



August 2012

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



Newsletter Contributions:
Please send all items for inclusion in future newsletters to :
fleurieubirds@gmail.com

REMINDER
ANNUAL CAMPOUT
MARION BAY
CARAVAN PARK,
YORKE PENINSULA
Friday 12 October—
Sunday 14 October
Leader Teresa Jack
Email to:
marionbaycp@yorke.sa.gov.au

- **Saturday 18 August Kyeema CP. Car Park, Woodgate Hill Road**
- **Thursday 30 August Hardy's Scrub Gate 14 Chapel Hill Road McLaren Flat 35°10'24" S 138°34'49" E**
- **Friday 14 September General Meeting**
- **Sunday 16 September Bullock Hill CP, on side road, Primary School Ashbourne 35°17'17" S 138°45'58" E**
- **Wednesday 26 September Café Car park (Sails Restaurant) Clayton**
- **12-14 October Annual Campout, Marion Bay Caravan Park, Yorke Peninsula**
- **Saturday 20 October Goolwa Ponds/Beacon 19 Kessell Road Goolwa 35°30'2" S 138°45'29" E**



Superb Fairy-wren
Male non-breeding plumage

Photo: *Teresa Jack at Clarendon*

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, corner Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of odd months.

Outings: Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair. See Events above

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Nurragi Conservation Reserve, 16 June

A total of 12 Fleurieu birdwatchers met on Saturday morning at the Nurragi Conservation Reserve, a rehabilitated vegetation corridor restored from the former Sandergrove – Milang Railway line. The morning was cool but sunny and clear, with some of the Mallee gums beginning to flower, providing favourable prospects for us seeing some of the nectar feeding birds. We were rewarded, seeing several honey eaters, including Brown-headed, White-plumed, New Holland, Singing and Spiny-cheeked as well as the Eastern Spinebills and Red Wattlebirds. We saw a variety of parrots including Red-rump, Elegant, Ring-neck and Rainbow and Purple-crowned Lorikeets and Galahs. In the fields bordering the vegetation corridor, several of us noted a pair of Australian Shelduck, Crested Pigeons, Peaceful Doves and a Skylark. Amongst the denser shrubs along the corridor, Yellow and Yellow-rumped thornbills, Superb Fairy-wrens, a White-browed Scrubwren and Red-capped Robins caught our eyes. We also noted a number of raptors including Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Falcon and a Collared Sparrowhawk. At the end of our morning meander along the corridor, we tallied a total of 52 species, all agreeing that this splendid total was due to clear and sunny conditions as well as having some very knowledgeable birders. We thank Denzel for leading us.

Keith Jones

Aldinga Scrub 18 June

Only 5 members braved the cold and walked through the scrub led by Nick. The birds were few and far between and Nick assured us he had seen lots more when he had been there recently. Being winter there was not a lot flowering yet and this probably had some bearing on the lack of number of smaller birds. Even the New Holland Honeyeaters. were scarce! The best sighting was a Varied Sittella, which we all got to see once we identified the right tree. We all enjoyed the walk and had an early lunch and we were really surprised the tally came to 28 species seen and 2 heard.

Wendy Phillips

Cox's Scrub July 15

Six members met at the entrance to the scrub. Weather was cool, with fine rain at times and a tiny amount of sunshine later in the walk. We all happily followed, single file, in the footsteps of Denzel. We walked very quietly trying to catch any bird sounds. The overcast day kept most species under cover, except of course the New Holland Honeyeaters, they were about in abundance.

Towards the end of our walk, in a comparatively sheltered area, we came across Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Brown-headed Honeyeaters which made our day as they darted across in front of us.

Judith joined us for early lunch and we were able to tell her about our enjoyable morning.

Twenty two species were sighted and two others were heard.

The highlight for me was the wonderful view I had of a particular Yellow-faced Honeyeater. He must have realised that I needed time to focus properly and he obliged accordingly by waiting a while and then turning this way and that and then still giving more time. Marvellous!

The main bird count included Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Peaceful Doves, Fairy-wrens, Eastern Spinebills, Striated Thornbills a Crescent Honeyeater, Brown Thornbills and Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters.

Elaine O'Shaughnessy



Peaceful Dove
Photos: *Peter Gower*



Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Photo: *Wikipedia*

Ingalalla Falls Outing, July 25

Fleurieu Birdwatchers joined up with a group of birdwatching enthusiasts from the Normanville Natural Resources Centre on a windy and showery morning at the Ingalalla Falls. Nick Tebneff led the combined group of 11 watchers. The falls are located in some natural bush (Sheoaks, Blackwood, Swamp Wattles and Gums) within the Second Valley Forest Reserve, just off the Hay Flat Road, near Normanville. At start of our outing at the car park, we were greeted by a male and female Scarlet Robin, and then, along the sheltered path leading to the falls, we noted a number of Striated Thornbills, Crescent and New Holland Honeyeaters, Crimson (Adelaide) Rosellas and a Grey Shrike-thrush. Several Little Ravens patrolled the sky over head, and along the bracken and gorse-growing sides of the valley, we noted several Grey Fantails, Superb Fairy-wrens and a White-browed Scrubwren. As we returned to the car park, we were pleased to sight a proud male Golden Whistler that followed us amongst the trees along the track. A couple of Australian Wood Duck flew along the valley, possibly in search of nesting hollows. We noted a total 16 bird species in this part of our walk.

We then car pooled to drive up to the top of the range at Springs Road, in another part of the Second Valley Forest Reserve. Here it was a bit more exposed to the wind and a few showers of rain kept us sheltering under gum trees for part of the time; however, we were rewarded with sightings of a pair of White-throated Treecreepers, as well as Striated Thornbills, Scarlet Robins and Superb Fairy-wrens. At one stage along the track, we were startled by a Nankeen Kestrel diving to take a small animal just in front of us. Several farm dams occur alongside the track and we noted pairs of Australian Shelducks and Grey Teal on one of these dams. Throughout this part of our outing, several large flocks of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos followed us overhead or noisily settling amongst the tops of the gum trees. A total of 12 bird species were identified in this area.

We then returned to the Ingalalla Falls car park where we lunched, shared information on potentially new birding sites, and did the final bird call. We totalled 21 species for the morning, not a large number probably because of the adverse weather conditions; however, altogether, a very enjoyable morning, as for some of us there were several first sightings. We thank Nick very much for leading the group.

Keith Jones



White-throated
Treecreeper
Photo: Peter Gower

A Third Bird Atlas of the Adelaide Region

In 1974-75 and 1984-85, Birds SA documented the distributions of birds in the Adelaide region. Since 1985, a period of nearly 30 years, there has been no concerted attempt to re-assess the distributions of birds within this region. In that time the distributions of some species are likely to have changed. The Adelaide region covers an area of about 27,000 km² and runs from a little north of Port Wakefield to near Morgan to Cape Jervis to south-east of Meningie. The third bird atlas will commence on 1 July 2012 and run for two years until 30 June 2014. This time, Kangaroo Island will be added to the area surveyed.

Knowledge of the distributions of species and shifts in their distributions over time are important for managing species in the future. Of particular concern are a number of woodland bird species that are regarded as declining, and further reductions in the distributions of those species will highlight the need for greater action if those declines are to be halted. Equally though, some species are likely to be increasing in range and expanding into new areas. Repeating the atlas of birds of the Adelaide region will help to identify the species that are contracting, those that are expanding and those that are maintaining their distributions.

In the previous two sampling periods, members of Birds SA collected the majority of the data. Collecting the data involves ticking off the species that are seen at a location. A data sheet (or card) is provided to make this an easy task to do while in the field. The cards are then submitted and the data processed. Experienced and in-experienced observers can be involved, but for the next two years keen bird watchers are encouraged to go to a wide range of areas and record the birds they see. In the second year (2013-2014) we will target areas that are rarely visited, to improve the coverage, and hopefully some Birds SA field trips and campouts will be used to target poorly surveyed regions. Updates on progress will be provided via Birds SA Newsletter.

To be involved you will need a survey kit.

Survey kits will be available by contacting David Paton via email on david.paton@adelaide.edu.au giving a suitable postal address.

David Paton

General Meeting 13 July 2012

Items of Interest

11 members present. 4 apologies.

David Robertson to speak on his Sri Lanka trip at the next General Meeting in September.

Atlas for the birds of the Adelaide Region to commence this month and go for 2 years. (See Birds SA article)

Next OBP survey on the week-end 28th and 29th July.

Judith to investigate changes to auditing rules.

Keith advised that registration forms for the Shore Bird Conference in Adelaide are now available. Conference cost \$120 for the 2 days.

Guest speakers will be given \$30 for fuel cost when travelling from Adelaide.

Three members gave short presentations:

Judith Dyer Waders at Broome Bird Observatory

Keith Jones Surveying and record keeping of birds at the Goolwa Effluent Ponds

Wyn Syson Surveying waders on beaches of the upper St. Vincent Gulf.

Birdcall:

- ◆ 150 Great Crested Grebe at the Mine Retention Dam just north of Leigh Creek
- ◆ 2 Peregrine Falcons at Old Noarlunga
- ◆ 16 Nankeen Night Heron also at old Noarlunga
- ◆ 3 Cattle Egret on Blockers Road, Myponga
- ◆ 10 Gannet at Port Elliot and 2 seen close inshore off Goolwa Beach
- ◆ Hooded Plover recorded on Goolwa Beach
- ◆ 21 HP seen on Pipe Clay Lake on the Old Melbourne Road at Salt Creek
- ◆ 150 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos in pines in the vicinity of Neil Cheshire's home at Encounter Bay.
- ◆ Evidence that a new breeding pair of White-bellied Sea Eagles may be forming in the Newland Head area after the tragic loss of one of the existing pair last year.
- ◆ Juvenile Peregrine Falcon carcass from Inman Valley. Euthanized as a result of shattered and infected wing joint. Breeding pair still intact.



Beautiful Firetail

These little finches mate for life and raise 4-5 young in a carefully woven nest of twigs lined with feathers, fur and soft plant material. The young fledge after 3 weeks and are fed by their parents on a new roost nest for another 2-3 weeks. Like other colourful finches they are on the decline in numbers and I have only seen them a few times, the first on Kangaroo Island about 10 years ago. They are more common in Tasmania but are sometimes found on the southern parts of SA and Vic.

Wendy Phillips

Photo: *D&M Trounson*