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What Have They Done With Our Ducks?

The Western Treatment Plant in November

The weather forecast was not good with showers forecast for most of the day. The community bus arrived shortly after 8:30 with driver Ruth, co pilot Lindy and beloved leader in charge.

We headed to the Western Treatment Plant and started at the Paradise Road entrance looking for bush birds, but in the icy wind they kept a low profile, but still managed to tick Whistling Kite, Superb Fairy Wren and the obligatory Willie Wagtail. Next stop was the Paradise lagoon where a large group of Pelicans had a camp. This started a round of people calling out collective names for various bird types such as a Collection of Curlews.

As we made our way Eastward past the various ponds, the lack of ducks was very obvious. Where are they? What are they doing? The largest group was approx 15 Australian Shelducks. There were good numbers of Swans with cygnets though.

At the Borrow Pits we had morning tea just as the latest rain shower came across. At this site we got excellent views of Red Necked Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. Soon after we got the sole Musk Duck of the day.

We made our way around to the Bird Hide for lunch which was good timing as the sun came out for long

enough for some to eat outdoors.

After lunch we checked out the T-Section and located a family of Brolga, Mum, Dad, and two well grown chicks. The final stop was the Beach Road boat ramp where we picked up both species of Oystercatcher and Crested Tern.

When we found there were no Banded Lapwings at Avalon Airport we parked the bus to listen to the Melbourne Cup. Liz Hurley (bookmaker) had organised a sweep. Congratulations to the winners ???, Liz's Mum, and ????. Commiserations to Peter Gibbons whose horse was scratched. The total bird count for the day was a respectable 64. *Thanks to Iian Denham for the report.*

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Peter Gibbons for organising our Bird Week display: Shirley for helping to set it up, Doug and Peter O'c for the photos. Cerri for helping to run the display.

On Cup Day Ruth our driver, Peter, Flo and Liz for helping to clean the bus afterwards and a special thanks to Americain for giving me first ever win! BLL Dave

Musk Duck
 Black Swan
 Cape Barren Goose
 Australian Shelduck
 Pacific Black Duck
 Chestnut Teal
 Little Pied Cormorant
 Pied Cormorant
 Little Black Cormorant
 Black Cormorant
 Pelican
 White Faced Heron
 Straw-necked Ibis
 Australian white Ibis
 Yellow-billed spoonbill
 Black -shouldered kite

Whistling kite
 Black Kite
 White-bellied Sea Eagle
 Marsh Harrier
 Brown Falcon
 Brolga
 Purple Swamphen
 Pied Oystercatcher
 Sooty Oystercatcher
 Greenshank
 Red-necked Stint
 Curlew Sandpiper
 Black-winged stilt
 Red-capped Plover
 Black-fronted dotterel
 Spotted Turtle Dove

Masked Lapwing
 Silver Gull
 Pacific Gull
 Crested Tern
 Crested pigeon
 Galah
 Superb Fairywren
 White-browed Scrubwren
 Brown thornbill
 Yellow-rumped thornbill
 Red wattlebird
 Singing Honeyeater
 White plumed honeyeater
 Little Raven
 Skylark
 Australasian Pipit

New Holland Honeyeater
 White-fronted Chat
 Magpie-lark
 Willie Wagtail
 Australian Magpie
 Zebra Finch
 Goldfinch
 Welcome Swallow
 Fairy Martin
 Tree martin
 Greenfinch
 Golden-headed Cisticola
 Australian Reed-Warbler
 Little Grassbird
 Silvereys
 Common Starling



Targets birds : Western Whipbird, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Rock Parrot and Barbary Dove. We had 93 species in our 3 days on KI, Western Whipbird and Glossy Black Cockatoo - no Rock Parrots though. We added a further 30 on the mainland, including the Barbary Dove but still no Rock Parrots.

Sometimes trips are notable for what were not seen - no native finches and, despite looking at many dams and wetlands, only one (Australasian) Grebe the entire trip.

A full day's drive to Port Jervis, highlights probably a White-necked Heron just after we crossed into SA and a flock of Cape Barren Geese between Wellington and Langholme Creek.

Started by driving to American River where some people had had Glossies - no joy but we picked up a Nankeen Night-Heron and got excited by 12 black cockies flying over - but they were Yellow-tailed.. On then to Baudin Conservation Park following a recent tip - we walked along the track to Ironstone Hill, no joy - turned round and close to the car park 5 Glossies flew out of the trees. Cape Willoughby, all we saw was more shearwaters.

D'estrees Bay looking for Whipbird - no joy, added Red-necked Stint, Crescent, Purple-gaped and Brown-headed Honeyeaters.

Saturday 16th: Another windy day. To Kelly Hill looking for Whipbird - no joy but added Crimson Rosella, Eastern Spinebill and Rainbow Lorikeet. Saw our first KI Cape Barren Geese at the Koala Park, a large flock at the entrance to Flinders Chase, our first Scarlet Robin. Remarkable Rocks yielded our first Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and a Yellow-nosed Albatross.

At Cape du Couedic, had fantastic views of a Western Whipbird singing for several minutes at the top of a few bushes! At Cape Borda, had good numbers of Little Wattlebirds feeding in Xanthorrhoea, first Wedge-tailed Eagles, 3 widely separated Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes and a small flock of Little Corellas.

Sunday 17th: Sunday, much calmer day, Red-capped Plover at Emu Bay, roadsides and dams added Pipit and Skylark. Cygnet River, a small

flock of Turkey - maybe wild, but we did not count them? Duck Lagoon excellent - a displaying male Musk, our first Kookaburras and our only White-naped Honeyeater of the trip.

We had a walk into Latham Conservation Park from the car park on the Coast Rd, which was disappointing. On to Stokes Bay where we added a pair of Hooded Plovers and our first Sooty Oystercatcher, White-fronted Chats and Spotted Doves. We then went to the walk into Latham from Stokes Bay Rd, met a tour guide who said he had not seen any Glossies there for 3 months. Bales Beach for lunch, a female Painted Button-quail with 3 chicks crossed the road. Lots of Striated Pardalotes and another Scarlet Robin. The Bald Hill walk at Murray Lagoon added a pair of Cape Barren Geese.

A final stop at American River no Glossies -but saw there a Curlew and a Greenshank. Final drive to Kingscote added our first Swamp Harriers and Wood Ducks and a small flock of Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos.

Monday 18th

- 4 Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos over our cabins as we left Kingscote and 4 (the same?) over the ferry at Penneshaw.

Newland Head added Singing Honeyeater, a Kelp Gull - plus another Brush Bronzewing and Brown Goshawk. lots of terns, added Fairy T to list, a flock of Godwits but no Rock Parrots in either place. Back in Suburban Adelaide a Boobook was heard around the caravan park.

Tuesday 19th

Barbary Dove in Marino (Emma Street) but no joy with Rock Parrot at Mutton Cove, Pelican Point (access no longer possible) or St Kilda, added a few birds (Little and Great Egrets, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater) to our trip list. Wednesday 20th Naracoorte.

A couple of hours at Bool Lagoon on the way home, a good selection of birds - Cattle, Great and Intermediate Egret, Magpie Goose and a number of Australian Bitterns were heard booming. An unabridged report can be found on BOCA website.....



What to do on Tuesdays...

Denis O'Connor is on duty at the Point Cook Raaf Museum and would be delighted if you dropped into to see this amazing collection of other things that fly but without feathers. It is close to the Pont Cook Park for *real birding*...near to Point Cook Homestead for *coffee*...

I often do to the WTP on Tuesdays and am happy for passengers.. Phone me @ 9741 2997 or 9741 3217...

You Yangs in December.... Not Anakie Gorge as advertised..

What a fickle climate we have, ... in fairly windy conditions the convoy set off for the You Yangs via Sandy Creek Road. On board we had Tim for Holland, we all tried to look very nonchalant as Ceri spotted an koala in a tree at our very 1st stop. Tim camera was clicking. We spied many bush birds but the wind started to make things difficult. On towards the You Yangs but the wind was winning, we did not make many stops. Soon we were at Serendip and the 'Coffee set' were happy., most stayed and enjoyed the walk around and many birds were added to the list. Others went on to the You Yangs which had been closed until 11am, there was a goat cull, so not safe for us to wandering around but 'spot-the Tawny-Frogmouth' was our game. with a few photos to prove they are still there. We went for the very scenic drive around Great Circle Drive , It was wonderful to see the lush growth after the very good winter rain, unfortunately the Bone Seed continues to thrive too. The bird list was done and some made their way back to Werribee while others went on the WTP. Our bird count was 55, the Twitchers on Sunday racked a total of 92 ... Still we all enjoyed the trip. It is so good to see the You Yangs all green again.

Most of us arrived back to Werribee safely even those who came the long way home via Bacchus Marsh made quite a journey of it.



Magpie Goose	White Faced Heron
Cape Barren Goose	Australian white Ibis
Black Swan	Straw-neck Ibis
Australian Wood Duck	Yellow-billed spoonbill
Grey Teal	Straw-necked Ibis
Chestnut Teal	Whistling kite
Pacific Black Duck	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Australasian Grebe	Purple Swamphen
Tawny Frogmouth	Buff-banded Rail
Little Pied Cormorant	Dusky Moorhen
Great Cormorant	Black-fronted dotterel
Little Black Cormorant	Masked Lapwing
Pied Cormorant	Galah
Australian Pelican	Sulphur-crested cockatoo

Rainbow lorikeet
Purple-crowned Lorikeet
Crimson Rosella
Eastern rosella
Red-rumped parrot
Superb Fairy-wren
White plumed honeyeater
Red Wattle bird
New Holland Honeyeater
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Grey Shrike Thrush
Australian Magpie
Dusky Woodswallow
Willie Wagtail

Restless Flycatcher
Magpie-lark
White-winged Chough
Eastern yellow robin
Eurasian Skylark
Welcome Swallow
Tree martin
Common Blackbird
Common Starling
Common Myna
House Sparrow
Australasian Pipit
European Goldfinch



January 25th. Booking for Bus **ESSENTIAL** Activity. Geelong. 8:30am. West end of Watton St, Werribee. (Opposite Salvation Army) Melways 205H9.

February 1st. Bus Trip. Bannockburn. 8:30am. West end of Watton St, Werribee. (Opposite Salvation Army) Melways 205H9. Booking essential. D. Torr.

February 20th Sunday Survey. Western Woodlands. 9:15am. Pinkerton Forest is on Mt. Cottrell Rd

February 20th Sunday Bird Count. Greenwich Bay. 10:00am. Gatehouse, Newport Power Stn, Strand, Newport (Mel 56C4). Joint activity with Friends of Greenwich Bay.

March 1st.Activity. Western Treatment Plant. 8:30am. West end of Watton St, Werribee. (Opposite Salvation Army) Melways 205H9. **Bookings essential.**



Please put your pens to paper and send me some reports or interesting sightings. There a few very very interesting birds on the WTP , Stilt Sandpiper, Ruff, Grey-tailed Tattler
Have you seen them? Do you have a picture?

From Jim Gunn. "I have put a few photos of rare birds. Just click on my name [2 / 6 by Jim Gunn] "

<http://boca.org.au/photogallery/picture/boca-library/2375-malleefowl> Congratulations Jim. Just got the message in time)

I really had lost the plot.. I need more input from members.

Just 2 photos... Congratulations to our NONOGENERIANS.. Geoff, Nance and Doug.



A message from The President

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