

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



September 2019 - Issue #274

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

PO Box 541, LEETON 2705 ISSN-1327-1172

Website: www.mfn.org.au

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

Objectives

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



Inset: at the same mound in 2005 (photo Bill Moller)

Main: Group at a malleefowl mound (inactive) at Taleeban Mining Reserve (photo taken by Margrit Martin)

IN THIS ISSUE

Office Bearers and Subscriptions	2
Welcome to September	2
Mt Caley Walk	3
Taleeban Mining Reserve outing.....	4
What haven't you seen?	6
Wildflower Walk with Narrandera Landcare	7
Ringside seat at Narrandera Show – MFN display	8
Mail Box items – feral cats, water status, et al	9
Members' Sightings.....	10
25 th Anniversary program	11
Coming Events Calendar	12

CONTRIBUTIONS

For the October issue by
Friday 27 September

To Rowena Whiting

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

Phone: 6953 2612

**Our 25th Anniversary
celebration is on
18/19/20 October
See page 11 for program**

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

President:	Graham Russell	0419 350 673	Editor:	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
Vice President:	Alan Whitehead	6959 3779	Committee:	Trevor O'Brien	6962 5614
Vice President:	Eric Whiting	6953 2612		Joy Young	0474 015 303
Vice President:	Virginia Tarr	6962 5614		Glenn Currie	0488 563 321
Secretary:	Nella Smith	0428 890 537			
Treasurer:	Ellené Schnell	0488 080 866	Website Co-ordinator:	Kathy 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	Virginia Tarr	6962 5614	
Narrandera	Nella Smith	6959 1210	Coleambally	John Wilkinson	6954 4129	
Annual Subscriptions:	Family	\$45.00	Adult/Single	\$35.00	Journal only/Concession	\$25.00

Bank details for direct deposit: 062 564 account no. 10039396, a/c name: Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Include your own name and description of payment in the reference box.

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

Welcome to September

It's wildflower time or should be. Our August outings have been mixed with a good showing of flowers at Mt Caley and rather poor at Taleeban. However there is plenty to see out there as the reports convey. Our trip this coming Saturday has been changed due to leader being unavailable, Glenn has kindly stepped in so we will be going to Kockibitoo Forest, a new name for many. A chance to explore a new area - rumour has it is Superb Parrot country so maybe we'll be lucky. Find the details in Coming Events on the last page.

I hope you all have our 25th Anniversary Celebrations in your diary for the weekend of the 18/19/20 October - this is in lieu of a Spring camp this year. The outings will be local and the guest speaker will be Matt Cameron at the dinner on the Saturday evening. Matt is a researcher of threatened species with Glossy Black Cockatoos a special focus. Details of the program are on Page 11.

For the next issue I am asking for contributions earlier than usual as I will be going away that week. So the copy date is Friday 27 September; earlier the better.

Below are a couple of important items; one to remember and one for which we would like a response.

Enjoy your month, Rowena

Items from the Minutes of the August meeting

The time for the monthly meeting time has been brought forward to 7pm.

This will mean the Leeton library will still be open when we arrive so we won't need to rely on someone picking up the key.

Why did you join the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalist Club ?

At the last meeting Kathy Tenison made a suggestion that we should generate member profiles; it would be nice to display these at our 25th Celebrations. We are asking for you to write a short piece, a maximum of 150 words was suggested, about what got you started, why and when you joined, what you are interested in...

Please email to Rowena at ericwhiting4@bigpond.com or mail to MFN PO Box 541, Leeton, 2705.

Walk to Mt Caley in the Cocoparras

Six brave souls ventured out on a day that only seasoned naturalists would go out in. Some of you who decided not to venture out after a terrible day the day before, you missed out on some botanising that we haven't seen for a few years.

When I poked my nose out I was pleased to see that it wasn't windy but I did go back for my raincoat my beanie, a scarf and the biggest woollen jumper.

With the intermittent rain over the last few weeks it was great to see the carpet of green: early orchids, daisies, lichens, Early Nancies and Chocolate Lilies not yet flowering. Further on was Trachymene and Brachycombe. Glenn had never seen it like this after wandering over the hills for 2 or 3 years with his head down.

All the books say that *Pterostylis nana* is common, today it certainly was.

Acacia decora of which there are only a few in the Cocoparras were trying to flower as were the Urn Heath and *Phebalium obcordatum*. Blue Fingers *Cyanicula careula* were also startling in the landscape with their bright blue fingers.

Bright green mosses were draped over the rocks, wet and spongy to touch.

We searched for the threatened *Pomaderris cocoparana* amongst the sheltered rocks and ledges and located but only 6 or 10 where once there were 30 or 40. Dry conditions and grazing by goats has not helped their plight.

After lunch we took a quick walk through the Spring Hill Picnic area to Falcon Falls to check on the ferns tucked in the rocks, and to check if the resident Peregrine Falcon still lives here. He does, we saw him a week later. White-browed Babblers chattered through, a pair of Jacky Winter wagged their tails in a figure of 8 and the Turquoise Parrot called and then flew past quickly. The Wonga Vine was cascading its flower laden branches over the rocks and trees. One day we'll meet the Falcon Falls actually flowing.

Bird List

White winged Chough	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Grey Fantail
Grey Shrike-thrush	Striped Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian Raven	Brown Treecreeper	

Birds seen a week later

Peregrine Falcon	Rufous Whistler	Splendid Fairy-wren
------------------	-----------------	---------------------

Nella Smith

Photos by Eric and Rowena Whiting clockwise from top:
Early Nancy, mosses, Bulbine Lily, Urn Heath, Hill Tea-tree



Ten members braved the early start and met at the Binya rail crossing on Erigolia Road at 8am.



White-winged Triller by Phil Tenison

Whilst waiting for possible latecomers, we managed a couple of good bird sightings with several male **White-winged Trillers** and **Rufous Songlarks** in the car park. The convoy moved up Erigolia Road and onto the Mid-western Highway heading towards West Wyalong. We turned down Anderson Lane and drove to the end of the reserve on the road to first check-out a dam on the opposite side of the road to the reserve. More sightings of trillers feeding in numbers on the ground – we counted 12 males together! Also present were **Mulga Parrots** and **Mallee Ringnecks** feeding in and beside a feral pig trap which had 2 rotting carcasses still in it – a trifle smelly if you got down wind of them!

Nella reported seeing a flock of 10 or more **Turquoise Parrots** fly in front of her car along Erigolia Road on the way to Taleeban which was an encouraging sign they are still about.

With no other birds about, we decided to drive back to the entrance to the reserve for morning tea. The dam where we parked was completely dry but Nella and others did locate a few struggling ground orchids flowering both Midget and Dwarf Greenhoods but the place was very dry and didn't give much hope to find many more. Nella had marked on her GPS a series of sites of old Malleefowl mounds so we headed off in search of them – some of us being distracted by a **Crested Bellbird** calling in the distance. Three old mounds were located but, unfortunately, the bellbird wasn't.

In the area where we had morning tea, we tried to entice a **Shy Heathwren** to show itself by playing its call. Unlike other occasions, the bird was reluctant to show himself and only Alan and Phil got a fleeting look at it as it scurried from one bush to another before eventually disappearing.

We decided to have lunch back at the dam after the flora members located a very sad looking Slender Velvet-bush. One of the few plants flowering in the reserve was the beautiful Scarlet Mintbush.

(See list for other flowering plants seen).



Scarlet Mintbush by Rowena Whiting

Back at the dam we came onto a birding bonanza with numbers of Woodswallows as well as honeyeaters, trillers and best of all a pair of **Crimson Chat** feeding on the bank of the dam. Also seen were male **Hooded Robin** and **Red-capped Robin**. Alan was the only one to spot a **Masked Woodswallow** but everyone else saw the lone **Dusky Woodswallow** amongst the many **White-browed** birds.

After lunch, people dispersed and Kathy, Phil and I headed to Weethalle for a comfy stop and ice cream. On the road to Barellan, Kathy

Crimson Chat
by Kathy Tenison



saw more Crimson Chats on the road so we stopped and watched as at least 4 pairs flew around us – lovely. It was the first time Kathy had seen this bird. Also present were more White-browed Woodswallows as well as another male Hooded Robin.

Max O'Sullivan



Dusky Woodswallow –by Kathy Tenison



Midget Greenhood (left)



The miserable Slender Velvet-bush by Rowena Whiting

Taleeban Outing 24 August 2019

Bird list includes birds sighted from the meeting point at Binya township at the start until just north of Barellan in the late afternoon.

- White-necked Heron
- Bar-shouldered Dove (H)
- Eastern Rosella
- Turquoise Parrot
- Rufous Songlark
- Red-capped Robin
- Crested Bellbird (H)
- Shy Heathwren
- White-plumed H/e
- Crimson Chat
- Pee Wee
- White-browed Woodswallow
- Australian Raven

- Crested Pigeon
- Galah
- Mulga Parrot
- Blue Bonnet
- Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
- Hooded Robin
- Willie Wagtail
- Yellow-rumped Thornbill
- Yellow-plumed H/e
- White-winged Chough
- Magpie
- Masked Woodswallow
- Australian Pipit
- Shingle-back

- Peaceful Dove
- Mallee Ringneck
- Red-rumped Parrot
- Welcome Swallow
- White-winged Triller
- Rufous Whistler (H)
- White-browed Babbler
- White-eared Honeyeater
- Striped H/e
- Apostlebird
- Dusky Woodswallow
- Pied Butcherbird

Also seen:

Echnida

Flora seen:

- Midget Greenhood
- Dwarf Greenhood
- Blue Caladenia
- Slender Velvet-bush
- Scarlet Mintbush
- Pimelea Daisy-bush



Striped Honeyeater Phil Tenison, Pimelea Daisy-bush – Eric Whiting

What haven't you seen lately?

Our trip reports regularly have a list of birds seen and often include some distinctive plants or reptiles seen. What is rarely written about is what was not seen when it was expected in that area – the big 'dips' of Twitchathons.

Of course, not seeing a particular species on one occasion may be because we were in the wrong place or at the wrong time. Repeated misses over a period of time is concerning, but it cannot be called extinct in that area until many years have passed. In New South Wales under the Threatened Species Act a Scientific Committee judges when, taking into account the species life cycle, habit, etc. There were no confirmed sightings of the Night Parrot from 1912 to 1979 and the species was presumed extinct for the latter part of that period. It is now listed in Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia as critically endangered.

Why a species is no longer being seen is always speculative. It is fashionable to blame climate change. Even this is not straight forward. Climate is always changing. There are three or four distinct cycles of varying periods resulting from progressions in the earth's orbit. Today's concern however is the rate of change caused by human produced pollution.

Climate change is not the only reason for the loss of species. Loss of habitat is probably more likely. Clearing of native bush is far too evident. The roadside from Weethalle to Tullibigeall had reasonable wide borders of mallee for long sections. They have now been reduced to narrow strips by the construction of metres wide drainage ditches. It seems absurd that such extensive features are needed in an obvious drying climate.

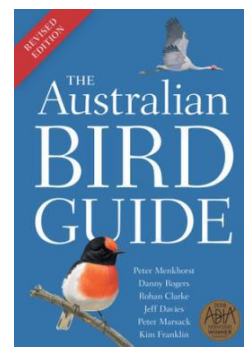
Disappearance from one area may not mean the total population of a species is declining. It could mean the range is shifting. We often report new sightings in one area, but never relate these observations to recent observations in other areas. Over our twenty-five years we have reported on several sites that have been regularly visited. It would be interesting to analyse these reports to see if there are any trends. In the mean time perhaps we could pay a bit more attention on what we don't see but had expected to.

Eric Whiting

CSIRO recently released a revised edition for *The Australian Bird Guide* by Peter Menkhurst et al. *The Australian Bird Guide* sets a new standard in field guides, providing an indispensable reference for all birders and naturalists looking to explore Australia's magnificent and unique birdlife.

In response to feedback from their customers, they are pleased to offer a revised index for *The Australian Bird Guide*, as a free download This index lists species under both their scientific name, but also under their common name, under the common family name.

Here is the link to the revised index: <https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/6520/>



A preview of Thursday talk from the folk who went on the bird tour in Sri Lanka

Photos by Neil Palframann



NARRANDERA LANDCARE'S WATTLE DAY WILDFLOWER WALK

Narrandera Landcare held a Wildflower Walk on Wattle Day, September 1st to mark the start of spring. For last year's Wattle Walk participants were introduced to 6 different species of *Acacias* on an hour-long walk. This year the walk was focused on the wildflowers appearing on Bundidgerry Hill, on the north side of Lake Talbot. Very few have been evident over the last two springs, but the rainfall has been enough this year for quite a few to appear.

Twenty-two people joined us for the walk – some Landcare members, some Field Naturalists and a lot of community members interested in the local flora.

The leaves of Garland Lily *Calostemma purpurea* dominate the hill. The leaves are beginning to die back but the flowers should appear en-masse during the summer if conditions are favourable and will be an incredible sight! Chocolate Lily *Dichopogon fimbriatus* were also very evident. Although not in flower yet they should appear soon.

Many Early Nancies *Wurmbea dioica* were still flowering. There were plentiful Blue Heron's -



bills *Erodium cicutarium*. After a few dry seasons these come back strongly with some autumn rain. Other species seen included Bulbine Lily *Bulbine bulbosa*, Smooth Goodenia *Goodenia glabra*, Thick-fruited Buttercups *Ranunculus pachycarpus*, Purple Burr-daisy *Calotis cunefolia*, and Nodding Blue-lily *Stypandra glauca*.

Amongst the orchids seen were the Greenhoods *Pterostylis mutica* and *P. nana*, as well as Donkey Orchids *Diuris goonooensis*, Spider Orchids *Caladenia concinna* and Pink Fingers *Caladenia fuscata*.

Several patches of Flannel Cudweed *Actinobole uliginosa*, Grass Cushions *Isoetopsis graminifolia* and a Sundew *Drosera sp.* were also observed.

One of Narrandera Landcare's goals for this walk was to enable the local community to learn about what is in their environs. There were many positive comments from the participants along the lines of "I didn't know there were patches of bush like this!" I'm looking forward to walking this hill in the coming weeks and watching the various plants unfold as the spring progresses.

Glenn Currie



From top:
Heron's-bill, *Caladenia concinna* by Nella Smith
A sundew by Rowena Whiting
This monitor was spotted by a few at the back of the party by Eric Whiting



RINGSIDE SEATS AT THE NARRANDERA SHOW

I knew it must be Spring at the dawning of the day of the Narrandera Show, Saturday September 7, as I heard the welcoming call of the first return of the Clamorous Reed Warbler after its Winter sojourn in warmer climes. The little bird's appearance seemed a little too early in the season as the day was windy and cold.

Nevertheless, the clamorous crowds came to the Show. In fact the frigid conditions may have had some exposure advantage for the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalist's display, as the cavernous corrugated-iron hall was the only place for the huddled masses to escape the biting wind.

Our stall stood proudly as part of a Community of Living Things, our immediate neighbours being Narrandera Landcare and The Koala Count group.

Our siting also provided us ringside seats – literally! – to the Wrestling Ring. In fact we were so close that on one occasion a muscle-bound Master of the Subtle Art alarmingly leapt through the ropes and strode around among the crowd issuing his well-choreographed stentorian challenge - within inches of our glass-covered mineral display!

This was set up to feature a kaleidoscopic range of sparkling specimens; evidence that the MFN was interested in as wide as possible a landscape of the wonders of nature.



One example I delighted in showing visitors was to shine a strong torchlight through a block of translucent stone to reveal the x-ray-like internal structure of this *Triclinic* marvel (in a prism form, all three 'clines', or slopes, are different).

This also worked with another of the 7 Crystal Systems, a large single- crystal *Hexagonal* amethyst of glowing violet. Although these two gems weren't local, nature is nature, wherever you find it.

Of course our rambling stall had many other fascinations, not the least being a large wall display of posters featuring many of the floral and faunal denizens of our unique river ecosystem. A special relevance was given to threatened species, which, co-incidentally, were having their own special 'day' on the day.

A popular feature of our display was a fine collection of replica reptiles. These were modeled from casts of real animals and painted with great realism. Favourites with the children were the Thorny Devil, a baby Green Turtle clambering out of its sandy womb, and a Death Adder. Mine was a jewel-fine intact skeleton of a small lizard.

Between the three stalls there was a plenitude of free handouts in the form of information leaflets and the like. The Landcare people were even giving away trees; but being eucalypts, like the mighty River Red Gum and White Box, the lucky giftees were advised to plant them well down the end of the backyard. They also had a nesting box on display, in the hope that visitors would take the hint and construct a couple of their own.

Table adornments that were *not* given away were Kathy Tenison's wonderful bird photos. These avian beauties, like the Blue-billed Duck, Crimson Chat, and Collared Sparrow Hawk, held people's interest throughout the day.

One might wonder why we would go to all the trouble of putting up a stall when we didn't have anything to sell. Well we did, actually: we were selling an idea; the singular focus being the protection, in the spirit of veneration, of the wonderful legacy of our natural world. This is one in which, in its illimitable evolutionary journey through the millennia, we find ourselves to be its privileged stewards.

Now *that's* an idea to make a clamour about!

Alan Whitehead

[I should just point out that we did have our Flora book for sale; and also thank Glenn Currie, Nella Smith, Susan & Alan Whitehead for a great effort, along with othe members who helped on the day. Ed]

From the mail box -

There have been a number of references to feral cats recently:

from Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC)

Feral cats and foxes kill more than 2,000 animals every minute in Australia.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) has tracked a feral cat traversing an incredible 170 kilometres in north-western New South Wales. Data from the cat, which was trapped and fitted with a state-of-the-art GPS collar by AWC ecologists in December 2018, is informing our understanding of feral predator behaviour. Since 2015 AWC has been undertaking one of Australia's most important research projects on the ecology of feral cats and foxes, to inform our feral predator strategy 'beyond the fence'.

Meredith Billington has forwarded a link to the **Feral Cat Project** being conducted by the University of New England. <https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-environmental-and-rural-science/research/life-earth-and-environment/feral-cat-project>

And this link to

<http://www.ecologicalhorizons.com/assets/feral-cat-grooming-trap-jan2015.pdf> with a note that NPWS has just received approval to deploy the Felixer 3.0 cat grooming traps in camera mode in the field. Four have been set up in Barren Grounds Nature Reserve/Budderoo National Park to see how they respond to Spotted-tailed quolls, other ground dwelling native mammals and feral cats.

Meredith also would like to draw out attention to some information from Department of Industry about **drought conditions** that she found very informative. She particularly mentions pages 10, 11, and 12 and 13 of the presentation at Information sessions: drought outlook and water availability option they are maps showing the progress of the drought Oct 18, Dec 18 and Feb 19, May 19. The link is:

https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/232803/drought-overview-presentation-may-2019.pdf and select the Drought overview presentation option.

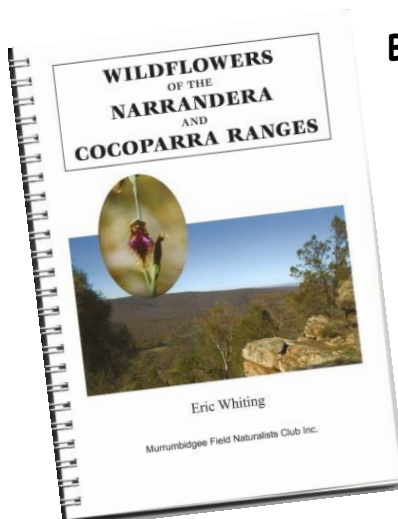


A reminder about paying subscriptions -

It appears a number of people haven't renewed their membership. It was due on the 30 June. Please send your money to the Treasurer, Ellené Schnell, promptly to PO Box 541, Leeton, NSW 2705 or make a bank transfer to the MFN's bank account. Make sure you include your surname in the description. Any queries, Ellené can be contacted on 0488 080 866.

See page 2 for annual subscription rates and bank details.

And for those who aren't aware of the MFN's Flora Book:



Be ready for Spring

This Field Guide by Eric Whiting covers most of the native wildflowers commonly seen in the Narrandera and Cocoparra Ranges, and which also occur in the other ranges and hills from Narrandera to the Lachlan River.

225 species are described with 136 colour photographs.

A simplified key aids the identification of the plants,

Price is \$25 (inc. GST) or \$20 to MFN members

Copies available at club meetings or Eric Whiting phone (02) 6953 2612 or Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
Narrandera and Leeton Tourist Information Centres also have copies.

M E M B E R S ' S I G H T I N G S

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

Purple-backed Wren [1]	Rocky Waterholes via Narrandera	21/07/19	Betty Bradney
Musk Duck [m]	Fivebough settling ponds	03/08/19	Carol Abbott
Grey-crowned Babbler [6]	East Narrandera	03/08/19	Alan Whitehead
White-bellied Sea-Eagle [1]	Lake Talbot, Narrandera	03/08/19	Susan Whitehead
Cockatiel [4] – flyover	Fivebough Wetlands	05/08/19	Max O'Sullivan
White-winged Triller	Fivebough Wetlands	06/08/19	Max O'Sullivan
Fairy Martin -season return	Leeton Water Treatment Plant	07/08/19	Canberra Birder
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Nericon	17/08/19	Neil Palframan
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Nericon	17/08/19	Neil Palframan
Western Gerygone	Nericon	17/08/19	Neil Palframan
Grey Shrike-Thrush	Nericon – calling constantly	17/08/19	Neil Palframan
Brown Honeyeater	Nericon – first return since last year	17/08/19	Neil Palframan
Crested Bellbird [H]	Binya State Forest near Moss Dam	17/08/19	Kathy & Phil Tenison
Splendid Wren [eclipse male]	Binya State Forest near Moss Dam	17/08/19	Kathy & Phil Tenison
Brown Treecreeper	Spring Hill Car Park, Cocoparra Nat. Park	17/08/19	Kathy & Phil Tenison
Turquoise Parrot [pr]	Walk to Falcon Falls, Cocoparra Nat Park	17/08/19	Kathy Tenison
Mulga Parrot [pr]	Walk to Falcon Falls, Cocoparra Nat Park	17/08/19	Kathy & Phil Tenison
Restless Flycatcher [pr]	Walk to Falcon Falls, Cocoparra Nat Park	17/08/19	Kathy & Phil Tenison
Peregrine Falcon [pr]	Rock Face at Falcon Falls, Cocoparra NP	17/08/19	Kathy & Phil Tenison
White-winged Triller [4 males]	Wattle Dam, Binya State Forest	17/08/19	Kathy & Phil Tenison
Fan-tailed Cuckoo [1]	Wattle Dam, Binya SF – calling constantly	17/08/19	Kathy & Phil Tenison
Brown Goshawk [f]	The Winery site, Binya State Forest	17/08/19	Phil Tenison
Olive-backed Oriole [H]	The Winery site Binya State Forest	17/08/19	Max O'Sullivan
Brolga [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	24/08/19	Keith Hutton
Glossy Ibis	Fivebough Wetlands – season return	24/08/19	Keith Hutton
Western Gerygone [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	24/07/19	Keith Hutton
Brown Honeyeater [8]	Woolworth's bottle return machine, Leeton	24/08/19	Keith Hutton
Red-bellied Black Snake	Fivebough Wetlands near the car park	24/08/19	Keith Hutton
Turquoise Parrot [10+]	Erigolia Rd north of Binya township	24/08/19	Nella Smith
Nella saw them fly over the road on the way to Taleeban.			
White-winged Triller [12+]	Anderson Lane dam, Taleeban	24/08/19	MFN Group
The birds were feeding together on the ground at the back of the dam.			
Mulga Parrot [4]	Anderson Lane dam, Taleeban	24/08/19	MFN Group
Crimson Chat [pr]	Anderson Lane dam, Taleeban	24/08/19	MFN Group
Hooded Robin [male]	Anderson Lane dam, Taleeban	24/08/19	MFN Group
Red-capped Robin [male]	Anderson Lane dam, Taleeban	24/08/19	MFN Group
White-browed Woodswallow	Anderson Lane dam, Taleeban	24/08/19	MFN Group
Masked Woodswallow [1]	Anderson Lane dam, Taleeban	24/08/19	Alan Whitehead
Shy Heathwren	Taleeban Mining Reserve	24/08/19	MFN Group
Bird was seen scurrying from one bush to another but didn't show clearly for everyone to see.			
Crested Bellbird	Taleeban Mining Reserve	24/08/19	MFN Group
Several birds calling during our walk in the reserve but none observed.			
Crimson Chat [4 prs+]	Roadside between Weethalle & Barellan	24/08/19	Kathy & Phil Tenison
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [2]	Wyangan north lake from the causeway	27/08/19	Max O'Sullivan
Season arrival of the migratory waders.			
Red-necked Avocet [1]	Wyangan north lake from the causeway	27/08/19	Max O'Sullivan
Ground Cuckoo-Shrike [2]	Whitton Rd (Whitton end)	27/08/19	Max O'Sullivan
Glossy Ibis [1]	Campbell Swamp, Griffith	27/08/19	Max O'Sullivan
Wedge-tailed Eagle [2]	Fivebough Wetlands – perched	28/08/19	Max O'Sullivan
Brolga [5]	Fivebough Wetlands – landed in feedlot	28/08/19	Max O'Sullivan

Glossy Ibis [9]	Fivebough Wetlands	28/08/19	Max O'Sullivan
Wood Sandpiper [1]	Fivebough Wetlands – season arrival	01/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
Banded Lapwing [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	01/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [4]	Fivebough Wetlands – flyover	01/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
Peregrine Falcon [male]	Fivebough Wetlands	01/09/19	Keith Hutton
Baillon's Crake [2]	Fivebough Wetlands – season arrival	02/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
Black Falcon [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	02/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
Superb Parrot	Wyvern TSR, near Carathool ?? nesting	27/09/19	Max Harris

Virginia Tarr's report of sightings from Quilpie to the Channel Country in Central Queensland in August 2019.

Brolga [2]	Black Kite [many]	Wedge-tailed Eagle [a few]
Emu [12+]	Red-tailed Black Cockatoo [12+]	Cinnamon Quail-Thrush [1 at camp]
Hooded Robin [pr at camp]	Masked Woodswallow [many]	Rufous Whistler [pr]
Mallee Ringneck [occasionally]	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [flocks]	Galah [occasionally]
Mulga Parrot [occasionally]	Budgerigar [small flocks]	

Max O'Sullivan



Keeping an eye on things in Bilbul

This collared sparrowhawk occasionally spends time in one of my tall casuarinas or silky oaks (*Grevillea robusta*) where he can keep an eye on what's going on in Bilbul. Fortunately for me Nella was in the right place at the right time and took this photo on 4 August. He was soon ousted by the Willie Wagtail brigade (all two of them but very enthusiastic).

Meredith Billington

25 Years Celebration is to run over 3 days: the following program is proposed

Friday 18th October, 2019.

Meet at Leeton Presbyterian Church Hall 2pm
 Outing to Narrandera Area
 Bring and Share Dinner by the Water at Rocky Waterholes

Saturday 19th October, 2019

Re-enactment of Original First Outings
 Meet at Fivebough Wetlands @ 6am
 Breaky/Brunch location yet to be confirmed
 Head to Colinroobie Hills.
 BYO Lunch and Afternoon Tea

Formal Dinner 7-7.30pm

At the MIA Club, Racecourse Road, Leeton
Cost: \$50 p/p for dinner – drinks purchased at the bar

Please RSVP for Formal Dinner by 4th October 2019

Sunday 20th October 2019

Meet at Corner of Whitton Stock Route & Burley Griffin Way at 8am
 Head into Cocoparra National Park for the morning
 BYO Morning Tea and Lunch.

Depart after Lunch

All Enquiries please call Graham 0419 350 673 or Dione 0428 536290

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com



**** COMING EVENTS ****

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions please email or phone if you intend to come.

- 12 September Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7 pm.
Topic: Our trip to Sri Lanka by the members who went.
Contact: Nella Smith 6959 1210 or murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 14 September Saturday** **Outing to Kockibitoo State Forest**
This is south of Matong along the Old Wagga Road. Superb Parrots could be on the agenda.
Meet: at Narrandera Information Centre at 8:30am
Bring: Morning tea and lunch
Contact: Glenn Currie 0488563321 or murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 27 September Friday** **Copy for the October newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Please note this is earlier than usual as I will be away.
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com **Phone:** 6953 2612.
- 28 and 29 September Saturday and Sunday** **Bird Tours run by the Lachlan Fold Wildlife Action Group**
The tours will depart from the Rankins Springs Hall at 6am both mornings
The cost is \$80pp for Saturday, and \$40pp for Sunday, reduced to \$100pp if you book for both days – Refreshments are included
Please book by email: lfwagroup@gmail.com. For further info please contact Rodney Guest: 02 6966 1295 or 0427 487 601
- 10 October Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7 pm.
Topic: Kathy and Phil Tenison about England and Singapore
Contact: Nella Smith 6959 1210 or murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.

11 12 October Friday Saturday **Leeton Show**

**Make sure the weekend of the 18/19/20 October 2019 is in your diary
so you can participate in the Celebrations
See previous page for the proposed activities
Anniversary Dinner, Outings and Photographic Exhibition**

- 26 27 October** **Twitchathon**
Details and registration will be available soon. This will take the same form as last year with 3 race categories Big Weekend (30 hour), Big Day (12 hour) and Birdathon (12 hour). Time to think about getting a team together.
- 2-3 November Saturday Sunday** **NSW Malleefowl Recovery Group**
Training Sessions for volunteers at West Wyalong – training monitors on the 2nd and monitoring of the mounds in Riverina on the 3rd. -
Contact: Ellené Schnell for details – Email schnell.letaba@gmail.com.
- 14 November Thursday** **Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7 pm.
Topic: to be decided
Contact: Nella Smith 6959 1210 or murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.