

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE

Scientific Name: *Elanus axillaris*
 Atlas Number: 232

DESCRIPTION:

Black-shouldered Kites are medium to small raptors (birds of prey), and are mostly pale grey above, with a pure white head, body and tail and black shoulders. The wings are white underneath, with black wing tips and the wing span is 80 cm to 100 cm. Females are larger than males. The red eye is marked by a black comma that extends behind it. The nostrils



photo by Charles Dove

are yellow and the legs and feet are also yellow. The Black-shouldered Kite has a direct flight with quick shallow wing beats interspersed with glides on upswept wings (like a seagull), and is often seen hovering, with feet dangling.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

The Black-shouldered Kite is very similar to the related raptor (bird of prey) species, the Letter-winged Kite, *E. scriptus*, but has a distinctive black comma shape above and behind the eye, lacks the black underwing 'w' or 'm' pattern, and has a white rather than grey crown. The Letter-winged Kite also has a slower, deeper wing beat when flying.

DISTRIBUTION:

The Black-shouldered Kite is found across mainland Australia.

HABITAT:

The Black-shouldered Kite is found in treed grasslands and on farms, along roads, and in vacant waste lands of urban and coastal areas.

SEASONAL MOVEMENTS:

Nomadic; populations may irrupt in response to mouse plagues in particular areas.

FEEDING:

The Black-shouldered Kite feeds mainly on rodents, particularly the introduced House Mouse, *Mus musculus*, often following mouse plagues in agricultural areas. Also will eat insects such as grasshoppers. It prefers to hunt during the day, particularly early morning and late afternoon, often hovering with its wings held upright in a V-shape, before dropping down and grabbing prey with its talons. Prey items are eaten while flying or on a perch, which can be a high tree or an artificial structure, e.g. a powerpole.

BREEDING:

The Black-shouldered Kite forms monogamous pairs. During courtship, the male will feed the female in mid-air: she will flip upside down and take food with her feet from his, while both are flying. Both sexes build the nest, which is a large untidy shallow cup of sticks, on high tree or on an artificial structure such as a bridge or power pole. The young birds can feed themselves seven days after fledging and leave their parents within a month.

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
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CLUB CONTACTS

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

MAY ACTIVITIES

GENERAL MEETING

Monday 9th May 7.30pm start

Fairy Meadow Community Centre, Cambridge Avenue, Fairy Meadow

Speaker – Pam Hazelwood – “**Toowoomba and Beyond: It’s all about Birds**”.

Members are advised to bring their field guides along

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

MIDWEEK OUTING

Wednesday 11th May 9am

Leaders Bill & Joan Zealey

Bellambi

Meet at 9.00am at Bott Reserve carpark off Armour Street.

From Memorial Drive or The Princes Highway turn into Rothery Street. Turn Right into Bott Drive just after Rothery Street bends left. Turn left onto Waley Avenue and then right into Armour Street. Park in the coal wash car park on the right.

Bring morning tea.



In the event of inclement weather Phone Bill on 0414747644.

NOTE All IBOC members should carry and be prepared to produce their proof of COVID vaccination.

MONTHLY OUTING

Sunday 15th May at 9am

Leaders Alan & Anne Cousins

Barren Grounds Nature Reserve – Jamberoo Mountain Road

Meet in the car park at Barren Grounds at 9am. Bring morning tea and lunch. We will carry morning tea and return to the car park for lunch.

In the event of inclement weather contact Alan or Anne on 0413 869 534 by 8am

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 16th May 2022 7.00pm

Committee Meeting via Zoom

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE 27th May

For all articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter PLEASE E-mail contributions: To Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 1/13 Horrocks Crescent, Kearney’s Spring, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

**ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS
WISH TO GIVE A BIG WELCOME
TO ALL NEW MEMBERS**

CLUB REPORTS

MID-WEEK WALK Wednesday 13th April 9am

Wollongong Botanic Gardens

leaders John and Robin Cashman

Just a quartet of walkers gathered for the Wednesday walk.....some members were still away, having fun at Fowlers Gap or on other explorations. Others were on the sick list or awaiting the plumber!

We were very glad to be joined by Joan Wyllie and Terry Edwell, who we could rely on for precise identifications.

The Gardens had been closed for four days prior to our visit, to clean up debris from all the rainfall, so we found the paths easy to walk on. It was threatening rain, but in an hour and a half we found plenty of birds. Lapwings sat still as statues in a garden bed. Wood Ducks, a couple of Black Ducks, White Ducks, Greylag Geese, a Coot or two, Purple Swamphens and Dusky Moorhens dotted the pond, and a Brush Turkey chased its mate up a tree...was it Mr saying "Come hither" or Mrs. saying "you're joking"?

We did a turn of the rose garden, Terry getting lots of photos of the lovely blooms for her collection.

Along the way we saw the ubiquitous noisy miners, and a couple of Common Myna's, Little Wattlebird, Magpies, Magpie-larks, a Butcherbird, a Bowerbird, a female Golden Whistler, a Lewin's Honeyeater, a couple of Ravens, a Grey Fantail and a Rufous Fantail.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoos began to squawk with joy that rain was on its way, and sure enough it starting to splat down as we emerged from the rain forest, so we turned towards the cars for morning tea, when Joan and Terry emerged to report a number of White-browed Scrubwrens to add to the list of sightings.

John and I had a drive ahead of us, through a misty escarpment to retrieve our daughter's dog from Lane Cove, so our kind companions suggested that we take off and they would see how the weather was after their cuppa.

Wollongong Botanical Gardens		26 species	6 members
Australian Brush-turkey	Masked Lapwing	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Australian Wood Duck	Silver Gull	Golden Whistler	Magpie-lark
Pacific Black Duck	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Rufous Whistler	Common Myna
Crested Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Grey Butcherbird	Greylag Geese
Purple Swamphen	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Magpie	White Ducks
Dusky Moorhen	Lewin's Honeyeater	Rufous Fantail	
Eurasian Coot	Noisy Miner	Grey Fantail	

WEEKEND OUTING Saturday 16th

Booderee National Park and Botanic Garden

Alan Cousins

Anne and I arrived at 8.50am having paid our entry fee of \$6.50 at the kiosk, we waited here until 9.30am but no other members arrived so we drove to the Botanic Garden. When we arrived, we were the only car present except for a Ute. It was a beautiful warm Autumn morning so we took a short 5-10 minute walk along a well-defined track to try and spot some bird life.

It was very quiet but we did see or maybe thought we saw Southern Cassowary, Emu, Kiwi and maybe a Penguin - not sure what was in our breakfast but it must have improved our imagination!!!

After an Eastern Yellow Robin, Lewin's Honeyeater, Laughing Kookaburra and a Grey Fantail the area was becoming very busy so we returned to the car park and had our morning tea at a nice picnic table in the glorious sunshine. After our repast we decided that due to the large number of visitors that we would return home.

If I had realised when sorting out the venues for the year that it was Easter, I would have changed the day and venue or cancelled as many members were still away following the Autumn Camp.

TWOOMBA CAMP Continued

The damp weather continued and we started Tuesday 29th of March with drizzle in Toowoomba but as we drove west to the meeting point at the old golf course at Oakey out on the plains it was clearing. Although damp underfoot this park proved to be very good for Birding with a dam providing good views of several duck's species including lots of Wood Ducks, Grey Teal and a contested Chestnut Teal. The surrounding parkland provided good views of several parrots including Pale-headed Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot and Cockatiel. Searching for smaller birds turned up Double-barred Finches, Yellow-rumped Thornbills and White-throated Gerygone, Mistletoebird as well as Peaceful Doves, White-plumbed and Brown Honeyeaters. Morning Tea and toilet stop back in Oakey township showed that the proposed walkway alongside the creek was flooded so Charlie proposed an alternative to return to Toowoomba and head up to Picnic Point. Unfortunately, it was raining when we arrived but we managed to see some birds from the Lookout if not the views. It was handy looking out at tree height to find Olive-backed Oriole and Scarlet Honeyeaters. Then we made do with lunch in a lovely old Rotunda out of the weather. The following day Wednesday we all gathered at the parking area above Highfields Falls on a clear morning. A nice loop bush walk produced lots of bird such as Honeyeaters including Yellow-faced, Lewins, White-naped and Scarlet. Also Rufous Whistler, Whipbird and White-throated Treecreeper to name a few. We moved on to Peacehaven Botanical Garden for morning tea and stroll siting Long-billed Corellas hiding in the pine trees, Scaly-breasted and Rainbow Lorikeets and Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Pied Butcherbird, King and Red-rumped Parrot. Moved on to Williams Park for lunch and a walk along the creek. the birds were a bit quieter here but managed to find a pretty Rufous Fantail and Yellow Robin and Common Bronzewing when the walkers chatter died down. On Thursday we visited Redwood Park just east of town, one of Charlie's favourite places. He has produced a beautiful book of the birds and wildlife of this place with the aim to help preserve it as a Bush Reserve and several campers bought a copy. We met some of the hard-working volunteers undertaking weeding and shared morning tea after a walk that produced some great sightings. Amongst others there was Speckled Warblers, Spectacled and Black-faced Monarchs, Crested Shrike-tits, Golden Whistler, Varied Triller, Spangled Drongo, Sacred Kingfisher and Varied Sitella to name only a few. What a fabulous place so close to the city of Toowoomba. On Friday the last official day of Camp for most we drove north out to Ravensbourne National Park meeting at the spectacular Gus Beutel Lookout on a beautiful morning. The habitat was rainforest and provided the chance to see some different birds such as Green Catbird, Satin and Regent Bowerbird (female), Topknot Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-dove, Large-billed Scrubwren, White-headed Pigeon, Shining Bronze-cuckoo Paradise Riflebird (female) and for a select few a Barred Cuckoo-shrike. On a subsequent visit a few days after camp I also managed to find a Rose-crowned Fruitdove although not officially on the camp list. Most campers packed up and departed on Saturday but a few of us were staying that day so we met Charlie and Janina at the Japanese Gardens in the grounds of the University of South Eastern Queensland for a short walk and then shouted them to morning tea at the Kingfisher Cafe to thank them for the work they had put into making our week stay in Toowoomba so rewarding. Charlie was a fantastic bird guide and his knowledge and preparation made for a great Camp in Toowoomba, thanks again Charlie.

Anna Knowlson

Bird list continued for Toowoomba Camp

Oakey			
Weebill	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	Tree Martin
White-throated Gerygone	Brown Honeyeater	Pied Currawong	Common Starling
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Little Friarbird	Spangled Drongo	Common Myna
Spotted Pardalote	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Willie Wagtail	Mistletoebird
White-plumed Honeyeater	Rufous Whistler	Torresian Crow	Double-barred Finch
Noisy Miner	Grey Butcherbird	Magpie-lark	

Peacehaven Park			
Australian Wood Duck	Galah	Laughing Kookaburra	Pied Currawong
Pacific Black Duck	Long-billed Corella	Striated Pardalote	Welcome Swallow
Australasian Grebe	Rainbow Lorikeet	Noisy Miner	Australasian Grebe
Rock Dove	Australian King-Parrot	Blue-faced Honeyeater	
Crested Pigeon	Pale-headed Rosella	Pied Butcherbird	
Common Bronzewing	Red-rumped Parrot	Australian Magpie	

Williams Park			
Straw-necked Ibis	White-browed Scrubwren	Noisy Miner	Australian Magpie
Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Rainbow Lorikeet	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Whipbird	Rufous Fantail

Redwood Park			
Australian Brush-turkey	White-throated Treecreeper	Varied Triller	Willie Wagtail
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Variegated Fairy-wren	Crested Shrike-tit	Torresian Crow
Peaceful Dove	Speckled Warbler	Golden Whistler	Black-faced Monarch
Australian White Ibis	Weebill	Rufous Whistler	Spectacled Monarch
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	White-throated Gerygone	Grey Shrike-thrush	Eastern Yellow Robin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Scarlet Honeyeater	Spangled Drongo	Silvereye
Laughing Kookaburra	White-naped Honeyeater	Rufous Fantail	Mistletoebird
Sacred Kingfisher	Eastern Whipbird	Grey Fantail	Red-browed Finch

Gus Buetel			
Australian Brush-turkey	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	Rufous Fantail
White-headed Pigeon	Large-billed Scrubwren	Barred Cuckoo-shrike	Grey Fantail
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Brown Gerygone	Grey Shrike-thrush	Paradise Riflebird
Topknot Pigeon	White-throated Gerygone	Australasian Figbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Brown Thornbill	Olive-backed Oriole	Silvereye
Rainbow Lorikeet	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird	Red-browed Finch
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Scarlet Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	
Variegated Fairy-wren	Noisy Friarbird	Pied Currawong	

Ravensbourne			
Australian Brush-turkey	Regent Bowerbird	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Shrike-thrush
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Satin Bowerbird	Noisy Friarbird	Pied Currawong
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Large-billed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	Grey Fantail
Topknot Pigeon	Brown Gerygone	Golden Whistler	Eastern Yellow Robin



At Redwood Park IBOC with FEP



Cathy at Peacehaven Park Highfields



At Picnic Point Toowoomba



Blue-faced Honeyeater Williams Park Highfields



Barred Cuckoo-shrike

what3words?

Australia's emergency services have developed a free life-saving app, **Emergency+**, which helps people call the right emergency number and confirm their location. **what3words** is now available in this app, and emergency services in Australia accept and use what3words addresses to find Triple Zero (000) callers faster. You may need to call 000 for a vehicle accident on a country highway or to an injured person in the bush (where an exact address is not readily available). You can download the Emergency+ app to your smart phone via the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. It's free!

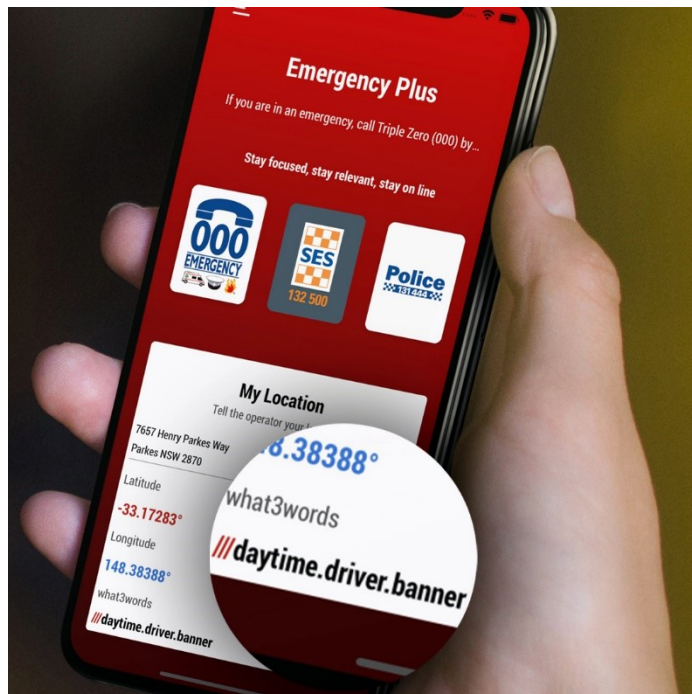
What is what3words?

what3words in the Emergency + app is the easiest way to tell Triple Zero (000) exactly where you need help. It has divided the world into 3 metre squares and given each one a unique three-word identifier.

How it works

When you open the Emergency+ app, you will see a series of icons for different emergency services in your area. Tap on the relevant icon for your emergency; you'll get connected to a Triple Zero (000) call taker. When they ask for your location, read out the 3 words displayed at the bottom of your screen in the 'My Location' section. Help will then be sent to that exact what3words location.

Text and image for this article from: <https://bit.ly/3O2hA3I>



Chris. Cartledge

IBOC Spring Camp - 3rd to 9th September 2022

North Haven Reflections Holiday Park - just north of Laurieton
109 The Parade North Haven 2443
Phone: 02 6559 9193
Email: northhaven@reflectionsoliday.com.au
www.reflectionsolidayparks.com.au

A group booking is being held on the cabins (8 only available) and 6 powered sites. With a group discount being offered. Members will need to book independently and pay a deposit of one night's accommodation fee to secure your accommodation.

Please let them know you are with IBOC when booking.

NOTE:

This booking for IBOC will only be held until the first week in July.

Powered Sites average rate per night \$31.66 with group discount.
Cabin prices vary according to type and size of cabins. Check for group discount when booking.

Cabins Example:

5 Deluxe (1 Queen bed + 2 singles) = approx \$1050 for 7 nights
3 Standard (Queen bed + 1 single) = approx \$758 for 7 nights

A variety of habitats will be covered in the camp program over the week including Heathland coastal, Lakeshores, Cattai Wetlands and Crowdy Bay National Park.

Bird Walks will start on Sunday 4th September with last walk on Friday 9th September.

Please let Anna & Andrew Knowlson know when you have made your booking either at a monthly meeting or by Emailing: knowlsons@bigpond.com

SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

The cover of the Autumn 2022 BirdLife Shoalhaven Magazine depicts the flag of Ukraine superimposed by a silhouette of the Ukrainian national animal - the Common Nightingale. The accompanying article states *"The evolving situation at the Ukrainian Society for Protection of Birds (USPB) remains unclear. It can only be assumed to be dire"*. At the same time, *"the Guardian has reported that BirdLife Belarus (APB) has been ordered by a court to close in May after 24 years of work after accusations of "extremist activities"*.

The magazine is available
at <http://www.birdlifeshoalhaven.org/magazines/blsnewsautumn2022.pdf>



This clipping is from the March 30 issue of The Sydney Morning Herald Digital Edition. To subscribe, visit <https://www.smh.com.au>.

Talented lyrebirds show a hidden skill with the opposite sex

The Sydney Morning Herald - Wednesday, 30 Mar 2022 - Page 15

They may be able to mimic the sounds of barking dogs, car alarms, kookaburras and parrots, while their courtship dances have garnered worldwide attention. But the Superb Lyrebirds have been hiding a talent: a post-mating dance.

Researchers from the University of Wollongong's School of Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences spotted the new post-courtship moves using hidden cameras to spy on the birds in the Blue Mountains and in Victoria's national parks. The team found that after mating the male birds tossed their tail over their head and made regular clicking noises as they danced away from the females.



OF WATER AND MILK

Mike Morphet

Water, water, everywhere. Nor any drop to drink. (Samuel Taylor Coleridge: 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', 1798)

The cow is of the bovine ilk; One end is moo, the other, milk. (Ogden Nash: 'The Cow', 1931)

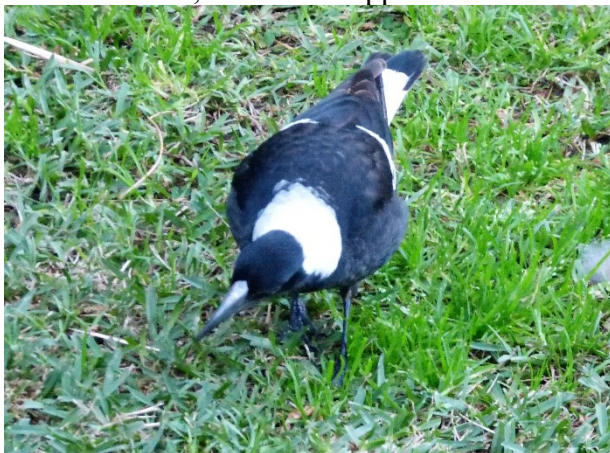
The UK winter of 1962/63 wasn't OK. My memory of the weather while I was living and working in London has remained indelible: snow, snow, and more snow. Almost six decades later, it looks like the images of the first quarter of 2022 in NSW will have a similar impact on my mind: this time rain, rain and more rain.

Sounding like Eric Olthwaite, Michael Palin's 1977 TV 'Ripping Yarns' character, who's obsessed with observing precipitation on the Yorkshire village of Denley Moor – but I draw a line when it comes to shovels, even a Spear & Jackson number 3 - I've faithfully kept a record of rainfall as measured in my Thirroul backyard gauge since January 2009. The average annual rainfall over the past 13 years I've calculated to be 1211 millimetres. The rain that's fallen during the first three months of this year has already exceeded that total by 97 millimetres. 709 fell during the March just past, far eclipsing all other months; 478 in March 2014 and 463 in February 2021 are the two previous highest totals. Then we had well over 200mm dumped on us on April 7, causing further flooding and landslips in our district and elsewhere.



Sunshine, one of the main Australian attractions and benefits, has largely been overshadowed by light or dark grey clouds. Moonlight has similarly made only brief appearances. Generally, rainfall has ranged from a monotonous drizzle to monsoonal downpours; such variation would have thrilled young Eric. Flanagan's Creek, that for the most part flows quietly down the forested gully on the southern edge of the long-abandoned Excelsior Coal Mine, about 300 metres directly from my home, has often sounded like a swollen cascading river. But this scenario is vastly different from the devastatingly flooded areas of the Northern Rivers region of NSW, especially in and around Lismore, that's experienced a second inundation.

The impact of all this rain on the human psyche has been compounded by social restrictions and inhibitions in our coping with the coronavirus and its successive variants. "When will it end?" has been an oft repeated questioning plea in response to both phenomena. Inside our house, especially in the bathroom, there's the appearance and smell of mould, which is



Maggie, the solitary magpie



Scraggy, the afflicted sulphur-crested cockatoo

becoming a common health hazard, creating a demand for clove oil to remove it. But what about the response from wildlife to the continual rain and dampness? Never before have Carol and I beheld so many leeches, mainly young ones; forming a colony, they have found their way on to our back verandah, inside our house, and on our bodies, which have also been targeted by small ticks. The prevailing weather conditions have generated much breeding among insects. In their hundreds, tiny ants have twice invaded packets of cereal and a bowl of raw sugar in the kitchen. Whilst regularly replacing water in the garden bird-baths to dispose of larvae and pupae, I still cop mosquito bites when odd-jobbing around the garden or relaxing on the verandah, mindful of warnings about Japanese encephalitis. Also, I've come across several young grasshoppers; a fully grown one was quickly snapped up by our resident solitary magpie. We often hear a marsh frog calling from or near our little pond below the front lounge room window, sounding like a timber-getter's axe striking a tree trunk; I fancy it comes from the fast-running wooded watercourse from across the street. The least welcome visitors have been a couple of rats. On the plus side, though, no sign of a funnel-web spider; there have been reported sightings in other northern suburbs.



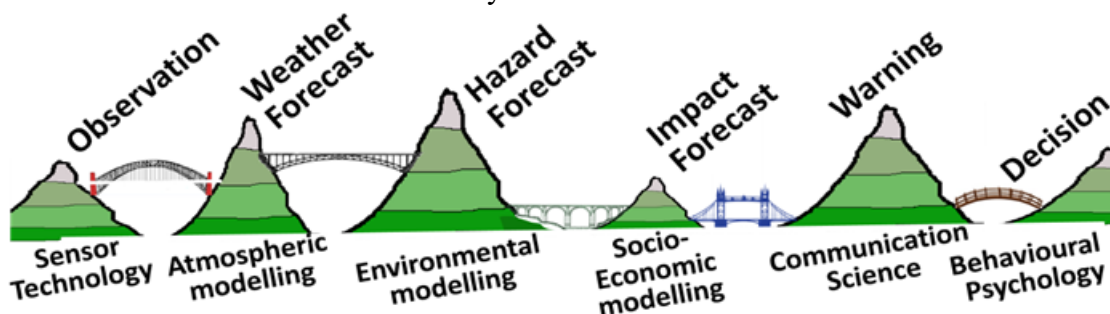
Brown Cuckoo-Dove showering



Eastern Yellow Robin pausing in the rain

Local birdlife seems to have fared reasonably well during this extreme weather event; probably on account of flight, making them more mobile in seeking shelter and reappearing into the open as soon as the rain abates. I've observed Brown Cuckoo-doves sipping raindrops on the robinia leaves and showering in this tree in the rain. Bluey, the resident Satin Bowerbird, has devoted minimal attention to his back garden bower, which has been flooded at times; nor has he added to his gathered ornaments. Another regular, the magpie has taken over from the blackbird by doing the rounds of the soggy lawn, prodding the ground for invertebrates. Surprisingly, after an absence of three years, two Eastern Yellow Robins have been interacting in the back garden, undeterred by the showers and issuing their 'fifty-fifty' calls; I can't say whether they've been flirting or feuding. Throughout these drenching four months a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo has been hanging around at the front of our home. A victim of psittacine bird and feather disease, it resembles a half-plucked chook, so we've named it Scraggy. Unable to fly, but using beak (fortunately not yet deformed) and claws, it climbs up and down trees on the roadside bank; it calls out when it's hungry and descends to the carport area (where eastern freetail microbats have been roosting during the day) for a mixed seed feed. Without much plumage insulation, it's amazing how it has survived for so long; resilience and stoicism birdified.

A recent documentary episode of ABC TV's 'Four Corners' featured BBC TV's 'Panorama' program of November 3, 2021, 'Wild Weather: Our world under threat', in which the UK Meteorology Office charted the increasing extreme weather events around the world during the past year; these included wildfires, dust-storms and flooding. One of the reporting scientists was Hannah Cloke, Professor of Hydrology, University of Reading. I tracked her down on YouTube, giving a seminar talk titled 'Preparing for floods' last September and displaying this visual aid (below) from the HIWeather Book "Towards the Perfect Warning" in response to hazards caused by extreme weather events. She had been invited by the Global



Institute for Water Security (GIWS), based at the Saskatoon University; its mission is the protection of precious freshwater resources. I immediately thought of Stanley Kubrick's 1964 satirical movie, 'Dr Strangelove; Or how I stopped worrying and learned to love the bomb.' At the US Burpelson Air Force Base, paranoid Brigadier General Jack D. Ripper's rationale for activating a bomb on Russia, as expounded to Group Captain Lionel Mandrake, was that "water is the source of all life. Seven-tenths of the earth's surface is water. Do you realize that 70% of you is water? And as human beings you and I need fresh, pure water - to replenish our precious bodily fluids." His conclusion came after an unsatisfactory "act of love", having drunk fluoridated water polluted by the subversive Soviets, who consume vodka, never water.

Back to the comedy of Eric Olthwaite. He was regarded by his family and locals as a “boring little tit”. I wonder if this expression stems from the long association the British public have had with the (Eurasian) Blue Tit, a very active and at times acrobatic passerine, measuring 10.5-12 cm in length. In 2005 the taxonomic name of this subspecies was changed to *Cyanistes caeruleus obscurus*; somewhat strange, as the combination of the single Greek and double Latin means ‘dark blue, dark blue, dark’. Perhaps scientists should enlist the help of linguists in regard to nomenclature. Blue Tits generally feed on insects and spiders plus seasonal fruits. In his book *The Natural History of Selborne* (1789), parson-cum-naturalist, Gilbert White wrote of this species being a ‘vast admirer of suet from butcher’s shops’. Over a century later, they, along with robins, developed a taste for cow’s milk, syphoning cream



from the unsealed bottle tops of milk delivered at British doorsteps. But they were foiled when dairies introduced aluminium foil tops after the First World War. Not for long, though. Coincidentally, in Gilbert White’s County of Hampshire they were first observed piercing and pecking open the tops (boring in a different sense), and this habit spread across the country through social learning. Our home in Kent had a

similar problem until my mother arranged with our milko to place upturned empty tin cans over the tops. The robins didn’t copy the tits’ trick: they are more intent upon defending their territory, unlike the tits that flock and form feeding parties. But once more the blue tits have been stymied. 2005 saw another change: the introduction of skimmed milk, which lacks the lactose these birds craved for. I wouldn’t object if our continual rainfall was skimmed.

Monthly Sightings: Mar/April 2022

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	Nº	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Tawny Frogmouth	2	All March	Balgownie	Back Porch- residential	Joan Wiley/Terry Edwell
Striated Heron	1	3-Mar-22	Bellambi Lagoon	Sandspit	Joan Wiley/Terry Edwell
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2	13-Apr-22	Thirroul & Austinmer	in flight over escarpment slopes & coastal plainn	Mike Morphett
Crimson Rosella	2	3-May-22	Burling Ave, Mt Ousley	entering/exiting from Eucalypt hollow	Robin/John Cashman
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1 h	14/03/2022	Dapto	O’head	Tera Wheway
Green Catbird	2	All March	Balgownie	Back Porch- residential	Terry Edwell
Satin Bowerbird	1	14/03/2022	Corrimal	Garden	Carley Weatherly
Spotted Pardalote	1	14/03/2022	Kiama	Rainforest- Bonaira	Anne Cousins
Pied Currawong	2	11-Apr-22	Thirroul	backyard (with scaly leg mite- dodgy chook pen?)	Mike Morphett
Rufous Fantail	1	3-Oct-22	Balgownie	Flying in yard	Terry Edwell

*I’m sending **this special SOS** request message to all members to make a special effort to report your sightings through the club web site. The number of people and number of sighting reports have been declining over the past 12 months and as such the Sightings Page is looking very lean. The birds are out there, so let’s get amongst them - I look forward to your support. Darryl Goldrick*

Visit IBOC website to email your sightings

<https://www.iboc.com.au/contact.html>

IBOC YEARLY PROGRAMME - 2022

Month	Date	Activity	Location	Leader / Contact
February	9 th	Early mid-week Picnic	Pelican Point Park Lake Illawarra South	Bill & Joan Zealey
February	14 th	Monthly Meeting Via Zoom	Zoom Email Invitation	Ken Brown
February	20 th	Outing to Comerong Is	Comerong Island	Alan & Anne Cousins
March	Monday 14 th	Monthly Meeting Speaker TBA	Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Hall	Ross Gowans
March	Wednesday 16 th	Mid-week Walk	Hooka Point Berkeley	
March	Sunday 20 th	Monthly Outing Cancelled due to Camp		
March / April	25 March to 2 April	Autumn Camp Toowoomba	Toowoomba Tourist Park	Anna & Andrew Knowlson
April	-----	Monthly Meeting Cancelled due to Camp		
April	Wednesday 13 th	Wollongong Botanic Gardens	Murphy's Ave Gwynneville	
April	Saturday 16 th	Booderee Botanic Gardens	Cave Beach Road Jervis Bay	Alan & Anne Cousins
May	Monday 9 th	Monthly Meeting Speaker – Liz Znidersic	Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Hall	Ross Gowans
May	Wednesday 11 th	Mt Keira Ring Track	Queen Elizabeth Dr Mt Keira	Bill & Joan Zealey
May	Sunday 15 th	Barren Grounds NR	Off Jamberoo Mountain Road	Alan & Anne Cousins
June	Monday 13 th	Monthly Meeting Speaker – TBA	Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Hall	Ross Gowans
June	Wednesday 15 th	Bellambi Lagoon	Murray Road Bellambi	Bill & Joan Zealey
June	Saturday 18 th	White Sands Walk	Sutton Street Vincentia	Alan & Anne Cousins
July	Monday 11 th	Monthly Meeting Speaker – TBA	Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Hall	Ross Gowans
July	Wednesday 13 th	Korrongulla Swamp	Government Road Primbee	Bill & Joan Zealey
July	Sunday 17 th	Bents Basin SRA	Bents Basin Road Warragamba	Alan & Anne Cousins
August	Monday 8 th	Nic van Oudtshoorn will do a presentation on Oxpeckers and Weaver Birds.	Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Hall	Ross Gowans
August	Wednesday 10 th	Coomaditchy Lagoon	Parkes Street Warrawong	Bill & Joan Zealey
August	Saturday 13 th	Mount Annan Botanic Gardens	Narellan Road Campbelltown	Alan & Anne Cousins
September	Monday 12 th	Monthly Meeting Speaker – TBA	Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Hall	Ross Gowans
September	Wednesday 14 th	Bass Point Reserve	Bass Point Tourist Road	Bill & Joan Zealey
September	Sunday 18 th	Bangalee Nature Reserve	Koloona Drive North Nowra	Alan & Anne Cousins
October	Saturday 15 th to Saturday 22 nd	Spring Camp	Laurieton / Bonny Hills Area	Anna & Andrew Knowlson
November	Monday 14 th	Monthly Meeting and AGM Speaker – TBA	Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Hall	Ross Gowans
November	Wednesday 16 th	Macquarie Rivulet	Spoonbill Place Albion Park Rail	Bill & Joan Zealey
November	Sunday 20 th	Morton National Park	Church St / Gullies Road, Bundanoon	Alan & Anne Cousins
December	Saturday 10 th	Christmas Picnic		