

fleurieu birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

April 2003

- Meetings:** Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of odd months
- Outings:** Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair — see Diary Dates
- Contacts:** Judith Dyer, phone 8555 2736 Ann Turner, phone 8554 2462
30 Woodrow Way, Goolwa 5214 9 Carnegie Street, Pt Elliot 5212
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- Newsletter:** Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211, verlew@granite.net.au

DIARY DATES



★ **Saturday 5 April**

Mt Billy Conservation Park

Meet at the Hindmarsh Valley Hall and tennis courts about 200 metres along the Hindmarsh Tiers Road from its junction with the Victor Harbor-Adelaide Road.

★ **Wednesday 30 April**

Aldinga Scrub

Meet at the park entrance, Cox Road.

★ **Friday 9 May**

Meeting

Speaker: Win Syson — *Further Adventures of the Rambling Babblers*

★ **Sunday 18 May**

Bullock Hill

Meet at Ashbourne on side road opposite the school.

★ **Wednesday 28 May**

Newland Head Conservation Park

Meet at Dennis Hut in the campground, Waitpinga.

★ **Saturday 14 June**

Torrens Vale (private property)

Meet at the noticeboard, Parawa, junction of Range Road and Yankalilla Road.

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP

April is the month for working on our **display boards**. Please refer to the article in the February *fleurieu birdwatch* and give serious thought to helping with this project.

Jenny and I will commence work on the boards on **Tuesday 8 April** at 9 Farquhar Street, Goolwa, and would welcome others to join us.

Please phone me at 8555 5480 to let me know if and at what time you can be available. *Gaynor*



You and your friends are invited to the
Official Opening by Rob Morrison,
President of the Royal Zoological Society of SA Inc

Wildlife Art 2003

2.00 pm Sunday 6 April
Porter Street Wildlife Gallery, Goolwa

Artists include Rod Bax, Jeremy Boot and Ian Roberts
Original paintings and fine art prints
Exhibition concludes Sunday 25 May



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 14 March

A well attended meeting — 25 members and one visitor — received reports from the Chairperson, Gaynor Jones, and the Secretary, Judith Dyer. These are published in this newsletter.

Copies of the financial statement from the Treasurer, Keith Gilbert, were distributed. They had been audited and found correct by Bruce Riglin and were duly received. It was resolved to send a letter of appreciation to Bruce for his services again this year. Members who were not at the meeting and would like to have a copy of the financial report please contact Brian Ginno, 8555 3735. The Committee recommended that the subscriptions for the coming year remain unchanged at \$20 per family, \$15 individual and \$10 junior. All subscriptions are now due (see enclosures).

Gaynor has completed her two-year tenure as Chairperson and agreed to continue on the Committee. Jim Marsh agreed to take over as Chairperson. Jim has been on the Committee of Management for the past year and has an extensive knowledge of birds, especially those found locally.

Geoff Evans and Pat Ashfield are welcomed to the Committee and join Judith Dyer, Ann Turner and Phyll Whellams who will continue as Committee Members. Specific responsibilities will be allocated at the first meeting of the new Committee in accordance with the Constitution. (Brian Ginno has subsequently offered to act as Treasurer. His offer is welcomed.)

The Kingscote Regional Office of the Department for Environment Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs is seeking help in confirming sightings on the Fleurieu of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo. (See enclosures)

Some sightings reported:

Cockatiel — probably an aviary escapee — at Victor Harbor

Crested Shrike-tit in Bay Village, Victor Harbor

Cape Barren Geese along the coast and lakes

Blue Bonnets on Hindmarsh Island

Little Curlew at Tolderol

Darters breeding in willows at Clayton
Red-necked Avocet body retrieved from Goolwa dump and taken to museum

Long-billed Corellas among Little Corellas in Southern Vales

Black Kite seen as far south as Currency Creek

Black-chinned Honeyeaters — 2 adults, 2 fledgelings — in a home garden at Victor Harbor

Several Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo drinking at a bird bath in Victor Harbor

Guest speaker Tim Wilson, Executive Officer to the RAMSAR Taskforce and Project Officer for the Coorong and Lower Lakes, explained his role of collecting and collating information about this RAMSAR site so that government at all levels can formulate appropriate policies and strategies for preservation in accordance with the RAMSAR Convention. He spoke at length on the uses, threats and key management issues that arise.

Russell Seaman then spoke about his job of mapping habitats in the site which includes Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert, Finniss and Currency Creeks. Members were intrigued by his presentation of screen images, maps and photos of habitats he has surveyed and the ease with which the information gathered can be manipulated to extract data for special purposes.

Kate Bruce thanked our presenters and the evening closed with chat and cuppas.

PS I visited the RAMSAR website (www.ramsar.org) and found it packed with information. I recommend a visit. This is the introduction to the site.

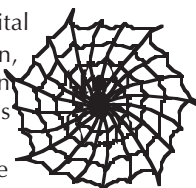
The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 136 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1263 wetland sites, totaling 107.5 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Mission Statement: "The Convention's mission is the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

(Ramsar COP8, 2002).

Verle

SPIDERS are not only an important food source for native foliage birds but, for some, spider silk plays a vital role in nest construction. The nests of some Robins (Rose, Scarlet and Eastern Yellow), Honeyeaters (Lewin, Yellow-faced, White-plumed and Brown), Yellow Thornbill, Grey Fantail, Silvereye and Superb Fairy-wren are constructed of plant materials bound, or interwoven, with cobweb. The Scarlet Robin also camouflages her nest with strips of bark or lichen attached to the outside of the nest with spider silk and the Singing Honeyeater's nest of grass and rootlets is not only bound with silk but decorated with spider egg-sacs. The Scarlet Honeyeater's nest is suspended by the rim bound with spider web to a tree fork and the Mistletoebird makes a delicate nest of plant down matted together with silk. (Thanks to Ann Turner for this item.)



OUTINGS

Currency Creek Winery

Saturday 22 February

It was a mild and humid day when 21 of us started off in drizzle, along the railway line towards the viaduct and down to the Tookayerta where the creek was flowing. In these conditions birds were a little scarce at first.

Notable sightings were Striated and Yellow Thornbills, Rufous and Golden Whistlers, Eastern Spinebill, Red-browed Firetail, Brown and Crescent Honeyeaters, White-browed Scrubwren, Golden-headed Cisticola, Striated Pardalote, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo and Black-shouldered Kite. Only one water bird was seen — a White-faced Heron.

There were plenty of Mistletoebird including juveniles and a flock of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Kookaburra, Australian Reed-warbler and Peaceful Dove were heard along with the intermittent sound of gas guns in the vineyards.

This was a well-timed outing and we feasted on blackberries as we walked along the river flats. A pair of Noisy Miner was busy in a tree overhead when we made our way back up the road.

Bird call and lunch were taken at the winery car park, with a total of 41 species recorded.



Birdwatchers' challenge

Jenny Fontanot

Penrice Saltfields

Saturday 22 March

A good birdwatching day, mild and sunny, favoured 21 birdwatchers out to enjoy the day.

Driving between the lakes let us compare the size of waders — Common Greenshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint — though these were in small numbers. A couple of White-bellied Sea-Eagle performed graceful acrobatics in the sky.

The most memorable sightings of the day came after we'd eaten and moved to where the waders come in to roost — Black Swan majestic in flight, Eastern Curlew, one Grey Plover, a large number of Red-necked Avocet, Black-

winged and Banded Stilt, three Golden Plover living up to their name and shining golden in the sun.

The big sighting of the day, among a group of Black-tailed Godwit, was a single rare Hudsonian Godwit. What a thrill for everyone! A delightful day with 65 species sighted — tired but happy we went home.



Jean Boomer

Gilbert Siding

Wednesday 26 March 2003

A keen group of ten set out to walk along the tracks from Gilbert Siding. A warm autumn day, with no breeze, made conditions ideal and the birds seemed to enjoy it too!

Five types of raptors were sighted: Black-shouldered Kite, Whistling Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Little Eagle and Brown Falcon. Yellow-rumped and Yellow Thornbills, Weebills and Jacky Winters provided interesting viewing as did the Golden Whistlers. A Rufous Whistler sat long enough to give us a really good view as did a Crested Shrike-tit and a Hooded Robin. Black-chinned (a B of these), Brown-headed and White-naped Honeyeaters were seen as well as White-plumed and New Holland. Among other sightings were Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Mistletoebird, Superb Fairy-wren, Adelaide Rosella, Red-rumped and Elegant Parrots, Peaceful Dove, Grey Fantail, Grey Shrike-thrush. Several times during the morning we saw kangaroos crossing the tracks.

A total of 47 species recorded on another enjoyable outing.
Margaret Dreyer

Farewell, Kit

We are all sorry to see Kit Smith depart from Goolwa. After an unfortunate fire in her home she has gone to Melbourne to live with her daughter. Kit is a lady with endless knowledge of birdlife and animals, and has travelled widely in Australia following her interests. She always has a story to tell of some bird or place.

Declining health has meant Kit has not been as active in our group in the last couple of years but we do, and will, miss her. We will make sure, Kit, that you stay on our mailing list for just as long as you would like to keep in touch.

Best wishes from us all.