



**The South Australian
Ornithological
Association Inc.**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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 2020.

Committee

	Position	Appointed	Resigned	Meetings	
				A	B
John Gitsham	President/Member		Dec 2020	11	11
John Hatch	V. President/Member			11	10
Steven Langley	Member/President	Dec 2020		11	10
Jeff Groves	Vice-President			11	11
Jim Spiker	Secretary			11	10
Lou Jayleigh	Assistant Secretary			11	5
John Spiers	Treasurer		Jun 2020	6	3
Allan Suter	Treasurer	Jul 2020		5	2
Anita Smyth	Asst. Treasurer	Jul 2020		6	6
Philippa Horton	Journal Editor			11	8
Merilyn Browne	Journal Editor		Mar 2020	2	1
Graham Carpenter *	Bird Records Secretary			11	7
Cynthia Pyle	Magazine Editor			11	11
Lynton Huxley	Field Programme Coordinator			11	10
Alan Burns	Membership Officer			11	11
Bea Rogers	Member		May 2020	4	4
Stephen Ramm	Member		Nov 2020	11	7
Davide Gaglio	Member			11	9
Richard Woodland	Member			11	6
Jeremy Robertson	Member	Dec 2020		1	1
Karen Donkin	Librarian		Nov 2020	11	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.

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 (suspended because of COVID-19)
- field trips and campouts for members (some field trips and Camp outs suspended because of COVID-19)
- financial support for research
- active monitoring of progress on International Bird Sanctuary and effects of the closure of Dry Creek Saltfields
- initiating field surveys at Bush Heritage properties in South Australia
- 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 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
- 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
- supporting Nature Foundation SA and Bush Heritage's mission to conserve biodiversity in Australia by undertaking bird surveys on their properties
- 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
- 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:



Steven Langley
President

Adelaide, 13 April 2022



Anita Smyth
Treasurer

Adelaide, 13 April 2022

Report by Members of the Committee

In accordance with Section 35(5) of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) 1985, the committee of the South Australian Ornithological Association Incorporated hereby state that during the financial year to which the accounts relate:

1. No officer of the South Australian Ornithological Association Incorporated, or a firm of which the officer is a member, or a corporation in which the officer has substantial financial interest, has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the officer, a firm of which the officer is a member or a corporation in which the officer has a substantial financial interest and the South Australian Ornithological Association Incorporated.
2. No officer of the South Australian Ornithological Association Incorporated has received directly or indirectly from the South Australian Ornithological Association Incorporated any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value.

Signed for and on behalf of the Committee by



Steven Langley
President

Adelaide, 13 April 2022



Anita Smyth
Treasurer

Adelaide, 13 April 2022

Financial declaration for Responsible Person

per section 60.15 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013

The Responsible Persons declare that in the Responsible Persons' opinion:

- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- (b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.

Responsible Person



Steven Langley
President and Chair of the Management Committee

Responsible persons' declaration dated this 13th day of April 2022

The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of comprehensive income

	Note	2020	2019
Revenue and other income			
Fundraising:			
Donations & Gifts Received		3,564	8,059
Contributions (Members)		46,063	34,018
Advertisements		0	160
Sales of Goods		1,004	1,324
Less: Cost of Sales of Goods		-706	-951
Income from events		394	-13
Investment income		2,268	3,433
Services		756	0
Revenue and other income		53,343	46,029
Expenditure			
Administration Expenses		4,595	3,006
Magazine Printing and Postage		13,329	12,364
Journal - Printing and Postage		2,879	4,705
Conservation Council of South Australia membership		440	440
Donations towards Bird Conservation Initiatives		3,160	0
Insurance		1,635	2,332
Rent Expenses	2(e)	0	825
Audit Fees	2(e)	2,000	770
Suppers		0	129
Library		0	390
Membership System		469	2,646
Events - Treasures not Targets		193	1,000
Research Grants		3,903	1,054
Expenditure		32,603	29,660
Net surplus/ (deficit) for the year	3(b)	20,740	16,368

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 2020

Statement of financial position

	Note	2020	2019
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	4	250,174	239,624
Trading stocks	5	1,522	2,227
Trade & other receivables	6	6,854	4,186
Total current assets		258,550	246,036
Non-current assets			
Property, plant & equipment	7	50,520	50,000
Total non-current assets		50,520	50,000
Total assets	3c	309,070	296,036
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade creditors & other payables	8	6,806	6,306
Revenue received in advance		0	10,153
Total current liabilities		6,806	16,459
Total liabilities	3c	6,806	16,459
Net assets		302,264	279,577
Funds			
General Fund		192,120	169,684
Contingency fund		58,502	58,038
Birds SA Conservation Fund		51,642	51,856
Total funds		302,264	279,577

This statement should be read with the detailed notes attached

The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of changes in funds

	General Fund	Contingency Fund	Birds SA Conservation Fund	Total Funds
Balance 31 December 2019	169,684	58,038	51,856	279,577
Total comprehensive income for the year	20,954	0	-214	20,740
Transfers	-465	465	0	0
Adjustments	1,947	0	0	1,947
Balance 31 December 2020	192,120	58,502	51,642	302,264

The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of cash flows

	2020	2019
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from:		
Donations & gifts	3,564	5,454
Contributions (members)	32,536	41,033
Sales of goods	1,037	1,811
Other income	1,117	0
Investment income	2,268	2,574
Payments to suppliers and grants	(29,452)	(32,625)
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>11,070</u>	<u>18,247</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(520)	0
Net cash flows from investing activities	<u>(520)</u>	<u>0</u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	10,550	18,247
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	239,624	221,377
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	10,550	18,247
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>250,174</u>	<u>239,624</u>

The South Australian Ornithological Association Inc.

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

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 2020 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Committee on 13 April 2022.

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 17.

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

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.

Rent expense in 2020 was a prepaid expense postponed until 2021 because of COVID-19 venue hire cancellations.

An accrual for audit fees that will be paid in 2021 was done as it relates to the 2020 audit.

(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

i. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Property plant and equipment consisting of the library catalogue is carried at replacement cost. The replacement cost of the catalogue is determined by the Committee and reviewed on an annual basis. The library is not depreciated.

ii. Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

(i) Trade creditors and other payables

Trade creditors and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Association 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

	Revenue		Net Earnings	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Birds SA Conservation Fund	3,689	8,738	-214	7,684
Birds SA General Fund	49,654	37,291	20,954	8,684
Total	53,343	46,029		
Net surplus for the year			20,740	16,368

Revenue reported above represents revenue generated from external customers.

The above are the measures reported to the Committee for the purpose of assessing 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

	2020	2019
Segment assets		
Birds SA Conservation Fund	56,393	54,038
Birds SA General Fund	252,677	241,999
Total assets	309,070	296,036
Segment liabilities		
Birds SA Conservation Fund	721	3,589
Birds SA General Fund	6,085	12,870
Total liabilities	6,806	16,459

(d) Geographical information

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

4. Cash and cash equivalents

	2020	2019
Cash at bank or on hand	53,124	42,574
Short-term deposits	197,050	197,050
	250,174	239,624

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

	2020	2019
Goods held for resale at lower of cost or net realisable value	1,522	2,227

6. Trade and other receivables

	2020	2019
Prepayments and other accrued income	6,854	4,186

7. Property, plant and equipment

	2020	2019
Library at committee's valuation	50,520	50,000

8. Trade creditors & other payables

	2020	2019
Birds SA General Fund	6,085	2,717
Birds SA Conservation Fund	721	3,589
	6,806	6,306

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 nil financial commitments at the end of 2020.

11. Related parties and related-party transactions

(a) Committee member's compensation

There were no Committee members compensation at the end of 2020.

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



Steven Langley

President

Adelaide, 13 April 2022



Anita Smyth

Treasurer

Adelaide, 13 April 2022

Committee's report on operations for the year ended 31 December 2020

Membership

The total number of members rose from 854 to 967 during the year, including 9 Honorary members. The number of memberships also increased from 596 to 692, including 9 Honorary memberships.

The Committee was pleased to recognise long-serving members at its 2020 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>Bronze Certificates</i>	<i>Silver Certificates</i>	<i>Gold Certificates</i>	<i>Platinum Certificates</i>
Nathaniel Doecke Graham Gould Rob Hogan	Neil Cheshire	Vicki Natt	Chris Evans Faye Lush Paul Taylor

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

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

We were sad to note the passing of Honorary Member Trevor Cowie.

The membership team is led by Alan Burns and supported by Sue Winwood and Anita Smyth. Membership management has been a challenge for some time as we have a system which has worked brilliantly in the past but with increasing membership, it has needed more expertise and fixes to keep it functioning to meet members' needs. Studio Foster (Jordan Gaetz) has been highly responsive in solving technical fixes at short notice. Together the membership team met these challenges.

Membership Activities & Services

Meetings

General meetings have been held on a monthly basis. The February General Meeting was held on the 28th but all from March 2020 to December 2020 were suspended due COVID-19 restrictions. Two virtual meetings were held in October: the Annual General Meeting and the General Meeting.

John Hatch has been responsible for organising speakers and had an existing list of guest speakers for 2020. Unfortunately, COVID-19 put a stop to his great efforts but his ability to tap talented speakers on the shoulder is appreciated by the Management Committee.

Towards the end of this year, attempts were made to hold General Meetings as COVID restrictions lifted. Jim Spiker developed a COVID Plan for our meetings and was instrumental in arranging training and engaging existing Management Committee members to be COVID Marshals. John Gitsham, Alan Burns and Jim Spiker were available for potential General Meetings in November and December and when a new COVID-safe venue at The University of Adelaide was secured and could take 100+ members under the 4m² rule per person. However all meetings were cancelled due to an upgrading of COVID restrictions due to new community outbreaks.

Field Trips & Campouts

There were 36 field trips scheduled for 2020 but only 24 were able to be held as we needed to comply with local COVID-19 restrictions. Eight cancellations were for the period from mid-March to the end of May inclusive, Other COVID-19 outbreaks in Adelaide during the year resulted in field trips scheduled for 11 July, 16 July, 14 November and 19 November being cancelled. The field trips that were able to proceed were well-patronised with an average attendance of 19 members. The field trips undertaken had an average species count of 43 and provided valuable information on the population trends of bird species within the wide-range of habitat sites visited.

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 restrictions the planned Easter Campout at Cantara Homestead in the Coorong National Park had to be cancelled but was rescheduled for Easter 2021. The October long weekend campout was held at 'Wyngate Homestead' in Lawari Conservation Park located at the eastern end of Hindmarsh Island.

Lynton Huxley and his crew of trip leaders have played a central role in providing members with the opportunities to socialise and birdwatch in groups in bird-rich localities. The Management Committee thanks Lynton his sustained devotion and good cheer at doing this from year to year.

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.

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

“Birds & Bickies” organised by BirdLife. Kate Buckley attended three events held at Thompson Beach on Sunday 12th January, Sunday 16th February, Sunday 14th March as an instructor in Migratory Wader identification.

Festival of Nature - Bird Walks in Belair National Park One hour walking birding tours were held on 27 September for 3 hours.

Sophie’s Garden. The Birds SA stall was held at Sophie’s Open Garden on November 7th-9th.

Events this year were few because of COVID-19 restrictions. Volunteers make these events a success and we thank you for your generous support and good cheer at the events.

Website and IT Support

The Birds SA website is regularly updated with new content by the newly created IT Support team. The content editing of our website has been ably provided by Brian Blaylock. At times, some structural elements needed revision or new creations, and these works were outsourced to Studio Foster. The IT Support team is coordinated by Anita Smyth.

Publications

Our magazine, *The Birder*, under the editorship of Cynthia Pyle, continued on the traditional quarterly basis. Four issues were published in 2020. We thank graphic designer, Ingrid Grigg for professionally designing the layout of the document. Penny Paton and Sue Winwood proof read *The Birder*, Penny also writes the Historical inserts and Jeff Groves checks the final document before Ingrid takes it to the printers.

One issue of the *South Australian Ornithologist* was published during the year (Volume 45 Part 1), with Philippa Horton as Editor and Penny Paton as Co-Editor. Marilyn Browne (retiring Editor) is thanked for advice regarding the production of this issue and in particular for setting it up in InDesign.

Cynthia and Philippa are supported in mailing or handing out the printed versions of *The Birder* and the *SA Ornithologist* by Barbara and Peter Bansemer, Helen Monterola, Sue Winwood and Tina Meakin. Barbara collects the printed copies from Abbots (the printers), distributes them at the following General Meeting, then prepares the copies for posting, and finally posts them. Helen procures the envelopes and Tina Meakin provides and types the labels for the envelopes.

Digital E-News notices announcing news and events of Birds SA activities throughout the year was carried out by Karen Donkin. This is especially important for announcing the publication of *The Birder* and our Journal.

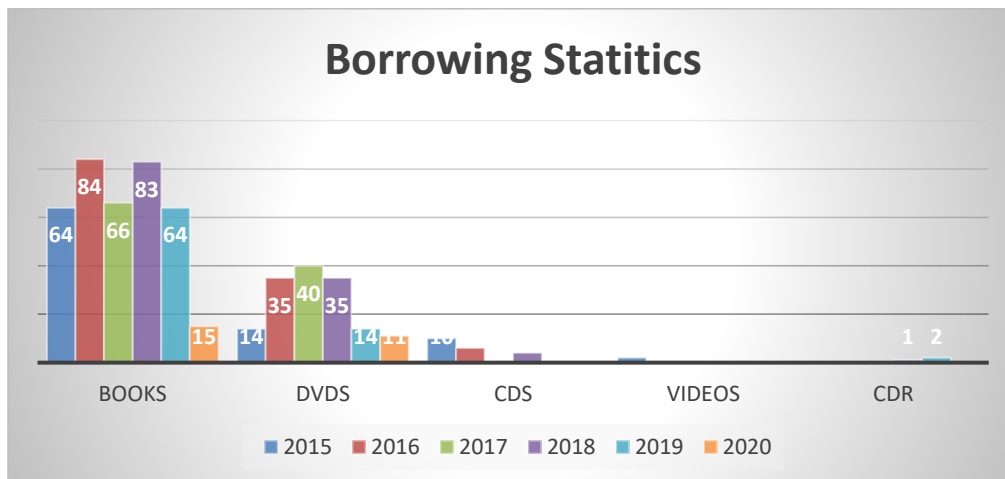
Library

In 2020 there has been a growth in the collection with the generous donation of books from David Robertson and the bequest from the late Joe Dafoe.

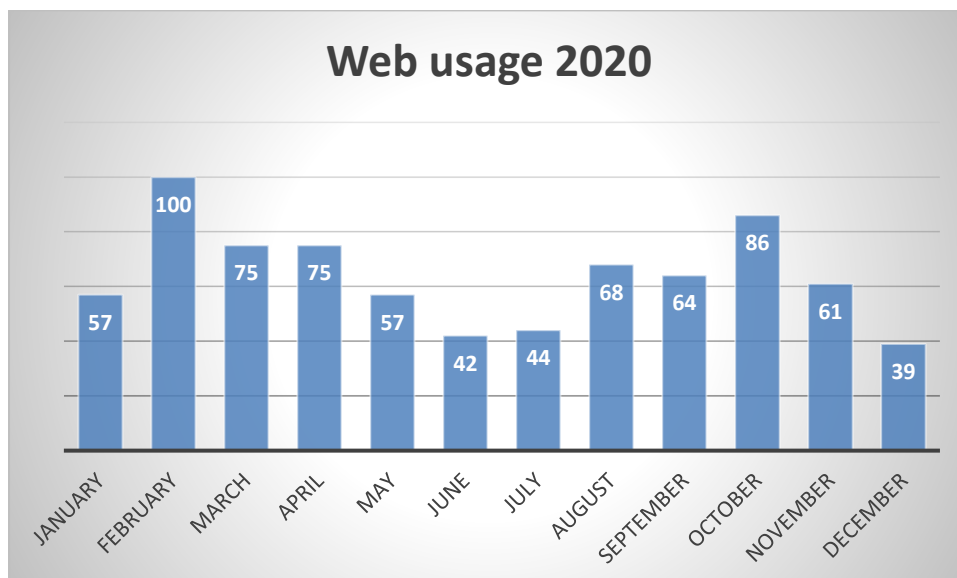
Due to the COVID 19 lockdowns and cancellation of General Meetings, the borrowing statistics for 2020 were limited to only January and February 2020. They were:

- Books 15
- DVDs 11

Borrowing trends for the past five years.



The Birds SA online catalogue was accessed 768 times during 2020.



New items added to the collection for the collection were as tabled.

	Books	DVDs
Purchased	8	0
Donations	120	2
Total	128	2

The 129 items were added to the collection for 2020 while 146 items are stored off-sited due to lack of space in the library.

The number of titles held in the collection:

- Books 1050
- DVDs 72
- CDs 34

Total expenditure for the library in 2020 was \$338.35 on new books for the collection.

Karen Donkin and her team of volunteers have done a sterling effort in managing and maintaining the library. Special thanks to Terri Randle for her continual support, especially with the administration of the Birds SA online library catalogue.

Research

During the year, the Birds SA Conservation Fund received six applications. Two projects were approved for funding in 2020, as listed below:

Applications received	Title	Funds provided	Funds Awarded in 2020
Mr Karl Jones	Review of the Population Status of Striated Grasswren (<i>Amytornis striatus</i>) on Eyre Peninsula and in the Yellabinna Region, South Australia.	\$2,734	\$2,734
Kaitlyn Spooner (Honours student, Australian National University).	Nest site selection of Jacky Winters: the role of nest site selection in adapting to extreme heat.	\$2,979 ¹	
Mr Ian Falkenberg	Pilot project to assess the Wedge-tailed Eagle (<i>Aquila audax</i>) population and breeding and foraging habitats in the Mid North of South Australia.	\$2,000 ¹	
Daniel Markos (Honours student,	Habitat use of the White-browed Babbler in modified habitat.	\$1,441 ¹	

University of Adelaide).			
Darcy Whittaker (Honours student, University of Adelaide).	Determining monitoring methods for Bassian Thrush in the Mt Lofty Ranges.	\$1,169	\$1,169
	TOTAL	\$10,323	\$3,903

¹ – Grant awarded in 2021

The Birds SA Conservation Fund ended 2020 with a balance of \$51,856 in funds. Donations for the year totalled \$3,564.

The current Conservation Fund Management Committee consists of Jody Gates (Chair), Bea Rogers and Anita Smyth as members. 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. The Management Committee thanks them for their tireless assessment of projects throughout the year.

Conservation Sub-committee Activities

The Conservation Sub-Committee, chaired by Jeff Groves, provided regular reports on the activities of the sub-committee at monthly general meetings and in the The Birder publication. Significant activities during the year were as follows:

- Regular bird surveys were conducted at the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant, led by Bill Breed. Up to December 2020, 30 of these surveys had been conducted at Bolivar in the previous three years. There was a notable reduction in duck numbers once substantial falls of rain were received in SA in early 2020. A paper on the findings of these surveys was published in Australian Field Ornithology 2020 during the year. The working relationship between Birds SA and SA Water continues to be positive.
- Regular bird surveys were conducted in the Dry Creek Saltfields by Birds SA members Colin Rogers and William Brooker during the year and the data transmitted to BirdLife Australia via Birds SA member Kate Buckley.
- The Conservation sub-Committee provided a submission to the Department for Environment and Water on proposed changes to SA Marine Parks. This submission focussed upon the proposal to open a section of the Coorong South Beach to allow shore-based fishing. As well as commenting upon the detrimental effect this would have on this Hooded Plover breeding site, the opportunity was taken to request that the beach closure timing during the Hooded Plover breeding season be extended well beyond the existing re-opening date of December 24.
- The recommendations of the Inquiry into the Use of Off-road Vehicles in South Australia, conducted by the Natural Resources Committee of the SA Parliament, were tabled in the SA Parliament on 4 June 2020. Birds SA had made a submission to the inquiry in 2019 and had elaborated on its submission to the Natural Resources Committee at Parliament

House. The NRC final report contained seven key recommendations for the SA Government to pursue. In early August 2020 Birds SA contacted Minister Speirs to find out who would be following up these recommendations and when this would occur. Upon receiving no reply, Birds SA followed up again with Minister Speirs in December 2020. By March 2021, no response had been received by Birds SA.

- Related to the above, Birds SA has initiated the production of a documentary video focussing upon the damage caused to birdlife by irresponsible use of off-road vehicles in coastal areas. This documentary is scheduled to be completed by June 2021.
- Birds SA continued its participation in the activities of the “*Treasures not Targets*” coalition of organisations opposed to the hunting of native birds in SA. The coalition commissioned an independent survey during the year in three State marginal electorates to ascertain public opinion on duck and quail shooting. The results showed that a significant majority of respondents were opposed to recreational shooting of these birds. The key results were conveyed to Premier Marshall who had expressed interest in such information during a meeting with the coalition in 2019.
- Conservation sub-Committee members participated in the annual Open Season Reference Panel meeting conducted by DEW and argued for no season for both ducks and quail because of the lack of scientific abundance data for quail and the very low numbers recorded for many duck species in the annual survey conducted by DEW.
- Birds SA visited Whalers Way at the southern tip of Eyre Peninsula at the invitation of Southern Launch Pty Ltd which is proposing to build a satellite launching facility there. It is feared that this development will adversely impact four listed bird species. Birds SA will make public its response to this proposal when the Environmental Impact Statement is available for public comment, scheduled for mid-2021.
- Birds SA has been monitoring developments in relation to changes to the SA Pastoral Act. A proposed new Act has aspects which appear to impact negatively on bird habitat. Many organisations and individuals have strenuously criticised much of the proposed new Act. Birds SA has been liaising with Conservation Council SA on this matter.
- In late 2020 Birds SA became aware of a major issue relating to the destruction of mangroves and saltmarsh at St Kilda, caused by the leakage of hyper-saline water from ponds just south of St Kilda Road. The slow response to this issue by the relevant State Government Departments and the landowner, Buckland Dry Creek Ltd, led to the formation of an Alliance of concerned organisations. Birds SA joined the Alliance, which continues to place pressure on the State Government to speed up the removal of the damaging water and to develop and implement a feasible plan for remediation.

Birds SA Bird Records Committee

During this year the vetting of bird records and the review of rare bird reports, previously combined within the former SA Rare Birds and Distribution Subcommittee, were reassigned to separate subcommittees, following discussion between the chairman and Committee of Management. The Records Committee continues its vetting role (since 2004) for SA bird reports, including the SA Department of Environment and Water database and Birdlife Australia (Birddata), and responsibility for the Association’s records database.

Vetting

Most bird reports are submitted direct to the Bird Records Secretary. In 2020 they included Azure Kingfisher and Swift Parrot in the South East, Olive-backed Oriole and Ground Cuckooshrike from Mambray Creek, southern Flinders Ranges and Barking Owl from the Upper Murray. Others are received by the committee secretary or chairman. Among them during this year were several enquiries from Birdlife Australia, one concerning the identification of Australian Tern, following its separation from Gull-billed Tern. Another concerned the identification of an unusual fairywren (Birder Summer p 12). The chairman is now authorised to review all Birddata records for South Australia.

Bird Reports and Publications

Apart from reports published in the Birder, a second 2011-2015 bird report (passerines) was published (Carpenter and Horton *South Australian Ornithologist* 45, 23-36), as was a (2006-2019) report of rare bird records (Black, Rogers and Fennell *SAO* 45, 12-22). Also posted online were:

Annotated List of the Birds of South Australia (Horton, Blaylock and Black)

<https://birdssa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/ALBSA-5.1-Sep-2020.pdf>

A Field List of the Birds of South Australia (Blaylock, Black, Carpenter and Horton)

https://birdssa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/FieldList_5.1.pdf

The Annotated List replaces the bird chapter in the 4th edition of *Census of South Australian Vertebrates* (Horton, Blaylock and Black 2013), with the addition of complete lists of subspecies. Numerous taxonomic and nomenclatural updates are included, and higher-level classification is significantly altered, following recent refinements in the understanding of avian phylogeny.

Mapping

Distributional maps for 325 non-passerines were posted, following the posting of maps for passerines in 2019. All are now accessible at:

<https://birdssa.asn.au/birding-info/distribution-maps/>

All maps are being amended progressively following review by committee members and feedback from other birders, chiefly in the addition of records for which complete details had not been obtained earlier.

Committee Membership

Andrew Black (chair), Brian Blaylock (secretary and database manager), Graham Carpenter (Bird Records Secretary), Philippa Horton (SA Museum), Bob Green (SE), Julian Reid (NE), Lynn Pedler.

SA Rare Birds Subcommittee

Introduction

This report continues the work by Black, Rogers and Fennell (2019) and will appear annually in future. The purpose of the SA Rare Bird Committee (SARC) remains as outlined by Black¹. As noted previously, decisions are not final, do not bind the observer, and can be re-opened if new information is obtained. In particular, when assessing a report, members of the committee need an objective basis on which to make their decision. Today that ‘evidence’ often consists of photographs, but quick sketches of important features and notes *taken at the time of a sighting* are just as invaluable. Sound recording and sonagrams are also useful. Nevertheless, the committee may still find it difficult to reach a definitive identification in some cases and these will be left as unconfirmed and subject to future reassessment.

The Rare Bird list is posted on the Birds SA website along with instructions on the submission of reports. The list is revised from time to time as new vagrants are added and more regularly reported species are removed. Recently removed raptors are, Grey Falcon, (there was some ambiguity about whether this was on the list), Grey Goshawk and Square-tailed Kite. All three species are now regularly reported from areas of the state where they breed. Of the passerines, Rose Robin has been removed as there are regular winter records from the MLR and/or the SE.

The species in this report appear chronologically by Case number

The Records

119 Kerguelen Petrel *Aphrodroma brevirostris* Middleton Beach 12 August, 2019.
Confirmed.

A small dark petrel found in distress on Middleton Beach was identified as a Kerguelen Petrel on the basis of the photographs below. In particular, its grey-brown plumage, underwing pattern with a whitish leading edge on the inner wing, and small petite bill. These features clearly distinguish the Kerguelen Petrel from the more common dark petrel in southern Australian waters, the Great-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma macroptera*, or the uncommon dark morph of Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma molis*.



Kerguelen Petrel

Rena Richardson

¹ Black, A., Rogers, C., and Fennell, J. 2020. The Birds SA Rare Bird Committee (SARC): a report on submissions 2006 – 2019, *South Australian Ornithologist*, 45: 12-22.

120 Yellow Chat *Epthianura crocea* Pandi Purra Bore, 6 September 2018. Confirmed.

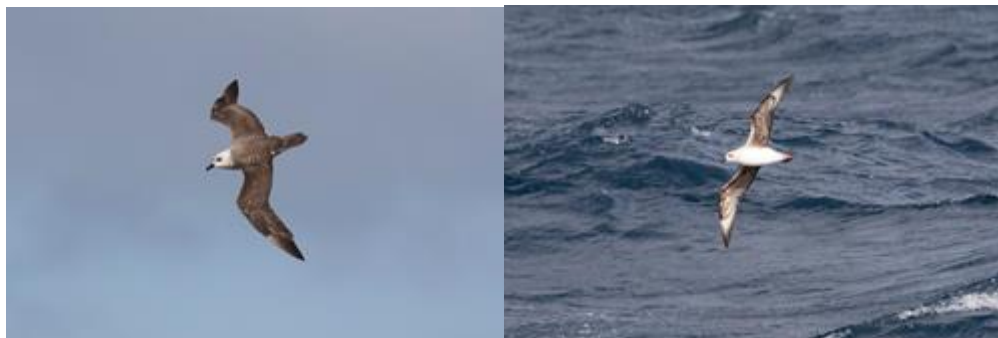
This was a report of a distant view of a yellow bird with a complete yellow face. Only rear and side views were obtained so no black breast mark of a breeding plumage male Yellow chat, *E. crocea* was observed. Despite some concerns about the brevity of the sighting, the description as an all-yellow bird with an all-yellow face precludes male Orange Chat, *Epthianura aurifrons* or male Gibberbird, *Ashbyia lovensis*.

121 Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola fulcinellus* Clinton Conservation Park 31 December 2019. Confirmed.

Two birds were observed in a mixed flock of Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpiper along with Red-necked Stint and Red-capped Plover. Identification was confirmed on the basis of a comprehensive description and sketches which included the distinct downward kink to the bill towards the tip and the size difference from nearby Curlew Sandpiper, *Calidris ferruginea*, with which they might be confused in non-breeding plumage.

122 Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta* Port MacDonnell pelagic 22 March 2020, Confirmed

This is a first record for the state and as illustrated by the photographs below, provided excellent views as it flew around the boat. It is a pale morph showing an almost all white underbody and head. A possible confusion species is the White-headed Petrel, *Pterodroma lessonii*, but this bird is distinguished from the latter by the underwing pattern, the white shaft streaks on the primaries visible on the upper wing, the lack of a black mark around the eye, dark rump and upper tail, and the smaller head.



Kermadec Petrel (pale morph)

David Harper

123 Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus* Guichen Bay, Robe, SE on 6 March 2020. Confirmed.

124 Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea* Port MacDonnell pelagic, 25 August 2019. Confirmed.



Blue Petrel

David Harper

125 Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* Mt Burr Swamp, SE, 11 February 2020. Unconfirmed.

This report concerned an all-white raptor-like bird seen very briefly as it glided away through the forest. Additional features such as a yellow cere or yellow legs were not noted so the committee felt it lacked the basis for an objective assessment. That said, the white morph of Grey Goshawk has been consistently reported from the SE and is known to have bred so sightings are to be expected. It is no longer on the Rare Bird list.

126 Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii* Adelaide Hills Garden, May. Unconfirmed.

This case posed no identification problems, but questions of its origin were raised by its apparent 'tame' behaviour and the fact that several specimens of this species are kept in captivity in SA. In this case the committee resolved to classify the record as unconfirmed.



Colin Rogers

127 Rose Robin *Petroica rosea* Onkaparinga National Park, 25 May. Confirmed

This was an interesting case involving an immature brown-grey bird as care is required to distinguish such birds from immature Red-capped Robins lacking any obvious rufous cap. A useful identification feature for Rose Robin of all ages is the presence of white in the outer

three tail feathers which suggests Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura albiscapa* when the bird is flitting about. Although that behaviour was observed the structure of white in the tail was not reported. Nevertheless, in this case the greyish tone to the plumage growing in and the general posture (as evident in the photographs) and behaviour (described in the report) led the committee to confirm the identification.



Rose Robin immature

Peter Hammer

128 Rose Robin *Petroica rosea* Cudlee Creek, 17 May to 14 June. Confirmed.

As an adult male this bird posed no identification difficulties. The annual regularity of reports of this species from the Adelaide Hills means that it has now been removed from the list.

129 Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea* Storm blown, in a garden on KI on 12-13 July. Confirmed.

This case was straightforward as the bird is readily identified from the photographs provided showing the distinctive black cap, and diagnostic white tail tip, unlike the plumage of any prion species with which it might superficially be confused.



Blue Petrel

Catherine Tydeman

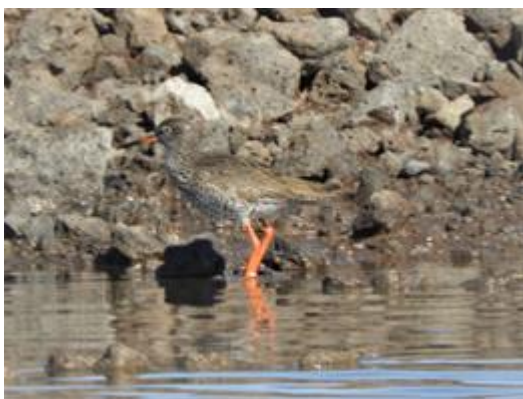
130 Black-backed (Little) Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius* Tolderol Game Reserve Wetland. Confirmed

This was a case based on an audio recording of the bird. Although rather difficult to hear against a lot of background noise the distinctive and repetitive ‘awk-awk-awk’ call of the Australian Little Bittern could be heard. In this case the call should be compared to that of the Yellow Bittern, *Ixobrychus sinensis*, which is common in SE Asia and has strayed onto the Australian mainland on occasion. Brazil (2009) describes the call of Yellow Bittern as a repetitive pumping oo oo, whoa whoa or wooo wooo made by day or night. The flight call is described as a dry kik-kik-kik or a raspy tschek lower pitched but similar to Whiskered Tern.

As a matter of principle, the calls of the Yellow Bittern were checked on Xeno-canto and the HBBW sound recordings to confirm that they were indeed those of Australian Little Bittern and not those of a vagrant Yellow Bittern.

131 Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Whyalla Salt works on 21 July. Confirmed

The only confusion species in this case is Spotted Redshank which as most committee members noted was precluded by photographs of the bird indicating that it was showing signs of breeding plumage consistent with Common and not Spotted Redshank. Also, the report provided a description of the white secondaries visible in flight which are diagnostic of Common Redshank.



Bernie Haase



Larry Gruitt

132 Fiordland Penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* Port Lincoln on 16 August 2020. Confirmed.

This bird was an immature which can pose some identification issues but in this case committee members received some high-resolution photographs. These clearly indicated that the bird lacked any fleshy skin at the gape (pink or black) which eliminates possible confusion species; Snares, Erect-crested, Royal and Macaroni. It was noted that the yellow eye-stripe began forward of the gape which was consistent with Fiordland and not the Rockhopper complex. The white streaking on the cheek also suggested Fiordland rather than other *Eudyptes* species. There was some discussion of the underside of the flipper which appeared to be consistent with Fiordland Penguin but the literature is somewhat incomplete so not much weight was placed on that feature in this case.



Fiordland Penguin

Fran Solly

133 Sabines' Gull *Xema sabini* Gulfview Heights on 24 August. Unconfirmed.

This was an interesting case illustrating the problem for any committee in dealing with a case where no notes/photographs were taken prior to consulting a field guide. In this case the committee was unanimous in leaving the record as unconfirmed on the grounds that there was no objective basis for separating a 'field guide' description from the sighting.

134 Little Stint *Calidris minuta*, Tolderol GR on 22 September. Confirmed.

This report described a bird moulting from breeding into non-breeding plumage and supported by several photographs showing diagnostic plumage features, the strong rufous edges to remaining but worn tertials as well as the greater and median wing coverts. The longer legs, finer tipped bill and small headed appearance also help to distinguish Little Stint from Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis*.



Little Stint moulting into non-breeding plumage.

Colin Rogers

135 Fiordland Penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* Beachport SE, on 7 October 2020. Confirmed.

This record was accompanied by several photographs and a video of the bird returning to the water after only fifteen minutes on the beach. The key identification features are those considered in Case 132 above. It is interesting to note that both these sightings involve birds that were not moulting and only came ashore for a short period.



Fiordland Penguin

Sue Williams

136 Eastern Koel *Eudynamys orientalis* Prospect, Fitzroy and Manningham, September-October 2020. Confirmed.

Several reports of a Koel calling in Prospect, Fitzroy and Manningham during September and October were forwarded to the committee. Reports of Koel, seen or heard, have been received from this general area since 2017 and identification issues were discussed in Black et. al (2019, p. 17). In particular, the difficulty of distinguishing male Eastern from Asian Koel, by sight or call, was noted, but a photograph of a female suggested identification as the eastern Australian subspecies *Eudynamys orientalis cyanocephalus*. In future, records of calls and sightings of males are not sufficient to confirm identification to species. Plumage details of a female will be required to confirm identification.

137 Plains Wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* Peechera Hills Campground, Barrier Highway, 17 November 2020. [Under review]

This sighting occurred when the observer went to investigate what he thought might be a Bronzewing calling. In that process a small, long-necked bird with a white underbelly and grey back flushed and flew a short distance with slower wing beats than the typical Little Button Quail, *Turnix velox*, that were also present. In an attempt to identify the bird, the observer played the call of the Plains Wanderer which elicited a response from two birds. Despite a considerable effort to locate the birds by spotlight that evening and early the next morning no sighting was obtained despite the birds responding to the call when played occasionally.

The supporting evidence in this case is the fact that two birds responded to the call and the observer effectively ‘reverse engineered’ the identification by realising that the call was not that of Bronzewing but that of the Plains Wanderer.

In this case the committee voted 5 to 3 to confirm the record on the first round.

In addition to the records submitted to SARC for consideration a record of a Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, located on Little Eyre Island, EP, in March 2020 was submitted

to the BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) as submission number 1147 and accepted on 28 October 2008. A full report was prepared for the SAO² .

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.

Financial Performance

Revenue

- The income for 2020 of \$55,290 shows an 20% increase over the 2019 figure (\$46,029).
- Membership fee income rose to \$46,063 in 2020 from \$34,018 in 2019, reflecting the rise in members from 854 to 967 (including family members). During the year there were 87 new memberships (financial members excluding family members) and 14 memberships lost to the association (74 in 2019).
- Donations to the Birds SA Conservation Fund dropped to \$3,564 in 2020 from \$8,059 in 2019.
- Investment income showed a decrease in the face of declining official interest rates. The strategy we are following has been explained previously but unless we use a riskier investment strategy returns are unlikely to improve.
- Birds SA sold some badges and car stickers, resulting in a small profit. These items were in addition to the small revenue from supper sales at general meetings (limited number of meetings due to COVID-19 restrictions) and sales of publication to subscribers.

Expenditure

- Overall expenditure increased to \$32,603 from \$29,660 for 2019. The principal reasons for this increase were:
 - Four Research Grants totalling \$3,903 were made this year compared with one grant made in 2019.
 - Ex gratia payments of \$3,160 were made towards the Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recovery Fund on Kangaroo Island after the 2020 bushfires and towards earthworks at Toderol to maintain water levels. There was no equivalent expenditure in 2019.
 - Administration expenses increased by \$748 due to bookkeeping fees, office software for accrual accounting (Quickbooks), e-News notices (Mailchimp) and web hosting provider (Siteground).

² Rogers, C. and Taylor, C. 2021. A record of Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* for South Australia, *South Australian Ornithologist*, Forthcoming.

- The printing and postage costs of *The Birder* increased by almost \$965. Additional cost is the design fee for the improved layout.
- Only one issue of the journal, the *South Australian Ornithologist*, was published during the year. The cost of \$4,705 for 2020 was therefore about half of that in 2019 when two journals were issued (\$9,765).
- Acquisition of books for the Birds SA library increased by \$130
- The expenses described above were somewhat offset by savings in the printing and postage for one issue of the *South Australian Ornithologist* due to a renegotiated printing costs with Abbott's Printers, reduced premiums with a new insurance company for the library, less contracting of Studio Foster's service to maintain the membership system and net costs of camp-outs were smaller due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- We 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 and was the same expense in 2020 initially as that of 2019. COVID-19 disruptions though meant few general meetings were held in 2020 and a prepaid expense of \$825 for 2021 venue hire was negotiated with The University of Adelaide.