



fleurieu birdwatch

December 2000

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker and Cadell (main) 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

◆ **Saturday 2 December**

Christmas Breakup



Barbecue at the Goolwa barrage. Birdwatching at 4 pm and Jim will light up the barbecue for us at 6 o'clock. BYO food, beverages, chair and insect repellent. Tea and coffee

provided in your own mug. Enter via Jim's private driveway from the road behind the house.

◆ **Sunday 17 December**

Christmas Pageant, Goolwa

◆ **Friday 12 January 2001**

Scott Conservation Park

This will be a **night walk** in lieu of a meeting and Sunday outing. Bring supper and a chair, and a torch for both walking and spotting. Meet at the main car park on the northern boundary at 7.30 pm.

◆ **Saturday 3 February**

Goolwa Effluent Ponds

Meet at the Effluent Ponds, Kessell Road, Goolwa

◆ **Saturday 24 February**

Cox Scrub West - Coles Crossing

Meet at the junction of Nangkita Road and Heifer Lane, Nangkita.

◆ **Friday 9 March**

Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker.

◆ **Sunday 11 March** — Hindmarsh Island

◆ **Wednesday 21 March** — Scott CP

◆ **Saturday 7 April** — Newland Head



We are going as a walking group and carrying the banner. Come in bird suit if you like! In the past it's been a hoot and we'd much appreciate your support.

Assemble from 5.30 pm behind the Council Chambers for a 6.00 pm take off.

PLEASE NOTE

***the new venue for meetings.
The March AGM will be held at the
Anglican Church Hall which is on the
corner of Crocker and Cadell (main)
Streets, Goolwa***

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

MEETING

Friday 10 November

Eighteen members and one visitor attended our meeting on Friday evening 10 November. Brian announced that we are now an incorporated group with Public Liability insurance. Members will receive a copy of the Constitution with this newsletter. It was pointed out that some may feel on reading through the Constitution that there is some vagueness. This was deliberately done to avoid possible changes in the future. We can compile a list under Policies and Procedures to cover any local rules that we want attached and members are asked to submit suggestions in this respect.

We decided to take part in the Goolwa Christmas Pageant again this year. (See Diary)

Two beach-washed birds were presented – an Australasian Gannet picked up by Di Shearer after the big storm in October, and Judith again brought along the Fairy Prion picked up during the winter. Judith also showed a Crested Pigeon and Kit had a Magpie. All these were taken away at the end of the meeting by Kate. We are hopeful of some great skins, Kate, or even a mounted gannet!

The quiz, presented by Mark and Judith, stretched the knowledge of most members. Slides were shown for identification and a tape of calls to identify was played. These, along with a variety of other questions, were all aimed at making the night an educational experience, but it was also lots of fun.

WELCOME

Dean Frankham, Clarendon
Pauline Kennare, Victor Harbor

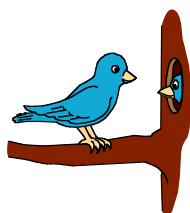
My apologies to

Adrienne Fontanier, Goolwa
Christine Hoad, McLaren Vale
who should have been included in the welcome earlier in the year.

Hope you all enjoy your birdwatching activities with us.

Cracker quips

- *Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.*



- *I wish the buck stopped here. I could use a few.*
- *If all is not lost, where is it?*

OUTINGS

Currency Creek Gorge

Saturday 7 October 2000

Weather: wind calm, skies clearing after overnight drizzle.

Our group of 19 set off up the creek in Indian file being chorused by a Clamorous Reed-warbler who was happy to give us some good glimpses of himself.

Although we had many good sightings of Little Corella, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Kookaburra, many other birds were just briefly sighted in small numbers: Eurasian Coot, White-browed Babbler, Red-rumped Parrot, Superb Fairy-wren, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo. The highlight was a pair of Crested Shrike-tits observed by all.

The morning finished with a brief visit to the Currency Creek Cemetery and lunch at the entrance to the park. A total of 38 birds was sighted and another pleasant morning's birdwatching was enjoyed, especially by the multitudes of mozzies!

Bruce Riglin

Up the Creek

Friday/Saturday 13-14 October

A number of our members met with the Signal Point and Riverine Environmental Group on Friday evening to investigate native fish in local creeks and backwaters of the lake.

To their credit they were up next morning at the crack of a nippy dawn and assembled for the pre-breakfast survey of birdlife in Jarnu Woodlands, an area of Heritage Scrub near Currency Creek. We divided into two groups to cover this site. The birds were fairly busy at this hour and some good sightings were made including White-winged Triller.

We were rewarded with an excellent breakfast at Tonkin's Winery and were joined by more members of both groups to make a goodly number of more than fifty participants. Breakfast was followed by two talks: Janet Pedler spoke very informatively about managing bird habitat, and Tim Milne's topic was frogs and reptiles.

After lunch we again divided into two groups, one looking at the tiny creatures in the Black

Swamp waterway, and the other having a close (too close for my liking!) look at real live reptiles.

Verle Wood

Bullock Hill

Wednesday 18 October

I am standing there, wondering if I've got the wrong after-shave on again!



Soon, Paula Rawson, who lives at Ashbourne, arrived to say the morning's walk has been cancelled.

By this time, I was getting strange looks – parked outside the school! So I decided to move on.

At the Ashbourne Golf Course entrance I stopped. There in front of me was a Brown Treecreeper. It had picked up a morsel from the road and flown up into the tree to eat it. A little further along Superb Fairy-wren appeared and, in the treetop, wet, bedraggled Elegant Parrot.

I came home via the unsealed Signal Flat Road, which joins the main Goolwa-Strathalbyn Road at Finnis. On this quiet road I saw those birds you would expect to see – Magpie and Magpie-lark, Little Raven, New Holland Honey-eater and so on.

I saw some 21 species. Another pair of experienced eyes would have confirmed the Spotted Pardalote. Nonetheless, an enjoyable two hours' drive.

It did turn out to be fine!

Brian Ginno

Campout — Tothill Ranges

Friday 27 October

As a start to the Burra Campout, six of us went birdwatching from a quarter to four for about one and a half hours in overcast conditions. Sightings took time, with a number of birds recorded as heard, not seen.

Brown Songlark (on fences), White-winged Chough (a noisy family in the trees) and Southern Whiteface (in bushes) were sighted and a stiff climb up a hill gave us a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo.

Our total was 24 species recorded, plus one elusive bird that we couldn't identify either visually or through recordings. The birdwatcher's frustration – the one that got away!

Jean Boomer

Campout — Redbanks

Saturday, 28 October 2000

The day started out cool with a light breeze and the sky bright with only a few wispy clouds. Conditions were perfect for birdwatching. This morning we had the full complement of campers, eight in all.

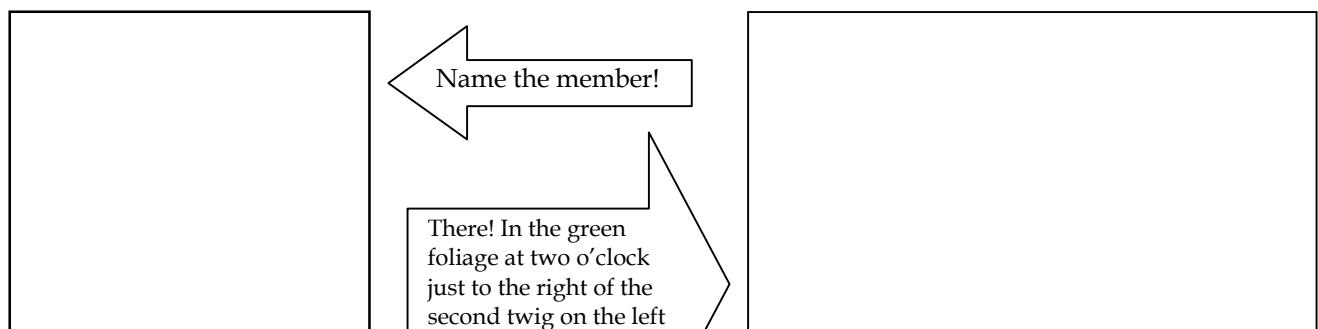
We had a great day seeing 50 species altogether. Of these there were only a few Honeyeaters – the Spiny-cheeked and White-eared.

We had excellent views of all the raptors we sighted: Brown Falcon, Brown Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle and especially the Nankeen Kestrel which had two nesting sites in the high banks of the creek. There was a good number of both Sacred and Red-backed Kingfishers and Laughing Kookaburra.

Two of the more colourful sightings were the wonderful Rainbow Bee-eater, which kindly sat out on a bare branch to give us a very good view, and the slightly more elusive Variegated Wren, of which the male's blue crown and chestnut shoulder patch shone in the bright sunlight. Both of these were first sightings for me.

Although there was not an abundance of any particular species we had good sightings of most, with the exception of the Grey Shrike-thrush which was heard on many occasions. Unusually, no one was able to see it.

Chris Wastell



Campout — Burra Creek Gorge
Sunday 29 October 2000

Another beautiful day dawned after a cool night. Today the group birdwatched in the area of the Burra Creek and followed another creek into private property. Vegetation along the creekbeds was lush in comparison to the surrounding countryside due to the spring which feeds the creek all year.

Rainbow Bee-eater and Sacred Kingfisher were in good numbers. Five species of honeyeater were seen. We had a good view of male and female Rufous Whistler and Mistletoebird. Clamorous Reed-warbler were very clamorous. An excellent view of a Peregrine Falcon caused great excitement.

Barn and Boobook Owl were heard each night at our campsite. An attempt to catch the Barn Owl in the beam of a flashlight failed.

Some of the group drove to the Hallelujah Hills after lunch. The most notable sighting there was Brown Falcon.

A late afternoon walk by the intrepid campers added Variegated Wren and Australian Wood Duck to the list.

In all, 52 species were seen or heard in the Burra Creek Gorge.

Gaynor Jones

Ingallala Falls
Sunday 12 November

On a cool, misty and overcast morning, 12 birdwatchers gathered at a rather lovely picnic ground which has been in use as such for over a hundred years, according to the information board. Several of us had not been there before and were surprised to find well developed parking and eating areas and quite a number of planted trees, both native and introduced. The easy walk to the falls provided 22 species of birds, the highlights being Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, White-throated Treecreeper, Golden Whistler and Superb Fairy-wren.

For lunch we adjourned to the Normanville Caravan Park and beach where it was fine and windy. 24 species were seen here including two Hooded Plover, Nankeen Kestrel and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. Frustratingly, Stubble Quail were heard calling from the paddocks in

several directions, but remained unseen. An total of 39 species was seen during the morning.

Rosalie Sharpe

Cox Scrub

Wednesday 22 November

The morning was overcast to start but cleared to bright sun for the six of us and one visitor who braved the mozzies.

The good rains this season had left a considerable expanse of surface water by the car park which had attracted some water birds. A pair of Australasian Grebe with a juvenile were attending their nest, with probably their second clutch for the year, and with the amount of water around that should be successful too.

As we walked to higher ground and got well away from the water, sightings became scarce, although the scrub looked healthy and wildflowers, particularly callistemon, were in abundance. Despite patchy sightings we did see 34 species, including many Grey Fantail, Eastern Spinebill, Spotted Pardalote and a European Goldfinch on a nest — but *no* raptors.

Phyll Whellams

Many thanks to those scribes — volunteers and conscripts — who have provided reports for the newsletters again this year. Your DO-IT-NOW approach to the chore has taken the hassle out of my task.

And a special thanks to Judith, newsgatherer and proofreader extraordinaire, and Ann, who so reliably gives her time to help with the mailing and keeps me on track. Verle

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to all*

