



February 2009

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



✳ **Saturday 4 April.** PAIWALLA

In lieu of Currency Creek and postponed from 14 February. Meet in Paiwalla car park.

DIRECTIONS

RAA Map 4 2006, Riverland and Central Murray, Ref D13. Take Murray Bridge–Mannum road (Burdett Road) on the eastern side of the river. Continue on this road to 2 km past Bowhill Road turnoff (DO NOT turn into Bowhill Road). Turn left into Lagoon Road, which is opposite Pineview Road. The gateway is on the right at the end of this road. Proceed through the gate to the car park.

Google maps search: Lagoon Road, Burdett, South Australia

A donation of \$5 per person is requested to help develop and maintain this privately funded enterprise.

✳ **Wednesday 29 April.** SCOTT CP. Meet in the main car park on the northern boundary off Deep Creek Road.

✳ **Friday 8 May.** MEETING. Speaker: Neil Cheshire — *Local Sea Birds*

✳ **Sunday 10 May.** PRIVATE PROPERTY, PARAWA. Meet at the junction of Range Road and Torrens Vale Road, Parawa, by the noticeboard.

✳ **Wednesday 27 May.** MUNTIRI. Meet at the junction of the Goolwa–Strathalbyn Road and Milang Road, Finnis.

Just a quick note...



... to say that your annual subs are now due. The financial year for members runs from April 1 to 31 March. This year's subs remain the same as last year: single \$20, family (two or more people at the same address) \$25, junior \$12. If you joined after 30 November 2008, no payment is due.

If you wish to pay by cash or cheque please use the form (page 5 on the e-birdwatch) and envelope enclosed with this newsletter.

If you are paying by EFT follow the instructions on page 3. It is MOST IMPORTANT to include your name in the reference field.

This method is for electronic funds transfer between bank accounts and is not suitable for cash payments.

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- Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker & Cadell Streets, Goolwa
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of odd months
- Outings: Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair. See Events above.
- Contacts: Pat Uppill, 8552 4288; Judith Dyer, 8555 2736
fleurieubirds@gmail.com
- Website: fleurieubirdwatchers.org
- Newsletter: Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211



Friday 13 March

The first General Meeting for 2009 was opened by chairperson, Ray Laird, who welcomed 32 members and three visitors, including two from Melbourne.

The formalities were few but included arrangements to hold the postponed Pailwalla visit on Saturday April 4 instead of the scheduled Currency Creek outing. Information is in the February newsletter and on the website with one alteration: note that the outing will be cancelled if the forecast temperature for Adelaide on the preceding Friday is 33 degrees or more. [Members will be notified by email or may ring Judith Dyer 8555 2736 to confirm.]

The Annual General Meeting followed. The Secretary's Report is on page 3. The Treasurer reported a healthy financial status and said that Bruce Riglin had indicated he would be willing to audit the coming year's books. A letter of thanks for his service as auditor is to be sent to Bruce.

Denzel Murfet was elected Chairperson, with Wendy Phillips, Pat Uppill, Nick Tebneff, Phyll Whellams, Judith Dyer and Verle Wood elected to the Committee. Specific duties are allocated at the first committee meeting.

Incoming Chairperson, Denzel, thanked both Ray and Val Laird for their dedicated service to our club over the last few years and was supported by prolonged acclamation from members.

As speaker for the night, Denzel began his talk on identifying local migratory waders with a short presentation from Birds Australia's Shorebirds 2020 program, giving an overview of waders in Australia. This presentation is available to download from shorebirds.org.au

He then showed us photos of a number of waders we are likely to see locally on the verges of the river and lake, and gave lots of clues to distinguishing between species which have similar colour markings, plumage patterns and bills - an informative and educational presentation.

Bird call included

- » Dead Wedge-tailed Eagle found on Skewes Road, Goolwa
- » Dead White-bellied Sea-eagle on Parson's Beach, possibly poisoned
- » White-browed Babblers in Noble Avenue, Goolwa North
- » Spotted Nightjar at Nangawooka
- » Rainbow Bee-eater at Macclesfield and Cox Scrub
- » Good numbers of Hooded Plover on the Coorong
- » Lots of waders on Yorke Peninsula beaches including 1,000 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and 500 Red-necked Stint at Pt Clinton
- » 200 Fairy Tern at Pt Parham
- » White-winged Chough at Macclesfield
- » A roadkill Boobook Owl and a Superb Fairy-wren's nest were displayed. The wrens had persisted in hatching young from an inadvertently disturbed nest.

Our Melbourne visitors told us about the good wader watching to be had from Mud Islands, inside Pt Phillip heads and accessible by boat from Queenscliff, and Werribee Sewage Farms.

Gaynor Jones and Wendy Phillips made sure we were well served with a cuppa and biccies while the bird talk flowed.

Who does what in 2009

The new Chairperson, Denzel Murfet conducted the first Committee meeting for the year. Responsibilities were allocated as below.

Vice Chairperson: Nick Tebneff

Secretary: Pat Uppill

Treasurer: Phyll Whellams

Meetings program:

Nick Tebneff, Denzel Murfet

Supper coordinator: Wendy Phillips

Outings coordinator: Peter Gower

Bird records: Judith Dyer, Ann Turner

Publicity (*The Times, Southern*

Argus): Wendy Phillips





Secretary's Report to the AGM

Looking back over the past year, I can report that the Club is doing well, with a good percentage of our 119 members attending the various events arranged for them.

The programme included 18 field trips to a good variety of habitat. The five evening meetings were interesting and informative. Our Twilight Walk continues to attract visitors, some of whom take out membership. The Annual Campout at Penola was a great time, with the highlight for many being the sighting of the Powerful Owl family. The programme each evening was an innovation that was appreciated by all the campers. The Annual Dinner was a delightful time as always and the Christmas Breakup was well attended and suitably celebrated the year of birdwatching.

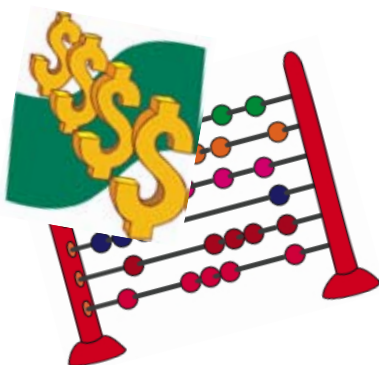
The raffle of two donated limited edition bird prints brought in enough money to make up the amount required to purchase our own Data Projector. It arrived in time to be well-used in the Campout evening programmes and is proving to be an excellent asset.

The Committee met six times in the year to manage the affairs of the Club. As in the past, clubs and organisations on the Fleurieu have requested our speakers at various functions. These have been good opportunities for the Committee to promote birdwatching in general and the Club in particular.

There have been six editions of our newsletter, Fleurieu Birdwatch, during the year and we receive good comments about this excellent publication. The website continues to be updated and is a valued and attractive resource.

In this my last report as Secretary, I would like to thank the members of the Committee who have worked together so well to keep the Club operating and to offer first-rate activities. To our members, thank you all for your friendship and support over the nine years in which Ray and I have been involved in the Club.

Val Laird



To pay subscriptions by EFT

Members who are familiar with making payments by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) may wish to pay their membership subscription by this means.

The following information will be needed to make an EFT payment.

- Our financial institution is Bank SA.
- Bank SA's BSB number is 105-160 (or 105160 if the hyphen cannot be entered)
- Our account number is 015551140.
- The organisation's name is Fleurieu Birdwatchers Incorporated (abbreviate or truncate if necessary).

On the Transfer Form there will also be a field probably called "Reference". This is usually used for the account number displayed on a bill. For a Fleurieu Birdwatchers payment, enter your name (last name, first name) and "subs" so we know who the payment is from.

To help us match up the entries on the bank statement with payments, please send an email message to us at fleurieubirds@gmail.com to notify us that you have made the payment. Include in the subject "Subscription", and in the message write your name, the amount and the payment date.

Outings

Goolwa Barrages

Sunday 15 March

Twelve members met at the Barrage car park. Our first walk was into the barrage area and there to be found were three Nankeen Night Heron and two Sacred Kingfisher. Then we turned to where the water should be. The level is so low that most of the area is a large sandbar but for now it was a help as many water birds gathered there.

We then moved further back along the road to an area where many waders had gathered. Denzel gave us a lesson in Common Greenshank versus Marsh Sandpiper, and we watched four Black-tailed Godwits.

By the time we moved further down past the Barrage to the small island the tide was moving out and 50 Bar-tailed Godwit had flown in, many of them in breeding colours. We were disappointed that none of the small waders were there.

The weather was cool and breezy as we gathered back at the car park and sheltered for morning lunch and bird call. Total count 37, with many bush birds missing in the wind.

There was still time for some of us to head off to Hindmarsh Island. There were many Pied Oystercatcher near the mouth. Then between showers we found five Eastern Curlew, a very exciting highlight.

Teresa Jack



Above. Nankeen Night Heron peered from the pine tree near the barrage.

Below. Although there was little water in the river the birds gathered on the verges.
Photos: Teresa Jack



Bar-tailed Godwit below Goolwa barrage.
Photo: Teresa Jack

Cox Scrub northeast

Wednesday 25 March

The eleven members on this outing enjoyed a beautiful autumn morning, warm, sunny and still, although by lunchtime we were feeling the heat. From the car park the scrub promised good sightings. We observed Silvereye, Common Bronzewing, Australian Magpie, Grey Fantail, New Holland Honeyeater and Peaceful Dove calling.

Along the track were Crimson Rosella, including some juveniles. Superb Fairy-wren, a pair of Golden Whistler, Brown Thornbill, and Little Raven were also seen.

We arrived at a section of the scrub where Chestnut-rumped Heathwren had been observed previously but from here sightings became scarce. After quite some time a Chestnut-rumped Heathwren was sighted.

Birds were mostly in ones and twos until a huge flock of Little Corellas silently flew past, and six Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo helped numbers along. Also seen were Elegant Parrot, White-naped Honeyeater and Dusky Woodswallow.

Returning to the car park for lunch and birdcall, we were greeted by Red-browed Finch, Hooded Robin, and Red Wattlebird among others.

Despite not seeing a lot of birds, the count was a surprising 35 species in all.

Margaret Dreyer



Australian Pelican on the River Murray at Mannum.
Photo: Peter Gower

Annual SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2009 are now DUE

Membership year is from 1 April to 31 March of following year.

- Single \$20** **Family \$25** (2 or more people at the same address) **Junior \$12**

*Please place this slip, together with your payment, in the enclosed envelope
and forward to the Treasurer, PO Box 80, Victor Harbor SA 5211*

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.

Follow instructions in April newsletter if you wish to pay subscriptions by EFT.

Thank you