

# birdwatch

OCT 1997



## FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDS, OCT 15. Winery Rd, Currency Creek.  
Meet at Canoe tree

SAT, OCT 25. Hindmarsh Island. Meet at causeway after ferry crossing.

FRI, NOV 14. Meeting. Speaker: Hilary Thompson, author of 'Adelaide's Birds'. He is compiling another book on birds of the Fleurieu Peninsula, and has asked for the help of our group. He will talk on what is involved in publishing such a book and what our group can do to help.

SUN, NOV 16. Mt Billy (Hindmarsh Valley Reservoir Reserve). Turn off the Adelaide/Victor road into the road to Myponga. Meet at the Church Hall which is just a couple of hundred metres on.

WEDS, NOV 26. Hindmarsh River. Meet at the parking bays immediately east of the Hindmarsh River bridge on the Hindmarsh (Adelaide) Rd.

OUTINGS: Meet at 8.30am. Bring lunch and chair.

MEETINGS: Start at 7.30pm at Glendale Christian School, Goolwa.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH



(What again? So soon!)

A big 'Thank-you' to Jim! Arrangements as previously.  
BYO everything for a BBQ at the Barrage. Jim will light up his big barbie (*I'd like to see that!*) for 6pm eating.

Local birding will begin at 4pm, and the evening will end when the mossies move in at dusk.

Bring food, Christmas cheer, tables and chairs. We will provide tea, coffee, etc. but please bring a cup.

Friends and visitors are very welcome to join us!

Parking available in the grounds. Enter by Jim's private entrance behind the Barrage residence.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of our group continues to grow. Ann is doing a wonderful job of the Publicity Portfolio, and a steady stream of enquiries about our activities is being received. Membership now stands at 50, including our Junior Member.

**Alwyn and Scott Dolling** of Maslin's Beach, **Stan and Tim Farquhar** and **Muriel Williamson**, all of Victor Harbor, **Kathy Scott** of Yundi, **Sandy Werchon** from Tooperang, and **John Davidson** of Goolwa have all joined since late in May.

*Welcome to our happy band of Birders. We look forward to having you join as many of our activities as you are able!*

# REPORTS

SAT. AUG 2. ASHBOURNE AREA.

Eleven members and one visitor met at Ashbourne on a very chilly (freezing) but bright morning. The Golf Course corner was our first stop. As usual, this spot was very productive. Honeyeaters were everywhere, including the Yellow-plumed which seemed to be almost the dominant birds - and, of course, the 'You Know Whats'!

About an hour-and-a-half later the Meyer Scrub was our next stop - and a good bit warmer! This is private property. We have Robert Johnston to thank for this visit. A pleasant walk around produced a good count. The dam area was a little disappointing, but our interest was held by a female Superb Fairy Wren with no tail feathers!

After lunch and during the bird count an easily-recognisable sound brought everyone to their feet for a good sighting of a Black-chinned Honeyeater. Separate bird lists were made for the two areas which are two km apart (for easier future reference).

*Paula Rawson*

SAT. AUG 23. SCOTT CONSERVATION PARK

What a great roll-up for this outing in spite of threatening weather!

Fourteen members, 3 visitors, and Tony Scott (son of the founder of Scott Conservation Park) attended.

Tony led us into an area of the park that we had not previously traversed. Ultimately there will be a signed walking trail along the route that we took, constructed by Tony and other members of the Friends of Scott CP. It did mean scaling the steep sides of the creek several times in the course of the morning, but was well worth the effort!

The 38 species recorded during the morning included: Red-browed Firetails, White-throated Tree-creepers, 2 Brown Goshawks, a flock of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, and 10 species of Honeyeaters. The Rosellas, Galahs, Red-rumped Parrots and Lorikeets were noisily vying for nesting hollows in the large gums, with the Purple-crowned Lorikeets being the most numerous (and rowdy!). Our estimate of their number was 200 - 300.

Our thanks go to Tony for giving up his morning to lead us into this new area. It has added a new dimension to our birding at Scott.

*Judith Dyer*

FRI, SEPT 12. MEETING.

The September Meeting was attended by 16 members and two visitors.

Chris presented the documentation for the Goolwa Effluent Ponds proposal. After a few minor adjustments he will present this to the Council for approval. It is a very professional and comprehensive document set out and bound very attractively, and our thanks go to Chris and his sub-committee for the enormous amount of time and effort that have gone into this project. Well done, Chris et al!

The main part of the Meeting took the form of a Quiz with members having to answer questions, identify birds from slides and bird-calls recorded on tape. Members divided into four teams: The Egrets, New Hollands Anonymous, The Plains Wanderers, and the Three Galahs. The Egrets took out the honours for the competition, and the other three teams tied. This was a real fun night for all who participated, and lots of fun for the three members who compiled the Quiz.

*Judith Dyer*

SUN, SEPT 14, PARAWA.

What a day for a bird outing! Seven hardy souls braved the rain and fog at Parawa, but future members Edith and Jean, who had travelled from Hackam, decided not to go any further, and left us hoping for better weather at their next Outing!

It was too wet for binoculars, but the four of us with wet-weather gear went for a walk round this private property.

The only sightings for the morning were: Crescent Honeyeaters, Brown Thornbill, Galahs, a Grey Currawong and Superb Blue Wrens. Golden Whistlers were busy calling, and towards the end of the walk we saw Kookaburras though we couldn't understand why they were *Laughing!*

This property is definitely well worth more visits when the weather improves. As the Outing finished early, Denzel, Judith and I drove on to Talisker Old Silver Mine. This was an interesting and educational walk round the old workings, and the weather cleared enough for us to sit out in the open for lunch - during which we had an unusual sighting of two Fork-tailed Swifts.

This was our first washout, but still proved an enjoyable time!

*Ann Turner*

SAT, OCT 4. NURRAGI CONSERVATION RESERVE.

Well! It was a case of third time lucky finding Narragi Road, where we had left the cars for returning at the end of the walk!

Moving into the Reserve at the Milang end, nine of us set off to the melodious call of the Grey Shrike-thrush. There were a variety of species to be seen, but not in large numbers (Except, of course for the Y-K-Ws!)

Only one raptor was seen (a Brown Falcon). A beautiful Grey Fantail nest was found, and a young Spotted Pardalote was seen being fed by its parents. A White-fronted Honeyeater was a new sighting for some members, and I saw two Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, so they are still around!

Before we finished lunch a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater gave us a good display along the fence, and this made our total for the day 39 species.

Some of the birds we saw were: Mistletoe Bird, White-browed Babblers, Weebill, and Varied Sitella. Apart from the mosquitoes it was a fun day, though I have to apologise for getting lost at the beginning!

*Ann Turner*



*On a sad note, we have received a resignation from Jim and Gwenda Baron due to Jim's continuing ill-health. We have accepted their resignation with regret as they were able to make quite a contribution to our meetings and outings, and we have missed them this year.*

*We hope and pray that Jim's health will be restored and that they will consider joining us again sometime in the future.*

## SOUTHCOAST BIRDWATCHERS CAMPOUT

EROMOPHILA PARK  
19<sup>TH</sup> to 22<sup>ND</sup> September 1997

Yours truly arrived at the campsite on the evening of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> as the rain set in. With me were David and Minnie Robertson. David is President of the SA Ornithological Assoc. and attended our camp as my guest. The rains eased just long enough for us to set up our campsites and then it bucketed down, and how! We had 11mm over night but fortunately it dawned finer next morning and the ground had drained very rapidly and left the surrounding bush with a lovely fresh feel.

On Friday our members started moving in and by Saturday afternoon we were 12 strong. We missed Craig, who was working, and Kate (and Robert) and Gaynor who went down with the 'flu in the days prior to the campout. I hate to tell them that they missed a 'top weekend'.

We were well catered for by our hostess Stella, who couldn't do enough for us, hovering around at least a couple of times a day to keep the camp functioning smoothly and chat with us all.

The mallee scrub provided a good variety of birds, many of which were new to some of our members but the highlight has to be the pair of Malleefowl who were working a nest about a kilometre from base. We made a number of trips to the site to watch their progress at various times of the day. Imagine our surprise when a Malleefowl wandered through our camp, only metres away, on two occasions.

Mallee Ringneck and Mulga parrots were frequent visitors to the area outside the hut as were the White-winged Chough and Common Bronzewing. Jacky Winters and Brown Treecreepers could be heard calling frequently in the surrounding area along with Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, Weebill and Chesnut-rumped Thornbill. Spring was obviously in the air with a Common

Bronzewing sitting on a nest with two eggs right at the entrance gate and a Jacky Winter was observed building a very dainty and tiny nest about 40cm above the ground. A disused Chough's nest was also seen. Altogether 51 species were recorded at Eromophila Park before camp finally broke at lunchtime on the Monday.

On the Sunday we left camp early and after a brief stop at the Malleefowl nest we traveled to Monash where we were met by Bob Goodfellow who is a very experienced birder, a member of the Black-eared Miner Recovery Team and an 'Aussie Guide' working in the Bookmark Biosphere. The Biosphere includes Cooltong and Danggali Conservation Parks, Calperum Station and the Lake Merriti area all north of Renmark. Bob led us through the mallee, first on Cooltong CP and then onto Calperum Station. We only traveled a total of about 150km within the area but it was a long and full day. The hope of seeing a Black-eared Miner, a Striated Grasswren and a Red-lored Whistler were not fulfilled. In spite of an extremely dry winter, the absence of flowering plants and the fact that we were there in the middle hours of the day we recorded 54 species. Included in the five species of raptor were a magnificent pair of Little Eagle. Also recorded were five species of honeyeater, a Black-eared Cuckoo was seen and his first cousin the Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoo heard, and a good comparative view of the Tree and Fairy Martins was had.

We traveled some very remote country and appreciated the skill of our experienced guide to take us so deep into this vast mallee country, it added greatly to the experience of our members to have this opportunity and I know that, without exception, we would like to go back again.

Our very special thanks go to both Stella and Bob for making this a weekend to remember. From us all, a very sincere thank you.

Judith Dyer