



# fleurieu birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

April 2005

- 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:** users.bigpond.net.au/FleurieuBirdwatchers
- Newsletter:** Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211; verlew@bigpond.net.au

## DIARY DATES



### Saturday 9 April

Manning Reserve

Meet at the gate on the eastern boundary, Whiting Road, McLaren Flat.

### Thursday 21 April

Mt Billy Conservation Park

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

### Friday 13 May

MEETING: Guest speaker, John Eckert

### Sunday 15 May

Scott Conservation Park

Meet at the main car park on the northern boundary off Deep Creek Road

### Wednesday 25 May

Nixon-Skinner Conservation Park and Myponga CP

Meet by the reservoir opposite Causeway Road, Myponga (see next column)

### Saturday 11 June

To be advised

### Thursday 23 June

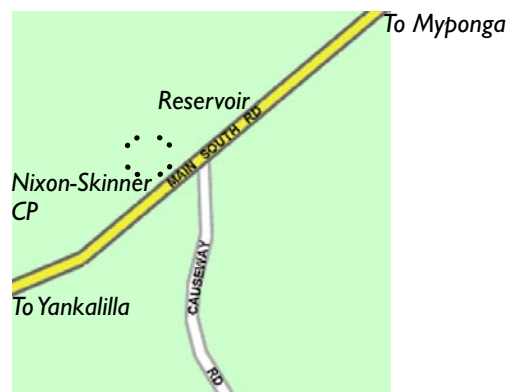
To be advised

\$

## Subscriptions are now due

Please forward the enclosed renewal slip with your fees to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

\$



Nixon-Skinner Conservation Park is on the Main South Road about 4 km from Myponga and about 11 km from Yankalilla. The gate is partly hidden from the road but nearby is a very visible double gate to the reservoir property. Parking is limited (2 or 3 small cars only). Meet on the gravel area on the roadside by the reservoir opposite Causeway Road to arrange shared transport to the park gate .8 km further along the road.

## MEETING

Jim Marsh presided and welcomed 25 members and guest speaker, David Robertson and his wife, Minnie. There were five apologies.

General business was dealt with before the AGM was opened. Judith read her Secretary's Report and Brian Ginno presented his Financial Statements which had been duly audited by Bruce Rigin. If you wish to see copies please contact Judith. The election of a committee for the next 12 months resulted in

Ray Laird, President for the next two years, and Committee members Geoff Evans, Brian Ginno, Judith Dyer, Liz Sweetman, Jim Marsh, Val Laird.

The committee will allocate specific duties at their first meeting.

Judith introduced guest speaker David Robertson, who gave us lots to think about in his topic 'Why is it so?'. He didn't give us answers but he and his audience put forward a few hypotheses to questions such as

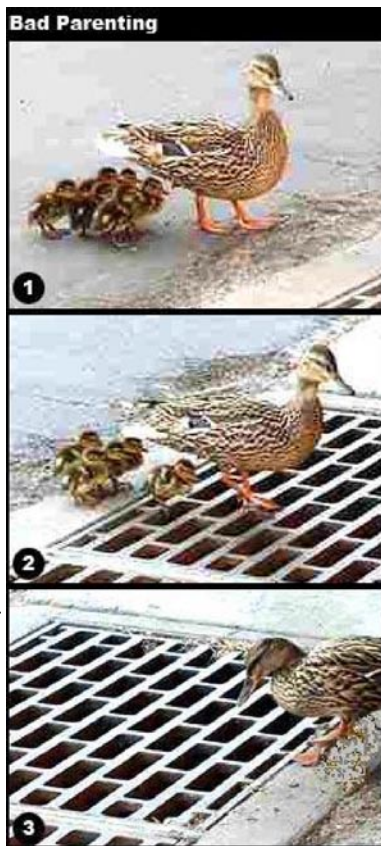
- why do birds migrate?
- how do they know the right time to take off?
- why do they visit the same areas of the globe generation after generation?
- when flying in flocks why don't birds collide?
- why are seabirds mainly black/grey and white?
- why do some birds call during flight and others fly silently?

The Bird Record Book was passed around for members to record unusual sightings.

Show 'n' tell included

- Superb Fairy-wren nest
- Peregrine Falcon
- Red Wattlebird
- juvenile Collared Sparrow-hawk (window kill).

More bird talk continued over cuppa and biccies.



## Secretary's Report 2004-2005

The Fleurieu Birdwatchers have now completed ten years of activities and the club still has a very strong membership comprising 88 individual members made up of 29 family, (26 last year) and 29 single memberships (27 last year). Newsletter circulation is 58 copies every other month plus copies to Goolwa Library, Birds SA and the Mortlock Library. 20 of these are delivered electronically, up from 15 last year.

The committee has met six times since the last AGM. Activities for the year comprised meetings and field trips, very ably arranged by Geoff Evans with support from Val Laird, our Annual Dinner at Victor Harbor in August, a very successful weekend campout to Naracoorte in October/November and a late afternoon walk up the Currency Creek from the Lions Park for our Christmas Breakup.

Our newsletter *birdwatch* has maintained its excellence. I speak for all members in thanking Verle for her dedication to producing a document of such high quality and I call on all members to support her by contributing items for the publication. Special thanks to Verle for her commitment to the group. Thanks again to Ann for her help to Verle with distribution. Thanks to Ann and Phil who have filled the publicity role again this year. My personal thanks go to Ann for her help in entering and checking our computerised bird records and filling in Atlas forms for the group. Ann will not be standing for re-election to the working party this year but has expressed her willingness to continue helping with the records. She so willingly helps wherever there is a need. Thank you Ann. Our publicity boards are still in place at Signal Point but were taken to Pt Elliot Showgrounds for a local information stand for two days last year. They are in need of some re-furbishment. 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 Gaynor thanks for the cuppas. To Bruce Rigin we say thanks again for auditing our financial records.

Many thanks to those who have worked closely with me to make this a very successful year. Chairman Jim steps down as chairman after two years and has been very supportive to me in the organisation of our group. To Treasurer Brian and other committee members my thanks for your solid support.

After ten years in a very active role within the Fleurieu Birdwatchers I would like to relinquish the duties of Secretary for the time being but I will still

be available to help in maintaining the direction of the group.

I wish the new committee well as we move into our second decade.

Thanks to all members for support over the years. We have a great club which is recognised throughout Australia.

Judith Dyer

## OUTINGS

### Normanville Beach, Caravan Park and Bungala Creek; Ingalalla Falls

Saturday 4 February

A cool, cloudy, overcast day saw 21 birdwatchers meet at Normanville Beach. We managed to see 23 species, the only highlight being a good, closeup look at a Large Pied Cormorant, though a Welcome Swallow showed off its plumage in a brief glimmer of sunshine.

We had meant to go on to Lady Bay afterwards, but the likelihood of little to see of interest there took us to Ingalalla Falls instead. We saw Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Eastern Spinebill, one Scarlet Robin and a Golden Whistler. A number of people found and admired a thornbill's nest, but I missed seeing it. The total for Ingalalla, 17 species.

Naturally, as we left, the sun came out.

Jean Boomer



Photo: Verle Wood

### Milang and Clayton

Sunday 13 March

It was a perfect birdwatching morning for the 15 members who met at Milang.

During the morning there didn't seem to be that many different species recorded. While there were reasonable numbers of Ibis, Great Egret, Spoonbill, Black-winged Stilt, Cormorants, Darter, Black Swan and Pelican it was disappointing to spot only three different species of duck (Pacific Black, Grey Teal and Australasian Shelduck) and only three birds of prey — Nankeen Kestrel, Swamp Harrier and Whistling Kite.

At Milang we were not able to spot any Japanese Snipe in the samphire mudflats but it had probably dried up too much for them. However, we were able to find some of the local population of Nankeen Night Heron in the tall pine trees. Three adult birds and two juveniles were recorded.

There were several Great Egret and plenty of Stilt at Kindaruar, further round the lake. Some Black-tailed Native Hen were spotted and a good number of Cape Barren Geese. Greenshank, Red-necked Stint and Red-capped Plover were also spotted on the mudflats.

The small lagoon at Clayton was starting to dry up but proved to be the highlight of the day. Greenshank, Marsh Sandpiper, two Wood Sandpiper and a few Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were spotted as well as a Great Egret, Red-kneed Dotterel, Black-winged Stilt and Royal Spoonbill along with the local population of Pelican, Coot, Purple Swamphen and Masked Lapwing.

The morning was complete when a Japanese Snipe was flushed out of the grassy edge of the lagoon.

The threefold birdcall recorded 28 species at Milang, 34 species at Kindaruar and 28 species at Clayton.

Marg Kitto

### Winery Road, Currency Creek

Wednesday 30 March

The day dawned fine and sunny. Thirteen of us met for a morning of birding along the Winery Road railway corridor. In total 25 species were seen and a White-browed Scrubwren heard.

Birding was not easy as the brush undergrowth on each side of the railway was hard to penetrate and we had to wait for the birds to move up into the trees.

The bird of the morning was a good sighting of an Australian Hobby on the wing, and it was good to

see a pair of Dusky Woodswallow with the white tips to their tail feathers clearly seen in flight. Other notable species were Elegant Parrot, both male and female Mistletoebird, and a rather elusive Eastern Spinebill.

As the late morning became rather hot the group moved to the Currency Creek for lunch and the bird call.

Beryl Osterman

PS Those of us who stayed for lunch at the Lions Park were delighted by numbers of Superb Fairy-wren flitting in the shadows, and during bird call keen-eyed Elaine spotted something special above us in the gum tree — a pair of brilliant Crested Shrike-tit. V



Photos: Verle Wood

Above: An indigenous flier of the unfeathered type intrigued watchers on Winery Road walk

Right: Exotic species on Winery Road

### Mottled Petrel at Clayton

We had some very unseasonal weather across southern Australia during the first week of February. It was cold and wet with gale force winds for a few days.

On Thursday 3 February one of Clayton's regular early morning walkers spotted a different bird having some difficulty on the roadside. It was a sea-faring bird that had obviously been blown off course in the strong winds.

In the hope that it could be rested and saved, it was passed on to Brian Lewis, a local birdwatcher. Unfortunately it died not long afterwards while Brian and I were trying to identify it.

Using several field guides we were able to identify the bird as a Mottled Petrel.

Mottled Petrel breed on the coastal islands of southern New Zealand and in winter migrate to the far northern Pacific dispersing south during summer to the Antarctic iceberg belt. It is a rare vagrant to SE Australia. In the 1987 edition of *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*, Graham Pizzey stated that there had been just one recorded in SA.

We have since found out that this Mottled Petrel is the fourth to be officially recorded in SA, and another one was picked up on Kangaroo Island a day or so later.

It has created quite a bit interest. Judith Dyer and Peter Koch have been to inspect the bird, which was kept in my freezer for a few weeks, and to confirm our identification.

It has since been handed on to Jack Bourne who lives near Bool Lagoon. He was pleased to have the rare Mottled Petrel to preserve and add to his excellent bird exhibition.

Marg Kitto

Left and right: Mottled Petrel at Clayton



Photos: Peter Koch

# Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

## Subs are now due

**Single \$15**

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

**Junior \$10**

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

Name . .... Amount enclosed \$.. ....

NB To save postage, receipts will be forwarded with snailmail newsletters, or by hand at meetings and outings where possible.

Please enclose a SSAE if you need a receipt mailed to you.

**Thank you!**