



fleurieu birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

February 2008

- Meetings:** Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa
Second Friday of odd months 7.30 pm
- Outings:** See *For Your Diary* below. Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair.
- Contacts:** Val Laird, 8555 5995 Judith Dyer, 8555 2736
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- Website:** users.bigpond.net.au/FleurieuBirdwatchers
- Newsletter:** Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211

*For your
Diary*



Saturday 9 February

Waders and Water Birds

Meet in the car park at the Goolwa barrages.

Friday 14 March

Annual General Meeting

including annual reports and election of committee—have you had a turn yet?

Sunday 16 March

Paiwalla Wetlands

Paiwalla is dry at present but has been granted an allocation of Environmental Water to provide a haven for birdlife. We anticipate that this will happen before our scheduled outing.

IF this DOES NOT happen the proposed trip will be replaced by one at another venue. For members who receive their newsletter by email we will confirm this outing with you. Other members ring Judith 8555 2736/0428 992 830), or Ann 8554 2462 to confirm.

Meet at Sunnyside Lookout opposite the Bowhill turnoff on the Murray Bridge/Mannum road.

Thursday 3 April

Hindmarsh Island (wader preferred)

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

Saturday 12 April

Hardy's Scrub

Meet at Gate 14, Chapel Hill Road, McLaren Flat.

Wednesday 30 April

Mt Compass boardwalk and private property, Willunga

Meet at the boardwalk, Arthur Road, Mt Compass



OUTINGS

Currency Creek

Saturday 1 December

It was a pleasant afternoon when 19 members and 2 visitors, along with 69,000 flies, gathered for the 4 pm walk up the gorge. I seem to remember somebody volunteered for the job of writing up this walk and I humbly apologise if I have received it and now can't locate it. If it comes to light we will publish it later as a more authentic record.

For the time being, birds flying over were Australian Shelduck, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo which settled in a tree so that we could identify a male and a female, and too many Little Corella. Excitement surged at the sight of Red-browed Finch and Golden Whistler. And before the evening was done most had actually seen the Clamorous Reed-warbler who had tantalisingly called during the walk.

One unsolved mystery sighting was this shadowy raptor perched in a tree uphill from the walking track.



What bird is that? Photo: Teresa Jack

Most of the feral species were found here: Spotted Turtle Dove, Common Blackbird, Starling, House Sparrow and European Goldfinch. 36 species altogether.

As we spread our picnic goodies the flies homed in but didn't detract from the very pleasant atmosphere of the occasion, our last outing for 2007.

Verle Wood

On the first outing for 2008, I was overwhelmed by the response to my message in December birdwatch re volunteers to write up outings—no less than three potential scribes! Great! Seriously though, your individual perspectives on outings make excellent reporting and are much appreciated by all our readers. VW

Hindmarsh Falls

Friday 11 January

Our first outing for the year was a twilight walk, and the weather was mild.

As we walked up towards the falls we had our first flurry of birds. At least 4 Striated Thornbill and a Grey Fantail flitting between trees on either side of the road, all very active so we didn't know where to look first.

On down to the lookout to watch the trickle of water still falling down the rocks. It was a quiet trip back to the carpark, then off on the walk down through the trees. Plenty of Galahs and kangaroos in the adjacent paddocks, one Eastern Spinebill, and Superb Fairy-wren in every direction.

We arrived back at the park still in sunshine, in time for supper and bird call. A Peregrine Falcon flew over giving us a bird count of 21. An enjoyable evening for 21 walkers, including 6 visitors.

Teresa Jack

VALE

Collin Wood passed away late December after a long illness and will be missed by all members who knew him.

With permission from Verle I have included one of his poems he wrote some time ago that tells of his love of birds, especially the wrens. Collin also had a keen interest in the bush and nature.

Many long-term members enjoyed helping Collin see the birds. I myself vividly recall showing him a Blue-billed Duck that he was having difficulty spotting.

Our condolences are sent to Verle at this difficult time from all who know her.

Ann Turner

Blue Wren

A blaze of blues proclaims his sov'ignity;
In sombre trim she hussifs on her busy bee,
A comely fan her single vanity;
A truly humble consort she,
If awe of him is her felicity;
Or does she feign a sexist modesty?
Perhaps begrudging him his majesty?
No, fairy loves enjoy such
harmony,
When brown sights blue she
sees herself resplendently.
—CJW



OSPREY

Some members are already aware of the arrival of an Osprey in the Onkaparinga estuary area in November last year and another in December. Sightings have been reported on www.birdpedia.com.

Terry Dennis says that these are likely to be transient sub-adult birds from the Kangaroo Island population and there is a good possibility that a male among them could be encouraged to settle, attract a mate and establish a breeding territory in the estuary if a suitable safe nesting area and structure were available. In other areas of the state (and elsewhere) the provision of artificial nesting platforms has been successful in attracting and providing long-term breeding opportunity for Osprey where suitable natural features are not available.

In 2007, Osprey were re-scheduled onto the Endangered species list in South Australia (NP&W Act). To attract an additional breeding pair into the Onkaparinga estuary would be a positive contribution to their conservation in this state, and if successful, a very important high profile addition to the biodiversity inventory of the local National Park Reserve.

The Friends of Onkaparinga Parks group are considering erecting at least one platform.



Osprey at Onkaparinga estuary. Photo: Teresa Jack

ELATION AND FRUSTRATION

An excited Win Syson wrote

I thought you might be interested in a picture of a juvenile Black-chinned Honeyeater taken in my garden last Friday 18.01.08. An adult bird was also present and drank from the bird bath.



A disappointed Judith Dyer wrote

How about these two—I took them last Friday in the bird hide at Nangawooka thinking I was seeing Black-chinned Honeyeater until I got them downloaded and blew them up.



Only one of Judith's photos is shown, but for those without the benefit of colour, the eye-ring is red. It is of course, a White-naped Honeyeater! The Black-chinned Honeyeater has a blue eye ring.

Check your field guide for other essential differences between the Black-chinned Honeyeater (the endangered one) and the White-naped Honeyeater.

ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT

In his final report for 2007, OBP Survey Coordinator for Coorong/Murray Lakes, Terry Dennis, wrote that no OBPs were seen in the September survey and he thanked all who participated in the 2007 search effort. The Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group has undertaken several initiatives to protect and expand OBP habitat in the Murray estuary. These include the successful propagation of Bidgee Burr and several samphire species, a highly valued contribution to the re-establishment of OBP foraging habitat.

Terry will be back in touch again in March 2008 to re-ignite that enthusiasm once more. For a memory refresh on Neophema parrot diagnostic features and calls check out the now updated www.birdsaustralia.com.au/birds/obp.html
Terry's contacts: 8552 7659, 0409 527 654, obpsearch@bigpond.com

