

WUBIN BIRD WATCHING DAY

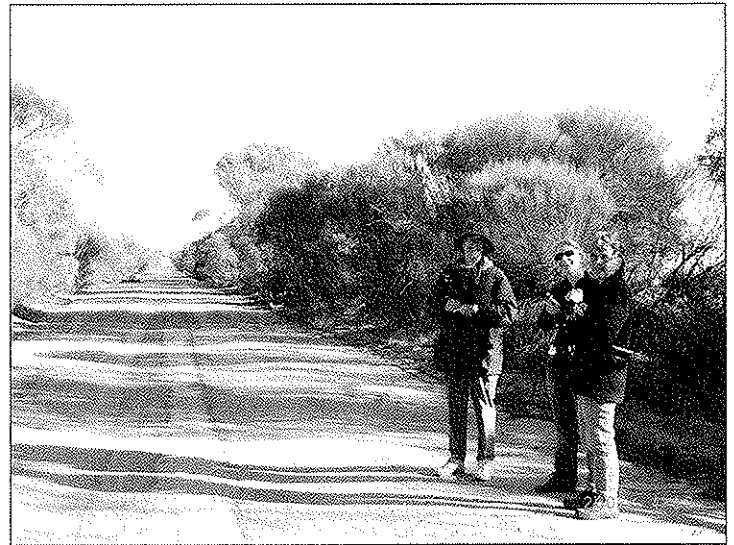
On 21 April, 24 keen people met at 7am on Stewart Road north of Wubin for a morning 'bird walk'.

With binoculars at the ready, the participants split into groups and proceeded to survey for the presence of birds along the railway reserve, road reserve and in a recently planted 'habitat linkage'. Despite the chill morning, there were some birds out and about, including the red-capped robin, raven, mudlark and willy wagtail.

After almost two hour's walk it was back to the Wubin Hall. Breakfast was a sausage sizzle and hot drinks provided by the Wubin Progress Association - most appreciated by cold and hungry bird watchers. This was followed by a morning of listening to talks about birds and nature conservation initiatives in the northern wheatbelt.

One of our special guests for the day, ornithologist Andrew Huggett provided a wealth of information about birds, including their role as indicators of health on farms and also his work in the Buntine-Marchagee Recovery Catchment on bringing back the bush birds. He said that the birds of the woodland, heath/shrub/mallee, and freshwater and saline habitats of Buntine-Marchagee Catchment have been recognised for what they are - precious gems of a formerly more extensive and probably more diverse bushland bird community. That we still have these amazing little feathered friends is testament to their resilience and, now, the protection and progressive restoration of their habitat.

Our other special guest was Carl Danzi, Malleefowl



Marie Carter, Diane Aynsley and Pam Aynsley prepare to survey Stewart Road. (Photo: F. Falconer)

Network Facilitator who provided interesting information on the malleefowl.

The day wound up with a walk through the Miamoon Reserve. We were thrilled to see an active malleefowl mound - quite amazing given how hard and dry the ground is right now!

The day was organised by NACC (Northern Agricultural Catchment Council), Buntine-Marchagee Natural Diversity Recovery Catchment, WWF and LFW. We would like to thank everyone who participated and helped before and on the day.

Fiona Falconer