



Werribee Wag-Tales • Volume 18 No 1, 2014

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

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

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



The Werribee River in January... *Reporter Susan Myers*

It was only 15 degrees on the first Tuesday in January when the Werribee Wagtails met at the mouth of the Werribee River. Pelicans, Great, Pied and Little Cormorants, Silver Gulls and Crested Terns stood with their heads buried to counteract the strong southerly winds. A lone Red-capped Plover was busy rushing around a pool of water, darting forward and stopping abruptly. A Red Wattle Bird and a pair of Galahs were on the foreshore. Quite a large contingent of birders got in their cars out of the wind and drove around to the cliffs on the Werribee River. Morning fishermen were busy on the shore and in a boat. The eucalypts here provide good nesting holes for parrots and lorikeets. A Red-rumped Parrot moved around a Thornbush as we commented on the dangers for a medium sized bird. A group of pelicans, Whistling Kites, Little Raven, Fairy Wrens, Tree Martins were some of the birds observed. A Whiskered Tern identified by its dark grey belly and smaller size patrolled back and forth along the river. We drove into the Werribee Park precinct and set off for the river, acknowledging the plentiful veggie garden attended by the Karen people from Burma, on the way. A beautiful, graceful, majestic Great Egret was on the edge of the river when we arrived. We admired its beautiful snowy white plumage. A variety of ducks, Little Pied Cormorant and Dusky Moorhen with chick were on the river. A group of White-faced Herons flew away from us. As we walked towards the orchard a large group of kites Whistling and Black were grouped on the other side of the river. About 10 or 12 of them with the plumage of immature birds. The bird count taken in the carpark was 45 species for a couple of hours birding (we still hadn't had morning coffee!). It was a good start for the new year and we thank Shirley for leading us. We renewed old friendships, met new people and look forward to birding in 2014.

Grey Teal
Chestnut Teal
Pacific Black Duck
Rock dove (feral pigeon)
Spotted Dove
Crested pigeon
Little Pied Cormorant
Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Pied Cormorant
Australian Pelican
Eastern Great Egret
White Faced Heron
Royal spoonbill
Whistling kite
Black Kite
Brown Falcon
Purple Swamphen
Dusky Moorhen
Red-kneed dotterel
Masked Lapwing
Common Greenshank
Whiskered Tern
Crested Tern
Galah
Sulphur-crested cockatoo
Rainbow lorikeet
Purple-crowned Lorikeet
Blue winged parrot
Sacred Kingfisher
Superb Fairywren
White plumed honeyeater
Red Wattle bird
New Holland Honeyeater
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Australian Magpie
Willie Wagtail
Little Raven
Golden-headed Cisticola
Australian Reed-Warbler
Welcome Swallow
Tree martin
Common Blackbird
Common Starling
Common Myna
House Sparrow
European Goldfinch
Common Greenfinch



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Lorikeets'

