

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



September 2020 - Issue #285

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



Twining Glycine - Eric Whiting
Donkey Orchid - Nella Smith
Waxlip Orchid - Rowena Whiting
Pink Fingers - Rowena Whiting

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CONTRIBUTIONS

For the October 2020 issue by
Wednesday 30 September
To Rowena Whiting
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Living in the moment isn't about
seeking anything special.
It is about seeing the special in
everything.

LeAnne Gibbs

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

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MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY, AT THE Yellow Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street at 7 PM

FIELD TRIPS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

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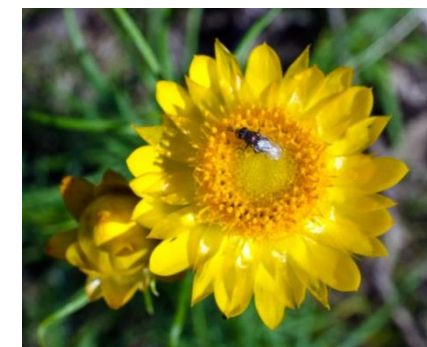
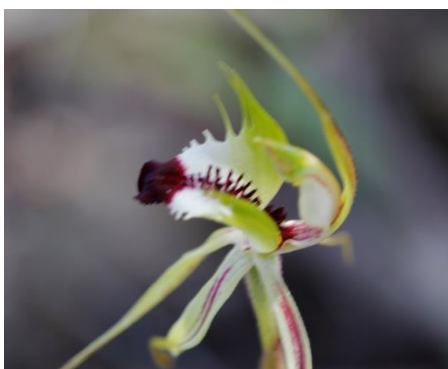
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Welcome to September

Both our August outings have been magnificent for Spring wildflowers, this should continue this month as more species come into flower. Our focus this month will be for mallee species and grasslands. Don't miss out.

Here are some floral images to wet the appetite for what is to come in this issue.

Can you name them? **Rowena.** Photos taken by Jason Richardson.



The Whereabouts of Glossy Black Cockatoos

It is interesting where sightings have been reported of Glossy Black Cockatoos in recent months.

Peter Draper reported 3 or 4 at Koonadan. Seven birds were seen by Michael Schultz on the Leeton/Griffith Road (he would know) and birds were seen at Sandigo on the Wagga Road. All birds were reported feeding on Belah (*Casuarina cristata*). Matt Cameron (*pers comm*) says it is because of the extensive fires and the drought that has caused them to go further afield for food. Maybe the threat to these birds is a lack of nesting sites due to historic clearing of large trees for cultivation and food shortages.

Nella Smith

Our walk up Bunganbil - 16 August 2020

When I left this morning it was sunny. By the time I drove up the Barellan Road it was foggy. By the time we got to Bunganbil it was sunny again, yippee. By the time we had climbed half way up it was hailing. A late lunch produced a shower and a flurry of people into their cars and home again.

In between the weather we were reminded of the wetter years that we had experienced in the past which showed us what the tough Australian bush can produce.

The fields were alive with blues and purples and yellows with a few pinks, and that included only the odd Paterson's Curse. But it did include *Indigofera australis*, Hill Indigo, *Dampiera lanceolata* Grooved Dampiera, *Cyanicula caerulea* Blue Fingers and *Erodium cicutarium* Common Crows foot. The little Blue Fingers were growing through the gravel, under rocks and in depressions. An odd *Caladenia fuscata* Pink Finger could also be found. In clumps were *Stypandra glauca* coming back from a dry couple of

years with splendour.

At the top *Zieria aspalathoides*

Downy Zieria was flowering. We haven't seen them

flowering much over the years that we've been watching and there were more than 30 plants further over when we were here in the last three months, probably eaten by goats who had left evidence of their presence. The Zieria up there is slightly different to other ones around the state as it is hardly "downy". The yellows included Sticky Everlasting, Clustered Everlasting, Wood Sorrel *Oxalis perrenans*

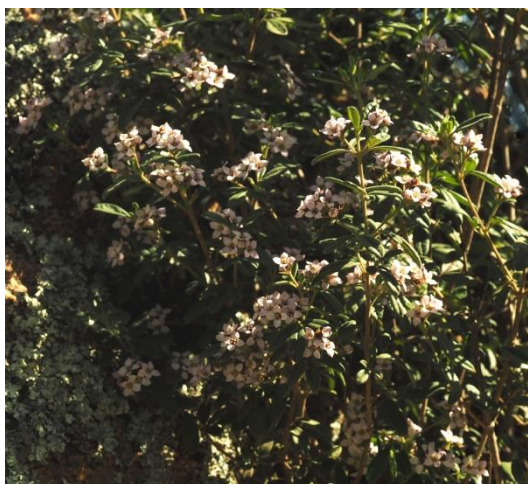
and an odd Donkey Orchid *Diuris goonooensis*. It's a bit early for them so there weren't many. Males of the *Allocasuarina verticillata* had their yellow pollen on their anthers ready for release. The little cream daisy with grey leaves was everywhere, *Millotia myosotidifolia* Broad-leaf Millotia which is only occasionally abundant over small areas in good seasons (*Plants of Western NSW*)

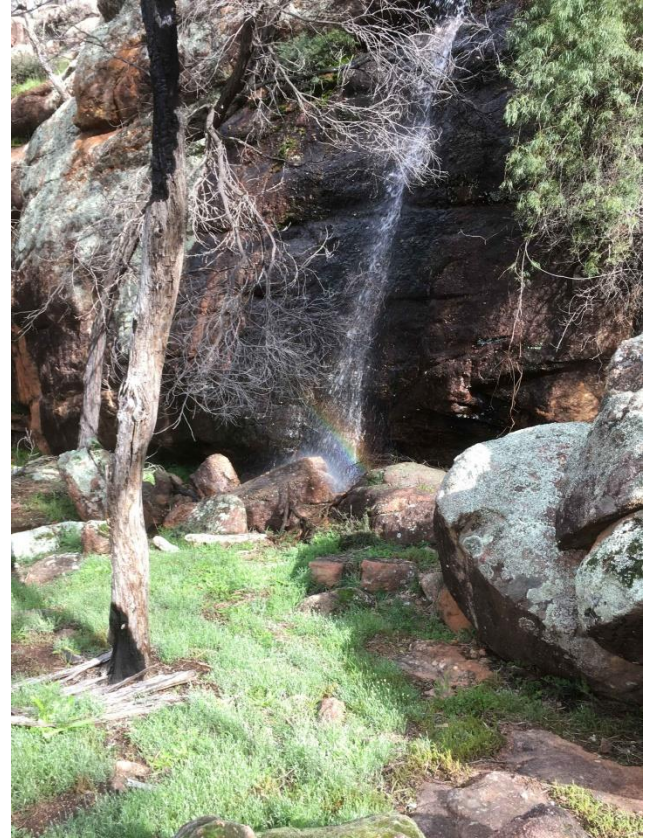
The greens included a couple of Greenhoods *Pterostylis mutica* and *Pterostylis nana*. And of course the mosses which were iridescently green. Once we arrived at the plateau, there was a new world to behold. The rock pools were water filled and with mats of mosses, sundews, *Drosera sp* as well as the pink flowering succulent *Calandrinia eremaea* were seen in great clumps. Water was seeping from the rocks from soaks and the streamlets were flowing with a trickling sound that would make you think you were in the Snowy Mountains.

A shower after everyone had descended caused a flurry of activity and everyone got in their cars and went somewhere, hoping not to get bogged in the puddles at the gate on the way out.



Clockwise from top: the view, Blue Fingers, Twining Fringe Lily, Zieria. Photos by Nella Smith





Waterfall with rainbow – Margrit Martin
 Swirling puddle Nella Smith
 Sundew – Barry Allen
 Below left: on way up Bunganbil -Barry Allen
 Group on top social distancing – Kathy Tenison

Not many bad things happen on our field trips but it might be best if we largely stay together and walk at the pace of the slowest walker.

Nella Smith

Bird list compiled by Max O’Sullivan

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Black Duck | Grey Teal | Wedge-tailed Eagle |
| Peaceful Dove | Galah | Mallee Ringneck |
| Superb Parrot | Yellow Rosella | Bluebonnet |
| Red-capped Robin | Eastern Yellow Robin | Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike |
| Rufous Whistler | Grey Shrike-Thrush | Grey Fantail |
| Willie Wagtail | Grey-crowned Babbler | Buff-rumped Thornbill |
| Yellow-rumped Thornbill | Western Gerygone | Brown Treecreeper |
| Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater | Noisy Miner | White-plumed Honeyeater |
| Striated Pardalote | Peewee | White-winged Chough |
| Apostlebird | Grey Butcherbird | Pied Butcherbird |

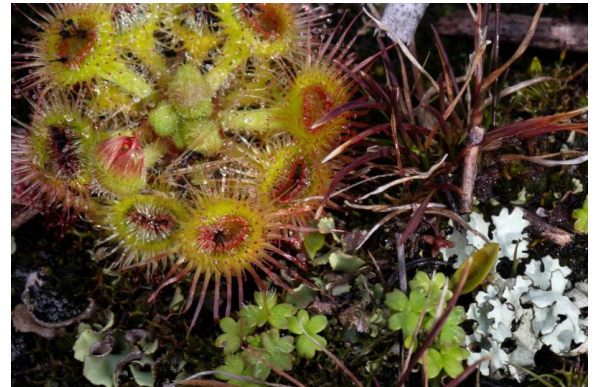


A sundew with an extra trick

Sundews are fascinating plants in the way they can trap and digest insects to supplement their diet in a nutrient poor habitat. When on Bungabil we came across one such nutrient poor area on the slopes just below the summit. Here we found two species of sundew. One with an erect stem holding out shield shaped leaves covered in sticky-tipped tentacles. It was either Pale Sundew *Drosera peltata* or Tall Sundew *Drosera auriculata*. I did not look closely to check which.

I was more interested in the second species. It's leaves were all in a basal rosette with just a single flowering stem barely 3cm high. A peep of red in one flower bud proved it was a Scarlet Sundew *Drosera glanduligera*.

With leaves flat on the ground, insects can walk up to the leaves and most likely meet only one tentacle which would be insufficient to trap it. Instead this sundew has another trick up its sleeve. The marginal tentacles on the leaf do not have sticky tips but are ultra sensitive to touch. Not any touch – only to the touch of an insect. How it tells is a complete mystery. When suitably touched the tentacle immediately folds inwards, flicking the insect into the central mass of sticky tentacles. There is no escape from these.



The rapid folding is the result of a line of cells in the base of the tentacle collapsing. This collapse is irreversible so the tentacle can only be active once. This is no great loss to the plant because with sustained growing conditions the leaf will be replaced with a new one in about three days. When in a harsh environment one has to grow fast before conditions change.

Eric Whiting

Unravelling *Sigesbeckia*

On our recent outing up Mt Bungabil, we came across a few plants I was not familiar with. Sometimes I look through Eric's book and try and identify them myself. Other times I just take the easy option and just go to author and ask, "What's this"? I then take whatever Eric has told me and try and learn something from it.

One such plant on Bungabil was a *Sigesbeckia*. Eric could not recall off the top of his head whether it was a native or introduced. I did some research that night and found on Plantnet *Sigesbeckia australiensis* and *Sigesbeckia orientalis*. The differences are beyond my botanical knowledge and I'm not sure the experts have sorted out *Sigesbeckia* yet.



But from my internet search I discovered an interesting bit of trivia. Johann Sigesbeckia was some sort of academic and must have been a contemporary of Carl Linnaeus back in the 1700's. Linnaeus was Swedish and is known as the father of modern taxonomy. He devised the binomial system of classifying plants still used today. From my understanding Sigesbeckia disagreed with Linnaeus' system of classification based on plants' reproductive organs (the flowers), and described his work as "loathsome harlotry" (I'm thinking Mr Sigesbeckia had a fairly wide puritan streak in him) He didn't present an acceptable alternative so Linnaeus' system has prevailed.

Apparently, there must have been some acrimony between the pair as Linnaeus named a small, ugly weed *Sigesbeckia orientalis*. Possibly what we saw on Mt Bungabil?

I found all this very interesting but I'm still not sure if what we saw on Mt Bungabil was a native or a weed 😊

Glenn Currie

A note from Eric: The leafy bracts extending out from below the flower means it was *Sigesbeckia orientalis* Indian Weed.

A DONKEY SERENADE

Some field naturalist outings can be defined by a signature event. This is one in which fellow attendees nod knowingly when a certain phrase, in context, is uttered – even years later!

I think the outing to Bundidgerry Hill, above and adjacent to Narrandera’s Rocky Waterholes on Sunday August 30, was such an event.

I call it the “Donkey Orchid” trip.

Safe to say, it was a floral experience that I have never had before; nor am I likely to have again.

For my whole life I have had an abiding love of wildflowers, especially orchids. On bushwalks as a child my father always carried a magnifying lens (purloined from an old camera) with which we would peer into the radiant sanctuary of small wildflowers: especially orchids! - an eternal delight and indelible memory.

In years past I have seen – but most infrequently – Donkey Orchids, but always in small numbers. So to exit the car and stand among literally hundreds of these glorious little flowers in full bloom, flourishing right across that arid hillside, was a revelation.

But I am not merely excited by quantity alone. Equally unforgettable was Nella’s revealing of a single Spider Orchid; a thing of superlative beauty. Quite a large terrestrial orchid, its long, elegant petals-sepals were painted in a palette of magenta, mauve, mushroom and maroon – and that was just the Ms!

In all there were six orchid species flowering on Budidgerry Hill that lovely late winter day; the others being a fine patch of soul-blue Waxlips; both Midget and Dwarf Greenhoods, and hundreds of Finger Orchids in a pastel array of white to dark pink.



Above: a pair of Donkey Orchids by Rowena Whiting
Below from left: Pink Fingers, Spider Orchid, Waxlip - -
by Jason Richardson



Due to the decent rains that the region has enjoyed throughout 2020, the area was ablaze with colour, the most extrovert blooms being those of the various wattle species; a quite breathtaking sight, especially when backlit by the bright afternoon sun.

But all was not so rosy. Many of the trees, like eucalypts, pines and casuarinas, were stunted and struggling. In fact, most of the very old and very big White Cypress Pines were all dead. What caused this catastrophe? Dread Drought was suggested; but I thought such ancient and lofty trees would be immune to the

fluctuations of climate. One informed observer estimated that these skeletal beauties were over 300 years old; standing tall even when Charles Sturt first arrived on these distant plains!

In the damper swards down the hill were more flowers still – but different. The glowing Golden Everlastings were beginning to bloom, but these were far outnumbered by their diminutive cousins, the Sunray Everlastings. These, in full flower, were so profuse that they formed thick meadows along the southern slopes. Scattered amongst them were many Pale Sundews, and even native Thick-fruited Buttercups, their glossy petals shining as if enameled. These delights are of the genus *Ranunculus*, a word meaning “frog”; which often shares its moist habitat.

In starkly complementary colours were lots of Nodding Blue-lilies, and even a few mauve Austral



Indigos. (Now flowering abundantly at Rotary Lookout at Lake Talbot – worth a look.)

And while on blue wildflowers, on the road to Rocky Waterholes we found a healthy stand of beautiful Broughton’s Peas in full bloom – a first for me. These were bequeathing precious nitrogen to the roadside’s ever-impooverished soil. There were lots of white flowers too, like Common Fringe Myrtle and Early Nancys.

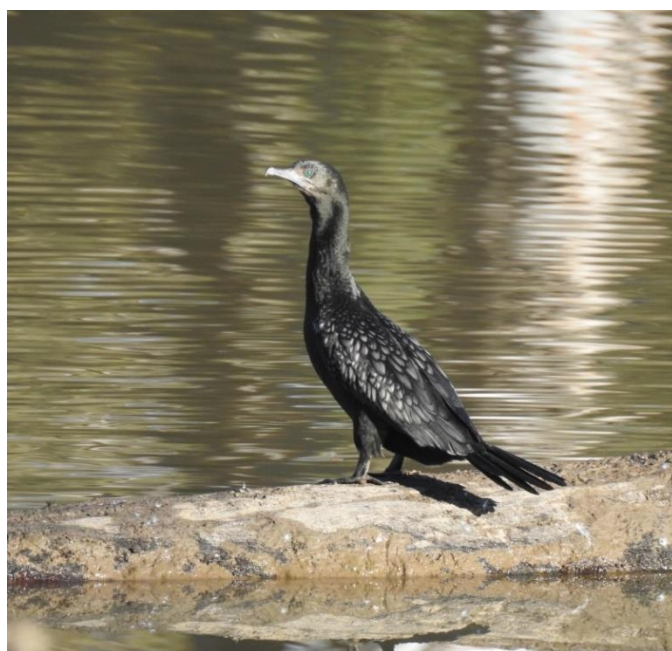
In the world of the field naturalist, the difference between a plant enthusiast and a bird-watcher is that the former spend most of their time looking down, the latter skyward. (The more bi-polar like me tend to do both, in about equal measure.)

As such, there was not much “looking up” that afternoon, as the area seemed an avian-free zone. This changed when we repaired to Rocky Waterholes for afternoon tea. Here there were birds a-plenty on, over beside - and even under - the placid lake. The “under” was a Darter at the far shore alternately fishing and drying its wings. In the foreground, in a large dead gum tree standing in the water, a pair of Galahs furnished their nest hollow with sprigs of eucalypt leaves. It was suggested that the volatile oils resist mite infestations.

Meanwhile in the foreground, a family of Weebills danced among the foliage foraging for a tasty last supper.

Finally a Whistling Kite cruised by inspecting our semi-circle of conviviality, before vanishing into the setting sun. Which is pretty well what we all did shortly after as the evening chill descended, concluding a truly memorable (thanks to Glenn Currie) Donkey Serenade afternoon.

Alan Whitehead



Above: Nodding Blue Lily – Jason Richardson
Below left: Royal Spoonbill and right, Little Black Cormorant – Kathy Tenison

Cuckoos and their behaviour

Cuckoos are a fascinating group of birds – very obvious in the Spring when they are easily located by their calls from atop a dead tree but also very sinister and devious when it comes to breeding.

Locally we have quite an assortment with the most common being **Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo** and **Fantail Cuckoo**. Others that frequent our area in the warmer parts of the year are **Black-eared, Shining Bronze** and **Pallid Cuckoos**. They are not always easy to get a good view of but, in the hotter months (December through to March), they are easiest seen at places like Wattle Dam.



All are partially migratory and in the winter only Fan-tailed birds are generally about but, they too are not that easy to find. **Pallid Cuckoos** were about last month at the McCann Road Reserve but seem to have left the area of late.

We all know the parasitic nature of all cuckoos, relying on unsuspecting host species

Above: Black-eared Cuckoo juvenile (Google)
Below: Superb Wren and Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo juvenile - Mark Lethlean, BirdLife

to incubate and raise their young taking no responsibility for this but leaving it up to the poor birds whose nest they choose to lay their egg in. The nest choice for the smaller cuckoos including the Fan-tailed Cuckoo are those species of

birds that make dome-shaped nests – birds like wrens, thornbills, gerygones or warblers. The only local cuckoo that chooses species that build open cup-shaped nests is the Pallid Cuckoo - it's host species are usually honeyeaters, robins or woodswallows.

Generally, each species will only lay a single egg in the host's nest but there have been records of more than one cuckoo egg in nests which could possibly indicate two females could have laid in the same nest. In most cases, the male bird lures the unsuspecting host birds away from the nest whilst the female cuckoo stealthily goes into the nest and lays her egg. It's not known for certain, but the female cuckoo will generally remove one of the eggs from the host's clutch so the returning female won't necessarily notice the foreign egg. Of course, the cuckoos mimic the egg colouring of the host's eggs but they are still recognisably different, but the lack of light in the dome-shaped nest makes it difficult for the female to see this difference, hence broods her eggs without realising the nest has been predated.

When the eggs hatch, the cuckoo chick proceeds almost immediately to force out any chicks or unhatched eggs by pushing them out of the nest. This is because of a special adaptation of these cuckoos. At hatching, they have a slight hollow in the centre of the back where the skin is very sensitive. By arching the neck forwards and thrusting the wings back, the young cuckoo is able to trap host eggs or young on its back and, one by one, work them to the nest entrance until they fall out. Thus ensuring they are the sole survivors of the nest and get all the food.

The host birds are all much smaller than the cuckoos who choose their nests to lay their egg in but the egg size is much smaller than what you'd expect from a bird of its size. Even the much larger Fan-tailed Cuckoo lays a very small egg for the size of the bird. And, because of its size, this cuckoo will often ruin the nest of the host species when it tries to lay its egg - thus wrecking the whole thing for both species.



When the young cuckoo leaves the nest the size difference between it and its host parents is amazing and the poor wren or thornbill parents are constantly needing to feed its “Baby Huey offspring”! The constant begging of the young cuckoo will often stimulate other birds to respond to its begging calls and feed the bird as well – such is the strong parental nature of birds at the breeding time of year.

The two other more common cuckoo species that may sometimes come into our area are the **Eastern Koel** and, more rarely, the very large **Channel-billed Cuckoo**. The former using Wattlebirds or Figbirds as host whilst the latter chooses Pee-Wees, Magpies, Currawongs, ravens or crows. The young from these two species do not eject the other eggs or chicks in the host's nest and often the host chicks might survive alongside the cuckoo chick and make it to fledge normally. However, the cuckoo chick will usually dominate in the nest and demand the food from the parents to the detriment of any of their own chicks who will eventually starve to death.

A study was undertaken in the Sydney area over many years of the effect on the population of Red Wattlebirds of predation by Koels. One conclusion was that the wattlebirds started to go to nest earlier than was normal and well before the Koels returned from their migration into the area. This way the wattlebirds raised their own chicks without being affected by having a parasitic attack by the Koels. It was also found that the wattlebirds then had a second clutch after the Koels returned. It seemed the host birds were prepared to be victims of the Koels by raising a chick for them. More study has to be done to see if there is some type of symbiotic relationship between the two species. I haven't read of any further studies to confirm or discredit this.



Max O'Sullivan

More on the Casuarina Gall

When on Bungabil Margrit found another casuarina with galls (photo below left) like we found on Binya Lookout and gave me some to have a closer look. I carefully cut some open and in one found this wasp. Whether it had caused the gall or was a parasite on another causal insect is anybody's guess, and if so how on earth did a wasp lay an egg deep inside a hard woody gall? Answer one question in nature and you're sure to find another two questions. That is why nature is so fascinating.

I found more galls on a casuarina during the Narrandera Landcare's Wildflower Walk. That poor tree also had a second type of gall. I couldn't find anyone at home in these ones. Photo below right.

Eric Whiting



Butterflies around Griffith

Contributed by **Nella Smith**

This is the abstract from a paper called The butterfly fauna of the Griffith district, a fragmented semi-arid landscape in inland southern New South Wales written by MICHAEL F. BRABY, ·3 and TED D. EDWARDS'.

Thirty-three species of butterflies are recorded from the Griffith district in the semi-arid zone of inland southern New South Wales. The butterfly community comprises the following structure: 19 species (58%) are resident; 7 (21 %) are regular immigrants; 2 (6%) are irregular immigrants; 5 (15%) are vagrants. Except for a few migratory species, most occur in relatively low abundance. Lack of similar studies elsewhere in western New South Wales precludes generalisations regarding the species richness, composition and structure of semi-arid butterfly communities. Comparison of the butterfly fauna with that from five other inland regions on the slopes and foothills of the Great Dividing Range, revealed that the Griffith district is most similar in species richness and composition to that of Deniliquin and to a lesser extent Wagga Wagga and Cowra in the south, than with two regions in the higher summer rainfall area of the north of the State (Coonabarabran-Mendooran, Narrabri-Bellata). Overall, the butterfly fauna of inland New South Wales (total of 73 species, of which 49 occur in the southern regions) is depauperate compared with that recorded from the coastal/subcoastal areas east of the Great Dividing Range.

Attention is drawn to the conservation significance of several vegetation types and habitat remnants in the Griffith district. Much of the native vegetation in the district has been extensively modified since European settlement due to excessive clearing for agriculture, resulting in a highly fragmented landscape for the conservation of native flora and fauna. With the exception of the lycaenid *Candalides hyacinthinus* simplex, which is considered threatened locally, there is a general absence of narrow range endemic butterflies associated with mallee-heathland or mallee-woodland, possibly as a result of widespread land clearing practices of mallee vegetation in the past.

Left: Common Grass Blue Butterfly (*Zizina labradus*)
Right: Caper White Butterfly (*Belenois java*) –
Photos by Neil Palframan



Here's a Laugh from Neil Palframan

I spent many years being aware of birds around me without actually looking. Then one day I pulled out the old hand-me-down binoculars from my Dad and went out to the back yard for a real look. It took me at least half an hour to identify this bird. I've improved, a little, from that day.

Neil

I am wondering why Neil wasn't forthcoming with its name. Rowena



MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

| | | | |
|---|--|----------|--------------------|
| Glossy Black Cockatoo [2] | Middle Rd via Leeton | 25/07/20 | Paul Maytom |
| Spoonbill (sp) | Narrandera Wetlands | 27/07/20 | Aanya Whitehead |
| Pink-eared Duck [5] | Narrandera Wetlands | 28/07/20 | Glenn Currie |
| Golden Whistler [male] | Fivebough Wetlands | 01/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Black-tailed Native-hen [1] | Fivebough Wetlands | 01/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Swamp Harrier [Ad. Fem.] | Fivebough Wetlands | 01/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Red-necked Avocet [13] | Fivebough Wetlands | 02/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Black Swan [326 adults] | Fivebough Wetlands | 02/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| There were 63 Black Swan nests and 4 broods seen. | | | |
| Australian Shelduck [9] | Fivebough Wetlands | 02/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| White-necked Heron [1] | Fivebough Wetlands | 02/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Pelican [9] | Fivebough Wetlands | 02/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Glossy Ibis [2] | Fivebough Wetlands | 02/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Peregrine Falcon [Ad. male] | Fivebough Wetlands | 06/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| White-winged Triller [male] | Fivebough Wetlands | 06/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Golden Whistler [male] | Fivebough Wetlands – still present | 09/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Striated Pardalote [10] | Fivebough Wetlands | 09/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| White-bellied Sea-Eagle [Ad. fem] | Fivebough Wetlands | 09/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Baillon's Crake [1] | Fivebough Wetlands – season return | 10/08/20 | Max O'Sullivan |
| Magpie Goose [5] | Fivebough Wetlands – settling ponds | 10/08/20 | Max O'Sullivan |
| Lewin's Rail [Ad.male] | Fivebough Wetlands | 11/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Brown Falcon [1] | Fivebough Wetlands | 11/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Glossy Black Cockatoo [1] | Sandigo via Narrandera | 12/08/20 | Ellene Schnell |
| Giant Banjo Frog | Karri Rd, Leeton | 12/08/20 | Barry Allen |
| Bearded Dragon | Griffith Hospital on the grass | 12/08/20 | Alan Whitehead |
| Australasian Grebe [2] | Murrumbidgee River, Narrandera | 12/08/20 | Susan Whitehead |
| Buff-banded Rail [1] | Fivebough Wetlands | 13/08/20 | Max O'Sullivan |
| Lewin's Rail [1] | Fivebough Wetlands | 13/08/20 | John & Gail Wilkes |
| Spotless Crake [5] | Fivebough Wetlands | 14/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Spotted Crake [2] | Fivebough Wetlands | 14/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Coot [4 nests] | Fivebough Wetlands | 14/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [7+] | 'Mountain Dam', Colinroobie Rd Leeton | 16/08/20 | Dione Russell |
| Magpie Goose [4] | Campbell's Swamp, Griffith | 18/08/20 | Max O'Sullivan |
| Coot [500+] | Lake Wyangan in a massed raft | 18/08/20 | Max O'Sullivan |
| Magpie Goose [3] | Fivebough Wetlands – flew in to roost | 18/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Brown Songlark | Brown Rd via Griffith – season return | 23/08/20 | Neil Palframan |
| White-breasted Woodswallow | Vance Rd Leeton – season return | 23/08/20 | Max O'Sullivan |
| Black-tailed Native-hen [2] | Fivebough Wetlands | 23/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Red-necked Avocet [17] | Fivebough Wetlands | 23/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Pelican [14] | Fivebough Wetlands | 23/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Black-winged Stilt [25] | Fivebough Wetlands | 23/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Superb Parrot [14] | Leeton High School Oval – flyover | 25/08/20 | Kathy Tenison |
| Superbs seem to be returning in larger numbers these past few weeks with regular sightings over the town. | | | |
| Magpie Goose [8] | Campbell's Swamp | 28/08/20 | Melva Robb |
| Double-barred Finch [12] | Carathool Reserve, Quarry Rd, Griffith | 30/08/20 | Neil Palframan |
| Southern Whiteface [pr] | Carathool Reserve, Quarry Rd, Griffith | 30/08/20 | Neil Palframan |
| Fan-tailed Cuckoo [1] | Carathool Reserve, Quarry Rd, Griffith | 30/08/20 | Neil Palframan |
| White-necked Heron [15] | Fivebough Wetlands | 30/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Red-necked Avocet [37] | Fivebough Wetlands – 4 nests seen | 30/08/20 | Keith Hutton |
| The Avocets are using the abandoned swans nests! | | | |
| Black-winged Stilt | Fivebough Wetlands – 6 nests counted | 30/08/20 | Keith Hutton |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------|----------------|
| Pied Currawong [6+] | Bundidgerry Hills via Narrandera | 30/08/20 | MFN outing |
| Marsh Sandpiper [1] | Fivebough - 1 st Migratory Wader return | 01/09/20 | Max O'Sullivan |
| Whiskered Tern [11] | Fivebough Wetlands – season return | 02/09/20 | Keith Hutton |
| Pink-eared Duck [2] | Fivebough Wetlands – 1st for a while | 03/09/20 | Max O'Sullivan |
| Red-necked Avocet [50+] | Fivebough Wetlands – numbers increasing | 03/09/20 | Max O'Sullivan |
| <i>Caladenia rileyii</i> | Travelling Stock Reserve nr Narrandera | 04/09/20 | Nella Smith |
| <i>Caladenia verrucosa</i> | Travelling Stock Reserve nr Narrandera | 04/09/20 | Nella Smith |
| <i>Caladenia concinna</i> | Travelling Stock Reserve nr Narrandera | 04/09/20 | Nella Smith |
| <i>Glossodia major</i> | Travelling Stock Reserve nr Narrandera | 04/09/20 | Nella Smith |
| <i>Eremophila debile</i> | Travelling Stock Reserve nr Narrandera | 04/09/20 | Nella Smith |
| <i>Daviesia mimosoides</i> | Travelling Stock Reserve nr Narrandera | 04/09/20 | Nella Smith |

**** COMING EVENTS ****

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, outings are currently limited to 20 people, you must register with the nominated person by email (preferred) or phone to participate.

- 10 September Thursday** **Monthly Meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church, 29 Sycamore St, Leeton commencing at 7pm.**
Guest Speakers: Gayleen Bourke & Dr Damian Michael from Charles Sturt University
Topic: Results of research into Arboreal reptile.
The presentation will be via Zoom.
Please bring your own coffee mug if you would like to have a cuppa and remember to social distance.
Contact: Graham or Dione Russell 0428 536290 (Dione) or 0419 350 673 (Graham)
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 12 September Saturday** **Outing to a mallee property with remnant vegetation to the north Griffith**
To comply with COVID-19 restrictions you must register to participate.
Register with Nella Smith nella.smith0@gmail.com phone 0428 890 537, she will give you details for day.
- 18 September onwards** **Biodiversity Survey in the Weddin Mountains National Park**
This is a baseline survey to ascertain presence/ absence of flora and fauna. You are invited to come along and assist. We will be mammal trapping using Elliott traps for 4 nights and conducting vegetation surveys. We will also be doing opportunistic listings. Camping in the Ben Hall campground you must book with National Parks 1300 072 757. You need to be self sufficient.
Enquiries to Nella Smith nella.smith0@gmail.com
- 25 – 28 September**
Friday – Monday **Travelling Stock Routes and other sites around Narrandera with The Friends of Grasslands group from Canberra.**
Please contact Rowena Whiting if you are interested in participating for some or all the time. **Email:** ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 30 September Wednesday** **Copy for the October newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 8 October Thursday** **Monthly Meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, 29 Sycamore St, Leeton commencing at 7pm.**
Contact: Graham or Dione Russell 0428 536290 (Dione) or 0419 350 673 (Graham)
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com