



February 2012

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



- **Saturday 18th February.** Hindmarsh Island, Ferryman's Reserve.
35°30'29" S 138°47'35" E
- **Friday 9th March 2012.** AGM 7.30pm Anglican Church Hall.
- **Sunday 11th March.** Scott CP. Deep Ck. / Frome Rd. Currency Creek
35°25'19" S 138°43'24" E
- **Wednesday 21st March.** Laratinga Wetlands Bald Hills Rd. Mt Barker
- **Thursday 12th April.** Parawa (Private Property) Junction Parawa/
Range Roads Parawa.
35°33'39" S 138°21'41" E

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

Annual Outings for 2012
See page 4

Tawny Frogmouth family at Glenalta.
Photo: *Julie Kuchel*



AGM
AGM is on Friday 9th March 2012
(Not 2nd March as in last Newsletter)
Talk by Denzel Murfet on
'Bird Records from Port Elliot and
Scott CP'

ADVANCE NOTICE
Campout 2012 October 12th, 13th and 14th.
Southern Yorke Peninsula
Leader: Teresa Jack
Staying at: Marion Bay Caravan Park
www.marionbaycp.com.au/
Phone: 8854 4094

Welcome to New Member: Gillian Satchell of Goolwa

- 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
- Contacts:** Pat Uppill—8552 4288; Judith Dyer—8555 2736
fleurieubirds@gmail.com
- Website:** www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org
- Newsletter:** Contact fleurieubirds@gmail.com

OUTINGS

Goolwa Barrage area, 30 November 2011.

Ten Fleurieu birders met at the Goolwa Barrage in adverse conditions with strong westerly winds and looming rain showers. With a large flow of water still being released through the Barrage good feeding conditions in the area attracted plenty of water birds, and our sightings included two Darter, 400 Little Black Cormorant, 20 Great Cormorant, 150 Black Swan, 700 Grey Teal, 15 Musk Duck, 800 Coot, 1000 Whiskered Tern, 40 Caspian Tern and two Fairy Tern. Of particular interest were three Black-faced Cormorant and eight Great Crested Grebe. High water covered most of the muddy margins between the Barrage and Beacon 19 resulting in a low count of waders and few species. Sharp-eyed members of the group found two Latham's Snipe just upstream from the Barrage and another four around the Signal Point lagoon. A Golden-headed Cisticola was at first heard then located at the lagoon. Fortunately the rain passed us by and the wind slowly moderated during the morning. Lunch was taken on the Goolwa foreshore sheltering behind our cars and the final bird call revealed a commendable tally of 61 species.

Neil Cheshire.

Photo: *Peter Gower*



Recent Article from 'The Advertiser' about Win Syson and the birds at 'Beyond'

Birds rarely seen on the South Coast are flocking to the wetland at Beyond Today, a housing development near Victor Harbor.

Bird watcher Winston Syson, 69, from Port Elliot, has conducted regular surveys at the wetland since November 2007, but he says this year has been better than ever.

"The birds have bred up and they're coming this way, including a couple from overseas, Siberia and Japan, the sharp-tailed sandpiper and Latham's snipe" he said.

So far, Mr Syson has spotted more than 80 species of water bird, including migratory birds. "I spotted an amazing 45 different species in one day, which is a remarkable outcome for one site," he said.

"Before this wetland was created I can tell you these birds rarely or never came to this part of the coast."

Known to friends as The Bird Man, Mr Syson gets really excited when he comes across a bird he hasn't seen before.

Yesterday he was thrilled to see the glossy ibis. The bird's feathers look black from a distance, but in the binoculars the true glossy green colour of its coat shines through.

Advertiser



South Coast birder Winston Syson at the Beyond Today wetland development. Picture: Tricia Walker

Christmas Breakup

Hindmarsh Falls Saturday 3rd December, 2011

A cool, overcast and threatening evening for our Xmas breakup did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 22 members who gathered. The lazy wind was penetrating but we remained dry.

Following a quiet walk to the falls and into the scrubland to the north of the car park we settled in for some Xmas cheer and happy socializing. Although 28 species were recorded the birds were making themselves scarce; just one of this and one of that, other than the White-naped Honeyeater, Grey Fantails, Striated Thornbills and Magpies. Other notable sightings were an Eastern Spinebill, and a Sacred Kingfisher

Something a little different was tried this year. The committee supplied and prepared cold meats in place of the traditional BBQ and members contributed with salads and sweets. We did ourselves proud and in spite of the closing weather we lingered on enjoying each other's company.

Altogether a very successful and enjoyable end to a year of great outings.

Judith Dyer

Photo: *Peter Gower*



INMAN RIVER FLATS FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY

Fifteen members met at the Council horse stables for our first outing of the New Year.

It was a cool, overcast evening, with a slight breeze.

We were welcomed by the horses, two in particular, very pretty pale roans, were very interested in us, in fact they wanted to get out and come with us. One even had the gate chain in his mouth showing what was necessary for them to escape. However, in reality it would have been very hard to fit 15 birds, with binocs etc astride two horses!

The river walk was very comfortable. We walked to the boundary of the V.H. Golf Club, the course looks magnificent, with the fairways and greens in perfect condition.

On our return stroll we noticed an abundance of rabbits enjoying the pile of dead branches etc on the golf course, with a Crested Pigeon or two keeping an eye on them. The main party continued to the pump house, Ann & Elaine decided to bird watch from the comfort of the bull bar on Denzel's vehicle.

We all then enjoyed the bird count and had a very pleasant chat whilst sitting in the shelter of the large shrubbery.

Total bird count 35 species in all.

Highlight for me was the great number of White-plumed Honeyeaters, at least 40. Other sightings were: Tree Martins 30, Superb Fairy-wren 20, Yellow Spoonbill 1, Crested Shrike-tit 2, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike 3, Goldfinch 5, Musk Lorikeet 2, Striated Pardalote 4, also we heard a Kookaburra just across the road nearby. Very pleasant way to spend an evening.

Elaine O'Shaughnessy.

WEBSITE UPDATE—Site will be active within the next few days

Our earliest pre-2000 website was set up by one of our members Mary Haywood of Clayton, and was attached to her personal site. We had a web presence!

With considerable help from my late brother Alwyn, I later set up a dedicated site on my personal web space. A few years ago, my daughter Ros helped me to update it and we chose Melbourne IT as a host. This arrangement has been good and hassle free. As time has sped on so has the technology. Using the more recently developed program WordPress, Ros has now re-vamped our site to bring us well into the 21st century. Creating a new look tells the world that we are indeed part of the modern world and we care about our birds.

Wordpress is a simple and easy-to-use program. For us, it means the job of updating pages, such as the Outings page, can be done by just about anyone with basic computer skills.

Our address (fleuriebirdwatchers.org) and many of the pages remain the same. Get clicking and explore the site, especially the Bendleby Ranges photos in the new 2011 Campout page.

(Remember to refresh your pages when you first access the new site)

Verle Wood

Painted Snipe at Onkaparinga Wetlands

Photos by Teresa Jack December 2011

This species is classified as vulnerable in Australia and rare in South Australia.

The female is more colourful than the male and is found around inland fresh or brackish wetlands.

Teresa spotted these birds in November and December 2011 in the Noarlunga area. Well done Teresa!!



Proposed Birdwatch Outings for 2012

Day	Date	Location	Leader
Saturday	18-Feb	Hindmarsh Island	Denzel Murfett
Sunday	11-Mar	Scott CP	Denzel Murfett
Wednesday	21-Mar	Laratinga Wetlands Mt Barker	Neil Cheshire
Thursday	12-Apr	Private property Parawa	Geoff Evans
Saturday	21-Apr	Mt Billy CP	Denzel Murfett
Sunday	13-May	Newland Head	Denzel Murfett
Wednesday	23-May	Onkaparinga River	Peter Gower
Saturday	16-Jun	Nurragi Reserve	Denzel Murfett
Thursday	28-Jun	Aldinga Scrub	Nick Tebneff
Sunday	15-Jul	Cox's Scrub	Denzel Murfett
Wednesday	25-Jul	Ingolalla Falls	Bob Daly
Saturday	18-Aug	Kyeema CP	Denzel Murfett
Thursday	30-Aug	Hardy's Scrub	Teresa Jack
Sunday	16-Sep	Bullock Hill CP Ashbourne	Denzel Murfett
Wednesday	26-Sep	Clayton	Neil Cheshire
Fri/Sat/Sun	12-15 Oct	Annual Campout Southern Yorke Peninsula	Teresa Jack
Saturday	20-Oct	Goolwa Ponds / Beacon 19	Denzel Murfett
Sunday	11-Nov	Hindmarsh River Victor Harbor	Denzel Murfett
Thursday	22-Nov	Jarnu Currency Creek	Judith Dyer
Saturday	1-Dec	Christmas Break up (Location TBA)	

Fairy Tern News (Clare Manning DENR)

21st December 2011

We are pleased to report that **109 fairy terns** are through the first stages of breeding on an island in the Coorong South Lagoon. Based on our January 2011 census this is about 60% of the Coorong fairy tern population.

Even more pleasing is over **35 chicks** and lots more eggs to hatch, likely early next week.

Of interest is that 34 of the adult birds were also banded from previous years including 1 adult from the Youngusband Peninsula breeding site (Jan 2011). There was plenty of courtship behaviour observed too and a single pair of breeding little terns - is this the same pair from last season???

Monday 9th January 2012

Update: The active colony of fairy terns in the Coorong South Lagoon are doing very well, with chicks highly mobile and due to fledge in the next week or so. Furthermore, 2 additional breeding colonies have also established in the Coorong South Lagoon. All these island locations are better protected from foxes and so far things are looking very promising for successful fledging! On all accounts almost all of the adult fairy terns in the Coorong are breeding! You may also recall that a remote camera was installed, which has provided some great footage of nesting adults, courting adults, and feeding chicks .



Photo: Clare Manning

Coorong Waders Census

The Australian Waders Study Group was founded in 1981 as a special interest group and each year they have the mammoth task of counting ALL the waders; sandpipers, snipes, curlews, plovers etc. over two days and this year will combine with the second round of the Fairy Tern census on 4th and 5th February.

STOP PRESS—Photography Special Interest Group

A Birdlife Australia Photographic group is being formed in early 2012. They are planning a 3 day bird photography forum at Gluepot Reserve on 26-28th April. Contact Peter Gower at gowerphotos@gmail.com for further information.