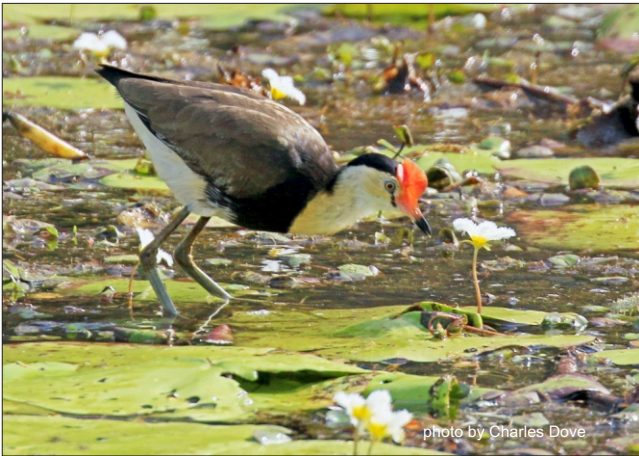


**COMB-CRESTED JACANA**

Scientific Name: *Irediparra gallinacea*  
 Atlas Number: 171

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Comb-crested Jacana, also known as the Lotusbird, has a red fleshy forehead comb, a black crown, back and breast and brown wings. The belly, face and throat are white, and there is a faint yellow tinge around the eye and throat. Both sexes are similar in appearance, but the



female is larger than the male, and slightly brighter in colour. In flight, the long legs and toes trail behind the body. Young Jacanas resemble the adult birds, but are rufous to black on the head and nape, and have a rufous-black breast band. The red fleshy comb is much smaller and darker.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Comb-crested Jacanas occupy coastal and sub-coastal regions from the Kimberleys, Western Australia, through northern Australia to about Grafton, New South Wales. They are more common in the north of their range. The species also occurs in New Guinea, Indonesia and the Philippines.

**HABITAT:**

Comb-crested Jacanas are found in tropical and subtropical freshwater wetlands, including lagoons, billabongs, swamps, lakes, rivers, sewage ponds and dams, providing there is adequate floating vegetation.

**SEASONAL MOVEMENTS:**

Comb-crested Jacanas will move to new locations, particularly in response to changes in their current habitat, such as droughts or excessive flooding.

**FEEDING:**

The Comb-crested Jacana feeds on aquatic insects, which it seizes from floating vegetation or the surface of the water. It also feeds on seeds and aquatic plants. Birds rarely come to shore. When searching for food, the Comb-crested Jacana bobs its head and flicks its tailed continuously.

**BREEDING:**

The female Comb-crested Jacana may mate with several males, while the male alone builds the nest, incubates the eggs and cares for the young. If danger threatens the young birds, the male has the curious habit of picking the chicks up under his wings and carrying them off to safety.

Cover text courtesy of <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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

## AUGUST ACTIVITIES

### GENERAL MEETING

**Club Meeting** 7.30pm Monday 14th July 2023

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

- 1) Darryl Goldrick will update members on IBOC's submission about mountain bike trails on the escarpment followed by
- 2) mystery bird video

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

### MIDWEEK OUTING

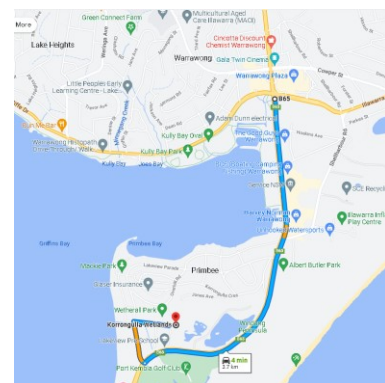
Midweek Walk Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Leaders Bill & Joan Zealey

**Korrongulla Wetlands, Primbee** <https://goo.gl/maps/YzvgQWGsi2XxnwEJ8>

Meet at 9.00am

From Warrawong Plaza head south along the Primbee Bypass then turn right into Windang Rd, at the traffic lights. Take the first right into turn right onto Nicolle Rd and park by the recreation area. Since European settlement, the site has been used for farming and industrial purposes. Despite these different uses, Korrongulla has retained significant vegetation and is home to several endangered plant communities. The loop track around the swamp takes in reed beds, tee tree wetland, dune woodland and open water. Darter, Little Pied, Pied, Little Black and Great Cormorants all breed in casuarinas on the water's edge and there are a couple of vantage points where you can view the rookery. It is a wetland, so please wear stout waterproof shoes or boots! We will have morning tea near Primbee Bay.



*In the event of inclement weather Phone Bill on 0414747644*

### MONTHLY OUTING

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Leader Pam Hazelwood

**Mt Annan Botanic Gardens** <https://goo.gl/maps/9MdNR6NXZvXt8LRK8>

Meet at 9am near first toilet block after entering the gardens. The toilet block is on your left just past the lake. After a comfort stop, we will walk down the track to the creek and then visit the nearby Stolen Generation Memorial Garden. We will then find a place in the sun for morning tea before we have a wander around Lake Sedgewick if we can find parking spots. Later we will move on to the Banksia Garden for lunch and a walk along the track to see Bell Miners and maybe a Swift Parrot.

Bring your morning tea and lunch along with a chair.

*In the event of inclement weather phone Pam 0439 846148.*

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

**Next Committee Meeting**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 7.00pm

Committee Meeting via Zoom

### NEWSLETTER

**DEADLINE 25<sup>th</sup> August**

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.

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## CLUB REPORTS

### JULY MEETING

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Well, all looked good: we had Joseph Banks on the program for the meeting presentation. But along came the gremlins and I received a call from Joseph and he was on the sick list with a dose of COVID. This being less than a week out, the question was: where to now? Enter Neil and Tera Wheway.

So, our dynamic duo took us along on their 2005 trip to the New Zealand sub-Antarctica islands and on to Antarctica itself. As they voyaged south visiting islands, despite saying they were not bird watching, a number of good photos of birds were shown. All the classic animals of the south were sighted: penguins, seals and pelagic birds.

As they arrived in the vicinity of the Antarctic continent, the historic aspect of

their voyage came to life. They visited sites where both Scott and Shackleton had visited and camped, with more shore visits to view these historic places. Neil noted how on all shore visits, strict biological controls were in place to prevent unwanted organisms being transferred around the globe. However, they were not able to access all locations, as a large piece of the ice shelf had broken adrift; this made some areas unsafe for the ship, so they had to be avoided.

At this time, they turned north for warmer climes and to visit some more islands on the way home.

They found their whole adventure very exciting and educational and it would appear they may have spread another travel bug.

Ross Gowans

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### MIDWEEK OUTING

Wednesday 12th July 2023

#### Puckey's Estate

by Pam Hazelwood

What a fabulous winter morning for a stroll through Puckey's Estate.

Fourteen members gathered at the Fairy Meadow Surf Club car park for our walk south to the lagoon and return. Chris C. Told me what the area was like when he was growing up in Fairy Meadow. There was a farm with cattle grazing and the top dunes were used to tip out night soil collected by the carters. They also used tar here to coat the inside of the emptied cans and sanitise them for the next user. These days the sewerage is tertiary treated and none is emptied out in Puckey's. Many people use the area for recreation running, riding and some, like us, strolling along listening for sounds of nature about us.



We chose the wide path to go south with beautiful views over the water and lighthouse. The birds were numerous and obviously enjoying the banksias. Wattlebirds (red and little) squabbled over blossom with Rainbow Lorikeets and New Holland Honeyeaters. Small nondescript wrens jumped about the edges of the pathway. All the birds were quite used to the constant stream of people along the pathway. As we went further south the banksias gave way to, She-oak trees and we noticed the creek was quite full and had overflowed almost to the path. Brown and Yellow Thornbills were seen high in the trees.

When we reached the T intersection the water had flowed over the path making for a wet step for those who chose that way. (I wouldn't advise wearing Rockport's on that part of the track)

The reason for the high-water level became apparent - the lagoon was closed to the sea.

We turned to the east and found a small clearing under a large Norfolk pine tree. All members of the group had good views of a Australasian Darter sitting on a tree in the water so close we could almost touch it. When we had finished our comestibles and tea some chose to return on the path we had come while those who were surer footed chose the adventure route to return. We passed by the site of Seafields House where the industrious Puckey's had lived. Little remains of what was a substantial building as the bush has reclaimed much. The track back north ran along the back of the dunes and was narrow and winding through the vegetation. Bush-Care has done much in Puckey's but have not weeded where we walked. Thickets of Bitou bush and asparagus fern were plentiful along the track. Occasionally a short track led down to the beach and some walkers went for a look to try for something more exotic than the Silver Gulls we had seen at morning tea. Towards the end of our walk some spotted a Mistletoebird with its unmistakable red stripe on its belly.

The groups joined together again at the car park where Jann read out the bird list. No surprises but a good list all the same with 33 species. We all enjoyed the walk and the glorious weather. How lucky we are to have such a lovely area on our doorsteps.

Puckey's Estate	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	14 Members	33 Species
Chestnut Teal	Australian Pelican	New Holland Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Crested Pigeon	Galah	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Raven
Dusky Moorhen	Rainbow Lorikeet	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Yellow Robin
Eurasian Coot	Superb Fairywren	Brown Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Masked Lapwing	Eastern Spinebill	Yellow Thornbill	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Silver Gull	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird	Silvereeye
Crested Tern	Little Wattlebird	Australian Magpie	Common Myna
Australasian Darter	Red Wattlebird	Willie Wagtail	Mistletoebird
Little Pied Cormorant			

eBird checklist numbers S144386683.

## WEEKEND WALK

Sunday 16th July 2023

**Jerrara Dam Nature Reserve**

by Alan Cousins

On a fine winters morning 12 members and 4 visitors met at the entrance to Jerrara Dam.

Unfortunately, the entrance barrier has been permanently locked due to vandalism on the site so there is now no access for cars. Before entering the site 6 Topknot Pigeons were seen at the top of large dead tree on the opposite side of the road.

We started with a nice gentle pace along the access road to the closed car park area and facilities spotting quiet a few species ie Brown Cuckoo-dove, Superb Fairywren etc. We passed through the next barrier and along the creek side path towards the 'Dam Lookout' turning right up the steep slope all the while adding birds to our list eg Golden Whistler, Australian Figbird, Grey Fantail, Grey Shrike-thrush etc. Joan Wylie spotted a Diamond Python wrapped in a tree. At the top of the rise, we could see into the dam which had a reasonable amount of water and so we saw many water birds Black Swan and a juvenile (Cygnet) Australian White Ibis and Royal Spoonbill to mention just a few. We stopped at the picnic table by the turnstile into the paddock leading to the dam and had morning tea.

Following morning tea, we passed through the turnstile and traversed the paddock to the dam where there where many other water birds ie Grey Teal, Hardhead, Australasian Darter, and many Australasian Grebe. We then returned to top of the rise that we had went



down, and passed through the turnstile then went down to the base of the rise we had ascended and turned right, following the track to the gated entrance in Mount Brandon Road still spotting and recording many species.

We returned to the cars, gathered our lunches and chairs to the picnic area for a relaxed lunch. Our 4 visitors left us at this point. It was a lovely walk of nearly 4Km's and was enjoyed by us all and achieved a total of 48 species (not too bad for a winters day).

My thanks to all who attended and for Jann compiling the bird list and also to our welcome visitors.

Jerrarra Dam 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2023		12 Members/4 Guests		48 Species	
Black Swan	Australasian Darter	Satin Bowerbird	Golden Whistler		
Pacific Black Duck	Little Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairywren	Australasian Figbird		
Grey Teal	Little Black Cormorant	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Butcherbird		
Hardhead	Australian Pelican	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Magpie		
Australasian Grebe	Great Egret	Red Wattlebird	Pied Currawong		
Spotted Dove	White-faced Heron	New Holland Honeyeater	Grey Fantail		
Brown Cuckoo-dove	Australian White Ibis	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Raven		
Bar-shouldered Dove	Royal Spoonbill	Brown Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin		
Topknot Pigeon	Black-shouldered Kite	Brown Gerygone	Welcome Swallow		
Dusky Moorhen	Laughing Kookaburra	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Red-whiskered Bulbul		
Eurasian Coot	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	Silveryeye		
Australasian Swamphe	Rainbow Lorikeet	Grey Shrike-thrush	Red-browed Finch		

eBird checklist numbers S144796600.

## 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 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**

### Links

#### Penguin that 'should never pop up on the mainland' discovered on SA beach

For the first time in 17 years, a northern rockhopper penguin has been discovered in SA. Carers hope the drastically underweight migratory bird will make a full recovery and return to the wild. [Read the full story](#)

#### Renewed push to save southern cassowary, Australia's own 'living dinosaur'

The endangered southern cassowary looks akin to its prehistoric ancestors and there's a national push to save this "beautiful" giant bird from disappearing. [Read the full story](#)

#### Plural breeding among unrelated females and other insights on complex social structure in the cooperatively breeding Variegated Fairywren: Emu - Austral Ornithology: Vol 0, No 0

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01584197.2023.2230478>

#### The Mystery of Australia's Paralyzed Parrots - Scientific American

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-mystery-of-australias-paralyzed-parrots/>

## ARTICLES AND NOTICES OF INTEREST

### BEAUTY OF THE SKY

by Mike Morphett

This afternoon I had to pop out & get fuel for the Challenger & lawnmower and decided to take a detour via Sandon Point overlooking the Tasman Sea. Glad I did, because the sky was magnificent with clusters of small clouds covering at least two-thirds of the skyscape. In my limited cloud knowledge, I deemed it to be a mackerel sky, the best I've ever beheld. I immediately thought of my father, who, in response to this not very common occurrence in Kent, would say, "Mackerel sky: not long wet and not long dry." To him it was an indication of a change in the weather. I've just looked up The Natural Navigator website (Jan 17 2017) which talks about weather lore and the difference between an *Alto cumulus undulatus* and a *Cirrocumulus mackerel* sky, which leads me to think my spectacle of wispy, patchier clouds was the latter. The saying for this weather event is, "Mare's tails and mackerel scales make tall ships take in their sails." Those of you who have had plenty of seagoing experience may need to correct my conclusion. The AU cloud formation, by contrast, TNN states, is of long thick lines that run perpendicular to the direction the upper wind is blowing. This observer didn't take note of the wind; he was too preoccupied by the beauty of the sky.



*There was some excitement amongst IBOC members at the sighting of a Rockwarbler at Cordeaux Dam recently. The following item came from Birdlife Australia e-news July 2023. Finding the 'Origma Enigma' - BirdLife Australia*



Rock Warbler - Little Forest – Porters Creek Dam Road NSW – image Charles Dove

Finding the 'Origma Enigma'

Surveys reveal the resilience of the Rockwarbler. The Rockwarbler (known locally as the 'Origma') is a small brown-and-cinnamon bird which occurs only in New South Wales. About 40 per cent of the habitat used by Rockwarblers was burnt in the catastrophic Black Summer bushfires that swept across much of southern-eastern Australia in 2019–20.

After the smoke had cleared, it was unclear whether Rockwarblers were able to survive in their breeding sites and populations were able to recover in the aftermath of the fires. With support from the NSW BIGnet Twitchathon, BirdLife Australia's Rockwarbler project is using volunteer surveys to record the presence (or absence) of Rockwarblers across their range to help determine the effects of bushfires on this special species.

Starting in spring 2022, surveys targeting Rockwarbler habitat were conducted at 70 sites — distributed across burnt and unburnt sites (51% unburnt vs 49% burnt sites) — out of 316 sites chosen specifically for this project. Rockwarblers hadn't been seen at any of the sites since the fires. You can see the sites here.

Rockwarblers were detected in 18 surveys across 16 of the sites, with half the sightings in or near burnt habitat — the first records of the species at some of these sites for four years! In addition, a further 46 sightings were made at 27 sites outside the project. Most records were of single birds, though groups of two or three were also commonly recorded, and lucky observers on one survey saw eight Rockwarblers! Rockwarbler sightings were made in the North Sydney region (1–3 birds @ 3 sites); South Sydney–Royal NP (1 bird @ single site); Blue Mountains (1–8 birds @ 8 sites); Shoalhaven region (3 birds @ single site); and North-west/Hunter region (3 birds @ single site).

More than a hundred people have participated in surveys across the Greater Blue Mountains, Sydney, Shoalhaven, Southern Highlands and North-west/Hunter Regions since September last year. Many thanks to you all.

A more comprehensive report on the project's results will be available soon.

### **Where are the best places to see a Rockwarbler?**

If you live in Sydney, one of the best places to see Rockwarblers is along the **Georges River**. In particular, between H.V. Evatt Memorial Park and Blackbutt Avenue, where there have been 11 recent sightings. A little further out of the city, they are often seen at **Watamolla** in the Royal National Park.

In the Blue Mountains, **Evan's Lookout** is a good spot, with Rockwarblers often being seen around the carpark.

In the North West, the **Drip Gorge walking track in the Goulburn River National Park** is a good spot to see them.

## **Two mid-July Garden visitors**

*by Mike Morphett*



Very often immature Crimson Rosellas that are beginning to acquire patches of adult plumage come into my garden and are very recognisable. But for the first time I had a clear sighting of an Australian King Parrot undergoing a similar phase.



This Pied Currawong suddenly landed in my robinia with its beak open all the time. I wondered if it had caught something harmful that posed a major problem; then it took off. My camera revealed what appeared to be a legless lizard, which must have been out and about on a warm, sunny winter's day.



## Monthly Sightings: June/July 2023

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	N <sup>o</sup>	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Red-necked Avocet	3	6/07/2023	Lake Wollumboola	lake edge of sandspit	Ian McKinlay
Topknot Pigeon	3	20-Jun-23	McCauleys hill, Thirroul	Native Fig	Ian McKinlay
Topknot Pigeon	30+	4/07/2023	Kiama	Large Fig Tree	Gowans and Cousins
Topknot Pigeon	3	21/07/2023	Kooloobong Oval, Keiraville	roosting on edge of forest	Ian McKinlay
Australian Pelican	3	14/07/2023	East Woonona	small lagoon	Ian McKinlay
Brown Quail	3	12/07/2023	Hewitts Creek lagoon, Thirroul	seen 3 times in leaf litter, low vegetation	Ian McKinlay
Striated Heron	1	30/06/2023	Greenwell Point	tidal flat	Ian McKinlay
Pacific Black Duck	8	12/07/2023	Nan Tien Temple Berkeley	Lotus Pond	Mike Morphett
Hardhead	2	14/07/2023	East Woonona	lagoon	Ian McKinlay
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2	6/07/2023	Orient Point	Ocean beach	Ian McKinlay
White-headed Pigeon	1 imm	16/07/2023	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphett
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	6/07/2023	Orient Point	Ocean beach	Ian McKinlay
Caspian Tern	30+	6/07/2023	Lake Wollumboola	lake edge sandspit	Ian McKinlay
Masked Lapwing	2	1-Jul-23	Kiama Surf Beach	Sandy beach	Alan and Anne Cousins
Masked Lapwing	2	18/07/2023	Thirroul	Beach Park playground area	Mike Morphett
White-faced Heron	1	1-Jul-23	Surf Beach Kiama	Rock wall	Alan and Anne Cousins
White-faced heron	1	14/07/2023	Balgownie	Lawn	Pam Hazelwood
White-faced Heron	12	4-Jul-23	Lake Illawarra South	Grazing on High School playing field	Darryl Goldrick
Kelp Gull	1	11/07/2023	Thirroul Beach, south	O'head	Ian McKinlay
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	8/07/2023	Kiama	Above tree line above quarry	A&A Cousins
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2+2	29/06/2023	Thirroul escarpment.	Aerial	Ian McKinlay
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	18/07/2023	Farmborough Road, UNANDERRA	Over head with a Raven in tow!	Shane Spence
Nankeen Kestrel	1	27/06/2023	McCauleys Hill, Thirroul	aerial	Ian McKinlay
Nankeen Kestrel	1	4/07/2023	Al Pk Rail Bypass	Roosting on light pole- awaiting road kill	Darryl Goldrick
Australian Hobby	1	8-Jun-23	Thirroul central	Cruising in circuits	Ian McKinlay
Buff-banded Rail	1	21/07/2023	McCauleys Beach, Thirroul	low vegetation under Casuarinas	Ian McKinlay
Australian King-Parrot	8	4/07/2023	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphett
Australian King-Parrot	3	10/07/2023	West Wollongong 2500	Suburban back yard bird bath	Chris. Cartledge
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2	14/07/2023	Farmborough Road, Unanderra	Flying West overhead	Shane Spence
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1heard	15/07/2023	In tree above quarry Kiama	Tree	A & A Cousins
Southern Emu-wren	1	22-Jun-23	McCauleys Beach, Thirroul	grasses/shrubs back of beach	Ian McKinlay
Brown Gerygone	Oct-15	20-Jun-23	Bott Pk Bellambi	shrubs, edge of playing fields	Ian McKinlay
New Holland Honeyeater	1	24/07/2023	Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli	bathing in chapel roof gutter	Mike Morphett
Grey Butcherbird	1	12-Jul-23	Lake Illawarra South	Yard	Darryl Goldrick
Grey Butcherbird	1	6/06/2023	Garden Fernhill	Garden	Robyn and John Cashman
Willie Wagtail	1	2-Jul-23	Judy Masters Park, Balgownie	soccer paddock #1 (during match!)	Mike Morphett
Willie Wagtail	1	18/07/2023	Farmborough Road, UNANDERRA	On my knee !!	Shane Spence
Eastern Yellow Robin	1	24/07/2023	Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli	bathing in chapel roof gutter	Mike Morphett
Bassian Thrush	2	23-Jun-23	Fire trail Corrimal mine site	Forest floor	Ken Brown

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