

**STRIPED HONEYEATER**

Scientific Name: *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*  
 Atlas Number: 585

**Description:**

The medium-sized Striped Honeyeater is grey-brown above, with a grey-white head and upper neck boldly striped black, and has whitish underparts with faint streaks on the belly and undertail. The feathers of the upper breast and throat are long and pointed, giving the head a shaggy appearance. Females are browner on the back than males, with more greyish



photo by Charles Dove

underparts, while young birds are duller and less streaked overall. The bill and legs are blue-grey and the eye is dark.

**Similar species:**

The Striped Honeyeater is much smaller than the similarly shaped wattlebirds and has much whiter, less streaked underparts.

**Distribution:**

The Striped Honeyeater is found in eastern Australia, mainly inland, from the Yorke Peninsula, South Australia to the coast of New South Wales, around Toukley, and north to Charters Towers, Queensland.

**Habitat:**

The Striped Honeyeater is found in forests and woodlands, often along rivers, as well as mangroves and in urban gardens. Seasonal movements:

**Sedentary**

May be nomadic in drier areas.

**Feeding:**

The Striped Honeyeater feeds mainly on insects and spiders, but will also eat nectar and other plant sugars, along with seeds, berries and fruit. It is mainly arboreal, feeding in pairs or small flocks in dense foliage, at the lower levels of the canopy.

**Breeding:**

The Striped Honeyeater defends a breeding territory, becoming quite vigorous and aggressive during the breeding season (it is normally much less conspicuous than many other honeyeaters). Both sexes care for the young and communal breeding has been recorded for this species. The nest is a suspended cup made from grass and fibres, including emu feathers, which is lined with grass and placed at about 1 m - 6 m from the ground.

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**Founded in 1977**

**Club's Aim:**

To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird life around them.

**ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.**

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 P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519  
[www.iboc.com.au](http://www.iboc.com.au)

**CLUB CONTACTS**

**Address All Email Correspondence to**  
[info@iboc.org.au](mailto:info@iboc.org.au)

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>PRESIDENT :</b>      | Ross Gowans               |
| <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>   | Pam Hazelwood             |
| <b>SECRETARY:</b>       | Andy Knowlson             |
| <b>TREASURER &amp;</b>  |                           |
| <b>MEMBERSHIP :</b>     | Ken Brown                 |
| <b>EDITORS:</b>         | Charles Dove, Janina Dove |
| <b>RECORDS OFFICER:</b> | Darryl Goldrick           |

## APRIL ACTIVITIES

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### GENERAL MEETING

**Club Meeting** 7.30pm Monday 10th April 2023

Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. Cambridge Ave and Princes Hwy. Fairy Meadow.

The meeting presentation will be a video of another Birding Adventure with the Dares.

*Please bring a plate of 'goodies' and a mug for supper after the meeting.*

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### MIDWEEK OUTING

Midweek Walk Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Leaders Ken & Sue Brown

**Croom Sporting Complex**

Meet at **9.00 am** in the carpark. **Coming from either north or south**, take the exit off the M1 marked "Albion Park, Jamberoo, Moss Vale". **From the north**, turn **left** at the lights into Tongarra Rd. **From the south**, turn **right** at the lights into Tongarra Rd.

Proceed east along Tongarra Rd towards Albion Park Rail and pass under the M1 bridge. 800m further on, turn right into Croome Rd. On the corner there is a blue sign "Croom Regional Sporting Complex". After 500m turn right into the Sporting Complex gate and follow the road 600m to the carpark at the running track/playing field. We will walk a loop from the car park and have morning tea back at the cars. The area includes a remnant piece of bushland in addition to the sporting fields, providing a variety of habitats. Hopefully we will get a good selection of birds.

*In the event of inclement weather phone Ken on 0438 298 057*

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### MONTHLY OUTING

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Leader Darryl Goldrick

**Tallawarra Ash Ponds – Yallah Bay Rd at 9.00am**

**Travelling south** leave the freeway at Fowlers Rd exit (2<sup>nd</sup> Dapto exit) - turn right onto Fowlers Rd - proceed to the Princes H'way-turn left and follow until passing under the freeway then at the second lefthand turn- turn left into Yallah Bay Rd (sometimes marked private Rd in some street maps). Proceed to the Security Office on the lefthand side prior to crossing the outflow channel bridge.

**Coming north** leave the Albion Park Rail Bypass at the Dapto offloading ramp-turn right onto the Princes H'way. Continue under the freeway then turn left as above and follow Yallah Bay Rd to the Security Office also described above. We meet here for a brief group OH&S induction by Energy Australia Security people following which we then travel back to an informal car park opposite Gate 37.

**Carry morning tea. We will return to cars to travel back to the picnic area for lunch.**

*In the event of inclement weather contact Darryl on 0409628673 by 8.00am*

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### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

**Next Committee Meeting**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 7.00pm

Committee Meeting via Zoom

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### NEWSLETTER

**DEADLINE 23<sup>th</sup> March**

For all articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter PLEASE E-mail contributions:

To Charles Dove Email [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au)

or post to 55/303 Spring St, Kearney's Spring, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

## **SIGHTINGS –**

**please report your sightings be what they may be. No need to be a rare or unusual sightings, even though it is preferred. We still need to keep track of our bird species population to view any obvious changes either an increase or decrease in any of our native species.**

*Email all your bird sightings to Darryl Goldrick at  
[to email click sightings](#)*

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## **CLUB REPORTS**

**The MALLACOOTA camp report will be in the May Newsletter**

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## **IBOC SPRING CAMP 2023**

**Wednesday 30 August to Sunday 3 September (5 nights)**

**Location: Riverwood Downs Resort  
311 Upper Monkerai Road, Monkerai – NW of Stroud**

**Phone: 1800 809 772**

**Cabin accommodation and Powered campsites available.**

Spring Camp will be early this year and will be held over 5 nights again, arriving on a Wednesday and leaving on Monday morning.

**Please make PHONE BOOKINGS for Cabins ASAP (preferably by the end of April or early May) as this Resort is popular and may book out quickly.**

**Also, when you are booking, please let the Resort know you are with the Illawarra Bird Observers Club (IBOC).**

Once you have made your booking,  
please let me know by E-mail on [knowlsons@bigpond.com](mailto:knowlsons@bigpond.com) .

**Anna Knowlson – IBOC Camp Coordinator**

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## Links

**More than 100 ducks found dead** at swamp in Victoria, wildlife rescuers say  
Concerned locals raise the alarm after noticing dead ducks in a nature conservation reserve in Central Victoria. Initial test results show no signs of human involvement in the deaths. [Read the full story](#) Shared from [ABC app](#)

**Mysterious duck deaths** in Western NSW town  
Local Land Services rule out avian influenza as the cause of a number of mysterious duck deaths in a town in Western New South Wales. [Read the full story](#) Shared from [ABC app](#)

**Researchers classify new 'plasticosis' disease** caused by the ingestion of plastic by seabirds  
A team of scientists in Australia and the UK discover a previously unknown disease attributed to plastic consumption by Lord Howe Island seabirds, which is creating extensive scar tissue in their stomachs. [Read the full story](#)  
Shared from [ABC app](#)

**The penguin population here was devastated** by dog attacks, so the community stepped up  
After years of dog attacks, the little penguin colony at Low Head on Tasmania's northern coast is rebuilding — and it is in part thanks to a community project. [Read the full story](#) Shared from [ABC app](#)

**Altered wing phenotypes of captive-bred migratory birds** lower post-release fitness - Stojanovic - Ecology Letters  
- Wiley Online Library  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ele.14200>

**Wild superb fairy-wrens will risk their safety** for their close social circle but not unknown wrens, study finds - ABC News  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-10/act-superb-fairy-wrens-picky-about-who-they-help-study-finds/102075784>

## ARTICLES AND NOTICES OF INTEREST

### Letter to Editor

Mike Morphett's excellent article comparing the female Satin Bowerbird and the Green Catbird was timely for me. The same day I read his article in the March IBOC Newsletter I noticed a 'contender' on the edge of our birdbath as I walked up the back to feed the chooks. I had previously heard a Catbird in our large magnolia tree but this time there was no sound. As it turned out it was the more slender, lighter (green) female Satin Bowerbird.

Cheers Mike, you made it easier!  
Chris. Cartledge



Green Catbird



Satin Bowerbird

Images by Charles Dove

## A FINE KETTLE OF HAWKS

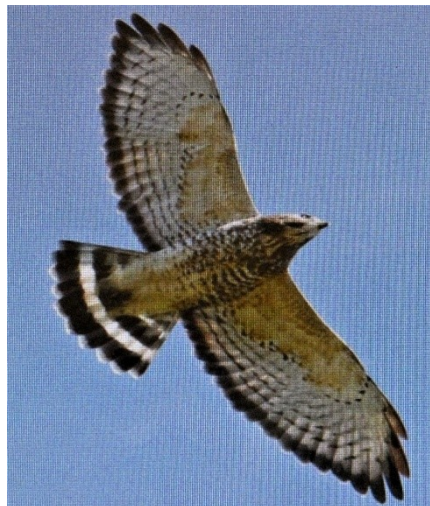
Mike Morphett

One of the regular features in the Sydney Morning Herald *Good Weekend* supplement is 'The Quiz'. Trying to answer the 25 general knowledge questions compiled by Jacqui Martinez and Stephanie Bull, I invariably fail to gain a pass mark. One such question in the March 4<sup>th</sup> edition that stumped me was: What collective noun for hawks is also an essential kitchen appliance? Answer: kettle. This quirky name got me on an internet and books quest to find out more. Combined with the adjective 'kettling', it seems this epithet has gained greater popularity in North America and then spread to other parts of the world to describe the flocking behaviour of a variety of hawk species, plus other raptors, such as turkey vultures. According to 'Birdfact' (30 November 2021), however, there are 27 other names for the grouping of hawks. I've selected just a few I thought more descriptive than the others: mews, stooping, schizophrenia, screw, souse (the archaic form meaning plunge or swoop), spiralling, swarm and tower. So how come 'kettle'?

The word can be traced via Middle English *ketel* back to the Latin *catillus*, a diminutive of *catinus*, meaning a bowl or deep vessel for cooking. An alternative link offered is with 'kiddle' – nothing to do with web search engines for children or with kissing and cuddling, but was a name given to both a barrier across a stretch of water and to a basket to catch fish, which, when full and drawn up, gives a picture of confusion of darting bodies. Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century a fish kiddle has been used to boil or poach the likes of salmon. The figurative use of the word 'kettle' gained prominence through Henry Fielding's novels *The History of the Adventures of Joseph Andrews* (1742) and *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling*, published seven years later. Firstly, his character, Mrs Towhouse, facing a difficult predicament, utters, "Here's a pretty kettle of fish...you have brought upon us", and later the author uses the expression, "a rare kettle of fish".



Red-tailed Hawk



Broad-tailed Hawk



Turkey Vulture

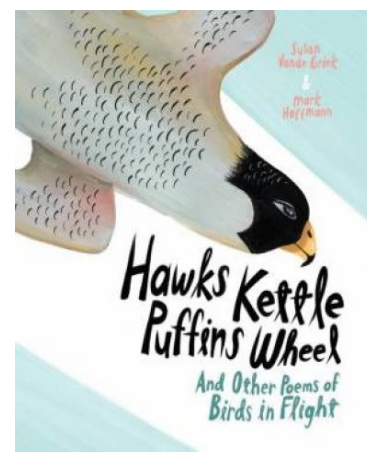
No surprise then that someone applied the dynamic image of swirling bodies in water to the sight of many certain raptors flying, seemingly haphazardly, high in the sky. The Cornell Lab All About Birds website describes the autumn migration of broad-winged hawks, circling in their thousands from North to South America, like "a vast cauldron being stirred with an invisible spoon." They

also state that German behavioural scientists have labelled this hyperactivity Zugunruhe, meaning migratory restlessness. Other notable pre-migration flocking examples are the red-tailed (or chicken) hawks in the Massachusetts region and the 'teetering' turkey vultures over Vancouver Island. These and other raptors make use of thermals to gain altitude and conserve energy, flying in apparent disarray, swirling and spiralling. Presumably it's down to their cooperative behaviour that there is no apparent collision among the birds. In his 1975 book *Birds: An illustrated survey of the bird families of the world*, John Gooders pointed out that "being soaring birds, most migratory raptors keep clear of the sea where thermals are not available to give them the lift they require." Not a problem for other long-distance migratory birds, like geese, pelicans and ibises, that use air vortices in linear flight instead, in the familiar V-formation, wherein birds take turns in leading and following, which aids communication, orientation, and energy conservation. Another marked difference is displayed by the synchronized mass formation pattern of 'murmuring' European starlings (sometimes triggered to avoid a predator, such as a hawk!). Part of his description of such a spectacle in his poem 'An Event', American Richard Wilbur (1921-2017) wrote: "They roll/Like a drunken fingerprint across the sky."\*

What an amazing show migrating raptors must put on for the rapturous observer! It evidently inspired Brighton (Sussex) illustrator, Clare Mackie to design her version of a kettle of hawks, and Susan Vande Griek to include them among her twelve poems for children in a book titled *Hawks Kettle, Puffins Wheel. And Other Poems of Birds in Flight* (2019), with illustrations by Mark Hoffmann.



It's time for me to get a lift myself and boil the kettle for a cuppa. But, irrespective of the brew, even if the teabag splits a bit, the sight of a few leaves swirling around in my mug won't give me anywhere near the pleasure I used to experience when pouring hot water on loose tea leaves in a teapot.



\*Based on Wilbur's poem and commissioned by the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Australian composer, Ade Vincent in 2017 (the same year as the poet's death) wrote a reflective piece for solo guitar (accessible on YouTube, lasting about six and a half minutes) titled 'Like a drunken fingerprint across the sky'. In his performance notes, he referred to the starlings' moving as one, "whirling and dancing, hypnotic to watch and somehow seems both random and choreographed."

## A 40 year memory



### 1983 PROGRAMME

14 February, Monday	....	Arnold McGill (Waders)
19 February, Saturday	....	Towra Point
14 March, Monday	....	Laurie Williams
19 March, Saturday	....	Windsor
11 April, Monday	....	Ellis McNamara
16 April, Saturday	....	Picton Lakes (Kevin Mills)
7 May, Saturday	....	Film Night (at Thomsons)
9 May, Monday	....	Members' Slide Night
15 May, Sunday	....	Mt Kembla (Chris Pavich)
28 May, Saturday	....	Autumn Bird Count
11 June, Saturday	....	Film Night
13 June, Monday	....	John De Jose (Bustards).
19 June, Sunday	....	Macquarie Rivulet
9 July, Saturday	....	Film Night
11 July, Monday	....	Allan Leishman (Birds of Norfolk Island)
16 July, Saturday	....	Macquarie Pass
6 August, Saturday	....	Film Night
8 August, Monday	....	Dick Turner (Tanami Desert)
13 August, Saturday	....	Pennant Hills (Ernie Hoskins)
10 September, Saturday	....	Bus Trip to Canberra Botanical Gardens
12 September, Monday	....	Rob Whelan (Birds, Mammals & Banksias)
17 September, Saturday	....	Royal National Park
1 - 3 October	....	Camp out at Wanganderry
22 - 23 October	....	Camp out at Batemans Bay
29 October, Saturday	....	Spring Bird Count
14 November, Monday	....	Humphrey Price Jones (Birds of Prey)
19 November, Saturday	....	Comerong Island
10 December, Saturday	....	Barren Grounds
12 December, Monday	....	Christmas Meeting

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**Monthly Sightings: Feb/Mar 2023**

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	N <sup>o</sup>	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Topknot Pigeon	5	1/03/2023	Balgownie, NSW	Garden, Fruiting Palm trees	Bill Zealey
Topknot Pigeon	6-Aug	15/03/2023	Lower Escarpment Firetrail, Thirroul	overhead	Ian McKinlay
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	7/03/2023	Bellambi Dunes	hind dune forest	Ian McKinlay
Wonga Pigeon	3	15/03/2023	Thirroul escarpment	rainforest	Ian Mckinlay
Crested Tern	3	24/03/2023	Bellambi beach	resting on sand	Ian McKinlay
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	27/03/2023	Bellambi	O'head along Endeavour Drive	Darryl Goldrick
Kelp Gull	1 ad, 1 juv	24/03/2023	Bellambi beach	estuary edge	Ian McKinlay
Pacific Baza	4	2/03/2023	Foothills Road, Balgownie	Scrub, woodland	Joan Wylie/Terrie Edwell
Pacific Baza	2	4/03/2023	Balgownie	Overhead flying big circles local cockatoos going nuts	Pam Hazelwood
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	24/02/2023	Scarborough, near school	Taking off from cliff edge	Ken & Sue Brown
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	11/03/2023	Thirroul	in flight SW low over my home	Mike Morphett
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	20/03/2023	flying west over Thirroul	in flight	Ian Mckinlay
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	25/03/2023	Warramong	O'head over Griffins Bay	Darryl Goldrick
Brown Goshawk	1	7/03/2023	Bellambi dunes	hind dune forest	Ian Mckinlay
Grey Goshawk	1	1/03/2023	Corrimal	Backyard	Carly Weatherly
Grey Goshawk	1	25/03/2023	Austinmer	Near railway	Lyndall Dawson
Australian Hobby	1 (juv?)	22/03/2023	Russell Vale G C	Circuits harassing waterbirds on dam edge	Ian McKinlay
Long-billed Corella	~ 200	27/02/2023	Lake Illawarra South	Highschool Playing fields	Darryl Goldrick
Little Corella	80-100	23/02/2023	flying north along Thirroul coastline	in flight	Ian McKinlay
Crimson Rosella	1	3/03/2023	West Wollongong	Surburban St	Chris. Cartledge
Eastern Rosella	2	15/03/2023	Russell Vale Golf Course	grasses	Ian McKinlay
Eastern Koel	1	26/02/2023	Thirroul	backyard casuarina	Mike Morphett
Powerful Owl	1	23/03/2023	Blue Haven Bonaira	Tree in village	Alan Cousins
Southern Boobook	1	12/03/2023	Gunya Park West W'gong	Suburban park	Chris. Cartledge
Laughing Kookaburra	1	4/03/2023	Figtree ,	Residential- roosting on netball ring (photo supplied)	Madelina-Luella Belo
Superb Lyrebird	2 S,+ 2H	15/03/2023	Thirroul escarpment	rainforest	Ian Mckinlay
Green Catbird	1	8/03/2023	West Wollongong	Suburban backyard birdbath	Chris. Cartledge
Green Catbird	1	10/03/2023	Amy St, Thirroul	native Fig	Ian McKinlay
Satin bowerbird	1 fem	5/03/2023	West Wollongong	Suburban back yard bird bath	Chris. Cartledge
Satin Bowerbird	1m, 2f	10/03/2023	Amy St Thirroul	at bower in street-side bushes	Ian McKinlay
Satin Bowerbird	1 fem	16/03/2023	Figtree , Hennessey Lane	Residential garden	Madelina-Luella Belo
Little Wattlebird	2	28/02/2023	Lake Illawarra South	Backyard Bottlebrush shrub	Darryl Goldrick
New Holland Honeyeater	1	28/02/2023	Corrimal	Backyard	Carly Weatherly
Australian Logrunner	2	15/03/2023	Lower Escarpment Firetrail, Thirroul	heard calling from wet undergrowth below Coral Trees	Ian McKinlay
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	28/02/2023	Corrimal	Backyard	Carly Weatherly
Olive-backed Oriole	1	21/03/2023	McCauleys Hill, Thirroul	native Figs	ian Mckinlay
Grey Butcherbird	1	28/02/2023	Lake Illawarra South	Backyard	Darryl Goldrick
Grey butcherbird	5	8/03/2023	Balgownie	Sitting on powerlines having a singing contest	Pam Hazelwood
Grey Butcherbird	3 (1A & 2 imm)	12/03/2023	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphett
Rufous Fantail	2	15/03/2023	Pole track, Thirroul escarpment	forest edge	Ian Mckinlay
Black-faced Monarch	1	15/03/2023	upper Thirroul eacarpment	rainforest	Ian Mckinlay
Plain (or Green?) Parakeet	1(escapee?)	23/03/2023	Pt Kembla Heritage Park	feeding on grassy headland	Ian McKinlay

*Email all your bird sightings to Darryl Goldrick at  
to email click sightings <https://www.iboc.com.au/>*