



October 2010

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



SPECIAL

Friday 8 October

Anglican Church Hall,
Goolwa.

Shared Finger Food tea to
farewell Ray and Val Laird.
6.00–9.00 pm



Campout 2010 —Tanunda

Friday 22–Monday 25 October

*Please bring a copy of this
program with you.*

- ❖ **Saturday 9 October. Mt Compass boardwalk/private property, Willunga**
Meet at the boardwalk entrance, Arthur Road, Mt Compass.
35° 21' 16" S 138° 37' 09" E
- ❖ **Friday to Monday 22–25 October. CAMPOUT 2010.** Barossa.
- ❖ **Friday 12 November. General Meeting**
Member Speaker: Pat Uppill, *Birds of the Galapagos Islands*
- ❖ **Sunday 14 November. Winery Road, Currency Creek**
Meet at the Canoe Tree, Goolwa–Strathalbyn Road, Currency Creek.
35° 26' 04" S 138° 46' 41" E
- ❖ **Thursday 25 November. Inman Flats**
Meet near the horse yards, Henderson Road, Victor Harbor.
35° 32' 57" S 138° 36' 25" E
- ❖ **Saturday 4 December. Breakup, Barrage, Goolwa**
Meet in Barrage car park for a walk at 4.00 pm followed by BYO
picnic tea. 35° 31' 41" S 138° 48' 18" E

Our base will be Tanunda Caravan Park. 34° 31' 55" S 138° 57' 04" E

PLEASE NOTE: GPS READINGS ARE MAP DERIVED AND MAY NOT BE 100% ACCURATE.

Friday afternoon. *Tanunda Effluent Ponds.* Meet 3:30 pm in Caravan Park.

Saturday. *Altona/CSR Landcare Reserve.* Meet at entrance at 8:30 am.

RAA Barossa Valley Map Dec 2008, D8. 34° 35' 22" S 138° 54' 32" E

Evening. *Happy hour* at 5:00 pm, BYO BBQ at 6.00 pm

Sunday. *Sandy Creek Conservation Park.* Enter from Lyndoch/Gawler Road. Meet in the car park at 8:30 am.

RAA Barossa Valley map Dec 2008, B8. 34° 36' 10" S 138° 51' 19" E

Monday. Depart Caravan Park 8:30 am. *Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park,* Tanunda Creek Road. RAA Barossa Valley map Dec 2008 H7. 34° 34' 53" S 139° 01' 29" E

We have hired the recreation room for use in the evenings and barbecue facilities are available. Contributions by members to night activities will be welcomed. Eric Walton, from the Williamstown/Lyndoch Landcare Group, will talk to us about the history and management of the Altona/CSR Landcare Reserve on either Saturday or Sunday evening.

If you have not yet made a booking the details are in the June newsletter. See www.tanundacaravantouristpark.com.au for available accommodation options or phone 8563 2784. Group discount has been offered.

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



URGENT

Field outings are an integral part of our activities. Judith Dyer and Ann Turner have coordinated them since the inception of the group.

Understandably, they both wish to relinquish this job shortly. Outings have been planned till January next year. We need someone to take over as soon as possible. Help and guidance in the task will be freely available.

The job involves planning, informing the editor and webmaster of dates and venues, and arranging for leaders and occasionally, access to private property. No special expertise is needed but access to a computer would be useful.



When it comes to keeping cool, toucans get top billing in the animal world. New research shows that the colorful bird uses its massive beak to rapidly radiate away heat, allowing it to chill out in tropical climates or when expending a lot of energy while flying.

Friday 10 September 2010

There were 18 members and two visitors at this meeting. Denzel welcomed all and mentioned several items of Committee discussion including a policy for letting members know if outings are cancelled (see next page) and a request for someone to convene field outings.

The Goolwa effluent ponds project is well under way with paths finished and the original creek line being re-established.

Birds SA have proposed a campout in 2011 at Ngarkat to train watchers to do bird surveys.

One member had amazing facts about the toucan which he researched after this South American was mentioned in Elaine's Quiz at the Once-a-Year Night.

Bird call included

- » 20 Satin Bowerbirds seen in Queensland, at the State Forest north of Kilcoy
- » Buff-banded Rail in a local garden
- » Pair of Hooded Plover at Hindmarsh estuary, and also at Inman estuary
- » Pair of Pink-eared Duck at the Beyond development, Victor Harbor Road, Pt Elliot; and a flock of 120-40 at New Haven near Alice Springs
- » Red-capped Plover and Black-fronted Dotterel at Goolwa effluent ponds
- » White-bellied Sea-Eagle at Cape de Couedic, Kangaroo Island
- » Pink Robin, 40 Blue-winged Parrot and Mallee Fowl nesting at Coorong National Park
- » Lots of cygnets on the river at Goolwa.

Peter Gower introduced Nicholas Birks who has travelled widely gathering wonderful bird photos, many taken from a hide on a very high tower at treetop height where he was often cramped for long hours.

Bird talk flowed freely over a welcome cuppa which Wendy had made ready for us.

OBP Count, July

In SA we had a total of six Orange-bellied Parrots found. Three birds were found in the northern Coorong (photos taken, one juvenile and two adult females). A partial band reading was gained for one of the adults. A report of two, possibly three, OBPs in the Lower South East was confirmed as three individual OBPs in followups.

July numbers of neophemas for SA stand at six Orange-bellied Parrots, 102 Blue-winged Parrots, 58 Elegant Parrots, three Rock Parrots and nine unidentified Neophemas.

With 88 of the BWPs recorded at one site it makes for a worryingly low count of BWPs as well.

Bob Green

WELCOME

Michelle and Jerry Foster, Strathalbyn
Susan Keimle, Encounter Bay



Convoy Etiquette: When travelling in convoy please be sure to keep the car **BEHIND** you within your sights. That way we can react appropriately in an emergency and all arrive safely at the right place.



Due to extreme weather conditions outings on Wednesday 28 July and Saturday 14 August attracted only one member each. For the same reason no-one showed up for the outing to Scott CP (southern) on Thursday 26 August. This turn of events prompted the Committee to formulate the following policy.

If outings are cancelled due to inclement weather or any other circumstance, emails will be sent to members and the information posted on the website Outings page. Those without email will need to make a phone call to one of the numbers published in the newsletter.



Onkaparinga Wetlands

Sunday 12 September

Ten members led by Denzel had a very pleasant morning.

Checking the park in Old Noarlunga first we found a total of 13 Night Heron roosting in the old pine trees. Some of them were very well hidden and it required patience to find them all.

Walking around the waterways of the wetlands in lovely sunny weather sharing the path with cyclists and other walkers set the mood for the day. We saw many water birds including pelicans, ducks, grebes, cormorants, ibis and many more. The most prolific ducks were the Hardhead and there were two species of Grebe.

On the boardwalk we had a great view of the Golden-headed Cisticola and on the other side Clamorous Reed-warbler were chirping.

The vegetation has grown in the park and gives cover for the bush birds. The highlights for me were two Dusky Woodswallow, and a Collared Sparrowhawk.

With a few more birds present at the lunch spot the total came to 61 species.

Wendy Phillips



Steps built into the bank by the side of the old road in Nixon-Skinner were reminiscent of a former cottage near the site.

Nixon-Skinner and Springmount Conservation Parks

Wednesday 29 September

A group of 11 met beside the Myponga Reservoir anticipating a sunny day but soon appreciated warmer clothes as it became overcast and remained cool. We walked along the old road around the edge of the park, the most prolific bird being the New Holland Honeyeater sharing the blossom of flowering leucoxyllons with White-naped Honeyeater. Crescent Honeyeater could be heard.

When the road disappeared into the depths of the reservoir we chose to walk through the scrub, a good decision as we had a close up view of a Scarlet Robin. A few Great Cormorant and Little Pied Cormorant were the only water birds seen.

A short drive took us to Springmount where we followed a track through the tall stringy-bark forest. Numerous Adelaide Rosella, Kookaburra calling, Grey Fantail and the call of White-throated Treecreeper kept us alert. We eventually sighted a treecreeper and a Scarlet Robin, both birds that we'd hoped to see.

On our first walk 23 species were seen, 18 at Springmount.

Pat Uppill



Colourful wildflowers by the track in Springmount were quite a distraction.



How good is this? Hostess Elaine O'Shaughnessy and quiz winner, Julie Kuchel. Photo: Verle Wood

Elaine's Quiz

1. Is the Magpie Lark found throughout the whole of Australia?
2. The Emu is the largest Australian bird. What is the second largest?
3. What bird did Elaine catch and talk to inside the Hotel Victor earlier this year?
4. Please identify all the birds on the Feathered Friends sheet (side panel).
5. a. What bird is a symbol of peace? b. What Australian bird is a great mimic? c. What bird is very adept at camouflage, especially while resting during the day?
6. Unscramble the following.
BIGGERUDAR, USHOE WRAPOSR, DORHATTER, NEGERT WIDROBBER, ANGLSPED GOODDRN
7. Which bird does Denzel Murfet want us to keep a watch out for? See April 2010 newsletter.
8. The answer to each of the following is, of course, a bird.
necessary to eat and drink, a lady's hat, a type of ship, sometimes the sea is ... , Queen Elizabeth is a
9. What is the only bird that can fly backwards?
10. What birds are breeding in the thousands on Lake Eyre this year, for the first time in over ten years?

Stand on your head to see the answers bottom left this page.

Coastal Raptors

For three years Terry Dennis has been surveying White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Osprey around the South Australia. Here are some excerpts from Terry's recent report.

During the May-June sea-eagle courting and nest building period several specific surveys were conducted to follow-up on reports where eagles are seen from time to time: three days were spent conducting morning and evening telescope-watch sessions overlooking Baudin Rocks at the northern end of Guichen Bay, but no sea-eagles were seen.

We had same result after four days of searching and scope-watch in the Point Clinton-Price area. These were followed by several boat-based surveys to islands in the Investigator and Sir Joseph Banks Groups, along the northern and eastern coastlines of Kangaroo Island, and then — the wildest ride of all — the western end of Kangaroo Island! Although no new sites were found on the latter survey, it is pleasing to report that overall, 19 sea-eagle territories were confirmed for Kangaroo Island, two more than were found in 2005 and one more than the 26-year average.

The best estimate is ~ 70 sea-eagle territories statewide with the greater majority of these (77%) being found based on island habitats.

The final number of osprey appears to be very close to that published in 2007 i.e. 55 pairs and appears unlikely to exceed 60 pairs. In contrast to sea-eagle habitats, only a small number of these were found on islands, which seems to confirm my view that these two species do not live happily side-by-side.

Absolute final numbers will be published in the *South Australian Ornithologist*, probably early next year.

Sea-eagle nest on cliff. Photo: Andrew Brooks



Quiz answers
 1. No; 2. Cassowary; 3. Collared Sparrow-hawk; 4. Rainbow Lorikeet, Cassowary, Kiwi, Galah, Puffin, Flamingo, Toucan, Bush Turkey, Kookaburra, Butcherbird; 5. a. Dove, b. Lyrebird, c. Tawny Frog-mouth; 6. Bugderigar, House Sparrow, Redthroat, Regent Bowerbird, Spangled Drono; 7. Black-chinned Honeyeater; 8. Swallow, Blue Bonnet, Frigatebird, Ruff, Monarch; 9. Hummingbird; 10. Banded Stilt.(possible 29 points)