



Werribee Wag-Tales • Volume 18 No 1, 2012

Dave Torr, President
E✉ davidtorr@gmail.com
☎ 9749 5141

Iian Denham, Activities Co-ordinator
E✉ iidenham@yahoo.com
☎ 9379 9483

Shirley Cameron, Editor
E✉ smc3030@bigpond.net.au
☎ 9741 2997



December Outing in the Altona area.

Werribee Wagtails numbered 11 people when they met for their final outing in 2012 at Truganina Park. On the road to the carpark Straw-necked Ibis and Australian White Ibis were feeding in the paddock. Chris, Ceri, Gwen, Carole, Pat, Andre, Len, Nance, Shirley, Liz and myself braved the wind to begin our bird watching in the wetlands at the base of the 100 Steps of Federation. There were easy sightings of Welcome Swallow, Crested Pigeon, Common Starlings and Red Wattlebirds. On the wetlands there was a pair of Australasian Grebe on a nest, which was a floating mound of vegetation. Their breeding plumage showed a rich black head, a pale patch below the bill and a bright chestnut head stripe. A Green Finch was well camouflaged in water vegetation. An assortment of ducks, Spotted Crake and Purple Swamphen were around. Some of us walked around the Federation Hill and observed White-fronted Chats and Singing Honeyeater.

After morning tea we drove around to Truganina Swamp next to Nance's Village. There was a small flock of Red-necked Avocet and another of Common Greenshanks keeping low out of the wind on a spit. We retreated out of the wind to the fence of the village. Then there was great debate over 2 white birds on the shore across the water. As one was displaying yellowy orange plumes. We decided on Cattle Egret, although there are no cattle in coo-ee. After a Swamp Harrier appeared the Egrets flew off and I took a photo of them. Banded and Black-winged Stilts, immature Black Swans, White-faced Heron and Whiskered Tern were also on the swamp.

A quick lunch and bird count, before a squall with showers finished our outing for the day. The bird count was 48 species. *Thanks to Andre for great organisation and the Tim Tams. Sincere thanks to Susan for her excellent report*

Black Swan
Grey Teal
Chestnut Teal
Pacific Black Duck
Hardhead
Australasian Grebe
Spotted Dove
Crested pigeon
Little Pied Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Australian Pelican
Cattle Egret
White Faced Heron
Australian white Ibis
Straw-necked Ibis
Swamp Harrier
Purple Swamphen
Australian Spotted Crake
Dusky Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Australian Pied Oystercatcher
Black-winged stilt
Red-necked avocet
Banded stilt
Masked Lapwing
Common Greenshank
Whiskered Tern
Silver Gull
Galah
Long-billed Corella
Superb Fairywren
Yellow-rumped thornbill
Singing Honeyeater
Red Wattle bird
White-fronted Chat
Australian Magpie
Willie Wagtail
Little Raven
Magpie-lark
Welcome Swallow
Fairy Martin
Tree martin
Common Starling
Common Myna
House Sparrow
European Goldfinch
Common Greenfinch



January 2013 Wagtails Visit to Werribee River Outing.

What a way to start the year, at the Mouth of the Werribee River there were more species than you could imagine. As it was windy the birds were hunkered down and so comparatively easy to identify and bird list was impressive.

On to the K Road Cliffs. A popular fishing haunt

On entering the Werribee Park Precinct, a group of Cape Barren Geese had gathered in the paddocks to feed. We had morning tea before entering the Mansion grounds. Four Black Kites were soaring overhead. This species moved into the area during the recent drought and conditions must be favourable because they have stayed. The Black Kite preys on small mammals, lizards, insects and frequents tips.

The Wagtails walked through the Mansion grounds to the Werribee River. Australian White Ibis and Straw-necked Ibis were feeding on the Polo ground. Somebody commented they were eating Pasture Cockchafer grubs. Through the scrub Galahs, Willie Wagtails, Fairy Wrens, Wattle Birds, a Shining Bronze Cuckoo and Song Thrush were sighted. At the ford we observed Whistling Kite, Black Duck, White-faced Heron and Reed Warbler. A pair of Nankeen Night Herons were spotted near the water's edge after we had passed through the heritage orchard. There was a lot of discussion en route and calling with devices to identify a pair of Crested Shrike-tits. We lunched back at the picnic ground where the bird count indicated we were a lot of pessimists for low predictions-68 species. Congratulations to Geoff. Some of the Wagtails drove over to meet the Ranger at the Werribee River Park. **To whom do we thank for the Report?**



Cape Barren Goose
 Black Swan
 Grey Teal
 Chestnut Teal
 Pacific Black Duck
 Hardhead
 Great Crested Grebe
 Spotted Dove
 Crested pigeon
 Australasian Gannet
 Australasian Darter
 Little Pied Cormorant
 Great Cormorant
 Little Black Cormorant
 Pied Cormorant
 Australian Pelican
 Eastern Great Egret
 White Faced Heron
 Nankeen Night Heron
 Australian white Ibis
 Straw-necked Ibis
 Whistling kite
 Black Kite
 Swamp Harrier
 Little Eagle
 Brown Falcon
 Dusky Moorhen
 Eurasian Coot
 Australian Pied Oystercatcher
 Red-capped Plover
 Masked Lapwing
 Red-necked Stint
 Sharp-tailed sandpiper
 Whiskered Tern
 Crested Tern
 Pacific Gull
 Silver Gull
 Galah
 Musk Lorikeet
 Purple-crowned Lorikeet
 Red-rumped parrot
 Shining Bronze Cuckoo
 Kookaburra
 Superb Fairywren
 Yellow-rumped thornbill
 White plumed honeyeater
 Little Wattle bird
 Red Wattle bird
 New Holland Honeyeater
 Crested Shrike Tit
 Australian Magpie
 Grey fantail
 Willie Wagtail
 Little Raven
 Magpie-lark
 Australian Reed-Warbler
 Little Grassbird
 Silvereye
 Welcome Swallow
 Tree martin
 Common Blackbird
 Song Thrush
 Common Starling
 Common Myna
 Red-browed Finch
 House Sparrow
 European Goldfinch

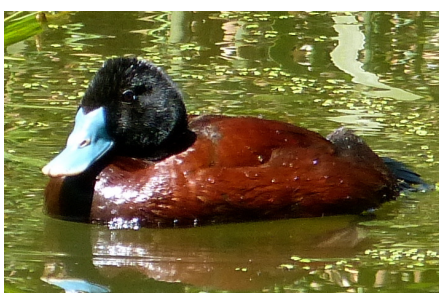


Werribee Wagtails Outing to Ballarat 5th. February 2013

We met under overcast skies at Watton St, however with the expectation of a very warm and sunny day, there was also so trepidation. Seventeen people made the bus trip and we met up with others at the Gong Gong Reservoir, including Jim Gunn, who had travelled down from Wycheproof. We had a stroll around the Gong Reservoir grounds and picked up a number of bush birds including White-naped Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin, and Bassian Thrush, a rare addition to a Wagtails list. Morning tea was enjoyed by most whilst sitting on a railing by the bus, before we headed off to Lake Wendouree.

The Lake turned out to be an unexpected gem of a site, with the first bird seen an Australian Crake [Spotted]. A walk around the reticulation ponds yielded not only a number of water birds, but also a young Australian Hobby and a Common Bronzewing for those who kept up. We crossed back to the lake proper and quickly had sightings of a pair of Blue-billed Ducks up very close. As we ambled along this trail we seemed to find a crake every 20 metres or so, and they were not at all fussed about people. Soon we found a Great-crested Grebe with a chick, they also were quite close, and cameras were soon clicking. We enjoyed our lunch under the very old and shady trees of Lake Wendouree, with a flock of about 20 Black-tailed Native Hens for company. Once again these birds were very used to people and not timid. After lunch we enjoyed a quick stroll along the lake foreshore and saw many more Blue-billed Ducks and our first Musk Ducks. On the way back to the bus, those who gave in to temptation enjoyed an ice-cream from the kiosk. Bird call resulted in a count of 64 and Liz won the chocolates.

Musk Duck
Black Swan
Australian Wood Duck
Grey Teal
Chestnut Teal
Pacific Black Duck
Hardhead
Blue-billed duck
Australasian Grebe
Hoary-headed Grebe
Great Crested Grebe
Crested pigeon
Common Bronze-wing
Australasian Darter
Little Pied Cormorant
Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
White Necked Heron
White Faced Heron
Australian white Ibis
Straw-necked Ibis
Black-shouldered kite
Swamp Harrier
Australian Hobby
Purple Swamphen
Spotless Crake
Black-tailed Native hen
Dusky Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Masked Lapwing
Silver Gull
Long-billed Corella
Sulphur-crested cockatoo
Rainbow lorikeet
Crimson Rosella
Red-rumped parrot
Kookaburra
Sacred Kingfisher
White-throated Treecreeper
Superb Fairywren
White-browed Scrubwren
Striated thornbill
Brown thornbill
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Red Wattle bird
White-naped honeyeater
Grey Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Grey currawong
Grey fantail
Willie Wagtail
Little Raven
Restless Flycatcher
Magpie-lark
Eurasian Skylark
Australian Reed-Warbler
Silvereye
Welcome Swallow
Bassian Thrush
Common Blackbird
Starling
Common Myna
Red-browed Firetail
House Sparrow



March on the Treatment Plant.

Always a great time to visit the Plants, the migratory birds are getting into breeding plumage and contemplating the long flight to Siberia.

Sincere thanks to Susan Myers for the photos



Musk Duck
Freckle Duck
Cape Barren Goose
Black Swan
Australian Shelduck
Pink-eared Duck
Australasian Shoveler
Grey Teal
Chestnut Teal
Pacific Black Duck
Hardhead
Blue-billed duck
Australasian Grebe
Hoary-headed Grebe
Great Crested Grebe
Rock dove (feral pigeon)
Crested pigeon
Australasian Gannet
Darter
Little Pied Cormorant

Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Pied Cormorant
Australian Pelican
Eastern Great Egret
White Faced Heron
Little Egret
Australian white Ibis
Yellow-billed spoonbill
Royal spoonbill
Straw-necked Ibis
Black-shouldered kite
Whistling kite
Black Kite
Spotted Harrier
Swamp Harrier
Black Falcon
Brolga
Purple Swamphen
Buff-banded Rail

Australian Spotted Crake
Black-tailed Native hen
Eurasian Coot
Black-winged stilt
Red-necked avocet
Banded stilt
Red-capped Plover
Double-banded Plover
Red-kneed dotterel
Masked Lapwing
Latham Snipe
Common Greenshank
Red Knot
Red-necked Stint
Sharp-tailed sandpiper
Curlew Sandpiper
Crested Tern
Pacific Gull
Silver Gull
Galah

Sulphur-crested cockatoo
Superb Fairywren
White-browed Scrubwren
Brown thornbill
White-fronted Chat
Australian Magpie
Willie Wagtail
Little Raven
Magpie-lark
Eurasian Skylark
Golden-headed Cisticola
Little Grassbird
Welcome Swallow
Fairy Martin
Common Blackbird
Common Starling
Zebra Finch
House Sparrow
Australasian Pipit
European Goldfinch
Common Greenfinch

Thanks to Liz Hurley for up-grading the First Aid Box, let's hope we do not have to use it.

WHAT COMES NEXT.....

May 7th Geelong /Bellarine

June 4th Bacchus Marsh

July 2nd Eynesbury

August 6th Bus to Westgate and Botanic Gardens

September 3rd You Yangs

November 5th WTP Bus Bookings necessary Cost \$15.

I understand Nancy Marriot has broken her hip, I will email you when I find out more details

