



August 2013

# Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



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

**WANTED:  
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR  
NEWSLETTER FROM  
MEMBERS!**

**REMINDER  
CAMPOUT - ROBE  
Oct 18 to 21 2013**

See details previous  
newsletter. Please ring  
Wendy 8555 0634  
to confirm your attend-  
ance.

**Saturday 17 August—Currency Creek Arboretum  
Lions Park, Currency Creek.**

35°27'17" E 138° 45'35"

**Thursday 27 August —Aldinga Scrub C.P. and Washpool.  
Cox Rd Aldinga, Gate opposite Aldinga Holiday Park**

35°17'50"S 138°27'30"E

**Friday 13 September — General Meeting. Guest speaker,  
Emma Stephens. Beach-nesting Birds.**

**Sunday 15 September — Newland Head C.P. Dennis Hut.**

35°37'39" S 138°29'59" E

**Wednesday 25 September —Hardy's Scrub, Blewitt Springs.  
Gate 14, Chapel Hill Rd**

35°10'24" S 138°34'49" E



Photos: Teresa Jack

**What a treat for an Egret at Goolwa Barrage!!**

**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:** Neil Cheshire on 8552 7904 or fleurieubirds@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org](http://www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org)

**Newsletter:** Contact fleurieubirds@gmail.com

# OUTINGS

## Scott Conservation Park. 27 June. A Girl's Day Out! !

Six ladies enjoyed perfect calm, sunny conditions for the walk.

Up in a paddock across the road to the entrance to the park two Shelducks watched our arrival.

Wendy led us along the track towards the northern boundary never far from a white, pink or red, flowering Eucalyptus.

The whole park was a hive of activity, not only from the birds as the bees were humming everywhere too. Echidnas had been digging and some Mosquito Orchids were in flower. Lorikeets were busy checking out nesting holes or feeding in the blossoms. There were Musk, Purple-crowned and Rainbow Lorikeets. The parrots included Elegant, Crimson Rosella, Galah and Little Corella.

Honeyeaters were up there too. These were Brown-headed, Yellow-faced, White-plumed, Crescent, New Holland, Red Wattlebird and Eastern Spinebill.

There were Striated and Spotted Pardalote, a Brown Treecreeper, Red-browed Finch, Silveryeye, Brown Thornbill and a distant Raptor. Babblers chattered and later on a Golden Whistler showed his glorious colours.

We negotiated three creek beds on the way back to the car park for a leisurely lunch and bird call. All agreed this was one of the best day's for bird watching as the weather was perfect.

The good thing about being in the Conservation Park of this size is the fact that all the birds were native in their own natural habitat with no foreigners and no Noisy Miners.

The total for the morning was 34 species seen and 3 more heard.

*Jenny Fontanot*

## Manning Reserve McLaren Flat Saturday 15 June

Manning Reserve was donated to the Field Naturalists Society in 1957. Edith St George is one of their members and led us through the reserve for our bird watch. It was a cool and showery day with some sunshine coming through the clouds. The vegetation consists of lots of Banksia, Wattles, Pink Gum, Heath and some Mosquito Orchids and a few Spider Orchids were in flower.

There were approximately 90 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos with some 50 New Holland Honeyeaters flying around the reserve. 30 Eastern Rosellas were seen and showed us their beautiful colours. 12 Striated Pardalotes sang their song and 20 Red Wattlebirds screeched. 12 Musk Lorikeets looked us over then flew by. 5 Mistletoebirds were out and about along with 2 Golden Whistlers.

The joy of the day was a pair of Hooded Robins down by the boundary of Kays Road showing us their lovely white bar markings in flight. Spinebills numbered 7. The remaining 24 species were in smaller numbers enjoying the sun when it came out.

Total of 34 species satisfied our fifteen birdwatchers.

*Geoffrey Evans*



Eastern Rosella Photo: Peter Gower

## Elegant Parrot

Photo: Teresa Jack



Hooded Robin  
Photo: Nick Tebneff

## General Meeting - Items of Interest:

13 members were present.

- A letter was tabled from CEO of DEWNR re the Cox Scrub fire following copies that were sent to our MP Michael Pengilly and Minister of Environment Mr. Ian Hunter. Mr. Allan Holmes responded in length and stated that there would be an independent enquiry into the practice and procedures of future burn-offs.
- There was no reply to a letter sent on the 11th June to Alexandrina Council re the Birdhide at the Goolwa Ponds and Wendy Phillips offered to follow it up with a visit to the Council Office.
- Bob Daly has stepped into the position of Secretary until the next AGM when we hope to appoint a new member to this position.
- The Christmas Break-up will be at Laratinga Wetlands recreation area at Mt. Barker.
- The speaker for the September Meeting will be Emma Stephens from the Hooded Plover program.
- Judith Dyer raised the issue of our FBW information brochures that are distributed at Information Centres in the Fleurieu district and the need to update and re-print them. She will follow it up and get a quote for printing.

### BIRD CALL:

Kookaburras have been sighted in Goolwa after a long absence. Large numbers of Black Cormorants flying from roosting islands west of Victor Harbor to the River daily to feed. A group of 8 Hooded Plovers on Goolwa Beach seen a few times lately. White-fronted HE seen at Browns Rd, Monarto along with a Pink Robin (female). 50 Freckled Ducks on the Goolwa Ponds and 60 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos at Parawa.

Win Syson reported the area around St. Kilda and north of Adelaide has been fantastic for large numbers of water birds.

### Presentations:

- Neil Cheshire showed us birds from the UK including excellent photos of sea birds in flight.
- Bob Daly showed photos of birds he took recently on a trip to North Queensland.
- David Thorn followed up with a collection of photos from several trips to remote areas in Australia.



North Queensland  
Birds:  
Pale-yellow Robin

Royal Spoonbill

Photos:  
*Bob Daly*

## CURRENCY CREEK WINERY WALK Sunday 13 July.

On an overcast morning with showers forecast during the day 5 members met at the Currency Creek Winery car park to follow the 3 km walking trail around the Black Swamp.

This wetland area on the Tookayerta Creek is listed on the National Estate Register due to the presence of a number of rare plants and birds, including the Southern Emu-wren.

We hadn't proceeded very far before we were temporarily halted with the creek flowing strongly over the ford. However, all was not lost as we were ferried across with the aid of Bob's car. On the eastern side of the swamp, the Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins were feeding on the wing just above the marsh reeds and a pair of Nankeen Kestrels was seen interacting overhead. Several tight flocks of Rock Doves were also observed and in the distance a small flock of 19 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos was easily identified as they flew and called just above the tops of the pine trees. On the eastern slopes above the swamp, a native flower (*Banksia*) farm has been established and the flowering shrubs had attracted many New Holland Honeyeaters and Red Wattlebirds to this part of the trail. A bit further on, many flowering pink gums resulted in us getting fine views of Purple-crowned and Musk Lorikeets and a pair of Elegant Parrots. It appeared that they were looking for potential nesting hollows.

On reaching the railway bridge some of us had to shed our footwear and roll up our jeans in order to traverse the flowing creek. However, once negotiated we walked through the pine forest which was showing evidence of the Black Cockatoos feeding on the cones. In this area we were pleased to see a number of Varied Sittellas feeding amongst the bark of the gum trees.

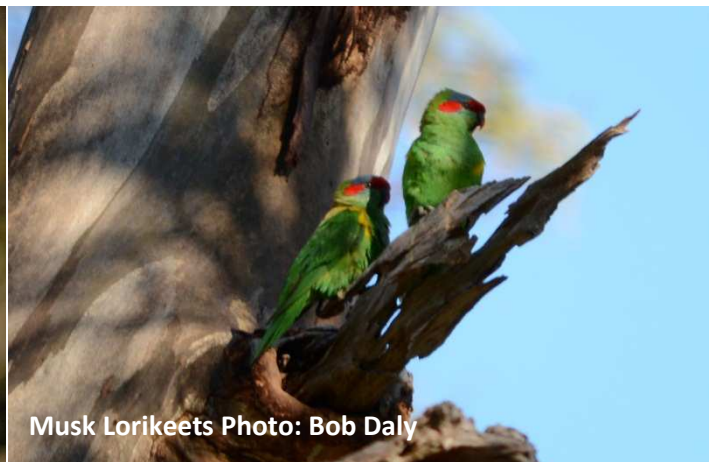
Finally amongst the vineyards we spotted several pairs of Red-rumped Parrots and a small flock of Red-browed Finches. Just as we were ending the walk rain began to fall, so we quickly adjourned to the warmth of the Currency Creek Winery for coffee, a chat and the bird count. We finished up with 30 bird species seen and two heard, one of the latter being a Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

The overall low number may have been partly due to the overcast morning and the mono-cultured slopes surrounding the Black Swamp. Alas, the Southern Emu-wren eluded our binoculars on this outing.

**Keith Jones**



Varied Sittella Photo: Peter Gower



Musk Lorikeets Photo: Bob Daly

## OBP Report (Via Bob Green)

Orange-bellied Parrots breeding in the wild at Melaleuca in SW Tasmania were monitored over the last 12 months and from 20 adults 24 chicks were successfully raised and fledged.

Captive breeding programs are running in both Melbourne and Adelaide Zoos and in a few private sanctuaries. This has boosted the numbers to approx. 100 more chicks.

Surveys are continuing down the Coorong and along the coast of Vic. to search for them while wintering on the mainland with two more planned.

Please contact Bob Green via email: [shriketit@bigpond.com](mailto:shriketit@bigpond.com) if you are able to assist.