



August 2009

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



⊕ **Saturday 8 August. Kyeema Conservation Park**

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

⊕ **Friday 21 August. Once-a-Year Night**

Dinner at Hotel Victor, cnr Albert Place and Esplanade, Victor Harbor. Bookings essential. Contact Verle Wood asap.

⊕ **Thursday 27 August. Hindmarsh Island**

Meet at Ferryman's Reserve, about 500 m past the bridge on the right.

⊕ **Friday 11 September. General Meeting**

Guest Speaker: Marcus Pickett, *Emu-wrens*

⊕ **Sunday 13 September. Jarnu (private property)**

Meet at the entrance to the Lions Park, Strathalbyn Road, Currency Creek.

⊕ **Wednesday 23 September. Manning Reserve**

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

⊕ **Saturday 10 October. Normanville and Ingalalla Falls**

Meet at the car park on the foreshore at Normanville.

⊕ **Friday to Monday 23–26 October. Campout**

See Birdwatch June 2009.

⊕ **Friday 13 November. General Meeting**

Guest Speaker: Emma Stephens, *Hooded Plover*

⊕ **Sunday 15 November. Nurragi**

Meet at the Milang turnoff, Goolwa–Strathalbyn Road, Finniss



Supported by the Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board
Attracting Wildlife to Your Property with James Smith of 'fauNature'
Wednesday 26 August 7:30pm at the Centre, 18 High Street, Willunga

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 10 July

Chairperson, Denzel Murfet, welcomed 17 members.

Several members reported on the most successful Hooded Plover seminar they had attended at Yankalilla. Emma Stephens has been invited as guest speaker to the November meeting to present her findings of last year's survey and a summary of the presentation from Grainne Maguire, the main presenter at the seminar.

Normanville Natural Resource Centre volunteers plan to compile a list of Fleurieu Birds and photos. Their representatives may attend one of our meetings to talk to members about the project.

Treasurer, Phyll Whellams reported a healthy bank balance, with 73 memberships renewed (about 100 individuals).

A suggestion was considered at the Committee meeting for focussed segments at general meetings for beginner birdwatchers: 5-minute segments or 15-minute segments presented by our own members in lieu of a speaker. Consensus was that a members' night be held in March 2010. Members will be asked to suggest topics in advance and others with expertise in particular areas as requested, will be asked to contribute. Time will be allowed for Q & A and discussion.

Bird call included

- » Hooded Plover on Encounter Bay (Franklin Parade) and Aldinga Beach
- » Quail on Granite Island
- » Owlet Nightjar at Scott CP
- » Southern Giant-Petrel at Petrel Cove
- » Cattle Egret at Mt Compass
- » Good numbers of Red-necked Stint and Oystercatcher near Goolwa barrages
- » Sacred Kingfisher at Hindmarsh Island
- » No Orange-bellied Parrot but lots of Elegant Parrot, including a flock of 30 at Onkaparinga River
- » Flock of 12-15 Red-rumped Parrot at Currency Creek
- » European Goldfinch flocking on property adjacent to Scott CP
- » Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo at Victor Harbor
- » Large flock of Pelican on river at Goolwa (missed the flight to the inland floods!)
- » Black-chinned Honeyeater at Victor Harbor
- » Scarlet Robin at Parawa
- » Large numbers of Yellow Chat in far north and 2-3 at Stockyard Plains
- » A member participating in Birds Australia's Shorebirds 2020 program had surveyed 11 Yorke Peninsula beaches.

Denzel then conducted a most useful workshop on bird calls. He distributed a list of birds fairly common in our local area, and then played a selection of calls through twice. Members wrote the number of the call alongside the name of the bird they thought it belonged to. On the third playing members checked their lists — with some interesting surprises! They were then given time to check the boxes which indicated where the bird might be seen when calling, eg sky, trees, coastal etc. This provoked much animated discussion and was a good lesson for us all.

Nick Tebneff thanked Denzel for his presentation and was wholeheartedly supported by those present, who then enjoyed cuppa suppa prepared by Wendy Phillips.



Shorebirds 2020
www.birdsaustralia.com.au/our-projects/shorebirds-2020

Sale

Photographic Equipment

Lenses to fit Nikon cameras, all in very good condition.

Also Canon camera body, EOS 40D.

Contact Peter Gower, 08 8388 9924, gowerphotos@gmail.com



Meyer's Scrub, Ashbourne

Saturday 13 June

The forecast of a wet weekend kept our numbers down to nine members which is a nice group to go birding with. As we started out the clouds moved away and we had a fine morning, but it remained quite windy.

The start was promising with a Brown Goshawk putting nine Dusky Woodswallow to flight. Next was a male Hooded Robin. Then an Elegant Parrot which had a slightly orange belly.

As we headed east and up the hill the birds all but disappeared making it a walking trip with no stops. Finally, when we reached our maximum distance, some twittering calls proved to be eight Southern Whiteface, a bird gradually disappearing from the Mount Lofty Ranges.

The walk back to the cars was very ordinary with few birds seen. The bird call was 34 species with only four honeyeaters. The most plentiful species was 28 Adelaide Rosella.

Denzel Murfet

Onkaparinga Wetlands, Old Noarlunga

Thursday 25 June

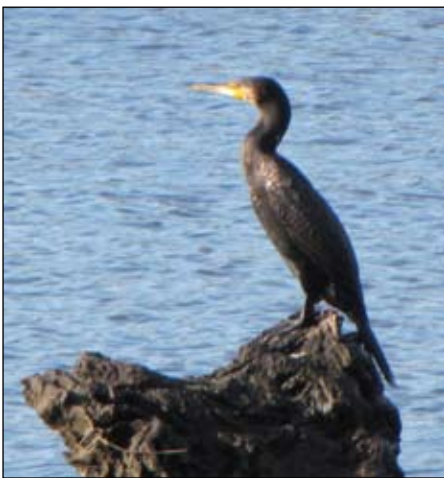
Twelve folk met on a coolish, cloudy but fine morning at the Market Square, Old Noarlunga, and then drove along River Road to the Onkaparinga River by the effluent ponds. After being given the "once over" by a family of Kangaroos, we walked along the river for a little way.

A Darter delighted us by flying into a tree giving us an excellent view. It was joined by a second Darter, also flying into the same tree! Many Pelicans were on view, several enjoying a social get-together in the middle of the river on a large tree stump. They were joined by a lone Great Cormorant, although he pretended to ignore the Pelicans!

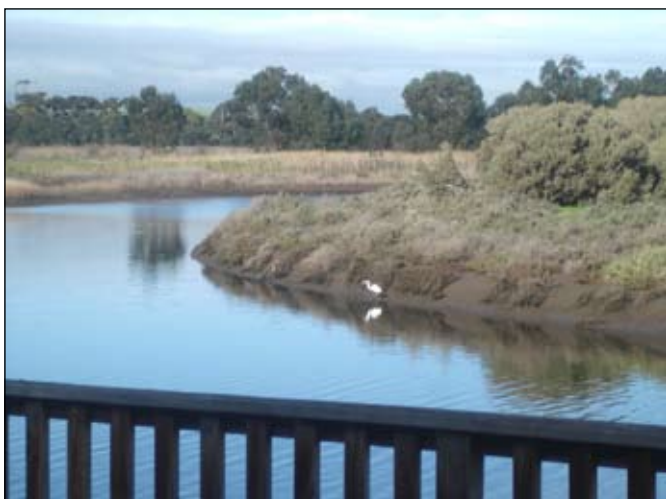
A Great Egret kept his eye on us, either on one side of the river or the other! Several water birds were seen including White-faced Heron, Australasian and Hoary-Headed Grebe, Purple Swamphen, Black-Winged Stilt, Black-Fronted Dotterel and one Caspian Tern. While we viewed several water birds in a muddy area, they were suddenly dispersed by the appearance of a fox!

A thrill for some of us was finally a tick for a Weebill! Overall, 53 species were sighted or heard, which made a very satisfying birdwatching outing indeed. Thank you to Peter Gower for his guidance and leadership.

Colleen Evans



*Great Cormorant, Noarlunga Wetlands.
Photo: Paul Bean*



Noarlunga Wetlands views. Photos: Geoff Evans





Darter poised for action, Currency Creek.
Photo: Peter Gower

Currency Creek Winery

Sunday 12 July

Only two of us decided not to be fine weather birdwatchers by visiting the Black Swamp trail at Currency Creek Winery. We were rewarded by encountering only two light showers and found that most of the trail was sheltered from the wind. This provided us with the sighting of 32 species, including Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Crested Shrike-tit, Hobby, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo and a close view of a Little Wattlebird.

By the time we left, on the eastern side of the winery, the water had risen to trickle across the road. A message on the radio the following afternoon stated that the road had been closed due to the high water level at one of the fords in that area.

Peter Gower

Neophema Count (May)

Coorong and Murray Lakes

0 OBPs, 15 Blue-winged Parrots,
9 Elegant Parrots, 26 Rock Parrots
South East

0 OBPs, 151 Blue-winged Parrots,
8 Elegant Parrots, 0 Rock Parrots



Interpretive signs will be located in different coastal towns in SA near sites where OBPs have been seen in the past. These will hopefully increase the awareness of the public regarding the habitat of this species and help lessen the threat to them.

Mt Billy Conservation Park

Wednesday 29 July

Six members met at the Hindmarsh Valley Hall and proceeded to Mt Billy. The day was cool and overcast with good light for birding and we didn't get any rain until later when we were back at the Hindmarsh Valley reservoir. There was no wind, so we could hear all the bird calls — perfect for birding!

The countryside looks wonderful, green paddocks everywhere from our great view at the top of Mt Billy and of course, moisture underfoot everywhere.

A magpie was our early guide. He walked on the track in front of us, stopping and waiting for us and then moving ahead. He was with us for at least the first 500 metres. He then moved to the trees and Peter Gower took over as guide, although not flying in the trees!

We sighted 30 species in all today.

4 Golden Whistler — always special for me, 2 Eastern Spinebill — very pretty, 26 Silvereye, 5 Brown Thornbill, 80 or more Crimson Rosella, 6 Grey Fantail, 1 Striated Pardalote and 2 Kookaburra were the highlights for me.

We finished up for lunch at Nangawooka Flora Reserve. As soon as the human beings entered the gazebo there the Superb Fairy-wrens came along and asked for crumbs. We gave them some small snippets and they had a wonderful time. Life doesn't get much better than enjoying the company of wrens while having lunch! A very enjoyable morning.

Elaine O'Shaughnessy

COASTAL RAPTOR PROJECT

Birds SA, assisted with funding from the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* program, is undertaking a threatened species research project through 2009–10 to **Survey coastal regions in South Australia to determine the population status of the White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Eastern Osprey and to identify habitat threats.**

During the 2008 breeding season and the 2009 courtship display seven White-bellied Sea-Eagle territories were identified on the coastline between the WA border and Elliston, just two of which were west of Ceduna.

Over the same area there were 20 Eastern Osprey territories, eight of which were west of Ceduna.

More information from Terry Dennis, 08 8552 7659, 0409 527 654, osprey84@internode.on.net

