



fleurieu birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

October 2005

- Meetings:** Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of odd months
- Outings:** Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair. See Diary Dates.
- Contacts:** Val Laird, phone 8555 5995 Judith Dyer, phone 8555 2736
42 Daniel Avenue, Goolwa North 5214 30 Woodrow Way, Goolwa 5214
- Website:** users.bigpond.net.au/FleurieuBirdwatchers
- Newsletter:** Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211, verlew@bigpond.net.au

DIARY DATES

Saturday 8 October

Bullock Hill

Meet at Ashbourne
on side road opposite
the school.



Friday–Monday 28–31 October

Campout

Eremophila Park, Waikerie

Friday 11 November

MEETING: Members Night

Finches, Rosalie Sharpe;
Book Reviews, Geoff Evans and other members

Sunday 13 November

Currency Creek, Black Swamp Walk

Meet in the winery car park.

Thursday 24 November

Paiwalla Wetlands

Access is from the Murray Bridge–Karoonda Road.
Meet at the Sunnyside Lookout just off the road
just north of the Bowhill turnoff. Watch for the
brown sign.

Saturday 3 December

Christmas breakup

Meet at the Goolwa Barrage 4 pm for a bird walk
followed by BYO everything barbecue.

2006

Friday 13 January

Twilight walk: Hindmarsh River

Meet near the corner of Hindmarsh Road and
Wattle Avenue, Victor Harbor 7 pm

Thank you

to everyone who gave us pictures for our display boards. Val and Ray organised the boards, and Jenny and Judith turned up on the day and helped update them. They are all quite pleased with how good the boards look.

Next time you're in Goolwa have a peek at them in the Signal Point Interpretive Centre down by the wharf.



STOP PRESS BE WARNED!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR CAMPOUT PARTICIPANTS

**There is a hefty fine payable for taking fresh fruit including tomatoes etc into the Riverland.
Shop at Waikerie on the way!**

MEETING

Friday 9 September

Chairman Ray Laird greeted us with an apology for Secretary Val Laird who was away welcoming another grandchild. Congratulations to the Lairds on their fifteenth grandie! Judith Dyer stepped in to assist Ray. 22 members attended.

Geoff Evans reported on the dinner hosted by Elaine and Peter O'Shaughnessy at the Hotel Victor. It was another great night, thanks to Elaine's yearlong planning. Dr and Mrs Jarrett of Jarnu, have given us permission to build a stile over the fence for easier access to their property. The Committee is seeking funding for a reprint of the brochure.

Guest speaker Terry Dennis kept us all rapt with his presentation about coastal raptors. First, he gave us good news about the White-bellied Sea-Eagles at Newland Head. The Heysen Trail has been re-routed to avoid disturbance in their nesting area. After a failed clutch earlier in the season, the birds had refurbished another nest about 100 metres away and have started a new clutch.



Terry went on to speak about the two main raptors on our coastline, Osprey and White-bellied Sea-Eagle. He has been involved in raising public awareness of these species and monitoring nesting sites for a number of years. Osprey are found mainly on Kangaroo Island and the state's western coasts. To distinguish the two in flight look for the wing pattern: the Osprey soars with flat wings and the Sea-Eagle's wings are angled and upswept. Sea-Eagle, like the Wedge-tailed Eagle, need a wide-ranging territory.

Members had many questions which evolved into further discussion and left us all considerably wiser about these special lords of the skies, and the need to protect their habitat.

Bird call included sightings of Wedge-tailed Eagle between Strathalbyn and Currency Creek, a flock of about 20 Red-browed Firetail on the roadside near Scott Conservation Park, flocks of Brown-headed Honeyeater near the lower Inman, Hooded Plover at the Hindmarsh estuary and Yilki, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo in town precincts.

A warm cuppa and biccie rounded off an interesting evening.



WELCOME

Judy Stephens, Victor Harbor

A little belated, but nevertheless pleased to have you along and hope you enjoy your birdwatching with us.

ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT IDENTIFICATION

At our outing to Gilbert Siding on 10 July several members reported the sighting of a rare endangered Orange-bellied Parrot. After consideration of information supplied by those members and after Denzel and I, together with Ann and Verle, had visited the site a week later, we concluded that there was insufficient evidence to officially record an OBP.

Certainly, members had seen a bird with a very orange belly but both Denzel and I, who had seen Elegant Parrots with orange bellies previously, felt that the bird we saw, and probably the bird sighted the previous week in the company of a number of Elegants, was indeed an Elegant Parrot. An orange belly is not a diagnostic feature of an OBP as it can be seen also on Blue-winged and Rock Parrots.

We sought help from John Eckert and Colin Rogers of Birds SA. John says that the body colour—like 'strongly growing clover'—is probably the most distinctive feature, and Colin emphasises the call.

We would not normally expect to see OBPs in habitat like Gilbert Siding. They prefer coastal saltmarsh and may be seen in the company of Rock Parrots.

I have found the information on the Birds Australia website most helpful.

birdsaustralia.com.au/birds/obp.html

At the bottom of the page are links to two articles. The second one in particular is a very good aid to identification. If you haven't the computer facility may be family, a friend or the local library can access and print off the information for you.

Downloads (Acrobat pdf) Click this link to download Acrobat Reader so that you can read the id guide.

[OBP Survey Form](#) (11 kb)

Neophemas for Neophytes id guide [part 1](#) (872 kb)

Neophemas for Neophytes id guide [part 2](#) (702 kb)

[OBP Recovery Plan](#) (180 kb) Click this link to download the id guide.

The committee hope to arrange an identification workshop for members before the next OBP season. In the meantime, Denzel's advice to all members is to get to know your local birds so well that when you see something different you recognise the differences. Any unusual sighting should always be reported promptly to me as Bird Record Secretary or to a member of the Committee so that we can organise help with verification.

Judith

PS Denzel and I visited Jarnu in August as many Elegant Parrots had been recorded at the outing there in June. Several of the birds we sighted had a blush of orange on the belly. JD

OUTINGS

Inman River

Saturday 6 August

Superb Fairy-wren, Red-browed Finch and White-plumed Honeyeater were all in very good numbers. We heard Black-chinned Honeyeater but weren't able to find them.

However, we did find Crested Shrike-tit vigorously searching under bark. We also had the opportunity to notice the difference between an immature Golden Whistler (seen) and a female Golden Whistler. Chestnut Teal were on the Inman and the sewage ponds, with Black-fronted Dotterel also at the ponds.

46 species for 14 birdwatchers on a fine winter morning.

Jean Boomer

Goolwa Effluent Ponds

Thursday 25 August

This venue usually yields a good count as it includes not only the waterbirds on the ponds but also those in the adjacent woodlands and farmlands. A mystery bird perched on a dead branch turned out to be Black-shouldered Kite, the light playing tricks with the colour of its plumage. There were eight species of duck on the water including a group of 17 Blue-billed and two Freckled Duck. A Pacific Black Duck escorted her new family across the ponds as we approached.

In the casuarina plantation a female Golden Whistler played hard to get as a brilliantly coloured male chased her from tree to tree. As we circumnavigated the bush we found Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Superb Fairy-wren and Silvereye on the verges while out in the plantation both Fan-tailed Cuckoo (right) and Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo called incessantly.

Far away and high above the paddocks a huge flock of large birds—possibly ibis—soared and wheeled like a flock of starlings.

We all felt very satisfied with the count for the morning: 48 including a pair of Black-fronted Dotterel which appeared picking around the edges of a pool on the track as we left.

Verle Wood with more than a little help from Judith



and Striated Thornbills, Superb Fairy-wren in the shelter of the acacia paradoxa, Yellow-faced and Crescent Honeyeaters, Red-browed Firetail, and some caught sight of a Hooded Robin. The songsters, Grey Shrike-thrush and Golden Whistler, were not deterred by the weather.

The larger birds included Common Bronzewing, Spotted Turtle Dove, Grey Currawong, Little Corella (not a flock), Adelaide Rosella and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. As we walked down into the picturesque gorge big brother koala watched from the safety of his perch in a gum. Not wonderfully exciting birdwise but a very pleasant walk, and the showers held off until we had finished lunch and bird call—30 species altogether.

Verle Wood

Pt Elliot foreshore and Lakala Reserve

Wednesday 21 September

European Goldfinch flew over our group of 14 as we prepared to observe the birdlife along the Pt Elliot foreshore towards Basham Beach. Near the caravan park we sighted Yellow-rumped Thornbill among the usual common birds.

The sea was calm, which made easy viewing of the Little Pied Cormorant and Crested Tern resting on Pullen Island and The Sisters.

As we strolled towards Crockery Bay, where the water glistened in the morning sun, we heard Singing Honeyeater along with the sound of the sea. A Common Sandpiper was added to the bird list.



Singing Honeyeater

Photo: Val Laird

A Willie Wagtail greeted us as we walked along the path to Fisherman Bay, and then we spied the sighting of the day—an Eastern Reef Egret, the sole occupant of the shoreline showing us how to catch fish. As we left the bay, a Black-shouldered Kite hovered above us. Easy viewing of the Nankeen Kestrel and Richard's Pipit made this delightful walk worthwhile.

On returning to the carpark we found a Grey Fantail and a White-plumed Honeyeater in a cluster of vegetation. Other wildlife enjoyed on this small journey included an Australian sea-lion and lizards. 31 sightings were logged from this location.

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By the time nine members arrived at Lakala Reserve it was becoming quite warm and the wind speed was increasing. The Purple Swamphen and their small young easily made the second best sighting of the day. Great Egret, Eurasian Coot, and Dusky Moorhen were included in the 16 sightings recorded following lunch in the Lakala shelter.

Three Straw-necked Ibis flew over just as we were finishing off our day.

Liz Sweetman

CAMPOUT—See also page 1 Stop Press

We are booked at Eremophila Park, arriving Friday 28 October and departing Monday 31 October. A map and directions are enclosed with this birdwatch (ref RAA Riverland and Central Murray map).

No individual site bookings are required—choose your spot. If you need accommodation in the shack please ring Judith or Ann. Those staying in Waikerie are responsible for making their own arrangements (see June birdwatch for details).

Cost for camping will be \$5.00 per night per person. The cost of the shack will be \$40 per night (\$120 for the weekend) and we will calculate an amount per person depending on the number attending. The shack facilities—cooking and shelter if the weather is inclement—are available to all. A couple of bunks are still available.

Campout program

Friday 28 October 3.30 pm

Walk in the park departing from the shack.

Saturday 29 October 8.00 am

Drive/walk around the greater property. We will take minimum cars stopping to walk and explore along the way. Take a generous morning tea and be prepared for a late lunch back at camp.

Saturday evening

BYO barbecue by the campfire.

Sunday 30 October 8.00 am

Travel to Banrock Station. We are booked for lunch at the conclusion of the walk.

We need to confirm our booking with Banrock Station and indicate numbers requiring lunch by the 14 October.

Phone Judith 8555 2736 or Ann 8554 2462 or email jdye@inet.net.au ASAP please.

Monday 31 October 8.30 am

Travel to Brookfield Conservation Park on the Sturt Highway about 12 km west of Blanchetown.

If you have any queries contact Judith or Ann.



Meet the waders

This festival is a three-month celebration of the annual arrival of tens of thousands of migratory wader bird species into the waterways of

South Australia's Limestone Coast, Murraylands and Fleurieu Peninsula. Each year these birds fly thousands of kilometres from their breeding grounds in Siberia, North Asia and the Arctic Circle. Some of these birds fly non-stop for three or four days—the equivalent to a human running continuous four-minute miles for 60 hours!

The routes the birds travel are called flyways. The East Asian Australasian Flyway, which includes South Australia, extends from the Arctic Circle through Eastern and Southeast Asia to Australia and New Zealand.

More information at www.meetthewaders.com.

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Elaine's quiz

- 1 What is the correct name for the Jacky Winter (not the Latin name)?
- 2 Unscramble
TIZGNIT OCCASITIL
RATS HFNIC
OFRUSU PRECEEREERT
SMADEK GLAWPIN
GLEETAN TRAPOR
KYCAJ TREWIN
- 3 What birds were thought to have been endangered after the Black Tuesday fires on Eyre Peninsula?
- 4 Name 6 cartoon characters which are named after birds (only 2 ducks allowed).
- 5 What bird name?
 - very important to trains
 - used in building high rise buildings
 - child's toy
 - part of the anatomy (male and female)
 - cricket term
 - a lolly
 - used in cooking meat
 - everybody should have one
- 6 What type of nest does the Crested Shrike-tit have?
- 7 Who made the first flight over the North Pole in 1926?
- 8 What colour are the eggs of the Laughing Kookaburra?
- 9 Where do the Victor Harbor seagulls breed?
- 10 What is the word for an assembly of each of the following? crows, gulls, wild geese, choughs



- All you needed to know!**
- 1 Brown Flycatcher
 - 2 Zitting Cisticola, Star Finch, Rufous Treecreeper, Masked Lapwing, Elegant Parrot, Jacky Winter
 - 3 Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
 - 4 Big Bird, Donald Duck, Tweety Bird, Road Runner, Woody Woodpecker, Foghorn Leghorn, Daffy Duck, Chicken Hawk
 - 5 Rails, Crane, Kite, Thick-knee, Duck, Fantail, Skua, Hobby
 - 6 Cup of grass and bark
 - 7 Richard E Byrd
 - 8 White
 - 9 Wright Island, West Island
 - 10 Murder colony, skein, chattering

