

# The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



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Website: [www.mfn.org.au](http://www.mfn.org.au)

Email: [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Australasian Bittern



In flight  
Phillip Williams



Chicks in nest  
Matt Herring

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### CONTRIBUTIONS

For the next issue by  
Wednesday 1 April  
To Rowena Whiting

Email: [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com).

Phone: 6953 2612

This month's outings are to  
Tuckerbil Wetlands and  
Wattle Dam, Binya Forest

## Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

<b>President:</b>	Max O'Sullivan	6953 4726	<b>Editor:</b>	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
<b>Vice President:</b>	Nella Smith	6959 1210	<b>Committee:</b>	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
<b>Vice President:</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612		Phillip Williams	6953 3524
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<b>Secretary:</b>	Penny Williams	6953 3524	<b>Web Co-ordinator:</b>	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
<b>Treasurer:</b>	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 AND SECOND WEEKEND AFTER INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

### Membership enquiries:

<b>Leeton</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	<b>Griffith</b>	Johanna Botman	6963 4855	
<b>Narrandera</b>	Nella Smith	6959 1210	<b>Coleambally</b>	John Wilkinson	6954 4129	
<b>Annual Subscriptions:</b>	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.

## A picture preview of some of what you will find in this issue

The Australasian Bitterns breeding in the rice.  
(Photos: Matt Herring)



Ferns at Falcon Falls – this is the Necklace Fern  
(Photo: Rowena Whiting)



The walk at Rocky Waterholes  
(Photo: Penny Williams)



Falcon Falls walk – finding ferns (Eric & Melanie)  
(Photo: Rowena Whiting)





## Bitterns in Rice Project –

### a summary of Matt Herring's talk at the February 2015 meeting

Matt Herring and Neil Bull accepted our invitation to talk to the February meeting about the Bitterns in Rice Project, now in its third season. Both Matt and Neil thanked the MFN for the donation made to the Crowdfunding campaign last year. The success of the internet exercise was that the project raised over \$70,000 which will enable the purchase of satellite tracking devices for up to 14 Australasian Bitterns. These devices have been ordered and delivery is imminent but there are official permits required before approval will be given to catch some of the birds and fit them with the tracking transmitters.

Below is a run down on what Matt had to say whilst talking to us with photo illustrations of the Bunyip birds.

- Funding for this 2014-15 season has been made by the Riverina Local Land Services enabling the study of 80 core sites (23-30ha each) in the Coleambally and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.
- Targeting of rice in aerial/spreader/dry sown rice rather than direct-drill/sod/combine sowing as the birds seem to prefer the former rice crops.
- Confident there is in the vicinity of 750 Australasian Bitterns in the rice crops in the Riverina based on the numbers in the randomly selected crops this year. That's 19-50% of the world total!
- Birds are very secretive and uncovering these secrets is slow but progress is being made thanks to the positive cooperation of both the farming and conservation groups involved.
- In late January, the first nests were discovered – one in rice and one in cumbungi at Fivebough Wetlands. This was interesting as both nests were at the same stage which seemed to indicate the birds don't necessarily delay breeding until the rice crop is at a favourable height for nesting.
- Unfortunately, the Fivebough nest was predated, possibly by foxes, and the nest was deserted so the chance to make comparisons between the two nests was lost.
- A sensor camera was used on the nest in the rice crop bird and Matt explained that it will be invaluable to watch the behaviour of the female in the nest and what food is being fed to the chicks at the various stages of development.
- In late January more nests were discovered – three nests in adjoining rice bays.
- Indication that polygamy with male birds possibly indicates the behaviour of successful booming males.
- By February, 9 chicks in nests have been found.
- Rice is now too tall and males are no longer booming so only nests already found will be watched closely as new nests would be difficult to locate.



Photos by Matt Herring  
from top:  
4 Bitterns in 1 bay  
Bittern chick  
Possible mating behaviour

Max O'Sullivan



## Rocky Waterholes Outing



The first outing for the 2015 season was a late afternoon gathering at Rocky Waterholes in Narrandera. A good crowd of 20+ members and friends attended despite the very warm afternoon even at 5pm.

The plan was to cross the new foot bridge and walk in the shade eastwards along the channel bank looking for koalas and birds. Koalas were waiting for us, it seems, as no sooner had we crossed the bridge than we spotted a young one clutching the trunk of a very smooth gum. The photo included, taken by Phillip Williams, shows how precariously the young koala was sitting on the thinnest branch half way up the tree hanging on precariously – still a long way from the foliage above.

Just a few metres further along the bank another mature koala was seen high up in the canopy looking well settled and very comfortable, unlike the one in the photo. Likewise for a third one seen on the way back after walking through the red gum forest in the Flora and Fauna Reserve (the Narrandera Common).

Birds were scarce even at that time of day but we did see Yellow Rosellas, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes, Superb Wrens, Rainbow Bee-eaters etc. In the channel itself, there were the usual water birds – Wood and Black Ducks, Purple Swamphens (Bald Coots as they are referred to locally – the bane of rice growers it seems!). A Swamp Harrier was also seen flying on the northern side of the channel but no other birds of prey were observed.

Nella had found an interesting patch of Wilcannia Lillies (often called Garland Lillies) a few weeks



prior to the outing (see February newsletter for photos). We did locate a crop of yellow flowering ones on the walk but Nella's collection, unfortunately, had long since faded and the variety of colours were no longer obvious when a group went to look for them.



Photos: Koala – Phillip Williams  
Group walking along the channel bank Rowena Whiting  
Little Corella  
The bridge at Rocky Waterholes – Penny Williams

The gathering finished back at the bridge car park where everyone enjoyed nibbles and drinks before departing around 7.30pm.

Once the hot weather settles back to more bearable temperatures, the club will be going back to the usual early morning trips to various locations in the area (check the Coming Events list for details).



View from the channel bank - Rowena Whiting

### Rocky Waterholes bird list 15/02/2015

Australian Wood Duck  
Purple Swamphen  
Galah  
Sacred Kingfisher  
Variegated Wren  
Grey Shrike-thrush  
White-winged Chough  
+ 3 Koalas

Australian Black Duck  
Swamp Harrier  
Little Corella  
Rainbow Bee-eater  
White-plumed Honeyeater  
Grey Fantail

Australian White Ibis  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
Yellow Rosella  
Superb Wren  
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike  
White-breasted Woodswallow

Max O'Sullivan

## Ferns of the Northern Riverina, Part 4 – Aquatics

There are not many plants that live floating free on water. It is a very demanding habitat. Maybe only a dozen species in Australia and three of them are introduced noxious weeds.

Pacific Azolla *Azolla filiculoides* is the species most noticeable in the Riverina. Not for its size, individual plants are only up to 3cm long, but by the abundance. Nobody can say they have never seen a thick green or red carpet on a dam, lagoon or any other still or slowly flowing body of water.

Each plant has an irregularly branched horizontal stem lined with small overlapping leaves, which are bilobed. The lower smaller lobe points down into the water, whilst the upper lobe is more erect rising out of the water. A covering of tiny water-repellent hairs on the upper lobe keeps the whole plant floating on the surface. If pushed under the plant immediately rises to the surface again.



Pacific Azolla *Azolla filiculoides*

Thin entire roots dangle down into the water from the underside of the stem.

They can be up to 5cm long. Even if strangled on mud banks, the roots never penetrate into the soil. This means a stranded plant can only survive on wet mud. Desiccation kills the plant.

Being a fern there are no flowers, reproduction being by spores produced in sporangia in the axils of the leaves. However this is a rare event and probably only occurs at times of stress like when the water body starts to dry out. Most proliferation is by fragmentation. Growth can be rapid provided there is sufficient nutrient in the water body, although nitrogen is often supplemented by hosting the cyanobacterium *Anabaena azollae* in cavities in the upper leaf lobe. Vietnamese rice farmers utilise this by allowing Azolla to grow in their paddies thereby fertilising the soil when it decays.

Australia does have two species of Azolla. Ferny Azolla *A. pinnata* differs in having the stem branches regularly pinnate, forming neat triangular plants, and also by having numerous small side branches on the roots. It has a more coastal distribution than Pacific Azolla, though there is a wide overlap. There are several records south of the Murray and up the east coast into Queensland and into South-east Asia. I have never actually recorded it in the Riverina but perhaps I have never looked close enough.

Eric Whiting



## Falcon Falls Outing 28 February 2015

Another late afternoon gathering, meeting at the Spring Hill Picnic Ground in the Cocoparra National Park. Before setting off for the short walk to the falls we all watched a Rainbow Bee-eater flying around with the sun catching the beautiful reddish brown colour of its open wings. We made our way along the track through the Cypress Pine trees with the occasional eucalypt towering the younger Cypress. Reaching the cliff face of the falls some took advantage of a seat to view the site of the Peregrine Falcon, some wandered around hoping to find birds while a few scrambled up the rocks to appreciate the view to Mount Caley and observe the various ferns (see Eric's article).

We then made our way back to the picnic area for drinks and nibbles. As we were about to leave the distinctive call of the Glossy Black Cockatoo was heard, heading in the direction of Wattle Dam. This was our cue to head there in the hope of obtaining a sighting. The birds were not at the dam on arrival but flew over us coming from further down from another dam. They were heading back towards Spring Hill. Despite not finding them drinking at Wattle Dam, it was still a most rewarding end to the evening just to see them there in Binya.

### Rowena Whiting

#### Bird list for Spring Hill/Falcon Falls Outing compiled by Max O'Sullivan

Rainbow Bee-eater	White-plumed Honeyeater	Striped Honeyeater
Diamond Firetail	Eastern Yellow Robin	Australian Raven
Peregrine Falcon (H)	Galah	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Rufous Whistler	Grey Shrike-thrush	Restless Flycatcher
Mallee Ringneck	Grey Butcherbird	Brown-headed Honeyeater
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b>		

The track through Cypress Pine  
Peregrine Falcon's spot on the cliff face  
View to Mt Caley  
Group enjoying drinks and nibbles





## Ferny Falcon Falls

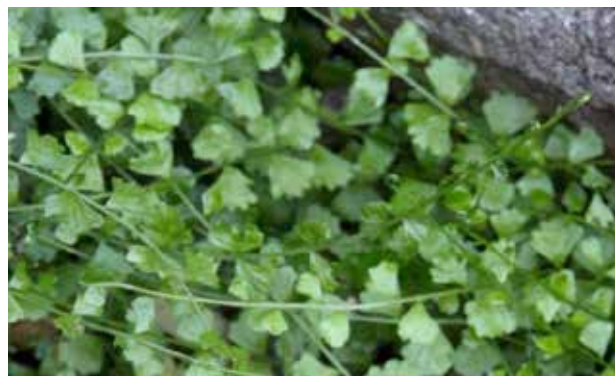
A feature of the walk up to Falcon Falls apart from the falls themselves, has been to be the Peregrine Falcon that frequented the cliffs. Of course there is no guarantee of actually seeing it on any one visit. The falls can also be a bit of a disappointment as usually there is only a trickle of water at best. The catchment above the falls is very small, comprising a single valley stretching up for a mere kilometre. The rocks of the cliff faces are however worth the walk through the mostly youngish thick Cypress Pine woodland.

For me though, the interest is in the ferns that grow at the falls. In particular the Bat's-wing Fern *Histiopteris incisa* recorded there and at only one other place in the Cocoparra Ranges at the Goat Creek Falls. (It is frequent in gullies of the Dividing Range.) Only one or two plants were ever seen tucked half under an overhang from the base of which water regularly seeped but not enough to actually say 'flowed'. During the drought, goats so churned up and polluted the



seepage that the fern ceased to grow. You can imagine the delight I had in seeing a small fresh plant there on our recent trip and again to find a bigger patch a little further along.

Close to the larger patch was another fern with paler green and much neater divided fronds. Almost dismissed as a more vigorously growing Mulga Fern, a species that frequently occurs all around, it was duly photographed for later identification. A bit of tracking through my reference books and I believe



it is Tender Brake *Pteris tremula*. The clincher would be seeing the pattern of the sporangia on the undersides of the fronds, however they had not formed on the Falcon Falls specimens. Tender Brake has been recorded in the South West Plains botanic region, but not in or even near the

Cocoparra Ranges. So quite a find.

Just to add the icing, two other ferns were seen tucked in the crevice of the rocks



around the falls. Several good patches of Necklace Fern, *Asplenium flabellifolium* were seen around the track as it changes from being easy walking to rock scrambling. Blanket Fern *Pleurosorus rutifolium* was

harder to find as it occurs as smaller plants in much tighter and sheltered crevices.

Eric Whiting

Photos from top clockwise by Rowena Whiting:  
Tender Brake  
Necklace Fern  
Blanket Fern  
Bat's Wing Fern  
Mulga Fern

## Livingstone National Park via Wagga

At the Cabramurra weekend in January, Dick Green from Wagga was telling us about Livingstone National Park south of Wagga and encouraging us to plan a club outing there in the spring. He offered to show us around as he is very familiar with the park and feels it would be well worth a trip there.

So Nella and I decided to have a look on Sunday 22 February. We were planning a trip to Wagga to see yet another MET Opera movie that afternoon so left at 7am and got there around 8.30. It is just south of Wagga on the Holbrook Road – 30km all up! The shock for us was to find a rifle club had its range right beside the main entrance to the park and, worst of all, a red flag was fluttering as we drove into the park beside it. No activity was happening at the time and we were pleased to hear lots of different bird calls all around us. We did part of a walk, The Range Track, but decided we should drive further into the park to see if there was a more suitable area away from the rifle range. After a couple of kilometres of uphill rough road including a few stops when we heard birds we decided to return to the main car park at the entrance and bird around there before heading back to Wagga for the 12.30 movie.

Despite the intermittent rifle fire, not loud but unsettling all the same, we walked around the immediate area and were pleasantly surprised to see over 30 birds (see list below) taking no notice of the rifle fire so they must be accustomed to it - the best birds were close to the range itself! The further away you went the less birds there were!

So Nella and I decided it is a definite MUST for us to organise an outing there sometime in the Spring. It is planned to do the Bill-Moller-minibus trick with the start in Griffith, pick-ups in Leeton and Narrandera and get to the park by 10.30am. We could spend a good few hours with Dick leading us to various spots before the return trip around mid-afternoon.

So keep this in mind and watch this space for further details closer to the time – we've still got plenty of summer to go yet before autumn and winter set in and, besides, spring will be busy orchid and wild flower hunting but this will be another good spot for flowers at that time.

Bird list for Livingstone National Park: February 2015

Crested Pigeon	Red-rumped Parrot	Striped Honeyeater
Kookaburra	Rainbow Bee-eater	White-throated Treecreeper
Brown Treecreeper	Superb Wren	Speckled Warbler
Yellow Thornbill	Brown Thornbill	Striated Pardalote
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	White-plumed Honeyeater	Fuscous Honeyeater
Noisy Miner	Brown-headed Honeyeater	White-browed Babbler
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	Crested Shrike-tit	Rufous Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush	White-browed Woodswallow	Dusky Woodswallow
Magpie	Australian Raven	Willy Wagtail
Magpie-lark	Grey Fantail	Restless Flycatcher
Jacky Winter	Diamond Firetail	Australian Pipit

Max O'Sullivan



Left: Crested Shrike-tit  
Below: Yellow-tufted Honeyeater



## Martin's Visit to Australia – Part 3 (final)

After leaving Ingham we drove into the Mission Beach area to look for **Cassowary**. The first spot at the Licuala Forest Park we didn't locate any so moved on to Lacey's Creek. We ran into a couple of people coming out of the track and they said they saw two in a stream just a few hundred metres in so we hightailed it there but found nothing. We walked the track for awhile and returned to the creek where we were excited to see two birds bathing along the creek. They were at a safe distance from us so we watched as they frolicked in the water – even sitting down in it and dunking their heads in the water. I don't blame them as it was so hot and humid there!



I had previously booked for two nights at Kingfisher Park, a bird lodge at Julatten on the Atherton Tablelands so we had to make it there by 2 October. The two nights there were very relaxing and good for birds. Whilst watching a pair of **Papuan Frogmouth** in a tree in the grounds, we saw a **Pied Monarch** and several different honeyeaters – **Spotted, Little and Macley's Honeyeaters**.

The creek running through the property has **platypus** in it so we were keen to see one. We had a glimpse of one early next morning but it didn't show itself fully because of a noisy over-excited American visitor. We drove up Mt Lewis and I was surprised to see the road was in excellent condition. It appears that Australian Wildlife Conservancy has purchased a huge section of the area and the road has been upgraded to allow more traffic access to their study areas.



The bird I was hoping for was the **Golden Bowerbird** and even though we saw a female, the male bird didn't show. We did see **Fernwren** and **Atherton Scrubwren** which were good substitutes. After returning to the lodge, we went back to the stream and were delighted to see a very obliging platypus floating nonchalantly on the surface and totally ignoring us. Martin got some good photos.

From Kingfisher Park, we went back to Atherton to stay with another old friend of mine at Yungaburra. We stayed two nights there and visited various local spots: Hastie Swamp where there were hundreds, if not thousands, of **Plumed Whistling-Ducks** and **Magpie Geese**. We were directed to the Nerada Tee Plantation outside of Milanda to see **Lumholtz Tree Kangaroos**, to the Curtain Fig Tree for a performing male **Victoria's Riflebird** and to the Atherton Golf Course to see **Bush Stone Curlews**. On the power lines in Yungaburra, we spotted a **Pacific Baza** and when stopped for a photo we found there were a pair of them – always lovely birds to see.

The final stop was at Machans Beach just north of Cairns where we were to spend the last three nights of Martin's trip. On the way, we stopped

at Kuranda where I felt certain we could find both **Fig Parrot** and **Barred Cuckoo-Shrike** – we were very successful in finding several of both feeding on fruiting fig trees in the main street along with many **Figbirds**.



The Cairns Esplanade was good for waders and we eventually located a roosting **Rufous Owl** right in the city centre. We looked for **Little Kingfisher** at the Lakes in the Botanic Gardens but didn't locate one. We did find a nesting pair of **Grey Goshawk** and there were numbers of **Pied Imperial Pigeon** everywhere in the city.

Martin spent his last day out on the reef at Michelmas Cay and had a wonderful time looking at the nesting birds – terns and noddys – on the coral cay itself as well a snorkling amongst the coral reefs around the island.

I put Martin on the plane to Brisbane the next afternoon where he connected with a return flight to Dubai and then Nairobi. In all we got over 330 species which was lower than I had hoped. I felt sure of making 400 but the birds weren't to be seen. We were possibly too early as the summer migrants hadn't come down from PNG at that stage so maybe a month later might have been more successful. Despite this, Martin had a wonderful time here in eastern Australia. I am hoping he will eventually write a report for us to get his side of the visit. He is a little pre-occupied at present as his wife is about to give birth to their first baby so he may have time when things settle down. Let's hope so as it will be interesting to see what he thought of the whole trip and Australia in general.

Photos from top of article  
clockwise by Martin Odino:  
Cassowaries  
Platypus  
Fig Parrot in Kurunda  
Pacific Baza probable female

**Max O'Sullivan**

**Correction \* 2**

In the last issue we named the snake found on the Cabramurra trip a Red bellied Black. It is a **Highlands Copperhead, *Austrelaps ramsayi***. Thanks to our dedicated readers in the Friends of Grasslands group (with whom we exchange newsletters) and their contacts with professional herpetologists.

Also the Blue-tongue Greenhood is more likely to be the **Large Mountain Greenhood *Pterostylis monticola***. This is found throughout Snow Gums in grassy areas and stream side vegetation. The Blue-tongue is rare with bluish flowers and grows in black mud in dark teatree thickets. This photo was taken in 2009 by Eric Whiting.

And did anyone notice the incorrect month in the footer?

We are now all much the wiser.

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**Here is a good link to the Bittern site**  
**[http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/once-bittern-twice-shy/6268600?WT.ac=infocus\\_riverina](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/once-bittern-twice-shy/6268600?WT.ac=infocus_riverina)**

**Mini-drawings by Melanie**





# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

Noisy Friarbird	Karri Rd, Leeton	25/01/15	Barry Allen
Collared Sparrowhawk	Karri Rd, Leeton	27/01/15	Barry Allen
The sparrowhawk had a kill, a Singing Honeyeater in its claws!			
Grey Butcherbird	Karri Rd Leeton	02/02/15	Barry Allen
Southern Boobook Owl	Belah St Leeton	05/02/15	Joy Young
Marsh Sandpiper [5]	Tuckerbil from the Basin Dam	07/02/15	Nella Smith
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [20+]	Tuckerbil from the Basin Dam	07/02/15	Nella Smith
Wood Sandpiper [5]	The Basin Dam Koonadan	07/02/15	Nella Smith
Brolga [1]	Tuckerbil from the Basin Dam	07/02/15	Nella Smith
Plumed Whistling-Duck [40+]	Dam off Stony Point Rd, Leeton	07/02/15	Nella Smith
Restless Flycatcher [1]	Evans Smyles Rd, via Leeton	07/02/15	Nella Smith
Southern Whiteface [5]	Evans Smyles Rd, via Leeton	07/02/15	Nella Smith
Turquoise Parrot	Wattle Dam, Binya State Forest	07/02/15	Sue Chittick
Mulga Parrot	Wattle Dam, Binya State Forest	07/02/15	Sue Chittick
Major Mitchell Cockatoo	Kidman Way via Griffith	07/02/15	Sue Chittick
Sacred Kingfisher	Yanco Ave, Leeton	07/02/15	Dot Eurell
Grey Fantail	Belah St, Leeton	08/02/15	Joy Young
Red Wattlebird	Narrandera	10/02/15	Roy Wade
Ground Cuckoo-Shrike [4]	Cantrill Rd, Koonadan	16/02/15	Max O'Sullivan
Mallee Ringneck [2]	Pendula St, Leeton	17/02/15	Max O'Sullivan
Horsfield's Bushlark [4]	Cantrill Rd, Koonadan	18/02/15	Max O'Sullivan
Pallid Cuckoo [juv]	Koonadan Historic Reserve	18/02/15	Max O'Sullivan
Wandering Whistling-Duck [3]	Fivebough Wetlands	19/02/15	Max O'Sullivan
Nankeen Night Heron	Five Mile, Narrandera	21/02/15	Nella Smith
Restless Flycatcher	Five Mile, Narrandera	21/02/15	Nella Smith
Magpie Goose [2]	Riverina Beef, Yanco	24/02/15	Ben Kschenka
Superb Parrot [2+]	Yanco Reserve	25/02/15	Rae Lister
Wedge-tailed Eagle [2]	Tharbogang Swamp	25/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [14]	Griffith Golf Course	25/02/15	Max O'Sullivan
Turquoise Parrot	Galah Dam, Binya State Forest	25/02/15	Rae Lister
Glossy Black Cockatoo [5]	Barry Heihr's property via Leeton	27/02/15	Nella Smith
Emu [27 together in a flock]	Barren Box Swamp, Griffith	01/03/15	Nella Smith
Pelican [600+ in feeding group]	Barren Box Swamp, Griffith	01/03/15	Nella Smith

Nella and I visited Barren Box Swamp on Sunday before the 5pm outing at Spring Hill. The above sightings were exceptional as I had never seen so many Emus and Pelicans together before. The emu flock contained a large proportion of immature birds and it was amazing to see so many together.

At the swamp, there were large numbers of **Great and Pied Cormorants** as well, but not many, Little Black and Little Pieds were seen. They were there but the larger birds seemed to dominate.

On the way past the Griffith Sewerage ponds we stopped for a look and were again amazed at the huge numbers of ducks – particularly **Pink-eared**. All the western duck species were present including **Freckled, Blue-billed and Musk**. Some of the ponds there, like Leeton are being allowed to slowly evaporate and there were stilts and waders in the shallower ponds but not many.

Diamond Firetail	Spring Hill Picnic Area	01/03/15	Outing group
Glossy Black Cockatoo [2]	Spring Hill Picnic Area after 7pm	01/03/15	Outing Group

The group was packing-up to leave the picnic area just after 7pm and Nella and Melanie heard the call of the Glossies flying overhead in the direction of Wattle Dam. So we drove down there but the birds weren't to be seen at the dam itself but finally flew over us heading back in the direction of Spring Hill. There must be yet another dam that they drink at so we will check out the map and see if we can locate that dam.

## Sightings continued

Australasian Bittern [1]	'Willow Park', Koonadan	02/03/15	Peter Draper
Brolga [2]	'Willow Park', Koonadan	02/03/15	Peter Draper
Pectoral Sandpiper [8]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	02/03/15	Keith Hutton
Magpie Goose [12]	Riverina Beef, Yanco	02/03/15	Ben Kschenka
Plumed Whistling-duck [1000]	Riverina Beef, Yanco	02/03/15	Ben Kschenka
Plumed Whistling-Duck [30+]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	03/03/15	Max O'Sullivan
Brown Quail [4]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	03/03/15	Max O'Sullivan
Bat's Wing Fern <i>Histioglossum incisum</i>	Falcon Falls, Cocoparra National Park	01/03/15	Eric Whiting
Tender Brake <i>Pteris tremula</i>	Falcon Falls, Cocoparra National Park	01/03/15	Eric Whiting

## \*\*\*\* COMING EVENTS \*\*\*\*

- 12 March Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton, commencing at 7:30pm  
**Topic: Neil and Johanna's recent trip to Malaysia**  
**Contact:** Penny Williams 6953 3524  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 14 March Saturday** **Koonadan Historic Site, Cantrill Rd Leeton**  
*Note change of date* Another late afternoon outing. Meet at the gate over the railway line off Cantrill Rd at 5pm for a walk to The Basin Dam that overlooks Tuckerbil Wetlands.  
This will be followed by nibbles etc at the picnic shelter.  
Contact: Max O'Sullivan 6953 4726
- 28 March Saturday** Outing Griffith area: Wattle Dam and a walk to search for other dams with water.  
*Note change of date* Meet at Wattle Dam at **8am** and bring morning tea and possibly lunch.  
**Contact: Max O'Sullivan on 69534726 if attending.**
- 1 April Wednesday** **Copy for the April newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**  
Email: [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com). Phone: 6953 2612.
- 9 April Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.  
**Topic: TBA**  
**Contact:** Penny Williams 6953 3524  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 11 April Saturday** **Outing** to Fivebough Wetlands to see the migratory waders etc.  
Meet at the Petersham Rd Car Park entrance at **8am** for the circuit walk.  
Bring morning tea.  
**Contact:** Max O'Sullivan on 6953 4726 if attending.
- 26 April Sunday** **Griffith outing. Reserve on McCann Rd near Lake Wyangan Picnic Area** and beside the almond orchard.  
Meet at the entrance of the Lake Wyangan Picnic Area at **8am**.  
Bring morning tea and lunch.  
**Contact:** Neil Palframan on 6963 4855 if attending.
- Other Events**
- 12 April Sunday** **Fungi workshop at Wagga Wagga**  
An introduction to the diversity, ecology and curiosities of the fungi kingdom  
Organised by Murrumbidgee Landcare ph (02) 6933 1443 or [office@mli.org.au](mailto:office@mli.org.au)