

# The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



May 2012 - Issue #193

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## Objects of the Club

To facilitate and promote the knowledge of natural history, and to encourage the preservation and protection of the Australian natural environment, especially that of the Murrumbidgee River Valley



Along the track  
at Bogolong



Red-capped  
Robin (Phillip  
Williams)  
Autumn  
Greenhoods (Eric  
Whiting) and  
Glossy Black  
Cockatoo (Nella  
Smith)

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

For the next issue by  
Wednesday 6 June

To Rowena Whiting

Email [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com)

Phone 6953 2612

**Bush Stone Curlew  
Program Talk  
this Thursday**

## Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

<b>President:</b>	Nella Smith	6959 1210	<b>Editor:</b>	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
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<b>Secretary:</b>	Penny Williams	6953 3524	<b>Web Co-ordinator:</b>	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Phil Tenison	6953 4869			

**MEETINGS** ARE HELD EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY

**FIELD TRIPS** NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

**LEETON** MEETINGS SECOND THURSDAY - Seminar Room 1, Block 34, Dept. Industry & Investment at 7.30 PM

**GRIFFITH** MEETINGS FOURTH THURSDAY - Conference Room, Dept. of Industry & Investment at 7.30 PM

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

### Membership enquiries:

<b>Leeton</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	<b>Griffith</b>	Joanne Tarbit	6962 9441	
<b>Narrandera</b>	Nella Smith	6959 1210	<b>Coleambally</b>	John Wilkinson	6954 4129	
<b>Annual Subscriptions:</b>	Family	\$45.00	Adult/Single	\$35.00	Journal only/Concession	\$25.00

Opinions expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

*It's on again!*

### **MFN Art and Photographic Exhibition**

Is on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 at 6.30pm

at

Yanco Agricultural Institute Conference Room

We are looking for your Art and Photography to exhibit!!

An invitation is extended to all to members and invited friends to come to the evening that includes viewing exhibits, eating and socializing so we are calling on members to bring food to share.

The menu is entrees (nibbles), casseroles and desserts.

Theme of the evening is

### ***A Focus on the Natural Environment***

#### **Categories**

Birds	Invertebrates
In praise of plants	Wild places
Creative Visions of Nature	Human impact on the Environment
Endangered Wildlife	MFN Activities
Fungi	A story of the natural environment
Nature in black and white	(e.g. may be told by several images
Animals	or an illustrated narrative or poetry)

With a special category

#### ***Caring for our Country Project***

It is requested that exhibits be submitted before the exhibition, if possible by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012. This enables organizers to have time to plan the exhibition.

Contacts: Penny Williams 02 6953 3524

or

Nella Smith 02 6959 1210

## Three Seasons in One Day

There was still a nip in the air as six members and two welcome guests (Peter & Sheila Bugden from Griffith) set out on 29 April for a walk around the Bogolong Hills. A touch of an early winter. A woolly layer was definitely the chosen attire, even though it was glorious sunshine.

We were immediately rewarded with a fly over of a Little Eagle. The recent rains had also produced a mild flowering of the Deane's Wattle adding a bit more colour to the fresh green of the bush. Tall Raspwort *Gonocarpus elatus* provided a prolific understorey.

Our route was westerly along the track close to the southern boundary

as far as the second small dam then a sharp right up the spur to the top track. Easy! Well not quite. The amount of fallen timber caused a lot of knee lifting and almost constant deviation around obstacles.

Nevertheless it was still pleasant walking and the bird list began to grow. For part of the way we were accompanied by a Red-capped Robin. This was the first sighting for the Bugdens. Their evident joy at seeing such a pretty bird brought home to the rest of us just how complacent we have become from seeing it so regularly.

As we steadily climbed the hill, the sunshine told us that it was still autumn – woollies were peeled off. To emphasise the point we came upon two patches of Autumn Greenhoods *Pterostylis sp. B*. They were in excellent condition with none of the stunting we have seen in the past few years.

Then came the *pièce de résistance* for the day. Three Glossy Black Cockatoos slowly but surely moving through, unfortunately sufficiently masked by foliage to get that wanted photo. Everyone was mesmerised by being able to see them quite well.

The top track has been cleared as a fire trail so walking back to the cars was much easier, but still punctuated by finds. It was here we experienced the third season – Common Fringe-myrtle *Calytrix tetragona* in flower and Urn Heath *Melichrus urceolatus* almost fully out. Both are Spring flowering species. Not quite the right month but a reminder that it is not too long to go before the bush bursts into colour again.

**Eric Whiting**

### Bogolong Bird List 29 April 2012

Little Eagle  
Sparrowhawk  
3 Glossy Black cockatoo  
Grey Shrike Thrush  
Rugous Whistler  
Grey Fantail

Red-capped Robin  
Inland Thornbill  
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill  
Grey Butcherbird  
White-winged Chough  
Magpie

Australian Raven  
Peaceful Dove  
Striped Honeyeater  
Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike



The sounds of birds attract our attention - at the start of our walk Photo: Rowena Whiting



Glossie food – cones of the Hill Oak Photo: Rowena



Common Fringe-myrtle Photo: Rowena Whiting

**Our route back to Leeton from Bogolong took us along Bull Oak Road to have a look at the newly filled lakes – Thompson Swamp and Lake Coolah. Estimated the depth of water at 1½ metres.**



## Glossy Black Cockatoo Habitat Mapping in the Riverina

Taken from a preliminary report by Ian Davidson and Sally Mann Dec 2011 for NSW Crown Lands

A survey was done in December 2011 to ascertain the extent of the Hill Oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) on crown reserves in the Riverina in order to determine whether food for the Glossy Black Cockatoos is a present or potential factor in the decline of their numbers.

The largest and healthiest stands of Hill Oak assessed on Crown Land were in the Brobenah Hills, Square Knob, Lake Cargelligo Reserve, Galore Hill, Brobenah Hall Road Reserve, Mount Olive, McPherson's Range and potentially Walleroobie. Many timbered ridges on private land in the Brobenah Hills and Narrandera Ranges around Rankin Springs and south of Lake Cargelligo appear to have significant stands of Hill Oak.

Many of the Hill Oaks seen were relatively young and large old Hill Oaks were very rare.

Several of the sites had high conservation values, apart from their Hill Oak status, for their diverse or unique flora. These include Bolero Hill with its Kangaroo Grass dominated slopes and Kurrajong overstorey, the western part of MacPherson's Range with good example of woodland growing on fertile soils and Lake Cargelligo and the adjoining Yelkin State Forest with diverse flora and many large hollow bearing trees including Mugga Ironbark. Many of these places we have visited and perhaps will revisit with different eyes. As a whole Ian was really impressed with the state of our bush, even though we had had ten years drought.

**Nella Smith**



**Female Glossy Black Cockatoo**

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## The Making of a Flood Plain

We instinctively accept that rivers bring down what has been eroded from the mountains and probably think it all eventually gets washed out to sea. For general river flows that is correct but not totally for our rivers. Our terrain is so flat and the river gradient is so low that the river cannot cut downward any more to deeply entrench itself in a valley. Consequently any excess flow, a flood, readily overtops the banks.

The amount of sediment a river can transport is directly proportional to the rate of flow. Within the banks flow rates can be maintained but as water spreads out over the banks the flow rate is dissipated. Sediments are dropped starting with the heavier, larger particles. This has the curious effect that the banks are built up higher than the surrounding country. This is the formation of natural levees. If the levee breaks as it will do from time to time, vast areas get flooded. If the river has built itself up too much a break can often cause a new course of the river to be formed. A few decades back the Yangtse River in China altered its course by over a hundred kilometres.

Changing courses over time steadily builds up the wide flood plain like the Riverina Plain. The Murrumbidgee has been doing this for hundreds of thousands of years and in parts the sediments are about 300 metres thick. Hang on, the present surface is only around 150 metres above sea level! The answer lies in the fact that the Earth's crust is very thin and floats on a fluid, be it very viscous, mantle. The crust can easily be warped from the movement of Continental Drift, and it also sags as more sediment accumulates at one spot.

Rivers are not only transporters of sediment, as the inhabitants of Yenda have just found out. Heavy rain on the hills washes the eroded rock down the slopes and if the flood is big enough, out across the plains. As in river floods the lighter particles, the clays, get transported the furthest.

You see the Riverina Plain is not just a flat boring and geologically dead place. It's alive and growing.

**Eric Whiting**

## Birding Notes



## FEATHER FACTS

All birds have to maintain healthy feathers for flight, but they all go about it in their own way. Most birds bathe but have different actions. Some stand belly deep in water and splash the water over their body. Others, such as swallows, swifts, owls, nightjars and kingfishers dive swiftly into the water, parrots like to stand in the rain with ruffled feathers and larks love to squat on the ground with wings and tail spread, and others including warblers flap in the rain or dew-soaked foliage, but at no time are any birds feathers soaked. They then retire to a quiet place and commence preening by dragging the oil (which contains a fungicide and antibiotics) from a gland at the base of the tail over each feather for maintenance which stops the feathers from becoming brittle.

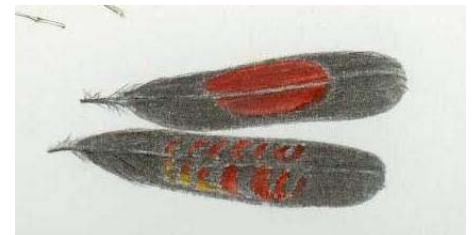
Not all birds bathe in water....some such as chickens, grouse and guinea fowl dust bathe. They scrape the soil and shuffle in the dust with their heads away from the sun. Sparrows like both methods and are often seen dusting themselves.

Larger birds which soar to great heights and for long distances such as pelicans, vultures and storks need to sunbathe which has proven to straighten out bent feathers within minutes by direct sunshine whereas it could take hours in the shade.

So there we are...its all to do with grooming.

### Sue Chittick-Dalton

Reference: Robert Burton's "Bird Behaviour"



Feathers of the Glossy Black Cockatoo

## Lightning Trip to Shepherds Hill, 5 May 2012

Shepherds Hill area had had 130ml rain the previous week unbeknown to us. Consequently we had to ford a few great stretches of water on the roads in Max's car. I tried to convince him that the road would be drier on the way out due to wind and sun.

Shepherds Hill area was saturated and very wet underfoot. The early morning walk showed numerous Southern Scrub Robin and Chestnut Quail thrush, some seen, many heard. There were many little birds like Weebills, Yellow, Inland Chestnut and Yellow-rumped Thornbills and many Red-capped Robin and Striated and Spotted pardalotes calling. Honeyeaters were scarce because there was little flowering but a White-fronted, a Yellow-plumed and many Striped Honeyeater s were seen.

Four or five Fan-tailed Cuckoos were even seen hawking around our tents and a Tawny Frogmouth flew in at dark.

A drive to Wheatfields and Whoey Tank produced Hooded Robins, Jacky Winter and many Thornbills.

On the way back on the Euabolong/Mt Hope Road just past the Round Hill lookout I saw a pair of Malleefowl on the edge of the road. Max came to a screeching halt and we watched them look to the left, look to the right and look to the left again as you would expect from road wise birds and then they sauntered across the road and disappeared into the bush.

Sunday on the return trip we called in at Lake Cargelligo. It was dotted with rafts of waterfowl most of which turned out to be Great-crested Grebe, more than 500 of them like none of us had ever seen.

We tallied more than 100 different species for the entire 2 days which we consider to be very good.

### Nella Smith



Malleefowl - Photo Nella Smith



Grebes - Photo Nella Smith

## Bush Stone Curlew Captive Breeding and Release Program

Yanco Meeting Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 7.30pm

Jan and Nev Lubke from Jindera will be our guest speakers at the May MFN Meeting at DPI Yanco.

They are keen to share their experiences in the Captive Breeding and Release Program of the Bush Stone Curlew and have generously offered to speak at our meeting. They also intend to visit properties in the area to see if there is suitable habitat for a trial release locally. Andrew Thompson is keen to be part of the release program and if time permits, we hope Jan and Nev will be able to check-out Kath Mahy's Euroley property where the last known Bush Stone Curlews in the local area were present just a couple of years ago.

I would encourage as many members as possible to attend the meeting as I'm sure it will be an interesting talk to hear of Jan and Nev's experiences in breeding these wonderful birds at their property in Jindera.

Max O'Sullivan

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## Birding across the Border

Report of my trip to South Australia with Nella Smith, Penny and Phil Williams - 9-21 April 2012

Nella and I left for SA on Easter Monday. We camped overnight at Pooginook Nature Reserve west of Renmark before meeting up with Penny and Phil at Port Augusta on the Tuesday (10 April). The best bird seen at Pooginook was the **Chestnut-crowned Babbler**.



Chirruping Wedgebill  
Photo: Phillip Williams

After some essential shopping for the days ahead Nella and I visited the Arid Lands Botanical Gardens on the western edge of town. First birds seen were **Chirruping Wedgebill** and many female and immature **White-winged Wrens** all sitting-up on tops of saltbushes taking in the late afternoon sun. At the lookout we saw quite a few familiar species and on the estuary sand banks below we could see several **Pied Oystercatcher** along with cormorants and lapwings.

Next morning Nella and I returned early to the gardens and saw many more wedgebills as well as **White-browed Babbler** and **White-fronted Honeyeater**.

At 8.30am we met with Penny & Phil and the head plant specialist for the gardens Bernie and Shirley an old friend of Penny's from her Leigh Creek days. Shirley is a guide at the gardens. The best bird on the walk around the gardens was the **Redthroat** – often a difficult bird to find but one was very co-operative and sat atop a dead bush for Phil to get some photos.



Redthroat - Phillip Williams

After the tour of the gardens, we headed for the part of the estuary near the power station and found well over 50 **Banded Stilt** feeding in the salty mud flats along with some **Black-winged Stilt** and **Red-necked Avocet**.

Heading north through Hawker, we turned in at Beltana Roadhouse for Warraweena which had a particular interest for Penny. The place is a privately run Nature Reserve and has many campsites for visitors to enjoy the peace and beauty of the place. Despite two nights of strong winds disturbing our sleep, we did get some good birds there in our early morning walk. The best being a scolding pair of

**Chestnut-rumped Fieldwren**, a bird I hadn't seen for many years, as well as **Little Woodswallow**.

Next morning we packed up and left for Leigh Creek for fuel, then onto Lyndhurst and the Strzelecki Track to Mount Lyndhurst Station where we had arranged to stay in the shearers' quarters for 2 nights. The purpose was to search for the very rare and elusive **Chestnut-breasted Whiteface** and **Thick-billed Grasswren**. The



Max, Nella, Penny, Bernie, Shirley at Botanic Gardens.  
Photo: Phillip Williams

grasswren was relatively easy to find but we had a frustratingly fruitless search for the whiteface. We looked in all the recommended areas but to no avail – not even a sign of them. The area had had some very good rain at the same time as we did and the countryside was very lush – so perhaps they moved elsewhere to more suitable habitat. They have been recently reported at Coober Pedy but that was a little too far for us. We did get a male **Cinnamon Quail-thrush** and a pair of **Rufous Fieldwren** which made up for the dip on the whiteface.

We then back-tracked through Copley to Arkaroola where we spent another 2 nights under the stars. The scenery was quite spectacular but the birds were a repeat of ones we had seen already, except for a pair of **Pied Honeyeater** which allowed good views and possibly a photo or two for Phil.

Next was onto Wilpena Pound where Nella and I decided to spend just 2 nights but P&P stayed on for an extra 2 nights. The main 'obsession' there was to look for the recently declared **Short-tailed Grasswren**, it was originally a sub-species of the **Striated Grasswren** but was considered as a separate species after DNA testing. The bird is resident on the nearby Stokes Hill Lookout and on our first attempt to find them, Nella managed a glimpse of one scurrying between the spinifex clumps covering the hillside. Next morning was more frustrating as none were heard let alone seen. The only compensation was to find several **Elegant Parrots** at a dam below the lookout.

That day we all piled into Phil's vehicle for a geological ride through time in the Brachina Gorge. Apart from the rocks and wonderful uplifts and faults along the way, we got excellent looks at the **Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby** that call the gorge home – such beautiful creatures. At one stop, we did get good looks at what I feel certain is a **Slaty-backed Thornbill**. It is south of its reported range and Phil got a few quick shots of it so hopefully we can get it positively identified at some stage. On the return to camp, we revisited the lookout and with 3 lots of keen ears, Phil indicated he heard the grasswren calling so we went over to him. I got a view of one hopping between the spinifex and even got my bins onto it as it scurried off – but not a 'tick' as I must see it more clearly than that!



Next morning, Nella and I moved on to Gluepot Reserve near Waikerie for the last 2 nights of our trip. We had planned to spend three nights there but the weather looked threatening so we decided to pack-up and return home on Saturday (21<sup>st</sup>) just to be safe as getting out of Gluepot after rain is not easy.

Birds seen there were **Chestnut Quail-thrush**, **Southern Scrub-robin**, **Crested Bellbird**, **Yellow-plumed**, **White-browed Treecreeper** and **White-fronted Honeyeater**, a reasonably certain small flock of **Black-eared Miner** and a pair of **Shy Heathwren** along with a frustrating look into the sun of a definite male **Red-forested Whistler**. It disappeared before we could get a good look never to be seen again for the rest of our time there – bummer!

We did see a female **Gilbert's Whistler** along with stunning close views from a hide of 22 **Regent Parrot** coming in to drink in the early morning. Interestingly, the flock consisted of just 2 fully mature male (yellow) birds – all the rest were females or immature birds.

An amazing sight was of a pair of **Chestnut Quail-thrush** performing in the middle of the track. Nella and I were walking along the track and they both came out in front of us both birds with necks extended looking up as if to see if there was a bird of prey about. The one in the middle of the track proceeded to strut with head still looking up and did this for about 5 minutes before disappearing into the scrub never to be seen again. It was quite extraordinary and I am trying to find out if this is usual behaviour. Nella took some photos with her little camera and you can see the stance of the bird.

In all we managed to get over 130 species – I am still to reconcile my overall list with Nella's individual site lists.

If you have not been to the Flinders Rangers, then I suggest it is a MUST – it is so stunningly beautiful and a photographer's dream as Phil & Penny will undoubtedly attest. BUT BEWARE, do not go during school holidays as the campgrounds are packed!

**Max O'Sullivan**

## Wetlands All Full

All the local Griffith wetlands are still full, with varying amounts of wildlife – lets face it, the waterbirds are spoilt for choice and normally thriving scraps of water are vacant in favour of better pickings elsewhere.

Lake Wyangan South is dropping slightly as it is being pumped back up to the irrigation channel and 'reverse flowed' back through town and out to Warburn Swamp, which already looks full from what can be glimpsed from the Hillston Rd. A flock of Pelicans were lazily heading that direction.

Barren Box Swamp has dropped a metre or two from its flood maximum, but there was not much wildlife to be seen, less so than when it was at peak and spreading into the farmlands on the western edge.

Campbell's Swamp is being well used by ducks, maybe due to having plenty of perching places, while the nearby open Nericon Swamp is only lightly inhabited. The huge lake of flood water that has engulfed farmland in the Myall Park area has been a disaster for the farmers, but there are huge numbers of birds enjoying the wide, open, shallow areas, especially Ibis, Black Swan, Pelican, Spoonbills, Stilts, Swallows and ducks. I suspect this might be one of the grazing grounds of the Plumed Whistling-ducks that head out each night from Campbell's Swamp. The lake is about five kilometres out the Rankins Springs Rd from Beelbangera and easily visible from the main road although a spotting scope would be more useful than binoculars.

On a day trip we ventured along the Mid Western Highway to see the Mirrool Creek crossing south of Gunbar. There was a strong flow under and also over the road, no end to the water view across the paddocks (no actual 'creek line' is noticeable here), and plenty of bird life such as Coot and Grebe nearby, and Ibis, Cormorant and Pelican flying back and forth. There are plenty of shallow lakes to fill between Gunbar and Booligal, but with water still flowing strongly from Barren Box Swamp, one would expect the water to eventually reach the Lachlan. Closer to Hay flocks of Terns (probably Crested) swung back and forth in formation across flooded paddocks.

Flood water along the Lachlan has filled Lake Brewster and was worth an overnight campout – well I thought it was full but I found the water is still running a banker along the canal into the lake as well as pouring impressively over the spillway to continue along the Lachlan. The lake is so vast and access limited so it is impossible to estimate what number or variety of birdlife is at home, but what views are available indicate flocks of Ibis, Cormorants and Pelican as specks in the sky against the far hills. Whistling Kites and Willie Wagtails stood out as being more common than usual.

**Neil Palframan**



Photos by Neil and Johanna  
From top: A glimpse of life on  
Lake Brewster - Pelicans and Ibis.  
Things that should not be playing  
on the highway.  
Hoary-headed Grebe and Coot by  
the highway.  
Mirrool Creek crossing the Mid  
Western Highway.





# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

These sightings are from members' observations. Please check with the relevant person before quoting any record.

<b>Superb Parrot</b> [many]	Euroley	Early April	Kathy Mahy
Kathy also reported seeing <b>Ibis</b> , <b>Black Cormorants</b> and many <b>Spoonbills</b> since the floods at Euroley.			
<b>Kookaburra</b>	Myrtle Street, Leeton	05/04/12	Barb Mansell
<b>Silvereye</b> [6]	Narrandera garden (under sprinkler)	04/04/12	Betty Bradney
<b>Blue-faced Honeyeater</b> [1]	Museum garden, Narrandera	01/04/12	Betty Bradney
<b>Red Wattlebird</b> [1]	Museum garden, Narrandera	01/04/12	Betty Bradney
<b>Pee Wee</b> [1]	Museum garden, Narrandera	01/04/12	Betty Bradney

All 3 were in the same bush.

<b>Black Kite</b>	Narrandera Tip	01/04/12	Roy Wade
<b>Black-fronted Dotterel</b>	Old Brobenah Road, Leeton	31/03/12	Kathy Tenison
<b>Spotted Harrier</b>	Old Brobenah Road, Leeton	31/03/12	Kathy Tenison
<b>White-bellied Sea-Eagle</b> [pair]	Five Mile, Narrandera	31/03/12	Nella Smith
<b>White-bellied Sea-Eagle</b> [Imm.]	Sturt H'way west of Narrandera	09/04/12	Max O'Sullivan

Bird was trying to retrieve an injured Silver Gull but was bombarded by Masked Lapwing and missed it.

<b>Superb Parrot</b> [30+]	Sturt H'way west of Darlington Point	21/04/12	Nella Smith
<b>Plumed Whistling-Duck</b> [200+]	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	23/04/12	Max O'Sullivan

Keith Hutton had reported 700 Whistling-Duck at Fivebough earlier that week but that all had gone by 29th.

<b>Pink-eared Duck</b>	Fivebough Swamp	29/04/12	Keith Hutton
<b>Diamond Firetail</b>	Evans Smyles Rd, Leeton	28/04/12	Keith Hutton
<b>Hooded Robin</b>	Evans Smyles Rd, Leeton	28/04/12	Phil Tenison
<b>Pallid Cuckoo</b>	Evans Smyles Rd, Leeton	28/04/12	Phil & Keith
<b>Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo</b>	Evans Smyles Rd, Leeton	28/04/12	Phil & Keith
<b>Olive-backed Oriole</b> [pr]	Evans Smyles Rd, Leeton	28/04/12	Phil & Keith
<b>Major Mitchell Cockatoo</b> [30+]	Griffith Golf Course around the clubhouse	28/04/12	Nella Smith
<b>Great Crested Grebe</b> [14]	Lake Wyangan south side	28/04/12	Nella Smith
<b>Blue-billed Duck</b>	Campbell's Swamp, Griffith	28/04/12	Nella Smith
<b>Plumed Whistling Duck</b> [>500]	as above	28/04/12	Nella Smith

Neil Palframan reported small numbers at Campbell's earlier that week and by the Friday (27<sup>th</sup>), the numbers had exploded to well over 500 and possibly 1000 birds roosting in the dead trees in the swamp. We assume that the birds had been the ones at Fivebough earlier that week and had moved to Griffith.

<b>Cockatiel</b> [10]	'Winery' Whitton Stock Route Rd, Yenda	28/04/12	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Royal Spoonbill</b> [50]	Rankin Springs Rd, Beelbangera	29/04/12	Neil Palframan
<b>Rainbow Lorikeet</b>	Nericon (1 <sup>st</sup> sighting in Nericon)	30/03/12	Neil Palframan
<b>Mallee Ringneck Parrot</b> [pr]	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	29/04/12	Keith Hutton

This is the first time these parrots have been recorded by Keith at Fivebough even though they are in the area and seen close by.

<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [3]	Bogolong via Narrandera	29/04/12	Club Outing
<b>Little Eagle</b> [1]	Bogolong via Narrandera	29/04/12	Club Outing
<b>Water Rat</b> [1]	Fivebough Swamp	30/04/12	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Barn Owl</b> [1]	Palm Ave, Leeton near Woolies	01/05/12	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Brown Goshawk</b> [fem]	Pendula St, Leeton	01/05/12	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [2]	Narrandera Wetlands	30/04/12	Sandra Henderson

Sandra and Michael Robbins from the Canberra Ornithologists Group reported this sighting.

<b>White-bellied Sea-Eagle</b>	Lake Brewster via Rankin Springs	09/04/12	Neil Palframan
<b>Crested Shrike-tit</b>	Lake Brewster via Rankin Springs	09/04/12	Neil Palframan

## Some items of news from your editor

### Cancellation of the Birdfair

It has been announced this week that the Birdfair due to take place in September has been cancelled. This is due to the extensive rain and flooding in early March. The wetlands are still under water and are likely to remain so for some time.

### Condolences to the Bradney family

It is with sadness that we advise the passing of Allan Bradney, Betty's husband, last week. A quiet, unassuming person who was well liked and devoted to his family. Of his various pursuits his achievements of building a house and a light aircraft which he enjoyed flying stand out. Our sincere condolences to Betty and her family at this time.

### Photo and Painting Exhibition

The Wades, Mary and Roy organised this display of their various artistic works at the end of last month in aid of Can Assist. A pleasure to view. Well done to you both. Maybe we'll be able to see some of these pictures at the MFN display night. Photo shows Mary and Roy (almost hidden) at the exhibition.



### Pictures of the local floods

At the April meeting in Yanco we were able to see the considerable extent of the extensive rain event and flooding. Penny Williams showed a number of aerial shots that she and Phil had been able to take from a light aircraft (Peter Draper). We were able to determine how the water has flowed. Kathy Mahy showed us the river at her place, near Euroley; many were taken from her canoe as she paddled her way around the area.

## \*\*\*\* COMING EVENTS \*\*\*\*

- 10 May Thursday**      **Yanco Meeting** at 7:30pm in the Seminar Room 1, Block 34 at Industry & Investment NSW, Yanco Ag Institute.  
**Guest Speakers:** - Jan & Neville Lubke  
   Captive Breeding Bush Stone Curlew  
**Contact:** Nella Smith 6959 1210 or 0428890537  
**See page 5 for more detail.**
- 13 May Sunday**      **Field Trip – Walk in the Brobenah Hills**  
**Meet at Leeton PO at 8:30am**  
**Bring morning tea and lunch.**  
**Contact:** Nella Smith 6959 1210 or 0428890537
- 27 May Sunday**      **Bushwalk –**
- 6 June Wednesday**      **Copy for June newsletter is due.** Please send to Rowena –  
Email: [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com). Phone: 6953 2612.
- 14 June Thursday**      **Yanco Meeting** at 7:30pm in the Seminar Room 1, Block 34 at Industry & Investment NSW, Yanco Ag Institute.  
**Topic:** TBA  
**Contact:** Nella Smith 6959 1210 or 0428890537
- 23 June Saturday**      **Art and Photographic Exhibition**  
Will be held at the Yanco Agricultural Institute at 6:30pm with a casserole meal. (Bring to share)  
Please note the organisers would like the exhibits to be submitted by 18 June.  
**See page 2 for full details.**  
**Contacts:** Penny Williams 02 6953 3524 or Nella Smith 02 6959 1210