



August 2010

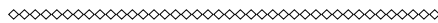
Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



Nixon-Skinner Conservation Park is on the Main South Road about 4 km from Myponga and about 11 km from Yankalilla. The gate is partly hidden from the road but nearby is a very visible double gate to the reservoir property. Parking is limited (2 or 3 small cars only). Meet on the gravel area on the roadside by the reservoir opposite Causeway Road.

- ☉ **Saturday 14 August. Brown's Road, Monarto**
Meet at the junction of Brown's Road and Old Prince's Highway, Monarto. 35°06'41" S, 139°04'37" E
- ☉ **Friday 20 August. Hotel Victor.** *see below*
- ☉ **Thursday 26 August. Scott CP, southern boundary**
Meet on corner Frome Road and Deep Creek Road, Currency Creek. 35°25'19" S 138°43'24" E
- ☉ **Friday 10 September. General Meeting**
Guest Speaker: Nicholas Birks — *Birds*
- ☉ **Sunday 12 September. Onkaparinga Wetlands**
Near the Institute, Old Noarlunga. 35°10'53" S 138°30'12" E
- ☉ **Wednesday 29 September. Nixon Skinner/Springmount**
Meet at the car park by the reservoir. 35°24'40" S 138°26'16" E
- ☉ **Saturday 9 October. Mt Compass boardwalk and private property Willunga**
Meet on Arthur Road, Mt Compass, by the boardwalk entrance. 35°21'16" S 138°37'09" E
- ☉ **Friday to Monday 22–25 October. CAMPOUT.**
Meet at Tanunda Caravan Park. *See Fleurieu Birdwatch June 2010, p 5.*



Flinders Room
Hotel Victor, 1 Albert Place, Victor Harbor

Extra special menu \$22 per person

Elaine's Quiz

Once-a-Year Night
Friday 20 August
Meet 6.30 for 7.00 pm meal

Bring along your favourite bird photo
and watch out for the Collared Sparrowhawk!

Fun! Entertainment! Camaraderie! EMOJI!

Bookings essential

Contact Verle: verlew@bigpond.net.au, 8552 2197

- Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker & Cadell Streets, Goolwa
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of odd months
- Outings: Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair. See Events above.
- Contacts: Pat Uppill, 8552 4288; Judith Dyer, 8555 2736
fleurieubirds@gmail.com
- Website: fleurieubirdwatchers.org
- Newsletter: Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211



Friday, 9 July 2010

Chairperson Denzel Murfet welcomed a relatively small gathering on this winter night. Fifteen members present were joined by seven visitors, including family members of our guest speaker, Michael Huxley.

Business of the meeting was soon despatched. Members' attention was drawn to an article in *Wildlife Matters* (tabled) about feral cats: they consume an estimated 2m + native creatures per day and cause an horrific amount of damage to ecosystems, especially in the outback.

Bird call included

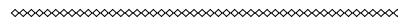
- » Report of diminished numbers of Fairy Penguin on Granite Island and other coastal areas throughout Australia
- » Boobook Owl spotted on Granite Island
- » Ten Brown Quail still present there also
- » Rock Parrot at the Coorong
- » Large flock of Black-Cockatoo at Hallett Cove, probably Yellow-tailed.
- » Big flock of these birds also seen feeding on Hindmarsh Island and returning inland at night.
- » An unidentified wing collected on the Oodnatta track was tabled for suggestions as to identification.
- » Black-chinned Honeyeater near the entrance to Rosetta Village, Maude Street, Victor Harbor.



Brown Quail, Granite Island
Photo: Verle Wood

Michael Huxley, a high achieving teenager and already an award-winning photographer, presented his video of birds observed during a trip to coastal Queensland around Cairns. His presentation represented 14 hours of video footage and included wonderful shots of birds such as the Victoria's Riflebird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Cassowary and other tropical rainforest birdlife about which he spoke fluently.

Much animated conversation followed over a warming cuppa — thanks, Wendy.



BIRDS ARE EVERYWHERE. Even in the centre of the cities, the white cockatoos call as they form silhouettes against blue sky; the rosellas squabble for fruit. And in the bush birds are the canaries of the environment. They tell us which places are thriving, which are dying. Australia's bird populations are under threat. Even such iconic and common birds as the Kookaburra are diminishing in numbers.

This project explores the idea of birds as part of the Australian identity — both individual and cultural.

And this is where you come in. ABC Radio National's 360 documentaries program is calling for your contributions celebrating 'Birdland'. To contribute you must become a member of the ABC's media sharing website, Pool. Which is free to join! Here you'll be able to upload your contribution, as well as view the contributions of others, find our terms and conditions, read the forums and ask questions.

The most suitable written and audio works will be selected for inclusion in a radio documentary exploring birds and our sense of identity as Australians, as well as the science of diminishing bird populations.

So, what do birds mean to you? What is it about birds that you love? Does your human community have a relationship with a bird community? Are you one who notices the change in seasons by the birds which appear, and then vanish? Have you ever dreamed of being a bird? What sort of bird would you be? Is a family you know of more birdlike than human? Have you written poetry about birds?

Have your say: www.abc.net.au/rn/360/stories/2010/2967578.htm

The ABC is calling for celebratory, thoughtful, descriptive, creative works that engage with the human/avian relationship.



Nurragi

Saturday 12 June

A brisk morning with over-cast conditions greeted seven people for this walk.

Along the track we saw quite a few Brown-headed Honeyeaters, including three babies huddled together, and New Holland Honeyeater. Two Common Bronzewing stayed well in front of us as White-plumed and Singing Honeyeaters darted from tree to tree.

At the other end we had good sightings of Welcome Swallow and Dusky Woodswallow. Two Southern Whiteface were also seen by one member.

Lunch was at Milang as the sun shone and we discussed the 33 species seen.

Phil Cartledge



Sunshine broke through and birds came out to breakfast on the blossom at Nurragi. Photo: Verle Wood

Point Sturt and Clayton Bay

Thursday 24 June

A very lazy wind greeted six members visiting Point Sturt. Water finally flowing into Lake Alexandrina has lifted the level so that there is no longer a beach below the southern cliff face.

A short walk to the north produced sightings of several waterbird species but the highlight was a pair of Blue Bonnet. These parrots are no longer common on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Although not seen, Banded Lapwing were heard calling while flying south from Point Sturt over the lake. Although only a small number of species were actually seen, the final total was 35, including those heard.

We moved on to the Clayton Bay area at 11 am. The waterbirds were enjoying the higher water levels with Black Swan nesting in several places, cormorants and pelicans fishing, and 13 Darter waddling awkwardly on the regulator. A flock of ten waders, possibly Godwit, was seen flying over the water but were too far away to identify. A Fan-tailed Cuckoo was seen in trees among houses. A total of 36 species were seen in this area.

Peter Gower



Blue Bonnet posed obligingly on boxthorn at Pt Sturt. Photo: Peter Gower



The challenge during lunch at Clayton was to identify and count the birds on the regulator. Photo: Teresa Jack

Onkaparinga Gorge

Sunday 11 July

Seven brave souls spurned the Sunday morning warmth of bed covers to meet for this walk on the Sundews track in Onkaparinga Gorge. The heavy cloud cover did not make for easy sighting of the few birds that ventured out.

Undaunted, the keen birdwatchers often left the track to follow tantalising calls among the damp grass and foliage: Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Golden Whistler.

A few Galah and Rosella swooped through the treetops with about equal numbers of Crimson and Eastern Rosella. A large proportion of time was taken up identifying Striated, Buff-rumped and Brown Thornbills in the poor light. Most common bird present was the Crescent Honeyeater, but Superb Fairy-wren, Eastern Spinebill and Mistletoebird added special interest to the list of 28 species altogether.



We paused at the lookout to ponder the view of the Onkaparinga Gorge below and check for waterbirds. Photo: Verle Wood



Ashbourne, town to golf course

Wednesday 28 July

Two members enjoyed a leisurely walk down Green Road at Ashbourne on a cool, calm and sunny morning.

Golden Whistler, Kookaburra, Grey Shrike-thrush and Crested Shrike-tit were heard calling but remained unseen. Many Striated Pardalote were feeding in the high foliage. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo displayed their crests brilliantly as they bathed in the bright sunlight, and Musk Lorikeets seemed to be seeking out the hollows in a large tree. Is spring on the way?

Only 24 species were recorded for the very pleasant but short morning which finished with an early cup of coffee and a biscuit.

Judith Dyer



Orange-bellied Parrot Survey

With all the data now in I can give the results of the recent [July] OBP count. For South Australia we found 3 OBPs, 170 Blue-winged Parrots, 84 Elegant Parrots and 39 Rock Parrot. A second OBP sighted in the Coorong could be the same bird, so the count stands at three with a possible fourth bird. In SA OBPs were recorded at Port MacDonnell (2), Ewe Island (1), Mundoo Island (1).

38 volunteers in SA contributed over 200 man hours — a fantastic effort.

The Victorians found four OBPs and there has also been a sighting of a single bird subsequently.

Thanks to everyone for participating in the count, and keep an eye open for them over the coming months.

As always please report any OBP sightings ASAP to me.

Bob Green, Regional OBP Coordinator,

shriketit@bigpond.com, 8725 0549, 0407 649 909

GRANITE ISLAND PENGUIN CRISIS

Penguin Census 2010

Never before has Granite Island's Annual Penguin Census been more important. The penguin numbers have been plummeting for the past 10 years, and now things are getting serious.

The Census will be held on Tuesdays 3 and 10 August.

We need lots of people. We divide people into small groups and they are responsible for counting active burrows in a section of the island. There is a lot of walking involved, but you can take as long as you want.

If you are available to help with this year's penguin census please register at environment@graniteisland.com.au, sign up at the Bistro on Granite Island or phone Natalie Gilbert on 0437 943 920



A penguin walks into a bar. He goes to the counter and asks the barman, "Have you seen my brother?"

The barman thinks for a moment and says, "Maybe. What does he look like?"