

# The BIRDER

The official newsletter of Birds SA

Aug 2018 No. 247



## In this Issue

Some sad Farewells

Reports of many great activities

Six pages of photographs



Linking people with birds  
in South Australia

# August Bird of the Month

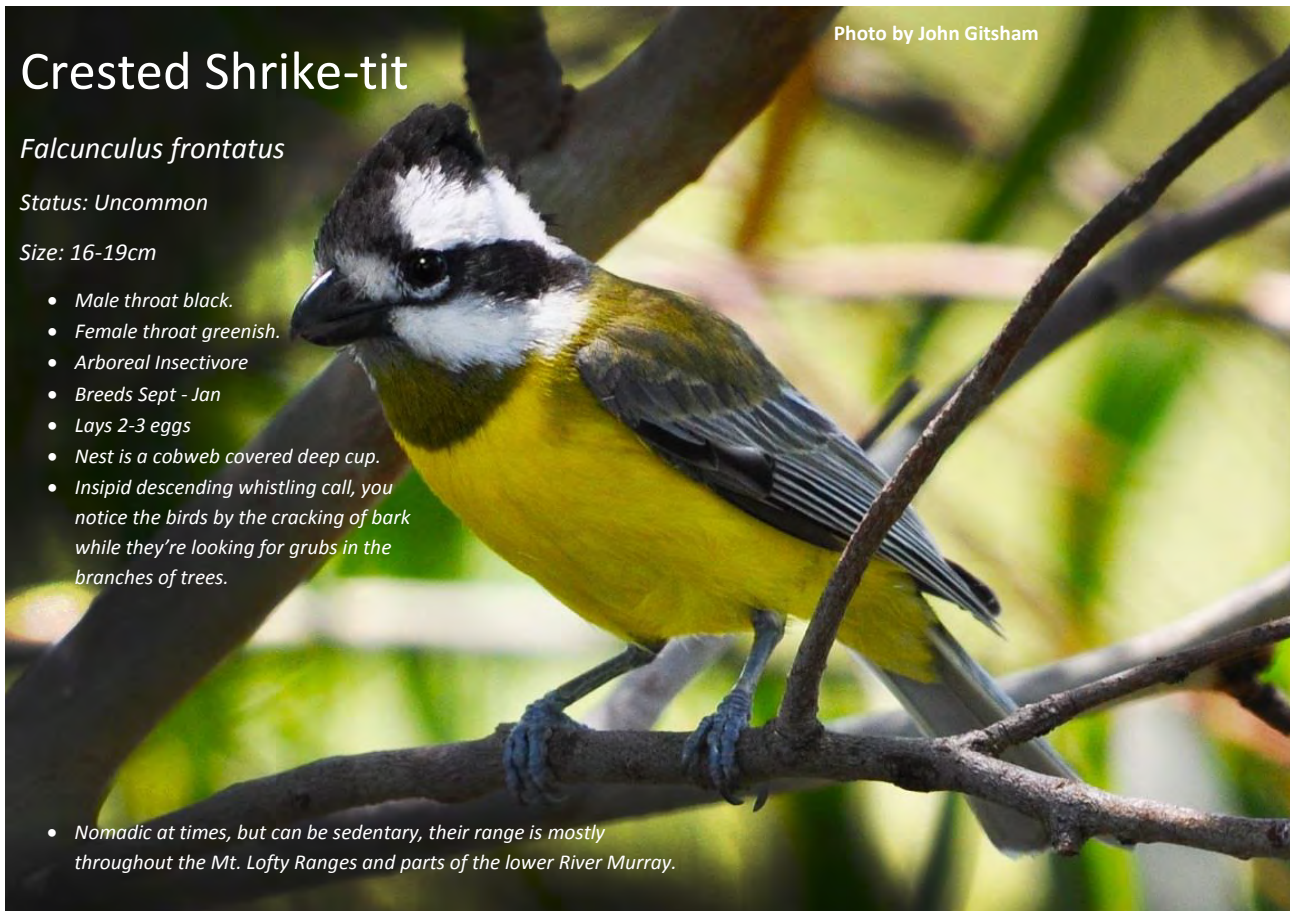


Photo by John Gitsham

## Crested Shrike-tit

*Falcunculus frontatus*

Status: Uncommon

Size: 16-19cm

- Male throat black.
- Female throat greenish.
- Arboreal Insectivore
- Breeds Sept - Jan
- Lays 2-3 eggs
- Nest is a cobweb covered deep cup.
- Insipid descending whistling call, you notice the birds by the cracking of bark while they're looking for grubs in the branches of trees.

- Nomadic at times, but can be sedentary, their range is mostly throughout the Mt. Lofty Ranges and parts of the lower River Murray.

## A Message from Willunga Environment Centre

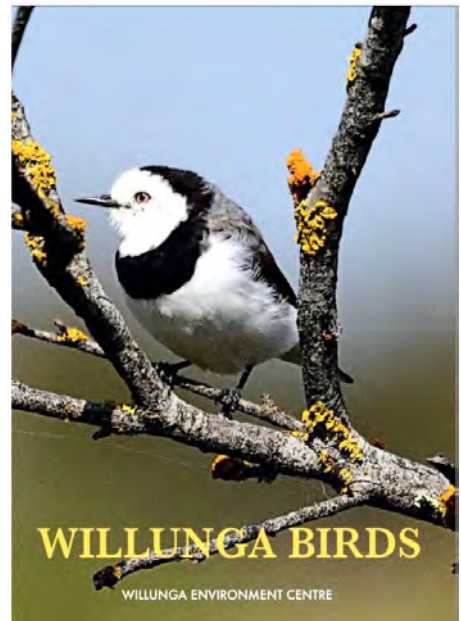
Just letting you know that our new bird book is here. It contains a selection of the birds of the Willunga Basin and is an absolutely GORGEOUS book! The photos are stunning and the photographer is to be commended. Thanks Ann Houghton. The foreword is courtesy of Chris Daniels.

Come in and get yours for the special introductory price for **Members \$15, and non-Members \$18** which includes a discounted membership until the end of this calendar year. A great price for a book to treasure! Could you please share this with your members and help us promote the book.

Proceeds will support our centre programs! If you would like to sell these books on our behalf, we would welcome your support.

Come in and see it for yourself and support the Willunga Environment Centre and all of our programs.

Janine Anninos — Manager, Willunga Environment Centre



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**CENTRE INSERT:** SAOA HISTORICAL SERIES No: 65,  
JOHN WHITE MELLOR, PART 2

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

The cover photograph shows Banded Stilts at the Coorong April 2018, photographed by John Gitsham.

We welcome 13 new members who have recently joined the Association. Their names are listed on p43.

## **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 OF EVENTS

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

Saturday 1 Sept. FB Excursion to Scott CP, Currency Creek

**Sunday 2 September, no Birds SA excursion – Father's Day**

Saturday 15 Sept. Birds SA Excursion to Cox Scrub CP

Sunday 16 Sept PA Excursion to Bernie's Block

Thursday 20 Sept. Birds SA Excursion to Laratinga Wetlands

Friday 28 Sept. Birds SA General Meeting

**October Long Weekend Campouts, Sat 29 Sept. to Monday 1 Oct.**

**Birds SA – Larawi CP Hindmarsh Island**

**Port Augusta Birders – Ironstone CP**

Saturday 6 Oct. FB Excursion to Langhorne Creek etc.

Saturday 13 Oct. Birds SA Excursion to Anacotilla Springs

Thursday 18 Oct. Birds SA Excursion to Scoot Creek CP

**Friday 19 Oct. to Sunday 21 Oct. Fleurieu Birders Campout at Little Desert Park**

Sunday 21 Oct. PA Excursion to Mt. Willowie Forest, Melrose

Friday 26 Oct. Birds SA General Meeting

Sunday 28 Oct. Birds SA Excursion to Porter Scrub CP

Saturday 3 Nov FB Excursion to Tolderol Game Reserve

Saturday 10 Nov. Birds SA Excursion to Jenkins Scrub

Thursday 15 Nov. Birds SA Excursion to Thompson Beach

Sunday 25 Nov PA Excursion to Weroona Island/Pt. Pirie Wetlands

Friday 30 Nov Birds SA General Meeting

Sunday 2 Dec. Birds SA Excursion to Manning Flora & Fauna Reserve

Saturday 8 Dec. FB Hindmarsh Island



**Masked Night Herons, photographed by Bob Daly in Lawari Conservation Park, Hindmarsh Island on 27 May 2018**

# President's Message

## Hi EVERYONE

Winter has kicked in and we are experiencing some very cold mornings. The migratory shorebirds have left, with only a few overwintering ones still around. The outback is very dry and in need of a good drink; the birds are low in density even though Lake Eyre has finally received some water. Winter birding is always a challenge, but worthwhile as you do get some winners, such as Little Stint recently found by Colin Rogers at Tolderol. I will be heading down to the Coorong National Park to see if any Orange-bellied Parrots (OBP) are about — forever hopeful? It was in winter 2009 that I saw my last OBP in the Coorong.

Birds SA has partnered with the Nature Conservation Society of SA to search for the Night Parrot in the Gawler Ranges later this year, using sound recorders and remote cameras. Since the discoveries of several Night Parrots in South Western Queensland and Western Australia, there is hope that we might find some remaining in outback South Australia.

There are still ongoing issues with what Birds SA believes to be unsustainable bi-valve and cockle (pipis)/crab harvesting by the public at Thompsons Beach and other locations within the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. We have sent a letter to Minister David Speirs explaining our concerns; and describing evidence of cocklers/crabbers targeting migratory birds while they were feeding on bivalves, scaring the birds away in order to take the birds' food for themselves. The sheer number of people carrying out this unethical practice is deplorable. A moratorium on cockling and crabbing in these areas is needed while the birds are trying to fatten up before their big journey back up to the Northern Hemisphere. The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) needs adequate protection in order to ensure compliance with the regulations. The Departments of the Environment and Water (DEW) and Fisheries are making some efforts to regulate the activity, but greater compliance is essential. Otherwise the birds simply won't come to those areas anymore, which will make a mockery of the AIBS.

Birds SA is a founding partner of the SA Shorebird Alliance and will have three delegates attending a two-day Migratory Shorebirds Conservation Action Plan Workshop (coordinated by BirdLife Australia) in late September to address many local shorebird issues throughout South Australia (SA). Work will be undertaken with Birdlife Australia's Conservation Action Plan, the nine Natural Resources Management (NRM) regions of SA, DEW, local councils and several other shorebird groups and AIBS representatives. The workshop's desired outcomes include appropriately funded conservation programs, projects incorporating many volunteers and on ground actions to better protect shorebird habitat and the birds throughout SA.

Our members make our Association successful, particularly when they volunteer, either on the Management Committee or in other ways to support the Association's many activities. I recently had the pleasure to present Long Service Awards to 3 current Management Committee members and one past Management Committee member for their contribution of over 14 years of continuous volunteer service to the Birds SA Management Committee. The awards went to: Brian Blaylock for 18 years as Secretary, John Hatch for various roles including a past President, Cynthia Pyle as Newsletter (the Birder) Editor for 16 years and Brian Walker for past Treasurer. A big thank you to all four of you for your dedicated voluntary service to Birds SA over such a long period of time.

So until spring, get out during this winter, discover what birds are around and enjoy your birding!

**John Gitsham**  
**President Birds SA**



**Hooded Plovers, photographed by John Gitsham at the Coorong (Cantara lake) in 2016.**

**See page 12 for the story of a Junior Birds SA member's efforts to help save this species in South Australia**

# Vale Peter Gower

**PETER GOWER: 29/12/1945 TO 6/6/2018**

## **HIS CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BIRDING**

Peter joined Birds SA in February 2007 as an already experienced birder and soon became fully engaged in the Association's activities, leading our field trips as well as those of the Fleurieu Birders. He had been an active student of bird life since growing up on and minutely exploring the family farm at Tantanoola in the South East. Horses and photography were other intense childhood interests. While boarding at St Peter's College between 1955 and 1961, he became a junior member of the Association, attending meetings and joining excursions. This was a time of change, as many of the Association's younger members urged greater legislative protection for native birds, while conservative elders saw threats to their private interests in keeping aviary birds and, in some cases, trading in birds and other wildlife. Peter recalled the ferocity of some exchanges that took place during meetings. He neither excelled at nor much enjoyed his schooling but was awarded, unsurprisingly, the Natural History Prize in his final year.

On returning to Tantanoola, he further pursued his three major interests and was active in the formation of the South East Field Naturalists Society, whilst also being mentored in his birding interests by one of South Australia's premier ornithologists, the late Jack Hood of Naracoorte. Jack showed him how to use a mist net and Peter shortly obtained his own CSIRO banding licence and began to contribute directly to scientific ornithology.

He joined the RAAF in 1965 because its photography course was the best in the country. There he perfected his camera skills and became a highly qualified professional photographer. During his time in the RAAF near Melbourne, he contributed to the fieldwork of the Victorian Ornithological Research Group. On returning to civilian life in 1971 he applied his expertise as a freelance photographer to an increasingly detailed study of horses, particularly the breed known as the Australian Stock Horse. His widely acclaimed results were published in *Hoofs and Horns*, *The Chronicle* and *The Stock Journal* and in several books, including his wife Jeanette's *Horse colour explained*.

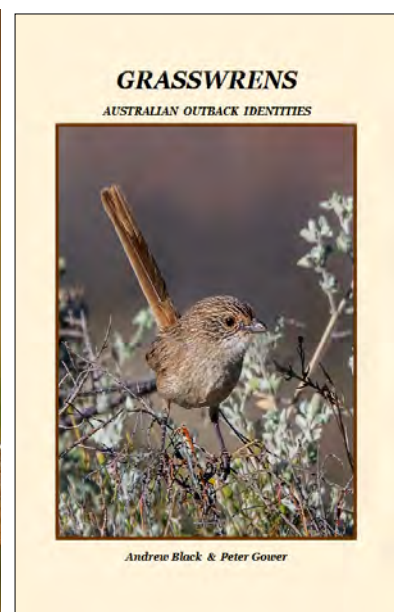
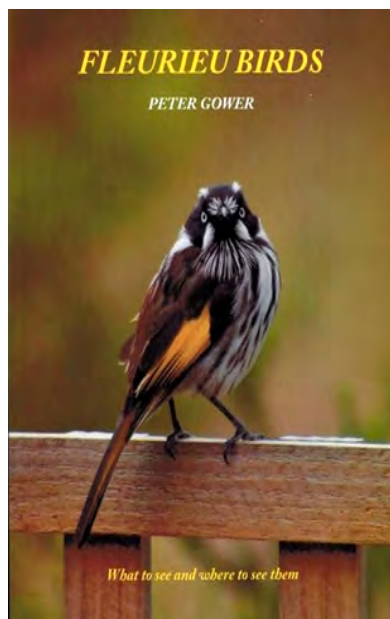
He ceased professional photography in 2005 but retirement in Macclesfield

initiated yet another productive period in Peter's life. He saw that no comprehensive illustrated guidebook existed for the birds of the Adelaide hills and set about to fill that gap. His approach was typically painstaking as he steadily accumulated first-rate images of all but rare vagrants to the region. He checked the factual accuracy of his text and tested its design against several local birders. After five and a half years his 2012 book *Fleurieu Birds* proved a major success; it was soon followed by a second edition and a more recent reprinting.

Peter then challenged himself further and asked me to collaborate in the production of an illustrated monograph on grasswrens. After a similar period, our 2017 book *Grasswrens: Australian outback identities* has also found favour with the Australian birding community. During this latter project Peter's birding travels took him and his barely accommodating vehicle well beyond his Fleurieu home and its comforts. He was keenly anticipating a few more days in the north with its now familiar grasswrens, car packed and ready, but he died in his chair at home before he could get there.

Peter made a great and lasting contribution to the birds and to bird watching in South Australia. His death has taken from us a man who made his mark in three life-long pursuits. We extend our sympathy to Jeanette, daughter Kim and her husband Andy, son Graham and grandsons Ashton, Jason and Xander.

**Andrew Black, 1 July 2018**



**The covers of Peter's two books provide excellent examples of his great skill in capturing birds' activities.**

# Tributes from fellow birders

Peter joined the Fleurieu Birdwatchers and Birds SA in 2007. It soon became apparent that he knew his birds. He almost always contributed to reports and discussions at the meetings and became a familiar figure at bird outings; this big man with his big camera slung over the shoulder. Very soon, he was sharing his beautiful and detailed photos, and later he began to lead bird outings for both groups and to help with their camps.

One day walking along a track he talked of producing a coffee table bird book. Then he mentioned a bird book for the Fleurieu Peninsula; it sounded like a lot of work to me. Five and a half years later he self-produced the much appreciated book 'Fleurieu Birds'. That book will be timeless and the photos are excellent for ID. I feel lucky to have been with Peter, often driving while he photographed many of the birds in that book. Much of his travel time was spent living out of his little tent. Did he miss the pressure? He then co-produced a book with fellow member Andrew Black.

A number of years ago, following a morning of birding in Innes National Park, we were joined by my two cousins from Warooka. While we listened to Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters they set up our usual style picnic lunch overlooking Pondalowie Bay. It did amuse Peter as the picnic table was set with lace

tablecloth, crystal vase, crystal candleholder with a pink candle and champagne glasses. Take care of your friends as in two years all three of them have gone, two of them with no warning. We learnt that he had returned to birding in his retirement, after a varied and productive lifetime of farming, birding, professional photography, writing and an intense involvement with Australian Stock Horses, which included promoting their greater recognition, a breeding stud, photographic documentation and a senior national role in the organisation responsible for the breed.

For myself and many others, I will miss the regular banter about birds, cameras and photography. A quiet unassuming man has gone too soon. Vale Peter.

**Teresa Jack.**

Peter participated in many of our bird watching events over the years imparting his knowledge to the less experienced birdwatchers. For this we are most thankful and send our condolences to his family.

As the Editor of the Fleurieu Birdwatchers Bi-monthly Magazine for the last 7 years, I wish to acknowledge Peter's generosity in sharing his top quality photos for us to print.

**Wendy Phillips**



**Peter seeking some good photo opportunities**  
photographed by Teresa Jack

# Two More Farewells

## Sandy Anderson

Hilda and Sandy joined this organisation in 1981. They were active members from then on, attending meetings, excursions and campouts. Hilda became the Thursday leader and Sandy always helped to plan the outings. It was always a team effort. On any occasion where a telescope was needed, Sandy always made his available for anyone to use, and he was always happy to provide transport for anyone requiring a lift to any of the excursion sites. (very quickly). Sandy was a reserved person who always replied that he was "Fair" when asked how he was. When Sandy moved to a nursing home, some of the books from his extensive library were kindly donated to Birds SA's library.

**Barb Wheaton, OAM**



## Darell Kraehenbuehl



*He will be remembered for his humble nature  
and taking joy in the simple pleasures of life.  
He was unique, quirky and a wonderful  
father. grandfather. colleague. mentor and friend.*

## **NATURAL HISTORIAN AND EDUCATOR, 21.1.1934 – 2.8.2018**

Although Darrell was best known as a conservationist and field botanist he also had a love of birds, joining the Association as a young man in 1957. With mates Dick Schodde, Frank Chapman and Ron Gibbs they soon created havoc, recognising that bird conservation was a significant issue and lobbying hard for laws to

## Sandy and Hilda

protect their native habitats. This ultimately resulted in the dedication of many of our conservation areas, in particular Deep Creek, Piccaninnie Ponds and Aldinga Scrub.

Darrell's passion for plants and conservation steered him towards the Field Naturalists Society of SA, where he was active on the committee (including President) for many years, although his red Dodge truck continued to be a regular feature at our Association's outings and campouts through the 1960s.

Darrell wrote many articles, both scholarly and popular, and gave numerous talks far and wide illustrated by his own slides. He had the unique ability to make botany accessible to the lay person, passing his knowledge and enthusiasm onto others.

Darrell's magnificent book on the "Pre-European vegetation of Adelaide" (1996) combines his love of plants and conservation, describing a once highly diverse natural environment, and provides a basis for rehabilitation works.

**Graham Carpenter**



# Inland, Brown and other Thornbills

Several readers of *the Birder* of May 2018 correctly identified Larry Gruitt's image of the Clinton CP thornbill on page 25 as an Inland Thornbill and not a Brown Thornbill. Separating the two and distinguishing them from other thornbills is not always straightforward.

During the conduct of the second Australian Bird Atlas, Kent Treloar, as Regional Organiser, fielded a stream of Brown Thornbill claims, patiently replying that he had found all red-eyed thornbills on Yorke Peninsula to be Inland Thornbills. More recently, I have been asked to identify photos of such birds taken by interstate birders, and distribution maps of the Brown Thornbill on birddata and the Atlas of Living Australia continue to show Yorke Peninsula records.

Brown Thornbills occur as an isolated and declining subspecies in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Surrounding populations are of Inland Thornbills: to the east (the Mallee), north (Mid North) and west (Yorke Peninsula). We used to think that the two species met where shrublands of the Adelaide Plains abutted the mangroves of Gulf St Vincent but that is not the case. Brown Thornbill records from the Adelaide Plains are rare, Bob Whatmough's records from Levi Park in December 1975 and the Torrens Gorge at Athelstone in April 2000 being exceptions. The mangroves (and adjacent woodlands) between Outer Harbor and at least the Light River estuary support another isolated population, in this case, hybrid Inland x Brown Thornbills. Beyond the Light, through Port Wakefield, Clinton and Price, it seems that the mangroves support Inland (and sometimes Slender-billed) Thornbills but not the hybrids of mangroves further south.

There was yet another thornbill conundrum in the last issue. On page 18, we were told that the November Buckland Park excursioners spent time at Port Gawler, watching what were assumed to be Slender-billed (Samphire) Thornbills, yet on page 31,

Graham Carpenter wrote that the species had not been detected at Port Gawler in a recent survey.



**1. The typical Inland Thornbill of Yorke Peninsula (*Acanthiza apicalis apicalis*) taken in the mangroves at Price on 4th January 2009 by Kent Treloar. Note the black legs and almost black frontal feather bases.**

Perhaps our members succeed where the formal survey had been unlucky?

In South Australia we have many varieties of thornbills, including three distinct Brown Thornbill subspecies, three broadly intergrading Inland Thornbill subspecies and three separate Slender-billed Thornbill subspecies. Importantly, on Adelaide's doorstep, there are three thornbill populations whose conservation status is threatened in some degree: the Mount Lofty Ranges Brown Thornbill, *Acanthiza pusilla samueli*, the Samphire Thornbill *A. iredalei rosinae* and our anomalous hybrid mangrove thornbills *A. apicalis* x *A. pusilla*. Two

of them fall within the protective purview of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary but the conservation of all three is the responsibility of South Australians and ours alone.

The photographs on this page and the next one illustrate the unique characteristics of five different forms of thornbill.

Additional information and images can be found in the *South Australian Ornithologist* Volumes 34 (1), 15-22 (Samphire Thornbill), 40 (2), 76-85 (MLR Brown Thornbill) and 41 (1), 18-34 (hybrid thornbills).

**Andrew Black 7 July 2018.**

## Errata – errors in the May Birder

Two birds were incorrectly labelled:

The photo on page 24 shows a Double-banded Plover, and on p25 there are Inland Thornbills in Clinton Conservation Park, not Brown Thornbills.

The Green Rosella, photographed on p43 is a separate species, not a Crimson Rosella subspecies

# Some Thornbill Variations



Hybrid Thornbill  
(*Acanthiza apicalis x pusilla*)  
taken in the mangroves at St. Kilda  
on 26/10/2013 by Colin Rogers

Note the browner frons



Mount Lofty Ranges Brown Thornbill  
(*Acanthiza pusilla samueli*)  
taken on 11/02/2018 in Scott CP  
by Merylin Brown

This is a very dark, very brown, form



South East SA Brown Thornbill  
(*Acanthiza pusilla pusilla*)  
taken on 29/08/2016 at Naracoorte Caves NP  
by Luke Neddy

This is a paler form, note the pink legs

Sapphire Thornbill  
(*Acanthiza iredalei rosinae*)  
Taken by Paul Taylor on 13/10/2015  
Near Port Wakefield

This is the darkest form of  
Slender-billed Thornbill



# Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS)



**Everyone busy planting trees**  
Photographed by Anna Woods

## Revegetation Activity at Port Gawler

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (FAIBS) welcomed some 40 volunteers and conducted a land revegetation activity that saw 750 native plants added to a stretch of coastline at Port Gawler. The purposes of this revegetation are to provide coastal nesting birds with a broader shrubland habitat, to improve the overall health of the ecosystem and to prevent off-road vehicle use and further erosion of the land. The species planted were provided by Natural Resources Management, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, and included Ruby, Seaberry and Creeping Saltbush, Nitre bush, Knobby club rush, Coast bonefruit, Small-leaf bluebush as well as a number of other species

In addition to the planting, avid bird watchers set up their binoculars and scopes, and meticulously scanned the coastline for recognisable avian faces. The most abundant bird species of the day was the Red-capped Plover, frequently spotted looking for food. Other birds sighted on the day were White-

headed Heron, cormorants, and Grey Butcherbird, just to name a few. With most of the migratory birds absent at this time of year the only overwintering migratory birds sighted were Red-necked Stint and a solitary Common Greenshank. We will have to wait a few months for the arrivals of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Eastern Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit. Planting techniques were demonstrated by the two Rangers — Naomi and Tammy — of Adelaide Plains Council and Department for Environment and Water (DEW), both of whom shared insightful ecological information with the volunteers throughout the

day. As more volunteers continued to arrive, it was evident that the initial prediction of four hours to get all the shrubs planted was going to be downgraded quite drastically! After about an hour of planting, the majority of the 750 plants were firmly in the ground and it was time for morning tea. The volunteers happily indulged in coffee, tea and hot chocolate,



**They've earned their lunch!**  
Photographed by Anna Woods

# Friends of the AIBS (cont.)



## The Birthday Girl at Work Photographed by Jarrod Sharp

provided free of charge for the dusty workers, as well as tasty sweets and goodies — including some very fitting shorebird-shaped cookies.

Not only was this a very successful community ecological restoration effort, but also a birthday party. Everyone joined in with the singing of happy birthday after morning tea for an environmentally minded thirteen year old who chose this event for her friends to share in celebrating her birthday. It was wonderful seeing members from multiple generations working so closely together, and an inspiration to know that one of our youngest volunteers wanted to spend her birthday helping the birds and wildlife of her region. After the tasty treats had all been eaten, the volunteers got back to work — this time removing old tree guards and picking up the vast amount of rubbish along the beach. The rubbish included a random assortment of tyres, a car bumper, a crab spear, an industrial heater and multiple bags of plastic waste. A big thank-you goes to all the groups and organisations that were a part of this effort. Worth special mention are the Two Wells Lions Club for providing lunch — a greatly appreciated and tasty

sausage sizzle with refreshing drinks. This was the first time that FAIBS and this club have combined their efforts in a community project, and the outcomes bode well for future connections. Also a big thank-you to all the volunteers, whose numbers included several BirdsSA members! Without you, none of this would have been possible. With your continued help, we can work together to ensure eco-diversity, protection and sustainability for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

This activity was related to the key drivers for FAIBS. These include:

- protection of shorebirds and maintenance of their habitat
- community engagement and stewardship
- volunteer assistance in the on ground management of AIBS
- building of public awareness about AIBS through social and cultural opportunities.

FAIBS community events are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come and volunteer with us. For further information about FAIBS activities, to become a member and to be added to our email contact list, send an email to [faibssa@gmail.com](mailto:faibssa@gmail.com)

Written by participant Brendon Carrick.

Edited and submitted by Anna Woods, Secretary  
FAIBS Mob: 0413 633 756 [faibssa@gmail.com](mailto:faibssa@gmail.com)  
23/7/18



## Future Birds SA members Photographed by Jarrod Sharp

# THE GREAT BEACH-NESTING BIRDS PRIZE RAFFLE

My name is Miles Ramm. I am 11 years old and a passionate birdwatcher. I attend Eden Hills Primary School in Adelaide. Last term my class was assigned a research task. I chose to do mine on Beach-nesting Birds. Part of the task involved proposing an 'action' that could be put in place to give the research a sense of purpose.

**The Great Beach-Nesting Birds  
Prize Raffle**

*Help Save Our Beach Nesting Birds*

TICKETS ONLY \$2 EACH

On sale Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April - Week 2 until Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Week 3

Available for purchase outside the school office at the following times:  
before school: 8:30-8:45; recess: 11:10-11:35; after school: 3:15-3:30

Parents and teachers are also encouraged to buy tickets.

Winners of The Great Beach-Nesting Birds Prize Raffle will be drawn at Assembly  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Week 3

First Prize: one pair of *Bushnell PowerView 10x Binoculars*  
Second Prize: David Attenborough's *The Life of Birds: The Complete Series*, 3 Disc DVD set  
Third Prize: *A Wild Australia Guide: Birds* by Steve Parish



I have been involved in BirdLife Australia workshops at the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. One was when Chris Purnell gave a talk at Thompson Beach about shorebirds and their issues and conservation concerns along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

I have also been on field trips with *Birds SA* to places like Newland Head Conservation Park, and the Murray Mouth and beaches around Goolwa. During these activities I have seen various species of Beach-nesting Birds such as Oystercatchers and Hooded and Red-capped Plovers. As a result of all this, I have become concerned about these birds' conservation and ways that I can help. What I decided to do was run a raffle at school to raise awareness and money that I could donate to *BirdLife Australia's* Beach-nesting Birds project. Once I had got permission from my school's

principal for the raffle, my dad and I got in touch with BirdLife Australia to see if they could help. They were great. Aleisa Lamanna from BirdLife's Adelaide office is going to come to the school to do a presentation, and Renee Mead from the Melbourne office sent over a box of pamphlets and booklets that I had at my stall and handed out to people.

I also made several posters that would be used in the campaign and Mum and Dad bought the three prizes. The First Prize was a pair of *Bushnell PowerView* Binoculars, Second Prize was David Attenborough's *The Life of Birds: The Complete Series* and Third Prize was *A Wild Australia Guide: Birds* by Steve Parish.

The raffle proved to be a huge success. It ran over two weeks and I raised \$387. The winners of the raffle were drawn at the school assembly the day after the raffle ended. At that assembly I was also given a Merit Certificate in recognition of my efforts.

I am really proud of what I have achieved during the raffle and hope that the money raised will greatly contribute to beach-nesting shorebird conservation. It was also good to be able to raise awareness amongst my school community about shorebirds and the things that people can do to help these birds.

**Miles Ramm**



# Giving them wings

## conserving threatened species

Two articles reproduced, with permission, from Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt. Lofty Ranges eNews, Winter 2018

### Hard work pays off for endangered Emu-wren

One of our region's most threatened birds, the Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren has been sighted foraging in native vegetation that was planted specifically to help save the species from extinction.

Volunteers and ecologists are celebrating the two recent sightings at the Swampfest planting site at Stipiturus Conservation Park on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The first in February when a single male Emu-wren was observed using one of the very first areas revegetated over five years ago, and the second in May with a pair of birds using the same area.

Every year volunteers get involved in Swampfest, a planting day held at the conservation reserve specifically designed to re-establish declining habitat for the Emu-wrens. This year, more than 100 people took part, planting about 7,300 seedlings, including 1,000 of the endangered species, Mount Compass Oak-bush.

Well done to all those involved, in these sightings. They are a wonderful sign for the species. Read more at:

<https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtoftyranges/news/>.

The annual planting day is proudly sponsored by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board from the NRM Levy, and the Department for Environment and Water.

*Photo: Southern Emu-wren (Martin Stokes).*



### Breeding success for plovers

The final count for the 2017-18 Hooded Plover breeding season on the Fleurieu Peninsula is 18 fledglings! This is a wonderful success for these endangered birds, with some managing to raise chicks on busy metropolitan beaches — Seacliff and Hallett Cove.

Hooded Plovers (*Thinornis cucullatus*) are listed as vulnerable at both state and national levels with less than 800 of the birds in South Australia and only 7,000 in Australia. It is estimated that there are less than 50 Hoodies remaining on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, BirdLife Australia and dedicated Hooded Plover volunteers monitored 23 pairs of Hoodies throughout the season.

More than 50 volunteers gave their time to recording important data about the Hoodies, which will guide future management to improve the birds' breeding success.

Local councils also support the program and the Fleurieu councils have introduced new dog-leashing by-laws that will assist Hoodies during the breeding season.

A big thank you to everyone who helped these 18 chicks get off the ground!

To learn more and find out how you can help Hooded Plovers, visit

<https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtoftyranges/plants-and-animals/native-plants-animals-and-biodiversity/native-animals/birds/hooded-plovers-project>

*Photo: Hooded Plovers at Ochre Cove (Sue and Ashley Read).*



# Light-housing and birding on South Bruny Island. Tasmania

Knowing that 150 different species of birds are to be seen on Bruny Island, 12 of them endemic to Tasmania, made it very easy to accept a role as a site volunteer at the Cape Bruny lighthouse for the month of April this year. Knowing too that priority to site duties at this very tip of the South Bruny Island would bring some limitations for birding was no drawback. Four of us worked a 3-day on/off paired routine, which allowed ample time for site exploration and wonderful walks on both North and South Bruny Islands. Admittedly, I still have my L plates looming large when it comes to bird identification, but what a place to practise in! Surrounded by world class, stunning coastal scenery dominated by spectacular dolomite cliffs edged with heathlands and backed by eucalypt forests made for a wonderful combination of landscapes for bird viewing. People from all over the world come here to see the scenery and the birds, and with the caretaker role including greeting and talking with visitors including birders, there were plenty of interesting discussions.

So, back to the lighthouse experience and birding. The migratory birds had, of course, mostly begun their journey northwards, while variable weather ranging from sparkling seas mirroring total blue skies to a raging 3-day storm, offered both ease and challenge in locating and identifying the birds. While on a previous visit I did spot two Forty-spotted Pardalotes, I couldn't find them this time. However,



**New Holland Honeyeaters enjoying their bathtime**

when we first arrived we had gatherings of Dusky Woodswallows sitting on our fences, but they soon headed off to the mainland; leaving us with daily visits from Flame and Dusky Robins, Brown Quails, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, White-fronted Chats, Crescent Honeyeaters, Superb Fairywrens,

starlings, the much sought after Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters; as well as happy, skittish families of



**Grey Shrikethrush tapping at the window**

New Holland Honeyeaters frequently bathing and fluffing feathers in the improvised bird bath outside our kitchen window. Towards the end of the month we were awoken each morning (early!) to the persistent window tapping of a Grey Shrikethrush, competing with its own image! Noisy! The adjacent, curvaceous Lighthouse Bay Beach provided viewings of a Hooded Plover family, Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers, mature and immature Pacific Gulls, and a pair of White-bellied Sea Eagles arcing around the cliffs and seas. Walking further inland on the island brought sightings of a Wedge-tailed Eagle, Forest Ravens, Black Currawongs and Green Rosellas, but not the rare Eastern Ground Parrot. That meagre listing leaves plenty of reasons for a return journey to this magical site!

Needless to say, this was an experience of a lifetime, and if it appeals to you too, you may like to look up the Tasparks and Wildcare Inc websites and seek out their volunteer listings. In the meantime, if you haven't already been to the biennial Bruny Island Bird Festival. It's on again this year, October 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a program that includes expert speakers, workshops, birding walks on local properties and photography classes, along with bird-themed art, sculpture and writing sessions for those creatively

inclined. Google it for more information.

**Anna Woods, 2018**  
gypsywoods@hotmail.com

# Past General Meetings

## FRIDAY APRIL 28

John Hatch introduced the evening's guest speaker, Tim Low who would talk about his book 'Where Song Began'

### The main points from Tim's talk were:

- Compared to the Northern Hemisphere, birds in Australia are much more aggressive
- Honeyeaters are dominant in Australia
- Australia is the only continent with vast tracts of bird-pollinated trees
- The Myrtaceae and Proteaceae form a major source of food for nectar feeding birds
- In Australia lerp-producing psyllid bugs, manna and honeydew are good sources of food (sugar) whereas aphids are the main source of food in the Northern Hemisphere
- Early papers by Mathews (1911), Sibley & Alquist (1986), Christidis & Schodde (1991)
- Australian songbirds have three voice-box designs compared to one design elsewhere
- Promiscuity is common in Australian birds
- Australian songbirds have been evolving for a much longer time and there is more genetic diversity
- Parrot diversity in Australia
- Phylogenetic Tree Pigeon diversity in Australia.



**A White-winged Chough adopting a threatening pose  
photographed by Nevil Lazarus**



**An Australian Magpie attacking a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
photographed by Clement Tang**



# Past General Meetings (cont.)

More photographs from  
Tim Low's presentation

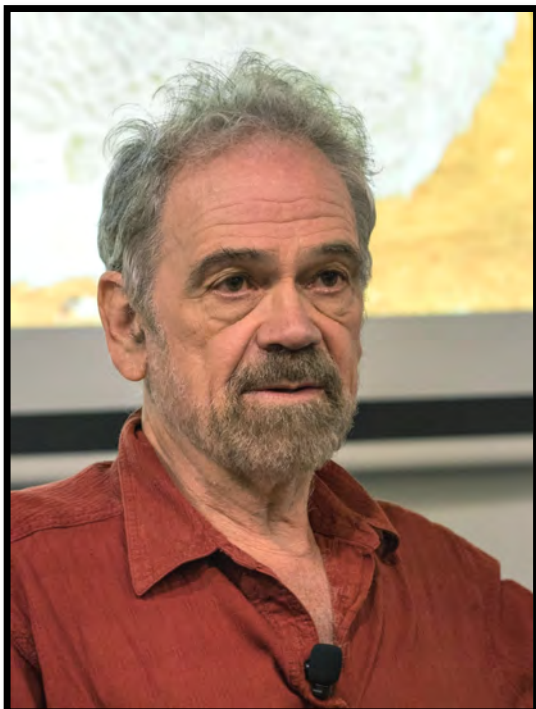


Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo enjoying a grub  
Photographed by Mark Sanders



Spotted Pardalote  
Photographed by Nevil Lazarus

**Peter Gower's final photographs for Birds SA**  
**Our April Speaker, Tim Low and our May Speaker, Kate Mason**



# Past General Meetings (cont.)

## FRIDAY MAY 25

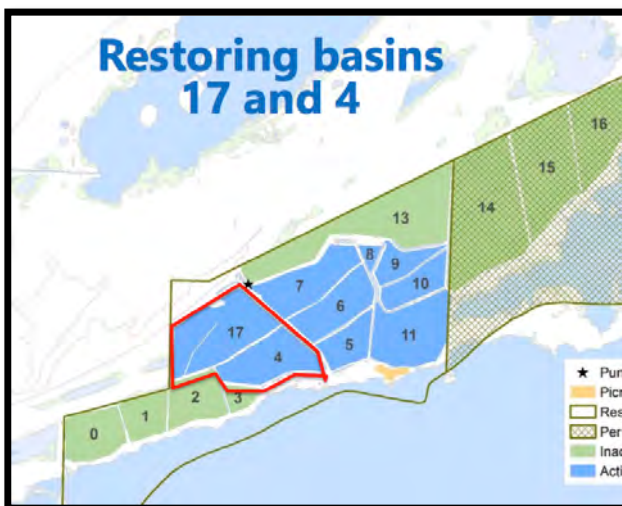
Kate Mason, Wetlands Management Officer, Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin, spoke about Environmental Watering of Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands

Tolderol has existed for a long time but during the 2014 drought it became degraded. Its revival is very much due to Birds SA and its members, not only by providing financial support, but also by undertaking the survey work. I would like to say “Thank You Very Much”.

“Ducks Unlimited Australia Pty Ltd”, and the then Department for the Environment initially set Tolderol up. It did not work well for ducks but did for migratory shorebirds. One problem has been the inconsistency of funding. Tolderol has relied on volunteers.”

Kate displayed a map showing the basins into which water is delivered.

Since the drought they have worked with only three



basins. Tolderol is unique, differing from other wetlands in that the basins are ploughed and the grass is cut, but it does give flexibility. This is important because of where it sits, between Lake Alexandrina and the River Murray, which is a controlled river. There is a shortage of wader habitat in this area and the Coorong is in trouble. Hence Tolderol is very important.

Tolderol has become an environmental hotspot for some species of fish and frogs, 9 Nationally Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) (EPBC) listed species, 9 National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPWA) of SA listed water bird species.

We have continued to water the basins and the key objective is to reinstate Tolderol as an ecological and community asset, but especially as a foraging asset for birds!



Because of the success of the trial and support of organisations like Birds SA we have doubled the area that we can water. Tolderol does have its own licence of 1.0 Gigalitres and we are asking for it to go up to 1.43 Gigalitres.

We do collect data at Tolderol with Birds SA being the biggest contributors to this data collection.

Eighty six wetland-dependent species have been counted and 22 species of conservation significance. Critically endangered Curlew Sandpipers and Australasian Bitterns are now using Tolderol, enhancing the importance of this site.

I should like to promote the following free frog app so that Birds SA Members might also like to record the frogs that they hear at Tolderol: [www.frogwatchsa.vom.au](http://www.frogwatchsa.vom.au)”

Kate acknowledged all groups that have contributed to Tolderol.

Kate asked for any historical photographs or reports about Tolderol from members who have been visiting Tolderol over the past years.

**The photographs on this page are all from Kate’s presentation.**



# Past General Meetings (cont.)

## FRIDAY JUNE 29

Brian Blaylock introduced the guest speaker, Harald Ehmann, whose topic would be: **'The Story of Marbled Gums and Wipu Wara or Long-tailed (Princess) Parrots in the Maralings Lands'**.

Harald Ehmann has worked in various areas of natural resources for many years. In 2012 he organised the "resurvey" of the Nullabor Plain.

The Marble Gum is significant in the life of the Wipu Wara, or Princess Parrot. The Princess Parrot has the longest tail of any of the parrots. This research represents 10 years of work that has been aggregated. An organisation known as 'Friends of the Great Victoria Desert' (GVD) has assisted with this work. The next trip to the GVD is in September and people are welcome to join them.

The 'Great Victoria Desert' is not really a desert. It supports trees and other vegetation. Harald showed a satellite image of the Marble Gums, which are usually associated with dunes. They do not grow very well on top of the sand dunes, but the swale sometimes supports large Marble Gums. Fire is a significant factor in this environment, and Harald displayed mapped zones of burnt areas. Trees burnt in 2012 are now sprouting with new growth. Fires in that area are very patchy, being dependent on the winds and the amount of understorey.

Rain is also important to the trees and the parrots. The trees only germinate within one year of the fire and the rains coming. The trees vary in size, and some are very large.

The female Wipu Wara or Princess Parrot has a slightly up-turned tail, because of lack of roosting space in the nest, forcing the tail in an upward position. Tail feathers can trail downwards in flight. Harald showed video footage courtesy of Fred Murray-Walker, Jan Forrest and other contributors of the Wipu Wara or Princess Parrot feeding on an acacia.

Nesting hollows are often found in dead branches on live trees. If the Wipu Wara or Princess Parrot is to survive we need to make sure that the hollows survive. Harald has estimated that it takes 100 years for a hollow to form. Fires are part of the ecology and they are common. They scar the bottom of a branch, causing the branch to die and eventually

become suitable for a nesting hollow when part of the dead branch snaps off. Termites also contribute to making the hollows by moving up on the inside of the trunk and going out towards the dead limbs, which they hollow out so that they form open hollows. Therefore, if there are no, or insufficient, fires or no winds, then there will be no hollows.

The trees have defences that relate to hollows. Marble Gums do all they can to seal off any openings to their bark. These trees are adapted to fire. Harald showed photographs of trees that were burnt 16 years ago. Some trees have grown well since the fire and others not so well. The Marble Gum suppresses triodia (also known as spinifex)

under its canopy. The Marble Gum also has a method of breakage settling when its branches fall. The branch tissue breaks and settles onto the sand to reduce the flammability of material under the tree. Also, seed nuts are closed whilst on the tree, once they have dried out the seeds tumble out and are blown off in the wind.

Harald showed video footage of Wipu Wara or Princess Parrots breeding. Fred Murray-Walker took this footage in 2011.

Wipu Wara or Princess Parrot nests are about 2.2m down inside the tree trunk, and the

hollows must be of a certain size. The birds do not like a big hole. They prefer something that they have to squeeze into. The nesting hollows are difficult to find. Nesting trees need to be high to be away from fire; and shaded because the temperatures can get up into the low 40s even in September. Nests are always in hollows in live trees, which are usually within 2-3km of recently burnt country. They are lined with termite fretting out of the branch, and they are used over and over again.

Dennis Lomman has wild birds in captivity and he made them available for Harald to monitor over a couple of months, so that he was able to show photographs of eggs inside a hollow and the young that had hatched from those eggs. Some of these photographs are shown on the next page.

Harald finally discussed management issues, showing a map covering the distribution of three significant items: Marble Gums, Wipu Wara or Princess Parrots and Mallee Ringnecks. The Wipu Wara or Princess Parrots keep away from Mallee Ringnecks because the two species compete for the same hollows. Brown Falcons predate on the fledglings.

### A Personal Communication:

Senior Anangu Elders have expressed their disappointment and concern to me about the coining of English names for animals, plants and places without regard for their own names, which are meaningful, are ancient, and have a natural context. For the English name for Wipu Wara they say that "That princess [Alexandra] never came here", and they similarly questioned the English name for their country [Great Victoria Desert] with "We never saw that queen here"

**Harald Ehmann**

# Wipu Wara!!

Harald Ehmann photographed both the wild birds and the captive-bred young



**Wild female Wipu Wara at the entrance to a nesting hollow**



**Two very recently hatched Wipu Wara neck-hugging to conserve body heat**



**Two young Wipu Wara at eyes open stage, with three infertile eggs**



**Two well feathered young Wipu Wara**

# Future General Meetings/Past Excursions

## FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Peter Wanders will talk on Grasswrens in South Australia and beyond. This is very topical given the recent publication of the splendid book on Grasswrens by Andrew Black and the late Peter Gower.

## FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER

Emma Rowe will give a talk on the Wedge-tailed Eagle.

## FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER

This will be another Members' Night when we will have four or five speakers giving short talks on a variety of subjects. These have proved very popular and as I still have three spots available please contact me, John Hatch, if you want to participate. There is plenty of time to work up that short talk or assemble those photos! Don't be shy. Several people have really enjoyed doing one when they finally take the plunge.

Further details on the November speakers will be provided on line.

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

## THURSDAY 17 MAY

### BUCKLAND LAKE AND SURROUNDS

Fourteen members and guests gathered at the meeting point on a mild and overcast morning.

The dam at the meeting point provided several species before we headed further east on Port Gawler Road, with some casual observations in the ponds in the former salt fields, before arriving at the boat ramp.

A roosting Little Black Cormorant and a Sacred Kingfisher greeted us. Our main objective was to find some thornbills. A small number of members managed to obtain brief sightings of one bird, but the identification of the species was not certain. However, subsequent to the outing one member posted a photograph of the thornbill and David Harper identified it as an Inland Thornbill.

We then proceeded to Buckland Park and found that the gate was missing (apparently stolen) and a temporary wire fence was in place. I take this opportunity to advise members that they should not plan to visit Buckland Park on Wednesdays or Saturdays as deer control is often carried out on those days.

Buckland Lake was virtually dry. Whereas this meant that there were no waterbirds or shorebirds, it did allow us to walk across the lake to investigate the birds on its eastern side.

There were not great numbers of any species in Buckland Park, with Crested Pigeon topping the list with a count of 40, closely followed by 30 each of Australian Shelduck, Silver Gull and Singing Honeyeater.

Nevertheless members had a good morning. One member managed to spot one quail, but was unable to see it well enough to determine the species.

As we settled down for lunch and the bird call, the ever-alert Enid Pascoe located a Spotted Harrier and proceedings were interrupted whilst everyone had a good look at the bird. The attached photo of the Spotted Harrier is the best that any of our photographers could obtain.

The final tally for the day was 47 species (including the unidentified quail).

Overall it was an interesting outing and I hope that we can arrange another one early in 2019, hoping that the lake will contain some water at that stage.

**Brian Walker**

## PAST EXCURSIONS

### SUNDAY 12 MAY

#### TOLDEROL

An intermittently cloudy day with bursts of sunshine and a cool southerly breeze of up to 25 kph saw seventeen birders enjoy recording a little over sixty species of birds in about four hours. The highlight being an advanced plumaged White-winged Black Tern with a single Marsh Sandpiper being of note along with between 350-400 Pink-eared Duck.

Still plenty of Curlew Sandpipers, Red-necked Stints, with none of them coloured up, but no Sharp-tailed Sandpipers observed.

A most enjoyable day, which I posted up on the "South Aussie Birding" website should anyone want to follow it up.

**Tony Bainbridge**



**The Spotted Harrier was not willing to oblige!**

# Past Excursions (cont.)

## PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS (THE BABBLERS) SATURDAY 20 MAY, GUM GLEN STATION

On a cool, calm and sunny day, 8 bird watchers came together at the Quorn swimming pool. Four were from Pt. Augusta and 1 each from Whyalla, Pt. Pirie, Koolunga and Mambray Creek. We drove north towards Hawker and turned off on the Boolcunda road till we got to Gum Glen station. Here we met the station owners at the homestead and discussed the bird situation and the ongoing drought conditions. Around the homestead area Galahs and sparrows were feeding amongst the hay that was being fed to the sheep. A small flock of Little Corellas flew past and Singing Honeyeaters, Little Ravens and Welcome Swallows moved about in the garden. Rock Doves and starlings were looking into hollows in some dead red gums in the creek. The owner offered to guide us around the property and jumped in with us and we headed off. Emus ran along with us for a while with a mob of grey kangaroos. The area was a very dry and dusty bluebush plain with Pipits being flushed along the track in front of us. We stopped to look at White-winged Fairywrens, Redthroats and friendly Rufous Fieldwrens. A pair of Australian Magpies flew by as we travelled on to a creek bed where we enjoyed our smoko. In the sparse scrub along the creek there were Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Mistletoebirds, White-browed Babblers and a Redthroat that was singing, and was imitating about six other bird species' calls. After smoko we travelled on along a newly dozed track with only Pipits and White-winged Fairywrens seen until we arrived at the big Redgum-lined Wirreanda Creek. We stopped in the creek bed and walked about a kilometre to some usually permanent water holes. On the way a Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantails, White-plumed Honeyeaters and Weebills noisily fossicked about in the trees. Australian Ravens and Rufous Whistlers called out as Red-capped Robins hawked for bugs near us. The water holes were very low and



**Elegant Parrot**  
photographed by Peter Langdon  
at Gum Glen Station  
on 20 May 2018

the water was brackish and we only saw one Grey Teal. Variegated and White-winged Fairywrens moved about in the bush along the banks along with Southern Whiteface and Redthroats. Silvereyes were feeding on the blossoms of the Broughton willows as Mallee Ringnecks flew past. On the way back to the vehicles a Nankeen Kestrel and Tree Martins glided overhead. The property owner had to leave us and was given a lift back to the homestead while the rest of us moved on a little way to nearby Crows Nest Creek. Here we had our lunch stop and found Striated Pardalotes, Yellow-throated Miners, Elegant Parrots, a Common Bronzewing and a Grey Butcherbird. After lunch some of the group left to look at the Kanyaka ruins. The three of us left walked along the creek and into some low hills where there were Zebra Finches, Australian Ravens, a Brown Falcon, Black-faced Woodswallows, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes and more Variegated and White-winged Fairywrens. We also had some good close looks at Southern Whitefaces and Redthroats but had trouble getting any decent photos of them. We returned to our vehicles and made a quick bird call. 40 bird species were seen, which was reasonable considering the drought conditions. The birds of the day were the Rufous Fieldwrens and the Redthroats.

**Bernie Haase.**

## SUNDAY 27 MAY LAWARI CONSERVATION PARK

The forecast for Hindmarsh Island was for rain, with a 50-60% chance of 5 to 20mm starting at 9am. The clouds were dark and threatening but surprisingly, we did not get any rain all day! It was calm and great for birdwatching and only eleven of us took the chance to venture out.

Our first stop was to view the 15 Cape Barren Geese on Denver Road that have not left for their breeding grounds or they had decided to stay and winter on the island. They were just outside the Conservation Park, where they have been seen regularly for the last week, hanging out with a couple of Australian Shelducks.

# Past Excursions (cont.)

The cattle had been fed near Hunters Creek and the Pacific Black Duck were eating the spills in one area. In another area, about 25 Purple Swamphens were doing the same.

There were a few gates to open to get to the Wyndgate Homestead where we looked at the map of the property in relation to the island and decided to head off quickly up to Shadows Lagoon before it rained. We were able to jump into three high clearance vehicles to drive through the numerous paddocks, stopping for anything of interest. The birds of prey were Black-shouldered Kites, Nankeen Kestrels and a couple of Swamp Harriers. Looking into Mundoo Channel we spotted one Musk Duck, coots and the usual ducks and flying overhead were Caspian Terns, Welcome Swallows and cormorants.

At Shadows Lagoon we set up the scopes and saw Black Swans, coots, Australasian Shovelers a pelican and a few grebes. Over the hill were a few egrets and later as they flew in closer, they were identified as Cattle Egrets. A Great Egret and a few White-faced Herons were close by too, as well as small groups of White and Straw-necked Ibis.

We drove up near Mundoo Island homestead and someone spotted a Peregrine Falcon high up on an electricity pole, and it swooped low for everyone to see. Nearby a group of Elegant Parrots was sitting on the fence line. This delighted some of the group, who had not seen them often.

After enjoying morning tea at the homestead we headed off to Mundoo Channel Drive to hunt the Nankeen Night Herons in the old pine trees. While it was hard to locate any in the thick of the pines, suddenly a few took to the sky and surprised us all as eight left their hiding spots and glided gracefully in a circle above us. Walking up to the fishway we spotted White-fronted Chats, Superb Fairywrens and to top off the morning, a female Scarlet Robin along the fence line.

We finished up at 1 pm with a species count of 60 and did not have time to go to a few other areas we had planned to visit.

Lawari C.P and it's water ways proved to be a wonderful place to bird watch.

**Wendy Phillips**

## SUNDAY 2 JUNE — FLEURIEU BIRDERS MT. BILLY CP.

On a cool 5-6 degree morning, all rugged up, 13 Members joined our leader Pat Uppill on Hindmarsh Tiers Road and drove to the top entrance of Mt. Billy Conservation Park (CP). Pat has been working as a Friend of the Park for a number of years now and has come to know it well. This park is one of a very few examples of natural scrub close to Victor Harbor. Pat gave a brief history of the park explaining the ownership had changed from Electricity and Water Supply (E&WS) control to the Department of Environment in 1999 when it was declared a conservation park.

There are two walking tracks on the map inside the gate and we took the easier loop to the top of the hill, thereby avoiding the steeper sections where possible.

Birds in Mt. Billy CP are notoriously hard to find in the thick bush, but through having a youngster amongst us as well as some very experienced birders we recorded 18 species seen and 2 heard.

The thornbills had us guessing with all three varieties present and flitting about together — they were Yellow, Brown, and Striated. The most common honeyeater was of course, New Holland with a few White-naped, and Crescent amongst them. Red Wattlebirds were in small flocks and very noisy.

There was not much flowering in the high canopy, but with spots of pink heath at mid-level and the discovery of a tiny

Fringed Hare Orchid on the mown track, there was a small show of flowers amongst the greenery. Finding an Eastern Spinebill feeding on the heath was a great joy.

Gerald (Pat's husband) showed us one of the 19 Pygmy Possum boxes the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) had attached to a gum tree to provide nesting facilities for these tiny creatures. Although it was empty at the time there was evidence that nesting material had recently been added.

While bird numbers were low in the park, we did spot a few parrots, including a single Elegant. The park will get busier in a few months' time as spring



**Pygmy Possum Box**  
photographed by Wendy Phillips

# Past Excursions (cont.)

approaches and is guaranteed to be worth another visit to see what a difference increased flowering brings to it.

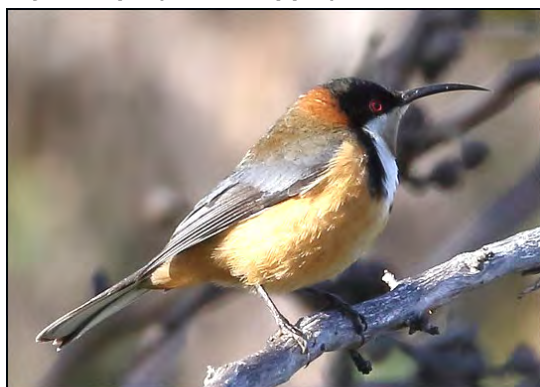
## HINDMARSH FALLS

We drove a short distance to the picnic ground at Hindmarsh Falls and walked up the track slowly with Superb Fairywrens and more honeyeaters seen on the fringes.

A Wedgetailed Eagle was spotted overhead as well as a Nankeen Kestrel. The falls were flowing after our recent rains and some of the group were enchanted, as they had not seen them before.

Lunching at the picnic ground we hoped to add to the list as it is easier to wait for the birds to appear in the open than hunt them in the bush. It worked a charm and with our total of 16 species at the falls, half were spotted while relaxing in the sunshine over lunch.

**Wendy Phillips (for Pat Uppill)**



**Eastern Spinebill**

Photographed by Bob Daly at Mt. Billy CP on 2 June 2018

## SUNDAY 9 JUNE

### TALISKER CONSERVATION PARK AND 'LANDS END' CAPE JERVIS

On a cool and breezy Saturday morning, 11 Birds SA enthusiasts met at the Delamere General Store, before pushing on to the Talisker Conservation Park. The Delamere Store is a good place to meet, given the General Store's water feature and bird feeding station which attracts local birds including the large numbers of Galahs which were enjoying the free feed & water when we were there that morning.

Talisker Conservation Park was a new bird watching spot to many of us and we were amazed at the hilly landscape, dominated by remnant gnarled Pink Gums (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*) and *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* (Grass trees). The park showed the great contrast between the original Cape Jervis vegetation and the cleared hills, which dominate much of the area. Birding started a little slow in the cool morning, but soon we were onto a number of White-throated Treecreepers (6 in all), which were clambering on the rough trunks of the Pink Gums. Numerous

Scarlet Robins were in and around the Talisker silver mine area and we all enjoyed some wonderful views across the gullies.

As the walk continued a number of Red-browed Finches (10) were seen and the usual array of honeyeaters, including Eastern Spinebills (4), Crescent Honeyeaters (12), Brown-headed Honeyeaters (28) and White-naped Honeyeaters (12). The walk up the hill not only rewarded bird watchers with spectacular views of Kangaroo Island, including the Sealink ferry plying the waters of Backstairs Passage, but a good number of Scarlet Robins, Superb Fairy Wrens and Thornbills (Brown and Yellow-rumped) were easily seen in the woodlands and open ground surrounding the ruins of the mine office and manager's house. The group enjoyed repeated fly-overs by a trio of Wedge-tailed Eagles as well as Elegant Parrots and White-fronted Chats. Other birds of note seen were a male Golden Whistler and well-coloured Crimson Rosellas (6) in a total of 28 species.

For lunch, the group headed towards the Cape Jervis Sealink terminal before taking a left turn onto James St, Lands End Rd and Durdin Rd, which led to a coastal reserve called Lands End. This DEW land is being revegetated by the COOTS organisation, part of the Australian Plant Society. After a quick lunch, the group walked through the reserve towards the sea, seeing a number of new species for the day. A Nankeen Kestrel perched in a windswept gum, Australian Gannets could be seen flying along the coast and perched in the coastal vegetation, Miles Ramm spotted a White-fronted Honeyeater, a tick for this author. A number of the group attempted to walk down the slopes to the sea, but thick and rugged vegetation forced us back. Along the way back up the steep slope to the entrance gate, Elegant Parrots, a Beautiful Firetail, a White-browed Scrubwren, Black-shouldered Kite and a number of Grey Shrikethrushes and Singing Honeyeaters were also seen.

A total of 26 species was seen at Lands End and for the day a grand total of 41 species were recorded by the group. Despite being less than 10km apart, the landscapes at both sites were distinctly different and of the birds seen that day, only 13 were seen at both locations. To me, the highlights that day were the Beautiful Firetail and White-fronted Honeyeater at Lands End and the numerous Scarlet Robins seen feeding amongst the trees and grasses at Talisker Conservation Park.

**Alan Burns**



# Past Excursions (cont.)

## PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS (THE BABBLERS) JUNE, 2018 EXCURSIONS AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN (AALBG) PORT AUGUSTA Saturday 9 June

It was a grey, overcast day when 6 bird watchers met at the start of the Stuart highway in Pt. Augusta. Three were from Adelaide and 1 each from Pt. Augusta, Whyalla and Mambray Creek. The scheduled trip was to go to South Gap station for the long weekend, but there had been good drought breaking rainfall in the area forcing the local roads to be closed. It was then decided to look at accessible places in our region and since we were close to the A.A.L.B.G. we would spend the day there first and then the next day at the Dutchmans Stern conservation park and the last day at Mambray Creek on Bernie's block.

When we arrived in the AALBG car park there were White-plumed, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters chasing each other about. The rain seemed to have triggered the competitive breeding activity in the bird life. We headed off towards the Eremophila garden area with Welcome Swallows, Tree Martins and some Australian Ravens passing overhead. Crested Pigeons were watching us as Yellow-throated Miners inquisitively came to look at what we were doing and White-browed

Babblers played around in the undergrowth. Suddenly alarm calls from different birds rang out and a Brown Falcon glided past. The Red Wattlebirds then continued on chuckling and chasing each other through the shrubs and everything returned back to normal. Emus were seen in the distance and Sparrows, Magpielarks and a Willie Wagtail moved about near the main building. As we moved on through the general garden areas flocks of Galahs sporadically flew past and Mistletoebirds darted about. Variegated Fairywrens were in the dense bushes and White-winged Fairywrens were in the open bluebush plain areas. As we approached the sand hills to climb up to the lookout, Magpies, Red-capped Robins, Yellow-rumped Thornbills,

Silvereeyes, Starlings and a Redthroat were busily chasing flying ants. From the lookout a White-faced Heron and White Ibis flew past from the nearby claypan, which had some shallow water in it after the rain. It was time to have some lunch and as we headed back to the main building a Spotted Dove, Grey Butcherbird, Striated Pardalote and Grey Fantail were added to the list.

After a leisurely lunch we decided to walk through the garden and back to the sand hill area. The sky was full of Silver Gulls chasing the flying ants and other insects that the rain had triggered them to start their nuptial flights. A Nankeen Kestrel was also hawking the insects as a Black-faced Cuckooshrike flew the occasional sortie from a tree. A flock of

Rock Doves passed by and Chirruping Wedgebills sang out from the Myall trees. A Black-eared Cuckoo allowed us to approach closely and get some good photos. We moved on towards the eastern boundary of the 200ha. garden area and walked on towards the Red Cliffs lookout finding more fairywrens, robins and honeyeaters. At the lookout overlooking the top of Spencer Gulf, more White Ibis were in the Mangroves and Masked Lapwings and Hoary-headed Grebes increased our bird list. It was getting late and we briskly walked back towards the main car park stopping to look at a Rufous Fieldwren and Rufous Whistler on the way.



**Black-eared Cuckoo**  
Photographed by Bernie Haas in the  
Arid Land Botanic Gardens on 9 June 2018

A total of 41 bird species were found and the bird of the day was the friendly Black-eared Cuckoo.

## QUORN RESERVIOR Sunday 10 June.

It was another grey and overcast day when 6 bird watchers met at the Quorn pool. The same group as the day before except for the Whyalla member who could not make it, but we were joined by a local Quorn member. It was decided that we would look for birds at the Quorn reservoir on the way to Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park. We could not drive right up to the reservoir so we parked at the gates and walked in along a channel that drained into the reservoir. A small flock of Purple-crowned

# Past Excursions (cont.)

Lorikeets whizzed past as Singing Honeyeaters sat in the scrub along a Red Gum lined creek. A glimpse of white was noticed in the trees and was thought to be a corella, but as we approached closer it moved and we were stunned to see a white, what we thought to be a currawong with pink eyes. Unfortunately it flew off before we could get our cameras on to it. Later on some local people said a white Magpie had been seen and photographed in the area and supplied some photos of the Magpie. So did we see a white currawong or the white magpie? We found no other currawongs in the area but there were more magpies. Who knows, maybe they are both in the area. A white Rosella has been photographed at Dutchman's Stern 7 years ago, and a white kangaroo has also been photographed in the Quorn area recently, so it might be something in the water?. As we moved along the channel Galahs were checking out hollows as Little Ravens noisily flew about. Mallee Ringnecks, Weebills, Singing Honeyeaters, Inland Thornbill, Mistletoebird and Common Bronzewing were encountered as we moved along. At the reservoir we found no water birds because it was dry but there were Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Grey Shrikethrushes, Red-capped Robins, Variegated Fairywrens, sparrows and a Grey-fronted Honeyeater found in the mallee trees nearby.

Only 17 bird species were found here with bird of the area being the white currawong/magpie?

## **DUTCHMANS STERN CONSERVATION PARK** **Sunday 10 June**

We squeezed into the packed out car park at the Dutchmans Stern and then headed off along the path towards the summit hike passing a plant enclosure were Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Variegated Fairywrens found shelter. As we gradually climbed up the slope Magpies and Kookaburras flew amongst the trees ahead of us. A flock of Brown-headed Honeyeaters chattered about in the trees with Mistletoebirds chasing each other around. On the ground Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Southern Whiteface fossicked about. Further along Singing Honeyeaters, Weebills and White-browed Babblers were in the shrubs as Australian Ravens passed overhead. Passing the intersection where the path starts for the climb to the summit we continued on along a road finding Flinders Ranges Crimson Rosellas, Grey Fantails and Grey Shrikethrushes. On the return to the car park for lunch Red Wattlebirds were seen and heard. After a light lunch we walked past the homestead and had a good look at some lovely coloured up rosellas. We then moved along the low slope at the base of the

hills covered with mallee trees. It was quiet and there seemed to be a lack of birds for a while and then we began seeing some birds, with Striated Pardalote, Weebills, Grey Butcherbird, Mallee Ringnecks and Yellow-throated Miners moving about in the trees. The chattering of Brown-headed and Grey-fronted Honeyeaters led us to a hot spot with more Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Mallee Ringnecks, Silvereyes, Black-capped Sittellas, Peaceful Doves and Common Bronzewing Pigeons found. As we walked back towards the car park a flock of 80 Galahs flew over us in an extended line, making it easy to count them. A Willie Wagtail and Jacky Winter hawked for insects as a Wedge-tailed Eagle soared overhead.

A total of 30 bird species were found and the bird of the day for this area was the Black-capped Sittella.

## **BERNIE'S BLOCK, MAMBRAY CREEK** **Monday 11 June**

On a cold overcast day 4 bird watchers attended at Bernies block. Three were from Adelaide and 1 from Mambray Creek. Walking around the house yard the resident Welcome Swallows, White-browed Babblers, Willie Wagtails, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters and Magpielarks made themselves known while a Common Bronzewing Pigeon sat quietly watching us. From the yard Little Ravens, starlings, Silvereyes, Mallee Ringnecks, Mistletoebirds, Crested Pigeons, Peaceful Doves and Yellow-throated Miners could be seen. A coloured up male Rufous Whistler sat on the ground giving us a good look at it and 24+ Dusky Woodswallows sat in huddles along the branches of the native pine trees. As we left the fenced off house yard area a flock of Yellow-rumped Thornbills flew up off the ground and sat along the fence. As we entered the Red gum lined creek Kookaburras laughed at us and Galahs were looking into hollows. Walking along the creek Magpies, Weebills, Grey Fantails and a Grey Shrike-thrush were seen. We then left the creek area and entered the Native Pine woodland. Elegant Parrots flew over us and a pair later landed near us. Wedge-tailed Eagles soared high overhead and strangely they were the only birds of prey we saw all day. In the woodland Red-capped Robins, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Southern Whiteface, Variegated Fairywrens and Flinders Ranges Crimson Rosellas were found. It was lunchtime so we headed back to the house finding Australian Ravens and some Red-rumped Parrots on the ground, which let us approach them closely. After our lunch we continued walking through the woodland with Tree Martins, Welcome Swallows and Dusky Woodswallows chasing insects above us. A Striated Pardalote called out from an isolated Red Gum and a Grey Butcherbird was also seen. In the old paddock area now covered with

# Past Excursions (cont.)

bluebush we found more Yellow-rumped Thornbills and White-winged Fairy-wrens. Back at the house we had a quick bird call and said our goodbyes.

A total of 37 bird species were found and the bird of the day was the Elegant Parrot. The Dusky Woodswallows later gathered to 100+ birds and are worth a mention.

**Bernie Haase**

## THURSDAY 21 JUNE

### HARDY'S SCRUB, BLEWITT SPRINGS.

20 people showed up for a rather stunning Winter's day meeting at the CFS Shed in the tiny township of Blewitt Springs. While we were waiting for everyone to arrive the glorious sound of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos filled the air. First a couple then a few more landed in bare branches nearby after flying over Hardy's Scrub. The few grew and grew to about 100 gliding over our heads!! What a great sight to see! It



**Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo**

Photographed by Bob Daly at Blewitt Springs on 21 June 2018

set the scene for the day.

We drove to gate 16 on Chapel Hill's Rd. and did the normal full loop around the park.

Somehow we managed to separate into 2 groups of 10, which worked out well as we saw a few extra species this way. Wendy was in the lead with Bob as tail-ender so we made sure we would not lose anyone in the scrub as some had not been there before.

Adelaide Rosellas were the most abundant species to see, with a couple of Eastern Rosellas amongst them. The honeyeaters were Brown-headed, Crescent, White-naped, White-plumed, New Holland

and the most prolific were Yellow-faced. We also saw an Eastern Spinebill and a few Red Wattlebirds.

The fact that we saw this many honeyeater species was surprising as there was not much flowering at all and even the calls were absent a lot of the time. This just goes to show how good the experienced birders are at finding them!!

There were 4 species of thornbills sighted and one Weebill was heard.

The Grey Currawongs were echoing across the whole park and a few Little Ravens were seen with a couple of Australian Magpies.



**Tawny Frogmouth**

Photographed by John Pearce  
at Anstey Hill on 1 July 2018

When we reached the picnic table in the middle of the Park we spotted a number of Dusky Woodswallows on both sides of the track and noticed a few Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows hawking insects. Suddenly a bird of prey flew over and with a photo we managed to identify it as a Brown Goshawk.

Mistletoebirds were heard but not seen but we did see Silvereyes and Red-browed Finches.

The total with both groups combined came to 38 species for the morning, as well as one Koala.

A truly amazing result for the

middle of winter!

**Wendy Phillips**

## SUNDAY 1 JULY:

### ANSTEY HILL RECREATION PARK

Fifteen people showed up on a very cold morning at Anstey Hill, including a couple of people who were new members and/or hadn't come on an excursion before. Three members of the Friends of Anstey Hill also joined us. The walk got off to a good start with an excellent view of a sleepy Tawny Frogmouth, apparently a well-known regular in the Quarry car park.

We followed the Yellowtail Loop in an anticlockwise direction. We soon came across a couple of Little Ravens busily building a nest and some Silvereyes (20) flitting through the understorey. Weebills (20) and Red-browed Finches (20) were also encountered at various locations along the trail. As we walked towards Gate 3 parallel to Perseverance Rd, we saw Galahs (6), Musk Lorikeets (4) and Rainbow Lorikeets (10), Eastern Rosellas (3), Adelaide Rosellas (15) and the occasional Common Bronzewing (3).

# Past Excursions (cont.)

There's no avoiding hills at Anstey so we gradually made our way up to the old Newman's Nursery site dodging joggers, dog walkers and mountain bikes. We saw numerous Magpies (20) and several families of Superb Fairywrens (12) teased us as we passed. Other birds encountered along the way were White-throated Treecreepers (2), Eastern Spinebills (3), Grey Currawongs (15), Golden Whistlers (4), Rufous Whistlers (2), White-browed Scrubwrens (4) and Grey Fantails (2).

Honeyeaters included Crescent (2), New Holland (20), White-plumed (3), Yellow-faced (5) and Red Wattlebird (10). Thornbills included Brown (2), Buff-rumped (8) and Striated (12). A lucky few saw 22 Shrikethrushs (4) added some musical accompaniment.

After our rather intrepid walk which nevertheless provided us with some spectacular views, we had lunch and made the bird call in the Quarry car park, enjoying the presence of another Tawny Frogmouth sleeping in a nearby tree. Thirty nine species was our total for the day and a full list can be seen on Birdpedia.

**Ali Ben Kahn**

## FLEURIEU BIRDERS

### SATURDAY 7 JULY: COX SCRUB CP

A group of four intrepid birders decided to brave the elements, meeting at the car park. There was a severe weather forecast out for the Mt. Lofty Ranges, but rather than cancel the event, we decided to brave the conditions and follow the Stringbark Trail, via the sandy track, a distance of about 3.5 km. Our decision was rewarded by rapidly abating conditions, with bright sunlight interspersed with clouds, and only a couple of light showers. Walking through the stand of sugar gums, we saw a pair of Galahs inspecting potential nesting hollows. Vocalising Adelaide Rosellas were also conspicuous. As we moved into the Banksia and Cup Gum habitats, the honeyeaters came to the fore, with Eastern Spinebills, Crescent and New Holland Honeyeaters seen. Several Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters were also conspicuously perched on the leafless branches of the gums that had been burnt from a previous bush fire 5 years ago. With many of the birds not calling, we were mainly dependent on visual identification. The Flame Heath, Grevilleas, Correas and Banksias were just beginning to flower, which probably contributed to the presence of the 5 species of honeyeaters that we saw. As we walked towards the top of Stringbark Hill, we had a good sighting of a female Golden Whistler, and at the top of the hill, we saw a small flock of Little Ravens and a pair of Sulphur-crested

Cockatoos. As we moved back down the more sheltered north facing track, a Scarlet Robin, more Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters and a Striated Pardalote were seen. We finished by following the track through the swamp, seeing Grey Fantails, and hearing the Superb Fairy Wrens. As we reached the cars, a shower of rain forced us into a car to make the bird count, resulting with a recorded total of 19 species. This was an underestimate of the birds that we saw, as there were a number of un-identifiable thornbills along our walk. Unfortunately, during our walk we also observed the tracks of feral animals, including cats, foxes and deer.

**Keith Jones**



**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater**

Photographed by Bob Daly in Cox's Scrub CP on 7 July 2018

## SATURDAY 14 JULY:

### BROWNHILL CREEK RECREATION PARK

On a cold morning 18 members met near the caravan park in the Brownhill Creek Recreation Park. This was the first trip that Birds SA had been to a park so close to Adelaide. We followed the track adjacent to Brown Hill Creek Road to just up past Tilleys Hill Road before returning along the track on the opposite side of the road. We did not see the sun until we were well up Brown Hill Creek Road. A total of 31 species were recorded during the morning including one new species (White-throated Treecreeper) for the park. Other notable species seen on the day were Australian Golden Whistler (male + 2 females), Black-faced Cuckooshrike and Fan-tailed Cuckoo. Australian Magpie and Little Raven were observed nesting. Birds SA should make a return visit to this park in the future as well as other birding sites close to the metropolitan area, which we have never visited previously.

**Brian Blaylock**

# Past Excursions (cont.)

## PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS (THE BABBLERS)

SUNDAY 22 JULY:

### YUDNAPINNA AND CARRIEWERLOO AREA

It was a windy, cold and overcast day when three intrepid birdwatchers met at the start of the Stuart Highway in Port Augusta. One of each was from Port Augusta, Whyalla and Mambray Creek. We headed off along the highway for about 50 km until we arrived at Hesso and turned west onto the road that leads to Yudnapinna homestead. The wind was blowing from the north and the birds were keeping low and the dry conditions kept bird sightings down.

Black-faced Woodswallows and Welcome Swallows were the only birds that enjoyed the wind. We stopped at a lightly wooded area and walked around finding some birds sheltering from the wind. We saw Crested Pigeons, magpies, Willie Wagtails, Grey Butcherbirds, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners and Magpielarks. There was a raucous call and a flock of about 15 Blue Bonnets flew past and settled on the ground nearby as 2 Mulga Parrots landed in a Mulga tree next to us. We drove on to near the homestead and stopped to look at a big patch of *Eremophila maculata* and *E.*

*duttoni* that were looking stressed but recent rain had started to bring life back to them. In a good year when they were in flower it would be a top spot for nectar feeding birds. But at this time it was a freezing, windblown area with only a single Southern Whiteface found. We met up with the Yudnapinna station manager on the road and chatted about birds and the weather and then turned onto the road that leads south to Carriewerloo homestead. It was brunch time and we stopped at Pine Well to have some tucker. As we were having brunch a Striated Pardalote called out from the *Eucalyptus intertexta* next to us, and a flock of about 250 Galahs flew over us and settled in the Native Pines in the creek nearby. When we had finished eating we walked along the creek to the Pine Well bore passing the Galahs roosting in the trees and feeding on the ground around us. The wind seemed to make the birds hesitant to fly away from us and we got close to Blue Bonnets, Yellow-throated Miners, Southern

Whiteface, Willie Wagtail, Crested Pigeons and Grey Butcherbirds. The Australian Ravens, Magpies, Port Lincoln Parrots and White-browed Babblers didn't hang around though. Overhead 3 Wedge-tailed Eagles were cackling and dive bombing each other as Black-faced Woodswallows cruised about and were pouncing on insects on the ground. As we left the area Pipits ran along the road in front of us.

The next stop was at a place with the remains of an old house called Welcome Well. There were Singing Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners and Galahs in the trees and the ruins and a mob of 9 Emus ran off

from us. A short way away was a creek with large gum trees and we decided to walk to them and hopefully find more birds. A pair of Mulga Parrots and some Crested Pigeons were flushed out of a tree as we passed. Australian Ravens could be seen flying through the trees in the distance as a Wedge-tailed Eagle hovered in the wind high above us. As we reached the trees a Port Lincoln Parrot noisily flew away and then another one climbed out of a hollow and flew off after it. This is the first breeding pair of birds I had seen for a long time. We walked along the creek for a while only finding a pair of Grey Butcherbirds and then headed back to our vehicles.

Then on a rocky rise an unusual bird sound was heard and we found 3 Ground Cuckoo-shrikes feeding on the ground. After trying to get close enough to get some photos we heard a group of excited Babblers and investigated why they were getting agitated. The cause was a pair of Horsfields Bronze Cuckoos and a pair of Pallid Cuckoos that only seemed to be interested in finding a feed of grubs amongst the bushes. A Red-capped Robin, Striated Pardalotes, Willie Wagtails and Black-faced Woodswallows were added to our bird list as we got back to the vehicles. Then what we thought was a Rufous Fieldwren was heard but upon closer inspection it turned out to be a Redthroat imitating a Fieldwren. As we left a Nankeen Kestrel and Pipits were seen along the road. It was getting late so we decided to have our last stop at Carriewerloo homestead but as we neared Gunter Dam some white birds we thought would be corellas caught our eye. They turned out to be Major Mitchells Cockatoos so of course we had to stop. The wind was buffeting them so the photos we got weren't the typical shots of a bird pose you



**Ground Cuckoo-shrike**

Photographed by Bernie Haase in the Yudnapinna and Carriewerloo area on July 22 2018

# Past Excursions (cont.)

would expect. A flock of over 20 Magpies and 50 more Galahs were there as well. We drove on past the dam and had a quick look in the bush in the drainage line to the dam and found White-winged Fairywrens and 3 Western Grasswrens, confirming that they were still in the area. We had a quick visit to the homestead and said our hellos and there were Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Port Lincoln Parrots, Striated Pardalotes, Galahs, Grey Shrike-thrush and a Blackbird in the garden. It was getting dark so we headed back to Pt. Augusta, keeping an eye out for goats, sheep and kangaroos on the road.

Only 32 bird species were seen on the day, but I'm sure if it had not been so windy we would have seen more. The birds of the day would have to be the Ground Cuckooshrikes and Western Grasswrens.

**Bernie Haas**

## **FLEURIEU BIRDERS**

### **SATURDAY 4 AUGUST: INMAN RIVER WALK**

After a week of cold, wet and windy weather, the prospects for the weekend field trip being clear and dry were looking risky. But the weather on the day turned out to be quite good – a little cold, a little windy but perfectly fine for birding. And it proved to be worthwhile heading out to Victor Harbor and the Inman River for some birding – 49 species were seen in total and the attendees had a good time.

We all met at the Bay Road car park opposite the Victor Harbor Library at 8:30 and introduced ourselves. At the car park we saw 1 Australian Pelican, 2 Australian Wood Ducks, several Galahs, some Red Wattlebirds, and a noisy flock of Rainbow Lorikeets.

From the car park we walked to the bridge that crosses over the Inman River. On the way we saw 5 House Sparrows on the electricity wires, Eurasian Coots paddling in the River and strolling along its banks, a female Rufous Whistler giving its musical call in a medium sized tree, 2 Singing Honeyeaters flitting around, 4 Silveryeyes in the shrubbery, 5 New Holland Honeyeaters, and some more Red Wattlebirds. We heard Masked Lapwings calling on the nearby oval, and saw about 10 Silver Gulls flying above us. Two Little Pied Cormorants were diving for fish on the river while a group of Pacific Black Ducks kept watch. Two Hoary-headed Grebes were also observed diving under the water and 3 Grey Teal were seen on the grass near the bridge. We were lucky to spot 1 Dusky Moorhen hiding in the roots of a large mangrove. As we moved along, several Crested Pigeons roosting on the electricity wires and 2 Pacific Gulls flying over us added to our count. Two Little Ravens called out their welcome as they flew by.

Once we got to the bridge crossing the Inman River we stopped to read the information signs; they offered some good explanations about the variety of life-forms that depended on the river, and how the

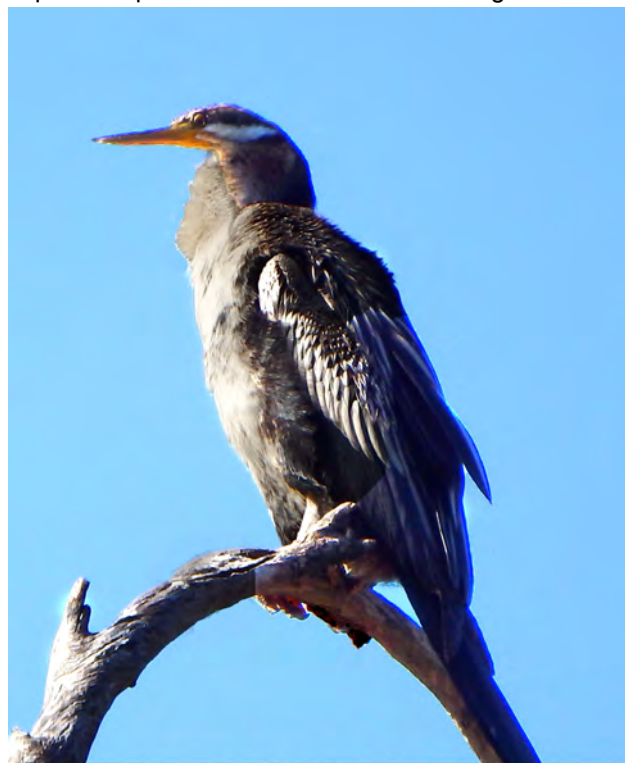


**Caspian Tern** Photographed by Stephen Ramm at Inman River on 4 August 2018

mangroves play a crucial role in the maintenance of the river.

We crossed over the bridge and began to walk to the Mouth of the Inman River. On our way, we saw and heard Superb Fairy-wrens calling in the mangroves, along with Willie Wagtails, more Gulls, a Caspian Tern, and some Australian Magpies. Upon arrival at a salt-water Tidal Pond we saw some Australasian Grebes, Silver Gulls, Pacific Gulls, and more Caspian Terns.

We then came down onto the beach and walked along the edge of the dunes for a while, curious to discover what birds we could see. Two well-camouflaged Red-capped Plovers scampered about and hid behind the sea-weed, making them difficult to spot. A Spotted Dove landed in a mangrove and



**Australasian Darter**  
Photographed by Stephen Ramm  
at Inman Valley on 14 August 2018

# Past Excursions (cont.)

flying through the nearby pines were 3 Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos and 4 very red Crimson Rosellas.

The group then walked up off the beach to the car park on the Esplanade and read a sign talking about the Hooded Plover and other Beach-nesting Birds that use the Fleurieu Beaches. We kept on walking back towards the bridge and some of us were lucky enough to catch sight of a small flock of about 10 Australasian Gannets dive-bombing into the water not too far off out in the ocean-blue next to Granite Island. Next, a White-faced Heron flew past the same flock of Black-cockatoos we saw earlier.

As we crossed the bridge we saw 5 Superb Fairywrens, 7 Silvereyes, and 5 more Red Wattlebirds. After we got to the other side of the bridge we walked down to Kent Reserve and down a path leading to the beach. We were hoping for Hooded Plovers, which were sometimes seen there, but we didn't have any luck. We did, however, see one Pied Cormorant, and one Little Black Cormorant along with heavy swarms of Gulls and Terns.

We then walked along the beach for a while in search of the Hoodies but instead we saw some Welcome Swallows roosting on the sand. Next we walked up from the beach on a track that lead along Franklin Parade Road and walked back to the bridge. On the way we saw about 15 Common Starlings roosting in the pine trees.

As we were walking back to the car park on Bay Road we saw 2 Red-rumped Parrots on top of the electricity wires, 4 Rock Doves and an Australasian Darter flew over us.

Arriving back to where we had parked our cars we then decided to make the most of the time available to us and decided to continue our walk further up along the river. We headed under the George Main Road bridge in search of Black-chinned Honeyeaters that were believed to be in residence in these parts. As we were about to pass under the bridge some of us were greeted by a friendly Little Wattlebird. Heading past the Skate Park we saw lots of White-plumed and New Holland Honeyeaters as well as 2 Spotted Pardalotes in a tall Blue Gum and 1 Weebill being harassed by the larger Honeyeaters. Two Darters drifted along in the river water and 1 sat perched on a branch of a nearby dead tree. A Collared Sparrowhawk, perched in a pine tree with prey in its talons - which we thought could have been a Honeyeater, and hopefully not a Black-chinned one - silently watched us as we tried to secure a good view of it in our binoculars. In the same tree as the Sparrowhawk there were about 6 Nankeen Night-herons, which we all got good views of. Alas, we had not seen any Black-chinned Honeyeaters, but the trip up the river meant we did get to add a few more species to our day's list.

We headed back to the car park to have lunch and do the bird-call. In a tree nearby to where we were sitting there was a Whistler; we think it was probably a female Golden as it didn't have any streaking on

its breast. During the bird call we added some more species to our list such as 1 Australian Hobby, 2 Magpie-larks and a flock of Musk Lorikeets.

All in all it was a very successful day with a turnout of 49 species. Thank you to Edith for leading us, and to all those who showed up - a trip along the Inman River and its surrounds was great fun and very rewarding.

**Miles Ramm**

## **SATURDAY 11 AUGUST: JENKINS SCRUB/LITTLE MT. CRAWFORD FOREST**

Five dedicated birders assembled for the walk with one being a new member and a first-time excursioner, which was especially encouraging given the rather dire weather.

We spent the first 10 minutes huddled under the not very big sign at the trailhead while a moderately heavy shower passed overhead. After that, however, we were lucky and apart from some light drizzle, it remained relatively dry although it was very cold and a bit windy as we traversed the Nature Trail in a clockwise direction.

Our first sighting was of a lone Eastern Spinebill although we heard White-throated Treecreepers (10) and Crescent Honeyeaters (6) all along the trail from the start of the walk. One New Holland Honeyeater was heard but not seen and towards the end of the walk Yellow-faced Honeyeaters (2) and one White-plumed Honeyeater were seen. Nothing much was flowering so this lack of Honeyeaters was not surprising.

Adelaide Rosellas (20) in several pairs and groups were seen and Galahs (10), Australian Magpies (3), Little Ravens (4) and Grey Currawongs (6) periodically flew overhead. Further along we heard and then saw Striated Pardalotes (5) and at least 2 groups of Buff-rumped Thornbills (15). One group also contained some Striated Thornbills (5). Grey Fantails (2) were also flitting about the undergrowth.

We then traversed along the track adjacent to the road and this proved to be a bit of a hotspot. We saw Grey Shrikethrush (2) and some more Superb Fairywrens (12). One White-browed Scrubwren was heard and then seen and a fleeting glimpse of a Brown Goshawk disappearing over the hill was the only raptor recorded for the day. Numerous Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were heard in the distance but only one flew over the reserve. Our final brief sighting was of a Common Bronzewing Pigeon flushed from the track.

We returned to the trailhead earlier than usual and one member who lives nearby generously invited us to her place for hot drinks, lunch and the birdcall. This turned out well as shortly afterwards it started to rain in earnest and we even had a nice view of hailstones from her comfy lounge room window. Twenty one species was our total for the day, which we thought was pretty good given the conditions.

**Ali Ben Kahn**

# Future Excursions

**Field Program and campout Co-ordinator (FPC),  
Lynton Huxley**  
**Phone: 0498 466 092 or 08 7009 5038**  
**Email: [fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au)**

A leader has been appointed for each excursion, but another person might like to write a brief report of the trip.

The report, submitted to the Field Trip Coordinator, must be no longer than 500 words — or about 11/2 columns of text. It must include the number of attendees, **highlights** of the birds seen or heard, the weather and any other interesting events on the day. One or two photographs of birds seen on the excursion would make welcome additions.

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.

## **FLEURIEU BIRDERS**

**Contacts: Wendy Phillips/Bob Daly 8555 0634 or 0421376016, [wendy\\_phi@bigpond.com](mailto:wendy_phi@bigpond.com)**

## **BIRDS SA PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS (The Babblers)**

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

### **Contact in Lynton's absence:**

**Alan Burns** (*standing in for Lynton Huxley*)  
**Field Program Co-ordinator**

**Phone: 0411595910 or 8381 2708**

**Email: [fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au)  
or [caburns1@bigpond.com](mailto:caburns1@bigpond.com)**

## **SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER — FLEURIEU BIRDERS**

**Scott CP, Currency Creek.**

Meet at 8.30am in the First Car Park on Gould Rd. coming off the Deep Creek Rd.

**TRIP LEADER: Bob Daly**

**Sunday 2 September: It is Fathers' Day so there will be no Birds SA excursion.**

## **Saturday 15 September: Cox Scrub Conservation Park (MLR) (66km)**

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

**TRIP LEADER: Alan Burns**

## **SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER — PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS (THE BABBLERS)**

**Bernie's Block**

Meet at 8.00am in Mambray Creek parking bay.

**TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haas**

## **Thursday 20 September: Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker (MLR) (34km).**

Meet at the car park on Bald Hills Road, Mt. Barker at 8.30am.

**TRIP LEADER: Martyn Price**

## **October Long Weekend Campout: 29 September to 1 October: Lawari Conservation Park (formerly 'Wyndgate') Hindmarsh Island (MLR) 100km.**

We will have access to the kitchen, shower and toilets in the 'Wyndgate' homestead, located off Denver Road and plenty of camping spaces are available for tents, caravans etc. Alternatively you may choose to book accommodation at nearby places such as Goolwa, or join us as a day trip.. Additional information on this fun Birds SA event is provided separately in this issue of The Birder, 2 PAGES AHEAD!.

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

## **SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER TO MONDAY 1 OCTOBER PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS (THE BABBLERS)**

Campout in Ironstone CP. Meet at Whyalla Wetlands at 8.30am. No facilities available at the campsite.

**TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haas**



# Future Excursions (cont.)

## **SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER FLEURIEU BIRDERS**

**Langhorne Creek Cemetery and Frank Potts Reserve.** Meet at 8.30 am at Frank Potts Reserve, Wellington Rd. Langhorne Creek. GPS-35.29932 139.04239

**TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips**

## **Saturday 13 October: "Anacotilla Springs", Second Valley (MLR) (87km).**

This is a private bushland property, which enjoys the permanent flow of the Anacotilla River. To get there 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**

**Thursday 18 October: Scott Creek Conservation Park (MLR) (28km)** Meet at 8.30am at the Almanda Mine Site car park area on Dorset Vale Road. Take the SE Freeway and leave it at the Stirling exit. At the roundabout, turn right to Longwood. After approx. 2.5 to 3km turn right towards Cherry Gardens, turning left into Dorset Vale Road approx. 2km before reaching Cherry Gardens.

**TRIP LEADER: Graham Bate**

## **FLEURIEU BIRDERS CAMPOUT**



**Friday 19 October – Sunday 21 October 2018 at Little Desert Park, Nhill, Victoria.**

### **Urgent:**

Please contact Peter Owen our leader on 0477415591 to let him know if you are attending the Campout weekend. He needs numbers to plan the weekend's activities.

Peter has tentatively booked (put on hold) 10 Garden View rooms for us- but you need to do your

own booking with the Little Desert Park. Phone 03 53915232 to book accommodation of your choice or email: [info@littledesertlodge.com.au](mailto:info@littledesertlodge.com.au) Little Desert Lodge address 1457 Nhill-Harrow Rd. Nhill, Vic. 3418

### **Accommodation, choose from:**

**Garden View** ensuite rooms can sleep up to 3 dependent on the room selected.

**Standard** ensuite rooms again can sleep up to three.

As discussed, we also have cheaper accommodation in the bunkrooms and plenty of camping sites available.

**Campsites:** powered and non-powered available

Meals are available on site if required.

There is a variety of accommodation at Nhill and Dimboola, the closest towns to the Little Desert Conservation Park.

**Wendy Phillips, 8555 0634 or 0421376016**

**Or [bob\\_daly@bigpond.com](mailto:bob_daly@bigpond.com)**

## **SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER – PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS (THE BABBLERS)**

**Mt. Maria Willowie Forest, Melrose**

Meet at 8.00am at Wilmington Pub.

**TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haas**

## **Sunday 28 October: Porter Scrub Conservation Park (MLR) (44km).**

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

**TRIP LEADER: Rod Tetlow**

## **SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER FLEURIEU BIRDERS TOLDEROL GAME RESERVE**

Meet at 8.30am at Tolderol's notice board.

**TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips**

## **Saturday 10 November: Reedy Creek (Waterfalls Reserve) Mannum Waterfalls Reserve (MM) (85km)**

This reserve is on the Mannum side of the bridge over Reedy Creek about 9km south of Mannum or 22km north of Murray Bridge. Meet at 8.30am in the reserve's car park.

**TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn**

# Future Excursions (cont.)

**Thursday 15 November: Thompson Beach (61km)** This excursion will commence at 8.30am (the high tide of approx. 2.23m is at 8.16am). To get there, travel north on the Port Wakefield Road to the Thompson Beach turnoff, on your left as you reach Dublin. Follow this road for about 10km end and meet at the toilet facilities at Thompson Beach.

**TRIP LEADER: Brian Walker**

## **SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER – PORT AUGUSTA BIRDERS (THE BABBLERS)**

**Weeroona island/Pt.Pirie wetlands.**

Meet at 8:00am at Weeroona turnoff.

**TRIP LEADER: Bernie Haas**

**Sunday 2 December: Manning Flora & Fauna Reserve, McLaren Flat (MLR) (32km)** Meet at 8.30am at the Manning Reserve track entrance located off Kays Road about 500meters from the junction with Whittings Road.

**TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley**

## **SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER FLEURIEU BIRDERS HINDMARSH ISLAND**

Meet at 8.30am at Ferryman's Reserve, just over the bridge next to HI Landcare Nursery,

**TRIP LEADER: Wendy Phillips**

## **OCTOBER CAMPOUT DETAILS**

**28 September to 2 October 2018**

The October long weekend Campout this year will be at the recently proclaimed Lawari Conservation Park on Hindmarsh Island. Just 100km south from Adelaide this location will enable most members to also participate on a day excursion basis if they wish. If you are choosing this option please arrange to be at the homestead by 8.30am on your chosen day. We have secured 'Wyndgate' Homestead located off Denver Road within the Conservation Park for our camp base. The Homestead has a shower, two toilets, a fully equipped kitchen and some rooms that can be used for limited numbers to stay in communal accommodation. ***Please make your dormitory bookings through the camp leader ASAP.*** There are plenty of campsites for those wishing to use tents, caravans or motorhomes. Alternatively you may choose to book accommodation at nearby places such as Goolwa.

**Camp access for Birds SA will be from noon on Friday 28th September to noon on Tuesday 2nd October** and a fee of \$10 per person for the weekend will be collected from those staying on the property. This fee will cover some costs and to boost our Birds SA Conservation Fund. The Campout Organiser will issue a receipt for all fees collected.

If possible please bring a handheld UHF radio or vehicle mounted unit as we will use UHF Channel 14 for our Birds SA communication over the weekend. Mobile phones should work around this location, so if you arrive late call Lynton on 0498466092 for directions to our current birding location.

Our resident **Fleurieu Birds** members will assist with guiding and sharing their best birding spots at this location with us. I encourage new and younger members to join us at this fun event to improve both your bird watching skills and your knowledge.

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

**Lynton Huxley**

**Campout Organiser**

**Phone: 0498 466 092**

# 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).*

## **Emu**

1, 20/5/2018. Tothill Range, Webb Gap Rd, LN.

Smyth, J.

100s, May 2018. Peterborough township, LN.

*Reported in SA Advertiser as creating havoc in the town, attracted to green gardens and water.*

## **Wilson's Storm-petrel**

2, 1/6/2018. Streaky Bay, Doctor's Beach, EP. Seen close to shore.

Brittain, R.

## **Australasian Darter**

*Several reports from southern areas including:*

1 male, 7/6/2018. Belair National Park, Playford Lake, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

1, 11/7/2018. Mount Bold Reservoir, MLR.

Williss, M.

1, 8/8/2018. Old Noarlunga, MLR.

Long, R.

## **Cattle Egret**

3, 26-28/6/2018. Port Elliott, Waterport Rd, MLR. Feeding in paddock with cows.

Syson, W.

*Small numbers also reported along the northern side of Lake Alexandrina but not Mount Compass where 100 or more occurred up to the 1980s.*

## **Eastern Reef Egret**

1, 23/6/2018. Hindmarsh Island, Sugars Beach, MM.

Daly, W.

*Rarely reported east of Victor Harbor.*

## **White-bellied Sea-eagle**

1, 12/7/2018. Warren Reservoir, MLR.

Dennis, T.

## **Australian Little Bittern**

1, 8/7/2018. Narrung Peninsula, MM.

Green, B.

*This species has been thought to depart SA in winter, but this record indicates that some birds remain in winter when they are difficult to detect.*

## **Royal Spoonbill**

120, 23/6/2018. Globe Derby Park, White Rd wetlands, AP.

Breed, W.

*A large group.*

## **Australian White Ibis**

2, 17/6/2018. Belair NP, Gums Oval, MLR. Feeding on oval.

Carpenter, G.

*Tame birds are now evidently spreading from Adelaide into surrounding areas.*

## **Grey Goshawk**

1, 28/6/2018. Burra, LN. A white-phase bird photographed on mining infrastructure.

Greenhill, H. per I. Falkenberg

*White-phase birds are occasionally reported in the SE and less often MM regions. One was reported at Cudlee Creek in May 2012 (Newsletter 223) but it was uncertain if this was a wild or escaped bird.*

## **Spotted Harrier**

1, 18/7/2018. Black Forest, AP. Flying over.

Edey, D.

## **Osprey**

1, 3/6/2018. Thorndon Park Reservoir, MLR.

Ankor, M. & Anderson, K.

*Unlike the Sea-Eagle, Ospreys rarely visit inland waterbodies in SA.*

## **Buff-banded Rail**

1, 15/6/2018. Athelstone, Kildare Ave, AP.

Cellier, G.

## **Australian Spotted Crake**

1, 2/4/2018. Waite Institute, MLR. Feeding in drain, then attacked by a Laughing Kookaburra which attempted to carry the bird away in its beak.

Brown, M.

## **Australian Bustard**

*More reports from southern areas reflecting the dry conditions inland.*

1, 25/5/2018. Iron Knob-Lincoln Gap Rd, EP.

Jenner, B.

1, 26/5/2018. 6 km NE Riverton, LN.

Hannaford, A. per J. Smyth

1, 1/6/2018. Copley, FR.

Flinders Ranges Fields Nats

# Bird Records (cont.)

Pair + immature, 12/6/2018. Spear Creek, FR.

Bain, M.

1, 17/6/2018. Port Broughton, LN.

Jack, T.

1, 27/6/2018. Grassvale Stn, 22km E Burra, LN.

Francis, L.

1, 2/7/2018. Bethany, near Turkey Flat vineyard, MLR.

Kretschmer, G.

1, 15/7/2018. Rochester, LN.

Bellchambers, K.

1, 5/8/2018. Port Augusta arid lands botanic garden, NW.

Pendavingh, D. & E.

## Double-banded Plover

717, 28/6/2018. Lake George, SE.

Campbell, J. & Stewart, I.

*This would be the largest number reported in SA.*

## Greater Sand Plover

1, 1/7/2018. Bald Hill Beach, AP. Overwintering.

Taylor, P.W.

## Masked Lapwing

2, 7/7/2018. Balaklava, AP. One bird of the northern variety '*miles*' with a larger yellow facial mask and lacking the black strip from shoulder to chest.

Taylor, P.W.

*Members are encouraged to check lapwings in southern SA to help determine the status of this form.*

## Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

1, 5/8/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Nash, R.

*Up to 3 overwintering birds at this locality reported by C. Rogers. This species normally departs SA completely in winter.*

## Long-toed Stint

1, 3/6/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. Overwintering.

Rogers, C.

## Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo

1 calling, 6/8/2018. Fullarton, Cremorne St, AP.

Horton, P.

## Little Stint

1, 4/7/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM. In partial breeding plumage.

Rogers, C.

*Photos and details provided to the rare birds committee. Later seen by many including:*

1, 1/8/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Gordon, S.

## Marsh Sandpiper

1, 12/5/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Bainbridge, T. *et al.*

1, 3/6/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Rogers, C.

1, 10/7/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Taylor, P.W.

*An overwintering wader.*

## Gull-billed Tern

1, 7/5/2018. Largs Bay, AP.

Sparks, K.

23, 12/6/2018. Port Clinton, YP. Included one of the smaller migratory subspecies '*affinus*'.

Taylor, P.W.

## Arctic Tern

1, 16-17/6/2018. Goolwa Barrage, MM. Photos and details provided.

Rogers, C. & Cheshire, N.

## White-fronted Tern

1, 16/6/2018. Encounter Bay, MLR.

Rogers, C.

## Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

100, 13/6/2018. Highbury, Linear Park, AP.

Crooks, G.

100, 21/6/2018. Onkaparinga NP, Hardy's Scrub, MLR.

Merchant, M.

86, 27/6/2018. Bellevue Heights, MLR.

Winwood, S.

3/8/2018. Marino, MLR. *A leucistic bird with a distinctive largely yellow body and wing coverts.*

Munro, C.

## Eastern Rosella

1, 16/7/2018. Port Lincoln, EP.

Jones, M.

*Presumed escapee. There is reasonable evidence that the population around Adelaide established from escaped birds in the early 1900s.*

## Superb Fairywren

Heard, 22/7/2018. Patawalonga Golf Course, West Beach Rd, AP.

Edey, D.

## Rose-ringed Parrakeet

1, 16/6/2018. Lockleys, Mellor Park, AP.

Edey, D.

1, 25-26/7/2018. Henley Beach South, Seaview Rd, AP. Checking potential nest site in house roof.

Edey, D.

*Members are encouraged to report occurrences of exotic species such as this, as they have potential to establish and become a serious pest. Details provided to BioSecurity SA.*

# Bird Records (cont.)

## Eastern Spinebill

1, 23/5/2018. Moorak, SE.

Hayward, B.

*Rarely reported in the SE but many reports around Adelaide and to the north.*

1, 24/5/2018. South Australian Museum, Science Building, AP.

Kemper, C.

Few, May 2018. Riverton area, LN.

Smyth, J.

1, 5/6/2018. South Australian Museum, Armory, AP.

Horton, P.

1, 24/6/2018. Semaphore, AP.

Carpenter, L.

1, 25/7/2018. Adelaide University, AP.

Breed, W.

## Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

1, 11/6/2018. 6km SW Victor Harbor, MLR. *Calling from top of pine tree.*

Carpenter, G.

1, 18/6/2018. Hallett Cove, MLR. Stunned after flying into window.

Long, R.

*Records suggest that small numbers visit the MLR coast in June in each year, possibly flying across from KI or YP.*

## Grey-fronted Honeyeater

1, 4/1/2018. Whyalla, Mullaquana, EP. In garden.

Smith, E.

## Brown Honeyeater

1+, 12/5/2018. Gluepot Reserve, MM. Photographed at Grasswren Hide.

Sharkey, A.

*First report from the MM region and rarely reported from SA generally.*

## Little Friarbird

1, 5/6/2018. Sugarloaf Hill, 8 km N Keith, MM.

Sando, D.

*Rarely reported from SE/lower MM region, with most records in SA along the upper Murray River.*

## White-fronted Honeyeater

1, 9/6/2018. Cape Jervis, MLR.

Merchant, M.

*Normally associated with more arid areas. There is potential for other unusual honeyeaters near Adelaide over the coming months.*

## Black-faced Woodswallow

7, 9/8/2018. 14km N Port Wakefield, LN.

Taylor, P.W.

*Another species more often in arid areas.*

## Dusky Woodswallow

25. 19-21/5/2018. Lobethal, 3km SSW, MLR.

Evans, M.

1 over, 10/6/2018. Fullarton, Cremorne St, AP.

Horton, P.

## Grey Fantail

2, 21/6/2018. Patawalonga Golf Course, West Beach Rd, AP.

Edey, D.

## Hooded Robin

1 male, 26/6/2018. Moppa, MLR.

Pearce, A.

*Now rarely seen in the MLR region.*

## White-backed Swallow

1, 29/5/2018. Tolderol Game Reserve, MM.

Koch, P.

## Red-capped Robin

1 female, 27/5/2018. Hindmarsh Island, Lawari CP, MM.

Phillips, W.

1 male, 3/6/2018. Lobethal, 3km SSW, MLR.

Evans, M.

1, 13/7/2018. Saint Kilda, AP.

Merchant, M.

*Red-capped Robins have occurred widely in Sheoak and Native Pine woodlands in the Adelaide region in the past but are now mostly autumn-winter visitors. Interestingly Harry Newell didn't record them on Hindmarsh Island in the 1920s (SA Ornithologist 9) but did note both Scarlet and Flame.*

## Flame Robin

1, 28/4/2018. Narrung Ferry, E of, MM.

Green, B.

*No reports from near Adelaide this winter.*

## Rose Robin

1 uncoloured, 25/5/2018. Belair NP plant nursery, MLR.

Johnston, D.

## Beautiful Firetail

1, 21/6/2018. Victor Harbor, 5km SW, MLR.

Carpenter, G.

## Diamond Firetail

50, 23/6/2018. Rockleigh, MLR. A large group in an area recovering from bushfires in 2014.

Bansemer, B.

## Zebra Finch

2, May 2018, Riverton, 1km E, LN.

Smyth, J.

# Our Contact Details etc.

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

Committee Meetings are held at the above venue on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7.40pm.

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

## BIRDS SA COMMITTEE 2018 – 2019

President	John Gitsham	0438900393
Vice President	John Hatch	8362 2820
Vice President	Jeff Groves	82632939
Secretary	Kate Buckley	0428887786
Treasurer	John Spiers	8333 0272
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
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 Officer	Alan Burns	8381 2708
Member	Jody Gates	8391 6342
Member	Brian Blaylock	0448822374
Member	Karen Donkin	8379 1173
Member	Beatrice Rogers	0423241856

## COMMITTEE EMAIL CONTACTS

If you wish to contact any committee member by email, use the email address below:

[general@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:general@birdssa.asn.au) and indicate which committee member you wish to contact.

Your message will be forwarded to that person.

## FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

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

## Conservation Sub-committee members

Jeff Groves (Chair), William Brooker, Phil Cole, Bill Breed, David Andrewartha, David Hansman, Rodney Attwood, Nigel Gammon

## SA Rarities & Distribution (SARDS) Members

Andrew Black (Chair), Brian Blaylock (Secretary), Graham Carpenter, John Fennell, Bob Green, John Hatch, Lyn Pedler, Colin Rogers

## Port Augusta Birders (The Babblers)

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

## BirdLife South East SA

Convener: Bob Green 0407649909

Email: [shriketit@bigpond.com](mailto:shriketit@bigpond.com)

## Fleurieu Birders, a sub-group of Birds SA

Contact: Wendy Phillips 85550634 or 0414248688

Neil Cheshire 85527904

Email: [fleurieubirders@gmail.com](mailto:fleurieubirders@gmail.com)

## COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the NOVEMBER 'Birder' is due by the October General Meeting (October 26).

Contributions, 'Word' format preferred, can be recorded on a CD or a USB stick, emailed to the email address below, or typed/handwritten neatly.

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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)	\$60.00
Family Member (electronic only)	\$60.00
Family Member (print)	\$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.

# Members' Photographs



**An aggregation of Magpielarks photographed by Terry Dennis at Bool Lagoon in the early morning of 5 April 2018.**

**The flock consisted of at least 45 birds that had apparently roosted nearby, and remained together as they moved off around the main lagoon to the southwest.**

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Kelvin Sparks	FREWVILLE	Jim and Wendy Smith	KINGS PARK
Desiree Frahn	BLACKWOOD	Stana Camelin	ALICE SPRINGS
Barry and Wendy Brain	BEACHPORT	Janine Clipstone	ALBERTON
Richard and Blanche Koehne	FLAGSTAFF HILL	Rosemary Goland	OAKLANDS PARK
Janet Harris	COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS	Len Robinson	CARNEGIE, VICTORIA

If your name has inadvertently been omitted from this list, please contact our Membership Officer. His 'phone number is on page 38.

# Some Western Australian Birds

Photographs taken in June 2018 by David Hamhamsman

In early June a group of birders visited the Australian Wildlife Conservancy reserve at Mornington, near the King Leopold Range, via Broome. Among the highlights were four finch species: Crimson, Double-barred, Gouldian and Long-tailed. Kingfishers: Azure, Red-backed and Sacred; Blue-winged Kookaburra; Fairywrens: Purple-crowned and Red-backed; Flycatchers: Leaden and Paperbark.

David also visited Ningaloo (Yellow White-eye and Rainbow Bee-eater); Broome (White-breasted Whistler); and Monkey Mia, Shark Bay (Chiming Wedgebill and Western Grasswren), all coastal sites. The Coral Coast (Ningaloo) and Shark Bay, in semi-arid (mulga) zones, have many birds in common with inland SA including Corvids (Little Crows in Shark Bay) and Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters.



**A Great Bower Bird and its bower, Mornington**



**Juvenile Yellow-throated Miners  
sheltering from a storm, Ningaloo (near Exmouth)**



**Rainbow Bee-eaters, Ningaloo (near Exmouth)**



# Robins – always good to see!



Female Red-capped Robin, photographed by Bob Daly on Hindmarsh Island on 27 May 2018

*Bob commented that, as far as he knows, a Red-capped Robin is a very unusual sighting for Hindmarsh Island.*



Scarlet Robin, photographed by John Pearce at Talisker on June 23 2018



Red-capped Robin, photographed by Gordon Pateman on 4 August 2018 at Brown's Rd. Monarto

# Raptors in Flight



**Letter-winged Kite, photographed by Peter Day along the Birdsville Track, Queensland on July 25 2018**



**Osprey, photographed by Teresa Jack at Edithburgh in July 2018**



**Brown Goshawk, photographed by John Pearce in Hardy's Scrub on June 21 2018**



**Wedge-tailed Eagle, photographed by John Pearce at Hardy's Scrub on July 21 2018**

# Birds with long legs



**Brolgas, photographed by Alan Pettigrew  
on 11 August 2018 at Longreach, Queensland**



**Australian Bustard, Photographed by  
Teresa Jack at Port Broughton in July 2018**



**Southern Boobook Owls, one Adult and one Immature,  
photographed by Peter McKenzie at Mount Barker, July 7 2018**