



fleurieu birdwatch

April 2002

- Meetings:** Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa
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 Ann Turner, phone 8554 2462
30 Woodrow Way, Goolwa 5214 9 Carnegie Street, Pt Elliot 5212
- Web site:** under reconstruction
- Newsletter:** Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211, verlew@granite.net.au

DIARY DATES



☉ Wednesday 17 April

Currency Creek, Winery Road

Meet at Canoe tree, Goolwa–Strathalbyn Road,
Currency Creek

☉ Friday 10 May

Meeting – Video

☉ Sunday 12 May

Onkaparinga Gorge

Meet in Woolworth's car park, near cnr Penney's
Hill Road and Main South Road, Hackham.

☉ Wednesday 22 May

Yankalilla Creek

Meet at Garnett Kelly Pk, 4 km sth of Normanville

☉ Saturday 1 June

Private Property – Jarnu

Meet at entrance to Lions Park, Goolwa–
Strathalbyn Road, Currency Creek

☉ Wednesday 12 June

Kyeema

Meet at corner of Meadows to Willunga Road
and Woodgate Hill Road

CAMPOUT 2002

Coorong National Park 25–28 October

Places to visit include Parnka Point, Jack's Point,
Ngrugie Ngoppun Circuit Walk and various locations
along Old Melbourne Road, Salt Creek.

Accommodation is available at Gemini Downs Holiday
Centre, Salt Creek — approximately 5 km north of Salt
Creek Service Station and store.

PMB 49, Salt Creek, South Australia 5264
Phone 8575 7013

4 units and 4 cabins, and powered or unpowered
camping sites available. We have tentatively booked
2 units, 4 cabins and 6 powered sites for members —
**but you must ring to place your name on a booking
and confirm it with a deposit.**

Units are self-contained with fully equipped kitchens
and en suite facilities (no linen provided). 2 bedrooms
sleep 5 (1 queensize bed, 1 double bunk plus single
bed). \$50 per night for 2 persons, \$8 each extra
person

Cabins are also self-contained with fully equipped
kitchens and en suite facilities (no linen provided).
1 bedroom (1 double bed and 2 bunks) sleeps 6.
\$40 per night for 2 persons, \$8 each extra person

Powered camping site: \$15 for 2 persons

Deposits of \$50 required for units and cabins and \$15
for camping sites.

**This is a popular resort — ☒ we suggest
you book early**

Four Budget motel units are available at the Coorong
Hotel Motel at Policeman's Point, 16 km north of
Salt Creek.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 8 March

Gaynor Jones welcomed a very good attendance of 30.

Newsletters from other organisations including the Threatened Species Network and the Nature Foundation were tabled; the Birds Australia Atlas newsletter was also presented for members' perusal. It is good that we are able to keep in touch with like-minded bodies all over the country.

Our newly refurbished display boards were on show. Grateful thanks to Tom and Judy Jones for their painstaking work making them more user friendly and transportable. They now form a trifold stand. Wyn Syson's offer of storage was gratefully accepted.

After the confirmation of the minutes of the last AGM Gaynor presented her Chairperson's Report and Judith Dyer, the Secretary's Report. Judy Jones, retiring Treasurer, distributed copies of the financial statements which showed us in a sound position and on track with our budget. Gaynor congratulated Judy on her meticulous accounting and thanked her for leaving the books in excellent condition for her successor. Bruce Riglin's efforts above and beyond the call of duty in auditing the books again this year were commended.

The new Committee was elected: Gaynor Jones continuing as Chair for the second half of her two-year term, Judith Dyer, Keith Gilbert, Jim Marsh, Phyll Whellams, Brian Ginno and Ann Turner. Kate Bruce and Liz Sweetman offered to share supper duties.

Denzel Murfet then gave us a lively presentation and crash course on the Identification of Waders.

Bird call

- ◇ A beach-washed immature gannet near Oliver's Reef off Hayborough
- ◇ Crimson Rosella, New Holland Honeyeater and Magpie-lark, all immature and deceased, inspected
- ◇ Fork-tailed Swift spotted mid-February. We were advised to watch out for them as storm fronts approach in the coming seasonal changes. Swift also seen 24 March.
- ◇ Black-chinned Honeyeater at Victor Harbor and Morphett Vale
- ◇ A White-headed Petrel, blown off course and resting, at Pt Elliot

Chairperson's Report

I will address first what I believe is our most important activity — our reason for being — namely, our field trips. Our thanks are due to Judith, Ann and Denzel for their collaboration in programming our field trips for the year. I know much thought goes into choosing suitable habitats to give a variety of sightings through the seasons of the year.

Your Committee has met regularly through the year to deal with matters which ensure a smooth running of our general meetings and outings, to deal with correspondence and financial matters.

The annual dinner on 7 August at the Middleton Tavern was attended by a record number so far. Is this now an annual fixture in our calendar of events? Our annual campout was held at Morgan this year with eighteen attending. The habitats visited varied from flood plain and wetland at Banrock Station to mallee scrub, saltbush and bluebush country, resulting in a great variety of bird species seen. The Christmas barbecue at the Currency Creek Lions Park was well attended by members — and mosquitoes. A birdwatching walk to the waterfall preceded the barbecue.

Our speakers for the year were, in fact, not guests but rather our own members. Jan Macklin spoke about her work with Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation. Win Syson and Brian Walker took us on a ramble through desert regions of SA and Queensland. Di Shearer told us about her experiences when travelling as a clown in Russia with Patch Adams.

Our thanks are due to Verle for putting our newsletter together; to Ann our reporter, for her articles submitted to the Goolwa Lions newsletter, Entrenous and the Messenger; and to our tea ladies, Kate Bruce and Helen Marinos who have our supper ready after meetings.

Seventeen new members were welcomed during the year plus one prospective member who arrived by stork express on 12 December. I hope Jesse brought his binoculars with him!

All in all it was a pleasant year of birdwatching with some members putting their first ticks against birds on their list not previously seen. Thank you to all for your participation and contribution to the Fleurieu Birdwatchers' activities.

Gaynor Jones

Secretary's Report

The Fleurieu Birdwatchers have now completed seven years of activities and have a membership of 99 individual members listed (87 last year) comprising 25 family, 46 individual and 1 junior membership. Newsletter circulation is 72 copies every other month (65 last year).

The Committee has met five times since the last AGM. It has been a quiet year for the Committee with few items needing attention. The display boards have been mounted and our thanks go to Tom Jones for giving his time to us. We still have not got our web site active again. Although still viewable on the Internet we have been unable to update and edit it but this is being pursued at present and it should be up and running again in the very near future. With Verle's help we now have a page with information and our program attached to the Victor Harbor Times Local Guide web site. Thank you Verle.

Activities comprised meetings and fields trips, a social dinner at Middleton in August, a very successful campout to Morgan and Banrock Station in October and we were again part of the Christmas Pageant at Goolwa in December.

Judith Jones, Treasurer extraordinaire, and Mark Filkin are unavailable for re-election to our Committee in the coming year. I thank them both for their solid support. My thanks to Ann who not only took on the publicity role again this year but as before, she has worked with me in arranging the schedule of our outings, helped in the entering and checking of our computer records and filling in of Atlas forms for the group. To Verle a big thank you as editor of our newsletter. She always meets the deadlines and we are proud of the quality of our publication.

To our tea ladies, Helen and Kate, many thanks. To Bruce Riglin we say thanks again for auditing our financial records and last but not least, to Chairman Gaynor, who has always been available when I've had a need.

Thank you to all the Committee and to members for your support to me. I still enjoy my role in the group and it holds priority number one in my activities. Thank you Committee, thank you members.

... Your ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is due ...

Payment slip and envelope enclosed

OUTINGS

Currency Creek Winery

Saturday 23 February

It was overcast and still when 13 of us set off upstream. The light was not good and some of us had trouble identifying birds at a distance.

However, everyone identified the blackberries on the swampy flat and they were enjoyed for morning tea while we stalked the White-browed Scrubwren. Several juvenile Golden Whistler came close and a couple of times alarm calls resounded when raptors were spotted overhead.

It seemed an uneventful walk birdwise and we were surprised at bird call to find we had sighted 39 species.

Phyll Whellams

Penrice Saltfields

Saturday 9 March

This was an outing I was really looking forward to and I wasn't disappointed. Twenty-one of us were picked up by the Genesis minibus at various points on the way to Penrice. There, our number grew to twenty-two.

Driving between the lakes our attention was focused on what could be seen all around. A walk down a side track revealed an Australian Spotted Crake, Common Greenshank, Red-kneed Dotterel and White-browed Scrub-wren. Back on the bus our next stop was the green water area. Here we caught sight of Grey Teal, Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbills and a solitary Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Then on to Buckland Park. Here the presence of many beehives rewarded us with a group of Rainbow Bee-eater performing for us overhead. The highlight here for me was a beautiful White-bellied Sea-Eagle sitting majestically on a power pole.

After a food break — plus mosquitoes — we continued on to an excellent view of waders coming in to roost. The most interesting to me were Black-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover — one coming into breeding plumage — some elusive Easter Curlew and Whimbrel.



During the day we also saw Musk Duck,

numerous Great-crested Grebe, Stilts by the hundred, Black Swan beautiful in flight, Australian White Ibis and Whistling Kite.

The most mentioned bird all day was the Red-necked Avocet which was an obvious delight for some members.

An excellent day with 68 species sighted. We must do this again!

Pat Ashfield

Nurragi CP

Wednesday 20 March

A bright, sunny and cool morning was a perfect start for our six keen birdwatchers. We spent ten minutes at the meeting place on the Goolwa to Strathalbyn road attempting to identify a raptor on the ground in a nearby paddock. Opinions were divided between Brown Falcon and Collared Sparrowhawk.

On arriving at Nurragi we were greeted by a female Rufous Whistler and a Grey Fantail. As we proceeded along the track large numbers of European Goldfinch were seen in the trees and sharing the grain in an adjacent paddock with Peaceful Dove. Many Yellow Thornbill came close to show us their particularly bright colours.

During the morning we saw 25 species including Diamond Firetail, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Southern Whiteface, Whistling Kite, Singing Honeyeater, Superb Fairy-wren and Silvereye. A Mistletoebird and a Grey Shrike-thrush were heard only. Although the bird count was low for this location our small group had a very enjoyable morning in ideal conditions.

Chris Hoad

Praise indeed!

I regularly send a photocopy of our newsletter to a friend in Queensland who introduced me to birding. During a recent phone call she asked me to pass on to the club that she thinks it is an excellent publication. She enjoys members' different views on our outings and thinks it is a good way of giving all of us an opportunity to participate in the club.

So well done, all who volunteer.

Ann Turner



Taxidermy

Kate Bruce is happy to receive dead birds for preserving. Please attach labels with relevant information. Liz Sweetman offered to store smelly birds in a bait fridge.

Atlas Update

I would like those members still sending Atlas forms to me for vetting to now send them direct to the national office of Birds Australia.

**Birds Australia Atlas Project,
415 Riversdale Road,
Hawthorn East, Vic 3123**

As you have read in your latest Atlas newsletter the project is to continue and additional funding is being sought. However, the number of forms being submitted to me has fallen and I feel it will be speedier for Birds Australia for you to send forms direct.

I still have quantities of blank Atlas forms and will answer any queries you may have.

Judith Dyer

FLEURIEU BIRDWATCHERS INC

Reimbursement of brochure costs by sponsors	\$531.30	Bank charges	\$8.09	(\$9.31)
Reimbursements of dinner	\$14.00		\$974.84	
Donation (includes supper monies)	\$45.85	Cash in Hand	\$50.00	
Bank Interest	\$11.44	less unpresented cheque(635)	\$9.40	
	(\$13.50)	Balance in Bank 31/1/02	\$928.17	
	\$1,943.61		\$1,943.61	
		Judith Jones		
		Treasurer	11/2/02	