

The Golden Whistler

Volume 4 Number 10 October 2015

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We had quite uproar at school the other day and all due to a Welcome Swallow nest!

Whilst on yard duty at lunch a distressed child ran up to me to explain how one errant, young student had climbed the basketball ring and pulled down a swallow nest containing 3 very young chicks. The young culprit was soon berated by an increasingly large crowd who all were both intrigued and concerned for the newly hatched chicks. Children ran in all directions to get a ladder, some netting and wire to allow me to return the intact nest to a spot near to its original site. The parent birds were circling and throughout the day children were watching to make sure the swallow family were reunited. This level of concern for our environment and all things living is the kind of attitude we hope to instil and encourage in all our children.

At our last outing we discussed the effectiveness of our Sunday outings to attract new members. It was the general feeling that not much benefit had been gained and in fact some regular attendees were unavailable on Sundays therefore future outings will be held on Saturdays.

Best wishes to Sam, Annie and Jennie for their upcoming trip to Christmas Island. This is certainly proving a popular pilgrimage with our local members.

Happy Birding

Sally



© Annie Carmichael

NEXT OUTING

DATE: 21st & 22nd November

VENUE: Werribee

CONTACT: Graeme and Heather Saunders (phone 03 5562 4349 or email gsau6485@bigpond.net.au) asap so that vehicles with permits can be organised

MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES

December

Saturday ~~Thursday~~ 19th

Xmas lunch Henriz Cafe, Hamilton

Samantha Greiner 0428 395 773

January AGM

Saturday 23rd 2016

BBQ tea at Hamilton Botanic Gardens

Kennedy Street BBQ area

COMMITTEE

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Outing Report & Bird List

BEEAR STATE FOREST

Hot and windy weather was the order of the day for the 12 people that met up in Cavendish. It was great to welcome back Ian and Rhonda, Sue and Neville and Jean and Peter after their travels. My mother, Jocelyn, a new resident of Hamilton also joined us for her first ever birding outing.

Our convoy set off up the highway to travel the 20km north west of Cavendish to the little known Bear State Forest. Birding was difficult in the wind and this was compounded by quite a large patch of burnt bush offering little habitat. Smaller birds could be heard in the canopy but were difficult to spot. Those heard were Striated Thornbills, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and a lone White-throated Treecreeper.

Choughs could be heard and eventually seen in the bush and Sam was able to spot a Spinebill at our morning tea stop. Further along the track we spent some time in a more open area looking at the wildflowers and the occasional bird! Paul managed to find a very healthy Koala up one tree.

Lunch was had at the Mooralla Gemstones Fossicking Area. We chased the shade over lunch and were entertained briefly by two young Swedes feverishly digging for gems. One Kookaburra and some Red Wattlebirds were about the only birds we saw at lunch. After lunch we braved the very sandy and dusty track to Lookout Hill. Here we spotted a female Mistletoe Bird down amongst the Bracken and Blue Pincushion flowers. A magnificent view of the Grampians and Black Range with the farmland in between was a reward for this stop.

Sue and Neville then took the lead down a narrow, windy track to a hidden dam in the hope of adding to our rather short bird list. At this point, my mother and I pulled the pin and headed home. However Sam ensured those that continued that the dam was well worth the detour. On the way out I spotted a Common Bronzewing but I am not sure if this counted in our official count.

Sally

Birds in State Forest	Birds on route
Common Bronzewing	Australian Shelduck
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Australian Wood Duck
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Teal
Crimson Rosella	Little Pied Cormorant
Laughing Kookaburra	White-necked Heron
White-throated Treecreeper	White-faced Heron
Superb Fairy-wren	Black-shouldered Kite
White-browed Scrubwren	Whistling Kite
Striated Thornbill	Masked Lapwing
Spotted Pardalote	Galah
Striated Pardalote	Magpie-lark
Eastern Spinebill	11 species
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	
White-eared Honeyeater	
Red Wattlebird	
New Holland Honeyeater	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	
White-naped Honeyeater	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Rufous Whistler	
Grey Shrike-thrush	
Australian Magpie	
Grey Currawong	
Forest Raven	
Restless Flycatcher	
White-winged Chough	
Mistletoebird	
27 species	
38 species for the day	



Creeklet Bear SF © S Greiner

Sightings & Quiz

Dawn Black

Huge flock of **Straw-necked Ibis** on low lying pasture behind Wilderness Church, Strathdownie 26.10.15. They have been around for weeks, must be plenty of food because there must be 6 or 7 hundred of them

Steve Clark

Budgerigar, aviary escape, Church Hill, Hamilton 09.11.15



Charlotte Davis

Mafeking **Scarlet Robin** being very friendly and hopping around us like a fairywren. Family of **Emus** bathing in a dam at Mirranatwa. 17.11.15

Samantha Greiner

Lorikeet Tree - many **Rainbow, Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets** noisily sharing the flowers in our Lemon Scented Gum with Red Wattlebirds, New Holland & White-naped Honeyeaters, Church Hill, Hamilton 29.10.15

Jean and Peter Humphries

1st & 2nd November

Whiskered Terns, Black-winged Stilts, 5 Banded Stilts, Avocets 10 Saturday & 56 Sunday, **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, 5 Yellow-tail Black Cockatoos** flying westward, very large flock **Silver Gulls** (maybe 200 +) feeding in the well grassed paddock with the cows, **Hoary-headed Grebes, Black Swans, Pacific Black Ducks, 3 White-faced Herons, Swamp Harrier**, along with the usual Magpies, Magpie Larks, Ravens, Starlings, Goldfinches, Swamp near Killarney Camp Ground

Pied Oystercatchers and **Sooty Oystercatchers, Pacific Gulls, Australian Gannet, Red-necked Stints** and **Singing Honeyeaters**, Griffith Island, Port Fairy

Dale Tonkinson

White-winged Triller in Lonsdale Street, Hamilton, lunchtime on 13.10.15. Again at Yulangah, Penshurst, 15th and 17th

BRAIN TEASER OF THE MONTH

This month's Question: can you name this parrot Susan Mason took a picture of while at the Redbank Camp weekend?



Last month's Answer: BirdLife South super quiz answers in future newsletter.....



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater © S Mason



Buff-sided Robins © A Carmichael

Members Report

WOODLAND BIRD MONITORING PANYYABYR LANDCARE SPRING 2015

The 3rd round of Woodland Bird Monitoring was run on Saturday the 10th October with the Panyyabyr Landcare Group. 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 included the sighting of 24 species in the Oliver's regenerating and remnant red gum 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.



Birders, novices & experts at "Wandobah"

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."

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

Regards

Dave Nichols

Freshwater Lake, Victoria Valley	B. Weatherly (Pizzey's)
Black Swan	Pacific Black Duck
Australian Shelduck	Australian Wood Duck
Grey Teal	White Faced Heron
Pacific Black Duck	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Great Cormorant	Common Bronzewing
White-necked Heron	White-throated Treecreeper
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren
Black-shouldered Kite	Weebill
Black-winged Stilt	Spotted Pardalote
Black-fronted Dotterel	Striated Pardalote
Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill
Silver Gull	White-plumed Honeyeater
Galah	New Holland Honeyeater
Long-billed Corella	Yellow Faced Honeyeater
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Rufous Whistler
Rainbow Lorikeet	Grey Shrike-thrush
Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Yellow Robin
Weebill	Dusky Woodswallow
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Brown Thornbill	Pied Currawong
Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Striated Pardalote	Little Raven
Eastern Spinebill	White-winged Chough
White-plumed Honeyeater	Tree Martin
Yellow Faced Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Red Wattlebird	Common Blackbird
Brown Treecreeper	Red-browed Finch
Grey Shrike Thrust	27 species
Australian Magpie	
Grey Currawong	"Wandobah"
Grey Fantail	W & G Oliver's
Forest Raven	Whistling Kite
Jacky Winter	Wedge-tailed Eagle
33 species	Long-billed Corella
	Purple-crowned Lorikeet
	Crimson Rosella
	Red-rumped Parrot
	Eastern Rosella
	Galah
	Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
	Laughing Kookaburra
	White Throated Treecreeper
	Brown Treecreeper
	Superb Fairy-wren
	Brown Thornbill
	Striated Pardalote
	White-plumed Honeyeater
	Golden Whistler
	Grey Shrike-thrush
	Australian Magpie
	Welcome Swallow
	Tree Martin
	Common Starling
	24 specie

Up Coming Events

IMPORTANT BIRD AND BIODIVERSITY AREAS

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club

Thursday 19th November 2015

Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) are part of a global program run by BirdLife International that aims to improve protection of essential areas for the survival of all wild animals and plants in their natural environment. The initial focus was on birds but it was soon realised that to protect birds it was also necessary to protect their habitat and food supplies and that by protecting these, many other threatened species also received protection.

The program is global with Birdlife groups in most countries having identified more than 12000 IBAs for their birds both on land and at sea. The majority of the work is community based and carried out by volunteers or employees of local NGOs, usually the BirdLife affiliate in the country concerned.

In Australia, BirdLife Australia has identified 314 land based IBAs as well as some marine IBAs in the Tasman and Coral Seas. There are currently 37 IBAs in Victoria including Lawrence Rocks near Portland and the Natimuk-Douglas Lake System north of Hamilton.

The talk by Euan Moore from BirdLife Australia Victoria Group will cover the IBA program and Victoria's IBAs. It will describe some of the ways that community groups can help monitor the birds in IBAs and assist with the management of these areas. The monitoring includes citizen science programs where community groups record those species that are present and their numbers. In many instances this activity combines an enjoyable day out in the bush or along the coast with friends with an opportunity to contribute to our knowledge of native birds. In this context knowledge is power and the more we know about our birds and the trends in their populations, the easier it is to ensure that they receive adequate protection.

Euan Moore has been a member of BirdLife Australia and its predecessor organisations since 1987 where he has been a volunteer with the conservation group for most of that time. He is currently the IBA champion for Victoria, a volunteer job which involves working with local groups and encouraging them to get involved with their local IBA.

Presentation is free

All welcome

Light supper to follow

BIRDLIFE HAMILTON

November 21st & 22nd

Camp Werribee with BirdLife Warrnambool

December

Thursday 19th

Xmas lunch Henriz Cafe, Hamilton

Samantha Greiner 0428 395 773

BIRDLIFE WARRNAMBOOL

23rd November - 7th December

BirdLife Warrnambool Expedition Cocos Keeling & Christmas Islands

Wednesday

9 December 2015

Challenge Bird Count & Christmas BBQ

Bird count during any 24 hours from Saturday 5 December within a 40km radius of Warrnambool Then join BBQ at Lake Pertobe, Warrnambool at 12.30pm on Wednesday

Peter & Rhonda Barrand 5527 1712

BIRDLIFE HORSHAM

November

Sunday 1st Mount Cole

Tim, Ian, Deidre

For outings, meet outside the Horsham Library, 28 McLachlan Street at 8.30am with morning tea and lunch, unless otherwise notified.



Whiskered Terns © Euan Moore

Gluepot Reserve

GLUEPOT COUNTRY COOKING

As a part of the 20 year celebrations in 2017 of Gluepot becoming a conservation reserve, it has been decided that we will create and publish a cookbook, themed "**COUNTRY COOKING**". A sub committee composed of Margaret Falkenberg and Anne Morphett has been formed to manage all aspects of this special project.

The content will be wide ranging and will include tried and tested recipes handed down through family generations and some that are not that old! If the recipe is a treasured one, perhaps provide a few words about why it is so special. Instead of photos of each of the finished recipes, the book will feature photos of the 'Gluepot Environment' – birds, mammals, scenery and people. – It will be a truly special publication.

To ensure the success of the publication, we need to receive a large number of recipes that we can consider, before deciding on the final ones to be included. The following are the contents of the book and we ask you to submit your recipes in as many subject areas as you wish. If you have a recipe that does not come under any of the headings shown, please include it anyway.

Please include your name, and email recipes to:

Margaret Falkenberg: hawknest2@bigpond.com

OR Anne Morphett: amorphett@adam.com.au

CONTENTS:

Breakfast and Brunch Pancakes and crepes

Entrée's (can include dips and starters) and drinks (appetisers)

Cordials

Soups

Main course (1) Beef, lamb, pork, sausages, stews, chicken, duck and seafood.

Main Course (2) Pies, pasties, curries, pasta, rice, grains.

Vegetarian/Vegetables

BBQ, Picnic and Camping.

Salads

Desserts (hot and cold) and including puddings

Custards

Cakes, biscuits, slices and pastries

Bread, scones, yeast, (rolls, buns) and dumplings.

Icings, cake fillings, dressings and stocks.

Jams, Jellies and preserves.

Sauces, dressings, gravies, stuffings, pickles and chutneys.

Recipes may include dairy free/ gluten free. Just add the initials **DF** or **GF** to the title of the recipe.



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With our specialised knowledge and the commitment of an Australia-wide network of volunteers and supporters, we are creating a bright future for Australia's birds.

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