



**The South Australian  
Ornithological  
Association Inc.**

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.

ABN 76 339 976 789

Trading as Birds SA

### Committee's report

The Committee presents this report to the members of The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2019.

### Committee

	Position	Appointed	Resigned	Meetings	
				A	B
John Gitsham	President			11	10
John Hatch	Vice-President			11	11
Jeff Groves	Vice-President			11	9
Kate Buckley	Secretary		Dec 2019	10	7
John Spiers	Treasurer			11	8
Merilyn Browne	Journal Editor			11	6
Graham Carpenter *	Bird Records			11	0
Cynthia Pyle	Magazine Editor			11	6
Jody Gates	Member		Ap 2019r	3	3
Lynton Huxley	Field Programme			11	8
Alan Burns	Membership Officer			11	10
Bea Rogers	Member			11	9
Karen Donkin	Librarian			11	9
Stephen Ramm	Member			11	9
Richard Woodland	Merchandise Officer	Aug 2019		5	5
Stephen Langley	Member	Dec, 2019		1	1
Lou Jayleigh	Assistant Secretary	Jun, 2019		7	5

*A - number of meetings eligible to attend; B – number of meetings attended.*

Only the dates of appointment and retirement that occurred during the year are shown.

\* Graham Carpenter has been granted permission not to attend meetings unless an issue involving his areas of responsibility are to be discussed.

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### Objectives of Association

The objectives of the Association are:

- to promote the conservation of Australian birds and their habitats;
- to encourage interest in, and develop knowledge of, the birds of South Australia;
- to record the results of research in regard to all aspects of bird life; and
- to maintain a public fund called the “Birds SA Conservation Fund”.

## **Principal Activities**

The Association's principal activities during the year were:

- publication of the Association's magazine – “The Birder”;
- publication of the Association’s journal – “South Australian Ornithologist”;
- monthly meetings of members;
- field trips and campouts for members;
- financial support for research;
- active monitoring of progress on International Bird Sanctuary and effects of the closure of Dry Creek Saltfields;
- conducting educational programs to increase public awareness and knowledge of birds
- · advocating bird conservation through exhibitions, reports, negotiations with public authorities and submissions to inquiries
- commenting on various matters affecting birds and their habitats in South Australia;
- continuing to raise funds for research activities through the Birds SA Conservation Fund, and
- affiliation and combined activities and projects with nationwide BirdLife Australia.

These activities have assisted the Association to meet its objectives in the following ways:

- promoting the conservation of Australian birds and their habitat by providing comments on Government papers, and by promoting causes to members;
- monitoring developments in relation to the establishment of the International Bird Sanctuary and closure of the Dry Creek Saltfields;
- participating in strategy development for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary;
- holding meetings and field trips in order to encourage interest in and develop knowledge of the birds of South Australia;
- maintaining records of unusual bird sightings by members and of bird species seen on field trips;
- providing records of bird sightings on field trips to the South Australian Government; funding of research grants for the study of birds and their habitat.
- participation in community events such as Sophie’s Garden and the Laratinga Bird Fair;

- conducting activities for children “the Fledglings” to increase their interest in and knowledge of birds, and
- providing information about birds to the wider community, such as conducting WEA lectures;

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee:

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'John Gitsham' and the signature on the right is 'John Spiers'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Gitsham

President

Adelaide, 24 March 2020

John Spiers

Treasurer

**ANDREW WILLING**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC.**

**Scope**

I have audited the attached financial statements of The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc. (the "Association") comprising the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2019, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statements of Changes in Funds and Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements.

The Association's Committee of Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information contained therein, and have determined that the accounting policies are consistent with the reporting requirements of the Association's constitution and are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act and the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association.

The financial statements have been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Association's constitution. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which they were prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies adopted as described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**Qualification**

Cash receipts -

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practical for the Association to maintain an effective system of internal control over cash donations or other cash income prior to its initial entry in the accounting records, nor is it practical to conduct audit procedures to ensure that all such revenue has been brought to account. Accordingly, my audit relating to these items was limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records.

**Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation**

**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, subject to the effects of such adjustments, if any, that might have been determined to be necessary had the limitations discussed in the qualifications paragraph not existed, the financial statements of the Association are properly drawn up so as to present fairly in accordance with the accounting policies adopted:

(a) the financial state of the Association as at 31 December, 2019, and

(b) the results of its activities for the year then ended.



A.R. Willing  
Chartered Accountant  
Date: 15 April, 2020

**The South Australian Ornithological Association  
Inc.**

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*The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.*

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019

### Statement of comprehensive income

	Note	2019	2018
<b>Revenue and other income</b>			
Fundraising:			
Donations & gifts		8,059	7,235
Contributions (members)		34,018	31,956
Advertisements		160	
Sales of goods		1,324	1,541
Less: cost of goods sold		-951	-1,080
Income from events		-13	820
Investment income		3,433	2,555
Revaluation of library			30,000
Write-back of excess accruals			8,000
<b>Revenue &amp; other income</b>	2(d)	<b><u>46,029</u></b>	<b><u>81,026</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration		3,006	2,210
Magazine- Printing and Postage		12,364	10,927
Journal - Printing and Postage		4,705	9,765
Conservation Council of South Australia membership		440	858
Coastal Raptor Survey			2,306
Insurance		2,332	1,928
Rent		825	
Audit Fees		770	770
Suppers		129	5
Library		390	340
<i>Assets less than \$5,000</i>			
Membership System		2,646	3,707
Events - Treasures not Targets		1,000	432
Research Grants		1,054	8,627
Interstate speakers			
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b><u>29,660</u></b>	<b><u>41,875</u></b>
<b>Net surplus/ (deficit) for the year</b>	4(b)	<b><u>16,368</u></b>	<b><u>39,151</u></b>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

*The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.*

**The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.**

**Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019**

**Statement of financial position**

	Note	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash & cash equivalents	4	239,624	221,377
Trading stocks	5	2,227	3,178
Trade & other receivables	6	4,186	1,151
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>246,036</b>	<b>225,706</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant & equipment	7	50,000	50,000
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	3c	<b>296,036</b>	<b>275,706</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade creditors & other payables	8	6,306	7,442
Revenue received in advance		10,153	5,055
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>16,459</b>	<b>12,497</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	4c	<b>16,459</b>	<b>12,497</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>279,577</b>	<b>263,209</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
General funds		169,684	161,801
Contingency fund		58,038	57,237
Birds SA Conservation Fund		51,856	44,171
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>279,577</b>	<b>263,209</b>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the attached notes.



# The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019

### Statement of changes in funds

	General Fund	Contingency Fund	Birds SA Conservation Fund	Total Funds
<b>Balance 31 December 2018</b>	<b>161,801</b>	<b>57,237</b>	<b>44,171</b>	263,209
Total comprehensive income for the year	8,684		7,684	16,368
Transfers	-801	801		0
<b>Balance 31 December 2019</b>	<b>169,684</b>	<b>58,038</b>	<b>51,856</b>	<b>279,577</b>

### Statement of cash flows

	2019	2018
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from:		
Government grants		
Donations & gifts	5,454	2,554
Contributions (members)	41,033	31,127
Sales of goods	1,811	1,663
Other income		1,374
Investment income	2,574	2,172
Payments to suppliers	(32,625)	(44,817)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>18,247</b>	<b>(5,927)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
(Purchase)/redemption of deposits with banks		(11,017)
<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(11,017)</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>18,247</b>	<b>(16,945)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</b>	<b>221,377</b>	<b>238,322</b>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	18,247	(16,945)

**Cash and cash equivalents at end of year**

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**239,624**

**221,377**

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This statement should be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

# **The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.**

## **Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019**

### **Notes to the financial statements**

#### **1. Corporate information**

The financial statements of The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc. (the association) for the year ended 31 December 2019 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Committee on 10 February 2020.

The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc. is an incorporated association, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The association is a charity registered under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Act. Birds SA Conservation Fund is an authorised deductible gift recipient fund.

The nature of the operations and principal activities of the association are described in Note 4 and in the Committee's Report on page 13.

#### **2. Summary of accounting policies**

##### **(a) Basis of preparation**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and Urgent Issues Group interpretations.

The association complies with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

##### **(b) Historical cost convention**

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except for the adoption of the Committee's valuation for the library.

##### **(c) Currency**

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*The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.*

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the association's functional currency.

**(d) Revenue recognition**

Revenue is recognised when the association is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

**Revenue from fundraising - Donations**

Donations collected, including cash and goods for resale, are recognised as revenue when the association gains control, economic benefits are probable and the amount of the donation can be measured reliably.

**Revenue from Contributions (Members)**

For continuing members, subscriptions are recognised in the year to which the subscription relates. Subscriptions from new members are recognised at the time that they are received.

**Sales of goods**

Revenue from sales of goods comprises revenue earned (net of returns, discounts and allowances) from the sale of goods purchased for resale and gifts donated for resale. Sales revenue is recognised when the control of goods passes to the customer.

**Investment income**

Investment income comprises interest. Interest income is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.

**Government grants**

Revenue from Government grants is recognised at the time that Birds SA has expenditure that satisfies the requirements of the grant and has been paid.

**(e) Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Research grants are amounts granted to persons or institutions in Australia for research into bird life and related habitat. Grants are recognised when paid or when there is an obligation to make payment under a contract.

**(f) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at bank and short-term deposits with an original maturity of twelve months or less.

**(g) Trading Stocks**

Stocks are recognised at the lower of cost or estimated net realisable value.

**(h) Property, plant and equipment**

**Basis of measurement of carrying amount**

Library books are recorded at the Committee's valuation. The carrying value is reviewed on an annual basis.

**(i) Trade creditors and other payables**

Trade creditors and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the company prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid. These amounts are usually settled within 30 days of the receipt of an invoice. The carrying amount of the creditors and payables is deemed to reflect fair value.

**(j) Taxation**

**Income tax**

The association is a charitable institution for the purposes of Australian taxation legislation and is therefore exempt from income tax. This exemption has been confirmed by the Australian Taxation Office. The association controls a fund ("Birds SA Conservation Fund") that holds deductible gift recipient status.

**Goods and services tax (GST)**

The association is not registered for GST and any GST paid is recognised as a part of the expense or cost of the relevant asset.

### 3. Segment reporting

#### (a) Operating segments

The association identifies its operating segments on the basis of internal reports about the association that are reviewed by the Committee on a regular basis. The association's reportable segments are therefore as follows:

#### **Birds SA Conservation Fund**

The Fund raises money by seeking donations from members and uses those funds to support research into bird life and bird habitats within Australia.

#### **Birds SA**

The association receives monies from membership fees and the sale of goods to members and the public. Revenue is used to support membership activities such as meetings and publications made available to members free-of-charge.

#### (b) Segment revenue and results

The following is an analysis of the association's revenue and results by reportable segment

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Birds SA Conservation Fund	8,738	7,458	7,684	-1,169
Birds SA General Fund	37,291	73,568	8,684	40,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,029</b>	<b>81,026</b>		
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>			<b>16,368</b>	<b>39,151</b>

Revenue reported above represents revenue generated from external customers. There were no inter-segment sales in the year (2018: Nil).

The above are the measures reported to the Committee for the purposes assessment of segment performance. The accounting policies of the reportable segments are the same as the association's accounting policies described in Note 2.

**(c) Segment assets and liabilities**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Segment assets</b>		
Birds SA Conservation Fund	54,038	45,211
Birds SA General Fund	241,999	230,495
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>296,036</b>	<b>275,706</b>
<b>Segment liabilities</b>		
Birds SA Conservation Fund	3,589	5,138
Birds SA General Fund	12,870	35,123
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>16,459</b>	<b>40,261</b>

**(d) Geographical information**

The association operates in one geographic area – Australia (country of domicile).

**4. Cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Cash at bank or on hand	42,574	24,327
Short-term deposits	197,050	197,050
	<b>239,624</b>	<b>221,377</b>

Cash at bank earns interest at floating rates based on daily deposit rates. Short-term deposits are made for varying periods of between one day and twelve months, depending on the association's cash requirements. These deposits earn interest at market rates.

**5. Trading Stocks**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Goods held for resale at lower of cost or net realisable value	2,227	3,178

**6. Trade and other receivables**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Prepayments and other accrued income	4,186	11,151

**7. Property, plant and equipment**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Library at committee's valuation	50,000	20,000

## **8. Trade creditors & other payables**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Trade Creditors	2,717	2,717
Grant accruals outstanding	3,589	4,725
	<b>6,306</b>	<b>7,442</b>

## **9. Total funds**

### **(a) Movements in funds**

Details of the movement in each reserve and fund are provided in the statement of changes in funds.

### **(b) Details of reserves and funds included in statement of changes in funds**

#### **General fund**

The general fund represents the funds of the association that are not designated for particular purposes.

#### **Contingency fund**

The contingency fund represents funds of the association that may only be accessed on approval by a special resolution of members. The fund is increased by the rate of change in the consumer price index for South Australia annually.

#### **Birds SA Conservation Fund**

The Birds SA Conservation Fund is an approved deductible gift recipient and raises funds from donations. Funds may be used to support research into bird life and habitat within Australia

## **10. Commitment and contingencies**

### **(a) Funding commitments**

There were no commitments as at the end of 2019.



**11. Related parties and related-party transactions**

**(a) Committee member's compensation**

Committee members act in an honorary capacity and receive no compensation for their efforts. During the year \$3,255 (2018 - \$2,249) of expenses incurred by Committee members in fulfilling their roles were reimbursed.

## Committee's declaration

The Committee members declare that in their opinion:

- a) The attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with accounting standards
- b) The attached financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association
- c) The attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and Association Incorporation Regulations 2008
- d) There are reasonable grounds to believe the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee

On behalf of the Committee



John Gitsham

President

Adelaide, 24 March, 2020



John Spiers

Treasurer

## Committee's report on operations for the year ended 31 December 2019

### Membership

The total number of members rose from 800 to 854 during the year, including 9 Honorary members. The number of memberships also increased from 575 to 596, including 9 Honorary memberships.

The Committee was pleased to recognise long-serving members at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. Twenty-three members qualified to receive certificates and those receiving certificates for 25 years (Bronze), 30 years (Silver), 35 years (Gold), and 40 years (Platinum) are listed below.

<i><b>Bronze Certificates</b></i>	<i><b>Silver Certificates</b></i>	<i><b>Gold Certificates</b></i>	<i><b>Platinum Certificates</b></i>
Marcus Pickett	Stephen Lewis	Charlotte Bright	Tony Furlong
Jody Gates	Hans Fander	Elizabeth Macilwain	Peter Bird
Judith Dyer	Judy Fander	Leigh Schmidt	Ross Robinson
David Edey	Gunter Hormann	Patricia Schmidt	
Vikie-Jo Russell	Wendy McGrath		
Robert Broad	Trevor McGrath		
Rodger Fidler	Jean Boomer		
Mervyn Chappel			
Ella Smith			

The Association also would like to recognise its nine Honorary Members:

Andrew Black	Graham Carpenter	Trevor Cowie
Leo Joseph	David Paton	Penny Paton
Lynn Pedler	Richard Schodde	Max Waterman

### Membership Activities & Services

#### Meetings

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*The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.*

General meetings have been held on a monthly basis and have been well supported by members. Speakers presented entertaining and informative talks on a variety of topics.

### **Field Trips & Campouts**

Field trips were held throughout the year covering a wide variety of sites and habitats. During the year there were 34 field trips were planned but one had to be cancelled because of bad weather. They were generally well supported by members. The Field Trips provide valuable information on the population trends of bird species within the wide-ranging sites visited.

Two campouts were held during the year, an Easter Campout at Mary Seymour Conservation park near Bool Lagoon and the October long weekend campout at Gluepot.

### **Events**

**BirdLife Australia** - The affiliation with BirdLife Australia is continuing strongly as we work together on projects and joint programmes to make the public aware of conservation and bird and habitat issues, and promote birdwatching in SA.

**“Act for the Birds”** .Birds SA hosted a second BirdLife Australia event “Act for the Birds” in April, seeking support to change the Environmental Laws to better protect our Birds and habitats across Australia. Adelaide had the biggest attendance the event nationwide.

**2019 Australasian Ornithological Conference.** The President, John Gitsham, attended the 2019 Australasian Ornithological Conference in Darwin in June, representing Birds SA and presented a paper about our involvement with Laratinga wetlands.

**SA Shorebird Alliance.** As a founding member (along with BirdLife Australia) Birds SA continues to help preserve habitats for migratory waders.

**Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary** – Kate Buckley represented Birds SA at the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary “Collective” gathering on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. The “Collective” will not continue into the future.

**Shorebird 2020.** Surveys for BirdLife Australia and Birds SA records were carried out along the Samphire Coast, Dry Creek Saltfields, Yorke Peninsula, Fleurieu Peninsula and the South East of the State during January, February, March, June, October November and December. Birds SA assisted in the biennial count of beach-nesting birds conducted by Birdlife Australia in November.

**“Birds & Bickies”** organised by BirdLife. Kate Buckley attended three events held at Thompson Beach on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March as an instructor in Migratory Wader identification.

**Migratory Waders and Musicians.** Kate Buckley was interviewed on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March by the Stage Manager of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra who were performing in Adelaide as part of the Adelaide Festival. A podcast was made linking the travelling Musicians with Migratory Waders.

**Salisbury Council Presentation.** At the request of Ian Falkenberg (DEW) Kate Buckley gave a presentation on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March to the Salisbury Council regarding the protection of habitat for the Migratory Waders.

**Murray River Boat Owners.** On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 John Gitsham gave a presentation to the Murray River Boat Owners Association at Hahndorf.

**KBA Workshop Belair National Park.** John Gitsham co-presented on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at the Key Biodiversity Areas workshop organised by BirdLife Australia, at the Belair National Park.

**Marion Council.** Kate Buckley conducted a “Bird Walk” for the Marion Council at Oaklands Wetlands on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Glenthorne Farm** Alan Burns attended two Open Days held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April at the Glenthorne property. Hosted by Minister, David Speirs, and DEW staff, this was a huge success with 3,500 attendees, including the Premier, Steven Marshall. This event followed the news that the property and surrounding parks would soon form the Glenthorne National Park. A further two Open Days were held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October at Glenthorne where the University of Adelaide signed a contract for the transfer of the title Deed to the State, with a further 2,800 visitors in attendance.

**BirdLife Australia “Act for the Birds part 2”** was presented at The Joinery 11<sup>th</sup> April. John Gitsham was a Presenter and Birds SA managed the supper arrangements.

**Sophie’s Garden.** The Birds SA stall was held at Sophie’s Open Garden Easter Weekend April 20-22<sup>nd</sup> and on November 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Kate Buckley gave a presentation “Is Your Garden Bird Friendly” both in April and November. Sophie’s daughters, Rose and Violet, made a ceramic bird bath as a raffle prize with the proceeds going to the Birds SA Conservation Fund.

**Fledglings Bird Banding Event.** In conjunction with BioR, Birds SA ran a Fledglings activity at Monarto on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May with 37 children attending. Other planned Fledglings events were cancelled due to poor attendance.

**Rotary Club Blackwood.** John Hatch gave a presentation to the Rotary Club at Blackwood in June.

**The Gums Landcare Group, Tranmere.** Kate Buckley gave a presentation “Introduction to Birds” on 8<sup>th</sup> July with 15 people attending. A “Bird Walk was then conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> July

with the assistance of Anna Lester and Miles Ramm. A focus of this “Bird Walk” was children, but only 4 children attended after a letter-box drop of 500 leaflets in the area.

**Anglicare Visits 2019.** Visits to Aged-care facilities were undertaken by Anna Lester and Marilyn Browne where they gave “Bird Presentations” which were well received by the residents.

**“Magpie Festival” – Cleland Wildlife Park.** A “Magpie Festival” was held at Cleland Wildlife Park on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The Birds SA Stall was conducted and John Gitsham gave a presentation, however the event was poorly attended due to very inclement weather.

**“University 3A”.** John Hatch gave a presentation at Prospect to the University of 3A on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**“Justice of The Peace”.** John Hatch gave an evening presentation to a group of “Justices of The Peace” in the Adelaide Hills on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

**Tennyson Dunes Festival.** Tennyson Dunes Festival was held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Kate Buckley and Bronwyn Mart managed the Birds SA Stall, whilst Ali Ben Kahn conducted a “Bird Walk” 9.00am-10.00am.

**Laratinga Bird Fair.** Laratinga Bird Fair was conducted on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October with Birds SA Stall being well manned by many volunteers, John Gitsham giving a presentation and Birds SA conducting Bird Walks on the hour.

**WEA Birdwatching Course.** The course held in October/November was popular again with 19 students enrolled in the 6 week course.

**Tolderol** was the best for birding it has been for many years, and throughout the year many members of Birds SA have participated in the monthly surveys at Tolderol and attended their two open days.

A request was received for Birds SA to attend the Burra Garden Expo 19-20 October. Due to their poor communication this did not eventuate. There has now been a requested received for Birds SA to participate in the 2020 Burra Garden Expo.

“Home-Schooling” parents requested that Birds SA run a “Bird Walk” for home-schooled students. We agreed to this but a date was never set by that group.

Birds SA are very grateful to the generous volunteers who give up their time to manage the Birds SA Stall at events, or gave presentations.

Vice-President, Jeff Groves, represented Birds SA at:

- two Conservation Council of SA meetings throughout the year
- two meetings of the anti duck and quail hunting coalition, hosted by RSPCA SA
- six public exhibitions hosted by the anti duck and quail hunting coalition
- a presentation to the Natural Resources Committee of the SA Parliament in relation to an Off-Road Vehicle Inquiry
- a meeting with Premier Marshall in relation to duck and quail hunting
- the Duck & Quail Open Season Stakeholder Reference Panel meeting, hosted by DEW in December
- a meeting of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Partnership Group

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*The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.*

- a meeting on the Buckland Park Coast to Coast SEB Project, hosted by DEW
- a meeting with DEW to discuss recommendations relating to Little Corella Management

## **Publications**

Our magazine, "The Birder", under the editorship of Cynthia Pyle, continued on a quarterly basis. The contents and presentation are continually being improved as we strive to make the magazine as professional and useful as possible.

Two issues of the "South Australian Ornithologist" were published during the year with the second issue being a double issue. The Committee thanks Merilyn Browne for her efforts as Journal Editor.

## **Library**

The library continued to supplement its collection of books and other media. During the year 8 books were purchased for the library for a total cost of \$390, with a further 5 books and 3 DVDs being donated. A total of 80 items were borrowed from the library during the year. The Birds SA online catalogue was accessed 789 times during 2019. Thank-you to Terri Randle and John Donkin for their continuing assistance throughout 2019.

## **Research**

During the year the Birds SA Conservation Fund approved a grant of \$3,000 to Kevin Yang (Australian National University) for accommodation and vehicle hire costs during fieldwork for an Honours project at Calperum titled "Effects of temperature on parental and nestling behaviour on body condition in Jacky Winters (*Microeca fascinans*).". Offsetting the above grant was a \$1,946.00 refund received from the \$3,000 granted to Dr. Jasmine Packer last year. Net grants for the year therefore amounted to \$1,054.00.

The Birds SA Conservation Fund ended 2019 with a balance of \$51,112 in funds. Donations for the year totalled \$7,321.

The current Conservation Fund Management Committee consists of Jody Gates (Chair), Philippa Horton (retired 26 March, 2019), Bea Rogers and John Spiers as members, with David Paton is registered as an alternate member who can be called upon for project assessments if another member is unable to do the assessment.

## **Conservation Sub-committee Activities**

The Conservation Sub-committee, chaired by Jeff Groves, gained one new member early in the year, Ali Ben Kahn.

Regular reports on the activities of the Sub-committee were made at monthly general meetings and included in the The Birder publication. Significant activity during the year included:

- Continuation of regular bird surveys at the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant, led by Bill Breed. Up to November 2019, 17 of these surveys had been conducted at Bolivar in the previous two years. The surveys revealed high numbers of several duck species. SA Water has expressed its appreciation for this survey work and the working relationship between Birds SA and SA Water continues to be very positive.
- Regular reporting on the state of the Murray River and on activities supported by Birds SA at Tolderol Wetlands and Laratinga Wetlands. Ongoing contact with Mount Barker Council to ensure the best possible outcome for birds with the planned expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Laratinga.
- Discussions with Bush Heritage Australia and DEW on the future management of Brookfield Conservation Park now that Conservation Volunteers Australia are no longer performing this role. Follow-up discussions with Australian Wildlife Conservancy after Bush Heritage decided to not pursue potential management of Brookfield.
- Preparation and submission of a Birds SA response to the DEW Threatened Species Consultation process.
- Preparation and submission of a Birds SA response to the draft management plan for the control of Little Corellas in SA. Subsequent meeting with DEW staff to further discuss the Birds SA recommendations.
- A submission to Minister Speirs with respect to off-road vehicles and unleashed dogs impacting birdlife at Long Beach Coffin Bay. Liaison on these issues with Birds SA member from Coffin Bay, Doug Clarke.
- Preparation and submission of a Birds SA response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Impact of Off-road Vehicles in SA. Presentation by John Gitsham and Jeff Groves to the Natural Resources Management Committee of the SA Parliament on this subject.
- Successful negotiation with SA Power Networks for the better insulation of power lines at Old Noarlunga which had previously been responsible for the electrocution of Peregrine Falcon fledglings.
- Communication with Minister Speirs regarding the possible sale of SA Water land adjacent to The Washpool at Aldinga. Confirmation from the Minister that the sale would not proceed and that plans were in hand to enhance the site for birdlife.
- Monitoring of the EPBC Act referrals by BHP for the construction of Tailings Storage Facility 6 and Evaporation Pond 6 at the Olympic Dam mine. Communication with BirdLife Australia on this issue.
- Participation in the activities of the “*Treasures not Targets*” coalition of organisations opposed to the hunting of native birds in SA. Preparation and printing of pamphlets, canvas prints and mounted photographic prints to be used in the “*Treasures not Targets*” photographic exhibition. Participation in the running of the exhibition which was shown throughout the year at the SA Museum, the RSPCA’s Million Paws Walk at Victoria Park, The Joinery (Conservation Council of SA headquarters), the Laratinga Bird Fair, the Uraidla Sustainability Fair and the Stirling Laneways Market. Communications and meetings with Minister Speirs and Premier Marshall regarding banning the Open Seasons



for hunting of ducks and Stubble Quail in SA. Participation in the Open Season Reference Panel meeting conducted by DEW.

Nature Foundation SA

Members of Birds SA have continued to perform surveys of bird life on Nature Foundation SA's property at Witchelina, which is close to Farina.

## **SA Rarities and Distribution Subcommittee**

### **Background**

The SA Rarities and Distribution Subcommittee (SARDS) contributes a core function of a regional bird association in documenting distributional records and reviewing reports of rare birds in SA.

The Bird Records Secretary (BRS) takes prime responsibility for documenting distributional records and prepares reports for the magazine and journal. Other members of the Vetting Subcommittee (Andrew Black [chair], Graham Carpenter, Lynn Pedler, Colin Rogers and John Hatch) are consulted on an *ad hoc* basis.

Since 2006 The Vetting Subcommittee has advised the Environment Department in the validation of bird records for a revised edition of the *Census of South Australian Vertebrates*. Distributional maps were prepared by 2009 but were not published as planned. During 2018 Birds SA undertook to review the maps and develop them to a publishable form. Philippa Horton (South Australian Museum) and Brian Blaylock have been instrumental in these initiatives and, together with members of the Subcommittee, have also been responsible for maintaining and revising the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of *A Field List of the Birds of South Australia*.

The SA Rare Bird Committee formalised the rarity function of the Vetting Subcommittee in 2006, with John Fennell as Secretary. Since 2013 Brian Blaylock, has acted *ex officio* as non-voting Secretary. Bob Green was added as a member in 2015 and David Harper in 2018.

### **Activities during 2019**

#### **Field List**

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of *A Field List of the Birds of South Australia*, published on-line in September 2017 was revised in March 2018 and again in January 2020. It is downloadable from the Birds SA website

#### **Census of South Australian Vertebrates**

The Birds chapter of the *Census* has been the prime responsibility of the South Australian Museum but the close relationship between the Museum and our association is reflected in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition. (Horton, P., Blaylock, B. & Black, A. 2013. Section 3: Birds. In Owens, H. & Graham, A. (eds.) *Census of South Australian Vertebrates*. Fourth ed. Dept. of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and South Australian Museum.

[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Science/Information\\_census-of-sa-vertebrates.\)](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Science/Information_census-of-sa-vertebrates.)

Following a departmental decision to recognise all birds at subspecies level, the authors were asked to revise the chapter, naming all subspecies occurring in SA. This comprehensively

revised chapter, which incorporates many recent taxonomic revisions and nomenclatural changes, was submitted in January 2020 and is expected to be posted shortly.

## **Bird Maps**

Maps to complement the Birds chapter of the *Census* have been reviewed progressively since late in 2018. They are derived from the biological database of the Department for Environment and Water and include Biological Survey and other departmental records, and those of Birds SA, BirdLife Australia, SA Museum and Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). Brian Blaylock receives data downloads from Helen Owen (DEW) and manipulates sources and mapping details. Graham Carpenter and Andrew Black reviewed all Passerine maps which were posted on the Birds SA website in May 2019. Maps of non-passerines are being reviewed progressively, with advice from Colin Rogers and John Hatch for waders and seabirds.

## **Rare bird reports**

During the year 15 submissions were received, numbered 106 to 120, all but one accepted as confirmed records by the Subcommittee. Records included Broad-billed Sandpiper at Clinton CP and Outer Harbor, Oriental Pratincole at Tolderol GR, Rose Robin at Big Heath CP, Grey Goshawk at Pedler Creek, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike at Koolunga, Northern Shoveler at Murray Lagoon KI, Northern Rockhopper Penguin near Port MacDonnell, Pacific Koel at Prospect and Plains-wanderer at Boolcoomatta Reserve.

After 15 years and over 100 submissions, a report on the Subcommittee's activities is being prepared for possible publication.

## **Financial Performance**

### **Revenue**

- Revenue in 2018 was boosted by one-off adjustments in relation to revaluation of the library and write-off of provisions no longer required. When the effect of these adjustments are removed from 2018 figures the income for 2019 of \$ 45,285 shows a small increase over the 2019 figures (\$ 43,026 adjusted).
- Membership fee income rose to \$34,018 in 2019 from \$31,956 in 2018, reflecting the rise in memberships from 596 to 652. During the year there were 182 new memberships (93 in 2017) and 126 memberships lost to the association (74 in 2019).
- Donations to the Birds SA Conservation Fund rose to \$8,059 in 2019 from \$7,235 in 2018.
- Investment income showed a modest increase in the face of declining official interest rates. The strategy we are following has been explained previously but unless we use a more risky investment strategy returns are unlikely to improve.
- Birds SA sold copies of the publication "Wildlife of Greater Adelaide" and some badges and car stickers, resulting in a small profit. These items were in addition to the continuing revenue from supper sales at general meetings and sales of publication to subscribers.

## Expenditure

- Overall expenditure decreased to \$ 29,660 from \$41,875 for 2018. The principal reasons for this decrease were:
  - Only one issue of the journal, the South Australian Ornithologist, was published during the year. The cost of \$4,705 for 2019 was therefore about half of that in 2018 when two journals were issued (\$9,765).
  - A single Research Grant of \$3,000 was made this year compared with three grants made last year. This cost was offset by a refund of \$1,946 of funds in excess of requirements for a previous grant. The net amount for 2019 was therefore only \$1,045 compared with \$8,627 in 2018.
  - In 2018 an ex gratia payment of \$2,306 was made towards the Coastal Raptor Survey. There was no equivalent expenditure this year.
- The savings described above were somewhat offset by increases in administration, printing, stationery, postage and internet services which can largely be attributed to our rising membership numbers. Our software system was upgraded during the year for a cost of \$ 2,646.
- We now pay rent to the University of Adelaide for meeting rooms and space for our library. The amount charged is modest for the quality of the facilities we enjoy.
- A web based General Ledger system (Quickbooks from Intuit) was introduced during the year. It provides increased security over our data which was previously stored on the Treasurer's personal PC. It also enables controlled access to our records by authorised persons. There are also gains in efficiency. The set-up cost was \$770.00 and we pay a monthly rental of \$19 for the software and storage on the cloud
- The net cost of Campouts (\$13) is shown under "Events".
- An amount of \$1,000 was spent on the printing of photographs used in the "Treasures not Targets" campaign against Duck and Quail Hunting in which Birds SA is active.