



June 2012

# Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



- **Saturday 16 June.** Nurragi Reserve, Junction of Goolwa Strath Rd and Milang Rd Finniss 35°22'25"S 138°48'01"E
- **Thursday 28 June.** Aldinga Scrub, Entrance, Cox Road, Aldinga 35°17'50"S 138°27'30"E
- **Friday 13 July General Meeting - Members Night**
- **Sunday 15 July Cox's Scrub,** Northern entrance off Ashbourne Road 35°20'1" S 138°44'23" E
- **Wednesday 25 July Ingalalla Falls,** Hay Flat Road
- **Saturday 18 August Kyeema CP** Car Park, Woodgate Hill Road

## URGENT REQUEST

**Volunteers Required** - We need 4-5 general members to do a 10-15 minute presentation on a bird topic of their choice E.G good bird holiday locations, bird photography  
Please Contact Pat Uppill to book your time

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

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**  
Agnes and Hans deJong of Hayborough



White-bellied Sea-Eagle  
Coorong Barrages  
Photo:  
Peter Gower

**REMINDER ! SUBS ARE NOW OVERDUE! Please see April Issue for payment details !**

**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

**Private Property Parawa, 12 April 2012**

Eleven members met on the Parawa Road for our outing to a private property nearby. It was a fine, warm day and as soon as we arrived Eastern Spinebills were heard and within minutes Sittellas were feeding in the trees above. This was a good start to what proved to be a most enjoyable and profitable outing. Our bird count included the woodland birds expected in such an environment: Grey Shrike Thrush, Grey Fantail, numerous Superb Fairy-wrens, Yellow-rumped and Striated Thornbills, White-naped honeyeaters, Red-browed Finches, a Mistletoebird, Dusky Woodswallows and Grey Currawongs. Perhaps the most exciting was a pair of Scarlet Robins in the same area as they were seen on our last visit.

Over-all our count was 29 species.

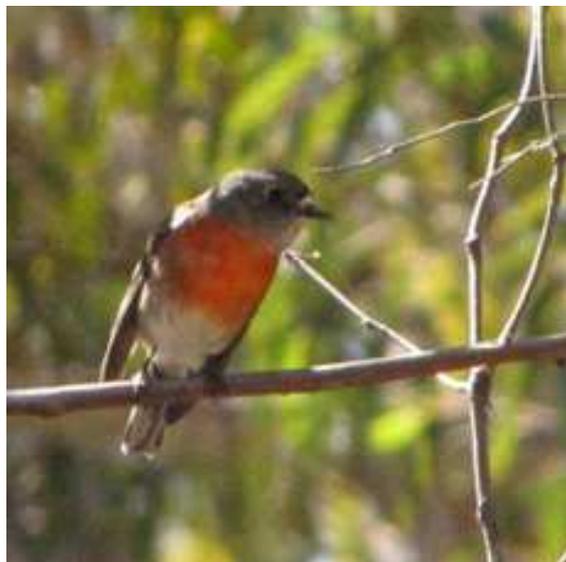
*Pat Uppill*



Euc. *Cosmophylla* (unusual pink flower)

Photos: *Gerald Uppill*

Female Scarlet Robin



**Mt Billy CP, 21 April 2012**

On a warm but overcast morning 6 members met at Mt Billy Conservation Park. The birds were as undecided as the weather (the rain came in the afternoon). In all we saw 33 species but only small numbers of each species except the abundant New Holland Honeyeaters and 6 Golden Whistlers who were enjoying the flowering Banksias in the park. Quite a number of birds were heard rather than seen including a Scarlet Robin and Brown-headed Honeyeater as the bush was very thick. The walk was very steep both up and down the hills but enjoyed by everyone present. We also spotted a yellow footed Antechinus. Bordering the park and a paddock we spotted 10 Superb Fairy-wrens and 6 Red-browed Finches.

*Graeme and Yrena Mountford*



Brown-headed Honeyeater Photo: *Peter Gower*

**Final National Fairy Tern Survey 2011-2012 - Coorong Component**

This was held on 31 March. Windy weather was not kind and may have contributed to the recording of only one adult and one juvenile. The state wide results are being collated and will be included in a future newsletter.

**Clare Manning**, Ranger Ecologist, from DENR who has been coordinating the survey from Wyndgate, Hindmarsh Island will be leaving DENR in June for a new position in NSW. We wish her well in her new position but her enthusiasm for the ecology of the Coorong will be sadly missed.

**Newland Head CP, 13 May 2012**

It was Mother's Day and Denzel was replaced by Wendy to lead a small group of 7 Birdwatchers from Dennis Hut to part of the Waitpinga CP. Unfortunately the weather was looking bleak and it was only 12 degrees as we started out at 8.30 am. The showers became more consistent while we climbed the hill which sent us ducking for trees to shelter from the rain.

The weather made birding difficult though we were delighted to see kangaroos up close and the eucalyptus and yaccas beginning to flower. We had a good sighting of a few Crescent Honeyeaters but the visibility for small birds was poor. After an hour and a half of having to frequently wipe our binoculars we decided to abandon the walk and headed back to the cars. Here we met up with Nick who managed to stay dry in his car and around the Hut seeing most of the birds we had sighted wandering in the rain!!

After a hot warming coffee break we drove down to Waitpinga Beach to check out the shore line. It was extremely wild and windy with huge waves and only a couple of fishermen on the beach. One Pacific Gull was amongst the sea-gulls waiting for fish tit-bits and then Nick spotted a Fairy Penguin up the beach. A few people decided to rescue it and Verle ended up nursing it on her lap as Ann drove back to Victor to find help for it.

A Wedge-tailed Eagle was seen scanning the cliffs and down on the beach were a 100 or so Crested Terns near the River outlet. We finished up early and at the count were surprised to total 29 species and not one Starling or Sparrow amongst them, which proves it is not WHAT you see, but what you DON'T see that really counts!!

Wendy Phillips



Yaccas Newland Head CP Photo: Wendy Phillips



Penguin Rescuers Photo: Wendy Phillips



Little Penguin Photo: Graham Mountford



Banded Stilt chicks at Lake Torrens 2011 with flags: Orange above Yellow, triangular on the upper Left leg.

## Have you seen a flagged stilt?

Please record:

- **Colour and order** (e.g. Orange above Yellow)
- **Which leg they are on and the position on the leg** (e.g. Upper Right)
- **Shape** (e.g. Square or Triangular)

Report flag sightings to Reece Pedler or the Australasian Wader Studies Group: [mintons@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mintons@ozemail.com.au)



Lake Ballard, WA 1995



Werribee, VIC 2000



Coorong, SA 2006



Lake Torrens, SA 2010



Lake Torrens, SA 2011

Illustrations courtesy Bryan Haywood, Friends of Shorebirds SE

## Gluepot April 2012

Nick and I set off early for Gluepot and after a couple of stops on the way arrived at Sittella Campsite in time to set ourselves up before it was dark. I was keen to find the Spotted Nightjar that I had been trying to see for about 5 years and Nick wanted, among others, the Regent Parrot.

While we were erecting our tents and swags a fellow camper came over to say he was spot-lighting for Spotted Nightjar so we agreed to join him. We set off at dusk, walked out on the road and on seeing red eyes knew we had one. It did not stay however so I did not class that as being lucky.

Next day Nick and I went to Old Gluepot Hide and saw four Regent Parrots as we walked in then once we had sat down in the hide they flew in from everywhere and we counted 60+ and all trying to drink at the same time. I felt rather envious as it was so easy but was pleased for Nick. After tea we went spot-lighting by ourselves but did not have any luck, not even eyes. Next day back early to the hide but this time there were even more Regents than ever 70+. By this time I was well and truly fed up with the Regent Parrots and so left Nick to take all the photographs he wanted while I moved outside to look for birds. Outside we had thousands of Wood-swallow flying around and then swooping down on to the water's edge of a lake from recent rains. Nick eventually came out and then took photos of them and more Regent Parrots. Once again after we had eaten we left to look for the elusive Nightjar. There were supposedly plenty at the dam so we went there and walked through and around the outside but no sign of any bird not just Nightjars. By this time I was really peeved off and said tomorrow is the last time I will try.

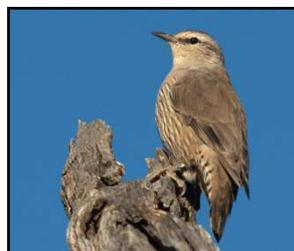
Next morning again off early to John Martin hide where we had lots of other birds and still more Regent Parrots. By this time I was informing Nick they were a common bird, greedy because they would not let others drink as there were so many of them, anything to rubbish the poor parrots as I had not had any luck but he just laughed at me. This time as it was a hot day we spent the afternoon in the Environment Centre checking our bird lists etc. until 4 pm when we decided to go to the Dam and wait until it was dusk. We waited over an hour but finally we heard scuffles in the darker areas on the edge of the Dam. Suddenly a bird flew in and landed on the far edge of the dam partly hidden by a bush. It was a raptor and turned out to be a Little Eagle. We then saw a couple of birds flying around and Nick shone the light and I followed it with my bino's. Finally I had the Spotted Nightjar in full view. Nick did a fantastic job of keeping the spotlight on it while it flew around and scooped water from the dam. It was a magic time. On the way back to the campsite we saw a pair of red eyes on the road so kept driving towards it knowing it to be another Nightjar and this time it stayed until we nearly ran it over before flying away. A top day with me thanking Nick for his patience and even saying the Regent Parrot was a lovely bird. We then had a nice glass of port to celebrate our find. Many thanks Nick for a really good birding week.

Ann Turner



Striped Honeyeater

Black-eared Miner



All Photos: Nick Tebneff

Hooded Robin

Regent Parrots

Brown Treecreeper

Pallid Cuckoo

Chestnut Quail-thrush



## General Meeting 11 May 2012

### Items of Interest

Only 11 members were present with Keith Jones acting as President and Wendy Phillips as Secretary.

Neil Cheshire has been appointed as Publicity Officer for FBW.

A new birding group from Normanville visited the Barrages with Win Syson, they saw 40 species including Latham's Snipe. A copy of our outing program will be forwarded to them to encourage them to join FBW.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo survey will be held on 26-27 May and several members expressed interest.

Peter Gower spoke of a newly formed photography group and he and Nick attended a training session at Gluepot recently. 70 species were recorded during the session. Black-eared Miners have hybridised and there are very few pure birds left.

Win and Ann attended a Hooded Plover banding course at Maslins Beach recently, the Fleurieu HP's are banded with an orange flag.

Teresa is doing an OBP survey and a HP workshop on Yorke Peninsula.

Gemini Downs (Coorong) has been sold and is no longer available for public camping.

A DVD was watched on Budgies in the wild and Endangered Birds.

### Birdcall:

100's Galahs and 100's of Corellas near Strathalbyn, 3 Wedge-tailed Eagles at Newland head, Scarlet Robin at Parawa, Little Eagle at Gilbert Siding, Flame Robin at Hindmarsh Tiers, Black-chinned HE and eastern Spinebill at Victor Harbor, Teresa saw two Malleefowl crossing the road near Whyalla, Two Malleefowl were also surveyed near Monarto.

100 Brolgas sighted at Little Bool Lagoon in the South East.

## Alexandrina Council Farm Gate Festival - Birds as Art



Clayton—Milang Road April 2012

Photos: *Wendy Phillips*



## ONKAPARINGA WETLANDS 23 MAY 2012

Five intrepid birdos met at the Old Noarlunga Institute at 8.30am.

Forecast was for wind and rain. We didn't get any rain but the wind was quite strong and gusty and the weather deteriorated into very overcast and cold as the day went along.

Our leader was Teresa and she certainly knows her way around the Onkaparinga River. We had a wonderful look at the Nankeen Night Herons in the huge gum on the park at Old Noarlunga, there were 10 of these exquisite birds including four juveniles. Very special viewing for me.

We then moved from 'a' to 'b' along the river and river flats, some of the spots I had never been to, despite having been on a couple of outings in the area before.

There were very few 'little bush birds', due to the wind but we managed a wonderful total of 48 species, some of which were very exciting including the Eastern Reef Egret, sitting on the cliff edge at the mouth of the Onkaparinga River. These are apparently very scarce.

My highlight for the day was the sighting of two Blue-billed Ducks, I am sure I have never seen them before and they gave us more than just a fleeting glance. One Hardhead sighting is worth mentioning, also one Peregrine Falcon, three Great Egrets, three Dusky Woodswallows and plenty of water birds generally: Crested Terns, Black Swans, one juvenile Pacific Gull, Little Black Cormorants, Little Pied Cormorants, Pelicans, Darters, Grebes etc.

We returned to Old Noarlunga and had the bird count in the comfort of the "Pie Shop". A great morning, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

*Elaine O'Shaughnessy*



Darter Photo: *Judith Dyer*



Eastern Reef Egret Photo: *Wikipedia*



Blue-billed Duck Photo: *Peter Gower*

## OBP Survey—Teresa Jack

The first for this season. I travelled and searched the area from the southern end of Tauwichee Barrage south past Mark Point and onto Long Point. Elegant Parrot success north of Mark Point, 30 in total, 19 in one group.

Our trip continued to include Seven Mile Rd, Parnka Point, Loop Rd Salt Creek. No more Parrots to be seen. The water levels are very good. Very few birds now ...all gone north. The largest group were Great Cormorants. 9 Musk Ducks in one bay. Every now and then a Hoary-headed Grebe. 4 Emu were seen at Parnka Point. At Loop Rd I saw 21 Hooded Plovers on the lake opposite Camp 1. A few Red-necked Stints and 60 Red-capped Plovers. A brief sighting of a Bristlebird. A Malleefowl mound was open ready for the new season and further south I had a quick visit from a Beautiful Firetail. I saw a pair of Southern Scrub-robins; they didn't know whether to tell me off, or chase each other and made a funny purring noise.



Southern Scrub-robin  
Photo: *Teresa Jack*



14 of 21 Hooded Plovers  
Photo: *Teresa Jack*