



# Werribee Wag-Tales



## A day at The Western Treatment Plant

*27 Wagtails visit the "Magic Place".*

We had 27 persons across 7 cars. This year we were able to accommodate several visitors on this outing due to the large number of members who hold WTP permits.

We gathered at the Beach Road gate in near perfect weather conditions. First stop was the pond just inside the gate, so we could tick off many of the usual suspects. A little further along we found Curlew Sandpiper and Bar-tailed Godwit on the rocks along the shoreline. Driving through to Paradise Road we stopped for Blue-billed and Musk Ducks. At Paradise Road we added Red-necked Avocet and Cape Barren Goose.

Morning tea was held at the bird hide and Mark's wife and daughter kindly provided a chocolate cake. Bird life at the hide was very quiet, so we didn't linger. Passing over the Little River Ford most caught fleeting glimpses of Black-tailed Native-hen.

We followed the coast road around and were surprised at the lack of waterfowl on the ponds, so once again there was little to catch our interest. The jetty at the outfall provided the usual array of cormorants.

The Borrow Pits were selected as the lunch spot and there were many waders around to keep our interest including Glossy Ibis, and Red-kneed Dotterel. The day threatened to rain, but we never got more than a few spots. We made our way slowly back to the Beach Road boat ramp and concluded with a bird call count of 78. Shirley won the chocolates.

The day officially ended at this point, however three cars decided to stay on.

The best birding was at the T-section with excellent views of Baillons and Australian [Spotted] Crakes, Buff-banded Rail, and Little Grassbird.

*Iian Denham*

**Count for the Trip: 78 Birds.**

**Winner: Shirley Cameron**



Golden-headed Cisticola

*Photo: Dieter Boz.*



Red-necked Avocets

*Photo: Emmy Silvius*



Whiskered Tern

*Photo: Dorothy Jenkins*



Banded Stilts

*Photo: Dieter Boz*

## BIRDLIST WERRIBEE TREATMENT PLANT NOVEMBER 4 2014

Cape Barren Goose	Black-shouldered Kite	Nankeen Kestrel
Black Swan	Swamp Harrier	Brown Falcon
Australian Shelduck	Whistling Kite	Peregrine Falcon
Pacific Black Duck	Spotted Harrier	Superb Fairy-wren
Australasian Shoveler	Black Kite	White-fronted Chat
Grey Teal	Purple Swamphen	White-browed Scrubwren
Chestnut Teal	Black-tailed Native-hen	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Pink-eared Duck	Eurasian Coot	Australian Magpie
Hardhead	White-headed Stilt	Willie Wagtail
Blue-billed Duck	Banded Stilt	Magpie-lark
Musk Duck	Red-necked Avocet	Little Raven
Hoary-headed Grebe	Pied Oystercatcher	Eurasian Skylark
Great Crested Grebe	Masked Lapwing	Welcome Swallow
Australasian Gannet	Red-kneed Dotterel	Fairy Martin
Little Black Cormorant	Marsh Sandpiper	Australian Reed Warbler
Great Cormorant	Bar-tailed Godwit	Little Grassbird
Australian Pied Cormorant	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Golden-headed Cisticola
Little Pied Cormorant	Curlew Sandpiper	Silvereye
Australian Pelican	Red-necked Stint	Common Myna
Great Egret	Silver Gull	Common Blackbird
White-faced Heron	Fairy Tern	Common Starling
Glossy Ibis	Whiskered Tern	Australian Pipit
Australian White Ibis	Greater Crested Tern	European Greenfinch
Straw-necked Ibis	Crested Pigeon	European Goldfinch
Royal Spoonbill	Spotted Dove	House Sparrow
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Galah	Zebra Finch

## NEW SOUTH WALES TRIP

OCTOBER 2014

Spring is a time for birding, so (despite recent snow in the Blue Mountains), 5 of us set off for that area on **Monday** 20th October. We had a list of 15 or so birds that we really wanted to see as they would be “lifers” for some of the people on the trip.



Eastern Bearded Dragon

*Photo: Mark Buckby*

We hired a “people mover” from Budget in the city and headed off to our first stop at Wangaratta as there had been recent sightings of Barking Owl in a local park. After an easy drive we found the park and the owl was roosting in a dense bush a few metres off the track.

On then to Schoolhouse Rd Dam hoping for Painted Honeyeater, but none were to be seen. However some of us had a brief view of a Square tailed Kite. After lunch we went to the south side of Chiltern around Lancashire Gap Rd looking again for the Painted HE - lots of good birds again but no Painted.

After dinner we went out to Honeyeater Dam in search of nightjars – we have seen them on previous trips to the area at this time but they eluded us on this occasion.

*Continued page 3.*

## NEW SOUTH WALES TRIP

**Tuesday** was spent around the Chiltern area. We started around the Green Hill Dam area finding lots of Orioles and other nice birds, but no sign of Regent Honeyeaters – we later learnt that they had moved out of the area. We then moved to Bartley's block where we were greeted at the gate by a Turquoise Parrot and calling Painted Honeyeaters – however despite a 2 hour search we were unable to track them down.

After lunch we visited Number 1 and 2 dams (rather disappointing) and Mt Pilot (where the highlight was a Peregrine). Returning to Bartley's in the late afternoon we eventually found a Painted near the gate. In the evening we returned to Honeyeater Dam but again there were no nightjars

**Wednesday** was a long drive to Capertee, relieved by a small flock of Superb Parrots as we entered Wagga Wagga. On arrival at Capertee we had to change our plans as we discovered the Royal Hotel no longer did meals on Wednesday and Thursday, so we had to buy some food at the store and head

Australasian Figbird



Photo: Mark Buckby

off to our "cottage" at Glen Davis – stopping for a vain search for Plum-headed Finches – and cook our own tea!

We spent Thursday driving to Rhylstone and back – a good selection of birds but no Regent

Honeyeaters – again we were told that they had left the area. On the way north we had a brief glimpse of a Plum-headed Finch on a dam in Bogee – and on the way back we had better views and were able to confirm it as a male – the only one we would see on the trip.

**Friday** we spent the first few hours birding on the road to Capertee adding a few birds to our trip list. We then headed for various Rockwarbler sites in the Blue Mountains but were unlucky with all of them. We spent the night at Penrith.



Dragon handler Len.

Photo: Mark Buckby

**Saturday** was a big day. We started at Ingleburn Reserve where I had seen Rockwarbler on 2 previous trips – but alas not this time. Looking at my notes I had previously seen them around midday – we were there early and

the rocks were in the shade which may have made it more difficult.

On then to Barrem Grounds where we heard a few Eastern Bristlebirds but could not see them. On the way out we picked up a Pilotbird by the houses at the entrance. On then to Buddreoo where we found the Bristlebird fairly easily in dense vegetation.

Our next stop was Bomaderry Creek in Nowra where we easily

found Rockwarbler. We tried for Logrunner at the Grotto Walk but failed to find the right part of the walk before it got too late! However – it had been a good day with 3 hard to find targets seen.



Red-bellied Black Snake

Photo: Mark Buckby

**Sunday** and the homeward journey started with a long drive to Mallacoota, starting the day with a Koel and a Figbird at the Nowra caravan park. We looked in vain at Mallacoota for a Figbird that had been reported recently, and then went on to Orbost to check in at our motel, have a meal and then out to Cabage Tree for owls – we heard a Boobook but did not see or hear any of our targets

**Monday** was wet – big storms in Melbourne and all along our drive home until we got to Berwick where we stopped to look for a Channel-billed Cuckoo that had been seen 10 days before – we managed to look without getting wet but did not find the cuckoo.

All in all a reasonable trip – we found around half of our targets and a few "lifers" that had not been on the target list. Bird numbers seemed low in comparison with other trips to these areas – we saw very few raptors. We ended up with around 150 species so not too bad

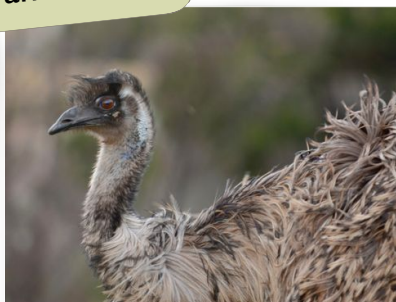
David Torr



PHOTO GALLERY

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Dieter and Friend



New Member?



Birthday Boy



Bird Call







## FROM OUR BROKEN HILL CORRESPONDENT

## BROKEN HILL NSW

If anyone comes near and does not visit we will be very disappointed.

We have a big empty front and rear yard. Plenty of room to park several caravans.

Our new furniture has arrived and I have to assemble it

We still go Ballroom dancing Monday and Wednesday night and Line dancing Monday and Friday morning and Tuesday night. We went to the Ball in Mildura a few weeks ago. It was great and we met all our friends from Swan Hill, Kerang, Echuca and some from Melbourne.

I drove on to Melbourne and Surong drove back to Broken Hill for work and visited the Art Galleries. There are a lot here. Great artists lived here because of the light. Pro Hart etc.

While in Melbourne I mowed the lawn, cleaned up, and entered Surong's paintings in the Art Show at Werribee. She did not win.

## BIRDWATCHING

On Sunday 2/11/14 we drove out 25 km on Menindee Rd. turned right on the track to Huonville Station. Just past where we saw Crimson Chats breeding in early October.

We saw Orange Chat at edge of swampy area now dry.

We went south another km to the junction of two branches of Rockwell Creek.

There are the largest diameter Gum trees growing in the creek here with a good variety of birds.



I think the trees must be trunkless and we are looking at the junction of say 5 to 10 branches coming out of the root but joined together for several meters high. Each branch is over 1 metre in diameter, making the trunk 4 to 5 metres in diameter and the tree 10 meters high. There are many like this.

*James Gunn*



Southern Whiteface

## FROM SURONG'S FILES.



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and nestling

## MEMBERS AMBLINGS AND ANECDOTES

**From the President**

Progress is being made with our integration into BirdLife - unfortunately the person at head office responsible for branches took a months leave just when we became a branch and since she came back I have been working and birding pretty much full time, so it is a slow process.

We will have our web pages on the BirdLife site along with our calendar and newsletters, but this just needs a bit more time.

We do now have a list of BirdLife members in our "catchment" or who are outside but have chosen to be associated with Werribee - 97 in total! I hope we get to meet most of the "new" members over time - but I hope they do not all turn up to the same outing! There are still a few people from the "Wagtails" days who have not joined BirdLife and are not on that list - hopefully they will join soon.

The 2015 calendar is more or less complete. At the moment we are going with a bus trip on Jan 27th and no outings on the 6th Jan or Feb 3rd.

**Twenty Eight Dollar Parrot**

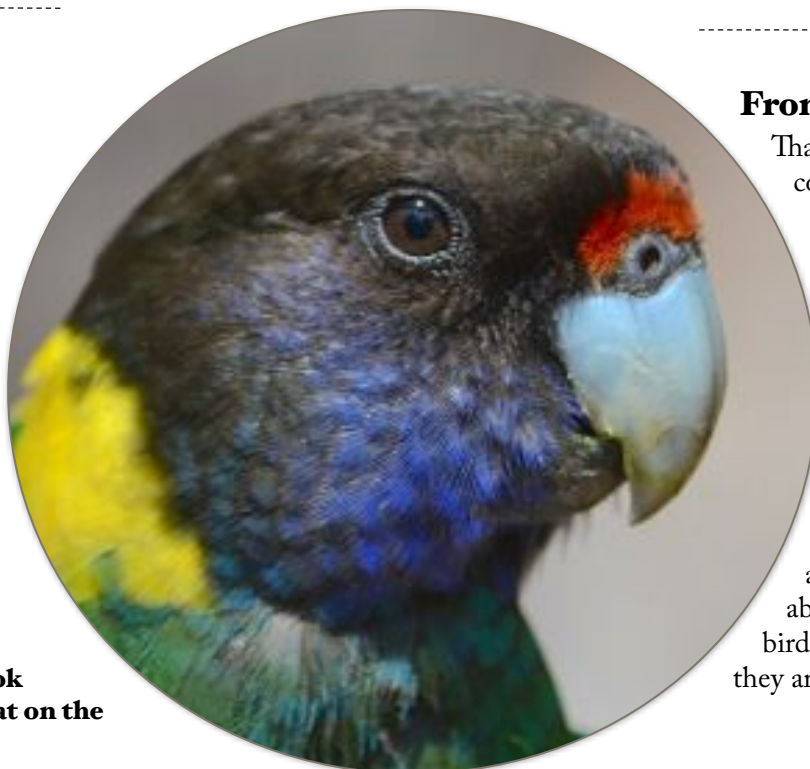
Read more of this parrot is Sue's article on page 7.

*Photo: Sue Myers.*

**Booking for Bus trip January 27th.**

**You will need to book early to ensure a seat on the bus to Ballarat.**

**Contact Dave Torr**

**From the editor**

Thanks to all who've contributed the reports and lovely photography for this issue. Makes an enjoyable time assembling it all.

Please feel free to contribute, even small sightings or trips and a picture or two will help us all lent a little more about our wonderful birds and the areas where they are being found.

**Note we have a new email address -**

[werribee@birdlife.org.au](mailto:werribee@birdlife.org.au) - which should be used in any emails you send to BirdLife Werribee. Currently it redirects to me but this makes it easier if I am away or am no longer doing this job! Use this email for Birdlife Werribee issues.

*David Torr*

**Note we are now on the web**

(<http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-werribee>) and I am slowly uploading details of outings, newsletters etc to the site. Some photos that are typical of the area would be good

*David Torr*

**NEXT TRIP: OUR NEXT TRIP WILL BE TO MELTON.**

Birdlife Werribee will be visiting Melton. December 5 2014. Meet at the west end of Watton St opposite the Salvation Army. Car Pooling.

## CONTACTS, WEB ADDRESS AND PLACES TO VISIT ON LINE

**Birdlife Werribee  
Contacts****Email** [werribee@birdlife.org.au](mailto:werribee@birdlife.org.au)**Website:** [birdlife.org.au/  
locations/birdlife-werribee](http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-werribee)**President**

Dave Torr

E:✉ [davidtorr@gmail.com](mailto:davidtorr@gmail.com)

☎ 9749 5141

**Activities Co-ordinator**

Ilan Denham

E:✉ [iidenham@yahoo.com](mailto:iidenham@yahoo.com)

☎ 9379 9483

**Newsletter**

David Jenkins

E:✉ [dw\\_jenkins@icloud.com](mailto:dw_jenkins@icloud.com)[dw\\_jenkins@icloud.com](mailto:dw_jenkins@icloud.com)**Newsletter photos Online**

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You will also be able to add some of your photos there. Contact me for how-to details.

Check here.

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**TWENTY EIGHT DOLLAR PARROT**

"Twen-tee-eight, twen-tee-eight", cry the ringnecks of south-west Western Australia. The joyful, jubilant call in the wet, lush Jarrah and Karri forests of this corner of the continent reveal a striking green and blue ringneck parrot with a bright red patch above the beak. They were once thought to be a separate species but are now classified as one of four sub-species of Australian Ringnecks: Twenty Eight Parrot, Mallee Ringneck, Cloncurry Ringneck and Port Lincoln Ringneck.

The Twenty-eight was quite common in parks, woodlands and camping grounds, nesting in the hollows of mature trees.

They were often quite tame coming onto the breakfast table to eat crumbs. However I've read where the population is under threat from competition with introduced Rainbow Lorikeets and the felling of mature trees for safety reasons. Like most hollow-nesters the eggs are not camouflaged, the 4 to 7 eggs being pure white.

The owners of 'Vineyard 28' told us that when their vineyard was being established these raucous cheeky birds were very good at pruning the young vines. The viticulturists approach was "if you can't beat them then..." name your vineyard after them!

*Sue Myers*