

White-eared Monarch

Scientific Name: *Carterornis leucotis*

Atlas Number: 850

DESCRIPTION:

The White-eared Monarch is a small, distinctively pied monarch-flycatcher, about the same size as the more widespread and much more common Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). Adults are largely black above and pale grey below, with a highly



distinctive black-and-white facial pattern, prominent white wing-bars and a white band at the base of the uppertail and a white tip to the tail. They are usually seen singly or in twos, especially in NSW, but can be hard to see in the rainforest as they are inconspicuous and tend to remain high in the canopy or subcanopy. Sometimes associate with other small insectivorous birds, such as Rufous (*Rhipidura rufifrons*) and Grey Fantails. Their song is distinctive and plaintive, consisting of two notes, the second a descending and drawn-out whistle. They also utter other musical notes, a zitting contact call and a scolding chatter in alarm. Until recently, this species included in the same genus (*Monarcha*) as the other Monarchs occurring in Australia.

DISTRIBUTION

The species is endemic to the coastal lowlands and eastern slopes of the Great Divide of eastern Australia, extending from Cape York Peninsula south to north-eastern NSW. In NSW, White-eared Monarchs are generally found from the Queensland border south to Iluka at the mouth of the Clarence River, and inland as far as the

Richmond Range. There are occasional records south of the Clarence River, near Woolgoolga and around Port Macquarie.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

- In NSW, White-eared Monarchs occurs in rainforest, especially drier types, such as littoral rainforest, as well as wet and dry sclerophyll forests, swamp forest and regrowth forest.
- They appear to prefer the ecotone between rainforest and other open vegetation types or the edges of rainforest, such as along roads.
- They are highly active when foraging, characteristically sallying, hovering and fluttering around the outer foliage of rainforest trees. They are usually observed high in the canopy or subcanopy.
- They eat insects, but their diet is not well studied.
- They breed from about September to March, usually nesting high in the canopy, and often at the edge of patches of rainforest.

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ILLAWARRA
BIRD
OBSERVERS
CLUB Inc

'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.

POSTAL ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

www.iboc.com.au

CLUB CONTACTS

Address All Email Correspondence to
info@iboc.org.au

PRESIDENT:	Ross Gowans
VICE PRESIDENT	Andy Knowlson
SECRETARY:	Andy Knowlson (temp)
TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP:	Ken Brown
EDITORS:	Charles Dove, Janina Dove
RECORDS OFFICER:	Darryl Goldrick

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

THE IBOC CHRISTMAS PICNIC

Saturday 12th December 2020 at 4.30 pm

The Christmas Picnic will be held on Saturday the 12th December at Integral Park, Darkes Road, Dapto. A BBQ will be provided consisting of sausages, onion and bread. If you wish to bring your own meat, please do so. Bring your own salads, drinks, chairs and tables. We'll be birding in the park before the BBQ, so bring your binocs and cameras.

DUE TO COVID THERE WILL BE NO CHRISTMAS MEETING!

EARLY MIDWEEK WALK 2021

Wednesday 3rd February at 5pm

leaders *Ross and Jann Gowans*

Early Midweek Walk Wednesday 3rd February 2021. Meet at Pelican View Reserve, Warilla, 114 Reddall Parade at 5pm. Bring your binoculars, picnic tea and a chair and camera.

If weather looks threatening contact Ross or Jann Gowans at 42859070 or 0490136231

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Committee Meeting on the 18th January 2021

Will be held on Zoom at 11 am. Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to attend the meeting but must let Ken Brown know ahead of the meeting.

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE 20th January 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.

AUTUMN CAMP 2021

Will be at Tumut from Saturday 24 April to Saturday 1 May 2021.

Accommodation will be at the Riverglade Caravan Park, Snowy Mountains Highway, Tumut, NSW.

Accommodation bookings can be made on by phone on 0269472528.

The main Gala Day for the end of the Festival of the Falling Leaf may be on Saturday 24 April with activities in the town and fireworks in the evening (subject to Covid-19 restrictions).

It is suggested that bookings are made early.

The official camp program will start on the Sunday.

Please email

Anna and Andy Knowlson on knowlsons@bigpond.com with your name, phone contact number, whether you have booked and details of an emergency contact person and phone number so that we can prepare the Autumn Camp Attendance List.

**WISHING MEMBERS OF IBOC AND FRIENDS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SAFE NEW YEAR**

**ALSO, A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVING GIVEN
ARTICLES AND INFORMATION TO IBOC NEWSLETTER DURING 2020**

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Reports

NOVEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION –

So here we are November 2020 and a momentous year we have had: we started out with terrible fires leading into floods and this was only the warm-up.

Then we were all told to stay at home with camps, outings and meetings all cancelled; so out the window goes my speakers' schedule. Then of course, we ourselves cancel meetings and schedule new dates, but wait, no speaker.

Pam McKinley comes to the rescue with a short notice offer to present "Escape from lockdown".

The basic storyline is that early in the year the McKinley's and the Knowlson's hatch a plan to do a short tour on Cape York all is well until you know what intervenes.

So, with everything booked and the Queensland border closed, time to cross fingers and hope for a suitable outcome. Things do get better and with permits in hand they spend a day traveling and becoming familiar with the local health authorities and other government officials.

A grand adventure and the birdwatching was yet to begin. The overall outcome was in order of importance to Pam: warm weather and superb birding. Some very fine photography from Pam was the proof of what had been seen, highlights



such as the Red Goshawk and the Golden-Shouldered Parrot made it all worthwhile.

Great photos, great travelogue and a very good presentation.
Thank you so much Pam!
Ross Gowans

MID-WEEK WALK REPORT

11th Nov 2020 Hooka Park

leader Rupert

We couldn't have asked for a better day. It was bright with perfect light for watching and photographing and the light breeze just kept the sun from being too fierce. From the starting point the lake revealed the usual suspects, Cormorants, Crested Tern, Silver Gull and Pelicans. Walking on a bit further we found a Little Egret fossicking at the edge of the lake. We were then surprised to find that the observation tower was fenced off with a "Danger Construction Site", notice. This was a pity as the tower usually gives a wide view over the sandbanks and mudflats in Koong-Burry Bay. Ross got down to a limited view point and apart from large numbers of Black Swan saw two waders but at too far a distance for a positive identification. At this point we also saw an Osprey and a solitary Caspian Tern.

Spring activity was very apparent with a Butcherbird feeding juveniles and Red-browed Finches moving about with nesting material in their beaks. We had been commenting on the paucity of small birds when Jann spotted a Mistletoebird and shortly afterwards we saw Yellow and Brown Thornbills.

We had morning tea on the Jetty alongside the Hooka Creek although apart from a pair of White-faced Herons the creek was singularly devoid of birds. After morning tea we crossed the bridge over to the other side of the creek for a short walk through the bush. At one point we came across a significant number of Fairy Wrens both Superb and Variegated and at the same spot a male Satin Bowerbird which looked quite splendid with the sunlight accentuating the blue hue in his plumage. We soon turned around and headed back to the starting point.

We had 13 participants and it was good to see new members David and Cherie Abernethy along with binoculars at the ready to help us to our count of 49 species for the morning.

Bird List for Hooka Pt Park 11 th November 2020		13 Members	49 Species
Black Swan	Great Egret	Noisy Miner	Willie Wagtail
Chestnut Teal	White-faced Heron	Little Wattlebird	Grey Fantail
Crested Pigeon	Little Egret	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Topknot Pigeon	Australian White Ibis	Striated Pardalote	Australian Raven
Pacific Koel	Osprey	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Yellow Robin
Brush Cuckoo	Galah	Brown Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Masked Lapwing	Little Corella	Yellow Thornbill	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Silver Gull	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Black-faced Cuckoo shrike	Silvereye
Caspian Tern	Rainbow Lorikeet	Golden Whistler	Common Starling
Crested Tern	Satin Bowerbird	Olive-backed Oriole	Common Myna
Little Pied Cormorant	Variegated Fairywren	Grey Butcherbird	Mistletoebird
Little Black Cormorant	Superb Fairywren	Australian Magpie	Red-browed Finch
Australian Pelican			

Due to ill health it is the last time I will lead a mid-week and as yet I haven't heard who will do them in 2021.

NOVEMBER WEEKEND WALK

Bangalee Reserve, North Nowra on Sunday 15th November 2020 *by Alan Cousins*

10 members and 1 visitor gathered in the car park at Bangalee Reserve at 9am. It was a lovely morning weather wise and we set off from the car park along a 100m track to the large open green on the banks of the beautiful Shoalhaven River where there are facilities and picnic shelters.

We started our walk along the walking trail heading east just up from the river spotting a few birds and enjoying the lovely Spring weather which even at this time of day was starting to get warm. Lots of Yellow Eastern Robins were about and we were able to have a good sight and sound of these bright yellow fronted birds. About 1km down the track we came across a Bush care or Landcare group working along the trail where they were using a chainsaw etc. and their vehicles blocking our way. The noise of the chainsaw was very loud so we decided to return as it was thought that there probably would not be many birds around the area.

We returned to the cars and had morning tea in the car park as it was nice and shady there.

Following a leisurely morning tea we returned to the river side and took the trail leading west along the river. It was getting very warm but we persisted for about 1.5km's along the nice wide grassy track spotting a few birds until we reached a gate where the path led across a large open paddock. The bird life was a bit sparse and the paddock was devoid of any shade so the group consensus was that we return to the cars to have our lunch. The car park was the shadiest area and the temperature was edging 30C so we had a nice relaxing time eating our lunch and chatting, all the time keeping an eye out for birds. At about 2.30pm we decided to return home.

It is a really nice area to visit away from crowds of people, in fact we only saw a few other visitors but we had a smaller number of birds than usual with a final count of 32 species but it was a great day out enjoyed by all who attended, many who thought that we should return there at a future date in 2021.

Bird List *by Anna Knowlson*

Bangalee Reserve 15th November 2020		10 Members	33 Species seen
Brown Cuckoo-dove	Superb Fairy-wren	Bell Miner	Grey Fantail
Wonga Pigeon	White-browed Scrubwren	Little Wattlebird	Black-faced Monarch
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Gerygone	New Holland Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian King-Parrot	Yellow Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Crimson Rosella	Brown Thornbill	Golden Whistler	Bassian Thrush
Eastern Koel	Spotted Pardalote	Rufous Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Brush Cuckoo	Eastern Spinebill	Olive-backed Oriole	
Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird	
Satin Bowerbird	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	

Elected Positions	2021 *	2020
President	Ross Gowans	Ross Gowans
Vice President	Andrew Knowlson	Andrew Knowlson
Treasurer	Ken Brown	Ken Brown
Secretary	Andrew Knowlson (acting)	Betty Hudson
Committee	Darryl Goldrick	Jann Gowans
Committee	Alan Cousins	Darryl Goldrick
Committee	Anna Knowlson	Tom Wylie
Committee	Vacant	Alan Cousins
Non-elected Positions		
Records Officer	Darryl Goldrick	Darryl Goldrick
Activities Officer – Monthly walks	Alan Cousins	Alan Cousins
Activities Officer – mid-week walks	Vacant	Rupert Jarvis
Activities Officer - Camps	Anna Knowlson	Betty Hudson
Newsletter Editor	Charles Dove	Charles Dove
Webmaster	Charles Dove	Charles Dove
Hall Management	Alan Cousins	Tom Wylie
Club Librarians	Anne Cousins Terry Edwell	Anne Cousins Terry Edwell
Badges & Attendance Officer	Neil Wheway	Neil Wheway
Kitchen Volunteers	Joan Wylie Tera Wheway	Joan Wylie Tera Wheway
Public Officer	Chris. Cartledge	Chris. Cartledge

Your support helped him through the hardest time.



Thank you for your life-changing support

Hi Anne Cousins,

What a challenging year it's been with first the bushfires and then the impact of COVID-19 on all our lives, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. Thank you for being by our side this year and thinking of people impacted by cancer, it truly shows how kind and generous Biggest Morning Tea hosts like you are. During these unusual times, it has become even more important that people with cancer, and their loved ones, have access to the help and support they need. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful supporters like you to make this possible. Thank you.

This year, your fundraising has helped Australia's Biggest Morning Tea raise \$910,000 in NSW.

Mid-Week Walk Coordinator – Rupert Jarvis advised that he will withdraw as the Coordinator due to his current health circumstances. Rupert was acknowledged and thanked for his support at the last Mid-Week Walk. As a result the Club is looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Mid-Week Walk Coordinator which involves a commitment for half a day per month. Please contact Ross Gowans if you can assist the Club in this role.

IBOC Committee Membership changes – Jann Gowans has advised that she will withdraw from the IBOC Committee after a 6 year stint to have a break. However, Jann will continue to assist with lodging Club bird lists with e-Bird. Thank you, Jann, for your great support and Commitment over the last 6 years. Anna Knowlson has volunteered to join the IBOC Committee as Camp Coordinator.

Q Which of these New Zealand birds can fly: the Kea, Kakapo, or Kiwi?

BIRD AND WILDLIFE MEMORIAL ART INSTALLATION – by Andy Knowlson

Club member Charles Dove has been working with artist Janet Lawrence over a number of months for the development of her art installation at the Sydney Art Festival, it is free, but for some events you will need to book.

“Do You Remember” by Charles Dove

will be screened everyday all day no bookings required



ARTWORK INSTALLATIONS

16–24 JANUARY

11am–7pm daily

Across the duration of the Requiem program, artworks will be installed within the ethereal inner chamber of the Paddington Reservoir Gardens, foregrounding an aesthetics of care through water, living plants, ceramics, participatory drawing and footage from the bushfires. This includes Tony Albert's participatory artwork 'Regeneration', Juz Kitson's corporeal ceramic installation, Yasmin Smith's ceramic branches glazed with the ash from a burnt red gum, Janet Lawrence's H2O: Water Bar of charcoal waters from bushfire-affected regions, Dirt Witches white inscribed burnt black branches and sticks that create a ritual gathering and incantation work and **Charles Dove's new video projection in tribute to Australian wildlife**. Requiem will also present a nursery of living plants sourced from the Mt Annan Botanic Gardens and manuscript artworks created by artists in collaboration with poets, writers and philosophers.

<https://www.sydneyfestival.org.au/events/requiem>

“Do You Remember”

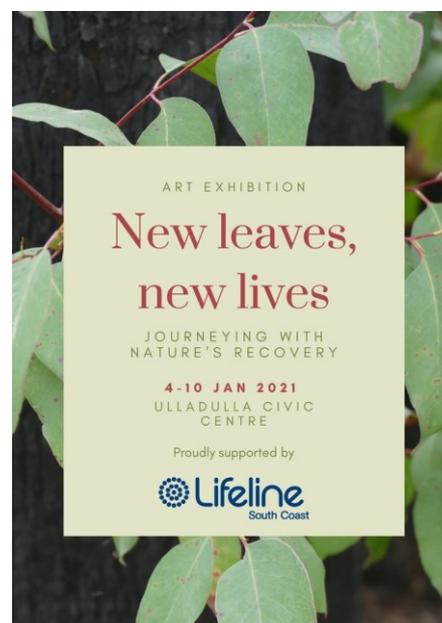
by Charles Dove

Will also be presented
by Birdlife Shoalhaven as part of the
New Leaves New Lives
Art exhibition

At the Ulladulla Civic Centre
from the 4th – 10th of January 2021

will be screened free of charge every day

<https://www.facebook.com/NewLeavesArtExhibition/>

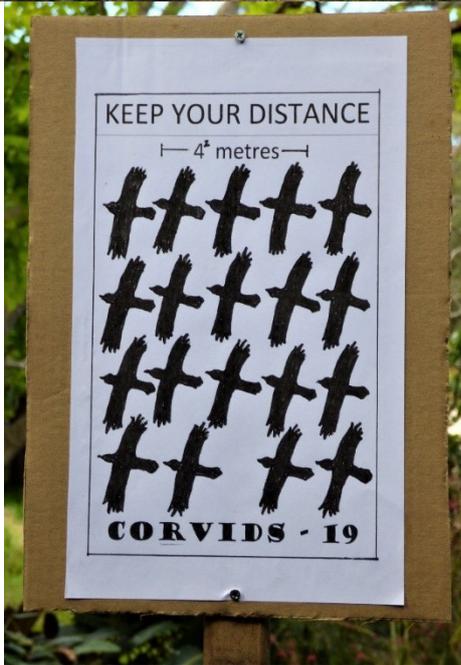


Sign of the times

Mike Morphet



An old school chum and fellow birdwatcher, John Gabbé recently emailed me his photo of this sign erected in the Dungeness National Nature Reserve in southern Kent, near the Sussex border. I have visited Dungeness on two occasions, separated by 40 years, and both times partaken of the Pilot Inn’s amber waters, a haggstone’s throw from the English Channel, for refreshment. Dungeness, a cusped foreland and having one of the largest shingle beaches in Europe, can be a bleak, desolate and windswept area, often regarded as Britain’s only desert. A further downside aesthetically to the area is the presence of two nuclear power stations. Despite these adverse conditions, the near 1000-hectare reserve, which includes fenland and flooded gravel pits, hosts a wide variety of wildlife, which the RSPB rates highly, describing it as a perfect migration hotspot for such birds as swallows, swifts and martins. Other significant species are the bittern, waders, whinchat, redstart, wheatear, ring ouzel and bearded tit. In addition, there are many varieties of invertebrates; of note the short-haired bumblebee, deemed extinct in the UK twenty years ago.



Aerial view of Dungeness

Inspired by John’s eye-catching sign, I thought I’d design a mock-up coronavirus version with an Australian flavour. And so, an unkindness, or conspiracy if you prefer, of ravens came to mind. Just simply inking in these few silhouettes gave me an appreciation of, and admiration for, the dedication, detail and artistry displayed by some of the world’s bird illustrators: I immediately recalled the American John James Audubon (1785-1851), British Elizabeth Gould (1804-1841), and West Australian Frank Knight (born 1941).

Covid permitting, Club members are invited to a BBQ at the Cashmans, 5.30 to 6pm Friday 29th January.

Bring your own meat and some salad or sweets to share.

If there is any doubt because of Covid please check with us on 4284 0538 or 0429 408 207

or

cashman5@bigpond.com

Breaking news: Emu found in South Coast suburban garden

Mike Morphett

My resident Satin Bowerbird continues to add different kinds of ornaments to his bower arena: just lately a plastic vehicle battery post cover and a length of thin plastic-coated wire with a knot resembling a bow in it, for instance. But for me, the piece de resistance has been this cookie cutter in the shape of an emu. All these intriguing items raise the question: how and where does this bird find such things? Presumably not in people's garages or kitchens. As a reward for his efforts, in addition to any successful mating, I leave out small quantities of sliced grapes and blueberries on the back verandah, which he quickly devours.



Suet!

IS IT FOR
THE BIRDS?

YES!

**SUET IS
MOSTLY FAT!**
(ANIMAL OR VEGETABLE)

Other ingredients can include maize, oats, peanut butter, wild bird seed, chopped unsalted nuts, raisins and insects like dried mealworms.

Suet is a great food to offer birds as it's high in calories to maintain their body temperature and energy levels.

Interesting links to view

'It's an interesting evolutionary process we're watching': Brolgas and cranes 'crossing the dancefloor' in northern Queensland
An "evolutionary dance" is taking place in the Gulf Country of northern Queensland as two similar, but separate, species of bird are crossbreeding to produce a new hybrid species. [Read the full story](#) Shared from [ABC app](#)

Overlap in the wing shape of migratory, nomadic and sedentary grass parrots - Stojanovic - -
Journal of Avian Biology - Wiley Online Library <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jav.02586#.X6HQM0DiPJQ.twitter>

The efficiency of migratory birds' flight formations, via @RareBirdAlertUK
https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/The_efficiency_of_migratory_birds_flight_formation.aspx?s_id=300151508

Orange bellied parrot: best year in a decade for critically endangered bird | Birds | The Guardian
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/11/orange-bellied-parrot-best-year-in-a-decade-for-critically-endangered-bird?utm_term=Autofeed&CMP=soc_568&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1605042945

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: October/November 2020

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Wonga Pigeon	2 calling	13-Nov-20	Thirroul	Excelsior #2 Mine area	Mike Morphett
Topknot Pigeon	1	21-Oct-20	Russell Vale golf Course	large Fig	Ian McKinlay
White-faced Heron	1	8/11/2020	Fernhill	Park - flew into Eucalypt	Robyn/John Cashman
Little Corella	1	22-Oct-20	Macauleys Hill, Thirroul	group of figs	Ian McKinlay
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	24/10/2020	Tarrawanna	Overhead	Laurie Williams
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	2	19-Oct-20	Hewitts Creek lagoon	Casuarinas	Ian Mckinlay
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	14-Nov-20	Bass Point Reserve	littoral rainforest	Mike Morphett
Southern Boobook	1	19-Nov-20	Woonona	Carol Avenue Reserve	Mike Morphett
Superb Fairy-wren	1 f+2fledg	30-Oct-20	Tarrawanna	Garden	Alan & Anne Cousins
Eastern Spinebill	1	27-Oct-20	Tarrawanna	Garden (on Kangaroo Paws)	Alan & Anne Cousins
Eastern Spinebill	1	14-Aug-20	Tarrawanna	Garden	Alan & Anne Cousins
Eastern Spinebill	1	10-Nov-20	Tarrawanna	Feeding off Kangaroo Paw	Alan & Anne Cousins
Eastern Spinebill	1	3/11/2020	Fernhill	Salvia spp yard	Robyn/John Cashman
Red Wattlebird	1	23-Oct-20	Thirroul backyard	Small Leafed Fig	Ian McKinlay
Olive-backed Oriole	1	23-Oct-20	Cecil Hoskins Res, M/Vale	farmland trees	Ian McKinlay
Pied Butcherbird	1	26/10/2020	Hill 60 Port Kembla	Coastal vegetation	Laurie Williams
Eastern Yellow Robin	2	14-Nov-20	Bass Point Reserve	littoral rainforest	Mike Morphett
Eastern Yellow Robin	1	19-Nov-20	Woonona	Carole Avenue Reserve	Mike Morphett
Common Blackbird	1	17/11/2020	Lake Illawarra South	Yard - singing at sunset	Darryl Goldrick
House Sparrow	6 almost daily	20/11/2020	Lake Illawarra South	Yard	Darryl Goldrick
Grey Butcherbird	1	22-Nov-20	Balgownie	Upper Towradgi Creek gully	Mike Morphett
Crested Pigeon	1	22-Nov-20	Balgownie	Upper Towradgi Creek gully	Mike Morphett
Green Catbird	2	22-Nov-20	Balgownie	Upper Towradgi Creek gully	Mike Morphett
Satin Bowerbird	2	22-Nov-20	Balgownie	Upper Towradgi Creek gully	Mike Morphett
Eastern Yellow Robin	2	22-Nov-20	Balgownie	Upper Towradgi Creek gully	Mike Morphett
Dollarbird	1	22-Nov-20	Balgownie	powerline over upper Towradgi Creek gully	Mike Morphett

Thank you to all those who time to submit the sightings they have observed in 2020 and looking forward to the new year and some exciting sightings by members starting January 2021

would not hurt to visit the IBOC website or facebook sites now and then and just have a browse

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



Illawarra Bird Observers Club facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Illawarra-Bird-Observers-Club-NSW-Australia-223624561002229/>

