



fleurieu birdwatch

June 2000

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

Web site: www.adelaide.net.au/~mhaywood/Fleurieu%20Birdwatchers.htm



FOR YOUR DIARY

◆ **Saturday 3 June**

Inman River upstream

Meet at Barker Reserve near Inman Bridge, opposite the Council offices, Victor Harbor.

Note: This area can be very damp. Bring your wellies and a spare pair of dry socks. If weather is inclement it may be necessary to survey a different area but the meeting place will be the same.

◆ **Wednesday 14 June**

Onkaparinga Gorge Conservation Park

Meet at the Institute in Old Noarlunga.

◆ **Saturday 24 June**

Torrens Vale — Private Property

Meet at Parawa at the noticeboard near the junction of Range, Parawa and Tunkhead Roads.

◆ **Friday 14 July**

Meeting

Guest Speaker — David Robertson:
Round the World in 80 days.

◆ **Sunday 16 July**

Winery Road, Currency Creek

Meet by the Canoe Tree on Goolwa-Strathalbyn Road.

◆ **Wednesday 26 July**

Muntiri

Meet at the intersection of Strathalbyn and Milang Roads at Finnis.

◆ **Saturday 5 August**

Hardy's Scrub

Meet at Gate 14, Chapel Hill Road.
See mud map, page 4.

◆ **Wednesday 16 August**

Woodcone

Meet at the intersection of Victor Harbor and Woodcone Roads, Mt Compass, by the markets, formerly Dairy Vale factory.

◆ **Saturday 26 August**

Nurragi

Meet at the intersection of Strathalbyn and Milang Roads at Finnis.

◆ **Sunday 10 September**

Tonkin's Winery

Meet at the winery car park, Winery Road, Currency Creek.



MEETING REPORT

Friday 12 May

Attendance was good with 21 members present. A visitor, Yvonne Maher, from Devonport, Tasmania, when at home watches with a small group in her area. Although the number of species is fairly small there, Tasmania boasts 12-13 endemics, including the Orange-bellied Parrot and the Forty-Spotted Pardalote which is found in blue gum forests. Her specialty is recording bird calls Australia-wide.

The main topic for discussion was **incorporation** and **insurance** and the consensus was that we become an incorporated body to provide protection for the members from personal litigation, improved access to hiring venues for meetings, and extra effectiveness for grant applications. The Working Party is formulating a constitution and pursuing the matter of insurance.

An offer of \$500 has been received from SA Ornithological Association towards the cost of the interpretive signage at the Goolwa Effluent Ponds but a further \$1000 is required.

The proposal for a dinner at Mt Compass Tavern was endorsed and will take place on 18 August at 7 pm. Cost will be approximately \$10-12.

It was agreed that a donation be sent to the Nature Foundation SA in memory of Joan Paton who died recently.

Reports from members included

- ❖ Sacred Kingfisher being attacked by Willie Wagtails at Goolwa
- ❖ Female Wood Duck with 6-7 young — out of season?
- ❖ Peaceful Dove corpse found at Victor Harbor was circulated
- ❖ Black-shouldered Kite devouring a rat at Milang
- ❖ Wedge-tailed Eagle sweeping low, uncharacteristically, at dusk

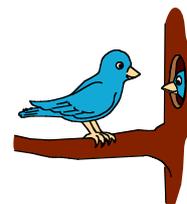
- ❖ Plans to build a platform for the White-bellied Sea-Eagle near the Goolwa barrage.

The video of Finches (not Raptors as planned) was shown and stimulated discussion during cuppa and Hilary's excellent biccies.

WELCOME

Neville Hudson,
Seacombe Heights

Trust you will enjoy your
birdwatching activities with us.



Currency Creek

Wednesday 12 April

Eleven members gathered at the Lions Park on a mild, overcast autumn morning. We proceeded to Jarnu, which lies close to the Finnis. Mallee, banksia and areas of grassland cover this property.

Thirty-two species were identified. The mallee trees are host to much mistletoe with the expected presence of Mistletoebird. A Grey Butcherbird caused alarm amongst a flock of Elegant Parrot and some of the many Dusky Woodswallow present. There were good sightings of Brown-headed Honeyeater, Golden Whistler, Yellow (Little) Thornbill, Hooded Robin and many Superb Blue Fairy-wren.

Soft warm rain dampened the clothing of those without raingear but not our enjoyment of the morning. We dispersed for lunch with several members ending up at the Goolwa Effluent Ponds.

Barbara Russell rated her first field trip with us as *better than being on the golf course*.



Gaynor Jones

Any Bright Ideas?

The Program Sub-committee would like to hear from you with ideas for guest speakers or topics which they might be able to research for meetings. They would also like to hear your

suggestions for new sites for outings, in areas south of Onkaparinga Gorge (approximately).

Please contact Helen Bowlden 8555 1346

Kyeema Conservation Park

Saturday 29 April

Ten members braved the strong, warm, northerly winds at Children's Forest, a section of Kyeema so named because the children from Morphett Vale and Strathalbyn schools re-vegetated the area after bushfires.

As we commenced our walk Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and a Grey Currawong were seen but after that all sightings were hard won. At one stage we were quite please to see New Holland Honeyeaters!!

We sat for a short while by a small dam where there was some water and a pair of Crescent Honeyeaters flew in.

The highlights for the morning were a pair of Scarlet Robin – the male very orange-chested – and White-throated Treecreeper. Final count was only 19 species which I think must be one of our lowest numbers. But, in spite of the wind we had an enjoyable walk along part of the Heysen Trail.

Ann Turner

Hindmarsh Falls

Sunday 14 May

It was Mother's Day and a fine morning against all expectations given by the weather forecast. Five members and two visitors, one from Tasmania, enjoyed the outing.

On arrival the bird chorus was almost deafening and for a while it seemed that our bird list would consist mostly of *heard* only.

Gradually, with persistence, this changed and spirits rose when the Scarlet Robin was finally sighted.

A count of 27 species was recorded.

Paula Rawson

Hindmarsh Island

Wednesday 24 May

I'd been looking forward to this trip for a long time ... almost five years since we moved to Hindmarsh Island.

The day dawned mild, sunny and windy. We first went into The Marina to the lookout over the barrage, a very scenic spot, but the large numbers of swans and pelicans that we often see there were elsewhere ... perhaps up north!! We counted 19 species in The Marina, including Brown Skylark, Singing Honeyeater and Royal Spoonbill.

Along Denver Road we competed with a herd of cows and bawling calves. We were surprised to see 122 Cape Barren Geese still here! I also saw 4 Richard's Pipit and a beautiful Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo which I've never seen before.

Next stop was the everchanging Murray Mouth, where we saw many Pied, and a few Sooty, Oystercatchers, White-faced Heron and a Red-capped Plover.

In the Mundoo Channel we watched three big, white birds together – Royal Spoonbill, Australian White Ibis and Great Egret. There were also a few Little Pied Cormorant sharing a jetty with some Pelican.

Our final count for the day was 56 species, 12 birdwatchers and 3 visitors.

Helen Marinos



Come and Join Us

for dinner at the
Mt Compass Tavern,
7 pm Friday 18 August.

Bookings at the next meeting or by phone to Judith (8555 2736) or Verle (8552 2197) prior to that meeting.



Happy Travelling

to Judy Jones, our Treasurer, and Tom. In Judy's absence please address any financial matters, INCLUDING LATE SUBSCRIPTIONS, to

Brian Ginno, 6 Janz Avenue, Goolwa 5214.

Thank you to Brian who willingly offered to fill the temporary gap.

Get Well Soon!

Kit Smith has had a serious fall and is at present living in Kiama, Victor Harbor. She has been a keen supporter of the group since its inception and the Working Party has agreed to grant Kit Honorary Membership. We trust you will soon mend and regain mobility, Kit.



Bird Jottings

► *The Advertiser*, Saturday 27 May, carried an article with a graphic photo, of seagulls stealing eggs from the nests of Banded Stilts on the presently flooded Lake Eyre. Plans are being considered to cull the gulls by feeding them with bread some distance from the nesting areas and then trapping them.

Banded Stilts breed only on inland salt lakes because their chicks must be fed on brine shrimp. Although prominent ornithologists seem to agree a cull is important an animal liberation spokesman was 'appalled' by the proposed cull and suggested that bird-egg pricking might be an alternative.

► The Chicago *Sun-Times* (US) reports the return of the brown pelican from the brink of extinction where it had been driven by use of the pesticide, DDT, habitat destruction and harassment by man and predators. Today there are thriving populations in Texas, Louisiana and Florida because of the work of government and conservation groups.

From the same paper comes a report that migratory birds are being killed off by rapidly rising cellular telephone towers and new digital television antennas blocking their paths as they navigate by the stars. During overcast evenings the birds descend under cloud cover and are drawn towards the lights on towers and buildings. Radio signals also disrupt their flight.

► Pelagic tours from Robe

John Hatch is again arranging boat trips to view sea birds in their natural surroundings. Enquiries to John, 8362 2820, or Judith Dyer, 8555 2736, has details of previous trips.

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