



October 2012

# Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



**12-15 October Annual Campout, Marion Bay Caravan Park, Yorke Peninsula**  
**Saturday 20 October Goolwa Ponds/Wetlands Kessell Road Goolwa**  
35°30'2" S 138°45'29" E  
**Sunday 11 November Hindmarsh River**  
Cnr Hindmarsh Road and Wattle Avenue, VH  
35°32'39" S 138°37'39" E  
**Friday 9 November General Meeting**  
**Thursday 22 November, Lion's Park, Goolwa—Strath Rd Currency Creek**  
35°27'17" S 138°45'35 E  
**Saturday 1 December Christmas Breakup Oscar W Trip (See Page 4)**

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

**REMINDER !**  
**ANNUAL CAMPOUT**  
**SEE PAGE 4**

**REMINDER !**  
**BIRD OUTING SURVEY**  
**PLEASE COMPLETE**  
**EMAILED SURVEY FORM**  
**AND RETURN TO**  
fleurieubirds@gmail.com



**What's your guess?**  
(see page 3 for a clue !)

Photo: Julie Kuchel

**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

**Kyeema 18 August**

Cold and showers was the forecast for the day and it was right. Only four members turned up for this damp walk. We managed to find 26 species when fine between the drizzly showers. One of the unusual features of this walk was a high number of Brown Thornbills seen. We recorded 20 seen. Only 4 other species made it to double figures showing how difficult it was for good birding. We disbanded before lunch as more showers were on their way.

*Denzel Murfet*

**Hardy's Scrub 30 August**

On a cool and breezy morning 6 members met at Gate 16, with Teresa leading. Everything was washed fresh and clean after a wet night and luckily for us the forecast rain stayed away. We set off and were soon making our way through the beautiful scented wattles which in places had taken over the path. The plants looked magnificent and made up for the smaller bird count. Orchids, Running Postman and Boronias were a delight. There were bird boxes at intervals in some of the trees – no evidence of any birds in them but a possum had taken advantage of the shelter and was curled up inside one of these. We came to a halt at the dam, which was swollen and impassable. Wendy went bush to try and find a way through, but with no success. There were no birds on the water and we returned the way we had come. 6 Mistletoebirds entertained us along the way. Other birds of note were Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Grey Currawong, Eastern Spinebill, Crescent Honeyeater, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown and Yellow Thornbills, Silvereye. Striated Pardalote, Wood and Pacific Black duck, as well as Little Raven, Superb Fairy-wren and Crimson Rosella. The only non native birds seen were 3 European Goldfinch. The outing concluded with an early lunch and bird call with 23 species, followed by a discussion.

*Jenny Fontanot*



Jenny in Acacias  
Photo: *Teresa Jack*



Blood Greenhood Orchid  
Photo: *Jenny Fontanot*



Mistletoe Bird  
Photo: *Teresa Jack*

## Bullock Hill

Sunday 16 September

Some had an eventful start to this morning's walk. The sandy track from the road into the start of the trail was waterlogged in several places, with barely enough solid track to negotiate between deep wheel ruts. Two members in a campervan came to grief at the last hurdle and had to be rescued while the rest of us parked and slowly made our way down the boundary fence. The track here was even worse, deliberately vandalised by apparent 4WD vehicle testing.

But we were on foot now so skirted the mire. The drama over we were now nine in number and it wasn't long before the serious birdwatching set in. Several honeyeaters and thornbills flitted through the foliage, including Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Brown Thornbill, but best for me here was a good look at a Spotted Pardalote in bright spring colour.

As we passed through the gate we tried to count the Tree Martin, and later settled on a three-figure number for the record. Several Elegant Parrot, Musk Lorikeet and a Brown Falcon posed for us on the dead trees here and near the dam someone found four Red-browed Finch. I missed those but was compensated by a delightful Mistletoebird who left his mistletoe to show himself.

On the downhill stretch we could hear White-browed Babbler, as we had earlier, but I'm not sure that anyone actually spotted them. A number of us were distracted by the wildflowers and orchids emerging among the previously burnt scrub.

We gathered for an early lunch and a slight sprinkle of raindrops almost interrupted bird call. Count for the morning a goodly 45 species. The consensus was that bird numbers here and everywhere have increased in the last 2-3 winters since the drought.

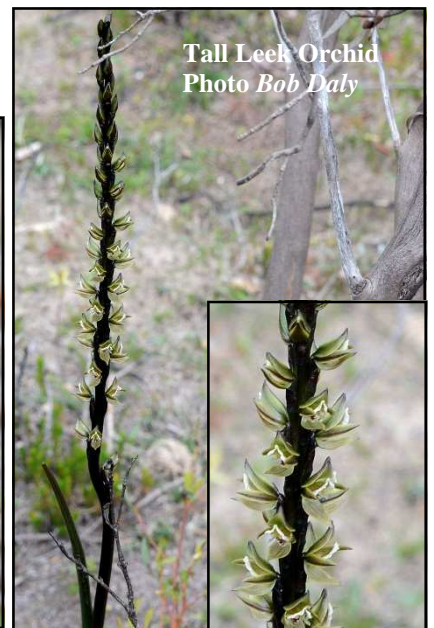
Verle Wood



Spotted Pardalote  
Photo: Peter Gower



Red Beaks Orchid  
Photo: Bob Daly



Tall Leek Orchid  
Photo Bob Daly



Rainbow Lorikeets: Glenalta  
Photo: Julie Kuchel



# Annual Campout 12-15 Oct 2012.

Camping in the Marion Bay Caravan Park, accommodation to suit all styles just a few shrubs away from the beach. Phone: (08) 8854 4094 for bookings.

## Program:

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 4pm meet in the Caravan Park for a walk around the town and beach.  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 8am meet in the Caravan Park for an outing in Innes NP followed by lunch.  
Afternoon free for you own enjoyment.  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 8am meet in the Caravan Park for an outing in Innes NP followed by lunch.  
Afternoon free for you own enjoyment.  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> No Program but Teresa will be available for an outing for those that have no need to head home immediately.

- Evening activities and Bird call in the Camp Kitchen
- Bring binoculars, hat, insect spray, chair and lunch each day.
- Outings may be exchanged depending on the weather.

Contact Teresa at: [teresajack57@yahoo.com](mailto:teresajack57@yahoo.com) for a map and details of suggested alternative sites and any other queries.

## Christmas Breakup 'OSCAR W' Cruise

- WHEN:** Saturday 1st December  
**TIME:** Time 2.45pm to depart at 3pm Return Approximately 6pm  
**WHERE:** Goolwa Wharf  
**COST:** \$30 per head  
**DINNER:** On-Board Meat supplied, Bring Salad or Desert to share + Drinks  
Tea & Coffee Supplied  
**BOOKINGS:** Contact Judith Dyer phone 8555 2736  
**PAYMENT:** EFT Preferred  
Account Name: Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc  
EFT Details: BANK SA BSB Number 105160 Account Number 015551140  
Important: In the Reference Box on the Transfer Screen, please enter your name  
( abbreviate if necessary ).  
**DEADLINE:** Payment required before Thursday 1st November 2012  
**NUMBERS:** Limited to 50 people BOOK EARLY!!

## Surveying “cryptic” birds around Lakes Alexandrina and Albert.

DEWNR (Department of Environment, Water & Natural resources) is conducting surveys to determine the distribution and abundance of cryptic waterbirds around Lakes Alexandrina and Albert. A main goal of this work is to gain a better understanding of the habitats and sites that are important to these birds. In this project, our “cryptic” bird species are those that have a secretive nature and tend to hide in thick fringing vegetation around the lakes.

### Rare species:

**Australian Little Bittern, Australian Painted Snipe, Australasian Bittern, Australian Spotted Crake, Buff-banded Rail, Latham’s Snipe, Lewin’s Rail, Spotless Crake, Baillon’s Crake**

### Common Species:

**Australian Reed-warbler, Dusky Moorhen, Golden-headed Cisticola, Little Grassbird, Purple Swamphen**

Please contact Jody O’Connor of the DEWNR Science Resource Centre

Email: [Jody.O’Connor@sa.gov.au](mailto:Jody.O’Connor@sa.gov.au)

Phone: 8222 9326

She would like to hear from you if you have recorded the calls of any of the abovementioned species, and would be willing to share them for use in this study. (Payment offered for audio files).

If you spot any of the species on our “rare” species list in fringing habitats around Lakes Alexandrina/Albert and their tributaries (Currency Ck, Finniss River, Tookayerta Ck) between Sept 2012 and Jan 2013. Please describe the location and habitat where you saw the bird if possible (i.e. Lewin’s Rail sighted emerging from *Phragmites* reedbeds at Tolderol Game Reserve).



Spotless Crake Photo: PK



Spotted Crake Photo: Judith Dyer



Buff-banded Rail Photo: Teresa Jack



Dusky Moorhen Photo: Bob Daly

### **General Meeting 14 September 2012**

#### **Items of Interest:**

13 Members present. Guest Speaker David Robertson spoke on the birds of Sri Lanka

Proposal to buy a laptop computer for FBW use was approved.

Ferryman’s Reserve Hindmarsh Island to be monitored monthly for bird-count for the HI Land-care Group

Colleen Evans has a display at the Victor Harbor Library on birds of the Fleurieu Peninsula

## Special Interest Group: BirdLife Photography.

As our name implies we are a national group which focuses (excuse the pun) on bird photography. We have over 300 members nationally and are keen to expand our membership into South Australia. In fact we held a very successful camp-out at Gluepot Reserve a few months ago with over 20 attendees from SA.

After this event, a group was launched in SA under our banner which now has 30 members.

To learn more about us please have a look at our brochure:

<http://www.birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/branches/documents/PHO-Photography-brochure.pdf>

Our main form of communication and education is our bi-monthly newsletter. Just click on the link below to have a browse through these highly informative documents:

[www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-photography/publications-pho](http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-photography/publications-pho)

For more information about the SA bird photography group please contact their convener Peter Gower at: [sabirdphoto@gmail.com](mailto:sabirdphoto@gmail.com)

To join, download the membership form at: [www.birdlife.org.au/documents/JOIN-photographyform.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org.au/documents/JOIN-photographyform.pdf) and return to BirdLife Australia, Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester Street, CARLTON VIC 3053.



Pied Oystercatcher with flags Photo: *Ann Houghton*



Eastern Curlew Photo: *Ann Houghton*

### OUTING—Clayton Wednesday 26th September.

Neil Cheshire led 7 members plus Wendy's two young grandsons around the shores of Lake Alexandrina and found many water birds present. These included Crested and Whiskered Terns, Pelicans and Silver Gulls and all 4 species of Cormorants. Walking past the Yacht Club towards the boardwalk we saw Purple Swamphen nest building in the reeds and we listened to Reed Warblers nearby. There were a couple of Great Crested Grebes close to the shore and a few small grebes in the distance. 500 Grey Teal along with many Eurasian Coots, a few Hardheads and Chestnut Teal were seen on the large swamp area on the outskirts of the town and a couple of Great Egrets near the farm houses. We stopped at a few other sites at the back of the town where strong winds had come up and the bird life had all but vanished! We just caught a glimpse of 3 Swamp Harriers flying over the hills and could not believe there where no swans in sight. It was a very enjoyable morning in a delightful location with lunch in a sheltered BBQ and a bird call of 44 species.

*Wendy Phillips*

Note size comparison of smaller (Whiskered) and larger (Crested) Terns at Clayton

Photos: *Bob Daly*

