



# fleurieu birdwatch

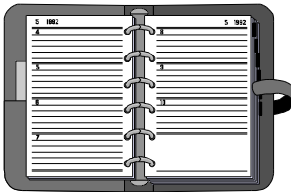
JUNE 1999

**Meetings:** Glendale Christian School, cnr Glendale Close/Strathalbyn Rd, 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      Kate Bruce, phone 8555 5020  
3 Hewett Road, Goolwa 5214      PO Box 403, Goolwa 5214

## FOR YOUR DIARY



### \* **Saturday 5 June**

**Tonkin's Winery, upstream.** Meet at the Winery Car Park, Winery Road, Currency

Creek.

### \* **Wednesday 16 June**

#### **Douglas Scrub**

Meet by the park at the corner of Main and Kangarilla Roads, McLaren Vale.

### \* **Saturday 26 June**

#### **Inman Estuary, Yilki Beach and The Bluff**

Meet in the Barker Reserve car park, opposite the Victor Harbor Council Chambers, by the Inman Bridge.

### \* **Friday 9 July**

**Meeting. Guest Speaker: Fran Marsh** (daughter of Jim and Maria) – *Wetlands of the River Murray*

### \* **Sunday 11 July**

#### **Scott Conservation Park**

Meet at the corner of Deep Creek and Frome Roads, Currency Creek

### \* **Saturday 7 August.**

#### **Mt Billy (Hindmarsh Valley Reservoir Reserve)**

Turn off Adelaide Road towards Myponga about 8 km north of Victor Harbor. Meet at the Hindmarsh Valley Hall and Tennis Courts about 200 metres further on.

### \* **Saturday 28 August.**

#### **Aldinga Scrub**

Meet at Willunga, by the cemetery on Aldinga Road, near the access roads at the bottom of Willunga Hill.

## MEETING REPORT

### *Friday 14 May*

Kate Bruce chaired the meeting and welcomed the 15 members present.

**Matters discussed** included Goolwa Effluent Ponds Project, Atlas, Mallard Duck Survey and Nature Trails at Tonkin's Winery, all dealt with in the following pages.

**Birds Record Book.** Jim Marsh reported finding the carcass of a Shy Albatross on the beach.

Kate introduced **Guest Speaker**, Mike Brown, and his partner. For Mike, birdwatching was an integral part of his

youth when he, with his siblings, tagged along on many of his father's rambles, and more extensive expeditions into the countryside, in search of birds.

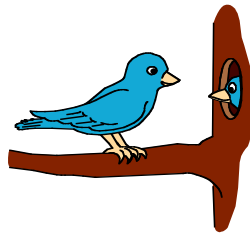
Although not involved in ornithology himself, Mike brought along some beautifully leather bound limited edition bird books of his father's estate. These are collections of drawings and watercolours of an artist, Morris, compiled in the first part of this century.

We were allowed to examine these treasures – very carefully, and not while partaking of supper prepared by Hilary.

## WELCOME

### NEW MEMBER:

Elaine O'Shaughnessy,  
Victor Harbor



Elaine has already taken part in outings and lent a willing hand at the working bees. Her enthusiasm is quite infectious!

## WOODCONE, MT COMPASS

*Saturday 10 April*

It was fine and mild as 13 members gathered for this walk on private property.

The dam near the homestead provided good sightings of waterbirds including Australasian Grebe, White-faced Heron, Little Pied Cormorant, and some ducks: Pacific Black, Chestnut Teal and Australian Wood Duck.

We strolled a circuit up one side of the creek and down the other. Best here were four Scarlet Robins, just one pair of Fairy-wrens, White-throated Treecreepers and some Thornbills: Striated, Brown and Yellow-rumped. As at Parawa, there were lots of Grey Fantails, and we recorded a D (31-100) for European Goldfinch. Of the bigger birds we saw Galahs, Adelaide

Rosellas and Kookaburras, but only heard Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.

The morning finished, as usual, with Bird Call – a total of 37 species – and lunch in the open air.

## COX SCRUB/COLES CROSSING

*Saturday 24 April*

A fine autumn morning, with no wind, made for excellent birdwatching. Seventeen of us started out at the western end of Cox Scrub for a walk along the southern boundary, then through the park to the northern boundary and west to Coles Crossing.

With cup gum and banksia in full flower it was no wonder we recorded nine honeyeaters, Yellow-faced, Little Wattlebird and Eastern Spinebill being the hardest to find. There were Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets and several Silvereyes also about the flowers.

Both Brown Goshawk and Collared Sparrowhawk flew overhead providing an excellent chance to see the different tail shapes of these two similar raptors.

Everyone had good views of the immature Hooded Robins. The whistlers and thrushes were the most elusive birds on our walk with only one of each being seen.

The final tally for the morning was 46 species. Many of these were easily seen during lunch, as they drank and bathed in a nearby water trough.

*Denzel Murfet*

## ASHBOURNE GOLF COURSE and BULLOCK HILL CP

*Sunday 16 May*

A Scarlet Robin and numerous Fairy-wren were only some of the *birdies* seen on the Ashbourne Golf Course on Sunday morning. No *eagle* or *albatross* were sighted but several Silvereye, White-naped Honeyeater and an Elegant Parrot were spotted by the small group on a beautiful sunny morning.

Our smallest member, two-year-old Sarah, had a good view of the friendly Scarlet Robin.

Travelling up the track to Bullock Hill Conservation Park we met up with another member coming down. After parking the cars and admiring the view, a 300 metre stroll yielded one of the day's highlights with the sighting of a Diamond Firetail feeding among wrens and Red-browed Firetails. For one member it was a first sighting of a lovely bird.

Two Common Bronzewing were seen on the path ahead of us but did not take long to disappear once they were aware of our presence.

Other sightings were a flock of 40-50 Little Ravens feeding in a paddock, several Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Red-rumped Parrots, a Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring overhead and the mystery raptor that flew from almost under our feet before he was spotted. The glimpse of a beautifully patterned back was not enough to aid in its identification.

An enjoyable morning in pleasant conditions and surroundings.

*Dianne Shearer*

## NURRAGI CONSERVATION PARK

*Wednesday 26 May*

This strip park is the old railway track to Milang from the Sandergrove siding on the Steam Ranger line. First intentions were to walk the western end of the reserve but the weather, although fine, was overcast, cold and blustery. Only 19 species were seen, White-browed Babblers being the most exciting. Just one New Holland Honeyeater flew by. Most common comment was, *Not a Thing!*

However, at the eastern end of the reserve, from 10.15 am, with the sun out, more birds were flying, and we recorded 24 species. A Southern Boobook Owl flew by, its presence heralded by a chorus of Willy Wagtails. There were Welcome Swallow, Peaceful Dove, more Babbler,

Silvereye, Grey Fantail, Goldfinch, a lone Hooded Robin, a brilliant Superb Fairy-wren, Mistletoebird, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and a Grey Shrike-thrush

Ten of us enjoyed the day, along with our senior observer, Kit Smith.

*Geoff Evans*

## EFFLUENT PONDS PROJECT

Work on the birdwatching shelter at the Kessell Road, Goolwa, site is finished with the table and seats now in place. The viewing platform is nearing completion.

Yet to be done are the signage, stiles to the walking path around the whole site, and the regenerative and screen plantings: it is hoped the plants will prevent the birds being panicked as watchers approach.

1500 trees are available from the Council Nursery, courtesy of Trees For Me. These will be planted on Thursday, 24 June with the help of students from the Glendale School Goolwa Campus. If you can help on this day please come along at 10.30 am, armed with appropriate tools if you have them. Tree guards are to be bought from Landcare.

---

---

Tree planting at the Effluent Ponds 10.30 am 24 June

---

---

Goolwa and Port Elliot Public School children will also be helping later. Some means of discouraging the driving of cars up to the shelter is also envisaged.

## ATLAS



Keep the **Record Forms** coming in.

Judith has moved. Her new address is **3 Hewett Road, Goolwa**, but her phone number is unchanged.

*Please don't drop material in the letterbox at her former address.*



Extracts from Atlas News No 2 – May 1999:

Some statistics:

- ◆ about 3,500 people involved to date;
- ◆ over 14,000 Record Forms from
- ◆ 1,380 contributors have been scanned into the database which represents
- ◆ 280,000 bird sightings from
- ◆ over 9,000 locations around Australia.



Survey methods:

“A number of you have chosen to do monthly lists. This is fine. However, we do prefer your surveys to be within a week if possible. This gives us much better precision for measuring seasonal changes. Consider sending in four weekly lists instead of a single monthly list.”

This is four times the work. Perhaps a record for one week of each month may be just as useful.  
Verle

#### MALLARD DUCK SURVEY

We have been asked by the SAOA to help with this project. Forms are enclosed with this newsletter.

You are, no doubt, aware of the threat this species poses to our native Black Duck through interbreeding. In New Zealand the Mallard has almost eradicated pure Grey Ducks (very similar to our Black Duck) so the threat is very real.

Please try to send in details for a site near you. Helpful identification information is on the back of the form. Photocopy the form if you wish to make more than one observation.

Post forms to:  
P Paton, 47 Gilbert Street, Gilberton 5081

#### NATURE TRAILS

##### **Tonkin's Winery, Currency Creek.**

Our group has been asked to provide information on birdlife in the area to assist this private project. Judith and Denzel visited the winery for preliminary

discussions. Concept plans are to be drawn up and we will be asked for further input. Your ideas welcome.

#### **BROCHURE**

The Sub Committee will meet on 2 June to try to bring this to fruition. A small, attractively framed painting of a Grey Fantail has been purchased for Gail Maloney in appreciation of the tremendous amount of time, energy and expertise she has put into the brochure.

#### **1999 CAMP OUT**

This year's Camp Out was discussed at the Working Party meeting. It will probably be held about the same time as last year – the last weekend of October.

One possible venue is Morgan. Some accommodation is available at Fiddler's Green, about 10 minutes from the town, and some at the caravan park. This would give access to Brookfield and Pooginook Conservation Parks, and to Stockyard Plains, 33 km east of Blanchetown, as well as to the Morgan and Roonka CPs.

Your suggestions are sought. Bear in mind accommodation needs such as a caravan park with cabins as well as van and tent sites. Any member of the Working Party (see last newsletter) will be happy to hear from you.



Chris and Bronwyn Wastell are off to Canada. Go safely and have a great trip and great experiences—especially of the birdwatching variety!



*Steve Gilbert, Ranger for the Coorong, reports that the fox-baiting programme there has been so successful that large flocks of emus – up to*

*60 – are being seen. High tides have affected the numbers of Hooded Plover being sighted.*



**This is  
the last newsletter  
you will receive  
if your subscription  
is not paid.**

The stickers enclosed with this newsletter come courtesy of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission with the co-operation of Ruth Tannahill who hopes everyone enjoys them.