

south coast birdwatch

april 1998

for your diary

SAT APRIL 18th. OUTING. BRAND PROPERTY, PARAWA. Meet at junction of Range, Parawa and Tunkhead Rds near info board.

WEDS APRIL 29th. OUTING. TONKINS WINERY SOUTH. Meet at Winery car-park, Winery Rd. Currency Creek.

FRIDAY, MAY 8th. MEETING.
'MORPHOLOGY OF A BIRD'
This will take the form of a Quiz/Learning night.
Members may study the subject prior to the meeting (and will probably need to!).
Please bring your Field Guide to the meeting for the discussion session.

SUN MAY 10th OUTING. MOUNT COMPASS BOARDWALK and COLES CROSSING RD.
Meet at the Boardwalk in Arthur Rd. Mt Compass.

WEDS MAY 27th. OUTING. ASHBOURNE and MEYER'S SCRUB. Meet at Ashbourne near the telephone box.

SAT JUNE 6th. OUTING. KYEMA CP.
Meet on the Meadows/Brookman Rd at the intersection of Woodgate Hill Rd. (see map).

WEDS JUNE 17th. OUTING. NURRIGI CP
Meet at intersection of Strathalbyn and Milang Rds at Finnis.

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

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

CONTACT: Judith Dyer, 3 Egret Ave, Goolwa,
ph 8555 2736
Kate Bruce, PO Box 403, Goolwa
ph 8555 5 020



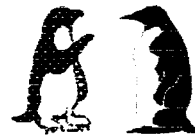
1998 CAMPOUT

It has been suggested that a campout be arranged again this year.

The proposed venue is **NARACOORTE**. We would be able to visit Bool Lagoon, Mary Seymour, Big Heath and Penola Cons Parks, and to visit Bourne's Bird Museum.

Accommodation choices could be bush camping in Mary Seymour Cons Park, camping or cabins in the Naracoorte Caravan Park which is next to a wooded area and creek with established walks, Naracoorte Caves Caravan Park at the Caves Cons Park, or holiday cabins near Bool Lagoon. We might go in the second half of October.

Please give some thought to this. You will be asked to register your interest at the May Meeting, or by getting in touch with **Judith (8555 2746)** or **Ann (8554 2462)**.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

First, a heart-felt apology to **Liz Barry** of Blackwood, whom I left off the list last time. Welcome, Liz!

Other new members include: **Lorraine Brownilow** of Seaview Downs, **Belinda** and **Mark Filkin** of Willunga, **Don Overall** of Victor Harbor, **Lawrence Vasey** of Happy Valley, and **Rae Stratford** of Willunga.

We are very glad to welcome you, and hope you find friendship and great birding experiences with us.

It is really heartening to see how our Club has grown! We have to thank our publicity expert, Ann Turner, and also the Working Group for the great Outings they arrange for us. Any suggestions from members would be appreciated.

The **NARACOORTE CAMPOUT** sounds exciting, with so many birdful sites identified and great places to stay! I shall be dusting off the old sleeping-bag and shaking the moths out!

Plant Trees For Me has written to us, asking for any help members might give in planting trees along roadsides and reserves in the Port Elliot and Goolwa area as part of a local revegetation project. They ask only for a couple of hours, and the work can include: drilling holes, planting trees and staking them. All tools are provided.

Planting days are usually Sundays. If you are interested, please contact: **Peter McLachlan (8554 2432)**, **Kallan Dennis (8554 5252)** or **Derek Tickner (8554 2031)**. *More trees - more birds!*

working group notes

Alexandrina Council is seeking funds to use Green Corps help on the Effluent Ponds project. Chris reported in the Meeting that 73 species have been seen there.

The final layout of the brochure is due soon. The RAA has given approval for the use of part of their map. This has now been re-traced, and Gael is finalising the project.

meeting report: march 13th

Sixteen members and four-and-a-bit visitors were present. The visitors were Fae Filkin and baby Sarah, of Willunga, and Bob and Betty Barnes from Victor Harbor. As it was the AGM, we held elections, and officers were the same as for last year. The Working Group now includes Kate, Judith, Denzel, Belinda, Chris, Ann, and Judy.

Judith gave a report on our activities for the year, and our growth in membership - now approaching 70! A financial report was distributed to those present, and shows a balance of \$578.99. (Anyone wishing to see the full report can get one from Judith.)

Chris reported on the Goolwa Effluent Ponds project, and we heard about the progress of our brochure (see Working Group Notes above).

Denzel produced a list of local birds, and drew our attention to our Bird Record Book.

birdcall

The following reports were given by members:

Denzel: Kelp Gulls

Judith: Kingfishers (one immature) at Scott CP, Horsefield's Bronze- Cuckoos (pair).

Anna: Nightjar nesting near Scott CP

trip to bool lagoon by dianne shearer and ann turner

At our last Outing Dianne and I made plans to go to Bool Lagoon to check a reported sighting of Brolga. We left Goolwa at 6.00am, planning to arrive at Bool Lagoon by 10.30.

Strangely, this did not work out, possibly due to a great spot as we came off the ferry at Wellington where we saw 28 species in about 15 mins!

Several stops were made to identify Raptors. The Whistling Kite and Little Eagle were together which gave us a good comparison of markings and their differently-shaped tails. The Brown Falcon and Brown Goshawk proved harder, and took a lot of book-searching and time to confirm.

When we finally arrived at Bool Lagoon an Australian Hobby flew over us extremely fast. While we were enjoying lunch we scanned the Lagoon and found between 80 and 100 Brolgas! We tried to get close enough to take photographs, but although there wasn't any water, the ground was too soft to chance walking on.

However, we enjoyed the boardwalk where we saw plenty of Spoonbills, Ibis and a variety of Ducks - and even a couple of

Brolgas flying over to join the rest of the clan! We arrived back home about 7.00pm - two tired but happy Birdos!

Ann Turner

outings reports

hindmarsh falls (sat feb 7th)

A heavily overcast, pale, slate-grey sky and strong wind made bird-spotting a challenge for the 24 birdwatchers who came. We split into two groups to cover scrub north and south of the car-park. We recorded 28 species, four of which were Honeyeaters, including the White-naped.

We also saw the White-throated Tree-creeper, Grey Shrike-thrush and a female Scarlet Robin, and we had an excellent sighting of three Eastern Spinebills.

About an hour into the walk light rain started to fall. We adjourned to the Hindmarsh Valley Tennis Club for an early lunch, then a brief but heavy downpour marked the end of our outing.

Jean Boomer

encounter bay and bluff (sat feb 28th)

We met at the Inman River car-park from where we saw 20 species including the unusual sighting of a Peaceful Dove. Moving to the mouth of the river, we saw the Common Sand-piper, European Goldfinch and Willie Wagtail. When we walked along the beach we found a very exhausted Little Penguin swimming near the edge of the water. It appeared to be slightly recovered by the time we went back to the cars.

As we drove along the bay we made frequent stops to look for an Eastern Reef Egret. No luck with this one - but we saw several Hooded Plovers on the rocks, Whitefaced Herons and a Pacific Gull. At the boat ramp we saw a Great Black Cormorant, Sooty Oystercatcher, and at least 100 Crested Terns. We lunched at Petrel Cove out of the wind in the company of Singing Honeyeaters, New Holland Honeyeaters, and a Black-bird. We had seen a total of 42 species.

Ann Turner

coorong boat-trip (sun march 8th)

The expedition set out at 9.30am on a perfect day, in Jack Miller's 'Wetlands Explorer'.

We headed towards Goolwa Barrage, through the lock into the Coorong and out to Tauwicheerie for some wonderful bird-watching. Jack took the boat in close to the reefs and we had great close-ups of waders - 64 species seen over the whole day! Mind, we did think we might have to get out and push sometimes, and those up top became expert at running from side to side to help rock the boat off some shallow bits! We had some difficulty in actually crossing the Mouth because of the lack of water, but this added to the fun. We landed on a sandy spot for lunch, where some comfort-seekers were excited by the sight of Rock Parrots.

Among the birds we saw were Golden Plover, five species of Cormorants, Kelp Gull, Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers, Knots, Bar-tailed Godwits, Cape Barren Geese and Emus!

My notes say that we saw at least 700 swans, but some of us thought there were nearly as many Pelicans!

A wonderful day! Let's hope it becomes an annual treat.

Bronwyn Wastell and Pam Crancher

aldinga scrub (weds march 25th)

Four of us set off on a cool and cloudy morning. Plenty of birds were to be seen including: Mistletoe Bird, Golden Whistler, Varied Sitella, White-plumed and New Holland Honeyeaters (lots!), and a pair of Eastern Rosellas.

Towards the centre of the Scrub not a bird was to be seen or heard. As we headed back we saw a raptor perched high on a branch, but before we could identify it some Masked Lapwings raised an alarm and the startled bird took flight.

The total count was 33 species, which included a pair of Black-shouldered Kites, Striated Pardalote and plenty of Weebills.

Belinda Filkin

postscript to denzel's 'twitch' report in the december 'birdwatch'

(Apologies to Ann for having omitted this from the last Newsletter.)

I sent a copy of the report to one of my birding friends on the Sunshine Coast where I first became a 'twitcher' and received a letter back congratulating our team on the number we recorded of 123. They recorded 165 so not a great deal more than us!

She went to a Summer Solstice Party for the birding group, and the article was passed around for everyone's interest and it gave some of them the idea to participate in this year's Twitch, so I thought I would pass on the congrats from the Queensland Birdos to the Southcoast Birdwatchers!

Ann Turner



**SPECIAL REQUEST
FROM JUDITH**

**HAS ANYONE A BIRD-LIST
FROM
18TH AUGUST 1995?
(NEWLAND HEAD CP)**

**IF SO, SHE WOULD LIKE TO USE IT TO
COMPLETE CLUB RECORDS.**

