



# Werribee Wag-Tales • Volume 19 No 9 2013

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## Echuca trip report Oct 6-9 2013

Most of us met at Heathcote Information Centre for lunch before heading off to Crosbie Forest in convoy. Initially there seemed to be very few birds around but we started to hear calls and eventually managed to get a reasonable number of birds - Surong finding a nice male Mistletoebird and Iian seeing (from the car) a male Red-capped Robin.

On then to Echuca and check in to our various cabins etc., finally getting all the party together. A brief walk along the river added more birds to give us a first day list of 50 - or should it be 49? At Echuca we saw the "Yellow Rosella" which our Little Blue Book recognises as a separate species to the Crimson Rosella, whereas other "authorities" reckon it is just a subspecies. This could be important when we come to do the final count and see who won the chocolates!

Monday morning dawned bright and sunny - and 4 degrees! Good start to the day with a Little Lorikeet in the trees outside my cabin. Then off to Barmah for a "Kingfisher Cruise". Whilst waiting we had a walk and found several White-winged Trillers, a Peaceful Dove and a Western Gerygone. Alas no kingfishers on the cruise, but it was very pleasant nevertheless. After lunch we drove to various spots looking in vain for Superb Parrots, but we picked up some good birds including Grey-crowned Babbblers, Australian Hobby and Spotted Harrier. We finished the day with a BBQ (aided by 6 or 7 Kookaburras) and with the trip list up to 83 species.

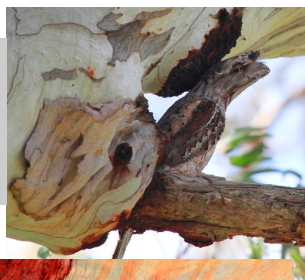
Tuesday was another fine and cool morning. We set off to Deniliquin in search of the elusive Superb Parrot. We spent nearly 2 hours wandering around the Island reserve and saw well over 40 species in that time. Mark and a few others had a brief glimpse of a Superb Parrot flying through, but we could not track it down. We also had great views of a Sacred Kingfisher and some of us got brief views of 2 Azure Kingfishers. After this we headed to Mathoura wetlands, which were rather full of water so not much mud and not many birds, apart from a lot of very visible Reed-warblers and a distant "darter" that eventually turned into a bent stick and two ravens! At lunch distant "darter" that eventually turned into a bent stick and two ravens! At lunch time things got a little more exciting with 4 Brolgas flying over, 2 Sea-eagles also flying over and a Rainbow Bee-eater landing briefly above us.

Our final stop of the day was the Horseshoe Lagoon on Moama, where had more views of a pair of Sacred Kingfishers and a sustained viewing of an Azure Kingfisher fishing. Finished the day with 104 species on the list.

Wednesday and time to head for home, with the morning spent at Kamarooka, north of Bendigo. Unfortunately the forest was very quiet, with the best birds being a small group of Western Gerygones and a Brush Bronzewing. The final count was 112 species which was exactly half way between Dave's guess of 110 and Iian's 114!

Many thanks to Iian for organising a great trip - and looking forward to next year, probably in Portland.

**Remember our November Outing to the WTP! Most have paid., Extra if you want to go in the Sweep!**



**I hope you all agree that Dave's description and Surong's brilliant photos tell the story of the very successful camp. Congratulations to all! Shirley**

