

The BIRDER

The official newsletter of Birds SA Nov 2017 No 244



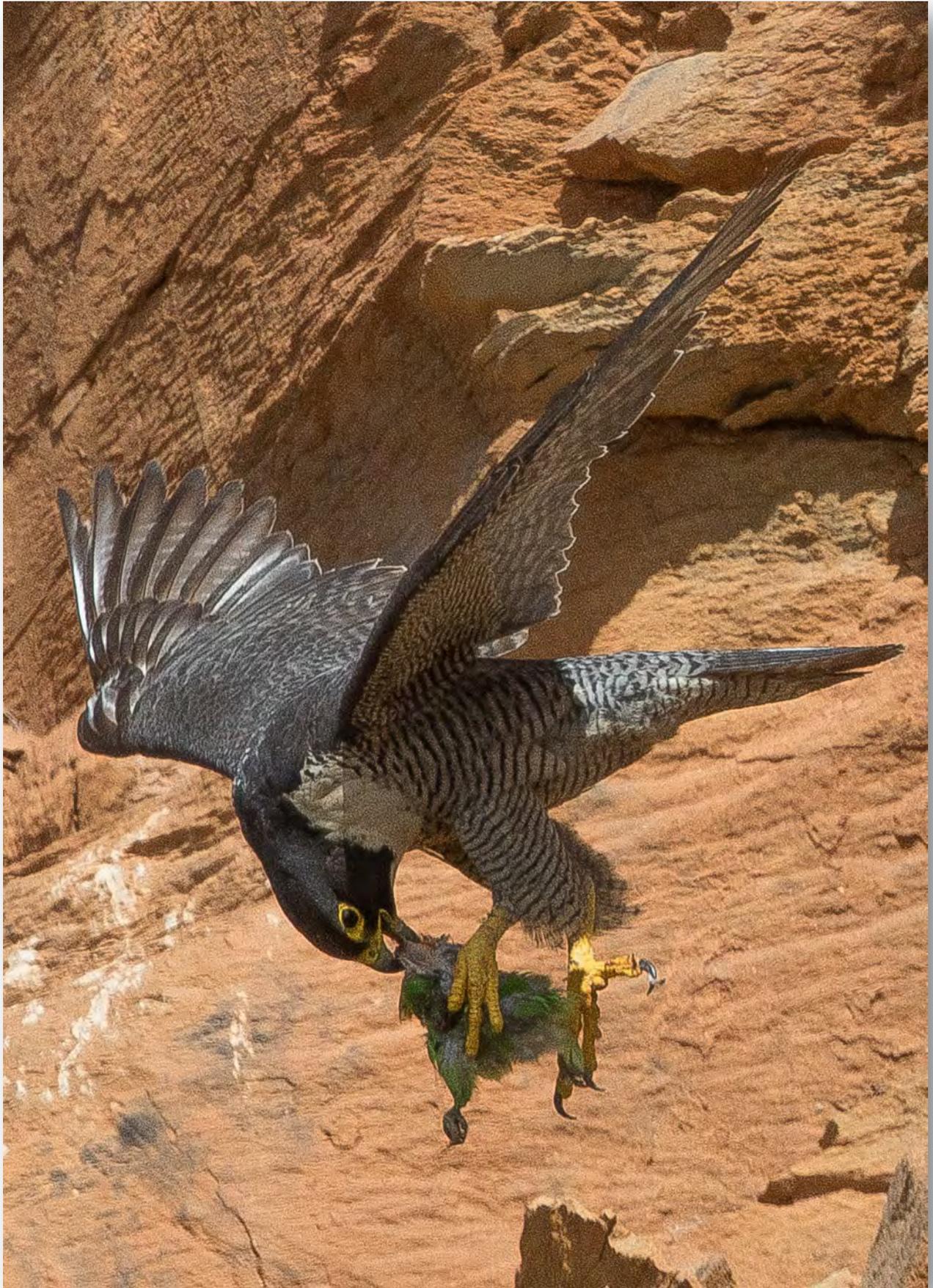
Birds SA

Linking people with birds
in South Australia

In this Issue

Congratulations to two successful award winners

Your Committee's Strategic Planning meeting



Peregrine Falcon

photographed by Peter Day at Windy Point on November 11, 2017

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John Gitsham designed the front page of this issue.

Neil Cheshire took the Photograph in January 2017. It shows an immature Beautiful Firetail at Deep Creek Conservation Park

We welcome 23 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p14.

CENTRE INSERT: SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 62,
GREGORY MACALISTER MATHEWS PART 2

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 26 November	Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands
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Saturday 9 December	Excursion to Newland Head CP
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Thursday 14 December	Excursion to Sandy Creek
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Sunday 7 January	Excursion to Aldinga Scrub CP
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Saturday 13 January	Excursion to Magazine Rd. Wetlands
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Thursday 18 January	Excursion to Onkaparinga Wetlands
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Friday 19 January	General Meeting
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Sunday 28 January	Excursion to Paiwalla Wetlands
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Saturday 10 February	Excursion to Sir Richard Peninsula, Goolwa Ponds
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Thursday 15 February	Excursion to Riverglades Wetlands, Murray Bridge
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Friday 23 February	General Meeting
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Sunday 25 February	Excursion to Whites Road Wetlands
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Saturday 10 March	Excursion to Scott CP
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President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Another year is coming to a close, how quickly the years seem to be flying by! Birds SA has enjoyed a very productive year. Here are a few of its highlights as well as the issues we covered:

- Our membership continues to grow strongly, and we are financially very sound.
- The new revamped "The Birder" newsletter is getting good feedback and there will be more positive changes in the New Year.
- Our Conservation Fund supported several very worthwhile research projects and on ground projects in conservation and education.
- Our past president David Paton recently created some controversy in the media about Kangaroo culling, particularly in areas where bird habitat and rare

flora species are being affected, Birds SA supports his view. Kangaroos are in plague proportions in the Mt Lofty Ranges. This is essentially a human caused problem, since humans

have provided them with lush paddocks and plenty of access to water. Birds SA supports a humane and ethical culling program to be allowed in high kangaroo density areas, in order to decrease the numbers to a sustainable level.

- I should like to congratulate past President David Paton for winning the 'Community Volunteering Award' for Adelaide University Staff 2017, recognising his contributions to Birds SA over many years, and to other volunteer programs that benefit birds.
- Birds SA revised our Duck Hunting policy and updated our Ethical Birding policy as well.
- We again supported Tolderol Wetlands with a donation to help repair levies and control water flow. This is proving to be a wise investment, as the birdlife is fabulous at the moment.

- Birds SA's revamped 'Fledglings' group for our young upcoming birders has been very active this year and will continue next year, with great support from the few dedicated Committee members that drive it!
- Our very popular Birds SA website continues to be updated and added to. The new improved membership electronic payment system should be online soon.
- The new revised 5th Edition of the **A Field List of the birds of SA** is now a free PDF download to anybody, not just members.
- Our Birds SA Facebook page is very popular. It is providing members with up-to-date birding information, not only from Birds SA, but also from around Australia and overseas.

- We have enjoyed some excellent speakers at our General Meetings throughout the year, together with fruitful and enjoyable fieldtrips and campouts.
- I will be attending the Australian Ornithological Conference in Geelong in November, representing Birds SA and

Guidelines for Ethical Behaviour When Bird Watching

- 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.
- When watching and photographing birds, do so from a distance that does not disturb them.
- Limit the use of playback 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

hoping to talk to Birdlife Australia's President and CEO about better collaboration on birding projects in SA.

Spring is here and the birds are very busy feeding and breeding. Fledglings are now starting to get out and about, claiming their own new territories. Waders are arriving from the Northern Hemisphere. I sincerely hope that our wetlands and Coorong will receive their proper allocation of water down the Murray system, so that these visitors can feed and gain their appropriate weight up so they can return in future years

So, farewell to another year, I hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas and New Year break, and you will see plenty of great birds. I look forward to seeing you all next year at Birds SA.

John Gitsham

Congratulations David



This photograph shows our Immediate Past President and Honorary Birds SA Life Member, David Paton, receiving **The University of Adelaide Staff Community Volunteer Award for 2017** for services to Birds SA, BioR and other community work that benefits birds. The University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mike Brooks, is presenting the award.

All Birds SA members congratulate David on this well deserved award. He has been associated with Birds SA for many years and has contributed to its activities by volunteering for various roles. He has also carried out other community work to benefit birds.

In addition, he has formed and made valuable contributions to the voluntary work of the environmental restoration Non Government Organisation (NGO) called BioR. BioR volunteers carries out large-scale habitat restoration for birds

and other wildlife across the Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island. David is a very dedicated Scientist and Ornithologist who cares passionately about our birdlife.

The current BirdsSA president John Gitsham was invited to attend to show Birds SA's support and to congratulate David for his award from Adelaide University.

David received his award on Tuesday the 17th of October 2017

John Gitsham, Cynthia Pyle

NEWS RELEASE



Government of
South Australia

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

Wednesday, 8 November 2017

Help us preen Adelaide's bird sanctuary as a tourist destination

The Government is offering up to \$25,000 for world-class business ideas that will entice more tourists to visit the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary, a significant shorebird site on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

The Future Tourism Challenge invites ideas including experiences or infrastructure at the bird sanctuary, located north of Adelaide.

The challenge aims to unlock the visitor potential of the sanctuary by drumming up engaging tourism ideas that showcase the site as [Nature Like Nowhere Else](#).

Australian businesses and entrepreneurs can enter the challenge by visiting the YourSAy website (<http://www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/futuretourismchallenge/about>). Entries close 15 January.

Background

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary was created to conserve and promote Adelaide's northern coastline, which is a globally significant site for several thousand migratory and resident shorebirds.

The Bird Sanctuary has been listed on the global network — East Asian-Australasian Flyway — of important sites for shorebirds and is now partner to 22 countries in a collective effort to protect shorebirds while

creating world-class visitor, nature and research experiences.

The Future Tourism Challenge winners will be announced in early 2018 and will share in the \$25,000 prize pool, which includes a tailored business mentoring package.

The Future Tourism Challenge is being delivered in partnership with the Northern Economic Plan, an initiative of the Government of South Australia, City of Salisbury, City of Playford, City of Port Adelaide Enfield and Adelaide Plains Council.

Quotes attributable to Conservation and Environment Minister Ian Hunter

The Future Tourism Challenge is an exciting opportunity for Australian-wide start-ups and established businesses as well as entrepreneurs to get involved in innovative tourism development in the north of Adelaide.

We are calling for ideas to help build exciting new experiences and infrastructure such as bird hides, information centres and tours to attract visitors and further enhance our efforts to protect these amazing shorebirds.

The Challenge aims to create new jobs, income pathways and tourism within the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary that will help drive industry growth within the surrounding areas with flow-on effects for the whole state.

www.premier.sa.gov.au

Twitter: @sa_press_sec

Birds SA Notes & News



Members of the Management Committee and the Conservation Sub-committee participating in the Strategic Planning Meeting at Macclesfield

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

Birds SA conducted a planning meeting at Macclesfield on 24 September 2017 with participants from the Management Committee and the Conservation sub-Committee.

Birds SA President John Gitsham and Vice President Jeff Groves facilitated the discussions on the day.

Prior to the meeting, members of the two committees had agreed that the Association is running well, membership is large and growing, general meetings are well attended and Birds SA activities are well supported. On this basis there was broad agreement that the 2017 planning activity should consider incremental improvements rather than major changes to the Association. The President and others also agreed that the overarching actions resulting from the 2014 planning discussions were still highly relevant. These were:

- Maintain and grow membership
- Acquire and disseminate information
- Engage in conservation programs

The participants of the meeting thought that the Vision statement from 2014 could be improved and the President has endorsed a new version. It reads as follows:

- **Birds SA** is the premier non-government organisation (NGO) in South Australia for information on birds and the advancement of bird conservation.
- The Association is highly trusted throughout the community.
- It promotes a range of effective programs to increase knowledge of South Australian birds and

achieve positive outcomes for bird conservation and bird habitats.

- It encourages the observation and study of birds as highly beneficial recreational activities for all age groups.

Participants at the Macclesfield meeting were asked to consider external and internal issues relevant to Birds SA. Their ideas, suggestions and issues have been compiled. The

Management

Committee will consider these findings and assign agreed priorities and actions, responsibilities and time frames. It is expected that the outcomes from these discussions will be transmitted to Birds SA members early in 2018.

Jeff Groves

Fees for 2018

The committee has reviewed the structure of membership fees in the light of the Association's expected expenditure for 2018. To help the Association recoup increasing printing and postage costs, subscriptions will increase by \$10 per year. However, members who choose to receive both the Birder and the journal electronically will be granted a discount of \$10 per year.

Government Concession Holders will receive a discount of \$5.00 as at present. People paying online will be charged \$1.50 per payment.

The fee structure for 2018 is therefore:

Ordinary Member (electronic only)	\$50.00
Ordinary Member (print + electronic)	\$60.00
Family Member (electronic only)	\$60.00
Family Member (print + electronic)	\$70.00
Student (electronic only)	\$10.00

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

FLEDGLINGS BIRD IDENTIFICATION WALK AND WORKSHOP, GLENTHORNE FARM SUNDAY 22nd October 2017

What an exciting day for the Fledglings!

They were given:

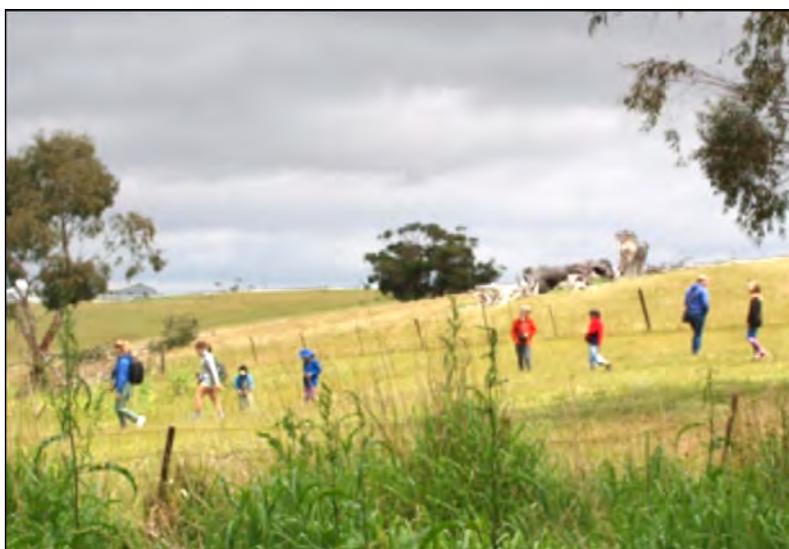
- A rare opportunity to visit one of the few remaining, very special, green spaces close to the CBD.
- A very informative workshop presentation incorporating stunning photographs.
- Advice and assistance from 5 experienced birdos.

Glenthorne Farm is indeed a special place with beautiful old Gum Trees, reeds, two dams and plenty of grassland — just an excellent place to take the Fledglings for an exclusive bird watching experience. The dams had abundant bird life on them and gave the Fledglings an opportunity to really get used to focusing their binoculars. Birds SA are very grateful to Alan Burns for organising the opportunity to visit Glenthorne Farm, which is normally closed to the public.

Several of the Fledglings are also interested in photography and John Gitsham gave them a real feast by showing them his stunning photographs. He provided interesting details of bird plumage, beaks and habitat. The Fledglings were very engaged, responding well to all the questions that John asked.

Ben won 'The Bird of The Day' prize. Ben is definitely past the Fledgling stage, in fact he is past the sub-adult stage. However I am sure that Miles will enjoy sharing Dad's prize. Ben spotted the female Musk Duck, the top bird of the 36 species seen during the bird walk — a close second was the Brown Falcon.

The Fledglings were assisted in the "spotting" by experienced birdos Sue Winwood and Margaret Moxon, along with Alan and John of course. I would like to express my appreciation to these four people for making our Glenthorne Farm Fledglings Event so successful.



Fledglings on the Bird Walk, Glenthorne Farm



Fledglings absorbed in the presentation given by John Gitsham in 'The Old Barn', Glenthorne Farm

Huge Thank You's to:

Alan Burns for doing soooooo much work organising the day at Glenthorne Farm and to his wife **Carolyn** who was also involved; in particular writing out the name tags, which I forgot to use — sorry.

John Gitsham for his excellent workshop presentation and great questions to the Fledglings — they were engaged — and then staying on to support the Fledglings on their walk and giving more information and instructions.

Sue Winwood for being so supportive of the Fledglings in their attempts to identify birds and especially for the Bird Pictures. They were a real hit with the Fledglings.

Margaret Moxon for her wonderful support of the Fledglings and careful noting of species to help form the Bird List.

Kate Buckley (who also took the photos)

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

IMPORTANCE OF THE CONSERVATION FUND

I should like to thank the generous members of Birds SA who either give a donation directly to the Birds SA Conservation Fund, or add a little extra to their annual membership fee. All that extra fee money goes into the Birds SA Conservation Fund. This Fund has been carefully managed by our Treasurer, with the Conservation Sub-Committee selecting worthy recipients of grant money. Many members have enjoyed Presentations at General Meetings given by the recipients of these grants. In May 2017, The Conservation Sub-Committee awarded a particularly important Grant to Diego Guevara.

At some time in the past most of you have seen, or tried to see, the precious little Mt Lofty Ranges (MLR) Southern Emu-wren. Sadly this little bird is now critically endangered, with only 60-100 sightings made in 2015. After months of hard work at Tookayerta and the Finnis regions of the Fleurieu Peninsula Diego had only made 178 sightings.

Diego is studying at the East Anglia University in the United Kingdom. With support from Birds SA he was able to come back to South Australia to complete his Masters Degree on the conservation of the MLR Southern Emu-wren.

I attended Diego's presentation on Wednesday 18th October 2017, at the University of Adelaide, and I was impressed to hear that Diego and his team wish to undertake some form of conservation work in order to protect the remaining few Southern Emu-wrens. His focus was not just on presenting his findings, but asking the question, what can "we", all of us, do to help conserve the areas where these few remaining birds can be found?

Diego showed evidence of the damage to habitat

that 20 cows can do in just over 2 months – it was devastated – the birds had to move.

I hope that Birds SA will decide to support the conservation of the Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren habitat.

Kate Buckley

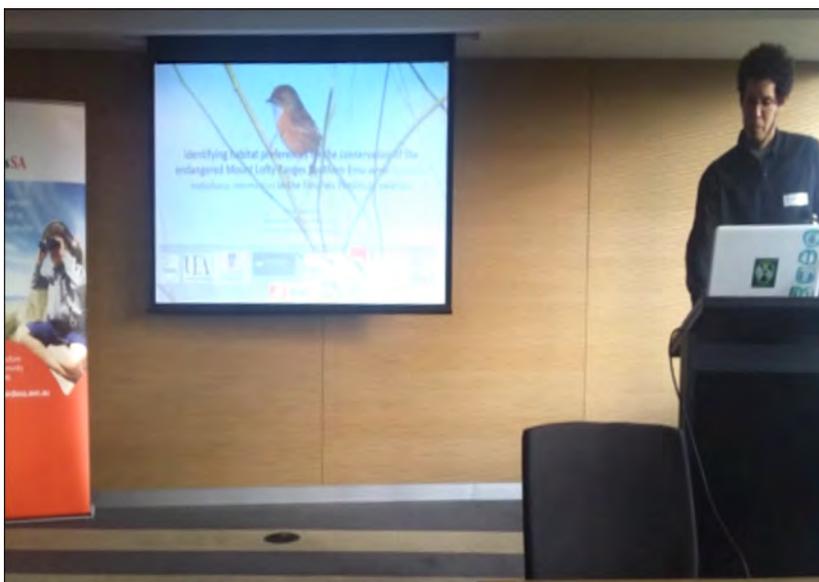
CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The state of the Murray-Darling river system.

- This is a regular item at every sub-Committee meeting. It is not something on which we can have a direct influence, but we feel it is prudent to keep abreast of developments and any potential impact on birdlife.
- Conservation sub-Committee member, Phil Cole, has extensive background knowledge on the MDBA and the Basin Plan. Phil is also one of our links, along with David Hansman, with Nature Foundation SA who on 15th and 16th of November at Renmark conducted an event Water for Nature Exchange. This invited locals to hear about the benefits of restoring wetlands and floodplains and included birdwatching wetlands tours.
- The state of the Murray-Darling system has been emphasised recently by the ABC Four Corners report highlighting the theft of water in NSW and the criticism of SA by the NSW Government and NSW irrigators, saying that SA had misused part of its environmental water allocation. Minister Hunter has strenuously denied these allegations.

Northern Connector Impact on Bird Habitat – Whites Road Wetlands

- In question time at the August Lend Lease presentation to Birds SA on the Northern Connector, the loss of some trees adjacent to Whites Road Wetlands was raised. These trees are often used by raptors. Black-shouldered Kites have nested in the one tree that still has prominent green vegetation. Unfortunately, the new road passes right through this area. Lend Lease are investigating whether the four trees that are not within the direct path of the new road can be saved.
- Lend Lease has provided assurances on the rehabilitation strategy for all areas affected by the new road, primarily appropriate revegetation. They are also making strenuous efforts to minimise impact at the construction phase. The main project offset wetland is approx. 1km to the south of the Whites Road area.



Diego Guevara's presentation at the University of Adelaide, 18th October 2017

Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

Aerial Spraying at Whites Road

- Birds SA member Rod Tetlow has followed up on aerial spraying that he has observed at Whites Road. This is conducted by a contractor to SA Health who conduct the spraying to control mosquito numbers over the period September to April. Two types of spray are used, both water based. SA Health has assured us that the sprays are non-toxic to humans and birds.

Two other items on our radar at present are:

- **Kinchina Conservation Park near Murray Bridge.** This Conservation Park was proclaimed in late 2016. Signs at the Park entrance indicate that dogs on leads are permitted. In some areas there are obvious signs of the impact of trail bikes. Large numbers of hares and rabbits are also present and extremely healthy, well-fed feral cats have been seen. Kinchina contains an excellent, diverse range of birdlife. The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) is currently developing the Monarto Parks Management Plan, which includes Kinchina. The Conservation sub-Committee is considering making a submission to this plan on behalf of Birds SA.

Gillman Land Sale

- Sub-Committee member, William Brooker, is investigating any potential impact the Gillman Land Sale might have on the Whicker Road Wetlands.

Jeff Groves

WEB-BASED MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

In December 2017, Birds SA is planning to move to a web-based system for managing memberships. At present all details about members are held in Excel spreadsheets on the Membership Officer's PC. Such a system has several serious shortcomings:

Poor Security. As members will be aware, computers are vulnerable to being hacked. Malicious software such as viruses may invade rendering the system inoperable. The membership list with names, addresses and phone numbers is valuable to criminals, and the computer hardware itself may malfunction, for example by a disc crash. While we attempt to overcome these weaknesses by taking regular backups the system is not as secure as it would be if managed by a professional service provider. The membership data is one of the most valuable resources of the association and it will be a major disruption if the database should become corrupted or lost.

Limited Access. As the data is all held on the Membership Officer's PC it is not readily available to

other people in the Association who may need to use it, for example when the Membership Officer is on leave. While this problem could be overcome using a dedicated PC or using external data storage, the most efficient way to share data is to have the data online and controlled through usernames and passwords.

Inefficiency.

A web-based system can increase the Association's efficiency in many ways — e.g.

All the required details of new members can be placed immediately on to the membership database immediately they apply and pay.

Existing members can check their personal data and update addresses, telephone numbers etc. on line

A receipt acknowledging payments received is immediately sent to the payer.

Many processes can be automated such as sending out renewal notices, receiving subscriptions and donations, producing reports etc.

Our Association is staffed entirely by volunteers and has no physical office. It is important to make operations as efficient as possible particularly as our membership continues to grow.

The system is computerised and web-based and while we will encourage as many members as possible to use it we have not forgotten that some members have not yet gone on-line. You will be serviced by mail, as in the past. You will receive manual renewal notices and reminders and you can use the same payment methods as in the past. However, it is fair to point out that the association is embracing the computer revolution. Our web site is a rich source of information and is continually being improved and updated. Our e-newsletter and Facebook page provide up to date information on events, sightings and other topics of interest. Your birding experience will be greatly enriched by taking advantage of these resources.

We will send details of how to access the system in an e-Newsletter. It is intuitive and easy to use.

ERRATUM

In the August 2017 issue of *The Birder*, the photographs on pages 3 and 36 were incorrectly attributed to Peter Gower. Peter McKenzie actually took them. I offer my sincere apologies to Peter McKenzie.

Cynthia Pyle

Giving them wings

conserving threatened species

DEWNR NEWS RELEASE

Birds return in large numbers to Chowilla floodplain

Large numbers of native birds have been spotted on the Chowilla floodplain following environmental watering and a natural high flow event last year. Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) spokesperson Jan Whittle said that environmental watering was carried out between July and October 2016 with the operation of the Chowilla Creek regulator and the raising of Lock 6.

Ms Whittle said that the environmental watering covered more than 7,600 hectares of floodplain, reinvigorating the environment. Natural high flows followed during November and December and enabled water to spread further across the floodplain to areas that hadn't had a drink in years. The flows peaked at a 23-year high of 95 gigalitres a day on 30 November. This extra water has supported vegetation growth across the floodplain, providing an abundance of food for wildlife, particularly for birds. Surveys carried out on the floodplain during the last six months have revealed an increase in the number of birds in the area.

Surprisingly, 40 Red-necked Stints were reported on



Red-necked Stint

Photographed at Chowilla in August 2017 (DEWNR)

Chowilla at Coombool swamp during autumn. This small migratory bird is not usually seen at Chowilla. They make an annual journey north to breed in Siberia and western Alaska and visit Australia during the warmer months.

Also 150 vulnerable Freckled Ducks were recorded during autumn at Werta Wert Wetland, as well as a large number of the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters feeding in

the heavily flowering Black Box trees. They also heard Owlet Nightjars — Australia's smallest nocturnal bird — at Werta Wert Wetland.

A thousand woodswallows were recorded at Chowilla Island. This is the highest number surveyed in recent years.

During summer large numbers of wading birds, such as Red-necked Avocets and Pink-eared Ducks, were recorded at Gum Flat. The shallow water and lush vegetation made the area a perfect spot for these birds to feed."

Management and monitoring of the Chowilla Floodplain is funded by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's The Living Murray initiative; which is funded by the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Australian Capital Territory and Australian Governments.

MEDIA CONTACT: Melissa Martin, Senior Media Advisor
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Phone (08) 8204 9105, Mobile 0467795640, melissa.martin3@sa.gov.au, www.environment.sa.gov.au, www.nrm.sa.gov.au, DEWNR



White-browed and Masked Woodswallows

photographed at Chowilla in August 2017 (DEWNR)

ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL BIRD SANCTUARY NATIONAL

PARK OF THE MONTH!!



(Photograph Peter Corcoran)

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary has been awarded the title of “Park of the Month” for November. DEWNR, Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) and Birds SA have been organising public events in order to enhance the community understanding of this important feeding ground for the waders.

Four Fledglings and sixteen adults, some beginners, and intermediates, spent several enjoyable hours at St Kilda Beach on Sunday 12th November, seeing 40 species, including waders, water birds and bush birds.

I would especially like to thank Ian Falkenberg, DEWNR, for advertising and organising this event. Enid Pascoe and Richard Woodland for their wonderful support in helping attendees identify birds, as well as Jan Webber and Jean Tucker, both Members of Birds SA who had arrived for a morning of birding, but were soon cajoled into service.

Thank you to everyone. It really was a most enjoyable morning — regardless of the heat and the sand flies.

Kate Buckley

PARK EXPANSION

A 418 hectare expansion has occurred as Port Gawler has joined the National Park. A park within the Bird Sanctuary has now had its status changed to become part of the newest national park in South Australia. The former Port Gawler Conservation Park was added to the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park — on 8th August.

The Port Gawler Conservation Park was originally constituted in 1971 to protect 418 hectares of mangroves, samphire and coastal dune systems and the species they support. The National Park has been further strengthened by the inclusion of Port Gawler, joining up much of the important shorebird habitat along the northern coastline

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park—Winaityinaityi Pangkara has a dual Kurna name that was provided by the Kurna community. Pronounced Wee-naychi-nay-chi Pan-ker-a in Kurna, it means a Country for all birds.

In other National Park news, Initially temporary **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park — Winaityinaityi Pangkara** signs are now being replaced with more permanent fixtures.

Our Plan for the Future

The Collective, leadership round-table for the Bird Sanctuary meet every 6-8 weeks to discuss the progress of the collaborative work of partners and to determine next steps. The most recent Collective meeting had a focus on the ‘soon to be released’ Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary document. This document is different from other planning documents that are written to manage national parks. It is a document that talks about how we will collectively protect a special place in nature. It is for the people and by the people and reflects the work that we, as a diverse community, have agreed is important.

When it is completed it will be presented as one document in two parts — The Collective Plan, featuring how we have worked to develop a vision as well as the four focus areas, or areas of action, and a Management Plan for the Bird Sanctuary National Park.

Taskforce groups

As well as a Collective leadership round-table for the Bird Sanctuary, four taskforce groups have been convened, all of volunteers, to progress the agreed actions for the Bird Sanctuary. Each Taskforce has a specific, but related, action. The Taskforce Groups are:

Taskforce 1 – Protecting Shorebirds

Taskforce 2 – Build and protect the local economy.

Taskforce 3 – Enhancing wellbeing.

Taskforce 4- Expand global partnerships.

Source: Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Update, August 2017



THE ADELAIDE SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara (pronounced Wee-nay-chi-nay-chi Pan-ker-a) was South Australia’s Park of the month for November. To celebrate, free family events were conducted in and around the Sanctuary throughout the month.

The official launch of the Adelaide Shorebird Festival was held on Saturday 4th October with a cruise on the Dolphin Explorer along the Port River.

The cruise began with a Kurna Welcome to Country, followed by information about the importance of the Port River and its surrounds to the Kurna people.

This was followed by commentary about the AIBS, the Port River, the birds and the Dolphin Sanctuary. Many people armed with binoculars were keeping eyes out for birds and dolphins as we cruised along the Port River.

Calico bags with brochures and information relating to the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary, activities within the sanctuary and bird identification were handed out as people entered the boat. On the boat there were various activities to keep the children inspired and active.

The weather was perfect, not too hot and with a bit of a breeze, people could sit inside, or outside on the covered decks basking in the fresh air and keeping an eye out for dolphins and birds.

Birds sighted on the day included Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, egrets, pelicans, Pied Cormorants, White-faced Herons, Black Swans, Caspian Terns, Whiskered Terns and Pacific Gulls.

**PLANT IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITY
MIDDLE BEACH, SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER**

The weather really turned it on for our plant identification and bush workshop conducted by Ecologist Joan Gibbs. I am sure everyone knew it

was going to be a lovely morning as they drove in to Middle Beach, breathed in the fresh air, took in the clear sky and scanned the surrounds. We gathered in the Middle Beach Education Centre and after a chat and a cuppa we stepped outside and were greeted by a beautiful Sand Goanna. It was such a majestic and beautiful animal and it was really special to see it so close.

As we took a walk along the boardwalk we heard the story of the salt marshes



Beautiful river views

and learnt the importance of the mangroves, samphires, saltbush and the ecology of the area.

We then ventured onto the salt marsh and took a closer look at the shrubby samphire, a plant that provides habitat for the Slender-billed or Samphire Thornbill. This bird is restricted to the northern shores of Gulf St Vincent and has a conservation rating of vulnerable. Information on negative impacts to the shrubby samphire highlights the importance of understanding the vegetation and the need to protect and support this area.

Participants collected plant specimens for closer inspection and made identification record cards for future reference.

It was an informative and interesting day and one that increased our awareness of the ecological diversity that can be found within the Sanctuary.

No longer is the term chenier ridge foreign to us and whilst we know the fruit of the native apricot looks lovely we are now wise to the fact that it should never pass our lips.

For the birders of the group the day's sightings included, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, Magpie Lark, White-Browed Scrubwren, Slender-billed Thornbill, Singing Honeyeater, Whiskered Tern, Silver Gull, Hoary-headed Grebe, Australian Shelduck, Elegant Parrot, White-browed Babbler and White-fronted Chat.

A big thank you to Joan Gibbs, host Janine Starrs and all who attended in making this a lovely day in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

Photos courtesy of Anna Woods and Mary-Ann van Trigt



A Sand Goanna at Middle Beach



A Sampire plant

NEW MEMBERS

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

Peter Corbett	BLACKWOOD	Steven Langley	ADELAIDE
Peter Watton	COROMANDEL VALLEY	Stewart & John Brooker	GLENSIDE
Caitlin Edwards	HAPPY VALLEY	Amanda & Christopher Steeles	FREELING
Jerome Kalvas	LITTLEHAMPTON	Vinod & Renuka Kumar	WEST LAKES SHORE
Geoffrey Squires	STRATHALBYN	Matthew Earle	MORPHETT VALE
Dr. Angela McGuire	HOBART	Michel & Rosalind Nicolai	BURNSIDE
Daniel Patterson	FINNISS	Michael Smith	FORRESTON
David & Sue Harper	MODBURY HEIGHTS	Susanne Jahnes	ADELAIDE
Rebecca Zahra	STIRLING	Christine Martins	MT PLEASANT

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Membership Officer. His 'phone number is on page 31.

Past General Meetings

FRIDAY 28 JULY – MEMBERS' NIGHT

John Hatch said that the four speakers for the evening are all well-known Association members: Neil Cheshire, Colin Rogers, Rodney Attwood and Bob Green.

Neil Cheshire described a trip to the Amazon with Wildwings, a British tourist company. The trip was on the Iracema along the Rio Negro from Manaus, Brazil, a city of 2 million people. He described the trip and showed photographs of the following birds Channel-billed Toucan, White-throated Toucan, Black Skimmer, Large-billed Tern, Yellow-billed Tern, Neotropical Cormorant, Blue-crowned Trogon, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Plain-crowned Spinetail, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Plumbeous Kite, Amazonian Umbrellabird. Other photos included Three-toed Sloth, Pink-toed Tarantula as well as some of the many butterflies seen.

Colin Rogers spoke about some migrant shorebirds that had overwintered in Australia in 2017. He showed photographs of Broad-billed Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper, Long-toed Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint and Double-banded Plover.

Bob Green gave an update on the Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP). It has been five years since we have

had a confirmed record of an OBP in South Australia and that record was a single bird (heard only) at Port MacDonnell in May 2012. He summarised the decline in OBP numbers arriving at Melaleuca over recent years and the attempts being made to reverse that decline.

2016/17 breeding season

Only 17 birds returned to Melaleuca at the start of the breeding season: 13 males and only 4 females.

Captive-bred birds, with a bias towards females, were released to ensure that all birds had an opportunity to breed.

ANU undertook a number of measures to contribute towards a successful breeding season, including a trial of cross-fostering chicks. The next breeding season will include cross-fostering eggs.

30-35 birds were expected to depart Melaleuca at the end of the season.

Introducing Matilda (Red/Red W)

Matilda was the first captive OBP chick to be successfully fostered to a wild nest, thanks to TeamSwiftParrot and the ANU. Matilda successfully migrated to the mainland and is mingling with the other OBPs at the Western Treatment Plant at Werribee (WTP).



Blue-crowned Trogon
photographed by
Neil Cheshire on the Amazon

Mainland release 2017

On 19 April 2017 eleven males were released in a trial at the WTP. One of these was a Melaleuca release that was recaptured and transported to the WTP as an 'assisted migrant'.

First year of a 4 year Mainland Release Trial Program

Aims are to release birds into suitable habitat to provide them with some wild experience and to act as a beacon for wild birds in the area to form flocks with them.

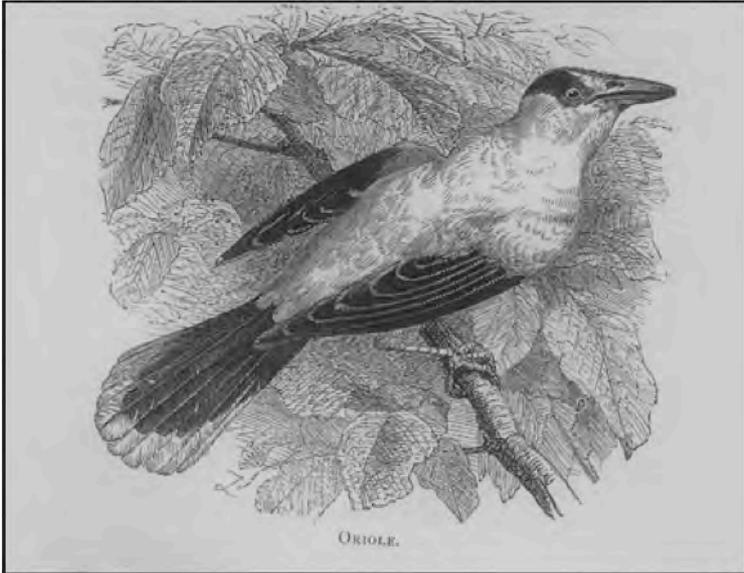
2017 winter

- The first wild bird recorded on the mainland was an adult female Black/Red L on May 4, she was observed feeding and flying with some of the 11 captive bred males that had been released.



Yellow-billed Tern photographed
by Neil Cheshire on the Amazon

Past General Meetings (cont.)



Engraving from the book *The swan and her crew*



Eurasian Golden Oriole
photographed in Central India 1995

- Five wild OBPs have now been recorded at the WTP along with 8 survivors of the released birds, and the two groups have been observed foraging together.
- One released bird left the WTP almost immediately and unfortunately two are known to have died.

Oldest known wild bird

Blue/ Black F was banded as a nestling in 2008. She was last observed at Melaleuca on 13 Feb 2017, and is estimated to have travelled over 9000km during her annual migrations to date. Spent last winter (2-22 Aug) at Queenscliff. She has arrived at the WTP and joined the flock.

Rodney Attwood provided a humorous talk about orioles and elephants. When he was around 7-8 years old and living near the Norfolk Fens he found a book called *The Swan and her crew* in his father's library. After reading it he always wanted to see a Golden Oriole. While he was in India during 1989-1996 he got the chance to look for it in the Sal Forest in Uttar Pradesh. It is a spectacular bird but difficult to see as it disappears into the foliage.

While working in India he also found that the elephants were eating the grease from barrels used for lubrication on the conveyor belts and became very flatulent. This led to the destruction of the jungles around the villages. His brother told him that the same flatulence problem occurred in South Africa after the elephants ate oranges.

FRIDAY 25 AUGUST

John Hatch introduced the speaker Colin Rogers. Colin's talk was entitled: **Explaining the decline in migrant shorebirds in Dry Creek Saltfields (DCS) 1985-1986 to 2015-16.**

Colin began his talk by showing a map of Australia and Tasmania with all the Population Monitoring (PM) sites. He pointed out that there were no PM sites on Gulf of Carpentaria and 80% of several species of migrant shorebirds are found north of 28°S.

Colin gave a brief history of Dry Creek Saltfields from their beginning in the 1940s until the present. Since salt production ceased in 2013 many of the eastern pans have dried out. These pans had previously provided roost areas for small waders. Water levels and conditions have also changed in the western pans.

Far Eastern Curlews and Black-tailed Godwits have steadily declined since 1985-1986. Grey Plover numbers showed considerable variation in the early period to 1997-98, followed by relative stability until 2012-13 when Grey Plovers left the DCS. Red-necked Stint numbers were stable after 1999-2000 but fell after the 2007-2008 season. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper numbers built up until the 2006-2007 season, after which they fell away. Curlew Sandpiper numbers crashed in 2002-2003 but recovered moderately after 2004-2005. They fell away again after 2013-2014.

Colin concluded that

- The results confirm the earlier trends noted by Wilson (2000) and Close (2008) for Gulf St Vincent but contradict Purnell, C. *et al.* (2013) who included Banded Stilts in their numbers.
- After 1996, the Millennium Drought diverted migrant shorebirds away from Gulf St Vincent, Kangaroo Island and the Coorong and the decline in the DCS is mostly a reflection of this bigger picture. Until 2013 local changes had a minor impact on numbers in the DCS.

Past (cont.) / Future General Meetings

- Post 2013 the number of migrant shorebirds roosting in the DCS is in terminal and possibly irreversible decline and several species have forsaken the site.
- It is doubtful that the trend can be reversed given the limited options for maintenance of the site.
- Restoring the habitat in the Coorong may however reverse the overall trend in South Australia as well as increasing shorebird numbers in Gulf St Vincent (Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary).



Inland sand desert form of Striated Grasswren

- An undescribed grasswren in the southern Kimberley
- An undescribed Striated Grasswren in SW Queensland
- Opalton and Pilbara Grasswrens and a North West Cape outlier
- Desert and Eyre Peninsula Striated Grasswrens?
- Divergence within Eastern Striated Grasswrens?
- Diversity in Dusky and Eyrean Grasswrens

The two photographs shown are from the book.

FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

John Gitsham introduced the speakers Peter Gower and Andrew Black to talk about their new book **Grasswrens, Australian Outback Identities**.

Peter mentioned the investigations currently occurring into grasswrens around South Australia. These included grasswren surveys for Short-tailed Grasswren in the Gawler and Northern Flinders Ranges and north of Renmark for Striated Grasswrens. He also mentioned the recent tour by Peter Waanders.

Andrew discussed how he became interested in grasswrens and the scientific research that has been carried out already and will be in the future. Andrew said that his interest started in 2001 when he spent six weeks bird atlassing in the Olary Ranges in the Lower North East of South Australia. He spoke about the two Thick-billed Grasswren specimens in Museum Victoria collected in 1909 by R.C. Chandler near Immarna, a siding on the Trans Australian Line. He described the field work carried out with Graham Carpenter and Lynn Pedler during 2006-2008 in which grasswrens were still found at 70% of earlier sites and in a similar number of new sites. Andrew commented on museum studies and the subsequent morphological revision of the Thick-billed Grasswren into two species — the Thick-billed and Western Grasswren. He gave details of the phylogenetic analysis of these two species by Jeremy Austin at the Ancient DNA Laboratory, University of Adelaide and the field studies carried out by Marina Louter and Amy Slender from Flinders University.

Andrew described the contents and layout of the book with examples from Western Grasswren, *Amytornis textilis*, Thick-billed Grasswren, *A. modestus*, Striated Grasswren, *A. striatus* and the Grey Grasswren, *A. barbatus*. He completed his talk with examples of future research

- Life history research in all species



Museum skins of five members of the Western/Thick-billed Grasswren group

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 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.45pm.

Friday January 19

Colin Rogers will give a talk entitled, 'Birding in the Western Indian Ocean'.

Friday February 23

John Hatch will give a talk entitled, 'Hummingbirds'.

Past Excursions

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST: BAKARA CONSERVATION PARK

Twenty members eventually got together at this distant park in the Mallee, on a beautiful day. The leader was late due to badly misjudging the distance; another carload arrived even later through getting lost. Bakara CP is not at Bakara!

A small group of birders was lucky enough to see a pair of Chestnut Quailthrushes foraging on bare ground under the trees, taking no notice of the observers, and then another, but the larger group followed a sand dune and missed out. A total of 50 species was seen, including a Little Black Cormorant and 15 Great Cormorants flying overhead. The only raptor seen was a Brown Falcon. Eight honeyeaters were seen or heard — Brown-headed, White-eared, Spiny-cheeked, Red

Wattlebird, White-fronted, Singing, Yellow-plumed both nesting and feeding young, and White-plumed. Parrots were in short supply, with a few each of Mulga, Australian Ringneck, and Crimson Rosellas, but Galahs were more common. Both Variegated and Splendid Fairywrens were seen by those who managed to be in the right place. Birds that were 'everywhere' were Striated Pardalotes, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and Weebills, estimated at about 40 of each. A pair of Yellow Thornbills had built their nest attached to the underside of a large magpie or raven nest, and were busy working on it. Between us we also saw 10 Jacky Winters, 6 Red-capped Robins (mostly female) and 1 Hooded Robin, 20 White-winged Choughs, 10 Varied Sittellas, 15 Chestnut-crowned Babblers, and 4 Brown Treecreepers. Also on the list were 1 Emu, 4 Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos, 3 Spotted Pardalotes, a few Grey Fantails and Willie Wagtails, 6 Tree Martins (some nest-building), 1 Gilbert's and 2 Australian Golden Whistlers, 2 Grey Butcherbirds, 2 Grey Shrikethrushes, 2 Common Bronzewing, 1 Southern Whiteface, 1 Silvereye, 2 Buff-rumped and 1 Yellow-rumped Thornbill, 2 Little and 3 Australian Ravens. A Mistletoebird called over the lunch spot but remained invisible, as did the Crested Bellbird, Grey Currawong and Laughing Kookaburra. We could have expected Australian Magpies and could Pigeons, but none put in an appearance.



HORSFIELD'S BRONZE CUCKOO
photographed by Gordon Pateman
at Bakara CP on 12 August

After lunch in a shady spot some of us went south to look at an inactive Malleefowl mound, and a few stayed overnight. The leader became temporarily misplaced on the way home, heading south past Bakara Well over the roughest grids in SA, using an RAA map with few road names, through un-signposted country.

Barbara Bansemer

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST: KYEEMA CONSERVATION PARK

The day got off to an ominous start weather wise, being cold and overcast with an occasional light sprinkle of rain. Only 5 people ventured forth into these challenging conditions and, due to the threat of rain, the proposed walk was considerably curtailed. The wind picked up considerably during the walk, although for the first hour or so it was relatively light.

We started by heading north from the Woodgate Rd carpark to the junction with the Heysen Trail which we followed SE until we

reached the creek. We then retraced our steps and continued north along the fire track for about 1.5 km. Birds were rather scarce to begin with but Rainbow Lorikeets, Galahs and Adelaide Rosellas were observed, mostly flying overhead or hunkered down in trees. There were also the usual Superb Fairywrens, Striated Pardalotes, White-browed Scrubwrens, Australian Magpies, Little Ravens and several each of Brown and Striated Thornbills as well as a lone Common Bronzewing.

Honeyeaters observed included Eastern Spinebill, Crescent, New Holland and Yellow-faced and a small flock of 20 Silvereyes buzzed past. We also heard several birds that we didn't see including Grey Shrikethrush, Grey Fantail, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Laughing Kookaburra. A lone White-throated Treecreeper was seen on the trunk of a tree.

We returned the same way as we had gone until we reached a track crossing and went south along a different fire track, eventually ending up adjacent to the road just to the west of the car park. We then went along the edge of the native vegetation back to the car park.

Rain set in just after we had finished lunch and the bird-call so we were quite lucky in that regard. A total of 22 species was recorded for the day.

Ali Ben Kahn

Past Excursions (contd.)

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST: CHARLESTON CONSERVATION PARK

Despite the inclement weather a surprisingly large group of 32 gathered at the traditional meeting place, the Charleston tennis courts. The temperature was a cold 8° with

intermittent drizzle. It was good to welcome two new members,

Susanne Jahnes and Perdita Hope, on their first

outing; as well as members of both Friends of

Charleston CP and Friends of

Bushland Park, and other visitors. Also joining us on the walk was Will

Hannaford, District Officer of DEWNR. We all moved off in convoy into the park and, because of the large number, split into three groups, one taken by Brian Blaylock and one by Martyn Price. The vegetation in the park is looking

extremely good and has obviously benefitted greatly from the recent good rain. Any, or all, of the following terms could be used to describe the conditions on the walk: windy, wet, drizzly, soaked, soggy, spongy, saturated, waterlogged, muddy, mushy, squelchy, squishy, and slippery. Two little creeks in the park were impassable and required wide detours.

We all gathered a little earlier than usual for lunch and the birdcall, which we made just outside the main gate. A total of 32 species were seen and one heard. There was one addition to the Birds SA list, a Collared Sparrowhawk. Two other raptors were present: a Black-shouldered Kite and a Wedge-tailed Eagle being harassed by Little Raven. Four members were lucky enough to get a fleeting glimpse of a Southern Boobook being chased by White-plumed Honeyeaters.

Of the other species the most common were Adelaide Rosella 20, Superb Fairywren and Striated Pardalote 12 each, and 10 each of Galah and Maned Duck — some roosting in the trees. A Brown-headed Honeyeater was heard, but not seen. Total birds seen numbered about 157. By comparison the June 2016 walk recorded 22 species and 89 individual birds.

Rod Tetlow

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) SUNDAY 27 AUGUST: BERNIES BLOCK, MAMBRAY CREEK

It was an overcast but calm day when 13 bird watchers met at the Mambray Creek parking bay.



MALLEE RINGNECK

photographed by Larry Gruitt at Mambray Creek on 27 August

There were 5 birders from Pt. Augusta, 3 from Pt. Pirie, 2 from N.S.W. and 1 each from Whyalla, Wilmington and Mambray Creek. We all drove to Bernie's block and began looking for birds around the house and yard. White-browed Babblers were fossicking

around in the garden, as well

as Singing Honeyeaters, Peaceful Doves, Australian Magpies, Grey Shrike-thrushes, Willie Wagtails, Welcome Swallows, Crested Pigeons, Magpie Larks and a Pallid Cuckoo, which were seen; while small flocks of Galahs, Little Ravens and Little Corellas were flying past. The area had received very little rain for several months and the undergrowth was drying out and stunted. We headed off to walk along the Red Gum lined creek and found Galahs looking into hollows for possible nest sites, while Yellow-rumped Thornbills were moving about along the edge of the creek. As we walked along the creekbed Weebills, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Dusky Woodswallows, Grey Fantails, Yellow-throated Miners, Rufous Whistlers, Striated Pardalotes, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Mallee Ringnecks, Starlings, Yellow Thornbills, Red-rumped Parrots and Tree Martins made their presence known. On the northern side of the creek the area looked across open revegetated and cropped paddocks. Here Black Kites and Black-shouldered Kites were hovering over the low over the vegetation while in the trees along the edge of the paddocks Laughing Kookaburras, Elegant Parrots, Red Wattlebirds and Variegated Fairywrens were moving about. We crossed back over the creek and entered a native pine woodland area. More Variegated Fairywrens greeted us, together with Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, a White-winged Triller, Red-capped Robins, Inland Thornbills, Kestrels and Southern Whitefaces. It began to rain lightly and we retreated to the house for lunch. On the way back a group of Elegant Parrots sat quietly in the drizzle

Past Excursions (contd.)

and allowed us to get close to them and take some photos. During the lunch break there was plenty of bird talk and we had our bird call and then some of the group left us for other engagements. After lunch we continued to walk along through the woodland, and Emus, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos and more of some of the birds previously seen were added to the day's sightings. We returned to the house along the edge of the woodland and revegetated paddock and sighted White-winged Fairywrens and Wood Ducks at an almost dry small dam. A total of 44 bird species was seen and the birds of the day were the White-winged Triller and the friendly Elegant Parrots. Usually we would have seen Rufous Songlarks at this time of year but because of the lack of rain this winter the undergrowth was too low for them to hide in. Also a pair of Diamond Firetail finches had been living in the house yard area for several months but had not been sighted recently. I hope we have a better winter rainfall season next year.

Bernie Haase

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER: WHITES ROAD WETLANDS

A group of 31 met at the gate on a cool and lightly overcast early spring morning.

The amount of water lying around in the area adjacent to the meeting point suggested that the ponds and creeks would be fairly full. This proved to be the case for all of the wetland except for the first pond just left of the entrance. This is the area that appears to have the outlet drain for the water that is harvested by the council. A week ago this pond was full to the brim but now only had an overall level of about 15%.

As is usual the main concentration of birds was in the large middle pond, and there were large numbers of Black-tailed Native hen and Eurasian Coot. Our final tally for these two species was 200 and 60 respectively. There were also 5 Pink-eared Ducks and 3 Hardheads. It was pleasing to see 38 Freckled Ducks, most quietly roosting and a couple swimming around. They have been present at Whites Road since February this year and appear to be well settled and possibly increasing in number. Apart from the period December 2012 to February 2013 they have not been present on such a consistent basis, and certainly not in the numbers that have been seen over the past 7 months.

Other duck species present were 2 Australian Shelduck, 30 Chestnut Teal, 28 Grey Teal, and 50 Pacific Black Duck (together with 10 ducklings). Brian Blaylock observed that in addition to some very strong Mallard hybrids with orange legs and

light bills, many of the Black Ducks displayed varying degrees of hybridisation.

Other good numbers were 50 Tree Martins and 20 each of Australasian Grebes, Superb Fairywrens and White-plumed Honeyeaters. New Holland were the most common honeyeater at 40, while 1 Singing and 2 Spiny-cheeked honeyeaters were present.

Also counted were 50 Rainbow Lorikeets and 15 Musk Lorikeets, many of them busy examining trees for suitable nesting hollows. Other nesting activity noted was in a group of 13 Tree Martins, some of which were flying in and out of a large drainage pipe at the front gate; and two Red-rumped Parrots who had a nest in square metal tubing at the top of an electricity pole, also close to the entrance gate.

Raptors seen were 1 Black-shouldered Kite and 1 Collared Sparrowhawk.

In all 60 species were seen and 3 heard, with total number of birds counted at 909. This compares with the 64 species seen and bird number of 821 on the March 2017 excursion.

Work continues on the Northern Connector roadway and as suspected goes directly through the White-winged Fairywren habitat, but not as close as 90 metres from the main middle pond as was previously reported. We are now reliably informed that the closest it passes by this pond is at a distance of 154 metres. There has been positive contact between Birds SA and Lend Lease (the developers), including a very informative presentation to the members in August this year. It does appear that the impact on birdlife in the area is to some extent being addressed although it seems that the prospects for the wrens is not good. The group spent some time at the now closed off area looking at the path of the new roadway and discussing some of the issues involved. There was some aerial spraying done directly over the White-winged Fairywren area on the day before the excursion, but subsequent enquiries have indicated that that it was a mosquito control measure conducted by SA Health that is not toxic to humans, birds or other animals. Five members spent some time at the closest point one can get to the White-winged Fairywren habitat, but no wrens were seen.

The group had been reduced to 23 for the birdcall, and included three visitors, one new member Brianreece and one returning member Steven Langley.

Rod Tetlow

Past Excursions (cont.)

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER: BUSHLAND PARK, LOBETHAL

Bushland Park is an Adelaide Hills Council reserve on the edge of Lobethal. We hadn't visited for a few years so I was looking forward to seeing it again. The vegetation is mostly Stringybark, Blue Gum and Yacca woodland and it's a haven for numerous native plants and animals

Twenty people, including some members of the park's Friends Group and an employee of the Adelaide and Mt. Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (AMLR NRM) Board, assembled in the car park near the dam on the southern boundary. Our route started along Circuit Nurlendi clockwise across the creek, over the hill and through woodlands to the second reservoir. Grey Fantails, Red Wattlebirds and Adelaide Rosellas were constantly present with White-plumed and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters calling overhead. White-throated Treecreepers and a small group of 4 Varied Sittellas, Galahs, Elegant Parrots, Musk Lorikeets, a single Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and a couple each of Little and Long-billed Corellas were also observed.

We then followed Circuit Kauwe Murrendi/Padnendi further north and along the way encountered 3 types of Cuckoo: Horsfield's Bronze, Shining Bronze and Fan-tailed Cuckoo. Common Bronzewing and Laughing Kookaburras were also present. We then headed southeast back to the second reservoir and traversed its southern edge. We then went east along Circuit Wangkurendi through Stringybark forest and yaccas.

Birds encountered along the way included Eastern Spinebill, Crescent, New Holland and White-naped Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote, Weebill, Brown and Striated Thornbill, Superb Fairywren, Australian Magpie, Grey Currawong, Crested Pigeon, Silvereye, Tree Martin, Australian Golden Whistler, Little Raven & Grey Shrikethrush. Two Scarlet Robins were heard but not seen and a solitary Red-browed Finch was glimpsed briefly. Despite some searching, neither it nor any others could be relocated. Feral species present included Common Starling, House Sparrow and Common Blackbird. On the way back to our starting point some of us headed up to the lookout through flowering hakeas which almost overpowered us with their beautiful scent, after which we continued along Circuit Kauwe Murrendi/Wangkurendi.

We finished our walk back by the lake where we had lunch. Birds associated with water bodies in the park

included Pacific Black Duck, Maned Duck, Little Black Cormorant, Great Cormorant (fly-over) and Eurasian Coot. The overall species count for the day was a very satisfactory 47.

Ali Ben Kahn

* Someone dropped a set of binocular lens caps, which probably comes from a pair of Swarovski or similar binoculars. Let Ali know if they belong to you!

30 SEPT TO 2 OCTOBER: LONG WEEKEND CAMPOUT HALLELUJAH HILLS

Despite having to compete with the Crows playing in the AFL Grand Final, 17 members participated at the Hallelujah Hills campout in the Mid North, and we had a better time than the Crows faithful! The location was idyllic and the weather for camping was perfect — only a gentle breeze and plenty of sunshine. We were able to have a warming fire to chat around each night after the birdcall which made for relaxed socialising.

We undertook a bird survey at the two heritage agreement properties owned by Worlds End Conservation Pty. Ltd and the nearby Mimbara Conservation Park resulting in a total species count of 53 (respective individual sites had 35, 33 and 13 species).

Non-passerine species included Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Goshawk, Common Bronzewing, Peaceful Dove, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, Laughing Kookaburra, Nankeen Kestrel, Galah, Mallee Ringneck, Adelaide Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot and Mulga Parrot. We also heard Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth and Australian Owlet-nightjar calling each evening. Passerine species included Brown Treecreeper, both Variegated and White-winged Fairywrens, Red Wattlebird, Yellow-throated Miner, Weebill, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes and seven Honeyeater species: Striped, Brown-headed, White-eared, Spiny-cheeked, White-fronted, Singing and White-plumed. Chestnut-rumped, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Thornbills were also seen. Southern Whiteface, White-browed Babbler, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie (breeding with two young), Black-winged Currawong, Black-faced Cuckooshrike, White-winged Triller, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrikethrush, Willie Wagtail, Little Raven, White-winged Chough, Jacky Winter, Hooded Robin, Red-capped Robin, Silvereye, Diamond Firetail, Black-capped Sittella, Apostlebird, Mistletoebird and Chestnut Quailthrush.

Lynton Huxley

Past Excursions (cont.)

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) ARGADELLS STATION SATURDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER

It was a beautiful calm and sunny day when 2 regular bird watchers met at the Quorn swimming pool and waited for more birds to join us, but this being a campout trip in an area with rough dirt roads must have put others off joining us. We drove along the Arden Vale road, past Warren Gorge and on to the Argadells station. We booked in at the homestead and while there we found Willie Wagtails, Little Ravens, a Blackbird, Peaceful Doves and White-plumed Honeyeaters in the garden area. As we drove to the camping area we passed a small flock of Sparrows and a trough where several Elegant Parrots were having a drink and then picked a spot at the campground to set up our camp. There is a Red Gum creek next to the campground and it was alive with birds. There were several hollows in which Elegant Parrots were feeding their young, Tree Martins were using other hollows and a pair of Sacred Kingfishers was looking into another hollow. Grey Shrikethrushes, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Weebills, Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, Red Wattlebirds, Starlings, Mallee Ringnecks, a Black-eared Cuckoo, Rufous Whistlers, Flinders Ranges Crimson Rosellas, Galahs, Little Corellas, Variegated Fairywrens, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, kookaburras, Inland Thornbills, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Striated Pardalotes, Red-backed Kingfishers, Southern Whitefaces and kestrels were moving about in the trees and shrubs in the creek. After enjoying our lunch and bird watching we drove south along the creek and added Magpie Larks and Australian Ravens to our list. The first stop was near the entrance to Hannimans Gorge where there was still water in the creek even though there had been next to no rain all winter. Here some Elegant Parrots and Crested Pigeons were having a cautious drink while in the Red Gums nearby Australian Magpies (white backed and hybrids), Brown-headed Honeyeaters, a single Yellow-plumed Honeyeater and Yellow-throated Miners were fossicking about. Overhead a Little Eagle was keeping an eye on us.



Black-faced Cuckooshrike chicks
photographed by Bernie Haase at
Chinamans Creek on 22 October

We crossed the creek and continued south along the foothills of a range of hills towards South Gorge. Along the way we saw a single Emu as well as more

Crested Pigeons, a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Common Bronzewing pigeons, Dusky Woodswallows, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Australian Pipits and a hobby. It was lunchtime so we stopped in a creek for tucker and ended up following a group of Varied Sittellas along the creek for a while. We also found Red-capped Robins, Mistletoebirds and nesting Yellow-rumped Thornbills. We drove on to the eastern entrance to South Gorge and watched young Red-capped Robins being fed by their mum, together with a pair of Mulga Parrots. We walked into the Gorge and found Grey Butcherbirds, Inland Thornbills and a young Fan-tailed Cuckoo being raised by Inland Thornbills. We had some good sightings of Yellow-footed Rock

Wallabies on the way. After passing through the Gorge there is a big cliff face, and Welcome Swallows and Little Woodswallows were gliding about the area. We went on looking for Apostlebirds that had nested here the previous year but there was no sign of them. We only saw Mallee Ringnecks, Rosellas and some goats. It was getting late now so we headed back to our campsite. During the night we heard 2 Southern Boobooks and some Masked Lapwings.

SUNDAY, 1 OCTOBER

We decided to look at the Hannimans Gorge area and drive on to Mt. Arden. We drove to the gorge and looked at birds enroute, finding more of the bird species we had previously seen. On the western lunch. Birds associated with water bodies in the park end of Hannimans Gorge there was water in a small dam and in the creek and we added another Red-backed Kingfisher and Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, 5 more Inland Thornbills together with Silvereyes feeding young, Grey Fantails, Brown Falcons, an Australian Owlet-nightjar and a black-backed Australian Magpie to our species list. We moved on towards South Gorge on the western side of the range. We came to a likely site to look for Short-

Past Excursions (cont.)

tailed Grasswrens and tried our luck but with no success. However, we did find our first White-browed Babblers and Redthroats. We also saw Little Woodswallows and Little Eagles again. Travelling on past South Gorge, we saw 4 Emus and 3 chicks. We stopped again to look for grasswrens along the track

to the Mt. Arden summit, still with no luck. However there were pipits, Redthroats, Inland Thornbills, Variegated Fairywrens, Nankeen Kestrels and Little Ravens. We intended to drive to the summit and look for grasswrens there but there were too many other 4x4 vehicles on the top and very limited room to park. Long weekends and 4x4 tracks don't mix with bird watching. We travelled on, heading north along some rugged tracks but didn't see much bird activity in the mid-afternoon along the dry, high slopes. We left the high ridges and drove along a valley that leads to Stevens Gorge and the western end of Buckaringa Gorge. Here we found more birdlife, including some more Wedge-tailed Eagles and Little Woodswallows as well as other species that we had seen previously. We returned to our camp and enjoyed some tucker and sleep after a successful day's birding.

MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER

In the early morning we heard a Little Button Quail and Southern Boobook close to us. We had a quick breakfast and decided to walk to the east of the homestead area where there is an open area and some thick low scrub areas. Here we found White-winged Fairywrens and more babblers, Redthroats, Variegated Fairywrens and Grey Shrike-thrushes. We spoke with the property owners and were permitted to look at the area north of the homestead, which is not normally open to visitors. At a dam by a small house we saw a Little Black Cormorant, Australasian Grebe and some Black-tailed Nativehens. We followed a fence line into open country with some Red Gum creeks crossing it. There were more White-winged Fairywrens, Australian Pipits, Emus, etc. We had lunch in a small creek and found that Nankeen Kestrels, Galahs and miners were nesting in the nearby gum trees. Then it was time to head home after packing up our camp and saying goodbye to the property owners. We had found a total of 67 bird species, including 16 species breeding. The birds of the trip would be the multiple nesting Elegant Parrots, Little Woodswallows and the Varied Sittellas.

Bernie Haase

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER: TOLDEROL GAME RESERVE, LAKE ALEXANDRINA

Twenty members met at the reserve for the excursion that was led by Colin Rogers. Before we reached the entrance gate we saw a flock of about 100 Whiskered Terns milling around in an adjacent paddock, and this was a good indication of what would see later within the reserve.

After sorting most of the group into the available 4WD/AWD vehicles we completed a circular route around the large south pond. This area had by far the most birds and the water level seemed to be optimal. The number of terns roosting and flying around was so high and so widely spread throughout, that no attempt was made to do an accurate individual count of the four species present. The highest number estimated was of Whiskered Tern that were present in the hundreds, also 100 plus Crested Tern, about 80 Caspian Tern and probably half a dozen, or maybe more, Gull-billed Tern. At one point all four tern species were in one spotting scope view.

An estimated 400 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 30 Curlew Sandpiper and 20 Red-necked Stint were also feeding and roosting.

The three duck species that were seen consisted of 50 Grey Teal, 20 Pacific Black Duck and 2 Australian Shelduck. Three grebe species were also present including 1 Great Crested Grebe. One Banded Stilt followed a group of 46 Red-necked Avocets wherever they moved, and 30 White headed Stilts were feeding on the pond edges. 30 Australian White Ibis flew into and out of the water and about 20 Straw-necked Ibises passed overhead. There were well over 100 Black-tailed Nativehens feeding in the vegetation around the pond.

The highest numbers of non-water birds comprised 40 White-fronted Chats, 30 Golden-headed Cisticolas — some in striking breeding plumage — and 30 Welcome Swallows. Raptors seen flying overhead were 6 Swamp Harriers, 3 Whistling Kites, 2 Nankeen Kestrels, 1 Australian Hobby and 1 Black-shouldered Kite. One Wedge-tailed Eagle seemed content to sit quietly on the far bank until some Little Raven harassed it.

When we had completed the drive around this pond we moved in the vehicles and visited the other ponds which, as mentioned above, had nothing like the activity seen on the south pond.

Total species for the day were 52 seen and two heard. Well over a thousand individual birds were present. There was no sign of a bittern although one overnight camper reported that one had been calling in the distance on the previous evening.

Past Excursions (cont.)

Judging by reports prior to our visit it seemed that we would need to do a separate species list for the snakes that were expected to be there. Fortunately this proved not to be the case, and except for one troubled by any reptiles.

We gathered at about midday and did the bird call.

Rod Tetlow

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER: BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

The weather was cool and overcast but this time there was no rain. The 15 members who attended set out at 8.30am rounding Playford Lake and then proceeding to the native plant nursery. We then headed back in a westerly direction to the lake via the 'Brady Track'.

Our bird call revealed a total of 50 species for the day including the following: Emu (1), Maned Duck (10), Mallard (11), Pacific Black Duck x Mallard (15), Hardhead (10), White-faced Heron (2), Little Pied Cormorant (1), Pied Cormorant (1), Little Black Cormorant (10), Dusky Moorhen (8), Eurasian Coot (6), Common Bronzewing (8), Crested Pigeon (4), Laughing Kookaburra (2), Sacred Kingfisher (2), Galah (12), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (4), Little Corella (2), Adelaide Rosella (20), Eastern Rosella (10), Rainbow Lorikeet (80-100), Musk Lorikeet (6), White-throated Treecreeper (2), Superb Fairywren (10), Eastern Spinebill (3), Red Wattlebird (20), New Holland Honeyeater (2), Crescent Honeyeater (4), White-naped Honeyeater (6), Yellow-faced Honeyeater (10), Noisy Miner (20), Mistletoebird (1), Striated Pardalote (40), Weebill (6), Buff-rumped Thornbill (6), Striated Thornbill (4), Grey Currawong (10), Australian Magpie (10), Black-faced Cuckooshrike (2), Golden Whistler (1), Grey Shrike-thrush (h), Grey Fantail (10), Magpie Lark (2), Little Raven (20), Tree Martin (4), Silvereye (2), Red-browed Finch (4), Common Blackbird (4), European Goldfinch (h).

NOTE: just two members recorded the following (included above) in the Cherry Blossom area at the eastern end of the Park: Silvereye, Red-browed Finch, Common Blackbird, European Goldfinch and Australian Golden Whistler.

David Williams

PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) SUNDAY, 22 OCTOBER, 2017 CHINAMANS CREEK

Seven bird watchers met at the Chinamans Creek road turnoff on the Augusta highway. There was a cold wind blowing from the south but plenty of birds were still to be seen as we greeted each other. A Black-shouldered Kite and 2 Black Kites glided past to see what we might have flushed out of the

undergrowth near us. In the recently harvested paddock next to us many Little Ravens and magpies were wandering around picking up any morsel exposed by the harvesting. Nankeen Kestrels sat on vantage points surveying the paddock hoping for any movement by some small animal for them to pounce on. We drove on along the road and found White-winged Fairywrens in the bushes between the road and paddocks and pipits on the road. As we passed a water trough a large flock of starlings and a smaller flock of sparrows were disturbed. At one of our short stops along the road we found a Chirruping Wedgebill, Crested Pigeons, Galahs and a dozen Emus. We entered the Winninowie Conservation Park and into a patch of Mallee trees. Here there were Mallee Ringnecks with fledglings, Yellow-throated Miners, Weebills, Willie Wagtails, Australian Ravens, Grey Butcherbirds and Black-faced Cuckooshrikes that had a nest containing 2 young. Dusky Woodswallows, Welcome Swallows, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Striated Pardalotes were added to the list for this location.

We drove on to the beach area at Chinamans Creek finding White-winged Fairywrens, Singing Honeyeaters and Variegated Fairywrens in the scrub by the beach. The wind was still cold and blowing strongly as we walked along the beach. Pelicans stood out as they rested in a huddle and Silver Gulls flew or sat nearby. On a small spit of land and on some submerged mangroves we saw Pied, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, Pacific Gulls, Greater Crested Terns, Caspian Terns and Whiskered Terns all resting and sheltering from the wind. On the beach small waders were darting about. These included many Red-capped Plovers and Red-necked Stints and a few Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. Some Australian Ravens, looking out of place on the beach, were also wandering about. A pair of Grey Teal was bobbing about in the water as a Pied Oystercatcher flew past. It was lunchtime so we headed to the Chinamans Creek launching ramp area to try and get out of the wind. On the way a Black-shouldered Kite passed over us. As we were having our lunch sparrows were hanging around a couple of shacks still left in the park. Variegated Fairywrens were in the bushes next to us as Welcome Swallows darted about and a Grey Shrike-thrush was calling from the mangroves. Two White-faced Herons lazily flew past and Great Egrets were perched in the mangroves. After lunch we walked along the edge of the mangroves disturbing a Crested Pigeon and 2 Australian White Ibis. Then further in the mangrove forest a flock of 20 Little Egrets, presumably disturbed by something, rose into the air and slowly drifted back down to their roosting area.

Past (contd.) / Future Excursions

Some of the group had to leave and the two of us left drove back along the road and looked in an open lightly wooded area. Here there were Tree Martins, Yellow-throated Miners, Black-faced Woodswallows, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, White-browed Babblers, Variegated Fairywrens, Grey Butcherbird and Australian Pipits. When we reached the Mallee area again we turned off and headed to Mt. Grainger passing a Brown Songlark and Welcome Swallows. We reached the windswept beach where Red-capped Plovers and Red-necked Stints were feeding on the mud flats and further out on the water a couple of pelicans drifted about. As we followed a path up the mount, Variegated Fairywrens called from the bushes, a noisy mob of Yellow-throated Miners were feeding their demanding young and Weebills whistled from the treetops. A Nankeen Kestrel hovered above us and a Grey Shrike-thrush moved about from tree to tree. As we neared the summit the vegetation changed into low, dense shrubbery and Redthroats and some Singing Honeyeaters lived here. After enjoying the views we moved down through Mallee and Rainbow Bee-eaters provided some good photography shots. Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, Dusky Woodswallows, Striated Pardalote, Grey Butcherbird, Mallee Ringneck, Variegated Fairywren, White-browed Babblers, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Australian Ravens were added to the bird list. We got back to our vehicles, left the beach area and headed back to the Chinamans Creek road passing a couple of mobs of Emus and White-winged Fairywrens on the way. Back at the main road we bid our farewells and headed back to our homes. We had seen a total of 51 bird species. The birds of the day were the nestling Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes and the flock of Little Egrets which were on the edge of their distribution range.

Bernie Haase.

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER: ANATOCILLA SPRINGS. SECOND VALLEY

Gusty wind made for challenging birding conditions on our return visit to this private bushland property near Wirrina Cove. Nevertheless the enthusiastic 20 members and visitors attending enjoyed the friendship of Pamela and Rob who guided us around members and visitors attending enjoyed their undulating property.

Our members recorded a total of 39 species including Maned Duck (3), White-faced Heron (3)

Wedge-tailed Eagle (3), Brown Goshawk (1), Laughing Kookaburra (1), Nankeen Kestrel (1), Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (4), Galah (25), Little Corella (6), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (10), Red-rumped Parrot (2), Crimson Rosella (12), Rainbow Lorikeet (30), Musk Lorikeet (1), Superb Fairywren (6), New Holland Honeyeater (4), Red Wattlebird (2), Striated Pardalote (16), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (6), Australian Magpie (6), Black-faced Cuckooshrike (6), Varied Sittella (1), Grey Shrikethrush (2), Willie Wagtail (2), Grey Fantail (2), Little Raven (4), Eurasian Skylark (4), Welcome Swallow (1), Tree Martin (30), Silvereye (6), Common Starling (50), Common Blackbird (1), Mistletoebird (1), House Sparrow (4) and European Goldfinch (2). Four species that were only heard on the day were Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-browed Scrubwren and Striated Thornbill.

Lynton Huxley

Future Excursions

Field Program and Campout Co-ordinator

Lynton Huxley

Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038

Email: fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.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 Coordinator, must include the number of attendees, birds seen or heard, the weather and any other interesting events on the day. The duties of the leader and scribe may be shared on the day.

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.

Sunday 26 November: Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker (MLR) (34km). Meet at the car park on Bald Hills Road, Mt. Barker at 8.30am.

TRIP LEADER: John Fennell

Future Excursions (cont.)

Saturday 9 December: Newland Head Conservation Park (MLR) (120km). Meet at 8.30am in the car park/camping area by the old house. Travel to Victor Harbor and then head west towards Waitpinga. 2km beyond Waitpinga, turn left to Waitpinga Beach. As you descend to the beach, the Park is on the left-hand side.

TRIP LEADER: Winston Syson

Thursday 14 December: Sandy Creek: (MLR) (52km). Meet at 8.30am at the northern car park 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 7 January 2018: 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

Saturday 13 January: Magazine Road Wetlands Dry Creek (AP) (10km). Meet in the Car park area at 8.30am. If you are travelling northwards on South Road, continue onto Salisbury Highway heading east. The road bends to the north and there is one road off to the left. This is Magazine Rd. From the city, take Port Wakefield Road north, turning left up onto the Salisbury Hwy heading to Port Adelaide. Once you are up the Salisbury Highway, you need to move over to the right hand lane so you are ready to turn right into Magazine Road Wetlands.

TRIP LEADER: John Hatch

Thursday 18 January: Onkaparinga Wetlands (MLR) (32km) Meet at 8.30am at Port Noarlunga Oval Car Park off Britain Drive.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Sunday 28 January: Paiwalla Wetlands (MM) (90km). Meet at the Sunnyside Lookout at 8.30am. Take the Murray Bridge to Mannum Road on the eastern side of the river from Murray Bridge. Stay on this road until just past the turnoff to Bowhill on the right. Take the next turning left to Sunnyside Lookout car park.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Saturday 10 February: Sir Richard Peninsula, Goolwa Ponds (MLR) (90km). Meet at 8.30am at the 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

Thursday 15 February: Riverglades 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 car park ahead.

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

Sunday 25 February: Whites Road Wetlands (AP) (16km). Meet at 8.30am. Head north on the Port Wakefield Road. At 1.5km after passing the Salisbury Highway Bridge, turn left into Globe Derby Drive and continue on this road until it meets Whites Road. Turn right and continue to the end. The Park entrance is on the left.

TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow

Saturday 10 March: Scott Conservation Park (MLR) (79km). Meet at 8.30am at the right-hand turn-off into Gould Road (not Deep Creek Road). This is off the Strathalbyn/ Ashbourne Road to Goolwa. (NOTE: If you reach the Canoe Tree railway crossing, you would have missed the turn-off by about 1.5km.)

TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley

PORT AUGUSTA GROUP

Sunday 3 December: Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. Meet at 7.30am in the car park. Christmas lunch in the café.

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

Still scattered reports from southern areas.

14, 13/7/2017. Torrens Island, AP.

Donato, D.

2, 9/9/2017. Coorong, 42-Mile Crossing to Cantara, SE.

Green, B. *et al.*

7, 9/9/2017. Coorong, 29-Mile lake, SE.

Green, B. *et al.*

2, 1/10/2017. Port Broughton, Fisherman Bay, LN.

Jack, T.

Heard, 1/11/2017. Winters Hill, EP.

Bebbington, L.

Cape Barren Goose

3, 10/10/2017. Tennyson Beach, AP. Flying over sea.

Swann, M.

Pink-eared Duck

1, 26/10/2017. Belair NP, Playford Lake, MLR.

Schmidt, L.

pair + young, 2/11/2017. Onkaparinga wetlands, MLR.

Cook, C.

Few breeding reports near Adelaide.

Freckled Duck

6, 28/7/2017. West Beach, Apex Park, AP.

Edey, D.

5, 16/9/2017. Whyalla wetlands, EP.

Langdon, P.

80, 18/10/2017. Clayton Bay, MM.

Doecke, N.

56, 21/10/2017. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetlands, AP.

Edey, D.

1, 26/10/2017. Hayborough wetlands, MLR.

Syson, W.

Spinifex Pigeon

1, 11/9/2017. Coongie Lake, SW side, NE.

Jones, K. *et al.*

Very few reports in the North East of SA.

White-headed Pigeon

1, 19/10/2017. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetlands, AP. Photos taken.

Leddy, L.

Also seen on 29/10/2017.

Conley, S.

Potentially a first report from SA but uncertainty exists as to whether it may be an escaped bird. White-headed Pigeons occur in wet east coast forests but have expanded their range southwards to northeastern Victoria, with occasional reports further south near Melbourne in recent years. Given records of other wet forest birds (and bats!) in Adelaide suburbs in the last few years, its occurrence in SA is possible.

Barbary Dove

1, 28/10/2017. Strathalbyn, MLR.

Knight, M.

Tawny Frogmouth

1, 1/10/2017. North Adelaide, Kingston Tce, AP.

Tracey, K.

Buller's Albatross

1, 2/7/2017. Port Macdonnell, shelf off, MO.

Rogers, C. *et al.*

Unusual winter record.

Fairy Prion

100s, 2/7/2017. Port Macdonnell, sea off, MO. A large group with smaller numbers of Antarctic and Slender-billed Prions.

Rogers, C. *et al.*

Straw-necked Ibis

12, 20/10/2017. Streaky Bay, Gibson Peninsula, EP.

Williams, J.

Scattered reports from Eyre Peninsula in recent years (see SA Ornithologist 35:63).

Bird Records (cont.)

Grey Goshawk

1, 30/8/2017. Blakeview, MLR. Perched in dead tree adjacent paddock, being mobbed by Little Ravens. Predominantly white chest with pale grey upperparts, broad rounded wings seen when flushed.

Krieg, J.

There are a few reports of Grey Goshawks in SA, mostly in the South East of the white-phase. A white-phased bird was shot in Adelaide on 5 April 1949 (now in SA Museum), and another (potential escapee) was photographed near Cudlee Creek a few years ago.

White-bellied Sea Eagle

1, 3/9/2017. Outer Harbour breakwater, AP.

Carpenter, L.

Black-breasted Buzzard

1 immature, 13/9/2017. Bon Bon Stn, Puckridge Lagoon, NW. Circled overhead and later seen perched. Pale underparts with unfeathered legs noted.

Taylor, K. *et al.*

Square-tailed Kite

1, 30/8/2017. Sandy Creek CP, MLR.

Hunt, T.

1, 18/10/2017. Williamstown, Coppermine Rd, MLR.

Pearce, A.

1, 26/10/2017. Scott Creek CP, MLR.

Goland, G.

Osprey

1, 15/10/2017. Port Clinton, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

Grey Falcon

1 or 2, 4/10/2017. Paney Stn, W of Paney HS, NW. Flying low over Triodia covered hills, probably attempting to flush Little Button-quails which were relatively common in area.

Kerr, G. *et al.*

1, 5/10/2017. Hiltaba Stn, Lookout Hill, NW.

Hopton, D. *et al.*

Not previously reported from the Gawler Ranges.

Buff-banded Rail

1, 19/9/2017. Venus Bay caravan park, EP.

Lee, S.

1, 28/9/2017. Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Garden, NW. First report for site.

Langdon, P.

1, 31/10/2017. Reynella East, Byards Rd wetland, MLR.

Peter, J.

Lewin's Rail

2, 24/10/2017. Mount Compass School swamp, MLR.

Lee, S.

Australian Crake

Reasonable numbers in southern areas including:

3, 12/9/2017. Nullarbor Roadhouse sewage pond, NW.

Carew, A. & D.

20, 28/10/2017. Onkaparinga wetlands, MLR.

Bainbridge, T.

Baillon's Crake

1, 14/10/2017. Mullins Swamp, SE.

Green, B.

1, 28/10/2017. Onkaparinga wetlands, MLR.

Bainbridge, T.

1, 31/10/2017. Reynella East, Byards Rd wetland, MLR.

Peter, J.

1, 2/11/2017. Hayborough, Stan Farquar reserve, MLR

Syson, W.

Australian Bustard

1, 25/7/2017. Arden Vale Range, 35 km N Quorn, FR.

Bellchambers, K.

1, 13/10/2017. Gluepot Reserve, MM.

Gitsham, J.

1, 22/10/2017. Port Broughton, LN.

Jack, T.

Pacific Golden Plover

1, 1/10/2017. Port Wakefield wetland, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

5, 31/10/2017. Macs Beach, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

Australian Painted Snipe

2, 15/10/2017. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetlands, AP.

Pike, S.

Up to 4 (3 females) reported subsequently by numerous observers.

Bird Records (cont.)

Ruddy Turnstone

1, 17/10/2017. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.
Bainbridge, T.

Also on 19/10/2017.

Stevenson, A.

Sanderling

1, 30/9/2017. Semaphore Beach South, AP.
van Trigt, M-A.

Latham's Snipe

7, 28/10/2017.
Onkaparinga wetlands, MLR.

Bainbridge, T.

Wood Sandpiper

1, 16/10/2017. Port Wakefield wetland, AP.
Taylor, P.W.

Also 2 Marsh Sandpiper on 22/10/2017.

Gull-billed Tern

17, 29/10/2017. Port Wakefield wetland, AP. Also noted on 1 November was one non-breeding plumaged Asian subspecies *affinis*, which is smaller and with a smaller bill and restricted dark patch behind the eye.

Taylor, P.W.

The subspecies affinis is fairly distinctive and has been noted at the Murray Mouth in recent years.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

36, 12/10/2017. Para Wirra NP, east gate, MLR.
Taylor, S.

More reports in northern parts of the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Blue-winged Parrot

60+, 28/9/2017. Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Garden, NW.

Langdon, P.

5, 4/10/2017. Port Clinton, YP.

Taylor, P.W.

Scarlet-chested Parrot

2+, 2/10/2017. Yumbarra CP, EP.

Smedley, D.

Adelaide Rosella

2, 2/9/2017. 2km E Ninnes, YP.

Donato, D.

Rose-ringed Parrakeet

Female, 23/9/2017. Henley Beach South, Seaview Rd, AP. Inspecting hole in roof of house.

Also 1 with Galahs on 21/10/2017, Marryatville High School, AP

Edey, D.

This species has the potential to become feral in Adelaide, as it has in other cities around the world.

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo

1, August 2017. Klemzig, Swan Ave, AP.

Buckley, K.

3, 16/10/2017. West Beach Rd wetlands, AP.

Edey, D.

Pacific Koel

Male, 2/11/2017. Prospect, AP. Calling for previous 5 days.

Christy, P.

Now reported in low numbers in Adelaide suburbs each spring.

Red-backed Kingfisher

Several reports in southern areas including:

1, 7/10/2017. Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

1, 23/10/2017. Whitwarta, River Wakefield, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

White-browed Treecreeper

3, 12/9/2017. Bon Bon Stn, Four Mile Bore, NW. In mulga woodland.

Alcock, B.

Short-tailed Grasswren

several pairs, 5/10/2017. Hiltaba Stn, Lookout Hill, NW.

Lynch, C.; Hopton, D. *et al.*

Superb Fairywren

Coloured male, 27/9/2017. West Beach, Apex Park, AP.

Edey, D.

Pair, 16/10/2017. West Beach Rd wetlands, AP.

Edey, D.

Bird Records (cont.)

Slender-billed Thornbill

2, 13/7/2017. Torrens Island, AP.

Donato, D.

Recent reports have noted the extensive dieback of Shrubby Samphire (Sclerostegia arbuscula) shrubland in Gulf St Vincent which is the primary habitat of the thornbill, thus there are major concerns with its future.

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren

Several, 8/8/2017. Anstey Hill CP, MLR. In areas of dense unburnt Flame Heath (*Astroloma conostephioides*).

Carpenter, G.

White-browed Scrubwren

1, 29/10/2017. Tanunda, North Para River, MLR.

Jack, T.

Near the northern limit of the White-browed form in SA.

Orange Chat

Several reports in southern areas including:

8, 1/10/2017. Port Broughton, Fisherman Bay, LN.

Jack, T.

4, 20/10/2017. Freeling, Stockport Rd, AP.

Steeles, C. & Girdham, L.

10, 25/10/2017. Owen, AP.

Steeles, C. & Girdham, L.

Black-chinned (Golden-backed) Honeyeater

1, 24/7/2017. Farina, NE. Photos provided.

Alan, J.

This report is well south of its usual distribution in SA, with previous reports of this subspecies in SA confined to Cooper Creek in the far North East.

Black-chinned Honeyeater

5, 9/9/2017. Reynella East, Byards Rd wetland, MLR

Smith, Ed

2, 11/9/2017. Bullock Hill CP, MLR.

Fleurieu Birders

1, 29/10/2017. Murray Bridge, MM.

Doecke, L.

Crescent Honeyeater

8, 15/9/2017. Dry Creek, SE.

Green, B.

The status of this species in the South East is uncertain, with no nesting recorded.

Black Honeyeater

1, 17/10/2017. Rockleigh, MLR. At bird bath with other honeyeaters.

White, G.

Crested Shriketit

1, 15/10/2017. 3.5km W Leasingham, LN.

Bellchambers, K.

Few reports from the Clare hills district.

Red-lored Whistler

4, 18/10/2017. Danggali CP, MM.

Harper, D. & S.

Dusky Woodswallow

2, 11/9/2017. Felixstow, Cardigan Ave, AP.

Hyland, M.

Small numbers have appeared along the River Torrens in recent years.

Little Woodswallow

Several, 5/10/2017. Hiltaba Stn, Lookout Hill, NW.

Hopton, D. *et al.*

This species breeds on rocky outcrops in the Gawler Ranges in some years, but is not known to remain throughout the winter.

Australian Reed Warbler

Heard, 18/10/2017. Hindmarsh, Port Rd, AP. In shrubs in carpark around 100m from River Torrens.

Burns, A.

Fairy Martin

Several reports (most nesting) in southern areas including:

23 nests, 29/9/2017. Fulham, Tapleys Hill Rd bridge, AP.

Edey, D.

1, 13/10/2017. Flinders Park oval, AP.

Edey, D.

60, 16/10/2017. West Beach Rd wetlands, AP. Nesting in stormwater pipes.

Edey, D.

42 nests, 2/11/2017. Hayborough, Stan Farquar reserve, MLR. A few nests also on two surrounding houses.

Syson, W.

Painted Finch

30, 6/9/2017. Old Peake Stn, NW.

Harper, D. & S.

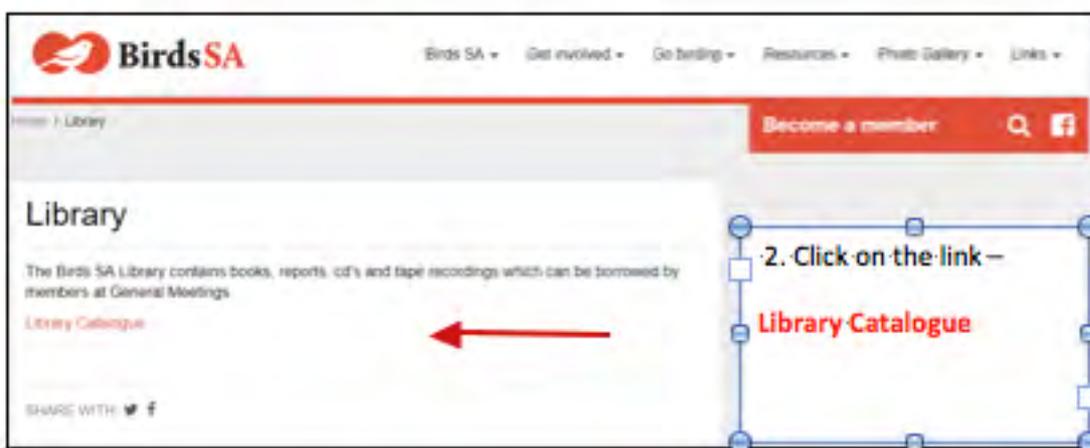
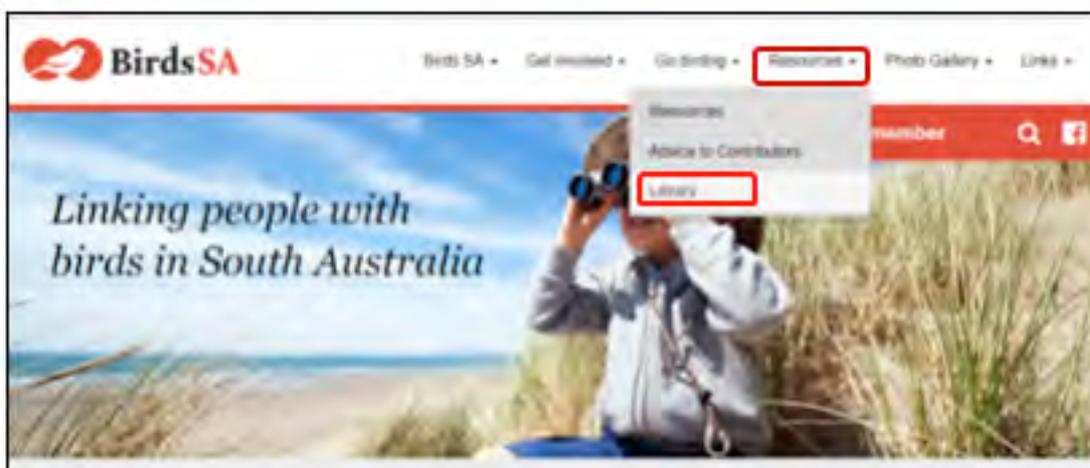
From the library

The Birds SA Library catalogue is accessible online.

The web address is <http://birdssa.libib.com/>

To access the Birds SA Library catalogue via the Birds SA web site follow these steps:

- 1 Click on the **Resources** button and then click on **Library**.



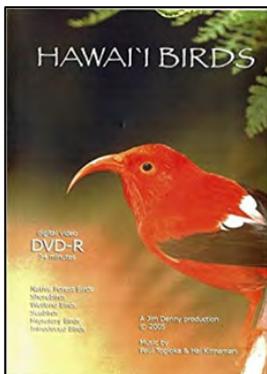
Birds SA aims to:

- 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.

From the library (cont.)

New Resources

DVD 59



Hawaii Birds: native forest birds, shorebirds, wetland birds, seabirds, migratory birds and introduced birds.

Over 90 species of Hawaii's birds are depicted in this 34-minute DVD. It includes both native and introduced species of birds in their natural habitats.

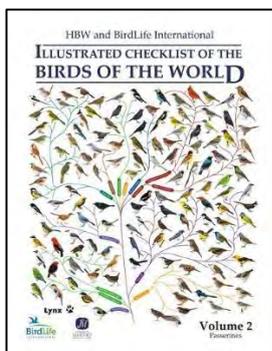
REF 598 HOL 2

Hoyo, Josep del

Illustrated checklist of the birds of the world: Passerines: volume two. /Josep del Hoyo, Barcelona, Lynx, 2017

ISBN: 9788496553989

The *Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World*: volume two is a complete checklist whose taxonomy incorporates the most up-to-date information and an exhaustive methodology in an entirely systematic and consistent way. It also contains many illustrations and distribution maps.



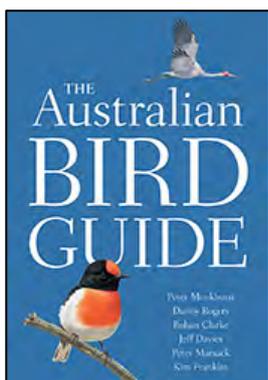
598.2994 MEN

Menkhorst, Peter

The Australian bird guide: Peter Menkhorst, Danny Rogers, Rohan Clarke, Jeff Davies, Peter Marsack, Kim Franklin
Clayton South, VIC CSIRO Publishing, 2017

Australia's avifauna is large, diverse and spectacular, reflecting the continent's impressive range of habitats and evolutionary history. With specially commissioned paintings of over 900 species, *The Australian Bird Guide* is comprehensive field guide to Australian birds.

This guide features almost 250 stunning colour plates, with particular emphasis on providing the fine detail required to identify difficult groups and distinctive plumages.



About our Association

General Meetings are held in the Hawker Centre at the Waite Institute, Waite Road, Urrbrae at 7.45pm.
Doors open at 7.15pm.

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

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Website:	www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org	

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COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the February 'Birder' is due by the January General Meeting (January 19). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD or USB stick, emailed to the email address below, or typed/handwritten neatly.

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ABN 76 339 976 789

Print post number 100004337

Printed by Abbott Printers and Stationers

WEBSITE: www.birdssa.asn.au

BIRDS SA SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018

Members who choose to receive electronic versions of our newsletter, 'The Birder', and the journal receive a discount of \$10 per year.

The basic subscriptions are therefore:

Ordinary Member (electronic only)	\$50.00
Ordinary Member (print + electronic)	\$60.00
Family Member (electronic only)	\$60.00
Family Member (print + electronic)	\$70.00
Student (electronic only)	\$10.00

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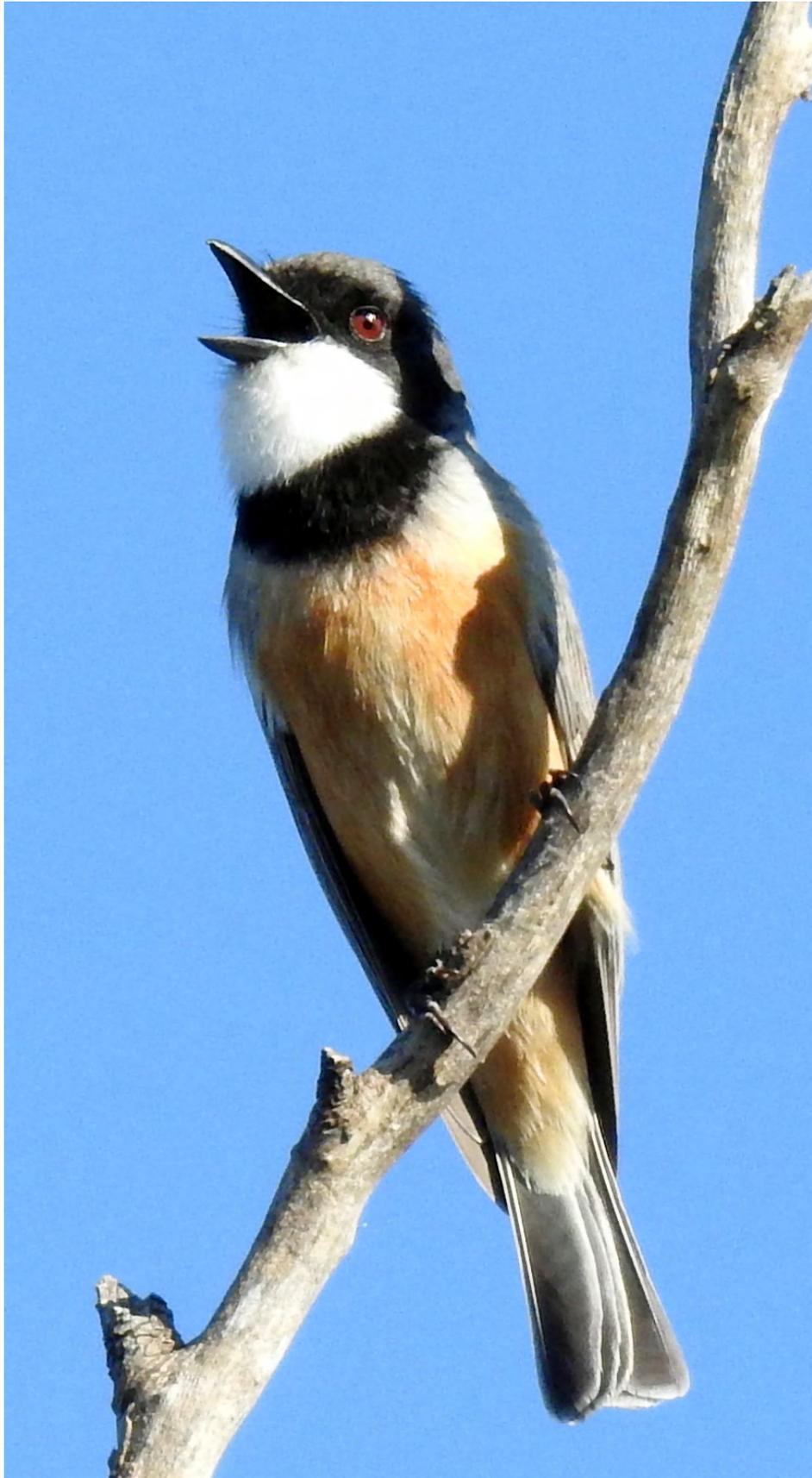
Members paying online will be charged an additional \$1.50.

Photographs from Members



Tawny Frogmouths photographed by John and Julie Aamodt at Clare in August 2017

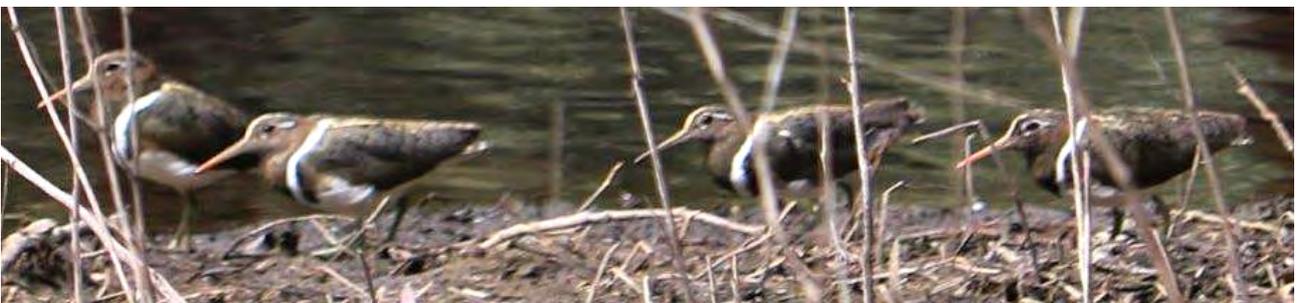
The parents were trying to look like part of the furniture, but the juvenile was looking around, much to the consternation of the parents.



Rufous Whistler photographed at Rocky Gully by Gordon Pateman in October 2017



Rainbow Bee-eater photographed by Gordon Pateman at Rocky Gully in October 2017



Australian Painted Snipe photographed by John Pearce at Whites Road Wetlands on 13 October 2017