

SWAMPS, RIVERS & RANGES SPRING UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bird survey volunteer catch ups

We greatly appreciate the efforts of all of our survey volunteers and so want to thank and touch base through a series of morning teas.

You can join us at the following dates and locations:

Beechworth - 11th October, 10am, Location TBC - To

cover Burgoigee, Wooragee and Everton survey areas
Greta - 15th October, 8am, Glenrowan, join us in the field to undertake some surveys and meet other surveyors.

Birds in gardens workshop

21st September, 6.30pm online

bookings via <https://www.trybooking.com/CCLUQ>

Join SRR as we discuss which native bird species access garden environments and how we can encourage them and provide suitable habitat and feed resources.

Warby's IUCN Greenlisting celebration day

9th October, 11am-3pm

Wenhams campground, Warby-Ovens National Park

The official launching of the listing of the Warby-Ovens NP as a greenlisted site.

Managing your property for biodiversity

12th October, 6pm online

bookings via <https://www.trybooking.com/CCLUS>

Join Swamps, Rivers & Ranges as we discuss managing your property to promote biodiversity benefits.

SRR guest speaker Andrew Bennett

19th October, 7pm

Before our next committee meeting we are excited to welcome Andrew Bennet as a guest speaker discussing his woodland bird research.

Annual Warby's bird survey

6th November, 8am- lunch time

Meeting at Pine gully picnic area, join us for a morning of surveys followed by lunch. Bookings via:

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

For all events where no link is provided please contact us to book in to attend. We are always interested in hearing what type of events you would like to see in our region, so please let us know.

BIRD SURVEYS

Spring surveys are conducted throughout November

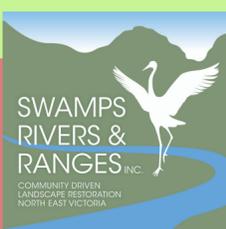
Update from Richard Loyn:

Many thanks to all who have submitted Winter counts. A total of 1845 individual birds of 94 species were observed (on or off-site) from the 42 completed surveys. Across all sites the five most numerous species were Superb Fairy-wren (173), Australian Magpie (104), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (98), White-plumed Honeyeater (88), Fuscous Honeyeater (84). As always there was a lot of variation between regions and sites, with honeyeaters (including Noisy Miner and Red Wattlebird) being most numerous in box-ironbark sites and small birds generally absent from sites with Noisy Miners. Notably high totals included 27 Apostlebirds (Boorhaman), 12 Black-chinned Honeyeaters (Killawarra), 8 Brown Quail (Killawarra, Wooragee & Burgoigee) and 29 Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters (various regions). A few summer migrants stayed over winter, including a Rufous Songlark in Burgoigee, a White-throated Gerygone near Beechworth and Scarlet Honeyeaters mainly near Chiltern. There were many winter reports of Painted Button-quail and Fan-tailed Cuckoo. A large bloom of lerps was observed on Grey Box at Killawarra and Chiltern, attracting honeyeaters and Swift Parrots. The flocks of Swift Parrots seen feeding on lerps at Chiltern and Killawarra in April and May did not stay for long, but some remained in Albury-Wodonga through the winter.

Now spring is here though the current cold wet weather must present challenges to birds and people. Magpies, Wood Ducks and White-browed Scrubwrens began nesting in late July, and I've already seen a fledged Australian Raven. Our wintering White-throated Gerygone began singing in the last week of August; Fan-tailed Cuckoos were trilling; Flame & Scarlet Robins sang; Dusky Woodswallows chirped as they circled overhead; Grey Fantails became numerous and Noisy Friarbirds, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes and Striated Pardalotes began arriving from lower elevations. Flocks of White-naped Honeyeaters and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters have been on the move for several weeks. We look forward to Rufous Whistlers, Painted Honeyeaters and other species arriving very soon. I've suddenly started seeing Black-shouldered Kites in mid September, after a long period of scarcity. I expect they have bred up feeding on mice in NSW, and may have been displaced by all the rain. It will be interesting to see what others have observed. Our spring surveys are planned to be across November and I hope we have lots more interesting records both during our surveys and at other times.

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 Winter see summary from Richard.
- We have been planning some events for delivery across the end of 2022 - see the events section.
- Attended a range of events and planning sessions to help keep SRR well educated in the issues affecting the region.
- We held our Nestbox building workshop, with a great turn out of enthusiastic participants.
- We've been involved in the Bush for Birds project with NECMA.
- We attended the National Landcare conference where we had a poster on display discussing our NEEAR forum.
- We enjoyed catching up with bird surveyors in Rutherglen and Moyhu. At these morning teas we had Richard Loyn share some data summaries.
- We attended the Wettenhall 25 year anniversary event with guest speaker Tim Flannery who spoke across many topics but touched on the importance of our bond with the environment and the power of small groups for action.
- We attended the Climate Ready Hume climate retreat on the 9th and 10th of September and launched our context piece on vegetation through a changing climate in NE Victoria. - If you would like to read this let us know and we will email you a copy

NESTBOX BUILDING WORKSHOP

This session held on the 30th of July was a fantastic day! An enthusiastic group of attendees joined Project coordinator Sophie to discuss how to make a nestbox, based off our booklet. We discussed sourcing materials, planning, installation and maintenance. Attendees were able to get hands on and contribute to boxes which will be installed in areas burnt in the 2019-20 bushfires. This event forms part of the SRR bushfire recovery project which has been supported by the Victorian Government as part of the Victorian Landcare Grants program

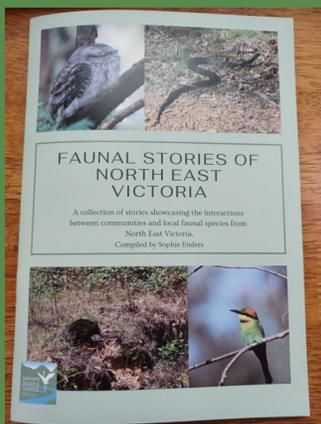


Exciting sighting!

An exciting report has come through from Glen Johnson (DELWP) and Dean Ingwersen (Birdlife Australia): a Regent Honeyeater was recently found and photographed by Lucas Brooks at Hamilton Park (west of Wangaratta), and its band number could be read from the photo. It was a captive-bred bird released with 76 others near Chiltern in April 2015, so it is now nearly eight years old, and it had not been seen since September 2018.

Faunal stories have arrived!

We are pleased to announce that our faunal stories of North East Victoria booklets have arrived and they look great. The digital version will go up on our website and hard copies will be available.



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!

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

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