

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



October 2014 - Issue #220

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

PO Box 541, LEETON 2705 ISSN-1327-1172

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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

Hunthawang Spring Campout



Photographers: Ralph Turton,
Eric Whiting and Phillip Williams

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CONTRIBUTIONS

For the next issue by
Wednesday 5 November

To Rowena Whiting

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October is MFN's 20th
Anniversary Month

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

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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:

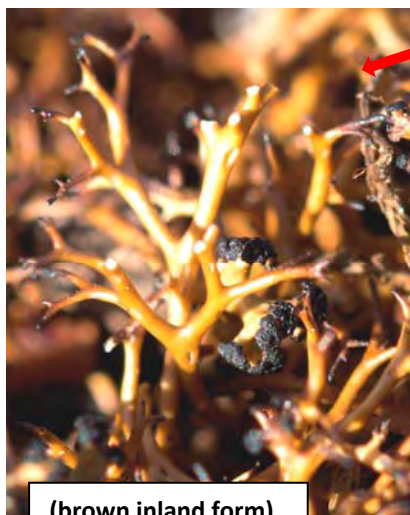
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Annual Subscriptions: Family \$45.00 Adult/Single \$35.00 Journal only/Concession \$25.00

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

Lichens you can Recognise

Here are three more lichens easy to identify in the field. All three are soil inhabiting species.



(brown inland form)

Cladia aggregata

This fruticose species forms brown mats on the floor of Bimble Box, Cypress Pine or Dwyers Gum woodlands. In the same situations as its sibling *Cladia corallaizon* (Coral Lichen – see last month's issue). It also occurs on decaying logs as well as on

the soil in Wet Sclerophyll Forest in coastal and

(coastal form)

hinterland areas, but here it is green which strongly contrasts against the black fruiting bodies. Like Coral Lichen this species is hard and very brittle inland and

proliferates largely by division.



Xanthoparmelia semiviridis

A foliose species with flat spreading lobes when moist. When dry lobes curl up into a ball, and as there is no attachment whatsoever, is able to be rolled around over the litter of dry sclerophyll woodlands (typically Cypress Pine or Casuarina). Fruiting bodies

are very, very rare, the lichen multiplying by division.



Psora decipiens

One of the soil crust organisms that vitally hold our rangeland soils together. Its growth form is clusters of pill-like bodies (squamulose – from Latin for scales). It is easily distinguished from other crustose species by the pink colour.

Eric Whiting



Spring Campout at Hunthawang (and Nombinnie) 13-14 September 2014

They knew it was going to be a good weekend by the auspicious start to the trip. Thelma and Louise ... sorry ... Johanna and Col were cruising through the outskirts of Tabbita when a flock of Budgies took up escort beside the car. If it had been an open top they could have grabbed one.

And this offers further evidence to the theory that the Budgerigar is at least a regular visitor to Barren Box Swamp, and possibly a long term resident.

It was nice to see Hunthawang Homestead nestled by the trees by the Lachlan, with its amazing clusters of add-on architecture, and with a deal of effort having been made by staff to clean up the vicinity since our last visit. Whether the place stays out of the clutches of Nature and remains a proud headquarters I guess is up to the vagaries of governments and funding.

Saturday's expedition took us to and though Nombinnie Nature Reserve, and back into the northern section of Hunthawang. Despite a little rain the previous week that was still evident along a few tracks, the area was generally dry, and had been for a while. Carpets of spring flowers were low and sparse, there was not much evidence of the mallee flowering, and birds were in low numbers.



Grey-fronted Honeyeater
Photo: Phillip Williams

Not tempted by the Kidman Way Signage and Rest Stop Extravaganza at Willandra Creek, our first stop was One Eye Tank which used to sport a windmill and water but is now mill-less and dry, and seems destined to remain that way as the feed-in drains have been reformed to keep the storm water out. I presume this is part of the plan to remove artificial water points and return the area to pre-existing animal life, and would certainly remove some of the danger of driving along the Kidman Way past this wildlife magnet.

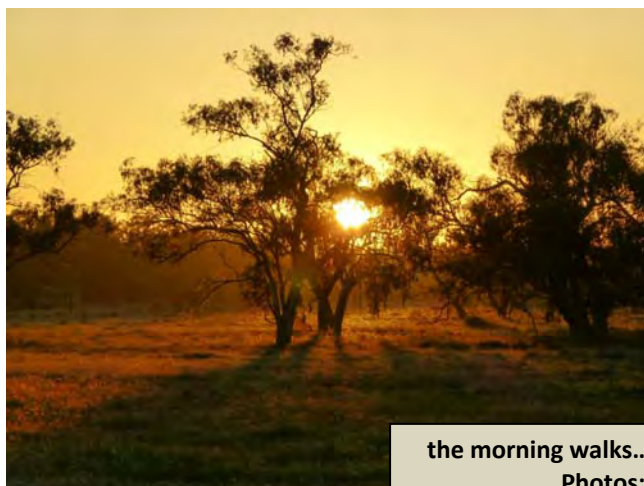
Along this track, the flowering and honeyeater filled mallee we had seen on previous visits at this time of year

were not evident, despite several stops, one stop at a patch of fire reduction burn regrowth where we thought we might see if there were any particular colonisers, but ... nothing.

Travelling around the boundary fences to the west and south we experienced many kangaroos and emus, and witnessed the agony that fences can inflict on these animals – fresh and old evidence of entanglements. Did anyone actually identify which species of roos we were seeing? I didn't, and I guess it just goes to show that we take the more common animals for granted. "Could do better" says the report card for this aspect of the trip.

Through the gap into Hunthawang top paddocks, and along the fence lines to Willandra Creek we found Shinglebacks and Bearded Dragons sunning themselves by the track and on fence posts, still only a few as the weather was just starting to warm up, but they would certainly be out in numbers soon.

Our final stop was for a patch of flowering Cactus Pea, except when we stopped we saw it wasn't Pea, it was *Eremophila maculata*, the Spotted Emubush common in garden nurseries, a lovely sight in the scattered mallee, and enough to make a native gardener envious.



the morning walks..... were not well attended
Photos: Neil Palframan

And the area was alive with birds feeding off the nectar, including White-fronted Honeyeaters, the only sighting of them for the weekend.

Sunday was pack up, clean up and head out, stopping first at Mountain Creek property thanks to the hospitality of the Storrier family. With local football finals a priority, they left us with instructions to look around. There were big views from the local hills, and though the plants and animals were light on, as in Nombinnie, the property would be a bonanza of life in a different year or season.

Just up the road it was lunch at Brewster Weir, apparently a little known spot by the reactions of the crew, then some headed off home through Lake Cargelligo (did anyone check out the poo ponds?), while a dust loving few headed south along Lake Ballyrogan direct to Rankins Springs. Last time I saw Ballyrogan during the "big wet" of April 2012 it was overflowing with birds, and submerging the roads, and still filling, but this time it was bone dry. However, water or not, the Lachlan Range on the western side is scenery to admire, and the closest likeness to the Flinders Ranges outside the Flinders.

Neil Palframan



Above: *Eucalyptus dumosa*
Photo: Neil Palframan



Left: View from the ridge at Mountain Creek and above Bearded Dragon
Photos: Ralph Turton

BIRD LISTS FOR HUNTHAWANG compiled by Sue Chittick-Dalton from participants' sightings

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Emu | Pied Cormorant | Spiny cheeked | Willie Wagtail |
| Australian Wood | Mallee Ringneck | Honeyeater | Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike |
| Duck | Laughing | Little Friarbird | Pied Butcherbird |
| White-necked Heron | Kookaburra | Noisy Miner | Grey Butcherbird |
| White-faced Heron | Sacred Kingfisher | Blue-faced | Magpielark |
| Black Kite | Brown Treecreeper | Honeyeater | Australian Magpie |
| Whistling Kite | Variiegated Fairy-wren | Yellow-plumed | Australian Raven |
| Brown Falcon | Striated Pardalote | Honeyeater | Little Raven |
| Peaceful Dove | Western Gerygone | White-fronted | Mistletoebird |
| Galah | Yellow Thornbill | Honeyeater | Welcome Swallow |
| Sulphur-crested | Weebill | Grey-crowned | Tree Martin |
| Cockatoo | Southern Whiteface | Babbler | Spotted Bowerbird |
| Cockatiel | | Rufous Whistler | Southern Boobook |
| Eastern Rosella | | Grey Shrikethrush | |

NOMBINNIE

Emu	Pallid Cuckoo	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-faced Heron	Horsfield's Cuckoo	White-plumed Honeyeater	Dusky Woodswallow
Black Kite	Black-eared Cuckoo	Red-capped Robin	Pied Butcherbird
Whistling Kite	Striated Pardalote	Grey-crown Babbler	Grey Butcherbird
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Western Gerygone	White-browed Babbler	Magpielark
Brown Falcon	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Crested Bellbird	Australian Magpie
Nankeen Kestrel	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Rufous Whistler	Australian Raven
Crested Pigeon	Weebill	Grey Shrikethrush	Little Raven
Galah	Southern Whiteface	Willie Wagtail	Apostlebird
Cockatiel	Little Friarbird	Grey Fantail	White-winged Chough
Eastern Rosella	Noisy Miner		Mistletoebird

Mountain Creek and Ballyrogan

Pied Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-throated Miner	Australian Magpie
Australian Wood Duck	Mallee Ringneck	White-plumed Honeyeater	Australian Raven
White-faced Heron	Sacred Kingfisher	Rufous Whistler	Little Raven
White-necked Heron	Striated Pardalote	Grey shrike-thrush	Apostlebird
Pelican	Weebill	Pied Butcherbird	White-winged Chough
Brown Falcon	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Magpie-Lark	Whistling Kite

A close look at scaly leaves

Scale insects (lerps) are sap-sucking bugs (Hemiptera) that secrete sugary or waxy scales for protection. They also secrete a sugary solution which attracts the ants. The female scale insect is wingless and virtually sedentary. Males do have wings but only live long enough to mate. Young larvae can disperse to some extent by crawling.

As they are so small (the cap is more than twice their size) crawling would only result in the scale infection spreading over a leaf or part of a stem. It is most likely that wider dispersal is carried out by the attending ants 'farming' the lerps by physically picking them up and carrying them to new



'pastures'. Just as well as heavy infections of scale sucks the life out of leaves causing them to shrivel and die; the lerps sharing that fate.

Eric Whiting



Above: Leaves of the Emubush with scale and ants – Photo: Penny Williams
Left: Nan and Ana examining the scaly leaves – Photo: Rowena Whiting

A Few Shorties From Hunthawang

“Hunthawang” week-end was great! Enjoyed the campervan sleep-over, as always; it was especially good to be surrounded by friends with a common interest throughout each day. The catering was tops, weather perfect – how much better does it get?! And, I have Lake Brewster and Lake Ballyrogan worked out at last!

Nan Simpkin

HUNTHAWANG CAMP- OUT - What impressed me most was the thoughtfulness of Penny to insure the “elderly” members of the group were assured of a bed and mattress. Thank you, thank you thank you! It was most appreciated.

As always, the company of like-minded people makes for a most enjoyable time and the food was delicious...Thank you Ana and Andrew and Johanna and Neil for the meals. You can set up shop any time you like and be assured of satisfied customers.

A big thank you to the organisers who “put the show on the road”. Well done

It was good to welcome Graham and Cecelia Johnstone to the outing but most unfortunate they had to leave early because of illness. We hope to see them again at our other outings.

We probably missed as many bird species as we saw, for I’m sure there should have been more l.b.j.s and honeyeaters, but we did our best, and heartily enjoyed doing it.

Sue Chittick-Dalton

One of the highlights was a patch of **Spotted Emubush** in full flower displaying a variety of colourations. The flowers were also being attended by several butterflies including the brilliant blue coloured Satin Azure.

Eric Whiting



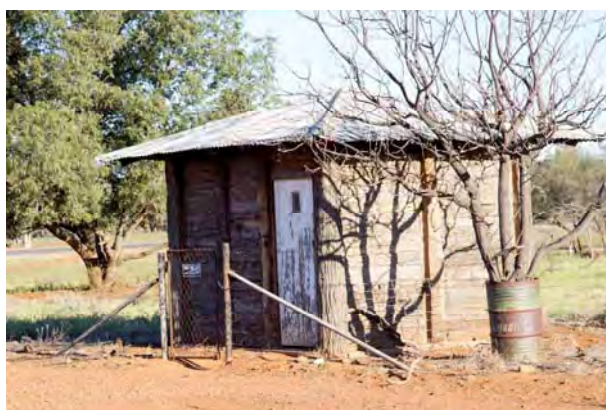
Col Sell was also excited by this find, he found that some of the flowers of the Spotted Emubush were not spotted.

Above: Spotted Emubush –
Photo Neil Palframan
Left: under side of the flowers -
Photo: Rowena Whiting
Below: Willanthrey Mail Hut -
Photo: Rowena Whiting

For **Dot Eurell** it was a historical mail hut at Willanthrey (junction of the Lachlan River Road and the Lachlan Valley Hwy. There was a plaque by it which was erected in 2002, the Year of the Outback, one of ten to commemorate the mail and passenger route from Forbes to Hillston at the site of the Willanthrey Hotel. The hotel and store were started in 1862.

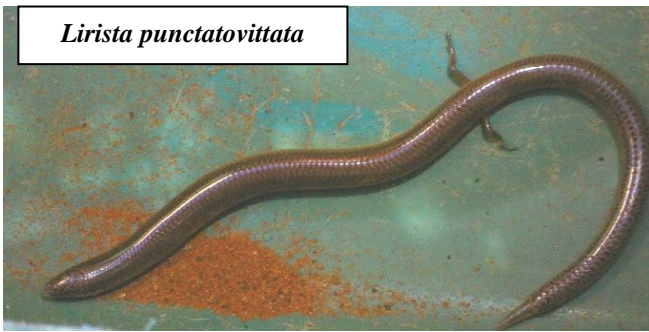
My most memorable memory was THE rice pudding and best memory was luxury of my very own room! Totally spoil!!

Jane Paul



Biodiversity Survey - Kajuligah Nature Reserve – 19 - 24 September 2014

Kajuligah Nature Reserve is located approximately 38km to the north-east of Ivanhoe on the Ivanhoe-Cobar road and comprises 13,660 hectares.



“It is situated within the Darling Depression land system and contains vegetation typical of the land system. The Nature Reserve protects small samples of several vegetation community types which suggests that the reserve is an ecotone or overlap area of several ecological regions of Western NSW. The main vegetation types occurring are belah-rosewood woodlands (*Casuarina cristata*-*Heterodendrum oleifolium*), bimble box, callitris and mulga woodlands and grasslands with scattered trees.” (Taken from PoM

Kajuligah 2000)

Biodiversity information was scarce so 10 of us set off to increase the knowledge.

Bird Surveys, Plant surveys, Habitat Assessments and Mammal and Reptile trapping was undertaken.

Eric surveyed the flora with quadrats around the trapping sites and in some of the typical vegetation communities, and otherwise compiled a plant list for the Reserve. The flora was also one of the objectives of Rowena in capturing the landscape with her camera. The fauna was harder to photograph but some reptiles and insects were taken

Sue and Jim completed habitat assessments on all the trapping areas and ran two mammal traplines they also assisted with bird surveys and advice. Neil rode around on the internal roads looking for tracks. He also set out 7 surveillance cameras in vegetation types and sites (It will be interesting to see what is captured in these) as well several birds surveys. Jane was a capable assistant in all.

Bill, Nella, Anna and Andrew were up early every morning to inspect pitfalls traps and Elliot traps.

We were offered help to dig the pitfall traps and were grateful for Rodney and 2 very capable young men (Sonny and Nathan) bearing shovels and crowbars. They were able to complete the work in no time. Those pitfall traps were impressive (pers comm Nella Smith).



The Pitfall traplines were set up in all vegetation types. The Elliot traps yielded nothing but the pitfalls were very productive. *Lycosta* spp spiders were found in most traps every day which were probably food for the Fat-tailed Dunnart - *Sminthopsis crassicaudata* and the Western Hooded Scaly Foot - *Pyogapus nigriceps*. Lots of footprints in the wind swept red sand indicated that the Dunnarts were fairly widespread. However lots of Red Fox and Feral Cat footprints nearby indicated that these 9gm marsupials are in grave peril every time they venture out to feed in the night. Three skinks *Lirista punctatovittata*, *Morethia boulengeri* and the Inland snake-eyed Skink *Cryptoblepharus australis*, were also trapped and recorded.



different

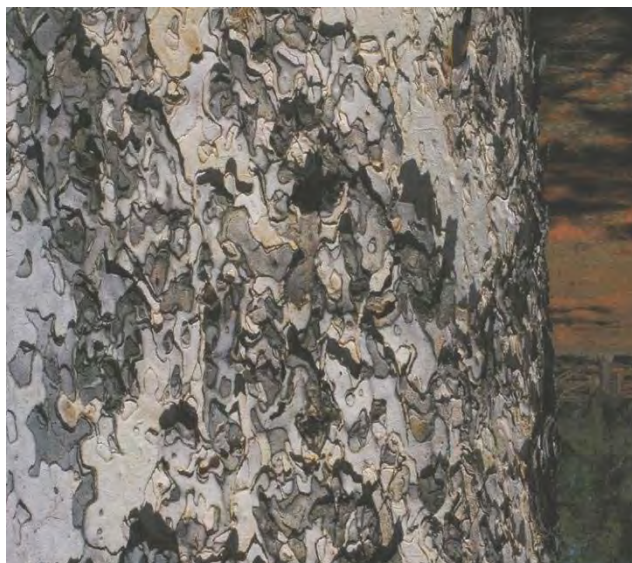
Tiliqua rugosa the Shingleback and Bearded Dragons were using their bodies as solar panels. The interesting observation was that the Bearded Dragons were of two species: Eastern and Central. *Podona barbarta* and *P vitticeps* respectively

Whim Dam at which we camped was visited by a huge *Varanus varius* Lace Monitor as well as Mulga Parrots, Major Mitchell Cockatoos, Spotted Bowerbirds and Tree Martins. Lots of Brown Treecreepers were seen foraging and there was no shortage of wood for habitat.

Sharp-eyed Ana and Andrew spotted many nesting birds: Willy Wagtail, Apostlebird, Peewee, Striated Pardalote, Tree Martin, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill and Rufous Whistler. (all sitting on nests)

Our trips around the reserve yielded several interesting sightings:

- One *Flindersia maculosa* Leopardwood was found by Jane but not in the reserve.
- Lambing Flat Dam was surrounded by a field of *Eremophila maculata* – Spotted Emubush that seemed to be Honeyeater heaven, and also had a trace of water in the silt trap which had attracted a group of Apostlebirds to nest.
- One magnificent Red-backed Kingfisher.
- A pair of Peregrine Falcons paid an early morning visit and early Rainbow Bee-eaters were heard.
- The reserve sported many Warrior Bush which were being well attended by the Caper-white Butterfly.
- There were also many species of Grasshoppers, big ones, little ones, and some that looked like sticks or stones.
- Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos and Red Kangaroos were seen as well as an occasional feral cat and Red Fox and a couple of herds of feral goats. One feral pig was found dead at a Marka Dam.



Leopardwood bark



Spotted Emubush



It was surprisingly dry, the grasses crackled under our feet but the silt traps of several dams were still holding water indicating a relatively recent storm event.

Weather conditions were typical of a desert with cool nights and warm days and warnings of rain that never comes but makes you leave in a hurry before you want to.

I thought we had very productive few days with plans to hold the next Biodiversity Survey soon.

Nella Smith

Pterostylis sp. aff. biseta Photo Rowena Whiting

Bitterns In Rice Project

This project is moving to the next stage; Matt Herring and his team are hoping to raise money to allow satellite tracking of Australian Bitterns.



Photo: Phillip Williams

It is aiming to raise \$50 000 to satellite track at least seven bitterns, providing valuable ecological data and enabling people to follow the birds' movements online.

Tracking Bunyip Birds - a crowd funding campaign was launched on 17 September —to raise \$50 000 so they can satellite track endangered Australasian Bitterns. Crowd funding is 'pozible' through accumulating small donations from a wide range of people who believe in the project. Follow the link (<http://www.pozible.com/project/186259>) to take you to all you need to know to share your hard earned cash with a REALLY important project.

They have 40 days to raise their \$50,000 target. There are rewards for different amounts pledged from \$20 to the ultimate donation of \$2,500 which will secure naming rights for one of the 7 bitterns to be tracked. A MFN bird called 'EMMEFEN'??

If the \$50K target is not reached by 27 October 2014, pledges are not withdrawn from donors and the project doesn't go ahead, but if it does happen then it's going to be a very exciting journey, following the bitterns' movements online. So much will be learnt - such as how mobile they are when breeding in the rice, where it is they go after rice harvest and which wetlands they depend on during the non-breeding season.

MFN are co-sponsors of the project but that does not include a commitment to provide funds for the project though this would be welcome. Max O'Sullivan is on the steering committee

Currently the amount that has been pledged is over \$20,000 with 30 days to go. Please consider supporting this worthy cause, personal donations can be made from \$10. All the small amounts add up to something big! People without the internet or who prefer to use a cheque can contact Neil Bull at Ricegrowers Association on 6953 0433.

BirdLife Australia and the

Birds in Backyards team have come together to launch this year's national Bird Week event the **Aussie Backyard Bird Count!** — BirdLife Australia's first nationwide bird survey.

All you need is 20 minutes, your favourite green patch and some keen eyesight (or binoculars!). Record the birds you see on our brand new Aussie Bird Count app (or website) and you'll instantly see live information on how many people are taking part near you and the number of birds and species counted right across your neighbourhood and the whole of Australia! For more information head to www.aussiebirdcount.org.au



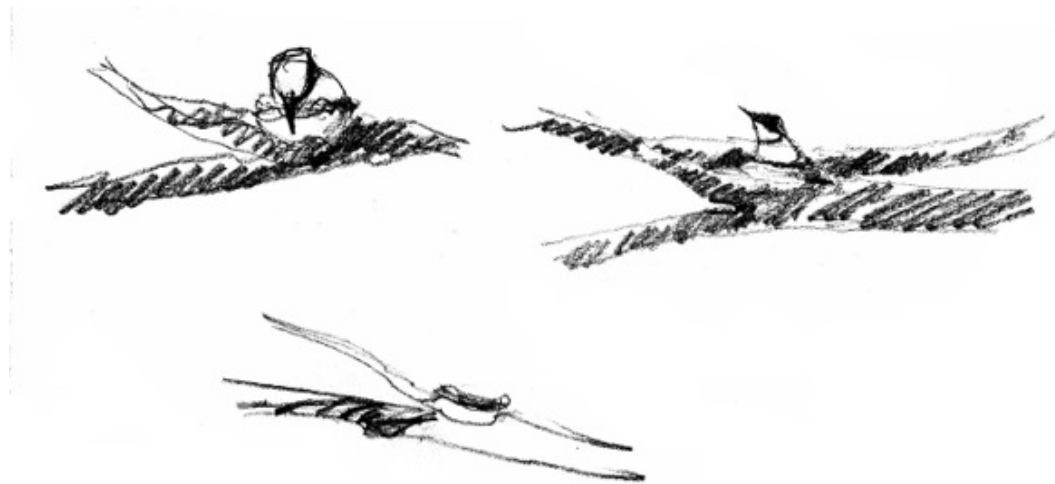
Twitchers at Nombinnie
Photo: Ralph Turton

A contribution from Melanie

Perhaps not quite as many wildflowers are flowering as we first thought there would be this year but it is still a wonderful Spring.

There's been an abundance of Dwarf, Midget, Donkey, Spider and Pink Orchids flowering and Bluebells are scattered with paper-daisies amongst the grasses beneath masses of Fringed Heath-myrtle and wattle blossoms.

I sketched a pair of Restless Flycatchers busily nesting at Store Creek one morning where Max and I met for a spot of birding.



Midget Orchid

And very early another morning, near Pulletop Nature Reserve, Ralph and I saw a male emu slowly walking his 15 'peep peeping' tiny striped chicks through the Mallee along the nearby fence.

Melanie Baulch

Bird of the Month

PALLID CUCKOO *Caculus pallidus*

It is no wonder that we saw this parasitic bird at Nombinnie Reserve, as it prefers to lay its egg in honeyeater nests, and there was no shortage of Yellow-plumed and White-plumed Honeyeaters there; actually there are 80 recorded species of birds' nests that this cuckoo will lay its pinkish/spotted egg in.

They range throughout Australia and may migrate from the South to the warmer States in winter, some as far north as New Guinea. Their favoured habitat is woodlands, semi-arid scrubland, mangroves and open areas, but seldom seen in forests. They forage for food which consists of grasshoppers, furry caterpillars, beetles and other insects.

This 330mm cuckoo is fairly large and slender and predominantly grey, paler on breast with darker wings that have white patches on the edge of their shoulder. The tail is notched grey and white. The Female has a mottled chestnut on upper parts and juveniles are heavily mottled in browns and buff.

Their voice is ascending scale which is repeated. The female voice is a harsh single reply.

OTHER NAMES: Brainfever-bird, Rainbird, Grasshopper hawk, Scale-bird, Weather-bird, Mosquito hawk, Harbinger of Spring, Semitone-bird and Storm-bird.

Sue Chittick-Dalton



MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

Superb Parrot	Narrandera	10/09/14	Nella Smith
White-winged Triller [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	05/09/14	Keith Hutton
Musk Duck [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/14	Max O'Sullivan
Wood Sandpiper [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/14	Max O'Sullivan
White-breasted Woodswallow	Whitton	10/09/14	Keith Hutton
White-necked Heron [5]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/09/14	Keith Hutton
Marsh Sandpiper [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/09/14	Keith Hutton
Wood Sandpiper [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/09/14	Keith Hutton
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [23]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/09/14	Keith Hutton
Whiskered Tern [23]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/09/14	Keith Hutton
Red-capped Plover [57]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/09/14	Keith Hutton
Sacred Kingfisher [1]	Petersham Rd, Leeton	12/09/14	Keith Hutton
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [1]	Koonadan Rd, Leeton	16/09/14	Peter Draper
Whiskered Tern [17]	Fivebough Wetlands	17/09/14	Martin Odino
Black-tailed Native-hen [5]	Fivebough Wetlands	17/09/14	Martin Odino
Australasian Bittern [2]	Fivebough Wetlands – seen regularly	18/09/14	Keith Hutton
Swamp Harrier [2]	Fivebough Wetlands – displaying	18/09/14	Keith Hutton
Glossy Black Cockatoo [3]	'Yarrabimbi', via Leeton	18/09/14	Max O'Sullivan
Turquoise Parrot [1]	Spring Hill Picnic Area	18/09/14	Martin Odino
Freckled Duck [6+]	Lake Wyangan South	18/09/14	Max O'Sullivan
Caspian Tern [1]	Lake Wyangan South	18/09/14	Max O'Sullivan
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [1]	Griffith Golf Course	18/09/14	Martin Odino
Brolga [8]	Fivebough Wetlands	18/09/14	Martin Odino
Gull-billed Tern [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	18/09/14	Keith Hutton
Ground Cuckoo-Shrike [2]	Paynters Siding Rd via Narrandera	19/09/14	Max O'Sullivan
Horsfields Bronze Cuckoo [1]	Corbie Hill Rd, Leeton	19/09/14	Martin Odino
White-winged Wren [family]	Tuckerbil Wetlands	19/09/14	Martin Odino
Spotted Harrier	Tuckerbil Wetlands	19/09/14	Martin Odino
Red-bellied Black Snake [1]	Tuckerbil Wetlands	19/09/14	Martin Odino
Hooded Robin [3]	Evans Smyles Rd via Leeton	19/09/14	Martin Odino
Restless Flycatcher [1]	Evans Smyles Rd via Leeton	19/09/14	Max O'Sullivan
Koala [2]	Channel Bank, Narrandera	19/09/14	Martin Odino
Brush-tailed Possum [12+]	Euroly Rd, Yanco	19/09/14	Martin Odino
Magpie Goose [9]	Riverina Beef via Yanco	24/09/14	Ben Kschenka
<i>Diuris fucosa</i>	Buckingbong State Forest	27/09/14	Nella Smith
<i>Diuris tricolor</i>	Narrandera	27/09/14	Nella Smith

More on the Three-toed Skink

Keith Hutton has pointed out that the Three-toed Skink reported in last month's issue should be named *Lerista timida* according to the latest (last year's) classification. However if you want to look up your reference books see under *Lerista muelleri* as all records for this species except for those in the Pilbara region were reclassified to *L. timida*.

Records for *L. timida* are widespread across the Western Plains of New South Wales, although nearly all museum specimens are from the far west, and sighting reports are mainly from the rest of the Western Plains including our area. This anomaly clearly shows the lack of systematic searching for reptiles west of the Divide. An opportunity for a group member (or members) to make a worthwhile contribution should they take up the challenge.

Whilst preparing for the Kajuligah Biodiversity Survey, I looked up the report for our Goolgowi (Stackpoole) survey. David Parker reported 6 occurrences of *L. muelleri* (as it was recorded then) in his part of the survey, more than any other species. They are obviously in our region, just not being observed.

Eric Whiting

**** COMING EVENTS ****

- 9 October Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** the Yellow Room at **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton, commencing at 7:30pm
Topic: Our Trip to Ballarat and the Grampians, Penny & Phillip Williams
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 (Sat) Early Bird Watching Tour (Sun)
www.birdsofthebush.com
- 19 October Sunday** **Mt Bingar – Cocoparra National Park**
Meet at the Yenda Post Office at 8:30am.
Bring morning tea and lunch
Contact Nella Smith if intending to come on 6959 1210
- 20 to 26 October** **National Bird Week 2014**
This year's national Bird Week event the Aussie Backyard Bird Count! For more information head to www.aussiebirdcount.org.au
- 25/26 October** **The annual NSW and ACT Twitchathon competition – get your teams organised!**
Saturday 4pm to Sunday 4pm
The idea is to see how many species of birds you can find in the 24 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
- 5 November Wednesday** **Copy for the November newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 13 November Thursday** **AGM and Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton, commencing at 7:30pm
Guest Speaker: David Egan. Topic: Red-lored Whistler
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- Celebration of our 20th anniversary on the weekend of 15/16th November**
- 15 November Saturday** **Art and Photography Display evening**
- 16 November Sunday** **Outing to Fivebough Wetlands (morning) and the Brobenah Hills ('Yarrabimbi') (afternoon).**
This will be a repeat of the club's very first outing in October 1994.
Meet at the Petersham Road car park at 8:30 am.
Leader: Keith Hutton (who led in 1994)
Bring morning tea. Lunch will be a sausage sizzle
Contact Eric or Rowena Whiting if intending to come, phone 6953 2612
- 16 January** **Summer Campout at Cabramurra**
Friday to Sunday Please contact Penny Williams if you are interested in going.
Phone: 6953 3524 Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com