



fleurieu birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

October 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 Dates

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

Newsletter: Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211, verlew@granite.net.au

DIARY DATES



➔ Saturday 5 October

Manning Reserve

This reserve is bordered by Whittings Road and Kays Road, McLaren Vale/Flat. Meet at the gate on eastern boundary (Whittings Road).

➔ Wednesday 16 October

Inman River flats

Meet in Barker Reserve opposite Victor Harbor City Council Chambers.

➔ Friday 25–Monday 28 October

CAMPOUT — Gemini Downs, Salt Creek

➔ Friday 8 November

Meeting

David Robertson:

Birds — or the lack of! — in China

➔ Sunday 10 November

Muntiri

Meet at the junction of the Strathalbyn and Milang-Clayton Roads at Finniss.

➔ Wednesday 20 November

Milang-Clayton

Meet at railway carriage at Milang.

➔ Saturday 7 December

Hindmarsh Falls — See below

➔ Friday 10 January 2003

Hindmarsh River — twilight walk

Meet at **7 pm** near the corner of Hindmarsh Road and Wattle Drive, Victor Harbor.

BUSH

BREAKUP

BARBECUE

Celebrate Christmas
and the completion of another
successful year's birding
Hindmarsh Falls
from 4 pm

Saturday 7 December

BYO everything
inc insect repellent

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 13 September

The business part of the meeting — 18 members present — was brief.

Chinwag, the magazine about the Black-chinned Honeyeater, was tabled and a spare copy is available to any interested member.

Business matters were quickly dispensed with to give us ample time to hear of Judith Dyer's exploits with the birds on Eyre Peninsula. Judith and friends spent several weeks at various west coast sites including Goog's track and the Gawler Ranges, making numerous surveys of bird populations. We spent a most enjoyable hour going bush with the aid of a map of the area and some slides of species observed. Among the special sightings were 13 Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring together near Lake Gairdner, and on coastal cliffs Yellow-nosed Albatross which took hours of observation to positively identify. Unfortunately, the Scarlet-chested Parrot remained elusive.

There was no formal bird call — is it ever formal? — but members reported seeing

- two Red-capped Plover, two Hooded Plover and one Ruddy Turnstone together at the Inman mouth
- a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo foraging in mulch in a suburban Goolwa garden
- several Wedge-tailed Eagles above Nangawooka.



OUTINGS

Onkaparinga Wetlands

Wednesday 14 August

Eleven avid birdwatchers arrived at the Market Square, Old Noarlunga, for our outing. We walked to the river and found, as Peter Ginnane had promised, a pair of Peregrine Falcon beautifully displayed. The male was perched on a pole and the larger female was eating prey. We also had a pair of Wood-duck, showing off their finery in front of us.

We drove on to the Onkaparinga wetlands and after viewing the larger lake from the car park, had a very leisurely jaunt around both ponds, across the boardwalk and back to the cars. It was quite sunny, little breeze, but also very cold. As well as quite a lot of birds we spotted two large grey kangaroos. We all eagerly looked for Freckled Duck recently seen here, but with no success. Plenty of Grey Teal, Hardhead, Pacific Black Duck, Australian White Ibis, breeding Black Swan, Grebe and a large flock of European Goldfinch in a treetop close to the path all helped to keep our interests alive.

There wasn't much happening at the effluent ponds either but we saw a flock of White-fronted Chat which perched on the fence wire and gave us a lovely view of their markings and colourings. We also disturbed a large group of Black-tailed Native Hen — the first we had seen here despite the huge numbers around last summer.

We returned to the cars and made our way back to the Market Square for our lunch and bird call. This was quite surprising — 50 varieties in all, and not counting those we had spotted along the river prior to our walk. After the bird call, most of us wandered down to the river to see if we could find the Nankeen Night Heron and sure enough, in one tree, we found seven of them — again not included in the bird count. So it was an excellent morning for all of us, especially Geoff, who added three new species to his list, and Katerina, who also added new ones.

Ann Gilbert

Scott Conservation Park

Saturday 24 August

Frost was on the paddocks around the park but a clear blue sky promised much when nine members set out on the walk. Bird song was everywhere and the wattle was looking gorgeous — there were lots of other early spring flowers too.

Straight away we found Red-rumped Parrot, White-naped Honeyeater, Musk Lorikeet and Silvereye. The Brown and White-throated Treecreepers were easy to find but we hunted for the Tawny Frogmouth without success. On a couple of detours we found Red-browed Firetail and Yellow-rumped Thornbill keeping company with three alpaca on a holding adjacent to the park. We all enjoyed a number of Golden Whistler.

Lunch was a pleasant affair with the usual bird call. A very enjoyable morning with 34 species seen.

Pat Ashfield



Woodcone

Sunday 15 September

Six hardy souls gathered in Mt Compass to investigate the bird life on a farm property on Woodcone Road. All around us, the skies were dark and threatening and the wind was strong. Not promising!

However, after a couple of hours we had counted 33 species with another 2 heard but not seen. At the start, the small farm dam accounted for quite a number of water birds.

When we moved into the wooded gully we were sheltered from the wind. Among our tally were Yellow-faced and Crescent Honeyeaters, Yellow-rumped and Striated Thornbills, Rufous Whistler and White-throated Tree-creeper. In good numbers were Crimson Rosella, Galah, Australian Wood-duck and Eurasian Coot. Two species not previously recorded at this location were Hoary-headed Grebe and Rufous Whistler.

Another great outing but it was nice to get home to a hot coffee.

Keith Gilbert

FUN AT THE VICTOR

About 25 of us kicked up our heels at the Hotel Victor for the Once-a-year Night. We were hosted with finesse and largesse by Peter and Elaine O'Shaughnessy and we thank them most sincerely for their special hospitality. The bird theme was highlighted by the table decorations and Elaine's Quiz which really sorted us out. As a special treat for those unable to attend on the night here it is. At least you will be able to mark your own and be humiliated in private!

Elaine's Quizzical Quiz

1. What is the common name for *larus novae hollandiae*?
2. Unscramble the following birds which have been sighted recently between Yilki Store and The Bluff jetty.
 - calkb naws
 - steedrc ginope
 - toyos steryo treachc
 - nicepal
 - letlit klacb tomornacr
 - gimepa
3. What bird's name is the name of the factory which used to be at the western end of Magill Road, Kent Town?
4. According to outback legend when you cook this bird you place a stone in the saucepan with it. When the stone is soft the bird is edible. What bird is it?
5. Fill in the missing bird from the catchy song by Tom Lehar: 'Poisoning ... in the Park'.
6. Which bird has a tiny neat nest with a 'tail' hanging from it?
7. Does the male or the female Magpie-lark have the black bib?
8. What colour are the eggs of a Silvereye?
9. What is the christian name of the recently retired international cricket umpire, Mr Byrd?
10. What are the most popular birds in SA? (No correspondence will be entered into regarding this answer!)

Turn the page and stand on your head for answers.

LITTLE CORELLA — REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

As many of you will be aware Little Corellas are of concern in towns such as Strathalbyn and Old Noarlunga where they congregate in large numbers over summer.

A research project has been initiated by the City of Onkaparinga, Alexandrina Council and National Parks and Wildlife SA, to investigate the ecology of the Little Corella on Fleurieu Peninsula. It is hoped to develop a framework for management of this species.

Quality Environmental Decisions (QED) Pty Ltd consultants have been appointed to undertake the project. They are particularly interested in finding out where the birds are to be found prior to forming their summer congregations.

If you have any observations of Little Corella, especially breeding records, please contact

Dr Andrew Fisher
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Little Corella Study

— please help!

ATLAS

Although the Birds Australia Atlas count has officially finished some members are continuing to submit surveys. Judith still has blank forms available for anyone requiring more. Please get in touch with her: jdyer@granite.net.au or 8555 2736.

GOOD NEWS!

Chairperson Gaynor is recovering well from a successful hip replacement. At last report she was up and running — well, may be not running, but moving around quite well. By the time you get this newsletter she will be installed at home with some live-in help initially. We hope she will be mobile enough to join us at the Coorong Campout later this month. Best wishes from us all, Gaynor.

UP TO SPEED

It is now possible for you to receive your birdwatch electronically. If you have an email address please think about this alternative way of receiving your newsletter.

birdwatch can be emailed to you as a pdf document which can be read and printed off on any computer using Adobe Acrobat Reader. Most computers have this program installed but it can be downloaded easily from the internet free of charge if you do not have it.

This will save us photocopying and postage costs as well as saving the trees — you will still be able to print your own copy if you wish — or even just a part of it. Please consider receiving future copies of birdwatch by email and forward your address to me at verlew@granite.net.au.

Go visiting!

I discovered Backyard Birdwatch at abc.net.au/science.

If you have found any interesting bird websites please tell us.

Elaine's Quiz Answers

1. Silver Gull
2. Black Swan, Crested Pigeon, Sooty Oystercatcher, Pelican, Little Black Cormorant, Magpie
3. Rosella
4. Galah
5. Pigeons
6. Grey Fantail
7. Male
8. Pale blue
9. Dickie
10. (THE) Crows!