

# BIRD CARE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC SA

# MAGAZINE

Website: [www.birdcare.asn.au](http://www.birdcare.asn.au)

Email: [bccs@birdcare.asn.au](mailto:bccs@birdcare.asn.au)

C/- Conservation Centre  
120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA 5000

ABN 353 538 655 41

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Yellow-plumed honeyeater chick (*Lichenostomus ornatus*)

Except with documented official representation from the Management Committee of BCCS, no person is authorised to represent the Society on any matter.

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**OFFICE BEARERS 2004-2005**

**President**  
Liz Surrridge-McCann  
nominated, seconded and  
accepted to be voted on at  
July General Meeting

**Vice President**  
Wendy Bagot nominated,  
seconded and accepted for Vice  
President and Anne Whicker  
nominated, seconded and  
accepted to replace Wendy as  
committee member to be voted on  
at July General Meeting

**Treasurer**  
Barrie Hodgson  
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Greenwith SA 5125  
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Bob Hall  
6 Danae Street  
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**BCCS Banders**

Please contact the following to band birds before release: -

Dr. Oliver Fuller  
Linden Park  
8379 4416

Sharon Blair  
Modbury North  
0419 857 031

Bev Langley  
Cherry Gardens  
8270 1169

Anita Turton  
Reeves Plains  
8527 4024

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BCCS book, T-shirt and cap



**Bulletin Board**

**\*\*\*\*\*BCCS General Meeting\*\*\*\*\***

Sunday July 18th, 2pm  
Arkaba Hotel, corner of Fullarton Road and Glen  
Osmond Road (plenty of parking available).  
Members wishing to meet for lunch around 12pm prior to  
meeting please phone Bob Hall on 8296 2913 for catering.

Nominees for the position of President, Vice  
President and new Committee member to be voted  
on by members at July General Meeting (see above).

**Wombaroo and Baby Cereal**

Wombaroo is still available at cost for non-releasable  
birds and no cost for releasable birds. Baby cereal is  
also available for \$4.50/kgm.  
Please contact Roy ph 8379 1258

**Bird Statistics**

Bird rescues for March 2004 quarter 843 (+ 77 other  
animals referred to BCCS members by RSPCA.)

**Digital BCCS Magazine by Email**

To receive the BCCS Magazine as coloured pdf file  
instead of b&w hardcopy, email [bccs@birdcare.asn.au](mailto:bccs@birdcare.asn.au)

### **New Members**

The Bird Care and Conservation Society welcomes the following new member:

Judith Rice                      Seacombe Gardens

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### **President's Report AGM 2004**

I have been on the committee for 15 years and President for 11 of those (I think) this year I reluctantly decided to retire because, as some of you know already I haven't felt really well this year.

Working with current and previous committee members as well as the general membership has been a privilege. I have been so proud to represent the society and have learned so much from you and I have enjoyed (almost) every moment I have spent on the committees over the last 15 years.

Through my membership of our society, I have found loyal and supportive friends who have stood beside me through the most personal and terrible times. My involvement with BCCS not only created those friends but also helped by making me focus on other less personal matters.

During the years I have served on the committee the Society has raised enough money to print our book 'Caring for Rescued Birds'. All country schools and SA libraries have at least one copy many have more than one copy. They have also been purchased by sanctuaries, zoos and members of the public both international as well as national.

We wanted to compile all we have learned so if/when we "drop of-the-perch" the knowledge gained over so many years is easily accessible. The BCCS holds the copyright of our book and the society can update it as needed. I learnt so much whilst compiling the book not only about caring for birds but also spelling and grammar (thanks to my mostly patient friends Margaret and Pam). Information was gathered from everywhere not only from our members but from sanctuaries, wildlife parks, veterinary surgeons, the SA Department of Health and members of other groups and other states. It was a huge job and all involved were so relieved when it was published!

Our web master has made it possible for members of the public to down-load from our website, copies of our fact-sheets, membership form and to order our book, caps and t-shirts. If you haven't already visited our website:- [www.birdcare.asn.au](http://www.birdcare.asn.au) please do so.

We have received many donations from the public making it possible to provide our society's members with much more help with all sorts of necessary products for example bird food, veterinary costs and first-aid materials.

We need more active members to help share the workload, as there are more creatures in need every year. It is obvious from the donations received that the general public are pleased with the work our members do but as always sometimes we are over whelmed with the workload.

The Committee would like to say thank you to the Animal Welfare League who donate bird food, first aid items and veterinary products to the value of \$500 per year and all other donors including our members who donate money to help with costs.

Until recently, the RSPCA paid our society \$50 per week as a "service fee" that also directly helps our members handle the bird calls (sometimes not only birds) the RSPCA referred to BCCS members. So many of the calls are after hours and weekends when of course our families want us the most. Hands up those members who haven't had calls on Christmas Day? We hope that the RSPCA appreciates all our volunteer members who have given them so much "service" and we hope have made the load easier for their staff.

Thank you all for your encouragement and support over the years, I have appreciated it very much.

I am not saying goodbye as I will remain an active member and I will help should you need it until I "drop off my perch".

Sharon Blair



### Your Membership Status

The BCCS membership database has just been revamped. On the address label of your magazine, it now gives you your membership number and your subscription paid up to date. If this date reads, 03/04, which means March 2004, then you have forgotten to renew your membership. If it reads 03/05, which means March 2005, then you have renewed your membership (L means life member, F means free mailout).

If you would like to remain a member of the Bird Care & Conservation Society and support our efforts, please forward your subscription fee to the BCCS Secretary, c/- Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street Adelaide 5000

Subscriptions are  
family \$30      concession \$15  
single \$20      concession \$10

If there is an error in your label, please phone Pam on (ah) 8390 3254 to have it corrected. Also if you have an email address please forward it to Pam at [bccs@birdcare.asn.au](mailto:bccs@birdcare.asn.au) for inclusion in our database.

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### Lost and Found Birds - Great Idea

This story is a bouquet for BCCS lost and found birds coordinator Kay McGrath.

BCCS recently received an email from a very thankful member of the public titled "Great Idea" which said the following:

"Due to irresponsible human error, our beautiful hand reared and very tame cockatiel flew away about 4 weeks ago, despite many attempts and avenues of finding him we were not successful. My greatest fear is that someone else has him and they are not giving him the care or love we gave him.

Anyway, I am writing to say a week ago a gentleman rang me to tell me how he had found a cockatiel and could it be ours. I asked where he found our number because we had last advertised in the paper 2 weeks before his call. He states he rang your society and they gave him our number, and I assume from the advertisements in the

paper, which you keep. This is a great idea and service, if it reunites half the birds with their owners then it is worth it. Thankyou"

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### Metro Fire Service Bird Rescue



Late last year, I wrote about a couple of callers who requested assistance getting birds out of their chimneys. I referred them to the Fire Service in each instance.

On Christmas night, I was embarrassed to have to call them myself when one of my female magpies managed to climb up a pine tree two houses down from my unit. After waiting for 4 hours, it seemed quite hopeless to me and I didn't think she would be able to find her way back and I wouldn't be able to get her down myself.

As dusk fell, and the light was going, I gave in and rang the fire brigade to explain the problem. They asked how high she was, and when I told them it was probably nearly 10 metres up, they said they didn't have a ladder that tall, but they would send out a unit anyway.

Within 10 minutes, a large fire truck turned down the street with its lights flashing and pulled up outside. I explained the situation and then took them down to the tree. One of the kindly firemen then asked me which magpie it was and of course, by then the resident magpies had also settled in the tree for the night. Luckily, Salomay has amazing colouring on her chest – she is half black on her left side and half white on her right side and very easy to distinguish from other magpies. (The other magpies in her family where she came from haven't got this colouring, so I gather it is a genetic throwback and she is very unique.)

Because she was too high for their ladder, we decided to use water from the hose to get her off balance and then shake her down to the ground. When the firemen picked her up in their torchlight, the hose was turned on and aimed high. At first, she thought it was terrific – getting a shower at

this time of the day was a rare treat! But soon she became unsteady as the pressure of the hose was turned up and finally, she gave up and fluttered to the ground to the sound of cheers and clapping from the audience that had gathered to witness the unusual Christmas night spectacle.

All's well that ends well and thanks must again go to the Metro Fire Service.

Allison

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### Minton Farm - Update

We had a young joey brought in from Bradbury. As he had been hanging from his hind leg entangled in a fence for some time, he had literally peeled the skin off of the outside of the muscle for the entire length of the 'foot' section (the part that runs parallel with the ground). The Stirling Vet suggested we use a 'sugar bandage'. The leg was flushed out with warm water to remove dead material, and packed with white sugar, covered in a Vaseline soaked gauze, wrapped in a cottonwool like wadding, then covered with vet wrap. He was given antibiotic injections, oral anti-inflammatory and painkillers daily. We made a board to fit over our bath that he could comfortably lie on whilst I flushed the leg with warm water every day. The dear little man drank his bottles like there was no tomorrow, ate solids, and pelleted beautifully- quite the model child really. One week passed, and the end of the foot turned black and smelly, from lack of circulation. The Vet offered to remove the foot, as the healing taking place on the leg was fantastic due to the sugar bandages. My concern was that he could bear no weight on the leg when he stood, nor could he move the leg forward, so it was decided to X-ray the hip. Unfortunately the hip was totally dislocated so the inevitable decision had to be made. He had tried very hard, but you can't carry around a 40 kg roo when they grow up.

The deer are happily in their new fox-proof enclosure, with the companionship of three hand-raised lambs, all of which are an absolute delight to look after. 'Ernie' the emu keeps a close eye on the goings-on in the orchard. He is the one that National Parks asked us to take - he was eating cat

food from verandas at McLaren Vale. The volunteers have had a challenging time trying to hammer nails into a new boardwalk through the orchard, without hammering his beak as he tries to pick up anything shiny!

Being quite a tall creature he can appear intimidating. I had a group of six year olds from Aberfoyle Hub School, come for an educational tour, and when they saw Ernie hanging over the fence they recoiled in horror along with their parents! I said, "Don't be scared of Ernie, he won't hurt you, see, watch this" and saying that I placed his head over my shoulder and hugged his neck. This always makes his knees go to



water, and he collapses to the ground in ecstasy. With that over, we proceeded to enter the area. A few moments later, I was amazed to see these lovely children walk up to Ernie unafraid, hug his neck, and see him drop to the ground. As he did, so he was surrounded by children happily patting his

back and thoroughly enjoying his company. Not just once, but time and time again dear Ernie dropped to the ground for more hugs- what a fantastic experience for these children. At the end of their visit, many of them commented that meeting him was the best part of the day. I did however, warn them that emus in Parks like Belair and Cleland are not as tame as Ernie, and would probably hurt them in fear. Ernie was truly a special friend. It demonstrates why hand raised creatures can't be released into the wild, as they have no idea of survival nor 'normal' behaviour.

We have been lucky enough to have a fantastic group of work experience students from Year 10 and 11 for the past week. They came from Heathfield, Urrbrae and Reynella East High Schools. They learnt many new skills, including constructing feral proof fencing, which they enthusiastically approached. Injured bird wings were bandaged, raptors released into flights ready for release, orthotics fitted to a magpie with a broken toe, and they learnt to work cooperatively as a team, to name a few experiences. It is great to see the future of the work embraced by the young.

It is the only hope our wildlife has for future survival, and I am proud to be able to assist the schools to expose them to the value of the work.

I have been invited to join in the Mitcham Hills Education Cluster International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. This program encourages students across the world to become active, compassionate, lifelong learners, to develop international awareness and become global citizens. As part of the program, students need to develop connections with local community, and how they can contribute and make a difference. I look forward to working with these children, once we get through the Appeal against our educational program.

Other exciting connections have been made with TAFE, in the Learn to Earn Program. These students are learning welding, woodwork and painting skills at Minton Farm to afford them competency certificates for future employment opportunities - better than mucking up in the streets! The Youth Conservation Corps are providing young

women interested in learning about the environment, and even the St John's Ambulance Cadets are learning about our native animals.

I have been public speaking at many "Friends of" groups, retirement villages, scout groups and community associations. In my spare time I have been applying for grants to fund educational programs to extend our knowledge to disadvantaged youth, and those with disabilities. Boring life really!!

On the Appeal front, neighbours have informed me of more banner destruction and trespass. The Court visits Minton Farm on the 16th August during the four day public trial from the 16th to the 19th August in the ERD Court, Victoria Square. That is if a compromise is not reached in the meantime????!!

Many thanks,

Bev Langley

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### Committee Appointments 2004

Banding officer	Anita Turton
BCCS assets officer	Barrie Hodgson
Book Sales	Barrie Hodgson
Conservation Council representative	Alex Randell
Conservation sub-committee	Sharon Blair
	Margaret Fuller
	Pam Robinson
	Alex Randell
	Pam Robinson
Crèche coordinator	Allison Milnes
Magazine editor	Barrie Hodgson, Pam Robinson
Magazine editorial assistance	Bob Hall/Leonie Phillips
Educational talks organizer	Lesley Hodgson
Fact sheet supplies	Wendy Bagot/Alison Oxenham
Hospitality	Anne Peters
Liaison with NPWS	Lesley Hodgson/Pam Robinson
Librarian	Kay McGrath
Lost and found birds coordinator	Barrie Hodgson
Membership officer	Lesley Hodgson
New members kits	Barrie Hodgson
Printing/distribution	Bob Hall
Public officer	Sharon Blair/Anita Turton
Raptor advice/food:	Lesley Hodgson
Reprinting of publications	Roy Bond
Supply officer	Pam Robinson
Web master	Leonie Phillips
Welcoming officer	

### Jet Skis in the Coorong

The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Coorong, Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert are part of the Ramsar convention.

In April 2004 the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage released a discussion paper on the use of personal watercraft in the Coorong National Park and some adjacent waterways. Personal watercraft is the common or generic name for a range of brands of craft such as jet skis, wave runners, Sea Doo's, wave jammers, and wetbikes etc.

DEH welcomed public input and suggestions on the subject of the discussion paper. Alex Randell on behalf of the conservation subcommittee of the BCCS prepared a submission supporting the position of the Conservation Council of SA

Due to the impact of PWCs on this most important wetland habitat which is already under pressure from the deterioration of the Murray-Darling system and increasing recreational activities, BCCS's position is that, PWCs should be prohibited from the Coorong National Park.

If you would like to read the discussion paper, it can be accessed on line at [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/pdfs/personal\\_watercraft\\_document.pdf](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/pdfs/personal_watercraft_document.pdf)  
The BCCS submission can be viewed at <http://www.birdcare.asn.au/pdf/jetskisincoorong.pdf>

If you don't have internet access and would like a copy contact Pam 8390 3254 (ah).

### Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD)

Genetic Science Services (GSS) a division of Genetic Technologies at Fitzroy, Victoria uses non invasive DNA technology for avian sexing, paternity testing and the detection of specific avian pathogens.

BCCS member Rena Robinson recently took a corella in for care with suspected PBFD. Rena supplied a few feathers from the corella to GSS and the test returned a negative for the PBFD virus.

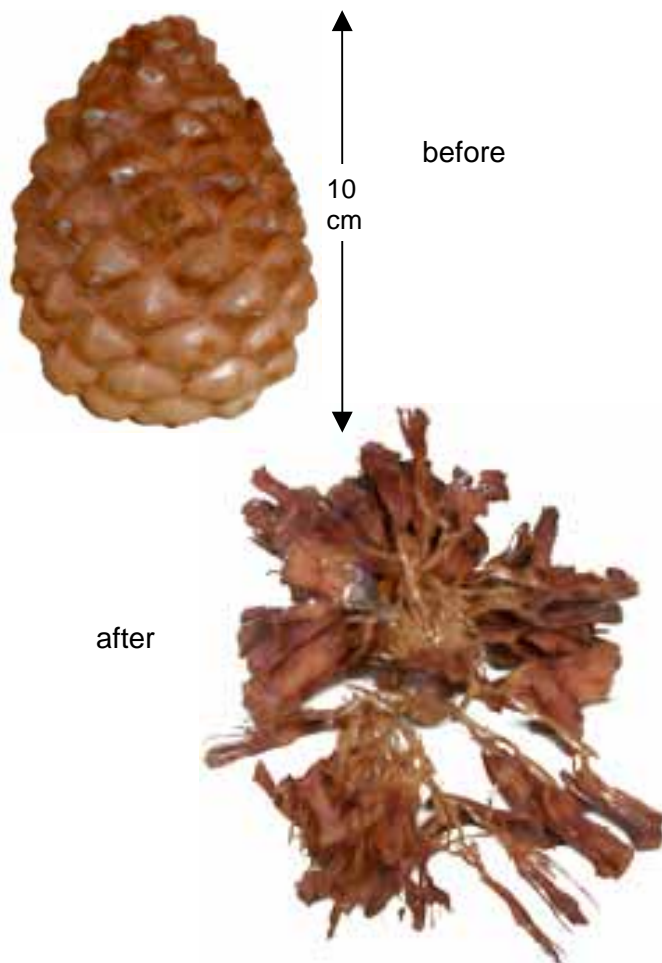
GSS is a service provider to Australian zoos, wildlife parks and breeders. The cost for the tests is \$45 but offered at \$35 for wildlife rescue groups. For more information contact Rena on 8555 5007

### Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos

Because we have destroyed so much of the natural habitat of yellow-tailed black-cockatoos, they have to turn to introduced species to feed from. One of their favorite food sources nowadays is pine trees.

Pine trees should not be chopped down before an alternative food source has been established for these large birds.

This is what yellow-tailed black-cockatoos do to pine cones in their efforts to extract the pine seed:



**BIRD CARE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**  
**BANDING REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 2004**

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This report covers the period March 2003 to February 2004

**BCCS Inc. Banding Officer:** Oliver Fuller

**BCCS Inc. Bird Banders:** Oliver Fuller, Sharon Blair, Anita Turton, Bev Langley

BCCS would like to extend their appreciation to the following members/carers, who have had their birds banded prior to release this year: Margaret Fuller, Pam Robinson, Jill McLatchie, Anita Turton, Sharon Blair, Bev Langley, Pat O'Neill, Leonie Phillips, Necia Hampton and Liz Long.

**PROGRESSIVE TOTAL**

From June 1987 to February 2004 - Birds Banded: **2404**

**TABLE 1**

**Figures showing number of birds banded in each 12mth period**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Birds Banded</b>
1990	78
1991	105
1992	128
1993	175
1994	236
1995	155
1996	220
1997	133
1998	179
1999	132
2000	136
2001	121
2002	173
2003	147
2004	79*

\*Our yearly total is significantly lower this year, due to the fact that we are no longer banding Pacific Black Ducks (previously averaging 40 per year)

**TABLE 2**

The figures for the breeding season (September to January) as a percentage of the totals from Table 1 (March to February)

<b>Year</b>	<b>September to January</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>March to February (Yearly Total)</b>
1993	111	63%	175
1994	154	65%	236
1995	100	64%	155
1996	130	60%	220
1997	79	60%	133
1998	111	62%	179
1999	106	80%	132
2000	91	67%	136
2001	86	71%	121
2002	141	82%	173
2003	110	74%	147
2004	55	69%	79

These figures confirm the effect of the breeding season on the overall total. Anything affecting the breeding season (eg. weather, food supply) will have a significant impact on the annual total.



**BIRD CARE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**  
**BANDING REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 2004**

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**TABLE 3**  
**Monthly totals of birds banded**

MONTH	NUMBER BANDED
March 2003	1
April 2003	3
May 2003	0
June 2003	4
July 2003	3
August 2003	3
September 2003	1
October 2003	10
November 2003	15
December 2003	15
January 2004	14
February 2004	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>

**TABLE 4**  
**Species Banded**

Number of different species banded since the programme began in 1987: **88 (unchanged this year - no new species)**

**TABLE 5**  
**Number of each Species Banded 2003/2004**

Species Number	Species	Number Banded
43	Crested Pigeon	4
202	Australian Wood Duck	19
207	Australian Shelduck	4
210	Chestnut Teal	1
228	Whistling Kite	2
238	Black Falcon	1
240	Nankeen Kestrel	2
242	Southern Boobook	3
282	Adelaide Rosella	9
313	Tawny Frogmouth	1
322	Laughing Kookaburra	7
415	Magpie-lark	9
578	White-naped Honeyeater	1
631	New Holland Honeyeater	1
638	Red Wattlebird	7
705	Australian Magpie	6
710	Little Wattlebird	1
930	Australian Raven	1

**BIRD CARE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**  
**BANDING REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 2004**

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**TABLE 6**

**Progressive Totals**

The species most frequently banded since the programme began in 1987

Pacific Black Duck	433 *no longer banding
Australian Magpie	373
Magpie Lark	201
Australian Wood Duck	158
Crested Pigeon	90
Nankeen Kestrel	90

**Recovery of non-BCCS banded birds, by BCCS**

Four recoveries were made, however we were unable to obtain initial banding details at the time of writing this report

**Recovery of BCCS banded birds**

<b>Band Number Species Release Site Release Date</b>	<b>Date of Recovery Site of Recovery Time Between Release &amp; Recovery Status after Recovery</b>	<b>Distance Travelled (kilometres)</b>
091-44440 Laughing Kookaburra Flagstaff Hill 1/8/2003	12/12/2003 Darlington 4mths 11days Band read during feeding - bird alive with band	0
091-40089 Australian Magpie Reeves Plains 7/12/2003	29/2/2004 Reeves Plains 2mths 22days Band read during feeding - bird alive with band	0
111-24783 Pacific Black Duck Victor Harbour 20/2/2000	28/7/2003 Encounter Bay 3yrs 5mths 8days Dead - cause unknown	2
091-44437 Laughing Kookaburra Hahndorf 30/6/2003	4/07/03 Hahndorf 4days Caught in barb wire fence - rehabilitated & released	0
073-14705 Red Wattlebird Summertown 6/11/2003	19/11/2003 Ashton 13days Euthanased by finder, bird unwell	0
101-21802 Australian Wood Duck Cherry Gardens 12/1/2004	18/1/2004 Cherry Gardens 6days Dead - cause unknown	0

**BIRD CARE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**  
**BANDING REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 2004**

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**TABLE 7**

**Species List**

Species banded during entire duration of project

<b>No</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Species</b>
5	Little Penguin	240	Nankeen Kestrel
9	Stubble Quail	242	Southern Boobook
34	Common Bronzewing	249	Barn Owl
43	Crested Pigeon	254	Rainbow Lorikeet
45	Lewin's Rail	258	Musk Lorikeet
46	Buff-banded Rail	259	Purple-crowned Lorikeet
49	Australian Crake	282	Adelaide Rosella
55	Black-tailed Native Hen	288	Eastern Rosella
58	Purple Swamphen	307	Elegant Parrot
59	Eurasian Coot	313	Tawny Frogmouth
61	Australasian Grebe	317	Australian Owllet-nightjar
62	Hoary-headed Grebe	322	Laughing Kookaburra
71	Short-tailed Shearwater	325	Red-backed Kingfisher
77	White-headed Petrel	326	Sacred Kingfisher
89	Yellow-nosed Albatross	337	Pallid Cuckoo
96	Great Cormorant	338	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
97	Little Black Cormorant	357	Welcome Swallow
98	Black-faced Cormorant	359	Tree Martin
99	Pied Cormorant	360	Fairy Martin
100	Little Pied Cormorant	364	Willie Wagtail
115	Crested Tern	401	Rufous Whistler
125	Silver Gull	408	Grey Shrike-thrush
126	Pacific Gull	415	Magpie-lark
133	Masked Lapwing	424	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
188	White-faced Heron	547	Dusky Woodswallow
198	Cape Barren Goose	574	Silveryeye
202	Australian Wood Duck	578	White-naped Honeyeater
203	Black Swan	591	Eastern Spinebill
207	Australian Shelduck	614	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
208	Pacific Black Duck	625	White-plumed Honeyeater
210	Chestnut Teal	631	New Holland Honeyeater
211	Grey Teal	634	Noisy Miner
215	Hardhead	635	Yellow-throated Miner
218	Spotted Harrier	638	Red Wattlebird
219	Marsh Harrier	640	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
221	Brown Goshawk	693	White-winged Chough
222	Collared Sparrowhawk	705	Australian Magpie
225	Little Eagle	710	Little Wattlebird
228	Whistling Kite	929	Southern Giant Petrel
229	Black Kite	930	Australian Raven
232	Black-shouldered Kite	935	Kerguelen Petrel
235	Australian Hobby	976	Striated Pardalote
237	Peregrine Falcon	989	Spotted Turtle-dove
238	Black Falcon		
239	Brown Falcon		

**ANITA TURTON**  
BANDING DATA OFFICER B.C.C.S. Inc.

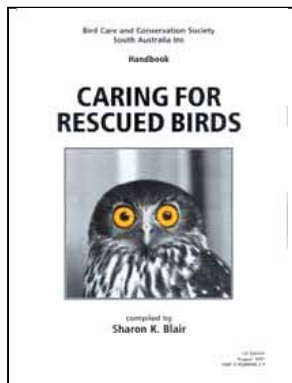
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Adelaide SA 5000



\$15  
BCCS members \$10

These items can be ordered from Pam ph 8390 3254 or from the Bird Care website at

<http://www.birdcare.asn.au>

### **BCCS Book, T-shirt and Cap**

The following items are available from Bird Care



T-shirt - (only L and XL remaining) \$15



BCCS Cap - 1 size fits all \$12