

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC. HELD ON 28 JUNE 2022 IN CHARLES HAWKER ROOMS101/102 AT THE WAITE CAMPUS

1. **OPENING:** The meeting was opened by the president, Steven Langley at 19:40 pm, who welcomed all members present.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Jeff Groves and Richard Woodland.
3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of meetings held 26 April and 31 May 2022, copies of which are located in the members area of the Birds SA website, were proposed for acceptance by Roger Bourne and seconded by John Hatch.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Monato: Steven Langley advised that approval has been given for Birds SA to spend the \$30k DEW grant on a seed orchard. Steven asked for members to assist with seed propagation for eventual transplanting into the seed orchard

Minko Scrub: Steven Langley advised that 40 nest boxes have been built and will be installed on Thursday, 30 June 2022, as birds will start looking for nesting sites. Types of boxes include those for owlet nightjar, tree creepers and boobooks

The second Landcare Day is on Sunday, 24 July 2022, in conjunction with Trees for Life.

Minister for Environment and Water, Susan Close: Steven Langley advised Susan Close who is also the Deputy Premier for SA is, as members can appreciate, difficult to get to see, however, Steven has met with one of her aides and raised the issue of Beach Driving and the Monato land deal with DEW. Steven stated that Susan Close is aware and already involved with other conservation issues.

Location for Library: two options for the location of the Birds SA library, are being considered by the Committee, namely:

- Conservation Council's building, The Joinery in the city, and
- a National Trust property (North Adelaide Baptist Church) at, Tynte Place in North Adelaide

Educational Webinars: an excellent webinar on Fairywrens, was given by Andrew Black on 8 June 2022.

The next webinar will be on 20 July 2022 – Black Birds (Ravens, Crows and Choughs) by Merilyn Browne

Steven Langley invited members to provide suggestions of topics and also for volunteers to present.

5. **NEW MEMBERS:** Alan Burns advised the following new members for June 2022

Steve Jude	Pt Lincoln
Tessa Jones	Aldinga Beach
Ian Wilcocks	Yankalilla
Brittany Norris & Chris Grant	Forest Range
Joanne & Peter Berndt	Flagstaff Hill
Caleb & Danielle Milligan	Seaview Downs

6. **GUEST SPEAKER:** Dr Leo Joseph – topic **Tales of “Golden” Whistlers in Australia.**

John Hatch introduced Dr Leo Joseph, Director of the Australian National Wildlife Collection at the CSIRO and an honorary member of Birds SA

Dr Leo Joseph gave a highly interesting and scientific talk on the changing thinking, as a result of advancements in scientific and DNA analysis over time, of species distribution of the Western Whistler and Golden Whistler in southern Australia.

John Hatch thanked Leo for his presentation which was presented with great knowledge and humour, and was enthusiastically acknowledged by the members present.

7. **CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Ray Nias gave an update on the major activities of the conservation sub-committee.

Future Meetings of the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee’s investigation into making the meetings accessible by Zoom for regional members is still work in progress.

Beach driving

The official Birds SA position statement on beach driving is being finalised and will be issued shortly.

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS)

Ray stated that a partnership MoU had been signed with The Nature Conservancy to assist with a new blue carbon offset project in the AIBS for large coastal restoration. This project has Federal Government funding, however, further details of the project cannot be released before the Federal Government has made its own announcement of the successful projects funded under the trial Blue Carbon Fund program. Ray noted there were only three projects of this type in Australia.

SA Environmental Projects

- Ray advised the SA Government had committed funding for environmental projects in the state, including \$1.5m for the restoration of corridors and habitats throughout

the Mt Lofty Ranges. The funding will allow for the appointment of a coordinator for an alliance of groups working on restoration projects including Birds SA.

- Ray mentioned that a major coastal restoration project within the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary had been funded by the Commonwealth Government through its Blue Carbon trial program. The project will be led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Birds SA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TNC to collaborate in the project. Further details would be available once the project had been officially announced by the Government.
- Ray mentioned that the SA Environment Minister had a meeting with Councils and experts about the degradation of the St Kilda mangroves and expressed her concern that further action may be needed.

8. FIELD TRIPS:

Lynton advised that the recent field trip to Mt Lofty Botanical Gardens had a very good turn out and 52 species were seen, including three Bassian Thrushes

Saturday, 9 July 2022 Shepherds Hill Recreation Park, leader Lynton Huxley (noted as difficult is actually a relatively easy walk but with slippery sections)

Thursday, 21 July 2022 Belair National Park, leader Lynton Huxley

Sunday, 31 July 2022 Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve, leader Ray Nias

Details of Birds SA field trips are in The Birder and on the Birds SA website.

9. BIRD CALL:

Black-shouldered Kite present in southern parts of the state

White-winged Chough seen at Happy Valley and Belair NP

Eastern Spinebill still around plains

Cattle Egrets appearing around lakes

Black Cockatoo – unlike last year no great numbers around plains

Red-capped Robin – Norwood

Chestnut Teal numbers increasing at Bolivar while other duck species there are markedly down

House Sparrow at Rockleigh

Raven with white feathers at Lynton Railway Station

Currawong at Ashford Hospital

Tawny Frogmouth at Burnside and, also at Leighbrook

10. OTHER BUSINESS

General Meetings: will need to speak to Adelaide Uni about having social event/drinks after meetings at Waite.

Committee Vacancies: there are 3 spaces vacant on the Management Committee and members are encouraged to take part and assist.

11. NEXT MEETING: to be held Tuesday, 26 July 2022, at the Waite Campus, Charles Hawker Building rooms 101/102, will be members night with David Patton plus three other speakers.

12. CLOSURE: The meeting was closed at 21:08 pm.