



December 2014

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



Christmas Break-up
Saturday 6 December at 5 pm
Nangawooka Flora Reserve
Cnr Waterport Rd/Adelaide Rd VH
Bring a chair, drinks and a salad
or sweet to share.

Twilight Outing
Friday 16 January
Meet 5 pm at Mt.
Compass board-
walk behind shops
Followed by dinner
at Mt. Compass
Golf Club.
Ring Wendy to
book dinner
8550634 by Friday
9 January or
email FBW



Latham's Snipe Photo by Peter Koch taken at Goolwa Barrage

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, corner Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of March, May, September and November

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

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Newsletter: Contact email: fleurieubirds@gmail.com

Waikerie Campout



Campout—Friday 17 October, Hart Lagoon

It was a fine day with the temperature still in the twenties, when approx. 30 Fleurieu Birdwatchers met for a late afternoon walk to Hart Lagoon. This is a large backwater of the Murray River, north of the township and opposite the caravan park where we were staying.

The walk included a stretch of bushland bordering the path to the bird hide on the lagoon. The bush consisted of box gum (some in flower), saltbush and eremophila which provided us with viewings of Superb Fairy Wrens and Variegated Fairy Wrens, as well as Silvereyes, Brown Treecreepers and Weebills active and noisy in the trees.

Although the sun was in the wrong place for easy identifications at the bird hide, with some patience we were able to identify five species of duck including a few Freckled Ducks. Coots were very common, while Avocets, Black-winged Stilts and a Yellow-billed Spoonbill fed around the margins of the lagoon. Both Little Grassbirds and Reed Warblers could be heard in the reeds.

With 62 birds species recorded that evening at bird call, we had a really good start to the weekend ahead.

Pat Uppill

Welcome to New Members:

Don and Carine McGuffie

Joy Peter

Andrew and Elaine Dyson

Dick Doyle

Campout - Saturday 18 October—Gluepot.

A warm sunny day and 28 pairs of “birdeyes” gathered, some arriving earlier to make the most of the Mallee wilderness event. Many kilometres were ahead and our first stop was the Lynyjte Walk, which produced Brown-headed, Yellow-plumed and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and for some, a Red-capped Robin.

Teresa Jack, our capable leader, took us to the headquarters to sign on and we drove on to the Josie Pyle (Grass Wren) Hide and Foggo Dam Hide where the Striped Honeyeater was sighted, while others hunted down the Golden and Rufous Whistlers.

We moved on to the Old Homestead Hide and a mixed flock of Masked and White-browed Woodswallows circled over the dam in company with 18 Wood Ducks lazing by the water’s edge. Some of us visited other hides and locations and sighted the Rainbow Bee-eater, Scarlet-chested Parrot, Crimson and Orange Chats, and Tawny-crowned Babbler.

Our list for the day was 48 species and we thanked Teresa Jack for helping us fulfil our *Mallee* dreams.

Bruce Riglin



A serious photographer!



The hunters are out in the Gluepot terrain.



Striped Honeyeater
Photo *Michele Foster*



Lining up for a drink. Photo Teresa Jack

Campout Sunday 19 October — Hogwash Bend.

Our birdwatchers met at 8am at the Caravan Park at Waikerie and left in convoy for Hogwash Bend and the lure of more Noisy Miners, I mean Regent Parrots, as promised by our campout organizer, Teresa Jack. As 22 keen birdwatchers gathered round ready to hunt the promised Regent Parrots, one said look up there, there's one. Yes Teresa had delivered!! The group wandered around the old river red gums and boxwood trees delighted to find and photograph these beautiful parrots. With around 2 hours to explore the group peeled away to see what other birds were on offer. Although the Regents were the highlight, other birds included Yellow Rosellas, a large flock of Little Corellas and a Sacred Kingfisher. The bird count later revealed 40 species for Hogwash Bend – including... Noisy Miners.

Next stop was Ramco Point. The day was warming up quickly and was jolly hot by now, but undeterred many of the group drove down the rough track to the point. While walking down to the water some of us were lucky to have good views of male and female Variegated Fairy-wrens. At the wetlands the top spot went to the Sacred Kingfishers popping in and out of a nesting hollow. Pelicans, Shelduck, Hardhead, Pink-eared Ducks and Red-kneed Dotterel were amongst the usual suspects. However, the chance to watch some massive Carp in the shallows was a fascinating distraction. Back at the cars we were treated to good views of Brown Treecreepers including 1 juvenile who didn't appear to know whether he wanted to be in or out of the tree hollow. Although it had seemed quiet for birding the group saw 38 species in total for Ramco – including... Noisy Miners. We rounded off the morning with lunch at the Waikerie foreshore surrounded by lovely river views, pleasant company and you guessed it more Noisy Miners!

Michelle Foster

*Photos taken at
Hogwash Bend
by Michelle*



Regent Parrot

Waikerie Camp Thank You.

This years Camp was organised for the Riverland and specifically so we could include a day trip into Gluepot Reserve. We had a total of 30 Members and visitors participating. Some very good bird sightings and enjoyment in different habitats. The Waikerie Caravan Park was very relaxing to stay in. A very good time was had by all.

I would particularly like to thank all the helpers including our gate opener and gate closer along with "tail end Charlie" for our Gluepot outing and the setting up of the screen and projector for the slide show evening. Thanks to Graeme, Pat, Jerry, Keith along with Wendy and Bob.

Teresa Jack.

Scarlet-Chested Parrot Photo *Teresa Jack*



Thursday 30 October, Currency Creek

Eleven members and friends recorded 20 species on the outing to Currency Creek Arboretum. We were met by the owner, Dean Nicolle at the Currency Creek Lions Park. He has a passionate interest in Australian Eucalypts which led him to establish the Arboretum about 20 years ago. He took us across country to his 80 acre block which is on a hillside and as the weather was kind with only a slight breeze and clear skies we had superb views to the south east across the to the lakes. There were lots of trees in flower. The spectacular large flowered Western Australian species caused plenty of interest amongst most of the birdos. We wandered among the rows of trees but there was not much bird activity, perhaps because of the lack of understorey and no water in the dam.



Red Wattlebirds, Willie Wagtails, New Holland Honeyeaters, Crested Pigeons and Rainbow Lorikeets were seen. Down by the old dam we found some Superb Fairy-wrens and White-plumed Honeyeaters.

We heard Striated Pardalotes, Kookaburras, Grey Shrike -thrush and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. Raptors were in short supply despite the clear skies.

We returned to the Lions Park for lunch and bird call. Afterwards we had a quick look along the rather unkempt path next to the creek but nothing out of the ordinary was seen.

Edith St George.



Photos by Bob Daly

Sunday 16th November Paiwalla Outing (Murray Bridge)

Unfortunately we were advised to cancel the Outing due to rain the day before making the ground too boggy. All members were sent an email the night before and others phoned to let them know.

We expected some members would not get the message in time and turn up at the meeting point so we decided to re-direct them to Murray Bridge and find another location. However by 8.30 am Peter Koch inspected the area and found it had dried out enough to visit.

This outing will now be re-scheduled next year for those who missed out.

Wendy Phillips

For the 7 members who did not check their email we had a wonderful outing. The rain had ceased but the southerly winds were cool. Peter's love and enthusiasm and knowledge of the wetland helped us see 63 species of birds, 3 snakes, a legless lizard, a possum in a nest box as well as a Perron's tree frog. The highlights included Baillon's Crake, Spotted Crake and a Black-tailed Godwit, a single Avocet and numerous Black-winged Stilts. A female Darter gave a wonderful display while drying her wings. A single Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo displayed on a branch close enough for everyone to get a good look and a pair of Peregrine Falcon patrolled the cliffs. A Whistling Kite with a fish in its mouth flew off before us.

Thanks to Peter Koch for showing us around the wetland.

Yrena Mountford



Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo

Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Fleurieu Birdwatchers were contacted to give a talk to the local McLaren Vale Club which provides a day out for older people. We arranged to go during the 2014 Aussie Backyard Bird Count. The co-ordinator provided photos of local birds and we gave a commentary. We then went outside and did a survey and were pleased to record 13 species.

On our return inside we showed a film of the nest box in our garden at McLaren Vale, which has a camera fitted inside. The Eastern Rosellas bred again this year but this is the first time we have been able to watch them. The film was well received, especially the egg-laying segment



which caused much merriment.

We were asked to return again for another group two days later. When we did our survey this time everyone had good views of Red-rumped Parrots. We have been asked to come again and show more footage of the nest box as the chicks grow and fledge. The visit prompted much discussion about birds in the local gardens.



Joyce West & Faye Lush.

(Amazing! 6 Chicks have just fledged.)

Friday 14 November General Meeting Items of Interest:

Nineteen members were present with three apologies received .

A bird site brochure is being compiled for the Victor Harbor area and a meeting organised with the graphic designer doing the layout. Further input required from members with 10 sites selected.

Keith has drawn up an outing schedule for next year and after further review it will be printed in the February Newsletter. The first outing for the year will be a January twilight meeting (see front page) followed by an optional dinner at the Mt. Compass Golf Club with a quiz from Elaine. Please book for the dinner.

Speakers for Meetings have been planned for next year with a members night included for Sept.

Payment for guest speakers will be given to contribute to their fuel cost. Cheque sent to Dean Nicolle.

Venue for the Annual General Meeting in March discussed and a decision to be made later.

We plan to have a meeting closer to people from the Southern Suburbs to make it easier for them to attend and one meeting planned for Willunga in May.

Rena Robinson from Wildlife Rescue

gave a fascinating talk and slide show on the difficulties and traumas of rescuing local birds mainly injured by fishing line and hooks from careless fisher-people. Lack of any government support surprised most members, as did the extent of the problem locally and the workload on only two rescuers currently operating the local service 24/7. Rena has a mini hospital on her own property where she treats injured animals and if they are too sick to be released back in the wild they are euthanized.

Her dedication to capture and treat injured birds for the last 15-20 years is remarkable and we were bewildered that our government does not provide any assistance as the Dept. of Environment has been severely slashed over the last few years.

However, Rena hopes our local government may be able to build a facility in the future as she will not be able to continue indefinitely. She desperately needs more volunteers to teach them how to catch and manage wild birds and animals, but they must be fit and agile and be available to receive phone calls at any time of the day or night. This makes it hard to find suitable people able to do the work as some of it is very distressing.

The Wildlife Shop has been successful in raising money for the organization to be self sufficient as the cost of vet fees and medicine is enormous.

Injured Pelicans numbers have been very high this year as they hang about any fishing person waiting for a free feed of carp and often dive their bills into the water to catch the fish as it is brought to land, swallowing the hook and line too.

A donation from FBW will be sent to the Wildlife group to continue their care of local birds.

Local Bird Calendar

By Elizabeth Steele-Collins

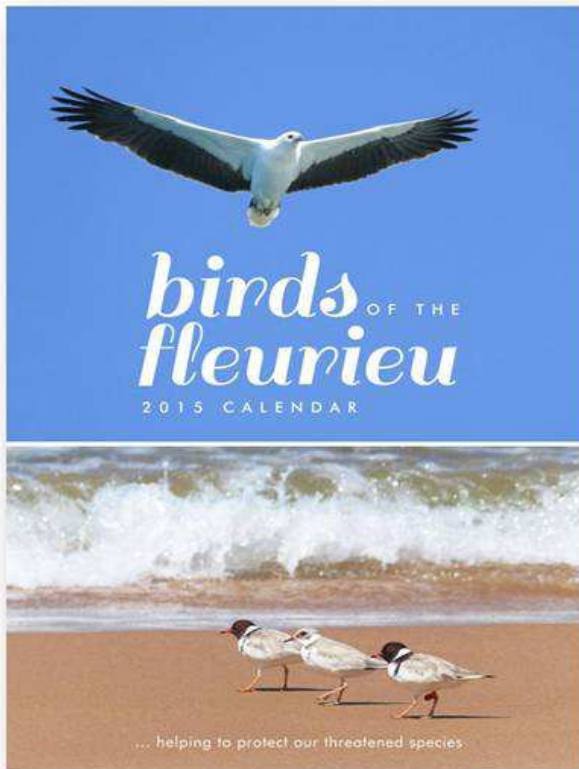
The order form and postage details are on the website
www.clifftopcreations.com

Also available at selected outlets in Victor and Goolwa
(Calendars will be available at the Christmas Breakup)

Proceeds fund the Hooded Plover project.

Good news: One Hooded Plover chick out of three survived and fledged at Maslins Beach this season. Others are nesting along our beaches.

Take great care as we need them ALL.



Threatened beach birds recognised by Government.

The Hooded Plover has officially been listed as *Vulnerable* under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. (EPBC Act)

Volunteers have been donating many hours of work to try and recover the population along our popular beaches. This status will help to promote the program even further.

Volunteers netting and banding beach-nesting birds and waders at Port Prime recently with Maureen Christie and Emma Stephens.
Photo from *Win Syson who was also helping.*



BirdLife Calendar for sale @ \$14.95 order on line from BirdLife Australia. Great gift for friends and family or to post overseas. Proceeds used for conservation of Birds.

Birdcall: Pat Uppill reported a pair of Golden Whistler nesting near her house. **Tolderol** ponds are now attracting birds after water has been pumped into the basins for the first time in 5-6 years. There's ducks, 1000 Whiskered Tern, a Greenshank, Black-winged Stilts, Swamp Harrier and Ibis seen there recently. Also 6 Red-necked Stints and 8 Red-capped Plovers have been sighted at Yankalilla river estuary. The Hooded Plovers at Bashams have 2 eggs, at Hindmarsh Estuary they have 1 egg on their fourth attempt. The Inman Estuary pair has relocated to Yilki and have two hatched chicks around 1 week old. Win has seen a Marsh Sandpiper together with Curlew Sandpipers and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers below the Barrage. Two Latham's Snipe have been seen near the Goolwa bird hide. Win reported a Semipalmated Sandpiper has been seen at Pelican Point at Carpenters Rocks

Web Stats for September:

135 visits

93 from Australia

42 from overseas

This shows the importance of having a FBW site. Thank you to Verle Wood for managing the site.

Information on the Monitoring Cameras at Gluepot Watering Points:

We set the cameras up at the Bird Hides to gain some knowledge of what is happening at different times of the day and night and also at our Mallee Fowl mounds and on the boundaries of Gluepot to give us an idea of the goats and other animals that frequent the area. The cameras are triggered by movement and viewed later on the computer.

They have become an excellent form of data collection.

We set them to Video every 15 seconds with a run time of one minute. They will take about 700 videos on a 32gb card

We have seen birds that we thought would never come to the water points. We also found that some do some very unusual things!

Ravens bring lizards to the water and soak them before eating them. (Maybe to soften them). They also bring strips of bark to the water and leave them to soak for a while then take them off to build their nest.

The cameras are called LTI Acorn **Model LTI-6210MC** and are a motion camera. You can set them to take video or stills and also video and stills together at any sequence you choose, from seconds to minutes apart.

We purchased solar panels to charge the batteries and as long as they face the sun will run for a year or more.

We purchased the cameras from EazyWayDirect in Sydney. Phone 0293182792 and ask for Ian.

They also sell on Ebay. If you look up the Number 230852543051 on Ebay you will see the Camera and Sola Panel Kit sells for \$255.

By Tim Pascoe.



Waiting turns to dip and drink at the Bird Hide are:

1. Yellow-plumed H.E, Brown-headed H.E. and Mulga Parrot.
2. Spiny-cheeked H.E. and Brown-headed H.E.

Absolutely entertaining us all at Gluepot!

Photos by *Bob Daly*

BirdLife Australia accepted the Fleurieu Birdwatchers affiliation and would like our members to send their email address to them so that you can receive regular e-news updates. <https://support.birdlife.org.au/sign-up>

However, if you do not wish to do this I will forward items of interest via our Newsletters.

(Editor)