



fleurieu birdwatch

August 2001

Meetings:	Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker and Cadell Streets, 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 30 Woodrow Way, Goolwa 5214	Ann Turner, phone 8554 2462 9 Carnegie Street, Pt Elliot 5212
Web site:	www.adelaide.net.au/~mhaywood/Fleurieu%20Birdwatchers.htm	

FOR YOUR DIARY

- * **Wednesday 15 August**
Hindmarsh River
Meet in Wattle Drive near the corner of Hindmarsh Road, Victor Harbor.
- * **Friday 17 August**
Once-a-year night, Middleton Tavern There's still time to book. All welcome.
- * **Saturday 25 August**
Meyer's Scrub, Ashbourne
Meet opposite the Ashbourne School.
- * **Friday 14 September**
Meeting
Speakers: Win Syson and Brian Walker The Rambling Babblers' Desert Cruise
- * **Sunday 16 September**
Brand's property, Parawa
Meet at Parawa at the notice board near the junction of Range, Parawa and Tunkhead Roads.

- * **Wednesday 26 September**
Milang–Clayton
Meet near the railway carriage at Milang.
- * **Saturday 6 October**
Yankalilla Gorge
Meet at Garnett Kelly Park, 4 km south of Normanville.

A BIG feature of our birdwatching calendar is

CAMPOUT

Friday 26–Monday 29 October

This year, the home base will be the little town of Morgan on the River Murray.

What's at Morgan? I hear you say.

The town has a charm of its own and rest assured that we will find exciting things around the river and its hinterland that the locals don't even know are there!

There will, of course, be no Fleurieu outing that weekend so plan to do something special. Our annual campouts have been really memorable events. Do hope you can join us.

Details page 4 of this newsletter.

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 Please forward newsletter material to
 Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211
 email: verlew@granite.net.au

MEETING

Friday 13 July

This meeting was held in the Church of Christ meeting room as the Anglican Church venue was unavailable.

Gaynor Jones, Chairperson, welcomed 24 members, visitors Judy and Andrew Baghurst, new residents on the Fleurieu, and Margaret and Brian Teskey, of Lyndoch, and guest speakers, Jan Macklin and Rae Beaumont.

Matters brought forward included

- List for members to indicate booking for the Annual Dinner, 17 August, at Middleton Tavern.
- Copy of Chinwag from Penny Paton, with request for help with tree planting on the Inman — Sunday 5/8, Saturday 18/8, some week days 6–10/8, phone Penny 8344 8891.
- Details of this year's campout at Morgan.
- Notice of Ring Around the River, 30 September.
- Letter from Mark Przbilla, Tourism Events Officer, Alexandrina Council, re the possibility of Fleurieu Birdwatchers taking part in a bird event.
- Liaison with Alexandrina Council continues re the mound to be built on the western side of the Effluent Ponds, Goolwa, between the second and third ponds.
- A report in The South Eastern Times (Mt Gambier) about birds on McIntyre Lake near Millicent.

Members' recent sightings:

- Eastern Curlew, Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpiper between the 19th Beacon and the Murray Mouth.
- Big flock of White-fronted Tern and a Kelp Gull at the Murray Mouth.
- Wilson's Storm Petrel on three consecutive days in the vicinity of the Screwpile Jetty on Granite Island.
- Mallee Fowl, thought to be an illegal vagrant, near Parson's Beach.

Visitor Brian Teskey spoke briefly about Altona Scrub, a 50 hectare site in the Barossa Valley, where he and Margaret do volunteer work. He extended an invitation to those present to visit privately as the area is not yet officially open to the public.

Jan and Rae then spoke about their work with sick and injured animals and birds. They are part of the Fleurieu Branch of Wildlife Welfare Organisation, a self-funded group with just two branches in South Australia, the other being in the Riverland. Rae dealt with the structure of WWO and Jan showed some slides and related interesting anecdotes of their patients which they care for on a 7.5 acre property at Encounter Bay. Jan and Rae showed a great deal of enthusiasm for their work and answered many questions from their audience.

WELCOME

Malcolm and Jennifer Haines,
McLaren Vale
Gillian Satchell, Goolwa
Kate Rogers, Morphett Vale
Carly Reimann (Junior), Victor Harbor



We are pleased to have you join us and hope you will get much pleasure from your birdwatching pursuits.

OUTINGS

Gilbert Siding

Saturday 2 June

On this, the first Saturday in winter, twenty-two eager birdwatchers went to Gilbert Siding. It was cool and overcast with quite a strong wind, demonstrated by two Australian Magpie-lark seen flying sideways. Later the sun came out for a while and even the chilliest mortals found they could undo their jackets.

As soon as we got out of the cars we were treated to a fine view of a Fan-tailed Cuckoo on the fence. In the same patch of scrub were Weebill, Grey Fantail and a female Golden Whistler. Some people heard Wood Duck calling and in the pine trees on the lefthand side of the track a White-plumed Honeyeater appeared to be feeding. A flock of Red-rumped Parrot flew off. Their colour would have been approved by the railway inspector who turned up in a rail car to warn us that Steam Ranger would be coming through in the afternoon, but did not insist we all wear orange jackets.

As we walked along the rail line there was a slight drop in the numbers of birds, apart from flocks of Musk Lorikeet. Feeling deprived we rushed over to the fence to spot a ... Noisy Miner which seemed equally interested in doing a bit of human-watching.

Far down the railway line sat a mystery bird. While some discussion went on as to its identity, we had good views of a Purple-crowned Lorikeet and a Common Bronzewing showing the true iridescence of its wings. There were many Dusky Woodswallow catching insects and enjoying the winter sunshine in what were obviously popular trees – described by some bird watchers as the DWS Motel.

There was no sign of the Flame Robin or the Black-chinned Honeyeater, sometimes seen in this location, but a Jacky Winter entertained us and the mystery bird turned out to be one of a flock of Peaceful Dove.

On the return journey we were thrilled by the sight of a Wedge-tailed Eagle and a Little Eagle (light phase), as well as a Crested Shrike-tit.

Two members stayed by the cars and let the birds come to them! They saw about eight different species, including Striated Pardalote and a female Rufous Whistler.

In all 50 species were recorded in another wonderful field trip.

Gillian Rubinstein

Muntiri

Wednesday 13 June

A clear crisp day gave promise of great things when our group of eight intrepid birdos met to travel to Muntiri.

The property was interesting for visitors like ourselves, with its varied habitat and flourishing native vegetation. As we are former members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants it was difficult to keep our minds on the birds above us and not on the plants around our feet!

It has been wonderful to see the varieties of parrot here. The Elegant Parrot and Musk Lorikeet were new to us and we hope to have a sighting of a Blue Bonnet before we go. Another first was the Hooded Robin and a tantalising glimpse of a Red-capped Robin kept us looking without further success.

The Honeyeaters were well to the fore with Singing, Spiny-cheeked, White-plumed and the brash but beautiful New Holland all present. Sightings of the perky Jacky Winter always brighten the day and we appreciated the attentions of some Dusky Woodswallow. Their subtle shadings are something we don't often see in our travels.

The weather began to draw down as we gathered for lunch and the bright outlook belied the chill in our bones!

By the time this report comes to print we will be back in Hervey Bay with only memories of South Australia and the open-hearted people we have met here. There will always be a welcome in Hervey Bay and our group there would be very pleased to show you the bird sights. Our thanks again for the warmth and friendliness shown to us by the Fleurieu Birdwatchers.

Jim and Ann Matthews



WE ARE GROWING!

March 1996 (one year after inception)

20 individual, 10 family members

August 2001

46 individual, 23 family (inc 2 juniors), 1 junior

Aldinga Scrub and Willunga Wetlands

Saturday 23 June

Reading from the Aldinga Scrub pamphlet, "the scrub is a birdwatcher's delight" with 166 bird species to be found.

Unfortunately for our 19 members and 2 visitors it was not so delightful. Birds were hard to find. Our total for this site was 27 species.

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Some interesting ones were Horsfield's and Bronze-Cuckoos, Golden Whistler, Australasian Grebe in breeding plumage, and numerous Mistletoebird. The only raptors were two Brown Falcon.

The park of 300 hectares is the last remnant of native coastal vegetation in the Adelaide area. There is coastal mallee, pink gum and sheoak, and an abundance of mistletoe in the park accounted for the great number of Mistletoebird seen.

We moved on to the Willunga Wetlands and here we were rewarded with considerable duck numbers. To name a few: Australasian Shoveller, Chestnut and Grey Teal, Hardhead, Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebe, Black-winged Stilt, Black-fronted Dotterel and a beautiful domestic goose which only just escaped the roasting dish last Christmas. We recorded 31 species here, making 58 in total for the morning.

We were ably led by Mark Filkin and Belinda who persuaded husband Mark to rescue a turtle which had got itself trapped in a deep hole at the wetlands. He had

Encounter Bay

Sunday 15 July

A bright sunny morning greeted the 13 members and 2 visitors who had ignored the ominous weather forecast and gathered at Barker Reserve, Victor Harbor. Judith's young grandson, Justin, with binoculars and notebook at the ready, was keen and eager to go.

On a short walk along the banks of the Inman River we saw 20 species, including Red and Little Wattlebird, White-plumed Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, Spotted Turtle-Dove, Dusky Moorhen, Superb Fairy-wren and Rainbow Lorikeet.

We drove around to the river mouth and added Nankeen Kestrel, Crested Pigeon, Masked Lapwing, Caspian Tern, Grey Teal, Hardhead and Spotted Crane to our lists.

Back into the cars once more we moved along Encounter Bay towards the Bluff, stopping two or three times to scan the sea and sky. Our efforts attracted the interest of a few passersby who assumed that we were spotting whales! Several Australasian Gannet circled far out from shore and we also sighted White-faced Heron, Pelican, Pied Cormorant, Black-shouldered Kite, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, a flock of Greenfinch, several Red-rumped Parrot and a lone Hoary-headed Grebe.

We set off next to try our luck at Petrel Cove. On this lovely sunny morning the cove and surrounding coastline looked especially picturesque. There were plenty of Crested Tern here, Singing Honeyeater, one Pacific Gull, Little Pied Cormorant and a very sleepy Black-faced Cormorant who was given a loud wakeup call to confirm identification. Several seals could be seen basking in the sunshine on nearby West Island.

The group then moved back for another look at the Inman mouth where the only new additions to the list were Red-capped Plover and Great Egret. At the final count 35 species were seen at the river and 28 at Encounter Bay.

Christine Hoad

Manning Reserve

Wednesday 25 July

You couldn't do better than this for a winter morning and 13 of us made the most of it. Eastern Rosella positively glowed in the early morning sunshine as did Elegant Parrot and Eastern Spinebill. Some New Holland and Red Wattlebird were the only honeyeaters. Mistletoebird and Striated Pardalote were in good numbers while, for once, Common Bronzewing sat still long enough to be admired, unlike our one Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo which proved very elusive. There was extensive digging and more grapevines on one side of the Reserve but no Robin and no Thornbill which I expected to see. At least, Australian White Ibis was enjoying the vine-growing area.

In all, a total of 38 species and a general agreement that we were lucky to have leisure to birdwatch on such a beautiful day.

Jean Boomer

Cartoon by Peter Rigby, reproduced with kind permission of the publishers.



OK, you win. It was a greenfinch.

CAMPOUT

Friday 26–Monday 29 October

Accommodation is available at the caravan park or at two hotels in the town: Terminus Hotel Motel, phone 8540 2006, and Commercial Hotel, phone 8540 2107. Hotel tariffs not known.

When making bookings at the Morgan Riverside Caravan Park, phone 8540 2207, mention that you are part of the Fleurieu Birdwatchers group and the proprietors will try to place us within cooee of each other.

Ensuite Cabin (2 available)	\$55.50 per night
Standard Cabin	\$44.00
On-site Caravan	\$33.50
Powered Site	\$18.50
Unpowered Site	\$12.70

Tariffs based on 2 persons, extra person/s \$5.80 each per night.

Those who arrive on Friday will survey White's Dam Conservation Park, approximately 30 km east of Morgan on the Burra Road, in the afternoon.

Be prepared for an early — 8 am — start on Saturday to travel to Kingston on Murray, approximately 75 km east of Morgan, about an hour's drive. Negotiations are in hand to visit Banrock Station Winery and Wetlands complex there. It is hoped that a light lunch will be available at the winery for those who would like a treat and don't want to spend time cutting lunch before the early morning start. These arrangements are subject to confirmation with Banrock. If time allows we will come back via Pooginook CP on the Morgan to Monash Road. For those on the Web you may like to visit www.banrockstation.com.au.

We will spend Sunday at the Morgan CP which is on the bank of the Murray opposite the town. Because of the close proximity of the park those needing to travel back home that day will be able to leave the group at any time.

On Monday, those remaining may wish to travel home via Blanchetown and visit Brookfield CP on the Sturt Highway, west of Blanchetown. Some will have fond memories of this park from our Blanchetown Campout in 1999.

We would appreciate an indication of numbers likely to attend the campout. A sheet will be passed around at the September meeting to indicate your intention or please phone Judith.

See you there!

Many birds die from smashing into windows. In the US, lights in some highrise office blocks are turned off at night so that migrating and nightflying birds are not confused or distracted from their flight