

Hello Friends and Members of HFNC

This is the HFNC's **March 2020 Newsletter**.

Special Meeting on Thursday 19 March, 7.30 pm at HIRL: Marta Ferenczi and 'Shorebirds: the migratory superheroes'.

Marta works with Birdlife Australia on the Migratory Shorebird Program and she has a wealth of experience and stories to share with us.

You will hear about the diversity of migratory shorebirds that visit our shores, their amazing journeys to get here, and the role you can play in protecting them!

Marta will talk about the extraordinary lifecycles of migratory shorebirds. For example, did you know:

- 'the Bar-tailed Godwit can fly 11,000 km nonstop in 9 days?'
- 'the migratory shorebird parents leave their 3-weeks-old chicks behind in the tundra and the youngsters have to fly unaided all the way to Australia?'
- 'a shorebird has to increase its body mass by 80% in few weeks to be able to migrate through half of the world!'

You will learn about what shorebird species visit Australia, how you can identify them and what kind of threats they are exposed to globally and in your local area. Marta will also talk about the National Shorebird Monitoring Program and how you can be one of the bird counters to help collect data.

Marta has been a keen birdwatcher and A class bander for more than twenty years in Europe and Australia. Before moving to Australia she was a member of Birdlife Hungary, participating in research programs with the White Stork, Greater White-fronted Goose and Mediterranean Gull. After completing her degree, she was employed at The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership as a Communication, Education and Public Awareness consultant. Part of her job was to direct a documentary film on the global issues of avian influenza and migratory birds. The film is titled 'Battling Bird Flu - Saving Wild Birds and Humans'.

Marta gained a MSc from the University of Debrecen, Hungary, in 2011. She was awarded a PhD in Ecology from Deakin University in 2016. She examined the ecological and environmental factors that influence avian influenza virus dynamics in Australian water birds, including shorebird species.

She participated in several field expeditions in the Innamincka Regional Reserve. She is experienced in all kinds of bird catching techniques, such as mist netting, walk-in-trapping and cannon netting and has engaged in bird-banding activities with the Victorian Wader Study Group. Marta joined BirdLife's Coastal Birds team in 2019 as a Migratory Shorebird Program Officer. She coordinates the delivery of project contracts under the Conservation Action Plan, to develop Migratory Shorebird Site Action Plans for important areas, with a focus on South Australia and Victoria. She also supports the National Shorebird Monitoring Program that BirdLife Australia coordinates

Bird-counting and ID Field activity: Fri 20 March, 9 am at Lake Linlithgow – this will occupy about 2 hours during which Marta and others will help to train bird enthusiasts in the identification and counting of birds on wetlands. This is open to everyone, so please come along.

Excursion on Sat 21 March – Bridgewater Lakes & Discovery Bay. We leave the Visitor Centre at 9.0 am. All welcome.

HFNC Program of Events and Activities for 2020 – this is attached. I will also remind members that the annual membership sub is now due (\$20 for single or \$25 for family membership).

Report of February 2020 excursion to Lake Linlithgow & associated wetlands – see attached pdf

Other events forthcoming:

- Red Gum Festival at Cavendish, 3-5 April – HFNC & Birdlife Hamilton share a plank at this show and we hope to be selling our new, revised and expanded edition of the *Hamilton Region Nature Guide*. Hopefully several members can help with that activity.
- *SEANA conference at Hamilton on 17-19 April* – our club is organising this event, with assistance from others to run the excursions.

Cheers
Rod Bird