

SWAMPS, RIVERS & RANGES SPRING UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Due to the changing situation around Covid we are revising our Face to Face events schedule. We are always interested in hearing what type of events you would like to see in our region, so please let us know.

UPCOMING FIELD DAYS:

To join us on an upcoming field day send us an email to register your interest and so we can let you know the specific locations and needs for each day.

When the weather is nice there are occasionally additional opportunities beyond those listed below.

BIRD SURVEY FIELD DAYS:

Warby's Spring Bird count - 8.30am, 14th November - Pine Gully Falls Picnic area- Followed by morning tea.

Bushfire recovery project field days (may be subject to change):

29th- 31st October
3rd- 5th December



WOODLAND BIRD ID FOR NORTH EAST VICTORIA EVENT

Our Woodland bird ID event was held online on the 8th of September. We heard from speakers Richard Loyn, Ben Humphries and Neville Bartlett. Our presenters spoke about which features of birds can be used for identification, relevant tools and resources available to help you ID birds and some of the tricky species within our region and how to spot the differences.

The key take away message get out there and start looking and practising is the best way to develop your bird id skills. This event is a part of the Bush for Birds program supported by the North East CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Please contact our project coordinator, Sophie Enders (swampsriversranges@gmail.com) for membership forms or further information on any of these activities. You can also visit our website for more information

<http://swampsriversandranges.org.au/>

BIRD SURVEYS

Spring surveys are conducted throughout November

We completed winter bird surveys at over 100 sites (including Warbys and Bush for Birds projects). An exciting find was made by Christine Robinson, who photographed an adult male Superb Parrot feeding with 8 King Parrots on fruits of a White Cedar in a garden on Woolshed Road. It's a rare species here, and mainly a summer visitor to Victoria.

John Kelly found five Swift Parrots in a flowering Ironbark in the Killawarra Range on 18 June, and others were seen nearby earlier in the season.

Jan Heywood found 15 Turquoise Parrots at Gapsted and we've seen many in the Warbys.

Spring came to us before winter was over: many birds started their spring songs in July (e.g. White-browed Scrubwren, Grey Shrike-thrush and White-throated Treecreeper) and male Superb Fairy-wrens turned blue. Scrubwrens, Magpies, Wood Ducks and Welcome Swallows began nesting as days lengthened, undeterred by cold weather. Little Eagles have been displaying overhead.

Summer migrants began arriving in August (e.g. Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Dusky Woodswallow, Tree Martin and Olive-backed Oriole), and Rufous Whistlers and Western Gerygones came here in the first week of September.

Near Beechworth in August we saw a Crescent Honeyeater, a Black Kite surfing the mist in August and 80 Satin Bowerbirds doing a daily movement along the ridge. Noisy Friarbirds and other honeyeaters have been moving south into the hills, as have Flame Robins and Australasian Pipits. Lucky observers have reported Scarlet Honeyeaters in the Warbys and at Mansfield. A Pelican, a Musk Duck and 4 Silver Gulls (rare here) visited Lake Sambell.

Painted Honeyeaters and White-throated Gerygones have arrived in the last week.

Please let us know if you see something interesting!

SWAMPS, RIVERS & RANGES

SPRING UPDATE

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

- We have been collating and analysing our collective bird survey data from Winter see summary above.
- We hosted our navigating climate change in North-East landscapes forum which was a fantastic and collaborative event. We are now collating the feedback and notes. PDF's of the presentations are now available on our website
- We have attended a range of events and planning sessions to help keep SRR well educated in the issues affecting the region.
- We continue to sort through images collected from our motion cameras as a part of the bushfire recovery project.



OUR TOP TRICKS FOR SPENDING TIME IN OUR NATURAL AREAS

1. **Dress the part-** We recommend the following to make your time as safe and enjoyable as possible: sturdy shoes which support your ankles and cover your toes, long pants, different layers for as the day warms and cools, a hat and sunscreen.
2. **Let someone know where you are going-** whilst phone reception in our area is improving its not always guaranteed, letting someone know where you are heading and when your expecting to be back.
3. **Stay hydrated-** make sure you take plenty of drinking water especially if you are walking long distances or if the forecast is for a high temperature.
4. **Record what you see-** whether conducting a survey or just enjoying your time, take a notepad and camera to record the interesting and beautiful things you see.
5. **Snake safety-** As the weather warms up snakes are waking up and definitely active in our area. Watch where you walk and carry a snake bandage with you.
6. **Enjoy your time-** Spending time in natural environments has many benefits for your health and wellbeing. Take the time to appreciate the beauty of the landscapes in the North East region.

WARBY'S GREEN LISTING AND SURVEY

With the exciting announcement that the Warby-Ovens National Park has been added to the IUCN Green List, one of only four sites across Australia. we are please to have been able to contribute to this process through the monitoring of birds within the park.

You can read more about the announcement here:

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/warby-ovens-park-earns-international-recognition>

Our winter survey aimed to sample those bird species that remain in the area throughout Winter and including winter visitors from Tasmania or the local highlands. In box-ironbark forests it is common to find a winter influx of nectivorous birds (Loyn 1985; Tzaros 2005), attracted to flowering eucalypts.

During winter surveys volunteers found a group of five Swift Parrots in a flowering Ironbark in the Killawarra Range on 18 June, and others were seen nearby earlier in the season: this endangered species is a winter visitor from Tasmanian breeding sites, and our area is of global importance for its conservation. Another exciting find was two Chestnut-rumped Thornbills with a large mixed flocks of thornbills, sittellas and treecreepers near Pine Gully picnic site in the Warby Range on 4 July: this species is scarce in our area, and more common further inland. Flocks of Turquoise Parrots have been seen both in the Warby Ranges and at Gapsted. The surveys over 2019 and 2020 have shown that the park continues to support a diverse bird community, including at least ten of the FFG listed Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community. We look forward to further analysis of the

Winter data and to our next Spring survey set to occur in November, 2021. Swamps, Rivers & Ranges thanks the valued efforts of volunteers who contribute to the collection of this data.



We would love to tell you more about our projects and help us continue to generate information that will help us manage our landscapes for the benefit of wildlife and people. You can now join our mailing list or become a member for just \$22 for 3 years.

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