

SWAMPS, RIVERS & RANGES AUTUMN UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SRR AGM 6.30pm Friday 25th March
Vine hotel Wangaratta, \$10 for dinner

Guest speaker Richard Loyn will be telling us about searching for snow leopards in China and the lessons learnt from the community.

Please RSVP for catering purposes.

Faunal Stories of North East Victoria
closing 30th March 2022

Submit your story, see more details on page 2

Off the grid living festival
April 9th + 10th

Come along and say hello to us, we are sharing a stall with the Ovens Landcare Network

Tricky Bird ID

Wednesday 13th April, 6-7.30pm

Online via zoom

Bookings to attend via:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BYFYV>

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.

Field camera set up

Field camera retrieval

Spotlight survey



Join Us!

Did you know you can become a member of Swamps, Rivers & Ranges? Membership is just \$22 for three years and will help us to continue telling you about our projects and generate information to better manage our landscapes for the benefits of wildlife and people. Get in touch to sign up!

BIRD SURVEYS

Summer surveys are conducted throughout February
Update from Richard Loyn

Many thanks to all who have submitted summer counts, and the data are being processed. Some exciting observations were made during our regular counts and at other times.

On 18 Feb Matilda Terry and John Kelly saw 7 Magpie Geese with 5 downy young on an ephemeral red gum wetland in Boorhaman/East Peechelba (overlapping West Boundary Rd, between Robinson Rd and McInnes Rd), probably a new breeding record for that site.

A Great Crested Grebe returned to Lake Sambell in Beechworth but as far as I know the species didn't breed there this year.

On 22 Feb I heard and then saw a Red-browed Treecreeper in unburnt Red Box woodland near Carboor, an unusually dry habitat for that species: all three local treecreeper species were present on the 20-minute count I was doing at the time for our bushfire recovery project.

Stubble Quail have been unusually common in the paddocks, and Painted Button-quail in the woodlands.

On 12 March Janet Chapman and Greg Hardham (Birders from Albury-Wodonga) found a flock of 12 Swift Parrots in Killawarra (near the dam on Northwest Track), probably feeding on lerps in Grey Box: this is a remarkably early autumn record for this endangered winter migrant from Tasmania.

Several people have seen White-throated Needletails in recent weeks, always fabulous birds to watch, especially when we realise how far they need to go to breed in north-east Asia.

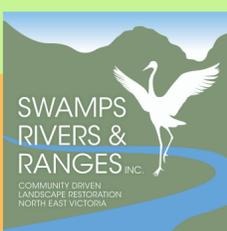
Autumn migration is clearly in progress: March 15th I heard lots of Rainbow Bee-eaters calling over our house near Beechworth, and Spotted and Striated Pardalotes were calling hard as they moved through the treetops. An Olive-backed Oriole was making a strange call which I think was its imperfect imitation of a Red Wattlebird, at full volume from a treetop, probably trying to assert itself against Red Wattlebirds which were trying to chase it away from our fig tree.

On 1 March Nicki Munro saw 3 Rufous Fantails at One Tree Hill, an early date for autumn migration.

Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to the data collection and all those who sent through special sightings.

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/>



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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

- We have been collating and analysing our collective bird survey data from Summer see summary above.
- We have been planning a suite of bird ID and other topic based events for delivery across 2022.
- 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.
- We've been setting up more cameras in the field - if you'd like to come along and learn how this is done, please get in contact

GRANT SUCCESS!

We were fortunate to receive 2 new grants for projects across 2022:

Our Growing into a climate ready future project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Community Mini-grants Climate Ready Hume program. This project will focus on native vegetation in the North East region and its response to climate change. We are collating content for easy access in the prelude to a forum to be hosted in June. More information on where to access the literature review, case studies and how to attend the forum will be in our next newsletter.



Our Engage, connect and appreciate - The value of citizen science volunteers in North East Victoria project has been supported by the Victorian Government as part of the Victorian Landcare Grants Program.

This project will focus on connecting with current and new volunteers and communities. Our faunal stories (which you can contribute to) are just one part of this project, we will also be hosting a number of bird ID events, volunteer connection events and some mentor training. More information on when and how to attend events will be coming soon and available via email and on our socials.

FAUNAL STORIES OF NORTH-EAST VICTORIA

We want to hear from you about your favourite stories of interactions with our local faunal species from the North East Victorian region.

We will be collating these stories into a booklet showcasing the important interactions between communities and their environments.

Stories should be about native fauna within the North East Victorian region, and positive in nature. Just two ideas are that is could be about the joy a particular species brings or a time when you've witnessed something special.

Stories can be submitted in writing via email or word document attachment and should be no longer than approx. 250 words long. Submissions should include your full name and can be submitted through to the end of March.

We look forward to hearing about the great stories of our local native fauna from the North East region.

As always if you have seen something exciting or snapped a great pic let us know, we love to hear what's happening in the region



OUR NEW GUIDE TO MONITORING WILDLIFE

We are excited to announce that our new guide to monitoring wildlife has now been printed and produced. We will be putting an online version on our website and will provide opportunities in the new year to get your hands on a hard copy. The guide includes some tips to maximising your time spent outdoors monitoring wildlife and showcases some of the species you might see in North East Victoria.



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