Werribee Wag-tales December 2014

During 2013 the Werribee Wagtails and visiting birders have enjoyed many field trips and a camp under the guidance of Dave Torr. Thanks Dave for your leadership, knowledge, guidance and friendship.

Our final outing on 3 December was to Point Cook led by Andre and Len. A group of 28 people attended. It was great to see Ceri with her new knee and other members returned from travels. We started at the Point Cook Homestead with a walk along the shore. The Pied Oystercatcher was a favourite for viewing because of its striking appearance - black and white offset with a long red bill, red eyes and red legs. We also saw Ducks, Grebes, Masked Lapwing, Cormorants and Straw-necked Ibis. Migratory waders were not present probably due to the shoreline being deep even though it was low tide. In the toilet block a Welcome Swallow had built a nest on the loo handle. The nest was still in use. Amazing considering the amount of disturbance the bird would encounter.

On a short walk along the path to the Cheetham Wetlands an immature Brown Falcon sat on a tree trunk not far from the path allowing us extensive viewing. It still had downy plumage on the chest and its colouring was a warm brown.

We had morning tea and later lunch at the Point Cook Coastal Park beach car park. Andre led us around the Park looking for Brown Quail which we heard but did not see. We did see Red and Little Wattle Birds, Willie Wagtails, Magpie, Yellow Thornbills, Silveryeye, Grey Fantail and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. Shirley told us about her first sighting of the Crested Pigeon in Werribee as their habitat has expanded as human settlement has produced more grazing land. Previously they were only found in WA and inland Australia. Now they are frequently seen on sports grounds, parks and watercourses.

After lunch we stopped at the first lake and observed Black Swan and a Swamp Harrier. As the weather was deteriorating we made a quick stop at the second lake where a European Goldfinch flew by during the bird call. We had observed 55 bird species and Geraldine won the chocolates.

Thank you Susan for the excellent report.