



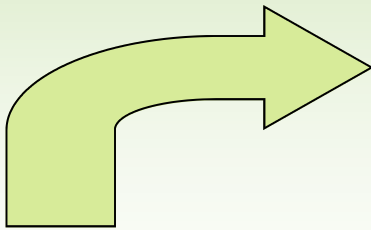
August 2016

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc.

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Outings



Saturday 13 August, Private Property, Currency Creek.

Meet Corner of Myrtle Grove Rd and Goolwa-Strathalbyn Rd
35°27'17" S 138°45'35 E

Thursday 25 August, Nurragi C.P and Milang

Junction of Goolwa-Strathalbyn Rd and Milang Rd, Finniss
35°22'29" S 138°49'02 E

Sunday 11 September, Brown's Road, Monarto

Corner Browns Rd and Old Pacific Highway Callington
35°6'40" S 139°4'36 E

Wednesday 21 September, Bullock Hill, Ashbourne

On side road by primary school, Ashbourne
35°17'17" S 138°45'58"E

Saturday 8 October, Hindmarsh River Estuary, Victor Harbor

Cnr Hindmarsh Road and Wattle Avenue, VH
35°32'39" S 138°37'39" E

Reminders

General Meeting:

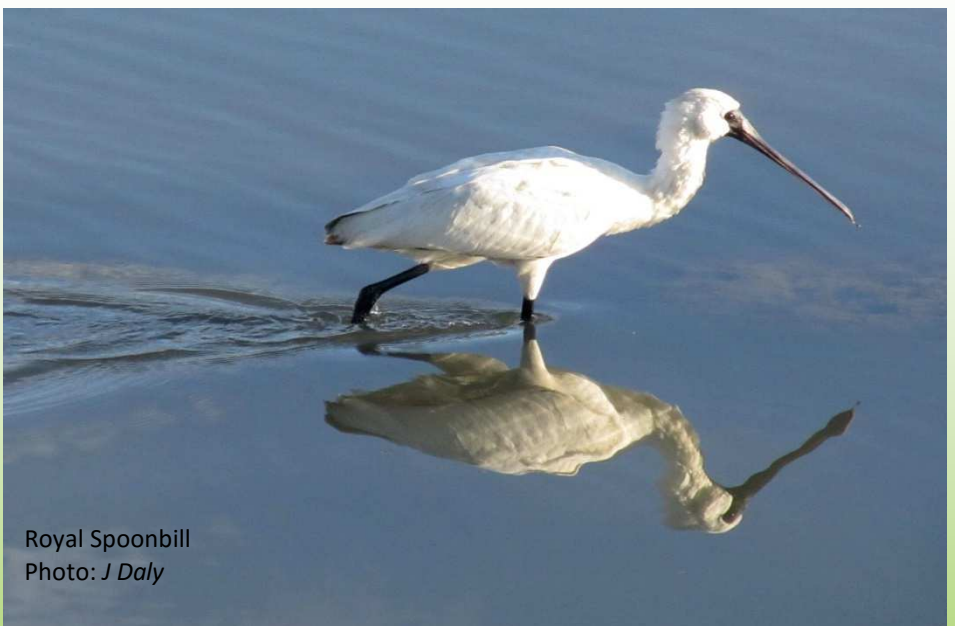
Friday 9 September 7.30pm.
Anglican Church Hall, Crocker Street, Goolwa. Guest speaker Bob Green, [Goolwa] talking on the development of the Salisbury Wetlands.

LARATINGA BIRDFAIR

SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER 2016.
BALD HILLS RD. MT. BARKER.
10AM-5PM. DISPLAYS, GAMES,
PHOTOGRAPHY, BIRD WALKS ETC.
Birds SA event.

The Annual Campout

Nelson Vic. Friday 21 to
Monday 24 October



Royal Spoonbill
Photo: J Daly

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

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

Contacts: fleurieubirds@gmail.com or phone 8555 0634

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Outing—Cox Scrub/Coles Crossing

Wednesday 25 May.

Five people tried to brave the wet and windy conditions but then decided to abandon it and headed off to Mt. Compass for a coffee and chat instead!

We all agreed it was worth a try as sometimes the weather improves.



Birdwatchers in Onkaparinga Gorge.
Photo: Ann Houghton [previous outing]

Marcus Pickett Ornithologist and expert on the Southern Emu-wren met the Friends of Cox Scrub group to talk about the state of these endangered birds recently.

He estimates only 150--300 birds still exist in the Southern area and in Cox Scrub about 3 pairs are being monitored. There may be others, but they are all in trouble. Inter-breeding is a problem and the fact they nest close to the ground makes them susceptible to predation.

Even if more resources were made available he doubts if it would work as corridors are needed between the nearby swamps for them to move freely about, and he thinks it may be too late.

The Chestnut-rumped Heathwren is also in trouble and has now entered the **endangered list**. There are a few of these birds in Cox Scrub and Bullock Hill.

Barrie May [Friend of Cox Scrub]

Outing—Aldinga Scrub, Saturday 11 June.

We commenced our walk at the entrance adjacent to the Aldinga Bay Holiday Park. 12 members attended with Nick Tebneff leading the group. The weather forecast was for 16 degrees and fluctuating from sunny to cloudy. This gave us reasonable bird watching conditions.

Early sighting were Eastern Rosella, White-naped Honeyeater and Mistletoebird, Galah, Crested Pigeon, Red Wattlebird, Buff-rumped and Yellow-rumped Thornbills. Raptors seen were Collared Sparrowhawk and Whistling Kite and a mixture of our usual suspects: New Holland H.E., Grey Fantail, Grey Shrike-thrush, Superb Fairy-wren, Sparrow and Singing H.E.

We then moved to Hart Road end of the scrub to see what water birds were about. Our first find was a very relaxed Musk Duck that stayed close to the water's edge where we were and we thought someone must be feeding it for it to be so comfortable with people. We also found Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Eurasian Coot, Masked Lapwing, Pacific Black Duck, Black-fronted Dotterel and Black-winged Stilt. Nick caught site of a single Skylark in flight.

It was a good day with the rain staying away and we had a total of 44 species, 41 seen and 3 heard which included a Kookaburra and Little Grassbird.

Chris Wastell



Musk Duck at Aldinga
Photo: Chris Wastell

Member's News Item:

The Australian Bittern, now listed as globally endangered, is annually seen in SA in select locations, but in very small numbers. In late May a bird photographer noticed one in the Oaklands Park Wetland Reserve. This area was created as a new wetland a few years ago and has grown well. Now a great habitat for a Bittern, many visited the Wetland hoping for a sighting of this elusive bird and many had success. A week later it had moved on. Some of the other birds there at the time were a Royal Spoonbill, 2 Pink-eared Ducks, a Freckled Duck and a Buff Banded Rail.

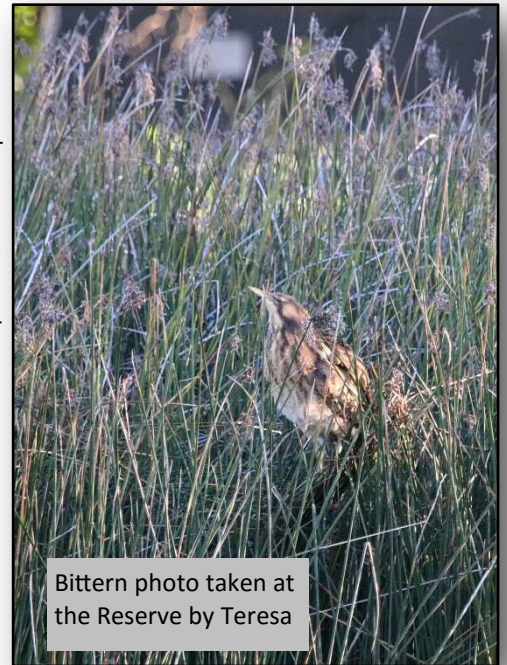
Reminder, always check everywhere all the time. *Teresa Jack.*

The Oaklands Wetland is a major stormwater project constructed at the former Driver Development Centre [opposite the old Marion Swim Centre] on Oaklands Rd. Built in collaboration with the City of Marion and the Mount Lofty Ranges NRM it was completed in 2013 and has won awards for Community Engagement and Water Engineering. The initial costs were high to set this up, but the benefits to the environment and to people enjoying the recreational space is invaluable.

Over 85,000 plants surrounding the pond clean the stormwater and provide a protective habitat for native wildlife. The ponds store 200 million litres of storm water that once flowed out to sea and the water is recycled and used for irrigating sports fields and local recreation parks.

It has taken a long time for Councils and Government to work out a better solution to deal with excess storm water and prevent it from causing erosion on Adelaide beaches and sending pollutants out to sea.

For more information and to download a map go to marion.sa.gov.au



Bittern photo taken at the Reserve by Teresa

Lunch Event for the Goolwa Bird Rescue Centre — Saturday 25 June.

While only 23 people [14 FBW members] attended we did have lots of apologies and some extra donations made to the Bird Rescue Centre before the day. Rena Robinson showed us a short film highlighting the work



Rena receiving a cheque from the FBW fund raising event. Keith, Rena, Wendy and Veronica at the Hotel Victor.

they do rescuing injured birds. This film prompted our local council to give them land to build on. Lots of prizes were given out during the meal for lucky door numbers, raffle and Elaine's challenging bird Quiz. The money raised totalled \$550.

A cheque for \$1,000 was presented to Rena to put towards an incubator/recovery unit for small birds. Rena explained that "NO one else does this rescue work and if they stopped doing it the birds would suffer a slow and painful death. If the birds are too badly injured and not able to be rehabilitated or released back into the wild then they are kindly euthanized. Other people will be trained to continue this valuable work when the new Centre is completed by the end of the year."

A big "thankyou" to those who attended and gave so generously. Rena was very appreciative. The Hotel Victor accommodated us and also donated one of the prizes. Special thankyou to Fay and Joy and also the Kuchels for sending their donations.

If you missed out and would like to contribute it is not too late. We will pass it on to Rena as there is so much more needed to complete the interior of the bird hospital.

Wendy Phillips

Blackbirds

*I like blackbirds' yellow beaks
And their feathers shiny black,
But, when they've finished digging,
I wish they'd put their diggings back!*

*Each new morning, without fail,
The garden path again is in a mess.
As soil and debris I sweep away
Their little hearts I (rarely) bless!*

*I don't begrudge them worms,
And all the other bugs they eat,
But, must the messy blighters,
Play havoc such with their feet?*

*With no regard for seedlings
And any other precious plants
They scratch with gay abandon
In their madcap avian dance.*

*I try to get up bright and early
And catch them as they play
With a store of very naughty words
To send them on their way.*

*But those beady eyes just look at me
Then their chorus sweetly sings
And I find I'm charmed, (enough),
To forgive the untidy little things!*

Elizabeth Caldicott

Photo: Peter Gower



A great Citizen Science Project.

Do you want to do a survey monitoring the birds visiting your bird bath or bird feeder?

Just sign up by visiting:

www.feedingbirds.org.au

Survey runs for 4 weeks from the 1st to 28th Aug. monitoring your birds 3 times a week.

WINTER and more cancelled Outings!

Unfortunately we can't plan for the weather! While we send out emails 24 hrs in advance we are aware not everyone checks their emails regularly. Leaders are not expected to turn up just in case someone arrives.

If you are not sure whether to go you can always ring us the night before on 85550634.



Please send us your articles and photos for the Newsletter at **any** time.
*If they don't fit in current publication they can be included in the next **one**.*

Aussie Backyard Bird Count.

October 17-23, 2016.

Time to count your birds in your own yard or favourite garden.

BirdLife Australia encourages you to download their app and add your data to their biggest count.

Over 1 million birds recorded last year.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo photo taken at Currency Creek, recently. Approx. 50 birds seen in this group. Photo: **Kate Crawford**

OBP News from Bob Green. Orange-bellied Parrot Regional Coordinator, South East SA.

So far there have been seven OBPs confirmed on the mainland, one on the Bass Coast, three near Geelong, and three in Port Philip Bay.

We need help to find some South Aussie birds!

The next survey is on the weekend of September 10-11, it can also be done any time during the week before or after those dates. If you can help out let me know and I will either allocate a spot or be guided by somewhere you would like to search.

Contact:

Bob Green email: shriketit@bigpond.com

Ph. 08 8725 0549

mob. 0407 649 909



The Grey Plovers Journey from Broome and Thompson Beach [north of Adelaide].

Extract from Birdlife Aus. Magazine June 2016.

We finally have the answers we wanted,” Dr Minton said. The birds all took different routes after they left Australia in March, as they migrated north along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway. The birds from Broome headed straight across South East Asia, while the South Australian birds first had to fly across Australia’s arid centre before reaching Asia. Each bird stopped on the shores of the Yellow Sea, then headed further north for another 3000 kilometres or so to the coast of Yakutia in north-eastern Siberia.

The birds from Broome are now nesting in Yakutia, while the two birds from Adelaide flew even further to nest on Wrangel Island in the Arctic Ocean, leap-frogging the birds from Broome in the process.

The two South Australian birds flew 13,000 kilometres in 3 months.

“It is interesting that the South Australian birds, with the most southerly non-breeding area, finished up at the northernmost breeding locations [on Wrangel Island],” said Dr Minton. “These are the first birds of any species from Australia which are known to visit this remote Arctic Island.”

With the riddle of their breeding grounds now solved, Dr Minton and his fellow researchers are keen to monitor the plovers’ return flight to Australia in a few weeks’ time, hoping to solve another mystery—the route of their southward migration.

Arnhem Land— Northern Territory.

If you are thinking of going birdwatching up the “top end” you are bound to see some new birds to add to your list. **Outback Spirit** Tour Company are advertising 2 special Bird Week Events in Sept-Oct this year staying in luxury safari cabins at the Arafura Swamp. Pat and Gerald, Wendy and Bob have recently holidayed there and seen some of what is on offer and agree it is “A great place to go if you can afford it”.



Blue-winged Kookaburra.
Photo: Bob Daly



Rainbow Lorikeet [northern race]
Photo: Bob Daly

A Birding Holiday—Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary W.A. May 2016 by Edith St. George.



A group of 4 booked with a Sydney Tour company called "Follow That Bird", 3 from Adelaide and one from Sydney via Scotland. We arrived in Broome early in the evening after a long flight from Adelaide via Perth. The following morning we had a quick walk around the hotel grounds and adjacent mangroves. Here we saw Brown Honeyeaters, Black Kite, Leaden and Paperbark Flycatchers plus a single Blue-winged Kookaburra. After breakfast it was off to the airport for our light plane flight to Mornington. Quite quickly the colours of Roebuck Bay and the coastal plains gave way to the ancient curvaceous shapes of the King

Leopold Ranges. The plane swooped down onto a narrow red earth strip. We alighted to the call of a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo and a group of travellers who had to fly out as the rain had caused the roads to be closed. At camp we took possession of our safari tents alongside a lovely creek where Buff-sided Robins and Long-tailed Finches seemed to be playing hide and seek for our entertainment. In the afternoon we went for a walk along the creek. The birds were so numerous that we made very slow progress. Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens dived in and out of the pandanus, Little Woodswallows and Crimson Finches made fleeting appearances as did White-throated and White-gaped Honeyeaters.

A single Bar-breasted Honeyeater caused a deal of excitement as it came in for a close look. A further exploration of the airfield produced Horsfield's Bushlark and some Pictorella Mannikins. We came across a couple of Bustards strutting through the scrub. They took to the air. A loud honking announced the arrival of a couple of Brolgas, which flew directly over our heads towards the rising sun. When the sun rose the bird count increased rapidly. We found Little Button-quail, Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (which hung round for a good sighting) Varied Sittella, Peaceful Doves, a Brown Goshawk and Brown Falcon. Later that day a visit to the Bluebush Wetland close to the Fitzroy River gave us a glimpse of our first Gouldian Finch. A Comb-crested Jacana picked its way across the lily pads. It didn't seem keen on a Pygmy Goose, which appeared to be trying to keep it company. Next about 500 Little Corellas calling loudly flew into the surrounding gum trees. As we turned to leave a couple of Diamond Doves appeared and 2 Brolgas arrived to stroll majestically through the long grass.



We got used to 5.30am starts wearing warm jackets and beanies. It was on one of these early mornings that we got the first really good look at a Gouldian Finch, a black-headed male. At the same place Double-barred Finches, a Black-necked Stork and an Azure Kingfisher made brief appearances. Woodland walks, rocky gorges, creek crossings and river banks all provided good spotting areas. A Black-breasted Buzzard, Northern Rosellas, nesting Weebills, Red-backed Fairy Wrens in breeding plumage, Spinfex Pigeons, Black-tailed Treecreepers, White-quilled Rock Pigeons, Spotted Nightjars, Black-chinned Honeyeaters of the golden backed variety,

Owlet Nightjars, Boobook Owls galore, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Red-winged Parrots, White-winged Trillers and a Red-backed Kingfisher completed our list for Mornington. [Continued next page]

We also came across an Agile Wallaby corpse which was providing a picnic for a Whistling Kite. Other raptors were Nankeen Kestrel, Brown Falcon and Brahminy Kite.

On our final morning in Broome we went for a pre-breakfast walk to Streeter's Jetty and the mangroves. Here we found many delights. Amongst the host of Mangrove specialists were Yellow White-eye, Red-headed Honeyeater, Mangrove Golden Whistler, Dusky Gerygone, and a Broad-billed Flycatcher. Walking back up the hill to our hotel we saw a Pelican preening itself on the edge of Dampier Creek and then to cap things off in a most spectacular way a Manta Ray leapt out of the water in the channel not once but twice.



Brahminy Kite:
Photo Bob Daly

Extra Notes: from Edith.

AWC- Australian Wildlife Conservancy runs Mornington Sanctuary and has also leased a number of surrounding stations. It is co-operating with an Aboriginal station on their NE boundary and together they are controlling feral animals, donkeys, camels, horses, cats and are conducting research on the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren. Most of the staff on Mornington are young and very enthusiastic and have science Degrees. They are more than willing to tell you about the work they're doing. Days started early, departure time was 5.30am in the dark so we got to the birding spot just as the sun came up. We would come back for breakfast about 8.30am then leave again about 9.30 for a local walk and be back at camp for picnic lunch. We would rest till 3.30 pm and go off in the 4-wheel drive somewhere local like Sir John Gorge, Diamond Gorge or the wetland at Lake Gladstone. We would return from these excursions often in the dark. After dinner we would have an evening talk by one of the staff about the Kimberley's geology, history etc. or about how and when Mornington was developed.

TOLDEROL NEWS:

4 FBW members answered the call for helpers to join forces with the Signal Point Riverine Environmental Group [SPREG] to plant 1000 seedlings at Tolderol. Thanks to Lynn, Peter, Wendy and Bob for their mornings work. The area to the right of the pump shed is now a sea of corflute tree guards which Birds SA and others have contributed to over the last few months. Regina Durbridge thanked us for participating and the funds raised will go directly to the cost of running the pump to fill the basins for this coming season. The area watered this year will be double that of the last two years with the water pipe extension now completed. A working party has been formed with DEWNR and members of the public to achieve the best outcomes for the future management of the Game Reserve. Some of the basins will be scraped to provide better mud environments for the smaller waders and regular monitoring will continue with DEWNR staff and volunteer birdwatchers.



The migratory waders will be arriving over Spring and feeding up during Summer months and you will have a chance to marvel at the sheer number and variety of bird species all co-existing there.

Frog Workshop in Goolwa Thursday 25 August 3-5pm: Frogs are a vital part of our eco system. If you are interested in attending please contact Kate Mason 08 8532 9100 or email kate.mason@sa.gov.au

Outing—Hindmarsh River and Estuary, Wednesday 27 July.

The weather was cold and a little windy but, with no rain forecast, nine members braved the conditions. We started with a walk to Kent Reserve where the river was flowing strongly to the sea and had removed all the sand barriers normally across the mouth. We found a few species of ducks, gulls and a pair of Sooty Oystercatchers on the beach.

We then walked back around the oval and alongside the Hindmarsh to the bridge on the Victor Harbor bypass road. We couldn't get much further than the bridge as the water was flowing strongly down the path and back into the river making the river flats impassable. We re-

turned by a slightly different route and had a very good sighting of a Spotted Pardalote. We chased a pair of Fan-tailed Cuckoos that were calling strongly, but were hidden in the bush. Some of our members' finally

saw the cuckoo as a reward for perseverance. We then re-joined the group to find that Russell had managed to photograph one of a pair of Crested Shrike-tits in a reed bed near the river. Definitely the find of the day!

We drove to Nangawooka Floral reserve for lunch and the bird count. The final total for the Hindmarsh River was 26 species, and we didn't find a number of common species we expected to see.

Bob Daly



Spotted Pardalote
Photo: Peter Gower



Crested Shrike-tit
Photo: Russell Creed

Wanted: A leader for the Brown's Rd Monarto Outing, Sunday 11 September.

FBW has been accepted for the 'Flourishing on the Fleurieu' Festival to be held Wednesday 19 October at Signal Point Goolwa. Any assistance appreciated : Please contact FBW by email or phone 8555 0634

Black-chinned Honeyeater Project - Penny Paton

Like last year the news is not great. Records are few and numbers of birds are mainly small, although there was a sighting of 5 birds in one flock at Clayton Bay and 4-5 birds from Victor Harbor. This year there was only one record of a single bird from north of Adelaide. Like last year no records from the inner Adelaide area (last seen February 2011 along the River Torrens near the outlet).

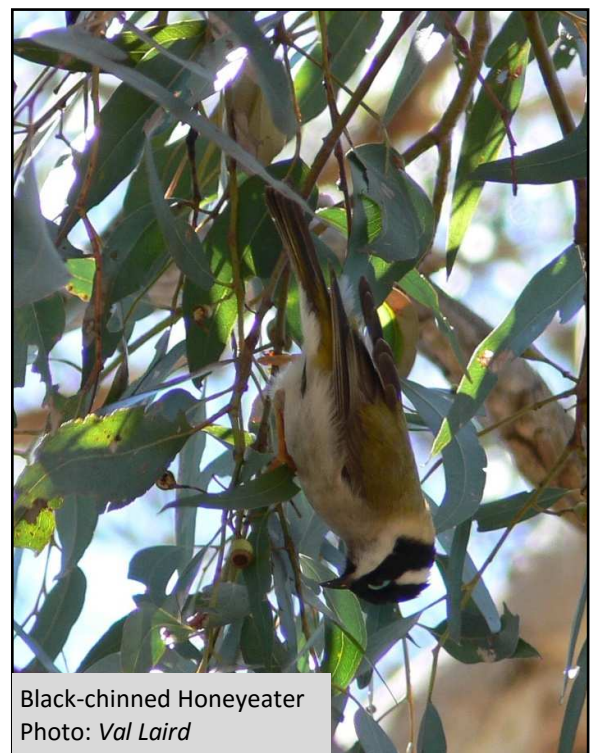
For the first time ever there was no evidence of successful breeding from any area – this does not mean that it didn't happen but is a very bad sign, along with diminishing numbers of birds and numbers of records.

This is an extract from 'Chinwag' the newsletter of the Black-chinned Honeyeater Project

Penny Paton

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Email – pennypaton@adam.com.au



Black-chinned Honeyeater
Photo: Val Laird