

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



July 2014 - Issue #217

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.
PO Box 541, LEETON 2705 ISSN-1327-1172

Website: www.mfn.org.au

OBJECTS OF THE CLUB

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



“I saw some emus amongst Clustered Everlastings at Wumbulgal recently.

I first drew them with pencil then coloured them digitally.”

Sketches by Melanie Baulch

IN THIS ISSUE

Office Bearers and Subscriptions	2
Visit to Leeton by Martin Odino.....	2
Billenbah National Park.....	3
Introduction to Mosses	4
The Sex Life of Greenhood Orchids.....	5
Bird of the Month.....	6
Coming events for Spring.....	6
Holbrook Biodiversity Day.....	7
Members' Sightings.....	8
Competition	9
Coming Events Calendar	10

CONTRIBUTIONS

For the next issue by
Wednesday 6th August 2014

To Rowena Whiting

Email ericwhiting4@bigpond.com

Phone 6953 2612

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

President:	Max O'Sullivan	6953 4726	Editor:	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
Vice President:	Nella Smith	6959 1210	Committee:	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
Vice President:	Eric Whiting	6953 2612		Phillip Williams	6953 3524
Vice President:	Neil Palframan	6963 4855		Betty Bradney	6959 2901
Secretary:	Penny Williams	6953 3524	Web Co-ordinator:	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
Treasurer:	Phil Tenison	6953 4869			

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY, AT THE Yellow Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street at 7.30 PM

FIELD TRIPS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

Membership enquiries:

Leeton	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	Griffith	Johanna Botman	6963 4855	
Narrandera	Nella Smith	6959 1210	Coleambally	John Wilkinson	6954 4129	
Annual Subscriptions:	Family	\$45.00	Adult/Single	\$35.00	Journal only/Concession	\$25.00

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

Visit to Leeton by Martin Odino

My Kenyan bird guide friend Martin Odino will be in Leeton in mid-September and has agreed to give a presentation to the club. As he won't be in town until the 16 September, we will need to have a special meeting to hear him speak on his work in the rice fields of the Bunyala district of Western Kenya. Most members are already aware of Martin's one-man battle to stop the indiscriminate poisoning of all bird species in the project area and it should be of interest to us all to hear of his endeavours over the past 3 years or more in preventing the killing of so many birds.



It is proposed to have the special meeting on Thursday evening 18 September, a week after our scheduled monthly

meeting on 11 September. The venue will either be in Leeton or in Griffith and will be decided at our next meeting. Watch this space for further details!!

Max O'Sullivan

2014 Australasian Bird Fair (www.birdfair.com.au)

The inaugural Australasian Bird Fair is not just for dedicated birdwatchers. It will be offering activities for the whole family, from children's activities to talks by world experts from across the globe. Tickets go on sale online from July 1st 2014.

To be held at the **NEWINGTON ARMORY Jamison Street, Sydney Olympic Park** Sydney, New South Wales on the 25th – 26th October 2014

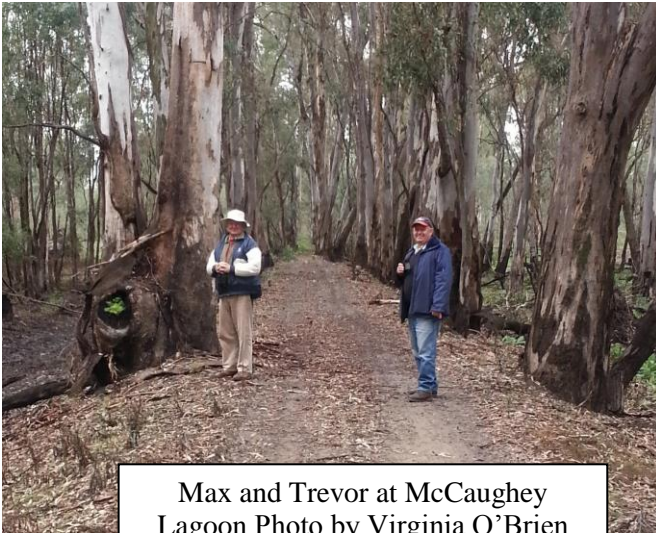
Billenbah National Park outing 14 June 2014

It was an ominous start to the day with thick fog billowing around the clock tower at the Leeton Post Office at 9am. The only takers were Virginia and Trevor who had driven across from Griffith for the occasion. Once at Billenbah things didn't improve – we got the full gambit of RAIN, HAIL and SHINE. Mind you there was more rain and hail than shine but we did get a glimpse of the sun albeit briefly during the morning with just the odd patch of blue sky in the west.

Billenbah is now part of the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park system that incorporates the River Red Gum section along the river from Narrandera to Darlington Point as well as Turkey Flat Wetlands and McCaughey Lagoon near Yanco Agricultural High School.

The bird life was almost non-existent in the park at Billenbah with just a male Red-capped Robin braving the elements to show himself to us. When it started to hail, we bid a hasty retreat to Trevor's vehicle and drove around the perimeter of the park before leaving for a drive along the river at Euroley Bridge. Again little was seen apart from the massive undergrowth of wild olive trees along the entrance road. The road was reasonable and we stopped at Middle Beach to check out some Wood Ducks and Little Pied Cormorants before heading into the Turkey Flat Wetland.

The weather was still not the best and after a visit to the bird hide with views of some birds roosting in the dead trees, we decided to head for the more sheltered McCaughey's Lagoon. This proved a little better and the weather began to clear so we settled into having a late morning tea/early lunch at the picnic table provided. A walk down the track was again very quiet so in the end we called it a day around 1pm.



Max and Trevor at McCaughey Lagoon Photo by Virginia O'Brien

Bird List:

Masked Lapwing	Pee-wee
Wood Duck	White-winged Chough
Black Duck	Kestrel
Grey Teal	Brown Falcon
Little Pied Cormorant	Galah
Pelican	White Cockatoo
White-faced Heron	Eastern Rosella
White-necked Heron	Red-rumped Parrot
Great Egret	Tree Martin
White Ibis	Pied Butcherbird
Straw-necked Ibis	Red-capped Robin
Eurasian Coot	Pied Currawong
White-plumed Honeyeater	Magpie
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	Australian Raven
Black-shouldered Kite	Crested Pigeon
Yellow Rosella	Willie Wagtail
Welcome Swallow	Apostlebird
Yellow-throated Miner	

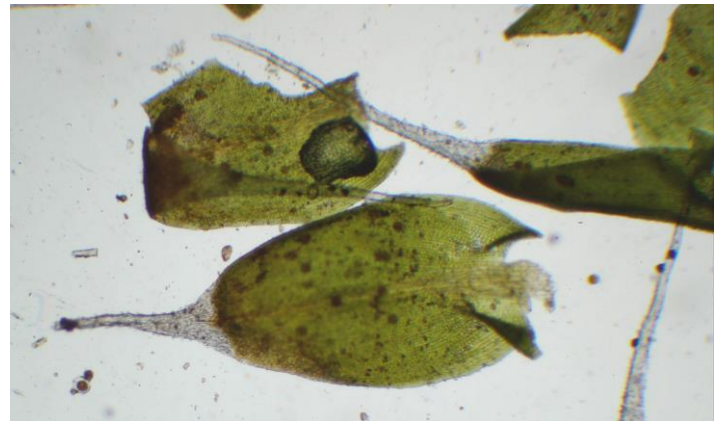


Can you see the face in the white growth on the tree?
Photo by Virginia O'Brien

Introduction to Mosses

Mosses are simple plants. Stems are merely a strand of cells with thickened walls. There is no conductive tissue to transport water, minerals, and food (sap) as in ferns, conifers or flowering plants. This severely limits the height to which mosses can grow to under 20 cm. In our drier climate 3cm is a good height with some species having virtually no stem at all.

Leaves are very basic, usually only a single layer of cells that may or may not be supported by a strand of strengthened cells. As in the stems these cells are not conductive like the veins in the leaves of flowering plants. The term 'costa' is used to show the difference. The costa may only be present at the base of the leaf all the way to the tip, or extending out as a fine hair point – a useful distinguishing character. The grey colour of the common moss on rock surfaces *Grimmia laevigata* is principally from the hair points. On wetting the leaves flex outwards from the stem to expose the green lamina of the leaves. The cells responsible for this movement are at the base of each leaf, and can be seen with a x10 lens as a group of clear cells.

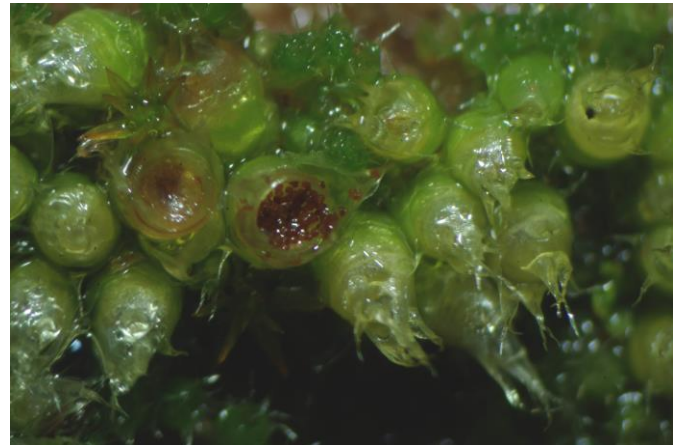


Mosses do not die when dried. The slightest bit of moisture can revive them to be fully functional within minutes. To exploit the maximum moisture from a shower, or even dew, dry country mosses have made a variety of adaptations to the basic leaf shape. The simplest is to be merely folded. A common species *Ceratodon purpureus* twists its leaves into a tight corkscrew on drying, and as the leaves unfurl create channels for moisture to move down the plant. Many mosses have minute pimples (papillae) on the outer cell walls of the leaf lamina to aid capillary movement across the leaf. These can be seen with a x10 lens as a roughness of the surface.

One group of mosses have increased moisture movement by having tightly aligned rows of cells projecting from the top surface of their leaves. This also increases the number of chlorophyll containing cells for each leaf.

The roots of mosses are only one cell thick and are anchoring structures only. They are properly called rhizoids. Even so mosses are an important factor in binding the soil surface thus reducing erosion.

Reproduction in mosses is not such a simple affair as may be expected. For a start there is alternating generations between haploid (cell nuclei have only one set of genes) and diploid (nuclei possess two sets of genes). The leafy plants are the haploid forms and they produce male or female gametes (therefore named the gametophyte generation). The male gamete has to swim to the female gamete to fertilise it. Thus at least a film of water has to cover the plants for this to occur – a critical stage in the life cycle.



After fertilisation the next generation is the sporophyte generation. This is entirely dependant on the gametophyte stage, having a foot implanted into the gametophyte to obtain all its food needs. The rest of the sporophyte is a stalk (which can be very short as in *Gigaspermum repens*, or clearly rise above the leaves) terminating in capsule containing the spores. The mouth of the capsule can be very elaborate with hygroscopic teeth controlling the release of the spores like a moisture activated pepper pot. The spores are quite hardy and small enough to be blown far and wide by the wind, eventually to germinate into a new gametophyte and start the cycle all over again.

Photos:
Grimmia laevigata leaves
Gigaspermum repens
Ceratodon wet
Ceratodon dry
Mouth of capsule



Eric Whiting

The Sex Life of Greenhood Orchids

We've had a good autumn break this year, the best we've had for wheat growers in 15 years. Those same conditions bring on the autumn flowering terrestrial orchids as well.

Seen in great numbers at The Rock were *Pterostylis revoluta*.

I have also managed to identify another *Pterostylis* from there, and from here in Narrandera *Pterostylis laxa* (Antelope Greenhood).

The flowers of *P. laxa* are whitish with olive green stripes becoming brownish towards the tip of the galea and around the sinus. This is a cauline-leaved greenhood with long filamentous tips to all sepals,



Pterostylis laxa

those of the lateral sepals somewhat fleshy and backswept untidily. The labellum protrudes through the sinus. The flowers of these are smaller than for the *Pterostylis revoluta*.

The other terrestrial orchid I found this year is the *Eriochilus cucullata* (Parson's Bands). They are meant to be fairly common around here but I have never really seen them except for their leaf which is heart-shaped to ovate, not hairy and usually green on lower surface. Often orchid leaves have died down by the time they flower, but these ones are present and are so beautifully shaped. The flowering stem is up to 25 cm and the flower which presents as two rabbits ears are 20mm across and are white to deep pink with reddish with white-tipped dorsal sepal and petals.

The *Pterostylis* orchids are interesting subjects because of the way they are pollinated. They have a very sensitive labellum which springs up quickly as you walk past. The lure for the gnat which pollinates it lies in the sweet juices it secretes and is found at the base of the spring door (the labellum).

The sepals and petals form a prison cell. The entrance is by way of an opening with a spring hinged trapdoor. The exit is through an escape tunnel inside the cell formed by the column wings and then past the anthers leading out through the top. The insect (usually a small gnat), alights on the open trapdoor,. It probes for the sweet juices and suddenly the platform swings up to fling it into the cell. A sticky plate (the stigma) on the wall inside gathers any pollen which the fluttering insect may bear on its back. Its way to freedom is through the tunnel , and while crawling through , it pushes past the viscid disc and thus draws away the pollinia on its back. This is promptly taken to another flower. The sensitive trapdoor reopens after an interval so the flower may receive several visitors.

We all need to keep our eyes wide open for these little beauties as some species of ground orchids are only found around this region.

P.S. *Pterostylis nana* are flowering very early this year and I have spied a few really early Early Nancy.

Article and photography by Nella Smith



Pterostylis revoluta



Eriochilus cucullatus- Parson's Bands



Eriochilus cucullatus leaf

Bird of the Month

BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Even though this bird is fairly common in our area, we always have another look at its beautiful blue enamelled eye patches, black, white and olive green coloration and sleek body shape. They are good-looking specimens, but the bird doesn't have a lot of virtues. They remind me of the "plebs" or "freeloaders" of the world. Firstly, they make a lot of non-musical noise, secondly, they rarely build their own home if they can move into an unused nest of the hard-working Grey-crowned Babbler who are the "builders" of the bird world. They are always looking for an "easy meal" at picnic areas or domestic dog and cat trays or raiding other bird's nests for eggs or nestlings plus insects and nectar.

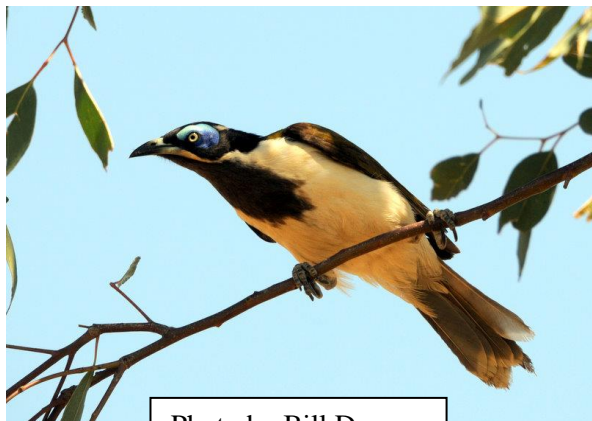


Photo by Bill Draper

However, to give them credit, to quote the author of Honeyeaters and Allies, Wayne Longmore, "I once saw an interesting aspect of parental care at Rockhampton Qld., where a pair were feeding young in a eucalypt. Disturbed by my presence, their attention was distracted by squawking juvenile magpie. Both birds collected food in their beaks, and after watching the young bird for a few minutes, delivered their offering to it." Well Mr. Longmore, maybe it wasn't a generous spirit that motivated them, but 'Anything for the sake of peace.'!

The birds are found across the top of Aus., New Guinea, open forests along the eastern state and to the SA border.

OTHER NAMES; Bananabird, Blue eye, Gympie, Pandanasbird, White-quilled Honeyeater.

Identification: Size: 320 mm Sexes similar
Black head, white nape, blue eye patches Body white with grey/black bib
Back, wings and tail olive green. Juveniles have green eye patch

Sue Chittick-Dalton

Coming Events for the Spring of 2014

Because of the many and varied places to visit in Spring in order to see the major Spring flowering possibilities, it has been suggested by Melanie Baulch and accepted by Nella and I that we should try to visit as many places as possible. This is to take advantage of what is promised to be a wonderful Spring for Ground Orchids and other native plants this year.

It is proposed to have an outing **every Sunday** from 17th August until the end of October. If members and friends are interested in participating in any of the outings, it is essential that you notify Nella by the Friday evening before to say if you will be attending. Nella's number is 69591210. Arrangements re meeting will then be made but it is possible that the location will be the meeting place in most instances and directions will be provided when you confirm with Nella that you will be attending.

Tentative dates and venues below will be confirmed in the August, September and October newsletters.

17 August: Sims Gap and Yelkin State Forest on the Rankins Springs Road.

24 August: Taleeban.

31 August: GPS Instruction at Cocoparra NP.

7 September: Stackpool.

14 September: Scenic Hill and McPherson Range (Melanie's place).

Max O'Sullivan

21 September: Narrandera and Gillenbah.

28 September: Ardlethan.

5 October: Spring Hill Cocoparra National Park.

12 October: Birds of the Bush at Rankins Springs.

19 October: Mt Brogden.

25-26 October: Twitchathon.

ARE WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE? Holbrook Biodiversity Day

The man employed by Holbrook Landcare to “rebird the woodland” was the guest speaker at an event I attended somewhere down south up to fifteen years ago. He was a good speaker and made a lasting impression. I occasionally wondered about the outcome. Then at the May meeting of Narrandera Landcare we were invited to a biodiversity day at Holbrook under the heading “Are we making a difference?” and I was offered a ride. It was a full day of interesting speakers; topics included:

- Frogs, wetland and connectivity- will the chorus continue?
- Roads, wildlife and mitigation – the lowdown at Holbrook and around the globe.
- Revegetation in Holbrook – Rebirding to Bushlinks.
- Stepping up to the paddock scale. (Long term vision: Woodland birds, Tree re-vegetation, diverse ground layer, Orchids, Stock, Squirrel gliders, Reptiles, The lot.)
- Launch of the Holbrook Landcare Biodiversity Gateway web tool, which can be accessed through the Holbrook Landcare website <http://www.holbrooklandcare.org.au/>
- Reptiles and Managing rocky outcrops in the SWS.
- ‘Things that go bump in the night’ – Insights into and population trends of our special and not so special nocturnal wildlife.
- 10 lessons about revegetation from the South west slopes Restoration study.(Professor David Lindenmeyer)

When the project started all those years ago, paddock trees were in serious decline, mainly due to insect attack. Salinity, waterlogging and erosion were ongoing problems. Twenty five farmers signed up to try to reverse the trend. There were lots of early and recent photos and the difference is amazing. Here are some of the results

- Everything needs to be measured accurately and documented.
- Blocks of vegetation are better than rows; T intersection of rows is the next best.
- 20% trees, 80% shrubs and understorey, plus the ‘brown’ layer of native grasses (not phalaris), for seed-eating birds.
- Wattles are good in the understorey as they grow quickly, produce lots of seed (to the delight of birds), die and then re-establish themselves (part of the vital understorey). Wattles deter noisy miners. Wild flowers are a sign of a healthy environment.
- Birds use revegetated areas, for feeding and nesting at almost the same rate as they use established woodland; not new species, just more of what was already there.
- Natural regeneration is better than planting, (volunteers are always better than conscripts).
- Many species including frogs need to be able to travel. Tunnels for wallabies etc., overpasses for possums, poles for gliders are being tried mainly up north. The statistics on road kill is huge, and one is never more than 10km from a road in Eastern Australia. Covering grain trucks has helped birds enormously (note - comeback of Superb Parrots. Also they like thick vegetation.).
- Keep your woodland messy to provide habitat. My messy garden is home to an E. Banjo frog.
- Sickly big old trees improved in and near revegetated sites (more birds, fewer insects) and the health of paddock trees is slowly improving also.
- Offset planting should never be at the expense of old growth forest or established trees,
- Problem for us all: Endangered Brolgas are eating endangered froglets!??

Footnote: Tawny frogmouths are found to be declining as are ring-tailed possums,

Focal species: Eastern yellow robin, hooded robin, golden whistler.

Holbrook’s (human) population: 1250.

It was a great seminar, well worth 2 hour drive in heavy fog. (And I didn’t drive!)



Eastern Yellow Robin
Photo by Phillip Williams

Betty Bradney

MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

Black Swan [4]	Lake Talbot Narrandera	31/05/14	Warrick Bradney
Pelican [4]	Lake Talbot	31/05/14	Warrick Bradney
Silvereye	Narrandera	08/06/14	Roy Wade
Flame Robin	Five Mile Narrandera	08/06/14	Nella Smith
Brolga [13]	Fivebough Wetlands	09/06/14	P&P Williams
Black Swan [20+]	Fivebough Wetlands	09/06/14	P&P Williams
Australasian Shoveller [115]	Fivebough Wetlands	09/06/14	Keith Hutton
Spotted Crane [3]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
Black-fronted Dotterel [50+]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
Zebra Finch [50+]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
European Goldfinch [20+]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
Collared Sparrowhawk [male]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/06/14	Max O'Sullivan

The sparrowhawk was dive-bombing the mixed flock of finches so I was able to count them. I haven't seen so many Zebra Finches together in the area.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle [adult]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
Red-necked Avocet [22]	Fivebough Wetlands	15/06/14	Keith Hutton
Black-fronted Dotterel [115]	Fivebough Wetlands	15/06/14	Keith Hutton

Keith feels this is a record number of this bird for Fivebough.

Spotted Harrier	Wilga Rd Whitton	16/06/14	Keith Hutton
Australasian Bittern [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	19/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
Black Swan [200+]	Fivebough Wetlands	19/06/14	Max O'Sullivan

There seems to be a great influx of Black Swans since the wetlands started getting more water with the rain in recent weeks. On a visit there on 28/6 I counted well over 300!

Brolga [9]	Fivebough Wetlands	19/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
-------------------	--------------------	----------	----------------

The number of Brolgas seems to vary with the time of day. They fly out in the mornings to feed in adjacent areas and return later in the day. There were none present on 26/06/14 at midday but 7 were seen feeding in rice stubble on Almond Road.

Pied Currawong [5]	Colinroobie Rd via Leeton	19/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
Eastern Yellow Robin [10+]	Spring Hill area of Cocoparra NP	20/06/14	Max O'Sullivan

I have never seen so many Yellow Robins in the one area ever.

Turquoise Parrot [2prs]	Spring Hill Picnic Area	20/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
Peregrine Falcon [pr]	Falcon Falls section of Spring Hill	20/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
Spotted Crane [calling]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/06/14	Keith Hutton
Australian Painted Snipe [male]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/06/14	Keith Hutton
White-faced Heron [22]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/06/14	Keith Hutton
Black Swan [200-300]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/06/14	Keith Hutton
Black-winged Stilt [150-200]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/06/14	Keith Hutton
Red-necked Avocet [22]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/06/14	Keith Hutton
Australian Reed-Warbler [5-6]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/06/14	Keith Hutton
European Goldfinch [35]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/06/14	Keith Hutton
Zebra Finch [20-30]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/06/14	Keith Hutton

Swamp Harrier and **Superb Fairy-Wren** present all of June at Fivebough Wetlands. Keith Hutton

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [40+]	Mcnabb Cres Griffith	23/06/14	Sue Chittick-Dalton
--	----------------------	----------	---------------------

The birds landed in a pine tree behind Sue's house.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo	McPherson Range via Griffith	25/06/14	Melanie Balusch
Australasian Bittern [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	26/06/14	Matt Herring

Matt is at present doing the winter survey of bitterns in various swamps in the Coleambally/Leeton/Griffith areas to see how many stay on in the area over winter. He flushed 2 at Fivebough but none at the Basin Dam at Koonadan on 26/06 but had flushed 4 out of a channel on a farm at Coleambally on 25/06. He reported 4 at Campbell's Swamp on 27/06/14 which indicates there are reasonable numbers that remain over winter.

Black Falcon	Fivebough Wetlands	26/06/14	Max O'Sullivan
Spotted Harrier	Wilga Rd Whitton	27/06/14	Keith Hutton
Glossy Ibis [7]	Campbell's Swamp Griffith	29/06/14	Max O'Sullivan

It is unusual for them to be around at this time of year. They usually don't appear until well the Spring.

King Parrot [3]	Gordon Ave Griffith	30/06/14	June Sell
------------------------	---------------------	----------	-----------

June reports that there was no male bird but she thought there was an adult female and two immature birds.

Mallee Ringneck	'Acadia' via Narrandera	June '14	Jan Strong
------------------------	-------------------------	----------	------------

Jan reports that the birds are unusual for the area and feels they could originally be escaped birds from a local aviary. They have been around for some years now but numbers are still only small.

Jan also reports that they have **Superb Parrots** on their property regularly throughout the year.



Black Swans at Fivebough photo Penny Williams

Competition #5:

Last month's question was not solved by the 6 entries received. The **European Goldfinch** was obvious but no one bothered to check the various Field Guides to see that, believe it or not, the **Zebra Finch** is not endemic to Australia but is found on Timor and the Indonesian Lesser Sundas. It is a different race but is definitely the same bird. So I get to eat the Mars Bar!!!

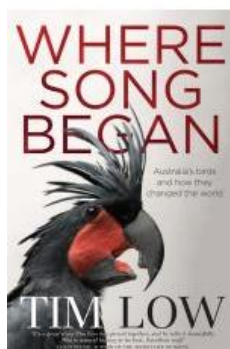
Did you know that the **Double-barred Finch** and the **Zebra Finch** belong to the same **genus** namely, **Taeniopygia**, with a different species name.

Competition #6

The Mars Bar is still in need of a winner!

There have been a large number of parrot species recorded in the local MIA area in the past few years. The prize goes to the member who can name the most number of those species recorded. Incorrect species on a list will result in a penalty with a point loss for each incorrect parrot listed.

Entries to maxosul@hotmail.com or phone me on 6953 4726.



Tim Low's Latest Book – Where Song Began – Australia's Birds and How They Changed the World

Tim, who is a member of BirdLife Australia and a contributor the Australian Birdlife Magazine, is the author of this new book released in June this year.

Interested in birds, ecology, evolution and or conservation? Then this book is worth a look!

**** COMING EVENTS ****

- 10 July Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** the Yellow Room at **Leeton Library**,
Sycamore St., Leeton, commencing at 7:30pm
Topic: DVD on Australian Grass Finches
Contact: Max O'Sullivan 69534726
- 13 July Sunday** **Barry Hehir's property**
Meet at the Leeton Post Office at 8:30am
Bring morning tea and lunch.
Contact: Max O'Sullivan if intending to come on 6953 4726
- 27 July Sunday** **Campbell's Swamp walk (another attempt!)**
Meet at Campbell's Swamp car park at 9am
Bring morning tea and lunch.
Contact: Max O'Sullivan if intending to come on 6953 4726
- 3 August Sunday** **Clean-up Australia Day: Nericon Swamp Car park.**
The club has registered for this worthwhile cause and I would like to think a number of members could come along to help on the morning.
Contact: Max O'Sullivan on 6953 4726 if you are able to help.
It should only take an hour or so to clean-up the mess that is there.
- 14 August Thursday** **Monthly Meeting - this will be held in Griffith** at the National Park Office in Yambil Street.
Topic: David Egan on his survey of Red-lored Whistlers
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 31 August Sunday** **GPS instruction in the field at Cocoparra National Park with Stephen Thornton. To be confirmed - see August newsletter.**
NOTE change of date
Meet at the Whitton Stock Route/Burley Griffin Highway Crossroads at 8.30am
Bring morning tea and lunch,
Contact: Max O'Sullivan if intending to come on 6953 4726
- 11 September Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** the Yellow Room **Leeton Library**,
Sycamore Street Leeton, commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: TBA
Contact: Penny Williams 69533524
- 18 September Thursday** **Special Meeting** to meet Martin Odino and hear his presentation about his work in Kenya to stop the poisoning of birds in the Bunyala Rice Fields.
Venue: Either Griffith National Parks Office or the Leeton Library.
Final details will be in the August newsletter.
- Other events: See the extra list on weekly outings in the Spring.**

Reminder: Membership subscriptions were due on the 30th June.
If you haven't yet paid please send you money to the Treasurer, Phil Tenison, promptly. Address PO Box 541, Leeton, NSW 2705 or make a bank transfer to MFN's Bank Account. It is the BSB 062 564, A/C 10039396. (Commonwealth Bank) Don't forget to note you name so Phil can identify it on the Bank Statement.