



## Submission to Bird Australia Rarities Committee

**Submission No.** 1009  
**Species:** Grey-headed Lapwings *Vanellus cinereus*  
**Location:** Amata Waste Water Treatment Plant, SA  
**Observation Date:** 2-3 March 2014  
**Observed by:** David Hartland  
**Submitted by:** David James  
**Submission Date** 6 July 2018  
**Email:**

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### Circumstances

A Grey-headed Lapwing was found and photographed by David Hartland at Amata Waste Water Treatment Plant, SA on 2-3 March 2014. He promptly posted the sightings to Birdline South Australia with identification photographs:

Mon 3	<b>Grey-headed Lapwing</b> Amata Waste Water Treatment Plant Lapwing present again today (observed at 0700 and again at 1530) Still very flighty. Better photo attached.	 David Hartland 3/3 #216486
Sun 2	<b>Grey-headed Lapwing</b> Amata Waste Water Treatment Plant Large, unusual Lapwing observed at approx. 1530 after very quiet weeks at the sewage ponds. Raced home to collect scope and camera sorry, such average photos for such a rare bird! Very wary and would not allow close approach. **Access to Amata and communities on the APY Lands is only possible through a permit system. Be warned - Men's business/ceremony is occurring in this part of the APY Lands at the moment and this site sits on the eastern edge of very 'sensitive' country.	 David Hartland 2/3 #216460

No subsequent reports were made to Birdline SA. Given the sensitive location, it is unlikely that any other birders saw the bird, but that might prove wrong.

### Description

See the attached photographs, taken by David Hartland.

### Identification

- Among the 24 species of lapwings (genus *Vanellus*) worldwide (as recognised by HBW/Birdlife International), Grey-headed is the only one with an entirely grey head without any patches of white or black. Other species that have mostly grey heads all lack the dark breast band.
- Yellow bill with sharply demarcated black tip, and red eye are good characters.

### Ageing

It is an adult. Juveniles lack the dark breast band.

### Status

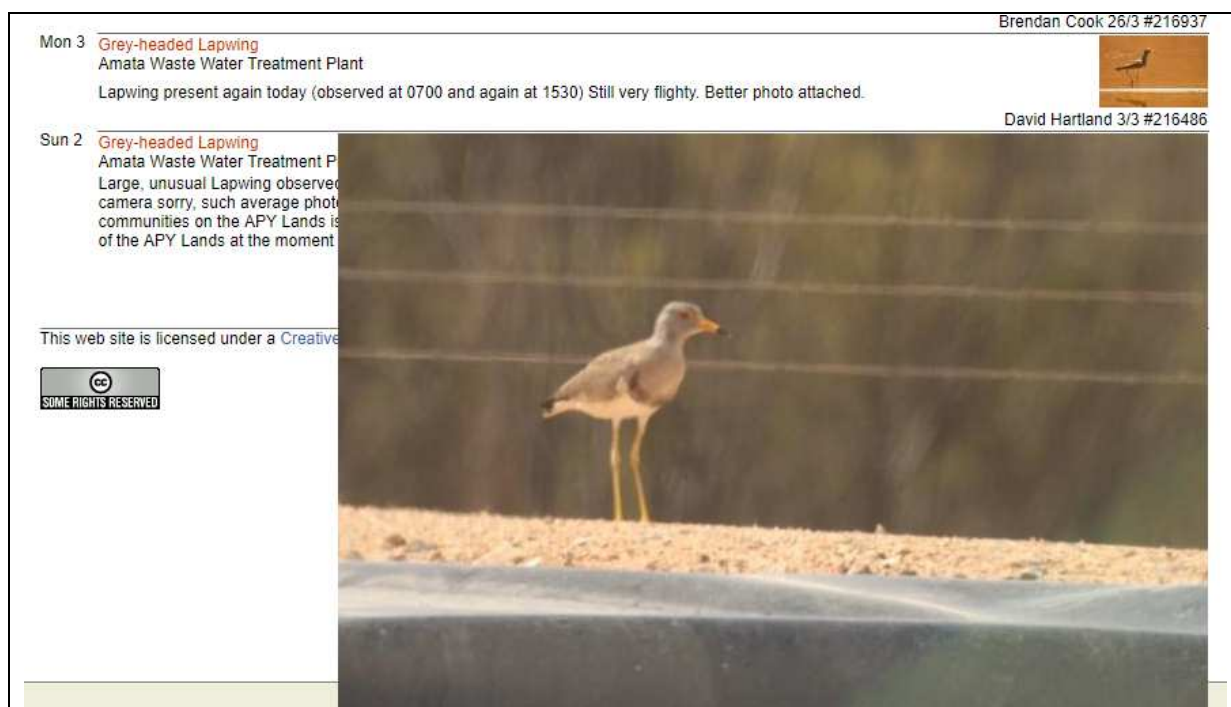
See BARC submission 1007.

### Acknowledgments

I have not contacted David Hartland, so I cannot give permission for BARC to use his images.

## References

- Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International (2017) Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International digital checklist of the birds of the world. Version 9.1. Available at: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/taxonomy>.
- Hayman, P., Marchant, J. & Prater, T. (1986). *Shorebirds: An identification guide to the waders of the world*. Christopher Helm, London.



**Plate 1. Grey-headed Lapwing, Amata Waste Water Treatment Plant, SA, 2 March 2014.**  
(Photo: by David Hartland; image screen captured from Birdline South Australia Archives).



**Plate 2. Grey-headed Lapwing, Amata Waste Water Treatment Plant, SA, 3 March 2014.**  
(Photo: by David Hartland; image screen captured from Birdline South Australia Archives).



**Plate 3. Grey-headed Lapwing, Amata Waste Water Treatment Plant, SA, 3 March 2014.  
(Photo: by David Hartland; supplied by Jeff Davies).**