

# The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



June 2020 - Issue #282

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

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## 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



Rocky Waterholes, one of Narrandera's wetlands Photo: Rowena Whiting

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

For the July 2020 issue by  
Wednesday 1 July

To Rowena Whiting

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

Phone: 6953 2612

**"In all things of nature there is  
something of the marvellous"**

**Aristotle**

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

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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ellené Schnell 0488 080 866	<b>Website Co-ordinator:</b>	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 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

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

## Welcome to wintery June

Another full issue this month, despite not having any field trips to report. Though items for the show and tells have slowed down (do you hear a sigh of relief from me?!); there will probably be another issue next weekend. Do send in anything you'd like to share.

It is good to be able to include 'Coming Events' again albeit limited, now the COVID-19 restrictions on travelling and public gatherings have eased and we can look forward to extending our activities as many people have done this long weekend. The club has decided to resume outings as we can apply with required social distancing and other measures. It is proposed to hold the suspended outing visiting stock routes this coming Saturday. Members will be required to register with the leader to confirm details including the meeting place. See last page for details. We have no further information regarding indoor meetings and it is likely we will need a larger venue to meet the spatial distancing regulations.

### Rowena.

#### A Correction to the May issue:

Just to clarify, the two photos in the May newsletter about the differences between Brown Goshawk and Collared Sparrowhawk, both photos were of Collared Sparrowhawks not one of each species. Kathy's photo was mislabelled as a Brown Goshawk when in fact it was a Sparrowhawk like Meredith's bird. This was decided by a panel of 'experts' - Keith Hutton, Allan Richards, Vincent Mourik and myself after seeing another photo that Kathy took showing the tail of her bird which was square at the end not rounded as in a Brown Goshawk.

#### Max O'Sullivan

### **Membership subscriptions are due on the 30<sup>th</sup> 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. Any queries, Ellené can be contacted on 0488 080 866.

See above for annual subscription rates and bank details.

## Revisit to MIA I Sandhill Rehabilitation Site

I thought Rowena might be scratching for content to put in May's newsletter, so I ventured to the Sandhills Rehabilitation block in MIA I - it being almost in my backyard.

MFN did a fieldtrip there in May 2018, and we noted how the direct seeding done in 2015 was progressing, and we wandered around the early 2000's planting of tube stock by NSW Forests. Back then we could see some success with the direct seeding and generated a limited bird list from the older plantings on top of the hill.

I drive past this site quite regularly and could see changes but took advantage of a day off to explore a bit further. The sandhill has a green covering at the moment, so different from June 2018! Weeds are abundant but some native ground layer veg. is evident.

The direct seeded species have grown considerably since 2018. This during two harsh summers and dry winters. It seems if the right plant can get established in the first couple of seasons, they can carry on almost regardless. The photos show the difference between 2018 and 2020.

A couple of Borees that were planted on the sandhill surprise me. I would normally associate them with heavier soil in a flatter landscape. But here they were planted on a red sandhill, watered for a year or two and left alone. They are doing fine. But I wonder about whether they can produce offspring on this sandhill?

We noted in 2018 the only regeneration seemed to be from the Miljee *Acacia oswaldii*. In 2020 I noticed saplings from *A. deanei* and *A. hakeoides*. Not a lot, but at least there is some regeneration. It was windy as



I approached the original plantings on top of the hill, and I was not expecting to see much birdlife. I couldn't hear any bird sounds at all. The first "fauna" I saw was a large feral cat which took refuge in the dense cover of an Oldman Saltbush on my approach. But a short while later the birds started to make themselves known. It would have been great to have a birdo with me as there were lots of the little ones about. What I can say with confidence is upwards of 6 Grey Fantails, the same amount of Fairy Wrens, quite a few Willy Wagtails, a Red-capped Robin (female) and a Grey Shrike-thrush. Then there were many Thornbills/Weebills? I couldn't get a good look at. I was surprised at the birdlife there.

Glenn Currie

## NARRANDERA; A WATER WONDERLAND

The view of the rest of Australia of Narrandera – if they think of us at all – is that we sit squarely in the arid inland. Indeed, this area of the MIA does straddle the meteorological north-south precipitation line between the 500mm per annum zone to the east, and the 250mm western rainfall region: a line which, due to Climate Change, is relentlessly moving eastward.

So why, in this seemingly desiccated landscape, do we have the “A Water Wonderland” title?

Narrandera and surrounds just happens to be especially blessed with large amounts of deep standing and running water, and wetlands. All of this living liquid contributes to the flourishing of a large and varied community of wildlife, which is either dependent on water on a regular basis, or equally dependent, like our many splendid raptors, on those animals and plants that are. Blessed be!

Firstly, the town is fortunate to reside snugly on the banks of the mighty **Murrumbidgee River**, with its lacework of overflow channels and billabongs. The river is a conduit of life-sustaining fresh water from its bubbling beginnings in the Snowy Mountains, right down to its junction with the even mightier Murray; a total river length of an impressive 1485km.

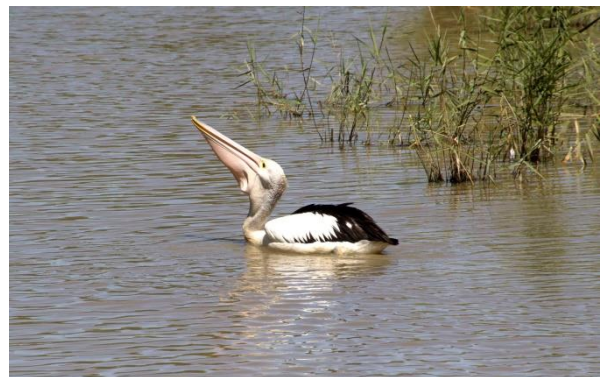
The Murrumbidgee is indeed a ‘river of life’, its flow being especially abundant as it leisurely passes through Narrandera. Some of the birds exploiting this corridor of prosperity (for humans as well as animals) are Sacred Kingfishers, Dollar Birds and Superb Parrots. The majestic White-bellied Sea Eagle is regularly seen patrolling the river’s wide, tranquil reaches.

Then we have that wonderful deep and long body of water, **Lake Talbot**, with its adjacent, oft-waterlogged, Red Gum Common. This serene waterway provides either a home, or stopping off point, for lots of both bush and water birds. Throughout the year we might spot Black Swans, Pelicans, Great Crested Grebes, Whistling Kites, Spoonbills, and more. Some of the bush birds commonly seen are Rainbow Bee Eaters, Striated Pardalotes and Singing Honeyeaters.

And what about the **main Irrigation Canal** running right through the town? The amount of wildlife that this fast-flowing defacto river sustains is easily underestimated.

Among the many birds routinely sighted along the canal are Darters, Great Egrets, and the ubiquitous Clamouring Reed Warblers; the last more often heard than seen. The Canal also has large numbers of Freshwater Mussels; at 120cm long, our particular species is one of the largest in the world!

Another sanctuary, in both the general and specific meanings of the word, for large populations of waterbirds and others is **Lake Coolah** on the Barellan Road. This veritable inland sea happily refilled in late 2016, with its reservoir lasting for over two years; before sadly returning to near-lifeless paddocks once more. Even Brolgas spent time in this unique ‘water wonderland’, one which stretched a full 12 kilometers from north to south. At times, flocks of various duck species, like the gorgeous green-headed Mountain Duck, and the Chestnut Teal could be observed. The lake’s shallow foreshores are also ideal habitat for many waders, both migratory and sedentary. Red-necked Avocets, Glossy Ibis, and various Dotterels could all be seen poking around on the mud flats and along the waterline. How wonderful if this part-time lake were to be levied, as has been suggested, to make it deeper, hence more permanent.



From top: Murrumbidgee River, Narrandera Bridge in 2010  
Pelican at the wetlands  
Mussel shells Alan brought to a meeting show and tell

And not to forget that small but vital addition to this wonderful water tracery, the **Narrandera Wetlands**. As well as filtering the town's stormwater before entering the Murrumbidgee, this man-made repository always has a bevy of birds drinking, feeding, cooling, and even nesting in and around it.

In fact the Wetlands is an official bird-watching "hotspot" on the **eBird Australia** website, <http://ebird.org/ebird/australia/hotspot/L2557645> with over 120 avian species sighted over the last few years – remarkable! This list includes the

White-necked and White-faced Herons, Red-browed Finch, Tawny Frogmouth; and the ever-resident Purple Swamp Hen. This last is surely one of the most beautiful of water birds, with its shimmering deep-violet breast, jauntily accessorized with bright scarlet eyes, legs, bill and frontal shield.

The Wetlands even support many non-feathered denizens, like Swamp Wallabies, Koalas, Water Rats and reptiles, such as tortoises, snakes and lizards.

Perhaps the most unsung member of this mosaic of water in and around Narrandera is

the omnipresent **Farm Dam**. Many creatures could not live in habitats as widely as they do without these muddy havens. Lots

of birds, including most doves, finches and parrots, must drink every day. Importantly, this list includes our rare and secretive Glossy Black Cockatoo. In fact among the most favourite bird-watching outings is sitting on a dam wall, whether on a cockatoo count or otherwise, for a couple of hours at sunset delighting in the passing parade of feathered visitors and other animals that come in to drink.

Narrandera is almost unique in inland NSW towns for its many bushwalks. This is enhanced by the fact that most of them have water vistas. Among these are the Narrandera Wetlands and environs; The Common; Rocky Waterholes; Murrumbidgee National Park; Town Beach; Lake Talbot north track – *et alia*.

As can be seen, for Australia's unique and oft-threatened natural world, water is the elixir of life, and Narrandera is lucky enough to have it in abundance. Let's not only conserve this precious treasure, but add to it wherever and whenever we can. For example, even town-dwellers can do this by digging a *Garden Pond*, or just installing a *Birdbath* to add to the plenitude of water in Narrandera. To be sure, generations of wildlife over the years will thank you for it.

**Alan Whitehead**

Photos by Rowena Whiting

This is an updated version of an article that appeared in the *Narrandera Argus* in November, 2018



Narrandera Wetlands 2017



A couple of photos of the **Glossy Black Cockatoos** feeding during their visit to 'Willow Park' (article in the May issue). Photos Phillip Williams



## Cocoparra Ranges – Geology and Scenery

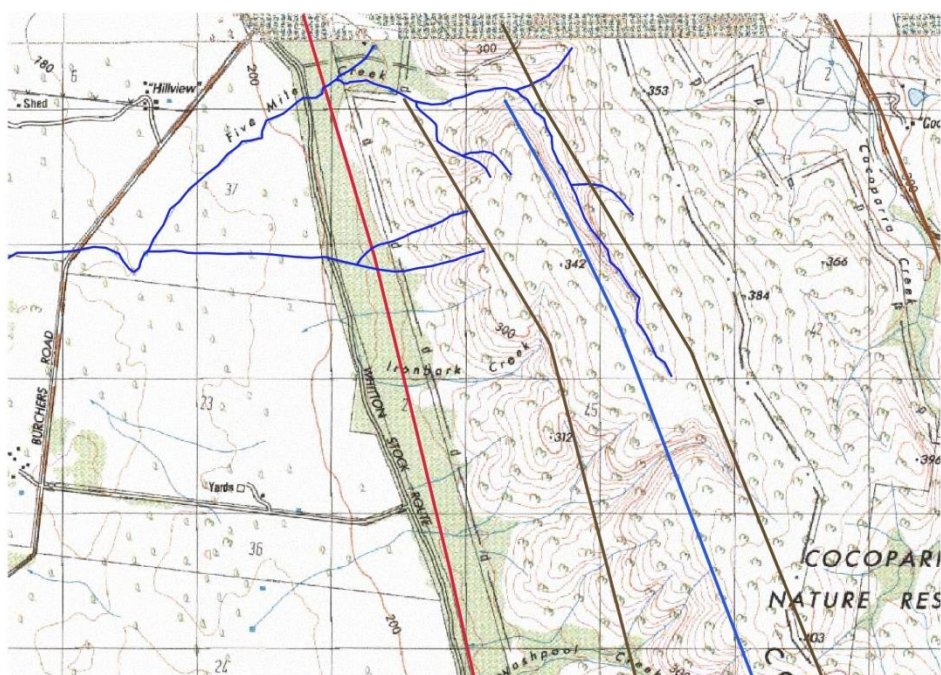
It is without question the gorges of the Cocoparra Ranges have the most spectacular scenery. Just to walk up Jacks or Store Creeks between those craggy cliffs fills one with a sense of drama. Have you ever wondered how those small creeks that only flow once in a while could have carved their way through so much rock?

The answer is in the geology and the appreciation of the immense time taken. The rocks of the Cocoparras were laid down around 370 million years ago as outwash from mountains to the west now long gone. In those times, the late Devonian, Australia was adding to its ancient western parts at the expense of some unknown continental mass being subducted (pushed under in simple terms) by the relentless drifting of the Earth's crust. It helped Australia in being just a part of the supercontinent of Gondwanaland. The tectonic movements that started in the Cambrian some 100 million years earlier had formed an oceanic trench. By Devonian times the trench had filled and had been superseded by another trench further east. All these movements squeezed the rocks into multiple folds, mostly all roughly in a north-northwest to south-southeast line. In places the forces were too great for the rocks and whole blocks were pushed up along fault lines. One of these has been traced on the western side of the Cocoparras from Pulletop Creek down to Homestead Creek (and probably extends further south), giving that virtual straight western margin of the ranges. Uneven forces across the line also created cross-faults usually at right angles to the fault and fold lines.

Since Devonian times the Cocoparra rocks have been lifted, eroded down to a flat peneplain and raised again; all movements increasing the complexity of folding. I believe that the area is still slowly rising due to the continuing rifting separating us from Antarctica.



View from the top of Store Creek looking down the valley



- anticline
- syncline
- syncline
- syncline
- five mile creek
- Cocoparra fault line

0 250 500 km



Five Mile geomorphology

Folding and faulting cause weakness at the tops (anticlines) and bottoms (synclines) of the folds and any weakness can be exploited by eroding streams. (An easy way to remember what is a syncline and what is an anticline is to think that if you sin you go down to hell, and one always ups the anti). As a result streams can cut deep into mountains forming the gorges we see today. By following fold and cross-fault lines streams tend to run in fairly straight lines interrupted by right angle bends. The accompanying map of the Five Mile Creek area overlain with the fault and fold lines clearly shows this pattern.



Rock layering and colouring

The colour of the rocks also adds to the scenic beauty. The shades of reddish-brown are no accident. They are the product of one of the greatest changes in Earth's history. The initial Earth's atmosphere was rich in carbon dioxide and hardly had any oxygen. The explosion of oceanic plant life, mostly of single-celled algae, that began in the Cambrian period pumped out so much oxygen the oceans could no longer retain it, releasing it into the atmosphere. At first this atmospheric oxygen reacted with the rocks, principally with their iron content. The rocks literally rusted turning from dark greys (like the moon today) to the russet browns we have now.

By Devonian times there was enough free oxygen in the atmosphere to form the ozone layer sufficient to form a radiation shield. It was only then plants and animals could begin to colonise the land. It is not only for the gorgeous scenery that we can thank those tremendous events in the Devonian times.

**Eric Whiting**

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## Reviving Riverina's Malleefowl Project

### Overview of the project area:

The primary objective of this project is to stabilise or improve existing Malleefowl populations and breeding activity and to maintain and improve areas of primary habitat across the Riverina.

2020 is looking very promising for the Malleefowl with good rainfall throughout the Riverina and with rain forecast later in the year it could be the best breeding season we have had for many years. Only four breeding pair were recorded in the 2019/20 breeding season due to drought conditions so we are getting excited to see what this year brings.

### Some Project Highlights

Four landholder agreements

4892 hectares of Malleefowl habitat to be protected

7359 hectares managed for feral animals including, foxes, cats, pigs, goats and deer

21,728 metres of exclusion fencing to be installed over the next four years

Reviving Riverina's Malleefowl Project is supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

### David Kellett

For more information please call David Kellett (Acting Senior Land Services Officer - Local Land Services) on 0428 693 990



## Lord Howe Island – 22-29 February 2020

Lord Howe Island would be one of the most spectacularly beautiful places in Australia. It is to me one of the places I always wanted to go back to and when Allan Richards was organising a trip there in February for the Sydney club, Birding NSW, I asked if I could join the group. There were 15 of us who went and all had been there previously mostly 20 to 30 years ago so it was a return visit for all of us having such fond memories of our first visit all those years ago.

The island itself is part of the chain of volcanic islands that arch from Indonesia through Papua New Guinea to the North Island of New Zealand – the chain is known as Zealandia.

Lord Howe Island is 780km north-east of Sydney and 890km south of Norfolk Island. It is only 11km long and the settlement is at the northern end of the island. The population consists of 400 permanent residents with the capacity of having accommodation for up to 400 visitors at any one time. The settlement faces a very sheltered lagoon on the western side of the island where coral reefs are found with the maximum water depth in the lagoon being about 2 metres – a wonderful place for swimming and snorkelling in the calm water. In 1982 the island was declared a World Heritage site.

At the southern end of the island are two remnant volcanic plugs – Mt Lidgbird at 777m and Mt Gower at 875m. 23km to the south-east is Ball's Pyramid - a spectacular eroded stack 550m in height sticking straight out of the sea where many sea birds come to nest on the craggy rock faces at different times of the year. Boat trips to the Pyramid are often not possible because of the rough seas but this time there were two days in which the boat was able to go. Needless to say that I chose not to venture out as I do not enjoy ocean trips on small boats! I only missed seeing 2 extra sea birds that weren't possible to see on the mainland so I felt I didn't miss much by not going.

The island's economy is based mainly on tourism but that is very seasonal in the warmer months and the main activity that keeps the island going is the Kentia Palm (*Howea fosteriana*) industry. The island exports both seeds and young plants all over the world and most of the island is covered by these palms.

Ecologically, the island has had some major problems thanks to the introduction of feral pigs, goats, cats and rodents over the centuries since early settlement around 1834. Before then the island was visited by whalers hence the feral species managed to establish themselves on the island. In the early days a number of bird species became extinct and when the Lord Howe Island Woodhen was threatened in the late '70s with just 37 birds recorded a major captive breeding program was undertaken in 1980 to 1984 to ensure the birds survival. During this time the islanders mounted an extermination of the feral animals – pigs, goats and cats. A population count of the Woodhen in 1988 resulted in almost 200 birds and today that number would be much higher.

However, a few years ago, it was noticed that the eggs and chicks of the Woodhens were being taken by the increased numbers of rats and mice that had taken over most of the island where the birds were breeding so a dramatic program was devised to totally eliminate the rodents. The majority of the Woodhens were captured and held in enclosures whilst thousands of rat baits were laid in traps throughout the island with the result that now they feel they have succeeded in eliminating the rats. To ensure this is



Lord Howe Island looking south by Corinne Tomkinson  
Ball's Pyramid by Judy Clark





control the rats – obviously the rats won! However, these birds can be reintroduced if it is considered necessary to have them back on the island.

And now for the birds:

**Sea birds:**

**Providence and Kermadec Petrels** – only seen on and around Ball's Pyramid by the boat trippers.

**Black-winged Petrel** – common flying about the island – roosts and nests in burrows on the island.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** – feeds at sea by day and 'flops' onto the island at dusk to return to its burrows to feed its young which were present during our time there.

**White-bellied Storm Petrel** – one seen flying over Ned's Beach but more common at the Pyramid.

**Masked Booby** – breeding on the island and seen daily flying close in to the coast.

**Red-tailed Tropicbird** – a common beautiful bird flying all around the island.

**Sooty Tern** – another common species with many juvenile birds seen on the beaches.

**Brown Noddy** – a very common species breeding in trees on the northern section of the island.

**Black Noddy** – not as common as the Brown but smaller and darker.

**Grey Ternlet** – a beautiful small tern with lovely light grey back and wings – not common.

**White Tern** – my favourite – a stunning little white bird that 'nests' on bare branches of the Norfolk Island Pines that line the main Lagoon Road in the township. These birds lay a single egg on the bare branch with nothing to hold it on except good luck and attentive parents.



**Land Birds:**

**Australian Kestrel** – only one bird seen on the trip.

**Lord Howe Island Woodhen** – reasonably easy to see in walking around the township as they cross the road in front of you!

**Buff-banded Rail** – very common and easy to see, unlike here on the mainland, and many had chicks .

**Masked Lapwing** – mostly found on the airport runway and adjoining grasslands.

**Sacred Kingfisher** – a number seen about the township.

**Song Thrush** – not easily seen but a couple of the group spotted at the back of our accommodation.

**Common Blackbird** – very common and may need culling in the future.

**Lord Howe Island White-eye** – a Lord Howe Island subspecies very similar to our Silvereye – very common.



Lord Howe Island Woodhen (top), White Terns (middle) Emerald Dove (above)  
Photos by Judy Clark

true, they have a couple of well trained rat-detecting dogs to search the island in case some rats managed to escape. When we were there, the dog handlers were confident that the operation had been successful. The Woodhens in the meantime had been freed and have been breeding successfully ever since.

One negative result of the poisoning has been that three bird species on the island have virtually disappeared – the Purple Swamphen which was self-introduced and the Masked Owl and Barn Owl also introduced onto the island in the 1920s to

**Lord Howe Golden Whistler** – still only a subspecies of the mainland birds but is quite different in that, instead of a rich yellow colour, it is quite lemony.

**Peewee** – not common like here but easily seen.

**Lord Howe Island Currawong** – yet another subspecies but sounds quite different from its mainland cousin.

**Emerald Dove** – fairly common wandering about the gardens around the main settlement.

**Waders:** only seen around the airport area and on some of the beaches at low tide.

**Pacific Golden Plover** – many birds seen around the airstrip and some well into their breeding plumage.

**Ruddy Turnstone** – very common around the airport but also at low tide on beaches.

**Whimbrel** – reasonable numbers at the airport, the golf course and on beaches.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** – again reasonably common with some in near full breeding plumage.

**Wandering Tattler** – just 3 seen at an isolated beach at the south end of the island.

Other waders seen by others were **Double-banded Plover**

and **Latham's Snipe** - just single birds seen.

The above list consists of the regular birds seen on the island – any others are considered vagrants.



Ruddy Turnstones by Judy Clark

**Max O'Sullivan**

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## Member Profiles

### Max O'Sullivan



During my teaching career, I have moved often and every city or town where I worked I would always join a local Bird or Naturalist Club. This is the best way to make new friends with similar interests and also to find the local hotspots where birds can be found.

This is what I did when I moved to Leeton in 2007 and with the help of members have found the best birding spots locally and now share that information with new members and any

visiting bird watchers coming to our area.

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### Margrit Martin

*Margrit having fun with a roly poly at Oolambeyan.*

I joined the Field Naturalists in 2018, straight after my retirement. My initial motivation was to learn to identify plants, as the environment is so different from my native Switzerland. Most of the species that I know are 'weeds' here. Along the way I have also become interested in birds, frogs and other creatures - and I seem to see and hear them more now.

I particularly like the outings, when so many different eyes find always something exciting. I have met a very diverse group of people with different knowledge and perspectives which has been very rewarding.

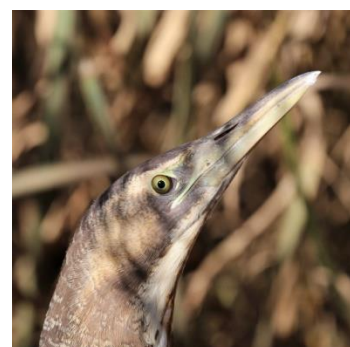


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### Bitterns in Rice Project

An email from Matt Herring: please follow the link to see some encouraging results from our first year of bittern-friendly rice growing incentives with Riverina LLS, as well as a new short film from SunRice about the program.

<http://www.bitternsinrice.com.au/incentive-program-success-new-film/>



# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

<b>Red Wattlebird</b> [5]	Cutler Ave/Binguie Reserve, Griffith	06/05/20	Virginia Tarr
<b>Rufous Whistler</b> [m]	Cutler Ave/Binguie Reserve, Griffith	06/05/20	Virginia Tarr
<b>Chestnut-rumped Thornbill</b>	Scenic Hill, Griffith	08/05/20	Virginia Tarr
<b>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</b> [3]	Scenic Hill, Griffith	08/05/20	Virginia Tarr
<b>White-necked Heron</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/05/20	Keith Hutton
<b>White-bellied Sea-eagle</b> [Imm]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/05/20	Keith Hutton
<b>Brolga</b> [6]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/05/20	Keith Hutton
<b>Swamp Harrier</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/05/20	Keith Hutton
<b>Australian Raven</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands – uncommon	14/05/20	Keith Hutton
Little Ravens are the most common corvids at Fivebough.			
<b>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</b> [3]	Woolshed Flat Cocoparra Nat Park	15/05/20	Neil Palframan
<b>Restless Flycatcher</b> [2]	Woolshed Flat	15/05/20	Neil Palframan
<b>Jacky Winter</b> [5+]	Woolshed Flat	15/05/20	Neil Palframan
<b>Eastern Yellow Robin</b> [5+]	Jacks Creek Walk, Cocoparra Nat Park	15/05/20	Neil Palframan
<b>Speckled Warbler</b> [3]	Jacks Creek Walk	15/05/20	Neil Palframan
<b>White-throated Treecreeper</b>	Galore Hill Reserve	16/05/20	Kath & Phil Tenison
<b>Australasian Bittern</b> [3]	Campbell Swamp, Griffith	17/05/20	Warren Chad
<b>Pied Currawong</b>	Narrandera – seem to be migrating	20/05/20	Alan Whitehead
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [7]	Wildflower Nursery, Griffith Rd Leeton	20/05/20	Mike Schultz
Mike reported these birds roosting in his trees and feeding nearby in belah trees. Possibly the same ones that were at Peter Draper's place.			
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [20+]	'Mountain Dam', Colinroobie Rd	28/05/20	Graham Russell
This is a very unusually large flock for this time of year. There have been the odd pairs about locally but not as many as Graham reported.			
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [up to 20]	Leeton Golf Course	28/05/20	per Glenn Currie
<b>Barking Gecko</b> [5]	'Yarrabimbi', Colinroobie Rd	31/05/20	Keith Hutton
Keith said this gecko is now called <b>Common Thick-tailed Gecko</b> .			
<b>Common Dunnart</b> [1]	'Yarrabimbi', Colinroobie Rd	31/05/20	Keith Hutton
<b>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</b> [H]	'Yarrabimbi', Colinroobie Rd	31/05/20	Keith Hutton
<b>Singing Honeyeater</b> [2]	Narrandera Wetlands	01/06/20	Alan Whitehead
<b>Striated Pardalote</b> [2]	Lake Talbot, Narrandera	04/06/20	Alan Whitehead
<b>Pied Currawong</b> [10+]	Leeton Golf Course	04/06/20	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [6]	Leeton Golf Course	04/06/20	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Tawny Frogmouth</b> [1]	McCann Rd Reserve, Lake Wyangan	05/06/20	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Major Mitchell's Cockatoo</b>	Colinroobie Rd, Leeton	Daily	Graham Russell

Graham thinks the birds have dispersed to breed as he is only seeing one or two birds lately. He thinks there is a pair breeding in a hollow in a tree on Colinroobie Rd just past the Walnut Farm main gate.

Keith Hutton's photos of the Common Dunnart and the Common Thick-tailed Gecko.



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

- 13 June Saturday**      **Explore some local Travelling Stock Routes**  
Locations and meeting place still to be determined.  
To comply with COCID-19 restrictions you must register to participate .  
**Contact: Alan Whitehead on 6959 3779 to register**  
**Contact: Eric Whiting on 6953 2612 for information on locations**
- 27 June Saturday**      **A walk in the Cocoparras**  
Location and meeting place will be determined closer to the time.  
To comply with COCID-19 restrictions you must register to participate.  
**Contact: Eric Whiting on 6953 2612, [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com).**
- 1 July Wednesday**      **Copy for the July newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**  
Email: [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com). Phone: 6953 2612.

The Australian Naturalist Network Annual Get-together at Stanthorpe in September has been cancelled.

## A trip to Gluepot Reserve in South Australia in Spring 2020 ?

### CALLING for EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (subject to what happens with COVID)

Gluepot is part of the largest block of intact mallee left in Australia and so the viability of threatened bird populations and other flora and fauna is high. Six nationally threatened bird species (including Black-eared Miner) can be found on Gluepot Reserve and a further 17 regionally threatened bird species. In all, 190 bird species have been recorded.

Gluepot is a remote reserve run by Birdlife Australia and by all accounts is a birdwatcher's paradise. It is run by volunteers, and there is an excellent visitor centre full of information about their various research projects.



However it is remote, the last 50 kilometres north of Waikerie are dirt, and the only facilities are pit toilets. Visitors have to bring their own everything - camping and cooking gear, water, and food.

Distance is 692 kilometres from Griffith, travel time 10 hours 12 minutes (thanks Google!)

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.**

Thanks, Meredith Billington (0498711165) or [Meredith.billington@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Meredith.billington@environment.nsw.gov.au)

More information at <https://birdlife.org.au/visit-us/reserves/gluepot> and

<https://gluepot.org/visitor-services-and-information/>