

NEWSLETTER - BIRDLIFE BUNBURY

On the Wing June 2016



Our highly esteemed Bruce Buchanan was bestowed with honour this week with a plaque recognizing his invaluable contribution for recording birdlife across the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Reserves in the South West. The plaque is at Byrd Swamp, north of Bunbury. "Well-deserved Bruce".



GOOD BOOKS Bruce has handed me some very interesting textbooks to us as he no longer needs them. Some are difficult to obtain.

- "Raptor Identification", Field guide to Australian birds of prey. Beruldsen. 1995
- "Field Guide to the Birds of Australia". Pizzey and Knight. 9th edition, 2012.
- "The Big Year", A tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession. Mark Obmascik. 2004. A fun, rollicking, feather-ruffler of a read. A book about bird observers.
- "Birds of Western Australia". DL Serventy & HM Whittell. 5th edition. 1976
- "Threatened Birds of Australia". An annotated list. RAOU 1990.
- "Shorebirds of Australia". Geering, Agnew & Harding. 2008
- "The State of Australian Birds 2015". Headline trends for terrestrial birds.
- "Birds of Southwestern Australia". An atlas of changes in distribution and abundance of the wheatbelt fauna. Denis Saunders & John Ingram. 1995
- "Wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain". Volume 7. Waterbird usage of wetlands. Storey, Vervest, Pearson & Halse. 1993

If you would like to add a specialist book or two to your bookshelf, please make a small donation to Threatened Bird Network: <https://support.birdlife.org.au/donate-now> If you choose Threatened Bird Network from the bottom of the drop down list, the donation will go directly into the account and will be used for TBN related projects.

PELAGIC BOAT TRIP – REPORT Sunday 26th May

Six of us from Bunbury district – Wendy, Iain, Chris, Greg, Peter and I. An exciting day offshore from Busselton to Augusta. Albatrosses dipped and glided around us including Yellow-nosed Albatross, Black-browed, and the Sooty. Also Gannets, Crested Terns, Soft-plumaged Petrel, Giant Petrel and a smaller petrel similar in size to the Welcome Swallow. We set free another species of rehabilitated albatross that had been beach-washed in Busselton. A Humpback Whale came close, and Common Dolphins too. The complete bird list is as yet unavailable.

BUNBURY TUART FOREST SURVEY Saturday 21st May

Cancelled because of stormy weather. Doug, Bruce, Anne, Graeme, Peter Kn., Iain and I enjoyed a coffee at Vat instead.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS IN 2016 Susanne Becker, Carol Dorant, Iain Hensby, Peter Kneebone, Woody Woodhouse and Hayden Cannon.

WA BIRD NOTES June 2016 – BirdLife WA members who receive this journal, see: BirdLife Bunbury’s report in “Country Branches”, P.29. Eurasian Curlew on Leschenault Estuary. Photographs and reports re scattered throughout

WHITE-BREASTED ROBIN AT DALYELLUP

Reported by Natalie Olsen in May. A most unusual little bird of the forest. Is it a visitor, or a resident bird lingering from the days not so long ago, when Dalyellup was an ancient forest? Most people don’t even know it exists, it is so rarely seen nowadays. Robins are highly vulnerable to cat predation being ground feeders of insects that live in leaf litter. A good reason to keep moggie indoors by the fireside – day and night. What a treasure to protect!



COCKATUBES – people ask where to obtain these from time to time

There are two organisations that which make and install cockatoo nesting hollows. The first group to do this was the Serpentine Jarrahdale landcare group - see www.blackcockatoos.org.au . They make good quality cockatubes and I imagine their pricing is competitive at about \$350 each but I understand that, if you want them to install the tubes instead of doing it yourself, they insist upon using a cherry picker machine which adds significantly to the cost and requires good vehicle access to the trees in which the tubes are to be installed.

The second group and one that I'm happy to recommend is the Blackwood Basin Group - see www.blackwoodbasingroup.com.au/our-work/iconic-species/forest-black-cockatoo/ . Through their now moved on project officer Joby Rand, I purchased 3 cockatubes for about \$350 each and then used a Bridgetown-based tree climber (arborist) Joly who can climb any tree and erect the cockatubes in the best possible places without being limited by the limitations of a cherry picker. Because Joby is now working up north in another job, you'll need to contact one of his two part-time replacements kristen@blackwoodbasingroup.com.au or margaret@blackwoodbasingroup.com.au who, being new, may need to take a bit more time to get you a price and arrange for Joly to do the erection etc.

Of the 3 cockatubes I've had installed on our Boyanup blocks, one is already showing signs of usage, with the purpose-built gnawing piece of wood showing signs of gnawing.

Bernie Masters

SHOREBIRDS ON THE RADIO

The first episode of the ABC – BBC co-production on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway is now live on the ABC website. This episode starts off with the birds over-wintering in Australia, and you should be able to listen now via this link.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/flying-for-your-life-1/7461802>

There will be three more episodes over the next three weeks, and in the next five days an extensive web article. I hope that you enjoy listening. (The BBC World Service Episode will be up soon too – they differ slightly in duration.)

Chris Hassell, Global Flyway Network

www.globalflywaynetwork.com.au

Keep 'em flying

Editor Sue Kalab

SOME MEMORIES

Remember these?



Stirling Wetlands, celebrating 4 years with champagne. 2015



Our first outing at Leschenault Conservation Reserve. 2011



Tuart Forest team with Sue Mather. 2011



Victoria, Margaret and Doug, 2011



Dalyellup Lakes. 2015



Fave and David. 2015