

# 2021 Calendar



RVOTDS<sup>INC.</sup>

A voice  
for waterbirds

Regional Victorians  
Opposed To  
Duck Shooting Inc.



*\* Front cover photo by Eleanor Dilley*

**This calendar is dedicated to the following native waterbirds, protected for nine months of the year, then reclassified as “game birds” for the remaining three, and the other waterbirds who are collateral damage during Victoria’s recreational waterbird shooting seasons.**



#### **Pink-eared Duck**

Small ducks that depend on floodwaters to breed and may not breed at all if conditions aren't favourable. They form monogamous, life-long pair-bonds. The female incubates the eggs and both parents brood the young.



#### **Pacific Black Duck**

These ducks form monogamous pairs, breeding when food and water is sufficient. They may produce two broods a year but only 20% of these may survive past two years of age. Feeds on seeds of aquatic plants, small crustaceans, molluscs and insects.



#### **Australian Wood Duck**

A medium-sized 'goose-like' duck that forms monogamous breeding pairs that stay together year round. They nest in tree hollows, often re-using the same site. Both parents feed the young who remain with them up to a month after fledging.



#### **Chestnut Teal**

Form monogamous pairs: the male stays with the female while she incubates the eggs then helps guard the young once hatched. If threatened, the parents will feign injury or quack and splash to distract predators while the young dive or swim off.



#### **Australian Shelduck**

A large duck, with often permanent pair-bonds. Nests are usually in a large tree hollow but can also be in rabbit burrows. The female incubates the eggs, while the male defends the brood territory.



#### **Grey Teal**

The Grey Teal are small monogamous ducks. They feed in small to large flocks on dry land plants, aquatic plants, seeds, crustaceans, and insects.



#### **Hardhead**

Listed as vulnerable in Victoria, this medium-sized duck is endemic to Australia. Hardhead breed in low, thick vegetation, in or near the water. The nest is built by the female and she incubates eggs alone.



#### **Blue-winged Shoveler**

These ducks prefer wetlands with areas of open water fringed by abundant aquatic vegetation. They feed by dabbling in the mud or at the water's surface to filter small aquatic invertebrates from the water.

*\*Grey Teal photo by Kim Wormald and other photos by Eleanor Dilley*

# There's a Better Way for our Waterways....

**Wetlands in Victoria where birds are photographed instead of shot are seeing tens of thousands of tourists a year. Some examples of these include....**

## Melbourne Water's WTP

The Western Treatment Plant (WTP) is one of the most popular sites for birdwatching in Victoria, with species of birds recorded there from south-eastern Australia and east Asia.

The plant's lagoons, grasslands and coastline provide an ideal and varied habitat for birds with a permanent water supply, plenty of food, and little interference from humans.

More than 295 bird species have been recorded at the plant, including migratory shorebirds that travel from Siberia each year.

It is recognised as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, and as one of Australia's best birdwatching sites.

At WTP one can see the Orange-bellied Parrot, an extremely rare and critically endangered species, of which only around 50 wild-living birds remain today.

The graceful Brolga, listed on the IUCN "Red list" as a threatened species can be seen at WTP.

There are also many different species of shorebirds, 75% are migratory, breeding in Siberia and migrating south to avoid the harsh northern winter. Some of Australia's rarest shorebirds - Asian Dowitcher and Buff-breasted Sandpiper - have been recorded at WTP.

WTP is an important refuge for waterbirds during drought and the duck shooting season. As a permanent wetland, the lagoon system can support up to 120,000 waterfowl, with Lake Borrie carrying more than 70,000 in the past.

There are approximately 30,000 birdwatching permits in play for this area. To get yours, visit:

[www.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.melbournewater.com.au)

## Winton Wetlands

The Winton Wetlands Project is one of the world's most significant environmental, social and economic renewal projects. It is the largest restoration project in the southern hemisphere and has focussed on:

- Rebuilding ecological integrity and protecting and reintroducing threatened species
- Renewing infrastructure and amenity to rebuild local access, recreation and pride
- Creating unique and life-changing experiences for visitors
- Involving local indigenous people in the renewal project and through recognition of hundreds of indigenous cultural heritage sites
- Demonstrating how ecological and cultural regeneration can affect people's lives and drive economic development

Winton Wetlands sees over 60,000 visitors a year who love to birdwatch, cycle and walk amongst nature.

The Mokoan Hub & Café is the perfect starting point for exploration of the site - open 7 days, and serving breakfast, lunch and delicious homemade sweet treats with all proceeds going to the ongoing restoration efforts at Winton Wetlands.

195 bird species have been spotted onsite!

[www.wintonwetlands.org.au](http://www.wintonwetlands.org.au)

## Yea Wetlands

The ephemeral Yea Wetlands are situated on 32 ha of crown land floodplain between two branches of the unregulated Yea River. The Goulburn Valley Highway splits the area in two. The Northern Wetlands (16ha) have been progressively developed over the past 12 years and now boast a 30m cable suspension bridge, 2.5 km of walking track, raised walkways, bird hides, interpretive signs, picnic tables and a free electric BBQ. The Southern Wetlands are leased for grazing and not open to the public. Yea Wetlands were a neglected wasteland until the 1990's when local enthusiasts began to form committees, remove weeds and rubbish and raise funds for infrastructure. The Y Water Discovery Centre is a multi-award winning interpretive and tourist-information centre.

Regular walkers in the Wetlands become familiar with the regular birds, including thornbills, red-browed finches, fairywrens, fantails, yellow robins, honeyeaters and the usual swag of larger birds - parrots and ravens. When the ponds are full, herons, egrets, spoonbills, cormorants and varieties of ducks are regularly seen. In Spring and Summer there is an influx of the migratory birds like kingfishers, orioles, leaden flycatchers and white-throated gerygones. There are many resident snakes, mainly Lowland Copperheads and Tiger snakes, but no incidents have been recorded as they like to keep out of the way. After floods, the frog chorus is deafening and a great variety of insects breeds up as part of the vibrant ecological chain of life. It is a delight to have this amazing natural wonder nestled so close to the rural township of Yea.

[www.yewatercentre.com.au](http://www.yewatercentre.com.au)

**Victorian wetlands provide critical resting and feeding grounds for migratory birds who fly 10,000 kilometres and lose 40% of their bodyweight to get here. Australia is under numerous International obligations to protect these amazing birds who are unfortunately in serious decline.**



Sharp-tailed Sandpipers



Red-capped Plovers & Curlew Sandpipers



Red-necked Stints

*\* Photos by Eleanor Dilley*



January



\* Photo by Nalini Scarfe

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February



\* Photo by Kim Wormald

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentines Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	<div>January 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>12</div><div>3456789</div><div>10111213141516</div><div>17181920212223</div><div>24252627282930</div><div>31</div></div></div> <div>March 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>123456</div><div>78910111213</div><div>14151617181920</div><div>21222324252627</div><div>28293031</div></div></div>	



March





\* Photo by Kim Wormald

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Labour Day (Vic)	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	<div>February 2021<div><div>SMTWTFS</div><div>123456</div><div>78910111213</div><div>14151617181920</div><div>21222324252627</div><div>28</div></div></div>	<div>April 2021<div><div>SMTWTFS</div><div>123</div><div>45678910</div><div>11121314151617</div><div>18192021222324</div><div>252627282930</div></div></div>

April



\* Photo by Nalini Scarfe

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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May



\* Photo by Kim Wormald

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	<div>April 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>123</div><div>45678910</div><div>11121314151617</div><div>18192021222324</div><div>252627282930</div></div></div>	<div>June 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>12345</div><div>6789101112</div><div>13141516171819</div><div>20212223242526</div><div>27282930</div></div></div>

June





\* Photo by Dorith Callender

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 <div>Queen's Birthday except QLD, WA</div>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	<div>May 2021</div> <div><div>S</div><div>M</div><div>T</div><div>W</div><div>T</div><div>F</div><div>S</div></div> <div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div><div>8</div></div> <div><div>9</div><div>10</div><div>11</div><div>12</div><div>13</div><div>14</div><div>15</div></div> <div><div>16</div><div>17</div><div>18</div><div>19</div><div>20</div><div>21</div><div>22</div></div> <div><div>23</div><div>24</div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div><div>29</div></div> <div><div>30</div><div>31</div></div>	<div>July 2021</div> <div><div>S</div><div>M</div><div>T</div><div>W</div><div>T</div><div>F</div><div>S</div></div> <div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div><div>8</div><div>9</div><div>10</div></div> <div><div>11</div><div>12</div><div>13</div><div>14</div><div>15</div><div>16</div><div>17</div></div> <div><div>18</div><div>19</div><div>20</div><div>21</div><div>22</div><div>23</div><div>24</div></div> <div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div><div>29</div><div>30</div><div>31</div></div>

July



\* Photo by Eleanor Dilley

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	<div>June 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>12345</div><div>6789101112</div><div>13141516171819</div><div>20212223242526</div><div>27282930</div></div></div>	<div>August 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>1234567</div><div>891011121314</div><div>15161718192021</div><div>22232425262728</div><div>293031</div></div></div>



August



\* Photo by Kim Wormald

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	<div>July 2021<div><div>SMTWTFS</div><div>123</div><div>45678910</div><div>11121314151617</div><div>18192021222324</div><div>25262728293031</div></div></div>	<div>September 2021<div><div>SMTWTFS</div><div>1234</div><div>567891011</div><div>12131415161718</div><div>19202122232425</div><div>2627282930</div></div></div>



September





\* Photo by Eleanor Dilley

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 Father's Day	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	<div>August 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>1234567</div><div>891011121314</div><div>15161718192021</div><div>22232425262728</div><div>293031</div></div></div>	<div>October 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>12</div><div>3456789</div><div>10111213141516</div><div>17181920212223</div><div>24252627282930</div><div>31</div></div></div>

October



\* Photo by Eleanor Dilley

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween	1	2	3	4	<div>September 2021<div><div>SMTWTFS</div><div>1234</div><div>567891011</div><div>12131415161718</div><div>19202122232425</div><div>2627282930</div></div></div>	<div>November 2021<div><div>SMTWTFS</div><div>123456</div><div>78910111213</div><div>14151617181920</div><div>21222324252627</div><div>282930</div></div></div>



November



\* Photo by Nalini Scarfe

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 Melbourne Cup Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	<div>October 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>12</div><div>3456789</div><div>10111213141516</div><div>17181920212223</div><div>24252627282930</div><div>31</div></div></div> <div>December 2021<div><div>SMTWTFSS</div><div>1234</div><div>567891011</div><div>12131415161718</div><div>19202122232425</div><div>262728293031</div></div></div>	

December





\* Photo by Dorith Callender

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day
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**Australian native waterbirds -many unique to our country- are in trouble.**

**All waterbird indices (habitat, abundance, breeding and breeding richness) show significant decline since the 1980's.**

Hundreds of thousands of Australia's native waterbirds are shot each year in Victoria's recreational waterbird shooting seasons even when seasons are "restricted". These numbers do not include the many birds including protected species, shot and left behind. Swans, pelicans, Blue-billed Ducks and Australia's rarest waterfowl, the Freckled Duck are some examples of the protected species reported as collateral damage.

Over 90% of bird species conduct joint parenting and form long term partnerships. (By comparison, only 5% of mammals, including humans, pair up and raise young together.) When one of a pair is shot, it is likely any dependent offspring won't survive and also the remaining partner may never recover, let alone re-mate. Healthy birds of breeding age are killed, further reducing the chances of population recovery.

**Studies show at least one in four birds shot will not be killed outright but flap away to die a slow painful death. Many will survive only to suffer permanent injury. This is one reason why other states have banned the activity.**

In Victoria, less than half of one percent of the population shoot ducks while professional polls continue to show the majority – city and country – want duck shooting banned.



\* Photo by Eleanor Dilley

## **Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc. (RVOTDS)**

is a not for profit association based in Victoria Australia. Our aim is not only to be a voice for our stunning native waterbirds, but also for the growing numbers of people who live and work in regional areas, concerned with the adverse impacts of recreational bird shooting on their everyday lives and livelihoods.

One hundred years ago, Victoria's population was approximately one million people, most of whom lived around the Yarra River. Now, there are around six million people in Victoria, one million of them living in rural areas often near waterways where unmonitored recreational shooting of our native waterbirds is still allowed.

Thank you to our wonderful supporters and volunteers who enable us to continue our work. Special thanks to our talented photographers for their amazing contributions; in the case of this calendar, Dorith Callander, Eleanor Dilley, Nalini Scarfe, and Kim Wormald.

**As a not for profit association we welcome community support to continue our work. There are many ways you can help. For more information or to donate, please visit:**

**[www.regionalvictoriansOTDS.com](http://www.regionalvictoriansOTDS.com)**



Regional Victorians  
Opposed To  
Duck Shooting Inc.

### **Quail Shooting**

A full recreational quail shooting season was allowed in Victoria in 2020 (20 birds per day per shooter bag limit) despite the recent fires and the fact quail resemble the critically endangered Plains Wanderer, of which there are only an estimated 250-1000 remaining nationwide.

A study in 2018 found that ten species of Australian birds including the Plains Wanderer are likely to become extinct within 20 years unless management practices change.

Only 13 compliance patrols were carried out across all Victoria through the first three weeks of the quail shooting season for 2020.

*Birds are twice as vulnerable to climate change as mammals.*

The Bureau of Meteorology has warned that our country is heating more rapidly than the global average. Worsening storms and floods, longer droughts, hotter, drier summers are some of the repercussions we are already seeing as a result of a 1°C rise in average temperatures. The hot and dry conditions behind last summer's bushfires would be eight times more likely if global heating reaches 2°C. Worse, the bureau says we are headed for an unlivable 4°C rise in the next 80 years.

The consequences for our wildlife will be catastrophic.

**Scientists warn that our waterbirds have declined 70% since the 1980's. It's time to protect the stunning assets we are lucky to still have.**

## **Did You Know.....?**

- Many of our waterbirds, including ducks, eat insects, molluscs and algae. While insects can develop resistance to pesticides, insects have never developed immunity to our waterbirds. Farmers could do with more waterbirds.
- Birdwatching is growing rapidly in popularity and is worth \$41 billion USD in the US alone. In Australia, 866,000 domestic tourists birdwatched during the year ending December 2019. More overnight domestic tourists went birdwatching than visited the Great Barrier Reef.
- Australia is home to nearly one in ten of the world's bird species. About 45% of these are found nowhere else.