



"One Good Tern Deserves Another"

I.B.O.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the birdlife around them.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS due 1st January each year: **FAMILY \$25 SINGLE \$20 JUNIOR \$5**

Contents	2005 Club Contacts
From Your Committee p 2	PRESIDENT: Roger Bogaert, tel: 02 4237 8742
Report on July Meeting p 3	SECRETARY: Betty Hudson, tel: 02 4236 0307 Work email: bettyhudson@menziesgroup.com.au
Jerrara Dam p 4	TREASURER: Bronwyn Wilson, tel: 02 4283 4744
Box Vale Track, Mittagong p 5	EDITORS: Penny Potter, Tel: 02 4284 6196 Email: penny_potter@iprimus.com.au
Getting the Best Out of Your Binoculars p 5	Val Dolan, Tel: 02 4229 6737
Travelling North p 6	
Important Groups of Wildlife Habitat Plants p 6	
Ode to my Dear Friend Val and Others p 7	
Birds Around Berry p 8	
Weebills and Thornbills Identification Sheet p 9	

FORTHCOMING IBOC EVENTS August 2005

CLUB MEETING – Monday 8th August - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall - Col Markham will talk about birds, animals and accommodation available to birdwatchers in Africa, including a visit to Kruger National Park. **Please remember to bring a mug and a small plate for supper afterwards.**

MID-WEEK WALK –Wednesday 10th August – Mount Pleasant & Mount Keira Ring Tracks – Leader: Mike Morphet. Meet at 8.30am at the parking space on the bend of Mount Keira Road, where the Mount Keira Ring Track meets the road. This spot is 4 km from the Princes Highway – Mount Keira Road intersection in West Wollongong and 900 metres past Byarong Park. We will set off along the fire trail, with a sign at the gateway: Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area – road subject to landslip. Past the junction with the Ken Ausburn Track the trail descends to Parrish Avenue, where we will take the ascent up to the Mount Keira Ring Track via the Mount Pleasant Track and then we proceed south back to the cars. Whilst the walk is undulating, it is a little over 3 km in length, so members will have plenty of opportunity to catch their breath. Morning tea could be accompanied by lyrebird calls and the Bassian Thrush. After the walk some folk may want to drive up to Mount Keira Summit Park and, from the landscaped viewing area, look down on the area we will have walked and the magnificent Wollongong panorama.

AUGUST MONTHLY OUTING - Sunday 14th August – Buderoo National Park Drawing Room Rocks Walk, Berry – Leader Betty Hudson. Meet at the back of the Apex Park, in Berry, by the Broughton Vale Road turnoff at 8.30am (take the 2nd right after the bridge and the next right alongside the back of the park). We will then drive up to the start of the walk at the head of Broughton Vale. Bring a carry lunch and morning tea. You will also need plenty of insect repellent for the leeches. Last time we visited this area we saw Rock Warblers, Gang Gang Cockatoos and Peregrine Falcons as well as magnificent views over the valley and coast.

COMMITTEE MEETING - **Tuesday 16th August 2005**, at **7.30pm** at the home of Fae and Kevin McGregor, 10 White Place, Figtree (4271 3762).

SEPTEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next *IBOC News* is **Tuesday 23rd August**. Please don't leave submitting your contributions to the last minute and where possible please submit by email.

STYX RIVER CAMP - 22-29th October 2005

Some preliminary information for those intending to join the group.

- 1 Petrol, gas, bread milk, limited tinned food, biscuits, ice, lollies and some takeaway food is available from the Ebor Roadhouse. Other items can be ordered Monday to Friday from the owner and will be brought from either Armidale or Coffs Harbour and delivered to the Roadhouse by the regular courier run.
- 2 Accommodation. For those who would like accommodation and have not been able to book into the NPWS Cabins, there is alternate accommodation available at either the Ebor Falls Motel 02 6775 9155 (30km from camp) or Moffat Falls Cottage which is 3 to 4km from the campsite 02 6775 9166. Neil and Tera Wheway say this looks very nice from where they were able to observe it. For those who can rough it two basic fisherman style huts with outside toilets called Yaraandoo are also available to rent 02 6775 9246 (not too clean on visual inspection).
- 3 Ebor is accessed via either Armidale (good level road all the way from Armidale) or Coffs Harbour, via Dorrigo (steep winding road), or via Grafton (also steep and winding with logging trucks).

Thanks to Neil and Tera for making a diversion to check the area for us. Full details and map will be in the next newsletter.

From Your Committee

Finance

Balance of IBOC account on 31.05.05 was \$2,457.99. Receipts \$300.00. Expenses approved for payment totalled \$67.10.

Book Sale

Further to the note last month on sale of books, no books donated to the library will be included in the sale.

Missing Book

"Owls" a book of research papers on owls is missing from the library. Has anyone borrowed it and not written it in the book? If so please let Joan Wylie know.

For those interested in **a wonderful spot for seeing south-central Queensland birds**, you might plan a visit to the "Bowra Station", 16 kilometers west of Cunnamulla, South-West Queensland. There is both cottage and shearing quarters accommodation, van sites with electricity, or camping. Also hot showers, laundry and flush toilets!

Lots of lagoons from the station bore water with abundant birdlife (over 180 species identified, bird list available) and expert advice from the owners: Ian and Julie McLaren.

Contact details (pamphlet available):
Phone: 07 4655 1238 Fax: 07 4655 2368
email: gumholes@bigpond.com
web: www.birdingatbowra.com

- contributed by Ron Witton and Celli Lloyd

REPORT ON JULY MEETING**Chris Brandis****The Five Islands - Lindsay Smith**

The speaker for the evening was long time member Lindsay Smith, also president of the Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association (SOSSA), who talked about an area so close but visited by so few. Just off the industrial landscape of Port Kembla is a different world, one where nature acts out its part, the Five Islands Nature Reserve where there is little disturbance from man. But man's actions do affect many of the outcomes of this complex eco system. The islands have changed a lot since Europeans arrived, both with the weeds that have invaded and the changes in food supply for many of the breeding inhabitants. SOSSA have been involved in studying the birds on the islands since the early 1980s with banding of young birds which has increased the knowledge of their life cycles and given an insight into conservation methods required.

Silver Gulls were once low in numbers around Wollongong but with open rubbish tips and plentiful food scraps around eateries the population exploded. This is now dropping as the food supply is being reduced by better tip management and education. Australian Pelicans were virtually unknown on the coast before 1980 but now there are hundreds nesting on the larger islands all year round, partly due to the good supply of fishermen's scraps. Even White Ibis have started to nest amongst the Pelicans and have become scroungers of our rubbish as well as getting access to flooded paddocks where once forests grew.

Kikuyu grass now covers much of Big and Little Islands with the runners proving to be deadly for Little Penguins and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters who have to burrow through the grass, that may be half a metre thick, without getting entangled and left to die a slow death. Fishermen are not allowed on the islands but, due to some perverse bureaucratic demarcation between NPWS and fisheries, are allowed on the area between the high and low tides, thus disturbing nesting oystercatchers and allowing the gulls easy access to their eggs or chicks. A fungal disease that affected bait fish off the coast was thought to have originated from cheap imported bait and tuna food which resulted in a lack of food for the Little Penguins and a huge drop in the population, which is now only just recovering slowly.

Looking from Hill 60 at Port Kembla is a good as it gets for most people but a web cam is being installed so that we will be able to see the intimate side of the life of some of the birds without disturbing them, something to look forward to. We also saw photos of some of the volunteers who brave the sharp beaks of nesting birds to extract them from their burrows to measure and band them, then wait for a recovery record. The data collected helps us to understand the migratory routes, life spans of the birds, survival rates of fledglings and many other aspects of the birds' biology which is essential to ensure the survival of many species. There were many questions afterwards and we thanked Lindsay for opening up a world many will never get to see first hand.

**TREE PLANTING IN COWRA****September 17 – 18 2005****(rescheduled)****VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

At last, good rains in Cowra and the CWBP's postponed tree planting is on!
Please leave your name and contact details at BASNA Office.

Ph: (02) 9436 0388; Fax: (02) 9436 0466 Email: rosella63@bigpond.com

Jerrara Dam**Tera Wheway****Mid-week walk: Wednesday 13th July 2005**

Everyone arrived at the Jamberoo Hotel nice and early for a 9am start. However we were late leaving, this caused by the nearby cake shop proving to be too much of a temptation for some.

Ten people started out in what looked like being an overcast day; however this turned into a fine and sunny delightful morning of bird watching. The area is well set up with picnic tables and toilet provided. It was interesting to see the growth that the trees had made since our last outing in November 2003. There are more areas being vegetated with council workers still clearing lantana and planting new rainforest trees. It promises to be a lovely oasis of bushland in-between rural pastures.

On arriving at the dam Chris Brandis had already started on the bird list and it wasn't long before the list was being extended with a White-headed Pigeon. Red-browed Firetails, Lewin's Honeyeaters and Superb Fairy-wrens were seen in large numbers. It is a short walk but the whole morning was productively spent, with a short break for morning tea overlooking the dam.

The rain of the previous week was evident with storm debris left at the high water mark, not a place to be in heavy rain. The reed bed was flattened so no Reed Warbler this time. Some of the smaller trees and less established plants had been washed away by the obvious storm water torrent. Barbara, our leader, reneged on crossing the creek to test the water depth, which resulted in us all backtracking. This was lucky otherwise we would have missed seeing the Echidna. An Echidna foraging in the undergrowth looking for a meal was spotted by Ted, but the Eastern Whipbird, as always, was heard but not seen.



Neil and I detoured back home via the Swamp Road to look at the new highway extensions. We were rewarded by seeing a large number of Royal Spoonbills, Great Egrets, Pacific Herons, White-faced Herons, Sacred Ibis, and Straw-necked Ibis all feeding on the waterlogged pastures. End to a lovely morning and many thanks to Barbara Hales for leading us around this interesting spot.

Grey Teal	Laughing Kookaburra	Eastern Whipbird
Chestnut Teal	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler
Hardhead	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail
Australasian Grebe	Brown Gerygone	Grey Butcherbird
Little Black Cormorant	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
White-faced Heron	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Raven
Grey Goshawk	Noisy Friarbird	Green Catbird
Dusky Moorhen	Lewin's Honeyeater	Satin Bowerbird
White-headed Pigeon	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch
Bar-shouldered Dove	Eastern Spinebill	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Galah	Rose Robin	Silvereye
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Yellow Robin	Common Blackbird

BOX VALE TRACK, MITTAGONG**Terri Edwell**Saturday 16th July 2005

There were only five of us, for the walk along the Box Vale Track. We saw lots of Tree Creepers and the dam yielded a Musk Duck, which according to a sign, is an area where they breed. The track was very interesting. It was built around 1888, and was a large project. It was built by Wards of the State, from Toombong School, and members of the Community Employment Programme. There are several, very big cuttings, through sandstone, which were dug out with picks, as the sandstone is too soft for blasting. The valleys are all built up to accommodate the rail track, and there is an eighty-four metre tunnel, cut through a large hill, also mostly by pick and shovel. The mine only operated for a period of eight years and closed in 1896. The walking track was opened in 1986, by the Nowra Lands Office.

We were hoping to see Robins, but none came bobbing along, except for one yellow one. We saw a flock of Varied Sittella (the second time only for me), White-eared Honeyeaters and quite a few Brown-headed Honeyeaters were high in the trees.

At the end of the track, it dips down into a steep valley, where the coal was mined. At the lookout, the Blue Mountains can be seen, a long way in the distance. There were lots of droppings on a ledge but no sign of the bird of prey. We could hear the lovely sound of Bell Birds down in the valley.

It was a very enjoyable walk and we were quite protected from the wind, which was quite strong at times. Many thanks to Betty for leading the walk. For anyone interested in Fungi, there were very good specimens to be found, in various shapes and colours. The wattle was just coming out in its beautiful yellow blooms. It was a lovely, easy walk, except for the tunnel, being very dark in the centre.

Musk Duck	White-throated Treecreeper	Little Wattlebird	Golden Whistler
Australasian Grebe	Superb Fairy-wren	Bell Miner	Grey Shrike-thrush
Pied Cormorant	Spotted Pardalote	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Eurasian Coot	Striated Pardalote	White-eared Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White Browed Scrub Wren	New Holland Honeyeater	Australian Magpie
Crimson Rosella	Brown Thornbill	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Eastern Rosella	Yellow Thornbill	Eastern Spinebill	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Striated Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin	
Laughing Kookaburra	Red Wattlebird	Varied Sittella	

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR BINOCULARS

Chris Brandis

After reading articles by Keith Brandwood of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club and a follow up by Dick Cooper of the NSW Bird Atlasers, I thought a summary of these comments would be useful to any new members to ensure that they see birds as well as their equipment lets them. Firstly the best binoculars generally cost the most, and higher magnifications often give a shaky image in unstable conditions such as wind. If you will be focusing on birds at short distances in the rain forest then ensure you get binoculars with a focal length down to about 1.5 meters and the bigger the large end lens the better the light gathering power and field of view. Adjusting your bins requires several steps:

1. Adjust the cups on the viewing, small, end to suit whether you will be using glasses or not so that the distance between the lens and the eyes give you the maximum field of view.
2. Adjust the distance between the barrels about the centre pivot so that when looking through them you have a circular field of view.

3. Pick a spot about 15 metres away such as a number plate or fine branch. Close your right eye and using the centre focusing wheel focus the left hand barrel to get the clearest image of the chosen object.
4. Close your left eye and rotate the diopter, the eye piece with – 0 + on it, to again get the clearest image of the chosen object.
5. Open both eyes and the object should be clearly in focus. Repeat a few times to ensure the diopter reading is the same and note the reading in case it moves during use.

Seeing a bird clearly gives you the best opportunity to identify it and get the maximum appreciation of the plumage. If you have problems just ask one of the more experienced members for assistance as we were all beginners once and happy birding!

TRAVELLING NORTH – Part 1

Val Dolan

I first visited Green Island, close to Cairns, in 1972 and it was pristine and really beautiful. Shame about what popularity does to our environment, as Green Island is suffering from just too many human beings. I went to snorkel and see the beche-de-mer, corals, and fish. They are there but a vestige of what I remember. However the birds seem to coexist quite happily with the tourists. On the approach to the wharf a single Osprey was seen sitting at the edge of a very large nest of grey sticks, sited on top of a marker beacon. A large flock of White Herons roosted in the trees at the end of the wharf, while a lively tiny bird flew from wire to wire staying still long enough for me to identify it as a Silveryeye but the Barrier Reef variety which is much brighter than those seen locally. Down at the water's edge stood a single Reef Heron in its black phase, something I hadn't seen before. While I was swimming a huge Sea Eagle flew low overhead and onto the island. Around the resort Sparrows, Crested Pigeons and many Buff-banded Rails scavenged for food scraps. The Buff-banded Rail looked much more attractive in a natural setting scratching amongst the leaf litter beside the walking track, well camouflaged in the dappled sunlight. Back on the ferry the single Osprey had been joined by another and we can only hope they are a successful breeding pair.

Back in Cairns the trees of the main streets were full of noisy Rainbow Lorikeets fighting each other for a perch for the night. Formations of Ibis made their way to their resting place. The huge fig tree behind the library, a remnant of the original vegetation, held a colony of Golden Headed Flying Foxes. A smaller fig nearby had been colonised by family groups of Figbirds with their distinctive red eye patches but again the northern form was much more colourful than ours. Away from the high rise of the inner city evidence of destruction of the rainforest to make way for inappropriate McMansions was rife. A friend I was visiting proudly showed me a wonderful construction in her studio. Not her own art work but the nest of Sunbirds woven from cobwebs, dried grasses, leaves and feathers. The pair had constructed it over a clothesline oblivious to her working at her own art in another corner. Sitting down to dinner that night, just after dark, we were startled by the cry of a Curlew flying close by. Some Aboriginal groups further south thought this call was a foreboding of death or bad luck. We hoped this was not true in this area.

Important Groups of Wildlife Habitat Plants - Danie Ondinea 2002

Most Australian plants provide valuable resources for wildlife. The best habitat plants provide some food, shelter and nest sites for a range of nectar, fruit, seed, leaf and insect (and other prey) eating animals such as birds, mammals, lizards, frogs and insects and other invertebrates.

The top habitat plant groups which provide many resources for a wide range of Australian animals are ***Eucalyptus, Angophora, Melaleuca, Acacia, Banksia, Leptospermum*** and ***Kunzea***.

Shelter plants – many Acacia (wattles), Leptospermum (tea-trees), Melaleuca (paperbarks), Bursaria (blackthorn), Hakea, Ceratopetalum (Christmas bush), Kunzea, Clematis, Pandorea (wonga-wonga vine), Rubus (native raspberry) and any dense and/ or spikey planting.

Insect-pollinated plants - Acacia (wattles), native peas (eg. Dillwynia, Hardenbergia, Kennedia), Leptospermum (tea-trees), native daisies (eg. Olearia) as well as Hibbertia, Clematis, Pomaderris.

Nectar plants - Banksia, Grevillea, Hakea, Correa, Lambertia (mountain devil), Callistemon (bottlebrush), Eucalyptus, Angophora, Melaleuca, Xanthorrhoea (grasstrees) and others with big, showy flowerheads, Epacris.

Seed plants – Eucalyptus, Angophora, Acacia (wattles), Casuarina and Allocasuarina (she-oaks), Glochidion (cheese tree), Lomandra, native grasses (eg. Themeda, Danthonia), rushes (Juncus) and sedges (Gahnia).

Fruit plants - Acmena, Syzygium (lillypillys), Ficus (figs), Alphitonia, Trema, Cissus (native grape), Persoonia (geebungs), Dianella (native lily), Breynia, Stephania, saltbushes and many rainforest or wet forest species.

Native bee plants – Persoonia (geebungs), native peas (eg. Hovea, Pultenaea), native daisies (eg. Helichrysum), heath plants (eg. Epacris, Leucopogon), Goodenia, Tristaniopsis (water gum), Leptospermum.

Native butterfly plants – native peas, native daisies, native grasses (eg. Poa), sedges and rushes (eg. Carex, Juncus), Lomandra, Dianella, Bursaria (blackthorn), Macrozamia (burrawang), Dodonaea, Zieria, Correa, Indigofera, Cupaniopsis (tuckeroo), Melaleuca and mistletoes.

Ode to my Dear and Valued Friend Val and Others

Submitted by Carol Cruickshank, who is planning to found the Non-Watching Friends of Birdwatchers Support Group!

Pity us poor people with a certain type of friend
 Most of the time they're normal, and go with a usual trend
 Then they become a 'twitcher', how it happens I don't know
 From watching too many pelicans, flying high and low?
 The "Borer of the Year Award" would be theirs without half trying
 Because listening to bird stories nearly leaves us crying

A minor observation can be tolerated to hear
 It's the convoluted stories we await with dread and fear
 The nesting locations and different mating call
 Colour of each feather, we have to hear it all
 We're getting very drowsy, it's endless without pause
 Presuming that we're interested, part of the feathery cause!

A special Cone of Silence, or a membership who're mute
 Would raise a cheer from all of us, we'd shout "you bloody beaut!"
 Don't get us wrong, we love you all and hope you continue to have fun
 But the day after your bird watchers' walks
 You don't mind if we duck and run?

Birds around Berry - July 2005

Bob Ashford



Birdwatching, one might reasonably assume, requires a good pair of eyes. Equally, successful birders would say, we need a good pair of ears.

The calls and songs of different bird species provide important clues to their identification often long before you actually see the bird. Indeed, one of the great pleasures of birding is enjoying the fabulous songs many birds entertain us with. Even the croaky crackles of Wattlebirds and the steady midnight 'oo-oo-oo-oo' of the Tawny Frogmouth are strangely evocative.

Most calls and songs are about attracting mates and defending territories and reach their peak during spring and early summer. During winter calls are simpler and are about food, keeping in contact and keeping safe. Often when birding in winter I might not hear any calls at all but I'm still listening because there are other clues that birds are still about.

I first discovered Eastern Shrike-tits in Berry because of their distinctive feeding habits. These sparrow-sized birds, smartly dressed in yellow, black and white with a Mohican crest, rip off loose bark from trees in search of spiders and insects. A small party busily shredding bark can make quite a noise in an otherwise quiet wood.

'Rain' tumbling through the trees on a day of clear blue skies alerts me to the presence of Crimson Rosellas or Gang Gang Cockatoos picking off the gum nuts high in the canopy and if I hear small twigs and branches falling I'm fairly confident Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos are methodically tearing a rotten branch apart in their search for fat wood-boring grubs.

Motionless and silent birds of prey can remain invisible even to the most skilled birder but on one occasion a large Grey Goshawk dropped a portion of its prey on the ground in front of me. The 'thump' alerted me and I enjoyed thirty seconds of excellent views before it, and roughly half a Red Wattlebird, flew off. Then there are the noises on the ground.

'Scratchings' are the typical sounds on a forest floor. In my bit of rainforest I'm all ears for two particular birds - the Logrunner and the Bassian Thrush. Both birds are 'brown' birds well camouflaged among the leaves and twigs and while both have distinctive calls and songs I invariably discover them by listening for their scratchings. Both scratch and flick leaves turning them over in search of insects and worms and, if I'm quiet and they're busy, I can get quite close to be thoroughly entertained.

I've now got to the stage where I feel confident enough to teach other birders to use their ears to identify birds by the non-vocal noises they make. Out in the forest one day with my son I heard an Eastern Whipbird scuffling about in a bunch of leaves caught in a branch fork just above our heads. Having passed on all my 'noise identification' skills to him I asked him to name the bird. Turning to me, his young forehead creased in concentration, he thought for a moment and then said "Russell".

By the time I grabbed a suitable branch he was well out of range!



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Drawing Room Rocks p 6	Val Dolan, Tel: 02 4229 6737
Birding Abroad: Mauritius p 6	
Travelling North p 7	
Twitchathon 2005 p 8	
Unusual Sightings p 9	

FORTHCOMING IBOC EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2005

CLUB MEETING – Monday 12th September - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall - Stuart Almond will talk about "Birding on the Canning Stock Route". **Please remember to bring a mug and a small plate for supper afterwards.**

MID-WEEK WALK – Wednesday 14 September – Bass Point Marine Eco Reserve – Leader: Mike Morphett. Meet at 8.30am at the car park off Bassett Park, Shellharbour, where there are toilet facilities. In Addison Street, the main east-west street through the village, turn right/south into Mary Street, take 2nd left into Darley Street and 2nd right into Boollwaroo Parade. The venue is about 500 metres on the left. From there we will drive south along what becomes Bass Point Tourist Road, checking out the birdlife at Shellharbour Swamp, The Shallows Coastal Reserve, and the beaches and rock platforms. Inside the main gates of Bass Point Reserve prevailing wind conditions will likely dictate what areas we can focus on; hopefully, some of the Coastal Walking Trail, bays, viewing platforms, and the littoral rainforest. Copper-tailed skinks might watch us from a safe distance at morning cuppa time.

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY OUTING - Saturday 17th September – Stingray Swamp Flora Reserve, Penrose – Leader Betty Hudson. Meet at the Western side of Penrose Station at **9.30am**. Bring usual eats and drinks. This is an easy walk along level firetrails. There may be a paddle across a creek if it has been raining. This a diverse area on the edge of Penrose State Forest. Travel from Wollongong via Moss Vale, Sutton forest and Bundanoon, continuing on towards Penrose and Wingello. Approx 0.5km after passing Penrose station on your right, there is a right turn (with a yellow road sign). Cross the railway here and immediately turn right again following the railway back to the station. **Please note the late meeting time and the walk will finish around 2.30pm.**

COMMITTEE MEETING - Tuesday 20th September 2005, at 7.30pm at the home of Joan and Tom Wylie, 4 Daphne Road, Bellambi (4284 2051).

OCTOBER 2005 NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next *IBOC News* is **Friday 23rd September**. Please don't leave submitting your contributions to the last minute and where possible please submit by email.

From Your Committee

Finance

Balance of IBOC account on 31.07.05 was \$2,597.92. Receipts \$100.00. Expenditure \$192.67. Expenses approved for payment totalled \$207.10.

Library

Spring Clean of the Library will take place as soon as a trime can be arranged with the hall Managers.

October Meeting

We are looking at having a monthly meeting in October if the hall is available and also an outing. A leader is needed for the outing.

Pubilc Liability Insurance

We are investigating the coverage provided if the club and three members join Birds Observers Club of Australia. The cost would be half that of our own insurance.

Web Page

Little progress has been made. The Committee agreed to Martin Cocker's proposal that he and Martin Potter design a preliminary web page structure on paper, but somebody with the necessary software skills is required to put the information onto the server. The Committee needs to seek an external source to create the actual page. IBOC needs to develop the required skills/resources to maintain the page

GOOD BIRDING SITES

Mary Jane Shaw

I have just been for a camping trip out west and thought I'd pass on some information about some good birding sites. I went to Yowah, which is in Queensland and is a small opal mining place. There is a free camping area, quite large with a toilet and a shower. While there I met Errol and Irene Baxter - Irene is a very knowledgeable birder and belongs to one of the big birding groups in Qld. She gave me her bird list - there were 164 birds on it - and took me for a bird tour. She charges \$10 an hour. It could even be a good spot for a bird camp. Her address is Mrs. Irene Baxter, MB 85 Yowah, Via Cunnamulla 4490 email ebrbaxter@bigpond.com

Further up the road to Quilpie is yet another good free camp site at Lake Houdraman sporting many birds land and water as well as being close to the Bulloo river.

If you go to Bourke the Kidman's caravan park has a man called Trevor who is very knowledgeable about where to find feathered friends and will take people for just \$5 to cover petrol or advise where to go to find them. It's a very comfortable park with a good camp kitchen and is on the Darling River - but not free. The address is Kidman's Camp, Country Resort, Bourke 2840 (it's actually North Bourke on the Mitchell Highway) t/no 02 6872 1612 kidmanscamp@bigpond.com.au Peter and Tracey Simmonds

OCTOBER CAMP, STYX RIVER STATE FOREST

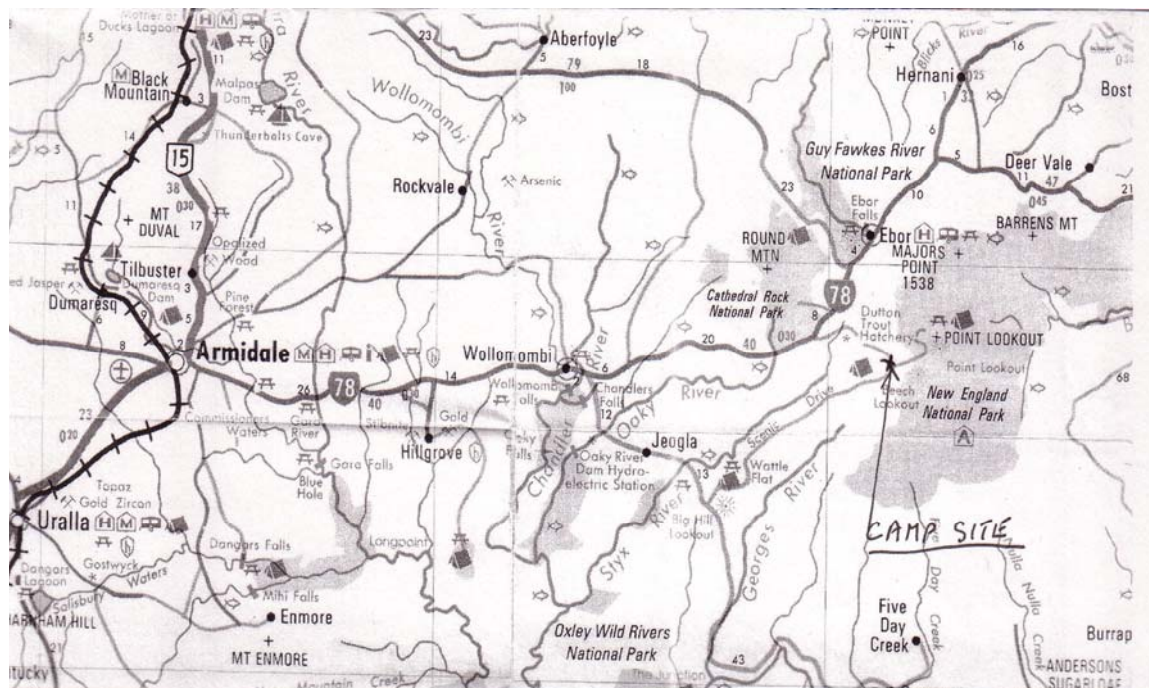
22-29th October 2005

Our October Camp this year will be in the Styx River State Forest which adjoins the New England National Park. We will be exploring the walking tracks in both the State Forest and the National Park, as well as visiting Cathedral Rocks NP, Dorrigo NP, and Ebor and Wollomombi Falls. Habitats throughout these areas range through wet and dry sclerophyll, subtropical, warm and cool temperate rainforest, pasture, heath and swamp, so it should be possible to find a wide variety of birds.

The camp is best approached from Armidale, a distance of around 600km from Wollongong. It is recommended that those camping or towing vans make an overnight stop on the way. From Armidale take the Coffs Harbour/Grafton Road. After approx 70km you will see the sign for the Point Lookout Rd, to the New England NP and Trout Hatchery on your right. (If you get to the Gyra turn off just before Ebor you have missed the turning.) Travel along Pt Lookout Rd for approx 12km to the Styx River Camping Area on the right. It is approx 100m before the New England NP sign and Styx River Forest Way. Watch for the IBOC signs. Those using NP cabins will proceed into the park for a further 5km to the end of the road.

We will be using the State Forest Toilet but IBOC shower. Water is available from the Styx River or the NP camping site 2 km away. It is recommended that you bring your own drinking water. This is a high altitude area and the night time temperatures can be cold, down to 5°C, so bring warm bedding as well as clothing. It can also get very hot in the day.

If you have not already added your name to the list of members attending the camp, please let Betty Hudson or Tom Wylie know if you intend coming.



REPORT ON AUGUST MEETING**Kerri Lewis****Birds of South Africa – Col Markham**

The speaker for the August meeting was Col Markham, who in September of 2004 had spent 5 weeks travelling around the National Parks of South Africa with his wife Melissa. They had previously visited South Africa in 2000 and their passionate love of the animal life, in particular the birdlife, was evident throughout the talk.

Col's photographs were taken with a Minolta camera using a 400mm lens and 400X speed film and everyone was impressed with the clarity and close-up shots, particularly since most had to be taken from within the car. Visiting bird hides was at their own risk as getting to them meant crossing through dangerous country where leopards, elephants and lions roamed and the "logs" near water could move!

The journey that the Markham's undertook went through many of the famous (and not so frequently visited) National Parks and Wildlife Reserves: including Kruger and Golden Gate National Parks, Tuli Game and Nylsvley Nature Reserves, Lapalala Wilderness and along the Limpopo River to name a few. The landscape varied from open grassland, mountains, wetlands and coastal shores and the diversity of birdlife was fascinating. Some of the species were very rare including Karu Korhaan (only found in Golden Gate N.P.) and Brown Headed Parrot, while others were being re-introduced into Kruger National Park such as Ground Hornbill and Red-billed Oxpickers because of man's use of pesticides on their cattle.

There were numerous photos of beautifully coloured birds, including the following: Bokmakierie (brilliant colours and song), Burchell's Glossy Starling, Lilac-breasted Roller (which Col caught on camera just as it was about to fly –absolutely stunning!), Goliath and Black-headed Herons, Malachite Kingfisher and Red-headed Weaver. The animal shots were just as magnificent of leopards, elephants, lions though my personal favourite was the shot Col had of a mother cheetah and her cubs!

Col and Melissa explained that they had booked all their accommodation via the internet and stayed in many fascinating places. The Drotsky Hotel originally had accommodated slaves, while in the National Parks they stayed in traditional thatched cottages. As they had organised their own itinerary they travelled off the tourist traps and found the locals to be very friendly. Great care had to be taken while travelling along roads to avoid debris of bricks and rocks (unfortunately Col found this out the hard way!)

The vote of thanks was given by Brian Hales, expressing everyone's appreciation of being able to see truly wonderful photographs and to invite Col back again after his next overseas adventure.

Just add water!**Roger Truscott**Sunday 14th August 2005

It is dry in the Illawarra. Walks around the local area suggest that it is having an effect on the local birds – particularly our small ground feeders.

A walk along Slacky Creek, Bulli last Wednesday and two around Mt Kembla on the weekend revealed not one logrunner (normally there are at least a few around in Bulli) and, until I finally heard and saw one pair at Mt Kembla, no yellow-throated scrub wrens either.

Underfoot is very dry even in the rainforest, so I suppose it must be influencing the abundance of little bugs that are food for the ground dwellers.

I hope that these birds have simply retreated further up the escarpment, or to locally wetter areas elsewhere. Has this happened previously?

Mount Pleasant**Tiera Wheway****Mid-week walk: Wednesday 10th August 2005**

Twelve members set out on a walk that proved to be both gently undulating and very steeply undulating in many places. Despite rain being predicted the weather held off for the duration of our walk and there was only a slight wind. There were beautiful views across Wollongong and the ocean.

Lots of small birds and sightings were made of Large-billed Scrubwrens in three separate areas. In one spot there were Large-billed Scrubwrens, Red-browed Firetails, Brown Gerygones, Brown Thornbills and Spotted Pardalotes that kept us all busy with our binoculars.

A Bassian Thrush flew up on a branch and posed for us to take photos, even turning when I asked him to, so we could all admire his beautifully streaked chest. A flock of at least five Green Catbirds gave everybody the opportunity to see one and they were a pleasant first tick for several members. The catbirds were in the company of a group of Satin Bowerbirds. We had earlier been well entertained by a male Satin Bowerbird who sang beautifully and continuously from his perch in a tall tree.

It was great to have three new walkers join our Wednesday group and we must once again thank Mike Morphett, who has returned to us fresh from his Canadian vacation, for his friendly and informative leadership and guidance of the group.



Bird species list for Mt Pleasant & Mt Keira Ring Tracks 10 August 2005

[*with additional sightings on recce of 25 April 2005]

Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Eastern Spinebill	Green Catbird
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Yellow Robin	Satin Bowerbird
Rainbow Lorikeet	Large-billed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	Red-browed Finch
Australian King-Parrot	Brown Gerygone	Golden Whistler	Red-whiskered Bulbul*
Crimson Rosella*	Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Silvereye*
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Red Wattlebird	Grey Fantail	Bassian Thrush
Laughing Kookaburra	Little Wattlebird	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Blackbird
White-throated Treecreeper	Noisy Miner*	Grey Butcherbird	Common Myna
Superb Fairy-wren	Lewin's Honeyeater	Pied Currawong	
Spotted Pardalote	Yellow-faced Honeyeater*	Australian Raven	

Drawing Room Rocks, Budderoo National Park
 Sunday 14th August 2005

Dave Stephens

After meeting at Berry Apex Park we proceeded to the start of the walk at the head of Broughton Vale. Car pooling was needed as parking space was limited. Half way up the trail we stopped for a 'cuppa' and enjoyed the valley view. Once on top of the mountain we were able to take in the panoramic view over-looking the area from Gerroa to Jervis Bay and admire the 'table and chairs' rock formations on the mountain.

Many birds were sighted as we walked along the track, especially on the way down. It was obvious the track was well frequented by bush walkers, wombats and foxes alike, which were all evident on the day.

Once we were down on flat grassy land we had our lunch and then proceeded to drive to Camp Quality Park where we walked along-side Broughton Creek and saw many more birds.

All 13 'birdos' enjoyed the day in perfect weather conditions with 49 different birds noted.

Australian Wood Duck	Laughing Kookaburra	Golden Whistler
Pacific Black Duck	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Shrike-thrush
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy Wren	Magpie-lark
White-necked Heron	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Cattle Egret	White Browed Scrub Wren	Willie Wagtail
Dusky Moorhen	Brown Gerygone	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Rock Dove	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Currawong
Crested Pigeon	Striated Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Wonga Pigeon	Red Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Topknot Pigeon	Little Wattlebird	Red-browed Finch
Galah	Lewin's Honeyeater	Mistletoebird
Little Corella	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Silvereye
Rainbow Lorikeet	Eastern Spinebill	Bassian Thrush
Australian King Parrot	Eastern Yellow Robin	
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	

BIRDING ABROAD: MAURITIUS
David Winterbottom

Over the past few years David and Elizabeth Winterbottom have been going overseas to look at birds and other things. Here is a vignette from a voyage in October 2000.

On losing our way to our "resort" called La Croix du Sud we found that virtually all Mauritians speak good English even though French predominates. We had a very nice unit on a little sand spit with the beach on one side and a lagoon on the other. Village Weavers were nesting in the palm trees and Madagascar Fodies and Red-vented Bulbuls potted about. Dainty Zebra Doves were common as were the introduced Common Mynas and Turtle Doves.

Apart from Whimbrels and tourists, there was not much on the beach – search as we may we couldn't find any Crab Plovers – although there was the odd Godwit as well as scavenging House Crows.

The country roads are narrow usually with a deep ditch on either side and no kerb. No-one obeys any highway rules or signs but are extremely courteous and aware of what others are doing. We never saw an accident. Speeds are relatively low but the roads are littered with mopeds and tractors pulling overloaded carts of sugar cane, cyclists, pedestrians, hundreds of dogs as well as the odd cat and chicken.

We travelled west through endless sugarcane fields up into the hills of the Black Forest National Park with occasional sightings of Ring-necked Parakeets, Mascarene Swiftlets and Martins overhead. Nearly all the vegetation in the Park is dominated by an introduced variant on a guava tree. When cut down it simply sprouts “mallee wise”. We managed to spot Mascarene Paradise Flycatcher, and both the Mauritius Olive and Grey White-eye.

Mauritius has problems with a raft of feral animals - cats, rats, mongooses and vervet monkeys. There is a special problem about curtailing the monkeys because they are special to the Hindus – the largest religious group on the island. So as there is virtually no native vegetation, there is not much native fauna either.

The World Wildlife Fund has been running endangered species recovery programmes here for the past 20 years or so (unfortunately some 250 years too late for the Dodos). This has built up the numbers of Echo Parrots from 6 to about 100 of which we saw 3! Pink Pigeons were down to about 30 but there are now over 200 of which we were lucky enough to see 30 or more. Not all is doom and gloom in the extinction stakes.

TRAVELLING NORTH - Part 2

Val Dolan

Crocodylus Village YHA is north of the Daintree River and about 20 klms south of Cape Tribulation and is hidden under the lowland rainforest canopy. Accommodation is in raised tent like structures all with the names of trees but mine was called Wait-A-While (how romantic, I thought in my ignorance). A marked path takes you into the rainforest alone or you can go with a local guide on a 3 hour walk day or night. Just a few hours after arriving we were booked on the night walk. Along the gravel path from our tent we encountered an Orange-legged Scrub Fowl. Our knowledgeable guide, 'Possum', provided us with torches attached to a waist bag battery. After showing us photos of what we might expect to see, we set off. Before leaving the resort a Dutch traveller spotted a tiny Melomys, a native mouse, feasting on the pile of coconut husks by the side of the track. These critters were the reason no food was allowed in the rooms. Next a French visitor spotted a destructive cane toad and this was followed by many insects and spiders and an even larger cane toad. A young Boyd's Dragon sat stoically on a thin vine. Best of all was a very active Giant White-tailed Rat climbing down a huge tree trunk. The rainforest looked magical at night, with torch light emphasising the myriad shapes of leaves, branches and vines. I never expected to spot birds except perhaps for owls but on a thin branch across the track to avoid predators a Pale Yellow Robin slept all fluffed up and oblivious to the torch light and camera flashes. A Wompoo Fruit Pigeon with its head tucked into its shoulders had no reaction either, nor did the Spectacled Monarch move as 14 people crossed under its perch. Soon we came to a huge pile of red soil and leaf litter that you would expect only a bulldozer could move. This was the mound of a family of Orange-footed Scrubfowl. As we walked 'Possum' pointed out the

vegetation and I soon learned that Wait-A-While is indeed a plant, one with a very unromantic habit of producing flagellum, large thorn covered vines to assist them to climb into the upper storey to reach the sunlight. Further on we walked along the high bank of a creek and spotted eels, yabbies and catfish glowing in our torchlight. Soon we moved onto the Cow Bay Road for the short walk back to camp. It was now well after 11 pm and without the intrusion of city lights the sky showed off the Milky Way at its magnificent best. 'Possum' pointed out the Southern Cross to the many overseas visitors in the party just as a group of flying foxes flew out of the rainforest high across the sky. They will never get a better viewing!

Back in camp the Orange-footed Scrubfowl and other rainforest inhabitants decided to give us a demonstration of their vocal abilities. What a way to fall off to sleep!

NSW and ACT Twitchathon 2005

Proceeds to go to the Environmental Education Programme for the Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve in the Murray Mallee

This year Gluepot Reserve near Waikerie in South Australia will be the recipient of our fund raising conservation efforts, specifically, to provide facilities and equipment for the new Environment Educational Programme.

Gluepot Reserve is Australia's largest community owned and managed conservation reserve. Situated 64 km from the River Murray in South Australia's Riverland, the Reserve is managed and operated entirely by volunteers. Some 54,390 ha in size, it is home to 18 nationally threatened species of birds, 53 species of reptiles and 12 species of bats. There are few areas in the world which support such a concentration of threatened species.

By successfully combining the elements of biodiversity conservation and land management, scientific research and monitoring and sustainable eco-tourism, Gluepot Reserve has taken conservation management into a new era. The Reserve is developing an international "model" to show that sustainable use of the landscape is both feasible and desirable. A highly successful program of this size and complexity is unique in Australian land management and serves to increase awareness of the environmental issues surrounding this highly endangered area of Australian Wilderness.

Many people from NSW have been to Gluepot Reserve to see its rarities such as Black-eared Miners, Striated Grass-wrens, White-browed Treecreepers and Red-lored Whistlers, while some have been there as part of the Volunteer Ranger Program.

This Twitchathon Project will provide vital facilities for the fourth crucial "element" in the Reserve's long-term Plan of Management – the provision of **Environmental Education**

Twitchathon funds will be used to help establish the **Environmental Education Programme** at Gluepot Reserve through the purchase of a limited amount of building material (particularly building insulation) and in particular, audio visual equipment such as 35 mm projector; overhead projector, data projector and laptop

(for Power Point presentations); screen; desks and chairs; binoculars and identification books; course material etc.



How to join the Twitchathon, October 29-30 2005

1. Contact Alan Morris for your 2005 Twitchathon Kit
2. Form a team with one or even a dozen friends and family and go birdwatching over this October weekend. You can travel anywhere in NSW and/or the ACT. See how many species of birds your team can find from 3 pm Saturday 29 October to 4 pm Sunday 30 October 2005. Note the new starting and finishing time as trialled in 2004.
3. Get sponsors. In the weeks before this event, persuade family and friends to sponsor you so many cents or even dollars for each species your team sees. You just need either lots of little sponsorships or a few big ones!

There are prizes for the most species seen by three winning teams as well as prizes for the most money raised, the rarest bird seen by an individual, and prizes for children. Trophies, two weekend cottage stays (one donated by Henry & Katharine Nix – on the South Coast, the other by Oskar Feichtinger– in the Capertee Valley), binoculars (Gerber 8x42 Avian Binoculars donated by The Binocular & Telescope Shop. Sydney), books, book vouchers, champagne, wine and other prizes to go to the winners in the various categories of the Twitchathon. Contact Alan for a full list.

So don't think that you have to be an A class birdwatcher to take part. Whichever method you chose for your Twitchathon – the laid back (ie the Champagne Race), the deadly serious, or the donor only version, remember it is all about educating others into the importance of nature conservation, particularly the conservation of Australian birds.

Last year we raised \$10,500, the year before \$13548! In the past five years we have raised over \$55,000. This is a great achievement and we have been able to make a significant difference for the birds in the Capertee Valley, the Murray Valley, the Cowra District & Newhaven Station (NT). I know that you will join me in making a fantastic contribution one way or another. So, do ask me for your Twitchathon Kit **TODAY** or sponsor a Twitchathon team in your bird club or group! I can put you in touch with a team if you do not know of one in your area!

Alan Morris, Twitchathon Co-ordinator (For Birds Australia, Southern NSW & ACT)
 c/- 3 Murray St Bateau Bay NSW 2261
 Telephone: 02 43 342776 Fax: 02 9436 0466 Email amorris@ceinternet.com.au

UNUSUAL RECORDS for June - July 2005 **Chris J. Chafer**

Send your records to: email cchafer@speedlink.com.au, Ph: 4276 1015 after 7pm.

Species	#	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Australian Brush-Turkey	5	31-Jul	Balgownie	garden	TE
Australian Shelduck	2	15-Jul	Berrima	overhead	NJ
Northern Giant-Petrel	3	26-Jun	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Grey-headed Albatross	1	16-Jul	off Wollongong	pelagic	GB
Buller's Albatross	1	23-Jul	off Wollongong	pelagic	GB
White-faced Heron	40+	7-Jun	Greenwell Point	riverine	BA

Little Egret	6+	7-Jun	Greenwell Point	riverine	BA
Eastern Reef Egret	1	2-Jul	Gerringong harbour	rocky shore	KM
Eastern Reef Egret	1	11-Jul	Blenheim Bch, Jervis Bay	rocky shore	KM
White-necked Heron	5	11-Jul	east of Bomaderry	paddock	KM
Great Egret	20+	7-Jun	Greenwell Point	riverine	BA
Intermediate Egret	6+	7-Jun	Greenwell Point	riverine	BA
Striated Heron	2	21-Jul	St. Georges Basin	estuary	KM
Royal Spoonbill	68	7-Jun	Greenwell Point	riverine	BA
Pacific Baza	2	16-Jul	Narawallee Inlet	woodland	RA
Pacific Baza	1	30-Jul	Croome Rd Park, Albion Park	woodland	MR
Whistling Kite	1	7-Jun	Greenwell Point	overhead	BA
Grey Goshawk (white phase)	1	19-Jun	Windang	dune	DW
				woodland	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	18-Jun	sth of Heathcote	overhead	JB
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	11-Jul	O'Briens Rd, Mt. Nebo	overhead	DW
Peregrine Falcon	2	6-Jul	Ruined Lighthouse (Jervis Bay)	overhead	SE
Pied Oystercatcher	2	5-Jun	Conjola beach	beach	KM
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	8-Jun	Picnic Island (Windang)	woodland	CJC
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	8-Jun	Currumbene SF	forest	SE
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	9-Jun	West Cambewarra	forest	GD
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	6	21-Jul	west of Sussex Inlet	forest	KM
Yellow-tailed Blk Cockatoo	30+	25-Jul	Curramore	forest	KM
Yellow-tailed Blk Cockatoo	80+	31-Jul	Barren Grounds NR	overhead	TN
Swift Parrot	2	7-Jun	Bellambi Lagoon	woodland	AC
Red-rumped Parrot	4	30-Jul	Dawes Park, Barrack Point	parkland	MR
Powerful Owl	1	8-Jun	West Cambewarra	forest	GD
Sooty Owl	1	8-Jun	West Cambewarra	forest	GD
Azure Kingfisher	1	5-Jun	Gerroa	riverine	MPP
Red-browed Treecreeper	2	30-Jul	Otford	forest	RT
Eastern Bristlebird	1	18-Jul	Hyams Beach	roadside	SE
Weebill	few	31-Jul	Wollondilly Nature Reserve	woodland	GB
Red Wattlebird	120+	5-Jun	West Cambewarra (roosting)	forest	GD
Brown-headed Honeyeater	few	5-Jun	Nepean R., Douglas Park	woodland	GB
Brown-headed Honeyeater	10	31-Jul	Wollondilly Nature Reserve	woodland	GB
White-cheeked Honeyeater	1	4-Jun	Bellambi Lagoon	woodland	MPP
White-cheeked Honeyeater	few	11-Jul	west of Sussex Inlet	forest	KM
Rose Robin	1	22-Jun	Bellanglo SF	woodland	MR
Rose Robin	1	17-Jul	Bens walk, Nowra	woodland	SE
Rose Robin	2m	25-Jul	west of Sussex Inlet	forest	KM
Logrunner	2	1-Jul	Bellowongarah	rainforest	BA
Spangled Drongo	1	4-Jun	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	casuarinas	RI
Spangled Drongo	1	5-Jun	Gerroa	riverine	MPP
Spangled Drongo	1	15-Jun	Korongulla Swamp	woodland	DO
Spangled Drongo	2	19-Jun	Windang	dune	DW
				woodland	
Figbird	10+	2-Jun	Wollongong CBD	figtrees	MPP
Figbird	10+	4-Jun	Wollongong (Smiths Hill School)	figtrees	MPP
Grey Currawong	1	22-Jun	Bellanglo SF	woodland	MR

Contributors: RA – Richard Allen; BA – Bob Ashford; GB – Graham Barwell; JB – John Blomsteadt; AC – Alan Cousins; CB – Chris Brandis; CJC – Chris Chafer, GD – Garry Daly; TE – Terri Edwell; SE – Sheila Emery; RI – Ron Imisides; NJ – Nigel Jacket; PM – Peter Milburn; KM – Kevin Mills; TN – Terril Nordstrom; DO - Danie Ondinea; MPP – Martin & Penny Potter; MR – Michelle Rower; RT – Roger Truscott; DW – David Winterbottom.



I.B.O.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.
 POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

"One Good Tern Deserves Another"

CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the birdlife around them.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS due 1st January each year: **FAMILY \$25 SINGLE \$20 JUNIOR \$5**

Contents	2005 Club Contacts
From Your Committee p 2	PRESIDENT: Roger Bogaert, tel: 02 4237 8742
Wings Over The Alice p 2	SECRETARY: Betty Hudson, tel: 02 4236 0307 Work email: bettyhudson@menziesgroup.com.au
Bass Point Eco Marine Reserve p 4	TREASURER: Bronwyn Wilson, tel: 02 4283 4744
Stingray Swamp Flora Reserve, Penrose p 5	EDITORS: Penny Potter, Tel: 02 4284 6196 Email: penny_potter@iprimus.com.au
Birding on the Canning Stock Route p 6	Val Dolan, Tel: 02 4229 6737
Birds Around Berry p 7	
Travelling North p 8	
Close Encounters of the Pelagic Kind p 8	
Unusual Sightings p 9	

FORTHCOMING IBOC EVENTS OCTOBER 2005

CLUB MEETING – Monday 10th October - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall - Peter Nolan will show some slides and talk about his last trip to America which included a visit to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas. **Please remember to bring a mug and a small plate for supper afterwards.**

MID-WEEK WALK – No mid-week walk

OCTOBER MONTHLY OUTING - No monthly outing.

It was decided that as most of the active members will be going away to camp that there would be no walks in October. So far we have 27 members indicating that they will be coming to the camp for varying periods.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - Tuesday 22nd November 2005, at 7.30pm at the home of Val Dolan, 26 Morandoo Have, Mt Keira (4229 6737). Turn off Mount Keira Road at Yates Ave, first right heading down hill. All members welcome.

NOVEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next *IBOC News* is **Thursday 27th October**. Please don't leave submitting your contributions to the last minute and where possible please submit by email.

AGM The AGM with election of the new Committee will be held at the start of the November Meeting. Are you interested in helping to provide ideas for IBOC Speakers, Walks or Camps? If so, the Committee are looking for new members of the club to join them for next year. Please contact Roger, Betty or any other Committee member before the start of the AGM at the November meeting.

From Your Committee

Finance

Balance of IBOC account on 31.8.05 was \$2,410.82. Expenses approved for payment totalled \$56.20.

Library

The sale of old library books was a huge success, raising \$67.00. There are just a few really old ones and newsletters left. A list of all overseas field guides is to be prepared and placed in the November Newsletter.

Insurance

The problems with the club's Public Liability Insurance have now been clarified and the cover renewed.

Birds Australia

We have received a letter from Birds Australia advising that there are having to sell their property Newhaven, although they will retain access rights. They are unable to raise the money needed to run the place.

OBSERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR COLOUR-BANDED OSPREY

As part of a study of population dispersal of Osprey in NSW, a number of Osprey chicks have been colour-banded along the Mid North and Far North Coasts. Assistance is required in carefully recording any future observations of colour-banded Osprey, providing details as follows -

- **Date**
- **Accurate description of location of sighting (distance and direction from nearest town etc. and GPS if possible)**
- **What colour band on right leg (there is only ever one band on the right leg)**
- **What colour band(s) on left leg and what colour band is on top of what other colour**
- **What the bird was doing**

Please note there are more birds than there are different coloured bands, so ***it is critical to accurately record the colour on the right leg, plus the top/bottom positions for each colour for the left leg.***

Please advise any sightings to Greg Clancy gclancy@tpg.com.au Phone 6649 3153, Tony Bischoff gcbabbler@optusnet.com.au Phone 6582 5055 or 0408 825055, or Andrew Marshall andrew.marshall@environment.nsw.gov.au Phone 6588 5505. Your assistance would be very much appreciated.

Wings Over The Alice

Alison Foley

If you live in Alice Springs, you are not likely to see any New Holland Honeyeaters, Wattlebirds or Indian Mynahs (woohoo!). Neither are you going to hear the raucous screech of the Sulphur-crested Cockie nor the whoop of the lovely Common Koel nor whip-cracks, "we're with you"s or creaky doors.

So, what are the noises that wake us up in the morning? What exactly is leaving those droppings on our freshly washed sheets?

The most prolific bird around town is the peewee, mudlark or Magpie Lark. They are everywhere and the Australian Magpie rarely gets a look-in. I think I've only seen two of the latter since we arrived in March 2004. The peewee rules the roost, spending a lot of time on the streets, only flying off nanoseconds before being run over. Every morning, they form a whistling choir around our house and then set off for a morning jog on the tin roof, sounding like a shower of medium-sized meteorites and postponing further sleep till, wings warmed, they head off for some lightly-toasted breakfast bugs. They are joined on the roof by my

favourite garden visitors, the Grey-crowned Babblers. One of their huge, communal nests hangs in a tree in front of our car park and the little dears bob and hop, blackbird-style, around the bushes, babbling to themselves non-stop.

The next most common bird in suburbia is our equivalent of the New Holland, the White-plumed Honeyeater or greenie. A flock of them in a flowering jacaranda reaches the zenith of colour and grace. They like to spend their time chasing each other's tails back and forth over the road, sweetly trilling. They are extremely attractive birds with bright eyes and a lovely snowy collar-stripe.

Our "myrna" representative is the Yellow-throated Miner, very aggressive and cheeky. We've seen them chasing Black Kites with the conviction of a rookie cop after a first collar. Our commonest parrot is the Port Lincoln or Australian Ringneck ("Coke-ee" according to our daughter, Keira who's 22 months). The Galah is very numerous and Red-tailed Blacks and Pink Cockatoos also exist quite close to town. We've seen a Collared Sparrowhawk at the Todd Tavern (well, not at the bar shouting a round – but just outside and no, we weren't under the influence either), Red-browed Pardalotes, also in town along the dry Todd River, Black-faced Woodswallows, Zebra Finches and Fairy Martins (very common all over suburbia). The other common honeyeater in town is the Spiny-cheeked which makes a sound like a droplet of water entering a pond.

Some birds around town are the same, of course, and are a welcome sight. Like friends from home, familiarity gives us comfort. Willie Wagtail, where would we be so unfortunate to live as to not have one of these around? Crested Pigeons are quite common but more so, are those feral yet beautiful STDs (Spotted Turtle Doves).

After that, things tend to get a bit more exotic yet our complete birdlist for our time in Alice so far (March 2004 to September 2005) is only 106 species and lifers over the same period only amount to 21. However, that said, it makes it all the more exciting when we do see that rare new bird.

If you are coming up in the next six months (I don't advise it – stinking hot), apart from giving us a ring (08 89522064), here are some places where we have been lucky enough to see some special birds (no guarantees, of course). There is also a great website - <http://members.iinet.net.au/~alicensats/FreqAskBirds.htm> - for any birdwatcher who is thinking of making a trip to the area.

The Olive Pink (her real name!) Botanic Gardens are an excellent place for birdos to visit and famed for frequent sightings of the Grey Honeyeater. Alas, we have not had the pleasure of a glimpse of His Drabness but spotted the Western Bowerbird and Gerygone there many's the time. There's also a specimen of the former who lives near the town vet and has added whining dogs and scared moggies to his repertoire of impressions.

We are lucky enough to live close to the sewage ponds (or to give them their official name, the Waste Stabilisation Plant) and that provides us with a host of birds not normally found in the desert – Glossy Ibis, Plumed Whistling-Duck, Marsh Sandpiper and Australian Pratincole have all been positively identified there and Red-necked Avocets are a permanent fixture (perhaps they too have been stabilised!).

At a great little spot called Kunoth Bore about 50k to the north-west of town, a flock of Bourke's Parrots are regular sunset visitors. At the Telegraph Station Historic Reserve, just 4k north of town and a lovely place to spend the day (walks, shady picnic spots), we've seen that indigo blot, the Splendid Fairy-wren. From Alice, you can cycle 23k west on a flat and smooth cycle track to Simpson's Gap, the first point of interest in the West MacDonnell Ranges. Once again, there is ample opportunity for solitude, picnicking, refilling water bottles and even bike parking spots along the way. We saw the Crested Bellbird here for the first time. A track leading up Mt. Gillen from John Flynn's Memorial (3k west of Alice) produced Grey-headed Honeyeaters, also seen at Simpson's Gap. Ewaninga Rock Carvings, worth visiting for that reason alone, also brought us our first encounter with White-backed Swallows, although admittedly it was after a lot of rain. The Brown Honeyeater and Dusky Grasswren were seen at Finke Gorge NP, the Southern Whiteface at

Chambers Pillar and a very precise spot on the Santa Teresa road, 38k past the airport where we had gone seeking the Rufous-crowned Emu-wren and the Spinifexbird (both still elude us). The Masked Woodswallow is and probably will always be our most central sighting at Lambert's Centre of Australia. Oh, and in addition, Dave has seen the Black-chinned Honeyeater at Redbank Gorge and a Black Falcon in town (Grrr!!!).

Finally, a bird that had escaped my lenses for many moons, the Pied Honeyeater, went from famine to feast as, in the space of two days camping at Arltunga and Ruby Gap in the East MacDonnells, there it was in black and white over and over again with its swooping display flight and piping call. My first reaction – “Wow!” - 48 hours later had become ““Aw, it's just a ‘Bob’” (our name for any commonly sighted species in a particular area). How fickle we birdwatchers can be!

Post Datum: We are currently nesting and are hoping to return to roost in the Illawarra in May next year with a chick and a fledgling so see you all then.

MID-WEEK WALK: BASS POINT ECO MARINE RESERVE **Mike MORPHETT**

Fortunately, the strong winds of the preceding two days lost much of their force, thus making very pleasant weather conditions, particularly on the northern leeward side, for the 13 members who came along for the morning walk on Wednesday 14 September. There was much bird activity in and around Basset Park, our meeting place. Taking up much of our attention was the extended family of 14 Australian Magpies, which were obviously well accustomed to humans and to being fed. Among them was an individual with a gammy right leg. I had seen this bird on my second recce in submissive pose, lying on its back while two others took turns at pecking at its head and chest and then pecked each other. No wonder the social behaviour of this species has attracted so much study. Evidently the lame one was still holding its own within the ranks.

We drove a very short distance to stop beside Shellharbour Swamp, the area of the proposed marina. At first it seemed birdless as on my two other recent visits, but then among the nearby reeds and lantana came the mournful three-note calls that betrayed the presence of the Little Grassbird, interspersed later with what Graham Pizzey termed a scolding rattle. Our patience was partially rewarded – as good as it gets, I guess, without many hours of watchfulness – by glimpses of two birds as they moved up and down the wetland edge.

Another very brief drive brought us into the parking area of The Shallows Coastal Reserve. Just earlier, agreement had been reached about the lack of sightings of the Richard's Pipit in these parts, so it was with extra pleasure that we observed four of these birds moving slowly through the grassed area near the roadside hedge. Another enjoyable feature was the sight of a pair of Welcome Swallows making visits to feed young in a nest built in the roof-ridge of a picnic shelter. Over in the open area beyond the road we spotted a Skylark in typical ascending and descending flight. The continual barking of two dogs chasing each other in the car park in the designated leash-free area drowned out any song it might have been producing.

Just inside Bass Point Reserve itself we visited Maloney's Bay, where the air was fresher, making use of the lookout platform and against the monotonous background din of the quarry machinery. Further on in the reserve morning tea was taken on the perimeter of the main picnic area near Beaky's Cove. From the sunny bank we had fine views of the Illawarra Escarpment round to Port Kembla and Big Island and the Pacific Ocean (or Tasman Sea?) horizon. We leisurely watched diving Australasian Gannets and the much less energetic Sooty Oystercatchers on the rock platform; off Boston Point a seal lying on the surface with a flipper straight up as if in a catatonic state; and just below the horizon many shearwaters that defied specific identification.

A circular walk then took in the Coastal Walking Trail, then through the smaller western picnic spot, and back along the gravel road. We had several sightings of Superb Fairy-wrens, New Holland Honeyeaters and Silvereyes, but missed out on the Mistletoebird. Time did not permit entry into the littoral rainforest or Fisherman's Walk or Bushrangers' Bay, as covered during the recces; otherwise, the morning's tally of 39 species would likely have been added to.

**Bird species list for Bass Point Reserve area for 14/9/05
plus sightings on recces made on 15/8/05* & 9/9/05+**

Australasian Gannet	Silver Gull	Little Wattlebird*+	Pied Currawong+
Little Pied Cormorant	Spotted Turtle-Dove	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Pied Cormorant	Crested Pigeon	New Holland Honeyeater	Skylark
Little Black Cormorant	Galah	Eastern Spinebill*	Richard's Pipit
Great Cormorant	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Yellow Robin	Red-browed Finch
Australian Pelican	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo*	Eastern Whipbird	European Goldfinch
Cattle Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler	Welcome Swallow
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Magpie-lark	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Nankeen Kestrel*	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail	Little Grassbird
Sooty Oystercatcher	Brown Thornbill*+	Willie Wagtail	Silvereye
Masked Lapwing	Yellow-rumped Thornbill*	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	Common Starling
Kelp Gull*	Striated Thornbill	Australian Magpie	Common Myna*+

Stingray Swamp Flora Reserve, Penrose

Martin Cocker

Saturday 17th September 2005

The weather forecast was not promising. Wind and rain overnight clearing in the morning. So it was with some trepidation I peered out of the window early in the morning. However, we were in luck, a broad band of blue was advancing from the south. So a quick pack and out of the door. Just over an hour to the meeting point and eagerly looking forward to meeting the gang. A lone car parked on the verge with a rather disconsolate Betty Hudson studying her map. "Where is everyone?" I asked, but as the clock advanced to the quarter of an hour grace period we realised it would be just the two of us. So we drove off down the road to the park entrance in bright sunshine, shouldered our packs and set off. We had a couple of small creeks to cross and our gallant leader successfully walked along a fallen log across one stream while I took the safer route of jumping from one spot to another. Plenty of birds about in the thickets but very elusive and we missed the company of our bird call experts. However we quickly notched up a dozen species. A steady climb through constantly changing woods revealed a Grey Currawong and at the top Betty pointed out a male and female Scarlet Robin and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

We took our lunch by the swamp lagoon sitting out of the wind in variable sunshine and then back towards the cars where we spotted another pair of Scarlet Robins and an attendant Cuckoo. The robins were the high light of the day and we saw and heard many familiar species but we did miss the expert eyes and ears of our normal companions. So if you were one of those who was put off by the chance of inclement weather you missed a real treat! My thanks to Betty for organising such an interesting walk. See you all again at the next outing!!

24 Species recorded.

1 pair Scarlet Robins and a single female at a separate location chasing 2 Fantail Cuckoos off.

Australian King Parrot	Striated Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Crimson Rosella	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-eared Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Laughing Kookaburra	New Holland Honeyeater	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Eastern Spinebill	Eastern Spinebill	Pied Currawong
White Browed Scrub Wren	Scarlet Robin	Grey Currawong
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird	Australian Magpie
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Golden Whistler	Australian Raven

REPORT ON SEPTEMBER MEETING**Bronwyn Wilson****Birding on the Canning Stock Route – Stuart Almond**

Those that attended the September meeting were taken on a virtual tour of parts of the Northern Territory and Western Australia through a talk and slide presentation. Stuart Almond participated in an organised tour along the Canning Stock Route in June 2004 and shared his experiences. Stuart has been a member of our club for many years and has attended many bird camps and trips. He is a keen photographer.

The trip commenced at Alice Springs, and headed west along the Gary Junction Highway for 1,000 kilometres to meet the Canning Stock Route. They travelled 600 kilometres in a north easterly direction up the Canning Stock Route from Well 33 to Well 51. From there they headed east to Lake Gregory, then travelled south east along the Tanami Road. They spent 5 nights at Newhaven before returning to Alice Springs.

The Canning Stock Route is over 1,700 kilometres in length and crosses the heart of Western Australia. It runs from Halls Creek in the north, in a south westerly direction to Wiluna. It was originally considered that a stock route was impossible but in 1906 Alfred Canning, and his party surveyed the area and advised the Government it was possible. In 1908 construction began. Fifty one wells were dug along the route and lined with timber. Although the route had had little use, in 1929 it was refurbished. Canning was called on to assist with the refurbishment at 70 years of age. It was used a little more after this but truck transportation then took over. The last mob of cattle taken along the route was in 1958. In 1925 the first vehicle travelled on part of the route and in 1968 the length of the route.

Stuart's trip was organized by Outback Track Tours. Phil Neal led the trip. He first travelled along the Canning Stock Route by car in 1972. There were no marked tracks so he used the original maps and navigated by compass and the car trip metre. The trip took 2 months and he had 168 punctures which were caused by the Spinnifex grass. This was his 49th trip and on this occasion they had only 1 puncture and no significant mechanical problems.

There were 5 vehicles travelling in convoy. Phil, led the convoy in a 4WD truck, accompanied by his wife Klara, who served as the cook.. Phil's vehicle carried all the stores, fuel, water and equipment. Behind followed 4 x 4 Wheel Drive vehicles carrying the 11 passengers.. Allan Richards was their birding leader.

The tour was well equipped and carried 200 litres of water kept mainly as reserve. They used water that was available along the way at wells and ponds. The vehicles were fuelled at Aboriginal settlements. They were provided with good meals. Fresh vegetables or salad were provided throughout the 3 weeks with none bought on the trip. The group was provided with swags and they slept in the open amongst the spinifex. These were comfortable but it was quite a challenge to find the way back to your swag in the dark!

There was an abundance of wildflowers and vegetation as there had been good rain. The landforms were spectacular. In places trees and the ground were covered in salt, the result of flooded wells in previous times. The birding was also good. The Zebra Finches were abundant. A highlight for the group was the sighting of a group of Yellow Chats located by GPS. The Chats were spotted by 2 members of the group. They returned with all the group in tow and using a GPS went directly to the spot and there were the Chats!

From Lake Gregory the passengers were transferred to bus for the rest of the journey to Newhaven and back to Alice Springs. Thanks Stuart for sharing the experience. The information was very interesting and the slides were captivating. For those that may not have an opportunity to visit the area, we were able to experience it through your presentation. While for others, perhaps the more adventurous, it will no doubt wet the appetite.

BIRDS AROUND BERRY

Bob Ashford

I probably have about six pairs of old binoculars around the house, each treasured but none of much practical use. Some have only a functional left eyepiece, others only the right.

In moments of birding desperation I have been known to grab one of these old pairs and squint frenziedly through the one good eyepiece at my quarry while using my 'spare' eye to locate my only serviceable pair of binoculars. Many years of tolerating rudely shouted instructions to find my 'good' binoculars have prompted Noreen, my wife, to suggest I get them surgically implanted. She has even provided instructions on how this may be achieved.

Actually, it is very rare that I don't have my binoculars at hand, so to speak. Well, hung round my neck anyway. This often prompts people to ask me "Are you 'going' birdwatching?" as though it required the same strategic planning as painting a house. I don't 'go' birdwatching, it's something I do all the time. "It's an affliction" Noreen explains.

Well it probably is! The best place to hold a sensible conversation with me is in a windowless room. If I'm outside I really do try to sound and look interested in what people are saying. I offer regular grunts of acknowledgement, fleeting eye contact and practiced wrinkling of the forehead to suggest that whatever is being said is marvellously profound. In truth, of course, my radar is up and I'm scanning for birds. This sort of behaviour does limit friendships but allows plenty of time for birding!

A few days ago I turned off Moss Vale Road on to Bells Lane to give our dog, Skipper, a run. It's an excellent arrangement. I drive, he runs. When I see something of interest I stop and he gets to sniff and pee to his heart's content.

At a small swamp I spotted a Great Egret. This cousin of the common White-faced Heron is a tall, elegant snowy-white bird and largest of the egrets. I've seen them many times but this one's stance had me intrigued. It was motionless, its body almost horizontal to the ground and its long white neck stretched pencil straight. From its tilted head one eye scanned for prey. This is what I call the Standing Unbelievably Still Stance, behaviour typical of egrets and herons (and those street buskers who paint themselves grey and pretend they're statues!).

What came next was the Exceptionally Fast Stabbing Move followed by its long neck rising from the reeds like some exaggerated question mark. From each side of the egret's bill protruded two frog legs frantically flapping in the vain hope that this would be sufficient to free the rest of the frog's body from a long slide down the egret's gullet!

Totally engrossed I watched to see how the egret was going to subdue this large and very resentful frog. Flip, Catch and Swallow was the planned manoeuvre but the frog wasn't giving up that easily. Every now and then the bird would dip the frog in the water prior to an attempted swallow, rather like helping the peanuts down with a swig of beer. Eventually the frog vanished from view only to appear as a lump making the long journey down the egret's neck. After a short rest the egret recommenced its Feeding by Stalking Slowly program adding a bit of Head Tilting and Peering Over every now and then. I got back in the car and drove off. I hadn't 'gone' birding but I had certainly enjoyed watching the egret.

Half way up Cambewarra Mountain I turned back to pick up Skipper. We're great mates and he understands my affliction.

TRAVELLING NORTH - Part 3**Val Dolan**

We arrived at Cooktown via the Bloomfield Track after a very bumpy ride in a four wheel drive bus. The trip from Cape Tribulation through the Daintree by public bus costs only \$40 but pensioners can do it for \$20. What a bargain adventure!

When our guide, Mal, collected us to explore the Quinkin Rock sites at Laura he soon realised that we were also interested in local birdlife. A visit to the lighthouse above Cooktown in fierce offshore winds led to an exciting sighting of two Frigate birds happily soaring on the rising current, usually only seen out at sea or on islands. Just out of town our guide took us up a rough track to a waterway that could have been Yellow Waters in Kakadu, paperbarks, reeds and waterlilies everywhere (I'll bet there were crocodiles lurking in those reeds) but the birds had flown away to escape the wind. Further inland I spotted three Bustards in the corner of a grassy field. Instead of staying in the vehicle as the field guide suggests, I was so excited I walked towards the group only to have all take off in graceful seemingly slow motion. Boy, what a wing span!

A short distance away our driver took us down to another waterhole that usually has a profusion of bird life. All had fled the choppy water to seek shelter. As the car backed up we came to a ridge where seven Wedge-tailed Eagles were feeding communally on a large dead animal. Six flew away and circled overhead while one shiny black bird remained to be joined by another brave bird with a golden head and chest feathers. We were close enough to see the feathery 'pantaloons' that covered their strong legs.

As we continued inland there were many Brahminy Kites, Australian Ravens, Galahs, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Kingfishers, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Pee-wees, and Ibis to delight the French artist travelling with us and seeking inspiration from our environment. Returning from the climb to the rock art sites at sunset Mal pointed out three Jabiru flying in a line and shortly after two v's of Magpie Geese made their way to a safe waterhole for the night. Guess you can tell I enjoyed travelling north. And the ancient rock art? Well that's another story

Close Encounters of the Pelagic Kind**Penny Potter**

I booked our Pelagic boat trip from Wollongong Harbour in a burst of birding enthusiasm, conveniently forgetting that I don't have a very happy history with boats and with ocean going vessels in particular. (I was embarrassingly seasick on a punt in a river once many years ago, so have tried to avoid all things floating ever since!) Consequently as the big day grew closer and the reality of what I had committed to sank in, I found myself becoming increasingly nervous of spending eight or nine hours at sea, and instead tried to focus on the seabirds that we might see if we were lucky.

In "*How many birds is that?*" Sue Taylor recounts the story of her pelagic trips among her other birding adventures, and adopts the habit of researching a wish list for every new trip she does. Since we have very few seabirds ticked off on our own bird list we were excited about the likelihood of getting close to Albatrosses at least and a quick study of the previous two Pelagic trip reports on SOSSA's web page revealed a list of what we might expect to see. Given my fear that I would be lying prone on the deck much of the time I decided to keep my wish list short: a Yellow-nosed Albatross; a Brown Skua, a Fairy Prion and perhaps if I were really lucky ... a whale.

The day before our booking the weather was reassuringly calm and sunny and so it was with a sinking feeling that I noticed the wind howling around the house that evening as we went to bed. Convinced that I would be remaining on dry land the next day and that Martin would have to go out to sea on his own I

nevertheless got up early, took my Dramamine, and went down to the wharf in time to consult with Lindsay Smith about the weather forecast and conditions. He assured me that as far as he was concerned conditions were good and that as the (light) wind was Westerly it would keep the sea flat on the way out at least. Gathering my resolve, and knowing how disappointed I was at the prospect of not going on the trip, I realised that if I were ever going to go on a Pelagic trip it could only be when conditions were deemed to be good, took a deep breath and with some trepidation stepped aboard the *Sandra Kaye* with the other birds, including fellow IBOC member Val Dolan.

The view of Wollongong and the coast as we sailed out towards the continental shelf past the Five Islands and the tankers moored nearby was spectacular. A flock of Silver Gulls was soon following us, lured by the free feed being thrown into the water, and (unusually we were told) they stayed with us for the whole trip. It wasn't long before they were joined by a couple of Black-browed Albatross, and a Sea Eagle that hovered low over the boat for some minutes affording us the luxury of studying it at our leisure. When the first Yellow-nosed Albatross came to investigate us I struggled to focus my binoculars against the movement of the boat long enough to see it in detail, but oh joy, there were soon several of them, all staying close enough and long enough for us to get a good look – even without the binoculars! They are truly a beautiful bird and I was delighted to tick them off my wish list so early in the trip. When two Brown Skua arrived they were equally impressive and easy to study.

Soon we had added several other new 'lifers' to our list: Campbell's Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel, Fluttering Shearwater, White-fronted Terns, Solander's Petrel, Fairy Prion and eventually two fabulous Tristan Albatross. We also saw Australasian Gannet, Kelp Gull, Crested Tern, Great Cormorant and Little Black Cormorant. The Fairy Prions when they arrived, kept their distance but most of the seabirds came close enough and stayed long enough that I was content to look at them without trying to follow them in my binoculars while they circled around us. The assistance of Peter Milburn, Lindsay Smith and others in spotting and identifying the birds with shouts such as "Brown Skua at eleven o'clock!" and so forth, was invaluable, and their patience was much appreciated.

Unfortunately the ever present Silver Gulls made it difficult for SOSSA to net the banded birds and bring them on board, but they were able to read the band on the Southern Giant Petrel to find that it was an Argentinian bird, and eventually they managed to net what were initially believed to be two female Wandering Albatross but were later identified as male Tristan Albatrosses, one of which had last been picked up 30 years ago. It is reassuring to know that despite the perils of long line fishing some birds are still achieving a measure of longevity. Torn between wanting to literally twitch with excitement and the need to keep perfectly still, I found myself standing next to this beautiful creature and watched mesmerized while Lindsay and his colleague measured it and answered our questions. The bird stared back at me unblinking while I studied the delicate lace-like markings on its white breast, and when invited I was able to gently stroke the back of its head in a manner it is believed helps to calm the birds while they are being handled.

We stayed out at the shelf for some time before turning round and heading back to shore. Predictably the sea was not quite so flat on our return journey (by my standards anyway) and for a while I thought I might disgrace myself (I'm told I went extremely pale!), but happily the motion of the boat lessened the closer we got to shore and I soon recovered enough to focus on the birds again. We arrived back at the harbour tired and excessively pleased with ourselves – Val calls it our adventure and what an exciting time we had! I didn't see a whale, but more importantly I had ticked the three birds on my wish list, and although it has hopefully forgotten all about me I had fallen in love with an albatross!

UNUSUAL RECORDS for August 2005

Chris J. Chafer

Contributors: BA – Bob Ashford; GB – Graham Barwell; SB – Simon Blanchfellow; JB – John Blomsteadt; CB – Chris Brandis; CJC – Chris Chafer; MC – M. Cartlett; JC – Josh Coyte; GD – Garry Daly; TE – Terri Edwell; LE – Leo Edgar; ME – Mary Eskdale; DG – Darryl Goldrick; NJ – Nigel Jacket; KM – Kevin Mills; PN – Peter Nolan; DO – Danie Ondinea; MR – Michelle Rower; NG – Ngarla Tetley; RT – Roger Truscott; NW – Nathan Waugh; NTW – Neil Wheway; DW – David Winterbottom.

Send your records to: email cchafer@speedlink.com.au

Species	#	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Australian Brush-Turkey	1	15-Jul	Mt. Kembla	forest	LE
Australian Brush-Turkey	1	3-Aug	Mt. Kembla	rainforest	MR,TE
Musk Duck	6+	25-Aug	Killalea SRA	wetland	CB
Striated Heron	3	5-Aug	Fred Finch Pk, Berkeley	lake shore	DW
Square-tailed Kite	1	25-Aug	Nowra	overhead	BA
Whistling Kite	2	28-Aug	West Nowra	overhead	BA
Brown Goshawk	1	7-Aug	Shoalhaven Heads	overhead	BA
Grey Goshawk	1	6-Jul	Mt. Ousley	overhead	PN
Grey Goshawk	1	27-Jul	Elizabeth Brownlee Res.	woodland	JC
Grey Goshawk	1	5-Aug	Albion Park	urban	JC
Grey Goshawk	1	10-Aug	Bulli	overhead	RT
Grey Goshawk	1	25-Aug	Cataract Ck. F6	rainforest	NT
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	29-Jul	Elizabeth Brownlee Res.	woodland	JC
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	7-Aug	Primbee	overhead	GB
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	17-Aug	Bellawongarah	forest	BA
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	7-Aug	Bellawongarah	overhead	BA
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	25-Aug	Mt. Kembla	overhead	MR,TE
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	28-Aug	Bellawongarah	overhead	BA
Little Eagle	2	14-Aug	Mt. Kembla	overhead	RT
Australian Hobby	1	30-Jul	Elizabeth Brownlee Res.	woodland	JC
Peregrine Falcon	1	28-Aug	Depot Farm (Nowra)	overhead	BA
Buff-banded Rail	1	1-Aug	Cambewarra	roadside	BA
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	7-Aug	Bolong	wetland	BA
Gull-billed Tern	2	28-Aug	Shoalhaven Heads	beach	SB
White-headed Pigeon	6	26-Aug	Foxground	forest	DG
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	7-Aug	Primbee	woodland	GB
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	1	13-Aug	North Nowra	woodland	BA
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	17-Aug	west of Sussex Inlet	woodland	KM
Powerful Owl	2	1-Aug	Bellawongarah	forest	BA
Powerful Owl	1	24-Aug	Keiraville	garden	ME
Tawny Frogmouth	1	31-Jul	Windang	parkland	MC
Azure Kingfisher	1	12-Aug	Spring Creek, Kiama	wetland	CJC
Red-browed Treecreeper	1	17-Aug	west of Sussex Inlet	woodland	KM
Rockwarbler	1	28-Aug	Bamarang	woodland	BA
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	17-Aug	west of Sussex Inlet	woodland	KM
White-plumed Honeyeater	1	1-Aug	Corrimal	urban	GB
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	1	23-Aug	Maddens Plains	overhead	NJ
Flame Robin	1	25-Aug	Barren Grounds NR	woodland	DG
Rose Robin	1	1-Aug	Berry	parkland	BA
Rose Robin	1	3-Aug	Mt. Kembla	forest	MR,TE
Logrunner	2	24-Aug	Bellawongarah	rainforest	BA
Varied Sittella	1	30-Aug	near Belmore Falls	forest	DG
Crested Shrike-tit	1	25-Aug	Mt. Kembla	forest	MR,TE
Spangled Drongo	1	1-Aug	Coniston public school	parkland	NTW
Spangled Drongo	1	7-Aug	Primbee	woodland	GB
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	4-Aug	Wollongong Bot Gardens	parkland	NW
Bassian Thrush	1	16-Aug	Bellawongarah	forest	BA
Bassian Thrush	1	26-Aug	Foxground	forest	DG



I.B.O.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.
 POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

"One Good Tern Deserves Another"

CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the birdlife around them.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS due 1st January each year: **FAMILY \$25 SINGLE \$20 JUNIOR \$5**

Contents	2005 Club Contacts
Report on October Meeting p 2	PRESIDENT: Roger Bogaert, tel: 02 4237 8742
Birding Abroad: Reunion p 3	SECRETARY: Betty Hudson, tel: 02 4236 0307 Work email: bettyhudson@menziesgroup.com.au
Bignet Meeting p 4	TREASURER: Bronwyn Wilson, tel: 02 4283 4744
Birds Around Berry – November p 5	EDITORS: Penny Potter, Tel: 02 4284 6196 Email: penny_potter@iprimus.com.au
Unusual Sightings p 6	Val Dolan, Tel: 02 4229 6737
Identification Sheet for Weebill and Thornbills p 7	

FORTHCOMING IBOC EVENTS NOVEMBER 2005

AGM & CLUB MEETING – Monday 14th November - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall - Kevin Mills will give a talk on the Birds of Norfolk Island, an Australian territory 1,700 km to the east of Sydney. The talk will look at the endemic species and the great changes that have occurred since European settlement. **Please remember to bring a mug and a small plate for supper afterwards.**

MID-WEEK WALK – Wednesday 16th November – Puckey's Estate – Val Dolan, Joan and Tom Wylie. Meet at Fairy Meadow Surf Club at **8.30am**. Bring morning tea, hats, sunscreen etc.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY OUTING - Saturday 19th November 2005 - Shoalhaven Heads / Comerong Island. Meet at **9.00am** sharp in the River Road foreshore carpark at the eastern end, adjoining the Holiday Haven Tourist Park. Travel via the Gerringong, Gerroa, Shoalhaven Heads Rd. Turn off to the left at the second turning to Shoalhaven Heads. Take the first on the right (Bailey Road) and then left again at the end, into River Road. Bring eats, drinks etc also **insect repellent** in case of sandflies. Be prepared to get your feet wet to get close up views of waders/shorebirds and to test your identification skills.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - Tuesday 22nd November 2005, at 7.30pm at the home of Val Dolan, 26 Morandoo Have, Mt Keira (4229 6737). Turn off Mount Keira Road at Yates Ave, first right heading down hill. All members welcome.

DECEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next *IBOC News* is **Thursday 24th November**. Please don't leave submitting your contributions to the last minute and where possible please submit by email.

AGM The AGM with election of the new Committee will be held at the start of the November Meeting. Are you interested in helping to provide ideas for IBOC Speakers, Walks or Camps? If so, the Committee are looking for new members of the club to join them for next year. Please contact Roger, Betty or any other Committee member before the start of the AGM at the November meeting.

EDITOR WANTED!!

As I am unable to continue as Editor for another year, the club is looking for a new editor. If anyone is interested could they please contact either myself or the President. There is a possibility I could share the role with someone (6 months each?) or offer a supporting role if necessary, but I can't take on another full year so please consider coming forward. You would only be responsible for putting the Newsletter together, not copying or mailing.

NB The New South Wales Bird Atlassers *Identification Sheet on the Weebill and Thornbills of NSW* is reproduced at the back of the newsletter for the interest of members and with the kind permission of Ken Schaefer.

REPORT ON OCTOBER MEETING

Bruce Coyte

Talk by Peter Nolan

With only short notice Peter Nolan proved once again how thoroughly entertaining his talks and presentations are. On this occasion the subject chosen was his recent overseas trip which included a visit to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas USA. From the outset Peter's indefatigable style of photography (and wit) were to the fore. We were all treated to images of expansive vistas where out "in the beyond" wheeled cranes, strode whooping cranes and sat a golden eagle (not to be confused with the Bald Eagle by its perching habit (Bald perches bolt upright Golden leans forward), pointed out to Peter by his authoritative companion, Vanessa, who assisted his viewing of spectacular wildlife scenes with the help of a powerful tripod mounted spotting telescope which, alas, failed to magnify Peter's carefully composed photographs. Hence slides containing marvellous scenery and by Peter's descriptive wit and word-pictures, amazing scenes of birds of prey, migratory water birds, deer and altogether amazing wildlife all to a backdrop of marshy wetlands, at the time of day (dusk) when birds/wildlife returned from afar to the relative security and shelter of the marsh/wetlands. Peter also had photographs of a rare Albino Eastern Screech Owl with a regular version in a refuge. Also there were hummingbird photos which Peter mused were at the expense of 3 rolls of film.

Discussion arose at question time from the audience regarding the nature of "National Wildlife Refuge" as practiced in the United States which although varied state to state Peter pointed out follows a general theme that licensed hunting is allowed with bans on rare/endangered or otherwise precluded species and some sort of training/familiarization of the hunters at the time of license issue. The proceeds from the license/fees and presumably fines funding upkeep of reserves/national refuges and parks.

Of concern to many was the fact that of three Whooping Cranes identified and enjoyed at the refuge by visitors at the time, two were later shot dead and found in the possession of the culprits when they were apprehended. There was a radio tracking device present on the birds!

On a lighter note up for discussion was Peter's amazing attire for the onset of winter in Kansas notably T-shirt, shorts and thongs with a "sloppy-Joe" over the top if a "nip" in the air, apparel needed in the past when Peter had conducted his Birds Of Prey Seminars at Barren Grounds in September or thereabouts during southerly changes and massive temperature drops.

A vote of special thanks was conveyed by acclamation and opportunity is taken on behalf of members present to especially thank Peter Nolan for a fine talk at short notice. Peter is shortly off overseas again and hopefully he can be easily enticed to talk to us all again regarding his "adventures", and enlighten us especially in the area of his most fervent birding passion: Birds Of Prey.

BIRDING ABROAD: Reunion

David Winterbottom

Over the past few years David and Elizabeth Winterbottom have been going overseas to look at birds and other things. Here is a vignette from a voyage in October 2001.

Reunion is an island with an active volcano in the western Indian Ocean. It is still part of Metropolitan France and so is very French. We saw it first a year earlier from the air with the volcano in full blast. It was in the evening and very impressive with fiery flying debris and red lava flows.

We landed at St Denis, picked up our hire car and made our way to hotel finding the birds few and far between except for the familiar House Sparrows, Red-whiskered Bulbuls, Common Mynahs and the inevitable feral pigeons. However, in and around the hotel were dainty little Zebra Doves, Madagascar Turtle Doves and the ubiquitous Madagascar Fody – a dinky sparrow-like bird.

Our first outing was up an incredible corkscrew of a road above the town (Elizabeth kept her eyes tight shut for much of the way). We eventually stopped, went for a walk and saw both the endemic White-eyes - the Olive and the Grey, but the Reunion Cuckoo-shrike eluded us. We also had an excellent view of the endemic Reunion Harrier, a striking black and white bird, gliding along the edge of the steep hillside.

The only good road is round the island, where we noticed Mascarene Swiftlets and Mascarine Martins. Mascarine is the term given to the island group of Reunion, Mauritius and Rodrigues. Suddenly we found the road cut by a lava flow from the volcano we had seen erupting a year ago. We walked up the flow a short distance. Vegetation was beginning to come back in the gullies. We saw a Reunion Stonechat.

There was a temporary deviation round the flow so we were able to keep going to St Louis. From there a road leads to a village in the middle of the island which is a gigantic volcanic crater creating a vast circle (Cirque) of high cliffs. The road was even more incredible than our earlier experience – one lane wide in places under cliff overhangs – hoot and hope nothing is coming the other way! (Elizabeth under the dashboard).

We were rewarded with more Martins and Swiftlets, another Reunion Harrier and a Mascarene Paradise Flycatcher. Numbers of White-tailed Tropicbirds sailed high up the mountainside presumably seeking crevices in the rock faces in which to nest.

On our way back to St Denis we stopped by a small swamp. Not much on it, but we unexpectedly came across a Green-backed (Striated) Heron. The book says that they are not supposed to be seen on the island, so we left for home in high spirits.

LIBRARY NEWS

Our library has a small collection of bird books from particular countries. These can be borrowed before or after trips or just for general interest.

Also, there are more books and magazines which have been culled from our library for sale (cheap!). Bring your money to the next meeting.

Birds of New Zealand
Birds of the World
Field Guide – Birds of North America
Field Guide – Birds of Japan
Indian Hill Birds
Birds of Eastern and North Eastern Africa (2 vols)
Pocket Guide to Kansas Raptors
Pocket Guide to Kansas Mammals
The Birds of Africa
The Birds of Borneo
The Book of Indian Birds

BIGnet Meeting, 10-11 September 2005**Chris Brandis**

The Bird Interest Group Network biannual meeting between the various birding groups in NSW and the ACT was held in the idyllic surroundings of Shortland Wetland Centre. The Centre had been in financial strife but with new sponsors and tighter management the Centre now attracts many visitors as well as regulars, a worthwhile stop for any one going north.

Various subjects of concern were discussed including the closure to birdwatching of most of the sewerage treatment works around Australia due to OH&S concerns. Cumberland Bird Observers Club has been in negotiation with the local council for over a year to have induction sessions, similar to what we use for Tallawarra, but the legal people keep throwing up concerns. The Dubbo representative reported on a proposed scheme to buy water licences to provide water to the Macquarie Marshes which are now almost destroyed as water for cotton, especially in Queensland, has allowed no flooding for many years preventing both grazing and bird breeding.

Graeme Hamilton, the new CEO of Birds Australia, gave a brief overview of where BA should head into the future and their relationship with the birding groups of Australia. They are in the process of developing a strategic plan for the next 3 years with a business plan that should be finished by October 2006. They have found that they are trying to do too much with too few people and not enough funds so a focus on core activities that can be done most effectively at a cost that can be borne by members and sponsors is required. For example some 45 to 50 conservation projects are being managed by one person, that's about an hour a week on each one. As with most groups, the vitality of the club will be a measure of the vitality of the committee.

Clubs gave brief reports on their current and proposed activities and project updates with many groups very active in conservation issues in their area. Public Liability Insurance was discussed with all clubs trying to reduce this high cost to members. A draft set of guidelines for conducting field trips was tabled and IBOC will look at this to ensure members are thoroughly looked after.

Sunday morning was used to familiarise members with the practical side of nominating Important Bird Areas and IBOC, with the assistance of some other groups, have submitted IBAs for Eastern Bristlebirds at Barren Grounds/Budderoo NP, Jervis Bay NP and Nadgee NP and for the Superb Parrot in the Cowra area. The morning ended with a lovely lunch prepared by the staff of the Wetland Centre with the next meeting proposed for Riverina area next March, if possible. If any member wishes to become involved in this activity and meet with birders from all over the state please let me know.



One fine day a chicken walked into a library and said BUCK (book); so the librarian gave the chicken a book. The next day the same chicken came back to the library and said BUCK BUCK, so the librarian gave the bird two books. The next day the same chicken came back to the library and said BUCK BUCK BUCK, so this time the librarian gave it three books. However the curiosity of the librarian was now aroused and so followed the chicken to see what such a bird wanted with three books. As he saw the chicken come to a stop at the edge of a pond, he saw the chicken pass all three books to a frog, who, while he was looking at them was saying, REDDIT, REDDIT, REDDIT!

BIRDS AROUND BERRY - November**Bob Ashford**

I expect that for some it was simply morbid curiosity. For others it was the possibility of food. But for most I suspect it was sheer relief the danger had passed for them even if they were keeping a wary eye on proceedings. And all the while 'snow' kept falling.

Following a mighty 'THUMP' on our sunroom roof and a crescendo of calls and scattering birds I had noticed 'snow' drifting slowly to the ground. I imagined an unfortunate bird had flown into the glass and lost a few feathers in the process. On closer inspection, I discovered a situation far more brutal. A large female Brown Goshawk was astride a very dead and even larger Wonga Pigeon busily plucking it clean.

Warily watching the process were parrots, honeyeaters and bowerbirds. Calculating the possibility of a takeover bid were currawongs and magpies. Sitting calmly surveying the 'big picture' was a Kookaburra. No doubt, the currawongs, magpies and Kookaburra together could have harassed the Goshawk to abandon its prey but there was no indication of collaboration and I imagine the conversations were along the line of "After you". "Not at all, after you". None, it seemed, were prepared to risk the wrath of this avian assassin.

Suddenly the tense calm shattered and pandemonium erupted again. I had been spotted and the Goshawk took off carrying the Wonga. The audience, including Mr Cool the Kookaburra, scattered in all directions.

Female Brown Goshawks are extremely powerful birds and weigh about 650 grams. They regularly catch prey averaging 250 grams and may catch prey up to twice their own weight, using surprise, speed and impact. However, catching and carrying are two different matters. A Wonga is significantly larger and heavier than a Goshawk and in this case, it was just too heavy to carry and was quickly dumped.

Reluctant to see such effort wasted and thrilled with the opportunity to see such a magnificent bird of prey at such close quarters I decided to 'assist'! I retrieved the Wonga, placed it a little further from the sunroom closer to the shrubs, and waited. Sure enough about fifteen minutes later our hungry lady returned. Thoroughly rattled the honeyeaters and parrots gave up and flew off to less stressful feeding grounds.

Brown Goshawks need about 5 to 25 percent of their body weight in food each day and will stash a hard won catch if necessary. I was keen to see what this one would do. For the next hour she plucked the breast feathers from the Wonga and ripped the meat from its body. This lady was in no mood for stashing. At this time of the year, when eggs need to be laid and chicks need to be fed, Goshawks feed up, storing food in their crop to digest later or to feed their young, and there is a banquet of meat on a Wonga.

As fierce and as fast as the Goshawk is it still misses up to 60 percent of its targeted prey. I have regularly seen them just sitting in trees seemingly assessing the proposed effort against the possible return. It's a stealth hunter silently slipping through trees and shrubs to smash into its prey – if it's lucky. Experience and skills are critical and fifty percent of young Goshawks die in their first year through starvation because they simply keep missing. The world's supreme avian predator, the Peregrine Falcon, also occasionally preys upon Brown Goshawks and a Powerful Owl will take a roosting Goshawk. There is no room for complacency among birds!

Patience has its rewards though. The currawongs got the scraps.

UNUSUAL RECORDS for September 2005**Chris J. Chafer**Send your records to: email cchafer@speedlink.com.au

Species	#	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Australian Brush-Turkey	1	16-Sep	Mt. Keira	forest	NW
Plumed Whistling-Duck	1	6-Sep	Jamberoo	wetland	JW
Plumed Whistling-Duck	3	11-Sep	Jamberoo	wetland	MR
Plumed Whistling-Duck	1	25-Sep	Jamberoo	wetland	JM
Little Egret	1	11-Sep	Primbee	lake shore	MC
Little Egret	1	29-Sep	Tom Thumb Lagoon	wetland	DW
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	10-Sep	Marshall Mount	farm dam	TB
Square-tailed Kite	1	9-Sep	Falls Creek	overhead	GD
Black Kite	1	7-Sep	Bendalong Point	overhead	MJ
Swamp Harrier	1	4-Sep	Bolong	overhead	BA
Brown Goshawk	1	16-Sep	Bellawongarah	garden	BA
Grey Goshawk (white phase)	1	1-Sep	Stanwell Tops	overhead	TB
Grey Goshawk (white phase)	1	10-Sep	Mullet Ck. Dapto	overhead	TB
Grey Goshawk	1	16-Sep	Black Ash NR	forest	BA
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	15-Sep	Bellawongarah	overhead	BA
Little Eagle	1	2-Sep	Coomaditchie Lagoon	overhead	PN
Australian Hobby	1	11-Sep	Windang	overhead	MC
Australian Hobby	1	14-Sep	Figtree	urban	LP
Australian Hobby	1	16-Sep	Keiraville	overhead	NW
Australian Hobby	1	25-Sep	Comerong Island NR	sandflats	NJ
Peregrine Falcon	1	7-Sep	Bolong	overhead	BA
Peregrine Falcon	1	10-Sep	Cambewarra	overhead	BA
Latham's Snipe	1	24-Sep	Berkley harbour	wetland	MC
Latham's Snipe	1	29-Sep	Tom Thumb Lagoon	wetland	DW
Grey Plover	1	13-Sep	Windang	sandflats	TN
Black-fronted Dotterel	5	7-Sep	Bolong	wetland	BA
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	27-Sep	Forest Grove, Kanahooka	wetland	MC
Gull-billed Tern	2	25-Sep	Comerong Island NR	sandflats	NJ
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	16-Sep	Minnamurra R. Dunmore	riverine	DG
Topknot Pigeon	18	25-Sep	Comerong Island NR	forest	NJ
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	25-Sep	Comerong Island NR	forest	NJ
Long-billed Corella	1	11-Sep	Jamberoo	paddock	BH
Little Corella	9	10-Sep	Jamberoo	overhead	BH
Red-rumped Parrot	20+	16-Sep	Paddy's R. Canyonleigh	woodland	DG
Brush cuckoo	2	25-Sep	Comerong Island NR	forest	NJ
Australian Owlet-Nightjar	1	16-Sep	Paddy's R. Canyonleigh	woodland	DG
Azure Kingfisher	1	16-Sep	Minnamurra R. Dunmore	riverine	DG
White-cheeked Honeyeater	1	14-Sep	Hewitts Creek	wetland	IM
Flame Robin	3	9-Jul	west of Marulan	woodland	LP
Logrunner	4	16-Sep	Black Ash NR	rainforest	BA
Spangled Drongo	1	12-Sep	Puckey's Reserve	woodland	NJ
Figbird	2	10-Sep	Nowra	urban	PF
White-winged Chough	8	16-Sep	Paddy's R. Canyonleigh	woodland	DG

Contributors: BA – Bob Ashford; JB – John Blomsteadt; CB – Chris Brandis; TB - Teresa du Bois; MC – M. Cartlett; JC – Josh Coyte; GD – Garry Daly; TE – Terri Edwell; ME – Mary Eskdale; PF – Peter Fackender; DG – Darryl Goldrick; IM – Ian McKinlay; BH – Betty Hudson; NJ – Nigel Jacket; MJ – Michael Jarman; KM – Kevin Mills; JM – Jill Molan; PN – Peter Nolan; TN – Terill Nordstrom; DO - Danie Ondinea; LP – Loraine Pincus; MR – Michelle Rower; NG – Ngarla Tetley; RT – Roger Truscott; NW – Nathan Waugh; DW – David Winterbottom; JW – Joan Wylie. **Comment:** Good to see another Plumed Whistling-duck in the region. Black Kite and Owlet Nightjars are always a great observations in this region.