Lincoln. The title of Greg's talk was 'A Citizen Science Community Bird Monitoring Project on Eyre Peninsula.

Before talking about the project on Eyre Peninsula Greg spoke about developing biodiversity indicators and monitoring programs for community based carbon credit reforestation and afforestation projects with application in Ethiopia. With funding provided by World Vision Australia Greg helped in setting up two citizen science projects — Event Book (Stuart-Hill *et al.*) and Bird Survey MacKinnon List Methodology (MacKinnon and Phillips).

- The problem on Eyre Peninsula was that Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula needed to assess changes in biodiversity arising from changes to land management practices and climate by developing a scientifically valid, cost-effective, long-term and broad-scale monitoring program. The challenges included limited funding and resources, a low population density, limited existing community monitoring expertise combined with an aging demographic and fauna that is poorly studied. The solution was to design a long-term monitoring program incorporating scientifically valid collection methods randomised site selection within regional vegetation types and the pairing of bushland monitoring sites and bird survey sites. The community were offered the following forms of assistance:
- free 10 week 40 hour training courses
- a data entry portal that allowed community members to enter and view their own sightings
- support for the development of community-based monitoring groups across Eyre Peninsula
- ongoing specialist training programs.

The outcomes have been

- development of an online bird identification quiz for skills practice
- over 5000 bird observations entered in Australian Living Atlas portal to date
- validation of data prior to upload to Biological Databases of SA (BDBSA)
- participation of trainees in Shorebird 2020, Beach Nesting Birds
- Wild Eyre and Malleefowl programs
- weekend field trips to some of the 100 odd parks across EP
- ongoing support and skill development using expert bird mentors.

The Australian Living Atlas (ALA) portal allows for one off observations and area surveys. Access to

the portal is gated and importantly all members have access to their own or entire regional data sets.

Feedback has been sought from participants on their ability to identify birds on Eyre Peninsula prior to the course and on completion of the course.

Ongoing challenges include fostering community groups, getting younger people involved, getting a coherent approach across such a large region, funding and the need for community members to form incorporated groups.

## FRIDAY 27 MAY

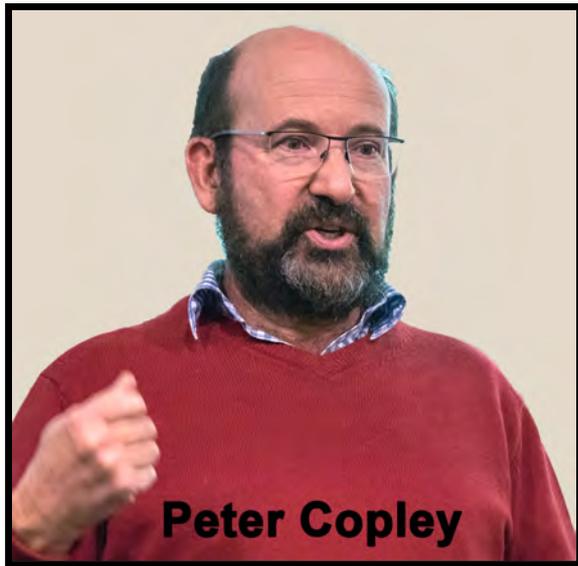
Peter Copley is the Senior Ecologist, Threatened Species & Ecological Communities, in the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. The title of his talk was '**A Year in Peru**'. From January 2014 Peter was on a 12 months volunteer assignment with the Participative Management Unit of Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado (SERNANP), an agency of the Ministry for the Environment in Peru, based in Lima. The unit's primary focus is on ensuring sustainable development for local communities to support the conservation of natural protected areas. In his presentation, Peter gave a brief description of Peru, including its size, population, vegetation and biodiversity. As part of his work Peter helped to prepare a conservation research plan for the Andean Condor that is still being poisoned by some graziers.

Peru is 1.3 times the area of South Australia with a population of more than 31 million. There are three major regions: Costa (10.6% of area, 52.6% of population), Sierra (26.4% of area, 38% of population) and Selva (63% of area, 9.4% of population). Peru is a global biodiversity hotspot. It contains:

- Marine and Continental Fish (c. 2,000 species) 10% of global diversity
- Butterflies (4000 species approx.)
- Birds (1,816 species – 115 endemic) 6% of global diversity
- Mammals (515 species – 109 endemic)
- Primates (35 species)
- Amphibians (449 species – 185 endemic)
- Reptiles (400 species approx.)
- Plants (25,000 species - 30% endemic) 10% of global diversity, 4,400 species of known use!!
- Orchids: (2,872 species - 30% endemic) 10% of global diversity.

To accompany his talk, Peter showed many photos of the country, wildlife and plants. Some of the birds photographed included Black Kite, West Peruvian Dove, Vermillion Flycatcher, House Wren, Andean

## Past General Meetings (cont.)/Future General Meetings



Photographed by Peter Gower

Condor, Peruvian Pelican, Black Skimmer, Great Crested Grebe, Chilean Flamingo, Snowy Egret, Blackish Oystercatcher, Peruvian Booby, Guanay Cormorant, Inca Tern, Humboldt Penguin, White-winged Guan, Red-masked Parakeet, Pacific Parrotlet, White-tailed Magpie, Groove-billed Ani, Saffron-billed Finch, Golden-bellied Grosbeak, Croaking Ground Dove, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, Burrowing Owl, Peruvian Thick-knee, Barred Forest Falcon, Blackish Nightjar, Black Vulture, Green-backed Trogon, Long-tailed Sylph, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Sparkling Violetear, Golden-tailed Sapphire, White-necked Jacamar and Sword-billed Hummingbird.

Peter also showed photographs of the numerous animals, butterflies, frogs and orchids. Some of the staple Peruvian foods include blue corn, quinoa, rice and over 3,800 varieties of potatoes. Chicha Morada is the local Peruvian beer made from corn.

### FRIDAY 24 JUNE

Daniel Rogers (Vice-President) introduced Jason Irving, Project Manager Dry Creek Saltfields (DENWR) and Murray Townsend, Manager Coast Management Unit (DEWNR) who would talk about the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

Jason has been Project Manager for the past two years and consulting with the community groups. In the first stage, later this year, crown land north of Port Gawler would be proclaimed as a national park and in the second stage land southwards to Dry Creek would be added.

Jason gave an apology for Arkellah Irving who is the Community Involvement and Planning Coordinator,

AIBS. Arkellah is responsible for the AIBS newsletter and will talk to Birds SA later.

Murray gave information about the Dry Creek Saltfields. Ridley Corporation stopped salt production in 2013 and in June 2016 Adelaide Resource Co. (ARC) purchased the salt fields. ARC has inherited all obligations and mineral leases for the land purchased. The state government has provided \$1.7 million for the establishment of the AIBS. Seven government agencies are involved across the AIBS area.

In 2009 Ridley Corporation/Delfin Lend Lease proposed to develop the salt crystallisation pans for residential purposes. The new northern connector would provide a barrier to rising water levels. The latest estimate is that the development would require 8-12 million cubic metres of fill.

At present water is still being pumped into the northern ponds. SA Water is trialing the disposal of wastewater into one of the ponds. There are also proposals to allow seawater into one of the pans at the original inlet.

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### 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 30 SEPTEMBER

Brian Walker will talk on "Two weeks in Costa Rica".

### FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER

Jeff Groves will speak on bird behaviour as captured through his excellent photography

### FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER

**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

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## **Monarto Conservation Park – 1 May**

Unfortunately, this excursion is a bit of a blur as far as the ‘fearless leader’ is concerned as she was suffering from a really dreadful cold and should have stayed at home in bed! Nevertheless 18 people, including said leader, ventured out to this interesting area on a relatively pleasant day.

The group soon broke up into several groups, one of which walked around part of the northern section of the park and then into the central area. A smaller group nobly stuck by their increasingly decrepit and ailing leader and went for a walk across the park in a roughly southeasterly direction until they reached the track to the east. After returning to the car park the leader sank down onto a handy log nearby and decided that the birds would just have to come to her (and who really cared about birds anyway!).

The group as a whole, however, did their usual dedicated thing and managed to tot up a total of 32 species for the day. Most encouragingly 20 Spotted Pardalotes were recorded as well as a more modest 4 Striated Pardalotes. Honeyeaters included Red Wattlebird (10), Spiny-cheeked (1), Singing (5), Purple-gaped (1), White-plumed (1) and New Holland (20).

Other species of particular interest included Southern Scrub-robin (8), Variegated Fairy-wren (15), Shy Heathwren (8), Inland Thornbill (6) and Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (1). Also observed were Purple-crowned Lorikeet (4), Crimson Rosella (5) and Australian Ringneck (9). The usual Little Raven, Australian Magpie, Common Bronzewing, Grey Currawong, Mistletoebird, Silvereye, Grey Fantail, Willy Wagtail and Grey Shrike-thrush also put in an appearance.

Although spring is the best time to visit Monarto Conservation Park, it’s nevertheless a rewarding area and well worth exploring at any time. As well as some less often seen birds the vegetation is distinctive and quite different to Ferries-McDonald CP just down the road. So next time you’re in the area, give it a try if you haven’t been there before.

**Ali Ben Kahn**

## **Mt Billy Conservation Park – 14 May**

Fourteen people took part in this excursion on a cool, mostly cloudy day with occasional gusty breezes. We traversed the Mt Billy Hike in an anti-clockwise direction as a result of the leader’s fortuitous meeting with some Park Rangers a few days earlier while on a reconnaissance trip. They suggested it would involve fewer ‘steep uphill bits’ which was true. Even so, the intrepid group had to

cope with some steepish sections and a good invigorating 5km walk.

Common Bronzewing (3) were seen or heard on or near the track and there were plenty of parrots and lorikeets, with Purple-crowned Lorikeet (20) and Rainbow Lorikeet (20) seen flashing overhead in several groups. Crimson/Adelaide Rosella (12) and Galah (4) were observed and a lone Sulphur-crested Cockatoo was heard making its usual discordant racket.

Honeyeaters were plentiful with sightings of New Holland (60), Crescent (6), Brown-headed (2), White-naped (10), Yellow-faced (2), Red Wattlebird (6), Little Wattlebird (2) and Eastern Spinebill (4). Spotted Pardalote (2) and Striated Pardalote (12) were noted as well as a number of Thornbills including Yellow-rumped (10) and Striated (12).

Golden Whistler (4), Fan-tailed Cuckoo (4), Red-browed Finch (3) and Silvereye (50) were among other birds recorded for the day. Many of the other usual suspects were present in varying numbers e.g. Superb Fairywren, Grey Currawong, White-browed Scrubwren, Magpie, Grey Shrike-thrush, Little Raven and Tree Martin. Only 2 feral species were observed, being Common Starling (1) and Common Blackbird (3).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens are known to be in the park, but proved elusive despite our eagle-eyed and sharpened-hearing readiness to hone in on any suspected bush or location. Personally, I’m beginning to doubt the existence of this bird and, like Sean Dooley and the Grey Falcon, may soon decide that it’s simply a figment of the imagination, especially of other birdwatchers who like to boast about having seen it.

After the walk we went to the picnic ground at nearby Hindmarsh Falls to have lunch and make the bird call which resulted in a total of 33 species.

**Ali Ben Kahn**

## **Swan Reach Conservation Park – 29 May**

On a cool and overcast morning 12 hardy souls gathered at Swan Reach Conservation Park. A further two members caught up with us a bit later in the day.

The first stop was at the western side of the park. The area was very quiet, in fact totally silent at times, with very low numbers of birds. After 45 minutes we moved on into the park stopping at the “ruins” and walking the track leading south-east. Immediately after we had gathered at the stopping point the level of bird song held out hopes for a better tally than at the first site.

# Past Excursions (cont.)

Eight species of honeyeater were observed, with Spiny-cheeked being the most common, closely followed by Red Wattlebird, White-fronted and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters. The best sighting for most people was the single Striped Honeyeater. Purple-crowned Lorikeets passed overhead regularly and were the most common parrots, with only 6 Galahs and 2 Mallee Ringnecks completing the tally of parrots. Thanks to one keen photographer we were lucky to find a single Chestnut-backed Quailthrush. Thornbills were few and far between with only 4 Chestnut-rumped recorded.

Following the bird count at lunchtime, nine of us took the long track out towards the eastern boundary. The track had a little more intrusion from vegetation than expected and our rate of progress was slowed as Clare assiduously held back saplings to allow vehicles to pass unharmed.

A final stop at more open country did yield three more species, bringing the total to 34 for the day. It was surprising that we did not see or hear any fairywrens during the outing.

**Brian Walker**

## **Ridley Conservation Park — 11 June**

An overcast but mild morning saw 18 members gather at Ridley Conservation Park. Members obtained good views of Chestnut-crowned Babblers and Mistletoebirds whilst gathered in the car parking area at the northern end of the park and so it looked as though we were in for a good morning's birding. We spent about 90 minutes at the northern end of the park before moving on to the central section.

Following the total lack of fairywrens at Swan Reach two weeks earlier, it was pleasing that the party managed to observe Variegated, Superb and Splendid Fairywrens, although no species was in high numbers. We also saw six Common Bronzewing Pigeons, which had not been observed at Swan Reach.

Parrots, cockatoos and lorikeets were well represented by 7 species, with Australian Ringneck and Galah being the most common. Six of the Yellow subspecies of Crimson Rosella were also on our list. Eleven species of honeyeaters included two Striped Honeyeaters. Whilst Chestnut-rumped was the most common thornbill, we did also see some Inland Thornbills. Whistlers included Gilbert's, Australian Golden and Rufous, with Gilbert's being the most common. A pair of Restless Flycatchers also provided a good record for the time of year. Robins were in short supply, with only Hooded Robin and Jacky Winter observed for the day.

At the birdcall 52 species were recorded, with a further species added by Clare and me on the way

out of the park. After a somewhat disappointing outcome at Swan Reach two weeks earlier, it was pleasing to see such a good tally for the outing.

**Brian Walker**

## **Charleston Conservation Park — 16 June**

Twelve members met on a heavily overcast, cold 15° morning at the Charleston tennis courts.

We then drove to the reserve and started the walk at approximately 9.00am. The vegetation in the park and the surrounding farmlands was a beautiful wintery green but there was not as much water around as has been encountered on previous winter walks. The dam on the adjacent farm also appeared to have much less water than past years. Not much blossom was around and this was evidenced by the low numbers of honeyeaters seen — only 19 birds of six species for the entire morning.

We took the path along the fence line and occasionally ventured into the centre to find hot spots, but these proved to be few and far between. There were not many birds around and the two and a half hour walk only produced 89 birds in total, 22 species seen and an additional two heard. Largest numbers were 20 White-winged Chough in three groups, 15 Adelaide Rosella, with the next highest being 6 each of Grey Fantail and White-naped Honeyeater. One member had a fleeting glance of a raptor, thought to be a Peregrine Falcon, but it was not recorded as a sighting.

There were a few wet and slippery spots on the track, two of which proved to be moderately challenging. The rain held off until 11.30am when it started to drizzle and it was decided that we would need to find some shelter. We all travelled back to the tennis courts and used the covered area for lunch and the bird call.

**Rod Tetlow**

## **Newland Head Conservation Park — 26 June**

5 dedicated birdwatchers met at the Dennis Road Campground Waitpinga on a cool and slightly overcast morning. No sooner had we left the cars, the birds were all around us. The usually hard to see Crescent Honeyeater was calling high up on a dead bough with a male Mistletoebird perched next to it, several Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were flitting from tree to tree as 2 Shelducks flew overhead — and we had not even started the walk.

I had decided to explore a different area of the park, so we jumped into 2 cars and headed for the Ridgeway Hill walking trail, which is in the northeastern area of the park.

The trail traverses through pristine bush land with scattered gums, Allocasuarina, Hakea and an

# Past Excursions (cont.)

understory of Grevillea, Correa, and Heath. Birds were initially scarce except for the constant calling of Crescent Honeyeater and then it started to drizzle. On we went, despite the conditions. Someone spotted a dam with overhanging Gums, it was a good place to shelter and it was alive with birds. We soon added Eastern Spinebill, Brown-headed and New Holland Honeyeaters to our list along with both Spotted and Striated Pardalotes. On the way back to the cars we saw a Golden Whistler and had tantalising but not confirmed glimpse of Chestnut-rumped Heathwren.

To finish off the day we drove to the Waitpinga estuary and added several water birds to our list; plus Australian Pipit, Black-fronted Dotterel and White-fronted Chat. Then we went down to the seafront to see Hooded Plovers and Greater Crested Terns.

The count for the day was 48 species – not bad for a cold and sometimes wet day.

**Winston Syson**

## Laratinga Wetland – 9 July

The weather was slightly overcast, with little wind and freezing temperature of 6°C.

18 keen Birds SA members gathered at Laratinga wetland.

The ponds were very full as the Mt. Lofty Ranges have had one of the wettest winters in many years.

Despite this, the group counted 57 species of birds for the morning. Some of the highlights were 3 Blue-billed ducks, 1 Buff-banded Rail, 1 Hardhead, 12 Dusky Woodswallows, 5 Little Grassbirds, which provided good views, and 25 Red-browed finches.

A good morning's birding was enjoyed by all present.

**John Gitsham**

## Port Augusta Bird Group (the Babblers) Telowie Gorge – 17 July

Four bird watchers met in the Telowie Gorge carpark. One of each was from Port Augusta, Mambray Creek, Port Pirie and Kangaroo Island. A gully wind was blowing out of the gorge so we decided to walk along the track that followed the southern side of the creek and then went along the foothills, along what is called the Western Boundary track. The area had been burnt out by the Bangor

bushfires two and a half years ago and then the creek was washed out in a big flood following the fire. Many of the plants are re-growing from their stumps and many fire responsive plants are covering the area. The native hibiscus (2 species) responded well and are about to put on a good show of their big purple flowers. White backed Magpies and Little Ravens were flying overhead and perched on the burnt skeletons of the big River Red Gums. In the creek there were some

Laughing Kookaburras and

Galahs. We moved along the track through an area that had been thick, low scrub but was now a mass of very low regrowth and fast growing plants. This area was formerly the home of Southern Scrub Robins but they have not been seen or heard there since the fire. There were however White Browed Babblers, Singing Honeyeaters, and Variegated Wrens. As we walked along the park's western boundary track Yellow-rumped Thornbills and a Grey Shrikethrush provided some good opportunities for the photographers. In the adjacent field a couple of Australian Pipits were calling out and a pair of Welcome swallows buzzed us. The fire had not reached the upper slopes of the hills in this area so we made our way towards the unburnt Mallee and shrubs there. A



**Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo**  
photographed by Trevor Cox  
at Verran (EP) on 30/8/2014

# Past Excursions (cont.)

shrubs there. A Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo was calling from the top of a tree and the sun was reflecting its iridescent green to us. Weebills were searching around for food in the mallee branches and a brightly coloured male Mistletoebird was doing the same in a big clump of mistletoe. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters darted for cover when a Brown Goshawk flew over us. A Gilberts Whistler was calling out its chop chop call further up the hill as we strained our binoculars to see it. We headed back to the creek and saw a Grey Butcherbird in the Red Gums and a couple of chattering Willie Wagtails nearby. A single Wedge-tailed Eagle was silently cruising overhead keeping an eye on us. We moved along the creek away from the gorge with a flock of Tree Martins hunting for insects above us. A pair of Elegant Parrots was quietly sitting in a big gum tree watching us as another pair flew by.

A Red Wattlebird raucously gave away its location and we easily spotted a Grey Fantail by its constant movement. In the thicker undergrowth, soft peeping from Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and more Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Silvereyes gave their positions away. The bright green of a pair of Mallee Ringnecks contrasted with the grey and blackened trunks of the trees. Starlings and sparrows were searching through the hollows in the big gum trees and thinking of taking them from our native birds.

We enjoyed a late lunchtime in the car park. Grey Fantails flittered around by us and four Inland Thornbills were squabbling amongst themselves, producing an amazing range of calls, many mimicking other birds. The gully wind had dropped as we headed into the gorge and the creek was flowing. It was strangely quiet though and the only birds we found was a pair of Grey-fronted Honeyeaters. The creek had suffered from the fire and then the flood but there were signs of recovery all around us. We stopped at a place where Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens had been seen before and tried to entice them out of the undergrowth, but with no success. Two of us decided to climb up a steep gully to see if we could locate the Heathwrens and to check out a brilliantly flowering Cockies' Tongue plant. The path was loose underfoot and the scrub was unburnt here, so it was tough going. After a few stops to try and entice the

birds to us we still had no luck. We continued to the top of the gully and decide it was too difficult to go back down via the gully so we followed the ridge we were on back down to the creek. As we set off from the head of the gully a Heathwrens began calling from the area we had just moved through, so at least they were still in the area.

We all went back to the car park and made our bird call and said our goodbyes. On the way out two of us stopped at an old camp ground along the creek for a quick look and sighted a pair of Red-rumped Parrots.

**Bernie Haase**

## Browns Road — July 21

Fourteen members gathered at the start of Browns Road where we were entertained by the sighting of a strange looking Weebill. As it flitted about in a low shrub next to the road it was observed that its face was rather black. It was not clear whether this was feather colouration or a coating picked up while foraging. Only poor photos were obtained as it constantly moved about, unwilling to pose for a good shot, so it remained unidentified. We entered the park at the usual spot, about three-quarters the way along Browns Road. As our number was small we kept to one group although we did spread out a little as we wandered. We headed south through the middle of the park and returning via the old growth area and continuing on toward the northern area. Highlights included several Diamond Firetails, two Restless Flycatchers and a single



**Grey-fronted Honeyeater**

Photographed by Bernie Haase  
in Telowie Gorge 17/7/16

Brown Treecreeper. A small group of thornbills foraging on the ground contained both Yellow-rumped and Chestnut-rumped. Several groups of White-browed Babblers and White-winged Choughs were encountered. The high point for one of our members was the witnessing of a Chough pounding a legless lizard against a rock. However, it was disturbed as the rest of the group caught up, leaving the rather stunned reptile to perhaps see another day. Also observed were Red-capped and Hooded Robins, Jacky-winter, Varied Sittella and Rufous and Golden Whistler. In all 43 species were recorded for the day.

**Martyn Price**

# Past Excursions (cont)

## **Altona CSR Landcare Reserve — 31 July**

Bearing in mind a rainy day forecast, and a damp overcast morning it was pleasing that 17 members had made the effort to come out. We set off at 8.30 am in a very light drizzle, which persisted for a short while and by the time we had reached the container shelter area there was even talk by some of abandoning the walk. However no sooner had we decided to persevere than the rain stopped. As the morning progressed the weather lightened up to the extent that by 10.00 am layers of clothing were being removed and stored in backpacks, and it had become quite warm. It again turned a little cooler by the time we made the bird call, but there was no more rain.

The reserve has obviously enjoyed a good rainy season and overall is fresh and green. However there were patches of scrub that have seemingly just managed to survive the past dry summer months with leaf cover quite sparse on some of the vegetation. The creek that runs through the park was flowing very strongly.

In all we saw 46 species, with an additional 3 being heard only, and a total of 271 birds seen. Most sighted were New Holland Honeyeater (25), Crimson Rosella (20), White-browed Babbler (20), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (15) and at least 10 each of Peaceful Dove, Galah, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Tree Martin and Yellow Thornbill. Two cuckoo species, Horsfield's Bronze and Fantail, and one Peregrine Falcon were also present.

Pairs of Red-rumped Parrots and Musk Lorikeets were busily examining tree hollows, obviously in preparation for this year's breeding season, and a pair of Yellow-rumped Thornbills were seen mating. We had very good sightings of seven Varied Sittellas that seemed to follow us for a while. Five of them also gave us a brief group aerobatic display that was very interesting to see.

At 12.15pm we met at the car park, enjoyed our lunch and made the bird call.

## **Rod Tetlow**

## **Black Hill CP — August 13**

Fifteen members gathered at the top of Addison Avenue on a cold winter morning. At first a thick fog threatened to put brakes on the walk but as the time to start drew near it was already beginning to lift and within an hour all was clear. The morning continued to be cloudy but warmed as the day progressed. We began our walk behind the wildflower garden in the old quarry in search of the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, but to no avail. Numerous Mistletoebirds and Weebills were seen as well as a close flypast of

two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. Grey Currawongs were heard calling. From the quarry we decided to avoid the steep climb up the Sunset Track and headed along the flatter trail to the east due to wet and perhaps slippery rocks. On this track we encountered Crescent Honeyeater, Striated Thornbill, Striated Pardalote and Grey Shrike-thrush. We proceeded until the ascent became steep and returned along the same track. The sighting of a Koala, low down and awake in a gum tree beside the track led to the discovery of a pair of Tawny Frogmouths huddled on a branch next to the trunk of another tree nearby. Everyone had a good view and several members took numerous photos. No raptors were seen. We finished the morning with lunch on the tables behind the wildflower centre. In all 43 species were recorded.

## **Martyn Price**

## **Horsnell Gully CP — August 18**

Only seven members gathered for this trip. The weather forecast was for a warm, very windy day with rain developing in the afternoon. Well it certainly was windy on the higher parts but down in the gully it was rather sheltered and only occasionally did a gust come through. From the car park off Horsnell Gully Road we headed up the Main Valley Track until it became very steep and rocky, returned and then took the Rockdale Hill Track until we met Old Coach Road, where we turned around and returned to the car park. Although many birds were quite vocal they were well hidden and difficult to see, especially as the wind rustled through the foliage. Many Koalas were observed in the gums and one was seen climbing up rocks well into the park. Rainbow Lorikeets and Crimson Rosellas were numerous, many checking out hollows. Several Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos were heard calling. Honeyeaters included Red Wattlebird, Eastern Spinebill and Yellow-faced, White-naped and New Holland. Although most of the small birds remained hidden due to the wind several larger birds, namely, Little Raven, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Grey Currawong were observed flying high overhead. Grey Currawongs were also observed nesting. Numerous Silvereyes were observed with the majority having extremely chestnut flanks and grey breasts. No raptors were seen. In all 25 species were recorded for the morning.

## **Martyn Price**

# Future Excursions

Field Trip and campout Co-ordinator, Lynton Huxley

Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038

Email: [fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au) or [huxley@adam.com.au](mailto:huxley@adam.com.au)

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 Field Trip Co-ordinator, must include the number of attendees, birds seen or heard, the weather and any other interesting events on the day.

Please inform the FGC if you have not yet led an excursion, but are willing to lead one in the future. Your assistance to the Association in this role will be greatly appreciated.

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).

## HOT WEATHER PROTOCOL

If a fire ban is in effect or the forecast temperature is above 36C in the area of a scheduled walk, the walk is automatically cancelled.

**Saturday 10 September: Cox Scrub Conservation Park (MLR) (66km).**

This Park is on the Ashbourne to Goolwa Road, about 6km south of Ashbourne. Meet at 8.30am in the northern car park.

**TRIP LEADER: Peter Gower**

**Thursday 15 September: Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park (MLR) (60km)**

Meet at 8.30am at the Tanunda Creek Road CP gate. The Park is located 12km southeast of Tanunda in the Barossa Valley. From Tanunda take the main Tanunda to Angaston Road (Mengler Hill Road) for 8km to the southerly turn off onto Tanunda Creek Road. The Park is approximately 4km along this road.

**TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn**

**Long Weekend Campout 1-3 October: Kingston area (SE) (295km)**

We plan to undertake our bird surveys at various conservation parks and scrub lands with the assistance of local guides. Accommodation options available vary from motel, caravan park or bush camping and information on these will be circulated separately along with other details of the campout. Campouts are great ways to socialise and maybe even add a new species to your list! We hope you can make time in your diary for this fun event.

Further details will be in the e-Newsletter, or contact the trip leader

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

**Saturday 15 October: Hardy's Scrub Onkaparinga River National Park (MLR) (42km).**

Meet at 8.30am by the CFS Station, 490 Blewitt Springs Road, Blewitt Springs.

**TRIP LEADER: Teresa Jack**

**Thursday 20 October: Jenkins Scrub (MLR) (61km).**

Travel about 10km from Williamstown towards Springton, then turn right onto Mount Road.

Meet at 8.30am at the entrance to the scrub on the left, opposite Murray Vale Road.

**TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow**

**Sunday 30 October: Private Bushland Property of Chris and John Boland near Murray Bridge approx. 76 km southeast of Adelaide.**

At the first set of lights into Murray Bridge, turn left into Maurice Road and travel 4km until the end of the bitumen. Go in the gate on the left and follow the track to the car park area. Meet at 8.30am.

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

**Saturday 12 November: Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park (MLR) (46km).**

Meet at 8.30am at the reserve entrance on Cox Road, opposite Aldinga Holiday Park.

**TRIP LEADER: Alan Burns**

**Thursday 17 November: Scott Creek Conservation Park (MLR) (28km).**

Meet at 8.30am at the Almanda Mine Site car park area on Dorset Vale Road. Take the SE Freeway and leave it at the Stirling exit. At the roundabout, turn right to Longwood. After approx. 2.5 to 3km turn right towards Cherry Gardens, turning left into Dorset Vale Road approx. 2km before reaching Cherry Gardens.

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

**Sunday 27 November: Currency Creek Gorge (85km).**

The Gorge is 6km north of Goolwa on the Goolwa to Strathalbyn Road. Meet at 8.30am in the Lions Park on the northern side of the road just past the 80km limit in Currency Creek, when travelling from Goolwa.

**TRIP LEADER: Winston Syson**

# Future Excursions (cont.)

## BIRD WATCHING FIELD TRIPS, PORT AUGUSTA GROUP OF BIRDS SA PROGRAM AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2016

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	Bernies Block	Mambray Creek parking bay	8:00 am
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Angadells station (\$50/vehicle)	Quorn pool	8:00 am
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> October			
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Cariewerloo station	Start of Stuart Highway	8:30 am
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	October (Camp Out - Facilities available)		
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Whyalla wetlands/Pt Lowly	Whyalla wetlands	8:30 am
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden	In car park (Christmas lunch in café)	7:30 am

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

For further information contact

Peter - 86425723 / 0457708859 or Greg - 86486630 / 0459988052 or Bernie - 0419863834

### NEW MEMBERS

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

Geoffrey and Tess Gowing	TENNYSON	Euge Coscarelli	MOUNT GAMBIER
Rosemary Allen	FULLARTON	Thomas Tymons	WALKERVILLE
Coral Anne Johnston	WALLAROO	Leonard Underwood	WATTLE PARK
Dylan and Melissa Burford	CHERRY GARDENS	Peter Graham Hall	PORT AUGUSTA
Emma Montgomery	BRIDGEWATER	Lyn and Gary Belder	CLAPHAM
Sally Shaw	CRAFERS	Frank William Gordon	PORT PIRIE
Jennifer Fay Harris	EVERARD PARK	Rodney James Martin	NORWOOD
Marie-Christine Lamy	GILLES PLAINS	Alice Grieve	HACKHAM WEST
Michelle Cornish	GOOLWA BEACH	Trevor Ramsey	HENLEY BEACH
Tony and Susie Sharley	PARINGA		

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Treasurer. His 'phone number is on p21.

# Bird Records

## **Collated by Graham Carpenter**

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

Please send all reports to the Bird Records Secretary at [birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au) or phone 8297 5463.

Note that the list includes reports of rare or vagrant species to South Australia that may 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).

## **Ostrich**

1, 2/4/2016. Wilmington to Quorn, FR.

per Dennis, T.

*Presumed domestic escapee.*

7, 22/5/2016. Mt Arden Stn, NW.

Langdon, P.

## **Brown Quail**

6, 28/5/2016. Granite Island, MLR.

Tracey, K.

4, 20/5/2016. Mutton Cove, AP.

Ben Kahn, A.

## **Pink-eared Duck**

1, 27/4/2016. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR. *First report from the Park.*

Schmidt, L.

## **Diamond Dove**

1, 2/5/2016. Keith Sewage Works, SE.

Sando, D.

## **Peaceful Dove**

15, 7/6/2016. Hindmarsh Island, Chappel Rd, MM.

Syson, W.

## **Northern Giant-Petrel**

1, 23/5/2016. Encounter Bay, Bluff Jetty, MLR.

Tracey, K.

## **Little Pied Cormorant**

25, 24/6/2016. Blanch Harbour, LN. Largest group seen at this site.

Langdon, P.

## **Nankeen Night Heron**

1 immature, 23/5/2016. Ethelton, Waite St., AP. *Roosting in Callistemon in garden.*

Ben Kahn, A.

## **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**

1 immature, 5/6/2016. Millbrook Reservoir, MLR.

Woodland, R.

1 adult, 14/7/2016. Paringa, MM.

McMurray, N.

## **Osprey**

1, 29/5/2016. Cooper Creek, near Innamincka, NE.

B. Johnson

*Terry Dennis reports other sightings nearby in southwest QLD, so members should look closely at large pale raptors in the northern areas.*

## **Australian Bustard**

1, 6/6/2016. 5 km SE Saddleworth, LN. In stubble paddock.

Huppatz, J.

## **Double-banded Plover**

24, 1/6/2016. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

24 and 19, 18/6 and 2/8/2016. Black Point, YP.

Tiller, M.

## **Hooded Plover**

12, 19/7/2016. Victor Harbor, Franklin Parade, MLR. Johnston, D.

## **Whimbrel**

6, 2/7/2016. Bald Hill Beach, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

## **Fairy Tern**

93, 1/6/2016. Bald Hill Beach, AP. *The largest group reported at this site.*

Taylor, P.W.

## **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo**

300, 6/4/2016. Flagstaff Hill, MLR.

White, G.

## **Bourke's Parrot**

2, 25/5/2016. S of Euro Bluff, NW.

Langdon, P.

# Bird Records (cont.)

## Laughing Kookaburra

3, 4/2016. Brachina Gorge, FR. At the Slippery Dip and Trezona campground.

Coleman, T.

*J. Reid and others reported kookaburras a little further north at Parachilna Gorge in Sept 1996 (SA Ornithologist 32:113)*

1, 19/7/2016. Balaklava, AP. Not usually seen this far west.

Taylor, P.W.

## Laughing Gull

1, 21/7/2016. Venus Bay caravan park, EP. Photos taken. A second-year bird in non-breeding plumage.

Robertson, B.

*Subsequently reported by various observers. First report from SA. Nine previous reports in Australia listed by the Birdlife Australia rarities committee, mostly from the north and in summer. Distinguished the similar Franklin's Gull (also a North American breeding species that usually winters in South America, with previous reports from SA at Greenfields in Sept 1993 and Salisbury Downs in July 2002) by its relatively long wings and longer, drooping bill.*

## Eyrean Grasswren

several groups, 4/2016. Near NSW border 11 km N Yandama Ck, NE. Also seen nearby in NSW.

McAllan, I.

*Ian May reported the species just further south at Yandama Ck in March 1982 (SAOA Newsletter 102). Both reports noted the lack of Sandhill Canegrass, the usual habitat of this grasswren.*

## Slaty-backed Thornbill

2, 5/7/2016. Marryatt Creek, NW. In dense mulga.

Carpenter, G.

## Western Gerygone

Pair, 5/7/2016. Marryatt Creek, NW.

Carpenter, G.

## White-throated Gerygone

1, 14/7/2016. Coward Springs, NW. Feeding in date palms.

Saunders, A.

*Previous reports in this general area from Roxby Downs (May and Aug 1997), Mungerannie (Aug 2011) and the western boundary of Witchelina Stn (Aug 2014).*

## Pied Honeyeater

Several pairs, 5/7/2016. Pootnoora Creek, NW.

Carpenter, G.

## Painted Honeyeater

1, 1/7/2016. Warburton River, Cowarie Stn, NE. In coolibahs along riverbank. Details submitted to Birds SA rarities committee.

Auer, J.

*Scattered reports from eastern SA, particularly near Gluepot Reserve.*

## Brown Honeyeater

Several, 3/8/2016. Border Village and 8 km ESE of Border Village, NW. In flowering *Eucalyptus gracilis* and *E. diversifolia*.

Carpenter, G.

*Previously reported*

*from this district in Oct 2004 and Sept 2007.*

## Noisy Miner

1, 15/5/2016. Port Augusta arid lands botanic garden, NW. With Yellow-throated Miners.

Langdon, P.

*First confirmed report from this region, with J. Reid and others (SA Ornithologist 32:113) indicating that Jamestown is its normal limit.*



## Laughing Gull

Photographed by Kay Parkin at Venus Bay on July 24 2016.

# Bird Records (cont.)

## Little Friarbird

1, 22/5/2016. Wynn Vale, Lions Park lookout, MLR.  
Photos provided.

per Blaylock, B.

## White-fronted Honeyeater

1, 30/4/2016. Piccaninnie Ponds, Pick Swamp, SE.  
Farnes, R. & Graney, I.  
*Rarely reported from the lower SE.*

## Gilbert's Whistler

1, 25/4/2016. Port Augusta arid lands botanic  
garden, NW.

Langdon, P.

## Olive-backed Oriole

1, 5/1/2016. Yahl, Yahl Hall Rd, SE.

Davies, J.

1, 30/6/2016. Banrock Wetlands, MM. Reported  
here in winter in consecutive years.

Field, T.

## Black-faced Woodswallow

2, 11/7/2016. 1 km E Lochiel, LN.  
Taylor, P.W.

## Dusky Woodswallow

4, 22/6/2016. Highbury, AP.

Pyle, C.

*A group of about 15 subsequently seen at a second  
location, about 1km from the original sighting.*

## Pied Butcherbird

1, 13/7/2016. Scott Creek CP, MLR. Photos  
provided.

Battersby, B.

*A previous recent report from the hills near Nairne in  
May 2014.*

## Restless Flycatcher

1, 25/5/2016. S of Euro Bluff, NW.

Langdon, P.

*This species disperses into northern districts in  
autumn-winter.*

## White-winged Chough

6, 10/4/2016. Clarendon, Bakers Gully, MLR.

Schmidt, L.

## Apostlebird

1 group, 4/2016. Willow Springs Stn, FR.

McAllan, I.

*This species is gradually extending north and west  
in the FR.*

## Jacky Winter

1, 7/8/2016. 10 km E Balaklava, MLR. *Now rarely  
reported in this district.*

Taylor, P.W.

## Diamond Firetail

14, 19/6/2016. Dutchman's Stern CP, FR.

Langdon, P.

## BIRDS SURFING

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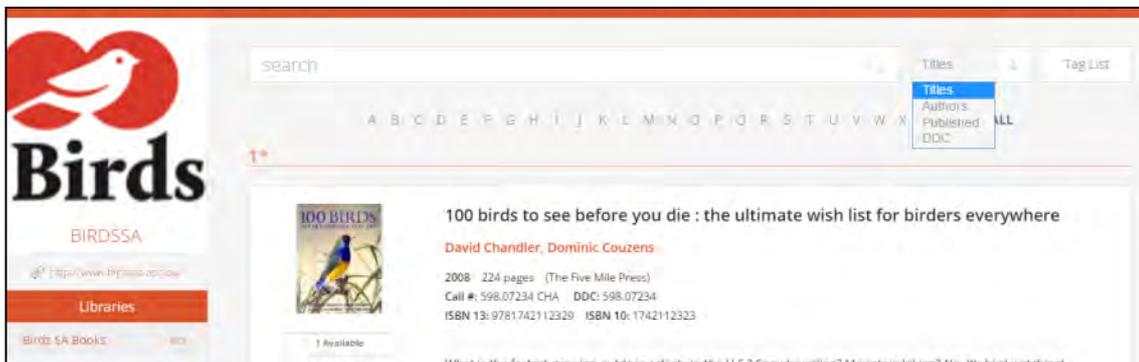
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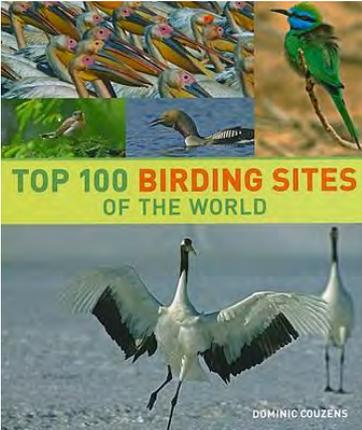
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4. To search subject areas, click the **Tag List** button scroll down and select from the list displayed.



# New titles



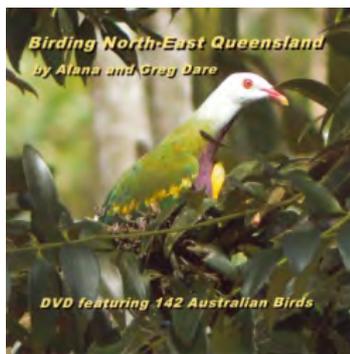
**598.07234 COU**  
 Couzens, Dominic  
**Top 100 Birding Sites of the World**  
 Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008.  
 ISBN 9780520259324

This book describes the one hundred best bird-watching sites on the planet. Introductory sections give an overview of each continent or region, and then each site is listed and ranked on a country-by-country basis. The entries all include a full description, a list of key species, a map, and information on the best time of year to visit



**598.042 TAY**  
 Taylor, Sue  
**John Gould's extinct and endangered birds of Australia**  
 Canberra: National Library of Australia, 2012.  
 ISBN 9780642277657

This book features 59 plates of birds from Gould's eight-volume work, birds that today are threatened or that no longer exist. Featuring exquisite full-colour lithographs reproduced from the National Library of Australia's copy of *The Birds of Australia*, this book gives an insight into the history of each bird's European discovery, as well as its subsequent fortunes or misfortunes.



**DVD 58**  
 Dare, Greg  
**Birding north-east Queensland**

This 60 minute DVD documentary of birding in the wet tropics has been produced by two of our members: Greg and Alana Dare. It features 142 Australian species and shows where to find them. There is a map to help if you are planning a similar trip. You can see an 8 minute trailer on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGmlBX-wLZQ> or just Google Birding North-East Queensland.

## Details of the Photographs on p 22— all taken by Trevor Cox

1	Eastern Bluebonnet	Port Augusta	30/3/215
2	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Stokes	10/9/14
3	Mulga Parrots	Verran	30/8/14
4	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Iron Knob	10/5/2015
5	Musk Lorikeet	Port Neill	2/12/2015
6	Red-rumped Parrot	Bowman Park, Crystal Brook	13/10/2015

# About our Association

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 7.40pm.

**Donations to the Birds SA Conservation Fund are tax-deductible**

## BIRDS SA COMMITTEE 2016 – 2017

President	David Paton	8344 8891
Vice President	John Gitsham	0438900393
Vice President	Daniel Rogers	8222 9517
Secretary	Brian Blaylock	0448822374
Treasurer	Brian Walker	8263 3433
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Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	Emma Montgomery	0422398610
Member	John Hatch	8362 2820
Member	John Fennell	8391 5358

## FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	0402123960
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
	email <a href="mailto:imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au">imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au</a>	
Campout Organiser	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Rare Birds Secretary	Brian Blaylock	0448822374

## Port Augusta group of Birds SA

Contact people: Peter Langdon 8642 5723,  
Greg Bannon 8648 6630, Bernie Haase 0419 863 834

## BirdLife SE SA

Convener, — Bob Green  
[shriketit@bigpond.com](mailto:shriketit@bigpond.com), 8725 0549  
Newsletter Editor, Abigail Goodman  
[abigail.goodman@bigpond.com](mailto:abigail.goodman@bigpond.com)  
IBA Coordinator, Bryan Haywood  
[brytonwood@bigpond.com](mailto:brytonwood@bigpond.com), 8726 8112

## Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Contact person: Neil Cheshire 8552 7904  
Website: [www.Fleurieubirdwatchers.org](http://www.Fleurieubirdwatchers.org)

## 2016 BIRDS SA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single membership	\$50
Family/household membership	\$60
Single concession*	\$45
Family/household concession*	\$55
Full-time students under 25 years	\$10

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

## ADVERTISING IN 'The Birder'

Birds SA 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 28). 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](mailto:newslettereditor@birdssa.asn.au)
- [cpy62284@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cpy62284@bigpond.net.au)

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# Birds of Eyre Peninsula

Trevor Cox took all the photographs on these 3 pages

## A Page of Parrots — Details on p20



**Osprey**  
**Port Neill**  
**29/2/2016**



**Owlet Nightjar**  
**Wirrega rail dam se**  
**27/3/2016**



**Australian Hobby**  
**Port Neill**  
**21/5/2015**





## Guidelines for **ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR WHEN BIRDWATCHING**

- Always promote the welfare of birds and their environments.
- Respect the law and the rights of others — ensure that you are legally permitted to enter any land that you do not own.
- The welfare and conservation of birds and their habitats are paramount.
- When watching and photographing birds, do so from a distance that does not disturb them.
- Limit the use of play-back calls, and never use them in heavily birded areas.
- Take special care during the birds' breeding season and do not disturb breeding birds or their nests.
- Birding in groups, whether organised or impromptu, requires special care to avoid disturbing birds.
- Birds SA members must lead by example by practising ethical behaviour when birding individually or on field trips and campouts.



Southern emu-wren, photographed at Tulka on 30/3/2015