

Sunday Outing to Stonehurst Winery, Cedar Creek, 18 August, 2019

This is the first time that the club has visited this property on Wollombi Road. It is an operating winery with a large area of grazing land on the banks of Cedar Creek. Nineteen members arrived at the meeting place at Millfield to be greeted by Striated Pardalote and House Sparrow on the telegraph wires before we travelled in convoy to the site under the leadership of Brian Laut.



Striated Pardalote and male House Sparrow



White-winged Chough collecting twigs, dipping in mud then building their communal nest.



We then split into two groups going in different directions, with instructions to be back for morning tea at 10 am. Along the way a flock of White-winged Choughs busy nest building provided excellent viewing opportunities for photographers and non-

photographers alike. Their co-operative nest-building activity gave rise to discussions about the organisational abilities of birds that enabled them to work together so industriously and co-operatively.



Olive-backed Oriole - note vivid colouring on back



Female Golden Whistler showing the northern lemon wash under tail

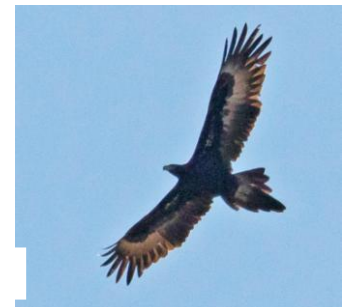
At the bird count at morning tea we tallied 40 species seen and 5 heard. Some members of the group left at morning tea to look for the Swift Parrots reported at Pelton and Hayes Road Millfield. The rest of us ventured further afield and we added 8 more species to our list, with 4 Wedge-tailed Eagles seen in the thermals and 35 Red-browed Finch. As we sat having lunch Robert McDonald saw a male Scarlet Honeyeater and five Varied Sittellas in a nearby tree.



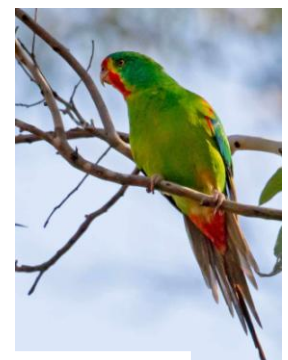
Spotted Pardalote and Varied Sittella



We ended up with a total of 48 birds seen and another 5 heard. Before leaving, some of us visited the winery to purchase wine and port produced by Stonehurst.



Wedge-tailed Eagle



Swift Parrot at Pelton

Our thanks to Brian and the owners of Stonehurst Winery, Daryl and Phillipa Heslop, for giving us access to this property.

Margaret Stewart