



fleurieu birdwatch

February 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

✱ 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

Speaker — Mark Filkin: Quarantine and how it affects Australia.

✱ Sunday 11 March

Hindmarsh Island

Meet near Hector's Restaurant on Goolwa Wharf.

✱ Wednesday 21 March

Scott CP

Meet at the main car park on the northern boundary off Deep Creek Road.

✱ Saturday 7 April

Newland Head

Meet at Dennis Hut in the camping ground. BYO barbecue to follow. Family and friends welcome.

Some Statistics

We have just passed our 6th birthday, the group having been formed on 13 January 1995.



During this time we have conducted field trips to 50 different locations. The area we have covered extends from south of the Onkaparinga Gorge Conservation Park to Ashbourne and from Yankalilla and Parawa to Tolderol Game Reserve on Lake Alexandrina.

We have conducted 153 outings and recorded 199 different species of birds. Added to this are 5 Annual Campouts where another 14 sites were visited with another 39 species of birds that we have not recorded in our home territory, added to the list.

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Please forward newsletter material to Verle Wood,

13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211
or email: verlew@granite.net.au

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Goolwa Barrage —
Christmas Breakup
Saturday 2 December

The weather was fine, the sky clear and a cool breeze was blowing.

About 18 members assembled at 4 pm at the barrage and commenced birding on the lake shoreline. Water was running through the sluice gates and Pelican and Great Cormorant were making a meal of any fish coming through. Crested, Whiskered and Caspian Tern patrolled the sky above.

Waders were hard to come by due to the height of the water but Marsh and Common Sandpipers were seen. Raptors were well represented with Australian Hobby, Black-shouldered Kite, Nankeen Kestrel and Swamp Harrier sighted.

The highlight for me was the family of four Australian Hobby calling and chasing starlings from the Norfolk Island pines next to our barbecue site.

About 6 pm Jim arrived to light the barbecue and, after the initial gas explosion and some singed hair, cooking commenced. Numbers by this time had swelled to 28.

Bird call was completed while sausages sizzled and corks popped. Final count was 37 species. A great time was had by all!

Winston Syson

Scott Conservation Park
Friday 12 January

The Fleurieu Birdwatchers' nocturnal ramble was voted a success by its 18 participants. A mild night made for comfortable conditions and although the twilight made it a little difficult for identifying colours, a total of 28 species were seen or heard.

A number of immature Brown-headed Honeyeaters were seen, with some co-operating with the birdwatchers by sitting still in the torchlight. A Scarlet Robin, Common Bronzewing, Superb Fairy-wren and the White-browed Babbler were some of the species seen in the twilight. Cockatiel were identified by their call, as was the Laughing Kookaburra (an

easy one!).

Once darkness had fallen and all of the happy hikers had traversed the steep creek bed in safety we listened to a recording of the calls of some of our nocturnal birds and were rewarded with a reply from the Southern Boobook Owl. Some later heard an Owlet-nightjar.

Dozens of kamikaze beetles dashed themselves against the light during the bird count and a spider honed in for a free feed. Interest has already been expressed in a repeat performance of the nocturnal ramble next January.

Dianne Shearer

Orange-bellied Parrot

A recent article in The Advertiser, 18/1/01, revealed current measures being taken to reverse the slide towards extinction of the rarest of our 72 parrot species, the Orange-bellied Parrot. This species is classified as endangered, with foxes and cats being their main predators.

Adelaide Zoo is contributing 7 birds which, along with 30 from Healesville Sanctuary, Melbourne, will be released into the wild in Tasmania in September. At that time birds from Victoria make their annual migration across Bass Strait, to breed.

Only 180 birds are thought to remain in the wild, living in coastal areas near Phillip Island. In south-western Tasmania they make their homes in the hollows of eucalypt trees and feed on coastal plants, such as pigface and wattle, and on coastal grass seeds.

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