



June 2010

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



Saturday 12 June. Nurragi

Meet at the junction of Goolwa–Strathalbyn Road and Milang Road, Finniss.

Thursday 24 June. Pt Sturt and Clayton

Meet at the junction of the Pt Sturt Road and the Clayton/Milang Road. 35°28'42"S, 138°56'47"E

Travel via the Finniss/Clayton Road. Where the bitumen road turns right into Clayton go straight ahead on the metal road. This brings you to the junction. P12 on the RAA map, Fleurieu Peninsula 2007.

Friday 9 July. General Meeting

Guest presenter: Michael Huxley presents his videos.

Sunday 11 July. Onkaparinga Gorge

Meet in the Woolworths car park, near corner Main South Road and Pennys Hill Road, Hackham. 35°08'51"S, 138°31'33"E

Wednesday 28 July. Ashbourne, town to golf course

Meet on the side road by primary school, Ashbourne. 35°17'17"S, 138°45'58"E

Saturday 14 August. Brown's Road, Monarto

Meet at the corner of Brown's Road and Old Princes Highway, Monarto.

Late News

The **Orange-bellied Parrot** survey for May failed to find any birds locally. Next survey dates are **July 24–25** and **September 11–12**. To offer help, contact the Regional Co-ordinator, Bob Green. shriketit@bigpond.com, 8725 0549, 0407 649909



- Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker & 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: fleurieubirdwatchers.org
- Newsletter: Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211



At its first meeting your new Committee delegated duties among its members.

- Chairperson: Denzel Murfet
- Vice Chairperson: Judith Dyer
- Secretary: Pat Uppill
- Treasurer: Phyll Whellams
- Newsletter and Webmaster: Verle Wood
- Organising Speakers: Denzel Murfet and Peter Gower
- Outings Program: Peter Gower and Judith Dyer
- Membership Secretary: Judith Dyer
- Bird Records: Judith Dyer, Ann Turner, (Teresa Jack)
- Publicity and Supper: Wendy Phillips

To enable us to function as efficiently as we can we ask that you use the **club email address** rather than that of an individual member.

Generally the responsibility for the mail lies with the Secretary, but as she and other Committee Members are often away from home. At such times access to the club mail is passed to a member who plans to be at home and is able to deal with club matters. Anything which needs an individual's attention, eg outing reports, is then forwarded to the person concerned.

So please help us by addressing **all email correspondence** to

Friday 14 May

Present at the May meeting were 15 members and two visitors who were welcomed by Chairperson, Denzel Murfet. Judith Dyer filled in as Secretary for the evening.

The Treasurer, Phyll Whellams, reported that funds had been boosted by incoming subscriptions and a further amount would be added to our Express Saver account, but that there were still 30 subscriptions outstanding. Thanks to Phyll also for compiling an inventory of all known club assets, eg display boards, data projector and screen, and their locations.

A new birdwatching site at Gemtree Wetlands, a McLaren Flat winery, may be added to our outings list.

Bird call included

- » photo of a pelican with beak wide open catching rain in a heavy shower
- » Chestnut-rumped Thornbill at Ferries-McDonald CP (edge of range)
- » Variegated Fairywren at Langhorne Creek Cemetery
- » Brown Quail on Granite Island
- » 2000 Pelican at Meningie and 150 at Narrung
- » Eastern Rosella at Manning Reserve
- » 70 Little Raven at Sellicks Hill
- » Spotless Crake on the Hindmarsh River near Cudmore Road
- » Ruddy Turnstone wintering over on Yorke Peninsula
- » Bar-tailed Godwit, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Brown Quail and Pink-eared Duck all in the vicinity of Goolwa Barrage
- » Visitor Bob Green had seen a Barn Owl while driving near Currency Creek on the way to the meeting.

A message came from Elizabeth Steele-Collins that Black-chinned Honeyeater were recorded by Hillary Thompson on two days in early April at Inman Valley Cafe.

Terry Dennis gave an absorbing and entertaining presentation on his work in the Coastal Raptor Project.

Gaynor Jones

We have received Gaynor's resignation from our group with much regret. Gaynor joined in late 1995 and made a very valuable contribution to the earlier days of our activities.

She worked, with Judy Jones, her sister-in-law and me, compiling our brochure *Birdwatching on the Southern Fleurieu* which was first printed in 1999 after a couple of years in preparation.

Gaynor also accepted much of the responsibility for compiling the displays on our Information Boards from 1996 onwards. She stored them in her shed for some time when they were not in use until they went to Signal Point on a more permanent basis. The boards are now protected by a fabric cover made by Gaynor to keep the dust off and prevent damage while in storage.

I well remember our first campout in 1996, to Danggali, when Gaynor came along with me: wonderful birdwatching for one day, then rained in for a day before we made heavy weather of muddy roads to get back to Renmark.

After several years as a Committee person Gaynor became Chairman of the group in 2001-2003. When her term ended she undertook supper

duties at our meetings and although this job has been taken over by others in latter years Gaynor has always been there to fill-in if needed.

Thank you Gaynor, for a job well done. We are sorry to lose you but know that other community interests will benefit from the many hours that you so generously give.

Judith Dyer

Two other club stalwarts ...

have indicated that they will not be renewing their membership this year. In recent times both Liz Sweetman and Rosalie Sharpe have been unable to attend activities.

Both are well remembered as keen birdwatchers and supporters by those who have been in the club since the early years.

Liz says, 'I have enjoyed meeting all of the members, and wish your outstanding club best wishes for the future.'

Rosalie is still passionate about the birds and has built up considerable expertise in identifying birds. Many members have appreciated her astute observations of bird behaviour.



Inman River Estuary to The Bluff, Victor Harbor

Saturday 10 April

Seven of us wandered the shores around the mouth of the Inman River on a cool and somewhat showery morning. Halfway to the Bluff a typical pair of Hooded Plover were enjoying a long lunch on a particular piece of seaweed — perfect viewing.

Nearer The Bluff 300-odd Crested Tern have adopted the rocks as their home. There was one Caspian Tern on the outer. Diving at sea were six Australasian Gannet, and resting at the boat ramp, two Australian Pelican.

We tallied 36 species altogether. Some of the others were Sooty Oystercatcher, Pacific Gull, Little Pied and Pied Cormorants, Masked Lapwing, Pacific Black Duck and Chestnut Teal. Fifty Rock Dove chose Wright Island for the day.

Bird call and lunch were at the Nangawooka Flora Reserve gazebo, safe from the showers. A pleasant morning event!

Geoffrey Evans

Bullock Hill CP

Thursday 29 April

Ten members enjoyed a wonderful outing in cool and overcast conditions with an early breeze — a little chilly in the park until we turned the corner. The views to Milang and Lake Alexandrina were spectacular.

Our first sighting was a Common Bronzewing, enjoying a patch of sunshine. Many New Holland Honeyeaters were feeding on the ground in the first paddock, which we all thought unusual — they were busy chasing ground-dwellers. We were then greeted by several pardalotes and they were happy to be watched.

One special treat on our exit route from the park was an echidna, quite large and of course, very beautiful.

Highlights

Very special: a family of Musk Lorikeet in and about a hollow in a gum tree. They were very visible, parents feeding the young, the whole family happily going about normal business.

Other highlights for me: Striated Pardalote, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, 50 or so Tree Martin sitting in a tree and six Striated Thornbill. Thirty-one species in all!

We enjoyed lunch on Green Road near the Ashbourne Golf Course, bins at the ready of course.

Elaine O'Shaughnessy



Aldinga skies: Black-shouldered Kite and below, White-bellied Sea-Eagle and its aggressors. Photos: Peter Gower and Teresa Jack respectively.



Aldinga Scrub and Hart Road Wetland

Sunday 16 May

Eight members and two visitors met at the Caravan Park entrance. A male Mistletoebird and White-plumed Honeyeater welcomed us but after that birds were hard won until we moved to Hart Road.

The highlight for the morning was four male Golden Whistler trying to sort out whose bit of territory belonged to whom.

On moving down to the Hart Road side of the park we walked to the wetland where water in two areas gave us Pacific Black and Wood Ducks, Australasian Grebe and an Australian White Ibis sitting in the top of a dead tree. A Yellow-billed Spoonbill flew over us, and Brown Songlark along with Richard's Pipit were calling and flying in quite a few places.

Lunch was early as birds seemed to have disappeared, but then a White-bellied Sea-Eagle dared to fly into magpie and raven territory where he was soon harassed by them. We all had an excellent view of him and it made the morning for us all.

With the weather perfect we all thought ourselves very fortunate to be able to enjoy the outing with such a spectacular ending, and surprisingly, finished with a bird list of 39 species!

Ann Turner



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo entertained watchers at Currency Creek. Photos: Above, Teresa Jack; Below, Peter Gower



Currency Creek

Wednesday 26 May

A quiet overcast morning and walking along the creek line was very enjoyable. Nine members appreciated the scenery and babbling creek. The birding was quiet until we heard the sound of the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo ahead of us. We were able to walk quite close to them and good viewing as we were high and looking into the treetops.

The sun came out, we watched the waterfall and then moved higher up the creek line. Coming back on the high side the little birds joined us: Weebill, Striated and Spotted Pardalotes and Thornbill. We could see Whistling Kite in the distance and many young New Holland Honeyeaters enjoyed the sunshine. Back near the Railway Viaduct Welcome Swallows entertained us, their plumage a remarkably light bright blue.

Back to the Picnic area and Bird Call — only 32 birds today but a very enjoyable morning.

Teresa Jack

Errata

Thank you to Elizabeth Steele-Collins for spotting this mistake in the April *Birdwatch*. We incorrectly reported the Shy Heathwren at Newland Head CP in February.

The sighting was, in fact, the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, a much duller bird with a white marking on the wing fainter than that of its cousin, and of course, the distinctive chestnut coloured rump.



Photo: Elizabeth Steele-Collins



CAMPOUT 2010

Friday 22 October–Monday 25 October

This year's campout venue is the Barossa Valley. Our base will be the Tanunda Caravan Park.

There is a Recreation Room which has been booked for three evenings at a cost of \$30 per night. Participants will be asked to contribute towards this cost. Barbecue facilities are available adjacent to the Recreation Room.

Members are responsible for booking their own accommodation and you will be asked for a deposit. If you mention when booking that you belong to the Fleurieu Birdwatchers group, the management will endeavour to place us in reasonably close proximity and offer a group booking discount. A range of cabins is available at various prices as well as caravan and camping sites.

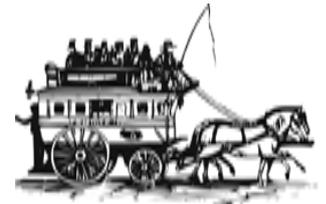
View accommodation options at tanundacaravantouristpark.com.au or phone 8563 2784. For other accommodation options contact the Barossa Visitor Centre at www.barossa.com, visitorcentre@barossa.sa.gov.au or phone 1300 852 982.

There is no major event anticipated for that weekend and there are plenty of cabins available as we go to print, but don't put it off — book now for a sensational weekend of good birdwatching, fellowship and fun!

The program will be:

Friday afternoon	Tanunda Effluent Ponds
Saturday	Altona Scrub
Sunday	Sandy Creek CP
Monday	to be decided.

Judith Dyer

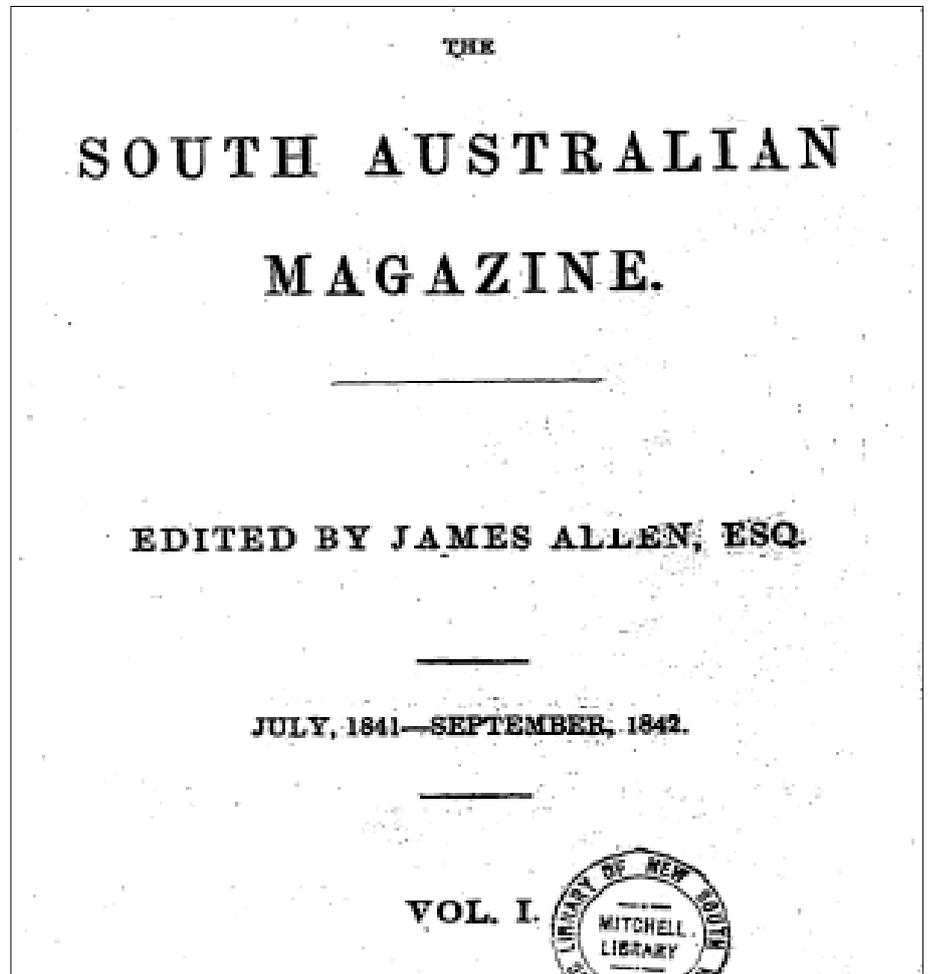


This fascinating publication is now available online through the Ferguson project of the National Library of Australia.

An extract from Volume I July 1841–September 1842 [overleaf] may be particularly interesting to birdwatchers.

More issues at

nla.gov.au/ferg/issn/14402149.html



THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA;

BY JOHN GOULD, ESQ., F.L.S.,

AUTHOR OF "THE BIRDS OF EUROPE," "MONOGRAPHS" &c.

MR. GOULD, the ornithologist, is now well known to that portion of public, who make Natural History a part of their pleasing study, by the numerous and valuable additions he has made to this important branch of science.

His "Birds of Europe," his "Century of Birds from the Himalaya Mountains," his "Monographs of the Toucans and Trogons," and his various other works, shew that he possesses no ordinary claims to scientific distinction, and have, in fact, already acquired for him a very high reputation as a Naturalist.

Not content, however, with his former additions to this branch of natural science, Mr. Gould, with a spirit of great enterprise, has visited this, and the adjoining colonies, and has devoted nearly two years to the study of "THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA" in their native wilds, with the view of undertaking and bringing to completion his present work. A number of new and interesting species have been discovered, and a rich harvest of knowledge, the fruit of personal observation and experience, has been acquired, in connexion with the migrations, changes of plumage, food, manners, and nidifications, of the feathered tribes of Australia, which pre-eminently fit him for the task he has undertaken.

The first Part of Mr. Gould's work, with a sight of which we have been favoured, was published in December last, price three guineas, and contains seventeen highly finished plates, on imperial folio paper, accompanied with letter-press descriptions of each of the species introduced. The size of Nature is adopted, as far as possible, in the drawings, and the attitudes in which they are represented are caught from life, the attention of Mr. Gould having been as much directed to their movements on the spray as to their peculiar conformations. For the execution of this part of the work, it must be admitted, that Mr. Gould possesses peculiar advantages, Mrs. Gould having accompanied him in his exploratory visit to this continent, and having taken both the drawings and colouring fresh from nature. The beautiful grasses, the delicate foliage, and the bloom of the various gum trees, which