

BirdLife Melbourne Newsletter



Volume 1 Number 3 December 2012



Mill Park Lakes. Spring sightings include Black Falcon, Ballion's Crake, Freckled Duck, Nankeen Night-Heron, Buff-banded Rail, Australian Spotted Crake and Blue-billed Duck. Photo, Anthea Fleming

President's Report

MEMBERSHIP

BirdLife Australia is keen that membership catchment areas for its different branches do not to overlap. As a result, the BirdLife Melbourne membership catchment area is now defined by postcodes, rather than the "50 km radius from Melbourne's CBD" that served as MELBOCA's catchment area.

Roughly speaking, our catchment area is around Melbourne, extending west to about Werribee, north west to about Gisborne, north east to about Lilydale and south east to about Seaford. This avoids the overlap with BirdLife Bellarine, Mornington Peninsula and Yarra Valley. A full list of our postcodes can be viewed on the website.

The BirdLife Australia Branch Working Arrangements permit members to belong to more than one branch, so BirdLife Australia members who have postal addresses outside our nominated postcodes may become members of BirdLife Melbourne by contacting us.

COMMITTEE

The first BirdLife Melbourne AGM is to be held prior to the Balwyn Monthly Meeting on 26 February 2013 – refer to the Notice of the AGM on page 6. We need some dedicated people prepared to make an input into the running of BirdLife Melbourne to nominate for the Committee. Please consider nominating for the Committee. Without an active Committee it will not be possible to continue providing all the services we currently do.

ON THE WEB

The BirdLife Melbourne website has been revised with more of our own local site being incorporated into the BirdLife Melbourne pages hosted by BirdLife Australia. There is now a more prominent link from the BirdLife Melbourne page to our local site, which will consist mainly of Outing Bird Lists, Birding Sites and the Photography Group Page.

Hopefully the Committee will provide you with what you expect as BirdLife Melbourne Members. If you have any questions or any issues of concern, please talk to a committee member, or send us an email on melbourne@birdlife.org.au

*Bill Ramsay
President*

Tel: 9803 1493, Email: melbourne@birdlife.org.au

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Peter Doherty on Bird-watching and Citizen Scientists

Need a book for the beach this summer?

Earlier in the year, Peter Doherty, Australian veterinary surgeon, Nobel Prize-winning researcher in the field of medicine and member of BirdLife Australia recently published *Sentinel Chickens*, a book about the ways in which studying and observing birds can provide an important insight into the future health of our planet.

Peter took a few moments from his busy schedule to talk about the important role he sees for birding organisations such as BirdLife Australia.

Peter, what are sentinel chickens and how are they symbolic of the broader points you're making in this book?

It refers to the chicken flocks or little groups of chickens that epidemiologists keep scattered about the country. The idea is that the chickens are bitten by mosquitoes which carry viruses that can also infect us.

The infected birds then produce antibodies to the virus. The scientists come along regularly and just take a little bit of blood to check whether the bird has been exposed. This way they know where the virus is spreading.

In Australia we don't have many human beings in a lot of places. Sentinels are used to follow Murray Encephalitis virus, for example, and in the United States it is used to track the West Nile virus, which is currently causing human disease at the moment, and has killed enormous numbers of birds across North America, corvids particularly.

On Topic

After an outbreak of avian paramyxovirus was discovered in Shepparton in September last year, government restrictions on the transport of pigeons have now been lifted after a vaccine against the bird-killing virus proved effective.

(ABC Online)

So "watching" these sentinel birds can be very beneficial. Have you been interested in birding and birds all your life?

I've got more interested in birds as I've grown older – as many people do! – but I'm not really a birder. I'm sort of here under false pretences. I got interested in birds as a scientist, through my interest in climate change and environmental degradation. I'm interested in how birds are looking at the environment for us.

What do you see is the role of Birding organisations like BirdLife Australia?

As I understand it, you kind of act as the interface between the scientists, the people who design the data analysis and how it should be acquired and kept, and the people who actually do the observation. You work with the scientists on the one hand and with the community on the other.

It started me thinking a lot about citizen science; scientists, particularly those interested in the environmental area, should be working a lot more with the community.

Birding of course has a long history – going back to the nineteenth-century amateur scientists who made such big contributions in areas such as geology and biology, it's almost a continuation of that tradition, really.

And it's important, because we really need numbers, need evidence, need data. If you're going to put things to government that's what you need.

Your book is full of interesting historical anecdotes, scientific breakthroughs where the study of birds has been crucial. Were birds important in the background to your own work?

Yes, birds – or avian systems in some way or another – have actually been instrumental in a lot of advances. I did work with chick embryos, so I knew that their use early on to grow viruses was a major feature of the research landscape right up until the 1960s. It enabled science to get ahead more than it might have done otherwise.

The studies of avian tumour virus that I talk about in the book and the study of genetics in birds has told us a lot about the genetics of susceptibility in all species, really.

Comparative medicine is a big theme in research that is really undervalued at the moment. The diseases of birds can often provide us with insights into our own diseases.

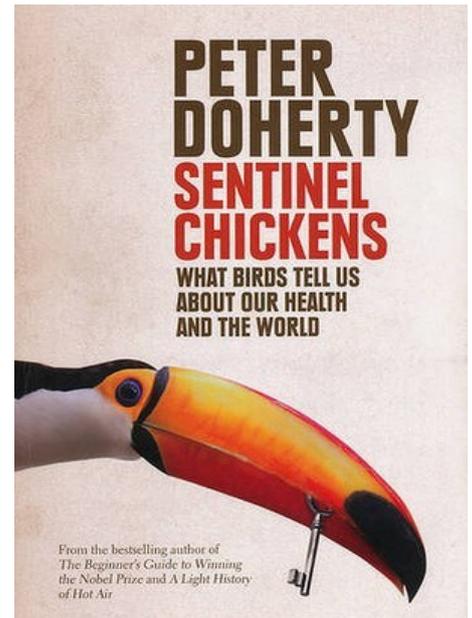
What about the future for collaboration between birders and scientists?

Now that we've got social media, and iPhones, which have digital cameras, a GPS locator and something to tell the time, I think we could organise databases where if people see things that are happening, whether it's with birds or in the environment generally, they can get it back to a central resource, and people can watch what is happening almost in real time as it were.

The other thing is that with social media we can mobilise people very quickly, so we've got some very powerful weapons at our disposal to influence politicians, the people we've got to influence, that are just being underutilised.

It's probably the furthest thing from the mind of a lot of passionate birdwatchers, but it's just that by providing the data you enable a case to be made.

Sentinel Chickens is available from all good bookstores now.



Balwyn Monthly Meetings

BirdLife Melbourne's Balwyn meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) in the **Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn**, not far from the library (**Melway 46 E8**).

The meeting begins at 8:00pm and features a guest speaker and a Member's Topic segment. Entry is \$4. Out-of-town members and visitors are always welcome.

The Member's Topic segment is a 5-15 minute slot before the guest speaker for BirdLife Melbourne members to share a topic of their choice with the meeting.

John Young is the meeting co-ordinator, so if you think you have an idea that would make for a suitable Member's Topic segment, or require any other information about the Balwyn meetings, please get in touch on email melbourne@birdlife.org.au or by phone 03 9844 2842.

Date	Guest Speaker	Topic
No meeting in December		
24 Jan	TBA	TBA
26 Feb	TBA	Note that the first BirdLife Melbourne AGM will be held at 8:00 pm, before the Guest Speaker.
26 Mar	TBA	TBA

Carlton Monthly Meeting

Monthly meetings at the BirdLife Australia National Office are held on the second Thursday of the month. Meetings begin at 8:00pm at the **BirdLife Australia National Office, 60 Leicester St, Carlton**.

Plenty of free street parking nearby. Tea and coffee served after the meeting with time to chat with other attendees.

Contact Fiona fionamariemarkin@gmail.com for details.

Date	Guest Speaker	Topic
13 Dec	Dr Michelle Hall	"Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens: social system, nesting, dispersal and territorial defence ". Michelle is from the Department of Zoology, The University of Melbourne.
No meeting in January		
14 Feb	TBA	TBA
14 Mar	TBA	TBA

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BIRDLIFE MELBOURNE COMMITTEE

President: Bill Ramsay (Tel: 9803 1493)

Vice President: Stuart Dashper

Secretary: Alan Crawford

Treasurer: Sonja Ross

Members: Tim Bawden, Fiona Parkin, Andrew Fuhrmann, Chris Lester & John Young

All the above can be contacted by email at melbourne@birdlife.org.au

Acknowledgement of Alcoa of Australia's Contribution to BirdLife Melbourne

Rob Ganly of Geelong has carried out bird surveys at Alcoa's Point Henry site for a number of years. In appreciation of Rob's efforts in carrying out surveys in the winter and spring, 2010, and summer and autumn, 2011, Alcoa of Australia has made a most generous contribution of \$1000

to BirdLife Melbourne.

BirdLife Melbourne Committee thanks Alcoa of Australia for making this valuable contribution which is greatly appreciated and Rob for his dedicated fieldwork.

Education Report

A new season of BirdLife Melbourne communities activities

With the prospect of improved weather, spring is when people start getting out and about and organisations start having their regular activities. Our members have been busy with a range of activities to promote our organisation and our birds.

During July, August and September **Duncan Turnbull** has been liaising with Kingswood College in Box Hill. The Whitehorse Council have plans for turning the Gardiners Creek into an environmental area with the co-operation of several local businesses, organisations and Kingswood College. The College needed advice on the construction of and suitable locations for duck nesting boxes. Since taking the students on an outing to the area, details have now been finalised. Duncan has also produced a photographic guide of the birds of the area and is assisting with signage for the area.

On 15 August an education meeting was held at Blackburn Lake where the education officers from several BirdLife Australia branches met with **Annette Cook** to share ideas and information.

On 8 and 9 September we had our Information tables and displays at the Eltham Plant Expo. Over 700 people came through that weekend and we were kept busy with questions. Thanks to **Susan Pepper, Elizabeth Ainsworth, Bill and Shirley Ramsay, Duncan Turnbull, Daphne Hards** and **Pat Bingham** for helping me.

Barbara Longmuir conducted a bird-walk at Blackburn Lake on Saturday 29 September.

She has also worked on a Volunteer Update at the Melbourne Zoo for the Guides to get to know the free-flying birds and also the Australian birds in the zoo collection. Many of the Guides didn't know much about the Great Flight Aviary birds so Barb has provided lists for them to follow. Barb is also a Zoo Guide.

On 6 October **Hazel and Alan Veevers** (our Beginners Outing leaders) ran a workshop at the Healesville Sanctuary titled 'An Introduction to Birdwatching'. The morning introduction was followed by a hands-on visit to the nearby Coranderrk Bushland in the afternoon so they could put their newly acquired knowledge into practice. Nearly 40 people thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Also on 6 October I made the trip to Kilmore where the Mitchell Wildflower Show was being staged for the second year. With warmer weather and no Grand Final to compete with the attendance figures were up on last year. Another worthwhile opportunity to promote ourselves.

My thanks to everyone who has assisted in these activities. The many Bird Week activities will be reported in the March magazine.

Janet Hand
Education Officer
9842 4177 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au

Distinguished Service

Awards presented for service to BOCA

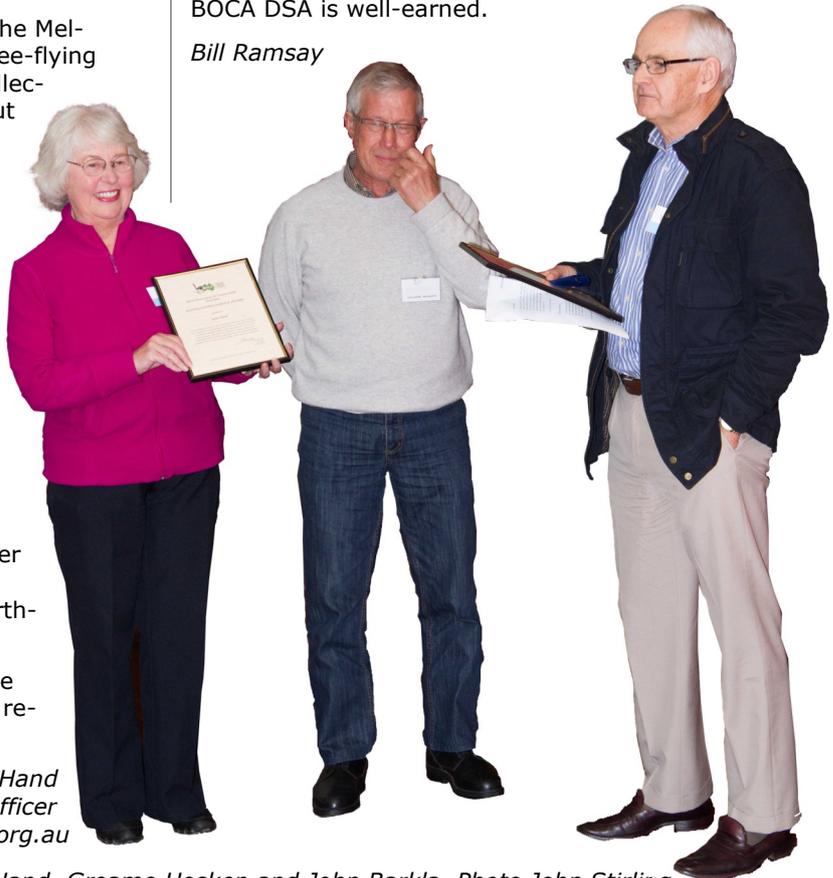
At the Balwyn Monthly Meeting on 28 August, **John Barkla**, the last BOCA President, presented two of the last five BOCA Distinguished Service Awards (DSAs) to BirdLife Melbourne Members **Janet Hand** and **Graeme Hosken**. Future DSAs will be known as BirdLife Australia Distinguished Service Awards.

John congratulated Janet and Graeme for their contributions over many years to BOCA and MELBOCA. Both are worthy recipients of these awards. The citations that accompanied the awards are:

Janet Hand: Janet joined BOCA in 1981, participated in the Melbourne Planning Committee for the establishment of MELBOCA in 2006 and is currently involved in merger discussions between MELBOCA and the BA Vic Group. For MELBOCA she has been Secretary since 2006 and Education Co-ordinator since 2007. In the latter role she has organised many promotional displays and activities, spoken to many outside organisations and assisted BOCA staff in school education programs. Her BOCA DSA acknowledges her administrative skills and hard work to promote BOCA and the pleasures of birdwatching over many years.

Graeme Hosken: Graeme has been an active participant and volunteer for BOCA for over 50 years. He was a Board Member (2003 – 2012) and President of MELBOCA (2006 – 2011). He has collated Challenge Count results since 1987, is a long-term participant in both the Melbourne Water and Western Port Surveys, and was a much-valued advisor and hands-on helper with the physical maintenance of the Nunawading National Office for many years. Graeme's BOCA DSA is well-earned.

Bill Ramsay



Left to right: Janet Hand, Graeme Hosken and John Barkla. Photo John Stirling

Dandenong Catchment Survey Summary

July to September 2012

BirdLife Melbourne Branch is surveying eight of ten wetland sites for Melbourne Water in the Dandenong Creek catchment area. The sites are located in the south-eastern suburbs of Hampton Park, Braeside, Endeavour Hills, Narre Warren and Rowville.

In the June report I indicated that surveys would restart at South Golf Links Road and Mordialloc Creek this period. My request for volunteers exceeded expectations and two teams have been formed. A standby list of volunteers is now available. My thanks for the strong response. In August, South Golf Links Road added a Wedge-tailed Eagle to their list, now at 113 bird species, and two additional frog species were heard, a Brown Tree Frog in August and a Spotted Marsh Frog in September. Mordialloc Creek was not far behind with sightings of a Spotted Pardalote in July and a Pallid Cuckoo in August boosting their site total to 111. Hearing an Eastern Banjo Frog in July took the frog tally to four.

Cuckoos returned in force with Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo at five sites, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo at one and a Pallid at two. Fan-tailed Cuckoos previously recorded at two sites were missing this period. At Waterford Wetlands, the smallest of the wetlands being surveyed, in August, an Eastern Rosella increased the site total to 62 but the highlight was recording 19 Latham's Snipe in September. Only Troups Creek with three in August and Mordialloc Creek with one in September, were the other sites to recorded Latham's Snipe this period.

September was a successful month for the following sites as Frog Hollow added a Grey Fantail and Kilberry Boulevard a Striated Pardalote taking their list total to 95 and 101 respectively. The two Scaly-breasted Lorikeet that normally reside at River Gum Creek were recorded each month, but in September there was a third, perhaps a young from last years' breeding? A new frog species was recorded at RG on a non-survey day, Bibron's Toadlet, taking the total frog species over the eight sites to seven.

Fourteen raptor species have been recorded since the survey commenced with nine listed this period, the Wedge-tailed



Wedge-tailed Eagle. Photo, David Jenkins

Eagle at South Golf Links Road in August being a second sighting for all sites.

Ten sites are being surveyed in the Dandenong Catchment with BirdLife Melbourne Branch surveying eight and Birdlife Bayside Branch surveying the remaining two, Heatherton

Pallid Cuckoo. Photo, Ian Wilson



Road South in Dandenong and Heatherton Road North in Dandenong North. To enable BirdLife Melbourne and Bayside members access to the reports of the ten wetlands, from next period, October to December, the ten sights will be combined. The records received from Bayside have added six new bird species, now 165 for the 10 sites, and one reptile, a Red-bellied Black Snake. Totals for the Bayside sites are: Heatherton Road South – 120 and Heatherton Road North – 102.

A full tally may be found at www.birdlife.org.au. Go to BirdLife Melbourne Branch and click on the link to Local Website.

Graeme Hosken

Birds in the News

Ticks...

This year's survey of the lyrebird population of Sherbrooke Forest, in the Dandenong Ranges was good news. According to the Sherbrooke Lyrebird Study Group, there is now a stable population of 160 in the forest. (*The Age*)

...And Dips

Meanwhile, it was another winter of gloomy news for Orange-bellied Parrots, with the number of sightings across South Australia and Victoria hitting an all time low in the OBP Mainland Recovery team's winter survey. Only one bird was spotted across South Australia and Victoria, down from last year's twenty.

On the other hand, conditions were good, with plenty of seed, so it is possible that the birds had a larger area to choose from, making them difficult to track down.

It is estimated there are only about 50 OBPs remaining in the wild. (*ABC Online*)

BirdLife Melbourne Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 26 February 2013

The first BirdLife Melbourne Annual General Meeting will be held at the Evergreen Senior Citizens Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn, on Tuesday 26 February 2013, commencing at 8:00pm, prior to the Balwyn Monthly Meeting.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. President's Report for year ending 31 December 2012
3. Treasurer's Report for year ending 31 December 2012
4. Election of Committee Members
5. Other Business

Nominations for Committee Members

Nominations are called for five Committee Members for a two year term commencing 1 March 2013. The meeting program for 2013 and 2014 is provisionally the first Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December, with meetings held at BirdLife Australia's National Office, 60 Leicester St, Carlton, commencing at 7:30 pm.

Current Committee Members Chris Lester and John Young are retiring and do not seek re-election.

Current Committee Members Stuart Dashper and Sonja Ross are retiring and seek re-election.

Current Committee Members Tim Bawden, Alan Crawford, Andrew Fuhrmann, Fiona Parkin and Bill Ramsay will remain on the BirdLife Melbourne Committee as their term expires on 28 February 2014.

A Nomination Form will be available after 16 January 2013. It may be downloaded from the BirdLife Melbourne Website <http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-melbourne/latest-news-mel> or a hard copy may be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Alan Crawford.

BirdLife Melbourne Members wishing to nominate should complete the Nomination Form and return or mail it to Alan Crawford, BirdLife Melbourne Secretary, c/- BirdLife Australia, Suite 2 - 05, 60 Leicester St, Carlton, Vic 3053, to be received by 5:00 pm, 28 January 2013. A scanned copy of a signed Nomination Form emailed to melbourne@birdlife.org.au by 5:00 pm, 28 January 2013 will also be accepted.

The Secretary will post a list of nominations received on the BirdLife Melbourne Website <http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-melbourne/latest-news-mel> by 4 February 2013.

If the number of nominations exceeds five an election may be held at the AGM on 26 February 2013.

The Secretary will advise members whether an election for Committee Members will be held at the AGM on the BirdLife Melbourne Website <http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-melbourne/latest-news-mel> by 4 February 2013.

Copies of the President's and Treasurer's Reports for year ending 31 December 2012 will be put on the BirdLife Melbourne Website <http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-melbourne/latest-news-mel> by 4 February 2013. Hard copies may be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Alan Crawford.

Instrument of Proxy

An Instrument of Proxy will be available after 16 January 2013. It may be downloaded from the BirdLife Melbourne Website <http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-melbourne/latest-news-mel> or a hard copy may be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Alan Crawford.

If an election of Committee Members is not required there will be no need for proxy votes.

If an election for Committee Members is required, BirdLife Melbourne Members wishing to submit a proxy vote should complete the Instrument of Proxy and return or mail it to Alan Crawford, BirdLife Melbourne Secretary, c/- BirdLife Australia, Suite 2 - 05, 60 Leicester St, Carlton, Vic 3053, to be received by 5:00 pm, 21 February 2013. A scanned copy of a signed Instrument of Proxy emailed to melbourne@birdlife.org.au by 5:00 pm, 21 February 2013 will also be accepted.

Alan Crawford
Secretary, BirdLife Melbourne.
Tel: 03 9495 1616

Balwyn Meeting Reports

24 July 2012

On grebes and green tape

Alan Crawford welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced **Michael Seyfort** who gave an entertaining member's presentation on grebes, a freshwater species that we all know, but perhaps take for granted.

After information about the habits of the grebe, Michael entertained the audience with tales and photos of grebes (and an upright musk duck) doing very ungrebe like things:

- Hiding underwater
- Chasing each other
- Defending their territory
- Walking!
- And getting lost at the airport (something we can all identify with).



Hoary-headed Grebe. Photo, Jill Wilson

The main speaker of the evening was BirdLife's Conservation Manager, **Jenny Lau**, who took us on "a rambling walk through the conservation work of BirdLife Australia."

After giving an overview of the staff in the conservation department and their responsibilities, Jenny focussed on the political context and aspects of their work; outlining the status of Australia's birds and the processes that are threatening them such as land clearing, fragmentation of habitat, altered fire regimes, over-extraction of water, invasive species, grazing by herbivores, and at sea, commercial fishing practices. Climate change will exacerbate existing threats and introduce new ones.

A major political challenge for the conservation team is the increasing pressure to wind back or dilute the environmental laws that provide protection for our birds and their habitat – disparagingly called 'green tape' by the Business Council of Australia and some governments. Jenny pointed out the *Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* rarely stops projects from going ahead, so it is not an impediment to economic development, but the Act is used to ensure that appropriate environmental safeguards are in place to minimise impacts and risks to birdlife.

She encouraged members to participate in the upcoming campaign to protect our environmental laws (www.placesyoulove.org). As part of the campaign, people will be invited to identify places of personal and environmental significance and take a photograph of it with a green ribbon (tape) that can be uploaded to the website!



Short-eared Owl

Orkney Islands – Worth the Trip

John and Caitriona Young visited Orkney in May 2012, and besides interesting Neolithic standing stones, Viking architecture and WWII history, they saw many and varied European seabirds at the sea cliffs on Mainland. Other treasures were Twite, Short-eared Owl hunting by day, Hen Harrier and Great Northern Diver.

Jenny discussed BirdLife's Conservation Strategy (currently being drafted) that will provide the organisation with a more strategic, proactive approach to the protection of our birds. She outlined how all 5 departments of BA (conservation, research, fundraising, communication, finance) work together to achieve the organisation's strategic goals – *to improve conservation outcomes for Australia's birds*.

After Jenny's presentation there was concerned discussion from the audience, especially about the decision in NSW to allow recreational shooting in national parks.

To complete the meeting Bill Ramsay reported on the Committee's work. Graeme Hosken reported on the surveys and outings, and the value of having frog calls on your ipod.

Susan Pepper

28 August 2012

The Response of Three Nocturnal Species to Urbanisation

Sonja Ross greeted all and announced that part of the meeting would be dedicated to the presentation of BOCA Distinguished Service Awards (see page 4). Sonja then introduced the main speaker, **Marian Weaving**.

Marian's love of the bush led to a TAFE diploma, a science degree, and an Honours project at Deakin University, which formed the basis of this talk. As Australia's population becomes more and more urbanised, we make changes to the environment at landscape and site level, producing a gradient of habitats. Some species adapt well to urban landscapes e.g. Noisy Miners, others do not. Worldwide, birds are often used in urban ecology studies, and Marian chose nocturnal birds. Her aims were to determine the distribution of nocturnal birds in response to urbanisation and the factors that influence this.

Landscape scale observations took place at Kinglake NP, Bunyip SP and Yarra Ranges NP. Nine 10x10km plots were selected on the basis of tree cover: three bore less than 5%

tree cover, mimicking suburbia, three had 30-40% tree cover, mimicking the urban environment, and 3 had greater than 90% tree cover, being true forest. Sampling sites were also chosen for site characteristics, viz. tree cover, remnant size and ecological/vegetation type. The target species chosen were Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth and Australian Owlet-nightjar. Fifty-four sites were visited five times each, and Marian used call playback and spotlighting to count birds present, being careful to alter the order of calls. Each site was revisited in daylight to record both landscape and site characteristics. These included road density, presence of water courses and vegetation.

The large, landscape scale testing showed that Tawny Frogmouths were in highest density in suburbia, and virtually absent in forested areas, whereas Southern Boobook preferred the forest environment, which is consistent with requiring nesting hollows. The Australian Owlet-nightjars were most common halfway between, in the urban fringe.

The site studies showed that Frogmouths preferred areas with sealed roads and water courses, the Boobooks inhabited dense forest and the Owlet-nightjars selected rivers and unsealed roads i.e. urban fringe.

The Tawny Frogmouth can be designated an urban exploiter, whereas Southern Boobook and Australian Owlet-nightjar are suburban -sensitive. All three species were in good numbers in the urban fringe however, and Marian urges the need to maintain our bush remnants and the Green Wedge.

To carry these findings forward, Marian has started a PhD project, asking why Tawny Frogmouths occur in high numbers in the suburbs, and what aspects of ecology and behaviour support this occupation. She is comparing the differences between urban fringe- and suburban-dwelling Tawny Frogmouths, focusing on home range and habitat use, reproductive behaviour, roosting behaviour and genetic difference.

Daphne Hards

25 September 2012

Biodiversity on the Fringe

Scheduled speaker, **Sarah Bekessy**, was unable to attend, but her colleague, **Dr Chris Ives** was fortunately available to take her place. Chris has a background in urban street management and completed a PhD at Macquarie University. Now a research fellow at RMIT, he participates in an interdisciplinary approach to the promotion of diversity and open space in urban environments. He titled his talk, "Biodiversity on the Fringe".

Chris said that in 2008 the population in cities outstripped the population in urban areas. Indeed, 89% Australians live in cities, and most of those on the coast. Currently Melbourne is growing the fastest. The urban environment is home to many threatened species, e.g. Golden Sun Moth, Growling Grass Frog. If we strive to maintain biodiversity, the benefits from green spaces are recreation, clean air, visual amenity and sheer enjoyment.

Chris painted a grim picture of the amount of woodland cleared since European settlement. He highlighted the threatened volcanic plains grasslands west of Melbourne, where significant remnants are isolated on private land. Roads and housing estates sprawl across the landscape, and Chris questions whether this creep is necessary or affordable.

The impact of urbanisation begins with land clearing – the removal of trees, shrubs, soil disturbance, weed invasion, etc. Urbanisation results in "biotic homogenisation", that is, all cities are the same; and as an example Chris gave the presence of Rock Doves. Surveys have shown that there are more birds in suburbia, but fewer species; that the highest species richness occurs in urban fringe habitats; and that urban habitats have more omnivorous and cavity-dwelling species. Certain bird species can be designated urban exploiters, some tolerant, and others urban avoiders. The disappearance of species from urban areas can be associated with competition from those birds that are urban exploiters. This was demonstrated in Canberra with Common Myna. Another Canberra study highlighted the importance of large, old trees.

To enhance the biodiversity in cities it is important to look at urban areas at all levels: from national parks to suburban parks and rivers, to the biodiversity in gardens. RMIT has done modelling of greater Melbourne that scaled the relative importance of diverse ecosystems. The stand out area was



A little ruff and tumble

For our September member's topic item, **Chris Doughty** showed a series of exceptional photographs of Ruffs in both non-breeding and their superb breeding plumage. He spoke briefly on how to identify Ruffs in non-breeding plumage from the similar Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and then he went on to describe in detail the courtship procedure of Ruffs at their breeding grounds, known as leks. He also explained that the bird derives its name from a garment of clothing that was worn around the neck, in Elizabethan England.

the Wyndham Grasslands, as the western plains are known. Photos showed this area supporting an abundance of native grasses and herbs in flower. Such reports are used to influence urban planners. Chris suggests that we have to think differently about our relationship with biodiversity. We should rekindle our connection with the land, for surely the loss of diversity has proceeded as society has lost its connection with the environment. In the urban environment this might take the form of revegetating road verges and green space, and at backyard level by having rooftop gardens.

Graeme Hosken thanked Chris for talking on the contentious issue of urban planning.

Daphne Hards

Beginners Outings

Braeside Park

28 July 2012, species count 53

A cold day wasn't enough to deter the 22 members who set off from the visitor centre on what was to be a most enjoyable walk. Taking the main track south, three Tawny Frogmouths and a pair of Red-rumped Parrots provided an exciting start. Near the Ranger Station another pair of tawnys were so well camouflaged that it took some time to get everyone to see them, despite being only four metres away. Many Cattle Egrets were in a tree across a paddock, too far away for close inspection. Common ducks, Australasian Grebe, Eurasian Coot and Dusky Moorhen, were seen from the bird hide. Further down the track a clearer view revealed two pairs of Blue-billed Duck and a pair of Australasian Darter. Several Black-shouldered Kite and a Nankeen Kestrel hovered above us at various places on the way back, giving fine views to all. After lunch we moved to the southern car park and explored the remaining ponds, where few extra species were seen due, perhaps, to the high water levels.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

25 August 2012, species count 57

On a cool, fine day, 23 members met at Stringybark car park for a walk through the bushland and wetland sections of the gardens. Superb Fairy-wrens were plentiful as we headed towards the eastern fence, seeing a Brown Goshawk and several honeyeater species on the way. Brilliantly coloured breasts of male Flame Robins were seen in the paddock, raising gasps of delight from some beginners as they focussed binoculars onto them. The wetlands provided 4 duck species as well as Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes, Eurasian Coots, Dusky Moorhens and Purple Swamphens. Rounding the last pond, a Wedge-tailed Eagle flew low overhead, chased by several Magpies. On the way back, a male Mistletoebird on a dead tree provided good views – a first for some. After lunch, we drove to the Australian Garden car park where resident Bell Miners sounded their presence. A little-used side track provided a hot spot where the experienced members spent time explaining, to beginners, features of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Golden Whistler, Eastern Yellow Robin and Eastern Spinebill, that readily appeared. No further species were seen from the lookout, so we retreated to the visitor centre for the bird count.

Newport Lakes and Jawbone Reserve

22 September 2012, species count 72

Thirty-four members gathered at Newport Lakes where Red Wattlebirds and New Holland Honeyeaters were dominant in the flowering eucalypts. In the amphitheatre, the beginners were treated to a silent but easily visible Fan-tailed Cuckoo. After identifying the water birds on the lakes we gingerly crossed the stepping stones, avoiding a male swan protecting his nearby mate and cygnets. A Great Cormorant and several Little Black Cormorants were perched on dead tree-stumps, whilst an Australasian Darter flew overhead. It took a sharp eye to spot the pair of roosting Nankeen Night-Herons across the lake, but everyone was soon able to see this highlight of the walk. A total of 41 species were seen.

Driving to the bay for lunch, beginners were confronted by an overwhelming collection of water birds. Highlights were Red-necked Avocets, Royal Spoonbills, Common Green-shanks, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, and Black-fronted Dotterel. On shore were White-fronted Chats, Golden-headed Cisticolas and Singing Honeyeaters. Afterwards, we walked the track through Jawbone Reserve, seeing Blue-billed and Musk Ducks amongst the more common species. The calls of Little Grassbirds and Australian Reed Warblers were heard before we called it a day beneath a hovering Black-shouldered Kite.

Pound Bend, Warrandyte

26 October 2012, species count: 50

In overcast conditions, thirty-six attendees began the walk beside the Yarra River, trying hard to get good looks at the cockatoo, corella and parrot species chasing around above. An obliging male Australasian Darter on a mid-stream log allowed everyone excellent views, as did a Grey Fantail tending a nest. Further on, a well-camouflaged Tawny Frogmouth was spotted on a nest. A large mob of kangaroos stared at us near the ranger's office as we turned onto the return track. Fan-tailed, Horsfield's and Shining Bronze Cuckoos were heard, but went unseen by most people. As we approached the car park, a male Satin Flycatcher was spotted. The Darter was still on the log, some two hours later. After lunch two short walks were taken, firstly to the tunnel area and secondly to the ridge. The closing bird call produced a satisfying total of 50 species for the day.

Outing Leaders, Hazel and Alan Veevers

Birding and Boneseeding

The You Yangs

1 September 2012, species count: 56

As usual, the 19 participants started the day near the park office. We all had excellent views of Purple-crowned Lorikeets preening in a tree near the dam. Usually we see them speeding overhead making their husky zitting call then disappearing into thick foliage where they are nearly impossible to find. The usual pair of Tawny Frogmouths was quickly located. Birds were numerous.

At the Gravel Pit Tor there were four thornbill species as well as two robins and various other birds. The day was becoming finer. I missed the Darter at lunch time, but others saw

it flying over. Brown Goshawk and Nankeen Kestrel were also recorded here.

Everywhere the boneseed was looking its best, in full flower. I wonder how many plants we pulled out at our site and elsewhere; I'll just call it lots. We found Red-capped Robins again in the Eastern Flat area and I think nearly everyone saw them this time. More than one Jacky Winter was there. I was disappointed not to see Diamond Firetails. They have been harder to find lately. As we walked back through our boneseeding site late in the day, a row of White-winged Choughs perched in a tree above us, possibly preparing for the night. Good to see them there.

Thanks again to everyone for a really lovely day and for all that hard work.

Merrilyn Serong

Weekdays Outing

Yan Yean Reservoir Park

15 August 2012, species count: 77

John Prytherch led a group of 21 on a cold, fine, windy day. Parrots were well represented – the meeting area contained Musk Lorikeet, Eastern and Crimson Rosella, and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Galah – and by walk's end we'd included Gang-gang Cockatoo and both Little and Long-billed Corella. Bush birds were present in the more sheltered places. Weebill and Striated, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Buff-rumped and Brown Thornbill were sighted close to Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. Superb Fairy-wren did not disappoint and Flame and Scarlet Robin were highlights. The more sheltered waters carried Hardhead (including a small flock), Chestnut Teal and Australian Wood and Pacific Black Duck while Australasian, Hoary-headed and Great Crested Grebe dived in slightly more open waters. Raptors included Whistling Kite and Nankeen Kestrel plus a distant White-bellied Sea-Eagle. Welcome Swallow was common over land while Tree and Fairy Martin favoured the shallow water. At least three Nankeen Night-Heron roosted in a large tree.

Hallam Valley Road Wetlands, Hampton Park,

3 September 2012, species count 55

A beautiful, calm, sunny day but many must have decided against potentially "mudding it" because we only numbered 9 as Rob Grosvenor led us out. Fairy Martin and Welcome Swallow were numerous by the car park. Superb Fairy-wren called and European Goldfinch and White-plumed Honeyeater flew past. Raptors appeared – Nankeen Kestrel, Swamp Harrier, Brown Goshawk and Brown Falcon then finally a pair of Black-shouldered Kite. Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo called and then was sighted. Chestnut and Grey Teal and Pacific Black Duck used the lakes and whitewash indicated Australasian Darter possibly nesting on one islet. Eurasian Coot, Dusky Moorhen and Purple Swamphen were common but Eastern Great Egret and White-faced Heron were few. Flood debris recorded the earlier +4 m water. Many New Holland, a few White-plumed Honeyeater, some Red and Little Wattlebird and Noisy Miner were recorded but the highlight for many was a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater. Others voted for the foraging female Flame Robin.

Red Hill

18 September 2012, species count 44

A small group of 14 listened as our leader, Joan Peters, outlined the challenges of rain, wind and fallen timber we faced in the ahead. We descended into the accessible section of National Trust's Endeavour Fern Gully and were rewarded with 36 species. Noisy Miner, Straw-necked Ibis and Welcome Swallow were plentiful and Crimson Rosella, Grey Fantail and Brown Thornbill less so. Highlights were Olive-backed Oriole, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Eastern Yellow Robin.

After an early lunch we drove in convoy to the Red Hill Bushland Reserve and walked along the former railway line. Brown Goshawk was the day's only raptor and was present in both areas. Along the railway line Fan-tailed and Pallid

Cuckoo were added, as was Common Bronzewing. The highlight was a Bassian Thrush at the edge of a paddock. This area listed 37 species and made the day's total 44. Few of our company had been here before and we were very grateful to Joan. Several people are planning repeat walks in the area.

Birdsland Reserve, Belgrave Heights

3 October 2012, Species count 49

A clear, calm and warm morning promised good birding and 19 birds were not disappointed. Crimson and Eastern Rosella joined Noisy Miner and Laughing Kookaburra at the car park. On the lakes were



Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo.
Photo, Sonja Ross

Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Purple Swamphen and Pacific Black Duck, one with eight small ducklings, while a highlight for many was catching glimpses of the numerous calling Australian Reed-Warbler. Tall dead trees served as perches for Dusky Woodswallow and Red Wattlebird. Fantailed Cuckoo and Horsfield's and Shining Bronze-Cuckoo called unseen and the numerous audible Superb Fairy-wren were occasionally sighted. Numbers of Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron and Straw-necked Ibis foraged in the adjacent paddocks. Back at lunch Kookaburra and Grey Butcherbird were interested in the potential for snacks. After lunch we walked beside the road, adding White-throated Treecreeper, Golden Whistler, White-naped Honeyeater and Eastern Yellow Robin. The final count was 49 species (not including the mongrel "dinner duck") and we thanked our leader Ken Baker for his careful planning which led to a very pleasant day.

Diane Tweeddale

Coordinator, BirdLife Melbourne Weekdays Outings

RAINBOW LORIKEET

The next-door neighbour's huge flowering Ironbark is a favoured dining spot for Rainbow Lorikeets, they gather up in the branches and make a terrific racket all day long. The other day a couple of flocks of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos were flying by in their lovely, slow-motion way, when they passed by the Ironbark there was a mass exodus of screeching Lorikeets, wonder why they would be so spooked by a non-predatory species?

I've always thought of them as the soccer hooligans of the bird world, but maybe they're not so tough after all.

Sue Dajko

Activities Calendar December to March

This calendar includes field activities for BirdLife Melbourne. For details on the **meetings held at Balwyn and Carlton**, please refer to **page 3**. Should you have any ideas for an

activity, or would like to volunteer as a leader, please contact the BirdLife Melbourne Activities Co-ordinator, Tim Bawden at tbawden@live.com.au or on 0405 184 100

Saturday, 1 Dec 12	Boneseeding & Birding	You Yangs Regional Park. Meet at 10:00am in the car park just past the Park Office, approx 300 m from the Branch Rd entrance to the park. Melway Key Map Page 11 C12. Until late afternoon the day is spent birding and removing the invasive weed Boneseed. Bring all you need for a normal days birding plus gardening gloves and a trowel for Boneseed removal. Contact Merrilyn, 9889 4924 or merrilyn@wirejunkie.com
Sunday, 2 Dec 12	Yellingbo Birdwalk	Yellingbo Reserve. Melway 305 G11. Take Warburton Hwy to Woori Yallock, turn right to Yellingbo. At Yellingbo, turn right towards Seville, then left into Macclesfield Rd. After 2.5km turn right at large pine trees. Gate opens 10:00am, walk starts 10:30am. Toilets available. Bring lunch and gumboots. Contact Maryanne, 0402 283 080 or onlyme53@bigpond.com
Sunday, 2 Dec 12	ETP Survey	Eastern Treatment Plant, Bangholme. Meet at 9:00 am for a survey that will continue until the evening. The survey is carried out by 4WD. Numbers are restricted and booking is essential. Survey date may change at short notice due to operational constraints. Leader is Mike Carter. Contact Mike, 9787 7136 or pterodroma@bigpond.com
Monday, 3 Dec 12	Weekdays Outing	Maroondah Reservoir Park, 10:00am to 3:00pm. Leader Diane Tweeddale. Melway 270 J5. From Maroondah Hwy turn into McKenzie Avenue. Park near rotunda and toilets. Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday, 8 Dec 12	Weekend Outing	Bunyip State Park, 1:00 pm until late. Leader Tim Bawden. Birding and spotlighting. Meet Mortimer Picnic Area. Contact Tim Bawden, 0405 184 100 or tbawden@live.com.au
Sunday, 23 Dec 12	ETP Survey	Eastern Treatment Plant, Bangholme. Meet at 9:00 am for a survey that will continue until the evening. The survey is carried out by 4WD. Numbers are restricted and booking is essential. Survey date may change at short notice due to operational constraints. Leader is Mike Carter. Contact Mike, 9787 7136 or pterodroma@bigpond.com
Saturday, 19 Jan 13	Beginners' Outing	Note: This outing is on third Saturday. Point Cook Coastal Park. Meet at 10:00am in the Beach Picnic Area, first car park on the left. Melway 199 E3. Contact Hazel, 9876 3712 or ormelbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday, 19 Jan 13	Photo Group	Mill Park Lakes – Photography Group Outing. Contact Sonja Road sonja.ross@yahoo.com.au
Sunday, 27 Jan 13	ETP Survey	Eastern Treatment Plant, Bangholme. Meet at 9:00 am for a survey that will continue until the evening. The survey is carried out by 4WD. Numbers are restricted and booking is essential. Survey date may change at short notice due to operational constraints. Leader is Mike Carter. Contact Mike, 9787 7136 or pterodroma@bigpond.com
Sunday, 3 Feb 13	Yellingbo Birdwalk	Yellingbo Reserve. Melway 305 G11. Take Warburton Hwy to Woori Yallock, turn right to Yellingbo. At Yellingbo, turn right towards Seville, then left into Macclesfield Rd. After 2.5km turn right at large pine trees. Gate opens 10:00am, walk starts 10:30am. Toilets available. Bring lunch and gumboots. Contact Maryanne, 0402 283 080 or onlyme53@bigpond.com
Monday, 11 Feb 13	Weekdays Outing	Bellarine Peninsula. 10:00am to 3:00pm. Leader Peter Gibbons. Melway 452 A11. From Latrobe Tce/Settlement Rd take Barwon Heads Rd to Barwon Valley Golf Club. Meet in car park. Toilet available. Convoy driving to different locations. Scopes useful. Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday, 16 Feb 13	Weekend Outing	Glen Nayook and Tarago State Forest Birding and spotlighting. 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Limited places - please contact Tim Bawden for further information or to book a spot. Contact tbawden@live.com.au 0407 158 638.
Saturday, 16 Feb 13	Photo Group	Coolart – Photography Group Outing. Contact Sonja Ross Sonja.Ross@yahoo.com.au .
Saturday, 23 Feb 13	Beginners' Outing	Mt Macedon Regional Park. Meet at 10:00am in Centennial Park. From Calder Freeway take Mt Macedon Rd, C322. The park is on the right after approx 3 km. Melway Page X909 G10. Contact Hazel, 9876 3712 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Sunday, 24 Feb 13	ETP Survey	Eastern Treatment Plant, Bangholme. Meet at 9:00 am for a survey that will continue until the evening. The survey is carried out by 4WD. Numbers are restricted and booking is essential. Survey date may change at short notice due to operational constraints. Leader is Mike Carter. Contact Mike, 9787 7136 or pterodroma@bigpond.com
Saturday, 2 Mar 13	Boneseeding & Birding	You Yangs Regional Park. Meet at 10:00am in the car park just past the Park Office, approx 300 m from the Branch Rd entrance to the park. Melway Key Map Page 11 C12. Until late afternoon the day is spent birding and removing the invasive weed Boneseed. Bring all you need for a normal days birding plus gardening gloves and a trowel for Boneseed removal. Contact Merrilyn, 9889 4924 or merrilyn@wirejunkie.com
Sunday, 3 Mar 13	Yellingbo Birdwalk	Yellingbo Reserve. Melway 305 G11. Take Warburton Hwy to Woori Yallock, turn right to Yellingbo. At Yellingbo, turn right towards Seville, then left into Macclesfield Rd. After 2.5km turn right at large pine trees. Gate opens 10:00am, walk starts 10:30am. Toilets available. Bring lunch and gumboots. Contact Maryanne, 0402 283 080 or onlyme53@bigpond.com
Wednesday, 6 Mar 2013	Weekdays Outing	Reef Island. 10:00am to 3:00pm. Leader Bill Ramsay. Melway Page 18 P23. From Bass Hwy turn right into Soldiers Rd (~9km past Grantville). Drive straight on into Bluff Rd to car park at end. Toilets at Tooradin near bridge and Grantville near jetty. Scopes useful. Some rock hopping probable. Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Tuesday, 19 Mar 13	Weekdays Outing	Glenfern Valley Bushlands, Upper Ferntree Gully. 10:00am to 3:00pm. Leader Geoff Russell. Melway 74 F10. Enter from Glenfern Rd. No toilets. Toilets at Upwey South Recreation Reserve (Melway 74 K12) and Wally Tew Reserve, Ferntree Gully (Mel 74 B5). Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Thursday, 21 Mar 13	Photo Group	Using Lightroom – Photography Group Workshop. Contact Sonja Ross Sonja.Ross@yahoo.com.au
Saturday, 23 Mar 13	Beginners' Outing	Westerfolds Park, Templestowe. Meet at 10:00am in the lower car park by the canoe launching place. Melway Map 33 F1. Contact Hazel, 9876 3712 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Sunday, 24 Mar 13	ETP Survey	Eastern Treatment Plant, Bangholme. Meet at 9:00 am for a survey that will continue until the evening. The survey is carried out by 4WD. Numbers are restricted and booking is essential. Survey date may change at short notice due to operational constraints. Leader is Mike Carter. Contact Mike, 9787 7136 or pterodroma@bigpond.com

New Members

We give a very big welcome to the following new members who joined between June and August 2012 and look forward to seeing you at the BirdLife Melbourne activities and meetings.

Oliver	Anderson	KEW
Andrew	Ballinger	LABURNUM
Robin	Blanchonette	SUNSHINE NORTH
Kirsty	Bremner	BOX HILL SOUTH
Mac	Brunckhorst	KENSINGTON
Jason	Camilleri	KEON PARK
Steve	Cantwell	YARRAVILLE
Cornish College		BANGHOLME
Magner	Damian	MONTMORENCY
Margaret	Deighton	HAWTHORN
Alana	Denham	STRATHMORE
Michael	Francis	NORTHCOTE
Ronald	Garrett	WARRANDYTE
Suron	Gunn	POINT COOK
Penelope	Hanrahan	RICHMOND
David	Harper	HEATHMONT
Matilda	Herman	TEMPLESTOWE LOWER
Joy	Hick	ELTHAM
John	Hollingshead	CAMBERWELL
Tom	Humphreys	BANGHOLME
Sharon	Irvine	MACLEOD
Lynn	Isaacs	SOUTH MELBOURNE
Alice	Jane	WANTIRNA SOUTH
Susan	Janson	MT WAVERLEY
J	Johnson	CRANBOURNE
Geraldine	Kelly	KURUNJANG
Chetan	Kumar	NARRE WARREN SOUTH
Amelia	Kuveke	BOX HILL SOUTH
Brian	Lane	GLEN WAVERLEY
Malintha	Mallawa	BERWICK
Paul	McMenamin	BRIGHTON
Helenna	Mimailou	MACLEOD
Elva	Muir	CROYDON
Ross	Omeara	CROYDON
Sue	Pentland	ELWOOD
Helen	Pontarelli	GREENSBOROUGH
David	Rae	CAMBERWELL
Rhonda	Seymour	NORTH WARRANDYTE
Richard	Sidoti	IVANHOE EAST
Ian	Smales	PORT MELBOURNE
Barrie	Taylor	ELTHAM
Tony	Van Den Blink	MENTONE
Valerie & Peter	Wachtel	BOX HILL NORTH
Malintha	Mallawa	BERWICK

Editorial

The *BirdLife Melbourne Newsletter* is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by BirdLife Melbourne, the Melbourne branch of BirdLife Australia.

Editor: Andrew Fuhrmann.

You can reach the editor at **BirdLife Melbourne, c/- BirdLife Australia National Office, 60 Leicester St, Carlton, Vic 3053**, or email birdlife.melbourne.newsletter@gmail.com

Contributions are welcome. The copy dead line for contributions is the first Monday of July (spring issue), October (summer issue), January (autumn issue, April (winter issue).

Birdline Victoria

Reports July to September 2012 for Melbourne and Geelong

The Swift Parrots that had disappeared in June returned in July and have been turning up right through this period with reports from Seaford to Ocean Grove and many places in between.

In early July an Oriental Pratincole was spotted at the Western Treatment Plant, Werribee. Since then there have been many reports and photographs of this elegant bird. Thanks to the many people who pointed it out to fellow bird watchers. And a reminder to photographers to avoid stressing birds when obtaining that perfect shot.

In mid-September a Brown Booby was reported by the Orange-bellied Parrot Mainland Recovery team in an area not accessible to the general public. A few days later an immature bird was seen flying past The Spit in the direction of Point Wilson, no more than 300m out from shore.

Also in mid-September, in flooded pasture north of Beach Road and west of Point Wilson Road was a group of up to 9 Glossy Ibis feeding voraciously.

The Broad-billed Sandpiper remains at Western Treatment Plant, Werribee. Other wader sightings of note at this location included Grey Plover and Wood Sandpiper.

There have been numerous reports of robins in and around Melbourne including Pink, Rose, Scarlet and Flame Robins. Red-capped Robins were reported from Serendip and the You Yangs Regional Park.

In late July, offshore from Sandringham, there were, at least, 1200 Fluttering Shearwaters resting on the waters in great rafts that looked like oil slicks from a distance. The next morning the rafts were much closer to shore and visible from Hampton Beach with a minimum of 1800 birds counted. Then in early September a large flock of Fluttering Shearwaters was seen sheltering in the Barwon River Estuary on a stormy day.

In late September, there was an amazing (and as yet unconfirmed) report of 60 Horsfield's Bushlark and 4 Brown Songlark at Elster Creek, Elwood. This was on a warm spring day with a strong northerly wind which might have assisted this flock. There is little known about the movement of Horsfield's Bushlark and even if they migrate at all. There is conjecture that they are merely more easily observed at some times of the year and hence appear to migrate. Another Brown Songlark has been reported from Bulleen Park so watch out for them too.

Margaret Alcorn

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