



### FOR YOUR DIARY

**WEDS OCT 14 Kyeema CP and Amaroo Water Garden.** Meet on the Meadows/Brookman Rd at the intersection of Woodgate Hill Rd (see map).

**SAT OCT 24 Mt Magnificent CP and Blackfellows Creek.** Meet at the junction of Nankita and Enterprise Rds, Nankita.

**OCT 30 TO NOV 2 Naracoorte Campout.**  
Program as given in August Birdwatch.

**FRI NOV 13 MEETING.** David Robertson will talk on 'Migratory Patterns of Waders.'

**SUN NOV 15 Tolderol Game Reserve.** Meet by the railway carriage at Milang.

**SAT NOV 25 Winery Rd, Currency Creek.** Meet at the Canoe Tree.

**SAT DEC 5. CHRISTMAS BBQ AT THE BARRAGE, GOOLWA.**  
Birdwatching from 4pm. Barbie at 6 o'clock. BYO everything (Xmas cheer, tables, chairs). We will provide tea, coffee, etc. Please bring cup and mozzie repellent.  
Jim will provide barbie and light up at 6pm. Friends and visitors welcome.  
Park in the grounds. Enter by Jim's private road at rear of residences.

**OUTINGS: Meet at 8.30am. Bring lunch and chair.**

**MEETINGS: Start at 7.30pm at Glendale Christian School, Goolwa.**

**CONTACT: Judith Dyer, 3 Egret Ave, Goolwa, ph 8555 2736**

**Kate Bruce, PO Box 403, Goolwa  
ph 8555 5020**



### ATLAS COUNT

The response for Atlas Kits has been very good within our group. I have issued 20 members with Kits to date.

While in Melbourne last week I picked up more, so if you haven't one as yet just contact me. The instructions given are fairly clear but you may like to discuss your options once you've read all the information. To be involved is not daunting, you can do as much or as little as you wish, you do not have to be an expert bird-watcher to participate.

Denzel and I will help you to identify your sites very accurately with a GPS unit (Global Positioning System). Start by keeping your records in your notebook and transfer them to an official form later. You will be issued with an observer identification number by Birds Australia. This number is to go on all your record forms.

*I encourage all of you to be part of this exciting survey.*

**(From Judith, ph 8555 2736)**



### ROBERT'S REVIVAL JUICE (MULLED WINE)

1 BOTTLE OF CLARET (750MLS)  
WATER (150 MLS)  
½ CUP SUGAR  
2 CLOVES  
1 CINNAMON STICK  
1 LEMON  
1 ORANGE

Bring water to boil. Add sugar, cinnamon and cloves. Simmer 5 mins.

Add thinly sliced orange and lemon and stand for 15 mins.

Strain and add wine *but do not boil.*

**DRINK! ENJOY!**

# REPORTS

## AUG 12, MT COMPASS

Eight birdwatchers braved overcast and showery weather. It looked to be a slow morning: numerous wrens were heard, it was much later that some 10 were observed. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos were in abundance, 50+ with almost as many Goldfinches. A flight of Straw-necked Ibis ((24) with a White Ibis in company flew overhead. As we moved onto the dam area the reserve came to life. We saw Pacific Black Duck, Crested Pigeon, Red Wattlebirds, Silver Gull, Spotted Turtledove, Red-browed Firetails, Rainbow Lorikeets moving in and out of the pine trees, Masked Lapwings in the grassed areas and Yellow-rumped Thornbills in the foliage. There were also Little Ravens, Welcome Swallows, Blackbirds, Willy Wagtails, Magpie Larks, Adelaide Rosellas and hoards of Starlings flying about. Everyone was disappointed—no Emu Wrens! At 10am a comfort break was called prior to moving on to Scott CP.

## SCOTT CP

Seven members arrived at Scott CP at 11am. Showers had eased but the wind came up. Not too many birds, only 24 species were observed. Lots of bird chatter—Tree Martins overhead, Pardalotes making a lot of noise. We saw Spotted and Striated, Adelaide Rosellas, White-backed Magpies, Little Ravens and Galahs. Ann saw an Eastern Spinebill. Great excitement—a Scarlet Robin showing off, joined by his lady. Crescent, Yellow-faced, White-plumed and White-naped Honeyeaters, New Hollands, and Red Wattlebirds were all making their presence known. We also saw Silvereye, Grey Fantail, Superb Fairy Wrens, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo was calling and a Treecreeper took some finding. Two raptors flew over—one was identified as a Swamp Harrier. Lunch was taken at 12.30 and the sun came out.

*Brian Ginno*

## SEPT 13, COX'S SCRUB

The main purpose of today's outing was bird banding as a follow-up to the talk given by Colin Rich on Sept 11th. The day was overcast and still, just what Colin was hoping for. These conditions are best for banding as the cloud cover means there is little reflection off the nets to alert the birds to their presence.

There was a good turnout of members, 16 in all. Colin had been on site for some time before we arrived. Our first bird spotted was a brown Golden Whistler, which Colin indicated could be a female or non-coloured male. As it turned out from further observation of rufous wing-tips it was a female. Of the birds caught in the nets the largest numbers were, as to be expected,

New Holland Honeyeaters. Other species were male Blue Wren, Eastern Spinebills both male and female, Golden Whistler and Adelaide Rosella.

As each bird was taken from the net it was placed into a wooded box while it waited to be banded. There is a recommended size of band for each species, although in different regions the size of the birds can vary and then a different band is used.

Once the bird is banded, the number is recorded, as are other details such as species, sex, age, weight and any other relevant details depending on the study involved. Colin talked about the importance of banding in showing the movements of birds within a particular habitat and the distances they will travel. This has shown that in a given area you may see good numbers of a species, but in fact a large percentage of them are only passing through or are juveniles that will need to find their own areas to begin breeding.

All those who wanted had a chance to handle and release the birds that were netted. There was interest by some members in becoming involved in banding at this site.

There was about an hour's walk in the later morning to observe what other species were in the area. Some of these were Wedge-tailed Eagle, Grey Currawong, Spotted Pardalote, Grey Butcherbird, Elegant Parrot, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Brown Thornbill.

A very special sighting was made by Ann Turner of the Pink Raven, more commonly known as the Galah, but this mis-identification was understandable in the prevailing light conditions!

Everyone enjoyed the rare opportunity to observe the birds in the hand, and it has given us a better insight into their movements and the importance of subtle differences in identifying different species.

*Chris Wastell*

## SEPT 23, NEULAND HEAD

Jean and I were the only brave people around for this outing. We had short heavy showers and strong winds making it difficult to see the birds although we could hear them. They either flew extremely fast past us or tried hiding in the foliage. Rainbow Lorikeets were everywhere and were very noisy with many Red Wattlebirds keeping them company. On the beach were over 100 Crested Terns. A big surprise for both of us was five White-fronted Chats running on the sand and dunes. In the car-park we had a perfect view of a pair of Laughing Kookaburras sitting each side of a large hole which we are sure is their home, making a pleasant ending to a wild morning with 38 species seen.

*Ann Turner*

## OCT 3 ONKAPARINGA WETLANDS

We commenced our walk at the top of the hill and although a strong cold wind was blowing we did hear plenty of Clamorous Reed-warblers and Little Grassbirds. Further along the boardwalk Golden-headed Cisticolas joined in the calling but were hard to see until we were on our way back—then they were everywhere, and one pair became very agitated with us so we presumed they were nesting nearby.

A pair of Black Swans had seven cygnets and we saw families of Pacific Black Ducks. A Dusky Woodswallow had just finished her nest and made herself very comfortable ready to lay, so Spring was definitely in the air.

We had good sightings of raptors: Black-shouldered Kite, Nankeen Kestrel, Brown Goshawk, Collared Sparrowhawk and Brown Falcon.

A few waders were seen: Common Sandpiper, Green-shank and Black-winged Stilts, but the highlight for all of us was two Blue-billed Ducks—the sun showing the blue very well.

Lunch was enjoyed in the park giving us a chance to see the Rufous (Nankeen) Night Heron which gave us an enjoyable ending to a good morning of birding with 53 species seen.

*Ann Turner*

## MEETING: SEPT 11

Nineteen members and two guests met at our usual venue, the Glendale Christian School. Kate Bruce took the helm and invited reports. Judith Dyer gave an outline on what the next Atlas survey entailed, and how members could be involved by registering to be a recorder for a search area and habitat area. It is not too late to register your interest.

Mary Haywood gave a report on her progress with setting up the Web site—so watch out you electronic fans, we are about to hit the world screens!

Chris Wastell, in his report on the effluent ponds, shared his exciting news that the Alexandrina Council had granted \$4000 towards the project. The working party is now designing the plantings to beautify the area to please the birds.

After mentioning the Flame Robins of the area, Judith gave a progress report on the Brochure being produced. Draft III looks very good, and quotes from printers are now being considered. However, to get the quality desired, more funds are needed—hence a raffle.

The second watercolour of various birds by Verna Hayes will be our next fundraiser and will be drawn at the Christmas function.

The Naracoorte campout is well supported, with members having to arrange their own accommodation.

Judith also said that although we were too late for the Pelagic (deep-sea) Trip from Robe this year, members were asked to consider it as a must in next year's diary.

The guest speaker, Colin Rich, gave us an entertaining

talk on his experiences with bird-banding and the benefits of banding to the science of ornithology. He said he started young (about 12) and it was a pleasure to see someone who still looked so young obviously inspired and delighted by his hobby. He invited us to spend time with him mist-netting and banding on the Sunday at Cox Scrub.

An exhibition of books, birds and bits and nests included a Shining Cuckoo (dead) and created much interest.

The meeting ended with a cuppa and a chatta.

*Kate Bruce*

## ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

When visiting the Woods and Forests nursery at Belair recently, I was impressed with the display in their shop including gifts, posters and books. The bird posters in particular caught my attention. On the literature stand was an excellent brochure on 'Attracting Birds to Your Garden'. This handout gives a good background on what birds need to be healthy and happy, and follows on with the recommended plants that produce pollen, nectar, seeds or harbour insects that feed the birds you wish to attract.

This is an informative, easy-to-read and well-illustrated brochure, and I recommend it to anyone with an interest in making their garden more attractive to birds. The nursery has a huge stock of plants for sale, with clear descriptive labels, and helpful staff making it almost impossible not to achieve spectacular results.

### HOURS OF OPENING:

**Belair** (inside Belair Recreation Park)

Weekdays: 8am to 4pm

Weekends: 10am to 4pm

**Murray Bridge**

Weekdays: 7.30am to 4.30pm

*Kate Bruce*



OUTING REPORT—MANNING SCRUB AT BLEWITT SPRINGS. AUG 22.

Undeterred by a brief but heavy downpour with small hailstones that pounded on the cars at the meeting-point, 21 birdwatchers, divided into three groups, started the walk at Manning Scrub. Fortunately the weather, though cold and windy, brought only brief flurries of rain during the walk.. Sightings in the first half of the walk included Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Silvereeye, Grey Shrike-thrush, Hooded Robin, Golden Whistler, Dusky Woodswallow and Mistletoebird.

Then a flash of red we thought would be another Mistletoebird was identified as a Scarlet Robin, and, suddenly flying in to perch alongside it, an Eastern Spinebill, causing happy noises and a little dance of delight from members of the group.

A Brush Bronzewing found dead on the path allowed us to examine the bird's beautifully coloured feathers. Further on, Jacky Winter perched on a bare branch and Eastern Rosellas and Red-rumped parrots flitted through the trees. Halfway through the bird count, (49 species in all), a black cloud over our heads suddenly rained down on us, with small hailstones causing some birdwatchers to seek protection under their chairs! On the whole, an eventful morning was had by all!

Jean Boomer

GLUEPOT STATION

'Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve' was officially opened on the 18th August 1998 by His Excellency Sir Eric Neale, AC CVO, Governor of South Australia.

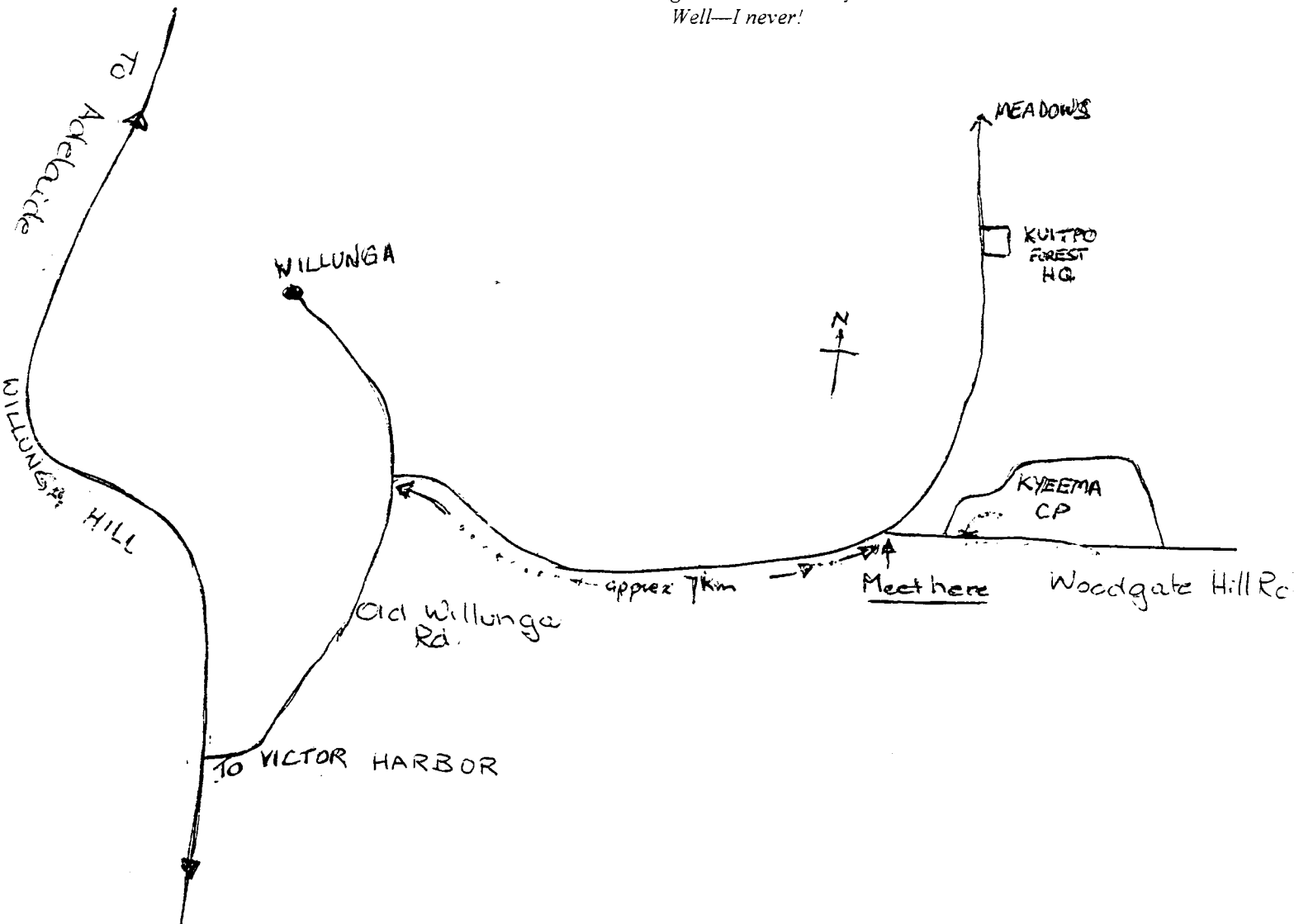
The property was bought in 1997 by Birds Australia (formerly the Royal Australian Ornithological Union) in an effort to protect several species of birds. The property is situated in the north-east of South Australia above Waikerie and is essentially red soil dry mallee country. Black-eared Miners and the Scarlet-chested Parrot are two birds being closely monitored in the area.

The Reserve is now ready for visitors. Are you planning a visit?

Contact the National Office of Birds Australia or the Reserve for the full visitor information sheet. To enter the Reserve you must collect a key and map from the Waikerie Shell Service Station (open to 8pm seven days a week). A refundable deposit of \$10 is required. The route to Gluepot is signposted and takes about 1 1/2 hours (64km). Two-wheel drive cars and small to medium-sized caravans can safely use the road during dry weather. Visitors must be self-sufficient in all things: food, cooking facilities and fuel. Take all your water requirements.

*With acknowledgment, a quote from 'Galah', the in-house newsletter of Birds Australia.*

Definition of 'Gluepot', from 'The 1881 Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue': 'a parson: from joining men and women together in matrimony.'  
Well—I never!



# About our birds

by Robin

At the end of August the Dorman family of Hindmarsh Island looked out the window of their home and saw a pair of Yellow winged Honeyeaters chasing and harassing a bird of similar size



There was little unusual in this for Yellow winged Honeyeaters are notoriously aggressive and try very hard to drive other birds away from their favourite areas.

In this instance though the bird being pursued tried to take a short cut to safety and flew straight into a window thereby inflicting injuries to itself that subsequently proved to be fatal.

It was taken to Kath Bruce, a Hindmarsh Island resident well known for her interest in birds but the injuries were just too serious.

The question then arose as to what the bird might be?

Obviously it was one of the small Bronze Cuckoos but whether it was the more common Horsfields Bronze or a Shining bronze caused some debate.

Because the barring did not meet on the lower abdomen some thought that it must be a Horsfields.

However Kath was convinced that because of its bright colour and the lack of any rufous in the tail it must be a Shining bronze.

Sticking to her belief stood her in good stead for a shining bronze it proved to be.

There are surprisingly two races of the Shining bronze Cuckoo.

Our Australian form was formerly known as the Golden Bronze Cuckoo while the one visiting New Zealand has always been regarded as the Shining Bronze.

Our Australian form is not such a bright green and has a brownish head compared to the New Zealand race.

Both forms of the species are migratory and head off to New Guinea and south east Asia for the non breeding season.

It is thought that many of the New Zealand birds cross the Tasman and move along our east coast as part of their migratory path thus both forms can be seen at times in eastern Australia.

In our State the Golden Bronze Cuckoo is regarded as a wet Country inhabitant.

Its main areas are the South east, the Mt Loftys and southern Eyre Peninsula.

I have always regarded it as rather rare in our area but am beginning to wonder now whether it may actually be better represented than I think and just rather elusive and difficult to spot in the field.

When calling in the breeding season it is more easily found since its mournful whistle has an upward inflection in contrast to the descending whistle "Frear" of the Horsfield bronze.

Over the years quite a few Golden Bronze Cuckoos both adult and immature have been brought in as a result of accidental death.

They would seem to meet with accident at least half as often as

Horsfields so perhaps there are more about than seems apparent.

Due to their unobtrusiveness we know little about their migratory movement.

Certainly they do not seem to appear in the winter as do the Horsfields.

Pizzey suggests October to April as their time in Australia but the Hindmarsh Island specimen shows that this is not always correct.

They are also said to strongly favour Thornbills as a host for their eggs but the recent observations of the Dorman's suggest that Yellow winged Honeyeaters are very suspicious that they could also figure on the list.

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Southern Argus and John Eckert.