

LITTLE PENGUIN

Scientific Name: *Eudyptula minor*

Atlas Number: 5

Description

Like all penguins, the Little Penguin is highly adapted for life in the sea. Its body is streamlined, its wings are modified as flippers and its feathers are densely distributed over its body. The upper parts, including the back of the Little Penguin are distinctly blue, which explains one of its alternative names



(Blue Penguin) and the underbelly is white. Its bill is grey-black with a pinkish lower base, and its iris pale grey to white. One New Zealand population has broad white borders to the flippers, and considered by some as a separate species. Young penguins are bluer than adults. The Little Penguin is also known as the Fairy Penguin because of its small size.

Distribution:

Little Penguins live along the southern edge of mainland Australia, as well as Tasmania, New Zealand and the Chatham Islands.

Habitat:

Little Penguins occur in temperate seas with water temperatures between 13 degrees C and 20 degrees C. Within this region, the Little Penguin feeds mainly in inshore waters around the coast and breeding islands, and out to the continental shelf. Most breeding pairs live in colonies, although some nest on their own. Colonies are usually found on islands, with only scattered locations known on the mainland.

Feeding:

Adult Little Penguins are largely sedentary, returning to the colony when not at sea. Adult penguins forage for food at sea, mostly from dawn to an hour before dusk. Little Penguins swim with their flippers and use their tail for guidance. They

feed on small shoaling fish and cephalopods, and to a lesser extent, crustaceans, which they capture and swallow underwater.

Living with us

Little Penguins are threatened by a range of human-related activities. Colonies of Little Penguins have declined or disappeared in breeding areas altered by grazing or erosion. Other threats include oil pollution, discarded plastic products and fire. Feral animals are a considerable threat. For example rabbits have changed island habitats until these are unsuitable for penguins, and predators, particularly dogs, kill many birds. In some areas, penguins are still deliberately killed for bait. The Australian population is estimated at less than 1,000,000 birds.

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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TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP :	Ken Brown
EDITORS:	Charles Dove, Janina Dove
RECORDS OFFICER:	Darryl Goldrick

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

GENERAL MEETING

Monday October 10th Meeting at 7.30pm
Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.

Presenter is Andrew and Anna Knowlson "**Highlights of the Kimberley** "

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

MIDWEEK OUTING

Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 9.00 am

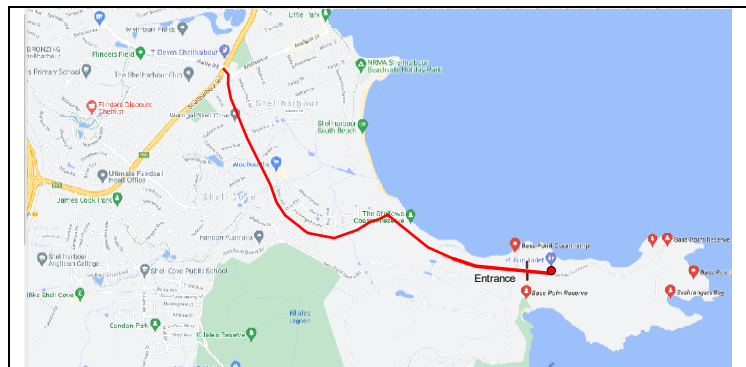
Bass Point, Shellharbour

Leaders Bill & Joan Zealey

Meet at 9.00am just past the entrance of the Bass Point Reserve

Head south from Wollongong to Shellharbour. If you are on the M1 then take the B65 to Shell Cove and Shellharbour. Turn right at the main intersection, by the Shellharbour Club.

If you are on the Princes Highway, take the left turn toward Shellharbour. Remain in the righthand lane and continue along Harbour Boulevard to its end. Turn right along Bass Point Tourist Road. We will meet at the toilet block parking area immediately past the granite entrance to the reserve.



The walking is generally easy. We will walk along the beach track to the Point. Here we may find Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos, Honeyeaters, Fig birds and Oriels. where we will have coffee/tea and look for Albatross, Gannets, Oystercatchers, Terns and Shearwaters. Bass Point is one of the two most important archaeological sites on the NSW coast The Wodi Wodi tribe had a "walkabout area" between Picton, Stanwell Tops, Marulan and Nowra and would camp at Bass Point. It is also the site of the sinking of the American Merchant Ship City Services Boston, during a storm in May 1943. The memorial on the Point remembers the Australian Soldiers who lost their lives in the rescue attempt.



Bring morning tea. Be sure to bring sunscreen.
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

Saturday 15th October 2022 at 9am

Leaders Alan & Anne Cousins

Royal National Park, Audley.

Take the Princes Highway to the top of Bulli Pass and then the Princes Motorway, or if preferred go via Thirroul, Lawrence Hargrave Drive through the park to Audley. From the Princes Motorway enter the park at Waterfall and on reaching Sir Bertram Stevens Drive turn left and follow to Audley. If you enter at Furnell Avenue, Loftus, you will go straight to the Visitor Centre, Audley. Enter the road to the centre and follow to the white timber bridge, cross the bridge and turn left. Follow the signs to Wattle Flat parking area.

Bring morning tea and lunch and we will decide on the venues for these depending on how far we get.

In the event of inclement weather contact Alan or Anne Cousins on 0413869534 by 7.30am

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 17th October 2022 7.00pm

Committee Meeting via Zoom

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE 26th October

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

SIGHTINGS –

please report your sightings be what they may be. No need to be 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](#)*

CLUB REPORTS

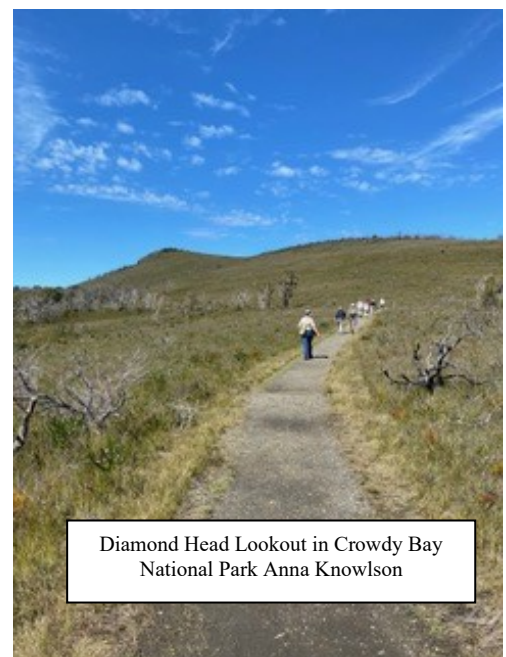
SPRING CAMP AT NORTH HAVEN

SEPTEMBER 2022

IBOC Spring camp this year was at the North Haven Reflections Caravan Park near Laurieton where 22 members and family attended.

We had variable Spring weather for the week but despite the few showers the location was very scenic next to the Camden Haven River. While most people arrived on Saturday 3rd of September, Andrew and I spent a few nights camping in Harrington and Crowdy Bay National Park on the way and then a couple of nights at North Haven to check on venues for walks and picnic facilities on the Camp Program.

Following a day and night of rain on Saturday the Camp program began on Sunday morning with a walk along the Coastal path that adjoined the Caravan Park. Birds were seen from the beginning such as a pair of Glossy Black Cockatoos feeding on casuarina nuts and Scarlet Honeyeater calling and finally tracked down in the first 50 meters. We continued on the fire trail as it had been wet the day before seeing a good complement of small birds including Red-browed Finch, Silvereye and half a dozen Brown Cuckoo Doves feeding on the many Tobacco plants in the cleared area near the track and then working out that the corvids were Forest Ravens. We had a stop for morning tea at the end of the trail with catch up chats and then a leisurely stroll back to the camp for lunch. While most were enjoying the sighting of a Drongo, I went back to check the fig tree where I had sighted a Wompoo Fruitdove the day before and found it hiding in the dense leaves. Great excitement ensued as some had not seen this species for some time if at all. Luckily the fig tree could be observed from the Caravan Park and our members were seen checking it



Diamond Head Lookout in Crowdy Bay
National Park Anna Knowlson

out and photographing the Fruitdove for most of the week we were there. Hopefully one of the photos will be included with this report.

In the afternoon we attempted to walk along the break wall on the northern side of the mouth of the Camden Haven River in very windy conditions. Not many sightings and some opted out of the walk and headed back to shelter. Those that persevered observed a Sea Eagle and a few Crested terns and Pied Cormorants and a White-faced Heron before heading back to camp.

On Monday 5th September we all met at Henry Kendall Reserve near Queens Lake. The walk west along the Lake edge to observe an Osprey's nest proved a lot longer than expected. But some lucky ones up the front managed to see a male Regent Bowerbird and many enjoyed the little Variegated Fairywren male in bright plumage and the sighting of Musk Lorikeets and Eastern Curlews kept us going. The Black swans and Pelicans on the lake entertained us with their aerial formation flying display following the Oyster farmers boat around. Eventually some managed to make it to the picnic tables and we were able to observe the Osprey near the nest. Those that had found it hard going waited for a lift back to the picnic area while others walked back for a well-deserved lunch. Then we drove up to the North Brother Mountain lookout for views back to the coast. Some ventured along the rainforest track to a lookout to the southwest. Neil Mac and Ken still had enough energy to take the walking track down the mountain into town to be picked up by Sue Brown guided by two young women who had managed to walk up to the lookout earlier in the day.

Tuesday saw us all gather at Cattai Wetlands about 40kms to the south of Kew along the Pacific Highway. From the moment we alighted from the cars the area was alive with birdlife with lots of Honeyeaters enjoying the blossoms including the prolific White-cheeked Honeyeater which we saw everywhere and Eastern Spinebill. We walked clockwise around the wetlands stopping at the viewing platform to try to find the Comb-crested Jacana which wasn't found until a second try after lunch. But Sacred Kingfisher and Intermediate Egret was found along with Purple Swamphen. We made our way around the track to the Bird Hide for morning tea observing Grey Teal, Black Ducks and one Australian Grebe swimming on the lake. Good siting's were had of Reed Warblers and White-breasted Woodswallows. On the way back to the picnic tables for lunch some saw a Crested Shrike-tit while others saw a Striped Honeyeater among a lot of other birds. After lunch in the lovely covered picnic area some headed back to the viewing platform to check if the Jacana was there, it took a while but eventually it was found some distance away. Cattai Wetlands is a wonderful birding location and highly recommended as a stop just of the Pacific Highway to the East of Coopersnook.



Morning Tea in Bird Hide at Cattai Wetlands for Camp Report - Anna Knowlson

On Wednesday we all headed out along the road to the Crowdy Bay National Park south of Laurieton. First stop was the Geebung Picnic Area where we met up with Pam's friends Beth and Ian from the Hastings Birdwatchers. On the way Anne and Alan saw a group of Brown Quail cross the road in front of them which made Anne very excited. Our first walk for the day was across the road along the Humbug Fire Trail which was easy walking on a gravel track. A female Regent Bowerbird was sited at the beginning of the track and further along we saw three birds of prey fly over the trees. This caused a bit of debate about the species which was resolved by the photographers zooming in to reveal Pacific Bazas. Further down the track a brief siting was made of Southern Emu Wren and Variegated Fairywrens but it was hard to keep track of them. A brief detour into the forest turned up White-throated Treecreeper and a nesting Little Wattlebird. Back to the Geebung Picnic area for morning tea after which we were treated to a rousing rendition by Neil Mackinlay of Banjo Paterson's "The Geebung Polo Club" and some discussion on the geebung plant. We then headed down to the Diamond Head Campground and took the track out to the Lookout from the parking area. Only a few birds were observed but the wildflowers were wonderful. As the sun had



The Geebung Polo Club recital by Neil Mackinlay - Anna Knowlson

returned, we sheltered in the shade for lunch keeping an eye on the local Goanna and Kangaroo population.

A visit to the Sea Acres Rainforest Boardwalk in southern Port Macquarie was scheduled for Thursday. When we all gathered at the centre, we found that part of the boardwalk was closed due to storm damage so we could not do the whole circuit but we were compensated with half price entry. The birdlife seemed very quiet until I chatted to a local man who had previously been a guide at Sea Acres and a member of Hasting Birdwatchers. He mentioned he had been hearing the Spectacled Monarch and not long after a pair was observed by most of our crew. Golden Whistler and Green Catbird were also seen along with Brush Turkey which became a bit of a pest at the cafe during morning tea. But the most spectacular observation was of a male Regent Bowerbird up close eating berries right beside the cafe and we all got a very good look much to the amusement of the staff and other patrons. So, despite not having a very long walk it was very profitable and morning tea was delicious. We had a free afternoon to go our own way after that. Some of us went out to Shelly Beach and Tracking Point Lighthouse near Sea Acres but the wind was too strong for birding but apparently, I missed the whale siting. We all gathered at the North Haven Bowling Club for a group dinner on Thursday night and despite the noisy raffles it was an enjoyable evening. Thanks, Nic for making the booking.

Friday was an easy day but as we gathered at Pilot Beach Reserve at Camden Head it started to rain. Someone had been feeding the local birds seed so good numbers of Bar-shouldered Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Crested Pigeon, Spangled Drongo and Galah were easy to see. We had a short walk along the southern break wall of the Camden Haven River and back to the picnic tables just before the rain set in again. A good siting of a Brahminy Kite was seen at morning tea from the picnic area. As the rain had eased, we drove up the hill to the start of the Flower Bowl walk a 2km circuit walk on the headland amongst flowering shrubs and Banksias. Along the walk we saw quite a few small species such as Brown Thornbill, Eastern Yellow Robin, White-browed Scrubwren, Superb and Variegated Fairywren and Grey Fantail. Quite a few honeyeaters were feeding on the flowers along with an Olive-backed Oriole and one lucky person saw an Emerald Dove on the return walk back to the cars.

In the afternoons we had been meeting at the camp kitchen to hear the bird list for the day and get a briefing on the next day's outing. One evening Peter Fackendar shared some of his portfolio of wonderful bird photos from over the years. On the final evening we made it a more informal gathering with shared nibbles and good company. North Haven proved to be an excellent location for our camp.



Morning tea at North Haven camp –
Pamela Hazelwood

P.S. Unfortunately Andrew's and my trip ended abruptly in disaster only 2 days later on Sunday 11th of September when on our way to Gulgong a large truck hit our car which overturned along with the caravan. But amazingly we managed to crawl out of the wreckage with only bruises and shock as our injuries. However, we were stranded in Mudgee needing assistance from our insurance helpline as the car was a write off and the van has been severely damaged. So, you may see us in a new vehicle next time we meet. We sincerely hope everyone else managed to make it home safely.

Anna Knowlson

North Haven - 03/09/2022 to 11/09/2022

SITES (Names are abbreviated. See "Sites" sheet for site deta TRAVEL

	Region			Column is count of sites	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Port M'quarie	Unusual	Shown		Cell below is overall species count	CVP	Beach Trail	River walk	Henry Kendall	North Brother	Cattai	National Park	Sea Acres	Pilot Beach	Flower Bowl	
	4	Y	Y	120	20	38	16	50	3	55	51	19	28	16		6
Australian Brush-turkey	Y		Y	1								2				
Brown Quail	Y		Y	1							4					
Black Swan	Y		Y	2				8		x						
Australian Wood Duck	Y		Y	3	x		2	2								
Grey Teal	Y		Y	1						x						
Chestnut Teal	Y		Y	3	x			1		x						
Pacific Black Duck	Y		Y	2				2		x						
Australasian Grebe	Y		Y	1						x						
Rock Dove ¹	Y		Y	1												x
White-headed Pigeon	Y		Y	1	1											
Spotted Dove ¹	Y		Y	1				1								
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Y		Y	3		7				x	x					
Emerald Dove	Y		Y	1											x	
Crested Pigeon	Y		Y	2		1							6			
Bar-shouldered Dove	Y		Y	3							4		4	x		
Wonga Pigeon	Y		Y	2	x	2										
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Y		Y	2		1					x					
Topknot Pigeon	Y		Y	1							x					
Australasian Gannet	Y		Y	1							1					
Australasian Darter	Y		Y	3			1			x			1			
Little Pied Cormorant	Y		Y	3				1		x			1			
Great Cormorant	Y		Y	2						x	x					
Little Black Cormorant	Y		Y	3				2			16		1			
Pied Cormorant	Y		Y	4			2	1			x		3			
Australian Pelican	Y		Y	2				6		x						
Eastern Great Egret	Y		Y	1				1								
Intermediate Egret	Y		Y	1						x						
Cattle Egret	Y		Y	1												x
White-faced Heron	Y		Y	3			1	1					1			
Little Egret	Y		Y	1						x						
Eastern Reef Egret	Y		Y	1							1					
Australian White Ibis	Y		Y	1												x
Eastern Osprey	Y		Y	2				1					1			
Black-shouldered Kite	Y		Y	1							1					
Pacific Baza	Y		Y	1							3					
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Y		Y	3			1	1			x					
Whistling Kite	Y		Y	3				1		x	2					
Brahminy Kite	Y		Y	2							x		1			
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Y		Y	1												x
Little Eagle	Y		Y	1				1								
Nankeen Kestrel	Y		Y	1							1					
Purple Swamphen	Y		Y	1						x						
Dusky Moorhen	Y		Y	1						x						
Eurasian Coot	Y		Y	1						x						
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Y		Y	2				1			6					
Sooty Oystercatcher	Y		Y	1							2					
Masked Lapwing	Y		Y	5	x	6		2			x		x			
Comb-crested Jacana	Y		Y	1						x						
Eastern Curlew	Y		Y	1				3								
Crested Tern	Y		Y	2			3						1			
Silver Gull	Y		Y	1	x											
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Y		Y	1		2										
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Y		Y	3	x	5				x						
Galah	Y		Y	4	x	3	2						6			
Little Corella	Y		Y	1	x											
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Y		Y	1	x											
Rainbow Lorikeet	Y		Y	6		10	5	15				1	30	x		
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Y		Y	3		3		5			x					
Musk Lorikeet	Y		Y	1				3								
Australian King-Parrot	Y		Y	2							6	x				

	Port Mquarie	Unusual	Shown	Cell below is overall species count	CVP	Beach Trail	River walk	Henry Kendall	North Brother	Cattai	National Park	Sea Acres	Pilot Beach	Flower Bowl			
Eastern Rosella	Y		Y	3	x			2		x							
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Y		Y	1						x							
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Y		Y	2								1	x				
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Y		Y	3		1				x	x						
Laughing Kookaburra	Y		Y	5		2		3		x	x	1					
Forest Kingfisher	Y		Y	1						x							
Sacred Kingfisher	Y		Y	3				2		x	x						
Rainbow Bee-eater	Y		Y	1							x						
White-throated Treecreeper	Y		Y	4		1		3		x		1					
Green Catbird	Y		Y	1								1					
Regent Bowerbird	Y		Y	4		1 f		1			x	2 mf					
Satin Bowerbird	Y		Y	2	x					x							
Superb Fairy-wren	Y		Y	3						x			x	x			
Variegated Fairy-wren	Y		Y	5		8		5		x	x						
Southern Emu-wren	Y		Y	1							x						
White-browed Scrubwren	Y		Y	4		1				x			x	x			
Brown Gerygone	Y		Y	3				2		x		1					
Yellow Thornbill	Y		Y	2		2				x							
Brown Thornbill	Y		Y	5		2		3		x	x						
Spotted Pardalote	Y		Y	6	x		1	1		x	x	2					
Striated Pardalote	Y		Y	1				1									
Eastern Spinebill	Y		Y	3		2				x							
Lewin's Honeyeater	Y		Y	8	x	6		5		x	x	5	x	x			
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Y		Y	3				7		x	x						
Noisy Miner	Y		Y	3	x	2					x						
Little Wattlebird	Y		Y	6		17	1	3			x		1	x			
Red Wattlebird	Y		Y	1				1									
Scarlet Honeyeater	Y		Y	4		1		1		x		1					
White-cheeked Honeyeater	Y		Y	5		7	1			x	x						
Noisy Friarbird	Y		Y	3	x			14		x							
Striped Honeyeater	Y		Y	1						x							
Eastern Whipbird	Y		Y	6		2			1	x	x	2	x				
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Y		Y	4		2	1	1					2				
Crested Shrike-tit	Y		Y	1						x							
Golden Whistler	Y		Y	7		1		1		x	x	2	x	x			
Rufous Whistler	Y		Y	2						x	x						
Grey Shrike-thrush	Y		Y	5				1		x	x	1					
Australasian Figbird	Y		Y	2		4							1				
Olive-backed Oriole	Y		Y	2				1									
White-breasted Woodswallow	Y		Y	2						x	4						
Dusky Woodswallow	Y		Y	1							x						
Grey Butcherbird	Y		Y	3			1				x	1					
Pied Butcherbird	Y		Y	4		1		1			x		x				
Australian Magpie, Black back or c	Y		Y	5	x	2		3		x	x						
Pied Currawong	Y		Y	4		1		1	1		1						
Spangled Drongo	Y		Y	5		1	1			x	x		10				
Grey Fantail	Y		Y	7	x	3		2		x	x	1					
Willie Wagtail	Y		Y	5			4	2		x	x		x				
Australian Raven	Y		Y	3	x					x	x						
Forest Raven	Y		Y	1									1				
Torresian Crow	Y		Y	2		3		5									
Spectacled Monarch	Y		Y	1								2					
Magpie-lark	Y		Y	2			1	2									
Eastern Yellow Robin	Y		Y	8		5		1	1	x	x	3	x	x			
Australian Reed-Warbler	Y		Y	1						x							
Silvereye	Y		Y	2		8				x							
Welcome Swallow	Y		Y	3	x	1		4									
Fairy Martin	Y		Y	1													x
Common Myna	Y		Y	1													x
Red-browed Finch	Y		Y	4		6				x	x		x				

NOTICES & ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Due to a recent oversight in the September newsletter these great images below by Pam Hazelwood from the 2 walks in August were not included.

Coomaditchy Lagoon and Hill 60, Port Kembla - August 10th. Images by Pam Hazelwood



Grey Butcherbird



Lewin's Honeyeater



Superb Fairy-wren - female



Little Eagle



Superb Fairy-wren - male



Little Eagle





Crested Pigeon



Australian Pelican



Great Cormorant



Australasian Darter



Nankeen Kestrel

A number of members have asked if they could receive my 2023 Calendars early to allow for the overseas postage. Charles

So, with regards to ordering the 2023 Calendars it has been requested that if IBOC members could **have orders in by Friday, 4th November.**

That gives Ken & Sue a week to find a convenient day to go down and pick up for delivery, **at the IBOC AGM Meeting in November.**

WHEN ORDERING:

PLEASE MENTION IBOC FOR PICKUP

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Charles powerart@bigpond.net.au



WHAT'S THAT BIRD BEEN EATING?

Mike Morphet

"Pellets offer a grand opportunity for the field zoologist to see what the birds have been eating, which often is all but impossible to observe directly." Colin Tudge: *The Bird: A Natural History of Who Birds Are, Where They Came From, and How They Live* (2008)



Over the past nine months two immature Grey Butcherbirds have been regular visitors to my Thirroul backyard, either singly or together and occasionally in the presence of a parent bird. Frequent loud contact calls accompany their boldness. They often take more than a mild interest in the occupants of my aviary. Towards the end of August one immature and one adult landed in the tea-tree outside the kitchen window. The latter began pecking at a thin dead twig and then tried another one, which broke off, about 15 cm in length (half that of its body), and was carried off in its bill towards the wooded, abandoned Excelsior Coal Mine area two blocks away; presumably nesting material. They usually breed in the last four months of the year. The young one had been watching and took off later.

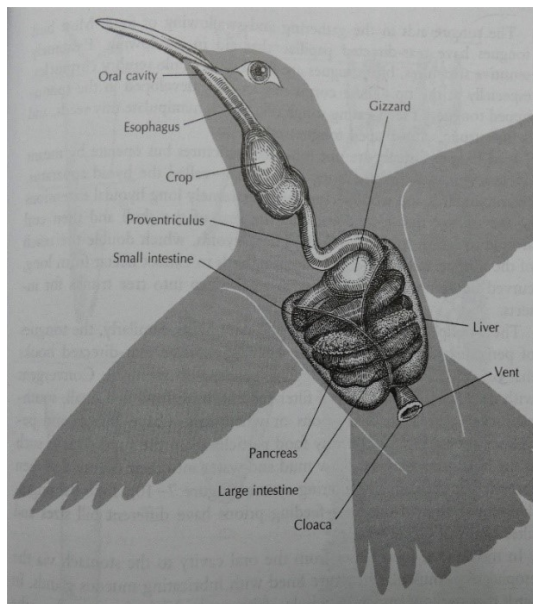
Then on 2nd September I learned something new about the Grey Butcherbird. One immature landed on the back verandah to join other species feeding on mixed seed and crumbed walnuts, but didn't partake, just watched. Then it opened its beak, and out popped a small brown lump, which I knew to be a disgorged food pellet; but from a songbird? I acknowledge, though, it may also be termed a bird of prey. I had attributed this habit to only owls and raptors, such as hawks and falcons. The bird immediately began to feed. When it had finished, I carefully swept up the pellet and placed it on a sheet of paper, measured its length (20 mm), and prised apart the moist contents with my 'prodder'* to see what it had been eating. Being undigested food, there was no smell. Even with the aid of a magnifying glass I could identify only bits of insect legs and maybe shell.



This experience prompted me to do some research on the Net. On YouTube Frederique Davies has a brief video of a 'butcherbird regurgitating a pellet' (November 1, 2015), one of a pair she'd been feeding for quite a while. She thought it had been "stimulated by the sight of a potential meal" after having watched its mate have a feed and then fly off. Under the title 'All about owl pellets and more', Yorkshire wildlife artist, Robert E Fuller displays some splendid pictures of owls and kingfishers, including chicks, "spitting out" pellets, which, he states, are sometimes used for nest-lining. It appears there's a wide range of avian species within and outside Australia that expel pellets: grebes, cormorants, herons, some gulls and terns, most shorebirds, northern and loggerhead shrikes (both also called butcherbirds), crows, jays, ravens, dippers, swallows, robins, and honeyeaters, which consume arthropods in addition to their primary diet of nectar.

According to Wikipedia, a pellet from a large bird measures one to two inches in length, contrasting with about half an inch from songbirds. Besides size, variation takes the form of colour, shape (spherical to plug-shaped), and contents. The latter reveals the diet of a particular species, which may comprise any of the following: bones, fur, feathers, bills, claws, teeth, insect parts (especially exoskeletons), or seeds. A brown pellet can be mistaken for scat. There have been reports of some raptor pellets containing the band of a small bird that's been eaten. Sadly, there's another type of pellet which has been found inside certain birds. The word is derived from the Old French *pelote* meaning 'little ball', which has also been applied to a projectile discharged from an air rifle or catapult. In her book *Birds* (2009) University of Southampton

zoarchaeologist, Dale Serjeantson writes of the suffering of ducks and swans from lead poisoning through ingesting lead shot from hunters' pellets. Quoting from Valerie Thom's *Birds of Scotland* (1986), she gives the example of a dead mute swan found with 944 gunshot pellets.



Composed of lightweight, but strong keratin, the upper and lower mandibles form a bird's bill. Mandible comes from Latin *mandere* 'to chew' and *mandibula* 'jawbone', but neither is part of avian anatomy and physiology. A jawbone supporting teeth would have added too much weight in the evolution of flight. Instead, avian digestive system relies on the two-chambered stomach following the food's passage down from the esophagus: the glandular proventriculus, producing juices to begin to dissolve it (most developed in fish-eaters and raptors) and the strong muscular walls of the gizzard to grind and digest tough substances, sometimes with the aid of grit, which some birds purposely take on board. Bits of plastic can remain for months. The diagram, taken from Frank B Gill's *Ornithology* 2nd Edition (1995) is of a hummingbird's digestive system, which doesn't represent other species. The stomach's shape and structure vary considerably across species, reflecting different dietary habits. What food is indigestible is

parcelled up and passed back up and ejected as a pellet, whilst digested remnants are expelled via the cloaca, a body part also applied to the monotremes, platypus and echidna. From that word we get the slang 'clacker' for anus or mouth and, in the plural, testicles. But from Old Norse, a clacker is a rattle used to frighten off birds.

Two American companies that have been operating for over thirty years claim that bird pellets have an educational value concerning science and nature, providing activity kits, particularly for the young. Currently at the reduced price of \$6.30, Copernicus Toys stock "sanitary" owl pellets, which contain the "skeletal remains of an owl meal" from which one can "learn about the owl's habitat, place in the food chain, and predatory skills." One Facebook respondent praised the product used at her daughter's themed sixth birthday, after which she wanted to make an ornament out of all the bones. Acorn Naturalists offer an alternative choice of bird pellet at a mere \$3.49: that of a raven, which is purported to have more variety of content; namely, lizard, snake, rodent and bird bones, seeds and fruit. To stress the importance of hygiene, each product is "wrapped in foil, heat-treated, and carefully stored in sealed plastic bags." If there's an ongoing demand for this form of activity kit, there could be a little earner for the pellet collector scouring roosting and nesting bird sites; but there comes a warning...

In the wild, bird pellets can contain harmful micro-organisms. To prepare the item for inspection, one suggestion is to place the pellet in water to soften it before using a tweezer to tease it apart; presumably if it has hardened over time, as I found my butcherbird's wet enough. To avoid the risk of picking up something dodgy from microbes, placement in the freezer (the pellet, that is, not the investigator) is recommended; or else cooking it in a microwave for twenty seconds (twice as long in a traditional oven). *The instrument was a broken current detector I came across several years ago, which I've found useful for other purposes: marking the spot for a hole to be made in timber with a drill, and ideal for making an extra buckle hole in a waist-belt.

LINKS

Widespread exposure of powerful owls to second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in Australia spans an urban to agricultural and forest landscape – ScienceDirect
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969722001139>

The Aussie Bird Count is back - 17-23 October 2022!
[Head to the website and register today.](#)

This could make us lazy? It records and analyses bird calls in your backyard.
<https://haikubox.com/>

Half of world's bird species in decline as destruction of avian life intensifies
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/28/nearly-half-worlds-bird-species-in-decline-as-destruction-of-avian-life-intensifies-aoe?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Monthly Sightings: Aug-Sept '22

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

Australasian Grebe	1	21/07/2022	Stuart Park, Wollongong	On pond	Wayne Green
White-headed Pigeon	5	21/08/2022	Cordeaux Heights	Back Yard	Wayne Green
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	13/09/2022	Bellambi Dunes	hind dune forest	Ian Mckinlay
Tawny Frogmouth	2	20/06/2022	Cordeaux Heights	Urban reserve	Wayne Green
White-faced Heron	1	12/08/2022	Unanderra	Road reserve	Wayne Green
Square-tailed Kite	1	30/08/2022	Cordeaux Heights	Urban subdivision - hunting over houses	Wayne Green
Pacific Baza	1	26/07/2022	Marshall Mount	Creek/Rainforest edge	Anna Knowlson
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	25/09/2022	flying towards escarpment over Thirroul	in flight	Ian McKinlay
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	4/08/2022	Austinmer	O'head coastal	Lyn Dawson
Brown Goshawk	1	18/07/2022	Rickard Road, Unanderra	Urban creek	Wayne Green
Grey Goshawk	1	31/08/2022	Figtree	M1 Motorway reserve	Wayne Green
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	2/08/2022	Balgownie	O'head	Joan Zealey
Peregrine Falcon	1	21/08/2022	Coniston	Urban - treed area	Wayne Green
Long-billed Corella	32	26/09/2022	Lake Illawarra PCYC	adjoining reserve	Darryl Goldrick
Little Corella	~ 30	14/09/2022	East Thirroul	in flight	Ian McKinlay
Musk Lorikeet	6	7/08/2022	Avondale	Residential	Tera Wheway
Australian King-Parrot	2	6/08/2022	Avondale	Residential yard	Neil Wheway
Eastern Rosella	1	21/08/2022	Cordeaux Heights	Back yard	Wayne Green
Eastern Rosella	6	14/09/2022	Russell Vale Golf course	grassland	Ian McKinlay
Eastern Koel	1	21/09/2022	Russell Vale GC	Street trees	Ian McKinlay
Eastern Koel	1	26/09/2022	Hindmarsh Park, Kiama	Park Fig trees	Darryl Goldrick
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	18/09/2022	Boyce Ave, Austinmer	regrowth forest	Ian Mckinlay
Southern Boobook	1	1/09/2022	Cordeaux Heights	Creek gully forest	Wayne Green
Laughing Kookaburra	1 pr (Br)	23/08/2022	Lake Illawarra South	Drilling hollow in Canary Is. Palm for nest- residential yard	Darryl Goldrick
Green Catbird	1	5/08/2022	Botanic Gardens	Tree?	Christine Steinman
Satin Bowerbird	3	4/08/2022	Balgownie	Yard compost heap	Joan Zealey
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	2	5/08/2022	Bulls Park, Bulli	Bushland	Ross/Jann Gowans
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	7/08/2022	Marshall Mount	Creek/rainforest edge	Anna Knowlson
Eastern Spinebill	1	26/08/2022	Burnetts on Barney Kiama	Garden centre	Alan and Anne Cousins
Lewin's Honeyeater	2	29/08/2022	Corrimal	Near creek on Thurston crescent	Carly Weatherly
Red Wattlebird	2	21/09/2022	Bonaira Kiama	Bush in garden - nesting	Alan and Anne Cousins
Red Wattlebird	1 Ad 2 juv	27/09/2022	Kiama Bonaira	Garden outside our window- juv being fed	Alan and Anne Cousins
Australasian Figbird	50	18/06/2022	Cordeaux Heights	Backyard Eucalypt (flew west towards escarpment)	Wayne Green
Grey Butcherbird	1	20/08/2022	Lake Illawarra South	Residential Powerline	Darryl Goldrick
Pied Currawong	4	6/08/2022	Austinmer	Residential yard	Tony Dawson

Visit **IBOC** website to email your sightings

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

I.B.O.C. 2022 Annual General Meeting Notice Monday 14th November 2022

The I.B.O.C. Inc. 2022 Annual General Meeting will be held Monday 14th Nov 22 at Fairy Meadow Community Hall, corner of Cambridge Ave & Princes Highway Fairy Meadow commencing at 7:30pm, the ordinary monthly meeting will follow the AGM.

Business of the AGM:

- Confirmation of the minutes of the 2021 AGM
- Committee activity reports for 2022
- Receive and consider annual financial statements for 2022
- Election of IBOC office bearers and ordinary committee members for 2023

The official positions to be filled are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to six (6) Ordinary Committee Members.

Nomination for the above positions close with the Secretary at 5pm Monday, 7th November 2022. Please use the nomination form below.

Please note that all nominations must be signed and dated by the Nominee, the Nominator, and the Seconder, as well as clearly indicating the position sought.

If any of these are missing the nomination will be invalid.

Completed Nomination Forms should be posted to P.O. Box 56 Fairy Meadow 2519 or handed to the Secretary prior to the closing date.

If insufficient valid nominations are received for the official positions prior to the closing date, nominations will be called at the meeting by the Returning Officer.

In addition to the above official positions the following non-elected positions need to be filled: Records Officer, Activities Officer (Monthly Walks), Activities Officer (Mid-Week Walks), Activities Officer (Camps), Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Librarian(s), Hall Manager, Badges & Attendance Officer, Kitchen Volunteers and Public Officer. If you are interested in assisting in any of these important roles, please advise the Secretary prior to the meeting.



NOMINATION FORM FOR IBOC OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE – 2022 POSITIONS

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and up to six (6) Ordinary Committee Members

****Nominations are required to reach the Secretary by 5pm Monday 7th November 2022****

Position nominated: _____

Members Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date _____

Nominated by: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Seconded by: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: Nomination forms are not required for the non-elected positions