

# The BIRDER

The official newsletter of Birds SA Feb 2018 No 245



## IN THIS ISSUE

Affiliation with BirdLife Australia

Fleurieu Birdwatchers join Birds SA

A White-faced Heron's hunting skills



Linking people with birds  
in South Australia

## Australian Crake *Porzana fluminea*

Photo by John Gitsham



The Australian Crake is a very attractive small wetland bird that loves foraging around mudflats and shallow water at many of SA's wetlands and swamps.

**Specifications** - 19-22cm

**Breeding** - Once or twice a year during August to December or January

**Nesting** - 4-8 eggs on a low grassy nest in tussock grass and/or reed beds

**Habitat** - Dense cover, fresh or salt wetlands, lakes, swamps, saltmarsh. Not always near water. Usually keeps to dense reed beds, will venture out onto mudflats early and late in the day.

**Behaviour** - Constantly flicks its tail. Rarely seen flying, will swim when needed. Usual call is an abrupt, sharp, metallic "Chaik-chaik, chaik-chaik" or a "chak-ak-ak-akakakak"

**Distribution** - Common to SE and SW of Australia (rarely in desert areas) and is nomadic in behaviour and they come as quickly as they go!

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**CENTRE INSERT:** SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 63,  
GREGORY MACALISTER MATHEWS PART 3

**John Gitsham designed the front page of this issue.**

Peter Gower took the cover photograph of an Orange Chat in 2015

We welcome a record number of 61 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p35.

## **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.

# DIARY

The following is a list the activities of **BIRDS SA**, **FLEURIEU BIRDERS (FB)** and **PORT AUGUSTA GROUP (PA)** for the next few months. Further details of all these activities can be found later in 'The Birder'.

Saturday 3 March      **FB**                      Excursion to Clayton Bay and Point Sturt

Saturday 10 March      Birds SA                      Excursion to Scott Creek CP

Thursday 15 March      Birds SA                      Excursion to Onkaparinga Wetlands

Friday 23 March              Birds SA                      General meeting

Sunday 25 March              Birds SA                      Excursion to Paiwalla Wetlands

30 March to 2 April              Birds SA                      EASTER CAMPOUT – BALCANOONA HS

Saturday 7 April              **FB**                              Excursion to Nurragi and Milang

Saturday 14 April              Birds SA                      Excursion to Charleston CP

Thursday 19 April              Birds SA                      Excursion to 'Anacotilla Springs', Second Valley

Friday 27 April                      Birds SA                      AGM and General Meeting

Sunday 29 April                      Birds SA                      Excursion to Brookfield CP

Sunday 29 April                      **PA**                              Excursion to Mundallio Station

Saturday 5 May                      **FB**                              Excursion to Newland Head and Waitpinga Beach

Saturday 12 May                      Birds SA                      Excursion to Tolderol Game Reserve

Thursday 17 May                      Birds SA                      Excursion to Buckland Park, Port Gawler

Friday 25 May                      Birds SA                      General Meeting

Sunday 27 May                      Birds SA                      Excursion to Lawari CP

Saturday 9 June                      Birds SA                      Excursion to Talisker CP

9 June to 11 June                      **PA**                              CAMPOUT TO SOUTH GAP STATION

# President's Message

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## Hi Everyone

I hope you all had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year and enjoyed some excellent birding over the summer holidays. I certainly did, with excellent views of rare visitors to SA: an Oriental Pratincole and Pectoral Sandpipers at Tolderol wetlands over Christmas. Birds SA is looking very strong and healthy as we enter 2018. We now have a growing public profile, and our membership has almost doubled in the past 5 years to nearly 900 members. Our website and Facebook page are popular, and we are working to improve our newsletter, **The Birder**, throughout 2018 to develop a more magazine-style format in full colour.

Late in 2017, the Fleurieu Birdwatchers group folded as a separate birding entity and has become a branch of Birds SA; bringing with them about 40 new members. They will be offering many field trip opportunities within and around Goolwa, in which all Birds SA members will be welcome to participate. I welcome all the new members to Birds SA.

To make Birds SA even stronger and have a more relevant presence in SA, it has been decided after long and important discussions with the Birds SA Committee and considerable positive feedback from many Birds SA members over the last 3 months, that Birds SA will affiliate with BirdLife Australia. This does not mean that we will become a branch of BirdLife Australia. We will still be Birds SA, and nothing will change within our organisation. It does mean, however, that we will be working much more closely with the national bird conservation organisation on bird surveys, monitoring, and various campaigns and activities. This will achieve better bird and habitat conservation and collaboration outcomes on many projects and issues facing SA. We can unite on important issues as they arise and together

create better awareness about birds and birding in SA. In early January 2018, our committee had a very profitable meeting with BirdLife's officials, discussing how we can work together in SA to best help our birds and their habitats with constructive conservation projects. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has now been put together and is in the process of being signed off. You will notice more of a presence of BirdLife Australia within Birds SA activities in the future.

Several issues are putting ongoing pressure on many bird species in SA.

- Various developments are destroying precious bird habitats around the State
- Poor water flows down the Murray River are affecting many wetlands along its course as well as in the Coorong
- A Duck and Quail hunting season has again been approved.

Birds SA continues to try and stop hunting, or at least reduce the bag limits of the duck species to be hunted. We are most concerned about the lack of statistical evidence on the number of Stubble Quail in SA, as DEWNR has no hard evidence or data on the sustainability of their numbers in SA, but they still allow hunting of large bag limits (20 per hunter, per day) of this species; based on anecdotal evidence from one hunter's report. There should be a moratorium on hunting Stubble Quail until independent data is available to assess their true status in SA. This is where collaborating with BirdLife Australia will assist with joint public awareness campaigns and media releases.

So, welcome back to Birds SA for another busy year. I hope it will be as fulfilling and enjoyable as last year. We have great speakers lined up again and terrific field trips and campouts. See you out in the field birding!

**John Gitsham**

# Birds SA Notes & News

## CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

### New Committee Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Conservation sub-Committee, David Andrewartha and Bill Breed. Both gentlemen, with backgrounds in biological science, are extremely well qualified and will add considerable impetus to the activities of the sub-Committee.

### Monarto Parks Management Plan

Birds SA has made a formal submission to DEWNR on the Monarto Parks Management Plan. This Plan will cover Kinchina, Monarto Woodlands, Monarto and Ferries McDonald Conservation Parks.

The key points in our submission related to striking a sensible balance between recreational activities for humans and the provision of wildlife habitat shielded from human activities. We also provided suggestions on mountain bike trails, exclusion of trail bikes and quad bikes, controlling feral animals, keeping dogs out of key wildlife areas and monitoring pre and post prescribed burns.

### Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

Birds SA sent a formal submission to Ministers Bignell and Hunter in June 2017 requesting a moratorium on crabbing and cockling during February and March in the key areas of the AIBS where the migratory waders fatten up in preparation for their return to the northern hemisphere. The response indicated that nothing would be done in the short term and that Birds SA should provide input when public submissions were sought for the draft Management Plan for the AIBS. This draft Plan only became available in January 2018. Birds SA will provide a comprehensive submission on the draft Plan.

### Gillman Land Sale Impact on Whicker Road Wetlands

The SA Government's sale of land at Gillman raises questions about the future of the adjacent Whicker Road Wetlands. William Brooker has followed up on this with the Port Adelaide-Enfield Council. It appears that the wetlands are safe and that there is in fact potential for their expansion in future. A key is now required to access the wetlands area. Contact William Brooker for details.

### Duck and Quail Hunting Reference Group Discussions

Birds SA attended the annual duck and quail hunting reference group meeting convened by DEWNR. This meeting starts with the premise that an open season will be declared and arguments are then put on whether any restrictions are needed on the timing of the season, the duck species that can be killed and the daily bag limits.

Birds SA made it clear that we do not support recreational hunting of native species. Birds SA has reservations about the data that are presented by the hunting representatives in this meeting. In particular, there are no verifiable data available on Stubble Quail numbers and distribution. The meeting considered only some anecdotal reports from shooters on Stubble Quail. On this basis Birds SA questioned whether the quail season should proceed. DEWNR has announced that an open season in 2018 will be declared.

- The duck open season will start on 17 Feb and end 24 June. The bag limit is 12 ducks/hunter/day.
- The Stubble Quail season will start on 17 Feb and conclude 26 August with the bag limit reduced from 25 to 20/hunter/day.

The Birds SA Management Committee is considering whether a public education campaign on this highly contentious activity will be pursued.

**Jeff Groves**

## VISITING THE FLINDERS RANGES?

Members planning a visit to the Flinders Ranges could benefit from a new app. provided by Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

The app. *Discover the Flinders Ranges* is available for free download from both Apple Store and Google Play. It includes a variety of tours within the park, guides, information and details about local service providers with complimentary offers.

It is best to download the app. before arriving in the Flinders Ranges because mobile connections are scarce and wifi is non-existent there.

**Download is free and there are no in-app. costs.**

**Helen Monterola**

## WORDS ABOUT BIRDS

Have you seen some interesting bird behaviour recently? Please share it with us by writing a few words about what you've noticed. Pictures are welcome, too. Send them to [editor@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:editor@birdssa.asn.au) for publication in the *South Australian Ornithologist*.

To give you some ideas, check out the **Bird Notes** in the *South Australian Ornithologist* to see what has been published before.

**Merilyn Browne**

## FOR THOSE WITH SHARP EYES

On page 11 of the November Birder the photo of White-browed and Masked Woodswallows also included a single Black-faced Woodswallow. It is in the top left hand corner of the photograph, camouflaged by the tree trunk.

**Andrew Black**

# Birds SA Notes & News (cont.)

## SIGNIFICANT SIGHTING MADE BY A FAMILY OF NEW MEMBERS

Committee member Kate Buckley received the following email from Dominica Thomson, who belongs to a family of new Birds SA members. The family includes one of our Fledglings.

“So excited Kate,

We saw 3 Painted Buttonquails at Cobbler Creek today. We got the ID wrong but two Birds SA members corrected it. They said that that **Painted Button Quail haven't been spotted at Cobbler Creek before**. We are so excited. Also seeing Fairy Wrens there, which is due to the re-vegetation.”



**Painted Buttonquail**

Photographed by Dominica Thomson  
at Cobbler Creek on 28th January 2018

**All members of Birds SA will congratulate the Thomson family on making such a significant discovery.**

Information provided by Kate Buckley

## JANUARY SHOREBIRD COUNT

Members of Birds SA have undertaken shorebird survey work for many years. Data has been gathered and collated to produce a very important factual base upon which to formulate any concerns regarding shorebirds and their feeding and roosting habitats along Gulf St Vincent and other sections of the South Australian Coast.

Over 30 people were involved in the January 22<sup>nd</sup> count, with some having travelled from as far as Yorke Peninsula. The original count date was set for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of January, but as the forecast was for 40C the survey was moved to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sightings of some species were lower than expected

in some areas, and the reverse in others. For example 570 Sharptailed Sandpipers were seen in one section, 800 Red-necked Stints in another and 1,500 Red Knots further south — but only 9 knots in another area and 5 sharpies.

This demonstrates the importance of gathering this data in obtaining an accurate picture of the status of waders in this area of South Australia.

Some survey sites are accessible only to those with special permits. These sites are reserved for Survey Counters. It is important for all Birds SA Members to respect this fact; otherwise access for future shorebird work will be compromised.

Birds SA extends a huge “Thank You” to the dedicated team of Survey Counters.

**Kate Buckley**

## WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER

I am reviewing records of the White-eared Honeyeater in SA.

There have a number of reports from the forested parts of the South Flinders Ranges (Wirrabara Forest to Alligator Gorge and the Dutchman) but

experienced local observers do not believe that the species is present in this region.

I shall be pleased to learn of any reliable information that will confirm or refute the claims for the presence of White-eared Honeyeaters in the South Flinders Ranges.

**Andrew Black: [ablack@bigpond.com](mailto:ablack@bigpond.com)**



**Grey Plover**

Photographed by Paul Taylor  
at Bald Hill on 22nd January 2018



**White-eared Honeyeater**

Photographed by Ann Houghton at Gluepot Reserve

# Fleurieu Birdwatchers



**Fleurieu Birdwatchers at Farquhar Reserve, 2nd February, 2018  
Photograph taken by Bob Daly**

## **FLEURIEU BIRDWATCHERS JOIN BIRDS SA**

The Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc. met at 5pm. for the very last time on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at Stan Farquhar Reserve, Victor Harbor; after voting last November to close the club. We took a walk around the wetlands to celebrate World Wetland Day and moved onto Nangawooka Reserve for a picnic tea and short meeting. After 23 years as FBW we have now officially progressed to becoming a Sub-group of Birds SA.

***34 members including a few of the original ones participated in the final farewell.***

Wendy talked about the importance of wetlands built in suburbia to collect storm water. While providing recreational spaces for the residents they also provide wonderful habitats for birds. We counted 40 species around the ponds with the highlight being a Baillon's Crake and 4 Spotted Crakes at the water's edge.

She reported that the two chartered boat tours on Wednesdays 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February with "Cruise the Coorong" are fully booked, with 28 members going. Surveys on Cape Barren Geese are commencing in Lawari CP on Hindmarsh Island next week and other surveys will follow later with Birds SA members. Campout dates for the Fleurieu Birders are set for Friday 19-21 October at Little Desert Park, Nhill. Peter Owen will be the leader.

Our treasurer, Keith Jones has finalised our accounts and money will be sent to Birds SA to contribute to their Conservation Fund.

The old website will close and all our information will be displayed on the Birds SA website, e-news and in their quarterly newsletter, The Birder. Wendy will send in the reports and excursion programs in time to be published in the newsletters, while acting as the Co-ordinator for 2018.

Some members reported difficulties with registering and paying fees on-line and were advised to contact the Secretary of Birds SA.

## **Wendy Phillips**



**Australian Crake photographed by Bob Daly  
At Farquhar Reserve, on 10th February, 2018**

# *Giving them wings*

## *conserving threatened species*

### **PROPERTY CONTAINING STRIATED GRASSWRENS**

My wife (Ali Walsh) and I went over the Eyre Peninsula in December looking for Striated Grasswren. The Eyre Peninsula population does not appear to have been seen for quite a long time. We managed to find the birds at one location of several we checked, and they were on private property just west of Munyaroo Conservation Park near Munyaroo Road. The property is currently for sale and the owner would like to sell it to someone who recognises the value of the vegetation and animals like the Grasswrens on the property and will care for it. This population of Striated Grasswrens is rare, declining and incompletely known and it would be great for someone or an organisation to purchase the property to protect it. The block with the Grasswrens is Section 29, which is 156.7 ha of mallee scrub. Details can be found here: <https://www.raywhite.com/sa/cowell/1765252/>. If someone would like to contact me in relation to this block they can email me: [karl.jones@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:karl.jones@adelaide.edu.au)

**Karl Jones**

*Two good-news articles from Natural Resources, Adelaide and Mt. Lofty Ranges, eNews, summer 2017.*

### **GRANITE ISLAND'S PENGUINS ARE MAKING A COMEBACK**

A recent census of little penguins living on Granite Island confirms numbers have increased significantly — from 16 to 28 adults since October last year.

For the census, volunteers joined staff from Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) and Flinders University, spending four hours gently checking burrows for adult birds, chicks and eggs.

Senior Ranger Seiji Iwao said the survey confirmed that penguins continue to live and breed on the Island. He said that the stable population growth over the past two years, after a rapid drop in 2001, was a promising sign for



Striated Grasswren, photographed near Munyaroo Conservation Park Eyre Peninsula by Karl Jones in December 2017

the future of Granite Island's little penguins. Regular ranger patrols to ensure that people don't bring dogs onto the island and a long running rat baiting program have helped the little penguins secure their burrows during breeding season.

The Granite Island colony now has the highest breeding success rate in South Australia. Last year's breeding season was the best recorded for some time and it's hoped the fledging rate is just as high this year.

Little penguin research work on Granite Island is undertaken by [Flinders University](#) and funded by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.

### **HOODED PLOVERS AT HALLETT COVE**

For the first time, endangered Hoodies have been found at Hallett Cove and they have hatched a chick.

You can help give this and other baby Hoodies a chance by keeping your dog on a leash anytime you're at Hallett Cove beach or other local beaches where Hoodies are nesting, throughout the breeding season until March.

The breeding season is looking good with 11 Hooded Plover chicks now on beaches in the AMLR region.

# White-bellied Sea Eagle and Osprey Population Surveys 2015–17



There's abundant prey on some of our remote offshore islands (e.g. geese and shearwaters in season), so without trees or cliffs on which to nest, sea eagles settle in and just do things differently ...

Birds SA supported a series of comprehensive surveys in 2009–10, which subsequently provided comprehensive information on the status and distribution of the White-bellied Sea Eagle and Osprey in South Australia and reported evidence of significant declines having occurred for both species last century (see Dennis *et al.* 2011, SAO 34: p1–16). Both species are listed as Endangered in SA.

Based around data from those earlier surveys, and again with support from the Birds SA Conservation Fund, together with regional NRM Boards, a series of repeat boat and land-based surveys commenced in May 2015 to re-assess White-bellied Sea Eagle and Osprey population stability. These surveys continued over three breeding seasons to January 2018. Initially this project was planned to cover just two seasons, but early survey data revealed a startling number of vacant Osprey territories on Kangaroo Island and on both Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas. However, follow-up verification surveys in 2016 were frustrated by extreme storm events mid-way through the breeding season which severely damaged, and in some cases totally destroyed many Osprey nests, particularly on western Eyre Peninsula. So with big questions still hanging over the 2015 survey results, we decided to extend the project through another season in 2017, and again, the Birds SA Conservation Fund made this possible.

A comparative account of all survey results will be published in the *South Australian Ornithologist* in 2018. However in the interim, we can report that

despite a not-unexpected level of territory dynamics amongst the White-bellied Sea Eagle population over the years between surveys, the overall number of breeding pairs is very similar to the 2010 baseline data. Whereas for Osprey it is a very different story! Results from the most recent surveys confirm a perplexing overall decline of more than 20% in the number of occupied territories spread across all coastal regions of SA since 2010.

While the causes associated with this evident decline in the Osprey breeding population are not immediately apparent, because it has occurred right across their



**An example of a badly damaged Osprey nest after severe storm events in October 2016**

range in SA, i.e. from Kangaroo Island to the Great Australian Bight region; the likely answers are thought to lie in either:

- Some as yet undetected broad-scale perturbation in the marine environment affecting the availability or quality of prey;

or,

- Perhaps our surveys have just revealed a previously unknown level of dynamism in the small, isolated and otherwise tropically adapted Australasian Osprey population living here on the extreme southern edge of its' continental distribution.

In any case, it is clear that more intensive monitoring of the Osprey population will be required in future.

On a more positive note, we can report the first ever record of an Osprey breeding event in northern Gulf St Vincent in 2017!

**Terry Dennis and Sharie Detmar**

# Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary/FAIBS



## **DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara draft management plan is now open for consultation.

### **Have your say!**

For over 3 years we have engaged with more than 30,000 people to gather views on the future of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. After several rounds of community meetings across all the Bird Sanctuary coastline we have developed a draft management plan for the national park that is now ready to receive your final comments.

Four key themes have been developed to conserve shorebirds and the environment and to guide the use and enjoyment of the park:

Theme 1: Conserving shorebirds and their habitat.

Theme 2: Advancing Kaurna spiritual, cultural and economic relationships with Country and community.

Theme 3: Creating a unique coastal nature-based visitor experience.

Theme 4: Maintaining coastal access.

Consultation on this draft management plan for the national park is open until **5pm 16 April 2018**.

Once the consultation has closed all comments will be reviewed and a final park management will be prepared.

**Source: Extract from Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary update – special edition to open consultation on the park plan.**

## **FRIENDS OF THE ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL BIRD SANCTUARY (FAIBS)**

In December 2017, the Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) completed its inaugural year as a Friends of Parks group. We are pleased to report that as at the end of our first year we held 10 activity days and 4 special events in the Sanctuary. This translates to a count of 142 volunteer participants who had exposure to the Sanctuary and contributed over 500 hours of effort. The numbers joining in our monthly activities have

consistently made both the days and their purpose most worthwhile. During our December AGM, Mary-Ann van Trigt was voted in as Chairperson with Anna Woods continuing as Secretary and Membership Officer. We thank BirdsSA for the support it has provided in various ways over our initial twelve months.

FAIBS will continue to run events on the third Sunday of each month in 2018 (except for April, which will be the fourth Sunday). If you wish to be notified of venues and activities, we suggest you email us (faibssa@gmail.com) to have your email contact information added to our mailing list. We invite anyone interested in the Sanctuary birds and the sustainability of their habitat to come along on these days. It's currently prime time for migratory birds feeding and roosting along the 60km of AIBS coastline, prior to their northward migration. While there is some viewing and monitoring at selected sites, we are extremely mindful of the need to keep disturbance of these areas to an absolute minimum. The AIBS Collective Plan and the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park (Winaityinaityi Pangkara) Draft Management Plan are now available for perusal and response. We urge organisations and individuals interested in the future of this unique area and its critical relationship to local and migratory birds to have a look at the documents. You may wish to contribute to the evolution of the Plan by making a submission. Details for how to do this are on page 25 of the Plan document, which can be viewed at:

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/park-management/plans-strategies-and-policies/plans-in-preparation/adelaide-international-bird-sanctuary/about>

We look forward to sharing the Sanctuary and its news with you in 2018. If you have any enquiries, please contact us at faibssa@gmail.com

**Anna Woods**

# A Global Journey: Migratory Birds on the Adelaide plains

This page heading is the title of a display at the South Australian Museum on North Terrace that aims to put the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary in the public eye. On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, the Minister for the Environment, The Hon, Ian Hunter, launched this display in the Museum foyer. The launch was well attended, and quite a few members of Birds SA enjoyed the morning, along with three members of the Birds SA Management Committee.

The display explains that each year around 2,000,000 migratory shorebirds travel vast distances from their breeding sites in the Arctic to reach non-breeding grounds in Australia.



**This is as close as most people will get to these birds**



**A great opportunity to compare the size and other identification features of a Common Greenshank with those of a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

These amazing global travellers fly half way across the world along a migratory path called the East Asian-Australasian Flyway to reach the safe haven of our South Australian coastlines, where they feed and roost for six months of the year. The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara has been created as a vital conservation area for the protection of shorebird habitat. It provides a unique place of annual refuge for up to 52 species of birds.

In the language of the Kaurna People, the traditional owners of the Adelaide plains, Winaityinaityi Pangkara means 'a country for all birds and the country that surrounds these birds'.

The display is presented in partnership with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Kate Buckley took the three photographs of the display.

To find the display, pass through the foyer towards the steps. Then turn right.

Kate Buckley and Cynthia Pyle

# A Heron's Hunting Skills

**STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY COLIN CONOR**

Pizzey and Knight indicate that White-faced Herons will visit pastureland. Consistent with this information, I recorded the following events on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in the Piccadilly Valley. This White-faced Heron was obviously very familiar with this feeding ground. Fortunately a long lens was handy when the bird's hunger overcame the species' usual shyness.

Every now and again the bird exhibited an unusual behaviour. It would stand upright, head and body locked stationary, but with its long neck erect and oscillating from side to side.



**Stalking through the long grass, hunting, sharp-eyed and dangerously concentrated**



**The heron checks out the photographer**



**Plenty of choice — not too fussy!  
a dragonfly with wings as long as the bird's bill**

# The Hunt Concluded!



**An unfortunate encounter for the lizard!**

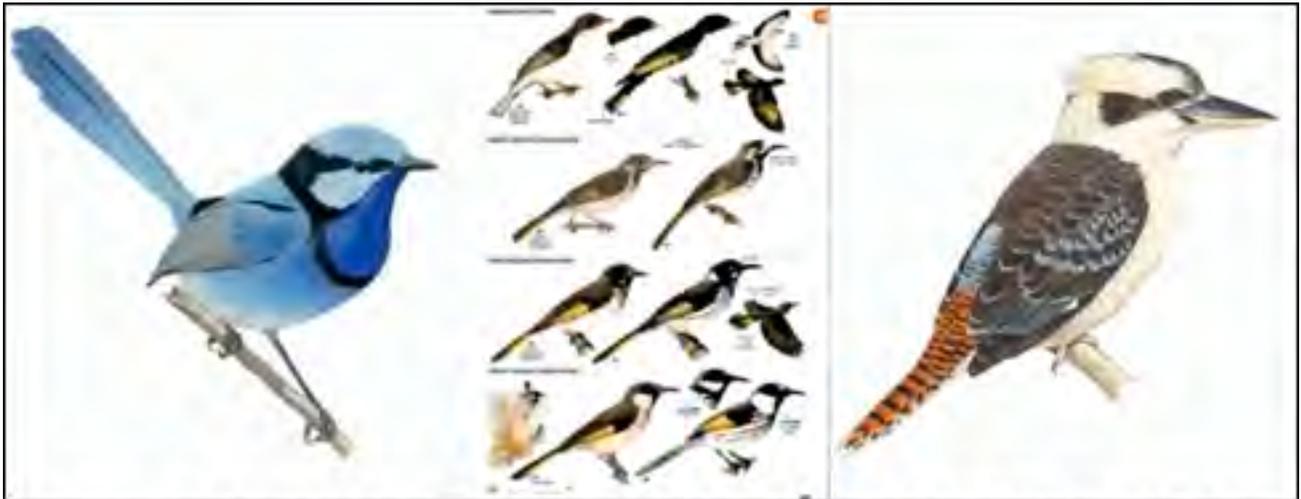


**Into the gullet — live or dead lightning fast, no chance to escape**



**A preen needed after all that exertion**

# Past General Meetings



**Examples of the images in The Australian Bird Guide**

**Source: [booktopia.com.au](http://booktopia.com.au)**

## **FRIDAY OCTOBER 27**

John Hatch welcomed the speaker for the evening Jeff Davies to talk about *The Australian Bird Guide*. Jeff said that the book began about nine years ago when CSIRO Publishing approached him. The *Handbook of Australian New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* had previously set the scene. From that time he has collected over 500,000 photographs and continues to collect them. He described how the book is laid out and what is included for each species. Prior to painting birds for this book he made the decision not to look at any previous figures. Jeff showed several examples of very similar species that are difficult in the field. They included Collared Sparrowhawk and Brown Goshawk, Lewin's, Graceful and Yellow-spotted Honeyeaters, White-lined and Kimberley Honeyeaters, Eurasian and Australian Hobbies. He suspects that more and more species that have been recorded on Australian offshore territories such as Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands will be found on the mainland particularly the north-west coast. He considered that his plate showing the jaegers and skuas was the most satisfying.

He said that the main difference between this and other field guides is that the species are not in taxonomic sequence, because this sequence was considered to be irrelevant for a field guide. It was much more practical to group similar birds together— for example sea birds, water birds and land birds. The primary aim of the book is to enable people to identify birds. The sequence used in this book may be used for future overseas bird guides. He went into detail on how the artwork was prepared for each plate. One of the main concerns was to avoid a lot of white space on each plate. He mentioned that due to pressure from the publishers, the book contains a number of errors. Jeff was

disappointed with the index that the publishers had prepared. He hoped that all the errors would be corrected in a reprinted version due next year. Jeff then answered questions from the members.

## **FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, MEMBERS' NIGHT**

John Hatch said that it was great to see so many people at this member's night. John introduced the first of six speakers Lou Jayleigh.

**Lou Jayleigh's** talk — Chasing the Bali Myna was about her trip to Bali in April 2016. She described her visit to the Bali Barat Nature Reserve and the birds she saw there with the help of a local ranger. Apart from the Bali Myna, Lou showed photographs of the many other birds she had seen in the nature reserve and other parts of Bali. The trip was part of her quest to record all the birds of the world. She has her own Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/birdie.lou.98> where you can catch up on her quest.

**Joe Dafoe** gave a talk entitled *Canada to Guatemala – and back again*. It was not a birding trip!. He went with three friends leaving from Ottawa, Canada and the trip lasted three months. Although it was not a birding trip he saw and photographed many bird species.

**David Robertson** gave a talk on his involvement with the 7th Asian Bird Fair held in Jingshan, China from 11-15 November 2016. He went as a delegate of the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society of which he is a life member. The photographs of the opening ceremony showed much involvement by the government of the People's Republic of China.

# Past General Meetings (cont.)

**John Gitsham** showed a collection of his best bird photographs. Two examples from his presentation are shown below.



**Brown-headed Honeyeater**  
photographed by John Gitsham  
at Gluepot in 2017



**Nankeen Kestrel, photographed by**  
**John Gitsham at Milang in 2017**

**Andrew Black** presented a talk called What is the colour of a thornbill's eyes? It all started about six months ago when John Pearce asked about the identification of thornbills he had photographed at Whites Road (Little Para) Wetlands. In the Mount Lofty Ranges and Adelaide Plains the thornbills occurring are Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla samueli* in southern MLR; Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis apicalis* in Mid North, Yorke Peninsula and mangroves surrounding upper Gulf St Vincent; and Hybrid Brown/Inland Thornbills in mangroves of eastern Gulf St Vincent between Torrens Island and the Light River Estuary but what are the thornbills at Whites Road (Little Para) wetlands. Andrew showed a series of thornbill photographs from Whites Road, Clinton, inland Yorke Peninsula, St Kilda and Mount Lofty Ranges showing differing eye colours. From this we have learnt that Whites Road thornbills are of the highly variable hybrid population of eastern Gulf St Vincent mangroves. Brown Thornbill adults have dark red-brown irises; in the young, they may be darker (or paler?) whereas Inland Thornbills:

adults may be more variable, orange to red; young probably generally have paler, almost white irises. It is unclear how much variation in iris colour may be individual or regional Gulf St Vincent hybrid adult thornbills' irises may differ from those of both parental species, perhaps more yellow to orange rather than red-brown.

**Jeff Groves** gave the final presentation, for Members' Night. It was entitled Bird Action and Behaviour. He showed photographs of Eastern Rosella, Laughing Kookaburra, Great Egret, Striated Pardalote, Rainbow Lorikeet, Maned Duck, Red-rumped Parrot, Australian Magpie, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and a Blue-and-yellow Macaw (at the zoo). His last photo was of a Bearded Dragon with a Wolf Spider on its head.

**See the next page for photographs from Lou's, Andrew's and Jeff's presentations.**

# More Photos from Members' Night



**Inland Thornbill Hybrid, Photographed by John Pearce at Whites Rd. Wetlands on 4th June, 2017**



**Hybrid resembling a Brown Thornbill, photographed by John Pearce at Whites Rd. Wetlands on 5th June 2017**



**Kookaburra, photographed by Jeff Groves on the Torrens Linear Park at Highbury on 21 Sept 2017**



**Bearded Dragon and Wolf Spider, photographed by Jeff Groves at Brookfield Conservation Park on 21 Dec 2016,**



**Great Egret, photographed by Jeff Groves at St. Kilda on 13 August 2017**



**Green Junglefowl photographed by Lou Jayleigh in Bali Barat National Park, Bali in April 2016**



**Savanna Nightjar, taken by Lou Jayleigh in Gilimanuk Region, Bali in April 2016**

# Future General Meetings

General meetings are held in the Charles Hawker building of the Waite Institute on Waite Road Urrbrae on the last Friday of every month except December, public holidays or prior to a long weekend.

The doors are opened at 7pm and meetings start at 7.45pm.

## FRIDAY MARCH 23

Les Peters will give a talk entitled I like my birds to move.

## FRIDAY APRIL 27, AGM

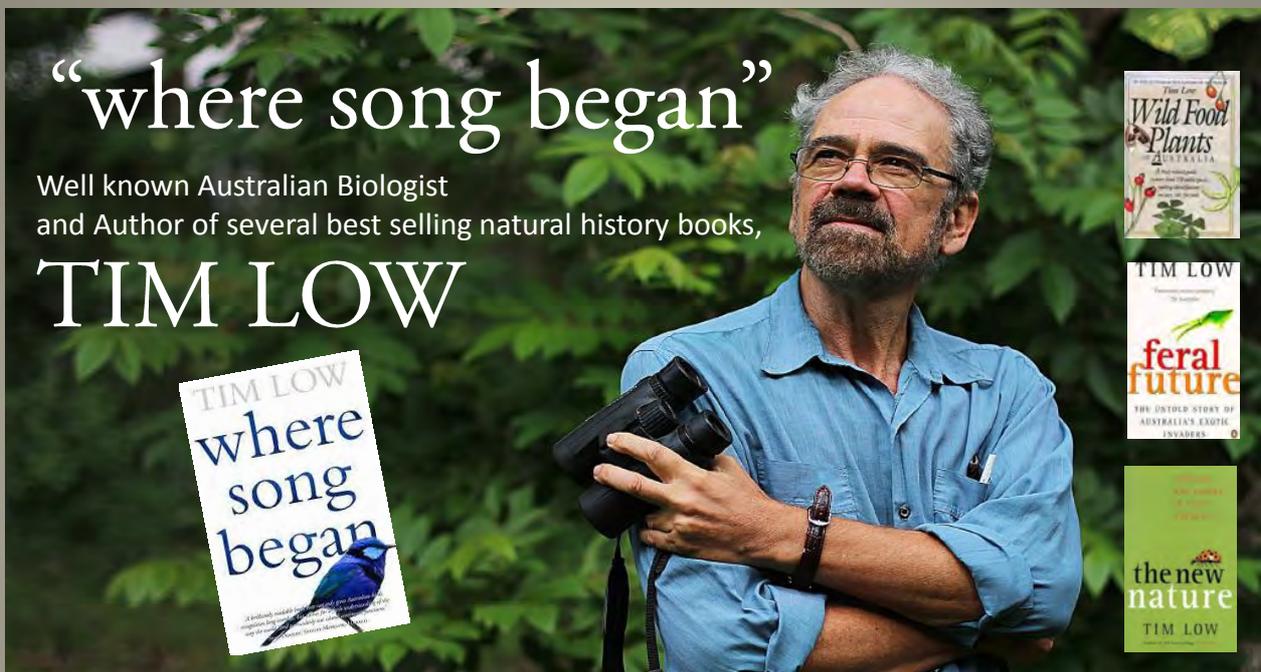
Following the AGM, Tim Low will give a talk entitled Where song began. Many of you will have read his book of the same name.

## FRIDAY MAY 25

Ian Falkenberg will give a talk entitled Field characteristics of South Australian Raptors

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting on Friday 27 April 2018 is:

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 28 April 2017
3. Presentation of the Annual Report for 2017
4. Presentation of the Financial Report for 2017
5. Election of the Management Committee for 2018/2019
  - President
  - Two Vice Presidents
  - Secretary
  - Assistant Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Field Program Coordinator
  - Newsletter Editor
  - Journal Editor
  - Bird Records Secretary
  - Membership Officer and
  - Not fewer than three nor more than five ordinary Committee Members
6. Appointment of an auditor
7. Any other business of which notice in writing has been given by two members at a preceding meeting



“where song began”

Well known Australian Biologist  
and Author of several best selling natural history books,

# TIM LOW

Special Guest Speaker for Friday 27th April 2018  
Birds SA General meeting, 7.30pm for 7.45pm start.  
Charles Hawker Bldg. Waite Institute, Waite rd. Urrbrae  
Be early, limited seating.



**Birds SA**

# Past Excursions



**Little Woodswallow**

**Chestnut-rumped Thornbill**

**Redthroat**

**Photographed by Bernie Haase at Devil's Peak on 12 September, 2017**

**PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS)  
SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2017**

## **Devils Peak**

It was an overcast day with a light breeze and a forecast of hot weather when three keen bird watchers from Whyalla, Pt. Augusta and Mambray Creek, met at the Quorn swimming pool. We were scheduled to go to The Dutchman's Stern Conservation Park, but due to pest control being carried out there by DEWNR the park was closed and we decided to go to Devils Peak instead. We drove to Richman Valley and turned off onto the Devils Peak road. About half way along the road we came across a flock of Apostlebirds and stopped to also find Singing Honeyeaters, Willie Wagtails, Crested Pigeons, Weebills, Galahs, House Sparrows, Peaceful Doves and a Black Kite. As we moved along the road the recently harvested paddocks in the area provided a good hunting ground for groups of Australian Magpies, many Little Ravens and a family of Emus with half grown chicks. Nearing the Devils Peak parking area, we saw a Red-backed Kingfisher, Red Wattlebirds, Adelaide Rosellas, Black-faced Cuckooshrikes and White-browed Babblers. At the car park a male Rufous Whistler and Grey Shrikethrush greeted us. We entered the Devils Peak walking track and were challenged by a pair of Redthroats and a flock of Variegated Fairywrens, who provided us with some good viewing. Inland Thornbills soon joined the others to add to the commotion. As we moved along the track through mallee woodland a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, a Grey Butcherbird and a Weebill were added to the list. The track entered taller eucalypt woodland and was becoming rockier and steeper. We climbed up to where the slope became very steep and paused to scan the cliffs and valley

below. Tree Martins, Welcome Swallows, Little Woodswallows and a Dusky Woodswallow glided around above us. A Peregrine Falcon briefly appeared as it flew over the summit and we watched a Nankeen Kestrel hovering above us and then plunging into the scrub repeatedly while a Wedge-tailed Eagle passed nearby. In the trees and scrub near us a pair of Adelaide Rosellas sat quietly while Grey-fronted Honeyeaters were feeding their demanding young and Silvereyes were squabbling amongst themselves. Kookaburras, babblers and a Grey Shrikethrush moved about in the valley below us, while a pair of Little Woodswallows hawked for insects from the boulders next to us, providing some good photo opportunities. We decided not to climb up to the summit because it was getting warm and we are not as fit as we used to be. As we returned along the track a flock of Brown-headed Honeyeaters were fossicking about in the trees and feeding their young while Striated Pardalotes searched through the leaves for food. Back at the carpark a Rainbow Bee-eater flew over and a pair of Red-capped Robins and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills provided us with more photo opportunities. A single Southern Whiteface and a Grey Currawong also briefly appeared. We found a total of 41 bird species, with the birds of the day being the Little Woodswallows and the Peregrine Falcon. After we had a quick lunch and bird call two of the group left for home while I went into Quorn to look for birds at the Powell Gardens.

## **Powell Gardens – Quorn**

After having a light lunch in the Powell Gardens carpark I noticed that the eucalyptus trees planted in the older areas of the garden were in full flower. There were several different species in flower and the nectar feeding birds loved them. The Red

# Past Excursions (cont.)

Wattlebirds were the most dominant, while the busy White-plumed Honeyeaters were also obvious. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters outnumbered the Singing Honeyeaters and I obtained an occasional glimpse of White-fronted Honeyeaters. A pair of Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters quietly moved about in the blossoms while some noisy White-browed Babblers rummaged about in the undergrowth. The screeching of half a dozen Rainbow Lorikeets took my attention away from a pair of Red-rumped Parrots quietly resting in the nearby shade. Overhead Rock Doves raced by as kestrels hovered stationarily and sparrows chattered in the shrubbery. As I moved through the garden Variegated Fairywrens noisily hopped about on the dried leaves and Willie Wagtails darted about. Australian Magpies fed their demanding young as Galahs and a Black Kite slowly flew by. On the nearby golf club fairway a pair of Masked Lapwings cackled loudly as a small flock of Little Ravens lazily passed by. A sneaky blackbird was noticed moving quietly between the bushes in the garden beds. I saw a total of 20 bird species, with the birds of the day here being the Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters and the Rainbow Lorikeets, which are on the edge of their distribution. Not a bad list for an extended lunch stop.

**B. Haase**

## **SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER: NEWLAND HEAD CP**

On a nearly perfect day for bird watching with a clear blue sky and a slight breeze from the southwest, 17 birdos assembled at the Dennis Road camp ground. After a short discussion on the proposed route we headed off through the camp ground itself. Birds were in short supply as we headed for the main track going east but we did see plenty of Silvereyes, a few Crimson Rosellas, 6 Red-browed Finches and a Superb Fairywren. The group was strung out in a long line as we moved up the hill and again birds were scarce and until a small bird was spotted preening itself in a eucalypt. It took a while for everyone to spot the bird and quite a long discussion ensued as to its identity, but after a while we all agreed that it was a Yellow Thornbill. Other species seen on this track were Grey Currawong, Little Raven, Common Bronzewing, Red Wattlebird, New Holland Honeyeater and Grey Fantail.

We then took the left hand track towards the new plastic water tanks and some people lamented the loss of the concrete tank which we could climb to the top, and it offered great views over the park and out to sea. Turning left at the tanks we headed west. Several Australian Golden Whistlers had been heard and now we had excellent sightings of a male bird

perched out in the open. Weebill and White-plumed Honeyeater were added to the species list as was Brush Bronzewing and Australasian Magpie. A single Elegant Parrot flew over. I decided to go off the main track and head for some open country and although birds again were a bit scarce we picked up Welcome Swallow, Eurasian Skylark and Crested Pigeon (where were all the raptors?). We headed back towards the camp ground and through the old quarry. We had not been through this part of the park before. It turned out to be quite productive and we picked up Yellow-faced and Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Spotted Pardalote, Galah and Little Corella. Just before the camp ground an Eastern Spinebill was observed feeding a juvenile bird.

After a short comfort stop we headed from the camp ground up and over the very steep sand hill that leads to the Waitpinga car park and beach. Once on the beach and near the Waitpinga Creek estuary we found several species of waterbird including 8 adult Hooded Plovers, of which 3 had been flagged, 2 Black-fronted Dotterels, 1 Great Egret, 2 Chestnut Teal, 100 Greater Crested Terns and 2 White-faced Herons. 3 Little Black and 1 Great Cormorant flew over.

We enjoyed our lunch at the camp ground and the bird call revealed a count of 54 species. This made a perfect ending to a great day of bird watching.

**Winston Syson.**

## **THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER: SANDY CREEK**

Fourteen people met in the car park off Conservation Rd. on a mild and overcast day. One of these people was a local keen to hone his identification skills and meet some likeminded bird enthusiasts.

We started our walk by traversing the park in a westerly and then a southerly direction. Numerous Peaceful Doves (12) were heard calling and some were eventually spotted. Groups of White-winged Choughs (15) appeared from time to time and Rufous Whistlers (12) seemed to be everywhere. Rainbow Bee-eaters (12) were seen and heard, especially around the quarry to the south. One Australian Owlet-nightjar was heard and other birds encountered included Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo (1), Shining Bronze Cuckoos (3), Common Bronzewing (6), Crested Pigeons (8), Adelaide Rosellas (12), Red-rumped Parrots (2), Galahs (6), Little Corellas (4) and 6 each of Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets. Honeyeaters included New Holland (6), Brown-headed (8), White-plumed (12), Eastern Spinebill (6) and Red Wattlebird (1).

We also encountered Striated Thornbills (6), Yellow Thornbills (20), Weebill (1), scattered groups of Superb Fairywrens (20); while Striated Pardalotes

# Past Excursions (cont.)

(12) chip-chipped away in the tree canopies. Flying overhead were Fairy and Tree Martins (15 of each). 4 Pacific Black Ducks and 1 White-faced Heron were seen flying over.

One area just to the southwest of the quarry proved to be quite a hot spot with numerous birds, including Diamond Firetails (possibly carrying nest building material), Red-browed Finches, Red-capped Robins, Silvereyes, Rainbow Bee-eaters and White-browed Babblers. This area was so good that it was hard to drag everyone away to continue the walk!

After viewing the quarry on the southern boundary and keeping an eye out for nesting Rainbow Bee-eaters, we headed north to look at one of the exclosures set up many years ago by David Paton. Members may recall the ongoing debate about the impact on parks and reserves of large numbers of kangaroos. The vegetation within the exclosure was certainly very different to that outside, with many more grasses and small to medium sized shrubs.

We returned to the car park via the Honeyeater and Firetail Link Trails pausing to observe some of the numerous ant-lion pits along the trail (the ferocious larvae of the much more benign lacewing insect!). The bird call resulted in a total of 45 species of which only 2 species were feral: Common Starlings (4) and European Goldfinches (6).

**Ali Ben Kahn**

## **SUNDAY 7 JANUARY: ALDINGA SCRUB CONSERVATION PARK**

The first weekend of 2018 started with 42.6 degrees recorded on the Saturday at Kent Town and luckily a forecast for just 28 degrees with winds 30-45 km/hour on the Sunday. 30 birdwatchers, including one fledgling, keen to start the New Year on a positive note, gathered at the Cox Road entrance to Aldinga Scrub at 8.30am. While we waited for our local guide, Friends of Aldinga Scrub member and plant expert, John Edmeades, to arrive, a number of bird species were spotted at the Cox Road corner, near the Aldinga Holiday Park. These included 7 Eastern Rosellas, a pair of Crested Shrike-tits, a number of Crested Pigeons, a Common Bronzewing

Pigeon and numerous White-plumed Honeyeaters. The group, led by John, entered the park around 8.50am and headed north along the sandy Yacca Track. A detailed map of the park, which gives reasonable detail of the walking tracks, can be downloaded at:

[http://www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au/images/FoAS\\_files/2012AldingaScrubtracks-4thEd.pdf](http://www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au/images/FoAS_files/2012AldingaScrubtracks-4thEd.pdf)

As the group walked along the Yacca Track, spreading out as we went, we came across a reasonably high exclusion fence on the left of the track, which went for about 100m. John said that this exclusion area covered about half a hectare and was established due to the large number of orchid species found in this area. The Copper Bearded-orchid (*Calochilus cupreus*), which is endemic to the Willunga Basin, is now found only in the Aldinga Scrub. Elegant Parrots were plentiful in this area with a number of birds identified as young birds and a flock of seven was seen in one dead tree. We saw large areas of Muntries (*Kunzea pomifera*), a ground-cover which produces an edible apple tasting berry, which these birds must take advantage of in the breeding season. In total we recorded 30 Elegant Parrots. We also heard Grey Fantails along this track and saw a number of Dusky Woodswallows and Common Bronzewing. We recorded 20 Dusky Woodswallows for the morning. We also saw abundant White-plumed Honeyeaters (50 in total) and New Holland Honeyeaters (50 in total).



**Members enjoying the Aldinga Scrub excursion on 7 January**

# Past Excursions (cont.)

Before reaching the end of the exclusion fence (on the eastern side of the exclusion area), we headed due east towards the large ephemeral lakes which have become very large in recent years. John explained that for many decades the water from the northeast of the park had been channelled to bypass the park and to run into the Washpool to the south of the park and out to sea. This was done to make the local area suitable for agriculture, particularly vineyards. In this time large banksias and acacias had established themselves in the northeast of the park, with limited water entering the park in this spot and suitable sandy soils. Recently, with the encroachment of housing to the north, much of the runoff from these houses is now entering the park, forming much larger lakes than ever before, or at least for many decades. As a result, these banksias and acacias have died

due to the rising water table and as we approached these wetlands/lakes, we came across thousands of River Red Gum saplings, which made access to the edge of the wetlands very difficult. It was obvious from the number of saplings around the edge of these wetlands and the dead trees within the wetlands that the hydrological conditions in this area had changed dramatically in recent years. The wetlands water level had dropped in recent weeks and it was possible to walk around this area with ease due to the dry mud and lack of vegetation, once we had passed through the River Red Gums.

On the wetland we recorded Grey Teal (50), Australasian Shovelers (4), Pacific Black Ducks (4), Pink-eared Ducks (3), both Australasian (5) and Hoary-headed (9) Grebes, 10 Little Pied Cormorants possessing nests with young, as well as Royal Spoonbills (2), Australian White Ibises (5), Black-winged Stilts (3) and White-faced Herons (5). We also saw an Australian Spotted Crake (1) lurking in and out of the bulrushes, which John said would overtake the wetlands in the coming years, as well as Black-tailed Nativehens (6), Masked Lapwings (10) and Eurasian Coots (8). One section of the group walked further around these wetlands, heading north then east, including Enid Pascoe and

Brian Blaylock They saw more wetland species than the other part of the group which headed back to the Yacca Track.

Aldinga Scrub has a variety of vegetation types, moving from wetlands with River Red Gums to Pink Gum Woodlands to Sheoak Woodlands containing *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*. This variety of ecosystems proved crucial in allowing us to see as many species as we did today. The group I was in headed west along the Kookaburra Track before turning south along the Kangaroo Track. Along this part of the walk, numerous Silvereyes (10) were seen as well as a Nankeen Kestrel, Superb Fairywrens (10) and Striated Pardalotes (10).

We turned east off the Kangaroo Track, onto the Boomerang Track, which is a wide, well-graded road. This area had been good for a number of species on previous walks and this trip we saw Yellow



**Grey Butcherbird, photographed by Trevor Cox at Verran, on Eyre Peninsula on 11 November, 2017.**

Thornbill (1), Grey Fantails (3) and a female Rufous Whistler (1) which despite some unwanted attention from 4 New Holland Honeyeaters, was determined to stay in her tree and give the Birds SA group a good showing. It was suggested that this bird was a juvenile but it was entertaining to see her raise her head and neck feathers in a strong show of defiance, despite the noise and intimidation from the New Holland Honeyeaters. As our group arrived back at Cox Road a little after 11.30am, some of the group headed southwest from the Cox Road corner, into some open fields with large gums, across from the Aldinga Holiday Park. There we saw a couple of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, a couple of Grey Shrikethrushes and a Striated Pardalote. John Edmeades told me that a large gum tree which was further to the south, south-west had 14 large trunks and had been examined by Eucalyptus expert, Dean Nicolle. Dean couldn't identify the tree species but estimated that it could be many centuries old, perhaps a couple of thousand years and was either some sort of unknown hybrid or a predecessor of modern species.

Other birds seen today included Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo (1), Weebills (4), Little Wattlebirds (10), Mistletoebirds (5) and Red-browed Finches (4) and

# Past Excursions (cont.)

more. At this stage the group had seen a total of 58 species, but we were not finished yet.

After lunch a number of the group headed south along Main South Road and then turned left onto Hart Road to view the Hart Road Wetlands, which are on the northern boundary of Aldinga Scrub and which over the years have been 'landscaped' following the invasion of many housing estates. Flying over the Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park we saw a couple of Australian Pelicans and a Collared Sparrowhawk,

taking our total species count to 60. On the wetlands we were surprised to see a Freckled Duck and a male Musk Duck. Some in the group had an excellent view of the Musk Duck displaying and all had a close view of it submerging and re-surfacing with close views of the lobe of skin hanging below its

beak and its face glistening wet in the sunlight. There were comments that this bird looked truly reptilian as it repeatedly dived and re-surfaced. Not a handsome bird! Other birds we saw were Australasian Swamphens, Australian White Ibis, Grey Teal and Hoary-headed Grebes. Australian Reed Warblers were heard and Enid Pascoe heard and identified a Rufous Songlark.

Aldinga Scrub and its surroundings truly provide a wonderful spot for birdwatching and evidence of some great work by the hard working, dedicated Friends of Aldinga Scrub volunteers in protecting it for future generations.

**Alan Burns**

## **SATURDAY 13 JANUARY: MAGAZINE ROAD WETLANDS DRY CREEK**

Some 25 members and friends arrived at about 8.30am on a rather chilly (16 degrees) and windy morning at Magazine Road. I had carried out a reconnaissance on the previous afternoon in similar conditions. We set out promptly in the usual (for me) anti-clockwise circuit, in order to keep the intermittent and watery sun behind us at least for most of the main viewing areas. At about 10.15,

rather prematurely, we were driven back to the car park and home by heavy drizzle.

The conditions, and perhaps quite a lot of water inland, meant that species diversity was relatively low. We saw a total of 34 species, which was exactly the number recorded by me the day before. However, interestingly, and typical of bird watching, there were 18 species which were only seen on one of the two days. This surely is one of the great attractions of our hobby!



**Grey Fantail photographed at Laura (MN) by Trevor Cox on 12 August 2017**

Highlights on our trip were several excellent views of Australian Crake and Wood Sandpiper, both firsts for some people. Ducks were fairly scarce as were waders, but Red-kneed Dotterels were very numerous, including a resting 'flock' of 10 or more. Considering the poor conditions, it was a pleasant outing. The presence of a very keen 'fledgling' (human) was an added attraction. His enthusiasm was infectious.

**John Hatch**

## **PORT AUGUSTA BIRD GROUP (THE BABBLERS) SUNDAY 14 JANUARY, BAROOTA RESERVOIR**

It was a sunny day with a breeze blowing when 5 birdwatchers met at the Mambray Creek parking bay. Each person was from a different place — Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Koolunga, Adelaide and Mambray creek. We headed off to Baroota Reservoir via a road called the Cattle track. This road is bordered by open paddocks and low bluebush plain and some scattered scrub. Here we found Singing Honeyeaters, Crested Pigeons, kestrels, Magpielarks and House Sparrows amongst the scrub. White-winged Fairywrens flittered about in the bluebush, while Australian Pipits, Brown Songlarks, Horsfield's Bushlarks, Welcome Swallows and Zebra Finches were in the open paddock areas. Flocks of Australian Magpies and Little Ravens were hunting in the paddocks for insects while a Brown Falcon watched proceedings from the distance. After birding along the road for about an hour we arrived at the reservoir to unlock the gates with a key kindly supplied by S.A. Water.

Variegated Fairywrens greeted us we opened the gate and Red-rumped Parrots were squabbling

# Past Excursions (cont.)

amongst themselves on the power lines above us. We stop

We then moved further along the creek and left two vehicles at a track junction that may have had a little trouble negotiating some of the rougher and steep tracks ahead. Here we saw Yellow-throated Miners, Red Wattlebirds, a Grey Butcherbird, Galahs, Weebills and Kookaburras. Near the reservoir wall amongst the reeds in the creek there were Silvereyes, a Little Grassbird and a Spotted Dove. In the trees and scrub Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Yellow Thornbills, Striated Pardalotes, a Mistletoebird, Rufous Whistler, Common Bronzewing and Grey Shrikethrush moved about and called out. We drove on to the spillway area and a Peregrine Falcon zipped past, silencing the birds for a while. As the reservoir water came into view we saw White-faced Herons, Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes, Musk Ducks, Blue-billed Ducks and Coots on the water while Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Crested Pigeons, Australian Ravens and Nankeen Kestrels were in the trees and scrub on the shore. Driving on up some steep hills and across the reservoir wall we stopped on the top of a high cliff area and looked down onto the southern arm of the reservoir where Waterfall Creek flows in. Here there were Pacific Black, Blue-billed, Wood and Pink-eared Ducks and Grey Teal. Moving on down the rise we followed the narrowing arm with shallow water and mud flat shores. Here we found a single Pied Stilt, Black-fronted Dotterels, Freckled Ducks, Black-tailed Nativehens and in the trees there were Adelaide Rosellas, and White-browed Babblers as a Wedge-tailed Eagle soared overhead. We crossed the creek and found a shady place on the shore to have lunch. After lunch Diamond Firetails were heard and then sighted along with a Collared Sparrowhawk. A juvenile Fan-tailed Cuckoo and a juvenile Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo were seen feeding together on the banks of the creek. We drove on along the eastern side of the reservoir and stopped to observe the numerous water birds from a vantage point, which enabled us to see most of the water in the reservoir. Through our spotting scopes, rafts of Pacific Black and Maned Ducks and Grey Teal dotted the water surface with the other water birds swimming with them. Hardhead Ducks were also added to our list. At the northern end of the reservoir it narrows and there are more mud flats where Baroota and Separation Creeks enter the area. Here there were again abundant water birds and a Little Pied Cormorant, Fairy Martins, Australian Magpies and a Brown Goshawk were added to the list. More Black-fronted Dotterels and

Black-tailed Nativehens were chasing each other on the mud flats.

We saw a total of 70 bird species at Baroota Reservoir and another 6 different species along the Cattle Track, making a total of 76 bird species. Pretty good birding I thought! The birds of the day were the Freckled Ducks and the Diamond Firetails.

**Bernie Haase**



## **Black-tailed Nativehen**

**Photographed by Bernie Haase at  
Baroota Reservoir on 14 January 2018**

### **THURSDAY 18 JANUARY: ONKAPARINGA WETLANDS**

Excursion cancelled in accordance with Hot Weather Protocol.

### **SUNDAY 28 JANUARY: PAIWALLA WETLANDS**

Excursion cancelled in accordance with Hot Weather Protocol.

# Future Excursions

## BIRDS SA

Field Program and campout Co-ordinator,  
Lynton Huxley

Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038

Email: [fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au)

Or [lyntonhuxley@gmail.com](mailto:lyntonhuxley@gmail.com)

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.

## BIRDS SA FLEURIEU BIRDERS

Contacts: Wendy Phillips/Bob Daly 8555 0634 or 0421376016

## BIRDS SA PORT AUGUSTA GROUP

Contact, Bernie Haase, 0419863834,  
[b.haase@telstra.com](mailto:b.haase@telstra.com)

## BIRDS SA FLEURIEU BIRDERS

**Saturday 3 March: Clayton Bay and Point Sturt**  
8.30am at Sails Café, 28 Island View Drive, Clayton Bay

**Saturday 10 March: Scott Creek Conservation Park (MLR) (28km)**

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

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

## BIRDS SA, PORT AUGUSTA GROUP

Saturday, Sunday, Monday 10, 11, 12 March,  
Adelaide to Port Wakefield coastal areas  
9.00am at Port Wakefield.

A range of accommodation is available at Port Wakefield — please pre-book

**Thursday 15 March: Onkaparinga Wetlands (MLR) (32km)**

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

**TRIP LEADER: Peter Owen**

**Sunday 25 March: 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**

**EASTER CAMPOUT 30 March to 2 April:**

**Balcanooga Station** is located within the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. This park was proclaimed in 1970 and is approximately 660km north of Adelaide and 100km east of Leigh Creek.

Detailed information and directions for getting to the location are provided in the Campout article on page 24 of this Newsletter. **N.B.** Please contact me ASAP if you require dormitory accommodation.

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

## BIRDS SA FLEURIEU BIRDERS

**Saturday, 7 April: Nurragi and Milang**  
8.30am at PUNKULDE, Finnis to Milang Rd, 2km West of Nine Mile Rd Junction  
**Wendy Phillips/Bob Daly**

**Saturday 14 April: Charleston Conservation Park (MLR) (38km).**

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

**TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow**

**Thursday 19 April: 'Anacotilla Springs', Second Valley (MLR) (87km).**

This is a private bushland property that enjoys the permanent flow of the Anacotilla River. Take the Southern Expressway and Main South Road through Normanville towards Wirrina Cove Resort. Meet at 8.30am at the property gate, which is on your left near a yellow 90km sign, a gravel area and some cattle yards. (NOTE: If you reach the entrance into Wirrina Cove Resort, Paradise Drive, you have gone about 700m too far!)

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

# Future Excursions (cont.)

## **Sunday 29 April: Brookfield Conservation Park (MM) (123km).**

Meet at 8.30am just inside the gate, approximately 35km east of Truro. The entrance is 2km past "8 mile corner" at a gentle left bend on an otherwise straight road.

**TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn**

## **BIRDS SA PORT AUGUSTA GROUP**

Sunday 29 April, Mundallio Station  
8.30 at Carlton Parade cemetery

## **BIRDS SA FLEURIEU BIRDERS**

**Saturday 5 May: Newland Head & Waitpinga Beach**  
8.30am at Dennis Hut Car Park, Dennis Rd, Waitpinga Beach.

**Wendy Phillips/Bob Daly**

## **Saturday 12 May: Tolderol Game Reserve, Lake Alexandrina (LA) 85km.**

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

**TRIP LEADER: TBA – volunteer needed!!!**

## **Thursday 17 May: Buckland Park, Port Gawler (AP) (45km).**

Meet at 8.30am at the corner of Port Gawler and Applebee Roads at Port Gawler. From the City, head towards Two Wells on the Port Wakefield Road and

turn left onto Port Gawler Road. The turnoff is about 4km before you reach Two Wells.

**TRIP LEADER: Brian Walker**

## **BIRDS SA PORT AUGUSTA GROUP**

Sunday 20 May, Gum Glen Station.  
8.30am Quorn Pool

## **Sunday 27 May: Lawari Conservation Park (formally Wyndgate) Hindmarsh Island (MLR) 100km.**

Meet at 8.30am on the corner of Randell and Semaschko Roads Hindmarsh Island. If you are late please proceed to the homestead off Denver Road.

**TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips**

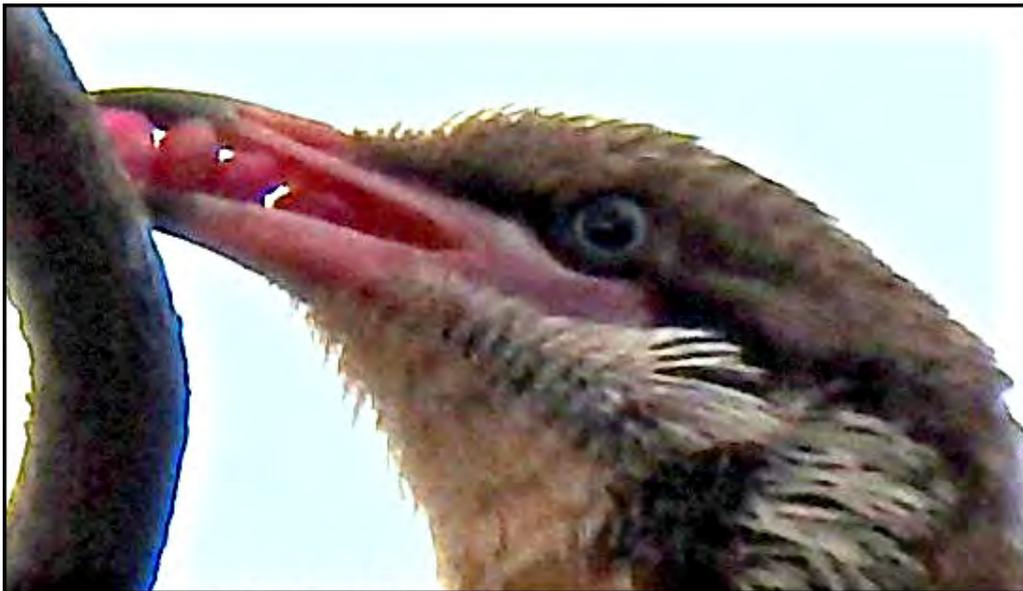
## **Saturday 9 June: Talisker Conservation Park (MLR) (95km)**

We meet at the General store in Delamere at 8.15am. From there we will drive onto Talisker, a small park based on the old silver-lead mine area. A side trip to another area for lunch and birdwatching will fill the day.

**TRIP LEADER: TBA – volunteer needed!!!**

## **BIRDS SA PORT AUGUSTA GROUP**

**Saturday, Sunday, Monday, 9, 10, 11 June**  
**Campout at South Gap station, Facilities available**  
8.30am at start of Stuart Highway



**A Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater enjoyed morning tea at Brown's Road, Monarto on January 9 2018. Gordon Pateman took the photograph**

# **Easter Campout**

## **30 MARCH TO 2 APRIL 2018**

The Easter Campout this year will be at Balcanoona Station within the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park (660km from Adelaide and 100km east of Leigh Creek, which is the nearest place for fuel and other supplies. The three alternative access routes (refer to Map A) and distances are via:

Princess Highway through Port Augusta and Leigh Creek – 660km, *or*:

RM Williams Highway through Clare and Carrieton – 637km, *or*

Yunta and Waukaringa – 589km (277 km dirt road between Yunta & Balcanoona)

All the main access roads to the park are gravel and are suitable for 2WD vehicles. However most of the tracks within the park are 4WD accessible only. Refer to attached Map B.

We have secured the Balcanoona Shearers Quarters for the camp. They consist of a communal lounge, a fully equipped kitchen and dormitory accommodation of 9 bedrooms located around the veranda, which can sleep up to 19 people. Please make your dormitory bookings through the camp leader ASAP. There are showers in the main building and toilets a very short walk outside. Campsites for those wishing to rough it in tents, caravans or motorhomes are available around these quarters.

Camp access for Birds SA will be from noon on Thursday 29th March to noon on Wednesday 4th April 2018 (refer to Note 3 below). The standard park fees and online booking conditions will apply to anyone who wishes to camp outside the above period.

Refer to [www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/booking](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/booking)

### **NOTES:**

1. Please top up your fuel tank before you leave either Leigh Creek or Carrieton or Yunta.
2. Water is available but it is best to bring your own drinking water;
3. Fees for a Dormitory bed will be \$10 a night. Bring your own pillow, sheets and blankets.
4. The fee for camping will be \$10 per person for the duration of the campout.
5. The Camp Organiser will collect all campout fees and issue a receipt;
6. There is no mobile phone coverage in this park. If possible please bring a handheld UHF radio or vehicle mounted

unit. We will use UHF Channel 14 for our Birds SA communication. The park UHF emergency channels are: channel six for Balcanoona Station or channel eight for Arkaroola Station;

It is advisable to check road conditions before leaving home, as closures may apply during and after rain. Up-to-date road conditions can be checked via the far northern and western road report (1300 361 033) or park headquarters (+61 8 8648 4829).

We will have the traditional Sunday gas barbeque lunch (bacon and eggs and/or pancakes – you will need to provide the ingredients for the Committee Members present to do the cooking!).

It would be most helpful if you would contact me on email: [lyntonhuxley@gmail.com](mailto:lyntonhuxley@gmail.com) to secure your attendance or to obtain more information on this fun Birds SA Annual event.

Over 90 species of birds have been recorded in this park. Our aim is to undertake a bird survey and provide our data to the park rangers for their records. Species that can be found here include the Wedge-tailed eagle, Little Eagle, Spotted Nightjar, Bourke Parrot, Southern Scrubwren, and Brown-headed Honeyeater. A list of all species for this park will shortly be available on our Birds SA website.

**Lynton Huxley**

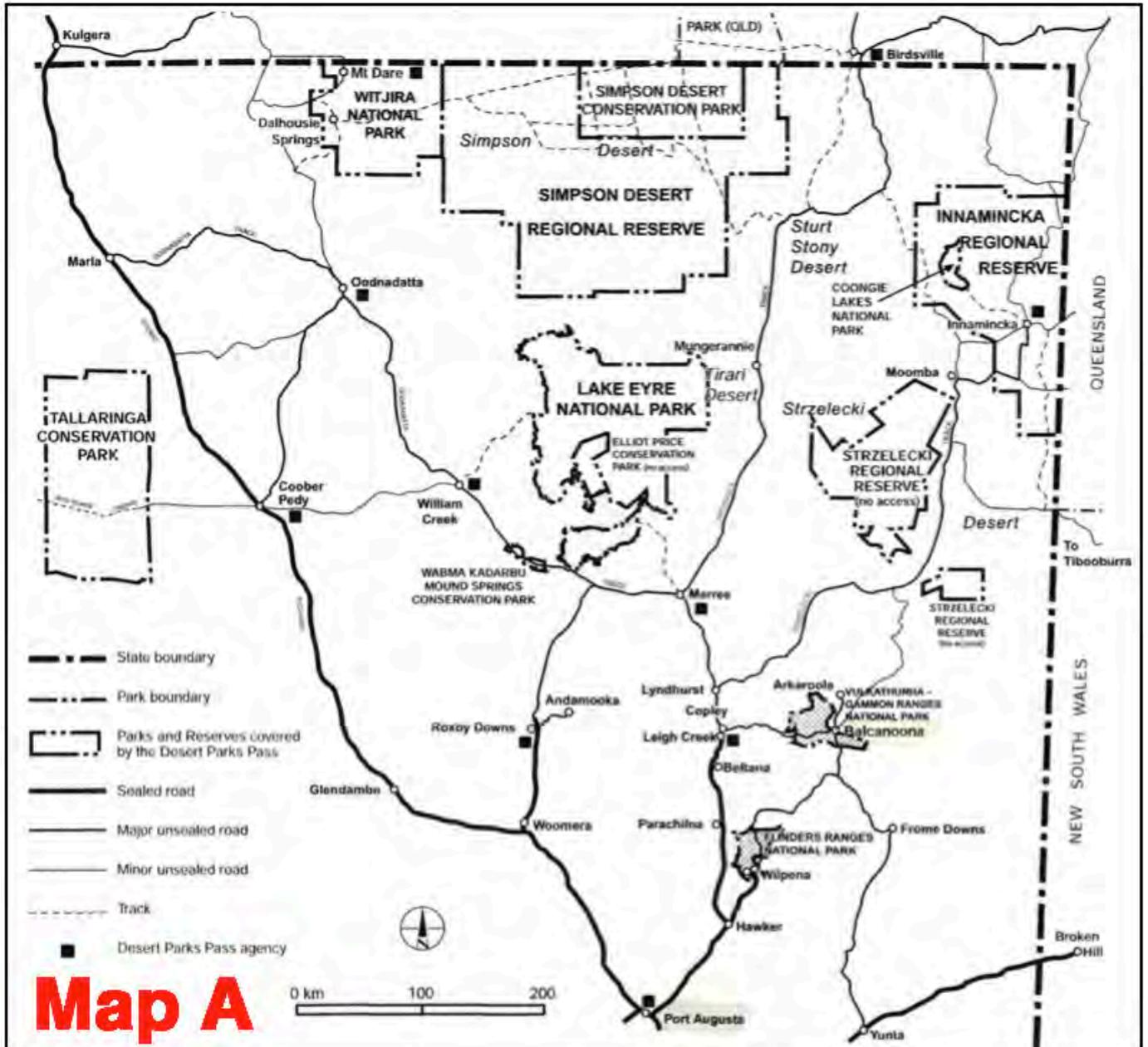
**Campout Organiser**

**Ph: 0498 466 092 or (08) 7009 5038 (home)**



**Heed the Warning!!**

# Campout Map A



## Volume 5 of HANZAB for sale

Volume 5 of the Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds covers from the Tyrant Flycatchers to the Chats and includes the Honeyeaters. We paid \$395 plus \$15 postage and handling in 2002.

It is brand new and has never been opened, as we somehow ended up with 2 copies of this volume. The suggested price is \$320 (plus postage and handling if I can't hand it to you at a Birds SA meeting or via some other means).

Please phone Penny Paton on 0414 648 891.



# Bird Records

## **Collated by Graham Carpenter**

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

Please send all reports to the Bird Records Secretary at [birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:birdrecords@birdssa.asn.au) or phone 8297 5463. Note that the list includes reports of rare or vagrant species to South Australia that may yet to have been submitted or formally accepted by the Birds SA Rarities Committee (SARC). Members are encouraged to submit records of rare and vagrant species in SA to the Committee (refer to list of species and information on the website).

## **Brown Quail**

More reports, mostly from coastal sites (apologies if these are getting tedious, but prior to 2011 this was a very rare bird in SA!)

2, 4/11/2017. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetlands, AP.

- 1, 2/1/2018. 3km SE Two Wells, AP. Smith, Ed  
2, 16/1/2018. Thompson Beach, AP. McNamara, J.  
3, 16/1/2018. Webb Beach, AP. Syson, W. & Carter, D.  
2, 17/1/2018. Black Point, YP. Syson, W. & Carter, D.  
3, 17/1/2018. Macs Beach, YP. Syson, W. & Carter, D.  
1, 18/1/2018. Port Parham, AP. Syson, W. & Carter, D.  
2, 20/1/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. Gordon, S.  
4, 22/1/2018. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Taylor, P.W.

## **Freckled Duck**

105, 10/12/2017. Clayton Bay, MM.

Doecke, N.

## **Australasian Bittern**

1, 9/11/2017. Hindmarsh Island, Boggy Creek, MM. Jack, T.

Very few reports around lakes outside of Tolderol GR.

## **White-bellied Sea Eagle**

Adult, 29/1/2018. Little Bool Lagoon, SE. Leddy, L.

## **Fork-tailed Swift**

Many reports but mostly of small numbers, particularly around 20 January and 8 February.

- 20, 22/11/2017. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM. Doeicke, M. & S.  
50, 19/1/2018. Point Sturt Peninsula, MM. Doecke, M. & S.  
100, 19/1/2018. Pondalowie Bay, YP. Stokes, M.  
200, 21/1/2018. Black Forest, AP. Carpenter, G.  
1, 21/1/2018. Largs Bay, AP. Flying low around oval. Carter, D.  
200+, 28/1/2018. Kingston, SE. Natt, V.  
5, 30/1/2018. Frewville, AP. Sparks, K.  
Several, 5/2/2018. Point Sturt, MM. Jack, T.  
Several, 8/2/2018. Morphett Vale, MLR. Lever, L.  
20+, 8/2/2018. Seaton, AP. Hall, R.

## **Shy Albatross**

1 adult, 2/2/2018. Inman River mouth, MLR. Swimming on sea just offshore following several days of strong south-easterly winds. Photos provided.

Thorn, D. per E. Steele-Collins

## **White-chinned Petrel**

6, 19/11/2017. Sea off Port Macdonnell, MO.

Rogers, C. *et al.*

## **White-headed Petrel**

1 beach-washed, 26/1/2018. Hindmarsh River mouth, MLR.

Dare, A.

## **Glossy Ibis**

2, 17/11/2017. Port Pirie, MN.

Brittain, R. & Diment, J.

## **White-winged Chough**

5, 18/11/2017. O'Halloran Hill RP, MLR.

Shaw, C.

## **Fairy Tern**

60 nesting, 24/11/2017. Outer Harbor, Section Banks, AP.

Dafoe, J.

# Bird Records (cont.)

## Square-tailed Kite

*Reported nesting success at Belair NP although former nest site at Para Wirra NP not used, but suspected to be nesting in the Williamstown – Mount Crawford district.*

- 1, 11/12/2017. O'Sullivan Beach, MLR.  
Kowalick, D.  
1, 25/12/2017. Lyndoch, MLR.  
Dennis, T.  
1, 11/1/2018. Pasadena, AP.  
Allen, J.  
1, 14/1/2018. Forreston, MLR.  
Slade, R.  
1, 1/2/2018. Clarendon, MLR.  
Rayment, G.  
1, 2/2/2018. Belair NP, Railway Dam, MLR.  
Carpenter, G.

## Buff-banded Rail

- 1, 1/12/2017. Oaklands Wetland, Marion, AP.  
Goland, G. & R.  
Adult + juvenile, 8/12/2017. Marion, Oaklands Wetland, AP.  
Nicolson, K.  
1, 31/12/2017. Balaklava, Rocks Reserve, MLR.  
Taylor, P.W.  
1, 1/1/2018. Nuriootpa, Pheasant Farm Rd, MLR.  
Kretschmer, G.  
1, 13/1/2018. Inman River, Coote Rd, MLR.  
Cutten, D.  
1, 14/1/2018. Mount Compass School swamp, MLR.  
Gordon, S.  
1 road-killed, 26/1/2018. Taillem Bend, MM.  
Emmins, A.

## Lewin's Rail

- 1, 2 & 18/11/2017 and 19/1/2018. Inman River, Coote Rd, MLR.  
Cutten, D.  
2, 14/1/2018. Mount Compass School swamp, MLR.  
Gordon, S.  
1, 8/2/2018. Clayton Bay, MM.  
Crouch, A.

## Australian Crake

- 2, 30/12/2017. Marion, Oaklands Wetland, AP.  
Sizer, A.  
20, 7/1/2018. Mutton Cove, AP.  
Shaughnessy, P.

## Spotless Crake

- 1, 19 & 28/1/2018. Inman River, Coote Rd, MLR.  
Cutten, D.

## Baillon's Crake

*Several reports, mostly from constructed wetlands.*

- 1, 3/11/2017. Banrock Wetlands, MM.  
Field, T.  
1, 15/12/2017. Aldinga, Hart Rd wetland, MLR.  
Howes, M.  
1, 9/1/2018. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetlands, AP.  
Merchant, M.  
1, 17/1/2018. Oaklands Wetland, Marion, AP.  
Edwards, N.

## Australian Bustard

- 1, 30/10/2017. 20 km W Port Augusta, NW.  
Hudson, T.  
1, 24/1/2018. Near Craddock, FR.  
Fisher, S.  
1, 30/1/2018. Near Loxton, MM.  
Brown, N.

## Banded Lapwing

- 127, 17/12/2017. South Hummocks, MN. Large group gathered in paddock on hot day.  
Taylor, P.W.

## Curlew Sandpiper

- 400, 5/1/2018. Goolwa Channel, MM.  
Brooker, W.  
*Larger numbers reported this year.*

## Pectoral Sandpiper

- 1, 4/11/2017. Port Macdonnell, Danger Point, SE.  
Campbell, J. & S.  
2, 19/11/2017. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.  
Nicolson, K.  
*Many subsequent observations at this site.*  
1, 5/12/2017. Big Swamp, EP.  
Harper, D.  
1, 8/12/2017. Goolwa, Beacon 9, MM.  
Stevenson, A.  
3, 19/1/2018. St Kilda saltfields, SA Water evaporation ponds, AP.  
Carpenter, G.

## Long toed Stint

- 2, 5/12/2017. Big Swamp, EP.  
Harper, D.

## Ruff

- 1, 6/2/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.  
Rogers, C. & Brooker, W.

## Wood Sandpiper

- 7, 5/12/2017. Big Swamp, EP.  
Harper, D.

# Bird Records (cont.)

## Oriental Pratincole

1, 21/12/2017. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. In non-breeding plumage. At edge of flooded ponds.

Rogers, C. & Koch, P.

*Subsequently 2 reported from 1/1/2018 (A. Page).*

*Few previous reports (mostly summer) from widespread localities in SA, with a maximum of 4 at Pandiburra Bore on 15 November 2005 (C. Rogers and J. Cox).*

## Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

*Many reports of small groups flying east-west across the city from mid November 2017 to mid January 2018.*

2 over, 15/11/2017. Fullarton, Cremorne St, AP.

Horton, P.

7 over, 23/11/2017. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

2, 8/12/2017. Kooyonga Golf Course, AP.

Edey, D.

14, 8/12/2017. Glenelg Golf Course, AP. Feeding in pines.

Paton, P.

15 over, 8/12/2017. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

5, 12/12/2017. Glenelg Golf Course, AP.

Edey, D.

7, 14/12/2017. Colonel Light Gardens, AP.

Kink, A.

14 over, 17/12/2017. Fullarton, AP.

Horton, P.

20, 28/12/2017. Kooyonga Golf Course, AP. In pines.

Pring, A.

2, 6/1/2018. Mellor Park, AP.

Edey, D.

2 over, 24/1/2018. Black Forest, AP.

Carpenter, G.

## Red-chested Buttonquail

1, 29/12/2017. Waterfall Gully, Second Falls, MLR. Seen and photographed in dense grassy area.

Mitchell, M.

*Seen by many observers in the following days.*

## Painted Buttonquail

3, 28/1/2018. Cobbler Creek RP, MLR. In revegetation area.

Thomson, D. & J.

One also reported at this site on the same day by M. Thacker.

## Sacred Kingfisher

1, 19/1/2018. Glenelg North, AP. At garden bird bath on very hot day.

Beardsley, C.

## Long-billed Corella

Pair + juvenile, 20/12/2017. Lyndoch, MLR.

Dennis, T.

*Birds now in the Adelaide area are believed to have originated from birds that escaped captivity in the 1980s. They now breed in widespread localities where there are large hollows (mostly in Red Gums).*

## Striated Grasswren

2, 11/12/2017. Munyaroo CP, near w boundary, EP.

Jones, K.

*Reported in the same area in November 2005 (Scientific Expedition Group survey). Not reported elsewhere on northern*

*EP for many years.*

## Striated Pardalote

12, 4/1/2018. Gilberton, AP. Large group feeding in replanted Mallee Box *Eucalyptus porosa*.

Paton, P.

## Pied Honeyeater

2, 26/11/2017. 1km S Mount Mary, MM.

Potter, M.

## Orange Chat

2, 4/2/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Rogers, C.

## Black-chinned Honeyeater

3, 19/11/2017. Reynella East, Merlot St, MLR.

Smith, Ed

3, 10/12/2017. Clayton, MM.

Doecke, N.

1, 7/1/2018. Goolwa, MM.

White, G.



**Oriental Pratincole**  
photographed by John Gltsham  
at Tolderol in January 2018

# Bird Records (cont.)

## Chirruping Wedgebill

1, 26/11/2017. 1km S Mount Mary, MM. In same area as Pied Honeyeaters.

Potter, M.

*Not previously reported in this district. The nearest records are from Nitre Bush and River Saltbush on the River Murray floodplain at Chowilla Station, although this population has not been reported since the 1980s.*

## Crested Shriketit

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

Bellchambers, K.

1, 7/12/2017. Nuriootpa, St Hallett winery, MLR.

Steeles, C.

Pair + juvenile, 17/12/2017. Mount Barker, Laratinga Wetlands, MLR.

Williams, K. & L.

1, 21/1/2018. Woodside, MLR.

Gillespie, C.

1 immature, 24/1/2018. Magdala, AP.

Girdham, L. & Steeles, C.

## Diamond Firetail

2, 30/12/2017. Angaston, Gravel Pit Rd, MLR. At garden bird bath.

Kretschmer, G.

## Black-faced Woodswallow

Pair + 3 juveniles, 15/1/2018. 15 km W Balaklava, AP.

Taylor, P.W.

*A southerly breeding record.*

## Dusky Woodswallow

Pair + juvenile, 4/1/2018. Klemzig, Fife St, AP.

Buckley, K.

## Little Woodswallow

7, 12/11/2017. Devil's Peak, FR.

Haase, B. *et al.*

*The southernmost report from the Flinders Ranges.*

## Beautiful Firetail

1, 4/1/2017. Cox Scrub CP, MLR.

Edwards, N.

*Now rarely reported from the MLR region outside of Deep Creek CP.*

## Osprey

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

Taylor, P.W.



**Osprey, photographed at Arno Bay (EP)  
by Trevor Cox on 24 October, 2017**

# From the Library



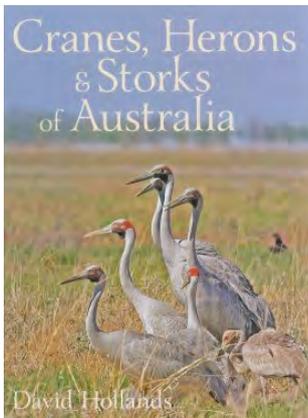
DVD 60  
Dare, Greg  
**Birding Nangawooka flora reserve**  
Adelaide. Sth. Aust. Double Dare Production, 2017

This is an HD documentary of birdwatching in South Australia on a hot summer day at Victor Harbor seeing 22 species coming in to drink. You can see this on YouTube, just Google Australian Birds, [Birding Nangawooka Flora Reserve](#).



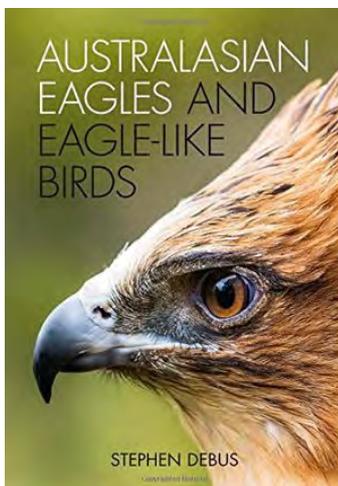
DVD 61  
Dare, Greg  
**Birding Subantarctic islands**  
Adelaide. Sth. Aust. Double Dare Production, 2017

This 50-minute DVD documentary of a birding trip to Macquarie, Campbell and Auckland Islands gives close views of penguins and albatrosses as well as many other seabirds. It features an interview with John Weigel after he had just broken Sean Dooley's "Big Twitch" record. You can see a trailer of this DVD on YouTube, just Google [Birding Subantarctic Islands](#)



598.320994 HOL  
Hollands, David  
**Cranes, Herons & Storks of Australia**  
Melbourne, Bloomings Books, 2016  
ISBN 9780992290016

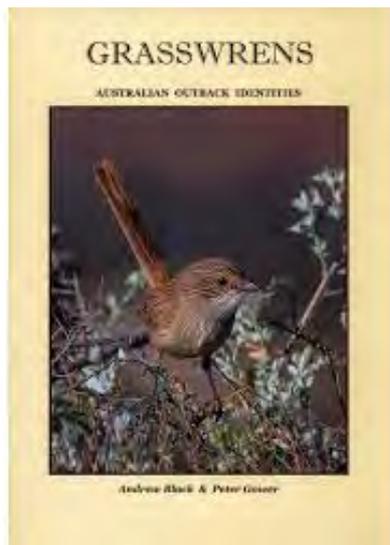
David Hollands has spent 16 years traversing Australia to find, study and photograph the 17 species that make up this book. His passion and enthusiasm for his subjects shine through in the text, which is lively, accurate, informative and beautifully written, not only about the birds but about the expeditions to find them. The book is richly illustrated with over 200 of the author's photographs. Though primarily a photographic book, there is a short, 12-page field guide section at the back to all 17 species.



598.94 DEB  
Debus, Stephen  
**Australasian Eagles and Eagle-like Birds**  
Clayton, Vic., CSIRO, 2017  
ISBN 9781486306923

An illustrated record of sea eagles, harpy eagles, booted eagles and eagle-like hawks in Australasia Eagles are awe-inspiring birds that have influenced much human endeavour. Australia is home to three eagle species, and in Melanesia there are four additional endemic species. A further three large Australian hawks resemble eagles.

# From the Library (cont.)



598.833 BLA  
 Black, Andrew  
**Grasswrens: Australian Outback Identities**  
 Andrew Black and Peter Gower  
 Stepney, Sth. Aust., Axiom, 2017  
 ISBN 9781864768213

The authors have delved into the story of this little studied group of Australian birds. They point to the research already conducted and argue that there needs to be much more, to expand our knowledge of how these tiny birds survive in some of the harshest environments on the planet. Within this book, there are more than 100 brilliant photographs illustrating 11 presently recognised species and all subspecies, a total of 25 different grasswrens, together with the environments in which they live and maps of their distribution.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Anthony Bainbridge	SHEIDON PARK	Chris Thomson	NOARLUNGA DOWNS
Graham Field	PASADENA	Keith Jones	GLENGOWRIE
Jerome, Shimoen and Ayla Kalvas	LITTLEHAMPTON	Rebecca Hamilton and David Milne	EDEN HILLS
James Plummer	BRIDGEWORTH	Sally Grundy	GOOLWA
Kevin Prideaux	MODBURY NORTH	Bob and Pat Marchant	TRANMERE
Dominica, Mark, Jordi and Maia Thomson	GOLDEN GROVE	Randy and Raewyn Sletvold	FLAGSTAFF HILL
Michael Kokkinn	KINGSWOOD	Russell Creed	WILLUNGA
Fabienne Aeschbacher	ENFIELD	Tania Hall	MAYLANDS
Marion Mackenzie and Robert Burdon	VICTOR HARBOR	Greg, Robyn, Seth and Cooper Hill	SEACLIFF
Peta Leach	LARGS BAY	Gavin Wright	MOUNT COMPASS
Hilary and Stephen Hamnett	ADELAIDE	David Edey and Vicki-Jo Russell	LOCKLEYS
Diane Pearton	COOTAMUNDRA	Diana and David Georg	FORRESTON
John Bagshaw	BLEWITT SPRINGS	Julie and John Duke	EVERARD PARK
Wendy Philips and Bob Daly	GOOLWA	Rebecca, Lily and Sophia Trethowan	BRADBURY
Vass and Martin Hay	SEMAPHORE SOUTH	Tim Curran	FOREST RANGE
Patricia Mooney	KINGSCOTE	Cathie Thomas	PORT LINCOLN
Wendy Philips and Bob Daly	GOOLWA	William Fairley	GOOLWA
Gayla Pelchen	PORT NOARLUNGA	Richard and Anthea Williams	NORMANVILLE

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

# About our Association

General Meetings are held in the Charles 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 7.45pm.

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

## BIRDS SA COMMITTEE 2017 – 2018

President	John Gitsham	0438900393
Vice President	John Hatch	8362 2820
Vice President	Jeff Groves	8263 2939
Secretary	Brian Blaylock	0448822374
Treasurer	John Spiers	8333 0272
Assistant Secretary	Kate Buckley	8261 7197
Journal Editor	Meryl Brown	8339 6839
Newsletter Editor	Cynthia Pyle	8264 5778
Field Programs	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038
Bird Records	Graham Carpenter	8297 5463
Membership	Vacant	
Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	Alan Burns	8381 2708
Member	Karen Donkin	8379 1173
Member	Beatrice Rogers	0423241856

## FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Librarian	Karen Donkin	8379 1173
	<a href="mailto:librarian@birdssa.asn.au">librarian@birdssa.asn.au</a>	
Image Librarian	John Spiers	8333 0272
	<a href="mailto:imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au">imagelibrarian@birdssa.asn.au</a>	
Rare Birds Secretary	Brian Blaylock	0448822374
Campout Organiser	Lynton Huxley	7009 5038

## Birds SA Port Augusta Group

Contact people:

Peter Langdon	8642 5723
Greg Bannon	8648 6630
Bernie Haase	0419863834

## Fleurieu Birders

Contact person: Wendy Phillips 8555 0634

## BirdLife SE SA

Convener – Bob Green

[shriketit@bigpond.com](mailto:shriketit@bigpond.com) 8725 0549

Newsletter Editor - Abigail Goodman

[abigail.goodman@bigpond.com](mailto:abigail.goodman@bigpond.com)

KBA Coordinator - Bryan Haywood

[brytonwood@bigpond.com](mailto:brytonwood@bigpond.com) 8726 8112

## COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the MAY 'Birder' is due by the April General Meeting (April 27). Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD or USB stick, emailed to the email address below, or typed/handwritten neatly.

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

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## 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

Government Concession Holders receive a discount of \$5.00 per year.

Members paying by credit card will be charged \$1.50 per transaction.

## ADVERTISING IN 'The Birder'

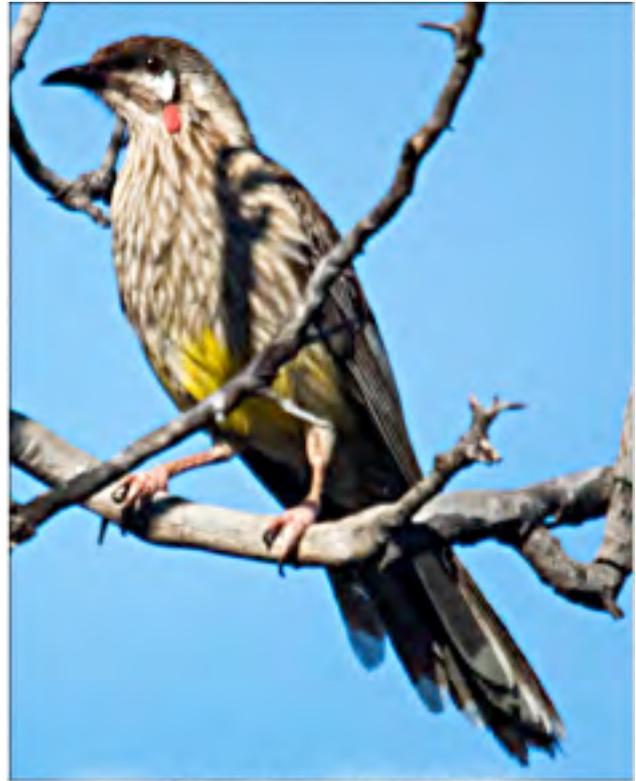
Birds SA relies on the integrity of advertisers for the quality and nature of their products and services. We cannot guarantee them. Advertising is charged as follows: \$1.00 per line, up to \$40.00 per half page and 10c per inserted leaflet (single sheet). The Committee reserves the right to lower or waive these fees.

# Photographs from Members

Alan Pettigrew took the photos on this page at various locations around the Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta on 23 October 2017.



**White-plumed Honeyeaters**



**Red Wattlebird**



**Nankeen Kestrel**



**White-browed Babbler**

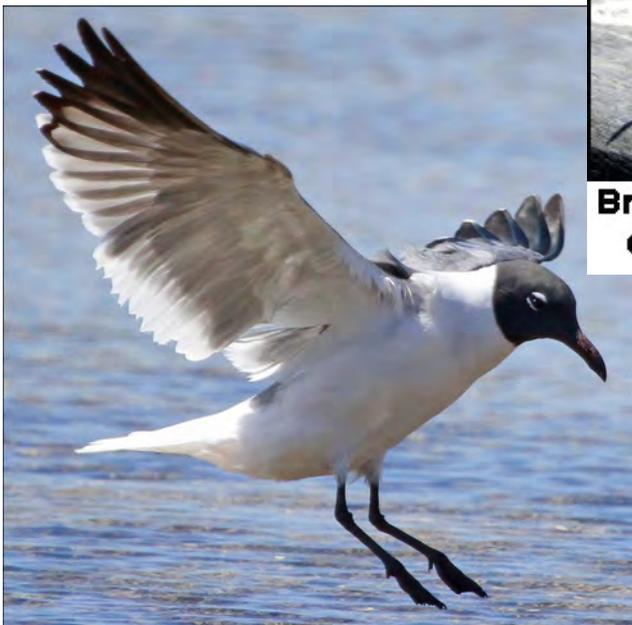
# Birds Seen Around Water



**Red-necked Avocet photographed at Port Neill (EP) on October 31 2017**



**Bridled Tern photographed by Greg Blackman on Penguin Island WA on 7 December 2017**



**Laughing Gull (a rare vagrant) photographed by Trevor Cox at Venus Bay (EP) on 14 October 2017**



**Pied Oystercatcher, photographed at Port Neill (EP) by Trevor Cox on 19 September 2017**

# Some Colourful Bush Birds



**Male**



**Female**

**White-browed Woodswallows, photographed by Gordon Pateman at Rocky Gully on 12 December 2017**



**Crescent Honeyeater, photographed by David Cox at Dove Lake, Tasmania in December 2013**



**Western Yellow Robin, photographed by Trevor Cox at Port Lincoln (EP) on 6 December 2017**

# TASMANIA, THROUGH THE LENS

## NOVEMBER 15–21, 2018

**CRAIG GREER**  
photo workshops



Photograph Tasmania's endemic birds and wildlife on this week-long workshop with **Craig Greer** and **Inala Nature Tours**.

**THURS  
15 NOV**

Arrive Hobart, check into accommodation. **Wildlife photography talk and camera set-up** from 3pm-5pm. Welcome dinner at 6.30pm.

**MON  
19 NOV**

Photography targeting endemic birds at Inala Bruny Island during day. **Nocturnal tour targeting Moleposk, Eastern Quoll** and other mammal species.

**FRI  
16 NOV**

Return flight to Melaleuca in Tasmania's remote south-west to photograph the critically endangered **Orange-bellied Parrot**. Travel to Tasman Peninsula.

**TUES  
20 NOV**

Photography targeting more endemic birds such as the **Forty-spotted Pardalote** at Inala Bruny Island. Travel to Hobart. Check into accommodation. Farewell Dinner.

**SAT  
17 NOV**

**Pelagic boat trip departing Eaglehawk Neck** at 7am to photograph seabirds, returning mid afternoon. (Land tour option available for non-seagoers). **Travel to Bruny Island**. Check into Inala Private Nature Reserve.

**WEDS  
21 NOV**

Make way to Hobart Airport for return travel home.

**SUN  
18 NOV**

**Photography targeting endemic species** at Inala Bruny Island and other nearby locations on the island.



This workshop is suitable for photographers of all levels. Participants will benefit from both group and one-to-one photography and post-processing tuition from Craig and ecological education from a specialist Inala guide. **Price includes** all transport for tour activities inc. return flight to Melaleuca and pelagic boat trip, and all meals and accommodation. **Price excludes** travel to and from Tasmania. Price is based on twin share accommodation. Single supplement = \$450.

**\$4785.00 inc GST**

**For a detailed itinerary and booking enquiries, visit:**  
[www.craiggreer.com/workshops](http://www.craiggreer.com/workshops) or [www.inalanaturetours.com.au](http://www.inalanaturetours.com.au)