

# The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



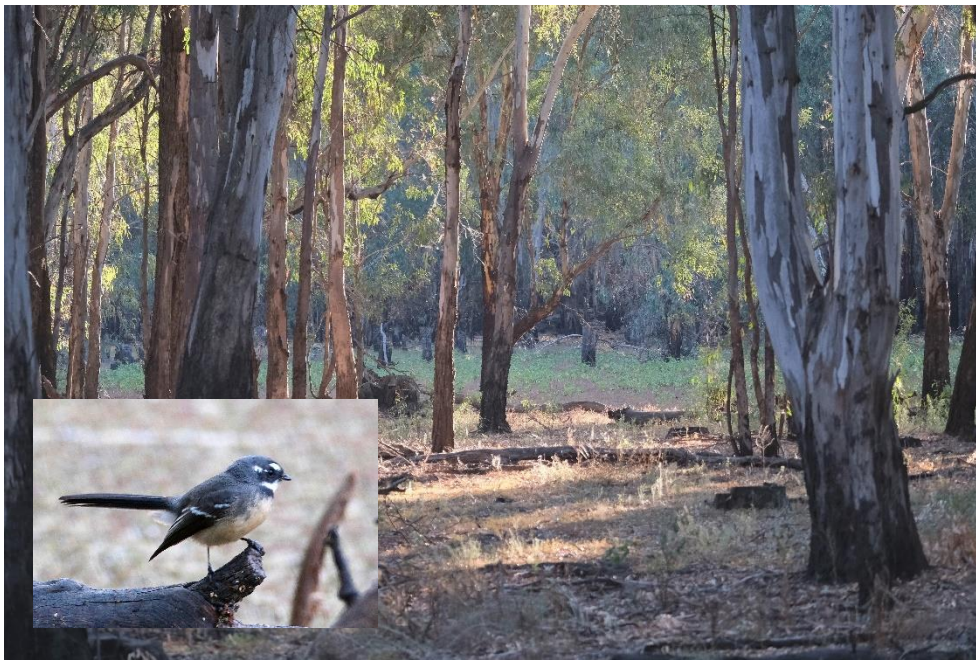
May 2024 - Issue #325  
Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.  
PO Box 541, LEETON 2705 ISSN-1327-1172

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

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

## Objectives

To facilitate and promote the knowledge of natural history, and to encourage the preservation and protection of the Australian natural environment, especially that of the Murrumbidgee River Valley



River Red Gum  
Forest at  
McCaugheys  
Lagoon  
in the late  
afternoon

Grey Fantail  
(insert)

Janet Hume

## IN THIS ISSUE

Office Bearers and Subscriptions .....	2
Welcome to May .....	2
From the Inbox .....	2
Listening to Nature, presentation .....	3
Member Profile .....	3
McCaugheys and Turkey Flat Lagoons Outing .....	4
Livingstone National Park Outing .....	5
First Swallow Seen .....	6
Birds on Farms surveys .....	7
Mystery Silken Bags - what are they, we asked? .....	8
Life in Leaf Litter .....	9
Book Review: Slater Field Guide .....	10
Members' Sightings .....	11
Coming Events .....	12

## CONTRIBUTIONS

For the June issue by  
Wednesday 5 June  
To Rowena Whiting

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

Phone: 6953 2612

"Always be on the lookout for  
the presence of wonder."

- E.B. White

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

<b>President:</b>	Sarah Danckert	0427 276 306	<b>Editor:</b>	Rowena Whiting	0429 726 120
<b>Vice President:</b>	Margaret Strong	0434 060 973	<b>Committee:</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612
<b>Vice President:</b>	Alan Whitehead	6959 3779		Nella Smith	0428 890 537
<b>Vice President:</b>	Virginia Tarr	0434 831 031		Janet Hume	0408 238 890
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dione Russell	0428 536 290	<b>Website Co-ordinator:</b>		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Glenn Currie	0488 563 321		Virginia Tarr	0434 831 031

**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; (Leeton, Griffith, Narrandera areas) AND ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (Wagga Wagga area)

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

### Membership enquiries:

<b>Leeton</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	<b>Griffith</b>	Virginia Tarr	0434 831 031
<b>Narrandera</b>	Nella Smith	0428 890 537	<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	Sarah Danckert	0427 276 306

**Annual Subscriptions:** Family \$45.00 Adult/Single \$35.00 Journal only/Concession \$25.00

**Bank details for direct deposit:** BSB 082 672 account no. 722043387, a/c name: Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Include your own name and description of payment in the reference box.

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

## Welcome to the May issue

Another month, another newsletter with a great variety of articles from a variety of people. A big thank you to you all for meeting the earlier copy date so I can compile it before going away later in the week. I'm sure you'll find plenty to interest you and to learn something new.

Our president, Sarah Danckert has taken up a request of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW of writing a profile of MFN. An opportunity to show what we do to a wider community. You can find it on their website [https://www.nature.org.au/murrumbidgee\\_field\\_naturalists\\_inc?](https://www.nature.org.au/murrumbidgee_field_naturalists_inc?) and in their "April Nature News".

Enjoy your month, **Rowena**.

## From the Inbox

### Margaret Strong has sent a correction to the previous issue #324 April 2024

Nature Journaling referred to in Canberra was organised by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens group, with local artists leading the workshops.

Paula Peters, an environmental artist with a doctorate in Australian Ecology, has organized and led many workshops including Nature Journaling near Brisbane for several years and more recently in Tasmania. We're privileged to have a local book of her work from 2016, as an artist in residence at Oolambeyan National Park.

My comments were from the Committee Meeting on Zoom. Rowena.

## Bug Hunt

DID YOU KNOW that there are 300,000+ species of bugs in Australia? How many have you seen?

Join the Bug Hunt to help scientists keep track of bees, ants, snails and all sorts of other bugs across Australia! There are thousands of awesome native bugs to discover, as well as some non-native ones that we really want to find, to protect our communities from. Using the iNaturalist app, just upload your bug pics and experts will identify it for you.

<https://invasives.org.au/our-work/bug-hunt/>

## 'Listening to Nature'

Instead of our regular Thursday evening meeting in April, the opportunity was taken to hear author **Andrew Skeoch** talk on 'Listening to Nature' organised by Riverina Libraries at Leeton Library on the day before. (He also was at Narrandera Library earlier in the day and at Wagga Library the next day).

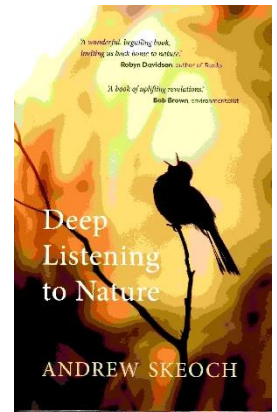
Andrew is a renowned sound recordist that seeks to understand the why's and wherefore's of nature calls. He invited us to listen carefully to nature not just look at it. Then by using a sonic spectrograph of a recording of a dawn chorus from his home in Central Victoria, demonstrated how much we can learn from the sounds of nature. (A sonic spectrograph is a graphic display of a sound's pitch, duration and volume). Field guides tend to imply each species of birds has only one or maybe a couple of distinct songs. Focussing on individual species from the dawn chorus, Andrew showed us that there can be variations in patterns, pitch, duration and frequency between calls according to the messages being sent – when, why, and even in what habitat. Some species have different dialects across their range, to the extent of having distinctly distinct calls at the extremities.

Whereas as we, in common with other mammals have a single voice box in our throat, birds have two independently controlled ones deeper down at just above the junction of the bronchial tubes or even at the top of the tubes, This means birds can sing two notes at the same time, hence the ability to weave complex songs.

Through his studies of the sounds and observations of nature, Andrew has come to realise that in general life is co-operative. Individuals in a dawn chorus take turns to call, thereby avoiding a confusing cacophony. Even where there is competition, either for a mate, food or space, there is rarely any destructive combat, no fights ending in maiming or death. He closed with the thought – why are humans so different?

### Eric Whiting

**Andrew's website:** <https://listeningearth.com/andrewskeoch/> where you can find his recordings and a link to purchase his book.



Images at the Leeton Library taken by Rachel Cody



## New Member Profile

One of our newest members is **Pooja Bamnelkar**. Pooja has degrees in Zoology and Bio-science from India and in Marine Biology from James Cook University. She has been working in the Aquaculture sector for a few years now and has experience with different species. She is currently working at a Murray Cod Hatchery based in Grong Grong.

She has been on a few of our field trips already and is enjoying exploring our regions, learning the different birds and flora. She is looking forward to meeting more of our members on future outings.

### Glenn Currie



Pooja is on the left with Margrit behind, Rowena, Glenn & Nella on right. Image is taken from a group photo taken at the Malleefowl Field Day at Rankins Springs.



## Field Trip to McCaughey Lagoon and Turkey Flat Lagoon 13 April 2024

Both Turkey Flat and McCaughey lagoons receive environmental water on an annual or biennial basis according to need for supporting vegetation, bird breeding or ecological services.

McCaughey has had a remarkable recovery of wetland vegetation including Tall Spike Rush *Eliocharis sphacelata*, Nardoo *Marsilea drummondii*, Pale Knotweed *Pescaria*.....and Common Sneezeweed *Centipedia cunninghamii*. It also regularly has a cover of Common duckweed *Lemna disperma* and Pacific Azolla *Azolla filiculoides*. These wetlands are benefited by a drying period which allow wetland plants to seed and to eliminate carp which are vegetarian and cause turbidity which also stops wetland plants from growing. Adjoining both lagoons are red gum forest which also receives some water and acts as great breeding sites for Heron, Egret, Spoonbill, Ibis and various species of ducks. The small patches of Cumbungi *Typha domingensis* annually support Little Bittern. I nearly always record Superb Parrots at both wetlands. Turkey Flat is a much larger wetland fringed by River Red Gum and Cumbungi and also a great refuge site for wetland and terrestrial birds and other fauna like frogs and macro invertebrates.

The field trip was a combined Narrandera Camera Club and Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists event. It was great to see a good turnout.

Red Flying-Foxes roosting – Nella Smith

Near McCaughey there is a roosting colony of Little Red Flyng Foxes and maybe some Grey headed Flying Foxes. Presumably they roost here and fly off at night to forage amongst the fruit trees and the Eucalyptus nectar as well as on a huge number of insects. During a dry spell they were seen skimming the water for a drink. After a visit to these and a short walk over the regulator and into the forest we adjourned to Turkey Flat, walking along the board walk spending some time at the bird hide, then around to the regulator and back to the picnic area for supper.



When it became dark we did a little spotlighting. However all we saw were a few species of spiders

and a cat. I wonder why we saw no arboreal native mammals. Was it too early in the night? Or were previous logging practices that eliminated old growth trees the cause...eliminating nesting hollows for some species.

The birds were really quiet on this visit but included is a list I generated in October 2023 at Turkey Flat.

Reed Warbler	Red-rumped Parrot 5	Sacred Kingfisher 2
Superb Parrot 7	Grey Teal 120	Black Duck 8
Straw-necked Ibis 5	Great Egret 55	Night Heron 2
White Ibis 5	Little Pied Cormorant 21	Yellow Spoonbill 5
Western Gerygone h	Starling 30	White-necked Heron 2
Grey Shrike-thrush 1	Yellow Rosella 2	Mudlark 2

Nella Smith



Possibly a Union-Jack Wolf Spider  
Janet Hume



Airborne Red Flying-Fox  
Rowena Whiting



A small group of six met and as the Autumn rain had been low, little fungi was expected. Instead we set about to identify the different forest ecosystems as we walked through them, specifically identifying the canopy and mid-storey plant species and any other features that came to interest.

Eucalypts can be challenging to identify and this was demonstrated early on the track when we entered a **Dwyer's Red Gum - Black Cypress Pine - grass heathy woodland** where *Eucalyptus dwyeri* and *E. blakelyi* have hybridised. We noted the differences between the gums as having one unbranching trunk, more of a feature of *E. blakelyi*, compared to trees with two trunks or a trunk branching low to the ground, more of a feature of *E. dwyeri*. We needed the flower buds (which were not present) and fruit (which were difficult to find in such a mixed woodland), yet even these are very similar. Scribbly Gum *E. rossii* of course was readily identified, thanks to the Scribbly gum moth of the *Ogmograptis* genus. The female lays eggs between layers of old and new bark. The larvae bore a tunnel at the level of the future cork cambium which we see as loops and zigzags. The cambium starts to produce cork filling the tunnel with thin walled cells that the larvae eat when they double back. This is why some scribbles are a fine line and others thicker, sometimes appearing as two parallel lines. Red Stringybark *E. macrorhyncha* was readily identifiable as was Black Cypress Pine *Callitris endlicheri*. There were only a few of the spiky *Acacia genistifolia* and *A. paradoxa* Kangaroo Thorn.



We moved on to **Red Stringybark - Scribbly Gum - Rough barked Red Box dry forb-tussock grass open forest**. The red box *E. polyanthemus* bark did stand out, and the identity was confirmed by the fruit, to my eye of having a 1980's wine glass shape, quite distinct from all the other species fruit shapes found, yet being somewhat similar to the *E. sideroxylon* yet to come in the **Scribbly Gum - Cypress Pine - Red Ironbark - tussock grass heathy low woodland**. This tree was readily identified by its ironbark, as were the Grass Trees *Xanthorrhoea glauca* spp *angustifolia* which were a feature of this vegetation community.

There were some fungi and a slime mould observed, which I will report on at another time. The Parson's Bands orchid *Eriochilus cucullatus*, no leaves, single flower on a stem 15cm tall, several 5mm diameter, Two-tailed Spider HERSILIIDAE family egg sacs and some fur balls that were most likely pellets from an owl.

I'm keen to return when these eucalypts are flowering and add images to my records, and report on fungi to come.

Sarah Danckert



Scribbly Gum



Red Stringybark



Dwyers Gum or Blakely's Gum

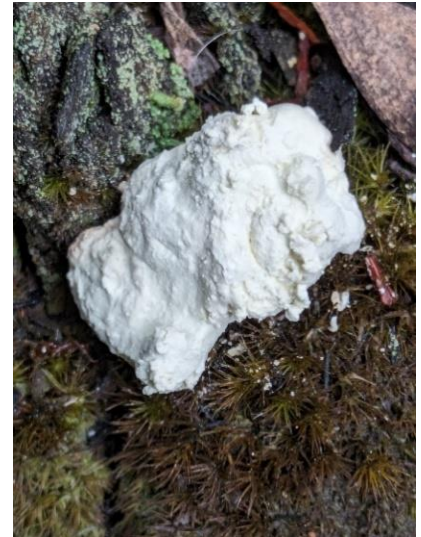




**Red Ironbark**



**Bracket Fungus**



**Slime Mould**

**Birdlist**

Grey Fantail, Eastern Rosella, Weebill, Grey Shrike-thrush, Australian Magpie, Laughing Kookaburra, Red Wattlebird, Australian Raven, White-winged Chough, White-throated Treecreeper, White-plumed Honeyeater, Yellow Thornbill, Galah, Red-rumped Parrot, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Superb Fairy-wren, Nankeen Kestrel, Noisy Miner.

**Sarah Danckert**

**First swallow seen.....**



In the United Kingdom the first swallow seen each Spring has been a regular newspaper 'event'. Here in Australia Welcome Swallows are not all migratory and it is not unusual to see them around water bodies at any time of the year. Nevertheless I was delighted to see a group in my garden on 19 April, it was the first sighting here in 35 years.



There were 5 or 6 swooping through the gap between my neighbour's house and his garage then making a circuit around their house and occasionally mine. I watched them for over half an hour and they never landed once. Their flight was so fast with rapid twists and turns it took a long time to discern the characteristic forked tail, but the pale underparts contrasted well with the dark upper.

I have not seen them since and surmise they were only staging on the way north.

**Eric Whiting**

**Welcome Swallow feeding young – Graham Russell**  
**Welcome Swallows – Phillip Williams**



## Autumn Bird On Farms Surveys at Book Book and Mundarlo

Sarah, and I did our autumn Birds On Farms (BOF) surveys on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of April. We had two beautiful days with perfect weather for birding.

The new growth in the trees and understory at the revegetation sites was exciting to see and the Striated Pardalotes were foraging happily in the new trees at two of the sites; 7 and 8 seen respectively. Also a female Red-capped Robin at the 3<sup>rd</sup> revegetation site



White-faced Heron,  
Mundarlo

We saw a Golden Whistler for the first time on the river at Yabtree West. The owner was very excited.

One quirky highlight was a White-faced Heron who watched us do our survey from the top of a deciduous tree at the farmhouse with no nearby water.

We were happy with the counts across the 10 two hectare sites, with the changing of the season.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of April Sarah and I met Darcy Creece (Birdlife) to survey 3 new BOF sites at Mt Adrah. The sites are a Carex (Tall Sedge) plot, a revegetation corridor and a patch of woodland (named Turquoise Parrot site), containing old growth trees (Blakelys Red Gum, Red Box and White Box); mid-storey containing *Acacia paradoxia* and *Acacia pravissima* and lots of logs and fallen timber. There are also a number of remnant stumps from historical clearing for powerlines.

Highlight sightings were 2 Hooded Robin, 2 Brown Quail, 9 Dusky Woodswallow, 5 Brown Treecreeper, a Mistletoebird, a Satin Bowerbird and a Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. We also saw 8 Diamond Firetail and 2 Restless Flycatchers near the Carax site.

### Bird list

Australian King Parrot, Australian Magpie, Australian Pelican, Australian Pipit, Australian Raven, Australian White-ibis, Australian Wood Duck, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Black-shouldered Kite, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin, Brown Falcon, Brown Quail, Brown Treecreeper, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Common Blackbird, Common Starling, Crested Pigeon, Crimson Rosella and yellow variant, Diamond Firetail, Double-barred Finch, Dusky Woodswallow, Eastern Rosella, Eurasian Coot, Fairy Martin, Fuscous Honeyeater, Galah, Golden Whistler, Great Cormorant, Grey Fantail, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey-crowned babbler, Hooded Robin, House Sparrow, Jacky Winter, Laughing Kookaburra, Little Black Cormorant, Little Corella, Little Eagle, Little Friarbird, Little Pied Cormorant, Magpie-lark, Mistletoebird, Noisy Miner, Pied Butcherbird, Pied Currawong, Red Wattlebird, Red-capped Robin, Red-browed Finch, Red-rumped Parrot, Restless Flycatcher, Rufous Whistler, Satin Bowerbird, Silverye, Singing Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Superb Fairywren, Tree Martin, Weebill, Welcome Swallow, White-browed Babbler, White-faced Heron, White-plumed Honeyeater, White-throated Treecreeper, White-winged Chough, Willie Wagtail, Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater.

### Janet Hume



Top: Mt Adrah Revegetation Corridor  
Above: Turquoise Parrot site

## Mystery Silken Bags – What are they, we asked?

In early April, a number of members shared the first photo taken by Janet Hume to discuss what creatures could have made it. Janet and Sarah had seen several similar bags hanging in trees around Wagga and wondered what they could be.

The facts we knew about the silken bags confused us, being their large size (approx. 30cm long), their location high in eucalyptus trees, the large silken lumps inside them and the absence of any animal seen inside or nearby. The clean appearance of the bags and their contents was also a baffling clue, appearing that they were newly built. After a week or more Janet noticed a creature crawling on the outside of one of the bags, as seen in the second photo, as well as the extraordinary protrusions from the silken lumps inside the bag.

We could see then that the bags belong to **Processionary or Bag Moth Caterpillars (*Ochrogaster lunifer*)**. Further west in the Riverina these communal nests are typically seen in Acacias, particularly Boree (*Acacia pendula*) and are smaller in size. Published information records only one species of the genus in Australia.

The second photo shows a few caterpillars inside the bag in the process of emerging from the silken bundles. These would be later instars of the caterpillars, possibly in a newly constructed bag or in a refurbished one that has increased greatly in size as the caterpillars have grown. The large caterpillar that is photographed crawling across the bag isn't newly hatched from an egg, but may have recently shed its skin.

The first instars of Processionary Caterpillars are reported as staying within the egg mass, which has between 150-500 eggs, after hatching. The adult female lays the eggs somewhere on a food tree and covers them with long tail scales (hairs) as protection. Second instar caterpillars are reported to feed during the day, eating leaves of the food plant. As yet, I cannot find any comments from published information as to where they rest at night, but it's likely that they would be together somewhere on the food plant. Caterpillars from the third to the eighth instars are reported as feeding at night and making a silken bag to shelter in during the day. They also grow the long hairs that this species is noted for.

Caterpillars of this species produce large quantities of silk. They leave a silken line behind them everywhere they crawl (as explained in Neil Palframan's May 2023 Murrumbidgee Naturalist article), they enlarge the silken bag as they grow, they make a new communal silken bag when they move to another food tree and each individual caterpillar makes a small silken cocoon to pupate in.

Adults are recorded as having a 5.5cm wingspan and that adult females don't have mouthparts. They don't eat and die soon after laying their eggs. The life span of adult males isn't commented on in my information sources. Photos of adult moths can be viewed on the website listed below.

The Butterfly House (Coffs Harbour) website <[lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au](http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au)> suggests that there could be more than one species of the *Ochrogaster* genus in Australia due to the differences in behaviour that citizen scientists are reporting, as well as marked differences in the colour of adult moths.

Due to their nocturnal habits, most of us have probably never seen an adult Bag Moth let alone significant numbers of them to compare wing markings. By chance, adult moths could be spotted at ground level when emerging from their underground cocoons. Each mature caterpillar leaves the food tree and pupates separately in the ground and is probably the only reason that individuals would be seen crawling through the grass rather than in a head-to-tail line with others.

I suggest that we closely observe these creatures in any of their life-cycle stages, so as to learn more about their extraordinary lives. Partly constructed silken bags are worth focusing binoculars onto to witness their construction and to record them in photos as Janet wisely and skillfully has done after their completion. While observing these creatures close-up, remember not to touch the caterpillars, their silken bags or the adults, due to possible severe skin rashes from their hairs and scales.

**Margaret Strong**, references 1. [A Guide to Australian Moths](#) by Paul Zborowsky and Ted Edwards, CSIRO 2007, 2. <[lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au](http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au)>, 3. <[Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org)>. Photos by **Janet Hume**.





## Life in Leaf Litter

Leaf litter may look dry and devoid of animal life but there are probably more creatures there than in the greenery. Without them, especially in drier climates the great cycle of life would come to a standstill.

In general it is only the bacteria and fungi that breakdown the larger molecules of life, in particular the cellulose of plant cell walls, lignin the major component of wood. Free living bacteria and fungi require close contact and a moisture layer for their enzymes to work and it is difficult for them to penetrate far into any surface. This is where the animal life comes into play. By biting or scraping exposed surfaces are greatly increased and nature has evolved to have many different life forms to do that. However very few produce the required enzymes to do it by themselves, the majority rely on their gut flora (microbiota). Also what is ingested and digested varies with species so that in many cases some classes of complex compounds are not digested but excreted, only to be further attacked by free living bacteria and fungi or ingested by other animals. The web of life is very complicated.

In an ideal cycle the digested material is then taken up by the local plants to complete the cycle. The cycle can be broken though by clearing the litter be it naturally by flood or fire or unnaturally by overgrazing with the stock being moved or by land clearing.

Amazingly, despite their importance, very little is known about the biology of the leaf litter creatures. Many have not been named or properly described. Look on the Atlas of Living Australia and you will find very few records even of the most common types.

If you are interested in finding out what is in leaf litter, scoop up a couple of handfuls into a coarse sieve, place a mild heat source like an old-style domestic filament globe above, and a dish underneath to catch what crawls out. To get a name, take photographs (top and bottom) and put them on iNaturalist or naturemapr. The latter is more likely to have a contact with an expert to gain information (both ways).

You never know you may get a new species named after you.

### Eric Whiting

#### Some common leaf litter creatures

##### Detritus ingestors

Termites  
Slaters  
Beetles including larvae  
Nematodes  
Snails and slugs  
Earwigs  
Springtails and other primitive insects

Cockroaches  
Millipedes  
Earthworms  
Cicada nymphs  
Isopods (woodlice)  
Ants (by farming fungi)

##### Predators

Spiders and mites  
Beetles  
Centipedes  
Scorpions  
Flatworms



Otways Black Snail



Slater

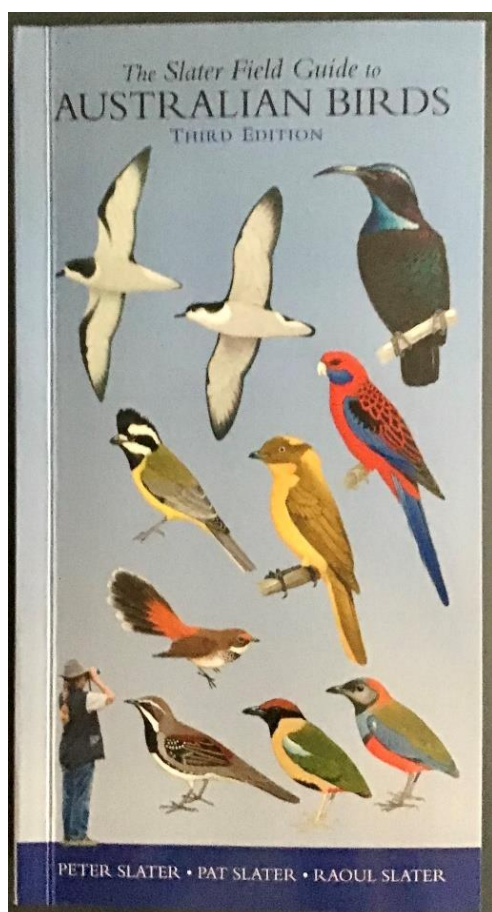


Flatworm



## Book Review

### THE SLATER FIELD GUIDE to AUSTRALIAN BIRDS, Third Edition, 2023 ISBN 978-1-92107-316-8

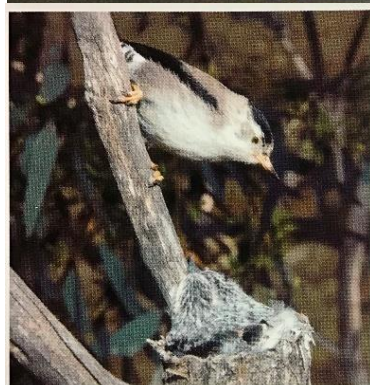


Contributors to this edition are Peter Slater, Pat Slater and Raoul Slater with an RIP 2020 notice in the imprint for the last Slater listed. An addition to the team is Sally Elmer. Copyright for paintings and text are held by Peter Slater and maps by Raoul Slater.

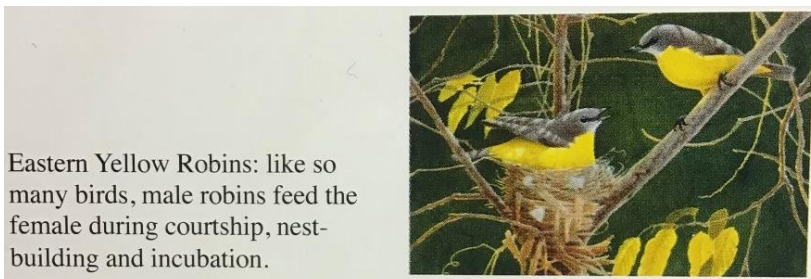
This new edition resembles the original in size, shape and layout but is narrower horizontally and a little heavier in weight. It has similar sturdy paperback binding to the original and will need thorough, gentle opening through each page to become flexible and to ensure a long life.

The species are listed in broad habitat groups of where the birds are likely to be seen and therefore are not in taxonomic order. There could be advantages to this organisation, but obvious disadvantages will be noticed in species that visit a variety of habitats. A Quick Index at the very back of the book with keyword common names for genus will solve any confusion about where to find a bird in the book.

The layout on each page will be familiar to anyone who has seen or used any editions of these books. For new users, brief information on species with a distribution map go down the left-hand page and high quality, coloured drawings of those species are displayed on the right-hand page. Little appears to have changed in that respect which fans of the original, whose copy is worn out or lost, will appreciate.



Varied Sittella at nest: this is the male black-capped form, southern WA.



Eastern Yellow Robins: like so many birds, male robins feed the female during courtship, nest-building and incubation.

the user can see the whole group of birds named at the top of each left-hand page, on the same page. To achieve this, the print is quite small.

There is an obvious new feature in the 2023 edition with drawings and photos at the bottom of some left-hand information pages, where a short list of species leaves a gap. Two examples are included with this article.

As expected, this new edition has updated Standard Common Names and perhaps distribution information, though the style of the maps makes the latter point difficult to judge.

The addition of this book to the resources of an observer of Australian birds will be very welcome, in my opinion, regardless of skill level and experience. Previous editions have been very popular and there seems no reason why this edition won't be appreciated in a similar way.

As it's approximately a year since the third edition was published, it's likely that some competitive prices would be advertised by online booksellers. Otherwise, ask your nearest Book Shop or Public Library to order a copy.

**Margaret Strong**



# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

## Significant sightings

<b>White-bellied Sea Eagle</b>	Old Wagga Rd, Grong Grong	04/04/24	Glenn Currie
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo [2]</b>	'Mountain Dam' via Leeton	08/04/24	Dionee Russell
<b>Golden Whistler [1]</b>	Yabtree West, Mundarlo	11/04/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Little Eagle [2]</b>	Mundarlo	11/04/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Hooded Robin [2]</b>	Mt Adrah	12/04/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Golden Whistler [2]</b>	Livingstone National Park	13/04/24	S Danckert
<b>Scarlet Robin [1]</b>	Livingstone National Park	13/04/24	S Danckert
<b>Golden Whistler [2]</b>	Halfway Hill, Gundagi	14/04/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Restless Flycatcher [1]</b>	Halfway Hill, Gundagi	14/04/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Brown Treecreeper [2]</b>	Halfway Hill, Gundagi	14/04/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Golden Whistler [2]</b>	San Isidore Reserve	18/04/24	S Danckert, D Clark
<b>Scarlet Robin [3]</b>	Murraguldrie State Forest	20/04/24	S Danckert, P Walker
<b>Yellow-faced Honeyeater</b>	Murraguldrie State Forest	20/04/24	S Danckert, P Walker
<b>White-eared Honeyeater</b>	Murraguldrie State Forest	20/04/24	S Danckert, P Walker
<b>Brown Thornbill</b>	Murraguldrie State Forest	20/04/24	S Danckert, P Walker
<b>Golden Whistler</b>	Mates Gully TSR	23/04/24	Sarah Danckert
<b>Fuscous Honeyeater [2]</b>	Mates Gully TSR	23/04/24	Sarah Danckert
<b>Restless Flycatcher</b>	Mates Gully TSR	23/04/24	Sarah Danckert
<b>Squirrel Glider [1]</b>	Mates Gully TSR	23/04/24	LLS spotlighting night
<b>Magpie Goose [90]</b>	Fivebough Sewage Treatment ponds	20/04/24	Nella Smith
<b>Pelican [500]</b>	Lake Cowal	23/04/24	Nella Smith
<b>Great Cormorant [200]</b>	Lake Cowal	23/04/24	Nella Smith
<b>Little Black Cormorant [1000]</b>	Lake Cowal	23/04/24	Nella Smith
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo [1M]</b>	'Yarrabimbi' via Leeton	26/04/24	Andrew Thompson

**Other sightings of note** These do not meet the criteria of significant sightings that the Committee are discussing – see Meeting minutes for details.

<b>Black-winged Stilt [7]</b>	Campbells Wetland	12/04/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Nankeen Kestrel [1] Juv</b>	Campbells Wetland	12/04/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Restless Flycatcher [2]</b>	Livingstone National Park	13/04/24	S Danckert
<b>Brown Treecreeper [2]</b>	Halfway Hill, Gundagi	14/04/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Spotted Pardalote</b>	Murraguldrie State Forest	20/04/24	S Danckert, P Walker
<b>Yellow-faced Honeyeater</b>	Murraguldrie State Forest	20/04/24	S Danckert, P Walker
<b>White-eared Honeyeater</b>	Murraguldrie State Forest	20/04/24	S Danckert, P Walker
<b>Brown Thornbill</b>	Murraguldrie State Forest	20/04/24	S Danckert, P Walker
<b>Golden Whistler</b>	Mates Gully TSR	23/04/24	Sarah Danckert
<b>Double-barred Finch [15]</b>	Mates Gully TSR	23/04/24	Janet Hume



Magpie Geese at Fivebough  
– Rowena Whiting

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

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Please register with the nominated person so you can be contacted if there is a change in arrangements.  
Registering also means that the leader is better able to plan activities.

- 5 May Sunday**            **Murraguldrrie Flora Reserve and State Forest**  
**Meeting** at 9am. GPS -35.481573, 147.629841 look for the roadside marker on the left.  
**Bring:** morning tea & lunch.  
**Contact:** Sarah Danckert 0427 276 306 [spdanckert@gmail.com](mailto:spdanckert@gmail.com)
- 9 May Thursday**        **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.  
**Topic: Outcomes from Narrandera Landcare's work over 3 years, how they have used a grant from MFN's Environmental Fund**  
**Presenter: Glenn Currie**  
Join in person if you can. Zoom will be available.  
**Bring along your 'show & tell'**  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 11 May Saturday**        **Triggervale Road, Narrandera**  
**Exploring the remnant roadside vegetation. Also there's usually lots of parrots and raptors along this little used road.**  
**Meet: at 2pm at the intersection of Boree and Triggervale Roads**  
**Bring:** binoculars, afternoon tea.  
**To register or for more details:** Glenn Currie [glenncurrie100@hotmail.com](mailto:glenncurrie100@hotmail.com)
- 2 June Sunday**            **Cocoparra National Park**  
**Meeting** at 9am at Woolshed Flat campground  
**Bring:** morning tea & lunch.  
**Contact:** Paul Walker if you are interested in meeting Saturday as well as camping  
Please register with Paul 0409793340 [paul1931ckf@gmail.com](mailto:paul1931ckf@gmail.com).
- 5 June Wednesday**      **Copy for the June newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**  
**Email:** [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com). Phone: 6953 2612.
- 6 June Thursday**        **Committee Meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**  
All members are welcome to participate.  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290 or the Club email.
- 13 June Thursday**        **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.  
**Topic: Recycling and FOGO**  
**Presenter: Sarah Lavilles, Leeton Shire**  
Join in person if you can. Zoom will be available.  
**Bring along your 'show & tell'**  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com).