



## Bird Observers outing August 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

### Dunethin Rock.



River side picnic area.

Photo: Judith Hewett

Sunday dawned overcast and grey with intermittent light showers. The forecast for the day indicated that this would probably clear by the afternoon. Five members braved the morning which commenced with a walk along the river to the boat ramp. There was a lot of small bird activity high in the canopy, quite difficult at times to clearly see against the grey sky. We then returned to the picnic area and walked in the opposite direction along the river edge to the road end. On previous occasions this area had been an excellent area with the tree canopy over the road and the roadside area covered with dense grassy vegetation. Recent hazard reduction had cleared the thick grass from the roadside and trimmed or removed many of the trees. I was sure that this would reduce the bird numbers in the area. Not so. I was surprised to see the grey sky clear quickly to reveal blue sky and sunshine. The small birds were everywhere obviously enjoying the weather change. Some highlights for us were the White-bellied Sea-Eagle gliding over the river, two whipbirds foraging on the road ahead of us, Rainbow Bee-eaters flashing their showy colour in the sun and a large flock of Chestnut-breasted mannikins sharing a communal bath in a large puddle. After a late morning tea we walked to the access walkway to Lake Dunethin. It had become quite breezy on the lake and so this area was almost devoid of birdlife, unlike on my earlier visit the previous weekend when the Mangroves had been alive with honeyeaters. We then drove the short distance uphill to the picnic area at Dunethin Rock itself.



White-bellied Sea-Eagle.

Robyn Howard

### BIRDS:

Australian Brush-turkey, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Topnot Pigeon, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Masked Lapwing [H], Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Fan-tailed Cuckoo [H], Azure Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Rainbow Bee-eater, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, Large-billed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Striated Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Scarlet Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Varied Triller, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Olive-backed Oriole, White-breasted Woodswallow, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Eastern Yellow Robin, Golden-headed Cisticola, Silveryeye, Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin, Mistletoebird, Red-browed Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin. [60]



Chestnut-breasted Mannikin

Robyn Howard



Eastern Yellow Robin.

Robyn Howar