

Merri Creek Management Committee



Fauna report summary for 2014/15

There were 62 fauna records in MCMC's fauna book recorded by crew members and reported by the public.

A pair Scarlet Robins that occupied the Manna Gum Site in Fawkner in winter 2014 returned to spend the winter in 2015. Scarlet Robins were also observed in Merri Parklands at Rushwood Drive in Craigieburn in April and at Lorne St, Fawkner in May. One popular online birding site shows no records for this species in the Merri Creek valley before 2014. The new reports perhaps indicate improved woodland habitat on the Merri and a surplus of dispersing birds resulting from good breeding seasons.

In 2015, the Parkland Team conducted the first of four bird surveys under the Need for Seed grant between Hood and Lorne Street, Fawkner. This will be a baseline dataset to compare when the large area of revegetation recently undertaken in this stretch of the creek matures.



Swamp Wallabies were recorded from urban locations including Lorne Street Fawkner in January and April. Paw prints were photographed at Egan Reserve, East Coburg in February and a resident reported one from south of Albion St, Brunswick East in June 2015. Pet controls such as dogs on lead zones along creekside trails even more critical as a chased Wallaby is a hazard to the animal and to traffic.

Other notable sightings included an Echidna near Ronald St on the Edgars Creek reported by FOEC Organiser, Mel Alexander in December 2014 and a Wedge tailed eagle observed by MCMC crew at Galada Tamboore in April 2015.

MCMC crews monitoring Golden Sun Moth during the 2014-15 season recorded the strongest numbers at Bababi Marning (Cooper Street Grassland) since 2008, possibly in response to drought, ecological burning and kangaroo grazing which appear to favour Sun moths.

Photo: Golden Sun Moth at Amberfields Reserve, Craigieburn November 2014