



# fleurieu birdwatch

## February 2002

**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      Ann Turner, phone 8554 2462  
30 Woodrow Way, Goolwa 5214      9 Carnegie Street, Pt Elliot 5212

**Web site:** under reconstruction

## DIARY DATES



### ➤ Saturday 23 February

#### **Currency Creek Winery upstream**

Meet in the winery car park.

### ➤ Friday 8 March

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Speaker: Denzel Murfet—  
Wader Identification

### ➤ Saturday 9 March

#### **Penrice Saltfields**

See next page

### ➤ Wednesday 20 March

#### **Nurragi CP**

Meet at Milang turnoff, Goolwa–Strathalbyn Road

### ➤ Saturday 6 April

#### **Torrens Vale—private property**

Meet at the noticeboard, Parawa, junction of road  
to Cape Jervis and Yankalilla road.

### ➤ Wednesday 17 April

#### **Currency Creek, Winery Road**

Meet at the Canoe tree, Goolwa–Strathalbyn  
Road, Currency Creek

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Friday 8 March

If you have

- ✓ appreciated the work of the Committee in the past 12 months
- ✓ enjoyed the outings the Committee has arranged
- ✓ broadened your knowledge of ornithology

think about what you yourself might contribute.

You could

- ✓ give your time, a couple of hours in an evening six times a year to help oversee the activities of the group
- ✓ help plan the year's activities and suss out new sites where the group could monitor bird populations
- ✓ share your bird knowledge with the group as a speaker at a meeting

All Committee positions will be declared vacant except that of the Chairperson which has a two-year tenure. The Treasurer has indicated that she will not be available for re-election.

‘ We invite you to take a turn on the  
Committee for the next 12 months. ’



## WADER SPOTTING EXPEDITION

### Penrice Saltfields, St Kilda

Saturday 9 March

A 21-seater bus has been booked and filled by persons registering early following the announcement in the last newsletter. We have five members on a waiting list for the bus. If seats do not become available these people will travel to Penrice in private cars.

If you have registered please **forward payment** \$20 to Treasurer Fleurieu Birdwatchers, c/o Judith Dyer, 30 Woodrow Way, Goolwa 5214 (cheques payable to Fleurieu Birdwatchers) asap and **no later than 15 February**. If you deliver payment personally to Judith please enclose in an envelope clearly marked Penrice, your name and the amount enclosed. Seats not paid for by this date will be re-allocated to those on the waiting list.

Other members wishing to travel by private car must let Judith know. Although there will be expert commentary on the bus we will be leaving it at intervals to walking along levee banks and to set up spotting scopes. All members entering Penrice will be required to sign an indemnity form as a condition of entry.

Bring lap food and mozzie repellent.

The bus will leave

- Victor Harbor, Rosetta Village, 12 noon
- Pt Elliott, opposite bus shelter, North Terrace, 12.10 pm
- Goolwa, bus shelter Cadell Street, 12.30 pm
- \*McLaren Vale, bus shelter Lion's Park, 1.00 pm
- \*Morphett Vale, bus stop cnr South and Flaxmill Roads, 1.15 pm

\* These times are approximate only and we suggest you be early at these points.

ETA Penrice: approximately 2.15 pm. ETD Penrice approximately 7 pm.



*Congratulations!*

*Mark, Belinda and Sarah Filkin*

*The stork landed safely with an 8 lb bundle of joy, Jesse, on 12 December 2001.*

*At one month old Jesse had already increased his weight by 50%!*



*Good luck and good birding to this young*

## OUTINGS

### Hindmarsh Falls

Wednesday 17 October

This report belongs in the December birdwatch. My apologies to all for omitting it, especially to Liz. V

On arriving at the lower car park of the Hindmarsh Falls, ten Fleurieu Birdwatchers were not deterred by the overcast sky. Sightings of Crimson Rosella, New Holland Honeyeater, Crescent Honeyeater and Superb Fairy-wren were quickly recorded. Ambling up the road to the falls lookout, visibility was poor, but we had the bonus of admiring the beautiful wildflowers. Golden Whistler and Grey Shrike-thrush could be heard over the increasing background noise of the falls. Galah, Tree Martin, Mistletoebird, Striated Thornbill, Silvereye, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Eastern Spinebill were added to the rapidly filling bird note book.

We then wandered around a reserve adjacent to the lower carpark and found the sighting of the day, a Sacred Kingfisher.

Next stop was the Hindmarsh Reservoir where it became quite sunny and breezy. First sightings were Australian Wood Duck, Masked Lapwing and Welcome Swallow. Enjoying the water was Black Swan with dependent young, along with a Musk Duck. Pied Cormorant, Australian White Ibis and Striated Pardalote were readily seen, and a silent Kookaburra.

In this peaceful area, 35 species were sighted in a very short time. The bird count at Hindmarsh Falls was 36. Another memorable outing!

Liz Sweetman

## Currency Creek, Lions Park

Saturday 1 December

12 members managed the 4 pm start for our final outing for 2001. It was cool, calm and cloudy with mosquitoes in good numbers.

A Clamorous Reed-warbler was our first bird of strong song to welcome us to our walk. We clambered over the rock and along the narrow track to the waterfalls. The Rufous Songlark gave us a merry chase with a different call, similar to a cuckoo.

Our mini outing finished at 5.30 when we joined the later arrivals in a large circle around the buckled, rusted barbecue. Bird call tallied up 38 species but while we were enjoying our Christmas windup a few birds still indicated their presence to keep us looking. No-one ever did see the Crested Shrike-tit calling along the creek. The last of us finished up at 8 pm just as the rain spotted down.

Denzel Murfet

## Ashbourne area

Friday 11 January

On a beautifully cool evening with a light breeze, 25 members and friends assembled by the Ashbourne school. The first half hour was spent there observing a Sacred Kingfisher, Little Corella, New Holland Honeyeater and a flock of Sulphur-crested Cockatoo.

We moved on to the golf course road and while the light lasted, collected 32 species altogether including both Brown and White-throated Treecreepers. A delightful sighting was a White-naped Honeyeater feeding young in the nest, a small ball of fibre suspended in the outer leaves of a eucalypt close to the road. As darkness descended we moved to the Rawson's property for supper and bird call.

Recordings of night birds calling were broadcast into the darkness without obvious result but a very pleasant evening had been spent. Thanks to Paula and Alan Rawson for the kind use of their home.

Rosalie Sharpe

## A TRIP TO NARACOORTE

Brian and Maureen Ginno took off in their caravan to the south-east late last year. They arrived mid-afternoon at Naracoorte Caravan Park which is adjacent to grassed parks with areas of pine forest, scrub and woodland close by. After a quick cuppa they wasted no time getting started on the birds.

38 species were recorded, including flocks of Little Corella and Superb Fairy-wren as numerous as New Holland Honeyeater. Eastern Spinebill showed off in front of us. The Scarlet Robin flew around us and showed off too. We viewed him from the vantage point of a bull ants' nest—my subsequent flight up the pathway minus trousers, jumping up into the air grasping vital organs must have been quite a sight.

The following day we visited the Naracoorte Caves area but were disappointed with the numbers of birds seen there, the place being overrun by schoolies. Back at the park we did another circumnavigation of the park area via the cemetery before dinner for little profit.

On a quick stroll after dinner we could not believe our eyes when a White-faced Heron perched alongside two Rufous Night Herons. As the group soared into the air, up went about 100 screaming corellas. We tracked the herons for about 30 minutes.

On our third day we visited Bool Lagoon (Bool Paddock!) which we found dry as a bone with no broilga which was the object of our 340 km trip. However, we were rewarded with two Glossy Ibis among a flock of Black-winged Stilt. We found lots of wrens and goldfinches at every hide. As we moved on to Hack's Lagoon we found Australian Shellduck, a few egrets, lots of wrens and reed-warblers. On the way back past the teatree we spotted a big Pacific Heron standing on his own.

Altogether, as Brian says, "Quite a rewarding trip".

## Atlas Update

Although the Birds Australia Atlas count was to finish after four years it has been decided to keep the count going and Birds Australia is encouraging people to continue to submit forms. By keeping the project rolling they will be able to investigate the long term species changes. They are seeking funding for a further three years.

Atlassers now have the option to send their forms direct to Birds Australia in Melbourne. You may, however, still send forms to the Regional Organiser network if you wish. I still have a good supply of blank Atlas forms.

Judith Dyer



THANK YOU

Treasurer, Judy Jones, will not be standing for re-election on 8 March. She has been a most faithful fiscal recorder and adviser. She has closely scrutinised financial activity for the past three years and her budgets have kept us on track with up to date reports always available. Judy has been an outstanding treasurer and the books are in good order to be continued easily by a new incumbent.

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## The Wisdom of the Geese



The next time you see a flock of geese heading north for the summer, you might be interested to know what science has discovered about why they fly that way.

(Downunder we could substitute another bird and another season.)

As each bird flaps its wings it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a V-formation the whole flight adds at least 71 per cent more range than if each bird were trying to fly on its own.

**Lesson**—People who share a common direction will get where they are going quicker and easier because they are travelling on the uplifting energy of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and it will immediately get back into formation to take advantage of the uplift power of the bird immediately in front.

**Lesson**— If we have as much sense as the goose we will stay in formation with those who are headed in the same way.

When a goose gets tired it rotates back and another flies point.

**Lesson**—We too can take turns doing the hard jobs.

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up to speed.

**Lesson**—We too can acknowledge achievements and encourage effort.

When a goose gets sick or wounded and falls out, two others immediately fall out of formation and follow it to the ground to protect it. They do so until it is able to fly again or has died.

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