

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



October 2023 - Issue #319

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



Slender Sun Orchid



White-browed Woodswallow

Flora and fauna delights at Taleeban Mining Reserve
Graham Russell

IN THIS ISSUE

Office Bearers and Subscriptions	2
Welcome to October	2
Ingalba Nature Reserve – walk report	3
Orchid Walk, Livingstone National Park	4
Butterflies in our area	5
Our Outing to Taleeban	6
Taleeban Mallee – Focus on Flora.....	7
A Bird Watching Weekend at Lake Cargelligo.....	8
Murray Cod – Pioneer Park, Griffith	9
Campbells Wetland – shelter and signage	9
NWS & ACT 2023 Twitchathon	10
Members' Sightings.....	11
Coming Events.....	12

CONTRIBUTIONS

For the November 2023 issue by
Wednesday 1 November

To Rowena Whiting

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Phone: 6953 2612

Bird Week

is from

16th to 22nd October

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 Henry Lawson Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street, Leeton at 7pm.

FIELD TRIPS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

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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 the October issue

The focus this month has mainly been on Spring flowers with some flowering well, others not so: dryish conditions, flowered in profusion last year, it is hard to say why. This issue has 3 reports of our walks: one to Livingstone National Park where David Glastonbury guided us to a number of 'orchid spots', an earlier trip to Ingalba Nature Reserve with Paul Walker (an email hiccup prevented this from making the last issue) and lastly our annual foray to the Taleeban Mining Reserve with its array of mallee species; Graham Russell and Margaret Strong are our scribes.

Mention must also be made of our impromptu presentation at the September meeting when Phillip Williams (on our Zoom link from Adelaide) offered to show some images that Penny had compiled of their recent travels in the centre. Travelling between Bedourie and Birdsville, they spent some time at Cuttaburra Crossing which is a permanent waterhole and a renowned wetland on the Eyre Creek. It is located between Lake Koolivoo and Lake Machattie which together with a third lake are full of water, the first time for 15 years. Cuttaburra Crossing is home to many species of birdlife. We were treated to some great aerial shots taken from a light plane, others taken with their drone along with historical features. Some of the many birds they showed were cormorants, egrets, terns, one egret was a motley grey, Eyrean Grass-wren, Nankeen Night-heron, Orange Chat. A wonderful time to see this country. Our thanks to you both.

Unfortunately this months' activities have been curtailed due to a lack of anyone able to organise. On Saturday the Koala Count at Narrandera was attended by a few members and at the end of the month there is the annual Twitchathon; see page for details.

Looking further ahead to November, the time of our AGM; we will require a new president along with other roles so please consider how you can play a part in the running of the club. An active group needs an active committee.

With some time away on the horizon, this issue has been rather hastily compiled so please forgive any errors or blank spots.

Enjoy your read, **Rowena**.

Ingalba Nature Reserve – walk report

Sunday 6 August 2023

15 participants made their way to the south-west section of Ingalba NR for a 10am start. Our planned circuit route incorporating Grey Box Trail, part of Mt Wharrun Trail and part of Western Boundary Trail was an easy flat walk on fire trails. Entry to this S-W section of the reserve is via a very rough, but thankfully short vehicle track off Kellows Road.



This is an area of dry woodland with dominant forest species including White Cypress *Callitris glaucophylla*, Red Stringybark *Eucalyptus macrohyncha*, Grey Box *E. microcarpa*, White Gum *E. rossii* and Ironbark *E. sideroxylon*.

In areas the understory was dominated by endemic species

such *Grevillea wiradjuri* with its white flowers, *Prostanthera* sp. (poss. *denticulata*) with blue flowers and Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia*

bailyana with its stunning yellow display. Wattles were a feature with at least 7 species identified; most flowering well. The Epacrid family also put on a good show of white and yellow flowers. It was great to have Glenn, Eric and Rowena there to identify plants, having had previously involvement in a plant survey of this area.

Conditions allowed common interest groups to disperse during the day. Most walked the planned circuit with some adventurous birders melting into the bushland following their leads. About 6 persons made the short, steep walk to Mt Wharrun trig. All glad we had, although, despite prominent elevation the views were restricted by trees.

Weather conditions were calm and sunny. This was perfect not only for the walk but also for the pre-walk morning tea and post-walk lunch sessions. Cakes supplied by Janet and Sarah was appreciated by all. No obvious weed infestation or feral animal activity was found. Also no native macropods were sighted however there was ample evidence of Echida activity.

Paul Walker

Paul also included a flora list for the day, let me know if you'd like a copy or contact Paul. See last month's newsletter for the bird list ed.



Clockwise from top left - photos by Rowena Whiting
View of forest – eucalpts, wattles (including Cootamundra), grevilleia.
Small-flowered Grevillea *Grevillea parviflora*
Hakea Wattle *Acacia hakeoides*

2023 Australian Bird of the Year



Very pleasing to hear that Australians have chosen the Swift Parrot as their favourite bird for 2023. A win for threatened species everywhere. With a grand total of 11,171 votes, [the Critically Endangered Swift Parrot is the winner](#) of the 2023 BirdLife Australia X Guardian Australia Bird of the Year competition – the first time Swifties have taken out the title.

The **Tawny Frogmouth** With less than 500 votes between them, the master of disguise finishes in second place – for the third time.

Bronze for the **Gang-gang Cockatoo** is still a win for this small and charismatic cookie.

With less than 500 votes between them, the Tawny Frogmouth once again finished in second place despite leading for much of the competition. With 10,729 votes, it's the Tawny's third time in a row as runner-up! And in third place, it's the Endangered Gang-gang Cockatoo with 7,190 votes.

There was an excellent display of flowering orchids for our “Orchid Walk” at Livingstone NP, conducted by the Wagga Wagga group of MFN.

Livingstone is somewhat of a hot spot for Native Orchids and I have been following the native orchids of there for the past three years. In this time, I have sighted and identified 28 different species of orchid in the Park. Before setting out on our walk I discussed the various forms of orchids that they people would see.

This year our walk followed the Daisy Trail, the new multi-purpose trail developed by National Parks and we followed this trail out and back for about 2km each way.

We began our walk with a short side trip to see a colony of Nodding Greenhood *Pterostylis nutans* which is instantly recognised by its characteristic, nodding, inverted flower. This orchid which has quite a long late winter, spring flowering season is quite common in Livingstone NP.



After inspection and photographs of this orchid the group continued along the easy-grade walking track, which for about the next 2km provided frequent sightings of three native orchids which were all abundant trackside.

We saw Dusky Fingers *Caladenia fuscata*. This is a small, single flowered orchid of varying colour of shades of pink to white. Blue Fingers *Caladenia caerulea* which is another small finger orchid of easily sighted violet/blue colouring. The Wax-lip Orchid *Caladenia major* which is a distinctive, tallish lavender to mauve orchid, again easily spotted beside the track.



Some of the group also sighted a further finger orchid, Pink Fingers *Caladenia carnea*. This is very similar to the Dusky Fingers except that it usually has 3-4 pink fingered flowers per stem where Dusky Fingers has commonly only one



flower per stem.

We continued along the trail to the location of our feature orchids of the walk. This was the location of two very tiny, rare native orchids which both occur in fairly large colonies identifiable by their single ground leaf with only a few plants fertile and producing a flower stem.

<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	Nodding Greenhood (top left)
<i>Caladenis fuscata</i>	Dusky Fingers (top right)
<i>Caladenia major</i>	Wax Lip (above left)
<i>Caladenia caerulea</i>	Blue Fingers (above right)
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	Pink Fingers (left)
<i>Cryptostylis reniformis</i>	Small Gnat Orchid (below)

The first of these orchids was the very interesting, inconspicuous Small Gnat Orchid *Cryptostylis reniformis* Fortunately it was still in flower but only on a small percentage of the colony of basal ground leaves. Each flower stem has from 1-4 small, brownish flowers for which the feature is the large, broad, flat labellum (dorsal petal).



The second feature orchid, Slaty Helmet Orchid *Corybus incurvus* is quite unique, rare and usually difficult to find. Unfortunately by the time of our walk the flowers had matured and were only seen as a seed capsule on the basal ground leaf.

During our walk we also saw some other orchids which had either matured or were budding to flower. The matured orchid was Red-Tipped Greenhood *Specularantha rubescens*. (Autumn flowering) and two Sun Orchids, *Thelymitra* sp budding and yet to flower.

Just to demonstrate how prolific Livingstone NP is for native orchids, Rowena, Margaret and Margrit, after lunch went for a walk along another trail from the trackhead and found a colony of orchids which we had not previously sighted at Livingstone. This



Corybus incurvus Slaty Helmet Orchid
Pterostylis curta Blunt Greenhood
 (Rowena Whiting) (left)
 View of *Eucalypts* and *Wattles* at
 Livingstone (Rowena Whiting)



orchid was Blunt Greenhood *Pterostylis curta*. This orchid is readily identified by its “twisted” labellum.

David Glastonbury

Reference: Copeland, Lachlan M and Backhouse, Gary N. Guide to Native Orchids of NSW and ACT. CSIRO Publishing Melbourne. 2022

The photographs (except where acknowledged) of the flower included with this article were taken by David Glastonbury at this site a couple of weeks prior to our visit.



Butterflies in our area

The PDF file of The butterfly fauna of the Griffith district, a fragmented semi-arid landscape in inland southern New South Wales by Michael Braby and Ted Edwards is now available for download from Griffith City Library, for members. Exceptions will be made for people living in Leeton Shire who want to join the Griffith Library to access this file. Phone to speak with them or read the info on their website. Leeton Library has chosen not to add this resource to their collection.

The PDF contains a detailed report published in 2006 of butterfly surveys conducted in our region that includes the area bordered by Griffith, Borellan, Moomboodool, Leeton, Yanco, Coleambally, Darlington Point and Tabbita.

This is a scientific report and requires some study to get the facts about the 33 species identified in the surveys. It contains the most detailed local information that we will read about butterflies in our region. The file can be printed or downloaded onto your computer.

A copy of Michael Braby's Complete Field Guide to the Butterflies of Australia is available for loan from both Griffith and Leeton libraries and will help in knowing the current standard common name for each species, along with illustrations.

Margaret Strong

Our Outing to Taleeban

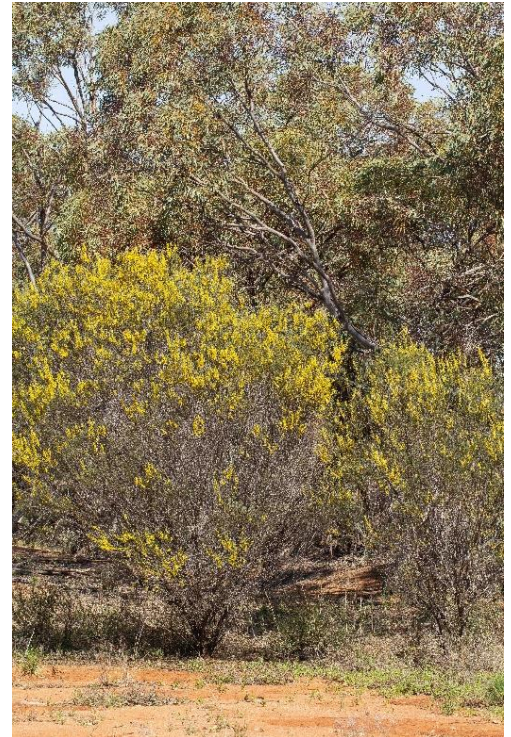
16th September 2023

After meeting at the usual meeting place at the corner of Erigolia Rd and Burley Griffin Way at 8:30 am on what turned out to be an unseasonably hot day we headed to the Taleeban Mining reserve arriving at around 9:30. On the way in it was noticed that the tracks had been graded and in the area around where we parked the cars there was further work that look as though somebody was either conducting surveys or preparing to recommence mining operations.



It was already starting to warm up we decided to forgo morning tea and head back down the track to the north toward and through the other area that had been mined and then back through the bush parallel to the road arriving at back at the dam near the parked cars.

Other than the increased human activity the other noticeable thing was that there was far more vegetation than even the last time that we visited in 2021 which was the middle year of the three wet years. Me, not being that knowledgeable with plants will limit my comments to the fact that last time we were there it was hard to find a Rankin Springs Grevilla and this time they were everywhere.



During our visit the one noticeable thing missing of the bird variety was that the only parrot that we saw for the whole day was two Galahs flying over where on previous visits there have usually been Mallee Ringnecks. The first bird impression after turning off Anderson Lane was that the air was filled with White-browed Woodswallows that filled the air with their movement and their incessant calling overpowering the calls of the other birds. Honeyeaters were the other birds that were seen in numbers.

It was also nice that Eric and I got a glimpse of the Shy Heathwren hopefully the fact that we are still seeing them means that there is still a viable population in this isolated patch of Mallee. For me personally seeing them on a visit to this patch of Mallee is the highlight of the visit no matter how fleeting the glimpse is.

Due to the heat, we limited ourselves to the one big walk (even though only a leisurely 2 hours) with a short venture to the area near the dry dam to see if we could find the Shy Heathwren with the rest of the group, but all to no avail.

It will be interesting to return next year after what is predicted to be a drier period to see how this patch of mallee and its inhabitants fare.

Graham Russell

Bird List

Peaceful Dove
White-browed Woodswallow
Striated pardalote (H)
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
White-eared Honeyeater

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Galah
Eastern Yellow Robin
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Shy Heathwren



**Taller Mallee Eucalypts and wattles in the mining area (top) Rowena Whiting
Juvenile Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
Graham Russell (left)
White-eared Honeyeater Graham
Russell (above)**

The track into the patch of mallee bushland, known as Taleeban Mining Reserve, displayed a sprinkling of spectacular flowering plants. Many more were seen within a small area around the carpark, as the unusually hot day prevented us from taking a longer walk.

The scene was dotted with **Rankin's Springs Grevilleas** (*Grevillea glabella*) in flower and frequent visitors amongst us commented that they'd never seen so many there in the past.

Scarlet Mint-bushes (*Prostanthera aspalathoides*) were numerous and also a stunning sight with their bright red flowers. **Mallee Bush-peas** (*Eutaxia microphylla*) were easily seen with their yellow-orange and red-brown flowers as with a few local **Leopard Orchids** (*Diuris pardina*).

While taking a brief rest, we noticed a single **Twining Fringe-lily** (*Thysanotus patersonii*), looking isolated but no doubt in the vicinity of another of its kind out of our sight. In the same protected spot were both male and female plants of **Small-leaf Clematis** (*Clematis microphylla*) climbing the tree that also shaded us.

Next thing, one of us noticed a few flowering **Slender Sun Orchids** (*Thelymitra pauciflora*), with many flowers, which was quickly followed by numerous other sightings of this beautiful plant. Said to be almost rare in our region, we were delighted to see them in full flower.

The two dominant trees, **Pointed Mallee** (*Eucalyptus socialis*) and **White Mallee** (*Eucalyptus gracilis*) were loaded with buds, but not yet in flower. They were still attractive to birds seeking food other than nectar and those perching to rest and sing. The low canopy made sighting the birds relatively easy.

A little further away from the carpark, a few of us sighted a different variety of plants evident by the range of leaf colours. **Twiggy Bush-peas** (*Pultenaea largiflorens*) had finished flowering and were showing seed-pods. A **Small-flowered Waxflower** (*Philotheca difformis*) was just in flower, as were **Spiny Cream Grevilleas** (*Grevillea anethifolia*). Other flowering plants sighted there were **Fringed Myrtles** (*Micromyrtus ciliata*), **Smooth Eremophila** (*Eremophila glabra*), **Silky Guinea-flowers** (*Hibbertia sericea*), **Scented Mat-rush** (*Lomandra effusa*) and **Spreading Flax-lily** (*Dianella revoluta*).

Considering the small area that we covered, we saw a rich variety of our region's plants. We'll look forward to our next visit to Taleeban to discover even more in this significant remnant of Mallee vegetation.

Margaret Strong



Images from top anti-clockwise:
Scarlet Mintbush – Rowena Whiting
Slender Sun Orchid – Virginia Tarr
Leopard Orchid – Viginia Tarr
Twining Fringe-lily – Margaret Strong
Spiny Cream Grevilleas – Margaret Strong



A Bird Watching Weekend at Lake Cargelligo

Ovens & Murray BirdLife organised a weekend at Lake Cargelligo, 9 & 10 September 2023. I've been following Lake Cargelligo Birds on Facebook for several years <https://www.facebook.com/lakecargelligobirds?mibextid=ZbWKwL> The Lake Cargelligo tourist Information has five detailed in town and in region Bird Routes with accompanying birdlists as well as <https://www.lakecargelligobirds.com.au>

We started at the Caravan Park with no. 1 bird, the Pink Cockatoo of 112 birds for the weekend. Because our bird list was for the entire weekend, all sightings enroute were counted, and confirmation was facilitated by CB radio, we had a convoy of 5 vehicles, 14 in our group. We swung past the airport because Bluebonnet Parrots had been seen there recently. Instead, there was a pair of Black-shouldered Kites nesting. From there we went to Chat Alley which didn't

disappoint. The Chats like the Saltbush and Lignum habitat, and there was Purple-backed Wren and White-winged Wren (which was nearly black in colour) as well. Next stop was Booberi Creek for woodland birds, Round Hill Reserve for Mallee and lastly Whoey Tank where we stopped for late lunch.

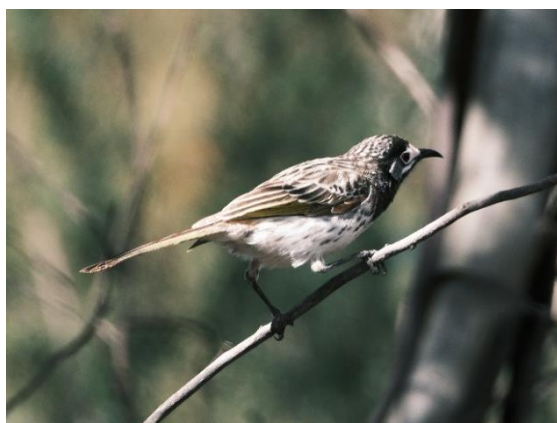
Day 2 we stopped briefly at the Showgrounds before moving downhill to the Sewerage Treatment Plant and Bird Hide where there were several Spotless Crake and Ballion's Crake. These shy, small birds (smaller than Eurasian Coots) rarely came out into the open, instead they darted from reed cover to cover. Next we stopped briefly at the roadside on the way to the Bird Hide Nilson's Lane before reaching the ephemeral wetland on the road to Euabalong. Our last stop was at Murrin Bridge TSR. Here the small birds that had been so secretive all weekend spent just a little more time in the open.

No-one saw every bird, nonetheless the ones I did see was extraordinary. A return trip is a must, for those on the list I missed and the new arrivals to the Lake like the Painted Snipe!

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-06/australian-painted-snipe-sighting/102942118>

Sarah Danckert

[Sarah included a list of birds sighted for each day which I can forward to anyone who would like a copy or contact Sarah. They may be available online. Ed]



Images by Janet Hume:
White-breasted and White-browed Woodswallow (top)
White-fronted Honeyeater (above)
Splendid Fairy-wren (on right)

Australian Painted Snipe – a thrilling discovery says Matt Herring!

Here is a link to Lake Cargelligo Birds facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/lakecargelligobirds?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Murray Cod

Murray cod are the focus of *From Dreamtime to Dinnertime*, a new exhibition at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum.

This display in the Irrigation Museum building honours one of the largest freshwater fish in the world and an apex predator within the creeks and rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin.

These fish are known to travel around 120km to spawn and are shown to return to the same snag on the riverbend.



The centrepiece of the exhibition is Gugabul, a Dreamtime-sized cod created by the Hands On Weavers group with assistance from Peter Ingram and Shelby-Rae Kschenka-Lyons.

This sculpture is accompanied by a video produced by Auntie Lorraine Tye that shares a dreaming from First Nations along the rivers that details how an ancestor of cod formed the waterways.



Screenshot from Auntie Lorraine's video

Modern perspectives on cod began with Charles Throsby's writing in the early 19th Century and accounts from explorers, including John Oxley and Charles Sturt.

Their expeditions into our catchment were supported by meals of fish and followed the streams such as the "big waters" of the Murrumbidgee River, which kept a name used by the First Nations.

The exhibition also includes Mary Gilmore's recollections of their wooden fish traps and it is possible this river also had stone traps like those on the Barwon River near Brewarrina.

It might be significant that a property near the Berembed Weir was known as Brewarrina and this area was identified by Leeton-based anthropologist Lindsay Black as the site of a rock carving of a cod.

In recent years Murray cod have become a fast-growing crop and a premium aquaculture product.

John Lake, for whom the Narrandera fishery centre is named, undertook research that assisted with managing the breeding of cod.

The exhibition *From Dreamtime to Dinnertime* will be displayed at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum until 2024.

Jason Richardson

Campbells Wetland – some images of the new infrastructure and signage. Photos by Virginia Tarr



NSW & ACT 2023 Twitchathon

Saturday 28 October and Sunday 29 October

Organised by BIGnet, a Loose Affiliation of NSW & ACT Birdwatching Clubs and Organisations.

The Twitchathon is a race in which teams aim to tick off as many species as they can in the allotted time. There are three categories so anyone no matter how experienced or time-restricted, can compete! For over 30 years, hundreds of passionate birdwatchers have been racing around the countryside competing in this unique sporting event. The aim is to see or hear as many bird species as possible and help protect our birdlife for years to come.

There are 3 formats:

- The **Big Weekend** will be a 30 hour mega twitch for the crazy and dedicated with a target well above 200 species being their goal.
- **Champagne** is an 8 hour event for those who want something more relaxing and sedate.
- Finally the 3 hour **Birdathon** is also retained. This offers something for a whole range of participants, from experienced bird watchers who don't have the time or inclination for the Big Weekend to the novices looking for a chance to cut their teeth.

Information can be found at www.twitch24nsw.org. These include the rules for the three Twitchathon formats, the registration form, the official checklist of birds and a flyer outlining more about the project that is being sponsored.

The purpose of the Twitchathon is to direct donations to bird research and conservation. This year the proceeds will go to **Matt Herring's Australian Painted-snipe project**. Please encourage your sponsors to donate irrespective of what the range of your Twitch is or indeed if you cannot Twitch at all. There are no prizes for the most species seen this year, but the importance of your contributions to bird research and conservation cannot be overstated. Details of how to donate can be found at

http://www.twitch24nsw.org/?page_id=72

The Australian Painted-snipe (APS) is one of our nation's most endangered and poorly known species, with an estimated total population of just 340 birds. They are stunning in their beauty but skulk in wetlands with mudflats, very shallow water and patchy water plant cover, usually remaining hidden.

A successful crowdfunding campaign in late 2022 raised sufficient funds to run an APS tracking program (<https://chuffed.org/project/paintedsnipe>). It will provide much needed insight into wintering sites, drought refuges, movement patterns and unknown strongholds.

The Twitchathon funds will capitalise on the tracking work, enabling researchers to visit key wetlands as the birds move, meet with the landholders, build relationships and trust, and trigger targeted conservation.

The researchers will engage with land managers like farmers, traditional owners, local government officials and park rangers, meeting them on the ground and enlightening them about their significant visitors.

Together, they will then develop concise, site-specific conservation plans for the managers to manage their wetlands specifically for APS. There is also the advantage of assessing the habitat (e.g. water depths, vegetation cover, grazing regime) while birds are present, seeing if additional birds are there, are they breeding, and so on. The more funds raised by the Twitchathon, the more sites can be visited and the more conservation facilitated.

Unfortunately, the APS is not one of the "lucky 22" bird species prioritised for funding under the National Threatened Species Strategy. The Twitchathon funds are much needed and will help give APS the attention they deserve.



Two male Australian Painted Snipe feeding
Photograph by Leo Berzins

MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

Rufous Whistler [2]	Narrandera Wetlands	13/09/2023	Susan Whitehead
Boobook Owl [2 heard]	Narrandera Wetlands	13/09/2023	Susan Whitehead
Buff-banded Rail [1]	Campbells Wetland	22/09/2023	Neil Palframan
Spotted Crake [8]	Campbells Wetland	22/09/2023	Neil Palframan
Baillons Crake [7]	Campbells Wetland	22/09/2023	Neil Palframan
Australasian Bittern [1]	Campbells Wetland	22/09/2023	Neil Palframan
Nankeen Night Heron [2]	Campbells Wetland	22/09/2023	Neil Palframan
Magpie Goose [1]	Campbells Wetland	22/09/2023	Neil Palframan
Plumed Whistling Duck [700]	Coleambally Sewage Ponds	03/10/2023	Neil Palframan
Nankeen Kestrel [1]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Red-rumped Parrot [3]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Australian Reed-Warbler [3]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Variegated Fairywren [2]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Royal Spoonbill [2]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Intermediate Egret [3]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Singing Honeyeater [2]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Buff-banded rail [1]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Australian White Ibis [100 +]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Straw-Necked Ibis [100+]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Glossy Ibis [100+]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Purple Swamphen [10]	Campbells Wetland	29/09/2023	Virginia Tarr
Sacred Kingfisher [2]	Flowerdale Lagoon	24/09/2023	Janet Hume
Little Friarbird [3]	Flowerdale Lagoon	24/09/2023	Janet Hume
Superb Parrot [10]	Flowerdale Lagoon	04/09/2023	Janet Hume
White-breasted Woodswallow [2]	Flowerdale Lagoon	24/09/2023	Janet Hume
Rufous Songlark [3]	Flowerdale Lagoon	24/09/2023	Janet Hume
Striated Pardalote [6]	Flowerdale Lagoon	24/09/2023	Janet Hume

Adults on nest and nest building, pairs accessing 3 different hollows



Plumed Whistling Ducks in their hundreds, on dam on McCracken Road off Fivebough Road, Leeton – Paul Maytom



**** COMING EVENTS ****

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Please register with the nominated person.

12 October Thursday

No Monthly Meeting

Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

16-22 October

BIRD WEEK

Australia's favourite citizen science event, [The Aussie Bird Count](#),

'Tis the season for birds and birdwatching, so Australia's favourite citizen science event, the [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#), will return between 18–24 October. You don't have to be an expert birder to take part — all you need is a little enthusiasm! [Register](#) today to join in the fun.

27-28 October Sat-Sun

Twitchathon 2023 Page 10 has more information.

If you are interested in forming a team to participate (minimum of 2 people per team) and haven't got the Rules, Bird List and Entry Form please contact

Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

1 November Wednesday

Copy for the November newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.

For significant sightings email janethume@icloud.com

9 November Thursday

Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.

Topic –

Bring along your 'show & tell'

Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

11 November Saturday

Tarcutta Hills Reserve

Meet at Tarcutta – time to be confirmed but probably 9am.

Bring lunch and drinking water.

Leader: Kelly Price. Contact: Sarah Danckert 0427276306

Other Events

20-23 October

Yarram, South Gippsland, Victoria South East Australian Naturalists' Association Camp (SEANA) Camp, to be hosted jointly by the Field Naturalist clubs of Sale & District and Latrobe Valley.

An opportunity to meet fellow field naturalists and explore the area with locals. A variety of excursions are planned including the Wilsons Prom National Park.

Bird Surveys

2023 Cowra Woodland Bird Surveys,

Dates for 2023/24 are October 14/15, and February 17/18 2024.

Contact Julian Reid on 0405 922 505 or at julianr@home.com.au