

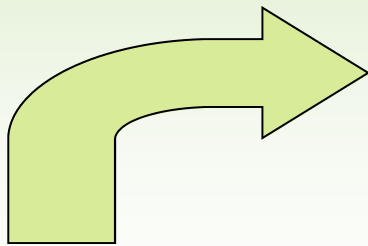


Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc.

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Events



Reminders

October Campout
Friday 20-Monday 23.

Please

Contact Peter Owen
for more information.

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Email:

poa45@bigpond.com

Please Note: there is only ONE
outing per month during
winter. this year.

Send your photos and articles
for publication to
fleurieubirds@gmail.com

Saturday 12 August, Hardy's Scrub, Blewitt Springs.

Gate 16 Chapel Hill Rd Blewitt Springs.

35°9'53"S, 138°35'26"E

Sunday 10 September, Private Property, Currency Creek.

Cnr Goolwa/Strath and Myrtle Grove Rd.

35°9'53"S, 138°35'26"E

Saturday 23 September, Mt. Billy CP and Hindmarsh Falls.

Hindmarsh Valley Rd. Tennis Courts Car Park.

35°29'54"S, 138°37'43"E

Wednesday 11 October, Ingallala Falls and Springs Rd Reserve.

Hay Flat Rd. Ingallala Falls Car Park.

35°31'49"S, 138°20'43"E



"Hoodies" at Middleton Beach 20/6/17. There were 14 in total of mixed ages.
4 were wearing red tags on their right legs. Photo: Bob Daly

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, corner Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa.
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of March (AGM), Other meetings to be advised via Newsletter/Emails.

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

Contacts: fleurieubirds@gmail.com or phone 8555 0634

Website: www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org

Newsletter: Contact email: fleurieubirds@gmail.com

Outing—Cox Scrub, Saturday 10 June.

11 birdwatchers gathered at Cox Scrub car park and set off well rugged up to enjoy the morning. Plenty of gum blossom around promised some sightings and a pair of Scarlet Robins and some striated Pardalotes were spotted early on. The first of fifteen Crescent Honeyeaters was seen and along the way were White-plumed, Brown-headed, and Tawny-crowned HEs and we guessed there were about 200 New Holland HEs.

Robyn investigated an insect house, which had Flinders University printed on it. Keith thought it was placed to



Insect homes

attract native bees.

Adelaide Rosellas/Crimson Rosellas, Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets, Elegant Parrots and Galahs flew overhead and settled in trees. As Bob led us up a sandy track the sun came out and great views were enjoyed of Lake Alexandrina in one direction and well treed rolling hills in the other. Fresh young Banksia Ornata, Flame Heath, Correa Reflexa, stands of white fluffy Desert Heath, and other winter flowering natives were enjoyed as we carefully trod the uneven path. At the top of the hill the sight of two Elegant Parrots sitting in bare branches had the cameras snapping. Many tantalising calls came

from the thick scrub as we descended, needing more time and patience for sightings, but some Yellow Thornbills were identified. As we came to the flats near the Acacia Paradoxa, we saw a few Superb Fairywrens in their Winter colour flitting about. At our lunch spot while sitting in the sun we totalled 27 species. This included six, well spotted Red-browed Finches, which most of us had missed earlier.

Thank you Bob Daly for leading us on a most enjoyable FBW outing.

Pat Simpson.



Crescent Honeyeater.

General Meeting Friday 9 June held at Willunga Environment Centre.

14 members attended.

Treasurers Report—Keith Jones reported 74 members have paid their subs this year and we have approx. \$2,500 in the bank with minor expenses yet to be paid.

The request to fill the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer seems unlikely to succeed. Wendy explained in more detail the Birds SA proposal for us to form a sub-group of their organisation as outlined in a letter from John Gitsham (President of Birds SA.)

Discussion was held among the members present on this proposal along with the other option of setting up an 'informal outing group'. Members will have time to think about the future of FBW and how they wish to vote at the next General Meeting in November. This will be a Special General Meeting as defined in the Constitution.

Bird Rescue Centre Goolwa Update: The incubator funded by FBW Inc is in place and the rescue centre is up and running with a group of volunteers currently in training.

Christmas Breakup 2017: Plan—Strathalbyn river walk followed by a hotel meal. Bookings later.

Guest Speaker Leanne Lawrence—Regional Bush for Life Co-ordinator gave a very interesting talk on the Trees for Life organisation in SA and the Bush for Life programs that has helped restore vegetation to over 300 bush sites around SA. They mostly work on council reserves and some private land holdings doing weed control to enable the bush to regenerate on its own. While it may seem slow, photos of before and after were remarkable and very encouraging.

A few FBW members are acknowledged in the latest Trees for Life magazine including: Julie Turner, Joyce West, Ann Houghton, Jan Nicholls and Pat Glazier. The Willunga TFL group celebrated 30 years and are to be congratulated for making such a huge contribution to the local environment over the years.

If you wish to participate in Bush Care Sites in your local area contact Trees for Life. Phone 84060500 or email Leanne Lawrence– leannel@treesforlife.org.au



Photo: Win Syson.

Downloading the photos on the computer revealed four birds wearing red tags. They could then be identified by a 'Hoodie' volunteer who knew what beach they had originally been caught and tagged. This information is important to the Wader Study Group who are carefully monitoring their progress. This number together is unusual!

A Hoodies Gathering.

A walk along the beach from Tongan Way, Middleton on the 20th June turned out a major event. Bob Daly took photos of 14 Hooded Plovers, 2 Red-necked Stints, and 2 Red-capped Plovers congregating at the waters edge. The Hoodies were of varying ages and one Red-necked Stint was in breeding plumage. It could only hop on one leg and was seen later that day mating with the female!

BirdLife South East SA and Steve Clarke from NRM team in Mt. Gambier have celebrated 10 years of monitoring Pick Swamp, part of the Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park, which FBW visited last October. 179 bird species have been recorded there over the 10 years and now it is recognised as an important refuge for wetland birds including Bitterns and Brolgas.

Congratulations to Steve Clarke, Maureen Christie, Bob Green and their team.

Teaching the next generation of Birdwatchers!

After Bob and I did a presentation of the local bush birds at Investigator Eco Centre, Currency Creek, we were invited by their environmental science teacher, Natalie Gilbert to challenge the students to find as many birds as possible on the family's 120 acre property. With the help of John Gitsham, Michelle Foster, Lynn and Peter Maxwell and Raechel Lewis from Alexandrina Council we managed to find 27 species. The highlight was the massive flock of YTB Cockatoos that numbered between 200-300 grouped together and resting in the tree tops. Elegant Parrots were abundant and students enjoyed the stroll in the bush in perfect weather. *Wendy Phillips. Photos: Bob Daly*



Birdwatching with Investigator College Environmental Students.



Outing —Nurragi Conservation Reserve, Sunday July 16, 2017.



At the beginning of our outing we had eight members braving the cold and overcast, but mostly calm morning. Denzel Murfet was our leader and we did our standard walk along the remnant mallee corridor of the old railway line towards Sandergrove. The overcast conditions were not conducive for seeing the birds in their full glory. Denzel's expert visual and aural identification skills and historical knowledge of area kept our enthusiasm up throughout the walk. It was very apparent that many of the bird species grouped together were often where the Mallee trees were flowering. Some of the birds within these groups included Brown-headed and

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Silvereyes, Weebills, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Thornbills and a few Spotted Pardalotes. There were other stretches of the walk where birds were conspicuous by their absence. In these areas, our attention moved to the sighting of a hare and recent activity by foxes. Overhead, we saw Black-shouldered and Whistling Kites, a pair of Australian Shelduck, small numbers of Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets, a large flock of Galahs. On the lower understory were White-browed Babblers, Superb Fairywrens and Grey Shrike-thrush. A Grey Fantail followed us for much of the walk too. On the way back to the cars two members sighted four Peaceful Doves. We gained another late-arriving member near the end of our walk – her interest was not only with the birds but also the native plants. We finished up for lunch at the Milang foreshore. Our bird count totalled 30 species. *We thank Denzel for his expert leadership on the day. Keith Jones*

Watchalunga Planting Day for Nature Foundation at Finniss— Sunday 16 July.

Over a hundred people came out to plant and guard 3800 trees and shrubs supplied by GWLAP. About 50 volunteers were from the Buddhist Community who had previously assisted with tree planting north of Adelaide after the Pinery fire. The ground had been well prepared a few weeks prior by GWLAP and this enabled the volunteers to achieve their target in the morning. We all enjoyed a BBQ lunch followed by an introduction by the President, Bob Lott and the presentation of a \$5000 cheque from SA Power Networks Employee Foundation to assist with the cost of revegetation for the benefit of the Southern Emu Wren. There are about 20 known pairs on the property and the reason why Nature Foundation decided two years ago to purchase the land and restore it. The saying "Many Hands Makes Light Work" was absolutely true and the organisation and work behind the scene that went into the day made our job easy. *I encourage FBW members who are reasonably fit to come along in the future and assist even it is only for a few hours. Wendy Phillips*



What is it?

This one had us confused! It appeared to be a Singing Honeyeater with an orange face! Bob spotted it two days in a row on the coastal sand dunes at Goolwa Beach. It was suggested by both John Gitsham and Win Syson that the bird must have been feeding on pollen from a flower that had stained its feathers. It makes sense now !!