

BAR-SHOULDERED DOVE

Scientific Name: *Geopelia humeralis*
Atlas Number: 32

DESCRIPTION:

The Bar-shouldered Dove is a medium-sized, long-tailed dove. Adult doves have a blue-grey head, neck and upper breast, with a distinctive reddish-bronze patch on the hind neck, with dark barring. Young doves lack this patch and barring and tend to be duller overall. There is also a distinctive pinkish bar on the lower breast. The lower body is pale. They have a blue-grey eye-ring and reddish eye. They are usually



photo by Charles Dove

seen in pairs or small parties. The northern sub-species *hedlandi* is lighter in colour.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

The Bar-shouldered Dove is similar in size and shape to the Spotted Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis*, and much larger than the Peaceful Dove, *G. striata*, or the Diamond Dove, *G. cuneata*.

DISTRIBUTION:

Bar-shouldered Doves are found in humid and well-wooded regions of north-western, northern and eastern Australia from near Onslow in Western Australia to Bega in New South Wales, as well as in southern New Guinea. The subspecies *hedlandi* is restricted to the Pilbara region.

HABITAT:

Bar-shouldered Doves are found in woodland with a grassy understorey and in nearby open areas, usually near water. They are also often found in mangroves and are frequently seen in urban areas.

FEEDING:

Bar-shouldered Doves feed on the ground in short grass near cover. They need to drink throughout the day. They mainly eat seeds of grasses, herbs and sedges, as well as rhizomes (small root storages).

BREEDING:

The nest of the Bar-shouldered Dove is usually hidden in dense shrubs or trees and in gardens, throughout its range. A thin platform is made from twigs and roots and is placed in a fork or on a branch. Both parents incubate the eggs and feed the chicks. Young doves are fed with 'crop milk', specially produced by the parent birds (a common characteristic of pigeons and doves).

LIVING WITH US

Bar-shouldered Doves have benefitted from clearing for agriculture and are common in urban areas in the Top End region (far northern Australia).

Text courtesy of <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

CONTENTS:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Club Activities | Page | 2 |
| Club Reports | Page | 2 |
| Notices & Articles of interest | Pages | 3 - 7 |
| Monthly Bird Sightings | Page | 8 |



'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'

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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| EDITORS: | Charles Dove, Janina Dove |
| RECORDS OFFICER: | Darryl Goldrick |

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

AUGUST MEETING ON ZOOM

Monday 9th August 7pm for 7.30pm start

IBOC will be conducting another virtual meeting using Zoom, officially starting at 7:30 pm. Please note that the meeting will once again start at 7:00 pm to allow folks to catch up a bit and join before the business starts.

Will be a Members Night. If Members wish to make a presentation, please contact Ross Gowans and Ken Brown so that a program can be prepared.

Note: to use Zoom, you need a tablet, mobile or laptop/computer and should download the Zoom app and **make sure Ken Brown has your email at membership@iboc.org.au** ; If you require any additional assistance in getting set up, feel free to contact Jann Gowans at info@iboc.org.au or 4285 9070.

Please RSVP Jann if you would like to join the meeting ASAP.

MIDWEEK WALK

CANCELLED

MONTHLY OUTING

CANCELLED

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Committee Meeting Monday

August 16th 2021 at 7.00p m will be via Zoom

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE 24th August 2021

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 Club Reports

JUNE ZOOM MEETING REPORT July 17th 2021

Trying to organize meetings is all getting a bit disheartening: you organize speakers, up pops covid again and we're all back to square one.

But thankfully members are still coming forward with suggestions and little gems turn up to keep interest in the meetings.

One such gem appeared for the July meeting in the shape of Charles Dove. He put together a show of some of his favourite shots from the Toowoomba area, including birds, insects, mammals and landscapes.

All of this should have convinced anybody who was not sure on whether to attend the October camp, that it will be worth their efforts. The country is looking magnificent and the variety of wildlife is excellent, so it will be a good camp.

Looking forward to it.

Ross Gowans

If you missed it and would like to view, click the link <https://bit.ly/3AYw7H9>

If you are bored there is more on Youtube Under Charles Dove on your smart TV or click the link below to view

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQQY7RIT71sNnPwNkoy1dA>

MIDWEEK OUTING REPORT

No official reports due to all walks being cancelled for now, you can go for a birding exercise walk as some have.

NOTICES & ARTICLES OF INTEREST

KORRONGULLA WETLAND IN JULY

Bill & Joan Zealey

Where to go for exercise that is within 10km or your LGA.- that is the question.

Gone are the ad-hoc trips down the coast to Jervis Bay or even Jerrara Dam!.

Gone are the mid-week walks.!

Korongulla Wetlands, located near Lake Illawarra in Primbee, are a series of lagoons and wetlands, as well as coastal forest that form an annex of The Wollongong Botanic Garden. They are made up of several threatened plant communities: including: -

- Swap Oak Forest
- Coastal Sand Bangalay-Blackbutt Forest
- Coastal Sand Freshwater wetland
- Hind-Dune littoral Rainforest.

It is also home to several endangered species including the Green and Golden Bell Frog, the Black Bittern and Pink Robin- not that we saw them this trip.

Small groups of Yellow Thornbills, Tasmanian Silvereyes and Fan Tails were in evidence along the perimeter track along with Red-browed finches and both Superb Blue and Variegated Wrens. The lagoons hosted Wood Ducks, Black Ducks and Chestnut Teal, who were browsing amid the water weed that covered half the water's surface. The Pied Cormorants were building and occupying nests on the island in the main lagoon. We hadn't quite realised how early they started courting.

All-in-all, a satisfying walk, out of the gales that were blasting Balgownie and well within our LGA.

Until we all come out of lock-down: Happy Birding



Chestnut Teal



Pied Cormorants



Chestnut Teal and Pied Cormorants



Pied Cormorants and Black Swan

A LARGELY RIGHT DECISION

Mike Morphet

The July 21 edition of the *Illawarra Mercury* reported a southern right [or black] whale and her calf resting close to our local beach at Thirroul the day before. In the hope that the two would still be there, Carol and I headed off late morning. A cold, stiff southerly with a hint of Antarctica was blowing across the choppy sea. Plenty of white horses to be seen, but no baleens. All the seafront seats were unoccupied. No Silver Gulls. Seeking food scraps was left to a trio of plucky little House Sparrows that darted in and out of the Thirroul Beach Pavilion Café. Staff there (one of whom submitted the photograph of the whales for the newspaper article) confirmed our suspicions that they had more than likely departed; it was probably because our local coastline no longer served the same extent of sheltered protection on their northward migration.



We then sat on the steps on the leeward side of the building to drink our coronavirus coffees. Across from us a Great Cormorant had already settled on one of the overhead light poles. It evidently wasn't going to yield to the buffeting of the wind. For most of the time we were there, it held its head back over toward its mantle, just occasionally lifting it up to look around. It remained in situ when we returned to our car. As other types of cormorants, on a par with the Australian Pelican, make use of such structures for roosting, they perhaps could be added to the habitat section in field guides.



Back at home (by which time the wind had abated – Murphy's law in operation again) I sought information from my bird books. The taxonomic name for this species is *Phalacrocorax carbo*, given by Linnaeus in 1758: the genus is from the Greek, meaning bald raven, and the species from Latin, meaning charcoal, referring to its plumage colour. Its other common name is Black Shag. I wondered what a Raven had to do with it, so I looked up W.B. Lockwood's *The Oxford Dictionary of Bird Names* (1993). The word cormorant can be traced back to 12th century French 'cormore(n)g', meaning Marine Raven, which seems to have had its origin from the Latin *corvus vorans* (devouring raven). It then became *comerant* about 1275, and finally its current form in 1544.

Whilst missing out on seeing one of the largest whales in the world, at least I had the opportunity of a lengthy observation of one of Australia's largest cormorants, helping me, with some follow-up reading, to cope for a while with the ongoing lockdown restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 Delta strain. Perhaps the cormorant had been giving me a lesson as to how to adapt to prevailing adverse conditions or, in the case of the whales, when to move on from them.

Image of Southern Right Whale and Calf courtesy of Charles Dove

Q1 - Which is the fastest bird on the planet during it's hunting dive?

Q2 - According to the Dreamtime story, the blood of which bird turned Waratah flowers red?

CARTWHEELING BIRD ATTACKS CHALLENGER AT SEASIDE HOME

Mike Morphet

This headline one might expect to see on the front page of our local *Illawarra Mercury*. But in reality the story isn't sensational, just fascinating; well, for those with a penchant for birds. If one expected to read about a crime incident in a quiet residential area of Wollongong's northern suburbs, they would discover that the black-masked offender posed a threat of a mere twelve centimetres. Conversely, they might have thought it involved a courageous, faithful pet protecting its owner from a home invasion. But, for further details, read on.

It's late morning on the last day of June. I go out to the carport to prepare the council bins for the roadside collection of household and garden waste. From the other side of my Challenger station wagon, I hear a familiar bird call repeated several times. It's the 'zizzing' of a White-browed Scrubwren that comes when the bird is wary of an intruder. But it's evidently not me it's concerned about. Through the windscreen I can see the bird is pacing and jumping up and down and alongside the vehicle. Not doing sideways rotary movements though. This species has been called cartwheelbird; nothing to do with gymnastics, but after its squeaky call that was thought to resemble such a wheel in need of greasing. In turn he keeps pecking at the side windows and mirror and a door handle. The intruder is not a challenging male: just a reflection of himself. This aggressive behaviour is exhibited by various other passerines. I've seen a Peacock react similarly towards the reflective hub caps and other parts of a 4WD; no surprise, there were peahens around. Despite their small brains, but large in ratio to the rest of their body, birds are pretty intelligent creatures. One wonders, then, why they're not cluey enough to soon become aware of the fruitless waste of energy expended, let alone the risk of a headache; they must be hardwired. Still, we humans are at times given to banging our heads against a brick wall.



Fixated on attacking its perceived vying male, the White-browed Scrubwren allows me to move slowly to his side of the Challenger. Judging by the amount of scattered scat, I'd say he'd been at it for some time before my arrival. Upon becoming aware of my presence, he flies up to the security light above the carport entry and proceeds to peck at the reflective backing. Not for long though. Back to the vehicle. Meanwhile, his mate is close at hand, focusing on foraging for food among the plants. I imagine her being interviewed by a newspaper reporter: "Yes, he means well. I guess he does go over the top at times. A bit jealous like. Especially if he thinks some bloke is after my attention. We are thinking of starting a family, which, I guess, adds a bit of stress for him. We need to find a suitable home first though. There you go, more stress." June marks the start of the breeding season for White-browed Scrubwren.

Now I must think about the bins – not my binoculars, but the rubbish containers. My movements cause both birds to disperse. Despite the need to clean off the scat (including the other side of the station wagon, I find out), I've been given some refreshing entertainment on a coldish, rainy, Covid-lockdown day, just the fifth of as yet fourteen days.



Postscript: 4pm comes and a repeat scenario. The male isn't going to quit, it seems. So, as in a wet cricket match back in England, on with the covers; this time over the Challenger for its protection as well as the White-browed Scrubwrens'.

LINKS :

<https://www.kullillaart.com.au/dreamtime-stories/The-Waratah>

Cats!

<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.502>

Endangered NZ Tern seen in Australia for first time:

Birdwatchers are marvelling over the sighting of an endangered black-fronted tern on Australian shores. It's a bird endemic to New Zealand and has never been seen here before.

[Read the full story](#)

Shared from [ABC app](#)

FEARS FOR GANG-GANG COCKATOOS AS NUMBERS PLUMMET AFTER FIRES

| Australia news | The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jul/26/fears-for-gang-gang-cockatoos-as-numbers-plummet-after-fires>

CAN YOU HELP EXPERTS FIGURE OUT WHAT'S KILLING RAINBOW LORIKEETS?

Stuart Layt, SMH, July 16, 2021

A bizarre disease is paralysing Rainbow Lorikeets, leaving experts in a flap and calling on the public to help them solve the mystery.

Lorikeet paralysis syndrome renders the birds nearly immobile and unable to fly or eat, resulting in many birds dying from the condition.

Scientists sounded the alarm because the disease seems to have only started affecting the birds relatively recently, but has quickly ramped up, with thousands now being found dead or severely affected in the past few years.

University of Sydney School of Veterinary Science Professor David Phalen said he and his colleagues had ruled out several possibilities for what might be causing the disease, and are closing in on a likely culprit.

"We ruled out the common things that might cause the symptoms that these birds have - we know it's not a toxin produced as a result of pollution, it's not a toxin associated with pesticides or anything like that," he said. "We also know it's not an infectious disease."

Professor Phalen said that narrowed it down to a plant toxin, which fit the seasonal nature of the disease - the birds were primarily found with the paralysis between October and June.

That suggested the birds were feeding on the flowers or fruit of a plant that caused them to get sick - but researchers did not know which one.

"We've worked up a profile, almost like for a human being who's done a murder," Professor Phalen said.

"We think it's a plant confined to a portion of the east coast of Australia, specifically north of Grafton in NSW and south of Noosa in Queensland.

"We think it's a plant predominantly in the coastal areas, and most likely not a native plant, it might be an ornamental plant that people are planting in their backyards."

"We're asking people if they see birds feeding on a plant to take pictures of that plant and then upload them to our research website," he said.

"We'll get that information and we can start looking for which plants they are eating in the months the disease isn't a problem and which one they are eating when it is a problem."

More than 1000 Lorikeets which were taken to the RSPCA in 2017-18 were suffering from Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome.

People who find live birds suffering from the disease were asked to take them to their nearest vet or animal shelter for treatment, with a 60 per cent chance of recovery for mild cases.

A1 - Peregrine Falcon

A2 - Wonga pigeon

BELLAMBI LAGOON courtesy Mike Morphett



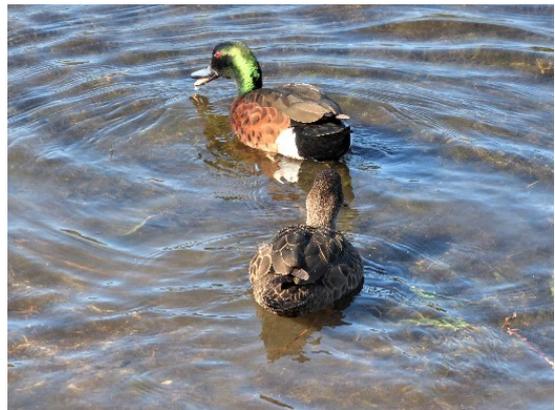
Bellambi Lagoon outlet to Corrimal Beach with berm blocking connection



dead tree foursome



seed case silhouette with human head profiles



chestnut teal with bottle-green sheen when caught in the sunlight



Pacific Baza



Collared Sparrowhawk



Pacific Baza

It pays to spend time outside. we noticed a Pacific Baza and Collared Sparrowhawk duelling a couple of days ago. By the time I got my camera out they were a fair way off but I managed to take some confirmatory shots. We haven't seen a Pacific Baza here before.

Pam Hazelwood

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS

June/July '21

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

| SPECIES | N ^o | DATE | LOCATION | HABITAT | OBSERVER |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Eurasian Coot | 5 | 14-Jul-21 | East Woonona | Blue Lagoon | Mike Morphet |
| Northern Mallard | 2 | 14-Jul-21 | East Woonona | Blue Lagoon | Mike Morphet |
| Hardhead | 4 | 1-Jul-21 | East Woonona | lagoon | Ian McKinlay |
| White-headed Pigeon | 1 | 14-Jul-21 | Thirroul | backyard casuarina | Mike Morphet |
| Brown Cuckoo-Dove | 2 | 13-Jul-21 | Gibson Track, Austinmer end | rainforest | Ian McKinlay |
| Sooty Oystercatcher | 1 | 7-Jan-21 | Thirroul Beach | rest & walk on sand | Mike Morphet |
| Wonga Pigeon | 1 | 13-Jul-21 | Thirroul, upper escarpment | Rainforest | Ian McKinlay |
| Eastern Great Egret | 1 | 2-Jul-21 | Elliots Rd, Fairy Meadow | Puckey's Nature Reserve northern perimeter | Mike Morphet |
| Eastern Great Egret | 1 | 3-Jul-21 | Elliots Rd, Fairy Meadow | creek reeds | Mike Morphet |
| Eastern Great Egret | 1 | 8-Jul-21 | Sandon Point, Bulli | grass N side of headland | Mike Morphet |
| White-faced Heron | 1 | 7-Jan-21 | Thirroul Beach Reserve | grassed area | Mike Morphet |
| Kelp Gull | 2 | 1-Jul-21 | Bellambi Beach | resting beside lagoon entrance | Ian McKinlay |
| Little Pied Cormorant | 1 | 7-Jan-21 | Thirroul Beach | in flight | Mike Morphet |
| Great Cormorant | 1 | 21-Jul-21 | Thirroul Beachfront | overhead light | Mike Morphet |
| Australian White Ibis | 1 | 7-Jul-21 | Macaulays Hill, Thirroul | House roof ridge (it seemed lost) | Ian McKinlay |
| Pacific Baza | 1 | 2-Jul-21 | Balgownie | Overhead of suburbia | Pam Hazelwood & Neil McKinlay |
| White-bellied Sea-Eagle | 1 | 26-Jun-21 | Austinmer Beach | flying inland | Ian McKinlay |
| Collared Sparrowhawk | 1 | 2-Jul-21 | Balgownie | Overhead - duelling with Pacific Baza | Pam Hazelwood & Neil McKinlay |
| Galah | 7 | 14-Jul-21 | East Woonona | grassed area beside Blue Lagoon | Mike Morphet |
| Nankeen Kestrel | 2 | 8-Jul-21 | Sandon Point, Bulli | hover & hunt over grasses N side of headland | Mike Morphet |
| Nankeen Kestrel | 1 | 5-Jul-21 | Thirroul Beach, south end | top of sewerage ventilation pipe | Ian McKinlay |
| Purple Swamphen | 9 | 14-Jul-21 | East Woonona | on & near Blue Lagoon | Mike Morphet |
| Dusky Moorhen | 2 | 7-Jul-21 | Thirroul | Flanagans Creek outlet | Mike Morphet |
| Dusky Moorhen | 3 | 3-Jul-21 | Elliots Rd, Fairy Meadow | creek reeds | Mike Morphet |
| Dusky Moorhen | 6 | 14-Jul-21 | East Woonona | Blue Lagoon | Mike Morphet |
| Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | 120+ | 13-Jul-21 | Thirroul | in flight S from roost | Mike Morphet |
| Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | ~70 | 22-Jul-21 | Balarang | Sports field | Darryl Goldrick |
| Superb Lyrebird | 7+ | 13-Jul-21 | Upper & mid escarpment, Thirroul | Rainforest | Ian McKinlay |
| White-throated Treecreeper | 1 | 16-Jul-21 | Clowes Park, Austinmer | Eucalypt forest | Ian McKinlay |
| Green Catbird | 2 | 23-Jun-21 | Firetrail, Excelsior, Thirroul | Vine thicket | Ian McKinlay |
| Satin Bowerbird | 5 | 22-Jul-21 | Thirroul | backyard | Mike Morphet |
| Variiegated Fairy-wren | 7+ | 29-Jun-21 | Bott park/Bellambi Dunes | Blady Grass | Ian McKinlay |
| Yellow-throated Scrubwren | 2 | 13-Jul-21 | Upper escarpment, Thirroul | Rainforest | Ian McKinlay |
| Spotted Pardalote | 1 | 23-Jun-21 | Firetrail, Excelsior, Thirroul | Trackside Eucalypt | Ian McKinlay |
| Spotted Pardalote | 1 | 25-Jun-21 | Bott Park/Bellambi Dunes | Mixed forest | Ian McKinlay |
| Eastern Spinebill | 3 | 5-Jul-21 | Thirroul | front garden | Mike Morphet |
| Noisy Miner | 2 | 6-Jul-21 | Thirroul | backyard | Mike Morphet |
| Little Wattlebird | 2 | 7-Jan-21 | Thirroul | Tingara Park banksia | Mike Morphet |
| Scarlet Honeyeater | 2 | 21-Jun-21 | Bott Park/ Bellambi Dunes | Mixed forest | Ian McKinlay |
| Scarlet Honeyeater | 2 M | 29-Jun-21 | Bott Park/Bellambi Dunes | Mixed forest | Ian McKinlay |
| Grey Butcherbird | 1 | 5-Jul-21 | Fairy Meadow | tree-lined Towradgi Creek arm | Mike Morphet |
| Australian Magpie | 1 | 8-Jul-21 | Macaulays Hill, Thirroul | nest building in Norfolk Pine | Ian McKinlay |
| Spangled Drongo | 1 | 21-Jun-21 | Bott Park/Bellambi Dunes | Mixed forest | Ian McKinlay |
| Grey Fantail | 1 | 27-Jun-21 | Thirroul | front garden Melaleuca spp (1st since 2019) | Mike Morphet |
| Grey Fantail | 1 | 5-Jul-21 | Thirroul | front garden | Mike Morphet |
| Magpie-lark | 7 | 5-Jul-21 | Fairy Meadow | green space N side of Surf Club | Mike Morphet |
| Nankeen Kestrel | 1 | 1-Jul-21 | Macaulays beach cycleway | top of sewerage ventilation pipe | Ian McKinlay |
| Red-browed Finch | 5 | 8-Jul-21 | Thirroul | backyard | Mike Morphet |

Visit IBOC web site to email your sightings

<https://www.iboc.com.au/contact.html><http://www.facebook.com/pages/Illawarra-Bird-Observers-Club-NSW-Australia/223624561002229>

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