

## BANDED LAPWING

Scientific Name: *Vanellus tricolor*

Atlas Number: 135

### DESCRIPTION:

The Banded Lapwing is a large plover with a broad black breast band and white throat. The upperparts are mainly grey-brown with white underparts. There is a black cap and broad white eye-stripe, with a yellow eye-ring and bill and a small red wattle over the bill. The legs are pinkish-grey. These lapwings have an upright stance and a slow walk,



breaking into a faster trot when alarmed. They fly with quick, clipped wing-beats - giving them the name 'lapwing'.

### SIMILAR SPECIES:

The Banded Lapwing is much smaller than the Masked Lapwing, *Vanellus miles*, with a longer tail and shorter legs. The u-shaped breast band is diagnostic.

### DISTRIBUTION:

Banded Lapwings are endemic to (found only in) Australia in the east, south and west of the mainland and in Tasmania. They are rarely found in northern Australia.

### HABITAT:

Banded Lapwings prefer open, short grasslands such as heavily grazed paddocks, agricultural lands and saline herblands in dry and semi-arid regions.

### SEASONAL MOVEMENTS:

Banded Lapwings are nomadic, flying considerable distances at night to find suitable conditions of food and water.

### FEEDING:

Banded Lapwings chase insects with short runs and darts and may eat seeds in dry times. They prefer areas with very short grass, to find insects, worms, spiders and molluscs (snails and slugs).

### BREEDING:

Banded Lapwings need rain before breeding. The nest is a scrape on the ground, lined with dry grass and even sheep droppings. The eggs and chicks are speckled and well-camouflaged. They freeze and keep quite still at sign of danger. The parents defend their nest and young with great courage and will fly at human intruders, often with a distraction display, pretending to drag a broken wing.

### LIVING WITH US

Habitat has been increased by the clearing of woodland and converting land to agriculture, although improved pasture, with longer grass, is less suitable for the Banded Lapwings.

Bird species cover text courtesy of <http://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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# JULY ACTIVITIES

## **VIRTUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

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. We are hoping to get a speaker from the National Parks who has done a Zoom presentation on "Glossies in the Mist", any upcoming events will be discussed and unusual sightings shared. If we are unable to get the speaker, we will once again have a quiz and/or other short diversions. 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@iboc.org.au) or 4285 9070.

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

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## MIDWEEK WALK

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am**

leaders Jann & Ross Gowans

### **Jerrarra Dam**

Meet at 9:00 am at Jerrarra Dam, 29 Mt Brandon Rd (Jerrarra Rd turns into Mt Brandon) on the way to Jamberoo (there is a sign for the dam at the Jamberoo Rd/Jerrarra Rd intersection). Please note that it will still be very important that people maintain physical distance of 1.5 meters from each other and bring their own hand sanitizer to practice good hygiene/wash hands. Bring morning tea and chairs (there are tables if you want to use those). If weather looks doubtful, contact Ross at 0490 136 231.

*If weather looks doubtful, contact Ross at 0490 136 231.*

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## WEEKEND WALK

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am**

leaders Alan & Anne Cousins

### **Barren Grounds Nature Reserve**

From the Princes Highway at Yallah take the Illawarra Highway towards Albion Park. At the traffic lights (Tongarra Road) keep straight along Terry Street towards Jamberoo. Turn right towards Minnamurra Falls and Robertson and proceed up Jamberoo Mountain Road towards Robertson. The entrance to Barren Grounds is on the left a good way up the pass. Bring and carry morning tea, lunch will be at the picnic area.

***NB If circumstances regarding the current restrictions alter for the worst this outing may be cancelled and an email will be sent out to members well in advance.***

In the event of inclement weather contact Alan & Anne Cousins on 0413 869 534 by 7.30am

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## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING ON ZOOM

**Monday on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

The next committee meeting will be on Zoom on 20 July at 11:00 am. Any member is welcome to attend and raise any issues or questions but must let Ken Brown know in order to attend.

*Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to log on.*

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## NEWSLETTER

**DEADLINE 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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

# Illawarra Bird Observers Club Reports

## Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> June

by Ross Gowans

*June meeting was held on Zoom on the 8th of the month.*

Members gathered around their devices in their homes with 16 screens accounting for 24 people. This was all possible due to Sue and Ken Brown hosting the meeting.

Roughly the same agenda was followed with sightings and a run-down on outings and the upcoming rescheduled camp in Sawtell.

Lyndall Dawson delivered a short summary on her newly released book *Tunnels in Time* which covers her work at the Wellington Caves. Some members have already read the book and have given it good reviews.

Depending on how things move around us, there is a possibility of getting a presentation on Zoom for the next meeting.

All in all, the meeting went well despite my lack of broadcasting skills. Charles Dove disappeared during the meeting and we later found this was due to a power outage.



## MID-WEEK WALK

Integral Park, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

By Jann Gowans

Those brave and hardy folks who attended our first bird walk since March on a grey, drizzly morning was amply rewarded. Sixteen people were present in the end but the group was widely spread out as per social distancing. Instead of Dollarbirds (none sighted nor expected!), Galahs and a large group of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes gathered on the wires. Even a Fan-tailed Cuckoo was spotted on the wires from a distance with a photo by Bill Zealey confirming ID.

An Eastern Whipbird could be heard in the distance and many birds flitted through the She-oaks and blossoming gum trees but the glare made identifying them tricky at times. Numerous honeyeaters were tallied including Little Wattlebird, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's, Yellow-faced, and New Holland honeyeaters, plus Noisy Miners. Both Golden and Rufous Whistlers were seen but hardly heard calling. A dam around the back was alive with the chorus of common Eastern Froglets (verified by FrogID thanks to Pam!) who were clearly enjoying the weather. Several flyovers added species: White Ibis, Australian King-parrot, and Topknot Pigeon towards the end. Most of the group had reached the shelter for morning tea by the time the rain really let loose. Our walk around the back side of the woodland was roughly 2.3 km and worth repeating. A total of 32 species were identified but the company was the best part, especially after all the COVID-19 isolating!

Bird List for Integral Park Walk 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2020		16 Members	32 Species
Spotted Dove	Australian King-Parrot	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird
Crested Pigeon	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Noisy Miner	Australian Magpie
Bar-shouldered Dove	Satin Bowerbird	Little Wattlebird	Grey Fantail
Topknot Pigeon	Superb Fairy-wren	New Holland Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Australian White Ibis	Yellow Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird	Silvereye
Galah	Spotted Pardalote	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Corella	Eastern Spinebill	Golden Whistler	Mistletoebird
Rainbow Lorikeet	Lewin’s Honeyeater	Rufous Whistler	Red-browed Finch

## NOTICES & ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### Latest COVID-19 Update

Fellow IBOC friends,

The committee continues to add activities as restrictions ease and we are permitted. As of our most recent committee meeting, we are resuming both midweek walks and monthly outings. Please note that the spring camp has been moved to September and that also means there will be an October general meeting and walks, but NO September general meeting or walks. We are working to update the program to reflect changes (please be patient as it’s a bit of a moving target!). At this stage, we are awaiting the possible opening of the Fairy Meadow community hall in order to assess resumption of in-person general meetings. In the meantime, virtual meetings will continue on Zoom. Once again, please note that it is your personal responsibility to continue to follow the current NSW health advice and restrictions and also continue to physically distance and wash hands! Please do not attend any events in person if you have any cold or flu symptoms, especially fever and/or cough. Changes may occur to advice after the newsletter is compiled, so always check and obey the latest government advice.

And as always, please continue to stay safe, sane and well!  
Jann

### Birds of prey to fly again after feathers melted by bushfires are repaired

IBOC visited this place a couple of years ago  
Birds of prey await return to the sky with feather transplant

A wildlife clinic in the NSW Southern Highlands is adopting an ancient technique of feather transplant for birds of prey badly burnt during the bushfires.

[Read the full story](#)



Two injured Tawny Frogmouths are recovering at the Higher Ground Raptor Centre.  
*(ABC Illawarra: Justin Huntsdale)*

## REVISED I.B.O.C. PROGRAM 2020

Month	Action	Date	Speaker/Leader	Venue
<b>January</b>	Committee Meeting	20.01.20		Ross & Jann's
	Social Night & BBQ	31.01.20		Robyn & John Cashman's
<b>February</b>	Mid-week outing	5.02.20	Ross & Jann Gowans	Pelican View Reserve Lake Illawarra
	Meeting	10.02.20	Jann Gowans	Alaska
Saturday	Outing	15.02.20	Alan Cousins	Blackbutt & Bass Point
	Committee Meeting	17.02.20	Ken & Sue Brown	
<b>March</b>	Meeting	9.03.20	Cara Eddington	Galapagos
	Mid-week outing	11.03.20	Rupert Jarvis	Farmborough Heights
Sunday	Outing	15.03.20	Alan Cousins	Comerong Island
	Committee Meeting	16.03.20	Betty Hudson	
	Autumn Camp	28.03 to 4.04.20	Andy & Anna Knowlson	Cancelled
<b>April</b>	Meeting		No Meeting Easter	
	Mid-week outing	15.04.20	Rupert Jarvis	Cancelled
Saturday	Outing	18.04.20	Alan Cousins	Cancelled
	Committee Meeting	20.04.20	Andy & Anna Knowlson	Cancelled
<b>May</b>	Meeting	11.05.20		Cancelled
	Mid-week outing	13.05.20	Rupert Jarvis	Cancelled
Sunday	Outing	17.05.20	Alan Cousins	Cancelled
	Committee Meeting	18.05.20	Ken Brown	Held via Zoom
<b>June</b>	Meeting	8.06.20		Held via Zoom
	Mid-week outing	10.06.20	Rupert Jarvis	Integral Energy Park
Saturday	Outing	13.06.20	Alan Cousins	Cancelled
	Committee Meeting	15.06.20	Ken Brown	Held via Zoom
<b>July</b>	Meeting	13.07.20	TBA	To be held via Zoom
	Mid-week outing	15.07.20	Rupert or Jann Gowans	Jerrara Dam
Sunday	Outing	19.07.20	Alan Cousins	Barren Grounds
	Committee Meeting	20.07.20	Ken Brown	Held via Zoom
<b>August</b>	Meeting	10.08.20	TBA	TBA
	Mid-week outing	12.08.20	Rupert or Andy Knowlson	Kanahooka
Saturday	Outing	15.08.20	Alan Cousins	Fitzroy Falls
	Committee Meeting	17.08.20	Ken Brown	To be held via Zoom
<b>September</b>	Meeting	14.09.20	No Meeting Camp	
	Mid-week outing	16.09.20	No Mid-Week Camp	
Sunday	Outing	20.09.20	No Walk Camp	
	Spring Camp	12 – 19.09.20	Anna & Andy Knowlson	BIG4 Sawtell
	Committee Meeting	21.09.20	Ken Brown	To be held via Zoom
<b>October</b>	Meeting	12.10.20	Andy & Anna Knowlson	Venue TBA - Around Australia Trip
	Mid-week outing	14.10.20	Rupert or Ken Brown	Byarong Creek
Saturday	Outing	17.10.20	Alan Cousins	Australian Botanic Gardens, Mt Annan
	Committee Meeting	26.10.20	Ken Brown	To be held via Zoom
<b>November</b>	Meeting/ AGM	9.11.20	Members Night & AGM	Presentations by Members
	Mid-week outing	11.11.20	Rupert Jarvis	Hooka Point
Sunday	Outing	15.11.20	Alan Cousins	Hyams Beach - White Sands Walk
	Committee Meeting	16.11.20	Andy & Anna Knowlson	Marshall Mount
<b>December</b>	Christmas Picnic	5.12.20		Integral Park, West Dapto
	Christmas Meeting	7.12.20	TBA	TBA
Jan 2021	Committee Meeting	11.01.21		
Feb 2021	Mid Week Walk	3.02.21		
	Meeting	8.02.21		
Sunday	Outing	14.02.21		

### Vale Peter Slater, 1932–2020

One of Australia's most renowned wildlife artists — Peter Slater — passed away on 28 May. He was 87. Peter's interest in birds began when he was just 2 years old. This is hardly surprising, as he grew up in Western Australia, surrounded by its remarkable diversity of unique birdlife. That early interest was to influence the rest of his life.

Peter started his artistic life as a bird photographer. With an astute eye, he used artistic principles to carefully compose his images, and his photographic portfolio was outstanding, winning numerous awards at international exhibitions. Fittingly, he was made an 'Artiste of the Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique' in 1964.

However, Peter also saw the merits of painting birds, which allows an artist to capture the essence of the subject in a way that photography often can't. Despite his prowess with the camera, Peter is now probably best remembered for his prolific artwork. Indeed, he claimed to have painted every species of Australian bird at least four times! Although he trained as a school teacher, and that was his early profession, his love of birds was barely concealed, always bubbling away just below the surface. In his spare time, he would watch birds, photograph and paint them, contributing his images to various wildlife books and other publications.

In 1966, Peter and his family moved to tropical North Queensland, where he was surrounded by another stunning array of birds, and 2 years later he quit teaching to become a professional wildlife painter.

Peter wrote and illustrated numerous books about Australian birds and other wildlife. Probably one of his most well known is his first field guide of Australian birds. Published in two parts, *A Field Guide to Australian Birds* was the first new Australian field guide published since Cayley's *What Bird is That?* — which first hit the shelves the year before Peter was born! Peter's new field guide revolutionised birdwatching in this country. It featured colour illustrations that actually looked like the birds they depicted, as well as innovations such as distribution maps and life-size outlines of the bills of seabirds to aid the identification of beachcast birds. He also wrote much of the text — a testament to his abilities as a naturalist. It remained the go-to reference for a decade or more.

In 1986, Peter produced, in collaboration with his family, a follow up — *The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds* — another revolutionary work. It was the first field guide since Leach's *An Australian Bird Book* (published in 1911) to be a suitable size to be taken into the field. It also featured images of the eggs of species that breed in Australia.

His two field guides became favourites of many Australian birdwatchers.

Fittingly, Peter was working on another book, this time on raptors, right till the end.

A modest man, Peter regularly worked in collaboration with others, and the acknowledgements in his books are a virtual 'Who's Who' of Australian ornithology. Peter's name rightly belongs alongside them.

Peter once said that he "lived for birds" and Australia's birdwatching community can be grateful that he did.

*Birdlife* 3 June 2020

## RESEARCHERS TAKE TO NEW HEIGHTS TO SHED LIGHT ON AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST BIRD OF PREY

Researcher Dr James Pay says texts from wedge-tailed eagles now far outnumber the texts he gets from people, sent from trackers attached to fully grown chicks selected for a project aimed at cutting a rising death toll.

[Read the full story](#)

Shared from [ABC app](#)

## BABBLER AT PLAY - This is unusual

[Link to page](#)

<https://twitter.com/dickkingsmith/status/1265522461610827776?s=21>

## Giant kookaburra built during lockdown set to have the 'last laugh' as it flies north for Townsville Festival

[Link to page](#)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-26/giant-kookaburra-built-during-lockdown/12286434>



## Thank you for your support

Dear Anne,

Thank you so much for being part of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea 2020 and raising an amazing \$595!

Cancer Council NSW is over 94% community funded and relies on the generosity of incredible people like you to help us achieve a cancer free future. The money you have raised enables us to fund life-saving research, cancer prevention programs, and provide vital support to those impacted by cancer.

Over the past 5 years alone, we have invested \$83.6 million into essential cancer research, which has helped increased survival rates from 49% in the 1980s to 69% today. But there is still so much more to do.

Bringing people together for a good cause is such an inspiring thing to do and your efforts in hosting your Biggest Morning Tea your way, will no doubt motivate others to also do their bit for a cancer free future. Every cuppa and every dollar really does make an incredible difference, so thank you.

We look forward to you joining us for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea next year!

Best wishes,

Lauren Clarke  
Campaign Manager – Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Event ID: EI00150746

*Funds banked in the last 24 hours, may not appear in your fundraising total above.*



### CRITICALLY ENDANGERED HERB THRIVING ON MACQUARIE ISLAND AFTER SEVEN-YEAR FERAL ANIMAL ERADICATION PROGRAM

The flowering bedstraw was thought to have died out on the sub-Antarctic island in the 1980s  
Mon 1 Jun 2020 17.16 AEST

In one of 'the most significant observations' since feral animals were wiped out on the world heritage-listed Macquarie Island, three new populations have been found of a flowering bedstraw, *Galium antarcticum*. Photograph: Tasmania Parks And Wildlife Service  
A critically-endangered herb once thought extinct on sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island has been found growing at a new location as the world-heritage site continues its rabbit-free recovery.

The remote island was declared free of pests in 2014, following a seven-year feral animal eradication project. *Galium antarcticum*, a type of flowering bedstraw, was thought to have died out in the early 1980s until 500 plants were discovered in 2013 at Skua Lake near the island's west coast.

In May, three new populations in close proximity to each other were discovered about 7km to the south.



# How landholders can help save the critically endangered plains-wanderer bird [Local News](#)

AT RISK: Plains-wanderers are critically endangered, with an estimated 250 to 1000 left in the wild. Picture: DAVID BAKER-GABB  
Land clearing and cultivation mean there could be as few as 250 plains-wanderer birds left in the wild, living in isolated pockets in mostly Victoria and New South Wales.



Landholders in the northern plains area, north of Bendigo, are asked to consider putting [conservation covenants](#) - permanent and legally binding agreements - on their land to protect native vegetation and the habitat of the plains-wanderer.

Conservation organisation Trust for Nature and the North Central Catchment Management Authority are offering landholders \$1000 for each hectare of protected grassland.

**More environment news: [Conservationists blast government for Wellsford Forest delay](#)**

"Time is running out and conservation covenants are absolutely critical to the survival of this bird," Kirsten said.

"We still have cases of unauthorised grassland clearance on the Patho Plains even though it's protected under state and federal legislation and there's less than one percent of these grasslands left. It's heartbreaking."

The Patho Plains cover such towns as Lockington, Echuca and Gunbower.

Landowners with conservation covenants work with Trust for Nature to manage their land in a way that is sensitive to the environment.

Trust for Nature says the northern plains are one of few areas in the state where selective grazing can complement conservation.

So far, about 540 hectares of land in north-central Victoria has been protected with conservation covenants.

## Little Corellas and Mrs Gould

On a Sunday morning, just as I was standing on the back verandah of our Thirroul home, a couple of white birds suddenly dropped down and landed in our robinia, now having lost about ninety per cent of its bright green clothing. It took me a minute or two to determine the species, as they have similar characteristics to their 'cousins': they were little corellas, not the long-billed; they hadn't made an appearance here for the past twenty-one months. Obviously attracted by king parrots and rainbow lorikeets feeding on some seed handout, the pair flew down lower, pacing back and forth before plucking up the courage to take over and have a feed themselves. Satisfied, they took off in opposite directions.



Like other white cockatoos (the Sulphur-crested and the Long-billed Corella), Little Corellas have expanded their range towards our eastern coastline over the past few decades; they can still be found in their hundreds along inland watercourses. Originally in the Sydney region they were believed to have derived from aviary escapees. In the bird world they display a great sense of fun, reportedly sliding down silo roofs and hanging on to revolving windmill sails. I must confess I hold these birds in much higher regard than the Sulphur-crested, that tend to use their intelligence with negative and somewhat malicious impact when denied access to food items, like chewing timber additions to people's homes or upending flowering plant pots; however, farmers might debate this claim in regard to their grain crops being plundered by corellas.

The taxonomic nomenclature of the Little Corella is *Cacatua sanguinea*. The first part, the generic name, could be thought to have come from Latin, but in fact stems from the Malay names kakatua or kakak-tua for cockatoo. The specific name is from the Latin *sanguineus*, meaning of blood or blood-stained, and was coined by John Gould in 1843 to highlight the dark pink markings around the bill and in front of the eyes. Conversely, across the globe there are twenty-odd avian species that are named after him in recognition of the enormous contribution he made in the field of ornithology during the nineteenth century, being the author and publisher of many major works relating to birds and collecting and classifying them from different parts of the world. In short, he was known as 'The Bird Man' and 'The Father of Australian Ornithology'. Formerly from Dorset, at age 14 he worked under his foreman father as a gardener at the Royal Gardens of Windsor and six years later set up his business as a taxidermist; three years later he was appointed first curator and preserver at the Museum of the Zoological Society of London. It was in this capacity that he was introduced to Elizabeth Coxen, of similar age, by her brother, Charles. They married in January 1829, and what an asset she proved to be in John's career.

Elizabeth was born in East Kent in a military family of eleven children and was the only daughter to survive to maturity. With a well-rounded education, she became a governess in London, but did not find this occupation satisfying. Recognizing her artistic abilities, John arranged for Edward Lear, noted artist and of limerick fame, to teach her the methods of lithography with the aim of her developing his sketches of birds, initially from specimens sent to him from home and abroad. Some of these skins came from her brothers, Charles and Stephen, who had established farm properties in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales. Elizabeth had already assisted John with copious illustrations for his publications on birds from the Himalayas, Europe and Great Britain, so he saw a great opportunity to expand his horizons and advance his career, by exploring Australia. Elizabeth, however, was none too keen to accompany him, as this would mean leaving behind their three youngest children in the care of her relatives, but she relented only as the ship was about to leave. She was a dutiful wife, deciding "to keep his house, to mother his children. To sketch [an understatement, if there ever was one] the feathered tribes that obsessed his mind." She had already produced all fifty plates to illustrate Charles Darwin's zoological findings, including the Galapagos finches, from his 1832-1836 voyage aboard the HMS 'Beagle' that eventually appeared in his *On the Origin of Species*.



John Gould painted by Thomas Herbert Maguire c1849



Elizabeth Gould with cockatiel by unknown painter after her death

The couple left Britain in May 1838 for Sydney, accompanied by their eldest son, a nephew, and John Gilbert, who became a zoological collector of much renown, plus servants. After staying with her brothers, they arrived in Hobart Town, Tasmania that September. John soon took off to search for and record species for his forthcoming tome, *Birds of Australia*, journeying through the Sydney and Illawarra regions and the Southern Tablelands, whilst homesick Elizabeth stayed at the home of Sir John Franklin, Lieutenant-Governor of Van Dieman's Land, and his wife. It is probably no coincidence that one of their sons was named Franklin Tasman. Of her husband's methods of capturing birds, in one of her letters home, she wrote with mixed feelings, "He has already shown himself a great enemy to the feathered tribe."

Not surprisingly, Elizabeth's striving to balance her roles of wife, motherhood, artist, business partner and international traveller eventually took its toll. In 1841 very shortly after bearing her eighth child in the course of her twelve years of marriage (six survived), she died from complications, diagnosed as puerperal fever, which was not uncommon in that era. Sepsis was due to a streptococcal infection in an expectant mother's vagina brought about by her birth attendants with unwashed hands. In 1822 an Edinburgh physician, Dr John Mackintosh wrote that this fever affected women in the first three days after childbirth and progressed rapidly, causing acute symptoms of severe abdominal pain, fever and debilitation and had reached epidemic form, adding, "There's not a corner in Britain where this formidable disease hasn't made many mourners." Elizabeth's death at the age of 37 was no doubt a major loss to John in more ways than one: "it having pleased he All-wise Disposer of Events to remove her from the sublunary world within one short year of our return from Australia." To complete his seven volumes of the *Birds of Australia*, he turned to the artist, Henry Constantine Richter, just 18 years of age, assisted by Edward Lear, Henry Constantine Richter, William Hart and Joseph Wolf. Arguably regarded as his finest work, it was eight years in the making, but none of Elizabeth's illustrations were attributed to her: John took all the credit. However, in her honour and comparing her beauty to that of a colourful finch, 13 cm in length and inhabiting open woodlands and grasslands of northern Australia, he named the species the Lady Gouldian Finch, *Chloebia [grass] gouldiae*, three years after her death. However, over time changes were made: *Erythrura* took over (translated means 'red tail', which I find perplexing, as in my mind that description is far more applicable to its conspecific, the Blue-faced Parrot-Finch) and 'Lady' was dropped; so one would assume the bird was in honour of John rather than Elizabeth. Similarly, her name was eclipsed for another colourful Australian bird, now the Olive-backed Sunbird. It was originally Mrs Gould's Sunbird, given in 1831 by Nicholas Aylward Vigors, an Irish-born co-founder and secretary of the Zoological Society of London and a politician; he wrote the text for John Gould's *A Century of Birds from the Himalaya Mountains*.

To recap. as an illustrator for John's publications, Elizabeth completed over 650 lithographic plates from his sketches of birds, initially from skins and then alive in cages and in the wild. I sense much injustice that she has been given so little credit for her achievements in contrast to his, given her family commitments and her shortened lifespan. John remained a widower for the remaining forty years of his life. Some endeavour has been made to redress this imbalance by two Australian writers, who have relied heavily on letters she sent to her mother in Britain from 'Down Under' in those nineteen months away; they were discovered 97 years after her death. In 1944 Alexander Hugh (better known as Alec) Chisholm, a member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (now Birdlife Australia) for seventy years, wrote *The Story of Elizabeth Gould*. He described her as a 'charming, culturally and musically and artistically talented woman'. A self-confessed twitcher, Melissa Ashley had a fictional biography titled *The Birdman's Wife* published four years ago. Part of her research included learning the art of avian taxidermy, which Elizabeth developed to hone her artistic skills.



It seems befitting that I should conclude this article with Elizabeth Gould's beautiful illustration of a pair of Little Corellas, one of her 84 that feature in her husband's seven-volumed *Birds of Australia* (1840-1848).

Coincidentally, as a postscript, there are two references to this species in the latest edition (June 2020) of *Australian Birdlife*: one the observation of a further example of the playfulness of these birds with a photograph of one on a swing in a children's playground in the Perth area. The other, less pleasing to read, is about reports of mass baited poisoning around the country of little corellas, which some consider pests. A recent account comes from the Manilla district of north-east New South Wales, where the Namoi and Manilla Rivers meet, and is noted for its wheat-growing, wool and mixed farming; whilst illegal, it appears the poisoning was accidental rather than deliberate.

Mike Morphett 24/6/2020

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## HOW ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS BIRDS GOT ITS GLOSS

A group of American researchers publish a study examining how the Cassowary got its unusual feathers.

[Read the full story](#)

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**A birds-eye view** This rare Peregrine Falcon was spotted by the marine safety camera on tower one at the Port Kembla grain terminal. This species of bird hunts other birds by diving at them in a high-speed dive called a 'stoop'.

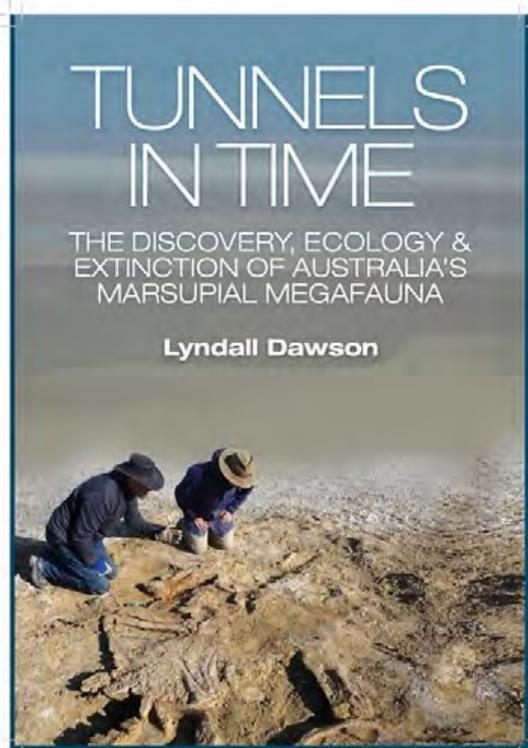
Story from ABC Illawarra



**Tunnels in Time** tells the story of fossil bones of giant animals found in caves, lake beds and riverbanks across Australia. These bones fascinated 'natural philosophers' of the past and continue to stimulate intense scientific debate today. Inevitably, it is a story of extinctions, first of a vibrant rainforest fauna that existed until 10 million years ago, then of the more recent demise of the megafauna, the giant herbivores and carnivores that roamed this land during the Pleistocene era. For the first time this book brings together 200 years of fiery debate and research seeking the cause of those extinctions. It tells how 20 million years of changing climates and then the arrival of Aboriginal people impacted on ecosystems in Australia, the 'different' continent. We humans are now the cause of unusually rapid environmental change. The insight gained from deep time provides a framework for the thinking and action of people who care for, appreciate and enjoy the Australian natural environment.

**LYNDALL DAWSON**

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**MONTHLY SIGHTINGS :- May- June 2020**

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	Nº	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Australian Brush-turkey	2	13/06/2020	Wollongong Botanic Garden	pond bank	Mike Morphett
White-headed Pigeon	1 pr	12/06/2020	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphett
White-headed pigeon	5	17/06/2020	Mt Keira Rd West Wollongong	Suburban street	Chris. Cartledge
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	6	01/06/2020	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphett
Sooty Oystercatcher	1	21/06/2020	Woonona	rock platform Collins/Flat Rock	Mike Morphett
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	05/06/2020	Bellambi Harbour	tideline	Mike Morphett
Wonga Pigeon	2 calling	07/06/2020	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine area N&E	Mike Morphett
Tawny Frogmouth	1	13/05/2020	Russell Vale Golf course carpark	line of Casuarinas	Ian McKinlay
Cattle Egret	1	29/05/2020	Bulli	nature strip N end Memorial Dr	Mike Morphett
White-faced Heron	1	21/06/2020	Woonona	rock pool off Collins/Flat Rock	Mike Morphett
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1 adult	23/05/2020	off Macauleys Beach, Thirroul	marine	Ian McKinlay
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1 juv	28/05/2020	flying west over Thirroul east	aloft	Ian McKinlay
Grey Goshawk	1	18/05/2020	Woodland Creek, east Thirroul	Creek line trees	Ian McKinlay
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	03/06/2020	Over escarpment Tarrawanna	Bushland	Alan & Anne Cousins
Nankeen Kestrel	1	30/05/2020	Weaver Tce, Bulli overlooking McCauleys Beach	house guttering	Mike Morphett
Little Corella	2	07/06/2020	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphett
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	c70	23/06/2020	Bellambi	Staithees Mews 2 open garbage bins	Mike Morphett
Musk Lorikeet	small flock	27/05/2020	Russell Vale GC	flowering Eucalypts	Ian McKinlay
Australian King-Parrot	8	20/06/2020	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphett
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	2	18/05/2020	Hewitts Creek, East Thirroul	Casuarina forest	Ian McKinlay
Southern Boobook	1	10/06/2020	Gunyah Park West Wollongong	Suburban Park	Chris. Cartledge
Superb Lyrebird	1 heard	13/06/2020	Thirroul	Excelsior S side	Mike Morphett
Green Catbird	1	06/06/2020	Thirroul	backyard birdbath	Mike Morphett
Green Catbird	2	07/06/2020	Thirroul	backyard Robinia	Mike Morphett
Satin Bowerbird	1 male	22/06/2020	Tarrawanna	Yard	Alan & Anne Cousins
Superb Fairy-wren	5	30/05/2020	Thirroul to Bulli Bike Track	rank grasses	Mike Morphett
White-browed Scrubwren	3	20/06/2020	Thirroul	front garden	Mike Morphett
White-browed Scrubwren	1	13/06/2020	W'gong Botanic Garden	Towri Bush Tucker Garden	Mike Morphett
Brown Thornbill	2	03/06/2020	Thirroul	backyard Robinia	Mike Morphett
Spotted Pardalote	1	24/06/2020	Thirroul	backyard casuarina	Mike Morphett
Red Wattlebird	1	27/05/2020	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphett
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	29/05/2020	West Wollongong	Suburban street	Chris. Cartledge
Golden Whistler	1 fem	03/06/2020	Thirroul	Robinia- last seen June 2018	Mike Morphett
Red-whiskered Bulbul	2	01/06/2020	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphett
Common Starling	20	21/06/2020	Woonona	Ocean Park powerline	Mike Morphett

**Thank you to those members who posted their sightings to me for records and newsletter.  
So, please email me or phone.**

**Don't forget to check out our website**

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**or the**

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