

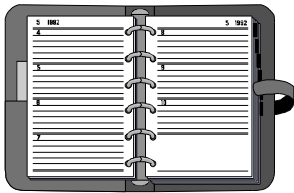


fleurieu birdwatch

APRIL 1999

Meetings:	Glendale Christian School, start at 7.30 pm 2nd Friday of alternate (odd) months	
Outings:	Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair - see Diary	
Contacts:	Judith Dyer, phone 8555 2736 3 Egret Avenue. Goolwa 5214	Kate Bruce, phone 8555 5020 PO Box 403, Goolwa 5214

FOR YOUR DIARY



Saturday 10 April
'Woodcone',
Mt Compass. Meet at
corner of Victor Harbor
and Woodcone Roads by
former Dairy Vale factory.

Saturday 17 April. Working Bee,
Effluent Ponds, Kessell Rd, Goolwa.

See page 2

NB No weekday outing in April

Saturday 24 April
Cox Scrub West-Coles Crossing. Meet at
junction of Nangkita Road and Heifer Lane, Nangkita.

Friday 14 May
Meeting. Speaker: Michael Brown. "Birds in
the Family."

Sunday 16 May
Bullock Hill Conservation Park. Meet at
Ashbourne near the telephone box.

Wednesday 26 May
Nurragi Conservation Reserve (West). Meet
at junction of Strathalbyn and Milang Roads at
Finniss.

Saturday 5 June

Tonkin's Winery, upstream. Meet at Winery
Cark Park, Winery Road, Currency Creek.

Wednesday 16 June.

Douglas Scrub

Meet by the park at the corner of Main and Kangarilla
Roads, McLaren Vale.

Saturday 26 June. Inman Estuary, Yilki **Beach and The Bluff.**

Meet in the Barker Reserve car park, opposite the
Victor Harbor Council Chambers, by Inman Bridge.

Sunday 11 July. Scott Conservation Park

Saturday 7 August. Mt Billy

Saturday 28 August. Aldinga Scrub

Details of these three later.

MEETING REPORT

Friday 12 February

An intimate group of 13 members met for the
AGM which Judith led. The coincidence of
the Wooden Boats Festival probably
accounted for some absenteeism. Several
apologies were received.

Judith welcomed all and gave a resumé of
the year's activities, highlights of which were

- our name change;
- the introduction of our Web site;

- Campout at Naracoorte (Mary Haywood has generously offered to organise the next one);
- 1998 Coorong Boat Trip;
- Use of the sandwich board;
- Donation of the video *Birds of Broome* to the Goolwa Library;
- Effluent Ponds Project;

Copies of the Financial Statements to 31/1/99 were distributed. These had been kindly audited by member Bruce Riglin.

The meeting agreed that subscriptions remain the same and we were reminded that subs for 1999-2000 are now due. See the enclosure herewith.

Present members of the Working Party agreed to continue: Kate Bruce, Denzel Murfet, Judith Dyer, Ann Turner, Chris Wastell, Judy Jones, Gaynor Jones. Belinda is now working and unable to continue; we thank her for her contribution and assure her that she is welcome back any time. B & D both volunteered to help on the WP to join the WP & D maintain the public portfolio when Ann is away. Judith thanked other members for non-executive assistance: Hilary for providing suppers at meetings and Pam and Verle for preparation of the newsletter.

The formal business concluded we watched a video on Cockatoos. This covered a selection of the more common species in very good photographic detail. I was surprised to hear the Little Corella, as we refer to that raucous destructor, called a Bare-eyed Cockatoo; I found only one other mention of this name in our references and that was in the Reader's Digest book.

Members shared bird talk over a cuppa and biccies. Brian Ginno's latest Esquiful of skins, which included an Owl, a Singing Honeyeater, a Yellow-rumped Thornbill and a Galah, created much interest.

EFFLUENT PONDS PROJECT

The Hide has to be completed and seats and a table installed. The viewing platform over the second pond and the adjacent car park are soon to be commenced. (See below for details of Working Bee). It is envisaged that some refinements will be undertaken at a later stage, probably at a further working bee of members.

At the AGM Chris Wastell acknowledged the considerable support of the Alexandrina Council and especially that of David Banks, Works Manager. The Tidy Towns judges viewed our project on 12 March as part of their assessment of Goolwa for the national title.

Brian Ginno will join the sub Committee working on this project.

BROCHURE

Decisions have to be made re printing of our brochure, *Birdwatching on the Southern Fleurieu*. We have sent out letters seeking sponsorship.

WORKING BEE

As most members are aware we have begun work on the Effluent Ponds project and require assistance to construct the viewing platform and continue work on the hide.. This needs to be done before the wet weather sets in.

Everyone is welcome regardless of skill level – we will find a job for you! All those who are available, please come prepared to help on **Saturday 17 April at 8.30 am.**

We would appreciate it if you would let us know by **10 April** if you can be there. We can also tell you then what tools may be needed. Please ring

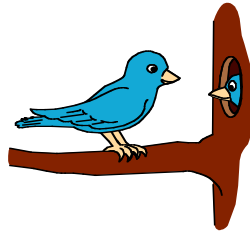
Chris Wastell: 8556 8324 or 04 1456 8325
or Brian Ginno: 8555 3735

Chris Wastell

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS:

Liz Sweetman,
Victor Harbor
Bob and Bunny Munday,
Victor Harbor
Geoff Evans, Parawa



We warmly welcome you and look forward to your participation in the group's activities.

PARAWA

Saturday 6 February

Prior to the outing on Brand's property at Parawa, Judith and I went to the home of the Brands to pick up the gate key. They have a fairly tame Grey Shrike-thrush that enjoys cheese and taps on the window if its dish is empty.

After we picked up the key and were preparing to get in the car we heard a soft bird call. It was very close to us, but took much searching in an open, medium-sized shrub to locate an immature Grey Shrike-thrush. It had hardly any tail, heavily striated chest and rufous colouring on the head and wings. The gape was still creamy white. Both of us were extremely delighted with our find.

Driving along Tunkhead Road we disturbed pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles on the roadside and being such large birds it seemed very hard for them to fly above the trees, so we had a really good view of them for several minutes.

Hope this is an indication of what we will see on Saturday...



On the outing at Parawa 10 members and one visitor met at 8.30 am and drove through heavy low cloud to the Brand's property. At the commencement of the walk the low cloud changed to rain which eventually

cleared, giving us a very pleasant morning for bird watching.

On the dam an Australasian Grebe proved very elusive but Crescent Honeyeaters were plentiful and a pair of Scarlet Robins were very obliging, sitting on the fence or low branches for us to admire them, especially the male whose colour was brilliant. Most noticeable by their absence were New Holland Honeyeaters with only three seen for the whole morning; but Grey Fantails more than made up for them as they were everywhere we looked.

The main discussion for the outing was whether a Whistler was Golden or Rufous as it had a rufous chest but brown edging on the wings. After much checking in the bird books and taking into account members' views, it was thought to be an immature Golden Whistler. A couple of members weren't entirely convinced but further checking has proved this to be correct.

A short while after this we were joined by another of our members who, after much asking of the neighbours in the area, managed to find us. Well done, Rosalie, for perseverance!

While lunching and checking the bird count we had Wedge-tailed Eagles, a Brown Falcon, Welcome Swallows and a White-faced Heron fly over, taking our count for the morning to 31.

Ann Turner

MUNTIRI, MILANG

Saturday 27 February

A fine, warm morning saw 11 birdwatchers gathered for a walk through Heritage Scrub on the property of Dr Andrew and Mrs Margaret Black. Sightings came swiftly in the early part of the walk with Diamond Firetails, Dusky Woodswallows and Yellow-rumped Thornbills busy feeding along with White-browed Babblers, Hooded Robins, Peaceful Doves and Elegant Parrots.

Altogether, 38 species were recorded including Rufous Whistler and Grey Shrike-thrush. New Holland, White-plumed, Brown-headed and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters were also spotted.

Two Brown Falcons, each on bare tree branches, perched in full view in the second part of our walk, the second looking much darker than the first. A Whistling Kite and a Wedge-tailed Eagle soared effortlessly above us.

The award for Bird of the Day, however, came down to two contenders: first, an Owlet-nightjar camouflaged against a dead branch and then moving amongst a clump of melaleucas, gave many of us a first sighting; second contender was a Variegated Fairy-wren, a male in glowing breeding plumage, spotted in a bush very close to the new dwelling. I couldn't decide between them.

Finally, I gave the award for Most Numerous Bird to the Tree Martins that we had seen at the start of the walk, restlessly flying and settling in and around a large tree.

Jean Boomer

CURRENCY CREEK GORGE

Wednesday 10 March

Seven members gathered in the Lions Park at Currency Creek on a warm, windy and cloudy morning. A very optimistic note was struck by the almost immediate sighting of a group of Crested Shrike-tits. They provided excellent viewing for about ten minutes as they foraged in the loose bark of a swamp gum.

We anticipated even greater pleasures as we moved off farther up the gorge. The pools of water yielded Dusky Moorhen and a White-faced Heron. A Rufous Whistler showed off in the tree branches above us.

In all, 29 species were included in the final count. White-browed Babblers, a Mistletoe-bird, Red-rumped Parrots, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Crimson Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets and Tree Martins were some of the other species seen.

What was probably a Brown Treecreeper provided some good natured controversy with its behaviour in a dead tree branch just outside the Currency Creek cemetery. It looked as though it may have had a nest nearby. We waited with baited breath as Judith and Ann discussed ways of climbing up to look in the hollow at the end of the dead branch. Alas, the gymnastics which might have been called for did not happen. Since there wasn't any agreement on exactly what the bird was, it was not included in the final bird count.

Edith St George

BOAT TRIP

Sunday 21 March

On a soft, grey and misty morning 21 of us boarded Jack Miller's boat at the Goolwa wharf. Of course many birds were right there, including a Nankeen Kestrel. Many Pelicans, symbol of the Coorong, treated us to a display of massed fishing as we passed through the lock.

The trip to the Murray mouth was very slow: we had to look at ALL the birds - right, left and centre - flying, fishing, grooming, feeding or just resting.

At one of our frequent stops LOTS of little brownish birds were running around over sand bars/mudflats. A voice from the back of the boat asked, "What are we looking at Denzel?"

"Waders!" "Which ones?" Mumble, mumble and rustling of pages. "Oh, them again!" In the midst of them all was ONE Eastern Curlew with breeding plumage. Among the

ATLAS records are rolling in!
Have you sent yours?

countless gulls and terns were several Pacific Gulls and three Kelp Gulls.

Of course there were many cormorants/shags, one having difficulty swallowing a square fish! Opposite Pelican Point there was an unusual number of Red-necked Stints, but generally bird numbers are down this year.

Jack took us through the hand operated lock at Tauwitchere Barrage, a most interesting experience! But out of the Coorong there

were very few birds to see, so we made a very quick trip round Hindmarsh Island back to Goolwa wharf. Each of our annual trips with Jack has been a most memorable and pleasant experience. Make sure you don't miss the next one!

Different birds sighted and identified by the experts - not me - 53.

Helen Marinos