

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



September 2014 - Issue #219
Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.
PO Box 541, LEETON 2705 ISSN-1327-1172
Website: www.mfn.org.au
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

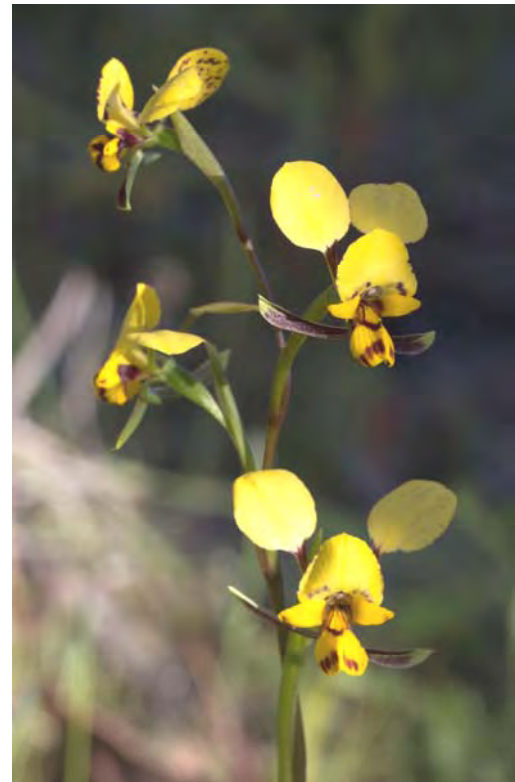
Objects of the Club

To facilitate and promote the knowledge of natural history, and to encourage the preservation and protection of the Australian natural environment, especially that of the Murrumbidgee River Valley



Female

Male



Spotted Pardalotes - Graham Russell, Leopard Orchid - Eric Whiting

IN THIS ISSUE

Office Bearers and Subscriptions.....	2
Bird of the Month – Shy Heathwren	2
Taleeban Outing (birds)	3
The Floral View of Taleeban	4
Stackpoole National Park	5
Third Curlew Summit	6
Some Lichens you can easily name	7
Save our Species Workshop	8
Talk by Martin Odino	8
Finding a Three-toed Skink	9
Diary of a Bird Photographer	10
Members' Sightings	11
Coming Events Calendar	12

CONTRIBUTIONS

**For the next issue by
Monday 29 September
To Rowena Whiting
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com
Phone: 6953 2612**

**Spring camp to Hunthawang
is this weekend
12-14 September**

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

President:	Max O'Sullivan	6953 4726	Editor:	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
Vice President:	Nella Smith	6959 1210	Committee:	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
Vice President:	Eric Whiting	6953 2612		Phillip Williams	6953 3524
Vice President:	Neil Palframan	6963 4855		Betty Bradney	6959 2901
Secretary:	Penny Williams	6953 3524	Web Co-ordinator:	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
Treasurer:	Phil Tenison	6953 4869			

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY, AT THE Yellow Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street at 7.30 PM

FIELD TRIPS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

Membership enquiries:

Leeton	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	Griffith	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
Narrandera	Nella Smith	6959 1210	Coleambally	John Wilkinson	6954 4129

Annual Subscriptions: Family \$45.00 Adult/Single \$35.00 Journal only/Concession \$25.00

Opinions expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

Bird of the Month

SHY HEATHWREN

Hylacola cauta.

The Latin name means 'cautious Hylacola', but when we had an excellent view of the bird at Taleeban Reserve on the 31/8/14, it must have been overcome by the call of Spring, for it perched on a branch and sang a delightful song repeatedly disregarding our presence.

A favoured habitat for this little bird is Mallee country with dense undergrowth where it spends most of its time foraging for insects and arthropods.



Photo by Graham Russell

This bird is sometimes mistaken for the Chestnut-tailed Heathwren, but the white shoulder patch and darker chest streaks differentiates from the latter who prefer a habitat with taller trees.

The inconspicuous dome shaped nest with spout-like side entrance is made of fine twigs, bark strips, grasses and plant fibre placed and built near the base of a tree or shrub. The bird lays 2-3 mauve coloured eggs with light freckling.

OTHER NAMES; Shy Hylacola, Mallee Heathwren,

Male; 145mm. Head mid-brown greyer on crown, white eyebrow.

Chest white with black streaks.

Wings brown with white patch on shoulder.

Tail brown, shading to black with white tip.

Female: similar but duller.

Sue Chittick-Dalton

Neil Palframan was the first to report seeing a Mistletoebird on 10 August in his garden.

Virgina O'Brien was the first for a Leopard Orchid on 24 August on Scenic Hill - see page 9 for photos.

Nella Smith has been recording the orchids around Narrandera - see page 11 for species.

Taleeban Outing 31 August 2014

Sunday turned out to be an exceptionally warm and clear day so the 16 attendees had a great start to the day. The reserve was unusually dry so the anticipation of finding lots of ground orchids soon faded as only a few were found compared with other trips. Likewise, the birds were difficult and hard to get onto despite lots calling in the distance. There were plenty of **Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters**. A few **Crested Bellbirds** were heard and some of us managed a distant view of one in a dead tree but none came close enough for a photo.



The pre-lunch morning walk to the southern boundary fence was completed without anyone straying too far off course and we made it back to the cars for lunch by 1pm. A few members left after and the rest set out in search of the **Shy Heathwren** that had been seen earlier by Nella. We didn't find anything at first but succeeded on the way back when a pair performed for both Phillip Williams and Graham Russell who got some good close shots.

At the old mine site, we found a pair of the mallee form of the **Spotted Pardalote** building a nest in a tunnel they had dug in the sandy soil beneath a tree. They totally ignored us and though tentative at first eventually continued carrying grass into the nest.

In all only 30 species were seen but it was good to see the rarer couple so close.

Max O'Sullivan

Above: Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters
Below - Shy Heathwren (left)
Female Spotted Pardalote (mallee form) (right)
Photos by Phillip Williams



Bird list 31 August 2014

Peaceful Dove
Mallee Ringneck
Black-eared Cuckoo (H)
Western Gerygone (H)
Weebill
Yellow-throated Miner
White-browed Babbler
Grey Shrike-Thrush
Australian Raven
Red-capped Robin

Common Bronzewing
Eastern Rosella
Welcome Swallow
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
Striated Pardalote
Brown-headed Honeyeater
Rufous Whistler
Crested Bellbird
White-winged Chough
Eastern Yellow Robin (H)

Galah
Mulga Parrot
Shy Heathwren
Spotted Pardalote (Mallee form)
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
Dusky Woodswallow
Apostlebird

The Floral View of Taleeban - 31 August 2014

The Taleeban Mining Reserve has been a regular venue in the club's excursion calendar, being one of the best bits of mallee within easy reach for a day trip. Initially the highlight was the Mallee Fowl but unfortunately there has not been a sighting there for several years now. Instead the attraction is the variety of flowering shrubs growing there.

There is always a discussion over what is the best time of year to visit the reserve. The answer probably is several times. Our visit this year caught a vivid display of wattles, mainly Needle Wattle *Acacia rigens*. Many of the shrubs of these wattles were only half to one metre high, and represented new recruits after the drought. We have seen a slow but steady recovery since that tragic event.

In places the Needle Wattle was backed up by taller Hakea Wattle *Acacia hakeoides* to give a preponderance of yellow in the bush. Grey Mulga *Acacia brachybotrya* and Streaked Wattle *Acacia lineata* were seen to be ready to take over as the dominant yellows.

Red flowers always stand out and we soon noticed Urn Heath *Melichrus urceolatus* heavy in deep pink buds. They will soon be white as the flowers open. Next to be seen and admired were pure red Rankins Springs Grevillea *Grevillea glabella*, and later, in the Broombush areas Scarlet Mintbush *Prostanthera aspalathoides*.

Although not as prolific as the wattles the pure white of the Pimelea Daisy bushes *Olearia pimeloides* shone out like beacons. Also pure white but not so easy to see at the bases of their tufts of long thin leaves, were the flowers of the Scented Matrush *Lomandra effusa*. Though not prominent when we first saw them, as the day warmed up the delightful scent began to pervade the bush.

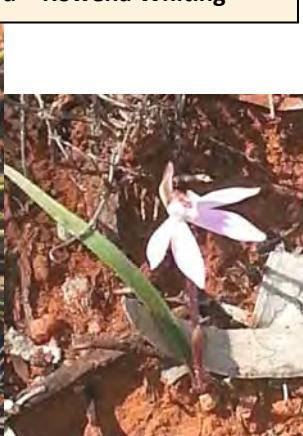
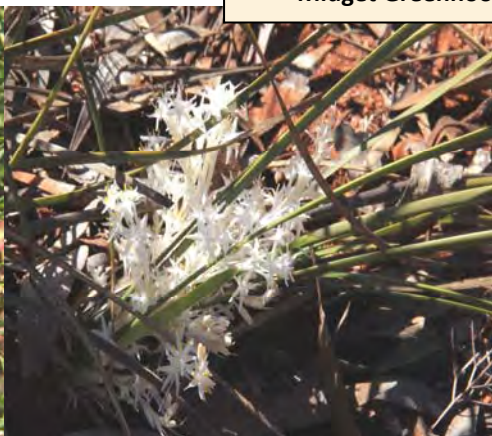
Taleeban is often a good place to see orchids, however the lack of rain in the last few weeks seems to have severely affected them. Only small specimens of Midget Orchids *Pterostylis mutica*, and a very, very small Pink Fingers *Caladenia fuscata* that barely held its flower off the surface were seen.

After a lunch break we went up into the mining area to lift up the odd bits of iron sheeting etc. to look for lizards. None were seen, in fact nothing was seen so we soon gave away that idea and returned to the cars for the journey home.

Eric Whiting



**Above: The Group – Virginia O'Brien
Acacia rigens stem – Rowena Whiting
Acacia rigens bush – Virginia O'Brien
Below from left –
Rankins Springs Grevillea –Rowena Whiting
Scented Matrush –Rowena Whiting
Pink Fingers – Virginia O'Brien
Midget Greenhood – Rowena Whiting**



Stackpoole National Park

We walked along the tracks and through the bush looking for wildflowers and birds at Stackpoole National Park on Saturday morning, 23 August.

It was glorious to be out in nature with friends. The day was sunny but the land quite dry so there weren't many wildflowers to see and birds too were hard to find.

We did however find a few scattered flowering Showy Daisy Bushes and some small patches of Midget Greenhoods.

A Stumpy tail lizard surprised Bernadette with its open mouth and blue tongue.

We heard a Crested Bellbird calling and I found a female Jacky Winter making its cobweb nest in a small forked branch of a mallee tree.

A small echidna hurried across Cahill Road in front of the car on the way home. Its legs looked really tall so we called it the 4WD model.

At Goolgowi we stopped to enjoy the Sturt Desert Pea in full flower.

Melanie Baulch

Drawings - Daddy-longlegs Orchid (top)
Showy Daisy Bush (below left)
Echidna (below right)



Where do the bitterns go after rice harvest?

This is the question Matt Herring has been looking at following his success in finding the birds breeding in the Riverina rice crops over summer. Monitoring data from the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands near Melbourne indicate relatively large numbers of bitterns arrive in autumn, coinciding with rice harvest. In late June he began surveying key wetland sites in the Riverina and found 11 birds across a range of different wetlands. Some funding has been obtained to track some of these birds however more funding is needed to match this and make it available. MFN should consider making a donation. Tracking will also enable him to find out how the bitterns move around the rice fields during summer.

For more information, the latest news, project updates and publications: visit Matt's web site www.murraywildlife.com.au

Third Curlew Summit - 20 August 2014

Max and I attended the 3rd Bush Stone Curlew Summit. While there were various speakers about the



decline, conservation and captive breeding and release programs for these birds, it all applies to other threatened species. The Summit was funded by The Nature Conservation Working group and speakers included Neville Lubke who has a captive breeding program at Jindera near Albury, Elisa Tack, PhD student, Leah Kemp from Wildlife Conservancy, Dr Peter Mawson Director of Animal Health and Research at Perth Zoo, Alan Morris from Gosford friends of the Bush Stone Curlew, Judy Crocker from Mid Loddon Landcare Network, Scott O'Keefe and Linton Staples director of Animal Control Technologies.

Jan and Neville Lubke have a captive breeding program at Jindera. Their program has meant that up to 50 birds have been released at 4 different sites: Moulamein, Buraja, Scotia and Mulligans Flat. Areas where they are released require a lot of predator control by way of fencing and baiting and food availability nearby.

Elisa Tack who has monitored the birds for more than 10 years made some very clear observations about what she has learnt

1. Declines in Bush Stone Curlews have been significant and relatively recent.
2. Call playback can be an effective survey method for curlews.
3. Tree cover is important but not the whole story.
4. Radio tracking Bush Stone Curlews is not so easy because they are so cryptic. She uses a tail attachment which is glued to the bird and lasts for 10 weeks.
5. Food availability nearby is the key; foxes are not the total answer.

Leah Kemp from Wildlife Conservancy has conducted a trial reintroduction program at Scotia, NSW and surprisingly some birds died of starvation.

Dr Peter Mawson spoke about two reintroduction projects in remnant bush in SW Australia only 15 km from CBD of Perth. The interesting thing about his projects was the use of reflective leg bands to assist monitoring and the use of a Radio Telemetry necklace transmitters rather than tail devices. He was able to get the pulse rate lowered on these devices and this meant they keep on transmitting for up to 860 days.

Alan Morris and his Gosford friends have been continuously monitoring 5 breeding pairs of Bush Stone Curlews for 15 years. These are largely urban birds who survive in school grounds and golf courses.

The main driver of a project in the Mid Loddon in Victoria is Judy Crocker. They have devised a plan to provide a multitude of safe curlew feeding and nesting habitats, some of which included clearing of trees!!

Scott O'Keefe's research project aims to establish base line monitoring procedures for the species in urban areas, produce a snapshot of the status of the population in Greater Brisbane and discover the degree to which Bush-Stone Curlews are able to adapt to the Urban environment.

Linton Staples from Animal Control Technologies gave a great talk about foxes, their capabilities, feed requirements, density and distribution, breeding and vulnerabilities which was just shocking and little wonder that they have a paw in the demise of threatened species.

The extent and range of these predators is amazing. Between 1996 and 2002 when a bounty was paid on pelts, 500,000 were collected. It is estimated that about 5 million foxes are produced in Australia per year! There are probably 4 foxes per square km in bushland and 15 per sq km in swamps and in Melbourne 15 foxes per sq km.

Fox diet can be 30% lamb, 30% rabbit and 30% wildlife.

A most interesting day is what we had.

I'd like to know why there are no foxes in Jabiru or in Northern Queensland. And there are still Bush Stone Curlews remaining there.



Nella Smith

Some Lichens You Can Easily Name - Eric Whiting

Last month I stated that lichens are often hard to identify in the field, usually requiring microscopical examination and/or chemical tests. Some are however quite distinctive. Here are four:

Cladia corallaizou – Coral Lichen

Found loose on the soil often in Cypress Pine woodlands. Can form quite extensive carpet: – a good indicator of an undisturbed site.



Teloschistes sieberi

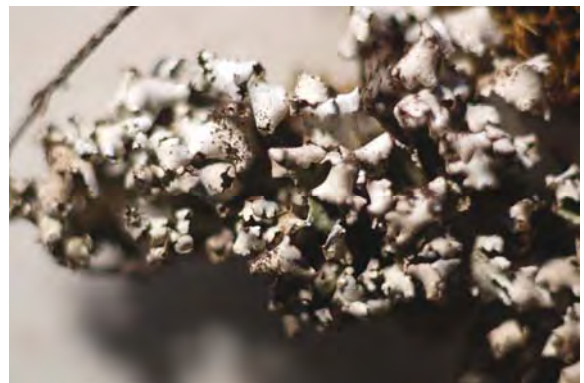
Found as patches on bark and twigs. Again Cypress Pine is a good place to look for them. On well developed specimens, fruiting bodies can be seen as slightly paler open cups held just above the general surface.



Heterodea muelleri and

Heterodea beaugleholei

Also soil growing species, fleshy pale green when wet, the tips of the lobes curling upwards on drying to expose the felt-like undersurface, Heterodea muelleri has a predominantly black undersurface, Heterodea beaugleholei has very pale greyish to white undersurface



Heterodea beaugleholei (dry above / wet below)

Heterodea muelleri (left)



Saving our Species Workshop

Max and I attended an interesting information morning about funding available for Restoration and Rehabilitation Programs and Saving our Species Partnership grants Program for 2015 offered by NSW Environmental Trust.

The **Restoration and Rehabilitation Program** encourages community and government organisations to protect, conserve and restore our valuable natural environment.



Objectives aim to

- Restore degraded environmental resources, including rare and endangered ecosystems
- Protect important ecosystems and habitats of rare and endangered ecosystems
- Prevent or minimise future environmental damage
- Enhance the quality of specific environmental resources
- Improve the capacity of eligible organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment
- Prevent and/or reduce pollution

Saving our Species Partnership Grants Program seeks to achieve long term outcomes for threatened species, populations and ecological communities in the wild in NSW.

All projects must be a partnership between multiple stakeholders operating as a co-ordinated consortium and runs for 10 years. (Maybe this would be suitable for MFN if we were interested)

The six management streams and relevant funding opportunities are for:

- Site managed species
- Landscape-managed species
- Partnership species
- Data-deficient species
- Iconic Species
- Keep watch species

Already Wendy Minato Murrumbidgee Landcare co-ordinator thought it useful to apply to remove Bridal Veil Creeper from a highly biodiverse Ardlethan Common as part of the Restoration and Rehabilitation program.

Any movers and shakers with great ideas should get thinking of other areas but you have to hurry up!!!

Nella Smith

Talk by Martin Odino on 18 September 2014

Just a reminder to all members of Martin's talk to the Club on the night of 18 September at the Leeton Library at 7.30pm.

He has, as you all know, been involved with trying to prevent the poisoning of birds in the rice fields of Bunyala in Western Kenya and trying to stop this happening on such an indiscriminate and wholesale fashion. Not only are all bird species targeted but the highly endangered migratory wading birds are being killed. He is also concerned at what the long term effects on the local villagers who buy and eat these poisoned birds as part of their daily diet is having on them. You might remember that the poison used has the effect of making males sterile and Martin has tried pointing out to the local people that they have far fewer children in their villages compared with others nearby who don't eat the birds killed in this way.

Unfortunately, the local people are very suspicious of any efforts made to test the males in the affected villages because of inherent beliefs based on superstition and witchcraft which is still part of the fabric of most people in those isolated areas. So any suggestion of taking blood, let alone semen, samples would be strongly opposed by the adult males and it will take a great deal of educating them about the harmful effects of the poison before they might be persuaded to be tested.

So I encourage all members to come along to hear Martin give a report on his work and the frustrations of trying to prevent such poisoning over the past three years.

Max O'Sullivan



Finding a Three-toed Skink in my Garden



I was digging in my garden when I unearthed what I thought was a small snake...then I noticed the legs and then the three toes. I gave it to my great grandson, Kai, to show his mates.

However, after a few days I thought it best to return the little creature, (11cm), to the place it was found in case it didn't survive the attention. It is now, hopefully, happily reunited with it's kind. Do hope someone can tell me if they have found or seen one around these parts....

Sue Chittick-Dalton

The sighting of a Three-toed Skink is a very rare event west of the Dividing Range. The vast majority of

records are from coastal and adjacent ranges north from the Illawarra . Why the sparsity of records out here is a matter of conjecture. Is it because it is in fact so very rare or is it because its secretive burrowing habit means it is rarely seen but actually reasonably common? Of course there is also the possibility it is an accidental introduction – though I can't fathom how. It is not likely to be an escaped pet – who would keep a pet that spends its life hidden away?

Reduction of toes from the normal five, and in fact the reduction of legs, is a common feature in the Skink family. One specie has completely lost its legs. Legs can be a hindrance in burrowing into soil, under rocks, or just deep litter.

Eric Whiting



Picture from *A Field Guide to the Snakes and Lizards of New South Wales* by Gerry Swan

Orchids seen on Scenic Hill

I managed to scale our garden of eden, Scenic Hill today, 24 August.

Found the Midget Greenhoods still prolific in many places.

The Leopard Orchids scattered about.

And the Greencomb Spider Orchids just in bud in one area then further up the track they were out on show for me!! What a great find.



In my garden I've been watching the Variegated Wrens twittering about and a White-plumed Honeyeater enjoying the nectar from the Camellia flowers.

Virginia O'Brien

Greencomb Spider Orchid (right)
Leopard Orchid (left)



Diary of a Bird Photographer

Family Event in Bellingen – Agenda:- Trip to Dorrigo, bush walking, bird watching & catching up with Family.

Day 1 & 2 - A few nights visiting family in Tamworth. From a birding point of view, Leeton to Tamworth, largely uneventful. Sighted 13 Major Mitchel Cockatoos just south of West Wyalong.

Day 3 Tamworth to Dorrigo was broken by a stop at Ebor Falls. At the lower lookout we were greeted by a very bold Kookaburra and Eastern Yellow Robins. It was freezing cold and had snowflakes settle on our jackets. The birds didn't seem to be worried by the cold, unlike myself (my hands were freezing trying to take photos) Photos taken:- Kookaburra, Eastern Yellow Robins, Fairy-wrens (no colour so not sure of the species), Bassian Thrush, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Grey Shrike-thrush. Six birds, 10 minutes and a new species for my photo collection (Bassian Thrush)

Stay at Lisnagarvey B&B, Dorrigo, run by Dione's cousin. A great place to stay if you want some quiet time and exclusive access to some areas of rainforest. We walked onto the veranda overlooking the plateau to have an Eastern Spinebill fly in to feed on the Grevillia in the Garden not more than 5 feet away.

Day 4 260 acres of Lisnagarvey to explore, a working beef farm that has areas of virgin and regrowth plateau rainforest. The morning walk was up and over the hill to the creek that forms part of the property boundary. This was through mostly cleared country but with rain forest never more than 150 meters away. Birds photographed - Eastern Yellow Robin, Crimson Rosella, Pied Currawong, Fairy-wren, Lewin's Honeyeaters and Grey Shrike-thrush. After lunch was a walk through the rain forest and cleared country heading towards a waterfall (great afternoon tea stop) on the most distant creek boundary. Photos taken - Brown Thornbill, Female Satin Bowerbird, Grey Fantail (not very grey around here but nearly black), Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Silvereyes, Topknot Pigeon, Green Catbird. It was a hard day's walking covered 9 km and over 100 meters down then back up again but a great day outside and 6 new bird species photographed to add to my collection.

Graham Russell

[To be continued]

Above: Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Left: Green Catbird
Below: Bassian Thrush (left)
Lewin's Honeyeater (right)



MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

These sightings are from members' observations. Please check with the relevant person before quoting any record.

Grey-crowned Babbler [3]	Nericon Village heading west	09/08/14	Neil Palframan
White-backed Swallow [4]	Koonadan Quarry Leeton	09/08/14	Nella Smith
Spotted Harrier	Cantrill Rd, Koonadan	09/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
Superb Parrot	Apostle Yard Rd via Leeton	09/08/14	Max O'Sullivan

There are more Superbs being reported in the area since the last newsletter – birds are returning in numbers to breed locally in the River Red Gums.

Fairy Martin	Fivebough Wetlands environs	09/08/14	Keith Hutton
---------------------	-----------------------------	----------	--------------

This is the first sighting for the Spring. I also saw a flock on the Whitton Stock Route Road on the same day.

Olive-backed Oriole	Fivebough Wetlands	09/08/14	Keith Hutton
Eastern Rosella	Fivebough Wetlands	09/08/14	Keith Hutton

This is the first record for the Fivebough list for both the Oriole and Rosella.

Mistletoebird	Nericon in Neil's patch	10/08/14	Neil Palframan
----------------------	-------------------------	----------	----------------

This is the first record of their return this Spring. Neil wins the Mars Bar for reporting it to Eric.

Horsfield's (Singing) Bushlark	Paynters Siding ephemeral swamp	10/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------	----------------

There would have been over 20 birds in the high grass in the dry swamp – quite a surprise to see so many.

White-fronted Chat [10+]	Paynters Siding ephemeral swamp	10/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
White-winged Triller [2]	Regulator Rd just outside Yanco	10/08/14	Max O'Sullivan

Another early Spring sighting with one male bird in full (black and white) breeding plumage.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Narrandera Wetlands	11/08/14	Betty Bradney
--------------------------------	---------------------	----------	---------------

Betty said there were two adult birds and a juvenile bird begging for food.

Black Falcon	Wilga Road via Whitton	12/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
---------------------	------------------------	----------	----------------

Blue-faced Honeyeater [10]	St Francis College grounds, Leeton	14/08/14	Penny Williams
-----------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------	----------------

Barn Owl	Colibah Rd Leeton chased by magpies	14/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
-----------------	-------------------------------------	----------	----------------

Cattle Egret [2]	Boorga Rd Lake, Wyangan Village	17/08/14	Neil Palframan
-------------------------	---------------------------------	----------	----------------

Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Stackpoole National Park, Goolgowi	22/08/14	Keith Hutton
--------------------------	------------------------------------	----------	--------------

Shining Bronze Cuckoo	Stackpoole National Park	22/08/14	Keith Hutton
------------------------------	--------------------------	----------	--------------

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Stackpoole National Park	22/08/14	Keith Hutton
----------------------------------	--------------------------	----------	--------------

Crested Bellbird [H]	Stackpoole National Park	22/08/14	Keith Hutton
-----------------------------	--------------------------	----------	--------------

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Stackpoole National Park	22/08/14	Keith Hutton
---------------------------------	--------------------------	----------	--------------

Pallid Cuckoo	Old Wilbriggie Rd via Griffith	22/08/14	Keith Hutton
----------------------	--------------------------------	----------	--------------

Brolga [15]	Lake Coolah via Narrandera	26/08/14	Nella Smith
--------------------	----------------------------	----------	-------------

Turquoise Parrot	Spring Hill Picnic Area Cocoparra NP	27/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
-------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------	----------------

Dusky Woodswallow	Spring Hill, Cocoparra National Park	27/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
--------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------	----------------

Speckled Warbler	Spring Hill, Cocoparra National Park	27/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
-------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------	----------------

White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Wyangan South Lake	28/08/14	Neil Palframan
--------------------------------	--------------------	----------	----------------

Baillon's Crake	Fivebough Wetlands	29/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
------------------------	--------------------	----------	----------------

First for this Spring – the first sighting last year wasn't until 21/09.

Musk Duck [male]	Fivebough Wetlands displaying	29/08/14	Sydney couple
-------------------------	-------------------------------	----------	---------------

Little Eagle [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
-------------------------	--------------------	----------	----------------

Black Falcon	Fivebough Wetlands	30/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
---------------------	--------------------	----------	----------------

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Fivebough Wetlands flying north	30/08/14	Max O'Sullivan
----------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------	----------------

Peregrine Falcon	Fivebough Wetlands	01/09/14	Max O'Sullivan
-------------------------	--------------------	----------	----------------

Black Falcon (female) attacked the Peregrine that had a kill and was tearing it apart on the ground when the Black Falcon attacked it and chased it off and then took over eating the carcass. The Peregrine wasn't happy and stayed perched on a fence post not 5 metres from the interloper.

Mistletoebird [pr]	Woolshed Flat Cocoparra NP	03/09/14	Melanie Baulch
---------------------------	----------------------------	----------	----------------

Crested Shrike-tit	Galore Hill Nature Reserve	04/09/14	Max O'Sullivan
---------------------------	----------------------------	----------	----------------

Ground Orchids at Narrandera – Nella Smith

Caladenia concinna, *Caladenia verrucosa*, *Caladenia stellate*, *Caladenia tentaculata*, *Cyanicula caerulea*
Caladenia fuscata, *Caladenia arenarea*, *Glossodia major*, *Diuris goonooensis*, *Pterostylis mutica*,
Pterostylis nana

**** COMING EVENTS ****

- 11 September Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** the Yellow Room at **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton, commencing at 7:30pm
Topic: European Travels by Ralph Turton –
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 12-14 September** **Spring Campout to Hunthawang National Park (north of Hillston)**
Friday to Sunday Staying in the homestead which is on the Lachlan River
Further details from on Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 18 September Thursday** **Special Meeting** to meet **Martin Odino** and hear his presentation about his work in Kenya to stop the poisoning of birds in the Bunyala Rice Fields.
Venue: Leeton Library – Yellow Room at 7:30pm.
PLEASE COME TO MEET MARTIN AND HEAR HIM TELL ABOUT HIS PROJECT IN WESTERN KENYA. See article on Page 8.
- 20-21 September** **Kajuligah Nature Reserve** (near Ivanhoe)
Biodiversity Survey
Expressions of interest to Nella Smith 6959 1210
- 29 September Monday** **Copy for the October newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 5 October Sunday** **Spring Hill, Cocoparra National Park**
Meet at the railway crossing at Whitton Stock Route Road at 9am
Bring morning tea and lunch
Contact Nella Smith if attending on 6959 1210.
- 9 October Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** the Yellow Room at **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton, commencing at 7:30pm
Topic: TBA
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 10-12 October** **Birds of the Bush Festival at Rankins Springs**
Friday to Sunday Art and Craft Exhibition, Market Stalls, Fun Run etc.
All day Bird Watching bus tour (Saturday)
Early Bird Watching Tour (Sunday)
www.birdsofthebush.com
- 19 October Sunday** **Mt Brogden – details next newsletter**
- 25/26 October** **The annual NSW and ACT Twitchathon competition – get your teams organised!**
Saturday 4pm The idea is to see how many species of birds you can find in the 24
to Sunday 4pm hours. The Champagne Race in which the club competes allows for meal
breaks and a sleep overnight. Teams must be at least 2 people.
If you have a team or would like to be part of another team and for further
details contact Penny Williams 6953 3524 .
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- Other events**
25-26 October **2014 Australasian Bird Fair**
Celebrity speakers, local and regional bird tours and other activities
At Sydney Olympic Park www.birdfair.com.au