



fleurieu birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

April 2004

- 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
- Website:** members.iinet.net.au/~verlew
- Newsletter:** Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211; verlew@iinet.net.au

Diary Dates



* **Saturday 17 April**

Kyeema Conservation Park
Meet at the corner of Meadows–Willunga Road
(Brookman Road) and Woodgate Hill Road.

* **Wednesday 28 April**

Hindmarsh Falls
Meet in the lower car park.

* **Friday 14 May**

Meeting: Bird video

* **Sunday 16 May**

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

* **Thursday 27 May**

Meyer's Scrub, Ashbourne
Meet on the side road alongside the Ashbourne school.

* **Saturday 12 June**

Hardy's Scrub, McLaren Flat
Meet at Gate 14, Chapel Hill Road, McLaren Flat.

\$

**Subscriptions are now due. Please place
the renewal slip with your fees in the
enclosed envelope and forward to the
Treasurer as soon as possible.**

Many thanks for your cooperation.

\$



*Enjoy a happy
and safe
holiday season*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 12 March

JIM MARSH WELCOMED THE 23 members and visiting guest speaker, Brian Furby from BirdsSA, and his wife Sylvia, to this meeting which marked the end of our ninth year of operations.

Minutes of the last General Meeting were first read and confirmed. Magazines and newsletters, and an invitation from the Porter Street Gallery, Goolwa to view their exhibition of bird pictures, were tabled.

Congratulations were extended to members Kate and Robert Bruce, and to John Eckert, Langhorne Creek who have been presented Mayoral Awards by the Alexandrina Council to recognise their services to the environment over many years.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were then also read and confirmed.

The Secretary read her report of the year's activities. This is printed in this newsletter especially for those who were unable to attend on the night.

The Treasurer's Report showed a reasonably healthy financial status. The Committee recommended that subscriptions remain unchanged for the coming year. Sincere thanks to Bruce Riglin for auditing the books again this year.

Jim, as incumbent Chairman (his term is two years), thanked the outgoing Committee members for their efforts during the past year. He then called for nominations for up to six members for the 2004-05 Committee.

The result was that Jim, Brian Ginno continuing as Treasurer, and Judith Dyer, Ray Laird, Val Laird, Ann Turner and Geoff Evans comprise the Committee. Duties are allocated at the first meeting of the new Committee.

Brian Furby's presentation followed. Brian is Slide Librarian of BirdsSA and for the benefit of those booked on the Penrice trip on Sunday 14 March, he showed slides of birds at the saltfields and some of those that may be found there. He then showed photographs of scenic spots visited and birds in the vicinity, on the first stage of an inland trek he undertook from northern SA through NT and back into Queensland. We hope he may return some time to show us his pics of the rest of the trip.

The pleasant evening finished with bird chatter over a cuppa.

Committee responsibilities for 2004-05

Chairman: Jim Marsh

Secretary: Judith Dyer

Treasurer: Brian Ginno

Publicity: Ann Turner

Outings and Speakers:

Val Laird, Ray Laird, Geoff Evans

Bird records and Atlas forms:

Judith Dyer, Ann Turner

Secretary's Report – 2003/2004

THE FLEURIEU BIRDWATCHERS HAVE NOW completed nine years of activities and although membership has fallen slightly over the last two years we are still very strong with a membership of 81 individuals listed comprising 26 Family (24 last year) and 27 individual (37 plus 1 junior last year) memberships. Newsletter circulation is 55 copies every other month plus copies to Goolwa Library, BirdsSA and the Mortlock Library. Fifteen of these are delivered electronically.

The committee has met six times since the last AGM. The major event for the year was the very successful launch of the Goolwa Effluent Ponds Bird Shelter and Signage project at Kessell Road, Goolwa on the 14 September 2003. We completed the project with the help of substantial donations from BirdsSA and Councillor Frank Tuckwell of Alexandrina Council. We approached the council re improvements for car parking at the ponds but no funds were available at the time. The committee will pursue this further in the coming year.

Activities for the year comprised meetings and field trips very ably arranged by Pat Ashfield and Geoff Evans, our annual social dinner at Victor Harbor in August, a very successful campout in the Barossa Valley in October and a balmy evening at Nangawooka for our Christmas breakup.

Thanks must go to Verle for the continued excellence of our newsletter. She always meets the deadlines and we congratulate her on the quality of our publication. Thanks to Ann for her help to Verle with distribution. Thanks to Ann and Phyll who have filled the publicity role again this year. My personal thanks go to Ann for her help in the entering and checking of our computerised bird

records and filling in of Atlas forms for the group. She so willingly helps wherever there is a need. Thanks go to Gaynor for organising and storing our display boards. With help from Jenny Fontanot she has revamped the displays and the boards are presently at Signal Point. Verle has continued to upgrade our website and we can be justifiably proud of our site. Thanks again Verle.

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 Jim and Treasurer Brian for their support to me. I still enjoy my role in the group and it holds priority number one in my activities.

Thank you to the committee and thank you members.

Judith Dyer

Up to speed

FOR SOME TIME WE HAVE enjoyed the advances of modern telecommunications. We can talk to friends and family wherever they are in the world at a fraction of the cost and in a fraction of the time that we could years ago.

More and more of us are now experiencing the benefits of quick, easy and relatively cheap electronic communication. We have access to almost limitless tomes of knowledge and information. We can pay bills, book flights or theatre seats, and conduct business from the comfort of our homes at any time of day or night.

Many of our members now receive their *birdwatch* online as an email attachment. This is in PDF (Portable Document Format) which can be read by any computer. The software required, Acrobat Reader, is usually bundled with the operating software when you buy a computer. If you don't already have AR you can download it free from www.adobe.com.

You can print your own copy of the newsletter or just print the part, such as the diary dates, that you wish to stick on the fridge door. The electronic newsletter comes with coloured photos and reaches you some time before the snailmail edition. And along the way you are saving environmental and club resources.

While our membership subscriptions have been maintained at the same level for several years

now, some of our costs are escalating. Many organisations now are discounting membership subscriptions for those who receive their newsletter online and in the future it is possible we may be able to apply some subscription concession too.

In the meantime, please think hard about a trial with *e-birdwatch*. If you need help with the process please let me know. Send me an email soon or ring me — contact details page 1. Verle



OUTINGS

Aldinga Scrub

Saturday 7 February

ELEVEN OF US WERE SILLY enough to be out on a 37-degrees day.

It seems that the birds had the brains to hide from the heat; most sightings were on the fringes of the park. As we moved through the centre of the park we heard only an occasional bird call and saw almost nothing. The mistletoe was just in flower and quite widespread throughout but its propagator was not seen or heard. We were quite surprised at the bird call, that we had recorded 30 sightings and heard a Clamorous Reed-warbler, as we huddled in a tiny patch of shade.

One sighting was a White-faced Heron perched on the electric wires. I think it was waiting for us to leave the pond area — it gave us a smile!

Highlights were a Golden Whistler only metres from us, Superb Fairy-wren (my favourite), a good close-up of an Australian Hobby in flight, a Brown Falcon climbing the thermals, Dusky Woodswallow and two pairs of Brown Quail.

Nearly all of our sightings rated only in the As and Bs. We had one D rating — New Hollands of course. Despite the heat we all enjoyed ourselves.

Belinda Filkin

Cox Scrub Conservation Park NE

Wednesday 25 February

SIXTEEN MEMBERS MET IN the northern carpark to set off in the cool of a lovely sunny morning. It didn't take too long to realise that the New Holland Honeyeaters are still in large numbers throughout the park!

Early in the walk we had a good view of a Collared Sparrowhawk sitting on a fence post before it flew across the neighbouring property, and spotted and heard an Elegant Parrot fly overhead. Further up the sandy path a Rainbow Bee-eater flew over low enough for us to see its beautiful colours and hear its call. A real treat was to hear a Chestnut-rumped Hylacola's beautiful canary-like song from the low dense scrub.

Other highlights included spotting a Grey Fantail really harassing a Tree Martin on the wing, and way overhead several Dusky Woodswallow and Tree Martin were bombarding a Brown Goshawk. This was a great chance to compare the rounded tail of the Brown Goshawk with the square tail of the Collared Sparrowhawk spotted earlier in the day.

The real surprise of the day was realising that there were as many juvenile Striated Pardalote throughout the park as the New Holland Honeyeater! A D was recorded for both of these species.

In all, a total of 37 species were recorded.

Marg Kitto

Penrice

Sunday 14 March

THE DAY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN better weather-wise for our bus trip to Penrice Saltfields — a beautiful sunny day. Genesis' 21-seater bus filled with twenty members and friends all armed with binoculars, telescopes and opinions. It was a great day with 61 species sighted and confirmed — after much discussion. We spent every minute of daylight in the saltfields arriving back at Victor at 9.30 pm.

Taking the bird call on the bus on the way home was a bit difficult but it broke up the journey. The best sightings for the day were Eastern Curlew, Red-necked Avocet, Nankeen Night-heron, Black-tailed Godwit, great numbers of Black Swan and Hoary-headed Grebe.

We were ably assisted by Hilda and Sandy Anderson from BirdsSA.

Pat Ashfield

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alma and Dolf Kroon, Victor Harbor



Woodcone

Wednesday, 31 March

A cool, overcast day awaited the enthusiastic group of 14 gathered at Woodcone Road. We moved to a nearby property where the dam was our first stop. The water birds included Little Pied Cormorant, Australian White Ibis, Eurasian Coot, Australasian Shoveller, Pacific Black Duck, Chestnut Teal, Wood Duck as well as Masked Lapwing. Moving on from the dam we saw Superb Fairy-wren near the creek as well as White-browed Scrubwren.

We were treated to good views of Brown, Yellow and Striated Thornbill, a pair of Scarlet Robin, and several Red-browed Firetail as we moved along the gully. The Crimson Rosella, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Galah were well represented. There were few New Holland Honeyeater and the Crescent Honeyeater was elusive but eventually located.

On our return journey along the creek we saw three antechinus moving about busily at the base of a big tree — it was a delight to watch these active little marsupials running about. A delicately woven nest lined with soft downy feathers was found and created much interest. It was a suspended nest with side entry, maybe a Misteltoebird nest; further investigation required. As the morning progressed, the birds seemed quieter. There were lots of Little Raven but we noted no doves, birds of prey or pardalotes. In all we identified 37 species during a very interesting walk.

Margaret Dreyer



Photo: Val Laird

Red-necked Stint at Penrice Saltfields



SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Single \$15

Family \$20 (2 or more people at the same address)

Junior \$10

Please place this **slip**, together with your **payment**, in an **envelope**
and forward to the Treasurer Brian Ginno, 6 Janz Avenue, Goolwa 5214.

Name

Amount enclosed \$

THANK YOU