

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, Goolwa, begins 7.30pm.

Outings: Meet at 8.30 am. Bring lunch and chairs.

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Report on Meeting, Friday, 12th July 1996 in the Anglican Church Hall

A good roll up again, 21 members and 5 visitors, 2 of whom joined. Welcome to Eric and Fay Richardson of Victor Harbor, Jim Robinson and Stephen Harper from the Monarto Fauna Complex did not disappoint with a very informative evening on the problems of rehabilitation of confiscated birds and fauna. The star of the meeting was the beautiful Australian Hobby on Jim's wrist.

Outings Reports.

Sun. June 2nd. Nurragi Conservation Reserve (Denzel as Leader and Reporter.)

Pouring rain, blowing gales - NO! that was yesterday. Clear blue skies, calm, a great morning to enjoy a pleasant walk birdwatching. Over 300 birds were seen comprising 32 different species. We were able to hear and associate many calls with birds not normally seen closer to home. Highlights were Diamond Firetails, some nest building, Red-browed Firetails, Zebra Finches, Hooded Robins with immature, Yellow Thornbill (common along the corridor), and Banded Lapwing flying over. The walk lasted 3 hours then lunch was enjoyed at the Nurragi Siding area listening and watching the plentiful birdlife.

Sat. June 29th, Hindmarsh Falls. (Leader: Denzel - Reporter: Judy Jones)

Forecast of rain and strong wind did not deter 9 members venturing out. Hindmarsh Valley was quite sheltered from the wind, but we were beginning to think the view of the falls would have to make up for the scarcity of birds. When the showers cleared we became more aware of the bird activity in the quiet areas behind the falls. Kookaburras were heard, New Holland Honeyeaters and Striated Thornbills were plentiful, and there were Grey Fantails, White-throated Treecreepers, Galahs, Rainbow and Purple-crowned Lorikeets. The highlight of this area was a very good sighting of two Bassian Thrushes (listed as "White's Thrush in most Field Guides), much to Judith delight as she had observed one of these birds on a recent trip to the Hindmarsh Reservoir area. Back at the car-park for the bird count, and there were Superb Fairy Wrens scurrying about under the picnic tables, White-browed Scrubwrens, Welcome Swallows and Martins (were they clean white or dirty white and did they have a rusty patch on their heads?). 23 species on the list, then the weather cleared again so a few more were added. from nearby scrubland. Silvereyes, Red-browed Firetails, a Golden Whistler, Crimson Rosella, White-naped Honeyeater and Varied Sittella not to mention two inquisitive Kangaroos. Final bird count was 31 species.

Sunday July 14th. Monarto Fauna Complex - Stephen Harper and Jim Robinson as our Leaders

This Family and Friends day was a great follow up to our Friday meeting with 26 in attendance. Our thanks go to Stephen and Jim for making themselves available. Late morning we moved on to the Monarto Conservation Park for lunch and some excellent birdwatching. The weather was fine, cool and sunny, just delightful for wandering this great piece of scrub. Those observers with limited experience were treated to a good look at a Golden Whistler who came to see what we were about, while the more experienced were led a merry dance by an elusive Southern Scrub Robin. No official count was kept but the last group at the park did a roll call of 25 species. Another memorable day!

Other Sightings.

Large flocks (100 to 200) of Black Cormorants (Great or Little?) have been observed flying up stream over the river at Goolwa on many mornings. Where are they going and where have they come from? Fan-tail Cuckoos are still in the South Lakes area.

Pam & Pen saw a pair of Peregrine Falcons near Warnambool on their recent travels.

Penny Paton of SAOA observed two Bassian Thrush at Hindmarsh Valley Reservoir not far from the where Judith sighted one during our outing to the reservoir reserve in February.

The Thursday walking group who meet at Victor had sightings of Gannet flying and diving off the coast while walking the Heysen trail recently at Newland Head.

Invitations

Sunday 11th August - Friends of Scott Conservation Park

Any interested members of our group are invited to join a tree planting working bee that has been organised by the 'Friends'. An area on the western side of the park is to be fenced off for protection and a planting of sheoaks established. Meet at the corner of Deep Creek and Kokoda Roads at 10.30am. You will enter the park through a private entrance near this spot. Our member Anna Markey, who lives on the edge of this wonderful park is closely associated with their 'friends' group. If you would like more information ring Anna on 554032. As this is a party line allow the phone to ring twice, hang up and dial again and Anna will answer if available.

Saturday 9th November 1996 - Mount Compass Community Open Gardens Day

An open invitation to members and friends of our group has been received. Commencing at 9.30am there will be many different styles of gardens to view (and many birds too!) with a BBQ lunch at the Roadman's Reserve between 12.30pm - 1.30pm.

Workshop Postscript A comment by Joan Paton has been relayed back to us, quote, "--that it was great to be amongst such an enthusiastic new group." We are delighted that she found it so.

For Your Diary

Outing: Saturday 3rd August - Emu Wren search (Leaders: - Tanya Littlely and Denzel)

Meet 8.30am at the intersection of Nangkita Rd. and Swampy Crescent which is about 1 km from the Ashbourne Rd. Remember! old clothes, waterproofs and Wellingtons. For those who cannot or don't wish to push through the heavy parts of the swamps there will be easier locations on the edges of the swamps and on causeways crossing swamps where you can be gainfully employed listening and watching for wrens. Tanya intends arriving much earlier than us and netting a bird(s) to show us in the hand what it is that we are looking and listening for. Tanya is bringing with her about 30 slides to show us and will talk about the Emu wren recovery programme. This will take place at the home of our members, Paula and Alan Rawson, who live at 'Old Bridge Cottage' which is situated south of Ashbourne, high on a bank on the left immediately before crossing the River Finnis Bridge. (See attached map). In the event of very bad weather we will proceed to Paula's earlier and proceed with the slides etc. about 10am alternatively members who would like to join us for lunch and Tanya's talk are very welcome to arrive at Paula's about 12.30pm. If you have any queries ring Judith, 552736.

Outing: Saturday 31st August - Winery Rd. Currency Creek (Leaders: Bruce and Judith)

Meet 8.30am at the Canoe Tree by the railway crossing on the Goolwa to Strathalbyn Road.

Meeting: Friday 13th September: Speaker Ross Whiteford

Ross, who lives in the Adelaide Hills and is a member of the SAOA, is a very experienced photographer. Ross volunteered his time to come and help our group and will bring slides and speak on 'Mallee Birds'.

Outing: Sunday 15th September - SA Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide (Joe Bain)

What a scoop!!! Joe is Exhibition Manager at the Museum and has offered his time on this Sunday morning to show us, and talk with us, on his job in setting up the exhibits at the Museum. There is an excellent gallery of Australian Birds where we will be able to spend time. We will meet at 9.45am on the lawns outside the Museum. Joe will meet us at 10.00am sharp in the Foyer of the Museum where we will be escorted to the workshops so you do need to be punctual. The Museum is not making a charge so we will take up a collection and make a donation to 'The Friends of the Museum'. We expect to spend about 1 hr. or so with Joe then take a break at the Coffee shop before moving on to the Bird Gallery. See you all there, families are welcome.

Outing: Saturday 5th October - Coles Crossing, Cox Scrub

Meet at the corner of Nankita Road and Heifer Lane (see Map)

See next page for Weekday Outings

Weekday Outings:

By popular request we are re-introducing weekday outings. It has been decided to try meeting regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This can be reviewed later. Judith, 552736 and Ann Turner 542462 are to co-ordinate these outings.

Wednesday 14th August - Scott Conservation Park

Meet at northern boundary entrance (map enclosed) Bring lunch as usual.

Wednesday 11th September - Hindmarsh Falls

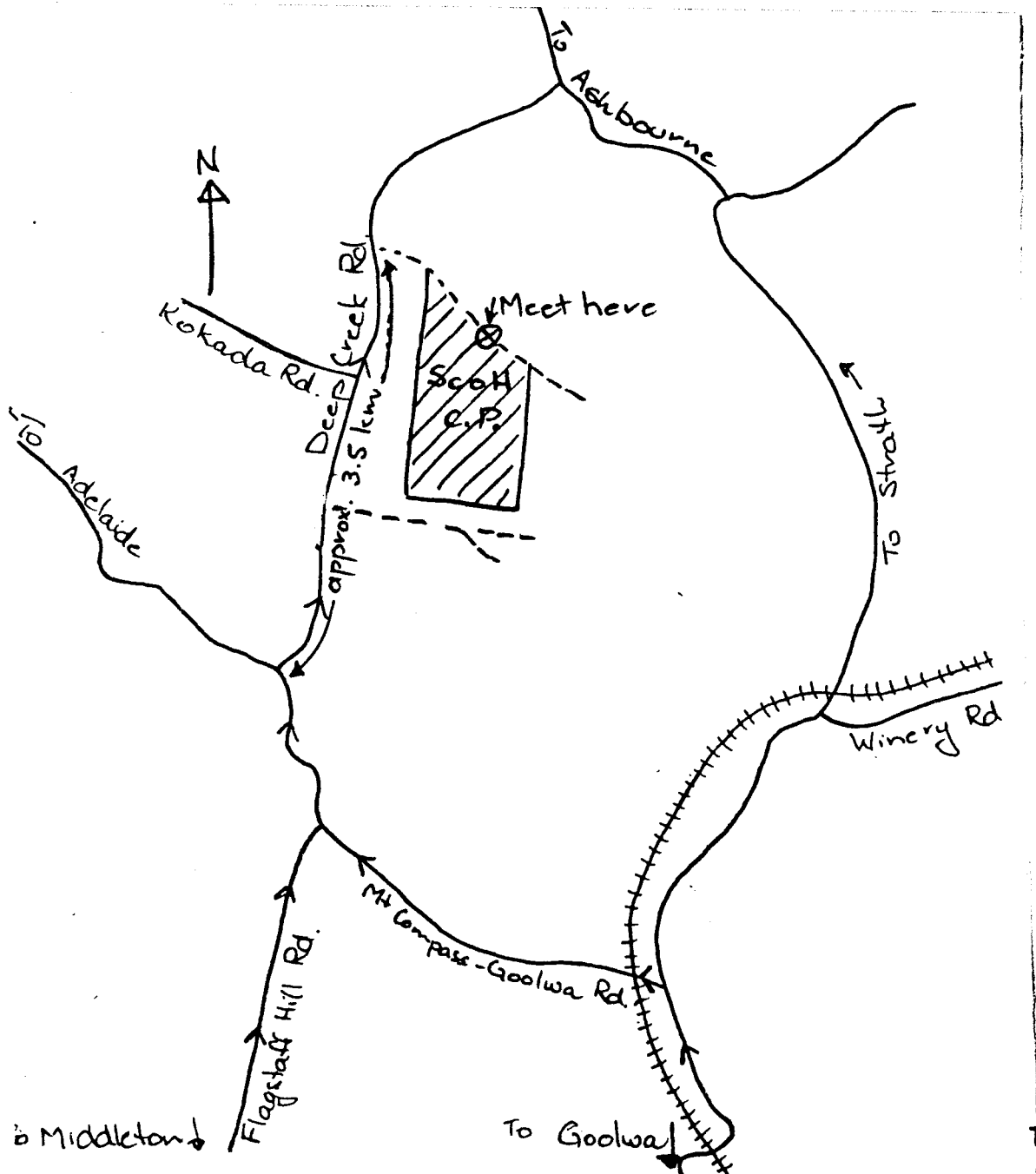
Turn off the Victor Harbor/Adelaide road into the road to Myponga. Meet at the Church hall which is just a couple of hundred metres on.

Wednesday 9th October - Mt. Compass Board Walk and Coles Crossing Road.

Meet at the entrance gate to board walk

Wednesday 13th November - Newland Head Conservation Park (Waitpinga Beach)

Meet at Dennis's Hut in the campground. BYO BBQ lunch.



SOUTHCOST BIRDPWATCHERS

1996 Programme Planner

Saturday	3rd Aug.	Emu Wren Search and talk by Tanya Littlely
Saturday	31st Aug.	Winery Road, Currency Creek
Friday	13th Sept.	Meeting - Ross Whiteford - Mallee Birds
Sunday	15th Sept.	SA Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide
Frid.- Mon.	27-30 Sept.	Danggali Conservation Park
Saturday	5th Oct.	Coles Crossing in Cox Scrub
Saturday	26th Oct.	Beach walk - Bluff area
Friday	8th Nov.	Meeting - Members night
Sunday	10th Nov.	Mt. Compass area - Lunch at Wastell property, Compass heights
Saturday	7th Dec.	The Barrage - Christmas BBQ - (Please Jim*!!)

Options being considered are:

- Night Tour of Urimbirra - (Summer suggested)
- Bus Trip across the Barrages - Nov.- Feb. dependent on waterflow conditions which should be apparent by October.
- Boat trip ...Another Estuary trip with Jack Miller to observe Waders.(trying for March again)

'Browsing with Bronwyn'

Waterbirds swoop to the Lakes in their Thousands

Wetland ecologists are bubbling with excitement following the arrival of hundreds of thousands of waterbirds in western New South Wales. Mike Maher and fellow researchers at the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service say they are nothing short of amazed by the build-up of birds in Kinchega National Park, near Broken Hill.

"Even a cynical ecologist like me would have to describe the situation as incredible," said Mike. At last count, he estimated a total of 221,781 birds living in the Menindee Lakes water-storage system which, amongst other uses, supplies significant quantities of drinking water to Adelaide. That figure included 74,980 pink-eared ducks, 19,660 red-necked avocet and 48,190 grey teals. The recent experience suggests to Mike that perhaps the way in which the lakes are managed should more closely reflect the biological requirements of animals like these.

Alan Morris, an NPWS district manager and specialist wader watcher, travelled to Menindee Lakes to identify the specific mix of wader species, a task which cannot be performed from aircraft. His observations confirmed the vast numbers of waders and identified sharp-tailed sandpipers as the most abundant species. They made up 86% of the wader population. Alan, too, was clearly impressed with the vast concentration of birds. Upon concluding his survey he said: "It's the largest number of waders recorded for any site in NSW and far exceeds any total waders count for the whole of the state." He estimates that 15% of the Australian population of both sharp-tailed sandpipers and avocets were present on Lake Cawndilla.

A precis of an article written by Peter Beeh for the July/August edition of GEO magazine.

Note.

Also appearing in the same issue is an excellent article on 'Birds of Prey' illustrated with quite dramatic photographs.