

**THE FIELD NATURALIST**

**NEWSLETTER NO. 145: WINTER/SUMMER 2022**

**ALBURY-WODONGA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.**

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Contributions to this newsletter are welcome and should be emailed to Editor as above.



Yellow-faced Honeyeater (P Spencer)



Crimson Spider Orchid - *Caladenia concolor*  
(P Seely)

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Note: The program from March onwards will be made available via the Friends of Chiltern website & Ecoportal.

Details for subscription payment (\$15).

**Direct Transfer details for electronic subscription payments -**

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(The account name should be written in its abbreviated form as shown, and don't forget to include **your** name)

**OUTINGS**

**WONGA**

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

This turned out to be quite an enjoyable outing for 11 members. A respectable bird list was compiled, with warming winter exercise and a social catch up over morning tea and lunch. What more could you ask?? Well, a highlight was the sighting (and subsequent photographing) of a male Rose Robin.



The 'star' of the day – a male Rose Robin (P Spencer)

Bird list, Wonga

12 June 2022

|                    |                        |                               |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Australasian Grebe | Great-crested Grebes   | Silvereeye                    |
| Australian Raven   | Grey Teal              | Spotted Pardalote             |
| Azure Kingfisher   | Hoary-headed Grebe     | Sulphur-crested Cockatoo      |
| Black Duck         | Kookaburra             | Superb Fairy-wren             |
| Brown Thornbill    | Little Black Cormorant | Welcome Swallow               |
| Brown Treecreeper  | Little Pied Cormorant  | Western Gerygone              |
| Coot               | Magpie                 | Whistling Kite                |
| Crested Shrike-tit | Magpie Lark            | White-browed Scrubwren        |
| Darter             | Pelican                | White-faced Heron             |
| Dusky Moorhen      | Rainbow Lorikeet       | White-plumed Honeyeater       |
| Golden Whistler    | Red-browed Finch       | White-throated Tree-creeper   |
| Great Egret        | Red Wattlebird         | White Ibis                    |
| Grey Fantail       | Rose Robin             | Willy Wagtail                 |
| Grey Shrike-thrush | Rosella, Crimson       | Yellow Spoonbill (with young) |
| Golden Whistler    | Rosella, Eastern       |                               |
| Great Cormorant    | Rosella, Yellow (ssp)  |                               |
| <b>Total = 46</b>  |                        |                               |
|                    |                        |                               |

**Bernard Datson**

The rest of the cast... (Photos - Peter Spencer)



Little Black Cormorant



Brown Treecreeper



Black Swan



Little Pied Cormorant (juv)



Hoary-headed Grebe

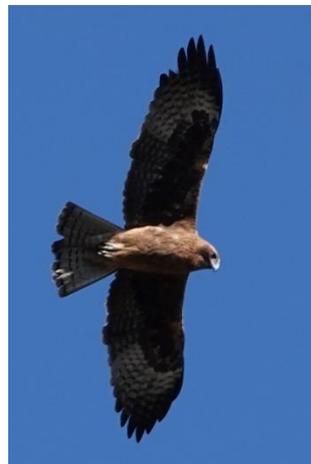
**BEECHWORTH – PUB LUNCH**

10<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Some sightings before lunch.....



Restless Flycatcher (P Spencer)



Little Eagle - dark morph? (P Spencer)

**BARTLEY'S BLOCK & CHILTERN DAM**

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022



Yellow Navel (P Spencer)

[The very distinctive, chrome-yellow *Lichenomphalia chromacea*, a small lichenised fungus which grows on algae-covered earth, especially in disturbed areas.]



Apart from the mushroom, a variety of subjects caught the photographers' eyes:



Huntsman Spider (P Seely)



White-naped Honeyeater (P Spencer)



Nodding Greenhood - *Pterostylis nutans* (P Spencer)

## LAKE KERFORD & EVERTON BUSHLAND RESERVE

14<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Not only was the understorey at Lake Kerford smothered by blackberries, the Koala often seen in the Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) along the Pipeline Track, wasn't sighted this trip. After lunch at the Rail Trail Station, the group commenced the circular walk uphill through the Everton Bushland Reserve, which was once a travelling stock route with remnant infrastructure still intact. We walked through very attractive low, gravelly loam hills, dominated by Grey Tussock-grass (*Poa sieberiana*) and Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia caespitose*). Also present were Shiny Everlastings (*Xerochrysum viscosum*), Nodding Blue-lily (*Stypantra glauca*), Black Anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revolute*) and emerging orchids. Grey Box (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) and Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*) dominated the overstorey. It was agreed that coming back in spring for flowering orchids, peas etc. would be very worthwhile.



### Jan Palmer

[Note 1: The Ovens & Murray BirdLife group recorded 20 bird species in each area 3 weeks later. Consistent with the vegetation type of open Eucalyptus woodland and tussocky grass, a Speckled Warbler was seen in the Reserve]

[Note 2: The Genus *Stypantra* is closely related to *Dianella*, but the hooked ends of the stamens (clearly seen in this photo) distinguish *Stypantra* from its relative, *Dianella*.

Nodding Blue-lily (*Stypantra glauca*) [https://anpsa.org.au/plant\\_profiles/stypantra-glauca/](https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/stypantra-glauca/), 27/01/23 3:18pm]

John Borchert, a member of Walla Gum Swamp Reserve Management Committee, lead this walking tour of Walla Gum Swamp Reserve and began with an acknowledgement of the traditional owners of the land on which the Reserve stands.

John then gave a presentation with information about the Indigenous cultural and heritage significance of Walla Gum Swamp Reserve.

Key points about the Reserve included:

- the presence of Indigenous Scarred Trees and Ring Trees,
- the presence of quartz rock flints that were used as Indigenous cutting tools,
- the wildlife and flora present in the reserve, &
- fungi in the reserve.

John then lead members on a walking loop of the reserve, identifying and examining examples of these features. The walk included entering the River Red Gum Wetland section of the Reserve

Lunch was enjoyed in the Reserve which is also inhabited by a large frog community. Their calls added to the experience of being in a special place of natural harmony and peace.

John then accompanied some members into a different section of the Reserve, accessed from Swamp Road Thank you to John Borchert for sharing his knowledge and experiences of Walla Gum Swamp Reserve with the AWFNC.

**Helen Corrigan**

[and to you, Helen for arranging]



Group with John (far right) in the woodland section of the swamp reserve (P Spencer)

Note the 'Ring tree'\* in the photo background, with a detailed photo on the right (P Seely)

[\*Ring trees have significant cultural connections for First Nations peoples and are protected. They are thought to demarcate boundaries or indicate important ceremonial & cultural sites]

Birdlist, Walla Walla Swamp reserve

27 August 22

|                           |                   |                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Australian Raven          | Kookaburra        | Striated Pardalote          |
| Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike | Little Corella    | Sulphur-crested Cockatoo    |
| Chough                    | Magpie            | Superb Fairy-wren           |
| Crested Pigeon            | Magpie Lark       | Western Gerygone            |
| Crested Shrike-tit        | Noisy Minor       | White-plumed Honeyeater     |
| Galah                     | Noisy Friar Bird  | White-throated Tree-creeper |
| Grey Butcher Bird         | Rosella, Eastern  | Willy Wagtail               |
| Grey Fantail              | Straw-necked Ibis | Yellow Thornbill            |
| Grey Shrike-thrush        | Spotted Pardalote | Yellow-rumped Thornbill     |
| <b>Total = 27</b>         |                   |                             |

En-route: Black-shouldered Kite, Eastern Rosella, Nankeen Kestrel, White-faced Heron

**Bernard Datson & Phillip Seely**



Western Gerygone (P Spencer)



Yellow Star - *Pauridia vaginata* var. *vaginata* (P Spencer)



A view of some of the 7 local species depicted by Damien Mitchell on the Walla Walla water tower. The recently painted artwork is a tribute to flora & fauna being protected at the swamp. (P Seely)

## CHILTERN & MT PILOT

11 September 2022

About a dozen of us had a pleasant, rain-free day welcoming Spring wildflowers.

At our first stop Neil showed us the efforts being made by Friends of Chiltern to re-establish some of the rarer orchids to the area. This was pleasing to witness. After that we carefully studied two areas at the Honeyeater Picnic Area and were given a challenge to find 8 orchid species. Although looking mainly downwards we were welcomed by Black-chinned Honeyeaters and a bird list is included.

As you will see from the plant list included, 8 orchids were indeed found as were many other plants. Perhaps the highlights of the day were Neil's graphic charades to help us distinguish the Nodding, Blunt and Dwarf Greenhoods. As well, it was great to encounter a very noticeable patch of Blue Fairies to brighten up the day. Of considerable interest to us also was the occurrence of Geebungs in fruit. Younger plants have noticeable hairy leaves and stems and it flowers in clusters of 1-20 producing generous quantities of grape-sized fruits. They were clearly visible.

Geebung is an Aboriginal name for the succulent fruit, a traditional source of food across much of the Australian continent. The fruits are edible for birds and other mammals as well.

**Bernie Datson** (Leader: Neil Blair)

**Plants observed:**

| Common Name            | Botanical Name                 | Common Name           | Botanical Name                                   |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Dusky Fingers          | <i>Caladenia fuscata</i>       | Blue Fairy            | <i>Cyanicula caerulea</i>                        |
| Slaty Helmet-orchid    | <i>Corybas incurvus</i>        | Honey Pots            | <i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>                      |
| Leopard Orchid         | <i>Diurus pardina</i>          | Spiny Rush            | <i>Juncus acutus*</i>                            |
| Wax-lip Orchid         | <i>Glossodia major</i>         | Australian Buttercup  | <i>Ranunculus lappaceus</i>                      |
| Blunt Greenhood        | <i>Pterostylis curta</i>       | Grasstree             | <i>Xanthorrea glauca subsp. angustissima</i>     |
| Nodding Greenhood      | <i>Pterostylis nutans</i>      | Mountain Flat-pea     | <i>Platylobium montanum</i>                      |
| Maroonhood             | <i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i> | Austral Bear's Ear    | <i>Cymbonotus preissianus</i>                    |
| Dwarf Greenhood        | <i>Pterostylis nana</i>        | Sticky Everlasting    | <i>Xerochrysum viscosum</i>                      |
| Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea | <i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>    | Small-leaf Parrot-pea | <i>Dillwynia phyllicoides</i>                    |
| Common Raspwort        | <i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>   | Pale Sundew           | <i>Drosera hookeri</i>                           |
| Geebung                | <i>Persoonia rigida</i>        | Drooping Wattle       | <i>Acacia difformis</i>                          |
| Derwent Speedwell      | <i>Veronica perfoliata</i>     | Golden Wattle         | <i>Acacia pycnantha</i>                          |
| Saloop                 | <i>Einadia hastata</i>         | Hedge Wattle          | <i>Acacia paradoxa</i>                           |
| Ivy-leaf Goodenia      | <i>Goodenia hederacea</i>      | Ploughshare Wattle    | <i>Acacia gunnii</i>                             |
| Hoary Sunray           | <i>Leucochrysum albicans</i>   | Juniper Wattle        | <i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>                         |
| Erect Guinea-flower    | <i>Hibbertia riparia</i>       | Cherry Ballart        | <i>Exocarpus cupressiformis</i>                  |
| Daphne Heath           | <i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>   | Mugga Ironbark        | <i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon subsp. sideroxylon</i> |
| Common Beard-heath     | <i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>     | Red Box               | <i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>                   |

**Birds observed**

|  |
|--|
| Black-chinned Honeyeater                             |
| Fuscous Honeyeater                                   |
| Yellow-faced Honeyeater                              |
| Yellow-tufted Honeyeater<br>(plus a nest with young) |
| White-plumed Honeyeater                              |
| Wood Duck  |
| Black Duck   |
| Australasian Grebe                                   |
| Noisy Friarbird                                      |
| Australian Raven                                     |
| Pied Currawong                                       |
| Grey Fantail   |
| Yellow Robin   |
| Western Gerygone                                     |
| Brown Treecreeper                                    |
| White-winged Chough                                  |
| Striated Thornbill                                   |



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater chicks, eagerly anticipating dinner. (P Seely)



Australasian Grebes (P Spencer)



Morel (*Morchella* sp) (P Seely)



Maroonhood - *Pterostylis pedunculata* (P Seely)



Ichneumon Wasp - *Netelin* sp. (P Seely)

**WARBY-OVENS NP, Killawarra Section**

**24 September 2022**

Despite around 35mm of rain in an overnight storm, 8 members went on the outing and were rewarded with a beautiful sunny day, comfortable temperature and no wind. We wandered along the Wildflower walk near the Camp area and such was the profusion of flowering plants we turned back after walking around 500m for a late lunch after almost 3hrs !!.

The walk is in a Eucalypt open forest with an overstorey of *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* (Red Ironbark) and *E. microcarpa* (Grey Box). The understorey is more sparse but with variety – Heaths (*Styphelia rufa* – Spoon-leaf Beard-heath, *Melichrus urceolatus*– Urn Heath, *Lissanthe strigosa* - Peach Heath, *Brachyloma daphnoides* – Daphne Heath) and Wattles (*Acacia acinacea* – Gold-dust Wattle, *A. verniciflua* – Varnish Wattle, *A. pycnantha* – Golden Wattle) were supported by *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and *H. riparia* (Grey and Erect Guinea-flowers), *Calytrix tetragona* (Fringe Myrtle), *Grevillea alpina* (Mountain Grevillea) and the Peas (*Hardenbergia violacea* – Purple Coral-pea, *Pultenaea laxiflora* – Loose-flower Bush-pea, *Dillwynia sericea* – Showy Parrot-pea).



The flowering groundcover included both the blue and white varieties of the Narrow-wing Daisy (*Brachyscome willisii*), Yam Daisy (*Microseris walteri*), Early Nancy (*Wurmbia dioica*), Bulbine (*Bulbine bulbosa*) and Chocolate (*Arthropodium strictum*) Lilies, the Pale (*Drosera hookeri*) and the Scarlet (*D. glanduligera*) Sundews and Soft Millotia (*Millotia tenuifolia*).



Soft Millotia - *Millotia tenuifolia* (N Blair).

In addition nine orchid species were identified – Blue Fairy (*Cyanicula cyanaea*), Dusky Fingers (*Caladenia fuscata*), Musk Hood-orchid (*C. moschata*), Hooded Caladenia (*C. cucullata*), Leopard Orchid (*Diuris pardina*), Wax-lip Orchid (*Glossodia major*), Purplish Beard-orchid (*Calochilus robertsonii*), Nodding Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*) and Dwarf Greenhood (*P. nana*).



Hooded Caladenia - *Caladenia cucullata*



Musk Hood-orchid - *Caladenia moschata*  
(N Blair)

Two butterfly species were seen – Painted Lady and White Caper. In a pile of Ironbark bark a Darkling Beetle was seen and Peter ‘snapped’ a Hanging Fly (tbc) attached to Rockfern.

And a fungus as well.....the very handsome Fairy Stool – *Colltrichia cinnamomea*



Painted Lady - *Vanessa cardui* (Neil Blair)



Darkling Beetle - *Chalcopteroides* sp. (N Blair)



Hanging Fly? (P Spencer)



Fairy Stool - *Colltrichia cinnamomea* (P Spencer)

The Eucalypts were not in flower so the Honeyeaters had moved on.

Birdlist, Warby Ovens NP

24 September 2022

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike  | Spotted Pardalote          |
| Buff-rumped Thornbill      | Western Gerygone           |
| Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo | White-throated Treecreeper |
| Kookaburra                 | White-winged Chough        |
| Noisy Friarbird            | Rufous Whistler            |
| Noisy Miner                | Sacred Kingfisher          |
| Pied Currawong             | Weebill                    |

This was supplemented by the following sightings on the trip to and fro. Black-shouldered Kites, Kestrels, Mountain Ducks, Yellow billed Spoonbill, White and Straw-necked Ibises and a Swamp Harrier.

Hail the glorious Spring of '22.

**Neil Blair**

(with Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups)

Plants observed:

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Dianella revoluta</i>                          | Black-anthered Flax Lily     |
| <i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>                      | Common Raspwort              |
| <i>Xerochrysum viscosum</i>                       | Sticky Everlasting           |
| <i>Hibbertia riparia</i>                          | Erect Guinea Flower          |
| <i>Arthropodium strictum</i>                      | Chocolate Lily               |
| <i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>                        | Blakely's Red Gum            |
| <i>Lomandra multiflora subsp. multiflora</i>      | Many-flowered Mat-rush       |
| <i>Geranium solanderi subsp. solanderi</i>        | Austral Crane's-bill         |
| <i>Drosera sp.</i>                                | Sundew                       |
| <i>Briza maxima*</i>                              | Large Quaking Grass          |
| <i>Briza minor*</i>                               | Lesser Quaking Grass         |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata*</i>                       | Ribwort/Plaintain            |
| <i>Plantago varia</i>                             | Variable Plaintain           |
| <i>Austrostipa scabra</i>                         | Rough Speargrass             |
|   | Small St John's Wort         |
| <i>perforatum subsp. veronense*</i>               | St John's Wort               |
| <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>                      | Sarsparilla                  |
| <i>Anthoxatum odoratum</i>                        | Bog grass/Sweet Vernal grass |
| <i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>                            | Bulbine Lily                 |
| <i>Cymbonotus preissianus</i>                     | Austral Bear's-ear           |
| <i>Convolvulus angustissimus subsp. fililobus</i> | Blushing Bindweed            |
| <i>Luzula meridionalis</i>                        | Common Woodrush              |
| <i>Ranunculus lappaceus</i>                       | Buttercup                    |
| <i>Pelargonium australe</i>                       | Austral Stork's-bill         |
| <i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>                       | Cut-leaf Goodenia            |
| <i>Leptorhynchos squamatus subsp. squamatus</i>   | Scaly Buttons                |
| <i>Swainsona recta</i>                            | Mountain Swainson pea        |
| <i>Diurus punctata var. punctata</i>              | Purple Diuris                |
| <i>Thelymitra sp</i>                              | Sun orchid                   |
| <i>Microtis sp.</i>                               | Onion orchid                 |
| <i>Acacia decora</i>                              | Western Silver wattle        |
| <i>Triglochon procerum</i>                        | Water Ribbons                |
| <i>Carex appressa</i>                             | Tall Sedge                   |
| <i>Juncus spp.</i>                                |                              |
| <i>Eucalyptus albens</i>                          | White Box                    |
| <i>Austrodanthonia sp.</i>                        | Wallaby Grass                |
| <i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>                       | Swamp Wally grass            |
| <i>Burchardia umbellata</i>                       | Milkmaids                    |
| <i>Eryngium ovinum</i>                            | Blue Devils                  |

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Dianella tarda</i>                      | Late-flowering Flax Lily |
| <i>Wahlenbergia sp.</i>                    | Blue Bell                |
| <i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>              | Bidgee-widgee            |
| <i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>             | Red Box                  |
| <i>Themeda triandra</i>                    | Kangaroo Grass           |
| <i>Cyperus eragrostis*</i>                 | Umbrella Sedge           |
| <i>Lomandra filiformis subsp. coriacea</i> | Wattle Mat-rush          |
| <i>Daviesia latifolia</i>                  | Hop Bitter-pea           |
| <i>Tricoryne elatior</i>                   | Yellow Rush-lily         |
| <i>Brunonia australis</i>                  | Blue Pincushion          |
| <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i>              | River Club Rush          |

**Glenda & Bernie Datson**

[thank you....another stunning Spring plant list!]

**WIRRAMINNA & POLLINATOR INSECT ID**

**13<sup>th</sup> November '22**

With the prospect of a wet day 8 members set out from Albury. North of Jindera we encountered several sections of flooded road but all were fordable. At Wirraminna we were joined by Diane (a new member) and Milena and David Dunn from Wagga (members of Murrumbidgee Field Nats). Judy Frankenberg, a long-time volunteer at the centre, made us welcome and Karen Retra lead the trip around the grounds. Almost immediately an Orchard Swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio aegeus*) greeted us. Although we didn't see any signs of pollination in action, the possible pollinators seen were: Hoverfly, Pintail, Skipper (Yellow-banded Dart), several other butterflies (Caper White, Cabbage White, Common Brown & Yellow Admiral), some Soldier-flies and a Lycid/Net-winged Beetle. Other insects and invertebrates seen included Christmas Jewel Spider, several species of Orb-weaving Spider, Jumping Spiders, Leaf-hopper and Spittlebug, a couple of species of dragonfly and damselfly, Australian Fruit-fly and 2 species of moth.

Among the flowers to attract insects were several species of *Eremophila* including *E. maculata* (known as Poverty, Emu or Fuchsia Bush), and in the seed-producing area *Velleia paradoxa* (Spur Velleia. a yellow flower), Chocolate Lilies and many others. Following the walk we were in the Education Centre for an enthusiastic presentation by Karen of pollinators to look out for. With a choice of 8000+ Wasps, Ants and Sawflies, 7000+ Flies, 10000+ Butterflies and Moths, 20000+ Bees to choose from, what are we waiting for! A new Pollinator Guide is available (please ask for your copy). That was the only time it rained. After lunch some of us went with Judy to view other parts of the grounds. It was very wet underfoot and a few trees had fallen. With such a wet period the weeds were rampant.

Another successful outing for all and many thanks to Karen and Judy for the special time they gave us. Also thanks to Neil and Karen for adding to our list of what we saw.

**Anne and Dick Andrews**



Spittle Bug - in the open (Cercopidae)  
(R Andrews)



Yellow-banded Dart (*Ocybadistes flavovittatus*)



Orb-weaver Spider (Araneidae)



Unidentified Australian Fruit Fly



Unidentified Mosquito

(R Andrews)

**HORSESHOE LAGOON**

**27<sup>th</sup> November '22**

The planned 'Introduction to Bird Watching' session with Ben Humphries at Wonga Wetlands had to be abandoned due to extensive flooding. Later however, when access to Horseshoe Lagoon was deemed satisfactory, Bernie & Phillip took the group on an alternative walk. Again, the area provided an enjoyable & informative outing for us all & some visitors. The day was warm but still – a perfect day for birdwatching - as well as Common Brown Butterflies & simply getting back outside. The paths were in good shape but many fallen trees were seen. Personally I had some wonderful sightings – including a Purple Swamphen on her nest, 6 young Moorhens cautiously out with their mother and my 'best ever' leisurely viewing of a Spotted Pardalote. [Nice to be back home!]

**Gail Steed**

Bird List, Horseshoe Lagoon

27 Nov 2022

|                                     |                           |                            |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Australian Raven                    | Kookaburra                | Sacred Kingfisher          |
| Blackbird                           | Little Friarbird          | Spotted Pardalote          |
| Black Duck                          | Little Pied Cormorant     | Starling                   |
| Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike (on nest) | Magpie                    | Superb Fairy-wren          |
| Black Swan (with 2 cygnets)         | Magpie Lark               | Welcome Swallow            |
| Brown Treecreeper                   | Masked Lapwing            | Whistling Kite             |
| Crested Shrike-tit                  | Noisy Friarbird           | White-breasted Woodswallow |
| Dusky Moorhen                       | Purple Swamphen (on nest) | White-plumed Honeyeater    |
| Fantail Cuckoo                      | Pied Currawong            | White-winged Chough        |
| Galah                               | Reed Warbler              | Willy Wagtail              |
| Grey Fantail                        | Red Wattlebird            | Wood Duck (with young)     |
| Grey Shrike-thrush                  | Rosella, Yellow (ssp)     | Yellow-billed Spoonbill    |
| Grey Teal (with young)              | Royal Spoonbill           |                            |
| Koel (heard)                        | Red-rumped Parrot         |                            |
| <b>Total = 41</b>                   |                           |                            |

**Bernie Datson & Phillip Seely**



Unidentified Skink – Eastern Water Skink?? (tbc)



Purple Swamp Hen, on nest

**YACKANDANDAH ALLAN'S FLAT**

**12<sup>th</sup> December '22**

The day began with a walk along the walking track from Mongan's Lane near Yackandandah but the birds were mostly back at Gap Flat. Before Lunch at Jan & Jenny's wonderful property, we walked down Miller Road & were treated to some great sightings of male Golden-headed Cisticolas and heard 2 different Quail calls – Brown Quail & Stubble Quail.

Naturally it was a great turnout, finishing with a walk around the property, a very convivial Christmas lunch and we beat the rain.

Birdlist , Allans Flat

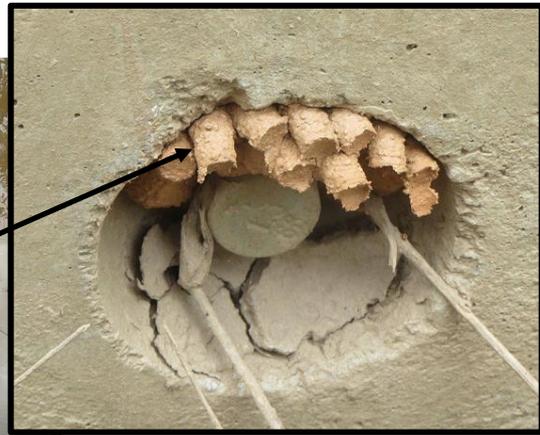
12 December 2022

|                           |                        |                          |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Australian Raven          | Gang-gang Cockatoo     | Spotted Pardalote        |
| Blackbird                 | King Parrot            | Striated Pardalote       |
| Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike | Kookaburra             | Stubble Quail            |
| Brown Quail               | Magpie Lark            | Sulphur-crested Cockatoo |
| Brown Treecreeper         | Mistletoe Bird         | Welcome Swallow          |
| Crested Shrike-tit        | New Holland Honeyeater | Western Gerygone         |
| Dusky Woodswallow         | Noisy Friarbird        | Whip Bird                |
| Fantail Cuckoo            | Reed Warbler           | White-browed Babbler     |
| Galah                     | Red Wattlebird         | White Ibis               |
| Golden-headed Cisticola   | Rufous Whistler        | White-plumed Honeyeater  |
| Grey Fantail              | Sacred Kingfisher      | Willy Wagtail            |
| Grey Shrike-thrush        | Satin Bowerbird        | Yellow-faced Honeyeater  |
| Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo | Scrubwren              | Yellow Robin             |
| House Sparrow             | Scissors Grinder       | Yellow-tufted Honeyeater |
| <b>Total = 42</b>         |                        |                          |

**Bernie Datson & Phillip Seely**



Dog Vomit Slime Mould - *Fuligo septica*, on a tree along the track



Nest of an enterprising, unidentified Wasp beside the path

At the bird bath at Jan & Jenny's...



New Holland Honeyeater – after a plunge (P Spencer)

White-browed Scrub Wren - on the brink.  
(P Spencer)



**ARTICLES**

**1 Grey-crowned Babblers - Conservation Status in NSW: Vulnerable**

Although not seen on the outing to Walla Walla Gum Swamp Reserve, this species is often seen there and was photographed earlier in the month by Helen.



Grey-crowned Babblers & Chough (H. Corrigan)

"Listed as Vulnerable in NSW, the Riverina supports a large proportion of this threatened species. In landscapes where remnant native vegetation is well connected, and of high quality, population densities of babblers are higher and the family group sizes they occur in are larger. Populations are lower in areas where habitat fragmentation has caused local populations to become isolated, and where their open woodland habitat is degraded."

(from: 'Travelling Stock Reserves - the natural gems of the New South Wales Riverina' by Ian Davidson and Chris Tzaros)

Number of NSW species listed as threatened species in NSW under the Biodiversity Conservation and Fisheries Management Acts at 31 December 2020\*

| Taxon grouping | Total no. of NSW native species | Total no. of species listed | % of species listed | Presumed extinct | Critically endangered | Endangered | Vulnerable |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Birds</b>   | 452                             | 140                         | 31%                 | 14               | 12                    | 21         | 93         |

(From NSW Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Threatened Species.)

## 2 A Green form of Purplish Beard Orchid

Helen Fitzgerald, a regular walker on Nail Can Hill, notified Clare of her finding of a pale Beard Orchid. Following a phone call, Neil was able to find the orchid and photograph it. He had seen a photo from Eileen Collins of an identical plant and felt that it is an uncommon mutation of the Purplish Beard Orchid (*Calochilus robertsonii*) with the mutation resulting in the genes now unable to express the primary colour red.

Following contact with Gary Backhouse (author of Bush Beauties) he has found "it is a condition called hypochromism, where the darker colour anthocyanin pigments (eg purple, red, blue) are partially to totally blocked, leaving the underlying paler anthoxanthin pigments (yellow, green, white) to show through. These plants are commonly but incorrectly called alba or albino. Hypochromism is most often seen in *Caladenia* species, but has been recorded in just about all terrestrial orchid genera in southern Australia. It's occasionally seen in *Calochilus robertsonii*, but only rarely in other *Calochilus* species."



*Calochilus robertsonii* - Purplish Beard-orchid –common form & 'hypochrome' form (N Blair)

Neil Blair (& Gary Backhouse)

## MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES & PHOTOS

'Not an Outing': Photos taken by Peter Spencer in his June garden:



Red Wattlebird



Silveryeye



Yellow-faced Honeyeater

## Upcoming Outings – Summer 2023

~ **10<sup>th</sup> February** – **AGM**, Wonga Wetlands – 11am. Bring chair & lunch to share. Contact Clare

~ **25<sup>th</sup> February** – Kremur St. boat ramp. Bring chair & supper to share. Contact Bernie

~ **12<sup>th</sup> March** – Kentucky State Forest. Meet SS&A car park. Bring refreshments & lunch. Contact Helen

~ **25<sup>th</sup> March** – Granya Cotton Tree Park. Meet Bellbridge toilet block. Bring refreshments & lunch.  
Contact Neil

*Please confirm details via Ecoportal & contact the outing leader in the week prior if you need a lift.  
[The program for the remainder of the year will be circulated soon & also made available via Friends of Chiltern website.]*