

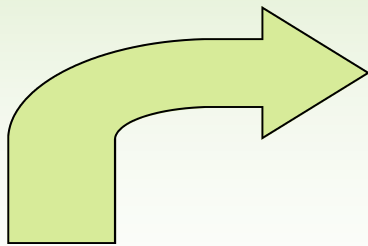


# Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc.

ISSN 2206-4761

## Events



### Reminders

**October Campout**  
Friday 20-Monday 23.

*to register please*

Contact Peter Owen

**0417 812 931** or email  
[pao45@bigpond.com](mailto:pao45@bigpond.com)

See page 2.

**General Meeting.**

Friday 17 November

at Crocker St. Goolwa,

Guest Speaker-*John Gitsham*

**Aussie Backyard**  
**BirdCount. 23-29 October**

**Wednesday 11 October, Ingallala Falls and Springs Rd Reserve.**  
**Hay Flat Rd. Ingalalla Falls Car Park.**

35°31'49"S, 138°20'43"E

**Sunday 12 November, Tolderol/Langhorne Creek Cemetery.**  
**Tolderol Reserve.**

35°22'13"S, 139°08'14"E

**Friday 17 November. General Meeting, **Note changed date.****

**Wednesday 22 November, Bullock Hill CP.**

**Car Park behind Greenman Inn.**

35°17'17"S, 138°45'52"E

**Saturday 2 December, Christmas Breakup**  
**Strathalbyn, To Be Confirmed**



Swamp Harrier 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.

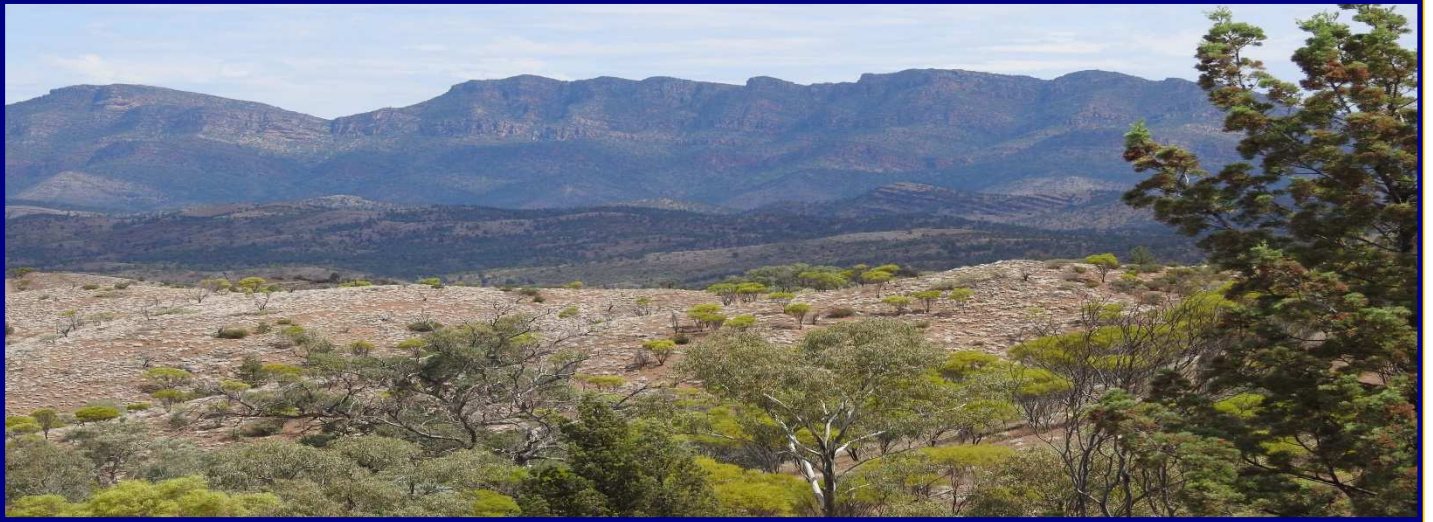
**Outings:** Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair. See **Events** above

**Contacts:** fleurieubirds@gmail.com or phone 8555 0634

**Website:** [www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org](http://www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org)

**Newsletter:** Contact email: fleurieubirds@gmail.com

## Spring into Action at Willow Springs! Join us Friday 20-Monday 23 October.



After a long, cold, wet winter what better way to kick off the cold and come to the campout in the Flinders Ranges at Willow Springs Station.

The countryside is looking magnificent and Willow Springs is promising to be picturesque with wild flowers and plenty of birdlife.

### PLAN:

**Friday** Meet at 4 pm for a walk around the station.

**Saturday** a driving trip along the fabulous Brachina Gorge.

**Sunday** drive to the iconic Wilpena Pound for an easy walk. We will also spend time at Stokes Hill Lookout to try and find the elusive Short-tailed Grasswren. There are many other local birds including Redthroat, Inland Thornbill, Yellow-throated Miner, Australian Ringneck that we can look for.

We are arranging for the Blinman General Store to cater for us on the Saturday night at Willow Springs. The cost is \$20 a head with a choice of lasagne or meat loaf and a desert of custard tart or Quandong Pie and cream! **You will need to let Peter know your order at least a week before.**

We are keen to firm up numbers for both the accommodation and catering. At this stage there are 19 people booked.

**Please ring Willow Springs Station on 8648 0016 to book your campsite site.**

There are still beds available in the Shearers quarters with rooms having double or single beds. Cost is \$35 per person per night. This gives you access to the kitchen, dining and common rooms.

**Ring the Flinders Ranges Accommodation Booking Service on 1800 770 880 to secure your bed.**

Flinders Ranges and  
Yellow-throated Miner:  
Photos: *Bob Daly*



Australian Ringneck Parrot

When you have booked please confirm with Peter Owen: [pao45@bigpond.com](mailto:pao45@bigpond.com) or text him on 0417 812 931.

## Outing— Hardy Scrub, Saturday 12 August 2017.

Eight members gathered on Chapel Hill Road, Blewitt Springs. It was clear and sunny but still chilly to begin with. We could hear lots of bird activity close by in the scrub but it was difficult to see very far until we found more open ground. At the beginning of the walk we saw a Peregrine Falcon soaring high and later another unidentified Raptor just above the tree line. With lots of small birds about we noted Striated Pardalotes, Silvereye, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Thornbills, numerous Superb Fairy-wrens and Red-browed Finches, Grey Fantails, Eastern Spinebill, a variety of Honeyeaters. The larger birds sighted were Grey Shrike-thrush and Currawongs and the parrots included Musk Lorikeets and Rosellas.

We were pleased to find a Fantail Cuckoo perched nearby as we took photos.

A Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo was calling constantly in the vicinity was but not seen. A male Golden Whistler proudly presented itself for viewing. There were 3 pairs of Golden Whistler seen on the day.

Total species, 29 birds listed.

**Thanks to Edith for leading us.**

**Russell Creed.**



Photo: Russell Creed

## Latham Snipe News: from **Birgita Hansen—Project Manager Latham Snipe Count.**

*I wanted to thank you all again for the count data and information you have contributed to the regular snipe counts and incidental sightings. It has been fabulous seeing data coming in from various parts of the state/ country, and some sites are holding a lot more birds than we expected (for example some Tasmanian sites, Peterborough Vic, some SA sites – to name a few).*

*We had fantastic site coverage last year overall, with over 80 sites in total being covered. It would be great if you might be able to help out again this coming season.*

### **The next count dates are Sept 23, Nov 25 and Jan 20 (2018)**

State	Region	Sept Count	Nov Count	Jan Count
ACT	Canberra	33	53	12
VIC	Geelong-Bellarine	5	0	77
	East Gippsland	0	71	99
	Greater Melbourne	28	26	34
	Mornington Peninsula	0	0	0
	Peterborough	93	72	100
	Phillip Island	15	15	11
	Port Fairy-Warrnambool	52	40	76
	Otways	nc	0	nc
	Central Highlands	nc	0	nc
SA	South-east South Australia	0	4	75
NSW	Southern NSW	35	56	13
	Northern NSW	0	4	36
QLD	Sunshine Coast, QLD	8	0	2
	Far north Queensland	nc	3	nc
TAS	North-west Tasmania	32	163	76
	Northern Tasmania	nc	nc	0
	South-west Tasmania	nc	nc	0
	South-east Tasmania	nc	nc	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>301</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>639</b>

### **Dr Birgita Hansen.**

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[www.cerdi.edu.au](http://www.cerdi.edu.au)

[www.lathamssnipeproject.wordpress.com](http://www.lathamssnipeproject.wordpress.com)

[www.awsg.org.au](http://www.awsg.org.au)



## Peter Gower's "Fleurieu Birds" 2012 Book has just been re-printed.

It is available in local bookshops now. Hop in quick if you need one for Christmas as they are selling fast. Congratulations Peter on the third edition. It's wonderful that it has been so popular and still in demand.

Andrew Black and Peter Gower have just produced a new book...



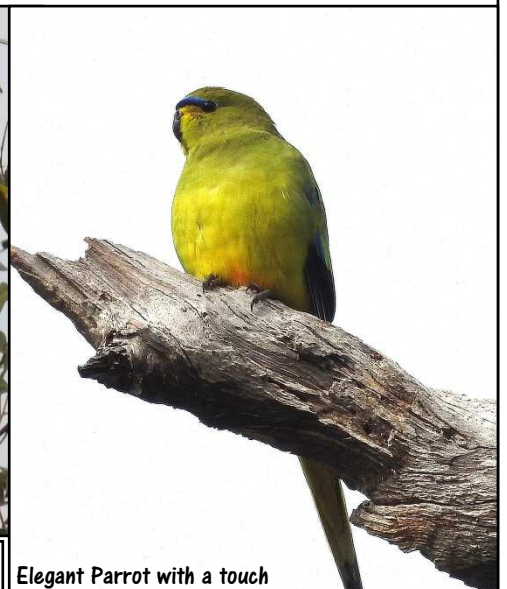
## GRASSWRENS—Australian Outback Identities.

This has been supported by Nature Foundation and the book launch was held at the Holden St. Theatre next to their premises at Hindmarsh on 20th September.

The book will retail at \$45. It has a hard cover and contains 155 pages and 120 photos of Grasswrens, with 11 species + 14 subspecies.



Scott Conservation Park is buzzing this season with an abundance of birds, bees and flowers. Raucous Parrots and Lorikeets are everywhere taking up the hollow nesting sites.



Over 20 people registered with GWLAP for a walk in the park and a bird identification session with John Gitsham on a **perfect** sunny day recently. This was one of the great sessions on offer from GWLAP and there are a number of other events coming up. For more info: Contact Jacqui Wilson: [jacqui.wilson@gwlap.org.au](mailto:jacqui.wilson@gwlap.org.au)

**A working bee** is planned with the DEWNR Ranger, Stuart Hicks, to do some light maintenance in the park on **Thursday 12 October at 9 am**. This is NOT a requirement of FBW members, but for anyone who is happy to volunteer and do some light weeding of *Monadenia* orchid. Please contact me if you would like to assist. **Phone Wendy Phillips 85550634 or email FBW. I will pass on your contact details to Stuart Hicks as you will need to register with the department for OHS requirements.**

**Scott CP** was purchased by the government from the Scott's farm in 1969 and proclaimed a conservation park in 1972. The loop walk takes approx. an hour and half to complete and drops onto the deep creek bed 3 times. A request has been made to DEWNR to **improve** the track safety!

**Friday 17 November General Meeting** will be attended by President of Birds SA, John Gitsham. He will be available to discuss FBW Inc joining with Birds SA as a sub-branch of their organisation. If you want to take part in the discussion and help make a final decision then it is vital that you attend. Supper will be provided. If time allows we will have a short presentation from one of our members.

## Muntiri Lodge Eco Retreat, Clayton Bay.

Having bought our neighbours property, including the 175 acres of Heritage Listed remnant scrub, known as **Muntiri** from published ornithologist Dr Andrew Black, we would like to let you know we have just completed renovating the cottage. It is now luxury accommodation, self contained and has two bedrooms with a new bathroom and kitchen. As some of you may have visited in past years and still remember the property we would be delighted to open the scrub (by appointment) to you for the purpose of bird watching.

**If anyone would be interested in staying over in the cottage, you can view the website on [www.muntiri.com](http://www.muntiri.com).**

Contact owner: Allie Selwood— [allie@rainbowhillfarm.net](mailto:allie@rainbowhillfarm.net)

Phone 0419835741



When previously visited by FBW members it was common to see approx. 50 bird species on the day. Trees for Life and Bushcare volunteers have also contributed to the block in the past. *A great place to stay and enjoy the natural surrounds with all the comforts of home.*

The house and scrub photos taken from their website.

### Outing - Saturday 23 September—Mt Billy and Hindmarsh Falls.

A small group of four met in Hindmarsh Valley before proceeding to the first gate of Mt Billy where we met two others, including a visitor from Victoria. We started up the track in fine weather but braced for the predicted wind and rain. There were the usual New Holland HEs and we soon recorded some very active White-browed Scrubwrens and Striated Thornbills. A number of Grey Shrike-thrush could be heard as well as some Crescent Honeyeaters. The bird count was only sixteen, but the proliferation of flowering plants made up for this. Tetratheca, grevillea, running postman and hakea were all at their peak and made it easy to forget that we were actually looking for birds.

The Hindmarsh Falls site produced some very interesting birds, many visiting as we had a tea break. In the background a Golden Whistler was constantly calling, a Red-browed Finch and a White-naped Honeyeater sat on a tree close by, while a Wedge-tailed Eagle was being harassed above. On our walk to the falls we were fortunate to see a female Mistletoebird. By this time the wind was quite strong so the number of birds was unexpected.



White-naped HE



Red-browed Finch

*We had a most enjoyable morning and thanks to Keith for leading us around our walk. **Pat Uppill***





Elegant Parrot

## OBP Report from Bob Green.

**Hot off the press** is the news of the first OBP arrival back at Melaleuca in Tasmania, an adult male. We are hoping for lots more to arrive over the coming weeks.

Having said that, still keep your eyes open as with birds on the move they could show up anywhere during their migration.

### September OBP count results:

Unfortunately no OBPs were found in SA but we had a good count of Blue-winged Parrots this year which is higher than normal for September.

## 244 Blue-winged Parrots, 15 Elegant Parrots, 0 Rock Parrots.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed, shown interest in, helped with surveys and just been a part of the OBP Recovery effort this year. **Bob Green**

## Outing-Sunday 10 September Gilbert's Block, Currency Creek.

A pleasant warm Spring day saw good attendance (16) for this outing. Gilbert's Block is situated between Currency Creek and the Finnis River but does not have water frontage. In the care of the current owners the block is recovering from past grazing and after Winter rain was in good condition. Of particular interest are the many Xanthorrhoea or Yakka bushes on the property.

A good variety of birds, 30 species in all were recorded. Of note was a raptor which flew away as we soon as we approached. It was subsequently identified as a Collared Sparrowhawk from flight photographs. Six Elegant Parrots and six Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos were counted. A fast moving foraging party of White-browed Babblers was located. We also saw four Hooded Robins, a welcome sight as this is not an easy bird to find on the Fleurieu these days. **We thank Steve Gilbert for permission to visit his property. Neil Cheshire**



Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo and a view of the scrub taken by Neil Cheshire.



**Volunteer Opportunity.** Our iconic Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren (*Stipiturus malachurus intermedius*) is critically endangered with less than 300 mature individuals in the world. This Project aims to estimate the current population in the Lower Finnis and Tookayerta catchments as well as explore the presence of the bird in nearby swamps. This is a great opportunity to see rare and beautiful wetlands and assist in conserving the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu Wren, which is endemic to the Fleurieu Peninsula..

Contact Diego Guevara Torres; MSc email: [dguevara@corbidi.org](mailto:dguevara@corbidi.org)