

# Australia



## South Australia



3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2018



Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Laratinga Wetlands Old Noarlonga Onkaparinga River Granite Island	06:15 - 11:00 12:30 - 12:45 13:00 - 14:30 16:00 - 21:00
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Magill University Campus Toldarol Mount Scott Kingston East	06:15 - 11:00 09:00 - 12:00 16:00 - 18:00 18:15 - 19:25
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bool Ngarkat	06:15 - 11:45 14:30 - 15:15
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Banrock Station Pooginook	08:30 - 14:00 17:20 - 19:30
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Pooginook Clements Gap Port Augusta Botanical Gardens	06:00 - 11.15 14:45 - 15:30 17:30 - 19:00
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanical Gardens	08:30 - 19:15
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Winninowie Waterfall Gully, Adelaide	06:00 - 11.15 16:30 - 18:05

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2018

## Introduction

In the days long gone when I worked for a pharma company, I met up with and did some birding with James, another member of one of the sales forces. As it happened, he was originally from Australia, and moved back there from the UK 13 years ago to the Adelaide area. We had long promised ourselves a birding trip to the Adelaide area together, and finally managed to pin down some free time from both sides. James did the big ask and put together the itinerary for the trip, and we sat ourselves on a plane for 24 hours to join him. The task we gave him was to plan a visit to various different types of habitat,



not too distant from his base in Adelaide, aiming more for the varying quality at these different habitats than planning for a big list. Australia was new to me, and I wanted to enjoy the new avifauna rather than bash around trying to amount a big list. Local means a little more than we would assume in the UK. A couple of the journeys were around 4 hours. This meant that we covered a good part of the South-east of South Australia, not wandering into neighbouring Victoria. The first two nights were spent using James's house as accommodation, and then we used either motels or a cabin at a holiday park. More than adequate for our needs. James also provided the transport and we shared the driving in his 4x4 truck. The 4x4 is important, since it was necessary at a couple of the sites visited. Some of the tracks are rough, and an even bigger obstacle is their sandy nature in some places. Even with this, he decided a visit to Glue Pot wasn't a good idea when the heavy rain through the night may have made the long drive to it on poor roads hazardous (or even officially closed by the authorities).

We had been expecting and planned for high temperatures with little rain, but conveniently the former were not as high as expected – a low of 8°C one morning and highs no more than mid 20's. There was some drizzle one morning, which cleared up by mid morning, and heavy showers one night which did affect the choice of location the next as above. Apparently in November the temperatures can regularly be expected to reach the low 30'sC. It was good to see that mosquitoes were no problem at all, but flies were a nuisance. None seemed to be biters or invasive in any way, but they had a habit of flitting around your eyes and face, persistently so. And mosquito repellent had little or no effect on them. Grin and bear it time (along with the odd muttered swear word or six)!

For reference and planning, there are a few field guides and a good web site ([www.sabirding.com](http://www.sabirding.com)) which can be used. The two larger field guides (Menkhorst & Rogers and Pizzey & Knight) have more comprehensive text and maps than the Slater guide, but the illustrations in the latter are of very good quality, and it is also much lighter and easier to carry in the field than the others.

**Laratinga***(Day 1)*

First morning birding found us about 40 minutes from the centre of Adelaide (to the South-east) at what on a weekend proves to be quite a popular location for the locals. However, the early start meant some peace, although as time went on, the increasing numbers of weekenders weren't a particular problem. While we took 5 hours here, it is not a large area. This was more a reflection of the quality of the birding. The central focus is a series of ponds which were originally man made, and which have settled in nicely to also include some narrow woodland surrounds, and a natural channel or two flowing through.

From the small car park, we crossed a bridge and headed straight to one of the main lagoons but were stopped on the short walk by Australian Reed Warblers, White-plumed Honeyeaters, and the stunning Superb Fairywrens. All three were to be very common and regular players. The early morning drizzle had subsided more or less by the time we had arrived, and the temperatures were pleasantly fresh, increasing as the morning wore on. The lagoons themselves were awash with duck and grebes. The latter were mainly Hoary-headed, with the odd Australasian dotted around. The duck seemed to be mainly Grey Teal, Black Duck and Hardhead, but it wasn't difficult to sift out Freckled & Maned Duck. Cinnamon Teal had to be awarded more patience. Gallinules were abundant, with equal numbers of Coot, Dusky Moorhen, and Australasian Swampheh. The end of the time here also added Black-tailed Nativehen.

One of the pleasant surprises here was the variety of parrots which we saw during our first session. It opened up with Crimson Rosella and Galah, but we quickly added Little Corella and a couple of fly past Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. A little later a single Red-rumped Parrot was briefly perched in the open, and a couple of Rainbow Lorikeets further on. Passerines were a constant source of entertainment. Willy Wagtails were often seen with young, always busy on the ground and low trees. A bit of a surprise were the amount of Little Grasswrens here, reaching double figures quite easily. White-plumed Honeyeaters continued to be not only the sole of its kind, but also one of the most common birds around, but they were joined a little later by the stunning New Holland Honeyeaters, sometimes seen in large and noisy family groups. Red Wattlebirds made themselves known by the rather unattractive rasp of a grating call, but eventually gave up good views.

Hirundines were only initially represented by Welcome Swallow, busy over the grass and water, but Tree Martins in much smaller numbers were then found, and a single Fairy Martin picked up on the reeds. This was a bit unexpected for here. The reason for the popularity with the hirundines was probably the abundance of flying insects in the area although they didn't prove to be a problem to us.

We finished off by walking to the working sewage areas, although this was almost dry. However here, and on some open mud just before, Black-fronted Dotterel were seen. These complimented the good numbers of Crake – both Australian and Baillon's – that we had seen working the edges of the channels and also the lagoons.

## Old Noarlonga and Onkaparinga

Early afternoon was spent visiting a couple of sites on the way to the coast, as well as the important task of munching on fresh and warm cornish pasties. Just before the latter, we stumbled on a pair of nest prospecting Laughing Kookaburras, which was one of the birds I had been wanting to see for some years. Downside was that they picked a couple of trees next to the road as their perches of choice. Upside was the stunning close views we had of them looking for a nest hole.



A short drive later and we were in the middle of a Saturday afternoon at the park. Many families and what looked like small bricabrac stalls here, but one of the surrounding trees hosted adult and juvenile Nankeen Night Heron. They seemed totally oblivious to the partying humans down below. The river alongside also chipped in with a couple of Caspian Terns amongst the Silver Gulls.

An hour and a half was then spent walking alongside a river which bordered some open grassland and scattered bush. The drizzle of the morning was a distant memory in the sunshine of the afternoon, and the birdlife was generally quiet, mainly earlier on in the walk. Australian Pelicans did put in regular appearances overhead, along with a single Australian White Ibis. We did pick up the songs of a couple of Golden-headed Cisticolas, which were dual tone and seemed to be from some distance before we picked them out directly overhead. Just over half way into the walk and having crossed a boardwalk through a quiet grassy area, we picked up some new birds for the day. Red-browed Finches were spotted on and off, until a pair were seen possibly nest building. Within a small stretch of woodland, Dusky Woodswallows were very close to, and could be seen feeding on the ground as well as flycatching. At least 2 Black-faced Cuckooshrikes were at first mistaken for Wattlebirds, but good enough views soon rectified that, and were aided by flythrough of a pair of Musk Lorikeet.



## Granite Island & Victor harbour

Last habitat type of the day was coastal, looking for local terns and gulls, and anything else that fancied showing themselves. We started by combing a couple of quiet looking beaches, which were exactly that – quiet. So we changed tack and headed for Victor Harbour. On the way, we passed a field with a large open tree which had a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo at the top. It was an immense parrot, showing a very slow, almost owl-like shape in flight, since it did deign to come a little closer. Once at Victor Harbour, we quickly picked up Eastern Osprey and a huge billed Pacific Gull flying along the beach with Silver Gulls. The plan we had was to cross the causeway, avoiding the tourists on the horse draw trams, and look for a few birds on the island. Before we got there, we picked up pairs of Crested Pigeons and Crested Tern, as well as much closer views of the ridiculously large billed Pacific Gull. We searched through a small group of cormorants hoping for Black-faced Shag, but they proved to be the more common Australian Cormorants. The Shags fell a

short time later at the end of one of the piers. While looking through these, we saw a small group of Southern Bottlenose Dolphins, a couple of Australian Gannets overhead, and the first of quite a few Singing Honeyeaters in the coastal scrub. A Sooty Oystercatcher was just a flyby. While there, we decided to hang around in the area and after having a bite to eat, double back to the island again to see if we could catch up with Little Penguin.



Having experienced the Little Penguin viewing at Omaru in New Zealand, which was all big business and well organised, the one on Granite Island was different to say the least. We arrived at 7.30pm and paid the \$AUS25 each for entry. Only a small number of people turned up, and we were led on the boardwalks to the rocky shore to stand peering over the railings waiting for the stars to show. The "penguin guide" shone a red light on to the one individual that entered the scene. He then played a recording of Little Penguin to entice it up – surely not in the least bit ethical in a colony during the breeding season! We were then led around the colony area, when the recording reappeared several times. We did find one more on the rock shore, and the pleasant surprise of a few Brushtail Possums. Good to see the penguins and the possums, but not so good to see tape luring in the area.

### Magill University Campus

(Day 2)

We decided to have a bit of a later start today due to the first long day and distances to be travelled today. We mixed breakfast time with marvelling at James's pet python slowly dispatching a mouse meal, and then stepped outside of the house and into the street to watch a noisy group of Musk & Rainbow Lorikeet feeding on a bottle brush tree. We then headed down to the open sports fields of the campus to find groups of Little Corellas, Galahs, Eastern Rosellas, Crimson Rosellas, and Noisy Miners pulling the grass surfaces to bits while looking for the energy rich roots. We had to remind ourselves that this was still in the suburbs of Adelaide!

### Toldarol



The run up to the reserve that is Toldarol is on some rough tracks which pass through vast expanses of open farmland, much of it being rather arid and sparsely vegetated. There are some points which line the tracks, and we stopped at one or two when it seemed they held something of interest. This was how we picked up a pair of Australian Ringnecks, as well as a pair

of Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Singing Honeyeater. A little further on from these, a largish raptor was seen perched on a fence post and dropped down into the long grass a

few times. A closer look identified it as a light phase Brown Falcon, and it was good enough to stay on the post for some time as we drove closer.

Then to the reserve itself. We initially passed a couple of small pools amongst the open areas before entering the reserve itself, and this was where we saw the only Yellow-billed Spoonbills of the visit, alongside Royal Spoonbill and Australian Shelduck.

Once through the gate we parked up next to a message board. No teeming of the crowds at a busy reserve here. We only came across 4 other folk during the morning. Entry was free and we decided to walk the lagoons. The central part of the reserve consists of a number of large and what look like shallow pools, bounded by levies which also serve as access. On one side of the main divide are also extensive reedbeds (where we regularly heard but didn't see Bittern), and the ones on the opposite side were much more open. It was very obvious from the off that the lagoons held very large number of terns and duck, as well as support from pelicans and ibis, etc. We initially thought mosquitoes were going to be a bit of a problem, but they weren't. They left it to the flies which were more of a nuisance than a problem.

We spent the time we had there wandering slowly along the bisecting levies, stopping on several occasions to scan the absolute mass of birds present. From the off, the numerous species were Caspian Terns and Grey Teal, with supporting numbers of Whiskered Terns and various waders. The former were scanned through, and this was rewarded with Pink-eared Ducks, and impressive bird with dapper plumage and a shoveler like bill. The latter were heavily



represented by Sharp-tailed Sandpipers although searching through them also picked out singles of Red-necked Stint. Similarly with the Pied Stilts, which turned up a couple of Banded Stilts after a while, both feeding in the company of Red-necked Avocets. Overhead, some soaring raptors were eventually diagnosed as Whistling Kites, making a break from the more regular Swamp Harriers. On the opposite end of the spectrum, passerines were represented by small groups of White-fronted Chats and Australian Reed Warblers. One of the most enjoyable stops was next to a very close pool, which had been invaded by Black-tailed Nativehens as we approached. It also had Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in various stages of plumage. After a while, a family party of Red-capped Plovers made its way to the locality, and perhaps just as impressive was an adult Red-kneed Dotterel with a chick in tow.

We completed the circuit of the walk by passing another large lagoon alive in the centre with more terns, and slightly closer views of those on what was the initial lagoon we had viewed. It was here that we had our best views of a singing Australian Reed Warbler, all the others of which sang from the depths of the reeds.

## Mount Scott

Despite the name, this is not a hilly area, but a location dominated by sandy heath, which shows as some open land with a variety of trees lining the track through. It was difficult to get to grips with some of the smaller species, since they tended to be very active and either hugged the denser foliage and/or the higher canopy. This wasn't true of a small family of Grey Currawongs and a single Black-shouldered Kite on the approach, however, being out in the open next to the road. The intention was to find the track leading to the park proper, but we started birding Mount Scott Road as soon as we turned on to it and kept stopping along the way. This meant that we didn't spend a great deal of time in the park proper, but this was a reflection of the interesting birding we did along the track. The open area at first had a number of Little Ravens, with possible Australian here also. Eastern & Crimson Rosellas (the latter the red variety) were amongst the parrots flying to and fro,



but one of the better finds was a pair of Grey Butcherbirds, with a possible third on a nest. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater pre-empted a loudly singing bird within a nearby bush, and this turned out to be Grey Shrike-thrush. Moving along, and the trees either side of the track thickened, with a lot of smaller passerine activity obvious. Outside of the usual abundance of White-eared Honeyeaters, there were also a few Thornbirds. These were difficult to pin down, but there were at least two Striated amongst them. Australian Ringnecks flew through, with some

landing on the higher trees. The form here is the very attractive Port Lincoln. While watching, noisy Restless Flycatchers followed a Black-faced Cuckooshrike. They seemed very agitated, and the reason for this became apparent in the guise of a hunting Collared Sparrowhawk. Within the bush there were also a few Grey Fantails. These were constantly active, not seeming to settle for more than a second or two. We did eventually reach the actual park, which opened out somewhat, leading to grassland, adding a party of White-fronted Chats to the local list.

Kingston East is only a short drive from Mount Scott, and so we headed our way there to the pier which juts into the sea. A Yellow-rumped Thornbill welcomed us in the car park, but the pier was our destination. We scanned the sea just off the shore in both directions but didn't locate our quarry. In the distance, on a rocky promontory, was a group of Australian Pied Cormorants, and on the beach a little closer to us, small groups of Red-capped Plovers and Sanderlings. We tried again in the opposite direction, and in the distance on the sea a small spread out group of the most ridiculous looking wildfowl – Musk Duck. A few wattled males were busy pursuing females, but they were a little distant. We decided to drive down to be closer on the adjacent beach, but when we got there, they'd move closer to where we had been on the pier. So back in the car again, and we trudged the sand to where the duck were. Passing a group of Hoary-headed Grebes, and a flyby Little Black Cormorant, we managed to get much better views of this unique duck.



## Bool Wetlands

(Day 3)

Bool is a very large natural wetland, which comprises huge lagoon areas which also contain tracts of reedbed. The depth of the water is surprisingly shallow – up to 2 metres – which gives a lot of other vegetation a chance to grow and various food sources for the variety of water birds here. There are one or two loop tracks and boardwalks to get closer to the birdlife, which generally give good views over or through the reeds. There is a small fee to pay on the car, and also a visitor board to see an outline layout of the area. When we arrived it was a little wet, having had some heavy-ish rain through the night, and drizzle when we arrived. Macs out then. We glanced over the large lagoon from the visitor shelter



through the drizzle but decided it might be best to do some walking, so headed off for one of the loop walks. As would be suspected with such large wetlands, water birds were numerous. Most obvious were Straw-necked Ibis, Grey Teal, Black Swan, and Magpie Goose. There were also flotillas of Hoary-headed Grebes, with a couple numbering 40 birds. Searching through the settled Grey Teal, a couple of Pink-necked Ducks were also present. Along the shoreline and amongst the vegetation, a Royal Spoonbill and a few Great Egrets were amongst Pied Stilts, with more shore hugging Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Red-kneed Dotterel, and even a pair of White-fronted Chats.



A good portion of the time at the reserve was then spent on the Gunawar Walking track. This starts with three metal short bridges/boardwalks which cross through reeds and low vegetation. Over the last of these, a small raised platform gives somewhat better views across the surrounding landscape. A grassy loop then touches on more of the reedbeds, but also encircles some open wooded habitat. By the time we parked up, the drizzle had also subsided, and was only occasional then on for the rest of the morning. While some excellent birds were seen both before and after, perhaps pride of place for us was a very confiding Swamp Wallaby, looking suitably drenched as it posed in the open. We saw this a few times. In addition, a larger Western Grey Kangaroo and its young were encountered. Even though we had seen a few drive-by kangaroos on some of the journeys, these were much more impressive close to.

After a perched Whistling Kite had been diligently photographed (they turned out to be quite numerous by the end of the morning, with one flock of 12 noted), we picked up one of two passerines in the trees and reeds. Australian Reed Warblers were vocal but not often in the open, as opposed to Superb Fairywrens which were quite the opposite. One or two Little Grassbirds could also be picked out. The first of a few White-browed Scrubwrens was brief, but climbing the platform was a good idea – a very confiding Buff-banded Rail was out in the open below here for some time. Grey Fantails were constantly on the move, as were a few very busy Yellow-rumped Thornbills. Overhead, we were surprised to pick out a Bittern high above. As we approached the car again, we stumbled on a collection of 15 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos calmly placed along the branches of a bare tree in the open. We also drove a little way around from the track to a more open section of the water. Best find here was a pair of Musk Ducks.



We then walked the few hundred metre length of the Tea Tree boardwalk. This crosses into the centre of the large lagoon, with scattered bushes on the way to a well constructed hide. After passing the second Brown Falcon of the morning, we then started to encounter closer views of the Pied Stilts and various wildfowl. Of note was the constant stream of Straw-necked Ibises, making their way to and from the colony in front of the hide. The hide was also where we picked up the only Blue-billed Duck of the day, as well as another female Musk Duck. This was also a good spot for close

views of Whiskered Terns. From the hide some of the numerous Swamp Harriers could be seen harassing the Straw-necked Ibis in the colony. A second Bittern also flew over here.

## Ngarkat

With the rain starting to fall in earnest as we completed our birding at Bool and a long drive to the overnight destination, we decided to leave the area completely and do some birding on the way to Waikerie. We looked at Ngarkat reserve as a half way stop off, which would also present a new habitat in the form of dry mallee. Obviously, we had to refuel first, so knocked back some pies at a bakery in Bordertown before setting off to the North. We had only been travelling a few miles when we realised that there were regular groups of Woodswallows in the lines of trees next to the road. When we stopped to have a look, it turned out there were both White-browed & Masked among the throng. An added bonus was a couple of Wedge-tailed Eagles passing overhead.



We arrived at one of the visitor pull ins for Ngarkat, which was really no more than a cinder car park with a board up telling you of the fees to pay for the visit and also warning of the many life threatening dangers which are likely to befall you. We drove a few miles further on to pull into one of the side tracks of the mallee where there was a small pool. The theory was that we were in a very dry area, so it would be worth staking out for a short while. The reality was that we only saw one species come down to drink, although a pair of Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters was worth the

continual necessity of swatting away pesky flies. We did have a walk along the sandy track to try to pick up other speciality birds, but only really came back with aching limbs from more fly swatting. Probably one of the best bits of birding was yet to come on the onward journey, where we stopped regularly to pin down birds seen from the car while driving. After a couple of stops for reptiles – Blue-tongued Skink/Shingleback and Central Bearded Dragon – and also following a trio of raptors in the form of Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel and Black Kite, we caught on to a decent sized group of Eastern Bluebonnets flying up from the crop field they were feeding in. We managed to get quite close to them, and while doing this, also chanced upon some Yellow-throated Miners. Further on, sharp eyes picked out a distant Spotted Harrier quartering the fields and the final stop at Loxton before food we caught up with a quartet of White-winged Choughs and a pair of Red-rumped Parrots.

## Banrock Station

(Day 4)

The plan for the day had been to get up very early and make the couple of hours journey to Glue Pot, which is supposed to be a prime birding spot. However, some heavy rain through the night probably would have rendered the tracks to the location very difficult, so we decided to change plans. So the alarm clocks were reset for a lie in until just before 7am, and we drove the 20 minutes or so to Banrock Station. This is also the selfsame place which produces some of the excellent red wines exported around the world, but also has as part of the site a rather large lagoon reserve and circular walk. The omens were good early on when we picked up a quartet of Emu in an open field on the way. We parked as the first vehicle in the car park. Another good sign we thought – no other people here on the walk. We stood outside at 8.27am for the 8.30 opening, and the reason for the empty car park become obvious – opening time is 9am! However, they took pity on us and let us in anyway. Formalities of signing in and picked up a two-way radio for safety completed, and we headed out. The expanse of the large open lagoon is well seen from the raised

visitor centre on the hill, as is the 8km circular walk around it. Apart from the vineyards which surround the centre, there are also some remnants of mallee woodland around the reserve.



We took our time completing the whole of the circular walk over 4-5 hours, and overall, it has to be said the birdlife was quiet. The surprising thing was the paucity of passerines apart from the usual irregular Noisy & Yellow-throated Miners and White-plumed Honeyeaters. There was huge excitement within the group, however, when we entered the first of the hides. We can't remember actually looking at the birds from here because centre stage was occupied by a Tiger Snake. Snakes are a bit of a passion for us, so having one at close counters for some time was a huge bonus. It was obvious we then made sure we visited all other hides just in case, but without further luck. Reptile excitement was up again half way around when we found a sizeable Lace Monitor in a tree. The good numbers of very approachable Western Grey Kangaroos were also an added bonus, with the largest group numbering 10 individuals.



Predictably, most of the birds were concentrated on the water, and there were quite impressive collections of Australian Pelican & Shelduck. Grebes here were mainly Australian over the greater area of water, but with one flotilla of 50+ were Hoary-headed. Waders were again mainly Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, with smaller amounts of Pied Stilt, and fewer again of Black-fronted & Red-kneed Dotterel. Both Spoonbills – Yellow-billed & Royal – fed on the shoreline. We also saw our first Australian Darters here, as well as first Sacred Kingfisher of the trip, and a very approachable Laughing Kookaburra. Once again back at the visitor centre, we did forgo the pleasures of a wine tasting mainly due an organised Melbourne Cup event, so enjoyed our packed sandwiches on the trailer of the car.

Perversely, when we arrived back at the caravan park where we had our cabin accommodation to pay, there was a bustling group of Apostlebirds right next to the reception area. Not only a great group of birds to observe, but they almost walked between our legs at one point. Also here a collection of Maned Ducks. When we left again to cross the river on the ferry, a Blue-faced Honeyeater was seen from the car as we awaited out transportation to arrive.

### Pooginook

We hadn't fared too well with mallee habitat so far but decided to give this location a try. The omens weren't good to start with – we went far too far past the turnoff and only



realised after 15 minutes later that we needed turn back. These omens were wrong though. A couple of hours working the mallee woodland was very productive. There seem to be 5 long tracks through the rectangular shaped reserve, mostly consisting of a sand base, quite often soft. This is when you are glad to be in a good 4x4, since the plan was to drive one of the tracks and stopping following looking and listening for birds. This really worked well. After a couple of pairs of Australian Ringnecks and Eastern Bluebonnets, we saw our first trio of Red Kangaroos, a male and two females. Then the birding began.

There were regular calls of birds from the adjacent woodland, and almost every time we stopped, we picked up something new. First to be a minor challenge were a couple of Weebills. Once a half decent view was had they could be clinched, but they were so active that this took a little time. More of these followed at later stops. Then Jacky Winter was seen on the opposite side in the more open areas. More small birds were longer billed than Weebill, so obviously were Thornbills. They at first looked plain enough to be Brown, but flashes of the rump gave them up as Chestnut-rumped Thornbill. While chasing down more calls in the wood, a Rainbow Bee-eater flew past back along the track. As time went on, more small groups of parrots and parakeets were calling and flying in small groups but were difficult to pin down. However, one group of Ringnecks contained a smart male Mulga, and as the sun was weakening, a decent sized group of Ringnecks was watched for some time to and froing between the crop edges and the adjacent trees. Word has also to be mentioned of the Emus we came across. 7 in a field were exciting to see, but it was a shame to then watch them leave the field to get to the woodland and have to cross a barbed wire fence. We were some way away, but when we got to the crossing spot, saw feathers stuck to the fence and also scabble marks in the sand. Last view of the day was of over 28 Emu in a single corner of a field in the evening light.



### Pooginook

After the hugely successful visit to this mallee habitat the previous evening, we decided on a return early this morning. What a great decision! Everything the locality offered on the first visit was even better on the second. Even the conditions were more or less perfect. The cool and bright early morning was calm most of the time, with little wind and thankfully very few annoying flies. The plan had been to drive the full length of one of the tracks, cross over at the top, and then head back down an adjacent track. The birding was so good though that it took almost all morning to get to just past yesterday's end point. When we arrived, the morning sun was a warm yellow, and the collection of parrots we came across – Ringneck, Mulga and Bluebonnet – looked at their finest. First non-parrot was Grey Butcherbird, in fact two were together, and then we stumbled across a family of Red-capped Robins. The male is a stunning bird, and we had plenty of time to study them as the parents fed the two young birds. A major part of the birding morning was sifting through the very regular and busy smaller birds, most of which were Thornbills. They don't make this an easy task, due not only to their constant activity, but also that they don't always look quite like the illustrations in the books. Weebills were reasonably easy, as were

Yellow-rumped Thornbills when the rump was displayed. Early Chestnut-rumped seemed always nailed on, until we realised that some were dark eyed and had a slightly different tail pattern – Inland Thornbill. A distinctive call amongst these smaller bird flocks also picked out Spotted Pardalote. Striated Pardalote was discovered later in the morning tending a nest hole, and thus gave crippling views.



We found the best method of finding the birds was to drive slowly and listen for anything interesting. Thus it was that the car was abandoned many times in the middle of the sandy track while we searched through the mallee. One such sortie was a little further, when a very strong song was eventually located and belonging to Grey Shrikethrush. A Cuckooshrike flew over and in the light the neck looked darker than expected. Thankfully, the black headed form of White-breasted doesn't occur here, so Black-faced it was. Back in the car, and we disturbed a largish raptor from the ground. It didn't go far and turned out to be a Brown Falcon. It was very obliging. In fact, so much so that after we had done another sortie into the bush for 15 minutes or so, it was still on the same branch. The sortie itself was a huge success, since we found the first of quite a few different species of Honeyeater – White fronted. This was followed as the morning went on with Spiny-cheeked, Yellow-plumed, White-plumed, Brown-headed, Striped, and White-eared. Overhead was a very large raptor which seemed to have a forked tail. Everything else pointed to Wedge-tailed Eagle, and this was the decision. Perhaps the central tail feathers had been growing in.

So it was about the right time of morning for Emu time. The (probable) same small group of 7 yesterday was 8 today. They were very jumpy when they heard the car approaching and legged it through the fence and into the bush. The herd of yesterday in the further field was only a pair today. When we headed back into the bush ourselves again, a pair of Jacky Winters were too busy with each to notice us being around, and another stop with a bird party included a very brief but outstanding Varied Sitella. While the vast majority of the birds had to be tracked down in the bush, a pair of Rainbow Bee-eaters happily hawked for insects along the track near to where the car was parked. This was the time to head out of the park and on our way West, but not before a Pied Butcherbird again stopped our progress just after we re-joined the main road.

### Clements Gap

The onward journey to Port Augusta was going to be a long one, so we planned a quick birding slot just over half way to there. On the journey we passed through sun, wind, hailstones and heavy rain, arriving in windy conditions at this small mallee reserve. Flies were once again a bit of a pest here, as they had been a day or two before. Overall the locality was quiet, although we didn't arrive at the best time of day for birds. Pick of the bunch was a Pied Butcherbird, although a couple of pairs of Australian Ringnecks looked resplendent in the light. Apart from these the most obvious birds were Yellow-throated Miner and Singing Honeyeater. We stayed for just over half an hour and continued on our way.

## Port Augusta Botanical Garden



As a preview to our visit for the following morning, we had a relatively quick pop in to here to check it out. Visits here are impressively free, and even though they officially close at 5pm, we could also gain access until sundown. This was enough time to have a look at the manicured reception area (where there was a group of White-browed Babblers), and then take a walk to one of the two bird hides. This showed that the gardens are set in a large area of low brushwood scrub, which should mean a good potential for open arid country birds. Even around the car park we saw Willie Wagtail, Spiny-cheeked & Singing

Honeyeater, Magpie-Robin, Australian Magpie, and most impressive of all, a pair of Rainbow Bee-eaters in the best of lights. The walk to the hide set within the open bluebush was only 100-200 metres, and although quiet this evening in the strong winds (Spiny-cheeked & Singing Honeyeater only) it looked to have great potential. We also checked out the red cliffs lookout, which was timed well, since we also came across a small group of White-winged Fairywrens (females only).

## Port Augusta Botanical Garden

(Day 6)

The gardens don't open their gates until 7.30am, and the main visitor centre not until 9am, so we treated ourselves to a 6.30am lie in this morning. We were of course driving through the open gates of the gardens at 7.30 on the dot, and it was no surprise that we were the first car in the car park. First port of call was to be the garden in front of the visitor centre first, to pin down the White-browed Babblers we had seen briefly the evening before. This was made irrelevant almost immediately when they were seen more or less hopping and feeding around the car park itself. They certainly aren't a difficult bird to get up close and personal to, much like the copious Singing & Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Red Wattlebirds which seemed to be everywhere. Our attention was drawn to a few flowering shrubs nearby, and in particular a couple of very small sunbird shaped nectar feeders. At first, we only saw a couple of females, which confused the situation, until a smart male Black Honeyeater started to feed alongside them. It shared the bush with a couple of White-fronted Honeyeaters, which turned out to be quite common in the area. Prize for noise and also numbers went to Little Corella, which flew into the bushes in and around the car park before then progressing to the nearby railway line in their hundreds.



It was time early doors to make our way to one of the two bird hides in the gardens, placed right amongst the open blue bush. This also meant that we would be covering the bluebush a little, looking for some of the arid land specialists. It is a reasonably well designed open hide, which had a small watering pool at its centre, surrounded by bushes of various sizes.

The walk did turn up a Nankeen Kestrel which had been present yesterday, and also a frenzied group of Southern Whitefaces in a tall single tree. We had to approach the hide with care, since a little better design would have blinded the approach path, but still spent an excellent hour or so patiently waiting for thirsty birds to call in. This did indeed happen. Boss of the place was a belligerent Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, who saw off any intruding species he took a dislike to. Top of his hate list for some unknown reason were the regularly visiting Elegant Parrots, who barely had a chance to drink before being harassed away. Also targeted were small groups of inoffensive Zebra Finches, who often numbered up to 20 birds around the watering hole. It didn't seem to take on the trio of Crested Pigeons who often popped in, or not a shock, the pair of young Australian Ravens.



There is a loop walk (the Red Cliffs walk to the Red Cliffs lookout) which is about 4.5km long, which goes directly through and sometimes around the arid and open bluebush, which holds some of the arid lands specialities. We did this earlier rather than later, since the still weather and rising temperatures seemed so much higher than the predicted 18°C. We did come across a decent sized group of White-winged Fairywrens very quickly, and they



contained a couple of stunning cobalt blue males, but only the odd female was seen from then on. Most obvious wildlife, and very welcome for it, were Kangaroos, and this time they consisted of more or less equal numbers of Red & Western Grey. Some of the reds were particularly well coloured in rufous brown finery. A couple of Emus were amusing. They were on the opposite side of the boundary fence and seemed to be stalking the length to get to the gardens side we were on. We came across them again near to the cliff edges, and they almost seemed to be making a bee line

for us when we caught their attention. So far removed from the more jumpy birds we had seen earlier in the week that always seemed to be shunning our company. The top of the cliffs have a magnificent view over the top end of the estuary, and these have some very enticing mud edges to them. Surprising then that we only found one wader – a Greenshank – and a White-faced Heron as the water loving species. All the hirundines which were busy to and fro below the cliff top seemed to be Fairy Martins, and they would land on the mud below presumably to collect mud for nest building. The bluebush remained quiet until we reached the sparser and higher bushy portion of the gardens nearer to the visitor centre, and it was here that we found our first pair of Variegated Fairywrens. They were much less confiding than our previous profusion of Superb Fairywrens. The second bird hide was the last port of call before we reached the visitor centre and some welcome lunch. This is quite different from the first hide, being located with a higher bushy area. The water is provided on a small covered platform. Apart from the plethora of visiting Singing Honeyeaters, the main interest was a more distant Chirruping Wedgebill, which unfortunately didn't deign to come closer to the hide.



A delightful lunch was then taken in the cafe within the visitor centre. We chose a table next to the window, and so could watch a sample of the birdlife outside (we chose to sit indoors – fly relief you understand!), and this in a way formed the plan for the rest of the day. We had been looking to drive an hour further North to Dutchman's Stern, but while knocking back the cake, we included in our bird gazing another Black Honeyeater. So, we then went to get another close look, when a family of Variegated Fairywrens put in an appearance. They were fascinating and

frustrating at the same time, keeping mainly within the depths of bushes, appearing for short spurts at times before disappearing back inside. We watched them for over half an hour, and when discussing whether to move on for the rest of the afternoon (4.30pm by this time), decided we were enjoying the birds at the gardens so much we would stay on for the rest of the day. Brilliant decision. After a sit and refreshing cup of coffee, we almost cleaned up on the birding experience by the end of the day. The birding hide in the open bluebush was the target, but we went a slight long way around to take in more of the bluebush itself. Yet another great move. We had hoped for an encounter with Rufous Fieldwren. Done! We knew from the earlier morning experience with White-winged Fairywren that they were much more difficult to pin down than Superb & Variegated, preferring to keep in the depths of low bushes. However, we did eventually see a few stunning males in the open for short bursts. There was then also the added bonus of an overflying Little Eagle. At first miscalled as a kite, we looked as it circled high above and got record images good enough for definite diagnosis of the eagle itself. We did return to the hide again, but all was fairly quiet.

## Winninowie

(Day 7)

This protected reserve is just over half an hour's drive South from Port Augusta, and on the way back to Adelaide for our evening flight. We arrived there for first light just before 6am and spent over 5 hours in a very varied environment. We did at first take the wrong track though to what we thought was the reserve proper, to find a piece of beach with only a few Silver Gulls on it. So the satnav was recalibrated and a short drive to the correct track found. At first the access track cut through low bluebush similar to that in yesterday's foray to the botanical gardens, then through a small tract of woodland, to open up to a large expanse of coastal bluebush which often gave way to samphire. Creeks started to emerge until we also found the route to the beach for waders. After a duo then positive herd of 24 Emu's just before we started on the track, we walked the length to the start of



the reserve proper as the sun peered over the Flinders Hills. Since the habitat was similar to yesterday, we enjoyed good views of the same species, including stunning male White-winged Fairywrens and much more approachable Australian Pipits. In the distance, however, we also added another speciality of this locality – Black-faced Woodswallow. A much closer pair would be seen later in nearer to the beach area. Galahs looked so much richer in colour at this time of the morning. Kangaroos were also here in small numbers and were represented by both Red & Western Grey.



Once past the woodland, the bluebush became a more salt encrusted area, and we chanced upon a small group of Chirruping Wedgebills, surprisingly in the open rather than higher tree cover as we had expected. We stopped to explore a bushy area overlooking one of the muddy creeks, and this proved very productive. A strong and musical songster gave us the run around for a while, preferring to stay in deep cover despite the loud song. It was eventually tracked down and proved to be another Grey Shrikethrush. Busy Singing Honeyeaters tried to confuse the issue, but patience in the bushes turned up a couple of Elegant Parrots. Even more patience eventually pinned down a very skulking and overstated Redthroat, put to shame in their bolder costumes by a group of Variegated Fairywrens. It was here that we also were encroached upon by Doug – a bearded and be-denimed fellow who purported to be a freelance wildlife researcher from the nearby dwelling which we had seen. He had been so for 14 years and had many a bold story about the birds he had seen. He also gave us the specific way to get to the beach front, where he had opened the “gate” (in reality a log across the track) and the way to find the path through the spiky bushes. We duly followed his directions, to find ourselves looking along a sea grass encrusted foreshore which was thankfully at high tide. The benefit was that it pushed the many waders present much closer to us. These were mainly Red-necked Stints, and fewer Red-capped Plovers amongst them. A pair of Pied Oystercatchers flew by. As we trudged along the sea grass, we neared a sandy promontory. On here were a group of Australian Pelicans and Australian Pied Cormorants, with a group of Crested Terns and single Caspian Tern in front of them. The myriad of waders contained a single Red Knot. We had sensibly marked the point at which we entered the beach from the bushes with an arrow in the sand, and so did manage to find the car again easily.



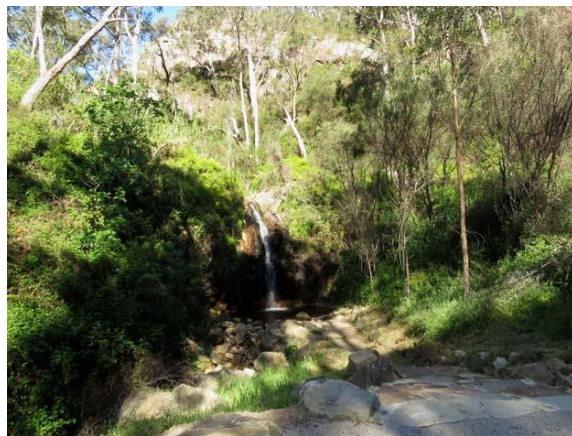
## Adelaide – Taringi and Waterfall Gully



This was the last day of the trip, and flights weren't until late evening, so we headed back to Adelaide to cover a couple of sites/species which were in the vicinity of the airport. One of the wants on our trip was Koala, and they are apparently a very easy spot in Adelaide of you know where to look. James had done a Koala survey in Taringi recently and counted 7 in a short distance, so confidence was high. Indeed, as we ascended towards the target street, one was spotted at a point where the car couldn't be stopped.

However, a few minutes along the street and a mother and immature were picked out in a eucalyptus tree. They were studied for some time before we heard a male barking in the next tree, and it was duly found, although a little more difficult to see as it was feeding on leaves. Further along and yet another was spotted, this time lazing in the fork of a tree.

So to the last location which was Waterfall Gully. This is a popular location for locals, and the car park was quite full when we arrived. Even worse, there was a wedding in full swing, disgorging themselves on to the track we were using. So, of course we ploughed on through, then taking a steep climb through the thick vegetation on either side. The attraction for the visitors is the pleasant, if not steep, walk through the forest to the summit of Lofty Mountain, passing some ever popular waterfalls in the way. The attraction for us was obviously the birds which could be found on the climb. As it transpired, we took the hard route, since it met up with a much more gradual one with better conditions underfoot once we had exhausted ourselves, but we strode on nevertheless. The time spent here was certainly worthwhile and adding a couple of new birds for the trip and some good ones we had already seen indicated it is worth a lot more time than our pressure visit merited. The birdlife also increased as we gained height, with most at the point where we decided we had to turn back. This was where we came across a pair of Brush Bronzewing on the track. Parrots were constant, with the picks Sulphur-crested & Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Crimson ("Adelaide") Rosellas were regular. Thornbills continued to perplex, with Striated being the only one defined. After a Grey Shrikethrush had been heard and seen on the ascent, another songster was examined and turned out to be a Yellow-faced Honeyeater. The last new bird for the trip. There was also a family party of Superb Fairywrens – a reminder of a common and popular bird from the start of the trip. Last sighting was a pair of lizards in the car park – Eastern Water Skinks.



## SPECIES SEEN

### Emu

*Dromaius novaehollandiae*

After some false starts on the first few days when bushes looked like Emu from the car, we finally managed to pin some down in an open field early morning. From then on they became regular and obvious (4 enroute to Banrock Station; groups of 7 and 28 Pooginook; 8+2 Pooginook; ~30 en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta 2 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 2+24+6 Winninowie and before Winninowie)



### Cape Barren Goose

*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

At least 150 near Wellington, where they were in two large groups in fields on either side of the road

### Black Swan

*Cygnus atratus*

At locations where they were present these birds were in good numbers. Many had cygnets of varying stages of development (32 Toldarol; At least 50 Bool Wetlands; 50+ Banrock Station; 1 en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta)



### Freckled Duck

*Stictonetta naevosa*

~8 Laratinga Wetlands; 1 Bool Wetlands; 1 Banrock Station

### Australian Shelduck

*Tadorna tadornoides*

1+3 Toldarol; 50+ Banrock Station

### Pink-eared Duck

*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

We were pleasantly surprised to find these at two locations. In both instances, all the birds seen were at rest amongst large numbers of Grey Teal (At least 15 Toldarol; 2 Bool Wetlands)



### Australasian Shoveler

*Spatula rhynchotis*

4 Laratinga Wetlands

**Pacific Black Duck**

*Anas superciliosa*

Common Laratinga Wetlands; 2 Granite Island; 2 Bordertown; 1 Banrock Station



**Mallard**

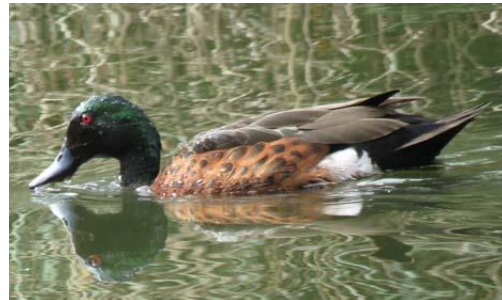
*Anas platyrhynchos*

2 Laratinga Wetlands

**Grey Teal**

*Anas gracilis*

Common Laratinga Wetlands; Abundant Toldarol; At least 100 Bool Wetlands; 100+ Banrock Station



**Chestnut Teal**

*Anas castanea*

The trickiest aspect of this species is separating the females from Grey Teal. In theory, the lack of pale throat should be sufficient, but this wasn't always easy. We had the impression that some of the female Chestnut Teal had a more rufous suffusion (4 males & at least 1 female Laratinga Wetlands; 2 Toldarol)

**Hardhead**

*Aythya australis*

Fairly common Laratinga Wetlands; 4 from boardwalk hide at Bool Wetlands



**Blue-billed Duck**

*Oxyura australis*

The one individual seen was at Bool Wetlands was only very briefly in view from the Tea Tree Hide at the end of the mangrove boardwalk

**Musk Duck**

*Biziura lobata*

The first ones seen were on the sea (12 at Kingston East), in small separate groups. Subsequently 3 and 1 juvenile Bool Wetlands (1+1 Banrock Station)



**Little Penguin**

*Eudyptula minor*

While at Granite Island, we decided to hang around for the evening visit to the Little Penguin colony. We had expected a good number to haul themselves out of the water after

a day's fishing, but only one made the climb out, with a second seen above the rocks near to the bay. More could be heard inside the colony)

**Australasian Grebe**

***Tachybaptus novaehollandiae***

Of the two grebes seen, this species was not only in much lower numbers, but also seemed less likely to form groups (3 Laratinga Wetlands; 1 Bool Wetlands; ~20 Banrock Station)



**Hoary-headed Grebe**

***Poliiocephalus poliocephalus***

Converse to the Australasian Grebe, this was by far the most common, and could occasionally be seen in very large "rafts" of at least 60 or so birds, tightly huddled as they swan slowly in one direction (~30 Laratinga Wetlands; 9 Kingston East; ~20 Toldarol; ~100 at Bool Wetlands with 2 groups of 38 and 40; 60+ in one flotilla Banrock Station)

**Australian White Ibis**

***Threskiornis molucca***

(1 flew over Onkaparinga; ~20 Toldarol; At least 30 Bool Wetlands; 50+ Banrock Station)



**Straw-necked Ibis**

***Threskiornis spinicollis***

When these were seen it was usually in large numbers, and often flying. Principle location for a colony was at Bool, where the colony on the trees as seen from the Tea Tree hide was often harassed by Swamp Harriers (19 Toldarol; At least 200 Bool Wetlands; ~80 in fields on approach to Bool Wetlands; 30+ Banrock Station)

**Royal Spoonbill**

***Platalea regia***

2 Toldarol; 2 Bool Wetlands; 5 Banrock Station



**Yellow-billed Spoonbill**

***Platalea flavipes***

2 Toldarol; 4 Banrock Station

**Australasian Bittern**

***Botaurus poiciloptilus***

These were heard regularly at Toldarol, and we fully expected that would be all we would get. However, after a couple of booming birds were also heard at Bool, we saw 2 separate birds flying over us

**Great Egret**

***Ardea alba***

1 Onkaparinga; 1 Toldarol; ~10 Bool Wetlands

**Nankeen Night Heron**

*Nycticorax caledonicus*

1 adult & 1 juvenile Old Noarlonga. This was a small colony which was in the unlikely setting of trees surrounding a busy park next to a river



**White-faced Heron**

*Egretta novaehollandiae*

3 Laratinga Wetlands; 3 Onkaparinga; 3 Toldarol; Up to 10 Banrock Station; 1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens

**Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta*

1 Bool Wetlands; 1 Winninowie

**Australian Pelican**

*Pelecanus conspicillatus*

1 Laratinga Wetlands; 12 over Onkaparinga; 2 Granite Island; At least 50 Toldarol; 1 Bool Wetlands; 30-40 Banrock Station; 7 Winninowie



**Australasian Gannet**

*Morus serrator*

3 flying and diving for food off in the bay from Granite Island

**Little Pied Cormorant**

*Microcarbo melanoleucos*

3 Laratinga Wetlands; 6 Granite Island; 1 Toldarol; 3 Bool Wetlands; ~15 Banrock Station



**Little Black Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

1 Kingston East; ~12 Banrock Station



**Australian Pied Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax varius*

4 Granite Island; ~18 Kingston East; At least 40 Winninowie

**Black-faced Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*

7 Granite Island. These are very similar to Australian Pied Cormorant, so care should be taken when looking at the latter. As it turned out, those seen at the end of the rocky breakwater on Granite Island were the only ones encountered

**Great Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

1 Onkaparinga; 2 Toldarol; 1 Kingston East

**Australasian Darter**

*Anhinga novaehollandiae*

4 Banrock Station. At first picked up when 2 were seen fishing (head and neck showing only), 3 were subsequently drying themselves on logs, with the 4th a flypast



**Eastern Osprey**

*Pandion cristatus*

1 Granite Island, where it was flying adjacent to the beachfront

**Black-shouldered Kite**

*Elanus axillaris*

1 on route to Onkaparinga; 1 near Mount Scott; 1 Drive from Bool to Ngarkat

**Little Eagle**

*Hieraaetus morphnoides*

1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens. This was at first thought to be a Whistling Kite, but more study of the bird high overhead and also of a couple of images of the underwing confirmed what it was



**Wedge-tailed Eagle**

*Aquila audax*

All 3 of the birds seen were flying overhead; 2 Drive from Bool to Ngarkat; 1 Pooginook

**Collared Sparrowhawk**

*Accipiter cirrocephalus*

The 1 at Mount Scott gave a clue to its presence by smaller passerines making a bit of a fuss of something near to its perch. It was then picked up flying from there

**Swamp Harrier**

*Circus approximans*

~12 Toldarol; At least 30 Bool Wetlands

**Spotted Harrier**

*Circus assimilis*

1 Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie, where it was seen at some distance quartering the open fields

**Black Kite**

*Milvus migrans*

1 en route to Toldarol; 3-4 singles Drive from Bool to Ngarkat & Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie; 10-12 while travelling to Banrock Station and Pooginook; 1 en route to Pooginook; 2 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 6 Drive from Winninowie to Adelaide

**Whistling Kite**

*Haliastur sphenurus*

This bird of prey has a distinctive upperwing pattern which can be seen even at some distance, with light buff coverts and dark remiges (3 over Toldarol; At least 40, with groups of 10 and 12 Bool Wetlands; ~20 Banrock Station; 20 en route to Pooginook; ~6 Pooginook; ~10 en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta)



**Buff-banded Rail**

*Gallirallus philippensis*

The 2 at Bool Wetlands were a real treat, with the second parading around on the grass

edging the reeds beneath the small tower hide for some time



**Baillon's Crake**

*Porzana pusilla*

Care has to be taken in practice with this and Australian Crake, since some of the latter were lighter than some of their congeners, and even the red on the top of the bill is not always as obvious as it should be in Australian Crake (3 Laratinga Wetlands)

**Australian Crake**

*Porzana fluminea*

3 Laratinga Wetlands; 2 Banrock Station



**Australasian Swamphen**

*Porphyrio melanotus*

Common Laratinga Wetlands; ~10 Toldarol; Common Bool Wetlands; 15-20 Banrock Station

**Dusky Moorhen**

*Gallinula tenebrosa*

Common Laratinga Wetlands; ~20 Toldarol



**Black-tailed Nativehen**

*Tribonyx ventralis*

These were characteristically in groups, some of which were quite some size. They were also very nervous, and so often they were seen running away (2 Laratinga Wetlands; ~100 Toldarol; Over 50 Bool Wetlands in large groups; 80+ Banrock Station)

**Eurasian Coot**

*Fulica atra*

Common Laratinga Wetlands; ~6 Toldarol; Quite common Bool Wetlands; 50+ Banrock Station





**Pied Oystercatcher**

*Haematopus longirostris*

1 on beach at Winninowie



**Sooty Oystercatcher**

*Haematopus fuliginosus*

1 Granite Island was the only one seen

**Pied Stilt**

*Himantopus leucocephalus*

~60 Toldarol; ~25 Bool Wetlands; 15-20 Banrock Station; 2+1 Winninowie

**Banded Stilt**

*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

2 Toldarol; 1 Kingston East



**Red-necked Avocet**

*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

~50 Toldarol

**Masked Lapwing**

*Vanellus miles*

4 Laratinga Wetlands; 2 Granite Island; ~6 Toldarol; 2 Kingston East; 2 Bordertown; 2 Loxton; ~15 Bool Wetlands; ~6 Banrock Station; 1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens



**Red-kneed Dotterel**

*Erythrogonys cinctus*

1 Toldarol with immature; 8 Bool Wetlands; 2 Banrock Station

**Red-capped Plover**

*Charadrius ruficapillus*

Many of the males were in fine full breeding plumage. They have a characteristic "chip" call in flight (9 Kingston East; At least 20 Winninowie)



**Black-fronted Dotterel**

*Elseornis melanops*

2+9 Laratinga Wetlands; 1 Banrock Station

**Red Knot**

*Calidris canutus*

1 only amongst a throng of smaller waders at Winninowie. In non-breeding plumage

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

*Calidris acuminata*

There were many birds seen at one or two sites, and the stages of their plumage, and even size, varied considerably (At least 100 Toldarol; ~15 Bool Wetlands; 17+23 Banrock Station)



**Curlew Sandpiper**

*Calidris ferruginea*

7 Toldarol - all in non-breeding plumage

**Red-necked Stint**

*Calidris ruficollis*

All the birds seen were non-breeding visitors, meaning all were out of breeding plumage (5 Toldarol; At least 200 Winninowie)



**Sanderling**

*Calidris alba*

4 Kingston East

**Greenshank**

*Tringa nebularia*

The single bird at Port Augusta Botanical Gardens was at first identified as a Terek Sandpiper, but later rectified to Greenshank. It flew into the river's edge below the red cliffs, and then moved a bit further along out of site

**Silver Gull**

*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

Common Granite Island; ~20 Old Noarlonga; Quite common Kingston East; ~10 Banrock Station; ~6 Port Augusta; 50+ Winninowie



**Pacific Gull**

*Larus pacificus*

The size of the bills on these has to be seen to be believed, and the black tail bar is always obvious in flight (5 Granite Island; 2 Winninowie)

**Caspian Tern**

*Hydroprogne caspia*

2 Old Noarlonga; At least 150 Toldarol; 2 Winninowie



**Greater Crested Tern**

*Thalasseus bergii*

2 Old Noarlonga; At least 50 Toldarol; 1 Kingston East; ~30 Winninowie



**Whiskered Tern**

*Chlidonias hybrida*

At least 200 Toldarol; ~24 Bool Wetlands; 2 Winninowie

**Spotted Dove**

*Spilopelia chinensis*

2 Laratinga Wetlands; 2 Granite Island; ~6 between Adelaide and Mount Scott; Seen regularly Drive from Bool to Ngarkat & Bool Wetlands

**Common Bronzewing**

*Phaps chalcoptera*

When watching these, the most obvious distinction with Brush is the barring on the back (2 Laratinga Wetlands; 1 Mount Scott; 1 Pooginook)



**Brush Bronzewing**

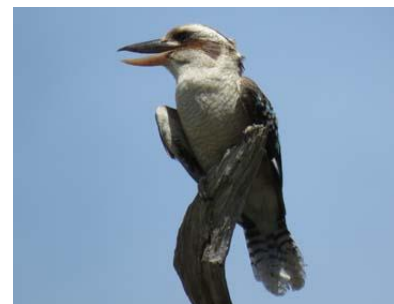
*Phaps elegans*

These were a much "smoother" coloured bird than Common Bronzewing, and the rufous under the chin is more of a suffusion than obvious patch. The 2 at Waterfall Gully, Adelaide were spotted flying past and landing on the path before being disturbed by passing walkers

**Crested Pigeon**

*Ocyphaps lophotes*

2 Laratinga Wetlands; 2 Granite Island; 10 on route to Granite Island; 2 Toldarol; Seen regularly Drive from Bool to Ngarkat & Bool Wetlands (perhaps ~40-50); ~25 Banrock Station; ~15 Pooginook; ~12 Pooginook; 4 Clements Gap; ~20 En route from Pooginook to Port Augusta; ~10 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide



**Laughing Kookaburra**

*Dacelo novaeguineae*

In addition to the birds seen, more were heard with the loud and distinctive call that is probably very well known to even non birders (2 on route to Old Noarlonga; 1 en route to Toldarol; 1 Banrock Station)

**Sacred Kingfisher**

*Todiramphus sanctus*

2 Banrock Station

**Rainbow Bee-eater**

*Merops ornatus*

When caught in the right lighting conditions, these birds are absolutely stunning.

Thankfully, of the ones seen, quite a few landed while hawking insects and were not too timid so stayed a while (1 Pooginook; 2 Pooginook; 2 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens)



**Nankeen Kestrel**

*Falco cenchroides*

1 Granite Island; 2 en route to Old Noarlonga; Pair just before Toldarol; 1 Mount Scott; 1 Drive from Bool to Ngarkat; 1 Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie; 6-8 during trip to Banrock Station & Pooginook; 10 en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta; 3 Pooginook; 1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 4 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~4 Winninowie; 2 Drive from Winninowie to Adelaide

**Brown Falcon**

*Falco berigora*

All birds bar the last one were light phase individuals, so easy to identify. The last one was seen from the car, and seemed to be all dark, but not enough seen to warrant mixing up with the similar Black Falcon (1 just before Toldarol; 1 outside of Toldarol; 2 Bool Wetlands; 1 Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie; 2 en route to Pooginook; 1 Pooginook; 1 Drive from Winninowie to Adelaide)



**Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo**

*Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Enormous is the best way to describe these. They look impressive when in a group, and even more so when flying with deep and deliberate wingbeats (1 en route to Old Noarlonga; 1 flew over road en route to Toldarol; 15 Bool Wetlands; 2 Drive from Bool to Ngarkat; 1 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide)

**Galah**

*Eolophus roseicapilla*

Very commonly seen and usually quite noisy; ~10 Laratinga Wetlands; 2 at food stop en route to Old Noarlonga; ~12 Magill Univeristy Campus, Adelaide; ~30 Mount Scott; Regularly seen Drive from Bool to Ngarkat & Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie; ~10 Banrock Station; 15-20 Pooginook; At least 50 Pooginook; ~30 en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta; 4 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 4 Port Augusta; ~12 Winninowie; ~6 Drive from Winninowie to Adelaide; 4 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide



**Long-billed Corella**

*Cacatua tenuirostris*

There are only subtle nuances between these and Little Corella, so they have to be seen

well to separate them. Luckily, they are regular at a playing field at Magill University campus in Adelaide, so close scrutiny can be had. The bill isn't easy to define as long, so the rusty red colouration under the chin needs to be seen (10+2 Magill University Campus, Adelaide; 2 Mount Scott)

**Little Corella**

*Cacatua sanguinea*

This species congregates and flies in very large and noisy groups, particularly just after dawn (~8 Laratinga Wetlands; ~15 Banrock Station; 1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 4 en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta; At least 500 Port Augusta; ~300 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~80 Winninowie)



**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**

*Cacatua galerita*

First sign of these being around is the loud and raucous call they emit (3 Laratinga Wetlands; field with ~12 en route to Old Noarlonga; 5 Drive from Bool to Ngarkat; 7 Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie; 3 Banrock Station; 2 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide)

**Red-rumped Parrot**

*Psephotus haematonotus*

1 Laratinga Wetlands; 2 Loxton



**Eastern Bluebonnet**

*Northiella haematogaster*

~24+2 Loxton; 2 Pooginook; 2 Pooginook

**Mulga Parrot**

*Psephotellus varius*

2 Pooginook; 8 Pooginook; 1 Clements Gap



**Crimson Rosella**

*Platycercus elegans*

There are various subspecies of Crimson Rosella. The predominant form which we saw was "Adelaide" which occurs up to its northern limit of Port Augusta. Within the "Adelaide" form, there are 2 subspecies – *adelaidae* and *subadelaidae*. The former has a southern distribution, the latter northern. The latter is also more yellow, and apart from orange on the breast, could be confused with the "Yellow" subspecies *flaveolus*. (~6 Magill University Campus, Adelaide; ~20 en route to Toldarol; 4 of crimson variety *elegans* Mount Scott; ~10 Banrock Station; 2 *subadelaidae* Spalding; ~6 Winninowie; ~12 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide)

**Eastern Rosella**

*Platycercus eximius*

One of the parrots with variable plumage depending on location, the ones in South Australia are the classic red-headed variety (30-40 Laratinga Wetlands; ~4 Granite Island; 6 Mount Scott; 3 Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie)

**Australian Ringneck**

*Barnardius zonarius*

8 of Port Lincoln variety Kingston East; 40+ Pooginook; 6 Pooginook; 6 Clements Gap; 2 Winninowie



**Elegant Parrot**

*Neophema elegans*

There is some variation in the strength of colour in the face pattern of these birds, and the yellow below the lores generally needs to be seen to separate from the blue of Rock Parrot. Sometimes this yellow is very feint and needs close attention to be defined (3 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 2 Winninowie)

**Rainbow Lorikeet**

*Trichoglossus moluccanus*

2 Laratinga Wetlands; 1 flying to Granite Island; At least 20 outside of accommodation in Adelaide; 1 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide



**Musk Lorikeet**

*Glossopsitta concinna*

2 Onkaparinga; At least 50 outside of accommodation in Adelaide; 4 Adelaide

**Variegated Fairywren**

*Malurus lamberti*

The birds we saw were very busy (some seen feeding young) and so were difficult to see for more than a few seconds. They seemed to prefer larger bushes than the bluebush hugging White-winged Fairywren which is also found in the dry arid areas (2+10+2 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 4 Winninowie)



**Superb Fairywren**

*Malurus cyaneus*

~30 Laratinga Wetlands; ~1- Onkaparinga; 2 pairs Toldarol; 3 pairs Mount Scott; ~30 Bool Wetlands; 5 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide

**White-winged Fairywren**

*Malurus leucopterus*

Despite the glowing cobalt blue and white of the males, they are generally hard to see due to their habits of staying undercover of the low bluebush they prefer. With patience, the

bland facial (non) pattern of the females is also a giveaway for species recognition (2 females Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~20, including 5 males Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 5 males + ~15 females Winninowie)



**Black Honeyeater**

*Sugomel niger*

The first of the 3 males + 2 females at Port Augusta Botanical Gardens was a female picked out feeding on the flowering bushes near to the visitor centre, which didn't help identification. It was only when we saw the first of the males that we clinched this

**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater**

*Gliciphila melanops*

2 Ngarkat



**New Holland Honeyeater**

*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

~20 Laratinga Wetlands; ~4 Onkaparinga; 1 Kingston East; 3 Bool Wetlands

**Striped Honeyeater**

*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

1 Pooginook

**Blue-faced Honeyeater**

*Entomyzon cyanotis*

1 Waikerie, seen while in the car waiting for the ferry crossing. This significantly didn't have a full blue face, so may have been a young male



**Brown-headed Honeyeater**

*Melithreptus brevirostris*

4 Pooginook



**White-eared Honeyeater**

*Nesoptilotis leucotis*

1 Pooginook

**White-fronted Chat**

*Epthianura albifrons*

Usually found in moister habitat close to water (4+4+2 Toldarol; Pair Mount Scott; 1 male

Bool Wetlands; 1 Banrock Station)



**Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater**

*Acanthagenys rufogularis*

This became more common through the week. They tend to be fairly easy to see and can sometimes be a bit territorial with other species (1 near to Toldarol; 2 Mount Scott; 3 Pooginook; 8 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~20 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 4 Winninowie)

**Red Wattlebird**

*Anthochaera carunculata*

The harsh call often gives their presence away (~20 Laratinga Wetlands; ~8 Onkaparinga; 3 Granite Island; ~6 en route to Toldarol; ~24 Mount Scott; 4 Kingston East; Occasional Drive from Bool to Ngarkat; 1 Banrock Station; 2 Pooginook; 3 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 2 Winninowie)



**Yellow-faced Honeyeater**

*Caligavis chrysops*

1 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide

**Noisy Miner**

*Manorina melanocephala*

2 separate birds en route to Granite Island; 2 outside of accommodation in Adelaide; ~6 Magill University Campus, Adelaide; ~4 Mount Scott; ~10 Banrock Station; 1 Waikerie



**Yellow-throated Miner**

*Manorina flavigula*

Despite the presence of Black-eared Miner in the spots we visited being low, it is still worth checking that all seen were in fact Yellow-throated. Best clue is the pale rump best seen in flight, which is darker in Black-eared (~6 Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie; ~15 Banrock Station; ~10 Pooginook; ~20 Pooginook; ~10 Clements Gap; 4 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~12 Winninowie; ~6 Drive from Winninowie to Adelaide; 4 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide)



**White-fronted Honeyeater**

*Purnella albifrons*

3 Pooginook; ~12 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens





**Singing Honeyeater**

*Gavicalis virescens*

These are very common and seem to be seen in a variety of habitats. They were also invariably quite active, chasing each other and occasionally other species (~15 sightings Granite Island; ~6 Toldarol; 1 Loxton; 3-4 Pooginook; ~6 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; At least 30 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; At least 20 Winninowie

**Yellow-plumed Honeyeater**

*Ptilotula ornata*

3 Pooginook

**White-plumed Honeyeater**

*Ptilotula penicillata*

In some localities this was the most commonly seen species (Common Laratinga Wetlands; common Onkaparinga; Common Mount Scott; ~4 Pooginook; ~10 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens)



**Spotted Pardalote**

*Pardalotus punctatus*

2 Pooginook, which were a pair attending a nest in the hollow of a tree; 2 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide



**Striated Pardalote**

*Pardalotus striatus*

1 Pooginook; 3 Pooginook; 1 Winninowie

**Rufous Fieldwren**

*Calamanthus campestris*

These were seen at some distance in bluebush arid country, but their songs could still be heard and the tails usually cocked (3 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 1 Winninowie)

**Redthroat**

*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*

1 at Winninowie was a skulking bird, diving from the base of one bush to the other

**White-browed Scrubwren**

*Sericornis frontalis*

~4 Bool Wetlands



**Weebill**

*Smicronis brevirostris*

Very active and vocal when present (7 Pooginook; At least 20 Pooginook)



**Brown Thornbill**

*Acanthiza pusilla*

1 Bool Wetlands

**Inland Thornbill**

*Acanthiza apicalis*

Easily confused with Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, this species has a dark eye and the tail pattern is different (At least 3 Pooginook)

**Chestnut-rumped Thornbill**

*Acanthiza uropygialis*

1 Pooginook; At least 3 Pooginook

**Yellow-rumped Thornbill**

*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

When seen well, usually in flight, the bright yellow rumps of these birds makes them obvious (1 en route to Toldarol; 1+2 Kingston East; ~6 Bool Wetlands; ~6 Pooginook)



**Striated Thornbill**

*Acanthiza lineata*

The striations about the face and below the throat are not as obvious as in the field guides, but good views will make out these subtle features (2 Mount Scott; ~6 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide)

**Southern Whiteface**

*Aphelocephala leucopsis*

The patterning on the face which gives the species its name is very variable, possibly depending on the age of the bird, with some having no obvious white in front of the eye. They are very gregarious and usually in groups (~15 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 4 Winninowie)



**White-browed Babbler**

*Pomatostomus superciliosus*

A gregarious bird, usually feeding in groups on the ground (~6 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 4 Winninowie)



**Chirruping Wedgebill**

*Psophodes cristatus*

The first one we saw at Port Augusta was a little distant, but the group of 3 the following day were much more obliging in the bluebush at Winninowie (1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 3 Winninowie)

**Masked Woodswallow**

*Artamus personatus*

~6 Drive from Bool to Ngarkat



**White-browed Woodswallow**

*Artamus superciliosus*

~20 Drive from Bool to Ngarkat

**Black-faced Woodswallow**

*Artamus cinereus*

2+2 Winninowie

**Dusky Woodswallow**

*Artamus cyanopterus*

4 Onkaparinga



**Australian Magpie**

*Gymnorhina tibicen*

Common at times Laratinga Wetlands and Granite Island; Regularly seen Drive from Bool to Ngarkat & Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie (Quite common around Banrock Station & Pooginook; Regular en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta; 2 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 4-5 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Drive from Winninowie to Adelaide)



**Grey Butcherbird**

*Cracticus torquatus*

Pair Mount Scott; 1 juvenile Banrock Station; 2 Pooginook



**Pied Butcherbird**

*Cracticus nigrogularis*

1 Pooginook; 1 Clements Gap

**Grey Currawong**

*Strepera versicolor*

4 on Mount Scott Road; 1 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide

**Black-faced Cuckooshrike**

*Coracina novaehollandiae*

2 Laratinga Wetlands; 2 Onkaparinga; 2 Mount Scott; 1 Waikerie; 1 Pooginook; 2 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 1 Winninowie



**White-shouldered Triller**

*Lalage sueurii*

1 Laratinga Wetlands; 1 Mount Scott

**Varied Sittella**

*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

Only 1 was seen at Pooginook, in a mixed group of birds and only seen briefly on a tree as it passed through

**Grey Shrikethrush**

*Colluricincla harmonica*

The song is very rich and carries a long way. We heard this a few times and took some time to track the owner down, usually to find that patience was then needed since they like to sing from inside tree cover (1 Mount Scott; 1 Winninowie; Waterfall Gully, Adelaide)



**Willie Wagtail**

*Rhipidura leucophrys*

One of the characteristic birds of Australia. They seemed to be in almost any habitat, and were usually very active (~30 Laratinga Wetlands; ~6 Onkaparinga; Occasional on travel from Adelaide; ~ Bool Wetlands; Occasional Drive from Bool to Ngarkat & Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie; 10+ Banrock Station; ~6 Pooginook; ~6 Pooginook; 4 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 4 Winninowie)

**Grey Fantail**

*Rhipidura albiscapa*

Not nearly as commonly encountered as Willie Wagtail, these fantails are even more active, often seeming to be chasing themselves from perch to perch (~4 Mount Scott; ~15 Bool Wetlands; 1 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide)



**Magpie-lark**

*Grallina cyanoleuca*

Quite common at the Laratinga Wetlands; Occasionally seen on travel from Adelaide Occasional; Drive from Bool to Ngarkat; ~12 Banrock Station; 1 Spalding; ~6 En route from Pooginook to Port Augusta; 1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 6 Drive from Winninowie to Adelaide

**Restless Flycatcher**

*Myiagra inquieta*

2 were picked out when they seemed to be mobbing a Collared Sparrowhawk at Mount Scott



**Little Raven**

*Corvus mellori*

While the books sometimes try to point out structural differences between the ravens, we found the only ready and best way was with the call. Little Raven seemed to have a higher pitched and more repetitive call than Australian Raven (~6 Laratinga Wetlands; ~10 Mount Scott; 2 Bool Wetlands)

**Australian Raven**

*Corvus coronoides*

As above, call was the key to separating this species. The lower pitched call was heard a lot more often, and it seemed to be the more widespread of the two in the localities we visited (~10 Bool Wetlands; 6+ identified Banrock Station; Quite common en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta; ~12 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens)



**White-winged Chough**

*Corcorax melanorhamphos*

A social feeder, the ones we encounter were all in small groups (4 Loxton; 3 en route to Banrock Station; 5 en route to Pooginook)

**Apostlebird**

*Struthidea cinerea*

As with White-winged Chough, these tend to found in tight knit groups. The 7 we saw were at the entrance of the caravan park we were staying at overnight, and contained some immature birds (7+1 Waikerie)



**Jacky Winter**

*Microeca fascinans*

1 Pooginook; 2 Pooginook

**Red-capped Robin**

*Petroica goodenovii*

The males of this species contain a rich vermilion in their plumage. We found a family of 2 parents feeding two fledged immatures in the mallee woodland at Pooginook



**Eurasian Skylark**

*Alauda arvensis*

1 Toldarol with more singing

**Welcome Swallow**

*Hirundo neoxena*

This hirundine is very well distributed and encountered in almost all habitats visited (Quite common Toldarol; 1 landed on Murray River ferry; Quite common Bool Wetlands; Quite common Banrock Station; Occasional Pooginook; Common Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~15 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~12 Winninowie)



**Fairy Martin**

*Petrochelidon ariel*

The best views we had were of what was likely to be a colony at the red cliff lookout within the Port Augusta Botanical Gardens grounds. From the top of the cliffs above, birds would land on the mud below, presumably collecting nesting material (1 Laratinga Wetlands; 1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; At least 30 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Winninowie)

**Tree Martin**

*Petrochelidon nigricans*

Best spot to see these was flying over the lagoons and also resting on the surrounding vegetation at Laratinga Wetlands (~6 Laratinga Wetlands; 1 Onkaparinga; 2 en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta)



**Australian Reed Warbler**

*Acrocephalus australis*

At the locations these were present - almost exclusively containing reedbeds - the powerful song was commonly heard, but a bit of time would have to be put in for good views, since they tended to sing from deep cover (~10 Laratinga Wetlands; 5 singing and 1 seen Toldarol; ~12 Bool Wetlands; 3 seen and many more singing Banrock Station)

**Little Grassbird**

*Poochytes gramineus*

At least 12 Laratinga Wetlands; 3 Bool Wetlands; 1 Banrock Station



**Golden-headed Cisticola**

*Cisticola exilis*

Getting visuals on these birds at first was a bit tricky. They have a characteristic song, which seems to be coming from all directions, until we clicked on that it was from a song flight above (2 singing males Onkaparinga; 1 Toldarol; 1 Winninowie)

**Common Starling**

*Sturnus vulgaris*

Common throughout

**Blackbird**

*Turdus merula*

~20 Laratinga Wetlands; 1 Mount Scott; 1 Bool Wetlands; 1 Banrock Station; 1 Pooginook;

1 Waterfall Gully, Adelaide

**House Sparrow**

*Passer domesticus*

Few Laratinga Wetlands; Occasional on travel from Adelaide; ~10 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens

**Red-browed Finch**

*Neochmia temporalis*

2 Onkaparinga, where they were seen on and off entering and leaving dense cover. They may have been collecting nesting material

**Zebra Finch**

*Taeniopygia guttata*

At least 20 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens, where they regularly visited the hide set within the open bluebush. There may have been many more if the visiting birds were different groups each time. When present, they uttered a constant buzzing type of call



**Australian Pipit**

2 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens

*Anthus australis*

7 Winninowie

**European Goldfinch**

~6 Mount Scott; Common Bool Wetlands

*Carduelis carduelis*

**Total number of species = 164**

**MAMMALS SEEN**

**Brushtail Possum**

*Trichosurus vulpecula*

4 Granite Island. These were seen after dark when visiting the Little Penguin colony, and could be approached quite closely in the orange glow of the artificial lighting

**Western Grey Kangaroo**

*Macropus fuliginosus*

Much the more easily seen of the two species we saw. They are an inquisitive animal, and quite often very accepting of close approach, perhaps due to familiarity with people (1 en route to Toldarol; 2 en route to Kingston East; 2 Bool Wetlands; 1 lying on track Ngarkat; 3 Drive from Bool to Ngarkat; At least 30 Banrock Station, including one group of 40; 8-10 en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta; 9 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; ~10 Winninowie)



**Red Kangaroo**

*Macropus rufus*

These were much less common, and seemed much more aware of our presence, as compared to the Western Greys. In the best lighting conditions, the rich red of the coats make them an impressive sight. They also seemed to always be in the company of other

reds when found (Male and 2 females Pooginook; 1 en route from Pooginook to Port Augusta; 13+4+2 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 2 Winninowie)

**Swamp Wallaby**

*Wallabia bicolor*

The one we saw at Bool Wetlands was wet through after moving through the wet reeds and high grasses. What was presumed to be the same individual was refound several time along the Gunawar Walking track, initially being seen from the viewing platform



**European Hare**

*Lepus europaeus*

2 Bool Wetlands; 1 lying on track Ngarkat; 3 Drive from Bool to Ngarkat

**Red Fox**

*Vulpes vulpes*

1 Winninowie

**Common Bottlenose Dolphin**

*Tursiops truncatus*

3 Granite Island, which were quite active within the sheltered bay part of the island. Their presence was at first picked up by the attention of a Gannet diving close to them

**REPTILES SEEN**

**Shingleback (Blue-tongued Skink)**

*Tiliqua rugosa*

The most commonly seen reptile, most were chanced upon on the highways where they were slowly crossing the roads (3 Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie; 2 en route to Pooginook; 1 Clements Gap; 1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 1 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens; 1 Winninowie)



**Eastern Water Skink**

*Eulamprus quoyii*

2 on the tarmac of the path next to the car park at Waterfall Gully, Adelaide

**Central Bearded Dragon**

*Pogona vitticeps*

The only one seen was during the Drive from Ngarkat to Waikerie, where it was on the edge of the main highway (2 Port Augusta Botanical Gardens)



**Lace Monitor**

*Varanus varius*

The 1 at Banrock Station was balanced along the branch of a bare tree above head height



**Sand Goanna**

*Varanus gouldii*

1 visited the watering hole of the bluebush hide at Port Augusta Botanical Gardens



**Tiger Snake**

*Notechis scutatus*

As snake lovers, the one we found in the Black Swan hide at Banrock Station was hugely exciting. It was at the back of the hide when we entered, and after it panicked a little at our entry, it settled down, watching us all the time. Any movement we made resulted in it blowing out its neck, showing its origins as a relative of the cobra family

