



fleurieu birdwatch

August 2000

Meetings: Glendale Christian School, cnr Glendale Close/Strathalbyn Rd, 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: www.adelaide.net.au/~mhaywood/Fleurieu%20Birdwatchers.htm



FOR YOUR DIARY

◆ **Saturday 5 August**

Hardy's Scrub
Meet at Gate 14, Chapel Hill Road.
Mud map, page 4, last newsletter.

◆ **Wednesday 16 August**

Woodcone
Meet at the intersection of Victor Harbor and Woodcone Roads, Mt Compass, by the markets, formerly Dairy Vale factory.

◆ **Friday 18 August**

Dinner at Mt Compass Tavern
Details page 2

◆ **Saturday 26 August**

Nurragi
Meet at the intersection of Strathalbyn and Milang Roads at Finnis.

◆ **Friday 9 September**

Meeting
Guest Speaker: Dr Andrew Black
Habitat, Conservation and Birdwatching

◆ **Sunday 10 September**

Tonkin's Winery
Meet at the winery car park, Winery Road, Currency Creek.

◆ **Wednesday 20 September**

Mt Magnificent and Blackfellow Creek

Meet at the junction of Nangkita and Enterprise Roads, Nangkita

◆ **Saturday 7 October**

Currency Creek Gorge
Meet in the Lions Park, Strathalbyn Road, Currency Creek

◆ **Friday/Saturday 13–14 October**

Up the Creek, see enclosed flyer

◆ **Wednesday 18 October**

Bullock Hill
Meet at Ashbourne near the telephone box.

◆ **Saturday 28 October**

No outing

◆ **Friday– Monday 27–30 October**

Burra Campout. Details page 4

◆ **Sunday 12 November**

Ingallala Falls
Meet at the Yankalilla Hotel

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Please forward newsletter material to  
Verle Wood,  
13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211  
or email: [verlew@dove.net.au](mailto:verlew@dove.net.au)  
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MEETING REPORT

Friday 14 July

Mark Filkin conducted the meeting. 19 members and three visitors were welcomed.

Correspondence including Penny Paton's newsletter, *Chinwag*, about the Black-chinned Honeyeater, was tabled.

Kangarilla Primary School have requested a display for their Open Day on 14 October.

Signal Point Riverine and Environmental Group with assistance from the Fleurieu Birdwatchers have arranged a walk and talk workshop – **Up the Creek** – on Friday and Saturday 13-14 October. Full details on flyer herewith. Hope to see you there!

Ideas for speakers for meetings for the next twelve months are sought.

Guest Speaker, David Robertson, gave us a trip 'around the world in eighty days' with stopovers in Ecuador, England and India. His excellent slides illustrated the great diversity of colourful bird life in these places.

Members' contributions included

- Fairy Prion carcass from the beach at Middleton
- 8 Hooded Plover at the Hindmarsh Estuary
- Fantailed Cuckoo with mystifying calls
- Lots of Sooty Oystercatcher at the Murray mouth
- Crested Shriketit in Victor Harbor suburban backyard
- Boobook Owl on a powerline in the middle of Goolwa township
- Red-capped Robin and Zebra Finch in hills near Strathalbyn
- Rufous Night Heron back on river near ferry at Goolwa – upstream side, 7 pm – midnight. No appointment necessary.

And there was more birdtalk over supper, again prepared for us by Hillary.

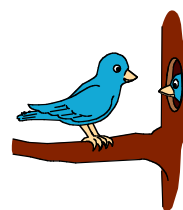
From the Working Group

- ❖ A quote has been obtained for reprinting the brochure.
- ❖ Campout at Burra 27-30 October
- ❖ Incorporation was discussed at length. A draft constitution is to be promulgated and presented to the membership at the next meeting.

WELCOME

Win and Margaret Syson,
Pt Elliot
Yrena Mountford, Meadows

Trust you will enjoy your
birdwatching activities with us.



&



There's still time ...

This is your final call
for bookings for dinner
at

Mt Compass Tavern
7 pm Friday 18 August

Ring now

Verle 8552 2197

Enjoy bird outings more

- ◆ Wear your name badge.
- ◆ When travelling in convoy, keep an eye out for the car behind you.
- ◆ Stay with the group and within earshot of the leader.
- ◆ Moderate conversation noise.

OUTINGS

Inman River upstream
Saturday 3 June

The morning was overcast with occasional drizzle and patchy sun, but 12 of us brightened the day for the Clydesdale tram horses as they watched us wander past their paddock toward the infamous Victor effluent ponds.

Plenty of Superb Fairy-wren in breeding colours were in the reedbeds as well as in the bushes, and the surface water attracted a variety of ducks. Six Black-fronted Plover were well spotted sitting on the side of the effluent pond.

Moving on into the wooded flood plain Silvereye were spotted and among them the buff-rumped Tasmanian variety. The highlight for me was seeing so many – maybe six – of the spectacular Crested Shrike-tit.

The *lowlight*, ample evidence of interbreeding of mallards with our native ducks.

In all 44 species were sighted.

Phyll Whellams

Onkaparinga Gorge
Wednesday 14 June

On the drive to the Institute, Old Noarlunga, the paddocks were white with frost, which made me wonder what on earth I was doing out of my warm bed. But on arrival, seeing the Rufous Night Heron was enough to raise my enthusiasm for the rest of the morning's birding.

Six members enjoyed the pleasant walk through the Gorge although bird numbers were scarce. Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were seen in good numbers. White-plumed, Crescent and Singing Honeyeaters were recorded only singly and New Holland was very conspicuous by its absence.

Superb Fairy-wren and Red-browed Firetail/Finch gave us the greatest numbers for the morning.

Four of us walked to the lookout where the surprise of the morning was a platypus swimming in the water below. A couple of Eurasian Coot were also seen which took the number of species recorded for the morning to 27 but of these six were 'heard' only.

Lunch was enjoyed in the sun in the car park where Keith did a good job of picking up rubbish lying around.

Ann Turner

Torrens Vale
Saturday 24 June

Eleven members met at Parawa on this quite cold morning – very windy at Parawa! We then drove down the hill to Geoff Evans' property Pijanbilli, which was beautifully sheltered by two big hills.

Geoff had cleared a track for us through the bracken and undergrowth and placed temporary bridges for us in two places over the running creek. This was appreciated very much by all of us and enabled us to venture further in our quest for the most elusive White-browed Scrub-wren and others.

We walked from Geoff's house to his bottom gate and sighted 21 of our eventual 33 birds in this area. We then climbed nearly to the top of one hill and were rewarded with a family of sitella.

The beautiful Scarlet Robin was sighted by most of the party. Unfortunately, I was just too slow with the binocs. We all enjoyed our outing and wish Ann and Keith *bon voyage* on their overseas trip.

Elaine O'Shaughnessy

Winery Road, Currency Creek

Sunday 16 July

It was a clear and sunny morning with a cool breeze. Ten of us including a junior member, met by the Canoe Tree.

We had most of our sightings along the railway line, including three Common Bronzewing as they sat warming themselves in the sun, allowing us to get very close.



Other birds we saw on our rail journey were, Golden Whistler which

followed us down the line (thanks to Belinda for the photo), Grey Shrike-thrush, Mistletoebird, Spotted Pardalote and a Jacky Winter. A Swamp Harrier and a Black-shouldered Kite were the only two raptors that we sighted.

In total we recorded 34 species of birds, some deer, a fox, a hare, and kangaroos, much to the delight of our junior member, Sarah.

As we sat down for lunch and a bird count, hundreds of Silvereye flew back and forth between tree and vines, making an easy E on our list.

Belinda Filkin

Muntiri, Milang
Wednesday 26 July

Water was flowing over all three fords on Winery Road. The Finnis River, Tookayerta and Currency Creeks had all broken their banks and were rushing at a great rate towards the lake. Paddocks were awash and water was flowing across the roads in a number of places. But all this did not deter two intrepid birders from venturing out on this cold,

damp morning for what proved to be a very worthwhile outing.

First stop was the Finnis Swamp, one of my Atlas sites, for a 20-minute survey. Eighteen species included a Black-winged Stilt and Black Swan, one with five cygnets. This equals my best count for that site.

Then on to Muntiri. This wonderful heritage-listed property is owned by Andrew and Margaret Black. Andrew is Vice President of SAOA and their Conservation Officer. He will be guest speaker at our next meeting – see Diary.

Thirty species were recorded in spite of the showers and low temperature. Elegant Parrot, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, White-fronted Chat, Jacky Winter and several families of White-browed Babbler. BUT, wait for it, the highlight of the morning – one brilliant male Flame Robin. We had a long uninterrupted view as it fluttered around the edges of the flooded paddock. Andrew reported its presence there on 13-14 May. Often this bird will move on after a few days so we were lucky this one stayed. For those who like to look down as well as up, spring is about to be sprung. *Acacia* is bursting forth, and *Astroloma*, *Hibbertia*, *Baeckea* (I think), *Thomasia* and *Stackhousia* are all breaking into bloom.

Eat your hearts out all those who stayed home in the warm, dry comfort and thank you Alwyn Dolling for coming with me.

Judith Dyer

CAMPOUT, BURRA
Friday 27 October – Monday 30 October

Yes, it will be at Burra this year. These weekends away have been THE highlight of our birdwatching calendar. We explore different habitats and extend our private bird lists as well as having a great social get together. Don't miss this one!

We will survey Burra Gorge, some private property (subject to a favourable reply to our request for permission to enter), Redbanks and other sites in the district. Some of us will camp along the creek in Burra Gorge Reserve, where there is plenty of space, grassed areas, fireplaces, toilets but NO water.

The Caravan Park in town has five on site vans at \$30 per night for two people. There are no cabins available. Phone 8892 2442 for details. Other accommodation, including cottages, is available in the town.

Contact the Burra Visitor Centre, phone 8892 2154, fax 8892 2555, email bvc@capri.net.au, or visit the website www.weblogic.com.au/burra.