



February 2011

# Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



*If outings are cancelled due to inclement weather or any other circumstance, emails will be sent to members and the information posted on the website Outings page. If you do not have email phone one of the people whose numbers are listed below.*

⊙ **Saturday 19 February. Hindmarsh Island**

Meet at Ferryman's Reserve, 500 m past the bridge on right.  
35°30'29"S 138°47'35"E

⊙ **Friday 11 March. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

Member speaker: Judith Dyer — *Birdsville Track and Beyond*

⊙ **Sunday 13 March. Newland Head Conservation Park**

Meet at Dennis Hut in the campground. 35°37'39"S 138°29'59"E

⊙ **Wednesday 30 March. Onkaparinga Gorge**

Meet in Woolworth's car park, corner Main South Road and Penney's Hill Road, Hackham. 35°08'51"S 138°31'33"E

⊙ **Saturday 16 April. Clayton/Milang**

Meet at the railway carriage, Milang. 35°24'32"S 138°58'17"E

⊙ **Thursday 28 April. Manning Reserve. (if leader available)**

Meet at the gate on the eastern boundary, Whiting Road, McLaren Flat. 35°11'26"S 138°34'4E

I took over compiling and distributing *Fleurieu Birdwatch* in December 1998 and this is my last edition. Thank you to all who have contributed outing reports, items of interest and, since 2002, photographs. Special thanks to Judith and Ann for their loyal support and help over those very fulfilling years.

We are most grateful to Wendy Phillips' partner, Bob, who has stepped forward to continue bringing you six newsletters each year.

Best wishes. Verle

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30 pm Friday 11 March

Anglican Church Hall, Crocker Street, Goolwa



All Committee positions will be vacant.

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

If you enjoy birdwatching activities

**please consider taking a turn**

to contribute to the smooth ongoing running of the group.

No special skills are required.

Two-hour committee meetings are held five or six times a year.

If you would like to join the Committee for the coming year please speak to a current Committee Member to find out what is involved.

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



Swamp Harrier, Willie Wagtail silhouette, Dusky Woodswallow at Jarnu.  
Photos: Peter Gower

### Leaders for weekday outings

Denzel will lead weekend outings, or arrange a substitute.

Peter Gower will lead the Wednesday outing to Onkaparinga Gorge on Wednesday 30 March.

Leaders are required for other weekday outings listed below. No bird expertise is needed but prior knowledge of the site track is essential. Please contact the Secretary to volunteer.

#### **No leader, no outing!**

See website or phone for updates.

- Thursday 28 April. Manning Reserve
- Wednesday 25 May. Mt Magnificent
- Thursday 30 June. Aldinga CP
- Wednesday 27 July. Hindmarsh Island
- Thursday 1 September. Hindmarsh River, Victor Harbor
- Wednesday 28 September. Hardy's Scrub, McLaren Vale
- Wednesday 30 November. Goolwa: Beacon 19 and Effluent Ponds



### Goolwa Barrages

Saturday 4 December

This was the hottest Christmas break-up day that I can recall. The temperature was supposed to get to 34°C and even at 4 pm it felt as though it was still there.

Twenty-seven of us did a short walk to look at the (mostly) Pelican and Little Black Cormorant, and one Black-faced Cormorant resting on the rocks at the barrage.

It was really too hot to bother for long and we all fairly soon wandered back to sit in the shade and chat. There was no point in going further because the water was too high and with no sand showing, no need to look for waders.

Judith told us she was stepping down from her walks duties and was looking a replacement or replacements.

I was quite entertained by the coincidence that 27 of us spotted 27 species of birds for the afternoon.

Jean Boomer

### Jarnu, private property, Currency Creek

Friday 14 January

Eighteen members set out on our annual Twilight Walk, accompanied by that many billion mosquitoes. We smothered ourselves with repellent but it didn't stop many of the little blighters nipping the missed spots and through shirts.

The site is renowned for Elegant Parrot and they were plentiful. It was good to see Hooded Robin perched on a yakka, Common Bronzewing flying through, and lots of Dusky Woodswallow above and perching obligingly on leafless branches. A few Tree Martin flitted around but nothing like the numbers we saw on our last twilight visit to this site. The sole raptor for the evening was a Swamp Harrier, and Geoff is going to eat his hat over that identification! Wait for it!

The mozzies kept pace with us as we trekked through the banksia patch, the scrub and then back across grassland to the stile. We adjourned some kilometres away, to a parking area on the side of the main Goolwa-Strathalbyn road, for bird call.

We ticked off 31 species, with good numbers in most on this delightful summer evening.

Verle Wood

### BOOM AND BUST

The last two years have been very wet across most of the inland region of South Australia and 2010 has seen the Murray/Darling basin also receive plenty of rain. With the rains comes the breeding of many bird species. As the populations expand there is going to be a spread of birds to further places, including our area. I can remember when there were Budgies, Cockatiels and Zebra Finches commonly seen in the summer throughout the Southern Mt Lofty Ranges and into the upper South-east. Even Letter-winged Kites made it to Langhorne Creek 1975-1977 (H J Eckert).

Just as the birds have cycles of boom and bust it looks like our birding group is going through a similar cycle. We have been going quite well, but now some of our longer serving members would like a well deserved break. One of the important positions we are having trouble finding help to do is outings organiser. This entails leading or organising someone to lead and do bird call at the field trips. Once settled you could also compile the places to visit each year. You don't need to be a good bird observer, just someone who is able to get to locations and know your way around or able to get in touch with members to take the field trip. Without someone to fill this important role there can be no field trips.

With the AGM due soon we also need two or three new Committee Members to help run the group. Without committee to run the organisation of our group we are destined to dissolution. So if you want to continue with organised birdwatching to see the booming bird populations that may turn up in our region then please consider helping the group.

Denzel Murfet, Chairperson

Birds are back in Bool Lagoon: hundreds of magpie geese, brolgas and reports of bitterns booming recently. So if anyone has a couple of spare days before the duck-shooting season, a quick trip to Bool Lagoon is well worthwhile. Graeme and Yrena Mountford