



Family HesperIIDae

**Black and White Sedge-skipper**

*Antipodia atralba*

**Also known as:** Diamond Sand-skipper

**Abundance in Adelaide area:** Rare

**Flight:** Double brooded: October—November, March - April

**Wingspan:** m 31mm; f 35mm

**Mature larva length:** 25—30 mm

If you have a coastal garden and live anywhere between the Marino Conservation Park and the southern beaches, growing the Black Grass Saw-sedge may help to re-establish this rare Skipper. It is important to protect the remaining areas where the Skipper occurs from further degradation. There are two flight periods—in spring and autumn.

**Caterpillar food plants:** Saw-sedges. The caterpillars eat the leaves.

**Adelaide native species:** Black Grass Saw-sedge (*Gahnia lanigera*), Curled Saw-sedge (*Gahnia ancistrophylla*), Limestone Saw-sedge (*Gahnia deusta*).

In Adelaide area now mainly found in southern beach areas as hostplant *Gahnia lanigera* requires heavy limestone based soils such as occur along the southern coastal cliffs. Also occurs in southern Mt.Lofty Ranges in some

*Continued on page 3*



*Antipodia atralba* Rare Black and White skipper  
Larvae food plant: *Gahnia lanigera*  
Photos: Bob Fisher (shelter), Lindsay Hunt larva and pupa.

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**EXCURSION see page 3 for details**

To HALLET COVE where the Rare Black and White Sedge-skipper can be found.

Find out about the butterflies, the plants and the geology of this fascinating reserve right on our doorstep.

**BCSA Chairman’s Report AGM 11th August 2008**

The year commenced with a smooth follow-on from Roger Grund’s chairmanship and saw Roger given the status of our first ‘Honorary Member’ for Butterfly Conservation SA, for his support, commitment and knowledge over the years since foundation. We thank him for that. By the way we are ten years old this year, our first meeting was on July 25th 1998. This achievement would not be possible without Jan Forrest’s enthusiasm at the helm since the first meeting, and the generous support of the SA Museum. Thanks Jan.

The year has seen a concerted drive to provide public awareness of butterfly conservation through many successful campaigns and a new book:

- Campaigns began with the “Bring Back the Butterflies to Adelaide” event launched by Professor Chris Daniels at the Botanic Gardens at Willunga, which was a great success; the event included the launch of the Butterfly Gardening website [www.butterflygardening.net.au](http://www.butterflygardening.net.au) for which we thank the Norman Wettenhall Foundation for their financial contribution and Chris for his valuable support as well as the dedicated organisation of our secretary, Jan Forrest.

- The publication of our well received new book “Attracting Butterflies to your Garden” was made possible by many hours of contribution from the editorial committee and the financial contribution from the Federal Government through the Enviro Fund. Thanks go also to Mathew Wright-Simon and his team from Ecocreative for their work on this project and their in-kind financial support for both the book and the website.

- The book launch coincided with the “Bring Back the Butterflies” exhibition at the SA Museum, where thousands of world butterflies were on display to the public. We thank the SA Museum for their support, and the BCSA committee, and especially Jan Forrest for without her I am sure we would not have had the success and achievements we have today. The exhibition at the Museum ran for three months with an estimated 29,500 visitors to the display. 3000 copies of the book were printed and I am pleased to report that over half have already been sold, and for that I thank Trevor Rowe, Jill Davy, Rowan Moore, Maria Johns and Jan Forrest for holding stocks of the books and distributing them on request.

- This year also saw 13 awareness displays at expositions around Adelaide where the public could obtain important information about our butterflies, how to protect habitat and create their own natural gardens. The official “Butterfly Site” sign was launched and saw the Black Forrest Primary School as the first dedicated garden to butterflies. We now have over 40 registered Butterfly Sites including schools, private gardens, remnant

vegetation and council parks. We wish to thank all those who spent many hours at the various expo stands and garden events for their help in gaining lots of new members.

- Butterfly advertising and education was achieved during excursions to Aldinga scrub and other sites, over 35 talks were given by various members, mainly Jan and Roger, with an estimated audience of 1225 people, and through our Newsletter put together by Jan. The newsletters continue to provide important information to landcare groups, government staff and in the public arena. We always welcome contributions from our members, so get writing!

- Roger’s website and the BCSA website have had an enormous amount of research and development, and now form the basis for any surveys, habitat creation and statistics for South Australia’s butterflies.

Thanks go to all the committee for their contribution, in particular Rowan Moore who took over as Treasurer last year. This year keeping track of the various financial transactions has been particularly complicated due to sales of books being made by different committee members. Thanks also to Honorary Auditor Bruce Evans from Friends of Parks for undertaking the audit of the books.

The future holds solid for butterfly conservation with continued sales for our book, distribution of fact sheets and presence in the media and schools. The next stage of our Butterfly campaign will be to promote Butterfly Gardening to young people, through a Butterfly Challenge, and a pilot of this program will be held shortly with schools visiting the SA Museum during Science Week.

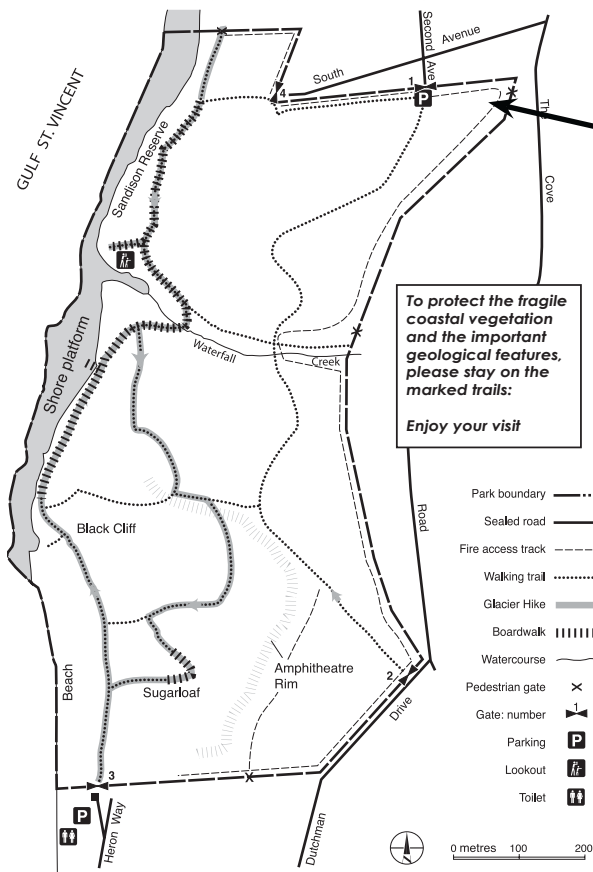
Like butterflies to nectar new members will be drawn to what BSCA has to offer, not only for the focus of these beautiful creatures but all precious wildlife.

*David Keane*  
Chairman BCSA  
August 2008



At the end of the AGM David thanked outgoing committee members, Ron Bellchambers, Maria Johns and auditor Kevin Parken for their years of service.

**HALLETT COVE CONSERVATION PARK**



**EXCURSION and CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER**

on

**Saturday 22nd November, 2008**

**10.30am - 12.30am then stay for a picnic lunch to HALLETT COVE**

**with members of Supernova Astronomy group meet at 10.30 at car park on Second Avenue (see arrow on map) call 0408088031 if lost!**

Check out the shelters of *Antipodia atralba* the Rare Black and White skipper on the coastal cliffs on their food plant *Gahnia lanigera* (we may even see some butterflies flying), find out about the plants of the Hallett Cove Conservation Park and the geological history of this fascinating area from a leading Adelaide geologist. Bring a hat, sunscreen, appropriate foot wear, your own picnic lunch and some nibbles to share.

Please contact Jan Forrest 8297 8230 to register your attendance and leave a return contact number.

**Black and White Sedge-skipper cont. from page 1.**

localised sandy woodland areas where *Gahnia ancistrophylla* grows. The butterfly used to occur in mallee areas along east side of the Mt. Lofty Ranges where *Gahnia lanigera* grew.

It is known to have two emergence periods, one in late spring and another in autumn, with each brood taking a year to go through their life cycle. In some areas there is only a spring brood, with no sign of the butterfly in autumn.

The butterfly is a deep brown on its upper side, suffused with yellowish or olive coloured scales near the body. Both wings have a distinctly chequered scale-fringe of pale grey to white and dark brown.

The underside of the butterfly is generally pale to mid grey, with a yellowish area near the top of the forewing. The male is distinguished from the female by a linear black marking of specialised sex scales in the middle of the upper fore wing. The female also has more rounded outer wing margins.

The caterpillars make tubular silk-lined shelters on their *Gahnia* Saw-sedge food plant and these are constructed spirally with the opening at the base, not at the top. They retire into these shelters during the day, emerging at night to feed. The mature caterpillars are generally green in colour, with brownish and whitish lines running the length of the body. The head is pale brown or greenish-brown, with a dark brown central wedge-shaped marking and marks on the side of the head.



Adult upper side and underside  
Photos: Lindsay Hunt

It is important that the proposed desalination plant activities at Port Stanvac preserve the coastal cliff area as this is one of the principal Adelaide sites for this skipper butterfly.

## Butterfly Trail in the Lebombo Mountains

In the north of Zululand, near the Swaziland border lie the Lebombo Mountains. This range of relatively small mountains are around the same size as our Mt. Lofty Ranges, however the already high elevation of the surrounding plain lifts them above the magic 1000m mark

These mountains are characterized by vine thicket and rain-forest in the gullies that scour their slopes with mountain meadows and light woodland in drier, higher areas.

During 2001 I spent an eventful seven weeks in the Pongola game reserve, as a guest of the "Space For Elephants" foundation. The Pongola Game Reserve is a relatively small game park (by South African standards) of sixty three km by eighty seven km. The reserve surrounds the artificial reservoir, Lake Pongolapoort, which itself is about thirty five km long by fifteen km wide. On the northern fringe of the lake the majestic Lebombos sweep down to the waters edge- a wonderful setting.

While on my visit, Digs Pascoe of "Space For Elephants" asked me if I would care to initiate a "butterfly trail" from the shores of Lake Pongolapoort, to the Jozini Rd that traverses the range. This side of the reserve was relatively undeveloped and poaching had become a problem. Looking at the mixed terrain of lake fringe and gully vine thickets, head high expanses of cane grass, the habitat of the deadly Black Mamba, open veldt woodland and the higher mountain meadows, with their flowering plants and scattered flowering trees, there were a multitude of niche habitats for various butterfly species to occupy.

Early one morning, my friend Lee Venter, then manager of the "Loose Mongoose" research camp, started our ascent of the Lebombos to flag the initial proposed route of our trail. We worked from the shore of the lake, went about one hundred meters parallel with the access road- and then struck into the virgin bush, skirting a dense shoreline vine thicket patch.

As we climbed up the foot-hill slopes and the first 15 minutes had slipped past, with just an odd Pierid being sighted, I turned nervously to Lee and said that I hoped that there would be at least a few butterflies on our butterfly trail.... A few minutes more and a Banded Zulu Hesperiid flew past, as more butterflies started moving and we both started to feel better. Butterflies on our butterfly trail!

By eleven o'clock there were plate sized Swallow-tails zooming around, as large and beautiful nymphalids and clouds of Pierids flew in all directions. Every now and then a zipping Skipper or jewel like Lycaenid would perch on a branch or a stem and take "center stage". We wove in and

out of the dark and moody forest pockets in the gullies, where I pictured rough hewn seats and tables gracing shaded forest floors, already free of undergrowth in the gloom ( I kept hoping I was going to see the feared Gaboon Viper, rare but not unknown in these areas....).

Then we would push through the thorny vine tangle at the edge of the vine thicket and emerge back into the daylight world of the more open veldt sections.



As we wound our way up the slope through of these areas, we found a poacher's snare concealed near a tree in the grass. Lee was clearly worried- poachers tend to carry old rifles and "pangas" or cane knives and have been known to wield them in anger. Just as we were on the point of moving on and reporting our find to the reserve managers late, we heard a gable of distant Zulu coming down the slope- the poachers were on their way back to check their snare! "What should we do!?" whispered a clearly worried Lee.

I had a moment of pure Aussie bush inspiration, and let out the loudest "cooee" that I could muster, which echoed and rolled around the groins and clefts of the mountains. Lee looked at me with a stunned "what the hell did you do that for" expression on his face, that broke into a grin as first the Zulu voices went silent for a second or three, then changed into a rapid babble of Zulu as the owners of the voices raced back up the slope of the mountains- clearly they weren't familiar with our Australian bush call either!

Up and up we went, pausing to examine some spectacular and colourful moths we found along the way, as well as an even more colourful Crag Lizard that we unsuccessfully tried to entice from a crack in a boulder where it had locked itself in with the raiseable spines on its tail, in a similar manner to our Cunninghams Skink.

We eventually entered the high meadow zone, where a lush green grassy sward was studied by a variety of flowering plants. The trees that were dotted amongst this meadow like environment were also characterised by large, pink flowers, a little like quince blossom.

We walked through this idyllic scene and eventually hit upon the road which marked the end of our trail,

then followed our flags down the slope back to the lake.

Seven years have passed since this wonderful day on the Lebombo mountain slopes and I'm heading of to Maputaland once again in a month or two.

I have found out that the butterfly trail has been developed, using the route we plotted that day, and the ideas that Lee and myself visualised during the climb. I am very much looking forward to reporting to butterfly conservation members and all others who have an interest in ecotourism with a butterfly flavour, on how the Lebombo Butterfly Trail circa

2008 looks. I hope to send everybody pictures and tales from this most beautiful part of the world, where the dreams of childhood, long lost, once more manifested and have led me to where I am today.

*Andy Young*

**Editors Note:** Andy left for Africa in August and we look forward to receiving his images and further reports of his butterfly venture in South Africa.

**BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SOCIETY SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 01/07/07-30/06/08**


Opening Balance		<b>57,005.88</b>
Income		
Memberships	1,790.00	
Books	30,501.86	
Signs	1,123.75	
Donation	585.00	
Interest	532.54	
Unaccounted Deposits	54.14	<b>34,587.29</b>
Expenditure		
Book	69,571.90	
Website	9,675.00	
BBB	2,793.19	
Signs	2,472.25	
Administration	946.03	
Bank Fees	18.50	<b>85,476.87</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>6,116.30</b>

**Represented by**

**Cash at Bank** **6,116.30**

I have examined the books, accounts and records presented to me and received all explanations considered necessary.

In my opinion, the attached Financial Statements are in accordance therewith and gives a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Butterfly Conservation South Australia Inc for the period ended 30th June 2008.



Bruce Evans  
ASA; FNIA



**PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES**

Thanks go to our volunteers Jill, Trevor, David, Roger, Richard, Vanessa, Wendy, Nonnie and friend, Fiona and Jan, who looked after the BCSA display stand (see above) during the Native Plant sale display at the Wayville showgrounds during October.

Thanks also to Ron Bellchambers who organised for a butterfly display at the Jamestown show - see above left.

If you would like to borrow the display material to promote butterfly gardening please contact secretary Jan Forrest. We have a set of boards (partly funded by a grant from the Friends of Parks), A3 posters, two butterfly display boxes kindly put together by Mike Moore and a book display box.

**BUTTERFLY BUSH GARDEN PROPOSAL FOR BROWNHILL CREEK**

Committee member Jill Davy is interested in receiving expressions of interest from members who may be available to assist with on ground works at Brownhill Creek where it is proposed to install a butterfly garden of indigenous plants. The photo right shows the proposed site for this project.



**BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.**

Chairman: David Keane  
 Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Jan Forrest OAM C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000 ph (08) 8207 7503.  
 email <forrest.jan@saugov.sa.gov.au > or <forrestjan@adam.com.au>  
 Treasurer : 20 Thornton Avenue, KENSINGTON

**OUTREACH PROGRAM**

The full exhibition and AO size panels from the Exhibition “Where have all the Butterflies gone?” are available from Jan Forrest at the South Australian Museum for use by Landcare and other Conservation groups at seminars, conferences and workshops or just for display. Included are five introductory panels, and seventeen panels from seven habitat areas: Coastal, Grasses, Mallee, Urban, Migration/ Vagrant, Eucalyptus Forrest/Woodland, Arid, Wetland and Lower South East.

**DIARY DATES**

**MEETINGS** - Committee meetings are normally held bi-monthly (usually the second Monday of the month) at 6.00pm in the Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads, Urrbrae. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like further information or receive an agenda please contact Secretary Jan Forrest.  
 Excursion and Christmas get together: Hallett Cove, 22 Nov. 10.30 - 12.30 meet at carpark, Second Street, see map page 3, bring picnic lunch and nibbles.  
 Next Meeting: 8th December, 2008 at 6.00pm, Urrbrae wetlands

**WEB SITES**

“Butterfly Gardening” - [www.butterflygardening.net.au](http://www.butterflygardening.net.au)  
 ‘Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.’ <http://www.chariot.net.au/~bcsa/index.htm>  
 ‘South Australian Butterflies’ (Roger Grund private site)  
 - <http://www.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/index.htm>  
 ‘Butterfly Watch’ - SAMuseum website  
[www.samuseum.sa.gov.au](http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au) then click on ‘Media’ then ‘online exhibitions’.  
**Teacher Resources** (Jackie Miers) - [http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/butadelaide/Butterflies\\_of\\_Adelaide.html](http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/butadelaide/Butterflies_of_Adelaide.html)

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

- Annie BOND**
- Alexander STOLARSKI**
- Emma STEGGLES**
- Lorraine WOODCOCK**
- Barbara DUFFIELD**
- Kevin SIZER**
- Jeanette COOMBES**
- JELlicoe Family**
- R.ARNOLD**
- Vanesa DURVY**
- Pam SANDYS**
- Keith and Joan CALDICOTT**
- Melanie REES**
- Laurel WALKER**
- Peter ROEHR**
- Denise GILFILLAN**
- Paul DOWNTON & Cherie HOYLE**
- Adrienne PARMENTER**
- Wendy DAVIS**
- H. SMART**

