

MEETING

Friday 12 September

Chairperson, Ray Laird, welcomed 16 members and a visitor, a prospective member.

Treasurer, Phyll Whellams thanked all who participated in the raffle; she was especially pleased that the winners were both present at the dinner and active members of the club. The raffle, including some generous donations, raised \$931 towards the data projector which has now been ordered.

As the invited guest presenter was unavailable, member Peter Gower spoke about his trip to the Kimberleys. He showed numerous stunning photos and maps of the area where magpies have black backs, kookaburras don't laugh and crows are crows, not ravens.

Bird call

- ✧ Members who had visited Coolart Wetlands on Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, and Serendip Sanctuary near Geelong, tabled brochures and recommended these spots to travellers
- ✧ Spotted Pardalote adjacent Scott CP
- ✧ Crested Pigeon observed holding up alternate wings during a shower of rain
- ✧ No neophemas observed on Hindmarsh Island during an early OBP survey but a Pied Oystercatcher nest with two eggs found
- ✧ Whistling Kite and Night Heron are nesting in Norfolk Island pines near Goolwa barrages
- ✧ A flock of 600 Red-tailed Black-cockatoo was seen 5 km east of Wilcannia early September
- ✧ Night Heron perched in pines on Parkway, Victor Harbor, and near the Inman Anzac Bridge
- ✧ 200+ Red-necked Avocet by Goolwa wharf
- ✧ Varied Sittella at Nangawooka.

True to form, Jenny had our supper prepared and more informal bird talk ensued.

Jarnu Stile

Jarnu is private property we have been privileged to survey from time to time. Several years ago, we negotiated with the owners, to construct a stile over the fence for easier access. The stile was designed, built and installed by members Chris Wastell and Ray Laird, and in January 2007 we used it on our twilight walk, for the first time.

We realised that for safety reasons and ease of use, it needed a platform at the top between the ladders. A solid platform has now been made and fixed on the stile by Phyll and John Whellams. We thank them sincerely for their work.

Penola Campout

Friday 31 October–Monday 3 November 2008

Proposed program (subject to change)

- ◆ **Friday 31/10**, 3.30 pm: Green Rise Lake, or Glen Roy Conservation Park (at this stage there is no water in Green Rise)
- ◆ **Saturday 01/11**, 8.30 am: Penola Conservation Park
- ◆ **Saturday 01/11**, 5.00 pm: BYO everything barbecue at Caravan Park (cooking facilities provided)
- ◆ **Sunday 02/11**, 8.30 am: Telford Scrub.
- ◆ **Sunday 02/11**, pm: Optional drive to Pt MacDonnell to view waders
- ◆ **Monday 03/11**, 10.00 am: Bourne's Bird Museum

Maps will be provided to guide you to the sites.

Penola Caravan Park has no games room or facility where we can gather in the evenings so we have hired the local CWA Hall. Here, we can get together over tea/coffee, and have Bird Call and show some pictures. A small fee will be charged to cover costs.

We now have our own digital projector which we will take, together with a screen, so that members may contribute to our evening entertainment. If you would like to bring photos to show, up to 20 per member, please bring them on a CD.

A repeat of the Bird Nests and Eggs presentation (May General Meeting) may be shown if there are sufficient members at campout who have not previously viewed it or would like to see it again.

We are still negotiating for a speaker on the Saturday night.

Once-a-Year Night

Members, their partners and friends came in to the warmth of the Victor Hotel on a very bleak winter's night and were welcomed by hosts, Elaine and Peter O'Shaughnessy.

Serviettes skilfully folded into cranes and specially printed menus added to the avian atmosphere as bird talk flowed throughout a most pleasant and satisfying dinner.

Ray Laird as Chairperson also welcomed 34 members and noted apologies from another eight. He also read a postcard from Alma and Dolf Kroon on their travels in the north.

It was soon time for everyone to test themselves with Elaine's traditional quiz, tougher than ever

this year, but pencils scratched enthusiastically and secrets were whispered. When we had ticked our answers—and sighed about the crosses—the winner was Don Overall and he earned himself a bottle of good wine. Photo below. If you weren't there you can test yourself (below)—but no prizes here.

Phyll Whellams thanked everyone for participating so generously in the raffle which raised \$931 towards our data projector. This enables the immediate purchase of this equipment to go ahead. Phyll invited our hosts to draw the winning tickets. The first prize winner was ... again ... Don Overall. With Rhonda's help Don chose the wren picture, leaving the black-cockatoo print for an overjoyed Win Syson.

Everyone's sincere thanks flowed to Elaine and Peter for another delicious meal and great evening's entertainment.



Elaine's Quiz 2008

1. Which falcon is the world's most widely distributed raptor?
2. The kakapo, one of the rarest birds in the world, lives on isolated islands near which country?
3. How many choughs are needed to raise one young?
4. Who am I? I am an Australian bird.
I am Australia's first successful television soap opera. The serial was produced by the ABC. It began on air in August 1967 screening in 15-minute instalments as a lead into the 7.00 pm news on weekdays. Set in a rural farming community, the storylines examined the lives of simple country folk in the fictional town that gave the show its title. The local mechanic, Joe Turner, was played by Terry Norris. The nasty stock and station agent, John Quinney, was played by Maurie Fields.

5. Unscramble the following
DIPE NEROH, USSRA RANCE, KANGERHENS,
TITLLE LACEROL, ETER TINARM
6. What does the word neophema mean?
7. When was the last confirmed sighting of the Paradise Parrot?
8. Why are Rosella parrots so called?
9. State the five colours of the feathers of the Crested Pigeon.
10. In Aboriginal folklore which bird is a bringer of bad news or stealer of secrets?

OUTINGS

Coles Crossing

Saturday 9 August

With the wind blowing and the western sky dark, 11 members started down to the river. The track was rough, eroded and waterlogged. However, large trees near the swift-flowing river afforded shelter. Both birders and birds enjoyed the area and the cry 'what bird is that?' gave us two sittella.

A few people elected to return the long way while the rest of us scrambled back part way uphill to cut across the centre of the scrub. The wind caught us in the more open ground with the birds sensibly tucked up. Sightings were rare. A distant glimpse of a raptor was the best for this part.

Arriving back at the cars, we were surprised to find the few who had gone the long way had arrived first! While awaiting our arrival, they had sighted several more sittella close up and also the Collared Sparrowhawk.



*Varied Sittella, Cole Crossing.
Photo: Teresa Jack*

The sky was now black and threatening, the wind strength up. No leisurely drinks break, a hurried bird call, a quick dash to the cars as drops of rain fell. The last of the vehicles cleared the park with the rain lashing down—hope all the birds took shelter!

Must come back in better weather—it's nice by the river!

Nick Tebneff

Quiz Answers

1. Peregrine 2 New Zealand 3 Seven 4 Bellbird 5 Pied Heron, Sarus Crane, Greenshank, Little Corella, Tree Martin 6 Parrot 7 1927 8 First found at Rose Hill, NSW 9 Green, purple, grey, white, black 10 Willie Wagtail

Aldinga Scrub and the Washpool

Thursday 28 August

The scrub was green underfoot, so different to summertime. In mild sunshine, with no wind, ten of us saw 39 species, a kangaroo colony and the new subdivision with its wetland. Splendid male Mistletoebird were about and a Horsfield's Bronzecuckoo. Two Rufous Whistler sang, an Eastern Spinebill flitted and a pair of Laughing Kookaburra sat. Peaceful

Dove, Common Bronzewing and Magpie Lark were spied. By the lake Native Hen chased, Australasian Shoveler swam and wood duck flew. Nankeen Kestrel spied mice.



Kookaburra at Aldinga Scrub.
Photo: Teresa Jack

Over at the Washpool on Button Road, there were 18 species, including Black Swan, Black-winged Stilts, White-faced Heron, Crested Tern, Australasian Shoveler, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, White-fronted Chat, Skylark and Brown Songlark. We had bird call sitting on the beachfront pebbles overlooking the magnificent straight deserted foreshore—an excellent day.

Geoff Evans

Mt Compass Boardwalk and private property

Sunday 14 September

Our leader, Nick Tebneff, was happy to see eight walkers join him at Mt Compass. The weather was fine, fresh and breezy, a lot better than forecast. We enjoyed a leisurely walk around the boardwalk, but without any of the action that we wished for, viz, the elusive Southern Emu-wren. There was one very noisy bird we followed but we didn't see him. Moving on, we noticed Cattle Egret in the next



Cattle Egret at Mt Compass.
Photo: Peter Gower

paddock. They were nervous and took to the sky so we had the correct count for them. The action was in the skies: Wedge-tailed Eagle and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo helped us to a bird count of 29.

A pitstop in the town, then we continued out to a private property. The owners have developed their property over the past 19 years from a paddock to a botanic garden, but for today we counted only 19 species. It took some time to sight the noisy Crescent Honeyeater in a flowering gum tree. Lots of Red-browed Finch flew past and into the trees while we had lunch in the sun.

Teresa Jack

Winery Road, Currency Creek

Wednesday 24 September

A beautiful sunny spring morning attracted six members to this area of native flora along Winery Road and the Goolwa to Strathalbyn railway line.

About 30 species of birds were seen, the highlight being the large number of Mistletoebird. One pair proved to be the centre of attention as they were very busy nest building. Despite our close presence the female bird continued to bring material to add to her interesting construction. Mistletoebird nests are pearshaped with an entrance high on one side and hung from a small branch. They are made of spider web, lichen, seed pods and soft grass.

After this walk we drove towards Finnis and turned off to Tonkin's Landing on the Finnis River. There we saw about 20 species before and during lunch, the most interesting being Whistling Kite, Swamp Harrier, Brown Goshawk, Nankeen Kestrel and a distant flock of at least 200 Straw-necked Ibis.

Peter Gower



Mistletoebird (male) at Winery Road and (right) female nest building