



June 2009

# Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



All my fault! *The banner on your last newsletter should have read April 2009. Sorry! V*

- ☞ **Saturday 13 June.** Meyer's Scrub (private property)  
Meet at Ashbourne on the side road opposite the school.
- ☞ **Thursday 25 June.** Onkaparinga Wetlands, Old Noarlunga  
Meet at the Institute, corner of Patapinda Road and Market Crescent, Old Noarlunga.
- ☞ **Friday 10 July.** General Meeting  
Denzel Murfet: *Local bird calls*
- ☞ **Sunday 12 July.** Currency Creek Winery  
Meet in the winery car park, Winery Road, Currency Creek.
- ☞ **Wednesday 29 July.** Mt Billy Conservation Park  
Meet near the Hindmarsh Valley Hall and tennis courts about 200 m along Hindmarsh Valley Road from its junction with the Victor Harbor-Adelaide Road.
- ☞ **Saturday 8 August.** Kyeema Conservation Park  
Meet at the car park on Woodgate Hill Road. RAA Map 3 2007 Fleurieu Peninsula Ref K-L 8.

Cancel all arrangements for the Borroloola Gulf Show and come to the funtastic

## ONCE-A-YEAR NIGHT ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 21 August

in the Flinders Room, Hotel Victor, Albert Place, Victor Harbor  
Soup, choice of three mains and two desserts, tea/coffee \$20 pp

And best of all

### ELAINE'S QUERING QUIZ

(No Field Guides permitted!)

Meet at 6.30 pm, meal at 7.00 pm

Bookings essential:

Ring Verle 8552 2197, or email [fleurieubirds@gmail.com](mailto:fleurieubirds@gmail.com)



- Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker & Cadell Streets, Goolwa  
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of odd months
- Outings: Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair. See Events above.
- Contacts: Pat Uppill, 8552 4288; Judith Dyer, 8555 2736  
[fleurieubirds@gmail.com](mailto:fleurieubirds@gmail.com)
- Website: [fleurieubirdwatchers.org](http://fleurieubirdwatchers.org)
- Newsletter: Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211



It's not uncommon to find a dead WBSE in the area (one found a few years ago) and it's possibly caused by attack from the nesting pair resident on the cliffs, or a Wedge-tailed Eagle. The bird was severely decomposed with only feathers left. It will be transported to the Museum. However, I don't think they will be able to undertake any post mortem examination that will determine if the bird was poisoned.

—John Bracken, District Ranger

#### Errata

Bird call report for the March meeting should have read 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on YP, not 1,000!

By the way, Neil would like to hear from you if you find any pelagic birds washed up on local beaches.  
8552 7904, diomedea1@bigpond.com



#### Friday 8 May

A smaller than usual number met for this meeting but Chairperson, Denzel Murfet, warmly welcomed all, including one visitor.

Business arising from the minutes included a correction to the bird call of the last meeting. A message from District Ranger for the Fleurieu, John Bracken, said that the reason for the death of the White-bellied Sea-eagle on Parson's Beach, reported to have been caused by poisoning, "is not substantiated, and we have no reason to believe that it was." A correction was made to the minutes.

Two members attended the recent Orange-bellied Parrot workshop conducted by Bob Green. The field trip afterwards yielded no OBPs but about a dozen Rock Parrot were seen.

The Treasurer reported that an Express Saver account had been opened to maximise the earnings from funds held against expenses such as insurance.

#### Bird call included

- » Flame Robin returned on time around Anzac Day to its Pages Flat Road site
- » Spotless Crane, good numbers of Pink-eared Duck and a Freckled Duck at Laratinga
- » Crescent Honeyeater in suburban Victor Harbor
- » Painted Button Quail near the Heysen trail at Waitpinga
- » Black-chinned Honeyeater still at Encounter Bay.

Member speaker, Neil Cheshire, kept us enthralled with his wonderful closeups and tales of albatross and other ocean birds he had photographed from the ship's bow when plying southern waters.

Thanks to Wendy Phillips for preparing a welcome cuppa supper.



#### Friday 23 October–Monday 26 October

This year's campout venue is Blanchetown. Our base will be the Riverside Caravan Park on the banks of the River Murray in the township. Limited cabins, self-contained ensuite rooms with camp kitchen facility, and powered sites are available. There are barbecue facilities and a recreational room which we can have the use of in the evenings.

View available accommodation at [www.blanchetownriverside.com.au](http://www.blanchetownriverside.com.au)/or call 8540 5070. Group discount has been offered so when booking mention that you are a Fleurieu Birdwatchers member. Cabin accommodation is also available at the River Palms Holiday Park, 4 km east of the township with eight ensuite cabins available. These have full cooking facilities and sleep up to six people. Phone 8540 5035.

Salter Stations B&B is not far out of town: [www.takeabreak.com.au/Blanchetown/RiverlandSA/Salters-Station.htm](http://www.takeabreak.com.au/Blanchetown/RiverlandSA/Salters-Station.htm)

Members are responsible for booking their own accommodation.

The programme will be

- Friday afternoon Roonka Conservation Park
- Saturday Brookfield Conservation Park
- Sunday Stockyard Plain Disposal Basin Reserve
- Monday to be decided.



## Scott Conservation Park

Wednesday 29 April

Seven members enjoyed a delightfully perfect day, calm and mild with blue sky and white clouds, after three days of rain. By consensus, we saw 32 species. Three friendly draught horses chatted us up. Deep Creek is quite deep. We crossed it three times.

There were Brown and White-throated Treecreeper, lots of Red-Rumped Parrot, Adelaide Rosella, and an Elegant Parrot. The Crescent Honeyeater, plus Yellow-faced, Brown-headed, and one or two New Holland Honeyeater were around. Others we saw were a silent Kookaburra, Fairy Martin, numerous Musk and Rainbow Lorikeets, the beautiful Eastern Spinebill, a few thornbills, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail and the usual rowdy bigger birds—but no raptors. Superb Fairy-wren families were out as were the White-browed Babblers and finally, the Red-browed Finch.

Lunch was early!

Geoffrey Evans



*Paiwalla Wetlands has been developed as prime bird habitat. Lots of information on their website: [www.airspeed.com.au/paiwalla/](http://www.airspeed.com.au/paiwalla/) Photos: Teresa Jack*

## Paiwalla Wetlands

Saturday 4 April

In the days before we got there, over 400 megalitres of water had been pumped into this wetland to ensure the survival of native fish. Ponds were still levelling during our visit. We later discovered this water level to be approximately one metre above river level, held in by levee banks. The river at this point is almost 1m **below** sea level... made me think!

Birds continued to arrive in twos and threes and also in tens and more. Where were you? Only eleven members made the early start, but were well rewarded. Weather was cool, and overcast with mild sunny patches later. A moderate wind sprang up at times. 68 species sighted for the day. One member was heard to say “hurry or we’ll not be back at the cars before 1 pm”. We were, but only at 12.30. We had a leisurely lunch watching a Hobby catching dragonflies, and looking at before and after photographs of the wetlands project.

So you want to know the species? Well there were 10 raptors, no owls and you will have to book the day next time we are invited to find out more. My ticks for the day were Black Falcon (2), Little Grassbird (many), and a few Pink-eared Duck.

This wetland is a private project and the owners are to be applauded for the time, effort and money they have put in. What has been achieved in several years is a lesson to us all. A bit after 2 pm we reluctantly departed. Many thanks for the opportunity.

Nick Tebneff



Our sincere condolences to Liz Sweetman on the recent loss of her mother. She, too, loved the birds.



Old man Yacca in scrub at Parawa.  
Photo: Graeme Mountford

## Parawa (private property)

Sunday 10 May

Seven members met at Parawa and drove to the site along some scenic roads. The day was overcast, misty and cool.

The walk was steep, down hills and up again, and most birds seemed to be hiding in the bushes, but we did see 20 species in all. The most spectacular were the raptors, including a Wedge-tailed Eagle. This did not help our attempts to find other birds, as they all went silent and dived for cover.

Numerous honeyeaters were heard but again were elusive and only a few were actually seen. Only one Dusky Moorhen was seen on the dam as most birds preferred the shelter of the reeds. A fly-past by 15 Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo was the highlight of the morning for me.

After a social lunch and bird count, with a cold wind at our back, we left to get warm. The huge Yaccas on the property made for a memorable day, and most of us would happily stay in the owner's caravan in the bush overlooking the gorge and these huge old Yaccas.

Yrena Mountford



Bedraggled Whistling Kite at Muntiri.  
Photo: Teresa Jack

## Muntiri

Wednesday 27 May

The morning had a bit of everything weatherwise—some sun, some showers, some drizzle, a cool temperature, but no wind. The beginning of the walk presented a side-on view of Whistling Kite looking a bit bedraggled in the wet, and Elegant Parrot with a very orange belly.

As we made our way around the property named for the Kunzea (Muntries) that grows on the sandy patches there, we saw the Eastern Spinebill, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Wedge-tailed Eagle and a small group of Australian Ringneck Parrot. Along the fence line were Jacky Winter and a pair of Hooded Robin. One lone Diamond Firetail was sighted and Golden Whistler attracted the photographers.

We recorded 36 species which seemed to me to be down on previous counts at Muntiri. For ten people, it was an enjoyable morning nonetheless.

Jean Boomer

## PLEAS

> Aldinga Bay Coastcare are campaigning to **restrict the use of cars** on their local beaches in order to save the environment, improve safety and restore natural amenity. In particular, they are canvassing the Onkaparinga Council to extend the present car-free zone of 200 m to 400 m in the vicinity of the beach near the Washpool/Button Road area. Giles Walkley, Secretary, asks that any of our members who may be able to supply lists of recent sightings on this part of the coast, contact him. [abc@FIVE173.com](mailto:abc@FIVE173.com), PO Box 1221, Aldinga Beach SA 5173

> Dr Grainne Maguire is working with Birds Australia on a project to promote coexistence between recreationists and **beach-nesting birds**. He will be holding beach-nesting bird meetings in South Australia in June/July: Botanical Gardens on 29/06 and Normanville on 30/06. Dr Maguire can be contacted at [g.maguire@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:g.maguire@birdsaustralia.com.au)

The complete details of these two messages can be emailed to you if you wish.

> The recently established Inman River Cafe, 13 km from Victor Harbor, on the former golf course at Inman Valley is hoping to put together a package deal of lunch or afternoon tea with a **birdwatching guide**. If you are interested in becoming a guide please contact Yvonne Tuthill: [enquiries@inmanrivercafe.com](mailto:enquiries@inmanrivercafe.com).

