

SWAMPS, RIVERS & RANGES WINTER UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bushfire recovery results session

6.30pm, Wednesday 22nd June, Online and free
Join us to hear what this project has achieved and where to next.

Nestbox building workshop
more details coming soon!

Over the months of July- October we'll be planning a catch up with our bird volunteers to hear from you about how you're going and to tell you some more about what we are seeing in the data.

Bird ID events - across the second half of 2022 we will be hosting some more events around, you guessed it, birds! We would love to hear from you what topics you'd like to see.

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

Wintersurveys are conducted throughout July
Update from Richard Loyn

Many thanks to all who have submitted autumn counts. As usual, there was lots of variety as migrants moved between summer and winter habitats, and 107 species were recorded during our formal surveys, including Turquoise Parrots at five sites in the Burgoinee and Wooragee areas where they are not common (and some at new sites in Killawarra). Obvious movements involved Flame Robins from the mountains to farmland; Scarlet Robins to forest fringes; and Pied Currawongs, Golden Whistlers, Grey Fantails and Striated Pardalotes to lowlands. Gang-gang Cockatoos and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were seen at sites in Killawarra where they are generally scarce. Rufous Whistlers became scarce from mid April but Dusky Woodswallows remained common all month and some summer migrants stayed later than usual: I was surprised to find a White-throated Gerygone still singing on 5 May, and an Olive-backed Oriole on 25 May, both near Beechworth. Birders from Shepparton found Chestnut-rumped Thornbills at Winton Wetlands in May, suggesting that this species may be consolidating its presence in our region.

Flowering ironbarks at Killawarra and Chiltern attracted a profusion of honeyeaters and other species (e.g. Little Lorikeets), with one astonishing count of 70 Noisy Friarbirds at a single site in Killawarra on 11 April. With flocks of Pied Currawongs observed at nearby sites, there must have been quite a cacophony. A group of Birders from Albury-Wodonga found a flock of 10 Swift Parrots in Killawarra in early April and they were still there at the end of the month. Even more exciting, a flock of 200 Swift Parrots was found at Chiltern during Birdlife Australia surveys for that species in early May, rising to 400 in subsequent days and some remained at least till the end of May, feeding mainly on lerps in Grey Box as well as on ironbark blossom. Winter weather hit in early June and it came as a great surprise to hear two Scarlet Honeyeaters near Chiltern on 4 June, and see one of them briefly near flowering ironbarks in a moment of sunshine. A Painted Button-quail near Beechworth on 6 May was unseasonal for that area. I hope we have lots more interesting winter records both during our surveys (in June and July), 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 Autumn see summary from Richard.
- We have been planning some more bird focussed events and other topic based events for delivery across the second half of 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 - you can learn more about what we saw at our Bushfire results workshop.
- We held our Growing into a climate ready future event, this was a great session.
- We attended the Porepunkah Primary school SEED day where we taught students about our local birds, what they eat and where they sleep.

GROWING INTO A CLIMATE READY FUTURE

This session was held on Friday 3rd of June in Wangaratta. Such a fantastic session full of good conversation and idea sharing. We discussed the climate ready Hume project, different climate scenarios, species adaptability and species vulnerability.

We are looking forward to collating the notes recorded and sharing these with you. The notes and presentations will be uploaded to our website across coming weeks. A big thankyou to speakers- Uncle Dozer, Leah and Chelsea from DELWP Hume, Lachlan Campbell from NECMA, Max Finlayson and Neville Walsh from Royal botanic gardens Victoria.



SWIFT PARROT SIGHTINGS- WHY SO SPECIAL?

As mentioned on the previous page in Richards report Swift parrots have recently been sighted in Killawarra in early April and in Chiltern in early May, with numbers up to 400.

These were seen feeding mainly on lerps (the sweet, waxy secretion found on eucalypt leaves) in Grey Box as well as on ironbark blossom.

This Tasmanian-breeding migratory species is critically endangered, with a world population estimated as ~2000, so this record is of huge significance.



Photo credit- Philip Dubbin via DELWP Hume

Porepunkah primary school SEED day

We were pleased to attend the Porepunkah primary school SEED day organised by Petaurus education group. We had a great day teaching the kids all about our local birds, where they live and what they eat. Fantastic to see our next generation of birders so keenly interested. Students also heard from Ovens Landcare network about the other animals that need trees.



Thanks for inviting us!

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