



PENBOC NEWS

AUGUST 2011

Newsletter of the Mornington Peninsula Branch of
Bird Observation and Conservation Australia



BOCA members who reside on the Mornington Peninsula are automatically Penboc members. No additional fees required.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The new committee has commenced the Penboc year with David Ap-Thomas as our new member and we welcome his input.

We have just had our second Bunnings sizzle, which was a great success, thanks to all who helped, and especially Neil who did all the organisational work.

We have been approached by the Mornington Shire to provide some of their friends groups with some basic bird ID courses, this is being organised by our education officers and Matt Stahmers from the shire.

The amalgamation with BA pending, we now have a new BOCA CEO this being Graeme Hamilton (BA) who will fill in until BirdLife Australia is operating.

Our outings program is in full swing so please come along and join in, you will have a very rewarding day.

Notes from the Committee Table

Treasurer Ray has reported a profit of \$1,500.00 from our recent sausage sizzle; this is a great result for the peninsula birds and our efforts to protect them.

"What Bird is That" is on again at The Briars on Sunday 30th of October. Please keep this date free and join us and bring along your friends and neighbours.

The committee has decided to discontinue our involvement with the Melbourne Water surveys as of the end of June as the contract has finished and the project is in abeyance at this time. We conducted the twice-monthly surveys for 4 years and all agreed it was a most worthwhile activity, we await the report on the project.

Max Burrows

Penboc warmly welcomes

Susan Clark, Ian Watson, Darcy & Logan Williams

We look forward to birding with you.

Plumed Whistling-Ducks at Merricks

I photographed Plumed Whistling-Ducks at Merricks on the 17th January 2011. I could see 17 but my friend who owns the property said there were about 20 as a few were out of sight when I was looking.

Brian Thomas



PENBOC AGM AT THE BRIARS - WEDNESDAY 11 MAY

The Bird Walk

On yet another gloomy wet day (even worse than the previous year) 6 people, including the leader Pam Hearn, decided to brave the weather for a short walk to the two nearby hides. Almost immediately after entering the gates we came across a swamp wallaby (also called Black Wallaby, for obvious reasons) quietly munching away taking little notice of us. At the Boonoorung hide we spotted a few of the usual waterbirds and Silvereyes on the far side in the Kangaroo Apple trees.

From there on to the Chechingurk Hide. En route we spotted a Swamp Harrier flying overhead as well as a female Golden Whistler and a Mistletoebird, a pretty sight at any time.

At the hide there was a fair bit of activity with Grey and Chestnut Teal, Australasian Grebe, Eurasian Coot, Dusky Moorhens, Purple Swamphens, nesting Black Swans and several other waterbirds.

High up in some dead tree branches off to the south-east we spotted up to about 15 Dusky Woodswallows some of which were later to follow us back all the way to the Centre.

By now, it got really dark inside the hide, made worse by its tinted windows. Someone suggested we rush back to the centre before more rain came our way. All the way back we could hear a Fan-tailed Cuckoo calling, however we just couldn't spot it.

In all, 29 species seen. Rather remarkable given the conditions and the short walk.

Back at the centre local ecologist Mal Legg gave a lengthy but, very interesting presentation on the dire state of the Peninsula Flora & Fauna.

Danny Vits

The AGM & Presentation

There was a good rollup of members for the AGM, despite the poor weather conditions. The usual formalities proceeded which resulted in the new committee being installed. The following were elected: Max Burrows President, Ray Pentland Secretary/Treasurer, Pam Hearn, Neil Shelley, Stuart Cousland, Wes Barton and Keith Hindley.

Richard Hunter gave a short dissertation on the BOCA/BA merger proposal and the importance of voting. Larry Wakefield updated us on the Penboc Annual Plan.

Mal Legg, ecologist, was the main speaker for the day and his presentation "Fauna of the Mornington Peninsula" was well received if not somewhat disturbing with graphic figures as to the loss of our fauna over the last two hundred years.

The AGM concluded with some of us adjourning to the side veranda for lunch.

Max Burrows



Pam Hearn

Special Birds at The Briars

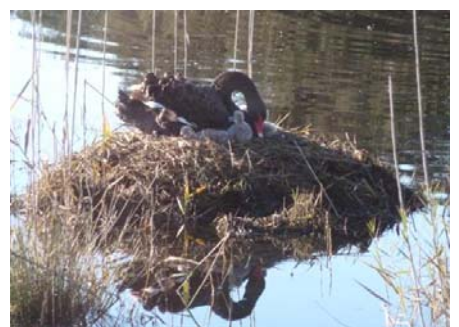
Swans have six cygnets: I walked into The Briars on Saturday 11th June to check on the swans. Earlier in the week I watched the adult on the nest as it stood up and appeared to be turning the eggs [I couldn't see eggs as the nest must be quite deep].

A walker on Friday 10th June said he saw one cygnet. On Saturday morning I counted four cygnets, but thought there could be a fifth behind the adult. Such good conditions in the wetlands now and fox control measures continue so fingers crossed most of the cygnets survive. On Monday 13th June I counted six cygnets. All enjoying a swim with the adults with one hitching a ride under a wing.

On Wed 15th June the swans moved their family, choosing to leave the nest site and walk them overland to the area of wetlands in front of the Bunurong Hide.

Quail flushed in one of the paddocks: Two of The Briars outdoor volunteers were checking the current in the electric wire along the sanctuary fence during May. On the 17th May they flushed between 10 and 12 quail in one of the paddocks above the wetlands. I walked and searched in my lunchbreak in this and adjoining paddocks to no avail but it is good to know there is a nice size population here.

Sue Brabender



Sue Brabender



Tom Russell

HISTORICAL WILDLIFE RECORDS

Historical wildlife records are interesting to compare with fauna communities present today. In general, the historical records show greater diversity and abundance of fauna throughout the region. The decline in wildlife diversity and abundance can largely be attributed to anthropogenic changes in the environment, such as vegetation clearance, intense weed invasion, hunting, and the introduction of non-indigenous pest animals and diseases.

In the report prepared by Andrew *et al.* (1984), there are accounts from a number of historical sources. These *mention waterbirds in flocks of hundreds, and even thousands*, although these waterbirds are still present today, they do not occur in the numbers previously observed.

The following are extracts from historical records of the fauna that once occurred in the area during the 1800s and early to mid 1900s:

Wheelwright (1862) spent a number of years in the mid-1800s hunting professionally around Melbourne, in particular the upper region of the Mornington Peninsula. He wrote about the native fauna encountered whilst in the bush and their abundance. Wheelwright describes the Dingo as being *"common in thick forests, deeply scrubbed gullies, in belts of timber bordering the large plains and in patches of tea-tree on the plains themselves"*. He also goes on to describe many species that have also been noted by Cavill (1989), such as Common Wombat, Koala, Common Brushtail and Ringtail Possums, Sugar Glider, Feathertail Glider, Long-nosed and Southern Brown Bandicoots, Short-beaked Echidna and Water Rat.

Kenyon (1930) reporting on the work and travels of Dr Edmund Charles Hobson, an early Victorian naturalist, quotes from Hobson's 1837 notes *"The forests between Melbourne and Arthurs Seat teem with life. The large Kangaroos may be seen in flocks of three hundred or four hundred, and some measure nearly eight feet in height"*. He goes on to describe that the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Common Wombat, Eastern Quoll, Common Brushtail Possum and Common Ringtail Possum were very numerous. Many of these species no longer occur on the Peninsula or are diminished in abundance.

Wheelwright also makes note of how common the Long-nosed Potoroo is, which is now no longer present on the Mornington Peninsula. Interestingly, Wheelwright never observed Platypus in the "Westernport district", although he found it common in the *"Yarra, the Exe and many of the streams to the north and east of Melbourne"*. Wheelwright found Spotted-tailed Quolls rare, but the Eastern Quolls to be *"one of the commonest of all*

bush animals", especially in the belts of timber around swamps. The Eastern Quoll is now considered extinct on mainland Australia.

Jenny Cavill in her study and observations (Cavill 1989) noted the decline in the occurrence of wildlife living around Moorooduc Quarry Flora and Fauna Reserve. Of the mammals, quolls, Southern Brown Bandicoots and Eastern Grey Kangaroos were present until around the 1940s while the Common Wombat remained until twenty years later. As recently as twenty years ago, Cavill recalls Koalas, Sugar Gliders and Agile Antechinus as abundant; however their numbers have since declined significantly. She believes the Black Wallaby was still present until 1984. Two species of pygmy possum, the Feathertail Glider and the Eastern Pygmy Possum, were also thought to have lived in the vicinity.

Local resident Julie Firnell, formerly a wildlife carer, has been observing fauna along Earimil Creek since 1980. She reports that the overall abundance and the number of species have greatly reduced over the last few years due to increased predation by cats and foxes. According to Firnell's observations, a number of species that were regularly seen have not been seen for a number of years, including Azure Kingfisher, Barn Owl, Water Rat and an unconfirmed sighting of a bandicoot. Firnell also comments that an older person whom she cared for remembers (circa 1930s) that "wombats, koalas kangaroos and wallabies were common along the creek".

Since 1989, local botanist, Jeff Yugovic, who lives along Earimil Creek, has observed the following fauna species: Australian Wood Duck, Masked Lapwing, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Striated Pardalote, Rufous Whistler, Olive-backed Oriole, Pied Currawong, Little Raven, and the Red-browed Finch. These were not detected in Legg (2002). Yugovic also believes that Koalas existed on the Peninsula prior to 1985.

Research indicates that populations may continue to decline, or become locally extinct, long after initial changes and impacts to the environment. This is known as an extinction debt caused by a time-lag effect of vegetation clearing and landscape change that has happened many years ago. The decline of the number of species and their abundance may still be occurring long after clearing native vegetation has ceased. Therefore, the wildlife present today throughout the Mornington Peninsula may still be at risk of decline or local extinction.

Malcolm Legg

WHAT BIRD IS THAT AT THE BRIARS PARK

Penboc invites you to join them for a morning of bird and habitat displays. Bring the kids and they can learn about and see our beautiful Mornington Peninsula bird life.

Date: Sunday 30th October from 9am

Venue: The Briars Visitor Centre, Nepean Highway Mt Martha

Displays & activities include: Theatre presentation, bird walks, information table, free morning tea, display by Friends of the Hooded Plover, Birds Australia and a chance to speak to bird experts. If you have binoculars please bring them.

All Welcome. For more information contact Max Burrows on 9789 0224

PENBOC ANNUAL PLAN 2011-2012

Editor: Max Burrows

In 2010-11, the committee worked to the Penboc Annual Plan. The 2011-12 annual plan has been finalised which will continue the process of reminding us on the aims and proposed activities for the branch. It also provides members an opportunity to comment on and give feedback to the committee on the directions that Penboc is taking. If you have any comments, please contact a committee member.

1 GOVERNANCE

Coordinator: Max Burrows

1.1 Committee (focal point: Max Burrows)

The committee elected at the AGM (May 2011) consists of: Max Burrows President, Ray Pentland Secretary/Treasurer, Pam Hearn, Neil Shelley, Stuart Cousland, Keith Hindley, Wes Barton, David Ap-Thomas.

1.2 Budget and Finances (focal point: Ray Pentland)

Activities

Annual operating expenses are in the order of \$1,178. Fundraising activities will be conducted as required. A Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Mornington is planned for 2nd July 2011, with the objective of raising \$1000. Friends Education Program will raise \$1,200 from the Shire.

Budget

Prepare annual budget and table at AGM

1.3 Club Membership (focal point: Neil Shelley)

Membership and outing attendance numbers are steady. A recruitment of new members is beneficial to the branch. This is being achieved through publicity such as open days, bird watching courses and advertising in local newspapers and fliers left at libraries, information centres etc.

Activities

Keep track of membership numbers and degree of activity.

1.4 Communication

Activities

Members (focal point: Max Burrows)

- Edit and forward the Penboc Newsletter (editor: Val Ford) for inclusion with each issue of Bird Observer
- Regular communication with members via email.

BOCA (focal point: Max Burrows)

- Liaise regularly with Head Office on branch's activities and initiatives including outings, surveys, conservation and education.

Public (focal point: Max Burrows)

- Advertise outings in local newspapers and other organisations' newsletters and websites.
- Distribute BOCA/Penboc flyers to libraries and information centres.
- Distribute Penboc newsletter to other appropriate organisations.
- Pursue speaking engagements with other organisations to promote Penboc.
- As appropriate, utilise other media outlets to advertise the branch.

Penboc Website (focal point: Neil Shelley)

- Maintain the Penboc website (www.penboc.org.au). Content and updates to existing pages are the responsibility of relevant coordinators.

1.5 Archives (focal point: Ray Pentland)

Activities

- Enter ongoing activities and events in branch's archive.
- List and maintain contents of club's filing cabinet.

2 OBSERVATION

Coordinator: Max Burrows

Activities

- Organise two outings per month except for January.
- Record bird species for each outing.
- Ongoing reminder of leader's role and responsibilities.
- Encourage buddy system for newcomers and visitors.
- Involve members other than the committee in leading walks.
- Review programme with a view to encourage members (including other branches) other than regulars to attend outings.

3 EDUCATION

Coordinator: Stuart Cousland

Activities

Schools Program (focal point: Stuart Cousland/ Pam Hearn)

- Respond to requests to set up talks and outings programs.

Walks/Open Day (focal point: Max Burrows)

- Organise and participate in public events to promote Penboc as required.
- Conduct "What Bird is That?" open day at The Briars (30th October 2011).

Adult Education (focal point: Joan Peters and Larry Wakefield)

- Conduct U3A Southern Peninsula course for new bird-watchers (Joan Peters)

Projects (focal point: Max Burrows)

- Work on "Rare Birds on the Mornington Peninsula" project.

General (focal point: Stuart Cousland/Pam Hearn)

- Arrange for educational articles to be sent to local newspapers and magazines.
- Take up opportunities to talk to local groups and clubs.
- Liaise with BOCA Education Coordinator about activities and resources.

4 CONSERVATION

Coordinator: Wes Barton

4.1 General

- Ongoing monitoring of development and impact on natural features on the peninsula.
- Penboc representation at community meetings.
- Regular liaison with BOCA Conservation Officer.

Activities

- Devilbend Reserve. Liaise with Parks Victoria as the management plan evolves and encourage members to be involved in conservation work.
- Maintain a watching brief on the following items.
 - ◆ Construction of Peninsula Link including through The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve.
 - ◆ Frankston Reservoir Park.
 - ◆ Port of Hastings Development. Provide assistance to BOCA as required.

4.2 Monitoring

Coordinator: Neil Shelley

Activities

4.2.1 Activities managed by Penboc

- Melbourne Water (focal Point: Neil Shelley) – Finish surveys at Mor-dialloc Creek and Troups Creek wetlands at the end of June 2011 and produce reports for both sites.
- Devilbend Golf Course (focal point: Neil Shelley) – Conduct a final survey for the site and produce a bird list.

4.2.2 Activities with Penboc participants

- Westernport Survey, Hanns Inlet (focal point: Xenia Dennett) – Conduct surveys in February, July and November as part of BOCA Westernport survey.
- Estuary Surveys (focal point: Birgita Hansen) – Assist with surveys scheduled by DSE/Melbourne Water for estuaries on Port Phillip and Westernport bays.
- Devilbend Reserve (focal point: Roger Richards). Encourage members to participate in regular monitoring organised by Birds Australia

(second Tuesday of each month).

- Hooded Plover - Threatened Species (focal point: Val Ford) – Encourage members to participate in the following activities:
 - ◆ Monthly counts throughout the year (organised by Friends of the Hooded Plover & Parks Victoria),
 - ◆ Weekly nest monitoring and chick wardening from September to March (organised by Friends of the Hooded Plover & Birds Australia).

4.3 Database

Coordinator: Wes Barton

Activities

- Maintain Penboc bird occurrence spreadsheet and record form.
- Regular entry of data from outings and surveys with annual transfer of data to Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and DSE.
- Make regular backup of electronic data, including database, surveys, newsletter, website. Store in independent location.

PRESIDENTS REPORT TO AGM

The annual plan has been our working document and kept our focus on our aims and aspirations. The committee has again worked hard to provide interesting outings and activities including education and conservation initiatives whilst providing a strong environmental voice in the community.

During the year I represented Penboc at the 3rd annual BOCA seminar at Yanco (NSW) and made a presentation to the gathering on BOCA membership. We have continued our membership initiatives during the year and I believe we have been quite successful in attracting new members.

We now have a substantial list of members email addresses and this is helping us to keep in touch and communicate quickly with our membership. The website is also providing opportunities for us to communicate with the general public and we have seen new members recruited from this medium. Our outing program was badly affected by the adverse weather conditions that prevailed for most of 2010.

I would like to thank all committee members for their dedication and hard work. I would also thank Larry who is retiring for his unstinting efforts for Penboc.

Education

Stuart and Pam have produced a quality educational program for primary schools with the highlight, distributing two of our informative bird posters "Birds in Flight" and "Australian Raptors" to every primary school on the Mornington Peninsula something we can rightfully be proud. We are also facilitating a distribution of our "Birds of the Mornington Peninsula" poster to schools. The branch was asked to participate in Schools Environment Week and we provided workshops on water birds to primary students in the water bird hide at "The Briars", we had valuable assistance from Annette of the national office.

I also participated in a presentation to some members of Friends Groups, which was held at The Briars under the auspices of the Mornington Shire and gave a talk to the Frank-

ston Field Naturalists.

"What Bird is That", our annual public education event at The Briars, again proved popular attracting adults and children for some bird watching activities.

Conservation

Our conservation officer Wes was again active on a number of fronts namely Devilbend Reserve, Frankston Reservoir, Peninsula Link, Westernport Welcomes Waterbirds, Hastings Port Development, Duck Shooting, most of which are ongoing issues and require us to be vigilant and across all developments.

Monitoring

Neil has again facilitated our involvement for the branch, the main focus being our work on the Melbourne Water contract, which will end in June after four years. On behalf of the branch I would like to thank Neil and all those members who took part in this worthwhile activity. A considerable number of manhours were spent on this project, but it also was a very pleasant way to observe birds and I commend Melbourne Water on these very productive wetlands.

This year a new focus has been put on the plight of the Hooded Plover on our beaches and some of our members are very dedicated in their pursuit of saving this endangered species.

Other sites monitored include Sages Cottage, Devilbend Reserve, Devilbend Golf Course, Estuary Surveys and Westernport.

General

Our Penboc Newsletter editor Val has again produced a quality informative newsletter which has been very well received by all members and a considerable number of outside organizations. Pam has supplied Holiday magazine with a number of bird articles for their periodical.

Max Burrows

ENDEAVOUR FERN GULLY

After a reportedly enjoyable and highly successful 'opening' event, Endeavour Fern Gully is now open to the public. The entrance to the track is in the paddock beside St Georges church, opposite the Red Hill showgrounds on Red Hill Road.

This is a beautiful place to visit or work in. The unique vegetation of this spring-fed wet gully, which is in fact the head of Stoney Creek, includes Austral Mulberry, Musk Daisy Bush, Mosses and Fungi, in a variety of environments, encompassing Ferny Swamp and Damp Forest.

For more information go to:
www.spiffa.org/endeavour-fern-gully.html or contact Gillian Tolley at gilliantolley@westnet.com.au or 5989 2550.

SPIFFA newsletter, May 2011



When a male can't stand it anymore!

OUTINGS

Red Hill – Merricks Trail, Merricks

Joan Peters - Sunday 15 May

Species recorded: 40

After some confusion as to where we should meet, nine birders eventually gathered at Merricks to explore part of the Red Hill – Merricks Trail. This was a new location for Penboc in that previous outings along this trail had all started at the Red Hill end. The initial section of the trail is adjacent to the Merricks Pony Club where a number of young people were participating in horse-riding activities. In this area we found many colourful fungi (and even some mushrooms) flourishing under the pine trees. Further along, the trail passes through a narrow corridor of trees and shrubs beyond which are vineyards and grassy paddocks.

As for birds, our first sightings included Crested Pigeon, Galah and Red Wattlebird. A Grey Butcherbird called from a tall pine tree and, not far away, a flock of Common Starlings foraged noisily in the thick foliage of another pine. In the smaller trees and shrubs we spotted Brown Thornbills and Superb Fairy-wrens and heard a White-browed Scrubwren. Both Little and Australian Ravens were seen and heard almost simultaneously. A pair of Grey Currawongs called as they flew back and forth overhead and a single Laughing Kookaburra perched in a pine tree.

A little further along the trail we came across a bird “hot-spot” where the attractions presumably included eucalypt blossoms and lerps on the underside of mahogany leaves. The highlight here was a small flock of at least six Crescent

Honeyeaters, often perching on treetops as they called. We also remarked at the number of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Grey Fantails and Welcome Swallows flitting and flying around. Spotted Pardalotes, both species of Wattlebirds and a single White-eared Honeyeater were also present.

On the far side of a paddock seven or eight Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes were also exhibiting flocking behaviour. In two different locations a Fan-tailed Cuckoo was heard calling. With our binoculars we scanned two dams from a distance. This yielded a Little-pied Cormorant and an Australasian Grebe. Masked Lapwings called from a distant grassy slope.

As we headed back towards our starting point, more species were added to our growing list. Several Common Bronzings were flushed from under some pines and a Golden Whistler called. Some of us gained a brief sighting of a Brown Goshawk when the alarm was sounded by other birds. Shortly afterwards, a Black-shouldered Kite was spotted in a tree. Back at the Pony Club, Musk Lorikeets were heard.

When we gathered for bird call and lunch, we realised that we had recorded 39 species during our walk. Soon afterwards, a group of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos flew past, bringing our total to 40.

Although the morning was rather cold and overcast, it was mainly fine and there was no wind. We are indebted to Joan for leading a pleasant outing to a new location for Penboc and enabling us to observe a variety of interesting birds.

Wes Barton

Troups Creek Wetland - Hallam

Neil Shelley - Sunday 19 June

Species recorded: 46

Eleven people assembled at Troups Creek wetland on a cold cloudy day with moderate wind conditions. We welcomed a couple of visitors and took to the path adjacent to the wetland. The big hope for the day was to see the Australasian Bitterns seen a few days prior to our visit.

Greeting us on a valve structure at the first pool was a male Australasian Darter with wings outstretched. An Eastern Great Egret was feeding at the next pool and a big mixed flock of Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis and Little Raven fed enthusiastically further down the wetland. Flame Robin in numbers were seen feeding on a wet paddock near the path, all birds being of the brown variety. At this point ducks were conspicuous by their absence. A pair of Black Swan with 6 cygnets in tow was a highlight and a Hoary-headed Grebe swam in the creek itself and later an Australasian Grebe appeared.

Traversing the far end of the wetland at last produced numbers of ducks, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal and Chestnut Teal and Luke flushed our sort-after bittern, however most of us missed seeing it. Black-fronted Dotterel, Purple Swamphen and Masked Lapwing foraged on the top wet paddock.

We decided to return via the opposite grassy side and before long the party flushed an Australasian Bittern for all to see.

Then hold on is that a snake in front of us, it certainly is, in the middle of winter (global warming!).

We finished with a total of 46 species a great result, thanks to Neil for leading. We then adjourned to Red Gum Creek for lunch.

Max Burrows



Michael Park



Luke Shelley

Shergolds Lane, Dromana

Pam Hearn - Wednesday 8 June

Species recorded: 22

On a breezy and cold morning with, fortunately, only a few spots of rain, five of us stepped out along Shergolds Lane, with Pam Hearn leading, having negotiated, one way or another, the large number of trucks, workmen, witches hats and stop/slow signs clogging up the White Hill/ Boundary Road end.

Sallying forth along this attractive road, with varied roadside vegetation (signs on a number of properties announced they were members of the Dunns Creek Landcare Group), we saw and heard a total of 22 species including: Crimson Rosellas with juveniles, Australian Wood Ducks, Eastern Rosellas,

Magpies and Magpie-larks, Rainbow Lorikeets, Brown Thornbills, Noisy Miners, one Grey Butcherbird, Silvereyes, Common Starlings, Common Mynas.

Spotted Pardalotes were heard but not seen. Acrobatics were performed by Grey Fantails, Welcome Swallows, Eastern Spinebill. Flying overhead we observed Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, egrets (possibly Cattle Egret) and a pair of gracefully circling Wedge-tailed Eagles.

We added Wedge-tailed Eagle, Eastern Spinebill, Silvereye and Masked Lapwing to the existing Penboc list for Shergolds Lane. Thanks to Pam for leading this walk.

Susan Clark

DUNNS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

The Dunns Creek LandCare Group was formed in 1991. Originally membership was only open to people with properties with frontages to Dunns Creek Road, Wallaces Road, Harrisons Road or Gibb Road but the group expanded its membership area to include all people living within the catchment area of the creek and its tributaries upstream from Moats Corner.

Primary Objective of Dunns Creek LandCare:

To encourage land management practices that promote sustainable habitats/landscapes and sustainable agriculture, with particular reference to:

- ◆ Trees (Planting and Remnant Preservation) / Wildlife Corridors
- ◆ Salinity and Drainage
- ◆ Ragwort
- ◆ Blackberries
- ◆ Rabbits and Soil Erosion

If you would like more information please contact:

- ◆ Bill McDonough 5981 0790 mcdonough@dragnet.com.au or
- ◆ George Flowers 5987 2441 or
- ◆ Dave Gibb gibb@mornpen.vic.gov.au



Weed removal



Dunns Creek bank - willow trees removed, fenced off, native veg replanted



Roadside spraying of blackberry & ragwort

COMMUNITY WORKING BEE AND BBQ

WHAT? Community working bee & BBQ to undertake weed control works in the Harrisons Road - Road Reserve.

WHY? The road reserve on Harrisons Road, Dromana contains some of the best examples of remnant vegetation on the Mornington Peninsula. As well as containing important habitat for many of our native species, the remnant vegetation on this road reserve provides essential links to other areas of remnant vegetation in this area including links to Dromana Bushland Reserve, Dromana Secondary College, Bald Hill and Arthurs Seat State Park. These links are essential for the ongoing conservation of biodiversity on the Mornington Peninsula.

WHEN? TBA - contact one of the people listed above.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

- ◆ Satisfaction that you have helped protect our environment
- ◆ Learn a bit more about our native vegetation and eradication of weeds from local experts
- ◆ To reward us for our efforts and to provide an opportunity to get to know one another better, there will be a barbeque after the working bee, commencing around 1pm

ANYTHING ELSE? Bring gloves, hat, boots, name badge, and enthusiasm - and if you can: mattock, chainsaw, se-cateurs...

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THE HOODED PLOVER

A beach walk, run by Birds Australia project officer Tanya Pyk, is planned for November 6, the Sunday following What bird is that at The Briars. Details will be available at The Briars on October 30 and from Friends of the Hooded Plover.

Please let Friends of the Hooded Plover know if you are interested by emailing, hploversmornpen@gmail.com or phoning Diane on 0419 320 205.

WESTERN PORT WELCOMES WATERBIRDS

Information Session at Hastings

Overall declines in the populations of most waterbird species in Western Port since 1973, when BOCA surveys began, have been confirmed. In some cases the declines have been more pronounced in the years of reduced rainfall since 1997. Modelling of these populations was carried out in an effort to elucidate the reasons for the trends. Factors influencing the populations of some species include a) fish stocks, b) rainfall in Western Victoria, c) Arctic breeding success and d) stream flows in the Murray-Darling Basin. Seagrass cover is also thought to be an important parameter. However, for other waterbird species, the population trends did not correlate with any of these factors. On a more positive note, Pied Oystercatcher numbers have increased because of breeding success on French Island.

These are some of the findings of a two-year *Caring for Country* funded project involving a partnership between the Central Coastal Board, the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research and BOCA. The results of the study were presented by Dr Birgita Hansen at the final information session on the project held at Hastings on June 1st.



Philip Wierzbowski

The project has also established the relative importance of a number of high-tide roosts and feeding areas in Western Port. The major threats to waterbirds at each site have been determined and include human disturbance (e.g. boating and fishing), predators such as cats and foxes, habitat loss due to coastal development and inundation due to sea-level rise.

The outcomes of the project provide the basis for the development and implementation of management programs to reduce these threats to waterbirds, particularly at the key sites identified.

Wes Barton

Coolart, Somers: Presentation & Short Bird Walk

Max Burrows - Wednesday 13 July

Species recorded: 32

People arrived at Coolart reporting various weather conditions on the way- heavy rains, fog, sunshine! It was going to be one of those days. A few people came earlier to check out the hides for activity. Twenty-three people signed our book. It was a cold morning as we gathered in the hide/lecture theatre for Birgita Hansen's talk on 'Western Port welcomes Waterbirds' (see Wes' article this page).

A lot of work has gone into the monitoring of our waterbird visitors, as evidenced by Birgita's talk- where they like to feed and roost, the declining numbers over the years, and the pressures of habitat loss, human influences, and predation. Rising sea-levels due to climate change also presents a possible problem in the future. It was not all bad news, however. Pied Oystercatchers are breeding well on French Island, and the end of the drought period has enabled some birds to regroup their numbers.



Pam Hearn

The audience facing the windows of the hide were treated to views of a Swamp Harrier checking out the wetlands, a couple of curious Superb Fairy-wrens, and a Brown Thornbill; birdo speakers have to allow for these interruptions! Max

thanked Birgita for her talk, and presented her with a copy of our book, 'Where to find Birds on the Mornington Peninsula'. We adjourned for morning tea as it rained again outside! We welcomed a few interested visitors who'd come along.



Michael Park

When the skies were again clear, we headed off to the Minsmere Hide. Here we saw a few Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Australasian Grebe, Hoary-headed Grebe, and of course, Australian White and Straw-necked Ibis. A few Hardheads made for interesting discussion. Purple Swamphens and Dusky Moorhens were busy feeding as well.

People drifted off in various directions while there was a break in the weather. Birds sighted and heard were Black Swans, Red Wattlebird, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Butcherbird, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Australian Magpie and Welcome Swallows, 32 species all-up. The remaining people headed off for lunch and bird-call in the Homestead (such elegant surroundings!) while it rained again outside.

It was felt that a most pleasant day had been had- the surroundings were lovely, the talk was informative, and the rain merely presented an extra challenge! Thanks to Max for leading the walk and organising morning tea and Speaker.

Pam Hearn

McLarens Dam circuit, Rosebud

Wes Barton - Sunday 17 July

Species recorded: 36

After taking in the extensive views of Port Phillip Bay and the southern end of the Peninsula, our small group left the windswept Rosebud Golf Club carpark and headed into Arthurs Seat State Park. On the track down the hill to McLarens Dam we were hearing Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush & White-eared Honeyeater in the distance and Brown Thornbill, White-browed Scrub-wren and Superb Fairy-wren in the bracken alongside.

On the dam, where the expectation was 'no waterbirds', we found two pairs of Pacific Black Duck and one Australasian Grebe in breeding plumage. A pair of Australian Wood Duck were parading on the dam wall.

The birding hotted up where we turned off the main track and started to go around the back of the dam. Fantastic views of a male Mistletoebird and the best views I have ever had of Striated Thornbill. The thornbills were with us for sometime and so close that everyone had great views.

A number of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo were observed, some very close to the track and waiting to be photographed. The bird that Michael has photographed in silhouette was tearing bark off a wattle branch, no doubt searching for grubs. Some of the YTBCs were making sounds we were not familiar with. Were they immature birds or adult birds chatting up or being chatted up?

Birdcall, beside the cars, revealed that 36 birds had been seen or heard; see the birdlist below.

Thanks Wes for a fantastic day at a great birding spot and for Joan Peters for suggesting this locality.



Michael Park

Australian Wood Duck	Rainbow Lorikeet	Striated Thornbill	New Holland Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Pacific Black Duck	Musk Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Golden Whistler	Silvereye
Australasian Grebe	Crimson Rosella	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Shrike-thrush	Common Blackbird
Australian White Ibis	Eastern Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Butcherbird	Mistletoebird
Straw-necked Ibis	Laughing Kookaburra	White-eared Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	White-throated Treecreeper	Noisy Miner	Grey Currawong	
Galah	Superb Fairy-wren	Little Wattlebird	Grey Fantail	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-browed Scrubwren	Red Wattlebird	Little Raven	

Val Ford



PENINSULA FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.

www.home.vicnet.net.au/~penfnc

Meetings: Uniting Church, 16 High St., Frankston , 8PM; Melway 102 C3
More information: Judy Smart, Secretary. Phone: 97754231, Email: mandjsmart@gmail.com

SCHEDULE AUGUST 2011 - FEBRUARY 2012

GUEST SPEAKER	EXCURSION
Aug 10 Steve Yorke, Head Ranger, The Briars "Climate Change in High Places – From Russia with....."	Aug 13 Langwarrin – Studio Park & Boggy Creek
Sept 14 Patrick-Jean Guay, Research Fellow, Victoria University "The Mallard X Pacific Black Duck Hybridisation Threat"	Sept 17 Point Nepean
Oct 12 Robin Drury, Fauna Survey Group, FNCV, "Frogs of Melbourne"	Oct 15 Frogging – venue to be confirmed
Nov 9 Geoff Durham, 50 year member of VNPA "Victorian National Parks Association – a History of Success"	Nov 12 Brisbane Ranges
Dec 14 Christmas meeting & members' night	Dec 17 Edithvale Wetlands
Feb 8 Heather Ducat, member "Southern Africa"	Feb 26 Eastern Treatment Plant Bird Count (to (Sun) be confirmed)

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME!

MEMBER PROFILE - Wes Barton

Lives: Rosebud South

Joined BOCA: 2006

Favourite birding spots on the Peninsula: Greens Bush, The Briars Park, Devilbend Reservoir, Coolart, Kings Falls area.

Other favourite birding spots: Gippsland Lakes (where I grew up), Merimbula area, Mordialloc Creek Wetland at Braeside, Edithvale Wetlands.

Some memorable birding moments:

In my younger days at the Gippsland Lakes and surrounding areas -

- ◆ My first 'bird day' outing with my father and brother when I was about eight years old; I think this stimulated my early interest in birds.
- ◆ Welcome Swallows following our launch 6 km across the Lakes because they had a nest under the cabin.
- ◆ Discovering and observing the nesting activities of a variety of both water and woodland birds in the 60's and early 70's.

More recently on the Peninsula and nearby areas -

- ◆ My first sighting of a Bassian Thrush on the Peninsula; I watched it for some time at close range as it foraged in litter on the ground near Seawinds.
- ◆ Seeing a Painted Snipe at Edithvale Wetlands and watching it try to drive a Spotted Crake away from its resting place.
- ◆ Australian King-Parrots visiting our garden at Rosebud; on one occasion a female ate seed from a feed table.
- ◆ A White-bellied Sea-eagle flying over the water at Devilbend Reservoir with an Eurasian Coot in its talons.

Birding ambitions:

- ◆ To do more birding in locations other than southern Victoria.
- ◆ To visit places such as the Western Treatment Plant and French Island to observe and learn more about migratory waders.
- ◆ To 'do my bit' for the conservation of birds and their habitat on the Peninsula.
- ◆ To continue to enjoy the birdlife in my local area.

Other interests (and activities): Exploring new places both near and far; gardening; involvement in Uniting Church activities; environmental issues; family history.



HUNDREDS OF WEARY BIRDS PICKED UP

Kapiti SPCA has been inundated with more than 500 sub-Antarctic prion seabirds blown ashore by storms. Shelter manager Peter McCallum said the influx of broad-billed prions began on Monday when residents brought a few stragglers in, but by Tuesday they were arriving in droves.

Yesterday about 400 exhausted prions, which are plankton eaters, were brought to the shelter and tube fed a mixture of cat food mixed with saline to rehydrate them. A Fastway courier offered to transport the first batch to a Wellington bird rescue organisation yesterday and more will go to other organisations around the region in the next few days.

Some prions normally straggle up from the southern oceans as far as Cook Strait, but with the present strong winds they are being found exhausted lying in driveways and on properties up to four kilometres from the coast. Most have been between Pukerua Bay and Peka Peka but some were as far north as New Plymouth. "On shore they get disoriented and distressed. They do not cope very well being on land," Mr McCallum said.

About 80 were delivered to the shelter on Tuesday, and about 400 yesterday. The shelter's two staff and about 15 volunteers had been flat out, he said. "It has taken us over at the moment, with our normal work as well." He expected the exhausted birds to be fed and to recuperate for three to four days before a mass release when the winds eased.

The Conservation Department said storms around the lower North Island had blown sea birds inland to areas where they were not typically seen. Most were prions and petrels and were believed to be younger birds not used to navigating stronger winds.



Some of the exhausted broad-billed prions that are being found inland in the Kapiti area, and even on a Newtown building site in Wellington.

Kay Blundell, The Dominion Post, 14/7/2011

BEACH-WASHED BIRDS

Albatrosses

Shy Albatross:

28 Feb 2011 at the west end of Koonya Beach, Sorrento: Banded shy albatross in excellent condition other than eaten in the belly area. The band was sent to ABBBS (Australian Bird and Bat banding Scheme). Information returned showed that it was 9 years 5 months and 3 days since banding at Albatross Island, Tasmania.

Buller's Albatross:

11 April 2011 at Diamond Bay, Sorrento: Unbanded Buller's Albatross in poor condition but could be identified from the head. Reported to Birds Australia Bird Atlas.

Chris Willocks

Shy Albatross

Buller's Albatross



Slender-billed Prion

23 June 2011 at east end of Gunnamatta beach, Rye: Slender-billed Prion in excellent condition, identified with the assistance of Mike Carter and others. Three beach-washed Little Penguins were also present.

Neil Shelley

It is a Slender-billed Prion. Narrow bill with long distance between maxillary unguis and nostrils, tiny amount of black at tip of uppertail, long narrow strip of black on undertail coverts and undertail are typical characters. If these winter storms continue you should find many more as well as Antarctic, Salvin's and Fairy Prions.

Mike Carter
Birding-Aus 27/6/11



PLUMAGES OF AUSTRALIAN KING-PARROTS

Most bird observers would be familiar with the distinctive plumage of adult King-Parrots. The male has a bright red head, neck and underbody; mainly dark green upperparts, but with a dark blue back and rump and a distinctive light green shoulder stripe. Its bill has a red upper mandible with a black tip and a mostly black lower mandible. The iris is bright yellow. The adult female differs from the male in that the head and neck are dark green with an indistinct dull-red wash on the chin, throat and foreneck, and the breast is dull green sometimes with red mottling on the lower part. The shoulder stripe is narrower and less obvious on the female. Its bill is normally mainly grey-black (but in some birds the tip and lower mandible are dull orange) and the iris is rufous brown.

Male King-Parrots pass through several juvenile and immature phases before they finally acquire their adult plumage at 2-3 years of age, whereas the plumage of females does not change after 1-1½ years. Therefore it is not uncommon to see juvenile birds, particularly males, in the field.

Before reaching adulthood, not only are the differences between the plumages of male and female birds more subtle, but both sexes also appear similar to the adult female. So, how can we tell them apart?

The juvenile male is very similar to the adult female. Differences include a pale grey bill with reddish markings on the sides and less red on the belly. Like the adult female, it has a weak broken shoulder stripe. Its iris is dark red-brown.

The main distinction between the juvenile female and juvenile male is the lack of the shoulder stripe in the former. The female also tends to have less red on the belly. Juvenile females also can be distinguished from adult females by the other differences for juvenile males described above.

Between two and six months after leaving the nest, juvenile birds begin to moult to immature plumage. For the male this plumage differs from that of the juvenile by small scattered orange-red patches on the breast, throat and sometimes head and a more distinct shoulder stripe like that of the adult male. Its bill also attains some orange or red on the upper mandible and a dark grey tip. The immature female is almost identical to the adult female, but with a brown upper mandible (occasionally with a dull-red or orange wash) and a

brown iris.

A second moult starts about 12 months after the birds leave the nest. After this moult, the female attains its adult plumage. However for the male, adult plumage is acquired only after one or two further moults at yearly intervals. During this period the immature male gains the rest of its red plumage on the head, neck and breast. Its bill is like that of the adult bird.



Pam Hearn

What about the two King-Parrots in the photograph above taken by Pam Hearn on 6th July 2011? The absence of a shoulder stripe on the bird on the right indicates that it is a juvenile female, although the reddish colour of its bill suggests that it may be close to the immature phase. The bird on the left is more difficult to identify. I think it may be an adult female because, in an enlargement of the photo, I can see a couple of small red patches on the lower breast and some orange colouring on the tip of the upper mandible and on the lower mandible.

What do you think? Let me know how you can distinguish adult female, juvenile and immature King-Parrots.

(The above information has been sourced from HANZAB, Volume 4.)

Wes Barton

COMMUNITY BBQ HELD ON 2ND JULY, 2011



BUNNINGS



Wednesday, July 06, 2011

Dear Max,

Please find attached a photo from the BBQ you coordinated for the **Bird Observation & Conservation Australia** as a small memento of what we hope was a successful day!

We hope that you and the rest of your team had fun and raised plenty of money to assist with your plans for the coming months.

It was our pleasure to have been able to assist you and we look forward to seeing you again. If there is anything else we are able to assist you with please don't hesitate to contact our store again.

Should you wish to pursue another BBQ, or have any questions relating to our community involvement program please contact our Activities Organiser; Jennifer Mann on (03) 5973 -9000 or email her via MorningtonActivitiesOrganiser@bunnings.com.au.

Yours Sincerely,
Trish Kokenberg (Complex Manager)

EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY MORNING TEA

On Wednesday 8 June, 2011, I attended the Frankston City Council morning tea celebrating World Environment Day at the local Life Saving Club. The function was well attended and highlighted the environmental initiatives being taken by a number of schools within the municipal boundaries.

The council also congratulated the various friends groups for their unstinting efforts in the districts many reserves. Libby Anthony the manager of the Environment Department congratulated all volunteers for helping to maintain and enhance biodiversity. M.P.s., Councillors, Reserve Rangers, School Teachers and Students, Friends Groups and a range of people interested in environmental action attended the meeting. A very nice morning tea followed the formalities.

Max Burrows



Katrina Bowman

EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE!

Are you involved in environmental education, or interested in being so?

Then come along to the Hooded Plover Professional Development Day for teachers and local volunteers.

Try out the hands-on education activities that we have run at schools all along the Victoria coast and discussing ways in which the Hooded Plover and birds in general, can be included into schools.

For more information please email m.cullen@birdsaustralia.com.au

Dr Meghan Cullen,
Project Officer, Beach-Nesting Birds Project



Hooded Plover Education Workshop

Professional Development day for educators and others interested in beach-nesting birds.

This workshop will improve your understanding about a local threatened species, the Hooded Plover. Learn a range of educational activities for kids and ways to involve your students in conservation. View the Hooded Plover on a short beach walk and take home an Education Kit.

Where: St Andrews Community Hall – 99 Bass Meadows Blvd St Andrews Beach (Melways 251 K6)

When: Wednesday 21st Sept 2011 @ 10am – 3pm



This event is free of charge. Lunch will be provided. Please email m.cullen@birdsaustralia.com.au or call 0437 787 985 to book by the 7th September.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON BIRDS

Black Swan: Sightings of Black Swan with numbered collars to Raoul Mulder at rmulder@unimelb.edu.au

Cattle Egret: Sightings to Max Maddock at maxandheather@bigpond.com

Red-browed Finch & Jacky Winter on peninsula: Sightings to Max Burrows at maxwell.burrows@bigpond.com

Eastern Great Egret & Bassian Thrush on peninsula: Sightings to Stuart Cousland at seastar@pac.com.au

Australian King-Parrot & Scarlet Robin on peninsula: Sightings to Wes Barton at wesbarton@aapt.net.au

Black-shouldered Kite on peninsula: Sightings to Pam Hearn at birdsong@netspace.net.au

LOCAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

Black-backed Magpie

A couple of months ago, I noticed a pair of resident Magpies hanging around our front yard and surrounding streets. (They even 'assisted' us with a large weeding effort we did, hanging around for unearthed bugs!) The interesting thing about this pair is that one is a White-backed, and the other a Black-backed. My impression is that the White one is a parent, and the Black an immature, but this may not be the case. We had noticed a lone Black-backed bird in the area over the last couple of years, but believe this is a new one in 'our territory'. An article recently in 'The Age' about survey work by a woman academic indicated she thought the Black-backed Magpies did not tend to be moving South, so our resident is interesting. I haven't managed to get a photo of the two together yet, but I'm on the lookout. Have other people seen Black-backed Magpies on the Mornington Peninsula?



Pam Hearn

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos

Of great delight to us, is the return of the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos to our area. They like to roost temporarily in a tall Eucalypt nearby, close to nightfall, but have moved on elsewhere after creating a loud din! On the Monday evening after Mothers' Day, we observed a large flock of 70+ noisily descending in the area, and then taking off in small groups about an hour later. We wonder where they go?

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

We have also, in the last couple of months, heard the repetitive call of a Fan-tailed Cuckoo calling near or in the Reserve which backs onto our property. Although they are local (they are at The Briars, not far away), I've never noticed one here before. Over the weeks we heard it calling, but couldn't get a glimpse of it. Then, in late March, while I was having breakfast, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo slammed into our dining-room window, and died quickly. Knowing what happens around here regularly, I suspect Noisy Miners chased it and drove it into the window. We have witnessed Miners chasing away a lone King Parrot last year, driving an Eastern Rosella into a fence (it survived), and harassing a White-faced Heron in a tree. Interestingly, we have heard another Fan-tailed Cuckoo calling in the area, so there's more than one!



Pam Hearn

Pam Hearn & Andris Niedra, Mt Martha

Birds of the Village Glen

Winter has seen bird activity in the Village slow a little. However, with correas in flower the honeyeaters remain busy; Bob and Margaret reported many visits by Eastern Spinebills to their garden. The Buff-banded Rail has again been seen by Don in the gardens of Cluster 38. The large, white duck/goose observed in the lake opposite the Hub is probably an escapee from someone's back garden or farm; these are often referred to as "dinner-ducks"!

The Southern Boobook was seen occasionally roosting in trees in the centre of Cluster 13. With the boobook's August to December breeding season approaching it will be interesting to see if this small owl stays in the Village. Boobooks use tree hollows for breeding so it is possible that "our" pair is thinking about using one of the more mature trees along

Chinamans Creek. Residents along the creek should listen for its call, a fairly quiet, double hoot, "boo-book" or "koo-kook". Sometimes at the beginning of the breeding season the pair will begin to call back and forth in duet at dusk.

During the June walk along Chinamans Creek another escapee was sighted - a Ring-necked Parakeet. This large, long-tailed parrot type bird is a pale greyish-green; it originated on the Indian sub-continent but has now, unfortunately, spread to such countries as Western Europe and the U.K. as well as in Victoria. Unfortunately there is a known small breeding population along the Yarra near Eltham.

Celia Browne

Village Glen Newsletter, June 2010

Australian King-Parrots breeding at Frankston South?

Sightings:

1st April 1 pr; 2nd April king parrots in area; 3rd April- 2 pr sighted at same time ; 9th April -1 pr. sighted; 10th April -1 pr. sighted; 28th April 1 pr. King Parrots & Y.T.B.C. also sighted during day.

2nd May-2 King parrots sighted; 4th May- King Parrots heard.

5th May -1 pair of King parrots sighted with juvenile in Eucalyptus viminalis. Pair were together in the tree and juvenile was higher in the tree.

Good sighting of them through binoculars. Juvenile was clearly in immature plumage.

Mary Sheppard

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

Please report your sightings to Val Ford, 5984 0039 or fordandreid@gmail.com

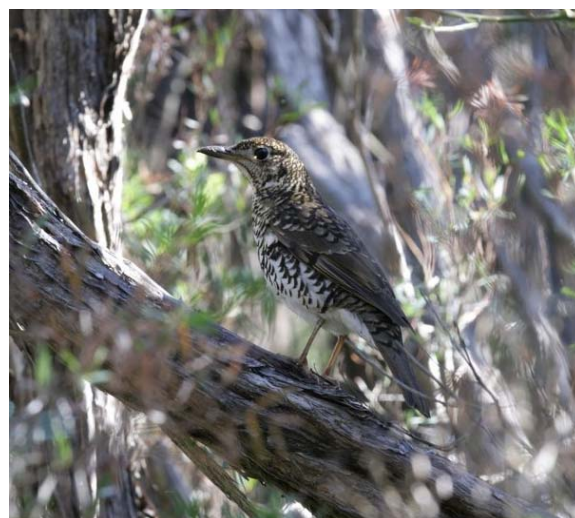
Date	Species	Place	Comments	Observer
17/1/11	Plumed Whistling-Duck [20]	Merricks	On a friends property.	Brian Thomas
	Diamond Firetail	Warneet	A small flock, possibly with young. With White-fronted Chats.	Mal Legg per Max Burrows
6/5/11	Swift Parrot [28]	Frankston	At Ballam Park Reserve	Gavin Masters & Mal Chicksen per Birdline
15/5/11	Northern Giant Petrel [1]	Fisherman's Beach, Mornington	Seen at the boat ramp and adjacent beach . Appeared healthy, feeding on fish.	Glenn Ehmke per Birdline
25/5/11	Pink Robin, brown bird, [1]	Sorrento	Seen in Mornington Peninsula NP, below St Pauls lookout.	Val Ford
3/6/11	Yellow Thornbill [2]	Hastings	Visited our backyard - first sighting for my home list.	S&S King per Birdline
9/6/11	Australasian Bittern [2]	Troups Creek Wetland, Hallam	Flushed from reed beds at -9:30am today. Good views of both birds flying and when they landed.	Neil Shelley & Max Burrows
13/6/11	Indian Ringneck [1]	Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve	100 metres from carpark at southern end of Centre Break Track.	Per Birdline Victoria
14/6/11	Ring-necked Parakeet [1] [Indian Ringneck]	Rosebud West	Seen on walk along Chinamans Creek.	Celia Browne
19/6/11	Australasian Bittern [2]	Troups Creek Wetland, Hallam	Flushed from reed beds during PENBOC outing. Most people had a good look of at least one bird.	Neil Shelley & Max Burrows
23/6/11	Australian King-Parrot [3]	Mt Martha	In our back Reserve. Very high up in large tree in the distance, but they did a big circling flight so we could see them.	Pam Hearn & Andris Niedra
25/6/11	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo [>100]	Moorooduc	Circling around overhead near the intersection of Mornington-Tyabb and Coolart Roads.	Wes Barton
2/7/11	Swift Parrot [3]	Frankston	Flying from a eucalyptus tree at Delacombe Park	Jaye Williams per Birdline
9/7/11	Pink Robin, brown bird [1]	Cape Schanck	At our place. Comes every year & stay a short while.	Cath Cousland
10/7/11	Tawny Frogmouth [1] Eastern Rosella [15] Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo [7]	Tyabb	All in the same garden. Tawny Frogmouth resting against the main trunk of a Eucalyptus. Eastern Rosella in a group feeding on grass seed - long time since seeing so many together. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flying through the garden.	Ian Dowling
18/7/11	Lewin's Rail [1]	Rosebud West.	It was seen at 8:30 am in the Village Glen.	Jeanette Marshall per Celia Browne.
22/7/11	Leucistic Red Wattlebird	Mornington	In a banksia near the Esplanade. Is this the same bird I spotted a couple of years ago in the same area?	Pam Hearn

Bassian Thrush

At my home in Cape Schanck I occasionally spy a Bassian Thrush hiding in the shadows of the undergrowth. Unlike a blackbird which flies off in great alarm, the Bassian Thrush stays still, hoping to blend in with the background & stay camouflaged & thus unnoticed. Of course I have never had my camera with me at these times, & even if I had of, the camouflage & shadows would make it very difficult to obtain a good photo.

However in mid-April this year I noticed a Thrush sitting at head height (very unusual) on a fairly open branch in soft light along our driveway. I rushed inside to get my camera & luckily the bird was still there when I returned, so managed to take quite a few good photos. The thrush stayed there for another 10 minutes or so, obliging with several poses to show off its most beautiful scalloped plumage.

Cath Cousland



Cath Cousland

OUTINGS

Outing details are in The Bird Observer.
 To check for changes to the Outings and Bird Monitoring programs go to www.penboc.org.au
 Beginners and visitors are welcome. Bring lunch and folding chair for bird-call and chat.
 Outings are cancelled on total fire ban days.

Binoculars for casual use are available on every outing.

Date	Time	Locality	Leader	Contact Phone
Wed 10 Aug	10.00	Bald Hill Reserve, Red Hill	David Ap-Thomas	9787 6691 0429939036
Sun 21 Aug	10.00	Langwarrin Flora & Fauna Reserve	Max Burrows	9789 0224 0429947893
Wed 14 Sep	9.30	Limestone Rd, Greens Bush	Wes Barton	5986 6761 0423154599
Sun 18 Sep	9.30	Cranbourne Botanic Gardens	Ray Pentland	5986 4717
Wed 12 Oct	9.00	Woods Reserve, Tuerong	David Ap-Thomas	9787 6691 0429939036
Sun 30 Oct	9.00	What Bird is That? Open Day at The Briars to coincide with bird week	Max Burrows	9789 0224 0429947893
Wed 9 Nov	9.00	Cruden Farm, Langwarrin	Keith Hindley	0418320953
Sun 20 Nov	9.00	Bulldog Creek Road	Max Burrows	0429947893
Wed 14 Dec	9.00	Seaford Wetlands	Max Burrows	9789 0224 0429947893
Sun 18 Dec	9.00	Xmas breakup		

Max Burrows, Outings Coordinator

INDIAN RINGNECK AT LANGWARRIN FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE

A single Indian Ringneck has been seen at this reserve last Monday [13/6] and information forwarded onto SDE in Melbourne. Details: 100 metres from the carpark at the southern end of the Centre Break Track. A birdo had been observing a couple of Rainbow Lorikeets going in and out of a nesting hole in the same tree when an Indian Ringneck landed about 3 metres from them. After about a minute it took off in a westerly direction when he lost sight of it. The time was about 3.15 pm on 13 June. As the species is invasive and a threat to native parrots (see below) it's important that all sightings are posted onto Birdline so the Department of Primary Industries can act quickly. [Further information](#)

Birdline Victoria

REPORTING INDIAN RINGNECKS

Report sightings of Indian Ringnecks in the wild to Freecall 1800 084 881 and to Birdline <http://www.ereamaa.com/BirdlineRecentSightings.aspx?Birdline=1>

Also local sightings to Val Ford for inclusion in Penboc News: fordandreid@gmail.com

For the Animal Pest Alert pamphlet either follow [Further information](#) link or go to: http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objtwr/imported_assets/content/pw/vp/bird/pestnoteindianringneckfinaltext_200607.pdf



PENBOC COMMITTEE

President: Max Burrows **Secretary & Treasurer:** Ray Pentland
General members: Stuart Cousland, David Ap-Thomas, Pam Hearn, Keith Hindley, Neil Shelley, Wes Barton
Conservation: Wes Barton **Surveys:** Neil Shelley **Archivist:** Ray Pentland **Outings:** Max Burrows
Education: Stuart Cousland & Pam Hearn **Membership:** Neil Shelley **Data Base:** Wes Barton **Publicity:** Max Burrows
Co-opted Member: Val Ford (Newsletter)

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PENBOC NEWS

Editor: Val Ford 5984 0039 fordandreid@gmail.com
Contributions: Are welcome as emails, word documents, typed or hand written articles, photos & sketches. Send photos as separate attachments, not embedded in word documents. Please ask for snail mail details.
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