

NEWSLETTER No 153 September, 2019 News and Program



Photographed at Tourville Bay, west of Ceduna, by Andrew Brooks on 1st September. VWE/Blue banded on 24.3.2018 at Manuka, King Island, Tasmania. UWE/yellow banded on 19.11.2018 at Nora Creina. But will they be the first back to the South East?

Turnstone had a good breeding season July 2018, and so we would have expected to have good numbers of juveniles overwintering here. But only low numbers were counted in our July Shorebirds 2020 count. But then, on 7th August (too late to be used for population monitoring), Helen and I had 25 at the Cape Banks Lighthouse and 50 in Gerloff Bay. 13 flags read, including 2 with Orange/Blue of King Island. Interestingly, one was aged 2 at the time of banding on 10.4.2019 at Nene Valley. Clive had added a note on the data sheet – very definitely NOT a juv. Then, on 5th September, we had 50 at Gerloff Bay, 25 at Kyms and scattered small numbers giving a final total of 91. Overwintering youngsters, or had adults started to arrive? Visibility was very poor, but I thought I could detect the washed out colouring of feathers faded by long hours of arctic sunshine. And the one new flag that I read seemed to confirm this - USH was banded as an adult 10.4.2019, also at Nene Valley.

Wrack or Ruin

The official launch of Jenny's video in Adelaide resulted in \$100 donations to both FoSSE and Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. The launch itself, and publicity surrounding it, not only led to an invitation for her to present at another meeting, but also for me to present to law students at UniSA about our experiences with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Jenny was warmly applauded by VWSG members when she presented at their recent AGM. The general consensus was that this is the sort of material we need to help us reach a wider audience. You can view, download or share the video at <https://vimeo.com/299976194/01db6d2e03>

Water Week at Piccaninnie Ponds Wed 23rd October, 2019.

This event is being organised by Vanessa Freebairn, Environmental Educational Co-ordinator
At this stage I understand the event will be along the same lines as last year's - three education stations set up for the students - one about Shorebirds, birds in general, habitat, threats etc., one about Indigenous Culture, the other about the weir and restoration works.

The students will rotate through the stations spending around 20 minutes at each. With events such as this it is always good to have a some volunteers who can chat to students. Can you help? Should be finished by 2pm. Contact Jeff or me.

Spring Wetland and Waterfowl Surveys

Sat 26th – Sun 27th Oct (and the week either side).

Annual survey conducted by DEW since 2003 in the SE, the Coorong, Fleurieu Peninsula and the Murraylands. If you can help, contact Ann Gee and Suresh Kumar – email DEW.WildlifePolicy@sa.gov.au or phone: (08) 820 777 30; for last years report - https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/plants_and_animals/waterfowl-and-wetland-assessment-2018-rep.pdf

Latham's Snipe Project. Counts 16th November 2019 and 18th January 2020

Contact Birgita Hansen - b.hansen@federation.edu.au.

Annual Hooded Plover Count – Wed 27th - Sat 30th November, 2019

Various count areas between Cape Jaffa and the Vic border, as well as Lake George.

If you can help please contact Jeff sarah.jeffcampbell@bigpond.com. To enable comparisons between years it is important to get details of your area from Jeff.

Beach Nesting Birds



Photographed by Barry at 5 Mile, Beachport Conservation Park on 30th August! How old? MyHoodie says 'sub-adult'. Any-one able to suggest an approx. date of hatching?

Meanwhile, in the South East of South Australia the gales continue. Out on the beach in the Carpenter Rocks / Nene Valley area on Thurs the 5th Sept we only sighted one pair, and they were just feeding. The earliest hoodies nest I recall on a SE beach was 9th September, at Woolwash – already with 3 eggs. The weather has been so inclement that this site has not

been checked yet but Jeff hopes to get there sometime next week. I advisedly said 'beach', as the earliest nest for the season is often in late August, on a cliff top in Canunda.

And, it should go without saying now - where-ever possible nests considered vulnerable are to be fenced. Everyone is asked to report any breeding activity to Jeff (with me copied in) as soon as possible after the sighting. This includes actual breeding and signs of potential breeding. We also keep a register of breeding activity. So please, report anything you see.

Last year we had lots of reports of Banded Lapwing during August. This year I have seen, and heard, nothing! There aren't as many ploughed paddocks in the Kongorong / Tantanoola area as there was last year, but maybe near you?

Weekly Outings : We usually go out each Wednesdayso that you can be told where and when the activity will be - *ring on Tuesday evening* -042738 0014. When I am away please ring Helen on 0499 084496

Flag Sightings - Please note changed procedures!

All flag sightings are to go to Joris.

Joris has pointed out that the awsg web site only allows one data record at a time. So, if you have more than one sighting, contact him for a spreadsheet and instructions.

email Joris Driessen - flagging@awsg.org.au;

AWSG website - <http://www.awsg.org.au/reportform.php>.

Which ever way you go, if you send in sightings you will receive information back!

Maureen Christie, Friends of Shorebirds, SE.
9th September, 2019.

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