



THE IBOCC

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ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010



Little Tern (Endangered Species)

photo Charles Dove

Description

The Little Tern is mainly white with a dark crown, pale grey back and upperwings. The eye is dark brown. When breeding, the bill is yellow, the crown black with a short, pointed white brow and the black eye-line reaches the bill. In non-breeding plumage, the crown is mottled with white and the bill blackish. The wing tips are two-toned grey to black on the outer primaries (flight feathers). The sexes are similar and immature birds are similar to non-breeding adults with upper wings and back mottled grey and brown. The Little Tern is also known as the Black-lored Tern, the Sea Swallow, or the White-shafted Ternlet.

Similar species

The Little Tern and the Fairy Tern, *S. nereis*, are the two smallest terns in Australia. The Fairy Tern lacks the sharp pointed white brow of the Little Tern when breeding. The Little Tern is also slightly smaller, with two-toned dark to black wing tips, rather than the single-toned grey of the Fairy Tern.

Where does it live?

Distribution

The Little Tern breeds in North America, Eurasia, Western Africa and Australasia and winters in northern South America, Africa, Southern Asia and Australasia. In Australia, it breeds from Tasmania to the Gulf of Carpentaria and has bred in the Coorong and near Adelaide, South Australia. It has been recorded across Northern Australia to Shark Bay, Western Australia.

Habitat

The Little Tern is mainly coastal, being found on beaches, sheltered inlets, estuaries, lakes, sewage farms, lagoons, river mouths and deltas.

Seasonal movements

The Little Tern is migratory. Substantial numbers move north from the far south-east after breeding. In Australia generally, except in the south-west, it is almost exclusively coastal.

What does it do?

Feeding

The Little Tern eats small fish, insects, crustaceans and other invertebrates. It prefers to feed over shallower coastal waters and can hover briefly with the body

horizontal and the bill pointing down, before plunging into the water to catch prey.

Breeding

The Little Tern breeds in small colonies, with each mating pair producing a single brood. The sexes share nest-building, incubation and care of young. The nest is a shallow scrape in sand or shingle, usually just above the high tide mark on sandy shores, and is unlined but often rimmed with fragments of shell or dry seaweed.

Living with humans

The Little Tern is extremely sensitive to human disturbance when breeding and is rapidly declining in numbers and range. Nesting sites are usually located where humans swim, walk, exercise dogs, picnic and drive off-road vehicles. The mere presence of people on the beach may cause these terns to desert their eggs and eventually leave the colony altogether. In New South Wales, where they were once quite common, the breeding population of Little Terns has declined to fewer than 50 pairs and of 30 known breeding sites only a handful have been used since 1970. THE LITTLE TERN HAS BEEN DECLARED AN ENDANGERED SPECIES and the Department of Environment and Conservation is actively promoting its protection.

(information courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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Founded in 1977

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

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[Introduction from the 2010 President of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club](#)

Welcome to the first IBOC Newsletter of 2010 which I hope will be another successful year for the Illawarra Bird Observers Club. We surged forward in 2009 and under my Presidency and the continued support of the committee we will aim to continue this momentum. The new editor Charles Dove has taken over the reins of the newsletter and I would like on behalf of all the members of the club to thank him for volunteering for this task, By the same token we cannot let John Cashman's sterling efforts over the last four years go unmentioned in writing. It has not been without it's critics but John has conducted himself in his usual mild, quiet and deeply humorous manner and achieved what many of us would have surely faltered over. Cheers John, now you can spend a bit more time with Robyn. We have a varied programme of speakers, monthly outings and camps organised for the coming year.

Betty Hudson has again taken the unenviable position of Secretary and Events organiser and I know that arrangements for the Easter Camp are well in hand. Whilst mentioning camps I must congratulate Neil and Tera Wheway for organising what I am sure will be a magnificent foray into the wilds of tropical Queensland and Horne Island in August and September this year. Our thanks also go to Bronwyn Wilson who for many years as Treasurer has guided the clubs sound financial position. I welcome all re-elected and new members to the 2010 committee and look forward to working with you to continue the work of this great club. Of course, no club could operate without the support of its members and I look forward to seeing many of you at meetings, outings and functions.

Alan Cousins

[FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES](#)

[New Year Outing](#) **Wednesday 3rd February, 2010 at 5.00 p.m. Windang.** Meet under the pine trees on the north side of Windang estuary, east of the bridge. At Windang take Acacia Street east off Windang Road, then take the second right (south), Waratah Street. Ahead of you should be the combined entrance to Windang Caravan Park and Windang Surf Club. Follow the arrow towards the surf club and meet at the eastern end of the Norfolk Island Pines. This outing gives you a good chance to sort out the waders, terns and gulls that are usually around in good numbers at this time of the year. Bring along your cuppa and a bite to eat after the walk.

[Club Meeting](#) – **Monday 8th February 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall.**
Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow

Guest speaker **John Rawsthorne** – Interaction between Birds & Mistletoe. Mistletoe act as a keystone resource in forest and woodlands worldwide. The variety of creatures that rely on mistletoes for food is truly mind boggling, but high on the list of mistletoe-lovers is birds.

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

[February 2010 Monthly Outing](#): **Saturday 13th February 2010. Shoalhaven Heads / Comerong Island Wetlands**
Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at 8.00am **sharp** in the River Road foreshore carpark at the eastern end, adjoining the Holiday Haven Tourist Park, Shoalhaven Heads.. Travel via Gerringong, Gerroa, Shoalhaven Heads Road. Turn off to the left at the second turning to Shoalhaven Heads (just beyond the speed camera). Take the first on the right (Bailey Rd) and then left again at the end into River Road. Bring eats, drinks etc to carry, also sunscreen & **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. The tide will be coming in, with a high tide about 10.00am, pushing the birds up to us. For those who are interested, weather permitting, we may return to the marshes after a walk through the forest and along the beach. This may mean a later than usual finish or if it is very hot we could finish early, returning to the cars for lunch. Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945.

[Next Committee Meeting](#) - Monday 15th February 2010 at 7.30pm – Tom & Joan Wylie 4 Daphne Street Bellambi

[March 2010 Newsletter](#) - Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is Friday 19th February 2010
 Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph:42752383

[ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS](#) - due **1st January** each year: Family \$35.00, Single \$30.00, Junior \$10.00
 please pay Bronwyn Wilson Treasurer by cash, cheque or money order.

[APOLOGY](#)

by Bruce Coyte

– I would like to apologies to Ron Imisides and members of IBOC for the number of errors I made in the report on Ron's excellent presentation in the December Newsletter, I have learnt a valuable lesson in paying attention to what I scribble down, please accept my apologies.

I.B.O.C. PROGRAMME 2010 updated shortly on www.iboc.org.au

Month	Action	Date	Speaker/Leader	Venue
January	Bush Camp combined with Birding NSW	22-27.01.10	Jill Molan	Captains Flat
February	Mid week outing	3.02.10	5.00pm	Entrance Lake Illawarra
	Meeting	8.02.10	John Rawsthorne	Birds & Mistletoe
	Outing	Saturday 13.02.10	Betty Hudson 8.00am	Shoalhaven Heads/Comerong Island
March	Meeting	8.03.10	TBA	
	Mid week walk	10.03.10	Terri Edwell & Michelle Rower	Croome Park
	Outing	Sunday 14.03.10	Betty Hudson	RNP Forest Walk + Rainforest section Walumorra Track
April	Mid Week Walk	7.04.10	Alan Cousins	Puckey's Estate
	Autumn Camp	10.04.- 17.04.10	Betty Hudson	Leeton Caravan Park
May	Meeting	10.05.10	Jack Baker	Ground Parrots & Eastern Bristlebirds
	Mid week Walk	12.05.10	Charles Dove	Korrongulla Swamp
	Outing	Saturday 15.05.10	Betty Hudson	Triplarina N.R. and Bens Walk Nowra
June	Meeting	14.06.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	16.06.10	Chris Brandis	Blackbutt Forest
	Outing	Sunday 20.06.10	Wal Emery	Illawarra Escarpment SCA
July	Meeting	12.07.10	Ron Imisides	What we could expect to see on the Cairns to Cape York Trip
	Mid Week Walk	14.07.10	Terrill Nordstrom	TBA
	Outing	Saturday 17.07.10	Betty Hudson	Saddleback Mountain & Jerrara Arboretum
August	Meeting	9.08.10	Caroline Blackmore	White-browed Babblers
	Mid Week Walk	11.08.10	TBA	Moeyan Hill Track Agars Lane Berry
	Outing	Sunday 15.08.10	Betty Hudson	Wirrimbirra Wildlife Sanctuary Bargo & Nepean/Avon Dams
September	Meeting	13.09.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	15.09.10		
	Outing	Saturday 18.09.10	Betty Hudson	Drawing Room Rocks/Bellawongarra To Be confirmed
October	Meeting	11.10.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	13.10.10	Tom Wylie	Cooks Nose Barren Grounds
	Outing	Sunday 17.10.10	Betty Hudson	Abrahams Bosom Currarong
	Spring Camp	23.10.10 to 30.10.10	Betty Hudson	Sandy Hollow To be confirmed
November	Meeting/ AGM	8.11.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	10.11.10	Darryl Goldrick	Killalea Lagoon
	Outing	Saturday 13.11.10	Betty Hudson	TBA
December	Christmas Picnic	Saturday 11.12.10		TBA
	Christmas Meeting	13.12.10		

Outing Tallawarra Ash Ponds 29/11/09

by Jill Molan

Fifteen IBOC members participated in an outing at the Tallawarra Ash Ponds additional to the regular program. In a very full morning, we traversed most of the area included in the Ash Ponds enclosure, along Duck Creek to the edge of Lake Illawarra, then back to our starting point through a large area of woodland and past the water-filled ponds. After lunch, four members returned to a certain point in the Ash Ponds and, after an hour or so of peering, were able to identify three cryptic and secretive crakes skulking in the

reeds, as two Baillon's crane adults with one young. In all, the list for the day included 86 species. No White-fronted Chats were seen, although they are believed to still be present in the Ash Ponds area. Other wonderful highlights included four Australian Shelduck, a scarce nomadic visitor to the Illawarra, a rarely seen Osprey over Lake Illawarra and a well developed eaglet visible in the White-bellied Sea Eagle's nest. Thanks to Chris Brandis and Darryl Goldrick for a very special outing.

Reads from left to right

Brown Quail	Black Swan	Australian Shelduck
Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal	Pacific Black Duck
Hardhead	Australasian Grebe	Crested Pigeon
Darter	Little Pied Cormorant	Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant	Pied Cormorant	Australian Pelican
Eastern Great Egret	Striated Heron	White-faced Heron
Australian White Ibis	Royal Spoonbill	Eastern Osprey
Black-shouldered Kite	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Whistling Kite
Collared Sparrowhawk	Peregrine Falcon	Purple Swamphen
Baillon's Crake	Dusky Moorhen	Eurasian Coot
Black-winged Stilt	Black-fronted Dotterel	Red-kneed Dotterel
Masked Lapwing	Bar-tailed Godwit	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Caspian Tern	Crested Tern	Silver Gull
Galah	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Brush Cuckoo	Laughing Kookaburra
Dollarbird	Superb Fairy-wren	Variegated Fairy-wren
White-browed Scrubwren	Brown Gerygone	Yellow Thornbill
Striated Thornbill	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Brown Thornbill
Striated Pardalote	Eastern Spinebill	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Scarlet Honeyeater	Noisy Miner	Eastern Whipbird
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Rufous Whistler	Grey Shrike-thrush
Grey Butcherbird	Australian Magpie	Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail	Australian Raven	Magpie-lark
Golden-headed Cisticola	Australian Reed-Warbler	Little Grassbird
Silvereye	Welcome Swallow	Fairy Martin
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Common Blackbird	Common Starling
Common Myna	Mistletoebird	Red-browed Finch
House Sparrow	European Goldfinch	

Christmas Bar-B-Q

Photo & Article by Charles Dove

Being the first time that my wife and I attended the Christmas B-B-Q certainly proved an event to keep reserved on our annual calendar. The light hearted and friendly gathering proved to be a very relaxing afternoon. I had the opportunity to lead the group on a bird walk while Tom "THE POM" with Neil Wheway got into cooking up the sausages and rissoles. We did see numerous birds ie, Brown quail, Collared sparrow hawk, Fantail & Bronze cuckoos lots of small birds being the Superb fairy wren, Thornbills etc. Whilst continuing around the park I did notice how quiet things had become; with B-B-Q's aroma drifting over the park I turned around to find the crowd rushing back to BBQ area; 15 minutes ahead of schedule as Tom (the Pom) and Neil had given strict instructions on what time to return. Latter on I found that a few of the members felt the walk was encroaching on their drinking time. Food, People, Atmosphere all great, as well lots of birds around, nothing else you could ask for.



Illawarra Bird Observers Club Christmas Meeting 14th December 2009

by Alan Cousins

It was a great privilege for me to open the 2009 Christmas meeting which had been organised by Brian Hales ably assisted by Barbara (THE PUFFINS) 45 members and guests were present at what turned out to be a very interesting and entertaining evening. The talents of members of the club were certainly in evidence as the evening took shape. The meeting opened with the usual formalities taken care of expediently. Brian assumed control of the evening which contained some great acts including poetry readings by Betty Hudson and Alan Cousins and a skit on the modern navy ably performed by Mark Edwell and his stooge, bird quiz with rhymes by Bill and Joan Zealy, a reading by John Cashman - Bill Shakespeare wants a poet!! we were then presented with

dulcet singing tones of Brian Hales re- a letter to Santa.(John Farnham eat your heart out) Peter Fackener gave us a wonderful review of his exploits in 2009 including the efforts to capture a Willie Wagtail in its nest and a Tawny Frogmouth and friends, this was the followed by another quiz re towns in Oz by Barbara Hales. We were then treated to songs by Robin & John Cashman, Lyndall Dawson, all had funny hats including John's with a beak!. The next item was a musical quiz where Martin Potter show his considerable talents with his electric guitar playing tunes that related to birds. Neil McKinley then followed with a poem re - certain car bogging at a certain camp. The entertainment concluded with a bird quiz from CharlesDove which had some unusual legs as well as parts of birds.

Many thanks again to Bronwyn Wilson's mum (Norma) for the lovely Christmas cake and to all those members and

guests who took part to make this a very successful evening.



Photos by Tera Wheway



BIRD LIST FROM THE BARADINE CAMP



Emu getting ready to drink at Bark Hut Dam Pilliga National Park

Photo & List from Betty Hudson

Bird List 144 species recorded

68 species # were recorded at Camp Cypress and 55 species * in Baradine Township.

Emu	Superb Parrot	Noisy Friarbird#*
Stubble Quail	Crimson Rosella	Little Friarbird#*
Brown Quail	Eastern Rosella#*	Striped Honeyeater#
Australian Wood Duck	Australian Ringneck (Mallee form)#*	Grey-crowned Babbler#*
Grey Teal	Australian Ringneck (Port Lincoln form)	White-browed Babbler
Pacific Black Duck#*	Blue Bonnet	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike#
Hardhead	Red-rumped Parrot#*	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Australasian Grebe	Mulga Parrot	White-winged Triller#*
Rock Dove	Turquoise Parrot#	Crested Shrike-tit#
Common Bronzewing#*	Channel-billed Cuckoo#*	Rufous Whistler#*
Crested Pigeon#*	Black-eared Cuckoo#	Grey Shrike-thrush#
Diamond Dove	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Olive-backed Oriole#*
Peaceful Dove#	Pallid Cuckoo	Masked Woodswallow
Bar-shouldered Dove#*	Brush Cuckoo	White-browed Woodswallow
White-throated Needle-tail*	Southern Boobook#	Dusky Woodswallow#*
Fork-tailed Swift	Laughing Kookaburra#*	Grey Butcherbird*
Australian Darter	Sacred Kingfisher#*	Pied Butcherbird#*
Little Pied Cormorant	Rainbow Bee-eater#*	Australian Magpie#
Great Cormorant	Dollarbird#*	Pied Currawong#*
Little Black Cormorant	White-throated Treecreeper#*	Grey Fantail*
White-necked Heron	Red-browed Treecreeper	Willie Wagtail#*
Eastern Great Egret	Brown Treecreeper#*	Australian Raven#
White-faced Heron	Spotted Bowerbird	Little Raven#
Australian White Ibis*	Superb Fairy-wren#	Leaden Flycatcher*
Straw-necked Ibis#*	Varigated Fairy-wren	Restless Flycatcher
Royal Spoonbill	Speckled Warbler*	Magpie-lark#*
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Weebill	White-winged Chough#*
Black-shouldered Kite#*	White-throated Gerygone	Apostlebird#*
Square-tailed Kite*	Yellow Thornbill#	Jacky Winter#
Whistling Kite	Yellow-rumped Thornbill#	Red-capped Robin#
Brown Goshawk	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Hooded Robin
Spotted Harrier	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin#*
Wedge-tailed Eagle*	Inland Thornbill	Horsfield's Bushlark
Nankeen Kestrel#*	Spotted Pardalote#	Rufous Songlark#
Brown Falcon#*	Striated Pardalote#	Brown Songlark
Australian Hobby	Eastern Spinebill#	Silvereye#*
Peregrine Falcon	Yellow-faced Honeyeater#	Welcome Swallow#
Black-tailed Native-hen	White-eared Honeyeater#	Fairy Martin*
Dusky Moorhen	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Tree Martin#
Masked Lapwing#*	Fuscous Honeyeater	Common Blackbird*
Latham's Snipe	White-plumed Honeyeater#*	Common Starling
Galah#*	Noisy Miner#*	Mistletoebird
Little Corella	Yellow-throated Miner*	Double-barred Finch#
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo#*	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater#*	Red-browed Finch
Cockatiel#	Red Wattlebird	Diamond Firetail
Musk Lorikeet*	Black Honeyeater#	House Sparrow#
Australian King-Parrot	Brown-headed Honeyeater*	Australasian Pipit
Red-winged Parrot*	Blue-faced Honeyeater#*	White Winged Wren



Tawny Frogmouths
 seemed to be everywhere in 2009 nesting in the City, Caravan Parks & Schools unperturbed by the hustle and bustle of traffic & people or just out the wild distanced from general civilisation.

*These Tawny Frogmouths in our backyard are now 4 Tawny Frogmouths. This nest is in the Camphor Laurel tree.
 M. Newsham*

Pics by Mark Newsham & supplied by Val Dolan

Poetry Brought to Life by Bird Pics

BigRuss a long time friend has been inspired by some of my bird photos he has seen lately.

Photo by Charles Dove



My name is Billy Blue-wren, and I'm variegated
 There's some that say I'm superb, I think that's pretty true
 I'm a flutterer & flitterer, I hop & jump around
 I flut & flit through the bushes, and often on the ground
 But unless I've been cuck-lded, then I can prove them wrong
 I am a great polygamist, of wives, well I've got many
 But I don't fancy any bird, they must be called Jenny
 And there's people who have cameras, with lots of time to kill
 Who try to take my photo, but I never will keep still
 And if you'd like to see me, well it really isn't hard
 Just rid yourself of pussy cats-
 And we'll visit in your yard

Billy Blue Wren AKA Bigruss Dec 09



Photo by Charles Dove

I am a Ruddy Turnstone, and the food for which I've yearned,
 I get by turning over stones, I leave no stone unturned
 When overturning stones I find, the food I love to eat,
 Like crustaceans, worms and carrion, a real stoneturner treat.
 I live up in the artic North amid the frozen tundra,
 But like to spend my winters in the great brown land down under.
 I flew into the country, it was a non-commercial flight,
 So don't have any papers, I have to keep right out of sight,
 So if you spot me turning over stones, please don't dob on me,
 I couldn't stand detention, I'm a bird who should be free.
 I intend to get a passport with this picture stuck in
 But it makes me look Siamese, they think I'm a twin,
 The picture seems to indicate that I'm joined at the legs,
 It must be photo-shopped of course, or I never could lay eggs

Ruddy Turnstone AKA bigruss Dec 09

Logrunner Survey Bulli 27/9/09

A very keen group of members braved gale force winds to participate in a Logrunner Survey in Bulli, ably led by Joan Wiley. We walked up the track to the north of the Grevillea Park. Difficult as it was to hear anything over the wind, we did manage to find 33 species and have a very enjoyable walk. The cryptic and elusive Logrunners that were the object of the outing were true to form and showed only glimpses of themselves to a few of us, while the rest of us

by Jill Molan

watched hopefully without success. Two birds were seen at a point where they had been seen before beside the track uphill of the Grevillea Park. Further along the track a single bird was heard to call quite close by, and although it did not show itself, it made a total of three Logrunners for the walk. Two good sightings for the day were a pair of Black-faced Monarchs, returning from their northward migration, and a white phase Grey Goshawk.

Wader Survey Windang 7/10/09

A small group of IBOC members scanned the shorelines at Windang to see what migrants had arrived on the nominated morning of the month for the survey. It was a day of some unusual sightings for us. Five terns roosting with the Crested Terns caused quite a lot of discussion as we tried to determine their identity. It was later concluded from photos taken that they were Common Terns which are not common at Windang, however do occur here as summer migrants, arriving with the waders. No Double-banded Plovers were present as they are now in New Zealand for their breeding season. A visit to Whyjuck Bay revealed 2 Common Greenshanks, 3 Royal Spoonbills in spectacular breeding plumes,

by Jill Molan

and a Little Egret doing its dance, among others. We moved on to Purry Bury Point where we saw, among a group of 10 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, a single Grey-tailed Tattler and a Pacific Golden Plover. Nearby were 4 Whiskered Terns and another tern which was later identified by photo to be a White-winged Black Tern, a scarce summer migrant.



*White-winged Black Tern
 Photo By Charles Dove*

Wader Survey Windang 8/11/09

by Jill Molan

This month's wader survey was undertaken by a small group of IBOC members, a visitor from Florida, and two visitors from the Blue Mountains Bird Observers. The Red-capped Plovers continue in good numbers as in the past (30) and 9 Red-necked Stints were seen. Bar-tailed Godwits were present at three sites, with 6 Red Knots mixed with the flock at

one site. Two Common Greenshank were again present at Whyjuck Bay. From the breakwater at Windang a number of shearwaters were seen flying over the sea, however it was not possible to identify them. The shorebird observations will be lodged with the Shorebirds 2020 national project.

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW & ACT TWITCHATHON 2009 PRIZEWINNERS

Most of Prize Winners for the Twitchathon 2009 have now been decided and the big news is that it is expected that \$23,000 has been raised for this year's project "Monitoring the Important Bird Areas of western NSW" partly through the use of volunteers. The Winners of the Main Race were the **Menacing Monarchs** (Robert McDonald & Michael Kearns) who with 247 species, were well ahead of the 2nd place getters in the Main Race, the **Hunter Home Brewers** (Mick & Steve Roderick & Craig Anderson) who saw 234 species. The Prize for the team with the lowest ratio of kms travelled per bird seen (minimum 180 species, excluding 1st & 2nd place getters), went to the **Raven On** team (Matt Hinze, Amelia Marshall, Tony Bischoff, Ethan Marshall & Henry Siems) who saw 181 species and were in the Twitch for the first time.

Winners of the Champagne Race were the **Varied Wrenegades** (Chis & Liz Herbert, Robert & Janeen Greig) with 197. The Champagne Race 2nd Prize went to the **Crested Shrike-twits** (Lorna Mee, Paul Baird & Jim Smart) with 169 species. The Prize for the team with the lowest ratio of kms travelled per bird seen in the Champagne Race went to the **Warbler Specklers** (Frances Czwarlina, Andrew Patrick and Cathy Goswell) with 131 species. Independent expert Dion Hobcroft chose the Painted Snipe seen at Dubbo as the "Rarest Bird", by Frank Hemming of the **Bumbling Bee-eaters**; The Biggest Dip Prize went to Greg Clancy of the **Black-necked Stalkers** whose team saw a Black Noddy moments before the start of the Twitch but the bird could not be found at 4 pm!. The Lucky Twitchers Prize was won by Greg Dowd of the **Liarbirders Team**. This prize was drawn from the hat at a Birding NSW Central Coast Group activity by a Non Twitcher!

In the Childrens Section, Little Curlews Division, the **Pigeon Pair** team of Sophia & Sam Heinsohn won with 71 species and took out the prize for the most funds raised, while in the Dollarbirds Division, the **Red-necked Dorks** (Liam Trice & Brad Bolt) with 130 species, won the prize over the **Dubbo Ducks** (Eliza, Alice and Henry Smidt-Geering) who saw 97 species but Eliza took out the prize for the most funds raised in the Dollarbird Section.

The Winner of the Prize for the Most Funds Raised was David Eldridge, from the **Bumbling Bee-eaters** Team, and he raised \$3,154.50. This is a great effort by David and his team, as this is the first time that any of the team members have taken part in the Twitchathon. It is not possible at this stage to say who took out second place as it is too close to call, as the likely winners are both

members of the same team, **Chicks with Altitude** (Carol Probet, Tiffany Mason and Fiona Lumsden), and the money is not yet received.

Finally as we have done so well both financially this year and in the numbers of participants, that it was decided to award two more prizes! The first is for a prize for the team that travels under 100 kms and sees over 100 species. The **Red-faced Parrots** (Judy Harrington, Charlie Andres and Jon Irvinve), travelled 16 kms mostly on foot and on bicycle and saw 101 species! I believe that that their efforts are worthy of recognition! Secondly, I believe that it worthwhile to recognise the team each year that raises the most money. Accordingly I have awarded this prize to the **Chicks with Altitude** because of the fine effort that they have done to raise their money. In the past it was possible for a team to raise the most money but receive no recognition because no individual team member raised sufficient funds to win a prize. I believe that both the person that raises the most money and the team that raises the most money should receive some recognition for their efforts!

A big thank you to our major sponsors, the Binocular & Telescope Shop at Glebe, Swarovski Binoculars, Alison Green T-Shirts, Andrew Isles (Booksellers), Fred Van Gessel Professional Wildlife Sounds, Llansallos B & B Capetee Valley, Chorleywood B & B Moss Vale, Undercliff Wines Wollombi and Fivebough & Tuckerbil Wetland Trust, and a special thanks to all the team members and their sponsors too for making this, a most successful twitch!

Clubs should be putting their thinking caps on for Twitch 2010 and give consideration to proposing the bird conservation project for which the Sponsorship Funds can be directed. Each alternate year, the Clubs who enter teams can submit proposals to the organiser, and he will bring forward a recommendation to the next BIGnet Meeting which will be held in Sydney on 10-11 April 2010. Please contact the organiser direct if you have a proposal

Alan Morris.
NSW & ACT Twitchathon Co-ordinator



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Over the Little Tern breeding season (Oct-Mar) local volunteers are needed to help with the fencing and monitoring the Windang colony of Little terns. The number of eggs and chicks are counted regularly, signs and fences installed and repaired as well as threats to the colony are identified. You will meet like-minded people and contribute to the conservation of the beautiful beach nesting bird.



For more information,
please contact *Kylie McClelland* on 9585 6691

The Lake Illawarra entrance at Windang is the only place in the Illawarra used by the Little Tern for nesting.

Birds

A bird in a tree
A bird in a birdhouse
A bird in a cage
A bird in a house
I like birds!

Blue birds,
Yellow birds,
White birds,
Black birds,
Any kind of bird.
I like birds

Cute birds.
Ugly birds.
Poor birds,
Hungry birds,
Born birds,
Sleeping birds.
I like birds!

(anonymous author)

BASNA 2010 AGM & Symposium “Birds and the Hunter”

BASNA 2010 AGM & Symposium “Birds and the Hunter” will be held on the 20th March in the Lecture Theatre, Hunter Valley Grammar School, Norfolk St, Ashtonfield 2323 (Ashtonfield is a locality of Maitland). Hunter Bird Observers Club will be hosting the event.

There will be an outing to Walka Recreational and Wildlife Reserve on Sunday 21st March. On the outskirts of Maitland, Walka Recreational and Wildlife Reserve was the site of Newcastle’s first permanent drinking water supply. It is a very well known birdwatching location in the Hunter Region. All three Grebe species occur there -- Great Crested and Hoary-headed Grebes sometimes in large numbers. Most duck species are regularly recorded at Walka and it is the most likely place to see Blue-billed Ducks in the Hunter Region. Crakes and Rails are often seen at the muddy margins in the quieter parts of the lake and many woodland birds are also regularly sited in the area.

The AGM flyer and registration form can be downloaded from the Birds Australia website here:

<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/images/stories/calendar/BASNA-AGM-rego-sm.pdf>

or you can request a registration form by contacting BASNA office on 02 9647 1033 or email basna@birdsaustralia.com.au

.....
Birds Australia – Southern NSW & ACT
Birds Australia Discovery Centre
Newington Armory, Building 133, 1 Jamieson Street
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127
Ph: (02) 9647 1033
Email: basna@birdsaustralia.com.au

www.birdsaustralia.com.au

The Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre has just released research exploring bird-watching tourism in Australia. The research - ***Practices, needs and attitudes of bird-watching tourists in Australia*** included an extensive survey of national and international bird-watchers. Tour operators and accommodation providers who support this niche tourism sector also contributed to the research. The report has delivered a more comprehensive overview of bird-watching tourism in Australia by:

- Investigating the diversity and common features amongst bird-watching tourists
- Determining what bird-watchers most want to see and do in Australia
- Investigating the role of the tourism industry in bird-watching
- Investigating bird-watchers’ opinions and practices in relation to conservation

Researchers have presented 18 key findings which will be of interest to bird-watching tourism destinations, tourism operators and niche tourism government departments

For more information

Direct Line +61 (0)7 5552 8129

Email: samantha.kume@crctourism.com.au

www.crctourism.com.au

MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS-October 2009*Compiled by Martin Cocker*

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brush Turkey	1 F Laying	26-Oct	Keiraville Pre-School	Garden	Mary Eskdale
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	20-Oct	Russell Vale	Urban	Julia Veltrop
Grey Goshawk	2	13-Oct	Bellambi Lagoon	Overhead	Julia Veltrop
Buff-banded Rail	1	15-Oct	Brooks Creek Kanahooka	Riparian	Gleniss Wellings
Buff-banded Rail	1	31-Oct	Tallawarra Ash Ponds	Marsh	Penny and Martin Potter
Sooty Oystercatcher	1	30-Oct	Towradgi Beach	Beach	Julia Veltrop
Spectacled Monarch	6	Early October	Balgownie	Bush	Terry Edwell

MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS-NOVEMBER 2009*Compiled by Martin Cocker*

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brush Turkey	2 Chicks	Nov	Balgownie	Bush	Terry Edwell
Brush Turkey	3F 1 M	15-Nov	Mt. Keira	Garden/Bush	Val Dolan
Brown Quail	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Shelduck	4	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Tawny Frogmouth	1 A 3 Y	14-Nov	Mt. Keira	Garden/Bush	Val Dolan
White-necked Heron	1	01-Nov	West Dapto		Bruce O'Brien
White-necked Heron	1	15-Nov	Silos Winery Nr. Berry	Farmland	Penny and Martin Potter
Striated Heron	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Eastern Osprey	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Whistling Kite	1	05-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds	Overhead	Joshua Coyte
Whistling Kite	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Collared Sparrowhawk	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Grey Goshawk	1 White Morph	08-Nov	Mt. Ousley	Forest	Terrill Nordstrom
Grey Goshawk	1	22-Nov	Russell Vale	Urban	Julia Veltrop
Swamp Harrier	1	01-Nov	Foxground	Farmland	Bruce O'Brien
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	08-Nov	Tallawarra. Lake Illawarra Foreshore	Overhead	Joshua Coyte
Little Eagle	1	08-Nov	Mt. Ousley	Forest	Terrill Nordstrom
Brown Falcon	1	08-Nov	Tallawarra	Paddock	Joshua Coyte
Hobby	1	01-Nov	Windang	Estuary	Penny and Martin Potter
Peregrine Falcon	1	16-Nov	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Peregrine Falcon	1	15-Nov	Thirroul	Overhead	Richard Miller
Peregrine Falcon	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Baillon's Crake	2A 1F	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Red-kneed.Dotterel	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Ruddy Turnstone	4	01-Nov	Woonona Beach	Rock Platform	Nerida Hudspith
Ruddy Turnstone	1	05-Nov	Coniston Beach	Shoreline	David Winterbottom
Sanderling	1	04-Nov	Lake Conjola Entrance	Estuarine	Alan Morris
Curlew Sandpiper	5	16-Nov	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Painted Button-quail	1	30-Nov	Bellawongarah	Rainforest	Carla Jackett
Little Tern	2	08-Nov	Windang	Estuarine	Jill Molan & IBOC
Little Tern	60	04-Nov	Lake Conjola Entrance	Estuarine	Alan Morris
Little Tern	4	07-Nov	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Penny and Martin Potter

Common Tern	2	04-Nov	Lake Conjola Entrance	Estuarine	Alan Morris
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	1	08-Nov	Fitzroy Falls	Woodland	Richard Miller
Musk Lorikeet	15+	03-Nov	Croome Reserve Albion Park	Parkland	Anthony Rutter
Brush Cuckoo	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Dollarbird	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Dollarbird	1-2	Nov	Thirroul	Overhead	Richard Miller
White-fronted Chat	3	07-Nov	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Penny and Martin Potter
Scarlet Honeyeater	2	29-Nov	Mangrove Boardwalk, Huskisson	Mangrove	Penny and Martin Potter
Scarlet Honeyeater	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Rufous Whistler	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Fairy Martin	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Plum-headed Finch	1	22-Nov	Cordeaux Heights	Garden	David Price

MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS -DECEMBER 2009

Compiled by Martin Cocker

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brown Quail	2	12-Dec	Byarong Creek	Creek/underbrush	Bill Zealey
Striated Heron	1	12-Dec	Kanahooka Point	Lake Shore	Peter Fackender
Eastern Osprey	1	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Swamp Harrier	1	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Buff-banded Rail	2A 5F	07-Dec	Thirroul	Garden	Dr. Ann Young/ M. Morphett
Pied Oystercatcher	1	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Pacific Golden Plover	96	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Red Knot	2	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Whiskered Tern	4	04-Dec	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Lake Shore	Charles Dove
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	1	14-Dec	Figtree	Feeding in tree	Lorraine Pincus
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	12-Dec	Budderoo Fire Trail	Woodland	Betty Hudson
Dollarbird	1	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Noisy Pitta	2	21-Dec	Rodway Nature Reserve via Irvines Road	Rainforest	Carla Jackett
Spectacled Monarch	Nesting	December	Balgownie	Bush	Terry Edwell

Happy New Year! I have prepared reports for the last months of the year so this wraps up 2009. We have some very interesting sightings, a first for the Illawarra is the sighting by David Price of the Plum-headed Finch at Cordeaux Heights-keep a lookout for this bird. The breeding Spectacled Monarch in Balgownie, a rare summer migrant, is this the Illawarra's first breeding record? Another pair of Noisy Pitta's have been sighted on a private property in the Bellawongarah district, further evidence of this species southwards drift and the sighting of the Baillon's Crake with young at Tallawarra capped off a good year of sightings for crakes and rails. If you would like a copy of all of 2009 sightings, in Excel, then drop me a line. Looking forward to your 2010 sightings!

Many thanks for all your records! Please send in your sightings to cocker@speedlink.com.au and don't forget that these lists are on our website www.iboc.org.au. Good Birding!



THE IBOCC

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 334

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010



Black Shouldered Kite

photo Martin Cocker

Scientific name: *Elanus axillaris*
Family: Accipitridae
Order: Falconiformes

What does it look like?

Description

Black-shouldered Kites are medium to small raptors (birds of prey), and are mostly pale grey above, with a pure white head, body and tail and black shoulders. The wings are white underneath, with black wing tips and the wing span is 80 cm to 100 cm. Females are larger than males. The red eye is marked by a black comma that extends behind it. The nostrils are yellow and the legs and feet are also yellow. The Black-shouldered Kite has a direct flight with quick shallow wing beats interspersed with glides on upswept wings (like a seagull), and is often seen hovering, with feet dangling.

Similar species

The Black-shouldered Kite is very similar to the related raptor (bird of prey) species, the Letter-winged Kite, *E. scriptus*, but has a distinctive black comma shape above and behind the eye, lacks the black underwing 'w' or 'm' pattern, and has a white rather than grey crown. The Letter-winged Kite also has a slower, deeper wing beat when flying.

Where does it live?

Distribution

The Black-shouldered Kite is found across mainland Australia.

Habitat

The Black-shouldered Kite is found in treed grasslands and on farms, along roads, and in vacant waste lands of urban and coastal areas.

Seasonal movements

Nomadic; populations may erupt in response to plagues of mice in particular areas.

What does it do?

Feeding

The Black-shouldered Kite feeds mainly on rodents, particularly the introduced House Mouse, *Mus musculus*, often following mice plagues in agricultural areas. Also will eat insects such as grasshoppers. It prefers to hunt during the day, particularly early

morning and late afternoon, often hovering with its wings held upright in a V-shape, before dropping down and grabbing prey with its talons. Prey items are eaten while flying or on a perch, which can be a high tree or an artificial structure, e.g. a powerpole.

Breeding

The Black-shouldered Kite forms monogamous pairs. During courtship, the male will feed the female in mid-air: she will flip upside down and take food with her feet from his, while both are flying. Both sexes build the nest, which is a large untidy shallow cup of sticks, on high tree or on an artificial structure such as a bridge or power pole. The young birds can feed themselves seven days after fledging and leave their parents within a month.

Living with us

Living with humans

The Black-shouldered Kite has expanded its range since European arrival, benefiting from land-clearing and irrigation practices that create suitable habitat, and numbers often increase in response to plagues of mice around crops and grainaries. However, some populations may be affected in areas with high sheep and rabbit numbers, as these animals can reduce suitable habitat for prey items (by compacting the soil and reducing feed). The Black-shouldered Kite sometimes uses artificial structures such as bridges and poles for nesting.

(Black-shouldered Kite information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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**'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'**

**ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.**

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Founded in 1977

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

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MARCH ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting – Monday 8th March 7.30pm - Fairy Meadow Community Hall.
Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow

Guest Speaker Holly Parsons from Birds Australia, working on the Birds in Backyards Program. *Holly gave us a very entertaining presentation some years ago on Fairy-wrens which she was studying for her PhD and has now completed. Holly's presentation is to be "Birds in Backyards - 'What are we doing and what are our plans for the future?'"*

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

Midweek Walk - Wednesday 10th March 2010 – **Croome Park.**

Leaders Michelle Rower and TerryEdwell.

Please meet at the Croome Road Sporting Complex, Albion Park. Note if coming from the Albion Park Rail end of Croome Rd (near the railway museum) take the turn with Tennis in the list of sports. Drive past the driveway (dirt) on the left that leads to the car park for the tennis courts and travel a further 100-150 metres to where there is a large carpark near an oval on the RIGHT. **Meet in this carpark at 9.00am.** If coming from Jamberoo way you go past the basketball stadium and through the roundabout into Croome Rd. Go past the cemetery on the right and take the next driveway LEFT into the Croome Rd Sporting Complex and park in the first carpark you come to on the RIGHT.

Bring morning tea and Mosquito repellent – the mozzies can be brutal here.

You can contact Michelle on 0409 071 815.

Monthly Outing - Sunday 14th March 2010

Royal National Park Waterfall

Leader Betty Hudson

Meet at the car park at the southern end of Lady Carrington Drive at 8.30am. To reach this car park travel via the Freeway to Waterfall turn left following the R.N.P. signs into The McKell Drive continue until you reach a T junction immediately after crossing a river bridge. Turn left (Sir Bertram Stevens Drive) and the car park is very shortly on your right. Alternatively you can travel via Stanwell Park and Lady Wakehurst Drive to the T junction where you keep straight on. Beware it is a gravel parking area on a sweeping uphill curve. Please park responsibly as there is limited space.

NOTE There is an entry fee per vehicle to the R.N.P. 2 years ago it was \$11!

Bring a carry morning tea and lunch. We will walk along Lady Carrington Drive to the junction of the Walmurra track and follow this along a creek and through a rainforest area, before returning to the main track. We will then take the Forest Walk through eucalyptus forest back to the car park area. We should finish early afternoon.

Contact Betty on 42360307 or mobile 0432 892 945

March Committee Meeting - will be held at 7.30pm, at the home of Barbara & Brian Hales, 32 Shearwater Boulevarde, Albion Park Rail. Ph 4257 4431 All members are welcome

March 2010 Newsletter - Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC Newsletter is Friday 26th March 2010
Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502.
Ph:4275 2383 M. 0417 422 302.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS – 2010 fees are now due: Family \$35.00, Single \$30.00, Junior \$10.00
please pay Browyn Wilson Treasurer by cash, cheque or money order.

REMINDER

Autumn Camp Leeton Caravan Park

10th April to 17th April 2010.

The IBOC Autumn camp is to be held at Leeton Caravan Park, Yanco Avenue, Leeton, NSW, Ph (02) 6953 3323. Leeton is approximately 125km west of Wagga Wagga in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area

Travel is via the Hume Hwy, and the Sturt Hwy via Wagga Wagga and Narrandera. The Caravan Park is on the right hand side of the road on the southern outskirts of the Leeton a few km after you pass Yanco Township

The caravan park has 8 cabins (all identical) (ONLY 4 STILL AVAILABLE @ 4.02.10), 65 powered sites and 100 unpowered sites.

Charges	<u>Cabins</u>	\$70 per night for 2 people
	<u>Powered sites</u>	\$23 per night for 2 people
	<u>Unpowered sites</u>	\$20 per night for 2 people

NOTE: The manager of the caravan park advised me that these charges may rise slightly in the new year.

I have NOT reserved any accommodation this time.

Once you have booked please let Betty Hudson know either by email (*noting my new email address*) or phone 4236 0307 detailing the accommodation you have booked.

This is an outstanding birding area with the potential for new species for members.

BEWARE: Leeton is in the Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone. This means that NO Fruit, Vegetables or plant material may be taken more than a few km past Wagga. (Cooked items are OK) There are roadside quarantine bins between Wagga & Narrandera. You will need to shop on arrival in Leeton or if running late in Narrandera.

There is a large Woolworth's as well as an IGA store in Leeton which is a large regional centre. These are approx 1km from the caravan park.

Lake Illawarra Entrance 2nd February 2010 Midweek Outing Windang.*Sylvia Garlic*

Twenty four members arrived with picnic baskets and seats hoping the weather would remain fine. As we walked along the sandy track we saw hundreds of small crabs marching along the sand. Heading towards the entrance where the water was running very fast two people in canoes were having difficulty returning to shore, they made it to shore then one went back into the water to collect his paddle and was swept out to sea and with a big effort made it back to shore under the watchful eye of a water rescue team. On the sandbar Red-capped Plovers and Red-necked Stints stood together, some Black-winged Stilts nearby. Crested Tern and Masked Lapwings were present.

Quite a few Cormorants:- Great, Little Black, Little Pied some resting others flying. Along the track the bush provided cover for Australasian Figbird, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Yellow Robin, Silvereyes and Yellow Thornbills.

Back at the Picnic Area were some Crimson Rosellas, Crested Pigeons and a Willie Wagtail. Perched high in a pine tree was a Black-shouldered Kite.

Good to see lots of members supporting our first outing of the year. Dinner under the pine trees, cake was shared with our cups of tea. A very pleasant start to 2010. Thanks to Betty and our new committee.

A list of 29 Birds recorded.

Spotted Dove	Red-capped Plover	Little Wattlebird
Crested Pigeon	Masked Lapwing	New Holland Honeyeater
Little Pied Cormorant	Bar-tailed Godwit	Australasian Figbird
Great Cormorant	Red-necked Stint	Australian Magpie
Little Black Cormorant	Crested Tern	Willie Wagtail
Australian Pelican	Silver Gull	Australian Raven
White-faced Heron	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian White Ibis	Superb Fairy-wren	Silvereye
Black-shouldered Kite	Variegated Fairy-wren	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Black-winged Stilt	Yellow Thornbill	

P.S. As we were leaving down came the wonderful rain.

Shoalhaven Heads 13th February 2010*Neil Wheway*

Would we or wouldn't we? That was the question we asked ourselves as we headed down the highway on a damp and gloomy very early Saturday morning. Imagine our surprise to find other tough club members at the car park. Remember the old saying "when the going gets tough the tough keep going".

It was overcast but not raining as eleven started off around the edge of the lagoon at high tide. Water was high from the in-flow coming down the Shoalhaven River, caused by the heavy rain. We were able to skirt around a narrow bit of sand and follow the edge of the water. After about fifteen minutes a bloke was spotted hurrying to catch us up. Catching up he wasn't one of us but Jim from Birding NSW. He had mistaken us for his group, so we adopted him and carried on. Stopping to observe many birds across the water Jim set up his spotting scope, his knowledge and use of his scope were invaluable. Many thanks, Jim, your contribution was much appreciated.

About this time the ever threatening rain made an appearance but donning an assortment of wet weather gear we trudged on. Some time later it was decided enough was enough and head back to the cars for morning tea. Walking back along the beach with the high tide pounding away, another group was spotted struggling towards us. Jim's lost companions from Birding NSW, some of whom had been camping up at Bob Ashford's place in very wet conditions, sharing with them a host of hungry leeches. They were another tough mob; one of them was our very own Jill Molan after a chat and laugh we all continued on our way.

At the car park we said goodbye to Andy and Dorothy, Canadian visitors, who had been to the Monday meeting and decided to come along for the walk. Morning tea was taken at a nearby picnic shelter with new members Peter and Judy. While we assured them we were not fanatical twitchers going out in all conditions and weather, just crazy bird watchers having an enjoyable morning. Even though the weather was a little inclement it was an enjoyable morning with 35 different birds seen.

Black Swan	Masked Lapwing	Lewin's Honeyeater
Australian Wood Duck	Bar-tailed Godwit	Little Wattlebird
Spotted Dove	Eastern Curlew	White-fronted Chat
Crested Pigeon	Red-necked Stint	New Holland Honeyeater
Little Pied Cormorant	Caspian Tern	Eastern Whipbird
Great Cormorant	Silver Gull	Grey Butcherbird
Pied Cormorant	Galah	Australian Magpie
Australian Pelican	Rainbow Lorikeet	Willie Wagtail
Little Egret	Eastern Rosella	Magpie-Lark
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Sacred Kingfisher	Welcome Swallow
Pacific Golden Plover	Superb Fairy-wren	Common Myna
Red-capped Plover	Brown Thornbill	

n.b. whilst all care is taken in preparing this report mistakes may occur - ignore them.

A Trip to the Flinders Ranges August 2009

BY Betty Hudson

PART ONE OF TWO

Late in August 2009, seven IBOC members headed off on their long anticipated trip to Wyperfeld N.P. and the Flinders Ranges. We travelled west along the Murrumbidgee and Murray River Valleys before crossing the Murray into Victoria at Barham, rain and cold winds from a southerly change following us until we left Deniliquin. An Ostrich and a Brolga were seen along the roadside between Deniliquin & Barham, with our first sighting of Superb Parrots creating great excitement in the Showground at Deniliquin. Late rain had greened everywhere masking the effect of the drought, even though the rivers were mere trickles in deep river beds.

After a night at Kerang Caravan Park where the adjacent river produced our first sighting of a Black Kite and a Royal Spoonbill with other interesting birds, the Musk Lorikeet, Blue-faced Honeyeater, and Little Raven. Thanks to Anna & Andy, we spent a profitable but cold morning at McDonalds Swamp near Kerang, with numerous waterbirds and others, including a Whistling Kite, Swamp & Spotted Harriers, Australian Hobby, Australian Shelduck, Black-winged Stilt (reported as the first seen at the swamp by the local farmer come bird watcher), large numbers of Black-tailed Native Hens, Black-fronted & Red-kneed Dotterels, Little & Long Billed Corellas, White-fronted Chat, White-winged Triller, Tree & Fairy Martin's & Zebra Finch. This was followed by a brief visit to the renowned Ibis Rookery Lagoon where we were rewarded by more sheltered conditions but few birds. Reluctantly we left here for our journey further west to Rainbow, stopping for lunch in Leaghur State Forest, for our first sightings of Grey-crowned Babblers & a Red-capped Robin. The landscape was now flat with slight undulations of old sand dunes criss-crossed by a grid of roads which disappeared far into the distance each time you reached the crest of a rise. We learnt a salutary lesson here; rural Victoria closes down at 11am on a Saturday. No petrol! The RACV came to the rescue directing us to a servo which had 24hr fuel via a credit card with a pin number. Alan was greatly relieved, towing takes much more fuel than you realise. As we neared Rainbow the fields took on a golden appearance with the canola crops in flower and catching the evening sun. What a welcome sight after a very long day, Rainbow Caravan Park.

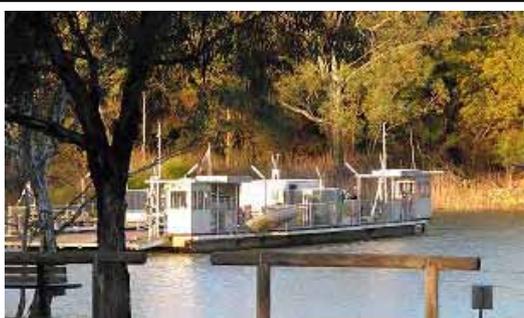
Now we were able to have a break from the long days of driving as we visited Wyperfeld N.P. especially to try to see the Mallee Fowl. No luck, but we were rewarded with the Splendid Fairy-wren, cobalt blue and almost luminescent in the sun-no photos unfortunately- and several emus playing chicken on the entry road. Lunch was enlivened by a Shingleback Lizard hoping for hand outs. This park is



Shingleback Lizard Wyperfeld National Park
Photo Betty Hudson

Mallee desert country and following the walking tracks showed us how easy it would be to get lost. It also gave us our first sightings of several new birds, Australian Ringneck, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, White-browed Babbler, Chestnut Quail-thrush, the Black-winged form of the Grey Currawong, and a Hooded Robin. Due to the unseasonal rains the wild flowers were spectacular with many different types evident.

Leaving here we returned to the Murray Valley travelling through those places with odd names, Walepeup, and Patchewalup, where Andy & Anna diverted to Loxton to visit another nature reserve in the hopes of seeing Mallee Fowl, and rejoining us the next morning in Berri they added the Southern Boobook to the list. The rest of the party visited Hattah Lake, one of a number of lagoons along the Murray Valley which had received environmental water earlier in the year. Large numbers of water birds had returned as well as many arboreal species, the most noteworthy the Regent Parrot a beautiful large gold parrot with a long dark tail & wings, spectacular in flight and the Yellow phase of the Crimson Rosella. Now we knew we were getting on westwards. Leaving here for Mildura and the long run to



Car Ferry Morgan S.A.

Photo Betty Hudson

Renmark, we were herded off the highway by police for two enormous trucks moving at 80km/h and taking up all four lanes of the road. Once again the weather turned against us, being cold, wet and windy for several days. Neglected grapevines were a constant reminder of the cost of the prolonged drought in the area. The wind & rain, that followed a dust storm, were so bad at Renmark that Alan & Ann were unable to put their camper van up. Next morning was fine, sunny & cold, much to the delight of the several families of Wood Ducks moving around.

Crossing state borders had its own problems, as no fruit or vegetables could be taken from one to another. S.A. was particularly strict with searches of all caravan fridges and cupboards. Shopping was a nightly chore. Leaving Berri in S.A. we finally saw the start of

the semi arid country – salt bush beside the road, although grapevines and crops were in adjacent paddocks. At this point the Murray River is too wide to allow economic bridging, so 24hr free car ferries operate at road crossings. After shopping we headed west along the Murray to Moorook Lagoon near Barmera, very large numbers of Swans, Moorhens & Coots but no ducks. Our first sighting of an Adelaide Rosella, the orange form of the Crimson Rosella, as well as our first look at a Mulga Parrot and tantalising glimpses of the Regent Parrot. A Caspian Tern and Silver Gull were seen on the river by the lagoon.

The Murray River looked full of water, most likely the effect of the locks, as it flowed between high cliffs below a flat saltbush plain with patches of cultivation for fruit and crops. After a hasty lunch at Morgan, watching the car ferry and trying to prevent everything blowing away in the wind, we finally turned due north, towards Burra, an old mining town, now the centre of a prosperous agricultural area, we crossed saltbush plains, with hovering Black-shouldered Kites, until shortly before Burra where a line of hills appeared, vividly green in the distance, our first for several days. The steep hills were in sharp contrast to the flat plains we had been crossing for so long. On again to Melrose, still several hours away over steep ridges between fields of well grown wheat and golden canola. The wind on this stretch caused problems with the vans and slowed us down. Approaching Melrose, Mt Remarkable at 900m, the highest of the southern Flinders Ranges, appeared slowly over the horizon to the west, in contrast to the flat plain on the east. A collective sigh of relief was heard when we finally turned into the caravan park nestling at the base of the mountain. Melrose is an old town with many beautiful restored stone buildings, and a remarkable sculpture in the town centre celebrating both the Heysen and the Mawson Trails which cross here.

Next morning was warm and still, ideal for the walk along the Mt Remarkable Nature Trail. The whole area was unusually green, as there had been considerable unseasonal rain with the creek running well. Wild flowers were putting on a spectacular display with many species of ground orchids seen, as well as a variety of very yellow wattles.

We had our first sighting of a Common Bronzewing. Birds were plentiful along the creek lines with many checking out nest holes preparatory to breeding. Weebills, Yellow and Inland Thornbills, and many honeyeaters including the Spiny-cheeked & Brown-headed were seen. Having crossed the creek on a swing bridge at the start we



Purple Sun Orchid Mt Remarkable

Photo Betty Hudson



IBOC at Waikerie Creek

Photo Gloria Stephens

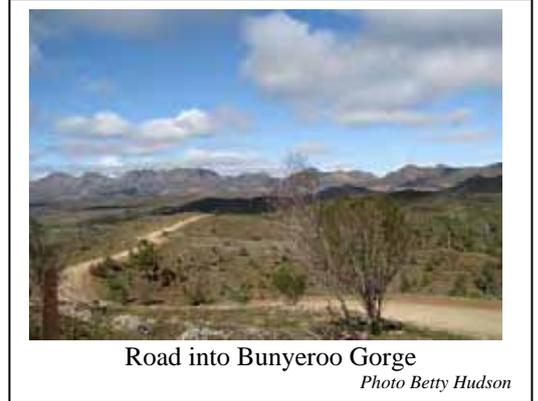
were faced with stepping stones to return, one wobbly stone which rolled underfoot, I fell flat on my back in the creek, camera held safely but the binoculars a little muddy and as I later discovered, broken. Only my dignity was dented but I was unable to get up without assistance from the men. Stranded whale was not in it! To Andy & Anna, A big "Thank You", for the loan of your spare binoculars. We headed back to camp for lunch, then on to Alligator Gorge for the afternoon. What a spectacular drive along a winding road with precipitous drops on each side, and a glimpse of Spencer's Gulf to the west. It was well worth the entry fee. A lookout gave spectacular views of the gorge from the top while walking tracks led down the gorge. Along this track down to the creek we had good sightings of the Red-capped Robin and several Rufous Whistlers while I photographed at least 6 species of ground orchids including a Donkey Orchid and a green hooded Orchid amid a profusion of wattle species with beautiful

golden balls of flowers. It was a reluctant party that returned, rather late, to camp for a frosty night.

Next day was a short drive to Quorn and leaving the vans at the caravan park we headed to the Flora Reserve after morning tea. It was another warm day and we saw few birds probably due to the lack of water nearby but the flowers were spectacular. A Bearded Dragon by the cars gave the photographers something to do. We headed on to Waikerie Creek on the northern flank of Mt Remarkable for lunch, crossing pasture land towards the hills when suddenly turning a corner there was the start of the gorge. The waterfall was dry but there was evidence of water in the creek. The track led along the dry creek bed as with so many in the area, the scenery magnificent with huge River Red Gums just like in Hans Heysen paintings, but birds were scarce with Red-capped Robins most in evidence. On the return drive along the road we stopped at a windmill where 10 Peaceful doves were resting and a nearby tree had many Crested Pigeons and House Sparrows along the roadside. No Raptors were seen all day although a Mistletoebird, Scarlet Robin, Brown Songlark and Australian Pipit were seen.

Next morning we awoke to leaden grey skies and left for Warren Gorge in intermittent light rain. This gorge is a spectacular gash in the ridge with vertical rock strata. Just before the start of the gorge we had another great sighting, the Elegant Parrot, a new one for most of us. The creek in the gorge had some water and the area was very green, but due to the rain the walking tracks were impassable, so we confined our walk to the road, dodging the puddles as vehicles passed. Variegated Fairy-wrens were seen and plenty of calls heard but proved extremely hard to locate. With the rain getting harder we continued on our way along the Buckaringa Scenic Drive crossing a major creek at a dry causeway where we stopped for lunch. This proved a good spot with many birds including Tree Martins, White-browed Babblers, Sacred Kingfisher, Southern Whiteface & Apostlebirds. As the rain was setting in we moved on hoping to get back to the bitumen before it got too heavy, bypassing a lookout on the ridge as everything was shrouded in rain. We crossed a flooded creek in heavy rain & thunder and crossing a rocky ridge the soil changed to red clay and we quickly found a very slippery patch just short of the bitumen. Andy had a few hairy moments as his vehicle slid all over the place, before getting back on a firm surface. As we returned to Quorn along the bitumen it was obvious that there had been extremely heavy rain with the ground covered by water. Entering the IGA store we found that both the staff and patrons were ecstatic. Later a Banded Lapwing was seen in a flooded dip by the caravan park.

Next morning we had a late start due to wet camper vans and myself getting a puncture, which had to be mended. Being a Saturday no one opened early!. Dave & Andy changed the wheel and the local garage mended the puncture before I could repack the car to leave. While waiting Andy thought he saw a Red-backed Kingfisher in camp but was disappointed to be unable to confirm this. Finally leaving we travelled to Kanyaka Historic Site where there is a large creek and permanent waterhole filled with water after the rains. A very interesting place with the remains of stone buildings, it was originally the base of huge but successful pastoral holding but the whole area was then subjected to a closer settlement scheme for crops devised during a spell of unusually wet seasons and doomed when seasons returned to normal aridity, the arrival of the original Ghan Railway hastening this. Many birds were seen on a walk around the area with Mulga Parrot, Australian Ringneck, Southern Whiteface, and a first sighting of the Yellow-throated Miner. We continued on to Hawker with the plains on one side contrasting with the increasing hills on the other. We arrived in Hawker for lunch, after which Anna & Andy left for Wilpena Pound where they stayed, while the rest of us visited Yourambulla Caves a steep climb up a track and then ladders, but well worth it for the views over the plains towards the east. Along the track several different types of salt and blue bush were in flower. Masked, Black-faced and White-browed Woodswallows were all seen, the first for the trip. Leaving here we decided to visit a lookout on Jarvis Hill to the west of Hawker. It was a very steep gravel road to the car park and then a steep climb to the lookout. With rain threatening and memories of wet gravel roads we beat a hasty retreat.



Road into Bunyeroo Gorge

Photo Betty Hudson

PART TWO CONTINUED IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER –

The complete bird list will be available at <http://www.iboc.org.au/>

'Although no members of IBOC actually made it to the camp, the trip report from Birding NSW is below:'

TRIP REPORT: CAPTAINS FLAT CAMPOUT

23 – 26 January, 2010-02-09

Written by Allan Richards, Birding NSW

Most members arrived by Friday night so were ready for walk from the camp for birdwatching on Saturday morning. We were joined by four who were staying in Captains Flat. It was very hot so birdwatching was slow. Crimson Rosella, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater were seen near the house but as we walked further up the hill, we added Scarlet Robins, lots of Buff-rumped Thornbill, Brown Thornbill and White-naped and White-eared Honeyeaters. Gang Gangs were heard but remained elusive. A Crested Shrike-tit feed high in the tree-tops. On a visit to dams on nearby property in the afternoon, we failed to find the Baillon's Crake and Eurasian Coots which had been seen there but we did see families of Australasian Grebes with their stripy young. Stubble Quail could be

heard in the paddocks surrounding the dams. Few other birds were added to the list on other walks around "Paringa". Those remaining on Monday morning visited Lowden Forest Park. This beautiful spot added Rufous fantail, Red-browed Treecreeper and an immature Black-faced Monarch. A pair of Leaden Flycatcher was feeding two young. A total of 67 species were recorded. After very hot weather on Friday and Saturday, the twelve members who stayed at "Paringa" welcomed the cool change that arrived late on Saturday afternoon. Special thanks to Steve and Helen Stephinson for their generous hospitality and allowing us to camp on their special corner of the earth once again.

CORRECTION

An error occurred when transcribing the 2008 CHRISTIDIS & BOLES list from the book to an electronic form for members to use. The Australian Darter should be correctly called the "AUSTRALASIAN DARTER". Thanks to Dave Thomson for bringing this to our attention.

Also **Christitis** should be **Christidis**

Thanks to Mike Morphett for bringing this to our attention. Please amend your lists accordingly..

A big thank you to Martin and Terrill in gaining approval of government funding for IBOC to purchase its own scope. Which is now being purchased and will be in operation shortly.

ASG Survey Success

The NSW DECCW, in conjunction with ASG, are conducting seabird surveys on islands on the NSW coast as part of a program to update the information we have available on our seabird populations. In December 2009 two separate island surveys by members of ASG proved highly successful. Six offshore islands of Lord Howe were surveyed by three ASG members, supported by the Lord Howe Island Board. For some of these islands it was the first time that any surveys had been attempted. Complete estimates of Masked Boobies, Sooty Terns and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were made during the trip as well as valuable information on the vegetation, weeds and the presence of introduced rodents. The highlight was fantastic views of White-bellied Storm-Petrels carrying out nest prospecting.

Broughton Island, off Port Stephens NSW, was also surveyed by six ASG members. With support from the local NPWS office, a difficult survey was completed of the shearwaters of this 122 ha island. Night time spotlight surveys were done to determine if White-faced Storm-Petrels had begun prospecting the main island following the eradication of rats earlier in 2009. While none of these delightful birds were spotted it is hoped in future surveys that they will be found where they formerly nested in their thousands. A fantastic discovery by the group was the presence of Gould's Petrel breeding on the island. This is only the third nesting island in the world for this species. Surveys of the outer islands of the Broughton Group are planned for 2010.

WHAT, YOU THINK I'M A WATTLEBIRD?!

There has been a recent taxonomic revision of the Regent Honeyeater (Christidis and Boles 2008). And it is now considered to be closely related to Wattlebirds. As a result of this change the scientific name is now *Anthochaera phrygia*, not *Xanthomyza phrygia*. Based on current evidence the closest relatives are the Yellow Wattlebird of Tasmania and the Red Wattlebird. So when you see the next Red Wattlebird attacking a Regent Honeyeater perhaps you could remind it that they are basically cousins. Though perhaps that explains the aggression we see.



Recovery Plan Making Progress.

At the time of writing the draft of the next version of the recovery plan is nearing completion.

Calls for Sightings to be Reported

Volunteers and Bird Observers are reminded that they are able to report sightings to the recovery Coordinator free of charge thanks to the projects freecall phone number. If anyone finds a Regent Honeyeater please contact us as soon as possible on 1800 621 056 or E-mail d.ingwerson@birdsaustralia.com.au

MEMBERS REMINDER.

Could members please ensure all your current details are correct, we have had members change address, phone number and email address without forwarding it to IBOC which does make it difficult for IBOC to contact them if need be.

Please contact. membership@iboc.org.au

Postal address:

The Illawarra Bird Observers Club Inc.
PO Box 56 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519

AUSTRALIAN BIRDFAIR

DATE CHANGE.'

THIRD WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER ANNUALLY

As you may be aware, the Australian Birdfair is held annually in Leeton, south east NSW in the Riverina region. The dates for the upcoming Australian Birdfair are 11th September - 19th September 2010.

The event is a nature based event based around Birdwatching but takes in all other aspects that couple with Birdwatching, including optics, cameras, art, photograph, seminars, lecturers, ecotourism and of course, Birdwatching tours.

The theme for the 2010 Birdfair is "**Birds of Prey and their environment**" with the Australian Birdfair Committee working co-operatively with the Australian Raptor Association to secure key presenters and exhibitors to present on relevant topics.

For more information on the Australian Birdfair please visit www.australianbirdfair.org.au or contact the coordinator at email coordinatori@australianbirdfair.org.au.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

Regards
Tracey Valenzisi

Australian Birdfair Coordinator
Phone: (02) 69S3 2215, mob 0407 262 496
Email: coordinator@australianbirdfair.org.au

Over the previous four months my local bird study had taken a back seat: only a very few forays into the old Excelsior #2 mine site and delays in recording birds within my immediate neighbourhood adjoining it in Thirroul. Why the sagging motivation? My study area had seemed insignificant after my first visit to Kakadu National Park with its spectacular wildlife and scenery. But prior to this experience, my walks through the Excelsior had increasingly aroused feelings of sadness and anger; I was losing that sense of connection and tranquillity, and this bushland area was not the 'sanity belt' I had long enjoyed. Others, falling into two groups, had also discovered its value for self-expression, but with devastating impact to this environment: thrill-seeking youths astride mountain bikes and spray-paint vandals. Trees were felled to make way for tracks and for the construction of ramps or were graffiti-tagged with various paint colours; their roots were undermined by revolving wheels eroding the terrain and by the removal of soil for ramp-making. Litter in the form of drink containers, food wrappers, pressure packs, and plastic bags continued to be scattered among the receding vegetation. Only one of my nine study sectors has remained unscathed: the central,

only because of its steep and generally inaccessible terrain. It seemed the landowner was turning a blind eye to this relentless process of degradation and, if he knew, was quite possibly approving, as it would support any further application by him for extensive housing development on this unstable, undulating land. Over the past four years or so I have noted a decrease or absence of certain animal species. I don't come across logrunners or snakes or hear the powerful owl. Satin bowerbirds now appear only in ones and twos, and much less evident are the golden whistler and grey shrike-thrush. A coincidence or cause and effect? I began to question the point of my visits: why expend so much time and energy in such a project and in the face of relentless forces, especially in my senior years? I identified with threatened indigenous peoples and animals by the destruction of their nurturing habitats in different parts of the world. Lately I have wondered if the currently screened sci-fi movie *Avatar* and the plight of the Na'vi inhabitants of Pandora will help viewers see the need to respect the natural environment and not just take delight in the successful action-packed means of retaliation, as an extension of play-station games.



Up close and personal with an eastern water dragon, one of the few animal species that is holding its ground in the study area, perhaps because of the relative safety of Flanagan's Creek system and pools. Similarly secure is the very mobile and adaptable sulphur-crested cockatoo.

Well, February 1st 2010 recently arrived, marking exactly thirty years of my ongoing surveys of the Excelsior and local backyards under the project title of SWECTRA (Study of the wildlife of the Excelsior Coalmine Thirroul and adjoining residential area). No celebration, no fanfare. Blow it! (Or something stronger) I thought to myself. I must act. That day I took a long walk and, sure enough, there was plenty of evidence of the youths' further activities and misuse of an environment that has striven to regenerate since coal-mining operations were shut down for good some sixty-odd years ago; two large bagfuls of litter for a start. Not much sign of non-human presence either. Ah, well. But then almost at the end of my journey late afternoon, I was heartened by some activity down in the south-east corner, where pit ponies once grazed and back then

this mini-wetland area had been known as Frogs' Hollow. For several minutes I stood still and watched and listened to various small bush birds while they foraged. Not before had I seen parties of both superb fairy-wrens and variegated wrens in such close proximity or a large-billed scrubwren in company with both white-browed and yellow-throated at the same time. Other members of the guild were a rufous fantail, a family of black-faced monarchs, and a small flock of silvereyes and yellow Thornbills; and, in characteristic pose, high on an overhanging dead branch was a dollarbird. I felt energised by this encounter and came to the realisation that these very familiar birds are still just as significant as the twitchable, tickable species of far-off places, perhaps more so, to me anyway. I vowed to step up my surveys again

LATE DECEMBER 2009

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
White-throated Needletail	40	27-Dec-09	Primbee	Urban	Ron Imisides
White-throated Needletail	20	28-Dec-09	Primbee	Urban	Ron Imisides
Black-winged Petrel	1 beach washed	27-Dec-09	Narrawallee beach	Coastal	Richard Allen
Spectacled Monarch	Present	Dec. 2009	Yatta Yatta NP	Bush	Bob Rusk

JANUARY 2010

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Stubble Quail	call	31-Jan-10	Woodlands area, nr Mittagong	Rural	Graham Barwell
Australian Shelduck	17	30-Jan-10	Berrima Sale Yards, Berrima	Farm Dam	Lorne Johnson
Australian Shelduck	5	31-Jan-10	Woodlands area, nr Mittagong	Rural	Graham Barwell
Blue-billed Duck	1 M.	20-Jan-10	Woodland Road, Mittagong	Farm Dam	Terry Dunlea
Blue-billed Duck	1 male	31-Jan-10	Woodlands area, nr Mittagong	Rural	Graham Barwell
Wonga Pigeon	1	30-Jan-10	Mt. Keira	Yard/Bush	Val Dolan
Tawny Frogmouth	1	28-Jan-10	Tarrawanna	Garden	Peg McKinlay
Eastern Reef Egret	1	27-Jan-10	Windang	Estuarine	Graham Barwell
Grey Goshawk	1	01-Jan-00	Tom Thumb park	O'head, regrowth	David Winterbottom
Australian Hobby	1	10-Jan-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Australian Hobby	1	31-Jan-10	North Macquarie Road	Rural	Graham Barwell
Peregrine Falcon	1	24-Jan-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Pacific Golden Plover	155	10-Jan-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Pacific Golden Plover	200	24-Jan-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Eastern Curlew	1	10-Jan-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Eastern Curlew	4	24-Jan-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Ruddy Turnstone	9	26-Jan-10	Woonona	Rock Pool	Martin and Penny Potter
Great Knot	1	24-Jan-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	23-Jan-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
Pacific Gull	1 Imm	02-Jan-10	Port Kembla	Coastal	Lindsay Smith
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2m 4f	02-Jan-10	Calderwood	Rural	Pauline Duren
Turquoise Parrot	1	16-Jan-10	Wollongong	Golf course	David Winterbottom
Ground Parrot	1	26-Jan-10	Barren Grounds	Heath/Bush	Jim O'shea
Black-eared Cuckoo	1	20-Jan-10	Primbee	Small Wetland	Terrill Nordstrom
Dollarbird	1	28-Jan-10	Marshall Mount	Eucalyptus Woodland	Anna Knowlson
Eastern Bristlebird	1	26-Jan-10	Barren Grounds	Heath/Bush	Jim O'shea
Pilotbird	1	26-Jan-10	Barren Grounds	Heath/Bush	Jim O'Shea
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	26-Jan-10	Barren Grounds	Heath/Bush	Jim O'Shea
Spangled Drongo	1	14-Jan-10	Bulli	Bush	Graham Barwell
Eurasian Skylark	call	31-Jan-10	Woodlands area, nr Mittagong	Rural	Graham Barwell
Beautiful Firetail	2	26-Jan-10	Barren Grounds	Heath/Bush	Jim O'shea

FEBRUARY 2010

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Australian Brush-turkey	1 chick	Feb. 10	Mt Keira Ring Track	Rainforest	Wal Emery
Stubble Quail	2+	07-Feb-10	Swamp Road, Dunmore	Fields	Graham Barwell
Plumed Whistling-Duck	20	01-Feb-10	Near Berry	Farm Dam	Mark Whittaker
Musk Duck	1	01-Feb-10	Berrima Sale Yards, Berrima	Farm Dam	Terry Dunlea
Australian Shelduck	19	01-Feb-10	Berrima Sale Yards, Berrima	Farm Dam	Terry Dunlea
White-throated Needletail	5	08-Feb-10	Sutton Forest	Roadside	John Rawsthorne

Intermediate Egret	1	13-Feb-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	BNSW
Striated Heron	1	20-Feb-10	Mullet Creek, Brownville	Riparian	Lorraine Pincus
Striated Heron	2	20-Feb-10	Mullet Creek Kanahooka	Riparian	Lorraine Pincus
Royal Spoonbill	3	07-Feb-10	Marshall Mount	Farm Dam	Anna Knowlson
Eastern Osprey	1	07-Feb-10	ShoalhavenHeads	Estuary	Penny & Martin Potter
Eastern Osprey	1	20-Feb-10	Mullet Creek Kanahooka	Riparian	Lorraine Pincus
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	03-Feb-10	Bulli	Overhead Rainforest	Roger Truscott
Brown Goshawk	1	21-Feb-10	Primbee, Heritage Park	Bush	Charles Dove
Grey Goshawk	1	10-Feb-10	Scout Camp, Mt. Keira	Bush	Charles Dove
Brown Falcon	1	16-Feb-10	Bellambi Dunes	Bush	Alan Cousins
Australian Hobby	1	10-Feb-10	Heritage Park, Primbee	Bush	Charles Dove
Australian Hobby	1	14-Feb-10	Bulli Surf Club	Coastal	Martin and Penny Potter
Australian Hobby	4	21-Feb-10	Primbee, Heritage Park	Overhead	Charles Dove
Peregrine Falcon	2	10-Feb-10	Purry Burry Pont, Primbee	Bush	Charles Dove
Lewin's Rail	2A 4Y	18-Feb-10	Jerrara Dam	Swamp	Chris Brandis
Australian Pied Oystercatche	3	07-Feb-10	Lake Illawarra Entrance	Sand Flats @ low tide	Darryl Goldrick
Great Knot	1	13-Feb-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	BNSW
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	23-Jan-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
Sooty Tern	1	03-Feb-10	Woonona Bulli	Landed near railway line on sandy gravel	Kim Maute
Musk Lorikeet	1-"rescued"	16-Feb-10	University of Wollongong	Park	Alison Foley
Turquoise Parrot	1	16-Jan-10	Wollongong	Golf course	David Winterbottom
Brush Cuckoo	call	05-Feb-10	Bulli	Forest	Graham Barwell
Azure Kingfisher	1	20-Feb-10	Mullet Creek Kanahooka	Riparian	Lorraine Pincus
Yellow-throated scrubwren	3	10-Feb-10	Scout Camp, Mt. Keira	Bush	Charles Dove
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	1 & 15/2/10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	26-Jan-10	Barren Grounds	Heath/Bush	Jim O'shea
White-fronted chat	5	13-Feb-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	BNSW
Australian Logrunner	1	10-Feb-10	Scout Camp, Mt. Keira	Bush	Charles Dove
Australian Logrunner	1	08-Feb-10	Cloverhill Rd, Macquarie Pass	Forest	Chris Brandis
Australasian Figbird	2 f	11-Feb-10	Windang	Suburban	Graham Barwell
Spangled Drongo	1	14-Jan-10	Bulli	Bush	Graham Barwell
Spangled Drongo	1	16-Feb-10	Mt. Ousley	Garden	Judy Baker
Spangled Drongo	1	17-Feb-10	Heritage Park, Primbee	Park	Charles Dove
Beautiful Firetail	2	11-Feb-10	Barren Grounds	Heath	Graham Barwell

Some interesting stuff around this month! The Blue-billed duck is classified as a Rare Nomadic visitor to the Illawarra, the sighting of the Sooty Tern, a rare summer visitor, and the dead beach washed Black-winged Petrel, rare summer visitor, follow on from several sightings of both of these species in our region following a severe storm in the Lord Howe Island region. The Turquoise Parrot is classified as a rare nomad and it has been suggested that this may be an aviary escapee, however, we will never know! The Black-eared Cuckoo is classified as Accidental and was a real treat for Terrill Nordstrom enjoying a well earned day out! Spangled Drongo have been reported at several locations in the Sydney region so it could be a good year for these winter migrants.

As we slide from summer to autumn and migration starts again it is a good time of year to expect the unexpected also the recent heavy rain across much of the State could trigger bird movements so please keep me informed of your sightings.

Many thanks for all your records! Please send in your sightings to cocker@speedlink.com.au and don't forget that these lists are on our website www.iboc.org.au. Good Birding!



THE IBOCC

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 335

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010



photo Charles Dove

Bassian Thrush

Scientific name: *Zoothera lunulata*
Family: Muscicapidae
Order: Passeriformes

Description

The Bassian Thrush is a secretive bird. Its plumage is mottled brown to olive-brown, heavily scalloped with black crescent-shaped bars on the back, rump and head. The paler underparts all have brown-black scalloping. It has a white eye-ring. In flight the Bassian Thrush shows a broad dark diagonal bar across the white underside of its wing. This species has also been referred to as White's Thrush, Ground Thrush, and Scaly Thrush.

Similar species

The Bassian Thrush is very similar to the Russet-tailed Thrush, *Z. heinei*. The latter has slightly brighter rufous upper parts. The tail of the Bassian Thrush is slightly longer.

Distribution

The Bassian Thrush is found predominantly around the south-east of Australia, and also in the Atherton Tablelands, Queensland.

Habitat

Damp, densely forested areas and gullies are favoured by the Bassian Thrush, usually with a thick canopy overhead and leaf-litter below.

Seasonal movements

Resident, probably sedentary.

Feeding

The Bassian Thrush feeds on the ground, scratching under the leaf-litter for small invertebrates.

Breeding

The Bassian Thrush builds a large, deep, cup-shaped nest in a major tree fork or in a depression on top of a stump. The nest may be quite low or up to about 15 m above the ground. Both parents care for the young.

Living with humans

The Bassian Thrush is adversely affected by clearing of densely vegetated habitats.

(Bassian Thrush information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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**'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'**

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Founded in 1977

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

Club Contacts:

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APRIL ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting – NO MEETING THIS MONTH DUE TO SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Midweek Walk - Wednesday 7TH April 2010 –

Puckeys Estate

N.B This walk is a week earlier than normal as some club members will be away at the Easter Camp on the second Wednesday.

LEADER - ALAN COUSINS

Please meet at the Fairy Meadow Surf Club car park, Elliots Road, Fairy Meadow.

This part of Elliots Road is left at the traffic lights at Carters Lane/Squires Way if coming south or right off Squires Way if coming north. Meet at this car park at 8.30am. Bring morning tea and hope to see some small birds!!

Contact Alan Cousins 42833197 or 0413869534

Monthly Outing – NO OUTING THIS MONTH DUE TO CAMP

March Committee Meeting - NO MEETING THIS MONTH

May 2010 Newsletter - Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC Newsletter is Friday 23rd April 2010
Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502.
Ph:4275 2383 M. 0417 422 302.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS – 2010 fees are now due: Family \$35.00, Single \$30.00, Junior \$10.00
please pay Browyn Wilson Treasurer by cash, cheque or money order.

Sandy Hollow Camp 23rd to 30th October 2010

The October 2010 Camp will be at Sandy Hollow Tourist Park, Golden Hwy, Sandy Hollow. Phone 65474575 or www.sandyhollow.com.au or email info@sandyhollow.com.au. An online booking form is on the website. I strongly recommend that you book cabins etc as soon as possible.

Sandy Hollow is at the N.W. corner of the Upper Hunter Valley, near both the NW fringe of Wollemi and Goulburn Rivers National Parks, and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve. Travel is via Putty Rd or Newcastle Freeway and New England Hwy to Singleton, and then along the Golden Hwy via Denman to Sandy Hollow which is 2hrs west of Newcastle. Further details and a map later.

The Sandy Hollow Tourist Park which is sited on 20acres backing onto the hills of the parks, is the only suitable accommodation in the area. I strongly suggest that 2 couples share a cottage to reduce the cost. Where a **SHARE** price is indicated that cottage is suitable for sharing.

Accommodation is as follows:

All cabins and motel style units must be booked for the full week at this stage, but this may change at any time. All accommodation is ensuite, has full cooking facilities and all linen, towels and bedding are supplied. *All prices are for 1 or 2 people per night, additional people are \$15 per night*

2 x Park Cabins one bedroom with bunks,	Double bed in main room	\$86.00
3x Motel Units with Queen beds	Sleep 2 only	\$95.00
3x Motel Units with King beds	Sleep 2 only	\$100.00
Dangar Cottage 1 room studio cottage	Sleeps 2 only	\$100 00
Wollemi & Goulburn Cottages Sleep 6	\$100.00	Shared \$65 per couple
	1 bed room, double bed & 1 bedroom, bunks + 2 on a sofa bed in main room	
Giants Leap Cottage Sleep 6	\$106.00	Shared \$68 per couple
	1 bed room, double bed & 1 bedroom, bunks + 2 on a sofa bed in main room	
Hunter Cottage Sleep 6	\$116.00	Shared \$73 per couple
	1 bed room, queen bed & 1 bedroom 2x single beds, + 2 on a sofa bed in main room	
Valley View Cottage Sleep 7	\$130.00	Shared \$80 per couple
	1 bed room, queen bed & 1 bedroom 1x single bed + bunks, + 2 on a sofa bed in main room	

Powered Sites \$28.00 for 2 persons additional people \$6.00

Unpowered sites \$19.00 for 2 persons or \$17.00 for 1 person

A deposit of 50% is required when booking Cabins Cottages etc. Payment by Visa & Mastercard only for phone bookings. Online booking is available. Cheques accepted but must clear before date of arrival, also direct deposit to their bank account.

Any queries please phone or email Betty Hudson on 42360307 or elizabethhudson@bigpond.com Please let me know when you have booked with the park.

Two speakers treated the IBOC meeting held on 8 March 2010 with their presentations. The entrée was given by Joshua Coyte, who gave a wonderful display of the birds seen by members during the camp to Baradine (northwest NSW, near Coonabarabran), held in October 2009. Josh is an excellent bird photographer, and it seems he took photos of virtually all the birds seen during the camp. Interestingly the first

several photos were of wet and bedraggled birds, given the wet weather at the beginning of the camp, including for the first time in my memory, a photo of a House Sparrow. However, the camp soon became sunny, and Josh was able to take the more usual photos of birds under sunny skies, including many of the Square-tailed Kite. Thanks Josh, keep the photos coming!

The guest speaker for the evening was Holly Parsons, now a staff member of Birds Australia and responsible for managing the Birds in Backyards project. While she is the only staff member there is also a steering committee, so Holly is not all alone with this work. Holly last spoke to IBOC several years ago while she was doing her PhD (thankfully completed), when she particularly spoke about her research on Superb Fairy-wrens including their place in the urban environment.

Birds in Backyards is a major Birds Australia project that has continued to grow since it first began in 1998. The theme of the project is 'Sharing spaces: connecting birds and people'. In Australia over 85% of people live in urban areas, the vast majority along the coastline. The idea behind Birds in Backyards is to spread the message of biodiversity to people within the urban landscape, as birds are a highly visible way to observe nature just outside the home. The program is trying to change the attitudes and actions of ordinary people, and is able to provide research to the community about how birds are faring in our cities and towns. In this way the community has a way of connecting with the environment.

Since 1998 Birds in Backyards has been encouraging people to observe the birds in their backyards and report them, similar to the idea behind bird atlassing, but not so scientifically rigorous, as usually the reports are from people who are not necessarily birdwatchers, but mostly from people who are inexperienced about birds. Having had reports over such a long time it is now becoming clear that there are currently large declines in bird numbers, both in Australia and overseas, and that these declines are occurring even in those species that we think of as being common. For many species the urban environment is proving to be a refuge from natural phenomena such as droughts and man-made changes to the rural landscape, such as continuing losses of native vegetation. However, birds can also face significant dangers in the urban environment, such as predation by cats and dogs, predation or harassment by larger bird species, feeding of the wrong foods to birds, pesticides, etc. If we wish to help the birds in the urban environment, Holly mentioned that we should think about their needs, such as shelter, food, water, and somewhere to nest. She encourages gardens that have multiple plants, including an understorey for small birds. The complete removal of vegetation is not recommended. Public parks and gardens that have a lot of vegetation also have a lot of value in creating corridors in the urban landscape.

Given the length of the project it is possible to draw some conclusions about our Birds in Backyards. Overall the larger bird species are faring much better in the urban environment, to the detriment of many smaller species. Birds seen most often, at least in the Sydney and surrounding areas, include the Galah, Pied Currawong, Red and Little Wattlebirds, Rainbow Lorikeet, Australian Magpie, Common Myna, and Spotted Turtledove. As well as being larger these are also the more aggressive species. Bird species not seen as frequently in our backyards include the New Holland Honeyeater, the Fairy-wrens, Eastern Spinebills, Finches, and the like.

Probably the core of the Birds in Backyards project is its website, www.birdsinbackyards.net. This is targeted mainly for adult education and communication, and includes a bird finder that gives details about species commonly found in backyards, how to make your garden bird-friendly, and other similar features. But the program is now expanding into school education and is forging links with other groups to have sub-projects, such as school surveys. Between 2004 and 2009 there was a partnership with the Australian Museum that has now ended, but the Birds in Backyards project is still heavily involved with councils, universities, urban and regional communities, and other research. There is also a growing body of resource material to provide to interested people, including flyers, guidelines, fact sheets on birds and bird groups, and bookmarks. The program has even translated brochures into seven community languages in order to reach elements of Australia's multicultural population that is often not targeted in environmental education.

The website reaches a large audience, and allows people to become less scared of science. It is building up a nationwide dataset. The program as a whole is alerting the general population to birds as environmental and ecological indicators, and getting us to think about biodiversity and sustainability as we watch the birds struggle to live with us and with each other.

Holly has been working on this program for many years now, including when she was a student, and she speaks enthusiastically and passionately about Birds in Backyards. It is my hope that this program is able to continue and grow further, and that it will encourage people to provide the best habitat in their gardens and surroundings to obtain the widest number of bird species possible. Thank you Holly for the great work that you do, and for coming to share it with us.

TRIP REPORT FOR MID-WEEK WALK TO CROOME ROAD 10-3-10*by Michelle Rower*

Twenty-six members gathered on a very overcast morning at Croome Road sporting complex. The resident pair of Australian Kestrels were perched in their usual spot on the light tower next to the oval. After spraying ourselves liberally with insect repellent we headed into the bush. Birds were patchy and we seemed to come upon areas where there were several different species foraging, then walk into a section where there was silence. One bird that appeared in several places as we walked was the Rufous Fantail and everyone enjoyed some good sightings of this beautiful bird flitting amongst the trees displaying its magnificent tail.

The highlight for most of us was the juvenile Brush Cuckoo down by the creek that sat patiently TWICE and allowed all of us to get a good long look through our binoculars as well as snap quite a few pictures. It was nice to see a female Mistletoe bird hopping, where else, but in the mistletoe along the creek. Towards the end of our walk we saw several raptors with the Grey Goshawk providing us with opportunities for a good

look at him in flight and a Brown Falcon being disturbed next to the road by an Australian Raven. It was disappointing that we couldn't locate the Double-barred finches we saw a couple of days earlier when we surveyed this site prior to the walk. A productive morning's walk with 39 species seen.



Brush Cuckoo juvenile
Photo by Charles Dove

BIRD LIST FOR MID WEEK WALK AT CROOME 10-03-2010

Great Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Magpie Lark
Brown Goshawk	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Grey Goshawk	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Butcherbird
Australian Kestrel	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Brown Falcon	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
Spotted Turtle-Dove	Lewin's Honeyeater	Satin Bowerbird
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch
Little Corella	Eastern Spinebill	European Goldfinch
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Mistletoebird	Welcome Swallow
Galah	Eastern Yellow Robin (heard)	Silvereye
Rainbow Lorikeet	Golden Whistler	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Crimson Rosella	Rufous Fantail	Common Myna
Brush Cuckoo (juvenile)	Grey Fantail	
Laughing Kookaburra	Willie Wagtail	

Report for Royal National Park Walk Sunday 14th March 2010*by Betty Hudson*

Waking to find that there had been heavy overnight rain and continuing showers in the southern suburbs, but with a forecast of a fine day we left home for the Royal National Park. 16 members met on a very busy morning at the southern end of the Lady Carrington Drive where a Walkathon was also starting. With the bush sparkling and vivid green in the early morning sunlight, we prepared for the leeches we had been warned about and set off. At first it was silent except for the Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, but as we attuned our ears to the small sounds those at the back spotted a Rose Robin among others. Turning off along the Walumarra Track we crossed a wide creek on stepping stones and soon encountered the promised leech legions, many as small as threads. Last time we had visited this area the birds were prolific, where had they gone this morning! Due to the leeches no one was game to stop still for very long, so after the track started to turn uphill, we wended our way back to the creek crossing where a Superb Lyrebird was seen scratching in the litter across the creek, and an Azure Kingfisher was spotted sitting on a branch over the creek. Morning tea called, but the spot we had chosen with a table had already been taken, so we found some logs to sit on, and checked for leeches, several were attached to clothing but only one had found flesh for a good meal. After a brief stop we then started along the Forest Track when another Superb Lyrebird was seen crossing the track just ahead. The track wound along a creek in rainforest which looked great after all the rain. Birds were scarce especially as we were all looking at our feet, so many leeches. Alistair gave up counting after he had removed 30 from his shoes! The track slowly climbed away from the creek and the bordering rain forest and we realised that we had left the leeches behind us. Now we could bird watch in peace. Sightings were more plentiful with a White-plumed Honeyeater, Lewin's



Blood Sucker Leech

Honeyeater and a Red-browed Finch all seen, with a Bassian Thrush crossing the track. Suddenly rounding a corner we heard screeching tyres and realised that we were almost back at the road. We had completed the track in near record time. Back at the cars it was decided that we would head to Audley Weir for lunch as there were facilities there. After a leisurely lunch in the picnic shelter and checking out the pool behind the weir, we set off for a walk along the Hacking River towards Grays Point. More birds were evident in the picnic areas and on the river. Along the river bank Kookaburras were chasing a pair of Noisy Miners away from an area beneath a huge gum tree. Walking along a treed track beneath a steep hillside we had few sightings, but stopping at a boat ramp we watched a White-bellied Sea-Eagle over the river, and Little Pied & Pied Cormorants fishing. Starting back along the track as a few spots of rain fell we spotted movement in a tree, an adult Crested Shrike-tit feeding a fledgling. Cameras out as we tried to get a photo between the leaves only partially successful. Shortly after this Tera spotted a very clean looking Water Dragon in the dried litter beside the track where it was perfectly camouflaged and watched with interest as its picture was taken.

A rewarding day's bird watching, in beautiful surroundings, with a total of 41 species recorded.



Crested Shrike-tit
By Charles Dove

Bird List for Walumarra & Forest Tracks 35 species

Wonga Pigeon	White-throated Treecreeper	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Topknot Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Grey Goshawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Variiegated Fairy-wren	White-plumed Honeyeater	Black-faced Monarch
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	New Holland Honeyeater	Rose Robin
Australian King Parrot	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crimson Rosella	Large-billed Scrubwren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Bassian Thrush
Azure Kingfisher	Brown Gerygone	Golden Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Superb Lyrebird	Striated Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	

Bird List for Audley Weir 21 species

Australian Wood Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler
Pacific Black Duck	Silver Gull	Brown Thornbill	Pied Currawong
Little Pied Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Pied Cormorant	Azure Kingfisher	Noisy Miner	Willie Wagtail
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Laughing Kookaburra	Crested Shrike-tit (B)	Welcome Swallow
Purple Swamphen			

(B) indicates a breeding record

Atlas & Birdata

An Ongoing Monitoring Project

The Atlas is one of Birds Australia's greatest resources, allowing us to track changes in birds across the country. Atlas data forms the basis for research such as [The State of Australia's Birds Report](#). Since 1998 a dedicated band of over 7000 atlassers have amassed over 420,000 surveys, comprising over 7.1 million bird records. Unlike most Atlases conducted around the world which collect data in grids, observers are asked to give the precise coordinates of where they undertook their survey. Knowing this information adds greatly to the value of the data and allows observers to go back to that precise location and conduct repeat surveys. With large numbers of observers collecting data, the Atlas provides a good insight into the changes in bird populations over time.

Atlas Search Methods

2-ha Search

- This is our preferred method
- Search a 2 hectare area for 20 minutes
- We encourage you to survey your selected area once each season for at least one year

Fixed-route Monitoring

- Choose a survey route. This survey route is a repeated sequence of activities in time and space. It is a combination of location, timing and effort (i.e. is it you alone, you and three friends, you on a bicycle?)
- Survey that route with roughly the same effort at least once a month
- Enter the data in Birdata and identify the route as a long-term monitoring route
- Enter enough information about location, timing and effort that someone else could do the same thing. This may involve the use of GPS
- Enter some basic habitat data and make notes of substantive changes to the site, if any

If in doubt, email atlas@birdsaustralia.com.au or call 03 9347 0757.

BIODIVERSITY

more info at www.sustainableillawarra.com.au/Backyard-Biodiversity.html

Enhancing Biodiversity around your Home

Sometimes in urban environments we can feel stressed with the pace of life and very separate from the natural world. Creating nature spaces in and around your property can provide healthy, peaceful and fun family places to spend time in. Nature spaces can be anything from seating in the centre of a shrub garden, to mini forests, nature trails and frog ponds. The trick is to create beautiful spaces for you to relax in (or play and discover!) while at the same time providing healthy habitats for native animals such as birds, frogs and lizards. Creating urban environments that are rich in a diversity of different living things (biodiversity) means a healthier community for us all.

Why is biodiversity so important?

Our Food depends on it - one of the great benefits of protecting biodiversity is that it provides a pool of genes to improve our crops. Wild genes can provide resistance to disease, improve production and protect against long-term changes in temperatures and rainfall. Everything we eat has a genetic tradition.

Our Medicines are made from it - over 21,000 plants around the world have reported medical uses. Lymphoid leukaemia once killed 90 per cent of its child victims within six months. Now the disease is being effectively treated with tylocrebrin, a drug derived from an Australian native vine, Tylophora.

We are all Connected - we are connected to all other things in the web of life through the air we breathe, water we drink and food we eat. By destroying other parts of the web, we are destroying our own chances of survival.

Natural spaces are healing places, places of discovery and adventure, places of sport and relaxation. It is well known that communities with plenty of healthy green spaces are much happier and have a higher quality of life.

Designing Nature Spaces

Redesign your yard to welcome back the birds, butterflies, possums and lizards by:

- Converting some lawn to mulched garden beds. Mulched native gardens need less watering than lawn and ornamentals, and are easier to maintain.
- Remove plants from your garden that can become weeds in our bushland. Common weeds are Honeysuckle, Large Leaf Privet, Mickey Mouse Bush, Asparagus Fern, Black-eyed Susan and Morning Glory
- Plant local native species of trees, shrubs, grasses and ground covers.

You can use the Flora for Fauna web-site (www.floraforfauna.com) as a step by step guide to help you select which plants are best for your climate zone and which birds, butterflies and other fauna you can attract to your yard. Once you have picked your selection of natives you will be able to design a plan on a sample grid which will give you a top and side view of your new garden.

Ecological Gardening

Ecological gardening has to be the way of the future. It involves almost a complete turnaround in approach. Instead of just choosing plants that appeal to you and adapting your garden conditions to suit them, you assess what your site offers and select plants that suit it - often with very different results.

Although species native to your area will form the core of plantings (because they are naturally adapted to the climate, soils, drainage and so on), exotics are not out of the question providing they match your local conditions.

Pesticides and herbicides are frowned upon because the aim of ecological gardening is to encourage a system in balance with local wildlife. Birds, insects, lizards and perhaps even small mammals will then seek out the refuge you are creating. Water availability and a new attitude to 'tidiness' can encourage the return of wildlife, which, in turn, helps keep pests and diseases under control.

There are many other benefits too. Some gardeners find endless interest in the procession of new wildlife visitors and residents. You're also likely to feel more in tune with the world around you.

SHOALHAVEN BIRDWATCHING OUTINGS 2010

We have a small informal group down here and have planned monthly outings. I used to send a copy to iboc in case members were down this way or wanted to join us on any of our outings so if you would like to publish it in the bulletin.... any visitors would be most welcome.

Every third Sunday meeting at 8.30 am

APRIL 18	Bamarang Dam/Yalwal: meet Jet pole roundabout Kalander/Berry Sts Nowra
MAY 16	Jerrara Dam/ Spring Creek: meet Berry Apex Park
JUNE 20	Bomaderry Creek: meet trackhead, Nerang Road
JULY 18	Bass Point: meet Berry Apex Park
AUGUST 15	Fitzroy Falls East Rim: meet Kangaroo Valley Showground
SEPTEMBER 19	Lake Wollumboola/ Callala: meet Archgate Nursery
OCTOBER SAT.16	Weekend: Canberra, Gunning, Canyonleigh
NOVEMBER 21	Florence Head: meet Bewong Roadhouse
DECEMBER 19	Basin Xmas with Stan and Su at 5 pm ; 43 Harris Ave Basin View. BYO picnic/drink for after a short walk.

A Trip to the Flinders Ranges August 2009

BY Betty Hudson

PART 2 OF 2

Continued from March Newsletter

An early start next morning found us on our way to what most people consider to be "The" Flinders Ranges - Wilpena Pound-with of course many stops on the way to take photographs of the ranges in the morning light, before meeting with Andy & Anna at the Visitors Centre. The Flinders Ranges are the eroded remnants of a huge uplift of the ground, with the remaining rock strata rising vertically. This makes for spectacular scenery with many gorges. The rain had brought out a spectacular display of wild flowers. The weather was beautiful, the wildflowers glorious and the birds plentiful as we walked along the track beside a flowing Wilpena Creek, Red-capped Robins taunting me as I tried to photograph them before they moved. We passed the restored Hills Homestead where we had morning tea and admired a sculpture of traditional owners, before making the climb up to Wangarra Lookouts on the rim of the Pound. By now it was hot in the sun and the track led through a display of wild flowers with many magnificent golden wattles. On the rocks lining the track edges a great variety of lizards had emerged from the winter torpor to sun themselves. One spectacular blue green and orange dragon was still unmoving when we came down again oblivious of the constant stream of people passing. The view from the top lookout was well worth the climb. We returned to the main track but took a different path back to the track head climbing above the creek through areas of bare rock in much drier vegetation. Here we all had good sightings of one bird we had come to find, the Redthroat, perched in a wattle bush and then crossing the track. We saw a pair both carrying, in turn, small grubs away to what we suspected was a nest. In the same area we saw many honeyeaters making the most of the blossom amongst them the Yellow-throated Miner,



Little Eagle Bunyeroo Gorge

Photo Betty Hudson

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Black-chinned and Brown-headed Honeyeaters as well as the Chestnut-rumped, Inland and Slender-billed Thornbills. After lunch at the Visitors Centre we headed out to Stokes Lookout where we had been told we should find our first Grasswrens. No such luck. On the way, we had to stop to allow an Emu with 15 chicks to cross the road, one of many we saw in the ranges. Someone needs to teach them road sense!! We then headed onto Willow Station Campground where we had also been told we were sure to see them. This area had recently been burnt and the porcupine grass was very short and no birds. We stopped at an area of lush Saltbush by a creek bed at the bottom of the Stokes Hill Rd on the return trip and had a walk. No Grasswrens were seen, but White-winged Trillers & Elegant Parrot, were found and I got my photo of the Red-capped Robin at last! As it was getting late and we didn't wish to be dodging emus and 'roos on the road back we left to return to Hawker.

Another day, another excursion to the ranges, this time to Bunyeroo and Brachina Gorges. Bunyeroo Gorge was a drive through spectacular country of steep dry ridges and deep valleys scoured out in times of heavy rain, a bonus on the way, was a pair of Banded Lapwings with 4 chicks. Bunyeroo Gorge was very dry as it faced west. We followed a track along a rock strewn creek bed between rising cliffs. Birds were very few with an Emu with 10 chicks and a Nankeen Kestrel using a nesting hole but plenty of flies sheltering from the wind. Back at the car park we stopped for lunch in a picnic area by the creek. Here we found a pair of Little Eagles and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters feeding along the regrowth in the creekside vegetation. Leaving here Anna & Andy had to return to Wilpena as they were returning to Hawker for the night, while the rest of us had a look at Brachina Gorge, one of the iconic places in the ranges, travelling along a good gravel road in the valley bottom before heading back to Hawker. Entering the gorge from the east on a road that was obviously the creek bed with the large boulders removed, it was everything you expected of the ranges – dry, huge towering red rock walls either side of the road with the colours ranging from pale to deep red ochre. Stopping for photos at one point we went for a short walk up the side of the gorge with a female Crimson Chat, Pied & White-fronted Honeyeaters & a Brush Bronzewing our reward. We continued along the gorge for another 6 km with no time or places for stops – the shops shut at 5pm! Leaving the park to cross grazing land we found the worst road of the trip.



Female Crimson Chat Brachina Gorge

Photo Betty Hudson

Huge corrugations covered with large gravel rattling our teeth. From this the western side, the Ranges were very impressive rising from the dry red sand & salt bush plains. Stopping briefly, for a photo, I though I glimpsed Lake Torrens glistening in the west. Wishful thinking? Andy & Anna made a short trip back to Stokes Hill and after speaking

to another group of bird watchers who arrived at that point, found a Crimson Chat and the Short-tailed Grasswrens – they had moved about 60m down the hill from Stokes Lookout.

Leaving Hawker & travelling north the next day for 117km, we found the saltbush close to the side of the road on the long straight sections very mesmerising. We stayed at Copley, the town for the Leigh Creek Brown Coal Mine which supplies Port Augusta Power Stations. The longest train I have ever seen left there each night at 6pm. It had 3 diesel Locos, 169 coal wagons, and a generator car at the rear. It took forever to pass as it slowly picked up speed after leaving the mine. I would have hated to have had to wait for it at the level crossing on the highway to the south. Changing into shorts as it was now very hot, we headed to Aroona Dam, the water supply for the mine and the new



Aroona Dam –
Water supply for Leigh Creek Mine

Photo Betty Hudson

Leigh Creek Township. The country is extremely arid with steep stony hills and few trees other than along watercourses. The dam was quite a contrast as it has been rehabilitated as a wildlife sanctuary by the locals and the water seeping from the dam provided permanent water along the creek with plenty of Australian Reed-Warblers calling. After lunch in a picnic area under a gnarled old flowering gum we followed the walking trail along the creek, hearing lots of calls but seeing little except a Little Grassbird. The trail was poorly marked and we headed the wrong way along a dry stony side creek & then eventually finding a way across the main creek to the other bank where we had seen activity by birds. Returning towards the dam we found we had strayed onto private land, but soon found the correct way back across the creek on 3 sets of stepping stones. The day being now very hot, we returned to the dam wall and from the shade of the trees checked out the water birds, Musk Ducks, Australasian & Hoary-headed Grebe, & Grey Teal. Calling at Leigh Creek Village for supplies we then headed back for tea while watching a magnificent sunset over the desert.

From here we again headed north for a day, hoping to get to Maree at

the start of the Birdsville Track. This was definitely desert country, with bare sand or sparse salt bush plains between sand ridges, stretching into the distance. The only evidence remaining of the old Ghan Railway Line to Alice Springs was the embankment. The first stop of the trip was a flooded causeway where we added the White-backed Swallow to the list. The road changed to a good gravel road once we left Lyndhurst which sees the start of the Strzelecki Track, and was surprising busy with a constant stream of laden 4 wheel drives heading to Birdsville for the weekend races. After many kilometres I called, "Orange Chats" over the two way radio as I screeched to a halt! There they were, little orange glowballs crossing the road and perching in the saltbush but never sitting still for long enough to photograph, then reappearing several hundred metres further along and crossing the road several more times. In the same spot while chasing the chats we saw Thick-billed Grasswrens, a female Crimson Chat and a Eurasian Skylark. When I called in to Canberra on my way home, Kathryn asked "Where are your photos of the Orange Chats Grandma?!!" This was to my mind was the highlight of the trip and one of the many birds we had come to see. Moving again we arrived at Farina Historic Site, once a thriving community on the Old Ghan Railway now in ruins. After a look round we headed to the camp ground for morning tea followed by a walk along a dry creek. Birds were plentiful as there was water in the area. Many new birds were recorded, Chirruping Wedgebill (like a pale fawn Whipbird – not small as I had imagined!), Budgerigar, Zebra finch, White-breasted & Black-faced Woodswallow. Making our way out through waist high Saltbush David almost stepped on a very large greyish bird which disappeared rapidly in the bushes. Could it have been a Bush Stone-curlew? Who knows! The

day now turning cloudy & very windy, we left to find a large tank a little further up the road in the hope of finding some dry land birds. Arriving at the tank we crossed the old Ghan Embankment to the fence round the dam. No obvious gate in the fence was seen so we split up and went both ways round. The men found the gate and also saw an Inland Dotterel scurrying off in front of them, to become totally invisible against the terrain. The ladies were frustrated being able to see small birds on the edge of the water but not to identify them, so hurried to find out how the men had got in – Oh a gate! The birds were soon sorted out as Orange & Crimson Chats & Zebra Finches. What a sight both chats made side by side, but too far away to take a picture! As the weather was looking very ominous, and with memories of the slippery road earlier we started back along the road towards Copley, dashing our hopes of reaching Maree, with rain forcing us to eat lunch in the cars by a creek crossing. A special roast dinner at the pub ended the day. We arrived early, as we had found at Quorn, country people dine before heading back home so that at 6.45pm there was little choice left!

Next day we stated the long haul back towards the east coast, stopping at Brachina Creek for morning tea and a good sighting of a Mulga Parrot, and then on to Hawker for a quick stop before heading via Craddock –with a lovely old pub and 2 beautifully maintained churches, and on to Orroroo for lunch. We had now left the ranges behind and were travelling through paddocks green with wheat or yellow with canola. A walk to the Orroroo Reservoir Reserve starting behind the caravan park followed on a perfect afternoon. This was an interesting walk with plenty of bird life along a



Ruined Building at Farina Historic Site

Photo Betty Hudson

trail either side of the creek to the dam wall. There were many ducks on the water including Musk Duck, Pink-eared duck, Australian Shoveler and Black-tailed Native hens, while the surrounding woodland saw the elusive Red-backed Kingfisher recorded as well as Yellow-throated Miner, White-bellied and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Rufous Songlark White-winged Triller and Varied Sitella, and once again, the black phase of the Grey Currawong. A Yellow Thornbill was seen at its nest in a low bush.

Rain started as we were preparing to leave the next morning and dogged our journey for long periods as we travelled south through Jamestown to Burra, a historic town with well restored stone buildings, where we stopped for morning tea beside the river. The bird life was over friendly with Coots, Moorhens and Ducks all clamoring to share with us. A walk along the river to where David had previously seen Nankeen Night Herons only added the Diamond Firetail & European Goldfinch to the list. Leaving Burra we headed once again to Morgan leaving the arable land and hills behind for the saltbush plains, finally leaving the rain behind as we got close to the river. Shopping completed and lunch finished we took the car ferry over the Murray River to Morgan Conservation Reserve, which features a large lagoon full of water. This proved a great birding spot with Black-winged Stilts, Black-fronted Dotterel, Wood Ducks, Black Swans and Australian Shelduck all with young; Egrets, Herons, Cormorants, a Yellow Spoonbill, Coots and a Silver Gull were also seen. 6 Raptors were seen including Swamp Harrier and Collared Sparrowhawk. Land birds were just as prolific with several good sightings of the Regent Parrot, Musk & Rainbow Lorikeets, Singing Honeyeater, & Pied Butcherbird, amongst many others.

Next day was an early start on a blustery cold day as we were going to Gluepot to meet up with Anna & Andy who were camping there. Birds were very scarce as they had

missed all the rain & were very dry. We were given directions to an active Mallee Fowl Mound and coming upon it suddenly Andy & David saw a grey shadow move swiftly off. Was it the elusive Mallee Fowl? Who knows! The mound was interesting and was being monitored by a camera. Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters were very common everywhere at Gluepot. To get out of the wind we ate morning tea at a bird hide but no birds came to drink. The afternoon saw us go on a longer walk which rewarded us with a White-fronted Chat, White-browed Babbler & Chestnut Quail Thrush. We returned to Morgan for the night, with only Myself returning the next day due to the long drive for few birds, the others preferring to look round Morgan. Out at Gluepot, a better day with many more birds about including large numbers of White-browed Woodswallows low to the ground, the Chestnut-crowned Babbler seen in a few places and many birds at



Pair of Mulga Parrots Gluepot Reserve

Photo Betty Hudson



Yellow-plumed Honeyeater on water trough
at Gluepot Reserve

Photo Betty Hudson

a hide including numerous Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters drinking & bathing. Woodswallows in the trees and a pair of Mulga Parrots in the shade of nearby bush just refusing to come into the sunlight for a decent photo. Meanwhile those in Morgan had a great day with 12 plus sightings of Regent Parrots, and good views of the Chestnut Crowned Babbler.

Next day we met up with Andy & Anna at Taylorville and began the long drive back east, stopping in Renmark for Gloria & David to pay brief visit to family and then on to Balranald for the night dodging extremely heavy rain showers along the way. I was very surprised that at the first town in NSW, Gol Gol, the local IGA could not provide any apples and directed me back to Mildura! Next day was the long drive across the Hay Plain, straight & flat, with many on-coming trucks. Despite this David managed to

spot an Australian Pratincole beside the road, but was unable to let everyone know in time to stop & look at it. This brought the count to 183 over 41 locations for the trip. I left the others at Darlington Point where Superb Parrots were again seen, to divert to Leeton, while they continued on home spending the last night in Wagga.

I eventually arrived home to warm spring weather after a round trip of 5000km, the only hiccup to my trusty Toyota, was a puncture from a nail, luckily found and fixed before we headed off one morning.

Thanks to everyone who shared the trip and had the patience to put up with my getting bird lists at every place we stopped as well as stopping to photograph plants and scenery as well as the birds. I hope you all had a great experience, as I did.

Betty

Farewell

A last sight of the Flinders Ranges as we head south. Viewed from the west over the plains



Photo Betty Hudson

Flinders Ranges Bird List

Ostrich	Brown Falcon	Superb Fairy-wren	White-winged Triller
Emu	Australian Hobby	Splendid Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler - E Race
Musk Duck	Peregrine Falcon	Variigated Fairy-wren	Rufous Whistler
Black Swan	Brolga	Short-tailed Grasswren	Grey Shrike-thrush
Australian Shelduck	Purple Swamphen	Thick-billed Grasswren	White-breasted Woodswallow
Australian Wood Duck	Black-tailed Native-hen	Redthroat	Masked Woodswallow
Pink-eared Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Weebill	White-browed Woodswallow
Australasian Shoveler	Eurasian Coot	Brown Gerygone	Black-faced Woodswallow
Grey Teal	Black-winged Stilt	Yellow Thornbill	Dusky Woodswallow
Chestnut Teal	Red-necked Avocet	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Northern Mallard	Inland Dotterel	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Pied Butcherbird
Northern Mallard X Pacific Black Duck	Black-fronted Dotterel	Slender-billed Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Red-kneed Dotterel	Inland Thornbill	Pied Currawong
Hardhead	Banded Lapwing	Southern Whiteface	Grey Currawong (Black-winged Form)
Blue-billed Duck	Masked Lapwing	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Australasian Grebe	Marsh Sandpiper	Striated Pardalote	Willie Wagtail
Hoary-headed Grebe	Australian Pratincole	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Raven
Rock Dove	Caspian Tern	Pied Honeyeater	Little Raven
Common Bronzewing	Silver Gull	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Restless Flycatcher
Brush Bronzewing	Galah	Singing Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Crested Pigeon	Long-billed Corella	White-eared Honeyeater	White-winged Chough
Peaceful Dove	Little Corella	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Apostlebird
Tawny Frogmouth	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-plumed Honeyeater	Jacky Winter
Australasian Darter	Cockatiel	White-fronted Honeyeater	Scarlet Robin
Little Pied Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Noisy Miner	Red-capped Robin
Great Cormorant	Superb Parrot	Yellow-throated Miner	Hooded Robin
Little Black Cormorant	Regent Parrot	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Pied Cormorant	Crimson Rosella (Yellow Form)	Red Wattlebird	Eurasian Skylark

Australian Pelican	Crimson Rosella (Adelaide Form)	Crimson Chat	Australian Reed-Warbler
White-necked Heron	Eastern Rosella	Orange Chat	Little Grassbird
Eastern Great Egret	Australian Ringneck	White-fronted Chat	Rufous Songlark
White-faced Heron	Blue Bonnet-Yellow Vent form	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Brown Songlark
Australian White Ibis	Red-rumped Parrot	New Holland Honeyeater	Silvereye
Straw-necked Ibis	Mulga Parrot	Black-chinned Honeyeater	White-backed Swallow
Royal Spoonbill	Budgerigar	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Elegant Parrot	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
Black-shouldered Kite	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Noisy Friarbird	Tree Martin
Whistling Kite	Black-eared Cuckoo	Grey-crowned Babbler	Common Blackbird
Black Kite	Pallid Cuckoo	White-browed Babbler	Common Starling
Brown Goshawk	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	Mistletoebird
Collared Sparrowhawk	Southern Boobook	Chestnut Quail-thrush	Zebra Finch
Spotted Harrier	Laughing Kookaburra	Chirruping Wedgebill	Diamond Firetail
Swamp Harrier	Red-backed Kingfisher	Varied Sittella Orange Winged	House Sparrow
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Sacred Kingfisher	Varied Sittella Black Headed Form	Australasian Pipit
Little Eagle	White-throated Treecreeper	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	European Goldfinch
Nankeen Kestrel	Brown Treecreeper	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	

Bird List for Trip 183 species recorded over 41 locations

A full bird list showing the species recorded at each place we stopped will be posted on IBOC's web site.



Cape Barren Goose
sighted at Ulladulla headland (near lighthouse), feeding on football ground at 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 16th March 2010.
Dave Stephens



“Scaly Breasted Rainbow Lorikeet”
cross breeding in the wild -----
Terry Edwall



Racing Cocky?
No, my neighbour across the road hasn't branched out into racing cockies as well!
Mike



Common Tern – not so common Purry Burry Point Primbee – March 2010
Charles Dove



Juvenile Sea Eagle – Purry Burry Point Primbee – surprised 200+ cormorants and silver gulls when he landed. Charles Dove



Surprise in the garden pond – red belly Black Snake feeding on frogs eggs –
Terry Edwall

Looks like the the Albatross are starting to arrive.... Not sure of identity yet

forever vigilante

Bird List for February & March 2010*compiled by Martin Cocker*

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Australian Brush-turkey	1	18-Feb-10	Mangerton Park	Rainforest/Park	Danie Ondinea
Cape Barren Goose	1	16-Mar-10	Ulladulla Lighthouse	Playing field	David Stephens
Blue-billed Duck	1	03-Mar-10	Berrima Road, Moss Vale	Farm Dam	Terry Dunlea
Blue-billed Duck	1 M.	19-Mar-10	Woodland Road, Mittagong	Farm Dam	Terry Dunlea
White-throated Needletail	12+	27-Feb-10	Bundewallah/Berry Mtn	Bush/Paddock	Carla Jackett
Australian White Ibis	12	05-Mar-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Royal Spoonbill	31	17-Mar-10	Whyjuck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Eastern Osprey	1	17-Feb-10	Bass Point	Ocean Cliffs	Tom & Joan Wylie
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	19-Feb-10	Tallowarra Power Station	Lakeside	Darryl Goldrick
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	05-Mar-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1 juv	Feb-10	Primbee	Lakeside	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1A 1J	19-Mar-10	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	Feb-10	Primbee	Lakeside	Charles Dove
Grey Goshawk	1	19-Feb-10	Tallowarra Power Station	Lakeside	Darryl Goldrick
Grey Goshawk	1	19-Feb-10	Irvine's Road, Bellawongarah	Bush/Paddock	Carla Jackett
Grey Goshawk	1	Feb-10	Primbee	Lakeside	Charles Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	Feb-10	Primbee	Lakeside	Charles Dove
Brown Falcon	1	18-Mar-10	Purry Burry Pont, Primbee	Garden/Bush	Charles Dove
Australian Hobby	1	19-Feb-10	Tallowarra Power Station	Lakeside	Darryl Goldrick
Australian Hobby	1	Feb-10	Primbee	Lakeside	Charles Dove
Australian Hobby	1	08-Mar-10	Warilla	Overhead	Lorraine Pincus
Peregrine Falcon	1	Feb-10	Primbee	Lakeside	Charles Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	08-Mar-10	Little Beach, Warilla	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Pacific Golden Plover	163	05-Mar-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Red-capped Plover	40	07-Mar-10	Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Double-banded Plover	5	05-Mar-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Double-banded Plover	7	07-Mar-10	Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Double-banded Plover	6	25-Feb-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Sand Dunes	Betty Hudson & Blue Mtns BOCA
Bar-tailed Godwit	169	05-Mar-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Bar-tailed Godwit	10	07-Mar-10	Whyjuck Bay	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Bar-tailed Godwit	13	07-Mar-10	Primbee	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Bar-tailed Godwit	50+ with 3-4 Breeding Plumage	25-Feb-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Wetlands	Betty Hudson & Blue Mtns BOCA
Eastern Curlew	18	05-Mar-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Great Knot	1	20-Mar-10	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Red-necked Stint	60	05-Mar-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Common Tern	5+	07-Mar-10	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Musk Lorikeet	6	19-Mar-10	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Bush/Garden	Charles Dove
Eastern Koel	1	07-Mar-10	Albion Park Rail	Garden	Barbara & Brian Hales
Dollarbird	1	19-Feb-10	Tallowarra Power Station	Lakeside	Darryl Goldrick
Eastern Bristlebird	1	24-Feb-10	Irvine's Road, Bellawongarah	Rainforest	Carla Jackett
Pilotbird	1+Regular Sighting	Feb-10	Irvine's Road, Bellawongarah	Bush/Paddock	Carla Jackett
Bell Miner	Colony	19-Feb-10	South Avondale Road-Dapto	Bush	Darryl Goldrick
White-fronted chat	5	05-Mar-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Australian Logrunner	1+Regular Sighting	Feb-10	Irvine's Road, Bellawongarah	Bush/Paddock	Carla Jackett
Spangled Drongo	1	23-Feb-10	Farmborough Heights	Garden	Chris Blatch
Spangled Drongo	4	20-Feb-10	Primbee	Bush	Charles Dove

An interesting month and an interesting time of the year. The return of our shorebirds to the northern hemisphere means that birds of passage can turn up anywhere, for instance there has been a Dunlin sighted and photographed at Tuross Heads, a first I believe for New South Wales? If this bird came into our area would you be confident in identifying it correctly? The continued rain and flooding in the west together with the change of season must be having a strong influence on bird movements so we can expect the unexpected.

Many thanks for all your records please send them to me, in the above format if possible, to cocker@speedlink.com.au and don't forget that these are always posted on the IBOC website. Good Birding.



THE IBOCC

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 336

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010



photo by Charles Dove

Variegated Fairy-wren

Scientific name: *Malurus lamberti*

Family: Maluridae

Order: Passeriformes

Featured Bird Groups

Small insect-eating birds

Description The breeding male Variegated Fairy-wren is brightly coloured. The crown and sides of the head are blue, and the shoulder patch is a rich chestnut. The depth and variety of colours in the male varies among the four subspecies, distributed across the Australian mainland. Non-breeding males, females and young birds are brownish grey. Females in the Northern Territory and Western Australian populations have a blue-grey (rather than brown-grey) plumage.

Similar species Several other species of fairy-wren are found in Australia. The males of each species are quite distinct, but the females and young birds are often difficult to separate. The female Variegated Fairy-wren has a dull grey-blue wash, while female and immature Superb Fairy-wrens, *Malurus cyaneus*, are mostly brown, with adult females having a pale greenish gloss on the otherwise brown tail. The Variegated Fairy-wren is slightly larger in size and has a longer tail than either the Superb or the White-winged Fairy-wrens.

Distribution The Variegated Fairy-wren is the most widespread of the nine species of fairy-wrens found in Australia. It is found throughout Australia, being absent only from Cape York Peninsula, Tasmania and the extreme south-west corner of Western Australia.

Habitat The Variegated Fairy-wren is found in forest, woodland and shrub land habitats.

Feeding The Variegated Fairy-wren feeds on insects and a small amount of seeds. The birds feed around the base of small shrubs, and seldom stray into the open. Some food may be found among the bark and foliage of short trees and grasses.

Breeding The male Variegated Fairy-wren is often mistakenly believed to have a harem of females. The small groups actually consist of an adult female with younger or non-breeding birds. As they have a wide range, Variegated Fairy-wrens have been recorded breeding in almost every month of the year. The nest is an oval-shaped dome, constructed of grasses, and placed in a low shrub. The female alone constructs the nest and incubates the eggs, but is assisted by other group members in feeding the chicks.

(Variegated Fairy Wren information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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**'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'**

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Founded in 1977

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

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MAY ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting – Monday 10th May 7.30pm - Fairy Meadow Community Hall.
Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow

Guest Speaker Dr Jack Baker

Honorary Principal Fellow

Institute for Conservation Biology and Environmental Management

"Helping threatened birds - some successes and some difficult cases"

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

Midweek Walk - Wednesday 12th May 2010 –
Koorangulla Swamp, Purry Burry Point and walk to Heritage Park
Leader Charles Dove.

Please meet at **Koorangulla Swamp at 8am at the east end of Nicolle Rd.** adjacent to Wetherall Park Primbee; walk about 1 – 1.5 hrs. Then back in to cars and drive to the west end of Nicolle St. turning right at the end into Purry Burry Ave. going to the North to the car park at the Point for Morning tea. Then a leisurely walk to the Point and then going south down the edge of lake and through the Forest leading towards Heritage Park. Both easy walks on level ground.

Contact Charles Dove on 4275 2383 or mobile 0417 422 302

Monthly Outing: Saturday 15th May 2010.
Triplarina Nature Reserve & Bens Walk, Nowra
Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at 9.00am **sharp** on **Yalwal Road Nowra** opposite the entrance to the University Campus, immediately after crossing Flatrock Dam, Park on the side of the road. Travel south along the Princes Highway to Nowra. Turn right at the Kalandar St. traffic lights (the Greenwell Point Road intersection). Take the 2nd left at the next roundabout, into Albatross Road and then take the right turn into Yalwal Road just over the creek bridge. Bring a carry morning tea and lunch to eat at the cars.

Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945

May Committee Meeting –
Monday 17th May at at 7.30pm at Betty Hudson's, 1 Drualla Road, Jamberoo ph. 4236 0307
members are welcome

June 2010 Newsletter –

Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is Wednesday 26TH May 2010
Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph: 42752383

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS – 2010 fees are now due:

Family \$35.00, Single \$30.00, Junior \$10.00

please pay **Browyn Wilson Treasurer** by cash, cheque or money order.

REPORTS

Mid-week Walk Wednesday 7 April 2010

Alan Cousins

PUCKEY'S ESTATE NATURE RESERVE

9 stalwart members and one visitor from Shoalhaven (Stan Brown) braved a wet start to a Wednesday morning. Wet weather gear and umbrellas were the order of the day. With binoculars safely tucked inside our 'macs' we left the Fairy Meadow Surf Life Saving Club car park and proceeded to the start of the reserve situated by the creek running under Elliotts Road.

Things started off with plenty of Silver Gulls, a few Magpies, Masked Lapwings, Common Starlings, Welcome Swallows and Rainbow Lorikeets. A Royal Spoonbill was noted flying off the creek.

Umbrellas obscured views but it was with great relief that the rain eased and we were able to shut them down. White-browed Scrubwrens were in evidence by sight and sound and we were all nonplussed by a strange sound which turned out to be a Cockatiel, most likely an escapee? The first part of the track revealed a number of species but the middle part was devoid of much sight or sound. On the third part we were again gifted with our feathered friends. We reached the junction of the track by the footbridge to Squires Way and the ruins of Courtney Puckey's salt tower where there was a convenient picnic table to enjoy morning tea. Wal. and Charlie disappeared for a while and returned having had the sightings of a Caspian Tern, Striated Heron and the good old Galah.

Whilst we were partaking of our refreshments a White-browed Scrubwren was seen repeatedly bathing in an horizontal tree hollow that was filled with water from the recent rains. Bathing over, his (it was a male) place was taken by an Eastern Yellow Robin. An Eastern Spinebill was also spotted flitting around the area. Replenished we proceeded to the ruins of the salt tower but saw nothing there, so we retraced our steps and took the pathway to the beach and headed back towards fairy Meadow. A Crested Tern and a White-bellied Sea-Eagle (juvenile) were spotted over the ocean.

Returning to our cars it was agreed that it had been a worthwhile outing with 34 species seen. Not a bad return for a wet morning.



photo by Charles Dove

LIST

Pacific Black Duck	Silver Gull	Australian Magpie
Spotted Dove	Galah	Grey Fantail
Australian Pelican	Cockatiel	Willie Wagtail
Striated Heron	Rainbow Lorikeet	Australian Magpie
White-faced Heron	Variegated Fairy-wren	Eastern Yellow Robin
Little Egret	White-browed Scrubwren	Silvereye
Australian White Ibis	Yellow Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Royal Spoonbill	Eastern Spinebill	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Black-shouldered Kite	Lewin's Honeyeater	Common Starling
Masked Lapwing	Little Wattlebird	
Caspian Tern	Red Wattlebird	
Crested Tern	New Holland Honeyeater	

Leeton Camp 10-17 April 2010

Confessions of a new birdwatcher

Linda Cohen

Over 20 of us spent a week birdwatching at Leeton at the recent camp, including 2 interstate visitors (Qld and SA). There was a great atmosphere and we had a lot of fun. Being a new birdwatcher I found it very exciting and it was so helpful to be surrounded by knowledgeable people who would make sure I saw the birds and could identify them. I was lucky enough to see lots of new birds. I have been warned that this doesn't happen often! Despite the scarcity of waterbirds in the almost-dry wetlands (we suspect the birds have headed for the floods in Queensland!) there were several very memorable sightings, including Brolgas at Fivebough Swamp and Ground Cuckoo-shrikes in a field outside Leeton. Our day visit to Cocoparra National Park was also memorable, including Double-barred Finches, Speckled Warblers and three Wedge-tailed Eagles flying down the gorge above us. Overall our birdlist included over 120 birds. **Full Report and List to follow in the June newsletter ...**

Some of the Pics coming into the Newsletter from the Leeton Camp

Have you any Pics? Send them in



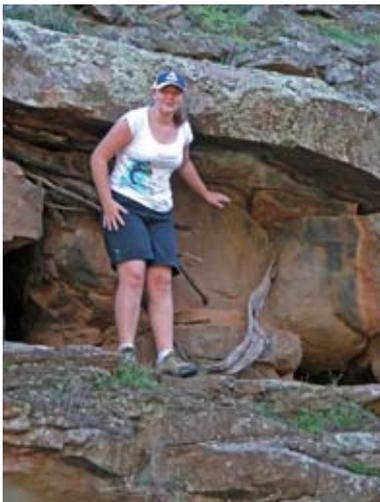
“Whats up there”
Tera Wheway



Logsitters at Cuba State Forest
From Carol & Mike



Duck Pond
From Chris Cartledge



Katherine up the hill
from Tera Wheway



Tom & Neil “what do u ar reckon”
from Tera Wheway



Southern Boobook immature
from Tera Wheway



Another great day
From Chris Cartledge



Koala up the Tree
From Chris Cartledge



Superb Parrots
From Barbara Hales

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

I would like to invite IBOC members living in the Shellharbour Area to the Backyard Habitats Short Course run under the Blackbutt to Croom Urban Biodiversity Corridor Project.

The first of the short course workshops 'kick off' on April 17 and May 1. The short course will provide a beginners guide to creating backyard habitats. A program of events and times has been included on the attachment. As part of the workshop events we are running a competition to see who can have the best 'before and after' backyard habitat. The major prize is an installed frog pond to the value of \$500. There will also be free giveaways of local plants at certain workshops and lucky door prizes to be won.

Please book your place in the short course by responding to this email by phone on 4221 6043 or by email biodiversitycorridorinfo@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au. Please respond quickly as places are limited.

Cheers

Mathew Misdale

Environment & Recreation Officer

Shellharbour City Council

PO Box 155 Shellharbour City Centre NSW 2529

p: 4221 6111 f: 42216017

e: biodiversitycorridorinfo@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au

Short Course

(All workshops run twice at different venues, except for workshop 3) We would prefer you to book at one venue, however we will try to be accommodating clashing dates where possible.

Workshop 1 - Local Backyard Wildlife

1st May 2010 - Shellharbour Stadium (9am -12pm)

Participants will briefly be introduced to the short course program and biodiversity corridors. Local wildlife and frog pond expert, Peter Nolan and Holly Parsons from Birds Australia (Birds in Backyards) will then introduce residents to the local birds and animals they could find in their backyards.

Workshop 2 - Creating Local Backyard Habitats

29th May 2010 - Oak Flats Community Hall (9am -12pm)

12th June 2010 - Shellharbour Stadium (9am -12pm)

Participants will be introduced to local plant communities. This workshop will outline how different plants can be used to perform different roles such as shelter, food and provide nesting materials. Plants will be brought in and residents will have the chance to learn how to use plants to plan a backyard habitat. Peter Nolan will be discussing how to use habitat features such as frog ponds, bird boxes and lizard lounges (Receive five plants for attending).

Bush Tours

Tours will highlight the local flora and fauna found within your local reserves. The tours aim to help residents get a feel for the habitats they wish to create.

19th June 2010 - Blackbutt Reserve (9am -12pm)

Carl Glaister (Wollongong Botanic Gardens) and John Abela (Shellharbour City Council Ranger) will be leading a tour of Blackbutt Reserve.

26th June 2010 - Croom Reserve (9am -12pm)

Carl Glaister (Wollongong Botanic Gardens) will be leading a tour of Croom Reserve.

DIY Habitat Day

10th July 2010 - Horsley Creek Reserve (9am -12pm)

17th July 2010 - Croom Reserve (9am -12pm)

Participants will be shown how to plant up a small habitat patch. The workshop will also introduce invasive weeds that occur within the corridor and how to deal with them

Workshop 3 - Creating Wildlife Friendly Backyards (9am -12pm)

14th August 2010 & 21st August 2010 - 'Dapto Organic Gardens' Darkes Road, Dapto

Participants will be shown how to grow vegies in ways that reduce their reliance on pesticides and chemicals. It will also introduce them to creating backyard habitats with wildlife helpers who eat insects and snails. There will also be information on what to do with injured animals and responsible pet ownership.

SHOREBIRD UPDATE

Hi there everyone

Well the Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers are definitely finished for the season and the Little Terns and the Hooded Plovers are finishing up as well. It has definitely been the best season on record for our South Coast Hooded Plovers!

Up at Mary's Bay the local rangers have reported that the two egg nest has hatched, so let's hope these little chicks make it through. Further south at Cudmirrah Beach, just north of Sussex Inlet Surf Club, the 'Hoodie' nest hatched out a week and a half ago. The two chicks are growing quickly and are roaming along the beach feeding with their parents. As a Hooded Plover chick you need to feed yourself, so these little ones learn quickly and can be seen running along the shoreline and in between washed up sea weed picking up crustaceans and insects. Local shorebird volunteers Mike and Rose could not find the 'Hoodie' family on Friday or Saturday and were beginning to think the worst, but low and behold on Sunday they ventured half a kilometre south of the nesting site to find the whole family happily feeding along the shoreline. The tiny chicks really do move quite large distances on those little legs just to find food and avoid people and dogs! At Inyadda Beach the three egg nest has definitely been abandoned, despite the protective cage that was used to protect this fourth nest from predators. The nest was just about to hatch and it is a mystery as to their reasons for abandoning the nest. This pair have been very unlucky and unsuccessful the last two years, to the disappointment of myself and the local volunteers Terry and Carol. I hope the pair try again, although it is unlikely this late in the season with winter like weather and after already having four unsuccessful attempts.

Down at Narrawallee Inlet the resident pair have just fledged their second brood of three chicks. What an amazing result! They are definitely the best pair on the coast. The family can still be seen together feeding along the shoreline in the area. The Rennies Beach pair which fledged three chicks from Pockets (little cove adjoining Rennies to the north), looked ready to nest again as they kicked out the fledglings and made nest scrapes inside the fenced area again two weeks ago. However eggs have not eventuated yet. At Rennies Beach just south there are five fledglings and one or sometimes two adults feeding in the area. A pretty amazing sight to have seven 'Hoodies' all together, but they seem to really like the fenced area we set up there to let them feed and rest in peace over the busy summer holidays. This is probably the Racecourse Beach pair, three Pockets fledglings and another two fledglings from some where else? They all look the same so it is hard to tell who is who. The racecourse Beach nesting area has still been abandoned since the nest was vandalised in mid November. There have been a few 'Hoodie' footprints around but probably just the Rennies and Pockets birds moving around feeding in nearby areas. Actually it is definitely one of the Pockets adults, who only has one foot, so his tracks are very easily identified! At Wairo beach there are still the one and often two adults and a fledgling from an unknown source. No nest scrapes but plenty of footprints, feeding and resting.

Further south at Termeil Lake I discovered a new pair of 'Hoodies' about three weeks ago acting suspiciously, probably the relocated Meroo pair which have not been sighted for months. I could not find any evidence of a nest or chicks, but then surprisingly last week I visited the pair and they had a chick of about two weeks age! These tricky little birds had deceived me and successfully concealed the location of their nest and chicks. Good to know they are cunning parents, hopefully they will also deceive the predators and fledge their chicks. Furthermore, I really cannot believe their nest survived the busy holiday period right next to one of our most popular camping areas! A hard working pair of 'Hoodies' parents.

Down at Willinga the chicks were doing well until a couple of weeks ago. All three chicks were just starting to practice flying, when sadly one chick disappeared, then only a couple of days later a second chick also disappeared. We feared the worst for the remaining chick. Local shorebird volunteers Marg and Maggie anxiously watched over the remaining chick and reported a Whistling Kite hanging around in the area, probably the culprit. However this last chick has successfully evaded the predator, surviving the week and is now flying well. A great success. Down at Kioloa the Hooded Plover pair are feeding just north of Willinga Lake. We were hoping for another nest after they kicked out their fledgling last month, however there has been no signs of nesting yet. Their fledgling and another adult 'Hoodie' are together on Racecourse Beach just to the north. Surprisingly when my Dad visited Pretty Beach last weekend and walked south along Island Beach he reported seeing a lone 'Hoodie'. Very exciting considering the once very successful pair from the area has not been seen all season. I surveyed the beaches a few days later and found two adults together feeding on the spit out to O'Hara Island. One has a droopy wing and is probably one of the returned fledglings sighted earlier in the season. Let's hope this pair take up residence and start nesting.

The Hooded Plovers have had a record season on the South Coast. Usually we fledge 7 or 8 chicks each season but this year we are already up to 15 fledglings! What a great effort,



Photo by Martin Potter

thanks to all the new Hooded Plover volunteers who have come on board the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program. It will be very interesting next season to see if these fledglings stay to nest on our beaches!

The Little Terns have not had such a successful season on the South Coast. The Windang nests were lost to bad weather, Shoalhaven Heads to foxes and Lake Wollumboola was decimated by Ravens. However on a brighter note, Lake Conjola has the biggest colony we have recorded in our decade of monitoring with at least 50 nesting pairs! I have not finished wading through all the data but we have had at least 80 nests with hundreds of eggs and chicks. The exciting part is that at least 70 of these survived to fledge over the last few weeks. A record on the South Coast! These results are pretty amazing when you consider that the NSW Little Tern population was reduced to only 110 breeding pairs along the entire coast in the mid 1980's. Now we have more than 50 pairs at just one colony and have fledged more than 70 chicks. An excellent result thanks to the hard working volunteers and the excellent fox control undertaken by the Livestock Health and Pest Authority rangers.

Thanks for all your support this season and especially thank-you to all the volunteers who have made this season such a successful one!

Jodie

The Twitchathon which 5 of us participated in last October

by Alison Foley

THE WITCH IN THONGS

"Ali, when is the witch in thongs bringing champagne?"

Not soon enough, I thought. My five-year-old was referring to the Birds Australia Champagne Twitchathon which Dave and I were participating in with Penny and Martin Potter and Mark Micallef. Champagne and birding - had I died and gone to heaven? But no, it was the champagne version of the Twitchathon i.e. the twenty-four hours of insane insomnia must necessarily be punctuated by periods of "no active birding".

The Winners: team with the most species

The Rules: Bird from 4 pm Sat to 4 pm Sun (minus 10 pm to 5 am - blissful slumber though probably dreaming of the winged ones (they don't count!), also discount 30 minutes before noon (morning tea), 1 hour before 3 pm (lunch) and 30 minutes before 4 pm (afternoon tea) and also, over half the team must see (or hear - unfortunately we found this out afterwards) the bird.

From this, many moral dilemmas arose. Could we have afternoon tea while driving? Did raising your eyes from your lunchbox amount to "active birding"?

We set ourselves a goal: 100 species in 24 hours. Here's how we got on:

3.45 pm On way in to Tallawarra Ash Ponds, Dave spots a Grey Goshawk. Doesn't count and I don't see it anyway.

4 pm - 7 pm: the Twitch-off. Four very excited birders manage to see nothing at all in the first ten minutes as a result of said excitement and mounting panic. Finally, our first bird bodes well, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo. Notable frustration is Buff-banded Rail seen by only half the team (Penny and I, much to our chagrin, are busily dialling Mark's number). Total count: 47.

7 pm - 7.30 pm - drive to Cringila - 3 species seen en route. Running total: 50

7.30 pm to 10 pm - Cringila Park Rainforest. Mark provides the champagne and one species - a blackbird for a black period in our timetable. Go spotlighting in the beautiful park. Although only night-bird is one unidentifiable owly-thing flying overhead, highlight is a Lewin's Honeyeater curled up on a branch like a grey fluffy pom-pom fast asleep - so asleep that we can't ID it till the heat from four spotlights wakes it up enough to reveal its crescent moon. Running total: 52

10 pm - 7.30 am - zzzzzzzzzzzzzzz (mblmblmb - CASSOWARY!!!! mblmblmblmb) zzzzzzzzzzz

7.30 am - 10 am - Killalea State Park - a great haul here -

List

Tallawarra Ash Ponds

Black Swan	Pacific Black Duck	Australasian Shoveler	Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal
Hardhead	Australasian Grebe	Hoary-headed Grebe	Darter	Little Pied Cormorant
Pied Cormorant	Little Black Cormorant	Great Cormorant	Australian Pelican	White-faced Heron
Great Egret	Black-shouldered Kite	Whistling Kite	Purple Swamphen	Dusky Moorhen
Eurasian Coot	Bar-tailed Godwit	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Black-winged Stilt	Black-fronted Dotterel
Masked Lapwing	Caspian Tern	Long-billed Corella	Eastern Rosella	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Laughing Kookaburra	Superb Fairy-wren	Yellow Thornbill	Noisy Miner	Rufous Whistler
Maggie Lark	Grey Fantail	Willie Wagtail	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Grey Butcherbird
Australian Magpie	Red-browed Finch	Mistletoebird	Welcome Swallow	Little Grassbird (heard)
Silvereye	Common Starling	Common Myna		

salad rolls, choc-chip muffins, apple cake and lashings of piping hot tea (read a lot of Famous Fives when I was young) - and the birding isn't bad either. Highlight for me is my best sighting of a Golden-headed Cisticola, gleaming like a polished brass bedknob in the morning sun. Running total: 70

10 am to 12.30 pm – A pot-pourri of bird havens (Myanmar Wetlands, Whyjuck Bay, Lake Illawarra Caravan Park, Windang, Purry Burry Point and Korrongulla Swamp) are visited, producing the maddest moment of the day for Dave and me. With 350+ species on our life list, a new bird so close to home is very rare so we usually drink it in languidly (if allowed). This Common Tern at Windang receives a "Yes-I-see-it-it's-a-new-bird-what's-next?" Running total: 89

12.30 pm - 2.15 pm Botanic Gardens - My notes say just one word - "Bugger". I presume I was just too exhausted to add the word "...all!" Lunch with eyes closed. Running total: 92

2.15 pm - 3 pm - Byarong Park - Carfternoon tea. Let the excitement begin! 8 species away from our goal with less than two hours to go. Tiptoe through a rainforest. Nothing. So Penny decides to wait by the road while team return for the car. Now stomping through with long strides to get back asap flushes out 6 species. Running total: 98 The pressure mounts!

3 pm - 3.30 pm - Robertson's Lookout - Damn those Peregrine Falcons!!! But bless those Topknot Pigeons!!! Running total: 99!!!!!!

3.30 pm - 4 pm. Mt. Keira Lookout - Running around like decapitated fowl, don't even ask us our names! We're likely to yell out "GREY SHRIKE-THRUUUUUUUSSSHHHH!" Mt. Keira Lookout is The Big Zero in our day. Running total: 99 (boo-hoo!)

Collapsed in a cross-eyed heap with a crease in our necks you could park a bike in and tallied it up. Yep, 99! That Buff-banded Rail really began to hurt.

It was only later that we found out we could count species heard as well so our final and very respectable total increased to 105.

An exhausting yet unforgettable and most enjoyable 24 hours which we plan to repeat this year but in more style. Yep, can't wait for that cuvée-totin', flip-flip-wearin' witch to come round again!

In transit to & at Cringila Park Rainforest

Silver Gull	Spotted Dove	Galah	Lewin's Honeyeater	Common Blackbird
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Killalea State Park

Australian White Ibis	White-bellied Sea-eagle	Swamp Harrier	Nankeen Kestrel	Bar-shouldered Dove
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Spotted Pardalote (heard)	White-browed Scrub-wren
Red Wattlebird	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven	Satin Bowerbird	Australian Pipit
House Sparrow	Red-whiskered Bulbul	Australian Reed-warbler	Golden-headed Cisticola	

The Pot-Pourri

Australian Wood Duck	Little Egret	Little Corella	Eastern Koel	New Holland Honeyeater
Australasian Figbird	Pied Currawong			

Windang

Australian Hobby	Common Greenshank	Red-necked Stint	Red-capped Plover	Crested Tern
Common Tern	Rock Dove	Crested Pigeon	Rainbow Lorikeet	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	European Goldfinch			

Botanic Gardens

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Musk Lorikeet (heard)	Australian King Parrot	Eastern Yellow Robin
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Mt. Keira

Brown Cuckoo-dove (heard)	Wonga Pigeon	Crimson Rosella	White throated Treecreeper (heard)	Brown Gerygone
Brown Thornbill	Eastern Spinebill	Eastern Whipbird	Grey Shrike-thrush (heard)	

Robertson Lookout

Topknot Pigeon



Nest with one punctured egg found last month (February) in young Morton Bay fig tree in Bronwyn & George Cole's garden close to street in Austinmer; almost certainly a Satin Bowerbird's with egg size 44 x 30 mm.
Carol & Mike Morphet

Neil & Tera Whewey had a late arrival with a young Koel courtesy of the Wattle birds



Judy Baker enjoyed her last break at Belligen spending time relaxing and managed some excellent photos of the birdlife in the area.



BRAHMINI KITE
Judy Baker



RAINBOW BEE-EATER
Judy Baker



Red-backed Fairy Wren (Pair)
Judy Baker

NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE

Garden bird feeders spread diseases

- 13 April 2010 by [Andy Coghlan](#)

Editorial: [Garden bird feeders on trial](#)

EACH year, millions of people stack their garden bird feeders with seeds and nuts to help birds survive the winter. But as valuable as they are to many species, for a minority of songbirds in Europe and North America bird feeders appear to be a death trap.

Little is known about the impact of bird feeders on wild populations, and some ornithologists liken them to a global experiment in manipulating nature. "We should have a huge amount of data, but we don't," says [Jim Reynolds](#) of the University of Birmingham in the UK. Reynolds will be speaking at a [conference in London](#) next month, which for the first time will examine the pros and cons of feeding wild birds.

The conference will hear that bird feeders have played a key role in two waves of diseases among songbirds, mainly finches. Since 1994, an epidemic of an infectious eye disease called mycoplasmal conjunctivitis, which began in poultry, has wiped out 60 per cent of house finches in the eastern US. Undernourished and unable to see properly, they fall easy prey to predators. Experiments by [André Dhondt](#) of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, show that the birds pick up the *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* bacterium from making contact with feeders as they peck at seeds.

House finches with mycoplasmal conjunctivitis can't see properly and fall easy prey to predators

The disease has just reached California, and has spread to other species such as the American goldfinch. A new and more virulent strain has emerged in North Carolina. "It spreads much faster, and the eye infections are more severe," says Dhondt.

In the UK, a feeder-related disease has been affecting greenfinches since 2005. Trichomoniasis, or "trike", is related to a disease thought to have killed some [Tyrannosaurus rex](#). It triggers throat swelling, causing birds to starve, and has killed about a fifth of the UK's greenfinches. In 2007 alone, around 500,000 died, according to [Rob Robinson](#) of the [British Trust for Ornithology](#) (BTO).

[Scott McBurney](#) of the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, in Canada will report at the London meeting that trike reached Canada in 2007. There are also preliminary reports of cases in the US. This suggests the two outbreaks could overlap, with devastating consequences for finch populations.

None of this means that we should throw out our bird feeders. "This is the first big mortality

effect," says Robinson, "but it's only in one or two species. We're safely feeding another 30 or 40." Other research shows that feeders help birds to survive the winter, and then to produce more young that have higher survival rates.

[Mike Toms](#) at the BTO says that simple measures like regularly washing feeders with clean water can reduce infection rates. He has also found that mesh or metal-frame feeders are less likely to spread disease than feeders with a single point of access.



'Trike' is killing Europe's greenfinches
(Image: Anna Yu/Photodisc/Getty)

There is another piece of good news in the data to be presented at the conference. Opponents of feeders claim they get birds hooked on "junk" food. But by feeding tits food laced with a radioactive marker, then analysing blood and claw clippings, [Stuart Bearhop](#) of the University of Exeter, UK, and colleagues have shown that only a tiny fraction of their winter food came from feeders.

The results are echoed in findings from [Darryl Jones](#) of Griffith University in Nathan, Queensland, Australia, which show that Australian magpies with easy access to feeders still fed their chicks mainly grubs and worms dug from the ground. "Most birds still eat a largely natural diet, and the food provided is just a snack," he says.

Editorial: [Garden bird feeders on trial](#)

BIRD SIGHTINGS March 2010 – April 2010 -Compiled by *Martin Cocker*

Australasian Figbird	45+	06-Mar-10	Ray Crump Oval, Primbee	Park (Largest number recorded)	Ron Imisides
Restless Flycatcher	1	18-Mar-10	Hooka Point, Berkeley	Scrub	Michelle Rower
Brown Goshawk	1	23-Mar-10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	23-Mar-10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Rose Robin	2	23-Mar-10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Common Blackbird	2	23-Mar-10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Striated Heron	1	24-Mar-10	Para/Fairy Creek Fairy Meadow	Riparian	Mike Morphett
Scarlet Honeyeater	2 Pair	02-Apr-10	Barrack Point	Garden	Michelle Rower
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	03-Apr-10	Jerrara Dam	Bush	Cheryl Atkhurst
Bar-tailed Godwit	200+	04-Apr-10	Bevans Island, Lake Illawarra, Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Azure Kingfisher	1	14-Apr-10	Koorungulla Swamp	Lakeside	Charles Dove
Striated Heron	1	16-Apr-10	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Little Egret	1	16-Apr-10	Kanahooka Point	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Peregrine Falcon	1	17-Apr-10	Mt. Keira	Forest	Martin Cocker

Things must a quiet with the birds at present a very lean sightings list

HAVE THE NEWSLETTER SENT TO YOU BY EMAIL

Do you have an email address that we don't know about? I can highly recommend receiving the IBOC newsletter electronically.

Our members photos look fantastic in colour and we save the club postage and printing .

Give it a try and I'm sure you will appreciate the vivid colour. Send to our editor , Charles ,your email or remember to include it with your details when paying our treasurer, Bronwyn and she will pass it on .

Val Dolan



THE IBOCC

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 337

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010



photo by Charles Dove

Nankeen Kestrel

Scientific name: *Falco cenchroides*
Family: Falconidae
Order: Falconiformes

Description

The Nankeen Kestrel is a slender falcon and is a relatively small raptor (bird of prey). The upper parts are mostly rufous, with some dark streaking. The wings are tipped with black. The underparts are pale buff, streaked with black, and the under tail is finely barred with black, with a broader black band towards the tip. Females tend to be more heavily marked and have more rufous on the crown and tail. Males have a greyish crown and tail, although the extent varies between individuals. Females are larger than males. Young Nankeen Kestrels closely resemble the adult female, with heavier markings.

Distribution

Nankeen Kestrels are found in most areas of Australia and are also found on islands along Australia's coastline, as well as New Guinea and Indonesia.

Habitat

Preferred habitats are lightly wooded areas and open agricultural regions and tend to be absent from dense forests. The Nankeen Kestrel's success as a bird of prey can be largely contributed to its tolerance for a wide variety of habitats and its ability to feed on a variety of foods and nest in a range of sites.

Seasonal movements

Some Nankeen Kestrels are partially migratory, others disperse in response to the availability of food and some are largely resident.

Feeding

The Nankeen Kestrel's diet is varied. It mainly feeds on small mammals, reptiles, small birds and a variety of insects. Prey is located from a perch or by hovering a

short distance above the ground on rapid wing-beats, using its fan-shaped tail as a rudder and keeping the head and body kept still. Once prey is spotted, the bird drops nearer to the ground until it is close enough to pounce. Some insects and birds may be caught in mid-air or snatched from tree branches.

Breeding

The Nankeen Kestrel nests in a wide variety of sites, including tree hollows, caves, ledges on the outside of buildings, and occasionally on the ground. The nest consists of anything from a simple scrape in the dirt of a ledge or tree hollow, to a nest of sticks or mud that has been abandoned by another species of bird. Pairs of Nankeen Kestrels usually stay together over successive breeding seasons, and will often use the same nest site or territory year after year. Usually only one brood of young is raised in a year. The female does the bulk of the incubation, while the male supplies the food.

(Nankeen Kestrel information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Founded in 1977

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

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JUNE ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting – Monday 14th June 7.30pm - Fairy Meadow Community Hall.
Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow

Brian Hale will be presenting the

IBOC MEMBERS NIGHT.

Midweek Walk - Wednesday 16th June 2010 –
Blackbutt Reserve
Leader Chris Brandis Start 8.30am

Meet in the carpark off Shellharbour Road at 8:30 am. We will walk through the middle of the forest and down to the dam for morning tea then back to the cars. This is a remnant piece of bush with small bird numbers declining during the drought and hopefully we will get a good selection now there has been a bit of rain to liven things up.

Chris Brandis 0427 96 28 37

Monthly Outing - Sunday 20th June 2010
Escarpment S.R.A.
Leader Wal Emery Start 9am

Turn west off the Princess Highway Bulli into Hospital Road. Proceed to the end of Hospital Road, turn left at the T intersection into Highlands Parade, drive to the end of Highlands Parade & street park where available.

We aim to walk the Escarpment Service Trail to the intersection with the upper section of Rixon's Pass and return by the same route a return distance of about 8klm. This distance can be adjusted on the day if desirable and anyone wishing to do a shorter walk can return to their car along the same track.

The walk is through a mixture of wet eucalypt and rainforest. There are three or four moderately steep short hills 50 – 100 metres long where the trail drops in and out of gullies and creeks, but the majority of the walk is fairly easy with a good surface underfoot.

Bring and carry morning tea and lunch.

If we have had rain or heavy dews a piece of plastic to sit on might be a good idea.

Wal Emery

June Committee Meeting –

The meeting due to take place on Monday 17th May 2010 was cancelled.

This was due to 5 committee members submitting their apologies before the meeting date. This left the remaining 3 members with no quorum and as no business could be conducted, it was decided to cancel the meeting.

The next meeting will now be on Monday 21st June 2010 at Betty Hudson's, 1 Drualla Road Jamberoo, at 7.30pm. Ph 42360307.

July 2010 Newsletter –

Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is Wednesday 23rd June 2010
Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph: 42752383

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS – 2010 fees are now due:

Family \$35.00, Single \$30.00, Junior \$10.00

please pay **Browyn Wilson Treasurer** by cash, cheque or money order.

REPORTS

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT - Monday 10th May

Bill Zealey

Helping Threatened Birds-Some Successes and Some difficult Cases

Jack Baker is probably best known to IBOC members for his work the Ground Parrot and Eastern Bristlebird at Barren Grounds. In his talk at our May meeting, he provided an in-depth review of a wide variety of threatened bird species, including details of their present population, threats, and possible remedial action we can take. This talk was all the more appropriate since 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity.

Jack presented several success stories:

Goulds Petrel- Where a program of eradication of rabbits and elimination of the Bird-lime tree on Cabbage Tree Island, Port Stephens has led to an increase in population to 1000 nesting pairs.

The Little Tern- Where signage to minimise human disturbance and control of introduced animals, in particular foxes, has led to increasing numbers of fledglings.



photo by Charles Dove

He also looked at less successful cases, including the Barking Owl, where the loss of mature River Redgums has severely impacted the population with no obvious solution in sight.

He concluded a fascinating and informative talk with the following thoughts (the last of which seems to be a call to arms):-

- A lot of research goes into recovering threatened species.
- Solid research documents are behind every recovery action.
- Volunteers are essential
- Expertise is essential and most of all - every cause needs a champion!

Jack presented evidence that eradication of the most obvious predator will not always provide a solution. Interactions between predator species must also be considered. The Mallee Fowl is regarded as vulnerable, as populations have declined by at least 20% over the past three generation. A program of 1080 fox baiting has reduced



photo by Charles Dove

the main predator. However feral cats have replaced the foxes in predated the Mallee Fowl, since foxes also suppress feral cat numbers. Other examples were discussed where control of foxes has less effect than expected included that of Albert's Lyre Bird. Any presentation from Jack Baker would not be complete without mention of either the Ground Parrot or the Bristle Bird, and this talk was no exception. He described his two decades of involvement with Ground Parrots. He presented data showing that the original ideas about the role of fire on the parrot population had changed and that an imposed fire regime is not required to maintain a suitable habitat.

Jack ended his talk with up-to-date news of the apparently successful relocated colonies of 45 Bristle Birds to the Beecroft Peninsular and 50 birds to the Cataract Dam area.

Mid-week Walk – Wednesday, 12th May, 2010

Korrungulla Swamp, Purry Burry Point and walk to Heritage Park

Jann Gowans

On a fine but blustery morning, our group of 19 birdwatchers set out to explore Korrungulla Swamp in Primbee. It was good to see some new faces among the group. Although it was quite windy and cool, when we entered the forest that edged the swamp, numerous birds were heard and seen including many of the usual suspects (spotted pardalote, New Holland honeyeater, Eastern yellow robin, grey fantail and fan-tailed cuckoo).

The she-oaks proved popular with many red-browed finches, yellow thornbills, silvereyes and even bulbuls. As we went around the swamp, a raptor burst out of the foliage near the group causing great excitement and a long discussion to arrive at a consensus that it was most likely a grey goshawk.

Darters were plentiful at the swamp and Charlie even showed us a nest with a youngster displaying some fine golden colouring. Nearby, an azure kingfisher was spotted through the tall reeds. On several occasions, a few lorikeets flew by at speed, challenging our identification skills to note both rainbow and musk lorikeets. Although we didn't see a few of the more unusual birds recently spotted at the swamp (spangled drongo and musk duck), it was a good morning.



Photo by Charles Dove

We then shifted to Purry Burry Point for morning tea and filled in the remaining cormorant species and spotted both Caspian and crested terns. We walked along the foreshore of the lake and while we didn't add a lot of birds, it was a nice relaxing walk. Most of us hadn't realized there was access to the lake there (mainly locals use the path). The sighting of a pair of European goldfinches in the car park brought the list to 48 species and topped off a most enjoyable outing. Thanks to Charlie for showing us his local patch!

Bird Sightings List

Chestnut teal	Dusky Moorhen	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Pacific Black Duck	Masked Lapwing	Golden Whistler
Australasian Grebe	Caspian Tern	Australian Magpie
Spotted Dove	Crested Tern	Grey Fantail
Crested Pigeon	Silver Gull	Willie Wagtail
Australasian Darter	Rainbow Lorikeet	Australian Raven
Little Pied Cormorant	Musk Lorikeet	Magpie-lark
Great Cormorant	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Yellow Robin
Little Black Cormorant	Azure Kingfisher	Silvereye
Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Welcome Swallow
Australian Pelican	Yellow Thornbill	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Eastern Great Egret	Spotted Pardalote	Common Starling
White-faced Heron	Eastern Spinebill	Common Myna
Little Egret	Little Wattlebird	Red-browed Finch
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Red Wattlebird	House Sparrow
Grey Goshawk	New Holland Honeyeater	European Goldfinch

BIRD SONGS

Oh, there's music in the forests
And there's music in the glen,
As the birds are warbling greetings
To the spring that's come again.

All their piping is so merry
That the woodlands seem to ring,
With the praises of the birdsongs
For the coming of the spring.

Join the joyous woodland chorus
And raise high your voice in cheer,
Join the birdsongs in thanksgiving
For the springtime of the year!

WEEKEND WALK TO TRIPARINA NATURE RESERVE

15th. MAY, 2010

Terry Edwell

Sunday was a beautiful day for our walk at Trilarina Nature Resrve. There were lots of birds, calling as we walked, but it wasn` t till we reached a dam that we found yellow faced honey-eaters, bathing and singing, which allowed us to identify their calls. Mike spotted a white eared honey-eater drying itself off, high in a tree, so most of us had a good look. There were some small parrots there as well, identified as Little Lorikeets. Wombats had left calling cards on most of the surrounding rocks and there were tracks, all through the bush and reeds. Not much else was spotted there, but it



photo by Charles Dove

has great potential though, as in 2009, a few of us ventured near the river and saw dozens of Raibow Bee-eaters and Yellow-tufted Honey-eaters, so therefore, it could be worth a visit in the summer months. We then moved on to the next part of our day, which was still in the Nowra District, along the river, or part of it to a place called Ben`s Walk. Here, we had lunch

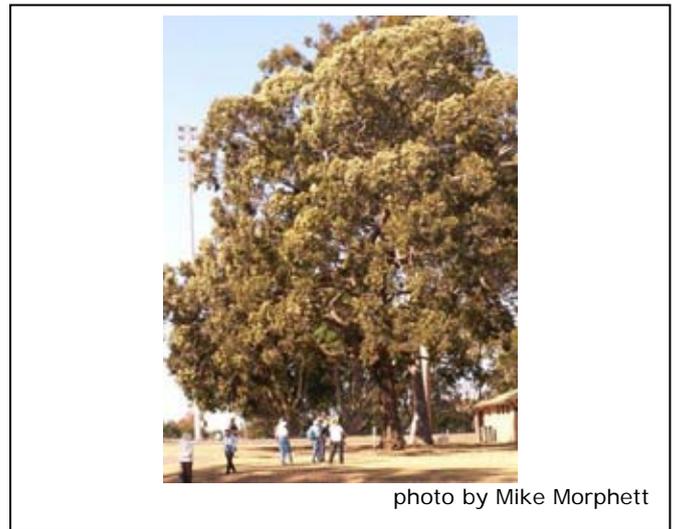


photo by Mike Morphett

and a rest in the parking area. Whilst having a break, we noticed a huge flowering gum, and craned our necks to find Musk Lorikeets, well hidden in the top branches. A beautiful Sea Eagle was seen, gliding around, further up the river. We then walked down many steps to a lovely walk along the river. Not many birds were seen nor heard, but a few of our walkers turned back, and they said that there were birds everywhere, so we must have stirred them up. It was a good walk back and it was a challenge for me to climb over the rocks at the end of the creek. We then proceded back along the other side and across a swinging bridge and we then climbed many steps, back to the carpark. We commenced with seventeen people and lost a couple along the way, but eventually met up again. Thanks to Betty for another lovely day, and for finding all those places for us to go and enjoy our bird watching.

Morning walk Triplarina Nature Reserve

Pacific Black Duck	Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Whipbird
Little Black Cormorant	Brown Thornbill	Golden whistler
Little Pied Cormorant	Lewin`s honeyeater	Grey Shrike-thrush
Little Eagle	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Dusky Moorhen	White-eared Honeyeater	Grey butcherbird
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Australian Magpie
Little Lorikeet	New Holland Honeyeater	Silvereye
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Spinebill	
White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Yellow Robin	

Lunch & Afternoon Walk Nowra Showground & Ben`s Walk

White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Magpie-lark
Galah	Brown Thornbill	Willie Wagtail
Musk Lorikeet	Red Wattlebird	Grey Fantail
Crimson Rosella	Lewin`s Honeyeater	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Laughing Kookaburra	White-eared Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Raven
Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Yellow Robin	Satin Bowerbird
Spotted Pardalote	Eastern whipbird	Welcome Swallow
White-browed Scrubwren	Golden whistler	Silvereye



Bassian Thrush

This bird has been doing the rounds of my back garden for over 2 hours, mainly jabbing at worms & grubs in the lawn, reminiscent of blackbirds back in Britain. For the 1st time I noted a gentle rocking to & fro, as mentioned in Pizzey's guide. I played a recording of this species on our CD player, nice & loud, but it made no impact on this individual - too preoccupied with its stomach, I guess.

Mike



Fishings was good for some at Sawtell - Charlie



Afternoon Tea in Brisbane - Charlie

Pooping Pelican



I was pooped on by a pelican,
Down at the wharf today,
I didn't see it coming,
I didn't feel its spray,
I didn't know what happened,
Till I heard my missus say,
"You've been pooped on by a pelican,"
She smirked- and turned away.

I wasn't under cover
When I felt that dreaded splat
I didn't have my cap on,
I didn't have my hat,
It seems that I walked underneath
The pole on which it sat,
I was an easy target,
For that pelican- when it shat.

Now a pelican's not tiny,
Like a sparrow or a tit,
So it's not a trifling matter
When it scores a direct hit,
The pain is not the worry,
It's your pride that hurts a bit,
When you're pooped on by a pelican,
You know you're in the shit.



On my neighbour's roof at Farmborough Heights
Andrew Wood

The pelican that pooped on me
Was the biggest I have seen,
I found it quite outrageous,
That it thought me a latrine,
I was a wee bit angry,
And I looked somewhat obscene,
For it pooped on me with malice
Pooping pelicans are mean.

It trickled down my cheek and forehead,
I knew I'd been defaced,
It was sticky, white and smelly,
I wiped it off with haste,
Then instinctively I licked my lips
It had a fishy taste,
Like a cross between a rotten prawn,
And out of date Pecks Paste.

My sister said it's lucky,
To be pooped on from on high,
I should buy a lottery ticket,
A trifecta I should try.
"It wasn't you was pooped on"
I told her with a sigh,
"And the only thing that's lucky:
Is that elephants don't fly."

To the harbour every day I'll walk,
I am a coastal dweller,
My looks are unremarkable,
You'd hardly call me stellar
But when I'm walking people say,
"There goes a funny fella,
For even with no hint of rain,
He carries his umbrella."

There were twenty seven pelicans
Down at the wharf today,
They were sitting all on light poles,
And I'm sure I heard them say,
"We've scored another bullseye",
Then I thought they cheered:
'Hooray',
I was pooped on by a pelican,
Down at the wharf today.

Bigruss May 05

The Albatross are starting to slowly arrive with the cuttlefish - forever vigilante

THANK YOU:- Recently I joined IBOC for an amazing week of birdwatching at Leeton. As a visitor I was made so welcome. Members of the group patiently helped me learn new skills and shared their expert knowledge so willingly. Through your newsletter I'd like to say I appreciate this very much. **Thank you.** Sylvia Cohen.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

A short extract from the report on Black Necked Storks by Greg Clancy and published in the Australian Field Ornithology.

110 AUSTRALIAN Field Ornithology 2009, **26**, 110–115

Species review—

The Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*:

An Overview

GREG. P. CLANCY

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Summary

Nineteen species of stork (Ciconiidae), belonging to three tribes, occur throughout the world, mostly in tropical areas. Some are migratory, some are colonial nesters and most are dependent on wetlands. Four to five species are considered threatened globally. The Australasian populations of the Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* are likely to be split from the Asian populations in the future, as the Satin Stork *E. australis*.

Recent research on the species in New South Wales covering its distribution and territories, breeding biology, feeding behaviour and diet, threats and status, will be published in detail elsewhere.

Introduction

Nineteen stork species, ranging from 75 cm to 152 cm in length, of the order Ciconiiformes, suborder Ciconiae and family Ciconiidae, are found throughout the world, with the greatest diversity in the tropics. Six species belong to the tribe Mycteriini (wood storks and openbills), seven species to the tribe Ciconiini ('typical' storks), and six species to the tribe Leptoptilini ('giant' storks) (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). The Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* (and Satin

Stork *E.a. australis*) belong to the last tribe, which also includes the Saddlebill *E. senegalensis*, Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*, Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*, Greater Adjutant *L. dubius* and Marabou *L. crumeniferus*. This tribe shows a classic Gondwanan distribution pattern with species occurring in Africa, India, Australia and South America.

Some stork species are migratory, some are colonial nesters and some are dependent on wetlands (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992) (Table 1). Seventeen of the 19 species are piscivorous, at least occasionally. Some are highly specialised in their diet, with the openbills *Anastomus* spp. possessing bills especially modified to break open aquatic snails, and Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* feeding almost exclusively on army worms *Spodoptera exempta* (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). Twelve species are colonial and six are solitary nesters, with one species, the Jabiru, mostly solitary. Fourteen are migratory or partially so, and one is nomadic. Four species, including the Blacknecked Stork, are resident, with a further seven species partly resident. Only four species are not dependent on wetlands, although a further four are occasionally found away from wetlands.

Australia's stork species

The Black-necked Stork is a large, iconic bird species found throughout northern Australia, and down the eastern coast to about Sydney, New South Wales.

It is also found in southern New Guinea and parts of southern and south-eastern Asia. It is commonly referred to as 'Jabiru' in Australia, but this is confusing as this name properly refers to the Jabiru of South America.

Taxonomically, the nominate subspecies *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus asiaticus* is found in Asia, with birds in Australia and New Guinea being considered to a separate subspecies *E.a.*



photo by Charles Dove at Featherdale Park

australis (Marchant & Higgins 1990). Recent genetic work has indicated that the Asian and Australasian subspecies are distinct enough genetically to be considered separate species, although a more extensive dataset with better-documented specimens is required to confirm this (Christidis & Boles 2008). If confirmed, Australasian birds would be known as *Ephippiorhynchus australis*. My recommended common name of 'Satin Stork' has been adopted by the Birds Australia Common Names Committee (Andrew Ley pers. comm.),

assuming that full specific status is confirmed. The Black-necked Stork is 110 to 137 cm in length and weighs ≥ 4 kg (Marchant & Higgins 1990). Despite its large size, distinctive appearance and widespread distribution in Australia, it has been rarely studied and there are few publications on its ecology (Marchant & Higgins 1990). Feeding behaviour, nest-sites and threats to the species have been discussed (Purcell 1993; Dorfman *et al.* 2001).

Purcell (1993) identified the following research priorities:

- assessing the rate of wetland loss in the Richmond Valley, New South Wales;
- assessing the impact of exotic plants on the rate of wetland loss or decline;
- identifying all Stork nest-sites in the Richmond Valley;
- recording the breeding success of the Stork so as to aid in the modelling of population trends;
- the development of a better understanding of the behaviour of the Stork in the Richmond Valley, with particular reference to breeding behaviour; VOL. 26 (4) december 2009 Black-necked Stork: An Overview 113
- assessing the impact of powerline strikes on populations of the Stork in the Richmond Valley;
- assessing the impacts of environmental pollution on Stork mortality and fecundity, with particular reference to pesticides and heavy metals;
- investigating the potential of livestock dip-sites to act as a point source for wetland pollution;
- attempting, by observation rather than experimentation, to determine the environmental factors that limit the population of the Stork in the Richmond Valley; and
- assessing what role, if any, movement plays in the maintenance of local populations of Storks.

Most of these priorities have been partly addressed in my research (Clancy 2008).

Dorfman *et al.* (2001) concluded that changes in land-use patterns are likely to be one of the most important influences on the species, in addition to powerlines and pollutants, and suggested that the Cane Toad *Bufo marinus* may also pose a threat.

The Stork's distribution in Australia is reported in journals and newsletters, including extralimital records from south-western Queensland and north-eastern South Australia (Baxter *et al.* 2001) and New South Wales (Bell 1963; Salmon 1965). In the Alligator Rivers Region of the Northern Territory there was an estimated regional population of about 1800 Storks (Morton *et al.* 1993). The total population for New South Wales was estimated to be 37–43 Storks (Salmon 1965).

Acknowledgements

This review was prepared as part of my PhD thesis at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. Hugh Ford and Richard Kingsford supervised this project, which was funded by an Australian Postgraduate Allowance. The Waterbird Society provided a grant to assist with travel costs during the fieldwork.

Bird List for May 2010

Compiled by Martin Cocker

SPECIES	Qty.	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Australian Brush-turkey	1	04-May-10	University of Wollongong	Parkland/forest	Penny Potter
Musk Duck	1	07-May-10	Primbee	Swamp	Charles Dove
Black Swan	42	02-May-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Superb Fruit-Dove	1	10-May-10	Mt. Keira Garden	Dead juvenile male, window strike	Val Dolan
Tawny Frogmouth	1	Several Dates in April	Farmborough Hts	Residential	Andrew Wood
Black-browed Albatross	1	04-May-10	Off Bellambi	Ocean	Tom Wylie
Australasian Darter	5	24-Apr-10	Korungulla Swamp	Wetland	Martin Potter

Striated Heron	1	02-May-10	Lake Illawarra Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Royal Spoonbill	35	22-Apr-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Eastern Osprey	1	01-May-10	Lake Illawarra Kanahooka	Fighting Sea Eagle	Ian McKinley
Eastern Osprey	2	08-May-10	Manildra Plant, Bomaderry	floodplain	Martin and Penny Potter
Black-shouldered Kite	3	02-May-10	HaywardsBay	Swamp	Roger Truscott
White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	22-May-10	Thirroul	Overhead	Mike Morphett
White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	15-May-10	Thirroul	Overhead	Mike Morphett
White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	24-Apr-10	Korrungulla Swamp	Wetlands	Martin Potter
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	18-Apr-10	Abrahams Bosom, Currarong	Coastal	Martin and Penny Potter
White-bellied Sea-eagle	3	13-Apr-10	Minnamurra River	Lakeside	Lorraine Pincus
Whistling Kite	2	02-May-10	HaywardsBay	Swamp	Roger Truscott
Brown Goshawk	1	07-May-10	Seacliff Bridge	Overhead	Mike Morphett
Brown Goshawk	1	04-May-10	Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	11-Apr-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Woodland	M Potter, Dave Bourne
Grey Goshawk	2	12-May-10	Excelsior Mine Thirroul	1grey, 1 white morph	Mike Morphett
Swamp Harrier	1	25-Apr-10	Bellambi Lagoon	Wetland	Joan Wylie
Swamp Harrier	1	02-May-10	HaywardsBay	Swamp	Roger Truscott
Swamp Harrier	1	08-May-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Peregrine Falcon	1	12-May-10	Excelsior Mine Thirroul	Overhead	Mike Morphett
Buff-banded Rail	1	23-May-10	Woonona Garden	Frequent garden visitor	Keith Curle
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2	02-May-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2	02-May-10	Lake Illawarra Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	07-May-10	Seacliff Bridge	Rock Platform	Mike Morphett
Pacific Golden Plover	2	02-May-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Red-capped Plover	6	02-May-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Red-capped Plover	33	02-May-10	Lake Illawarra Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Double-banded Plover	28	02-May-10	Lake Illawarra Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Double-banded Plover	63	02-May-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo	3	12-May-10	Excelsior Mine Thirroul	Overhead	Mike Morphett
Red-rumped Parrot	Pair	06-May-10	Wollongong Golf Course	Parkland/Coastal	Martin Potter
Powerful Owl	1	02-May-10	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Sitting on Sign Post	Charles Dove
Powerful Owl	1	25-May-10	Corramy State Recreation Reserve Basin View	Forest	Stan Brown
Noisy Pitta	1	05-May-10	"Bolwarra" Foxground	Rainforest	Jeffrey Long
Superb Lyrebird	1	28-Apr-10	Mt Kembla Ring Track	Forest	Andrew Wood
Eastern Bristlebird	2+	01-May-10	Bellawongarah	Forest	Carla Jackett
Rockwarbler	1	07-May-10	Bomaderry Creek Nowra	Sandstone Gorge	Hales & Garlicks
White-plumed Honeyeater	1	22-Apr-10	Brookes Creek Kanahooka		Glenis Wellins
White-plumed Honeyeater	1	05-May-10	Dapto	Garden	Neil Wheway
White-fronted Chat	4	02-May-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Australian Logrunner	1	05-Apr-10	Corrimal Escarpment	Rainforest	Wal Emery
Australian Logrunner	1	08-Apr-10	Corrimal Escarpment	Rainforest	Wal Emery
Australian Logrunner	2	01-May-10	Corrimal Escarpment	Rainforest	Wal Emery
Cicadabird	1	03-May-10	Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Golden Whistler	2	05-May-10	Dapto	Garden	Neil Wheway
Rose Robin	1	07-May-10	Bomaderry Creek Nowra	Sandstone Gorge	Hales & Garlicks
Bassian Thrush	1	16-May-10	Scarborough	Rain forest garden	Danie Ondinea
Bassian Thrush	1	16-May-10	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Bassian Thrush	3	04-Mar-10	Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Beautiful Firetail	1	March	Barren Grounds Nature Reserve	Heathland	Hales & Garlicks

Top of the list this month must be the the Suberb Fruit-Dove. This bird is classified as a rare nomad in our area. Pizzey and Knight make the following comments in their field guide that is spot on the mark for this sighting. "Many also inexplicably migrate south through Sydney to south coast of NSW in all months with peak in April-May, frequently hitting windows at night, many are young birds". Many thanks to Val Dolan for this record.

Good to see sightings for Eastern Bristlebird, Logrunner and another Noisy Pitta in our area.

Many thanks to you all for your sightings.

Regards

Martin Cocker
Records Officer



photo by Charles Dove
at Featherdale Park



Reversing the decline of the Cowra woodland birds



Call for bird surveyors

The Cowra Woodland Birds Program was established in 2000 under BASNA with the aim of helping to reverse the decline of woodland birds in the Cowra district. Birders are well aware of the plight of our native woodlands and their associated birds. Our major on-going project is quarterly bird surveys. The first six years of data were analysed in a recent report – see <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/our-projects/cowra-woodland-birds.html>. To improve our understanding of the trends in woodland bird populations, the report recommended continuing the surveys and increasing the number of sites of better-quality bird habitat. Thus, we have selected about 20 more sites for future surveys.

We now need a small number of extra volunteers to help with surveys. Perhaps some old faces will show up again but new-comers are welcome. A survey weekend usually involves:

- A team of two or three birders (one needs to be competent at woodland bird identification and GPS if possible)
- Friday night briefing for allocation of sites, maps and other information
- Saturday and Sunday morning surveys at about four sites per morning
- Saturday night social event with the other surveyors

Being a voluntary effort, surveyors have to meet all of their own costs. You don't have to commit to every survey weekend but we do need 2-3 more teams for each survey. To register your interest, please contact Malcolm Fyfe mfyfe@tpg.com.au

Remaining survey weekends for 2010 are 16-18 July and 15-17 October.

John Rankin for the CWBP

Leeton Camp Report

10 – 17 April 2010

Confessions of a new birdwatcher –

by Linda Cohen

Part 1 of 2

Day 1 : Leeton**Fivebough Swamp (am)**

Our first day. I was awake early with excitement and walked around the caravan park and along the back road before breakfast. The birds were also up early and I saw a Yellow-throated miner. What a way to start the day – a new sighting!! We all met at 8.30am so we could get our instructions and head off in a convoy. First stop today was Fivebough Swamp. I had been reading up on the local birding areas in some very helpful brochures at the Caravan Park (“Bird Routes of Leeton” and “Bird Routes of Narrandera”) and many of us were hoping to see lots of waterbirds at the swamps, which had an international RAMSAR listing. We had a long walk through head-high rushes out to the swamp itself. I was expecting a lot more water as it didn’t look at all like the photos. Once we reached the water however it became much more exciting as we saw 3 Brolgas feeding on the other side of the swamp. The club’s new telescope was in high demand as we all wanted a good look at them! We were very lucky to see them as they weren’t there later in the week. We also saw lots of Australian Shelducks (this was a new sighting for me!) and several Black-fronted Dotterels. Other sightings included the usual waterbirds: Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Yellow-billed Spoonbill and Royal Spoonbill, Sacred Ibis and Straw-necked Ibis, and White-faced Heron. Our sightings became much clearer once the cattle moved out of the foreground ... Several members were also fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the Little Grassbird. Another highlight for many of us occurred on our way out when we also saw a pair on Nankeen Kestrels perched on the ledge of a house on the other side of an irrigation channel. It looked like their regular roosting place judging from the white streaks down the chimney ...

Tuckerbil Swamp (pm)

In the afternoon we went to another nearby swamp. Again we didn’t see the variety or numbers of waterbirds that we expected, probably due to the drought and the floods in Queensland. It didn’t matter to me as I had an open mind. As it was my first camp I had no preconceived ideas and I was just happy to see anything. It was very beautiful and we had some good sightings of both waterbirds and bushbirds. This was an easier walk as the track circled the swamp on a slightly raised ridge. This made it easy to have a good look at the birds and to get closer to those on the other side of the water. A thrill for many of us was seeing several groups of Zebra Finches “up close and personal” feeding and calling and flying between low bushes next to the track. This was very exciting for me as I knew straightaway what they were – there aren’t many other similar species! However it does show just how useful it is to read through your birdbooks in your spare time to study up on the species that you aren’t familiar with. One of those times when Mum’s advice has paid off! (She is always telling me to read through my field guides and study the birds I don’t know). Seeing a pair of White-throated Chats was also a thrill for several members as we watched them perch and fly between tussocks at the edge of the swamp.



Photo by Betty Hudson

Day 2 : Cocoparra National Park

This was an all-day excursion and our first “big day out”. It was an 80 km drive there (it is near Griffith). Along the drive we saw several raptors including a Black-shouldered Kite. The radios were very useful as we could alert each other if we saw something interesting driving along. Suddenly someone would radio (for example) “Raptor on the right” and we would all look and stop to see if we could identify it. It must have looked really funny to anyone driving along to see a convoy of about eight cars all pulled off the road and about 20 people with binoculars all looking in the same direction and totally oblivious to anything else!

Along the dirt road at the entrance to the park we all stopped for some Blue Bonnets and a magnificent Red capped Robin – who was very cooperative and sat in the sun on a dead branch for ages. I caught just a glimpse of the Blue Bonnets as they flew off. This was just enough of a look at them to make me want to see them again, properly (which I did on the last day). Once we arrived at the park we stopped for morning tea (and a pit stop). I wandered around trying to find the birds that I could hear. The first bird I saw I had no idea what it was so I had to call in reinforcements. It turned out to be a group of Double-barred Finches. They were very pretty with their black and white facial markings and patterned backs. We saw them again later on our walk and I was really glad that Mum saw them as she missed them the first time. She was so excited to see them (it was her first sighting) that she danced for joy!

One of the highlights was seeing three Wedge-tailed Eagles fly down the gorge just above us. Also seeing a Speckled Warbler perching in a tree. We all lined up along the path with our binoculars. It was so funny to hear us all trying to describe where it was, for example “in the tree on that branch in front of you” (how many trees are there??), “see this tree in front of you, see the dead bit that forks – go up from there and then across to the right and it’s sitting on that branch – the third branch up from the ground”. It’s a miracle we saw it ... Some final highlights from today included a Grey shrike Thrush (thank you Tom for calling it down to us!), Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, White-browed Babbler, Peaceful Dove, and a pair of Mulga Parrots feeding on the ground. As we left the park, Tom and Neil stopped us to see a Jacky Winter sitting on a fence and chasing insects. This was a thrill for Mum especially as she had only seen one once (a female sitting on a nest) and yet apparently they are common and the fence behaviour was “typical textbook” so it was quite satisfying to finally see this.



Photo by Betty Hudson



Photo by Betty Hudson

The walk itself was beautiful too, and once we climbed up through the gorge we came out onto a plateau where we could see for miles. The views were breathtaking and it would have been worth it even without the bird sightings!

Narrandera to Leeton – drive home

Sometimes your best sightings happen by chance. Betty and Katharine stopped at Yenda on the way back just to see if there were any birds on the irrigation channel. We heard them radio that they had Plumed Whistling Ducks so we pulled over also. This was very exciting for me as I thought I would never see these beautiful ducks. I love the way their plumed feathers sit up. There were about 14 of them swimming around. Then as we were about to get back into our cars we looked up to see a dozen White-breasted Woodswallows sitting on an aerial, lined up just as you see them in the field guide illustrations. They are so cute with their dark and white colouring, and I have always liked them. This was the first time that I had seen either of these birds. Altogether it was a great day filled with lots of new birds ☺

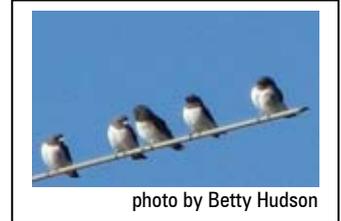


photo by Betty Hudson

Supper and bird meeting

Our bird meeting tonight was brightened with a special cake to celebrate Tom's birthday. It was a surprise that Joan had arranged. The cake went down very well with the port and helped us keep warm in the chilly evening while we recorded all of the birds seen today and made our plans for tomorrow.

Day 3 : Leeton

Stoney Point Road

This was a quieter day to give us all time to recover from our big day out yesterday. We drove just out of Leeton along back roads to Stoney Point Road, which has grey Boree (*Acacia pendula*) laden with grey Mistletoe (*Amyema quandang*). Our brochure told us we would see some interesting birds here. A few of us were hoping for the Painted Honeyeater, but perhaps it was too late in the season. We did see the Mistletoe bird feeding in the mistletoe (!), as well as the Singing Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Variegated Fairy-wren and several thornbills (I can never tell them apart). Thank you Joan and Teera for spotting and identifying the Whistling Kite flying overhead. It was good to be able to match up seeing the kite with hearing its call. Our explorations were curtailed with the unwelcome sighting of an active Yellow Cropduster.

In the afternoon, we had some "free time" to rest, catch up on washing, or explore other areas. I made an apple teacake to take to our supper meeting and tried to catch up on my bird lists and reading up on the new species that I had seen so far this week. I had brought several bird books with me expecting to have plenty of time to read up the birds I saw but we've hardly had any spare time so far – what with early starts, a full day's activities, a short break for dinner, the evening meeting to write up the bird list and then early to bed to be ready for another day.

Day 4 : Cuba State Forest

As a beginner and a new member of the club, I have really appreciated everyone's time, patience, and friendliness this week. Both Mum and I have felt very welcome and it's encouraging to have others take the time to help us to improve our birdwatching skills. Everyone has also made sure that we have seen all of the birds, especially if they are new birds for us.

On our way into Cuba State Forest today I was able to "give something back" to everyone which felt great. I spotted a Cockatiel sitting on the top of a dead tree, so I nervously radioed to the group that we were stopping for a Cockatiel and where it was. We all stopped and jumped out and fortunately the light was behind us so we were able to really see it well. This was probably the first time I felt confident using the radio – despite my nickname of "Colonel".



photo by Betty Hudson



Photo by Betty Hudson

Naturally, we were all hoping to see the Superb Parrots and we weren't disappointed. We saw them several times in the forest, both flying and also in pairs feeding on the ground. Several of us were able to creep up on them for a closer look and some photos. I was amazed at how brilliant green they are. The pictures in the field guides just don't do them justice. Other notable sightings here included the Blue-faced Honeyeater, Brown Treecreeper, Yellow Rosella and Superb Blue Fairy-wren.



photo by Betty Hudson

Gogeldrie Weir

We stopped for lunch at Gogeldrie Weir at a very pleasant camping ground and picnic spot. The highlight here was seeing three Crested Shrike-tits feeding in the trees. This caused great excitement in the group and everyone lined up for a good look at them. We also saw a pair of Mistletoe birds, a Whistling kite and White-plumed honeyeaters. Check out the full birdlist for Gogeldrie Weir on the website for more details.

Leeton – Menangle Hill Road

One of the most memorable and significant sightings all week occurred by chance – word spread quickly that Tom, Joan, Neil and Teera had spotted Ground Cuckoo-shrikes in a field on the outskirts of Leeton on our "free afternoon", so this afternoon many of us went back to the same place at the same time hoping to see them. We saw FIVE of them – feeding on the ground, flying around and calling to one another, until they were chased away by several Magpie Larks. It was totally unexpected to have seen them this camp and I'm sure many of us will remember this for years to come.



Photo by Betty Hudson

Continued in July Newsletter



THE IBOCC

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 338

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

Zebra Finch

Scientific name: *Taeniopygia guttata*

Family: Passeridae

Order: Passeriformes

Description

Zebra Finches are mainly grey, with characteristic black 'tear drop' eye stripes and 'zebra like' black and white barring on the rump and upper tail. The throat and upper breast are pale grey, with fine



photo by Pam Hazelwood

black barring, and there is a broad black band on upper chest. The sides of the belly are chestnut with many white spots. The remainder of the belly and the undertail are white. The male is distinguished from the female by its chestnut cheek patches, a character that gave the species the alternative name of Chestnut-eared Finch. Both sexes have red eyes and bill. The legs and feet are orange yellow. Young are similar in plumage to the female, except that the clear black and white markings of the head are absent. The eyes are grey-brown and the bill is black.

Distribution

Zebra Finches are the most common and widespread of Australia's grassfinches, found across the Australian mainland, with the exception of Cape York Peninsula and some coastal areas. They are also found in Timor and the Lesser Sunday Islands.

Habitat

Zebra Finches are most commonly found in the drier areas of Australia, living year round in social flocks of up to 100 or more birds. They can be found in a variety of habitats, mainly dry wooded grasslands, bordering watercourses.

Feeding

Zebra Finches feed in large flocks on fallen or ripening grass seeds. Insects may be taken at any time of the year, but are particularly favoured when feeding young. Feeding takes place on the ground, and, unlike some other grassfinches, birds never pull seed heads down with their feet.

Breeding

Zebra Finches pair for life. The female alone selects the nest site, but both birds care for the eggs and young. The male gathers almost all the nesting material, with which the female constructs the loose dome-shaped nest. Birds have also been reported to nest in hollows in the ground, although this behaviour is uncommon.

(Zebra Finch information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Founded in 1977

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

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JULY ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting – Monday 12th July 7.30pm - Fairy Meadow Community Hall.
Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow

Ron Imisides will be doing a compilation of images from four separate and exciting visits to the Cape, spanning fifteen years. Will cover most sites to be visited, and will give the travelling group an insight of the wonderful adventure that awaits the group travelling to the Cape.

July Mid Week Walk Wednesday 14th July 2010.
Stafford Farm Track, Kembla Heights
Leader Terrill Nordstrom.

Meet at 9.00am at the start of the Stafford Farm Track just east of the entrance to the Motor Bike Track on Harry Graham Drive, Kembla Heights. Access to Harry Graham Drive is from either Mt Kembla Road or Mt Keira Road. From Mt Kembla Rd the meeting place is approximately 200m before the Motor Bike Track Entrance. Bring a carry morning tea.
Contact Terrill on 0420 848 713 or Joan Wylie 4284 2051

July Monthly Outing - Saturday 17th July
Saddleback Mtn. & Jerrara Dam & Arboretum, Kiama
Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at 9.00am in the carpark on the summit of Saddleback Mtn.. Travel via the Princes Hwy. to Kiama and take the 2nd (NEW) Kiama exit. Turn left into South Kiama Drive, then left again at the High School into Saddleback Mtn. Rd. Turn left at the next T junction and continue to the end. Bring morning tea and lunch to eat in the picnic areas. Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945

July Committee Meeting –

The July IBOC Committee Meeting will be on Monday 19th July 2010 at 7.30pm at the home of Norma Almond, 2 Shoobert Crescent, Keiraville.

July 2010 Newsletter –

Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is Friday 23rd July 2010
E-mail contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph: 4275 2383

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS – *2010 fees are now due:*

Family \$35.00, Single \$30.00, Junior \$10.00
please pay **Browyn Wilson Treasurer** by cash, cheque or money order.

IBOC Proposed Pelagic Trip

Last year we canvassed members regarding having a charter boat trip out to sea looking for pelagic birds. Due to insufficient numbers it has not proved possible to arrange a trip especially for IBOC. If you are still interested in going out on one of SOSSA 's regular monthly trips (on the 4th Sunday of each month) you should contact SOSSA direct and make your own arrangements. Now is the start of the best time to see the albatrosses and other pelagic birds as the cuttlefish have started arriving. SOSSA can be contacted via their web site www.sossa-international.org or ph 4271 6004
or email sossa@tpg.com.au you can also write to SOSSA P.O. Box 142 Unanderra 2526

REPORTS

Monthly Meeting Report 14th June 2010 (Members evening)

Alan Cousins

What an evening, my sincere thanks go to Brian (Puffin) Hales for organising, in my absence overseas, such a very interesting, varied and entertaining evening. Twelve members gave various presentations in the form of slides and a computer driven video and slide shows.

SYLVIA GARLICK - "Birds that come to my garden" Sylvia gave a very interesting talk assisted by a slideshow of birds and plants in her garden.

NICK & DAPHNE OUDTSHOORN - "A slow look at nature" Nick & Daphne produced a magnificent slow motion film of birds and animals. The film kept returning to a large heron type bird which was attempting to swallow whole a large fish, it succeeded eventually, and also the slow opening of a hippo's jaws - awesome!!

BILL & JOAN ZEALY - "Birds of Brazil" Bill & Joan's presentation provided us with a very interesting insight into South American birds, with Joan giving an excellent commentary and explanation of the different species.

NEIL MCKINLAY & PAM HAZELWOOD - "Spot the finch" Neil gave a humorous presentation involving a bush full of Zebra Finches that Pam had photographed at the Easter camp at Leeton. Members were encouraged to count the number of finches pictured in each slide.

ALAN COUSINS & BETTY HUDSON - "A trip to the Flinders Ranges" Alan gave a presentation from a CD produced by Betty who was away with family. He started giving a verbal commentary of each slide but the captions inserted by Betty made this superfluous so he just let the slide show run showing a brief resume of the IBOC trip to the Flinders Ranges in 2009.

RON IMISIDES - "Surrogate parents" Ron gave us an insight with great photos of the raising of a Masked Lapwing chick that had *been found* in the street. Each slide showed the various stages of its raising by being fed with food provided by Ron's wife Rita. The show went right up until the time that the Lapwing flew away for good.

NEIL & TERA WHEWAY - "Birds in Tera's backyard"

Tera always has great photos and the shots of the Southern Boobook were amazing but with 22 trees in her backyard the bird population is large and varied. Neil followed Tera's presentation by reading a poem reminding us that there is always "time for a coffee"

JANN GOWANS - "An American view" Jann gave us an interesting insight into some birds of America and she suggested that when her mum comes over to Australia from the USA she might give us a further insight- all agreed.

CHARLES DOVE - "Bird food" Charlie came up with a very professional standard even if the 'doors' did open slowly. He had photos of a variety of birds all feeding on something or other.

It was a memorable evening and this report cannot do justice to the standard of the presentations which everybody enjoyed and perhaps we should consider this type of event more often. Thanks to all who participated.

England given the Bird

Reporting on the goalless drawn game in Cape Town in the World Cup between England and Algeria, BBC Sport's chief football writer, Phil McNulty had this to say on 18th June about the England team's lacklustre display:

"The fact that a bird flew into the middle of the action [inaction might have been a more apt description] and landed on the top of Algeria's net, then perched blissfully undisturbed, was a fitting symbol of England's impotence."

McNulty rated each player's performance as only between 4 and 6 out of 10. On that basis, England could have done with this bird on the wing, which would have earned top billing for itself.

The bird species wasn't identified; a jeering fan-tale perhaps. Had it been a passerine, it could have ruled the roost over the match referee and whistled the end of the game without granting extra boring time, if it had been audible above the call of the vuvuzelas.

Mike Morphet

Sixteen members and a guest met at the designated car park with four meeting us part way into this large but isolated reserve with extra sightings. A little way along the central track a feeding party of birds passed through including Variegated Fairy-wren, Brown Thornbill and a male Golden Whistler being enjoyed by all. High above a male Rose Robin was sighted but it stayed high and moved quickly giving only a few of us a good view down the hill and into the rain forest walk where White-browed and Large-billed Scrubwrens were spotted in the gloom before



we stopped for morning tea in the brilliant sunshine on the dam wall. A pair of Black Swans were present on the dam with Purple Swamphens, Dusky Moorhens and Eurasian Coots on and about the dam.

Just after leaving the dam some of us walked under a feeding Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo several metres over head without noticing it but those further back spotted it and its mate further in the forest. The more eyes proved to be the difference in spotting birds being much quieter over winter. Back at the central car park we met the Wylies and then we walked along another trail finding another feeding flock giving us Silvereye to add to the list. Shellharbour City Council is trying to develop nature corridors so that species can move into areas that they have disappeared from and with hope birds such as White-throated Treecreeper and Eastern Whipbird will again enjoy Blackbutt Reserve.



Bird Sightings List

Black Swan	Laughing Kookaburra	Golden Whistler
Australian Wood Duck	Satin Bowerbird	Grey Butcherbird
Pacific Black Duck	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie
Australasian Grebe	Variegated Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong
Spotted Dove	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail
Little Pied Cormorant	Large-billed Scrubwren	Willie Wagtail
Australian Pelican	Brown Gerygone	Australian Raven
Australian Hobby	Yellow Thornbill	Magpie-lark
Purple Swamphen	Brown Thornbill	Rose Robin
Dusky Moorhen	Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Yellow Robin
Eurasian Coot	Eastern Spinebill	Silvereye
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Common Starling
Galah	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Common Myna
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Red-browed Finch
Rainbow Lorikeet	New Holland Honeyeater	
Crimson Rosella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	

I Came across this carcass today in the middle of the forested old Excelsior #2 mine area:

A little penguin, at least a kilometre from the seashore as the crow flies. I've a hunch it was a casualty at the claws of a white-bellied sea-eagle; over time and especially lately this species has been recorded several times within and above this area.

Mike Morphett



The weather gods smiled kindly on the 23 members as they assembled for the Bulli Escarpment walk. The west wind, that had been blowing, fell away by the later, 9am start, to produce a glorious 'blue sky' winter's day.



photo by Charles Dove

The first section of the track led to a sealed road to the water storage tanks. From there we proceeded up a rougher vehicle track to a reedy dam. Eastern Whipbirds, Golden Whistlers, Eastern Yellow Robin and Australian King Parrots were recorded along with Dusky Moorhens on the dam. Unfortunately, the Azure Kingfisher, which sometimes is seen around the dam was not sighted.

From this point we went through the gate into the S.R.A. and walked to the intersection with the lower escarpment service trail. Mike's keen ear alerted us to the call of the Crested Shrike-tit and most of us present had good views of it. Australian Logrunners, which have territory along this stretch of the track, were not sighted, but Nerida and Cathy had goodsightings on the return journey.

BULLI ESCARPMENT BIRD LIST

Spotted Dove	Satin Bowerbird	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Superb Fairy-wren	Crested Shrike-tit
Wonga Pigeon	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Golden Whistler
Australian Pelican	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush
Dusky Moorhen	Large-billed Scrubwren	Grey Butcherbird
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Brown Gerygone	Pied Currawong
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
Australian King-Parrot	Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Silvereye
Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Superb Lyrebird	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch
White-throated Treecreeper	Australian Logrunner	
Green Catbird	Eastern Whipbird	

Unfortunately the group were well strung out by this time and no one else saw them.

Morning tea was taken on a not so perfect log and surrounding bank further along the fire trail and Crested Shrike-tits again honoured us with their presence, along with White-browed Scrubwrens, Brown Gerygone, Australian King Parrots, Lewin's Honeyeaters and White-throated Treecreeper.

The good quality and width of the trail allowed people to spread out and do their own birdwatching, rather than walk in single file, with the first half dozen or so getting to see most of the sightings, which sometimes happens with a larger number of people on a narrow track.

We re-assembled under the power lines above Gahans Lane around 12 o'clock still 20 minutes from Rixons Pass. Hunger pangs and diminishing energy prompted half the group to decide this is far enough and a good place for lunch. The rest of us pressed on to lunch at Rixons Pass, where we had a surprise visit from Neil and Pete McKinlay who pedalled up from the Corrimal end on their mountain bikes.

Logrunners were heard near Rixons Pass as we started back to Bulli and a dead antechinus, species uncertain, was found on the side of the trail.

Sightings of Green Catbirds and Yellow-throated Scrubwrens along with others were made along the way, giving us a total of 40 species for the day.

It was good to see a few new faces among the group. I hope you enjoyed your day and we look forward to seeing you again. Thanks for the good company of all those who helped to make it an enjoyable outing.

ITEMS & LETTERS OF INTEREST

As a foundation member of I.B.O.C., I feel I must register my disappointment in reading the announcement – by E-mail of the launch of “Illawarra Birders Inc”.

Those of us who were privileged to know the late Doug Gibson must be saddened.

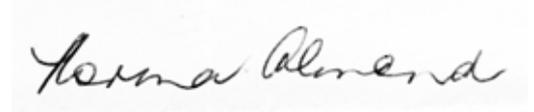
Doug had all the scientific knowledge of the birds at his finger tips, and after delivering a series of lectures through W.E.A., graciously helped with the formation of I.B.O.C. with its aim “to join together people with a common interest who wished to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird-life around them”.

Doug always maintained contact with his contemporaries, who in turn were always happy to share their knowledge with I.B.O.C. members.

This friendly helpful sharing has been a feature of I.B.O.C. right through his ‘life’.

Incidentally it was Doug Gibson who designed the logo.

So why “Illawarra Birders Inc” ?



Lorna Almond

IT'S meant to be the most environmentally friendly bird food that money can buy in UK.

By David Derbyshire

Free from pesticides, preservatives and chemical fertilisers, organic bird seed is scattered by those who don't mind paying a little extra to stay green.

There's just one snag. Birds don't like it. The first scientific study of its kind found they prefer conventional bird seed grown on intensive farms and doused with chemicals to the more expensive and 'natural' organic varieties.

Researchers who made the discovery at Newcastle University believe conventional bird food is higher in protein than the organic stuff and that the birds are voting with their beaks.

Dr Ailsa McKenzie, who led the study, said: 'Protein is an essential nutrient in the diet of all birds and mammals and getting enough of it especially in winter can be hard. We showed that when given free choice, wild birds opt for the conventional food over the organic, and the most likely explanation is its higher protein content.' The Newcastle team set up feeding stations in more than 30 gardens across the North of England. Organic and non organic wheat seeds were placed in adjacent bird feeders and monitored for six weeks over winter. Halfway through the experiment the feeds were swapped around. The experiment was repeated in a second winter using different wheat samples. Over the study, the birds ate far more of the conventional seed than the organic seed, the team reported in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture. When the feeders were swapped round, the birds quickly spotted the difference, and continued to shun the organic food. An analysis of the wheat revealed that conventional seeds had 10 per cent more protein than the organic ones. The researchers found no difference in the size of grains, energy content or pesticide residues.

The garden bird work was confirmed by laboratory studies on canaries, which also preferred conventional seeds to organic grains.

It's the second blow to the organic industry in weeks. Earlier this month, a Leeds University study found that some of Britain's best loved songbirds, including skylarks and yellowhammers, fare worse on organic farms than on fields sprayed with chemicals.

AN INTRODUCTION TO BIRD BANDING, DATA COLLECTION, FIELD SURVEY TECHNIQUES AND MORE...

Many people are looking for ways to become more actively involved with birds, their study and their conservation. Together with ABSA (Australian Bird Study Association), BASNA want to increase the number of bird-banders, data collectors and surveys on birds and their behaviour. In order to encourage people these courses are being initially run at a substantially reduced rate.

We have organised a number of practical workshops in unique and interesting locations so that you can experience what is involved with a view to assisting in existing and future projects. This is a great opportunity for those who would like to take their birding to another level and is a rewarding experience for those involved.

Field Survey Techniques

Date: August 15th 9.00am - 3.30 pm Venue: Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, Bargo Presenter: Chris Lloyd and Dean Portelli

This course aims to introduce participants to some of the techniques used to study birds in the field. Many of these are techniques, which researchers and conservation agencies are looking for when they advertise for volunteers.

The course will go through a number of practical exercises, topics covered will include: An introduction to behavioural studies using time energy budgets Transects and point counts including the role of GPS units. How to interpret results

Registration: \$30 Includes morning & afternoon tea, notes, GPS units and other materials Bring lunch, notebook and pen, sunscreen, hat, water

For a registration form or to enquire about the course, please email basna@birdsaustralia.com.au or call Pixie on 02 96471033

Wirrimbirra Sanctuary is a 95 hectare property owned by the National Trust of Australia (NSW), established and managed as a flora and fauna sanctuary. It was created in the 1960s by Thistle Harris to preserve the original 'Bargo Brush' and Australia's flora and fauna, and promote the use and propagation of Australian native plants. It is approximately 1 hour from Sydney Airport along the M5. Check out their [com.au](http://www.wirrimbirra.com.au) For those who want to stay the night, accommodation is available at Wirrimbirra

An Introduction to Bird Banding - Country

Date: September (date to be advised)
Venue: Munghorn Gap (near Mudgee)
Presenter: Graham Fry

Banding is probably the most common field technique known to bird watchers but probably the least taken up. Putting a metal or plastic ring around the legs of a bird is probably the easiest part of the exercise. What takes years to learn is the measurements and observations that need to sit with the specific number or colour combination on an individual bird. Banding has provided ornithologists with a wealth of knowledge on movement, longevity, reproduction and more and remains one of the core field techniques for many studies.

The Australian Bird Study Association (ABSA) are our main banding practitioners and we are working with BASNA to try to increase the number of people learning banding skills. The course is aimed at introducing people to the techniques and the commitment involved. So if you have ever wanted go behind that little metal ring on a Thornbill or the leg flag on a Godwit then come along and see what happens.

Registration: \$30

For a registration form or to enquire about the course, please email basna@birdsaustralia.com.au or call Pixie on 02 96471033



Regular morning visitors lately for a feed. Youngsters lacking red breast (just a hint of red), which field guides don't mention.

Mike & Carol



Hi Folks, here is my best pic, juvenile Crested Tern taken at Tathra Wharf and the cockerel was taken in the middle of nowhere in the hills above Bega at a lookout picnic area on Myrtle Mountain. Every time I tried to snap him he turned his head away.

Cheers Barbara Hales

PS we did manage a coffee break



HUMMINGBIRD LANE

This woman lives in a Hummingbird fly zone. As they migrated, about 20 of them were in her yard. She took the little red dish, filled it with sugar water and this is the result.

The woman is Abigail Alfano of Pine, Louisiana – she has been studying them daily and one morning put the cup from the feeder, with water in it, in her hand; as they had gotten used to her standing by the feeder they came over to her hand. She says in touching they are as light as a feather. Abigail also said, 'if she had known her husband was taking pictures she would have put on makeup.'

Supplied by Edward (Ted) Simpson

IBOC ANNUAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR JULY - DECEMBER

Month	Action	Date	Speaker/Leader	Venue
July	Meeting	12.07.10	Ron Imisides	What we could expect to see on the Cairns to Cape York Trip
	Mid Week Walk	14.07.10	Terrill Nordstrom	Stafford Farm Track
	Outing	Saturday 17.07.10	Betty Hudson	Saddleback Mountain & Jerrara Arboretum
August	Meeting	9.08.10	Kevin Mills	TBA
	Mid Week Walk	11.08.10	Betty Hudson	Moeyan Hill Track Agars Lane Berry
	Outing	Sunday 15.08.10	Betty Hudson	Wirrimbirra Wildlife Sanctuary Bargo & Nepean/Avon Dams
September	Meeting	13.09.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	15.09.10		Cascade Walk Macquarie Pass Nat Park
	Outing	Saturday 18.09.10	Betty Hudson	Bellawongarra Cambewarra Lookout & Bomaderry Creek Walk
October	Meeting	11.10.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	13.10.10	Tom Wylie	Cooks Nose Barren Grounds
	Outing	Sunday 17.10.10	Betty Hudson	Abrahams Bosom Currarong
	Spring Camp	23.10.10 to 30.10.10	Betty Hudson	Sandy Hollow Upper Hunter Valley
November	Meeting/ AGM	8.11.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	10.11.10	Darryl Goldrick	Killalea Lagoon
	Outing	Saturday 13.11.10	Betty Hudson	Various Locations around Lake Illawarra
December	Christmas Picnic	Saturday 11.12.10		TBA
	Christmas Meeting	13.12.10		

Farewell to Ron Hanks

Former I.B.O.C. member Ron Hanks passed away on Sunday 20th June after a long illness. Ron and Wendy joined the club in 1981 and were members for around 20yrs. Ron was the newsletter editor from 1982-1984 and was a valuable contributor to the clubs activities over that period.

Someone who always enjoyed a laugh, Ron participated in many of the comedy sketches staged at annual Christmas meetings. He particularly enjoyed our many bush camps and became the unofficial camp stoker, always keeping the boiler bubbling, providing unlimited hot water for washing up and showers. Through his contacts in amateur radio Ron was able to arrange a number of good bush camps on private properties for the club.

Ron will be fondly remembered by those long term members in the club who knew him.



Wal Emery

Leeton Camp Report

10 – 17 April 2010

Confessions of a new birdwatcher –

by Linda Cohen

Part 2 of 2

Day 5 :

Narrandera - Narrandera Common

Having explored most of the Leeton birding sites by now, we spread our wings further a field to the neighbouring town of Narrandera. We spent the morning at Narrandera Common, a large River Red Gum Forest with associated understorey and wetlands. One of our first sightings here was a large Koala sitting in a gum tree. It was a very enjoyable and easy walk along a raised track along the river with the bonus of both waterbirds and bushbirds at our fingertips. Katharine spotted some Varied Sittellas whilst exploring the forest (young eyes really helps!), and we couldn't miss a flock of White-winged Choughs calling and flying around. They are very striking birds – they appear to be completely black until they fly and then you see patches of white on their wings. I really like them.



Other birds here include: Purple Swamphen, Little Pied Cormorant, Grey shrike-thrush, Brown Treecreeper, Yellow Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Peaceful Dove, and both the Noisy Friarbird and the Little Friarbird. Besides the Koala, the most excitement here was caused by the Restless Flycatcher. There were several of them, including an immature, and they were exhibiting "textbook behaviour" –making their trademark "scissor grinding" noise to flush out insects. I couldn't get enough of them. I have noticed that it doesn't seem to matter how long or how well you see a bird, it is still never enough, and you want "just one more look". I will happily stand around for ages waiting, and waiting, hoping it will come back again. I wonder if this changes much with experience and more birds in your lifelist??



Narrandera Wetlands

This is a small wetland area on the edge of the township. It had been well set-up and had three bird hides, strategically positioned overlooking the wetland from different sides. There were also information plaques scattered along the main track with information on the various plant, bird and animal species typically found here. One of our first sightings here was a Little Eagle. There are several members keen on raptors so a raptor sighting always generates a lot of excitement – especially if we can get a clear identification. It's so frustrating when you're not sure what you've seen because you can't write it down. We also saw a pair of Grey Teal with two immature, and also an Australasian Grebe (male) with two immatures. I love seeing birds with their young; it's very rewarding and reassuring. I also learned that such sightings are important as they constitute a "breeding record", i.e. just seeing a nest doesn't count unless you see the parent feeding a young bird in the nest. As usual, I heard more birds than I saw, and I could only identify some of those, including: Grey Shrike-thrush, Clamorous Reed-warbler, Pied Butcherbird and Galah. When I get home I will need to study my bird call CDs to swot up on their calls ...

Narrandera to Leeton – drive home

We all split up after the wetlands to do our own thing for the rest of the afternoon, and the drive back to Leeton was exciting for me. Mum and I stopped at a dam next to the road because we saw lots of small white birds on the edge of the water and we wondered if they were Silver Gulls (I was surprised to see them inland!). On closer inspection we confirmed that they were Silver Gulls. Another one for the camp bird list. However, we also looked at the ducks on the dam and immediately noticed a pair that looked quite different, especially their bills. I thought they looked like Shovelers (I had read up on these hoping to one day see one). Suddenly we heard a horn tooting and a 4WD drive pulled over –Tom, Joan, Neil and Tera had spotted us with our binoculars and thought we were onto something. They confirmed that the ducks were indeed Australasian Shovelers. This was very exciting, and a new bird for me. It just goes to show that sometimes it is worth checking out a "familiar" bird because you never know what else you might see!

Gillenbah State Park

This was our last stop for the day and included a late lunch. We set up our chairs in a clearing in the Pine/Box woodland, being careful to avoid the many spider webs strung between understorey bushes. It was very restful to relax over lunch to the sound of a bird chorus. One of these birds was a Western Gerygone – confirmed by those who saw it. Certainly much better than being at work spending all day on a computer!

The bird brochure informed us that we could expect to see "Parrots, Honeyeaters, Robins, Thornbills and Sittellas". We saw all of these except the Sittellas. The bird of the day here was the Red-capped Robin which were everywhere! We were also fortunate enough to see (and hear) the White-browed Babblers again. Other birds included both the Pied Butcherbird and the Grey Butcherbird, Striated Pardalote, Rufous Whistler, Grey Fantail, Red-rumped Parrot, Common Bronzewing and Yellow Rosella. We were hoping to see some waterbirds at the dam (our afternoon tea stop) but no such luck.

Day 6 :

Billenbah State Forest

This is a small open pine forest area near the Murrumbidgee River – supposedly very good for parrots. We didn't see many birds here and no Superb Parrots. We did see the Red-capped Robins again, as well as the Yellow Rosella, Yellow Thornbill and Grey Fantail.

Euroley Bridge

We then explored the river red gum forest along the river at Euroley Bridge, described in the brochure as "a reliable site for Superb Parrots as the nest in the river red gums". I did see a pair of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos attending a nest hollow, but no Superb Parrots. We saw a few bush birds, including; Blue-faced honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Fantail, Grey Shrike-thrush and White-plumed Honeyeater. I was desperately hoping to see a kingfisher at the river but it wasn't to be. A few of us heard Wrens in the bushes, and Joan, Tom, Mum and I stalked them for ages. I was determined to find out which wrens they were – Superb Fairy-wren or Variegated Fairy-wren. Eventually our patience was rewarded and we saw a male Variegated Fairy-wren. His colours were so striking in the full sun. As a result, we were the last ones back to the cars (not for the first time either!) – but it was worth it.

Yanco Reserve

After lunch at Euroley Bridge, we went at Yanco Reserve, a small natural bush area near the railway line and Yanco township. Several of us had come here earlier in the week (on our "free" afternoon) and our combined sightings included Grey-crowned Babbler, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Blue-faced honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Singing Honeyeater, Eastern Rosella, Apostlebird and White-winged Choughs (including one on a mud nest). We also saw a kangaroo. It was quite a hot day and not many birds were active. Our numbers gradually dwindled ...

Yanco Agricultural College

Neil had organised special permission for us to visit the Yanco Agricultural College. Because it was so hot we drove around the campus, hoping to see something interesting. We followed some Grey-crowned Babblers from tree to tree. They are now one of my new favourite birds. In theory it wasn't an ideal birding situation as it was set up as a farm with open paddocks, it was a hot day and we were driving not walking. However we managed to see quite a few birds, including the Red-rumped Parrot, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Crested Pigeon, Yellow-throated Miner, Willie Wagtail and White-winged Chough. Actually I think we saw more birds here than we did in some other places – but it all comes down to being in the right place at the right time.

One of the real highlights for me occurred when we were driving back to Leeton. Just outside Yanco we saw a Pacific-blue Whistler so I radioed to Tom, Joan, Neil and Tera in the other car to make sure they saw it too. It was the only one we saw all week and it created quite a stir.



Blue-faced Honeyeater
Photo by Betty Hudson



Yellow-throated Miner
Photo by Betty Hudson

Day 7 :

Narrandera

Officially this was the day we were to drive home – however I had been having such a good time that I wasn't ready to go home yet and there were still a few places we were keen to explore. Fortunately we were able to keep our cabin for another day. I quickly put together an itinerary of several places in Narrandera that I thought might be worth a visit. Mum and I were both keen to see the Blue Bonnets again so this influenced where we thought we would go.

Jerry's Hill

This was an open Box/Pine woodland out of Narrandera and on top of a hill. It was supposedly very good for parrots, including Blue Bonnets. We wandered around for a while and then Mum spotted them – six Blue Bonnets flying in and perched in a tree. We were so excited to see them again that we followed them across the reserve just to see them again and again. It was magical. Another excitement here was seeing three Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, including an immature with the different facial markings).

Mad Mile

The term "Mad Mile" refers to an area along the Barellan Road as well as a Pine/Box reserve. We stopped suddenly on the side of the road because I had seen some Apostlebirds (one of my favourite birds). That led us to several Grey-crowned Babblers fussing together in a tree. While I was busy watching them, Mum realised that there were Blue Bonnets in the same tree. We decided that this would make a good morning tea stop as there was plenty of bird activity. I had been learning about creeping up on birds by watching everyone else, and so we were able to get quite close to the babblers and watch them for ages. It is amazing to me how different all birds are – some live alone, some in pairs, and some in groups. I love the way the Babblers, Apostlebirds and Choughs chatter away to each other and hang out together. For me, it's not just about seeing new birds and ticking them off a list (although that is nice too!) but rather I just love watching them in their everyday life.

Another highlight a bit further down the road (actually within the reserve) was a Pied Butcherbird singing from the top of a dead tree. This was a true "Kodak moment" – but with sound as well. His clear piping calls were unlike anything I have ever heard before and it was magical just watching and listening as he called to his mate. It was so beautiful. Moments like this just make you so happy to be alive.

Five Mile Reserve

Mum was keen to check out this place with its listed variety of birds and wetlands along Bundidjarie Creek. We were hoping to see the Dollar bird but I think it might have been the wrong time of year. It was a beautiful spot, tucked away down a long and winding dirt road with very little traffic. We had barely got out of the car when we saw birds everywhere! Several Brown Treecreepers foraged on the ground all around us as we ate our lunch. We also saw Fairy Martins, Welcome Swallows, White-plumed Honeyeaters, numerous Little Friarbirds, a Darter drying its wings on a dead log, a Little Pied Cormorant fishing and both the Pacific Black Duck and the Wood Duck. One of the highlights here was seeing two Whistling Kites chasing away a single Wedge-tailed Eagle. It was so interesting to see them together and to realise just how much bigger the Wedgie is. Measurements in the field guide really don't give you the same idea as to size. It was peaceful and relaxing and a lovely way to end a very enjoyable week away.



Brown Treecreeper
Photo by Betty Hudson

Thank you and au revoir

I would like to end by thanking the group for having us with them – me, a new member, and my mother, Sylvia, a “ring-in” from Adelaide, South Australia. We have both had a wonderful week and it has been a truly memorable introduction to bird camps. We are both looking forward to coming on more camps. I would like to thank everyone who has helped us this week, especially Betty Hudson for organising camp and ensuring that everything ran smoothly all week and for taking us “under her wing” to make sure we were seeing lots of birds and having a good time. I have many happy memories to take with me and I am inspired to learn more and more about more and more birds. I would highly recommend camp to everyone, especially those who haven’t been yet.

Thank you.

Bird list for LEETON CAMP 10-17.04.10 126 SPECIES RECORDED		
Emu	Peregrine Falcon	Blue-faced Honeyeater
Plumed Whistling-Duck	Brolga	Noisy Friarbird
Black Swan	Purple Swamphen	Little Friarbird
Australian Shelduck	Dusky Moorhen	Grey-crowned Babbler
Australian Wood Duck	Black-fronted Dotterel	White-browed Babbler
Pink-eared Duck	Masked Lapwing	Varied Sittella (Orange Winged)
Australasian Shoveler	Painted Button-quail	Ground Cuckoo-shrike
Grey Teal	Silver Gull	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Chestnut Teal	Galah	Crested Shrike-tit
Pacific Black Duck	Little Corella	Golden Whistler – E Race
Blue-billed Duck	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Rufous Whistler
Australasian Grebe	Cockatiel	Grey Shrike-thrush
Rock Dove	Superb Parrot	Olive-backed Oriole
Common Bronzewing	Crimson Rosella (Yellow Form)	White-breasted Woodswallow
Crested Pigeon	Eastern Rosella	Dusky Woodswallow
Peaceful Dove	Australian Ringneck (Mallee form)	Grey Butcherbird
Tawny Frogmouth	Blue Bonnet-(Red Vent)	Pied Butcherbird
Australasian Darter	Red-rumped Parrot	Australian Magpie
Little Pied Cormorant	Mulga Parrot	Grey Fantail
Great Cormorant	Southern Boobook	Willie Wagtail
Little Black Cormorant	Laughing Kookaburra	Australian Raven
Pied Cormorant	Brown Treecreeper	Little Raven
Australian Pelican	Superb Fairy-wren	Restless Flycatcher
Eastern Great Egret	Splendid Fairy-wren	Magpie-lark
Intermediate Egret	Variegated Fairy-wren	White-winged Chough
White-faced Heron	Speckled Warbler	Apostlebird
Australian White Ibis	Weebill	Jacky Winter
Straw-necked Ibis	Western Gerygone	Red-capped Robin
Royal Spoonbill	Yellow Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Golden-headed Cisticola
Black-shouldered Kite	Inland Thornbill	Australian Reed-Warbler
Whistling Kite	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Little Grassbird
Brown Goshawk	Southern Whiteface	Silvereye
Collared Sparrowhawk	Striated Pardalote	Welcome Swallow
Spotted Harrier	Singing Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
Swamp Harrier	White-plumed Honeyeater	Tree Martin
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Noisy Miner	Common Blackbird
Little Eagle	Yellow-throated Miner	Common Starling
Nankeen Kestrel	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Mistletoebird
Brown Falcon	Red Wattlebird	Zebra Finch
Australian Hobby	White-fronted Chat	Double-barred Finch
Black Falcon	Brown-headed Honeyeater	House Sparrow

a detailed list of which birds were seen where will be put on the IBOC web site in June.

In the Red

A sudden drop in shorebird numbers in the Yellow Sea, due to the reclamation of the extensive areas of mudflats, such as at Saemangeum in South Korea, has been mirrored by declines in the populations of migratory shorebirds occurring in Australia. Two species have been particularly hard hit: the Eastern Curlew and the Great Knot.

These species have declined so dramatically that both have had their official conservation status on the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species (the most objective and authoritative system for classifying species in terms of the risk of extinction) upgraded from being of Least Concern to Vulnerable: they are now considered to be at 'high risk of endangerment in the wild'. With their conservation status upgraded, Eastern Curlews and Great Knots should now be afforded better protection.

This upgrade was only possible after much hard work by the Shorebirds 2020 project in conjunction with the Australasian Wader Studies Group. It is a graphic illustration of how our monitoring efforts can make a difference. For more information, head to [Birds Australia's website](#).

Bird List for May/June 2010

Compiled by Martin Cocker

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
White-headed Pigeon	2	13-Jun-10	Rhododendron Park Balgownie	Rainforest	Wal Emery
Black-browed Albatross	3	13-Jun-10	Off Wattamolla	Inshore	Bill & Joan Zealey
Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	25-May-10	Off Bellambi	Pelagic	Tom Wylie
Northern Giant-Petrel	1	24-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Brian White
Little Penguin	1 dead	15-Jun-10	Excelsior Mine Bulli	Bush	Mike Morphett
Cattle Egret	100	07-Jun-10	Kanahooka Point	Paddocks	Martin Cocker
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	29-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	30-May-10	Bulli	Overhead	Mike Morphett
Little Eagle	1	02-Jun-10	Killalea SRA	Overhead	Lorraine Pincus
Australian Hobby	1	13-May-10	Lake Illawarra	Residential	Darryl Goldrick
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2	29-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2	24-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Brian White
Sooty Oystercatcher	4	30-May-10	Sandon Point, Bulli	Coastal	Mike Morphett
Red-capped Plover	30	29-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Red-capped Plover	9	24-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Brian White
Red-capped Plover	34	02-Jun-10	Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Double-banded Plover	40	29-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Double-banded Plover	35	24-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Brian White
Double-banded Plover	44	02-Jun-10	Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Black-fronted Dotterel	50+	23-May-10	Killalea Lagoon	Mudflat	Chris Brandis
Ruddy Turnstone	2	29-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Ruddy Turnstone	2	08-Jun-10	Bellambi	Shore	Tom Wylie
Red Knot	1	02-Jun-10	Windang	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Pacific Gull	1 Imm.	02-Jun-10	Bass Point	Coastal	Chris Brandis
Kelp Gull	1	29-May-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Musk Lorikeet	2	27-May-10	Wollongong University	Park	Penny Potter
Azure Kingfisher	2	12-Jun-10	Jerra Dam Kiama	Wetland	Ian McKinlay
Azure Kingfisher	1	08-Jun-10	Hyams Creek Jamberoo	Riverine	Betty Hudson
Azure Kingfisher	1	12-Jun-10	Bulli Escarpment	Reedy Dam	Wal Emery
Noisy Pitta	2	13-Jun-10	Mt Keira Ring Track	Rainforest	Wal Emery
Australian Logrunner	1	12-Jun-10	Woonona Escarpment	Ginger Thicket	Wal Emery
Spangled Drongo	1	14-Jun-10	Primbee	Garden	Ron Imisides
Bassian Thrush	6	23-May-10	Fitzroy Falls	Bush	Sheila Emery
Bassian Thrush	1	20-May-10	Jerra Dam Kiama	Rainforest	Betty Hudson

Notes:

Also reported on Birding Aus was the recent visit of the Northern Giant-Petrel in Windang Estuary that was one of a number of records reported after recent storms.

Many thanks for all your records please send them to cocker@speedlink.com.au. Good Birding!

JUST A SMALL NOTE RE-BINDING MARGINS.

For those who require a binding margin for the filing of their newsletters they will now find extra space on the left hand margins for this purpose.

If you receive your newsletter by e-mail and you like to print a colour version of the newsletter it would best if you to make sure you print 2 pages on the 1 sheet of paper .

ie: Page 1 is to be printed on the reverse side of the cover page etc.

Happy Birding
Charles Dove
Editor



Australian Pipit

Scientific name: *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Family: Motacillidae

Order: Passeriformes

Featured Bird Groups

Small insect-eating birds

Description The Australian Pipit is a well camouflaged brown ground-dwelling bird. It has darker brown streaks above, and has



photo by Terry Edwell

pale creamy white stripes on the eyebrows and below the cheeks. The underparts are creamy white, spotted and streaked dark on the breast. The wings and tail are dark brown, with the outermost tail feathers white. The eye is brown and the bill and feet are pale pink-grey. Seen on the ground in open country, this species often wags its tail up and down while foraging.

Similar species The Australian Pipit resembles the introduced Skylark, *Alauda arvensis*, and is adapted to a similar ecological niche, with both species being well-camouflaged birds that forage on the ground. Australian Pipit lacks the Skylark's small crest and has more creamy white underparts and eyebrows.

Distribution The Australian is found across Australia. It is also found in New Guinea, New Zealand, as well as being widespread across Africa and Asia.

Habitat The Australian Pipit is found in

open country, in a range of habitat types from wet heaths to dry shrub lands and open woodland clearings.

Seasonal movements

Some altitudinal migration in winter, and Tasmanian birds move to the mainland.

Feeding

The Australian Pipit feeds on the ground on insects and their larvae, as well as seeds. It forages in a jerky, darting motion, stopping to perch on low stones or shrubs, wagging its tail up and down.

(Australian Pipit information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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**'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'**

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Founded in 1977

Club's Aim: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird life around them.

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AUGUST ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting –

Monday 9th August 7.30pm - Fairy Meadow Community Hall.
Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.

Talk by Kevin Mills Title: Native Trees of the South Coast

Almost 200 native tree species grow on the south coast of NSW (Sydney to Batemans Bay). Botanist Kevin Mills and his partner Jacqueline Jakeman have just completed a book covering 169 of these trees. The talk will discuss how to identify the species, some of the more unusual trees found in the region and examples of interactions between animals and trees.

Kevin has lived on the South Coast for more than 30 years and has an extensive knowledge of the plants and animals that live there. He and his partner operate an environmental consulting company based in Jamberoo. He has written various books on the natural history of the region.

August 2010 Mid Week Walk

Wednesday 11th August 2010.

Moeyan Hill Track, Berry

Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at 9.00am at the start of the Moeyan Hill Track at the end of Borrowdale Close off Agars Lane Berry.

Travel south along the Princes Highway to Berry. Turn left immediately after the first 50km road sign and the motel onto Tannery Road. Pass under the railway line and over a creek bridge. Turn right just past the David Berry Hospital into Agars Lane (sign post to Rubbish Tip). Turn right approx 1km later into Borrowdale Close and park on the verge at the end. Bring a carry morning tea.

Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945.

August 2010 Monthly Outing

Sunday 15th August 2010.

Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, Bargo

Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at 9.00am at the rear entrance to the main reserve in Charlies Point Road Bargo. Travel via the Picton Road, and then south on the F3 to the Bargo exit. Turn right onto Avon Dam Road which becomes Great Southern Road. Proceed past the 1st bridge over the railway line, the village centre and the 2nd bridge over the railway. After ½ km turn right onto Charlies Point Road and park on the verge just beyond the first sharp bend, by the Wirrimbirra Sanctuary rear entrance sign.

Bring carry morning tea and lunch. [Contact Betty](#) on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945

[Note: Toilets are available at Bargo Sports Ground or the Village Centre, both of which can be accessed (on arrival) by crossing the railway at the first bridge and turning right. You rejoin your correct route by turning right at the next bridge and then left.]

August 2010 Committee Meeting – 7.30pm on Monday 16th August 2010

The August committee will be at Brian & Barbara Hales, 32 Shearwater Boulevard, Albion Park Rail.
Ph 4257 4431

September 2010 Newsletter –

Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is Friday 27th August 2010

E-mail contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post

to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph: 4275 2383

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS – 2010 fees are now due:

Family \$35.00, Single \$30.00, Junior \$10.00

please pay **Browyn Wilson Treasurer** by cash, cheque or money order.

REPORTS

Monthly Meeting Report

Cape York Expectations

Neil Wheway

This talk, given by our member Ron Imisides, had been long awaited by those club members who are going bird watching on the Cape York Peninsula in late August and September. Ron gave those who have never travelled up that way an indication of what birds we hopefully would see, along with indications of what could be expected, mud and floods, if we were unlucky enough to have some wet weather while travelling up that remote region of Queensland. There were also many places of unparalleled beauty.

Ron's invaluable experiences were highlighted having travelled up there with the club three times in the past and on his own with Rita, his wife, and his trusty Jeep keeping him out of trouble. We saw many colourful photos of beautiful birds found only in these regions along with detailed information and helpful hints on where to find them, providing we have time to look for when not fording creeks and rivers, or digging vehicles out of boggy situations.



He also gave an insight into the history of the Peninsula with photos of old homesteads and old machinery used in the mines and mills of a bygone era. We also saw some of the remains of aircraft used during World War 2 which had unfortunately come to grief up there. That area along with many other parts of Northern Australia witnessed much activity during the war years, with many Australian and American service men on active duty up there.

We saw beautiful crystal clear creeks and waterfalls with wonderful swimming holes. Having been up the Cape bush camping without showering for a couple of days, I have experienced the joy of standing under a waterfall with water pounding the dust and dirt out my hair and just cooling off.

Bliss!

Talking with members after the meeting there was feeling of excitement at what to expect, and to those unfortunates not going, wishing they were going as well. It was an entertaining and enthralling talk.

Thanks Ron.

Birds for Breast-Cancer Awareness.

The Port Macquarie News records that the ladies of the Golf Club at Walcha, west of Port, had a Breast Care Golf Day recently with each of the nine teams being given one pink ball to use with their regular white balls. But the "crows" took a liking to the pink balls, the girls finishing up with only one of the original nine. None of the white balls were taken.

Dave Thomson

Stafford Farm Track Wednesday 14th July 2010

The weather forecast was for strong winds, sheep warning alert, snow to 1000 metres. It had rained earlier on Mt Kembla. All this didn't deter the twenty-five members but the birds were a bit slow to appear.

The pigeons were not shy, Topknot Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon and Brush Bronzewing were all sighted. As we progressed higher up the mountain the Brown Gerygones were presenting themselves in large numbers allowing all to obtain good views of them. Of course being in a rainforest, the Whipbird and the Logrunner were heard but were keeping to themselves, but the Superb Lyrebird ran in our path.

Stafford Farm Track is a well cleared track, 2kms up into part of the rainforest area of Mt Kembla. The track has some soil erosion which was muddy from early morning rain, but thankfully no leeches. Morning tea was had at the top most [Bird Sighting List](#)

Lorraine Pincus

point, short grass wide open sunny area, where a Wedge-tailed Eagle glided overhead and towards the clear view of the escarpment.



While a Rose Robin was enjoyed by Joan, a few stragglers caught sight of its fleeting flight. It was an enjoyable morning's walk. Thank you Terrill for suggesting the area. Maybe next time we could get more than 24 species.

Brush Bronzewing	Brown Gerygone	Golden Whistler
Wonga Pigeon	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Topknot Pigeon	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Eastern Spinebill	Rose Robin
Rainbow Lorikeet	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Superb Lyrebird	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Silvereye
White-throated Treecreeper	Australian Logrunner	Bassian Thrush
White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	Red-browed Finch

Saddleback Mountain & Jerrara Dam

Weekend walk 17th July, 2010

Terry Edwell

The walk was well attended by 29 birdwatchers, including a couple of new people, making up the numbers.

It was a beautiful winter's day, cool with no wind and plenty of sunshine as the day progressed. The view over Jamberoo Valley was magnificent. The pastures were a beautiful green and the sea was a deep blue, reflected from the clear, blue sky. There were not many bird calls and no unusual sightings. The Lyrebird was singing its own lovely song and two of his display mounds were

sighted. It's always a thrill, to see the Golden Whistler and hear the Grey Shrike-Thrush calling, (or was it Tom). We just wandered around on the grassy areas and didn't go far, down the track, as it was slippery, and quite steep. We stopped for morning tea and then drove over to Jerrara Creek, for the second part of our outing. Twenty six different varieties of birds, were sighted in that area.

We arrived at Jerrara before lunch, so went for a short walk. Some of us went down to the end of the track, leading to

the dam and were surprised to see quite a large Red Bellied Black Snake slithering towards us. It was quite unexpected, as the day was cold. He soon realised that we were there and slithered into the grass. Some of the others had found



by Tera Wheway

another surprise on the upper track, standing out in the sun, was a large Wombat.

We all gathered back at the carpark for lunch and were joined by a Grey Shrike-Thrush that managed to scrounge a few crumbs for himself and two Superb Fairy-wrens came over to see what was happening. The male was a brilliant blue and black. One of the best sightings for the day, was a beautiful Rose Robin, flitting around, high up in a Cedar Tree. Calls of "there he is", "where, where", were heard and most of us had a good look at him but its` never long enough. Bar-shouldered Doves were seen and heard and the Mistletoe Bird, a Bassian Thrush and the inevitable, hard to



by Charles Dove

identify, Little Brown Birds were all good to see.

We were able to access the dam, from a neighbouring farm, and so we were able to look over the whole dam. Australasian Grebe, White Faced Heron and Little Pied Cormorant were seen on the dam. Back at



by Charles Dove

the carpark, the Topknot Pigeons and some Pelicans were seen flying around.

It was another good day's birdwatching, thanks to Betty, once more and thank you to all my fellow Birdwatchers for their company.

Saddleback Mountain bird list 26

Brown Cuckoo-dove	Large-billed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush
Common Bronzewing	Brown Gerygone	Pied Butcherbird
Wonga Pigeon	Striated Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Crimson Rosella	Yellow Thornbill	Pied Currawong
Fantail Cuckoo	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Superb Lyrebird	Red Wattlebird	Eastern Yellow Robin
White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Whipbird	Silvereye
Satin Bowerbird	Golden Whistler -e race	

Jerrara Dam Bird List 39

Australasian Grebe	Satin Bowerbird	Grey Shrike-thrush
Bar-shouldered Dove	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie
Wonga Pigeon	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail
Topknot Pigeon	Brown Gerygone	Willie Wagtail
Little Pied Cormorant	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Raven
Australian Pelican	Brown Thornbill	Rose Robin
White-faced Heron	Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Yellow Robin
Brown Goshawk	Eastern Spinebill	Silvereye
Galah	Lewin's Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Rainbow Lorikeet	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Australian King-Parrot	Red Wattlebird	Bassian Thrush
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	Mistletoebird
Fantail Cuckoo	Golden Whistler- e race	Red-browed Finch

Extras

In between Saddleback and Jerrara Dam		Jerrara Dam
Australian Wood Duck	Willie Wagtail	Wombat
Masked Lapwing	Welcome Swallow	Red-Bellied Black Snake

ITEMS & LETTERS OF INTEREST

Rats! Lord Howe's owls may be sent home to roost

James Woodford, Sydney Morning Herald, 23 June 2010

Sometimes, no matter how much your family needs you, going home is not an option.

In Tasmania, Masked Owls are an endangered species - as few as 650 pairs are left.

But on Lord Howe Island, the same species has thrived following their introduction to the island and they now live in densities unheard of elsewhere.

Perversely, however, that is a bad thing because Tasmanian Masked Owls were deliberately introduced to World Heritage-listed Lord Howe between 1922 and 1930.

Like the old lady who swallowed a fly, the owls were set free to control black rats, which were introduced to the island from a wrecked ship in 1918.

The 1920s owl introduction program was no half-hearted measure. Up to 100 individuals, from a number of different species, were all brought to the island and released in a desperate effort to control the rats. These included the eastern Australian subspecies of the Southern Boobook, the Tasmanian Masked Owl, the Australian Barn Owl and the American Barn and Great Horned Owls.

Today only the Masked Owls survive and their main prey is rats, which they consume in large numbers but nowhere near enough to control the vermin.

The owls are found throughout the island, from the summit of Mount Gower to sea level, and they may have a population of up to 50



pairs.

In Tasmania or on the mainland, an area the size of Lord Howe would support only three pairs. However, on Lord Howe owl density has been maintained even though at least 108 were shot in a culling program between 1988 and 2006.

Now the Lord Howe Island Board is planning a one-off rat eradication program for the next few years and the island's managers and scientists fear that unless the introduced owls are removed they will be forced to hunt Lord Howe's native species.

The board has employed an environmental consultant, David Milledge of Landmark Ecological Services, to help work out what to do with the birds.

Mr Milledge's preference is for the owls to be returned to Tasmania, but that is not straightforward, because the Lord Howe Island masked owls have changed in both size and behaviour. There is also the risk that some mainland birds were released on to Lord Howe Island at the same time, compromising the Tasmanian gene pool.

"The Tasmanians would like to hold them as a captive population in some of their zoos,

rather than release them into the wild," Mr Milledge said.

Catching the owls will not be easy either, as trials of various methods - such as playing tapes of their calls and using decoys - have not been as successful as Mr Milledge had hoped.

"If we are going to catch all the owls we are going to have to learn as much as possible about their habits," Mr Milledge said.

"We will have to try to get to know as many individual birds on the island as possible."

Capertee Valley National Park

In June, the NSW Government announced the establishment of a 2,800 hectare national park in the Capertee Valley, bringing to more than 6.76 million hectares the area of land protected under the NSW National Parks system. The property, known as 'Port Macquarie', includes 15 kilometres of the Capertee River and is a known breeding and feeding site for the nationally endangered **Regent Honeyeater**.

The property is a haven for woodland birds with another ten threatened species known to be present, including the **Diamond Firetail, Hooded Robin, Turquoise Parrot** and **Barking Owl**.

I have some very good news for all, of a pair of Masked Lapwings (spur-winged) that are nesting in the fields near the Oak Flats railway station not far from the new Police Station for those that are interested.

Rodney Bobin

CORRECTION

An error occurred when transcribing the 2008 Christidis & Boles list from the book to an electronic form for members to use.

The Australian Figbird should correctly, be called the **"AUSTRALASIAN FIGBIRD"**. Please amend your lists accordingly.

We hope that we have now found all these gremlins in our list.

Apology to Linda Cohen

In Linda's report for Leeton Camp a small error occurred during the spell check of an unusual and very rarely seen 'bird'. Under the heading Yanco Agricultural College second paragraph the Pacific-blue Whistler had been mistakenly replaced by the Golden Whistler in the printed version and the first e-mailed edition of the July newsletter.

Please accept our apology from the editorial staff of the IBOC newsletter

Corrected version below:

Yanco Agricultural College

Neil had organised special permission for us to visit the Yanco Agricultural College. Because it was so hot we drove around the campus, hoping to see something interesting. We followed some Grey-crowned Babblers from tree to tree. They are now one of my new favourite birds. In theory it wasn't an ideal birding situation as it was set up as a farm with open paddocks, it was a hot day and we were driving not walking. However we managed to see quite a few birds, including the Red-rumped Parrot, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Crested Pigeon, Yellow-throated Miner, Willie Wagtail and White-winged Chough. Actually I think we saw more birds here than we did in some other places – but it all comes down to being in the right place at the right time.

One of the real highlights for me occurred when we were driving back to Leeton. Just outside Yanco we saw a Pacific-blue Whistler so I radioed to Tom, Joan, Neil and Tera in the other car to make sure they saw it too. It was the only one we saw all week and it created quite a stir.



Yellow-throated Miner
Photo by Betty Hudson



Rock Warbler

I had a some good looks at the Rock Warbler and the Logrunner recently! Betty Hudson

Had a lovely incident with the 4 and 5 year old grandkids on Wednesday. Just on dusk and I'd left their back door open while I carried in some washing. The little one shouted that there was a bird in her dad's office and before I'd got there they had it under the steps. It fluttered onto his desk and I picked it up. The 4 year old said she had always wanted to hold a bird and the 5 year old sensibly said they should sit outside so they wouldn't frighten it. It was a Silvereve and they were both able to have a very good look and hold it for a while. After it safely flew away we looked them up in the field guide and they can add that to their personal lists.

Val Dolan



one of the many sights along the Kiama Coast Walk
by Charles Dove



Silvereve

by Charles Dove

I walked the Kiama Coast Walk from Werri Lagoon to Loves Bay today. What a wonderful initiative from all the parties concerned with its aquisition and upkeep. At first I thought to myself how different this was to one of our birdwatching walks as both green fields and rocky coast seemed devoid of birdlife. Then I heard the distinctive waddle giggle gargle of three Magpies and I realised I'd been concentrating on my footing, as advised, and not looking for birds. Out at sea there were small flocks of sea birds flying over pods of playful dolphins. A raptor hovered over the same spot, making use of the wind to remain almost motionless. Passing a patch of remnant rainforest I heard the distinct call of a Whipbird. One lucky member of the party saw an Emu...reported to be one of a group of 4 that have happily made their home in the area. Admittedly not sighted on the walk but from the train home while at Bombo Station a Sea Eagle with a very large fish in its talons flew from halfway along the beach high into the sky while being harassed by a much smaller bird. Unless you want to walk 12 klms you need to organise two cars to allow the walk to be completed one way only. Great!

Val Dolan

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

It is always to pleasure to welcome new members to IBOC.

Janelle, Simon, Emma & Haydn (February), Peter Shoobridge & Family (February), Barbara Purso (February), Meridith Clarke (March), Andrew Wood (March), Linda Cohen (March), Russell & Beverly Hannah (April), Rupert Jarvis (June), Mary & Ron Carvell (July).

Members Sightings for Feb/July 2010

Compiled by Martin Cocker

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Australian Brush-turkey	1 M, 4 F	06-Jul-10	Mt. Keira	Forest Garden	Val Dolan
Blue-billed Duck	1	14-Jun-10	Woodlands Rd., Mirttagong	Dam	Terry Dunlea
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	June	Irvine's Road, Bellawongarah	Bush/Paddock (Common)	Carla Jackett
Common Bronzewing	1	18-Jul-10	Wilton	Bush	Graham Barwell
Brush Bronzewing	1	14-Jul-10	Stafford Farm Track, Kembla Heights	Rain Forest	Wal Emery
Peaceful Dove	3	21-Mar-10	Bargo River Pot Holes Crossing	Bush	Graham Barwell
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	17-Jul-10	Jerrara Dam	Rainforest fringe	IBOC
Wonga Pigeon	1	12-Jun-10	Jerrara Dam	Bush	Ian Mckinlay
Wonga Pigeon	1	June	Irvine's Road, Bellawongarah	Bush/Paddock (Common)	Carla Jackett
Wonga Pigeon	1	06-Jul-10	Mt. Keira	Forest Garden	Val Dolan
Royal Albatross	1	10-Jul-10	off Bulli-Inshore	Ocean	Tom Wylie
Grey-headed Albatross	1 imm.	22-May-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
Buller's Albatross	5+	22-May-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
Buller's Albatross	1	26-Jun-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
White-necked Petrel	1	27-Feb-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
Striated Heron	1	24-Jun-10	Berkeley Boat Harbour	Estuarine	Michelle Rower
Striated heron	1	29-Jun-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Tidal creek	David Winterbottom
Little Egret	1	26-Jun-10	Purrah Bay, Kanahooka	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Little Egret	1	02-Jul-10	Tom Thumb Lagoon	Pond	David Winterbottom
Little Egret	1	15-Jul-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Lake	David Winterbottom
Eastern Reef Egret	1 Dark Morph	22-Jun-10	Killalea SRA	Rocks	Michelle Rower/Terry Edwell
Nankeen Night-heron	1	18-Jul-10	Lake Illawarra, South Side	Lakeside	Hal Bruce
Royal Spoonbill	1	10-Jul-10	Byarong Creek, Figtree	Riparian	Joan Zealey
Eastern Osprey	1	07-Jul-10	Primbee, Lake Illawarra	Open Swamp Water	Charles Dove
Eastern Osprey	1	15-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Betty Hudson & Kathryn Sullivan
Eastern Osprey	1	18-Jul-10	Lake Illawarra Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	22-Jun-10	Killalea SRA	Overhead	Michelle Rower/Terry Edwell
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1A, 2 Juv	18-Jul-10	Lake Illawarra Primbee	Estuarine	Charles Dove
White-bellied sea-eagle	2	03-Jul-10	East Corrimal	Woodland	David Winterbottom
White-bellied sea-eagle	1	07-Jul-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Overhead	David Winterbottom
White-bellied sea-eagle	2	14-Jul-10	East Corrimal	Woodland	David Winterbottom
White-bellied sea-eagle	1	15-Jul-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Overhead	David Winterbottom
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	13-Jun-10	Wingecarribee River Moss Vale	Overhead	Terry Dunlea
Whistling Kite	1	26-Jun-10	Purrah Bay, Kanahooka	Overhead	Martin Cocker

Whistling Kite	1 Juv.	18-Jul-10	Lake Illawarra Primbee	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	2	18-Jul-10	Lake Illawarra Primbee	Bush	Charles Dove
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	18-Jul-10	Wilton	Bush	Graham Barwell
Grey Goshawk	1`	24-Jun-10	Princess H'way, Jaspers Brush	White Morph	Carla Jackett
Grey Goshawk	1-White Morph	12-Jul-10	Saddleback Mt., Kiama	Overhead	Betty Hudson & Kathryn Sullivan
Grey Goshawk	1	18-Jul-10	Lake Illawarra Primbee	Bush	Charles Dove
Grey Goshawk	1	16-May-10	Primbee	Bush	Graham Barwell
Grey Goshawk	1	21-Jun-10	Windang	Woodland	David Winterbottom
Grey Goshawk	1	16-Jul-10	Windang	Woodland	David Winterbottom
Grey Goshawk	1	20-Jul-10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Overhead	Mike Morphett
Swamp Harrier	1	22-Jun-10	Killalea SRA	Over Lagoon	Michelle Rower/Terry Edwell
Swamp Harrier	1	13-Jul-10	Kemblawarra	Overhead	David Winterbottom
Swamp Harrier	1	15-Jul-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Overhead	David Winterbottom
Nankeen Kestrel	1	26-Jun-10	Stoney Creek Reserve, Shellharbour	Overhead	Lorraine Pincus
Australian Hobby	1	28-Jun-10	Nowra Town	Urban	Carla Jackett
Australian Hobby	2	21-Jun-10	Windang	Overhead	David Winterbottom
Peregrine Falcon	1`	25-Jun-10	Princess H'way, Jaspers Brush	Rural	Carla Jackett
Peregrine Falcon	1	26-Jun-10	Stoney Creek Reserve, Shellharbour	Overhead	Lorraine Pincus
Baillon's Crake	1	17-Jun-10	North Wollongong Surf Club	Walkway Embankment-shrubs	Laurie Williams
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	5	27-Jun-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Joan Zealey
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2	04-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin & Penny Potter
Red-capped Plover	5	04-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin & Penny Potter
Red-capped Plover	8	15-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Betty Hudson & Kathryn Sullivan
Red-capped Plover	10	18-Jul-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Double-Banded Plover	75	04-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin & Penny Potter
Double-banded Plover	20	15-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Betty Hudson & Kathryn Sullivan
Double-banded Plover	36	18-Jul-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	12-Jun-10	Jerrara Dam	Wetland	Ian Mckinlay
Bar-tailed Godwit	40	04-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin & Penny Potter
Bar-tailed Godwit	40	15-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Betty Hudson & Kathryn Sullivan
Bar-tailed Godwit	17	20-Jul-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Lake	David Winterbottom
Eastern Curlew	3	15-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Betty Hudson & Kathryn Sullivan
Red-necked Stint	6	04-Jul-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin & Penny Potter
Brown Skua	2	22-May-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
Brown Skua	5	26-Jun-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
Long-tailed Jaeger	1+	27-Feb-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
Sooty Tern	1 imm.	27-Feb-10	Pacific Ocean off Wollongong	Pelagic	Graham Barwell
Kelp Gull	2 A	24-Jul-10	Sandon Point,	Coastal	Jill Molan
Kelp Gull	2 A	18-Jul-10	Stuart Park, North Wollongong	Coastal	Martin Cocker

Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	4-Jun-10	Boxvale Track Mittagong	Forest	Terry Dunlea
Gang-gang cockatoo	1	June	Irvine's Road, Bellowongarah	Bush/Paddock (Common)	Carla Jackett
Musk Lorikeet	3	16-May-10	Primbee	Bush	Graham Barwell
Southern Boobook	1	09-Jul-10	Stafford Farm Track, Kembala Heights	Woodland	IB
Azure Kingfisher	1	12-Jun-10	Jerrara Dam	Wetland	Ian Mckinlay
Azure Kingfisher	2	10-Jul-10	Hyams Creek, Jamberoo	Riverine	Betty Hudson
Noisy Pitta	1	07-Jul-10	Mt. Keira Ring track, Mt. Pleasant	Rainforest	Ross & Jan Gowans
Noisy Pitta	1	12-Jul-10	Mt. Keira Ring track, Mt. Pleasant	Rainforest	Wal Emery & Mike Morphett
Superb Lyrebird	1	June	Irvine's Road, Bellowongarah	Bush/Paddock (Common)	Carla Jackett
Red-browed Treecreeper	1	27-Jun-10	Irvine's Road, Bellowongarah	Bush/Paddock	Carla Jackett
Red-browed Treecreeper	1	29-Jun-10	Boxvale Track, Mittagong	Forest	Michelle Rower/Terry Edwell
Southern Emu-wren	1 F	21-Feb-10	Budderoo Fire Trail	Bush	Graham Barwell
Eastern Bristlebird	1	21-Feb-10	Budderoo Fire Trail	Bush	Graham Barwell
Eastern Bristlebird	1	21-Jun-10	Ruined Lighthouse, Jervis Bay	Heath	Sheila Emery
Pilotbird	Heard	June	Irvine's Road, Bellowongarah	Bush/Paddock (Heard daily)	Carla Jackett
Rockwarbler	1	22-Jul-10	Garden, Bomaderry Creek area, North Nowra	Garden	Shela Emery
Weebill	4	18-Jul-10	Wilton	Bush	Graham Barwell
White-eared Honeyeater	4	29-Jun-10	Boxvale Track, Mittagong	Forest	Michelle Rower/Terry Edwell
White-eared Honeyeater	1	09-May-10	Albion Park Rail	Bush	Graham Barwell
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	1	21-Mar-10	Bargo River Pot Holes Crossing	Bush	Graham Barwell
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	4	18-Jul-10	Wilton	Bush	Graham Barwell
Bell Miner	many	21-Mar-10	Bargo River Pot Holes Crossing	Bush	Graham Barwell
Scarlet Honeyeater	1	14-Jul-10	Mt. Keira Ring track, Mt. Pleasant	Rainforest Edge	IBOC
Brown-headed Honeyeater	1	29-Jun-10	Boxvale Track, Mittagong	Forest	Michelle Rower/Terry Edwell
Australian Logrunner	Heard	June	Irvine's Road, Bellowongarah	Bush/Paddock (Heard daily)	Carla Jackett
Australian Logrunner	2	15-Jul-10	Black Ash Reserve Bellowongarra nr Berry	Rain Forest	Betty Hudson & Kathryn Sullivan
Australian Logrunner	2	20-Jul-10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Spotted Quail-thrush	3	29-Jun-10	Boxvale Track, Mittagong	Forest	Michelle Rower/Terry Edwell
Varied Sittella	2	18-Jul-10	Wilton	Bush	Graham Barwell
Crested Shrike-tit	2	17-Jun-10	Irvine's Road, Bellowongarah	Bush/Paddock	Carla Jackett
Dusky Woodswallow	10	21-Mar-10	Bargo River Pot Holes Crossing	Bush	Graham Barwell
Spangled Drongo	2	16-May-10	Primbee	Bush	Graham Barwell
Spangled Drongo	1	16-Jul-10	Windang	Woodland	David Winterbottom
Leaden Flycatcher	1	07-Jul-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Woodland	David Winterbottom
Leaden Flycatcher	1	15-Jul-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Woodland	David Winterbottom

Apostlebird	2	5 & 12/01/10	Mt. Kembla Garden	Forest Garden	Shane Maloney via Alan Lowis
Scarlet Robin	1	17-Jun-10	Boxvale Track Mittagong	Forest	Terry Dunlea
Rose Robin	1	12-Jun-10	Jerrara Dam	Bush	Ian Mckinlay
Rose Robin	1	27-Jun-10	Croome Park, Albion Park Rail	Forest	Martin Cocker
Rose Robin	1	04-Jul-10	Bomaderry Creek	Bush	Martin & Penny Potter
Rose Robin	1	10-Jul-10	Berkeley	Casuarina Forest	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1	14-Jul-10	Kembla Heights	Rain Forest	IBOC
Rose Robin	1	17-Jul-10	Jerrara Dam	Rain Forest	IBOC
Rose Robin	1 F	21-Mar-10	Bents Basin SCA	Bush	Graham Barwell
Rose Robin	1 M	18-Jul-10	Wilton	Bush	Graham Barwell
Tawny Grassbird	1	23-Jun-10	Haywards Bay	Lantana Thicket	Chris Brandis
Bassian Thrush	1	21-Jun-10	Killalea SP	Littoral Rain forest	Chris Brandis
Mistletoebird	1	22-Jun-10	Kanahooka Point	Bush	Michelle Rower/Terry Edwell
Mistletoebird	1	29-Jun-10	Boxvale Track, Mittagong	Forest	Michelle Rower/Terry Edwell
Mistletoebird	1	07-Jul-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Woodland	David Winterbottom
Mistletoebird	2	15-Jul-10	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	Woodland	David Winterbottom

The sightings of the two Apostlebirds in January of this year is a new species for the Illawarra. The re-appearance of the Noisy Pitta on Mt. Keira is a welcome sign and perhaps we should be looking for this species elsewhere, notably the littoral rain forest at Bass Point and in other suitable sights on the escarpment. Several of you have commented on how few egrets and herons are about though a recent report in Birding -Aus has spoken of "great, intermediate and little egrets and white-necked herons standing shoulder to shoulder" on the banks of Coopers Creek near Innamincka, so apparently the centre is alive with birds after recent rains and flooding.

Many thanks for all your records and please keep sending them to me at cocker@speedlink.com.au

Special Notice:

I have booked and paid for fares and accommodation at Kumul Lodge (they have a web site) near Mt Hagen in PNG for 28 Aug 10 to 12 Sep 10. The fares are for connecting flights with Qantas to Moresby via Brisbane (\$869) and Air Niugini to Mt Hagen (\$291). I would try to transfer the flights to anyone interested. Accommodation is in a bungalow for two at the Lodge (\$1476 for 2 weeks) which is famous for birds of Paradise. I am unable to go now but my friend is still going. If interested please contact me at 02 44641389 or virtue@fastrac.net.au for details.

Barry Virtue



Eastern Spinebill

Scientific name: *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

Family: Meliphagidae

Order: Passeriformes

Description

The Eastern Spinebill is most easily recognised by its very long, fine, down-curved beak and energetic flight, during which its white outer tail feathers are prominent. Males have a grey-black crown which extends in a black



photo by Ron Imisides

line on either side of the breast. The breast and throat are white, with a rufous patch in the centre of the throat. The wings and lower back are dark grey and the underparts and upper back are buff. Females are similar to males but have less distinct markings.

Similar species

Crescent Honeyeater, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Western Spinebill (in Western Australia).

Distribution

The Eastern Spinebill's range is generally east of the Great Dividing Range from Cooktown in Queensland to the Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

Habitat

The Eastern Spinebill prefers heath, forest and woodland.

Seasonal movements

Largely sedentary, but undergoes some local movements, especially away from higher elevations in autumn/winter.

Feeding

The Eastern Spinebill feeds on insects and nectar while perched or while hovering. Nectar is obtained from a wide array of flowers, including grevilleas, but its beak is particularly well-suited to extracting nectar from tubular flowers such as epacrids.

Breeding

The Eastern Spinebill's nest is a small cup of twigs, grass and bark, combined with hair and spider's web, built in a tree fork, generally between 1 and 5 metres from the ground. Only the female builds the nest and incubates the eggs, but both parents feed the young when they hatch.

(Eastern Spinebill information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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**'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'**

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Founded in 1977

Club's Aim: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird life around them.

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SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting –

Monday 13th September 7.30pm - Fairy Meadow Community Hall.
Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.

A presentation by Charles Dove ' Birds of Eastern Australia 2010' . 'Some of the wonderful birds of Australia'

Come and see the great photography of Charles, presented in full and glorious colour complimented by some background sounds.

Charles is our newsletter editor so you will know that this presentation will be of an exceptional standard.

Alan Cousins (President).

September 2010 Mid Week Walk

Wednesday 15th September 2010.

The Cascades Track Macquarie Pass N.P.

Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at 9.00am at the car park on the right hand (northern) side at the bottom of Macquarie Pass. From Wollongong take the Freeway south to the Yallah roundabout and turn right onto the Illawarra Highway. At the traffic lights in Albion Park turn right and continue until the 100km is replaced by 60km speed limit. The car park is shortly on the right. Bring a carry morning tea and insect repellent.

This is a walk through rainforest and tall forest along side a creek, which should have plenty of water after the prolonged wet.

Contact Betty on 0432 892 945

September 2010 Monthly Outing

Saturday 18th September 2010

Bellawongarah Cambewarra Lookout & Bomaderry Creek

Leader Betty Hudson

Meet at 9.00am at the Old Cemetery/RFS Station on Kangaroo Valley Rd, Bellawongarah. Look for the bright red mail box on the left. Travel south along the Princes Hwy to Berry and take the Kangaroo Valley road at the southern end of the town. After climbing to the top of the escarpment pass a left turn and continue for approx 1km, the entrance to the cemetery is on the left hand side. Enter and park in the small reserve by the Rural Fire Station ensuring that we do not cause an obstruction

We will do a short walk from here possibly finding the logrunner. When we finish we will drive a few km's to Cambewarra Lookout where a café provides a good morning tea if you so desire, good birding along the track up to the lookout as well as spectacular views. Another short walk will start at Bomaderry Creek Nerang Road Bomaderry, followed by lunch in the picnic area and then a longer walk along the creek where Rock Warblers have been seen.

Bring lunch and morning tea. The walk will finish around 2.30pm.

September 2010 Committee Meeting – 7.30pm on Monday September 27th 2010

The September committee will be at Charles & Janina Dove, 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue Primbee Ph 4275 2383. Interested members welcome.

September 2010 Newsletter –

Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is Friday 27th August 2010
E-mail contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph: 4275 2383

'FOOTNOTE'

There has been some questions as to the reference to the sighting of a 'Pacific Blue Whistler' in the Leeton area. To clarify, this was a light hearted reference to a freight train that passed through.

It was in fact a Union Pacific train which is **blue in colour** and the driver sounded its whistle as it passed. Apologies if this reference caused any confusion or offence.

Alan Cousins (President)

REPORTS

Monthly Meeting Report

Alan Cousins

NATIVE TREES OF THE SOUTH COAST

Our guest speaker for the August meeting was Kevin Mills who is well known to many members of IBOC and his presentation neatly complimented the excellent introduction presentation by Charles Dove who had put together photographs of things other than birds that we have seen on IBOC outings - I believe that we only saw one bird picture and they were silhouetted. As Charles stated to me this compilation was a complete fluke!

Who would have thought that nearly 200 native tree species grow on the south coast of NSW from Sydney to Batemans Bay. This must nearly equal the number of bird species!

The trees can vary in size from the Mallee at just 2 metres to trees over 40 metres tall, the tallest being 53 metres. This area has more species of trees than the whole of Europe.

We were shown pictures of numerous tree specimens and their forms and told that some had been renamed (sound like birds?).

Trees have a big impact on the environment and can provide for example ornamentation, shelter, shade, breeding (nests), habitat (logs and litter) and perches for raptors. The list of animals that use trees is endless and includes birds, bats, frogs, arboreal animals and invertebrates etc.

This was a very interesting and thought provoking presentation which raised questions from the floor and also the thought that on bird watching expeditions we may also give more than a glance to the trees that we are looking at birds in and also those trees around us.

MOEYAN HILL BERRY 11th AUGUST 2010

Lorraine Pincus

Twelve members met on Moeyan Hill in Berry, an area of tall eucalyptus forest that has been preserved from suburbia. The agreement was to walk to the top of Moeyan Hill and then retrace our steps back to the cars. It had rained the night before but thankfully it was reasonably dry under foot.

Private gardens surrounds the start of the walk where little birds are seen Red-browed Finch, Grey Fantail, Superb Fairy-wren, and the bigger birds, Magpie-lark, Eastern Yellow Robin, Lewin's Honeyeater and Laughing Kookaburra.

The track wanders up a small rise surrounded by tall eucalyptus, the small birds of the tree tops, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes were spotted, then down into a dry creek bed where an Eastern Whipbird was heard and Variegated Fairy-wren seen.

The tall eucalyptus was in flower many honeyeaters were seen, Rainbow Lorikeet, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike was seen and photographed by Charlie Dove, but not confirmed until Thursday when looking through his photos.

Morning tea was had at the cars, then decided to spend the rest of the morning at



Camp Quality Park in Berry. We walked along the river where a Fan-tailed Cuckoo, White-browed Scrub-wren were clearly heard and seen, a Rose Robin and Golden Whistler were happy to stay. Walking back to the cars, Yellow-rumped Thornbills were feeding in the grass.

Thank you Betty for an enjoyable walk.

Bird List Moeyan Hill

Indian Peafowl (Peacock)	Laughing Kookaburra	Eastern Whipbird
Black Swan	White-throated Treecreeper	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Australian Wood Duck	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler – E Race
Spotted Dove	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush
Crested Pigeon	Brown Gerygone	Australian Magpie
Wonga Pigeon	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Rainbow Lorikeet	Spotted Pardalote	Magpie-lark
Crimson Rosella	Striated Pardalote	Eastern Yellow Robin
Eastern Rosella	Lewin's Honeyeater	Silvereye
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch

Bird List Camp Quality Park

Galah	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Magpie
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Little Wattlebird	Grey Fantail
Laughing Kookaburra	Red Wattlebird	Australian Raven
White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	Magpie-lark
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Golden Whistler – E Race	Australian Raven
Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Shrike-thrush	Rose Robin

Wirrimbirra Sanctuary and Avon Dam 15 August 2010*by Terry Edwell*

The walk at Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, Bargo was attended by 15 members. First sightings were on the roadside near the beginning of the track. White-Winged Choughs and Common Bronzewing were drinking from a rain puddle. The track was quite overgrown in places but it was an easy walk. The birds could be heard, high in the trees and Yellow-Faced Honeyeaters were identified, but it was impossible to see some of the birds as they were darting around too quickly in the canopy. Two Pacific Black Ducks and a Pied Cormorant were sighted on a small dam. Mostly common varieties of birds were present, but there were some good sightings, such as White-Eared, Yellow-

Tufted and White-Naped Honeyeaters. Neil found us a Scarlet Robin, which was my favourite for the day.

We then drove to Avon Dam and had lunch. In between arriving and a rain squall, six birds were sighted, but no Rock Warblers. On an earlier visit by a few of our club members, quite a few Rock Warblers were present, feeding around the picnic area. Our day was ended by a storm of wind and rain. As usual, it was a very enjoyable day. It was good to share the day with a new member, who will join us whenever she can, so welcome to Janelle Barker.

Thanks to all for their company, and thanks to Betty for leading us. 41 birds were sighted for the day.

Bird List Wirrimbirra

Pacific Black Duck	Yellow Thornbill	Golden Whistler – E race
Common Bronzewing	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Shrike-Thrush
Crested Pigeon	Striated Pardalote	Grey Butcherbird
Peaceful Dove	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Magpie
Little Pied Cormorant	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Pied Cormorant	White-eared Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Crimson Rosella	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Eastern Rosella	White-naped Honeyeater	White-winged Chough
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Whipbird	Scarlet Robin
Laughing Kookaburra	Varied Sitella	Welcome Swallow
Variiegated Fairy-Wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	

Bird List Avon Dam

Azure Kingfisher	Brown Thornbill	Rose Robin
Superb Fairy-Wren	Pied Currawong	Eastern Yellow Robin

OCTOBER BIRD CAMP**Sandy Hollow Camp 23rd-30th October 2010**

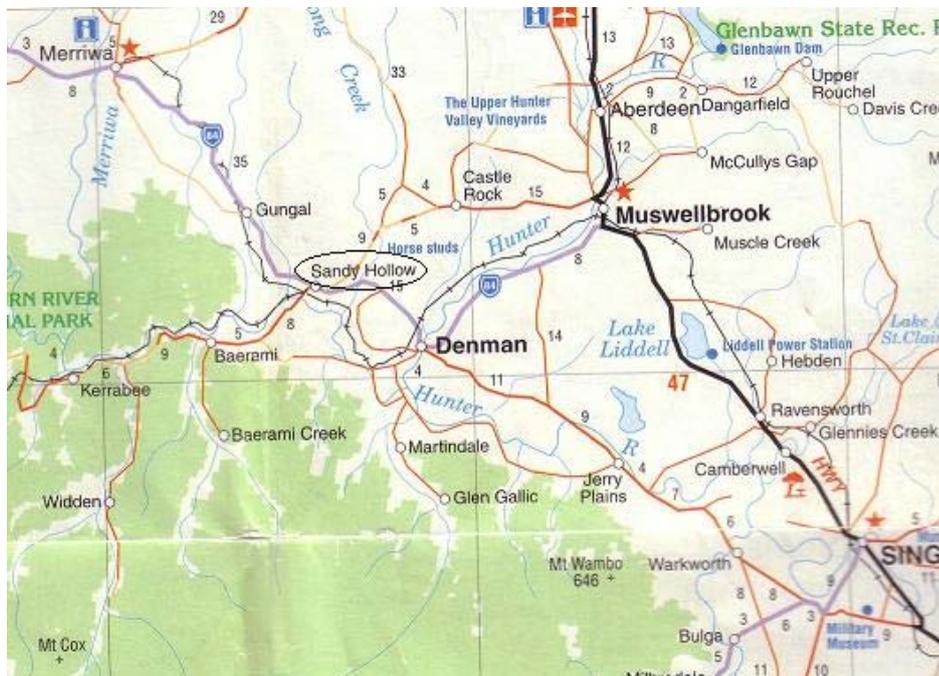
The October 2010 Camp is being held at Sandy Hollow Tourist Park, Golden Hwy, Sandy Hollow, 2333. Phone 02 6547 4575. Or book on line at www.sandyhollow.com.au There are plenty of caravan & tent sites still available. Unfortunately no cabins or motel rooms are still available.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for a week of interesting and rewarding bird watching in the Upper Hunter Valley.

Phone Betty 02 423603 or 0432 892 945

Sandy Hollow is N.W. of Denman and adjacent to Wollemi NP and Goulburn River NP as well as Munghorn Gap Nature reserve, where over 164 species of birds have been recorded. The area is a meeting point for both coastal and western species. The Golden Hwy connects Singleton with Mudgee passing through Denman and Ulan.

If possible, please let me know if you do decide to join us.

Location Map for Sandy Hollow

ITEMS & LETTERS OF INTEREST

Science Daily (June 24, 2010) — The evolution of bird bills is related to climate according to latest research by the University of Melbourne, Australia and Brock University, Canada..[Extract from Article](#)

By examining bill sizes of a diverse range of bird species around the world, researchers have found that birds with larger bills tend to be found in hot environments, whilst birds in colder environments have evolved smaller bills. The study led by Dr Matt Symonds of the Department of Zoology at the University of Melbourne and Dr Glenn Tattersall of the Department of Biological Sciences at Brock University provides evidence that maintaining body temperature in a bird's natural environment may have shaped the evolution of bird bills.

The size and shape of these distinctive structures are usually explained by their role in feeding and mate attraction. However, previous research shows

bird bills have a third, less appreciated function, as organs of heat exchange.

Dr Glenn Tattersall says we know, from our thermal imaging studies that birds like toucans and geese can lose a large amount of their body heat through their bills.

"Unlike humans they don't sweat but can use their bills to help reduce their body temperature if they overheat."

"We then wondered whether this function had evolutionary consequences, and sought to compare bill sizes across a whole range of species," says Dr Tattersall.

The 214 species examined comprised diverse groups including toucans, African barbets and tinkerbirds, Australian parrots, grass finches, penguins, Canadian gamebirds, gulls and terns.

"Across all species, there were strong links between bill length and both latitude, altitude and environmental temperature," Dr Matt Symonds says. "Species that have to deal with colder temperatures have smaller bills."

"This suggests that there is an evolutionary connection between the size of the birds' bills and their role in heat management," he says.

Although it's possible that large bills have evolved to help shed heat loads and prevent overheating in hot climates, we think it's more likely that cold temperatures impose a constraint on the size of bird beaks," Dr Tattersall says.

"It simply might be too much of a liability to carry around a big radiator of heat energy in a cold environment."

The research validates a 133-year-old ecological theory called Allen's rule, which predicts that animal appendages like limbs, ears, and tails are smaller in cold climates in order to minimize heat loss.

Dr Symonds says Allen's rule has never been tested with this large a group of animals and was more anecdotal.

"This is the first rigorous study of its kind to test this theory and to show that bird bills have evolved in this manner."

The paper is published online this week in the journal *American Naturalist* and will be in the journal's August 2010 edition.

Trip report Haywards Bay – more there than just water.

Truscott Last Sunday (June 27) I wandered again to Haywards Bay where houses are inexorably consuming our open space and wetlands. Hopefully now that Kevin "Mr Big Australia" is gone, the pressure to destroy more habitat in a relentless push to a 'sardine can' future for us all, may lessen; but I digress..... Wandering across open grassy meadows numerous pipits were busy insectivoring.

For the second time in a few weeks, a marsh harrier flew overhead and Black-shouldered Kites were busy. Lots of ducks in the ponds too – mostly chestnut teal. There was much high-pitched noise coming from the casuarinas ahead. It sounded like mistletoe birds but I do not usually associate casuarina forests with these red and blue flowerpeckers. Indeed the trees were thick with male and female MBs. It became clear why when I looked closer. Not only were there swathes of mistletoe on the she-oaks, it was in flower!

Roger

Later I got a close view of a Grey Goshawk as it perched a metre above the ground cover in the same forest intent on some ground-dwelling prey. A truly beautiful, sleek bird with bright yellow lores and legs. A magpie impressed its friends by trying to dislodge the goshawk from a branch near the lake but the raptor did not take much notice. Casuarina-friendly Yellow Thornbills flocked past. A highlight came as I took a short detour across a grassy patch. I stopped and could hear what sounded like a Black Bird's clucking alarm call. Eventually I spotted the singer low down in lantana on the grassy verge. Through the bins it was a Tawny Grassbird clucking away. It stayed for several minutes then skulked off. These birds are rarely seen (by me anyway).

The next time I visit there will be more houses, and less land for other birds and animals. Where will it end?

19 August 2010

Smuggler jailed for £70k peregrine falcon egg theft

Lendrum was arrested at Birmingham International Airport while waiting for a flight

Egg smuggler was 'wildlife criminal'

A man has been sentenced to 30 months in prison after admitting attempting to smuggle rare bird eggs out of Britain.

Jeffrey Lendrum, 48, from York Close, Towcester, Northamptonshire, was found in possession of 14 peregrine falcon eggs when he was detained on 3 May. He was arrested at Birmingham Airport as he waited for a flight to Dubai. Lendrum was caught with the eggs, valued at £70,000 on the black market, strapped to his body after he was seen acting suspiciously by a cleaner. The former member of the Rhodesian SAS had wrapped the eggs, which had been stolen from a nest in south Wales, in socks before taping them to his chest to keep them warm.

After they were seized by police, 11 of the eggs were successfully hatched and the highly protected chicks released back in to the wild, Warwick Crown Court heard. Lendrum admitted one count of trying to export the eggs and another of illegally stealing them from a nest on the side of a mountain in Rhondda. At first he claimed they were chicken eggs he had bought at Waitrose before trying to fool police by saying he used them to treat his bad back.





Powerful Owl



by Dave Stephens

Photo taken 4.30p.m. on Monday 2nd Aug. Powerful owl in a Liquid amber tree in front garden of house next to the 'Reject Shop' in Boree St. Ulladulla. Dave Stephens

Russell Hannah's daughter in Law Margaret has been busy with her new camera in Manyana with some great Shots Square-tailed Kite Marg



Red-whiskered Bul Bul

Andrew Wood



Eastern Whipbirds



Satin Bowerbirds



Bassian Thrush

by Ron Imisides



Eastern Yellow Robin



New Holland Honeyeater



Ron Imisides had a great day over Primbee Sand Dunes with 30 species in around 3hrs Mid August.

Rock Warbler

by Charles Dove



Revisited Avon Dam Wed 18th August and the Rock Warblers were in the Car Park early Afternoon

Gang-gang Cockatoo



Gang-gang's were up at Budderoo National Park in Numbers on a very windy Friday 20th August great to see them Charles Dove

Western Gerygone



Mark from CBOC sent a nice Pic of a Western Gerygone from Shane's Park in Sydney, not often seen in this region. Mark Fuller, Editor CBOC

Bird List for August 2010

Compiled by Martin Cocker

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
White-headed Pigeon	6	31-Jul-10	Jerrara Dam	Forest	Ian McKinley
Topknot Pigeon	20+	09-Aug-10	Mt Keira Ring Track	Rainforest	Wal Emery
Bar-shouldered Dove	10	31-Jul-10	Jerrara Creek Dam	Bush	Chris Chafer
Bar-shouldered Dove	2	09-Aug-10	Farmborough Hts	Garden	Chris Blatch
Bar-shouldered Dove	9	08-Aug-10	Primbee	Forest/dunes	Ron Imisides
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	2	31-Jul-10	Jerrara Creek Dam	Bush	Chris Chafer
Wandering Albatross	1	22-Jul-10	Kiama Blowhole Headland, Kiama	Inshore	Stan Brown
Black-browed Albatross	3	22-Jul-10	Kiama Blowhole Headland, Kiama	Inshore	Stan Brown
Shy Albatross	4	22-Jul-10	Kiama Blowhole Headland, Kiama	Inshore	Stan Brown
Striated heron	1	07-Aug-10	Griffins Bay, Lake Illawarra,	Riparian	Martin Cocker
Striated heron	1	07-Aug-10	Berkeley Boat Harbour	Riparian	Martin Cocker
Eastern Osprey	2	02-Jul-10	Swan Lake	Lakeside	Brian & Barbara Hales
Eastern Osprey	1	02-Jul-10	Huskisson	River	Sylvia & David Garlic
Collared Sparrowhawk	2	22-Aug-10	Little Bay, Warilla	Overhead	Martin Cocker
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	20-Jul-10	Primbee	Garden	Ron Imisides
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	08-Aug-10	Primbee	Forest/dunes	Ron Imisides
Grey Goshawk	1	09-Aug-10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Overhead	Mike Morphett
Grey Goshawk	2	07-Aug-10	Bulli	Rainforest	Roger Truscott
Grey Goshawk	1	08-Aug-10	Primbee	Forest/dunes	Ron Imisides
Brown Falcon	1	09-Aug-10	Helensburgh	Overhead	Darryl Goldrick
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	6	15-Jul-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	1	08-Jul-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Sooty Oystercatcher	1	15-Jul-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Sooty Oystercatcher	1	22-Aug-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Red-capped Plover	25	15-Jul-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Red-capped Plover	15	08-Jul-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Red-capped Plover	6	22-Aug-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Double-banded Plover	15	15-Jul-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Double-banded Plover	40	08-Jul-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Double-banded Plover	0	22-Aug-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	3	Mid July	Farmborough Hts	Overhead	Andrew Wood
Long-billed Corella	200+	31-Jul-10	Calderwood	Rural	Chris Chafer
Powerful Owl	1	09-Aug-10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Heard	Mike Morphett
Azure Kingfisher	1	07-Aug-10	Griffins Bay, Lake Illawarra,	Riparian	Martin Cocker
Noisy Pitta	1	27-Jul-10	Mt Pleasant	Rainforest	Wal Emery
Green Catbird	1	07-Aug-10	Wollongong Botanical Garden	Forest remnant	Ian McKinley
Australian Logrunner	1	24-Jul-10	Grevillea Gardens, Bulli	Forest	Nerida Hudspith
Australian Logrunner	2	25-Jul-10	Corrimal	Rainforest	Wal Emery
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	11-Aug-10	Moeyan Hill Track	Rural Residential	Charles Dove
Australasian Figbird	3	09-Aug-10	Jamberoo	Garden	Kevin Mills
Dusky Woodswallow	20	31-Jul-10	Calderwood	Rural	Chris Chafer
Spangled Drongo	1	08-Aug-10	Primbee	Forest/dunes	Ron Imisides
Rose Robin	1	07-Aug-10	Bulli	Rainforest	Roger Truscott
Rose Robin	1	30-Jul-10	Jamberoo	Garden	Tony Loader
Bassian Thrush	1	04-Aug-10	Excelsior Forest, Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Common Blackbird	1	08-Aug-10	Primbee	Forest/dunes	Ron Imisides

Spring is fast approaching so send in your first sightings of the summer migrants. Recent visits to Windang over the past three weeks have seen the numbers of Double-banded Plovers dwindle to nil, maybe the helping hand of the recent westerlies and the occasional warm day was too much for them to resist. Recent walks around the Lake have also raised the question about the complete absence of Black-winged stilts that have been resident in recent years, they must be out west taking advantage of the recent floods!

Many thanks for all your records please continue to send them to cocker@speedlink.com.au



Scarlet Robin

Scientific name: Petroica Boodang

Family: Petroicidae

Order: Passeriformes

Featured Bird Groups

Small insect-eating birds

Description

The Scarlet Robin is a medium-sized robin, with a plump and compact appearance. Males have a black head, neck and upperparts with a conspicuous white patch above the bill (frontal patch). The breast is scarlet red and the lower



photo by Charles Dove

underparts are white. The wings are barred white and the outer tail is also white. Females differ markedly from males, being brown above with a whitish frontal patch and an orange-red breast, brown wings and white underparts. Young birds resemble females but are streaked white above, tinged buff on the wings and are mottled dark-brown on the breast and sides of the body. The Norfolk Island subspecies of the Scarlet Robin differs from mainland birds, with the males having less white in the wings and tail and a larger red breast-patch while the females tend to be browner and also have less white in the wings and tail.

Similar species

The Scarlet Robin may be confused with other 'red' robins such as the Flame (*P. phoenicea*) and the Red-capped (*P. goodenovii*). It can be distinguished from these species by the large white patch above the bill in both the male and female (this patch is absent in the Red-capped Robin and smaller in the male Flame Robin). Female Scarlet Robins also tend to have a much redder chest than females of other robin species.

Distribution

The Scarlet Robin is found in south-eastern and south-western Australia, as well as on Norfolk Island. In Australia, it is found south of latitude 25°S, from south-eastern Queensland along the coast of New South Wales (and inland to western slopes of Great Dividing Range) to Victoria and Tasmania, and west to Eyre Peninsula, South

Australia; it is also found in south-west Western Australia. It is also widely distributed in the south-western Pacific from Bougainville and the Solomon Islands to Vanuatu, Fiji and Western Samoa.

Habitat

The Scarlet Robin lives in open forests and woodlands in Australia, while it prefers rainforest habitats on Norfolk Island. During winter, it will visit more open habitats such as grasslands and will be seen in farmland and urban parks and gardens at this time.

Feeding

The Scarlet Robin feeds mainly on insects and forages on or near the ground. It will sit on a perch and fly down to catch prey. Sometimes forages in mixed flocks with other small insect-eating birds, such as Flame and Hooded Robins, Weebills, Grey Fantails and Thornbills.

(Scarlet Robin information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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**'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'**

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Founded in 1977

Club's Aim: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird life around them.

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OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting –

Monday 11th October 7.30pm**Fairy Meadow Community Hall.****Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.**

Guest Speaker is Dr Michael Cannon - BVSc, MAVSc, Grad Dip Ed.

Dr Cannon has developed an interest in avian medicine and surgery, being awarded Membership of the Avian Health Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in 1985. He maintains a small private collection of Australian parrots and is involved in rehabilitation of Australian native animals, particularly birds. He was Teacher-in-Charge of Zookeeping at Sydney Institute of Technology from 1990 until 2001. This course is based at Taronga Zoo, Mosman. He was also Project Officer for Curriculum Development and Accreditation of the Zookeeping Certificate for NSW TAFE Commission and is a member of the Animal Welfare and Ethics Board for TAFE

Dr Michael Cannon will be speaking on Birds from a vets perspective.

October Mid Week Walk

Wednesday 13th October 2010**Barren Grounds Nature Reserve**

Leader Tom Wylie

Meet at **8.30am sharp** at the Picnic Area Carpark at Barren Grounds on the Jamberoo Robertson Road approx 4km south of the Knights Hill turn off (if coming via Macquarie Pass) or immediately at the top of the pass (if coming from Jamberoo.). Turn off Macquarie Pass at the Robertson Pie Shop. Which track we walk will depend on the prevailing weather. The Nature Reserve is undulating with both heath and rainforest and a wide variety of birds. It can be quite cold or conversely very hot on the top of the mountains, so dress accordingly. Bring a carry morning tea.

Phone Tom on 4284 2051 or 0407 268 279.

October Monthly Outing

Sunday 17th October 2010**Abrahams Bosom, Currarong.**

Leader Betty Hudson

Meet at **8.00am** in the shopping centre car park at the junction of the Princes Hwy and Greenwell Point Rd., Nowra. Turn left from the Princes Hwy into Greenwell Point Rd and then immediately right into the car park. All cars will then drive on to Currarong to commence the walk. Features of the reserve are its beach, natural rock pool, creek and scenic walking tracks through the coastal heath. Remember to bring a carry lunch and sunscreen and insect repellent. This is an early start to miss the hottest part of the day.

Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or mobile 0432 892 945

October 2010 Committee Meeting –

The next meeting will now be on Monday 18th October 2010 at Betty Hudson's, 1 Drualla Road Jamberoo, at 7.30pm. Ph 42360307.

October 2010 Newsletter –

Due to the October Camp and an early meeting in November the November newsletter will be posted early.

Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is

Tuesday 19th October 2010

E-mail contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

REPORTS

September Monthly Meeting Report

Betty Hudson

Report on Charles Dove's Presentation.

The 18 members who attended the September meeting were captivated by Charlie's wonderful DVD combining some of his superb photographs of birds with their calls and a soft non intrusive background music where needed. The birds were those we were familiar with as well as some from far away. All the pictures were captioned so that no time was taken up by announcing the name. The DVD rolled on seamlessly for an enthralling 55 minutes of viewing and listening.

Starting with some of the flightless birds, he progressed through the field guide to the Finches, pausing at the Ducks, Herons, Raptors, Waders and Owls, which were followed in brilliant succession by the Kingfishers, Bowerbirds, Fairy-wrens, Honeyeaters, Cuckoo-shrikes, Robins and Flycatchers.

Thank you Charlie for showing us what can be achieved with our bird photographs, bird calls and knowledge of the appropriate technology.

September Mid Week Walk

This walk was cancelled due to inclement weather and trail condition.

September Weekend Walk 18 September 2010

By Linda Cohen

Bellawongarah – Cambewarra Mountain Lookout – Bomaderry Creek

Bellawongarah

The walk started near the top of the escarpment. I arrived early, and was treated to the sight of a pair of Crimson Rosellas and a juvenile feeding on the grass. You can understand why many people think that the juveniles are a different species from their plumage. Several members also saw a Wonga Pigeon at the entrance to the cemetery.

We were a small group, with six members starting the walk, and three more joining us as we wandered along. We were hoping to see the Logrunner in the forest area as Charles had previously seen 3 pairs near the start of the walk. I was lucky enough and very excited to see a pair of them scratching in the leaf litter on the ground accompanied by several Yellow-throated Scrubwrens, but they were very difficult to see as they hid among the bushes. Both of these birds were new sightings for me so it was a great start to the walk.

The track wound through the forest area and then along the edge of the forest, overlooking cleared paddocks. A Nankeen Kestrel perched on some electricity wires provided a good photo opportunity for several members who had cameras with them. A male Golden

The bird count for Bellawongarah was 22 species.

Whistler was also extremely co-operative, perching in a tree next to the track and showing off his brilliant yellow plumage. All the cameras came out again!



Also seen along the open part of the track were the Bassian Thrush, Brown Thornbills and the Superb Lyrebird. The Superb Fairy-wrens were also out enjoying the sunshine. Several members watched a small brown bird flitting around in the bushes next to the track carrying grey feathers in its beak – but none of us got a good enough look to put a name to it. Oh well, another LBJ that we can't put on the list!

[Cambewarra Mountain Lookout](#)

We headed up to Cambewarra Mountain for some morning tea. Part of the way there, everyone pulled over to the side of the road. Remembering camp days, I was excited – thinking that someone had seen something interesting and was stopping to show us. Actually it turned out that we thought we'd taken a wrong turn. However, with the aid of Marge's map we were soon on our way again.



My first sighting at the Lookout was an Eastern Yellow Robin – on the fence next to the toilets! I was glad I still had my binoculars and hadn't left them in the car. We sat out on the deck enjoying morning tea (the scones were popular!) and watching the birds in the garden below us, including several Laughing Kookaburras, Pied Currawongs, King Parrots

and a Grey Fantail. It was entertaining watching the Kookaburras perching in the ferns and then diving down to the grass to feed. We could also hear the Eastern Whipbirds – but as usual they declined to put in an appearance.



After fortifying ourselves, we wandered around the gardens, and some members were fortunate to see a Superb Lyrebird and a Golden Whistler. The Eastern Spinebill and Superb Fairy-wrens were also active, feeding in the Grevilleas. There was another good photo opportunity with the Wrens flitting around the grassed picnic area.

The bird count here was 14 birds – and did I mention that the views were spectacular??



[Bomaderry Creek](#)

We headed off to Bomaderry Creek, hoping to see the Rockwarblers. It was an easy walk along a well-formed path. Sometimes it's good to see lots of birds without hiking up and down hills for hours. For the keen walkers, there are several longer walks up and down both sides of the creek, but you can see plenty of birds and the creek in just a short easy walk.

The first part of the walk brought us to Bernie's Lookout. We scanned all the rocks along the creek several times but although we saw a beautiful Water Dragon sunning itself on the rocks there were no Rockwarblers! Surprisingly, one of the first birds we saw was a Pelican flying overhead.

An early thrill in the walk was seeing the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. The path opened out into a large clearing, and this was a good



area for birds, with both the Superb and the Variegated Fairy-wrens, Brown and Striated Thornbills, Red and Little Wattlebirds, Brown Gerygone and Eastern Yellow Robin. Bronwyn and I stalked the Variegated Fairy-wrens until we could see the males. This was lovely as we tend to see the Variegated less often than the Superb. On the way back we saw several Striated Pardalotes, White-naped Honeyeaters and a White-plumed Honeyeater in the trees above. Once again we heard (but didn't see) the Eastern Whipbird as well as the Olive-backed Oriole. A Grey Shrike-thrush hung around the grassed picnic area while we had lunch – hoping we would leave something behind. Also active in this area was an

Australian Raven and several Superb Fairy-wrens. The picnic area was a relaxing place to sit and have lunch, and seemed to have been recently renovated with several sheltered picnic tables, a barbeque and toilets.



After lunch, the few of us who were left went for one last (hopeful) walk down a different track to the creek – and we were finally rewarded with a sighting of a pair of Rockwarblers.

This was only the second time that I have seen them so it was very exciting – especially after the disappointment of missing them on the recent walk to Avon Dam.

The bird count here was an impressive 30 species – including the (in)famous Rockwarbler!

It was a big day out – 3 walks and 44 birds – but a very enjoyable day in the bush with some good sightings. Thank you Betty for organising the walks, and Charles for leading them in Betty's absence.

Photo's By Charles Dove

Bird list for IBOC monthly walk - Saturday 18th September 2010

Bellawongarah

Wonga Pigeon	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush
Nankeen Kestrel	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Grey Butcherbird
Crimson Rosella	White-browed Scrubwren	Pied Currawong
Eastern Rosella	Brown Thornbill	Jacky Winter
Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Superb Lyrebird	Australian Logrunner	Bassian Thrush
White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Whipbird	
Satin bowerbird	Golden Whistler	

Cambewarra Mountain Lookout

King Parrot	Satin Bowerbird	Golden Whistler
Crimson Rosella	Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong
Eastern Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Superb Lyrebird	Eastern Whipbird	

Bomaderry Creek

Australian Pelican	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Crimson Rosella	Lewin's Honeyeater	Olive-backed Oriole
Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Magpie
Superb Fairy-wren	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Variegated Fairy-wren	White-plumed honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Rockwarbler	Little Wattlebird	Willie Wagtail
Brown Gerygone	Red Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Striated Thornbill	White-naped Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Brown Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird	Welcome Swallow
Striated Pardalote	Rufous Whistler	Mistletoebird

ITEMS & LETTERS OF INTEREST

Letter to the Editor
Illawarra Bird Observers Club

Dear Sir,

As usual I found the September 2010 issue of IBOC Newsletter contained much of interest. However the "Trip to Haywards Bay " Report by Rodger caused me considerable concern as it portrayed a situation which was simply not correct.

The first and the last sentences of the article talk of " more houses and less land for other birds and animals."

It is true that Winten's Hayward Bay estate occupies a large area of flood plain adjoining Lake Illawarra. However there is a significant area left which is still in its natural condition.

Several years ago, as Chairman of the Lake Illawarra Authority, I received a request from the Winten's Property Manager to meet him on site. Naturally my first reaction was to wonder what I had done this time, but in due course, I met with the gentleman.

His comments to me were simple. He said that Winten's wanted to keep the remainder of the estate across to the lake in its present state and not be further developed. He commented that his company had been watching what the Authority had been doing around the lake's foreshores and liked what they have seen.

At my mature age I believed I was immune to shock, however he rather stunned me with his next remark "Doug – how would you and the Authority like the land from where we are standing, to the lake's edge." – some 200 acres. Naturally I accepted!

So next time you drive down the F6, starting from just before you cross Macquarie Rivulet and looking east towards the lake, I am pleased to advise Rodger that he and all other members of the public own all of the green flood plain you can see to the lake. This includes the northern shoreline of Macquarie Rivulet to where it joins the lake, the Rivulet estuary and the foreshores of Haywards Bay north to the TRUenergy Tallawarra boundary, then back west to the existing houses. This includes the wetlands which control leachate and runoff from the Haywards Bay Estate.

Wintens have agreed to care for the property until the last houses are sold. This will mainly involve slashing of long grass. Also all stock have been removed from the area for some time.

The Authority has no plans to open the area at this stage due to its isolation and the predation of vandals. The land is a flood plain and will only be used for future passive recreation.

The western side of the lake ,from a recreational viewpoint, still has its role to play. Over the next 20/30 years, the one hundred thousand new residents who will occupy the many subdivisions including the Kembla Grange Living Centre Industrial estate, the four more suburbs to occupy West Dapto in addition to the existing Horsley, the 1000 lot Marshall Mount subdivision, the 5000 lot Delfin Lend Lease Calderwood development currently before the NSW Government, bypassing the local Councils, the 1200 fully serviced lots at Tullimbar with only about 30 currently sold, 400 lots at the Wintens estate and 1000 to come from Tallawarra –the future residents will be looking for areas on which to relax.

The challenge to the Authority is to maintain the improvements we have made to the lake over the past 22 years. Just remember – people cause pollution.

So Rodger, I hope this eases your concerns, for which I thank you. What you enjoyed on your 27 June 2010 wandering around Haywards Bay, will still be there for your children and your grandchildren's children to enjoy, as the residue of the Haywards Bay estate is public property under the care and control of the Lake Illawarra Authority. However there are still large areas in private ownership such as the adjoining TRUenergy property and Currengoba Point at Berkeley.

Doug Prosser
Chairman LIA

THE ULTIMATE SANDGROUSE

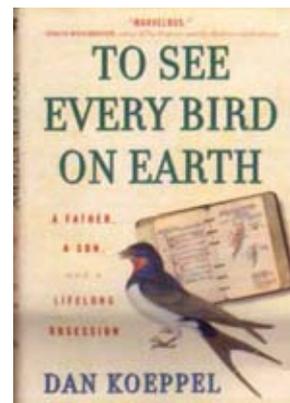
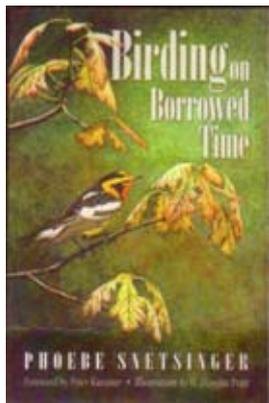
This would have made a brilliant first line to a book but no, it is buried in the text of the autobiography of a quite amazing birdwatcher -Phoebe Snetsinger who managed to see about 8,500 individual bird species in the latter part of her life. She saw her first significant bird at the age of thirty-four when she was a wife, erstwhile teacher, and mother of four small children. By the time she died at the age of sixty-eight, she had not only seen more birds than any other person but she had made important records of what she had seen.

This was in the face of having had serious cancer hence the title of her book - Birding on Borrowed Time. So would such a book be boring to the non bird-addicted? Well, no. The bird **names alone are extraordinary and** the adventures that Phoebe has along the way are as good as any adventure story you'll read.

I found this book through the notes in another birdie book that I picked up - To See Every *Bird* on Earth by Dan Koepfel. Its subtitle - A Father, a Son and a Lifelong Obsession - hints at the fact that this story is about more than bird-watching. As a counterpoint to his ornithological adventures are the efforts a son makes in order to forge a meaningful relationship with his father. It is this that elevates the work from just another "interestingly book in the genre into the realm of a quite moving, personal, story.

So, if you want to learn more about "twitchers, lumpers, and splitters", these could be the books for you.

Jan Aitkin



In Attracting Mates, Male Bowerbirds Appear to Rely on Special Optical Effect

Science Daily (Sep. 10, 2010) — Bowerbird males are well known for making elaborate constructions, lavished with decorative objects, to impress and attract their mates. Now, researchers reporting online on September 9 in *Current Biology*, have identified a completely new dimension to these showy structures in great bowerbirds. The birds create a staged scene, only visible from the point of view of their female audience, by placing pebbles, bones, and shells around their courts in a very special way that can make objects (or a bowerbird male) appear larger or smaller than they really are.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100909122801.htm>

Most Penguin Populations Continue to Decline, Biologists Warn

Science Daily (Sep. 9, 2010) — Penguin biologists from around the world, who are gathered in Boston the week of September 6, warn that ten of the planet's eighteen penguin species have experienced further serious population declines. The effects of climate change, over fishing, chronic oil pollution and predation by introduced mammals are among the major factors cited repeatedly by penguin scientists as contributing to these population drops. Prior to the conference, thirteen of these penguin species were already classified as endangered or threatened. Some penguin species may face extinction in this century.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100906145115.htm>

Hi there,

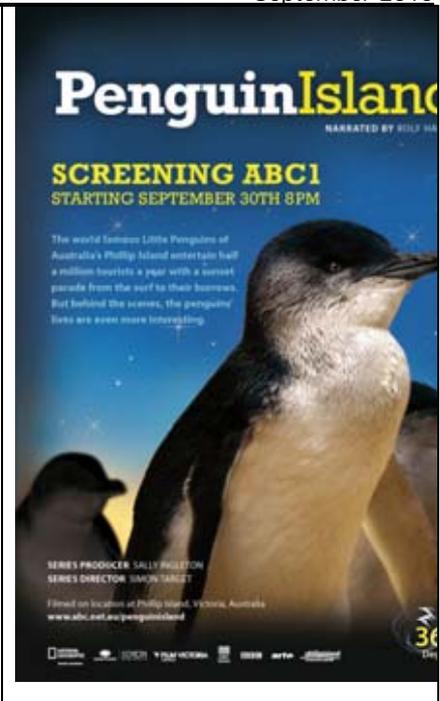
You may have heard about the upcoming premiere of the 360 Degree Films series 'Penguin Island' on ABC1, screening at 8pm on Sept. 30. Penguin Island uses the latest underwater satellite tracking and Big Brother-style video surveillance to follow the lives of several penguin families who live in a colony where relationships are fraught and survival is tenuous.

Over six 30-minute episodes, Penguin Island follows the penguins as a dedicated team of rangers and scientists monitor and protect them through the hottest summer on record. Filmed over a year by some of Australia's best documentary filmmakers, Penguin Island offers a rewarding insight into the lives of the stars of Phillip Island's internationally renowned Penguin Parade.

We also have a wonderful new ABC interactive website with behind the scenes footage, photos, information about penguins and Phillip Island as well as a penguin survival game.

Here is the link to this site: <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/penguinisland/> 360 Degree Films would also like to invite you to become a fan of Penguin Island on Facebook by following this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Penguin-Island/142386305774240?filter=1#!/pages/Penguin-Island/155158627831722?ref=ts>



Found this Striated Pardalote with his hole in the sandbank, when we were up near Bellingen again, in July.
Judy Baker



Brown Cuckoo-doves at Manyana Marg.



"Until one has loved an animal, part of their soul remains unawakened."

Betty Hudson managed over 50 new species at Cape York – some of Bettys pics below



Bush Stone-curlew



Papuan Frogmouth



Squatter Pigeon



Palm Cockatoo



Tawny Frogmouth Northern form



Beach Stone-curlew

Reflections on a Visit to the Wet Tropics August 2010

Betty Hudson

The Wet Tropics stretches from Ingham to Cape Tribulation on the N.E. Queensland Coast. It is an area of great beauty and contrasts, the coastal lowlands with sandy beaches, paperbark forest, mangroves, swamps and wide sluggish river estuaries, much of which has been cleared for urban development and sugar cane. Rising dramatically to the west is the Bellenden Kerr Range with Mt Bartle Frere the highest point at 1622m and only 25km from the sea, with the Atherton Tableland on the western side. This is a rugged rainforest covered region with waterfalls, and swift flowing rivers in rocky gorges, with few roads and even fewer walking tracks. This upland so close to the coast it results in a regular rainfall even in the dry season due to the onshore winds, but puts the inland, in a rain shadow with the resultant rapid change from rain forest to moist eucalyptus forest and then dry savannah. Each of these areas has its own birds as well as those common to all areas. Very few are the ones we are familiar with in the south, although some have northern forms eg the Australasian Figbird's *northern form* has a brilliant yellow front, a spectacular sight. Putting together a crowded schedule I visited, in a week, as many of these habitats as

possible, always keeping an eye out for the resident crocodiles on the coast. Everywhere I went there were strange bird calls, birds racing between sheltering trees or scurrying along the ground to the next dense cover. This was especially true in the rainforest where birds were heard, occasionally glimpsed briefly but never really seen. This was all very frustrating for bird watching. Sitting and waiting for the birds to come seemed the best hope but time was short.

Tours with experienced local bird guides to the savannah around Mt Molly and Mt Carbine and on the Daintree River at sunrise led to many great sightings, and are to be thoroughly recommended. Over the week I recorded 132 species of birds of which 52 were new to me. The most special, as I found them for myself, were the Little Kingfisher perched on a water lily bud bigger than itself, the Pale Yellow Robin clinging to a tree trunk at the Mamu Board Walk and both the Grey-headed Robin and the Fernwren at The Crater; also a juvenile Great-billed Heron shown to us on the Daintree River Cruise.

A magnificent birding area just asking for a return visit for a longer stay to allow visits to places I didn't get to and to revisit others. That Southern Cassowary still eludes me!



Grey-headed Robin at The Crater



Barking Owl



Leaden Flycatcher

Bird List for September 2010

Compiled by Martin Cocker

SPECIES	No.	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brown Quail	1	06-Sep-10	Sharky's Beach Coledale	Coastal Heath	Danie Ondinea
White-headed Pigeon	1	08-Aug-10	Orient Point	Estuarine	Richard Brown
Topknot Pigeon	5	20-Aug-10	Gibson Track, Thirroul Escarpment	Forest	Cheryl Atkhurst
Little Egret	1	08-Sep-10	Purrah Bay, Kanahooka	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Grey Goshawk	1	08-Aug-10	F6 Nr Nan Tien Temple	Overhead	Martin Potter
Grey Goshawk	1	27-Jun-10	Haywards Bay	Forest	Roger Truscott
Australian Hobby	1	29-Aug-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Peregrine Falcon	2	27-Aug-10	Brokers Nose	Escarpment	Martin Potter
Peregrine Falcon	1	28-Aug-10	Robertson Lookout	Escarpment	Martin Potter
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2	29-Aug-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	4	19-Sep-10	Bevans Island channel, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	19-Aug-10	Bellambi Pool	Estuarine	Cheryl Atkhurst
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	04-Sep-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Pacific Golden Plover	2	29-Aug-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Red-capped Plover	14	29-Aug-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Double-banded Plover	4	29-Aug-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Hooded Plover	2	01-Sep-10	Kioloa Beach, Nr. Bawley Head	Coastal Beach	Martin Cocker
Bar-tailed Godwit	30	29-Aug-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Bar-tailed Godwit	100	19-Sep-10	Bevans Island channel, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Eastern Curlew	6	19-Sep-10	Bevans Island channel, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Eastern Curlew	4	08-Sep-10	Lake Illawarra South	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Red Knot	12	19-Sep-10	Bevans Island channel, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Red-necked Stint	1	08-Sep-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	07-Sep-09	Purry Burry Pont, Primbee	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Gang-gang Cockatoo	few	07-Sep-10	Moeyan Hill Track, Berry	Bush	Charles, Janina Dove & Terry Edwell
Eastern Koel	1	14-Sep-10	Corrimal High School Grounds	Suburban	Mike Morphett
Eastern Koel	1	18-Sep-10	Kanahooka Point	Suburban	Martin Cocker
Powerful Owl	Heard	20 and 24/08/10	Excelsior Mine Area, Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Noisy Pitta	1	30-Aug-10	Mt Keira Ring Track	Rainforest	Martin Potter
Green Catbird	1	20-Aug-10	Tarrawanna	Garden	Peg McKinlay
Southern Emu-wren	4	08-Sep-10	Picnic Island, Lake Illawarra	Scrub	Charles Dove
White-fronted Chat	1	29-Aug-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Australian Logrunner	2	25-Aug-10	Cloverhill Rd, Macquarie Pass	Forest	Chris Brandis
Spangled Drongo	1	19-Aug-10	East Corrimal Lagoon	Bush	Cheryl Atkhurst
Tawny Grassbird	1	27-Jun-10	Haywards Bay	Lantana Thicket	Roger Truscott

The waders are appearing again, nice to have some Red Knots on Lake Illawarra! Woken by a Koel this morning but yet to hear a Channel-billed Cuckoo.

Martin Cocker

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While all due care has been taken to ensure that the content of this newsletter is accurate and current, there may be errors or omissions in it and no legal responsibility is accepted for the information in this newsletter

I.B.O.C. 2010 Annual General Meeting Monday 8th November 2010

Nomination Forms for Positions on 2011 Committee

These forms are included in this newsletter to allow time for completed nomination forms to reach the Secretary no later than Friday 29th October 2010. Completed Nomination Forms should be posted to the club mailbox, P.O. Box 56 Fairy Meadow or handed to the Secretary prior to this date.

Please note that all nominations must be signed and dated by the Nominee, the Nominator and the Seconder, as well as clearly indicating the position sought. If any of these are missing the nomination will be invalid.

If no valid nominations forms are received for a position, then nominations will be called from the floor of the Annual General Meeting on 8th November 2010.

The positions to be elected are President; Vice-President; Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Committee Members.

If you are interested in assisting in any of the non elected positions eg Records Officer, Activities Officer (Monthly Walks), Activities Officer (Mid Week Walks), Editor, Librarian, please let the President know prior to the AGM

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Inc

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS - 2011

The AGM will be held at the November meeting and nominations are invited for the following positions:

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee members (4).

Nominations should be received in writing by the Secretary no later than 7 days prior to the meeting.

****This year nominations are requested by 29th October as the Secretary will be away prior to the meeting****

Position:

Members Name:..... Signature:.....

Date:

(Nominee)

Nominated by:..... Signature:.....

Date:

Seconded by:..... Signature:

Date:

IMPORTANT NOTE: All other positions are also available but these are not Committee positions and nominations are not required.



THE IBOCC

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 342

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

Red Knot

Scientific name: *Calidris canutus*
Family: Scolopacidae
Order: Charadriiformes

Featured Bird Groups
Shore birds and waders

Description

The Red Knot is a medium-sized, dumpy grey wader with a short neck and long body. The bill is short and straight and



photo by Charles Dove

there is a faint pale brow line. The green-grey legs are short. The upper body is brownish grey with fine dark streaks on the head and neck. The underbody is white with some light streaking. In breeding plumage, the upper body is boldly marked, contrasting with the chestnut-red body.

Similar species

The Red Knot is slightly smaller and less bulky than the Great Knot, *C. tenuirostris*, and appears more rounded. The bill is shorter than the bill of the Great Knot, which is longer than the head and slightly down-curved.

Distribution

Red Knots are widespread around the Australian coast, less in the south and with few inland records. Small numbers visit Tasmania and off-shore islands. It is widespread but scattered in New Zealand. They breed in North America, Russia, Greenland and Spitsbergen. Red Knots are a non-breeding visitor to most continents.

Habitat

Red Knots gather in large flocks on the coast in sandy estuaries with tidal mudflats.

Seasonal movements

This is a migratory species, breeding in the high Arctic, then migrating south. The subspecies *rogersi* breeds in north-eastern Siberia and migrates mainly to New Zealand and Australia. The nominate subspecies also flies to Australia. They fly long non-stop flights and the route to Australia is not

well known. Most arrive in north west Australia at the end of August to September and leave south east Australia from March to early April. Some young non-breeders may remain here.

Feeding

Red Knots gather in large flocks with other waders. They walk fast, probing rapidly in soft sand and mud for worms, bivalves and crustaceans and also eat spiders, insects, seeds and shoots. They feed by day and night, regulated by the tide.

Breeding

Red Knots breed in the far northern hemisphere, in scattered single pairs. The nest is a shallow depression on open ground, lined with grass and lichen. The eggs are blotched and speckled for camouflage.

(Red Knot information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Founded in 1977

Club's Aim: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird life around them.

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RECORDS OFFICER: Martin Cocker,
E-mail: cocker@speedlink.com.au

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting –

Monday 8th November 7.30pm

Fairy Meadow Community Hall.

Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.

AGM & Election of officers for 2011

Alan Cousins will be doing a presentation on Raptors of the Illawarra following the election of Officers.

November Mid Week Walk

Wednesday 10th November 2010

Killalea State Park

Leader Darryl Goldrick

Meet at **8.30am sharp** at the first car park inside the gates of Killalea. Travel from either north or south along the Princes Highway and take the Shellharbour exit. Take the first right and follow the road signs to Killalea. Bring a carry morning tea.

Phone Darryl on 4296 1316

November Monthly Walk

Saturday 13th November 2010

Various locations on Lake Illawarra Foreshore

Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at 8.00am **sharp** outside the PYCY club in Reddall Parade Lake Illawarra South. Park the cars facing east on Reddall Parade in the first available parking place east of the roundabout, adjacent to the high school. We shall be spending time at a number of locations along the Lake foreshore travelling east and then north and finishing at Berkeley Boat Harbour on Northcliffe Drive, about 2.30pm. We shall be returning to the cars for morning tea and lunch.

Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945

November Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th November 2010
at Tom & Joan Wylie 4 Daphne Street Bellambi, interested members welcome.

December Newsletter

Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is on Monday 26th November
E-mail contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

WELCOME

IBOC Members would like to Welcome new members Daniel Baeni, John Brown and Patricia Ross. Wishing you all many happy birding hours.....



The December meeting is approaching and this means PARTY TIME...
Interested in doing a pantomime, singing a song, saying a poem,
doing a quiz, playing bingo or just dressing up?
Let Alan Cousins (4283 3197) or Brian Hales (4257 4431)
know a few days prior the Christmas Meeting.



REPORTS

October Monthly Meeting Report

We had a good roll out of members to listen to our guest speaker, Dr. Michael Cannon – BVSc, MAVSc, Grad Dip Ed, talk about birds from a vet's perspective. Mike has addressed our club on a number of occasions and he happily shares his vast knowledge with us in layman's terms. He explained that any wild animal that is easily caught by inexperienced people is most likely already very sick so don't delay in getting it to a vet. We learned that birds are really quite strong and that they are very good at masking an illness/injury so that by the time they are taken to a vet they are often terminal cases. He kept his audience interested and attentive even when discussing the less tasteful topic of content, consistency and colour of bird droppings as how these play an important part in diagnosing illnesses in birds as does examination of the pectoral muscle among other things. If you are taking a sick bird to a vet be armed with as much

Barbara Hales

information as possible like behaviour, food and drink intake etc., and be honest. There is no point in telling a vet it has "been off for a couple of days" if in fact it has been a week. There were so many interesting things Mike shared with us in his presentation like various types of broken bones and how they can be fixed; if you suspect broken bones be extra careful not to cause further damage; the advances in pain management for animals is amazing, and could you ever picture a bird having physiotherapy? Diet is another huge topic with lots of pet birds being given far too much seed which has a high fat content, they need a greater mix of fruit and veg. I know that over the years Mike has given very freely of his time and expertise in fixing up our sick and injured wildlife and we are so fortunate to have a person of his calibre in our area. Thank you Mike for sharing with us again.

October Mid Week Walk - Barren Grounds 13th October 2010

The day started badly - Rain, Wind and Cold..... Will we go or not? Yes -- No --- Yes --- No ---- YES, Decision made. Rained most of the way to Dapto where we picked up Neil & Tera. The day improved as we headed up the mountain. To our surprise there were already five cars in the car park, all Birdos'.. keen to go. We are a hardy bunch, and by now the time we set out there were 17 of us.

The track was fairly damp, but not to be put off we ventured forward. The birds were not so much quantity but definitely quality, with sightings of the Beautiful Firetail, Southern Emu-wren & Gang-gang Cockatoo. Another outstanding part of our walk were all the Flowers in blossoms of every colour making an absolute picture throughout the whole area. As the day improved we added more birds to our list which totaled 26. Thanks to those who did turn up, hoping you enjoyed the walk as much as I did, "Tom"

Tom Wylie



Beautiful Firetail - Terry Edwell



Flowers of the Barren Grounds by Terry Edwell

Bird List - Barren Grounds

Gang-gang Cockatoo	White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Whipbird
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Southern Emu-wren	Golden Whistler
Australian King-parrot	White-browed Scrubwren	Rufous Whistler
Crimson Rosella	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Eastern Rosella	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Raven
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Spinebill	Eastern-yellow Robin
Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Beautiful Firetail
Superb Lyrebird	New Holland Honeyeater	

October Weekend Walk - Abrahams Bosom Walk 17th October 2010*Betty Hudson*

On a fine sunny windy morning 13 members met at Nowra and then drove the remaining 30km to Currarong for the start of the Abrahams Bosom Walking Track. As soon as we left the car park, birds were seen everywhere but especially in a flowering Bottlebrush in an adjacent garden honeyeaters pantry.



Moving along the track through tall moist forest, the Eastern Yellow Robins predominated with three seen in one tree. Eastern Whipbird and Satin Bowerbird were seen here. Crossing the creek a solitary Chestnut Teal slept peacefully on the water. Short side trips to the shoreline showed several whales blowing and breaching in the sheltered waters in the lee of the peninsular.

As we moved along the track birds become less plentiful, but rounding a corner we were rewarded with views of the rocky shore line and large numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters flying south on their annual migration, accompanied by several Australasian Gannets.

On the rocks were numbers of Cormorants both Little Black and Great. While watching the Shearwaters we saw Common and Crested Terns. Our morning tea spot had rocks for seats as well as a great view of the ocean sparkling under a blue sky. The track was now passing through tall heath but only New Holland Honeyeaters were evident as the Banksia ericifolia had finished flowering. Unfortunately no Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters were seen. Now the path became very wet underfoot with large boggy stretches. A few of us persevered but had no further sightings. Back to the carpark for our lunch which we shared with a pair of Laughing kookaburras.

After lunch it was decided to try the first section of the Coomies Track towards Beecroft Head. The track soon deteriorated to a rocky scramble by an Aboriginal Rock Shelter. No birds having been seen, they must have been taking a siesta, a decision was made to return.

An interesting area, the Coomies Track to Beecroft Head asking for a further visit, but at the start rather than the middle of the day. This is a long walk if the circuit is completed, but shorter if you only go to Beecroft Head.

Bird List 44 species sighted

Chestnut Teal	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater
Pacific Black Duck	Rainbow Lorikeet	Eastern Whipbird
White-headed Pigeon	Crimson Rosella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Spotted Dove	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Golden Whistler
Crested Pigeon	Laughing Kookaburra	Rufous Whistler
Short-tailed Shearwater	Satin Bowerbird	Grey Shrike-Thrush
Australasian Gannet	Superb Fairy -wren	Pied Currawong
Great Cormorant	Variegated Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail
Little Black Cormorant	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Raven
Australian Pelican	Brown Gerygone	Eastern Yellow Robin
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Brown Thornbill	Silvereye
Sooty Oystercatcher	Spotted Pardalote	Welcome Swallow
Common Tern	Eastern Spinebill	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Crested Tern	Lewin's Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch
Silver Gull	Little Wattlebird	

ITEMS & LETTERS OF INTEREST

Cassowary Going Going Gone

The Rainforest Information Centre officially launched their nationwide campaign *Save the Cassowary* on 23 June. Endorsed by several environment and conservation organisations, including Birds Australia, the campaign aims to halt the decline of this iconic giant bird. The endangered Southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*) perches on the edge of extinction with perhaps as few as 1000 remaining in the tropical rainforests of Far North Queensland. The Wet Tropics depend on the Southern Cassowary to disperse and germinate seeds of up to 150 rainforest plant species. The primary threats to these ancient flightless birds are loss of habitat and road kill associated with development. The increase of traffic through Cassowary habitat has resulted in 60 Cassowaries being killed over the past 15 years from dog attacks and obstacles to free movement in the landscape such as fences are also major threats being introduced by residential development.



At Mission Beach, subdivisions are creating more than 1000 new residential blocks and in the Daintree, 185 rainforest properties are zoned for development. The Rainforest Information Centre is urging the Federal Government to provide funds to buy back the remaining undeveloped properties in the Daintree and Mission Beach, vital primary habitat for the Cassowary.

To *Act Now*, please take a moment to send a letter to federal environment Minister at www.savethecassowary.org.au or email us at enquiries@savethecassowary.org.au to request postcards for you and your friends to sign.

RECENT EVENT AT YAMBA- Osprey shot ...

20 August 2010

NPWS acting Clarence Area Ranger, Steve Hodgson said the Osprey had been brought to Yamba Vet by a local teenager who had found it near the Rocky Laurie Sports Ground off the Angourie Road. "An assessment by Yamba Vet indicated the injury was fresh and that the projectile passed through the bird's body," Mr Hodgson said. "Fortunately no vital organs were hit and after a course of antibiotic medication it is hoped the bird will recover and be returned to the local area," he said. "It is very concerning that someone would try to shoot an Osprey. Any information regarding who may have shot this bird is welcome and will be treated in confidence," Steve said.

Osprey are listed as vulnerable under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and people face penalties of up to \$5500 and or two years in prison for harming them. Clarence Valley WIRES are caring for the adult female Osprey which is assumed to belong to the nest on a 20 metre high light pole at the sports ground as monitoring of the nest by WIRES volunteers, has shown only one bird active since.

The Osprey is a specialist raptor that hunts fish in the coastal rivers and estuarine waters. Numbers plummeted due to pollution, habitat destruction, egg collection and shooting so much so that in the 1970s only ten breeding pairs were known to exist in NSW. The Osprey is a large brown and white coloured bird with a distinctive brown band of colour running from the beak through the eye and down the side to the neck.



With a wing span of up to 1.7 metres they are not that difficult to spot and as a large bird they can be tracked to their nest site quite easily.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is asking people to be on the lookout for Osprey nesting activity. Typically the nest is found in large, often dead trees, with large bundles of sticks over a metre in diameter, sometimes up to 1.5m deep. Nests can be used over many years and we are asking people to let us know of the location of nests and if the birds are using these. Changing attitudes and improved awareness have reversed that decline, with a 2006 survey indicating almost 100 breeding pairs active on the coast north of Sydney.

The doubly spotted *Pardalotus punctatus*

Mike Morphet

On a recent mid-October late afternoon, I walked up the main track through the old Excelsior mine area, Thirroul, and paused to take stock of bird activity in my western sector. To my surprise a pair of Spotted Pardalotes appeared very near to where I stood. Their boldness allowed me to observe at close hand their contrasting plumage. The male bore bright white spots on its head – jewels on a crown – meriting the diamond epithet. Its yellow throat and red rump added to its brilliance. Though generally duller, the female had a more subtle beauty. The scientific nomenclature of this species is a Greek-Latin hybrid: *Pardalotus* meaning spotted like a leopard and *punctatus* spotted. So, an emphasis on being spotted, doubly spotted.

The pair regularly communicated with each other with soft brief calls, a condensed version of the ongoing 'sleep-baby' vocalisation in treetops that have also earned this species the common name of headache-bird. With short, clicking bills, notched somewhat like the Butcherbird's, they in turn pecked at ants that were scurrying about in the leaf-litter beside the track and then they would disappear down a hole in the low sloping bank. I could hear cheeping from within. The ant larder was just outside the nest-hole. Might this be an energy-saving strategy for this busy pair, as this species is largely known to feed on lerps and arthropods high up in the trees? The adults' industry was interrupted by an Eastern Yellow Robin which appeared to disapprove of their presence in its patch and chased them through the lower canopy a couple of times. Field guides refer to other birds that pursue Pardalotes; namely, Honeyeaters, notably Wattlebirds, Magpies and Drongos. Within an hour of my departure, a brief, but very heavy shower fell over the mine area and in the meantime there had been swarms of flying ants in three other sectors, triggered by the escalating heat of the afternoon.



Spotted Pardalote: ant-collecting male



chick removed from nest

The next morning was bright and sunny, but when I returned to the nest site, my good mood was upended. No sign of the parent birds, but a very short distance away lurked a pair of Pied Currawongs. At the entrance to the nest-hole lay a dead chick flat on its back, just five centimetres in length (that's a tad over half that of an adult) and naked apart from its tiny wing quills. There were no others to be found. Through the soft soil the upward tunnel measured little more than thirty centimetres (a good deal less than the generally reported length) and led into the nest chamber, lined with fine strips of bark, but no grass or feathers, as elsewhere recorded. Above and to the side was a small ants' nest; the owners could now go about their business undisturbed and without casualties at the bills of the pardalotes.

At least two months of the breeding season still remain, so this pair of pardalotes could conceivably try again to raise a brood. I hope, though, that they select a far less conspicuous location and excavate a deeper tunnel into harder soil in order to avoid being doubly spotted by humans and non-human predators; however, my optimism is tempered by reports that this species has been known to return to the same nesting site.

LITTLE TERNS: need your help -----

Special sniffer dogs have been used to try and eradicate the Foxes that haunt the Windang Peninsula in search of prey, with the endangered Little Terns being very vulnerable and due to arrive shortly after their long journey. The Lake Authority has organised the dredging of a channel around the small island where the Little Terns nest, along with fixing the fences and erecting more signage. Unfortunately a few people tend to disregard the signage and let their dogs run freely in this restricted area desecrating the Little Terns nesting areas.

The threatened Species officer Kylie McClelland is hoping that a lot more volunteers would sign up and help monitor this area and hopefully help in protecting the loss of the nests. All interested parties can **Ph 9585 6691**.





Feather Tales



Two sides of the Indian Peafowl at Birdland Animal Park Batemans Bay *by Mike Morphet*



Brown Skua



Wandering Albatross



Cape Petrel & Crested Tern

Andrew Wood had a great day out with SOSSA in September. Around 20-25 persons on board. Half a dozen albatross of various species were caught, measured and banded. There was also a constant catching and banding of Wedge-tailed shearwaters and many of us had a try at handling them and recording the details.



Large Diamond Python



Red Browed Finches



Wonga Pigeon

Thanks Margaret at Manyana c/- Russell Hannah

IBOC Cape York 2010

Neil Wheway

Our IBOC trip was split into 2 groups the north bound from Cairns to Horn Island, the south bound from Horn Island to Cairns. The journey was 14 days each, in late August and early September. It was a little unfortunate the weather was unseasonable for that time of the year with some flooding rain high humidity and temperatures causing some discomfort.

Since Tera and I had driven up in 2003 the road conditions have changed remarkably with long sections having been sealed and the dirt graded with many of the corrugated horror sections gone. In fact now they are taking caravans into Weipa, I think with care family cars would make it without too many problems with the right weather conditions.

My north mob had a muddy slippery drive after leaving Kalpower in the Lakefield National Park to get to the Archer River Roadhouse., camping there for the night. That night some people camping in the river bed had to be evacuated because of the flood water during the night. Water was running high over the causeway however by mid morning it had dropped enough for us to drive across. While watching the flood water the first sighting of a Palm Cockatoo was seen.

We had to divert to Weipa because of river flooding along the road into Iron Range. At the morning tea stop about 50 klms. short of Weipa Tom and I saw the Magnificent Riflebird unfortunately the others missed seeing it. After Weipa we got into Iron Range our camp site at Cooks Hut in the National Park was flooded and closed off. This meant going to Chillli Beach and setting up camp there, other people there before us had left deep wheel tracks in the mud which we filled up with coconuts to make access in and out easier. While Chillli Beach might have been paradise to some to others it was a nightmare with sandflies

causing a lot of irritation. Again we had rain so we left after 2 nights our tour guide driver Eddie had concerns about weather and road conditions getting back to the main road. We didn't get to see the Eclectus Parrot but did see the Palm Cockatoo. Our best sights of the "Palm Cocky" were at Morton Telegraph Station on the Wenlock River which I think many felt was the our best camping site with many birds and even a Cuscus across the river.

Leaving the Wenlock and crossing the Jardine River on the ferry we motored up to Seisia to camp and then up to Australia's most northern point the very tip of Cape York. It was a very windy spot with the sea running very fast from east to west. Windy conditions brought down trees on the tracks which stopped us from getting to some of the places. We did manage to see the sites of some of the crashed planes during WW11. Having visited these sites before, but sitting higher up this time I was amazed at the number of discarded 44 gallon fuel drums rusting away in the bush by the side of the track.

As mentioned the weather caused some discomfort for both the north and south groups, but I believe the south mob, while having a drier trip, probably had it a bit hotter. From what they have told me they were able to stay at Cooks Hut camp site and they did see the Eclectus Parrot and the Riflebird while in there and that elusive Yellow-billed Kingfisher. They also saw the Cuscus at Morton and more crocodiles. than us. Tom did see a Bull Shark in the Wenlock River, think about that if you went swimming!

Despite the weather and other problems along the way I hope and believe that everyone had an enjoyable time and were able to find and see new birds. I thank you all for adding to the fun and enjoyment for making it a memorable trip.



Photos left to right

Papuan Frogmouth,
Australian Brush Turkey, (northern)
Wild Turkey,
Spinifix Pigeon and
Great Knots.

By Tera Wheyway

Cape York Northbound Tour Bird List28th August –10th September 2010

Emu	Eastern Osprey	Red-winged Parrot
Australian Brush-turkey	Black-breasted Buzzard	Pale-headed Rosella (Northern Form)
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Pheasant Coucal
Magpie Goose	Whistling Kite	Channel-billed Cuckoo
Wandering Whistling-Duck	Brahminy Kite	Little Bronze-Cuckoo (Gould's Form)
Black Swan	Black Kite	Brush Cuckoo
Radjah Shelduck	Brown Goshawk	Barking Owl
Green Pygmy-goose	Collared Sparrowhawk	Azure Kingfisher
Pacific Black Duck	Grey Goshawk	Laughing Kookaburra
Australasian Grebe	Spotted Harrier	Blue-winged Kookaburra
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Forest Kingfisher
Emerald Dove	Nankeen Kestrel	Sacred Kingfisher
Common Bronzewing	Brown Falcon	Rainbow Bee-eater
Peaceful Dove	Australian Hobby	Dollarbird
Bar-shouldered Dove	Brolga	Great Bowerbird
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	White-browed Crake	Red-backed Fairy-wren
Superb Fruit-Dove	Eurasian Coot	Lovely Fairy-wren
Pied Imperial-Pigeon	Australian Bustard	Weebill
Topknot Pigeon	Bush Stone-curlew	Large-billed Gerygone
Tawny Frogmouth (N'thern Form)	Beach Stone-curlew	Fairy Gerygone
Papuan Frogmouth	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Red-browed Pardalote
Large-tailed Nightjar	Black-winged Stilt	Striated Pardalote
Australian Swiftlet	Pacific Golden Plover	Yellow-spotted Honeyeater
Lesser Frigatebird	Red-capped Plover	Graceful Honeyeater
Great Frigatebird	Lesser Sand Plover	Varied Honeyeater
Brown Booby	Greater Sand Plover	White-gaped Honeyeater
Australasian Darter	Black-fronted Dotterel	Yellow Honeyeater
Little Pied Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Brown-backed Honeyeater
Little Black Cormorant	Masked Lapwing (N'thern Sub-species)	Bar-breasted honeyeater
Pied Cormorant	Comb-crested Jacana	Rufus-banded honeyeater
Australian Pelican	Whimbrel	Rufus-throated Honeyeater
Black-necked Stork	Grey-tailed Tattler	Dusky Honeyeater
Black Bittern	Common Greenshank	Red-headed Honeyeater
White-necked Heron	Red-necked Stint	Brown Honeyeater
Eastern Great Egret	Little Tern	White-streaked Honeyeater
Intermediate Egret	Gull-billed Tern	White-throated Honeyeater
Cattle Egret	Black-naped Tern	Blue-faced Honeyeater
Striated Heron	Crested Tern	Helmeted Friarbird
White-faced Heron	Silver Gull	Silver-crowned Friarbird
Little Egret	Palm Cockatoo	Noisy Friarbird
Eastern Reef Egret (Dark & Light Phase)	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Little Friarbird
Nankeen Night Heron	Galah	Tawny-breasted Honeyeater
Glossy Ibis	Rainbow Lorikeet	Grey-crowned Babbler
Australian White Ibis	Scaly -breasted Lorikeet	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Straw-necked Ibis	Varied Lorikeet	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Varied Triller	Australian Magpie	Cicadabird
Grey Whistler	Pied Currawong	Magnificent Riflebird
Rufous Whistler	Spangled Drongo	Jacky Winter
Little Shrike-thrush	Willie Wagtail	Lemon-bellied Flycatcher
Grey Shrike-thrush	Australian Raven	White-faced Robin
Australasian Figbird	Torresian Crow	Northern Scrub-robin
Yellow Oriole	Broad-billed Flycatcher	Zitting Cisticola
Olive-backed Oriole	Leaden Flycatcher	Golden-headed Cisticola
White-breasted Woodswallow	Satin Flycatcher	Tree Martin
Black Butcherbird	Shining Flycatcher	Metallic Starling
Varied Triller	Restless Flycatcher (Paperbark Form)	Mistletoebird
Grey Whistler	White-eared Monarch	Olive-backed Sunbird
Rufous Whistler	Black-winged Monarch	Double-barred Finch
Little Shrike-thrush	Magpie-lark	Black-throated Finch
Grey Butcherbird	Frilled Monarch	Red-browed Finch
Black-backed Butcherbird	Yellow-breasted Boatbill	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Pied Butcherbird	Trumpet Manucode	House Sparrow
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Red-cheeked Parrot	

OCTOBER BIRD SIGHTINGS - by Martin Cocker

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Australian Brush-turkey	1 first sighting in area	07-Oct-10	Kangaroo Valley Rd. 2.5km west Princs H'way	Bush	Carla Jackett
Australian Brush-turkey	1	02-Oct-10	Mt. Kembla-rear of Bowling Club	Forest	Frank Carey
Striated Heron	1	03-Oct-10	Bevan's Island South Channel, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Royal Spoonbill	5	03-Oct-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Pacific Baza	1 Heard Calling	01-Oct-10	Bellawongarah	Forest	Carla Jackett
Swamp Harrier	1	04-Oct-10	Korrungulla Swamp	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2	10-Oct-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	03-Oct-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	04-Oct-10	Windang	Coastal	Martin and Penny Potter
Pacific Golden Plover	1	09-Oct-10	Waniora Point Bulli	Coastal	Martin and Penny Potter
Pacific Golden Plover	60	10-Oct-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Red-capped Plover	2	10-Oct-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Bar-tailed Godwit	72	03-Oct-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Bar-tailed Godwit	110	10-Oct-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Bar-tailed Godwit	42	10-Oct-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Bar-tailed Godwit	67	17-Oct-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Eastern Curlew	1	03-Oct-10	Bevan's Island South Channel, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Common Greenshank	1	10-Oct-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Common Greenshank	1	17-Oct-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Red Knot	60	10-Oct-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Red Knot	7	17-Oct-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Martin Cocker
Red-necked Stint	10	10-Oct-10	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
White-fronted Tern	1	13-Oct-10	Off Wollongong Light House	Coastal	Frank Carey
Common Tern	2	03-Oct-10	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1 First heard	05-Oct-10	Thirroul	Overhead	Mike Morphett
Azure Kingfisher	4	10-Oct-10	Broughton Creek, Berry	Riverside	Tom Wylie
Laughing Kookaburra	1 Pure White	25-Sep-10	Shellharbour Village	Identical plumage to bird seen in Barrack Heights	Terrill Nordstrom
Sacred Kingfisher	1	17-Oct-10	Why Juck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Bush	Martin Cocker
Dollarbird	1 First sighting	01-Oct-10	North Nowra	Woodland	Sheila Emery
Bell Miner	12+	08-Oct-10	Sth Avondale Road, Dapto	Hillside/Valley	Bruce & Josh Coyote
Olive-backed Oriole	1 First sighting	01-Oct-10	Bellawongarah	Forest	Carla Jackett
Grey Currawong	1	23-Sep-10	Maddens Plains	Forest	Terrill Nordstrom
Leaden Flycatcher	1 First Sighting	03-Oct-10	Woodward Track, Sublime Point	Bush	Jill Molan
Black-faced Monarch	1 First sighting	01-Oct-10	Bellawongarah	Forest	Carla Jackett

Thankyou for your first sightings of many summer migrants. The numbers of waders are a welcome return. The Bell Miners are an unusual sighting so close to the coast, but this species is reported to be increasing. The White-fronted Tern is sometimes observed on rock platforms but most records are winter pelagic sightings. Grey Currawong sightings are invariably from the Maddens Plains area but are infrequently reported. Thankyou for all your sightings and please continue to send them to cocker@speedlink.com.au. Monthly sightings are also on the web: www.iboc.org.au

A 3yr child was sitting with her grandparents and overhearing the coversation about the Chile Miners being rescued and everyone getting all excited, she was not quiet sure what was happening! Interrupting her grandparents she asked which 'Miner' Birds are these, cause I thought you did not like them much.

[Joan Wylie](#)



THE IBOCC

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 343

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

Speckled Warbler

Scientific name: Chthonicola sagittatus

Family: Pardalotidae

Order: Passeriformes

Featured Bird Groups

Small insect-eating birds

Description

The crown of the Speckled Warbler is black with buff streaks. Between the crown and the white eyebrow is a line that is black in the males and



photo by Charles Dove

chestnut in the females, the only difference between the two. The dark red eye is prominent in the pale face. The back is mottled dark brown but the underparts are cream with bold black streaks. When it flies, its tail shows a black band with a white tip.

Similar species

Other small birds with streaky underparts, such as the Shy Heathwren, hold their tails cocked in the air, unlike the Speckled Warbler. Hence the Speckled Warbler is quite distinctive..

Distribution

The Speckled Warbler is patchily distributed on and inland of the Great Dividing Range, from level with Mackay in Qld, to the Grampians National Park in Victoria.

Habitat

The Speckled Warbler lives in dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands (woodlands have fewer trees than forests) dominated by eucalypts. It is mostly seen on the grassy ground layer, when it is foraging.

Seasonal movements

The Speckled Warbler is sedentary.

Feeding

The Speckled Warbler feeds on the ground, probing the leaf litter for insects. It will also eat seeds. It feeds in pairs or small parties up to 6 in number. Occasionally it is seen in mixed feeding flocks with several types of thornbills.

Breeding

The Speckled Warbler breeds either in pairs or trios of one female and two males, although the second male does not help at the nest. The group defends a territory and the pair bond usually lasts several years. Sometimes several family groups form small flocks over the winter.

Living with humans

Humans have cleared much of the habitat of these birds, and such clearing is on-going. The small fragments of habitat that remain can lose their populations of Speckled Warblers, leading to local extinctions. It is classified as "vulnerable" in NSW

(Speckled Warbler information; supplied courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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**'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'**

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
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Founded in 1977

Club's Aim: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird life around them.

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DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting –

Monday 13th December 7.30pm

Fairy Meadow Community Hall.

Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

No guest speaker but instead, for your entertainment, numerous people will pull out all stops to keep you amused with an evening of song, verse, music, slide shows and brain training quizzes. (Brush up on bird names and towns). Dress in your bird/Christmas/favourite T-shirt and join the parade. Great prizes to be won. So come along and bring that extra special plate for supper and be assured of a happy and fun filled evening.

CHRISTMAS B-B-Q Saturday 11th December - 4.00 pm,

All are welcome.

At the Integral Energy Recreation Park, Darkes Road, Dapto.

Bread, Bread Rolls, Sausages and Sauces etc provided.

Bring your own salad, [special meat](#) requirements and eating utensils.

Arriving from the North via Southern Expressway take the Kanahooka exit, turning right at the traffic lights. Drive straight ahead, cross railway line continue until gate entrance is found on right hand side.

Arriving from South take Princess Hwy to Dapto continue until roundabout then turn left into Darkes Road. Drive straight ahead, cross railway line continue until gate entrance is found on the right hand side.

December/January ----- Christmas and New Year Break

No Club Walks resume February 2011

February Newsletter 2011

Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is on January 23rd 2011E-mail contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

WELCOME

IBOC Members would like to Welcome new members Robert & Jenny Fitzel and Sylvia Cohen. Wishing you all many happy birding hours.....

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS IMPORTANT Renewal of IBOC Membership for 2011

In order for the club to check and verify the details for all members held in our records, we require that a membership form is completed and attached to your membership payment for 2011. This applies to all types of payments.

Please ensure that you tick the box for electronic newsletters if you wish to continue to have it sent this way or wish to change to electronic delivery. **You get to see it in glorious colour!**

For your convenience a membership form is attached to this newsletter or it can be downloaded from the club web site www.iboc.org.au **Please note that fees are due on the 1st January 2011.**

There has been no change to the fees for each type of membership. Singles \$30, Family \$35 and Juniors \$10.

please fill in and post the updated membership renewal form with payment included in this newsletter.



I would like to sincerely thank numerous assistants for all their help and guidance during the past year in the presentation of the I.B.O.C. newsletter and also to the many members who made the time to write reports, stories, memories and send in photos.

THANK YOU

Charles Dove Editor

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

REPORTS

November Monthly Meeting Report

Charles Dove

November seen the election of Officers to upcoming year and was carried out without any dramas. The re-election of Alan Cousins as President was well received along with the election of all our old and new committee members.

Illawarra Bird Observers Club 2011 Committee

President	Alan Cousins
Vice President	Darryl Goldrick
Secretary	Betty Hudson
Treasurer	Ken Brown
Committee Members	Tom Wylie
	Ann Cousins
	Ted Simpson
	Charlie Dove

Ex Officio positions:

Public Officer	Chris Brandis
Newsletter Editor	Charles Dove
Activities Officer Monthly Walks & Camps	Betty Hudson
Activities Officer Mid Week Walks	Ted Simpson
Records Officer	Darryl Goldrick
Librarian	Ann Cousins
Web Master	Chris Cartledge

Name Tags	Neil Wheway
Hall	Tom Wylie
Notice Board	TBA
Supper	Sylvia Garlick

After the election members were presented with a presentation on Raptors of the Illawarra by Alan Cousins, giving us a very informative view on there habits, attributes and identification. Thank you Alan..

November Mid Week Walk

Wal Emery

Killalea State Park, the place where most of the early IBOC members had their first sighting of a Channel-billed Cuckoo some 25yrs plus ago. A bird quite scarce in the Illawarra back then, not so today. A place where we drove past an old farm house and ground our way to the lagoon, through pot holes and wheel ruts. Oh, how things have changed. Still nearly as difficult to get into, but for different reasons. Now you grind your way through countless round-a-bouts and endless rows of two-storey, fence to fence houses, all different but somehow all looking the same.

After passing through the boom gate, no entry fee required, 17 IBOC's met in one of the many carparks. Led by Charlie we set off down a grassy hill, formerly an old farm road and bordered on one side by a dry stone wall. Small birds were very active and kept us alert as they darted in & out of the cover on both sides of the track. The Variegated Fairy-wrens were more co-operative, exposing themselves freely for all to admire. Steadily the species list grew as we neared the bottom of the hill, then some excitement overhead with two Brown Goshawks and a Nankeen Kestrel putting on an aerial acrobatics display. This was followed shortly after by a Black-shouldered Kite.



Around towards the lagoon the ground became very boggy due to the recent rains, it was difficult to get close to the lagoon to make positive identifications of a lot of the water birds. One exception was the Musk Duck, with its low profile in the water, its diving habit and its telltale throat pouch. Some Purple Swamphens with their robust scarlet bills were moving about on the edge of the lagoon, but distance from the water and angle of the sunlight made it hard to identify the Egrets and Ducks.

Morning tea under a shady Figtree, then we circled around the lagoon to a point where we were able to get to the water's edge. Unfortunately this did not produce big rewards, with the water level right back through the reeds leaving no bare edges

where Crakes and Waders are normally sighted. However Masked Lapwings, Australian White Ibis, White-bellied Sea-Eagle and a lone Golden-headed Cisticola were added to the list.

Back at the carpark we finished with a total for the morning of 52 species. Not a bad total for the morning considering the small count in the lagoon.

Some people then drove through the carpark down a sealed road complete with speed humps to the surfing beach, serviced by a sizeable carpark and toilets. Back up and onto the western end of the reserve with more carparks and picnic areas. The big surprise for me however was the size of the camping ground with its large number of well maintained camp sites, amenities block and shelter shed with sinks and B-B-Q facilities, all with no camper residence. Perhaps holiday times would be different. I had to admire all the work that has been done and the way it is all maintained.

Progress for sure, but without the blackberries and cows, not quite the Killalea of old.



Thanks to everyone who attended for making it an enjoyable morning.

52 species Recorded

Photos by Charles Dove

Musk Duck	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Yellow Thornbill	Willie Wagtail
Black Swan	Brown Goshawk	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
Chestnut Teal	Nankeen Kestrel	Eastern Spinebill	Maggie Lark
Crested Pigeon	Purple Swamphen	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Bar-shouldered Dove	Masked Lapwing	Red Wattlebird	Golden-headed Cisticola
Little Pied Cormorant	Silver Gull	New Holland Honeyeater	Silveryeye
Great Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Whipbird	Welcome Swallow
Little Black Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Australian Pelican	Eastern Rosella	Grey Shrike-thrush	Common Blackbird
Cattle Egret	Satin Bowerbird	Grey Butcherbird	Common Myna
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie	Mistletoebird
Australian White Ibis	Variogated Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong	Red-browed Finch
Black-shouldered Kite	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail	Domestic Geese

November Weekend Walk

Sylvia Garlick

Various locations on Lake Illawarra Foreshore.

Our first stop was at the carpark near PCYC club on Reddall Parade Lake Illawarra. Twenty three people arrived the morning was warm and we walked along the path towards Pelican View Reserve opposite Bevans Island. The European Goldfinch was seen and we heard a Fan-tailed Cuckoo calling. We were able to find some shade and had morning tea.

Next onto Windang Peninsula Heritage Park, this is a very nice place to stop with lots of trees, picnic tables. There were plaques placed around the walk describing the aboriginal heritage of the area. We saw a Grey Fantail on a nest above the reeds, Great Egrets along the mud flats, a Mistletoebird and both the Superb and Variogated Fairy-wrens.

Our next stop was to be at Warramong but due to the new markets being held there as well as the Moscow Circus residing next door we decided to move further along only to find all the telegraph poles were being replaced and the traffic was held up for some time.

Eventually we all arrived at Hooka Pt. where we had lunch and then walked around the looped path, stopped at the lookout and then back to the cars. As the weather was hot and time marching on some of the group went home others went on to Charlie and Janina's home for a BBQ. At 5 o'clock a very heavy

storm cloud burst, it sent us indoors to watch a video. Shortly after the rain stopped we had a lovely meal then a walk to Purry Burry Pt. it was much cooler by then. On the water we saw Australian Pelicans, Little Pied Cormorants, Red Knots. Sheltering in the big fig tree were a male and female Koel, a female Fig Bird and a Pied Currawong. On the return walk a Dollarbird.



Our thanks to Betty for another enjoyable day and to Charlie and Janina for the BBQ.

Bird List for Lake Illawarra Walk 13th November 2010**Whyjuck Bay to Windang Heritage Park 8.30am to 11.30am 53 Species**

Black Swan	Masked Lapwing	Yellow Thornbill	Magpie Lark
Chestnut Teal	Bar-tailed Godwit	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Rock Dove	Eastern Curlew	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Reed-Warbler
Spotted Dove	Silver Gull	Little Wattlebird	Silvereye
Crested Pigeon	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Little Pied Cormorant	Galah	New Holland Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Australian Pelican	Long-billed Corella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Starling
Eastern Great Egret	Little Corella	Rufous Whistler	Common Myna
White-faced Heron	Rainbow Lorikeet	Australasian Figbird	Red-browed Finch
Australian White Ibis	Eastern Koel	Olive-backed Oriole	House Sparrow
Royal Spoonbill	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Grey Butcherbird	European Goldfinch
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Satin Bowerbird	Grey Fantail	
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Superb fairy-wren	Willie Wagtail	
Sooty Oystercatcher	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Raven	

Hooka Point 2pm16 species

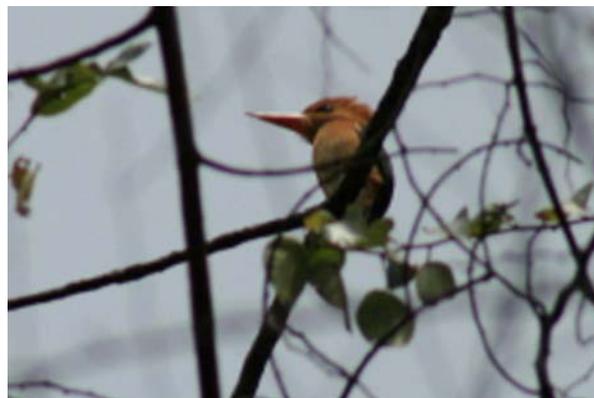
Chestnut Teal	White-faced heron	Eastern Koel	Willie Wagtail
Little Pied Cormorant	Australian White Ibis	Yellow Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Great Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Rufous Whistler	Mistletoebird
Australian Pelican	Silver Gull	Grey fantail	Common Myna

Purry Burry Point 6pm 22 species

Chestnut Teal	Eastern Great Egret	Silver Gull	Pied Currawong
Little Pied Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Eastern Koel (M&F)	Welcome Swallow
Great Cormorant	Bar-tailed Godwit	Dollarbird	Common Myna
Little Black Cormorant	Red Knot	Superb Fairy-wren	European Goldfinch
Pied Cormorant	Caspian Tern	Variiegated Fairy-wren	
Australian Pelican	Crested Tern	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	

FROM THE CAPE**IBOC Cape York Trip**

I had a wish list for my Cape York/Cairns trip, nothing too way out or greedy. Top of my list was a Yellow-billed Kingfisher, first brought to my attention many years ago in a slide presentation given by Wal Emery; I loved that little bird instantly. Next on the list was a Palm Cockatoo, followed by a Southern Cassowary which had always avoided me on my previous trips to the Cairns area. There would be lots of new birds for me to see which would *all* be appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed so it was with great excitement and anticipation that I took off "up north" with a great bunch of friends to see what we could see. I have to say that the roads from Cairns to Cape York were pretty tame (I missed out on the Bloomfield track) and there were lots of road works taking place to make them even better. It was a wonderful trip and as you will have seen from Betty's list lots of fabulous birds were seen. I was on a constant "high" seeing things like the Australian Bustard just wandering along the road with its offspring tagging along behind, a Lemon-bellied Flycatcher gave everyone all the time in the world to observe him whereas the huge Asian wild boar at a waterhole took off into the scrub before you could take a photo. The White-lipped Green Tree Frogs were cute, not so the Cane Toads all over the place. The cuscus at Morton Telegraph Station was a special sighting and a few crocs were also seen along the way. The Beach Stone-curlew caused great excitement as did the frigatebirds and it is always lovely to see jacanas plus Black-necked Storks and Brolgas and the Monarchs are so pretty, the list goes on and on. We worked hard at Lakefield N.P. to see the Rufus-banded Honeyeater. The water crossings were always interesting and fun, some having picturesque waterfalls and beautiful flora in

Barbara Hales

By Graham Meany

particular the pitcher plants at Fruit Bat Falls. The Archer River road house will live long in my memory. It was here that I spent the best \$3 of the trip on a refreshing shower after fleeing Iron Range N.P. The walk to the tip of Cape York was a good experience in itself and the ferry ride to Thursday Island was magic, the colour of the sea is exceedingly beautiful. What happened to my wish list? Well I had brilliant views of the Palm Cockatoo at Archer River and Morton Telegraph Station. The Yellow-billed Kingfisher absolutely sang his little heart out on one walk but sadly not even David (Hawkeye) Stephens could spot him in the dense foliage. As for the Cassowary (do they even exist) I missed him again by a couple of hours according to another tourist and I should have done the red and blue walks at the Cairns Botanical gardens according to the driver taking us to board our flight home, "They are always there". Not a bad result though, one seen, one heard and one nearly seen (saw fresh droppings).

Oh well, it gives me reason to return. I stayed on the Atherton Tablelands and Cairns for another two weeks with five others and we had special sightings of Platypus swimming in a creek; saw a Tree Kangaroo and also saw Dolphins herding fish into the shallows at a beach. Red-headed and Macleay's

Honeyeaters and Olive-backed Sunbirds were ten a penny at our rental properties. The whole trip was outstanding and a big thank you goes to all those who took part for all the laughs and help along the way and for all the stories and memories that will stay with us for years to come. Where to next?

SANDY HOLLOW REPORTS

October Camp 2010

Sandy Hollow

Neil Wheway

Arriving at the caravan park on a hot Saturday afternoon was not what followed afterwards. Our first night get together was in the camp kitchen which was just as well because of the torrential rain pouring in through the shuttered windows. The second day was little better cold and wet no birding done; instead we spent the morning having a Devonshire Tea at the local coffee shop and art

One walk at an old abandoned oil shale mine area we all observed a Red-bellied Black Snake sunning its self in the weak sun. On the way back most of



By Charles Dove

gallery. It was an interesting place with many paintings, wooden sculptures and a blonde manikin which should produce some interesting photos. While making fifteen morning coffees and scones the owners us told that in their garden and car park they had in the past seen the Black Honeyeater; unfortunately we failed to see it. It was a relaxed and enjoyable morning while we waited for the weather to improve. Following days the weather improved and so did the bird watching. Everyone had an excellent look at the Hooded Robin, Collared Sparrowhawk and Wedge-tailed Eagles.

Snippets of Sandy Hollow Camp

Seventeen members held a very successful camp based at Sandy Hollow Tourist Park in the Hunter Valley region. We chose to drive the Putty Road route and we marvelled at how lush and green it was and agreed that it was the best we had ever seen it with all the spring blossoms competing to be the best. The scenery in Sandy Hollow area is quite spectacular in places, especially the drive from Merriwa and into the Goulburn River N.P. and circling back to Sandy Hollow with wonderful cliff faces and water ways. Lee's Pinch walk is not to be missed with its high perched lookouts and lots of flowering shrubs and trees. We did have a wet day but someone organised morning tea in the art gallery cafe across the road from camp followed,



by Tera Wheyway

the members ran quickly past where snake had been, how ever a few of us dragging the chain saw the snake again. Only this time it was eating lunch an unfortunate frog, it was a pity only a few were able to observe this gourmet meal being devoured whole. Well the snake seemed to enjoy the meal. Weather caused Betty to change her itinerary so we went to one National Park a couple of days early. Just as well because on our original chosen day the Park was closed due to aerial shooting, of what we never found out. Whether it was to be foxes, rabbits, pigs, goats what ever it was, we were thankful it was not IBOC bird watchers. Once again our thanks must go to Betty for all effort and guidance in organising our camp and walks as well as the nightly bird lists. Thank you Betty.

B n B Hales



Juvenile Hooded Robin
by Charles Dove

for some of us, by a trip to a local vineyard to sample the wares and to look for birds of course from the veranda. The signs of spring were everywhere with calves and foals in the paddocks and birds chasing each other around all over the place. Although we had seen them before the best birds of the camp for us were the Hooded Robins feeding a young bird which was pretty special and seeing the Speckled Warblers again. Our trip to the shale mining area in the Wollemi N.P. was

interesting with remnants of the hand built road being visible and we had fun crisscrossing the creek in various places. As usual Betty had put in a lot of work to ensure the success of the camp for which we are truly grateful and thanks also have to go to everyone in camp for always giving us such a happy time and especially Charlie who gives us the close up encounters through his brilliant camera work.

Sandy Hollow Camp

Terry Edwell

Photos by Terry Edwell & Charles Dove

It was raining on the first day of our camp at Sandy Hollow, so we soon found a place to have a cup of tea or coffee. A local artist had a nice little shop where we had home made scones and bought some postcards, which were designed and painted by the artist.



Betty had arrived a couple of days before us and planned some good walks. The place that stands out for Mark and myself was a little spot, just off the road in the Wollemi National Park. The sun was out and all the birds were calling and it was a real, bush orchestra. There were two Spotted Pardalotes building a nest and the male had a little clump of sticks in his beak, which made it look like he had a moustache.



The beautiful, musical call of the White-throated Gerygone seemed to be everywhere - it was just delightful. Joan soon spotted him and we all had a good look, even though he was so high up in the trees. Another wonderful experience was watching Rainbow Bee-eaters, hopping along the road, about ten feet away. Their colours were so brilliant in the sunshine and they chose little white stones, and appeared to swallow them. I have no idea why?.



There were so many good areas to walk in. We walked along a road through farmland, where there was a herd of Brahman cattle and two of the cows had just delivered calves, and they were beautiful. This particular place was where we saw two Wedge-tailed Eagles, flying and then landing a long way off. In this area, we also saw male and female Hooded Robins, with a fledgling. Speckled Warblers, Mistletoebirds and many other birds were present.



It was a great camp and the weather was fine after the first day, but temperatures had us in jumpers one day, and short sleeves the next, and so nothing new there. The open cut mining near Muswellbrook is quite startling, with huge piles of soil and rocks, looking so out of place among the beautiful, green pastures. It was good to experience a new area, and see the birds and flowers of that area. I also saw my first Koala in the wild, on a pine tree. It was trying to hide from us by swinging from one side of the tree trunk to the other. Thankyou to all my birdwatching companions and especially to Betty for planning and leading the walks. To all the others for the night meetings, which included a lot of munching, making fires, telling jokes and a lot of laughs.

Bird List for Sandy Hollow Camp 23-30th October 2010 Total Species Recorded: 122

Australian Wood Duck	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Rufous Fantail
Grey Teal	Galah	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Chestnut Teal	Little Corella	Spotted Pardalote	Willie Wagtail
Pacific Black Duck	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Striated Pardalote	Australian Raven
Hardhead	Musk Lorikeet	Eastern Spinebill	Leaden Flycatcher
Australasian Grebe	Australian King-Parrot	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Satin Flycatcher
Rock Dove	Crimson Rosella	White-eared Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Spotted Dove	Eastern Rosella	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	White-winged Chough
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Red-rumped Parrot	White-plumed Honeyeater	Jacky Winter
Common Bronzewing	Eastern Koel	Bell Miner	Hooded Robin
Crested Pigeon	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Noisy Miner	Eastern Yellow Robin
Peaceful Dove	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Golden-headed Cisticola
Bar-shouldered Dove	Pallid Cuckoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Pied Cormorant	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-naped Honeyeater	Rufous Songlark
Little Black Cormorant	Laughing Kookaburra	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Silvereye
Eastern Great Egret	Sacred Kingfisher	Noisy Friarbird	Welcome Swallow
Cattle Egret	Rainbow Bee-eater	Striped Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
White-faced Heron	Dollarbird	Grey-crowned Babbler	Tree Martin
Black-shouldered Kite	Superb Lyrebird	Eastern Whipbird	Common Blackbird
Whistling Kite	White-throated Treecreeper	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Starling
Brown Goshawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler - E Race	Common Myna
Collared Sparrowhawk	Variegated Fairy-wren	Rufous Whistler	Mistletoebird
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Rockwarbler	Grey Shrike-thrush	Zebra Finch
Little Eagle	White-browed Scrubwren	Australasian Figbird	Double-barred Finch
Nankeen Kestrel	Speckled Warbler	Olive-backed Oriole	Red-browed Finch
Brown Falcon	Weebill	Black-faced Woodswallow	Diamond Firetail
Australian Hobby	Brown Gerygone	Dusky Woodswallow	House Sparrow
Dusky Moorhen	White-throated Gerygone	Grey Butcherbird	Australasian Pipit
Eurasian Coot	Striated Thornbill	Pied Butcherbird	European Goldfinch
Black-fronted Dotterel	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Magpie	
Masked Lapwing	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Pied Currawong	

SOME MEMORIES FROM SANDY HOLLOW



ITEMS & LETTERS OF INTEREST

To The Treasurer

I.B.O.C.

Dear Bronwyn,

I wish to thank I.B.O.C. for the continued receipt of the I.B.O.C. newsletter which I enjoy reading. I think it is wonderfully presented now with excellent photography of birds observed and some very good reading. I enjoy reading it with good coverage of outings.

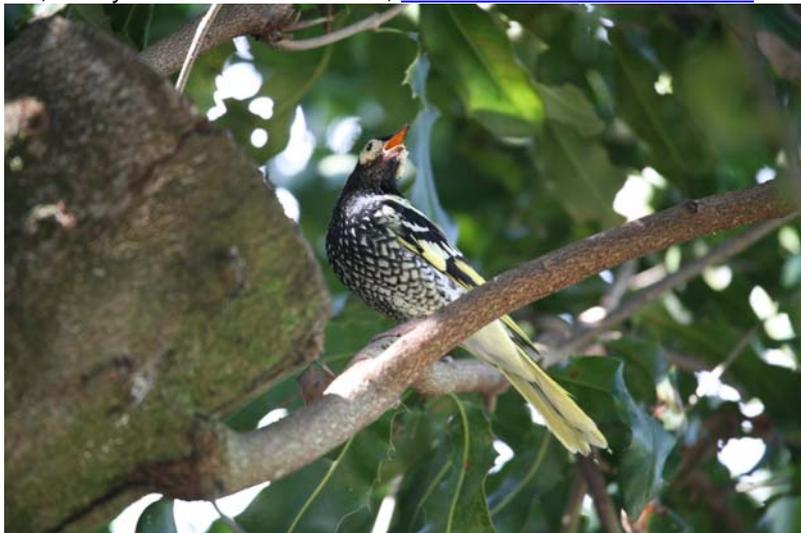
I am sorry I am now no longer able to join in on the clubs activities nowadays.

I am enclosing a cheque to cover the cost of the newsletter.

*With my most heartfelt thanks
Horace Ward.*

Hello all,

Ann Lindsey has sent this to me. Maybe some of you have already heard about the changes to the listing of the Regent Honeyeater and the Australasian Bittern, if not, here is the bad news. Samantha Vine the Conservation Manager at Birds Aust. Nat. Office is in the process of seeing what steps can be taken to ensure conservation of these birds, so if you wish to contact her, s.vine@birdsaustralia.com.au is her email.



"Not the best of news...far from it in fact. On Friday the NSW Scientific Committee made a final determination to list the Regent Honeyeater as Critically Endangered (was "Endangered") and the Aussie Bittern as Endangered (was "Vulnerable").

Critically Endangered is the final rung in the 'threatened species ladder' before "Extinct in the Wild".

The Hunter Region appears to have been one of the most important locations for Regents in recent years (and to a lesser extent, Aussie Bitterns) so we need to think seriously at a local level about the conservation of these birds."
Ann

Expecting the unexpected in the Excelsior and, by extension, anywhere else

Mike Morphett

I'm leaning on a gum tree in the middle of Excelsior/In case a certain little birdie flies by./Oh me, oh my, I hope some kind of birdie flutters by.

Each survey walk I've made over the past 30 years into the old Excelsior mine area, which covers nearly 40 hectares between Thirroul and Austinmer, has to varying degrees been different and produced surprises, some very pleasant and some not quite so; but always fascinating, thought-provoking, and stirring the imagination.

My foray on 27 October was an example of this. I was soon greeted by the loud exchange of 'why-you-which-you' calls of a pair of foraging Black-faced Monarchs. But then in-between I picked up a softer calling from a similar level among the trees: a plaintive 'peer-peer', which I hadn't heard in the Excelsior for almost 17 months. The counterpoint came from a pair of Crested Shrike-tits, also on the lookout for insects; the female's olive-green throat contrasting with the black of its mate. The presence and movement of this nomadic species I have found so difficult to predict. October through to March appear to be the most likely months, whereas April and May and then August and September it is very rarely there.

A less evident species in the Excelsior is the Topknot Pigeon, appearing most often in October to December. My last sighting was three years ago, so I was pleased to glimpse a flock of about 20 heading south silently through the eucalypt canopies bordering the power-line. Out of the blue, 26 Topknots had visited my front garden in August 2007 to rest a while in the top of my tall gum in the light rain, clearly displaying their banded tails. Then the following February six roosted two days running in my palm trees at the back. They also seemed interested in my neighbour's racing pigeons when they rested briefly on the telegraph wires opposite my home. I have also seen Sulphur-crested Cockatoos join Len's birds on the wire.



Double-chambered nest of Yellow-throated Scrubwren



Sandstone boulder decked with pigeon feathers

In the dark thick vegetation behind the power-line I checked out the nest of the Yellow-throated Scrubwren, called humorously by some a hanging dicky and which Michael Morcombe likens to flood debris. This species is also known as the Blacknest-bird. The young were still inside, but what I hadn't realised the first time was that they occupied the upper of two chambers. I have found others similarly constructed, but here the lower chamber was still in very good condition, suggesting that the builders had not long ago brooded. Within a fortnight the nest was empty, so I hope the young had successfully fledged.

Further towards the centre of the mine area in a coal-wash clearing I spotted a pair of wings pointing upwards a short way down the slope. It turned out to be the carcass of a Wedge-tailed Shearwater, far from its marine environment. I immediately thought of the dead little penguin I had found mid-June only some 250 metres away and came to the same conclusion: a victim of the White-bellied Sea-Eagle. This raptor has appeared more over the past decade in this region, its presence overhead revealed by its goose-honking calls or by strident black or black and white passerine spittingfires performing Battle of Britain manoeuvres.

From time to time I have discovered the remains of various animal species in the Excelsior. The most common by far has been the Rock Dove: 125 instances - that's averaging four per year. Evidence has most often been in the form of a circular area of feathers in a small clearing; occasionally a severed head or claw. The plunderers are the Brown Goshawk and, in the past couple of years, the Peregrine Falcon. Both raptors I've seen in pursuit of pigeons here and in my residential neighbourhood. A short distance from the Shearwater among the tall Sydney Blue Gums and Turpentine a large boulder beside the track was dressed with pigeon feathers, like the coconut covering on a lamington.

A fortnight later as I entered my front garden from another survey walk, my attention was taken by some odd behaviour. A pair of resident Magpie-larks in turn were fluttering and hovering above a branch up in the Jacaranda. There coiled up was a Diamond Python, which otherwise I would have missed, some two metres in length and quite unmoved. The birds were no doubt agitated because of their nest in my neighbour's gum about 30 metres away. Sadly, they had as little impact on another form of threat an hour and a half later: an Australian Magpie flew to their nest, dodging their ambush, picked up a chick and took off. The nest has since appeared to be abandoned. The python decamped the next morning.



Carcass of Wedge-tailed Shearwater



Pythonesque underbelly



Diamond Python

Nearing 10 p.m. at the end of a bridge club session the day after, I spotted a pair of birds at the end of Thirroul station car park. From the telegraph wires they were darting out to catch moths attracted by the street light and flying back, behaving more like a cross between Tawny Frogmouths and Rainbow Bee-eaters. They were Laughing Kookaburras. Their hunting and my observation came to an abrupt halt with the onset of a heavy shower.

Each work day I drive along part of the Northern Distributor and I've been watching out for a family of masked lapwings that have been occupying the green space at the Bulli end of the roadway extension, which was completed twelve months ago. Despite all the human activity surrounding this area between the traffic lanes plus the grass mowing, it's pleasing to see the two chicks steadily grow to become juveniles, closely guarded by the parents inside the guard rails.

I owe the lengthy alliterative title to this article to the Irish American author, J. P. Donleavy, better known for *The Ginger Man*, who used a similar device to name three of his other works. The opening lines (which should be sung with a Lancashire accent) are my rehash of the start to George Gay's catchy song *Leaning on a lamp-post* (1937), made popular by the comedian George Formby and revived by Herman's Hermits (1966). Video recordings on You Tube are worth a look.

By expectation I mean being on the lookout, which is an essential requisite for a birdwatcher. Equally important is listening out for any bird presence or activity. My wife, Carol reckons that wherever I may be, I'm on "bird alert". I guess welcoming an element of serendipity plays a part in all this too. The field study of birds requires one to be in the here and now, as well as anticipating and hoping for something (usually good) to happen, and proves to be an effective antidote for the pitfalls of self-preoccupation (too much navel-gazing). Several years ago I came across a paper given at a Canadian conference. It related to a survey of a wide variety of pastime pursuits, from which the researchers concluded that birdwatchers were by far the most optimistic group of followers. *Poem 254* by American poet, Emily Dickinson begins: "Hope" is the thing with feathers – That perches in the soul'. Coincidentally, while I was writing this last paragraph, I heard 'whoop' calls outside my window and had to break off to watch a pair of Crested Pigeons that have been coming round lately. Leaning on my desk, I hope they continue to do so.

AUTUMN CAMP

I.B.O.C. Autumn Camp 2011 Lake View Caravan Park Lake Cargellico

Lake Cargellico from 16th to 23rd April 2011.
(no email or website)

Phone 02 6898 1077.

Lake Cargellico is 530km WNW of Wollongong. It is suggested that you travel via the Hume Hwy to just south of Yass, take the Harden exit and travel via Wallendbeen, Temora, West Wyalong and then Lake Cargellico.

Lake View Caravan Park has 7 cabins, 5 of which have 2 bedrooms both with double beds the other 2 cabins have 1 bedroom. You will need to provide your own bedding and linen. There are also 48 powered and 50 unpowered sites.

In order to ensure that we have enough accommodation for all who wish to join us and use cabins, I suggest that some members look at sharing the 2 bedroom cabins

Charges: Cabins \$65 per night for 2 + \$6.50 for each extra person.
 Powered Sites \$18 per night for 2 + \$3 for each extra person
 Unpowered Sites \$13.00 per night for 2 + \$3 for each extra person

For all accommodation, **if you book 3 nights you get the 4th night free.**

Please note All cabins are booked (by another party) for the Easter Weekend so we have to vacate on Good Friday Morning 22nd April. However there are 2 motels in Lake Cargellico if you wish to stay for the last day.

To ensure that cabins are available I would advise booking as early as possible. If you are unable to book a cabin as time gets on, let Betty Hudson know and we will see if someone with a 2 bedroom cabin to themselves would be willing to share to make room for you.

To facilitate this, please advise Betty by phone on 4236 0307 or email elizabethjudson@bigpond.com when you have booked and the type of cabin and whether shared or not. The clip board will be passed round at meetings as usual for members to add their names to those attending, if not already there.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - Due 1 Jan 2011

Please print this form, complete and post together with your cheque or Money Order to:

I.B.O.C. PO Box 56 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519

Title	Family Name	Other Name

Telephone Number	E-mail address
[]	

I would like to save IBOC postage costs and the trees for the birds by having my Newsletter delivered by e-mail

Enclosed is a cheque or Money Order for \$35 \$30 \$10 Other amount \$.....
 Family Single Student **TOTAL**



Feather Tales



Dusky Moorehen - Royal Botanic Gardens - by Anne Cousins



Tawny Frogmouth - Mylestom, near Urunga, in October - Judy Baker



AT
SANDY HOLLOW



Owlet-nightjar - Western Sydney -- Charles Dove



Brown-Cuckoo Dove - Manyana NSW - Margaret - re Russell Hannan



Koala at
SANDY HOLLOW