

LANDCARE

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SPRING 2015



Finding Nature in Term 4

Following on from the successes of the Term 3 Finding Nature sessions, we are taking the best of what we have achieved and growing to include some waterwatch, insect identification, bird photography and some tips and tricks for planning for Woodland birds on farms. This will give community members some great skills towards effectively monitoring native species in the landscape. Hope to see you at one or all of the sessions as scheduled below:

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
30 October 2015	Woodland Bird, Waterwatch and Frog Identification	Meet at the Karabeal Fire Shed.
13 November 2015	Woodland Birds and Bird Photography	Bill and Katrina Weatherlys
27 November 2015	Insects – the goodies and the badies. Lead by Denis Crawford	??
11 December 2015	Planning for woodland Birds on farms	Diane and Roger Napier's property

Learning how to Find Nature

Every Second Friday starting from 16th of October through to the 11th December from 5.30-7.30pm. Refer to the schedule for location as it changes each week.

All ages welcome

BYO meat for a BBQ to finish

If you have them, bring binoculars, note pad, field guide and appropriate gear for the prevailing weather. For further information or to register your attendance call Gab on 0400883014 or Lisa on 55749 235.

Current Fox Baiting Pulse

28th September 2015 to 6th December 2015

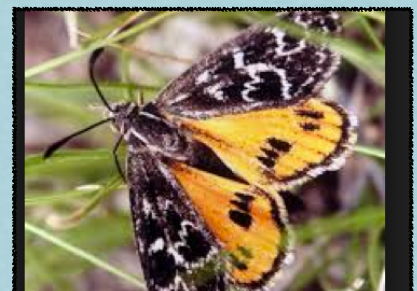
Indicator Species of the Week



SCARLET ROBIN dependant on mixed staged woodlands and an indicator of overall woodland health



BROWN TREE CREEPER relies on healthy ground cover, branches & leaf litter



GOLDEN SUN MOTH common in lightly grazed native pastures

Spring Woodland Bird Monitoring

By David Nichols

The 3rd round of Woodland Bird Monitoring was run on the weekend of the 10th and 11th of October with the Panyyabyr and Upper Hopkins Landcare groups. The pardalotes were out in force, as were the wildflowers at nearly all sites.

Conducting surveys a couple of weeks earlier than last year seem to pay dividends in another dry spring.

Highlights in the Panyyabyr area, included the sighting of 24 species in the Oliver's regenerating and remnant redgum patch. A fantastic result for a good patch within a grazing farm. It shows that while one patch cannot be all things to all bird species, it can be many things. This is evidenced through the variety of bird types found, including nectar feeders (Purple

Crowned Lorikeets), seed eaters (Crimson Rosellas and Red-rumped Parrots), leaf gleaners (Brown Thornbills and Striated Pardalote and White Plumed Honeyeaters), bark gleaners (White Throated and Brown Treecreepers) and predators (Whistling Kites and Wedge-tailed Eagles). These were all found on this site.

It was also pleasing to have the local federal Member for Wannon, Dan Tehan and his family join us to learn about woodland birds and what local farmers and landcarers are doing to maintain habitat on their properties. Dan said, "It was a great opportunity to join with local land managers and see this fabulous project being implemented. To be able to identify bird species will provide us with useful indicators of our woodland

health and in turn measure the benefits of environmental works or tree planting."

On the Sunday in the Ararat Hills area, we also had good results highlighted by the sighting of a female Red-Capped Robin on the Forster's Wills Hill Rd revegetation site. This again shows the value of well established native revegetation for habitat. This was further emphasized by the presence of the resident White Browed Babblers. Other pleasing sightings included Spotted Pardalotes, Rufous Whistlers and Red-browed Finches on a number of sites.

Thankyou to our helping Birdlife Hamilton members. And thank you to the landholders who host us on their properties.



BIRD WATCHING at the Olivers with Dan Tehan and his family.



SMALL BULBINE One of the many native orchids we were able to see flowering at the Olivers.



UPPER HOPKINS Bird Watchers.