



# THE IBOC

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 344

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011

### PIED OYSTERCATCHER

Scientific name: *Haematopus longirostris*

Family: Haematopodidae

Order: Charadriiformes

#### Description

The Pied Oystercatcher is black with a white breast and belly. All oystercatchers have a bright orange-red bill, eye-rings and legs and a red eye. Young birds are similar in appearance to the adults, but lack the intense red-orange colours and are brown rather than black. The Pied Oystercatcher is shy of humans and seldom



photo by Charles Dove

allows close approach.

#### Similar species

The white breast and belly distinguish the Pied Oystercatcher from the closely related Sooty Oystercatcher, *H. fuliginosus*, which has all black plumage.

#### Distribution

The Pied Oystercatcher is found in coastal areas throughout the Australian continent except for areas of unbroken sea cliffs such as the Great Australian Bight. Pied Oystercatchers have probably declined throughout much of their range and the current population may be as low as 10,000. Closely related forms are found in almost every continent in the world.

#### Habitat

The Pied Oystercatcher prefers mudflats, sandbanks and sandy ocean beaches and is less common along rocky or shingle coastlines. Although rarely recorded far from the coast, the Pied Oystercatcher may occasionally be found in estuarine mudflats and short pasture.

#### Feeding

Oystercatchers feed on bivalve molluscs, which are prised apart with their specially adapted bills. Food is

found by sight, or by probing their long, chisel-shaped bills in the mud. Young Pied Oystercatchers are one of the few waders that are fed by their parents using this specialised feeding technique. Worms, crustaceans and insects are also eaten.

#### Breeding

The Pied Oystercatcher breeds in pairs. A breeding territory of some 200 m is formed and is defended by both birds. Nesting takes place on sand, shell grit or shingle just above high water mark on beaches, sandbars, margins of estuaries and lagoons. The eggs are well-camouflaged, being pale brown with darker brown and black blotches and streaks. Both sexes share parenting duties.

*(Pied Oystercatcher 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](http://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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**FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES 2011**

**New Year Outing- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 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 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall. Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow  
Guest speaker Inspector Michael Gray, NSW Rural Fire Service and his presentation will be 'Birding in the Bush'  
*Please bring a plate of goodies and a cup for supper after the meeting.*

**February 2011 Monthly Outing: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011.**

**Huskisson Mangrove Board Walk & Jervis Bay Beaches.**

Meet at the car park of the Lady Denman Reserve, off Dent Street, Huskisson at 8.30am.  
Travel south via the Princes Hwy to the Jervis Bay turn off south of Nowra. Turn left and then after approx 8km take the Huskisson turn off to the left. Dent St is one of the first turnings on your left as you approach Huskisson. Look for the sign to the Lady Denman Museum.

We will walk along the Wirreecoo walking track and join the board walk to cross estuarine wetlands of sea grass beds, sand flats and mangroves rejoining the track through the Blackbutt Forest back to carpark. Depending on the weather we will make visits to the local beaches on our way to Greenfields Beach where we will walk along the beach or through the bush to Chinaman's Beach before returning to the cars. It is hoped that we will see a variety of birds in the various habitats (60species recorded on one visit)

Please make sure that you have plenty of insect repellent and sunscreen as well as water to drink.

Leader **Betty Hudson.**

Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945.

**Next Committee Meeting - Monday 21<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 at 7.30pm, at the home of Sue & Ken Brown, 12 Meads Avenue, Corrimal. Ph 4284 0525.

All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee

**March 2011 Newsletter** - Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph: 4275 2383

**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 the Newsletter in glorious colour!**

For your convenience a membership form is attached to this newsletter or it can be downloaded from the club

Website [www.iboc.org.au](http://www.iboc.org.au)

**Please note that fees were 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 membership renewal form along with payment please.*

**Please complete this form and post together with your cheque or Money Order to:**

**I.B.O.C. PO Box 56 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519**

**Or bring completed form along with payment to the next meeting to give to treasurer**

Title..... Name .....Family Name.....

Other Family members.....

Address .....

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 please....**

**Family \$35 Single \$30 Student \$10**

**Enclosed is a cheque or Money Order for \$35 \$30 \$10 Other amount \$.....**

# REPORTS

## PRESIDENTS REPORT 2010

I hope that you have all enjoyed the varied and interesting programme that your committee has conducted throughout my year as President, a majority of which was organised by the 2009 committee members.

We had six speakers during the year:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| February John Rawsthorne | - Interaction between Birds and Mistletoe                  |
| March Holly Parsons      | - Birds in Backyards                                       |
| May Jack Baker           | - Involvement with Ground Parrots and Eastern Bristlebirds |
| July Ron Imisides        | - What to expect on Cairns to Cape York trip               |
| August Kevin Mills       | - Native Trees of the South Coast                          |
| October Mike Cannon      | - Birds from a Vets Perspective                            |

Club members have attended three camps this year;

Easter Camp at Leeton. From all reports this was another successful camp - when is one not? Anne and I were unable to attend as we were on our way to the UK. It was very interesting to note the sighting of the Pacific Blue Whistler!!

Cairns to Cape York (August-September) A great adventure for two groups of members. 15 northbound and 12 southbound, you will have read some reports in the newsletter. Our sincere thanks go to Neil & Tera for the organisation and to Tera and Barbara for the pre-trip finance arrangements.

Spring Camp at Sandy Hollow, a lovely location in the outback of the Hunter Valley. My thanks and the thanks of all attending members to the Easter and Spring Camps must go to Betty for her tireless organizational skills and all the time she spends pre-camp and during to ensure that all is in order with the accommodation and walks etc.

The mid-week and weekend walks have all been varied and very well attended. We have been to some very interesting sites and seen many species of bird and again our thanks go to Betty for all the planning and execution and to the members who have led the midweek walks.

I think that you will all agree that our editor Charles Dove is doing a magnificent job with the newsletter which is of an exceptionally high standard each month. Please continue sending him articles and photo's for inclusion - it is your newsletter. Again I must thank Betty for all her help and support throughout the year and of course to Bronwyn for keeping our finances on an even keel for another year. This club could not operate without the efforts of your committee, they know who they are and I sincerely thank them for their support during 2010.

We are now well into the process of planning the 2011 programme and are open to suggestions from any member who feels that there is an event that they would wish us to persue or organise.

### Christmas Bar-B-Q

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2010

*Robyn Cashman*

Who put in a gentle request *"No rain for the picnic please."*? It was duly noted, and under a blue sky in a green valley about 42 members of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club met to celebrate another excellent year enjoying and recording the birds of the district and far beyond.

While sausages sizzled under expert chef-man-ship, some members relaxed and caught up with friends old and new, while the rest wandered the borders of the mown area keeping a sharp look out for snakes. There was plenty of bird activity – raptors (Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Goshawk and Peregrine Falcon) and Australian Pelicans showing off above, quite untroubled by the threat of danger from the Big Boys of the animal kingdom. Wrens, Silveryeyes, Spotted Pardalotes, Grey Fantails, and Golden Whistlers teased from the thickets and Dollarbirds glinted from the tops of their specialty dead trees, their red beaks shining like Christmas decorations. A Common Blackbird sang carols and that other long-staying visitor, the European Goldfinch, also showed up.



The creeks were flowing free, and birds were spotted coming down to drink –particularly the New Holland Honeyeaters. The most exciting "unusual sighting" was the White Throated Gerygone

Linda did her own foray before the group assembled, and produced a great list. How fortunate we are to have such a well-informed and kindly group of birdos to share our adventures. May the Christmas Season give rest and peace of heart, and gear you all up for a great 2011.

### 42 Species Seen

Spotted Dove	Eastern Koel	Yellow Thornbill	Willie Wagtail
Bar-shouldered Dove	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Raven
Australian Pelican	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Spinebill	Eastern Yellow Robin
White-faced Heron	Brush Cuckoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Silveryeye
Black-shouldered Kite	Sacred Kingfisher	Noisy Miner	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Brown Goshawk	Dollarbird	New Holland Honeyeater	Common Blackbird
Peregrine Falcon	Satin Bowerbird	Eastern Whipbird	Mistletoebird
Galah	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	European Goldfinch
Rainbow Lorikeet	White-throated Gerygone	Australian Magpie	
Eastern Rosella	Striated Thornbill	Grey Fantail	

### Illawarra Bird Observers Club Christmas Meeting 13th December 2010

*by Alan Cousins*

Our 2010 Christmas meeting was again arranged by Brian Hales ably assisted by Barbara (The Puffins). Over 45 members and guests attended a very interesting and pleasant evening. Again the talents and camaraderie of members of this great club were in evidence as the evening unfolded.

The evening commenced after a short presentation by the President. The first item was a bird jigsaw on each table that was quickly and humorously put together. We had a poem from Linda Cohen of Pacific Blue Whistler fame, a quiz from Sylvia and Tony Loader, an interesting talk by Sylvia Garlick on plants that attract birds and this year Robyn Cashman and Lyndall Dawson accompanied by John Cashman on his guitar (Segovia would be impressed) gave us another entertaining rendering.

Ken and Sue Brown entertained us with a very humorous and entertaining sketch of life with the bird club. Anne Cousins read a poem regarding the Christmas turkey and Alan Cousins told a few more of his Tommy Cooper one liners. We also had an interesting mechanical presentation by Neil McKinlay of an elaborate hands free (use your feet contraption) that imitated bird flight as paddles.

The evening's entertainment concluded with an amazing picture quiz from Charles Dove in which those who guessed the birds would eventually use the first letter of the species to form the message "MERRY CHRISTMAS".

Our sincere thanks go to the 'Puffins' for organising the presenters and many thanks to Norma Almond for another magnificent Christmas cake. I did ask her to cut it but her cool reply was "I made it, you are president, you cut it", followed by "if you make it next year, I will cut it" How can you argue with that? I did however convince Bronwyn to do the deed.

Thanks also to all who brought a 'plate'. There was enough food to feed an army and of course our thanks to Betty Hudson for getting the nibbles and soft drinks.

This club really is a team effort.

*Thank you everybody for another great evening.*



#### End of year message from the President

2010 was a fantastic year for Anne and I. We have seen and done many things with some amazing friends. I would like to record my sincere thanks to Tom Wylie and Neil Whewy for again organising the Christmas bar-b-q and also the cleaning up prior to and after the event and to the 42 members and one little guest who attended. There have been some funny moments that stick in our minds, one of them brought a bit of humour to the Leeton Camp, Anne and I could not attend as we were attempting to get to the UK. The report caused some controversy and I had to put an explanation in the next newsletter. The next event was unwittingly provided during our trip to Cape York when a certain participant forgot her memory pills!

Although I did mention our outgoing treasurer in my AGM report it would be remiss of me not to thank her again from all members of the club and to present her with a small token of our appreciation for 17 years of keeping us solvent and would like to thank Ken Brown for taking over the reins. We look forward to all the good things that your committee have arranged for 2011 and hope that you all enjoyed the events of 2010 that were mentioned in my AGM report.

*Alan Cousins*



*includes Letters to the Editor*

Letter to the Editor,

My wife and I have long been fans of that small rocky outcrop some two and a half hours flight from Sydney, called Norfolk Island.

Our first visit was in September some 10/12 years ago. We were fascinated to find a ground nesting Red Tailed Tropic Bird at the base of a very large Norfolk Island Pine. The bird was completely unafraid and allowed close up photographs. Our second visit to the island was much later in February 2010, and for old time's sake we revisited the nest site, we were surprised and pleased to find the nest again occupied, with a drowsy Mum (we think.)

The year 2010 was not kind to us for a variety of reasons, so we decided to begin it over again with a third visit to Norfolk for therapeutic reasons, in late November 2010. Naturally we continued our pilgrimage to the base of the giant Norfolk Pine and sure enough the nest was in use again!--Is this nest ever empty?

My only complaint is that with the time delay with my digital camera's shutter, I had trouble catching 'Mum' with her eyes open!

Should any reader happen to be going to Norfolk and wish to see this nest, It's very easy to find. As part of your usually free familiarisation half-day tour around the island, you will be taken to the "Bloody Bridge". Norfolk was one of the cruellest of penal settlements where convicts were required to work in harsh conditions for their meagre provisions.

If you stand on the bridge looking towards the nearby ocean, the Tropic Bird's huge nest tree cannot be mistaken as it is only about 15 metres from the roadway. If you are fortunate to find Mum or Dad in residence, say hello from us.

*Doug Prosser*



I took these amazing photos on our recent trip to Kangaroo Island. I have taken many photos of pelicans, but never seen a young being fed.



Marj Carvell

We've had a couple of Tawny Frogmouths around our gardens lately and my neighbour, Jenny Virgona, took the following photo of 2 youngsters in her Scarborough vegie garden on the afternoon of 2nd December 2010. They were very relaxed and just watched her - I worry that they are so low to the ground during the day. A Council Bushcare Officer, Tess Malady, also recently took a daytime photo of an adult and youngster in Mangerton Park on a log near a path - again very exposed. I hope they're not getting too careless!



Photo by Jenny Virgona

Cheers, Danie Ondinea

*Just to personalise the loss caused by the Queensland floods here's a story that I know is true:*

If, like me, you use a Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds you will know that many people are acknowledged as contributors in the productions of these books. Two such people are Ali and Clem Lloyd, a couple now in their eighties. They lived in a home with their treasured collection of bird books, including field guides from all over the world collected and studied on their birding trips abroad as well as original Peter Slater paintings of birds. Their home, between Brisbane and Ipswich, survived the 74 floods which meant they could not buy insurance. This time with the electricity cut off they were isolated for days and seemed forgotten. Like so many others we have seen on TV they have lost a lot from inside their home including many of their precious bird books. Fortunately they have a supportive family who are rallying to assist. However, there are some possessions that are just irreplaceable.

Val Dolan

**Oh to be a Bird!**

by Linda Cohen

As I gaze out of my window  
Watching the birds fly by  
I wonder what it would be like  
If I could learn to fly.

I'd sing in the dawn of morning  
To welcome each new day  
Perhaps a duet like the Whipbird  
Or the song of a Whistler at play.

I'd soar above the treetops  
Like an Eagle on the wing  
And I think of all the happiness  
An aerial view could bring.

I'd create an elaborate bower  
In the hope of attracting a mate  
Or dance and perform like the Lyrebird  
With perhaps not too long to wait!

I'd dive into the water  
Like a Tern seeking a fish  
I dream of flying in the sky  
And other pleasures I have missed.

I'd build a nest for my family  
In a tree hollow like a Lorikeet  
Or a bed of reeds like a Swamphen  
With no mortgage payments to meet!

I'd skim over the waves  
Like a Shearwater out at sea  
And glide on the wings of an Albatross  
Such delights are not meant for me.

Perhaps I'd enlist some other birds  
To help me raise my young  
Like the Wrens or the Choughs or the Babblers  
And others have already done.

I'd flit amongst the foliage  
Darting in and out of sight  
Like those LBJs we so often see  
Before they all take flight.

Alas! I am still at my window  
Watching the birds fly by  
As I sit and dream of what it would be like  
If I could learn to fly.

Some Birds from Windang

by Charles Dove



Sanderling



Injured Juvenile Pied Oystercatcher



Grey Plover

**A Birdwatcher's Lament**

*By Lynn, John and Robin*

Why do birds quickly disappear

Every time I draw near?

Can it be, they like to be  
**Spoil Sports!**

Why do wrens blend into the blue  
Pardalotes do it too

Could it be, they mean to be  
**Spoil Sports!**

Swifts become invisible, and raptors they're not biddable  
And water birds swim off upon the tide  
Even Babblers and Bristlebirds and Owls  
Conspire to hide !!

How come YOU saw that tiny finch  
Gee your eyes I could pinch!  
It isn't fair, birdies don't care  
**Spoil Sports!**

Why do Quails exodus the scene  
As for Rails – they've just been!  
Can it be, they want to be  
**Spoil Sports!**

Why do Larks scarpers to the sky  
I can't see stuff that high  
It must be they mean to be  
**Spoil Sports!**

Dunlins dematerialize  
Ruffs dissolve before my eyes  
And Monarchs evanesce without a sound  
Even Coots and Kestrels, Knots and Pallid Cuckoos  
go to ground!

Why do birds always disappear  
Any time I draw near  
It must be they aim to be  
**Spoil Sports!**

**Digiscoping Course**

**Date:** Saturday, March 12, 2011

**Venue:** Birds Australia Discovery Centre, The Armory, 1 Jamieson St, Sydney Olympic Park

**Presented by:** Hannes Nothdurfter from Swarovski International

Digiscoping is a term for the activity of using a digital camera to record distant images by coupling it with an optical telescope. The word "digiscoping" was coined in 1999 by French birdwatcher Alain Fossé.

**DIGISCOPING COURSE OUTLINE**

9.30am Introduction – What is digiscoping, potential of the system with examples of digiscoped images, etc.

Digiscoping Equipment

- Telescope
- Camera
- Tripod
- Adaptors
- Other equipment

Demonstration of digiscoping equipment

10.30am Morning tea

11.00am Digiscoping methods

Recommended camera settings

Advantages and disadvantages of the system

Additional information on the internet

12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm Hands on practice with digiscoping equipment

3.00pm Afternoon tea

3.30pm Downloading and manipulation of images using Photoshop

4.30pm Close and further discussion time if required

\*Bring along your own digiscoping equipment (telescopes, cameras, tripod) and laptop if you have them. Also a flashdrive/thumbdrive may be handy for transferring info to you.

\*A CD will be provided which includes most of the digiscoping info discussed during the course.

**Cost:** BA Members \$59 / Non-members \$69

For registration form, contact Pixie



For information on national parks, native plants and animals and a wide variety of conservation and environmental topics, including air quality, noise, pesticides, water, hazardous materials and waste disposal. Also contact us to report pollution, smoky and noisy vehicles, and littering from vehicles.

**Phone: 131555** (pollution reporting, environment information and publication requests) for the cost of a local call within New South Wales (mobiles excluded) or (02) 9995 5555.

**1300 361 967** (national parks information, annual passes, residential rebates and publication requests) for the cost of a local call within Australia (mobiles excluded) or (02) 9995 5550.

*CLICK THE LINK FOR MORE INFO*

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/contact/index.htm>

Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)



*CLICK THE LINKS FOR MORE INFO*

In New South Wales, 1074 native species, populations and ecological communities are listed as *threatened* with extinction. This website shows you what they look like, where and how they live, why they're threatened, and what we can do to help bring them back from the brink of extinction.

*Species, populations and ecological communities*

*Detailed profiles* on each threatened species, population and ecological community in NSW.

Information on what's living in a particular *type of habitat* or *region of NSW*.

A book entitled "Birds of America" containing 431 plates published in 1966 has come into the possession of Vinnies. It is apparently a valuable publication that they do not wish to put on sale in a shop. If anybody is interested they can contact Shona at Vinnies, Montague Street, Wollongong warehouse for details

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## The Gong Gang Strikes Again

Alison Foley

With eyeballs still steaming from our last Twitchathon in October 2009, we hapless creatures (Penny and Martin Potter, David Bourne and self) fell prone to the annual muster of bird-tragics and took up the baton for the Illawarra once again in an attempt to outdo our grand total of 105 species.

A reminder of the Champagne Race rules

Birding from 4pm Saturday 30th to 4pm Sunday 31st. No active birding between 10 pm and 5.30 am or for half an hour before 12 noon (deemed morning tea), one hour before 3pm (deemed lunch) and half an hour before 4pm (deemed afternoon tea). Laudable the way that Birds Australia insists on giving us opportunities to nourish ourselves!

### The Ashes Series 2

Once again, we chose to start at Tallawarra Ash Ponds where last year we had scored what we thought was a whopping 47 species. With 3 extras at the close of play, we had retired for the day on 50 not out and had rested on our laurels most contentedly. This year, the Ashes total came to 54 and in a much shorter period of time. Some may say that the reason for this was that I myself was not present for most of it but that's something I would like to gloss over. Not being present, I can only report the gleams of contentment emanating from the rest of the team and tales of "every kind of Pardalote on the same bush" and "little grassbirds feeding from my very hand", resounded! Martin got some lovely photographs at the ponds on what proved to be a warm, dry spring evening. Running Total: 54

CROOME! CROOME! CROOME! CROOME! I Want to Go to Croome!

The Fab Four still had time for a quick walk along the cycle track at Croome where, in a short time and with the backdrop of the sun's dying embers, 18 beautiful birds which included an Azure Kingfisher and Satin Bowerbird, were lit up for us. Most lovely of all was a sizeable flock of Red-browed Finches sipping on grass-seed just beside the track, their brows and tails blazing with that special luminescence only wrought by a setting sun. Running Total: 72

### The Great Escarp

With the onset of darkness, we grabbed a quick Chinese takeaway (San Der Ling and Cur Ra Wong) and headed out to make the most use of the precious minutes left till 10pm. We chose to walk along the Clover Hill Road track and were rewarded with some very clear Southern Boobook calls and other distinctive but unrecognisable (possibly nightjarish) noises. Dave and I decided that we must make a point of listening to recordings of bird calls as we sleep. Surely this must be the height of the obsession! (Noooo, I hear you cry!) On the stroke of 10pm, we were feeling quite down in the frogmouth as none had been heard. Ne'ertheless, as we drifted off to Black Noddyland around midnight, we were very satisfied with our 73 species and eager for the morrow. Running Total: 73 Ticked Off!

The morrow, as it turned out, appeared far too soon as we struggled out from under cement-like blankets at 5am to a pre-dawn of mist and rain! Bleary-eyed and armed with 7000 sandwiches plus a gallon of tea, we set off at 6am for the oh-so-aptly-named Barren (at least, as far as I am

### So to the final stats:

Grand total: 109 species  
 Distance travelled: 130 km  
 Biggest dip: Rock Dove  
 Rarest bird: Pacific Gull  
 Funds raised : \$400  
 Penny's moment of glory: Tawny Frogmouth  
 Martin's moment of glory: Little Tern  
 Dave's moment of glory: Pacific Gull  
 Ali's moment of glory: Green Catbird

### Tallawarra Ash Ponds

Black Swan	Pied Cormorant	Purple Swamphen	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Raven
Australasian Grebe	Australian Pelican	Dusky Moorhen	Variegated Fairy-wren	Magpie Lark
Australian Wood Duck	Eastern Great Egret	Eurasian Coot	White-browed Scrubwren	Golden-headed Cisticola
Grey Teal	Cattle Egret	Masked Lapwing	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Reed-Warbler
Chestnut Teal	White-faced Heron	Galah	Striated Pardalote	Little Grassbird

concerned) Grounds. On the drive there, we planned the rest of our morning: "Right, Ground Parrot and Eastern Bristlebird by 7.30, then on to Budderoo Fire Trail for the Gang Gang and Stubble Quail and then be at Minnamurra Rainforest when they open the gates at 9am for the Lyrebird Stampede. Everyone OK with that?" But the best laid plans....

By 10am, we had only managed another 12 species. Surprisingly, we didn't have to go to Minnamurra for the Superb Lyrebird as a dozen or so played Russian Roulette with the car, intent on checking out the depth of our tyre treads from extremely close up. But all others had evaded us. Barren Grounds was a literal washout, with muddy tracks holding pools of water. The Budderoo Fire Trail proved extremely windy and Minnamurra, in contrast, was deathly quiet. This was definitely the low point in our day. We did get a smashing eye-level sighting of a Yellow-throated Scrubwren at Minnamurra as it tended to its surprisingly large nest, reminiscent of a Weaver-bird's. Running Total: 85

### Better Lake than Never

We'd put it off for far too long. It was time to focus on waterbirds and we made a plethora of small stops before lunch which boosted our total somewhat. Memorable moments were a pair of Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo fluttering around in a small bush, making identification of their semi-barred chests very exciting (read, frustrating), and that old reliable, European Goldfinch at Pelican View Reserve just south west of the Windang Bridge. On the other side of the road, there were some wonderful sightings - a pair of Red-capped Plovers (I'd really never noticed what striking birds they are before) and later, Dave spotted a Skua-type bird coming in to land behind a sand dune. We made a dash for the beach and were rewarded with closer and closer AND CLOSER views of a juvenile Pacific Gull who must have thought he was well-camouflaged amongst his Silver cousins. I was entranced to the point where a small flock of Red-necked Stints were able to sneak up on me totally unawares to the point where they were practically tugging on my bootlaces though why they would wish to, I had no idea. Without the red at this time of year they blended in perfectly with the seashore. Just then, a rogue wave caught Penny and me as we were gazing fondly at Big Baby Gull, and as I clumped along the shore, looking down at soggy laces, I wryly saluted those stints: "Thanks for trying!" On the way back, Martin saw some Little Terns flying in to one of the small sand islands and that was a really good moment. They hadn't been there on the way in. Running Total: 101

After lunch at Windang (pitta bread and magpie washed down with fizzy Cisti Cola), and a windy blank at Purry Burry ("Hurry!") Point, we entered the final straight: Robertson's Lookout (our afternoon tea stop - warning: the champagne Twitchathon can be fattening) where, this year, the Peregrine Falcon did not let us down, though the sighting was nanoseconds long, A White-bellied Sea-Eagle's arching wingspan was unmistakable a mile high and those 'Topknotch' Pigeons were in evidence again. Running total: 105

### 4pm Bibbity-bobbity-boo!

A five-minute bushwalk along the Mt. Keira Ring Track brought us, in the closing moments, what we had thought was going to be our biggest dip of the 24 hours - a pair of matching Eastern Spinebills, looking glorious in the afternoon sun. Then the big push to 4 pm at the Botanic Gardens. Although we had located a Tawny Frogmouth here previously in the week, Penny managed to find us another one which promptly realised it was rumbled and comically shuffled sideways to merge with the tree-trunk. A Green Catbird in the rainforest section (my sole contribution) and an inauspicious ending (Mallard in the pond) brought us to a grand total of 109 species as the clock struck 4 pm and we all turned back into normal people! A celebratory glass of bubbly in the pergola, where swallows were stuffing the yellow gapes of their voracious offspring, made us very giddy, as much a response to the release from the 'birdcage' as it was to the alcoholic content. What about next year? Watch this space!

Pacific Black Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Crested Pigeon	Black-shouldered Kite	Rainbow Lorikeet	Noisy Miner	Common Blackbird
Australian Darter	Whistling Kite	Crimson Rosella	Grey Butcherbird	Common Starling
Little Pied Cormorant	Swamp Harrier	Eastern Rosella	Australian Magpie	Common Myna
Great Cormorant	Little Eagle	Laughing Kookaburra	Grey Fantail	House Sparrow
Little Black Cormorant	Nankeen Kestrel	Dollarbird	Willie Wagtail	

**Croome**

Spotted Dove	Eastern Koel	Yellow Thornbill	New Holland Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Australian White Ibis	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Brown Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird	Red-browed Finch
Silver Gull	Azure Kingfisher	Lewin's Honeyeater	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Long-billed Corella	Satin Bowerbird	Little Wattlebird	Silvereye	

**Macquarie Pass**

Southern Boobook				
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**Barren Grounds, Jamberoo Mountain Road, Minnamurra Rainforest & Budderoo Fire Trail**

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Superb Lyrebird	Brown Gerygone	Rufous Whistler	Pied Currawong
Australian King Parrot	White-throated Treecreeper	Golden Whistler	Grey Shrike-thrush	Eastern Yellow Robin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Yellow-throated Scrubwren			

**Whyjuck Bay & Windang**

Little Egret	Eastern Curlew	Little Tern	Pacific Gull	Red Wattlebird
Pied Oystercatcher	Common Greenshank	Caspian Tern	Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo	Figbird
Red-capped Plover	Red-necked Stint	Crested Tern	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	European Goldfinch
Bar-tailed Godwit				

**Botanic Gardens, Robertson's Lookout & Mt. Keira Ring Track**

Northern Mallard	Topknot Pigeon	Peregrine Falcon	Green Catbird	Eastern Spinebill
Brown Cuckoo-dove	White-bellied Sea-eagle	Tawny Frogmouth		

**Unique parrot needs protection: scientists**

The West Australian November 23, 2010, 4:16 pm

A type of West Australian parrot has been found to be a distinct species from its eastern counterpart and needs special protection as one of the world's rarest birds, scientists say. Only about 110 of the western ground parrots are known to survive in the wild. An Australian research team used DNA from museum specimens up to 160 years old to reveal that populations of the parrots in eastern and western Australia were distinct from each other. The team, led by Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Stephen Murphy, has concluded that the western populations should be recognised as a new species, *Pezoporos flaviventris*. Dr Murphy said the western ground parrot had declined rapidly in the last 20 years and there were only about 110 birds surviving in the wild, most of them in one national park. It was now critically endangered and one of the world's rarest birds, he said. Allan Burbidge of WA's Department of Environment and Conservation said a single wildfire through the national park or an influx of introduced predators, such as cats, could rapidly push the species to extinction. "There is now an urgent need to prevent further population declines and to establish insurance populations into parts of the former range," he said in a statement. Director of CSIRO's Australian National Wildlife Collection, Leo Joseph, said that even after 200 years of study, scientists were still recognising new species of birds in Australia. The team's findings have been published this month in the international conservation research journal *Conservation Genetics*.

**Rosalind Badgery**

Barbara Hales

Sadly our dear friend Rosalind died peacefully after a short illness in Bowral Hospital 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. Illness had forced her to move into a Bowral retirement cottage earlier in the year but she soon physically required assisted care. When Brian and I visited her for the last time around August she was still the same old friendly, warm, witty and positive Rosalind we have always known and will remember. Obviously being in Bowral isn't what she would have chosen but she said she was resigned to it and seemed content and we spent a lovely afternoon together reminiscing before she walked us out to our car with the aid of her walking frame to wave us off in her usual companionable manner.

It must have been around 1981 when we first met Rosalind through IBOC after other members made enquiries of various property holders in the Wombeyan Caves area for permission to walk on their land to look for birds. Rosalind generously welcomed us to her property "Wanganderry" and so the friendship with IBOC began and since that time we have held various camps and walks with her. In addition to those outings a smaller group of us became involved in collecting data for the first edition of the Atlas of Australian Birds and Wanganderry was one of our survey sites and Rosalind would invariably join us. That was a twice a year five year exercise and when the official survey finished we didn't want to end our visits as they had become a highlight in our year and the friendship had blossomed. So we continued meeting, arriving early in the day to drive to various locations observing the birds and sharing morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and swapping stories and laughs along the way and Rosalind would share her vast knowledge of the flora with us too. We invariably strolled through the garden around the house being warned/welcome by Twinkle her dog and often finished up with a cuppa.

Rosalind was a very self sufficient, independent lady and had run the property on her own since 1975 but she still found time to be involved with the church, Red Cross, Wollondilly Fire Service, Throsby Park and various wildlife and nature groups

We count ourselves incredibly lucky to have met Rosalind and for her to have shared Wanganderry and Ben Har with us and we are going to miss our visits with her so very much but we do have lots of wonderful, lasting memories to keep of such a delightful, charming and admirable lady.

## Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve – *Magnificence of the Mallee*

28<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010

By Linda Cohen

### Introduction

Gluepot Reserve is a 54,000 ha conservation reserve of intact mallee located near the River Murray about 64km north of Waikerie in South Australia. It was originally a station under pastoral leases for 120 years, and had a reputation as one of the best wool blocks in Australia (McDuike 2006). Gluepot was purchased by Birds Australia in 1997, (originally with the aim of protecting the habitat of the Black-eared Miner), and is managed by volunteers with the aim of “effectively managing a large, internationally significant area for biodiversity conservation” (Birds Australia 2010b). It is home to 18 nationally threatened species of birds (of a total of 197 bird species so far recorded) including the Black-eared Miner, Malleefowl, Red-lored Whistler, Regent Parrot, Scarlet-chested Parrot and Striated Grasswren. An additional 17 species of regionally threatened birds also live there, including the Major Mitchell Cockatoo and the Hooded Robin. The diverse vegetation at Gluepot also supports other important wildlife, including 53 species of reptile and 12 species of Bats, making it one of the “few areas of the world that support such a concentration of threatened species” (Birds Australia 2010a). This makes it quite an important area for our threatened species as well as a great place to see lots of birds.



Linda at the Gluepot



Entrance Road

I was lucky enough to spend a few days here as part of a recent holiday to Adelaide to see my family. I didn't really have any expectations except that I was hoping to see a few new birds (anything really!!) and enjoy a few days at one with nature. I knew it was in the middle of nowhere so I was expecting it to be nice and peaceful.

### “Bush Camping”

I went with my parents (Graeme and Sylvia Cohen) and we took our Avan with us, and it was a bit of a trek just getting there – there is 50km of dirt road from the main highway to get to the entrance of the Reserve – so it is not recommended in wet weather! (hence the name “Gluepot”). At last I felt I was getting right into the bush and away from people and lots of traffic. There are several camping grounds spread out across the Reserve so you don't have many neighbours. We stayed in “Babbler” (Mum had stayed there before and really liked it) and I was hoping that there would be babbler hopping around the campsite ... actually the only bird I saw in the campsite was a Grey Butcherbird, but I did see both the White-browed Babbler and the Chestnut-crowned Babbler on nearby walks. These were both new birds for me so that was pretty exciting. The only facilities available for campers are drop toilets (no showers!) – so you need to bring your own food and water and be prepared to “rough it” for a few days. I figured almost anything was worth it to be alone in the bush and to see a few new birds.

### Significant Sightings

One of my favourite sightings was the Splendid Fairy-wren. I have always wanted to see this bird as I'm really fond of Wrens and blue is my favourite colour – so I figured that to see an all-blue Wren would be pretty special. I convinced my mother Sylvia to come out on a quick “reconnaissance” walk in the late afternoon the day we arrived as I didn't want to waste any precious time. Actually it was a pretty good walk given the circumstances. It was the “Babbler North” walk (2.5km – right near the campsite) and early in the walk we identified several Chestnut-rumped Thornbills. This was really exciting as this was a new bird for both of us and usually I find the Thornbills very difficult to tell apart. (I tried to photograph them but they were too small and moved much too quickly). Later in that same walk we spotted the White-browed Treecreeper (another new bird!). By this stage, I was really stoked and happy to head for home – until I heard some noise in the bushes. “That sounds like Wrens” I told Mum and headed off, determined to stalk them down. Sometimes patience and perseverance do pay off – after a couple of false starts we finally found them hopping around some low bushes. Every time they dropped out of sight I crept a bit closer until I was just a couple of metres away. To see them so close was breathtaking. And they were very beautiful with the last rays of sun catching their brilliant blue feathers. The male was particularly cooperative (such a welcome change) and sat up on top of the bushes for ages.



Babbler walk country

I was determined to see as much as possible in the short time I had, so the following day we went on several walks, first the “Babbler South walk” (3km) and then the “Grasswren tank” walk (6km). We also checked out both “Picnic Dam” and “Froggy Dam”. My most exciting moment here was seeing several Brown-headed Honeyeaters feeding 3 immatures in a tree near Grasswren tank. This was a new bird, and seeing the immatures as well was doubly exciting. At Picnic Dam I was lucky enough to see the Splendid Fairy-wren once more. It is very satisfying to have several sightings of a new bird to imprint it on your mind. Other interesting birds from the day included the Rufous Whistler, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Jacky Winter (on a nest), Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and Red-capped Robin. However the real thrill of the day was yet to come. We had driven out to see the remains of Old Gluepot Homestead and its underground cellar (built to escape the extreme heat) and were on our way home when I saw something interesting running through the bushes. We stopped and jumped out – and were rewarded with a beautifully clear sighting of a pair of Banded lapwings with 2 chicks. They were unmistakable and I never thought I would ever see them.



Birdhide with water trough

Spread out across the 14 marked walking trails are 5 bird hides overlooking elevated, shaded water troughs. In theory this sounds pretty good – just hang out in the hides for a while and wait for the birds to come to you. I was hoping to see lots of interesting birds at the water troughs – but things were pretty quiet at all of the hides we visited (maybe we weren't up early enough in the morning). However we did see a pair of Mulga Parrots come in to feed on the ground at the bird hide on “Whistler walk” (6km) the following day. This was lovely, and it was one of the few times I was able to get a



Mulga Parrot m

photo so I've included it here. Not long after that, we went wandering around trying to track down the owner of a beautiful bell-like call that we had been hearing for 2 days. We couldn't believe it when we finally saw a smallish bird with a raised crest calling from a dead branch at the top of a tall tree. Mum knew instantly what it was: "That's a Crested Bellbird!" she exclaimed, "I've always wanted to see one and I never thought I would". (It was a pretty little bird – I have always been very attached to birds with crests and I still get excited when I see the Red-whiskered Bulbul in my garden). Fate must have smiled on us as the next day we saw a pair of them building a nest in a tall tree ...

We saw several other memorable birds on the "Whistler walk", including the Red-lored Whistler (one of the 18 nationally threatened birds at Gluepot so this was a real highlight), Australian Ringneck (Mallee form), White-browed Babbler, White-eared Honeyeater, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill and Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo (I had previously seen the Shining but not the Horsfield's). I also had 2 unidentified birds – I think the first was a kingfisher (it was calling from up high in a tree a long way away with the light behind it, so all I had was the silhouette!) and the other was a patterned bird running along the ground hiding in the bushes. I followed it for about 15 minutes until I had to give up. Looking back, I think it might have been the Chestnut-backed Quail-thrush but I didn't really get a good look at it. I guess you win some and you lose some!

On the last morning, when we were due to depart, I begged and pleaded for "Just one more last walk – please". (I knew that if we went out I could stretch the walk out into a decent length, but the important thing was to get out in the first place!).



Typical Vegetation

Actually it turned into our most exciting walk all week! As there "wasn't time" to go on an official walk, we just wandered along the dirt track east of the Babbler campsite. Some fellow birdwatching campers had told us that they had seen a Chestnut-backed quail thrush along there yesterday – so naturally I wanted to see it too! This was really the main reason for heading out ... Mum warned me that it's quite unlikely to actually find the bird you're looking for – I think she was trying to let me down lightly for when we returned disgruntled and disappointed back to camp ☹ Anyway we walked on and on, looking everywhere for this bird. They're very hard to find as they often walk around on the ground, and if startled they hide in the bushes rather than fly off. Well, we heard the Crested Bellbird calling and Mum wanted to see it again so we followed it into the bush. You know what they say – a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush! After finding a pair of them, we spotted something rather interesting sitting on a low dead branch. When I looked through the binoculars I couldn't believe it as it was the bird we had been searching for! It was the male Chestnut-backed Quail-thrush. We managed to sneak up on him, and then we saw the female on the ground. We watched them for quite a while and it was so special to see something so beautiful and so unexpected on our last day. I was now quite happy to go home as I felt there wasn't anything else that I could expect to see – and then we saw a pair of Hooded Robins sitting up singing on a dead bush. What a breathtaking end to a wonderful holiday.

**General Reflections**

I was very impressed with how well everything was laid out. All of the walks are very clearly signposted, with distances and approximate walking times given. The campsite was also very easy to find. The rangers were very helpful and welcoming and the visitor information centre had lots of great information, merchandise, and a whiteboard of recent interesting (bird) sightings. It was a good feeling to be able to share some of our sightings (such as the Crested Bellbird and the Chestnut-backed Quail-thrush).

I was amazed at the diverse vegetation at the Reserve, which included over 264 plant species, of which 12% have a conservation rating in the Murray Mallee (Birds Australia 2010a). The mallee is very different to the lush rainforest of the east coast. It is a very dry area receiving a low rainfall, but the contrasting colours of the blue sky, green spinifex and red soil are very beautiful. The spinifex really amazed me as I have never seen anything like it. It is a low growing, prickly, grass-like plant growing in clumps in the sandy soil. Older plants form "rings" as the centre dies away, and some plants form a ring with a diameter over 1m! Apparently some spinifex plants can be 40 years old or more. They provide great habitat for wildlife, including the nationally threatened Striated Grasswren who nests in them (or so I believe – this was one of the birds I "dipped" out on). There's always next time!



Spinifex

It was absolutely magical and I would highly recommend it to anyone wanting to increase their bird list and/or to spend some time relaxing in the bush. Go there with an open mind and surrender to the serenity and beauty of your surroundings. Like anything, if you go somewhere expecting to see a particular species of bird you can end up disappointed – but if you have an open mind you appreciate everything that you see. I had a very memorable week and I'm already counting down until I can return – and yes, I even have the T-shirt!!

**Bird Count**

Even though I didn't see the Black-eared Miner, the Regent Parrot, the Malleefowl or the Striated Grasswren, I was really happy to see a couple of threatened species – such as the Red-lored Whistler and the Hooded Robin. My total bird count was 38 birds, which included 15 new birds. This wildly exceeded my expectations so I was really happy. My full bird list follows.

**Gluepot Reserve - September/October 2010**

Emu	Striated Pardalote	Crested Bellbird * - pair at nest
Common Bronzewing	White-eared Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird
Banded Lapwing * - pair and 2 immatures	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater *	Australian Magpie
Galah	Grey-fronted Honeyeater *	Grey Currawong
Yellow Rosella (Crimson)	White-plumed Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Australian Ringneck (mallee form) *	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Mulga Parrot - pair	Brown-headed Honeyeater * - adult pair feeding 3 imm	Little Raven *
Horsfield's Bronze cuckoo *	White-browed babbler *	White-winged Chough
White-browed Treecreeper *	Chestnut-crowned Babbler *	Jacky Winter
Brown Treecreeper	Chestnut Quail-thrush * - pair building nest	Red-capped Robin - pair
Splendid Fairy-wren *	Red-lored Whistler *	Hooded Robin * - pair
Variegated Fairy-wren	Rufous Whistler	Tree Martin
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill *	Grey Shrike-thrush	* denotes a new bird sighting

### References

Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve (2010a). "About Gluepot Reserve", *Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve* (brochure).  
 Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve (2010b). "Biodiversity – Protection", *Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve website*, accessed 21/11/2010 at <http://www.riverland.net.au/gluepot/biodiv.html>  
 McDuie, Marian F. (2006). *Gluepot* (DVD), Flinders University: Bedford Park, S. Aust.

### Additional resources

Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve (2010c). *Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve website*, <http://www.riverland.net.au/gluepot/index.html>  
 Gobbett, John (2006). *Gluepot remembered : From sheep paddock to conservation reserve*. Wakefield Press: Kent Town, S. Aust.  
 Holly, Doug [n.d.]. *Sounds of Gluepot Reserve* (CD of birdcalls from 73 birds commonly found at Gluepot Reserve).

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I am pleased to advise that Shellharbour Council is offering a range of free biodiversity events to residents from January to May this year. These will include guided bushwalks, workshops on attracting native wildlife to your garden and 'DIY' planting days. We have also launched a [backyard wildlife photo competition](#) (click for further info) with some great prizes on offer - why not send in an entry?

Kind regards

Jane Lewis Environment and Recreation Officer (part time)  
 Shellharbour City Council  
 Phone 4221 6043 Email [jane.lewis@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jane.lewis@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au)  
 'Building a frog pond' workshop (Venue TBC)

*Find out how to build your own garden frog pond in this hands-on workshop led by a local frog expert.*

**Bookings for all events are essential** - please call Shellharbour Council on 4221 6111 or email [biodiversitycorridorinfo@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au](mailto:biodiversitycorridorinfo@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au)

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## Bird Calls of the Greater Sydney Region

with Fred Van Gessel.

If you would like to be able to identify those bird calls in your garden, in the bush or even in a dawn chorus then you won't want to miss **Bird Calls of the Greater Sydney Region** brought to you by the Birds Australia Discovery Centre.

**Saturday February 5th 1.00 - 5.00pm:** at the Birds Australia Discovery Centre, Newington Armory, 1 Jamieson St, Sydney Olympic Park.

**Sunday February 6th 7.30am - 12.00pm:** field trip to Mitchell Park

Fred is the current president of the Australian Wildlife Sound Recording Group (AWSRG), a past president and founder member of the Hunter Bird Observers Club, a member of Birding NSW and over the past 35 years has recorded over 25,000 calls of 547 species of birds. He is the producer of *Bird Calls of the Greater Sydney Region*, *Bird Calls of NE Queensland* and *Bird Calls of the Northern Territory*.

There is a maximum of 14 people so book early by returning a registration form to our Sydney office. To request a registration form, email: [basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au) or call Pixie on 02 9647 1033. The cost is \$69 for Birds Australia members and \$79 for non-members (incl. GST).

What to bring:

- Notebook and pen (Saturday)
- Lunch, snacks, refreshments (Sat & Sun)
- Binoculars (Sun)
- Water (Sun)
- Sunblock & hat (recommended) Sun
- Wet weather gear (if wet on Sunday)
- Field Guide (Sun)
- Wear appropriate shoes for Sunday's field trip

**Pixie Maloney | Administration Assistant**

[basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au)

Birds Australia Discovery Centre, Newington Armory, 1 Jamieson St, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Tel: (+61 2) 9647 1033 Fax: (+61 2) 9647 2030

**MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS - December 2010 January 2011**

Compiled by Betty Hudson

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	11.12.10	Dunmore	Rubbish Dump	Peter Fackender
Peregrine Falcon	1	11.12.10	Integral Park West Dapto	Parkland	IBOC
Australian Pied Oystercatchers	2 + 2 chicks	6.12.10	Windang Lake Illawarra Entrance	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Pacific Golden Plover	30+	14.01.11	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	C Dove, B. Hales, A. Cousins
Grey Plover	1	23.12.10	Windang Lake Illawarra Entrance	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Red-capped Plover	5 + 1 chick	6.12.10	Windang Lake Illawarra Entrance	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Greater Sand Plover	1	7.12.10	Windang Lake Illawarra Entrance	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Whimbrel	1	07.01.11	Hennegar Bay Oak Flats	Estuarine	Garlicks & Hales
Eastern Curlew	6	11.12.10	Off Picnic Island Windang	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Eastern Curlew	7	14.01.11	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	C Dove, B. Hales, A. Cousins
Eastern Curlew	1	07.01.11	Hennegar Bay Oak Flats	Estuarine	Garlicks & Hales
Grey-tailed Tattler	9	16.01.11	Windang Lake Illawarra Entrance	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Ruddy Turnstone	6	14.01.11	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Sanderling	1	6.12.10	Windang Lake Illawarra Entrance	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Red-necked Stint	6	6.12.10	Windang Lake Illawarra Entrance	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Red-necked Stint	5	14.01.11	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	C Dove, B. Hales, A. Cousins
Curlew Sandpiper	3	14.01.11	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	C Dove, B. Hales, A. Cousins
Little Tern	20+	15.01.11	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Estuarine	Charlie Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	6	Nov-10	Tarrawanna	Overhead	Anne & Alan Cousins
Red-rumped Parrot	6	9.11.10	Dapto	Garden	Neil Wheway
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	11.12.10	Integral Park West Dapto	Parkland	IBOC
Brush Cuckoo	1	11.12.10	Integral Park West Dapto	Parkland	IBOC
Sacred Kingfisher	1	13.12.10	Dapto	Garden	Neil Wheway
Dollarbird	3	11.12.10	Integral Park West Dapto	Parkland	IBOC
Dollarbird	1	18&20.11.10	Jamberoo	Garden	Betty Hudson
White-throated Gerygone	1	11.12.10	Integral Park West Dapto	Parkland	IBOC
White-throated Gerygone	1	09.11.10	Integral Park West Dapto	Parkland	IBOC
Noisy Miner	1	13.12.10	Fairy Meadow Park	Parkland	Tom Wylie
Mistletoebird	1m	25.11.10	Jamberoo	Garden	Betty Hudson
Blue Indian Ringneck	1 *	01.12.10	Kiama Downs	Garden	Judy Baker
Blue Indian Ringneck	3 *	20.12.10	Jamberoo	Garden	Betty Hudson
* these are most likely to be escapees from Aviaries					
Please keep your sightings coming in, everything you consider unusual or interesting.					Compiled By Betty Hudson

Grey Tailed Tattler - Windang



Little Tern – Primbee



By Charles Dove

## I.B.O.C. 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS .... Continually being updated on the IBOC website

Month	Action	Date	Speaker/Leader	Venue
February	Mid week outing	9.02.11	5.00pm	Entrance Lake Illawarra Windang & Picnic Island
	Meeting	14.02.11	Michael Grey	Birding in the Bush
	Outing	Sunday 20.02.11	Betty Hudson	Huskisson Board Walk & Jervis Bay NP
March	Meeting	14.03.11		
	Mid week walk	16.03.11	Ted Simpson	Greenhouse Park Wollongong
	Outing	Saturday 19.03.11	Betty Hudson	Thirlmere Lakes & Caves Creek
April	Meeting	11.04.11		
	Mid Week Walk	13.04.11	Ted Simpson	Balgownie Escarpment
	Autumn Camp	16.04 – 23.04.11	Betty Hudson	Lake Cargellico CVP
	Outing	Sunday 17.04.11	Leader Required	Mt Pleasant section Mt Keira Ring Track
May	Meeting	9.05.11	Jodie Dunn	TBA re/waders
	Mid week Walk	11.05.11	Ted Simpson	Wollongong Botanic Garden
	Outing	Sunday 15.05.11	Charlie Dove & Jim Dixon	Bents Basin & Cobbitty
June	Meeting	13.06.11 nb Public Holiday		
	Mid Week Walk	15.06.11	Ted Simpson	Mt Nebo Kembla Heights
	Outing	Saturday 18.06.11		Heathcote N.P.
July	Meeting	11.07.11		
	Mid Week Walk	13.07.11		Spring Creek Kiama
	Outing	Sunday 17.07.11	Charlie Dove	Primbee Dune Forest
August	Meeting	8.08.11		
	Mid Week Walk	10.8.11		
	Outing	Saturday 13.08.11	Betty Hudson	Stingray Swamp Nature Reserve Penrose
September	Meeting	12.09.11		
	Mid Week Walk	14.09.11		
	Outing	Sunday 18.09.11	TBA	Tallawarra Ash Ponds
October	Meeting	10.10.11		
	Mid Week Walk	12.10.11		
	Outing	Saturday 15.10.11	Betty Hudson	Shoalhaven Heads Comerong Island
	Spring Camp	22.10.11- 29.10.11	Betty Hudson	Sawtell near Coffs Harbour
November	Meeting/ AGM	14.11.11		
	Mid Week Walk	16.11.11		
	Outing	Sunday 20.11.11	Betty Hudson	Either Drawing Room Rocks (if accessible) or Bangalee Reserve Nowra
December	Christmas Picnic	Saturday 10.12.11	TBA	
	Christmas Meeting	12.12.11		

## Ruddy Turnstone

Scientific name: *Arenaria interpres*  
Family: Scolopacidae  
Order: Charadriiformes

### Description

The Ruddy Turnstone is a stocky medium-sized wader with short orange-red legs. The bill is wedge-shaped and slightly up-tilted. The breast is distinctively marked with black or brown and pale areas, almost like tortoise shell, with a white breast. The brown upperparts turn a rich reddish-brown when breeding and the bands on the



photo by Charles Dove

face and neck turn black. In flight there is a distinctive black and white pattern. This species is also known as Turnstone, Sea-dotterel and Calico or Beachbird.

### Similar species

The distinctive marking and dark and white pattern in flight make the Ruddy Turnstone unmistakable, along with their habitat of turning over stones.

### Distribution

In Australia, Ruddy Turnstones are widespread around the coast of the mainland and off-shore islands. They breed on the northern coasts of Europe, Asia and North America. They are found on coastlines around the world, when not breeding or on passage.

### Habitat

The Ruddy Turnstone is found singly or in small groups along the coastline and only occasionally inland. They are mainly found on exposed rocks or reefs, often with shallow pools, and on beaches. In the north, they are found in a wider range of habitats, including mudflats.

### Seasonal movements

After breeding in the northern hemisphere, Ruddy Turnstones migrate south. There are five breeding populations. The birds migrating to Australia breed in east Siberia and west Alaska, moving through south-east Asia then south to Australia. Some birds appear to

migrate south across the Pacific Ocean, island-hopping to the east coast and to New Zealand, probably returning north again via east Asia. They visit Australia from about September to May.

### Feeding

Ruddy Turnstones feed busily, by probing, pecking and poking into cracks. They turn over stones and seaweed to find insects, crustaceans, molluscs and spiders. They sometimes eat eggs and carrion (dead things), feeding by day and night.

### Breeding

They nest on small rocky islands and shores of the far northern hemisphere. The female builds the nest, a shallow depression lined with leaves, usually in the shelter of a rock or bush. The young hatch together and are mobile soon after hatching.

*(Ruddy Turnstone information; supplied courtesy of [www.birdsinbackyards.net/](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/))*

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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](http://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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**MARCH ACTIVITIES 2011**

**Club Meeting –**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall. Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow

**Guest speaker:-** Michael Shiels from Taronga Zoo

*who will be talking on the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Programme*

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

**March Midweek Walk:**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**Greenhouse Park.**

**Leader Ted Simpson**

Meet at JJ Kelly car park at 8-30 sharp, opposite the gates to Greenhouse Park. From the south look out for the entrance after the Keira St turnoff. From the north, there is no turn right into the car park, you will have to go to the traffic lights and then go back up Springhill Rd. Bring morning tea. Contact Ted on Mobile No 0420933589.

**February 2011 Monthly Outing:**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**

**Thirlmere Lakes & Caves Creek Reserve**

**Leader Betty Hudson**

Meet at the Car Park & Picnic area at Lake Couridjah at 8.30am.

Travel from Wollongong via the Picton Road to Picton, turn left at the Old Hume Hwy and then approx 1km after the railway bridge turn right at the sign post to Thirlmere. In Thirlmere turn right crossing the railway and immediately left passing the Railway Museum (Barbour Rd). After approx 2km turn right into Slades Road. Follow this road for approx 2km to the Picnic Area by the Lake, passing 2 other lakes on your way.

Bring and carry, morning tea and water to drink. We will have lunch back at the picnic area.

After lunch we will continue on towards Mittagong to the Caves Creek Reserve for another short walk.

**Please make sure that you have plenty of insect repellent and sunscreen.**

Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945.

**Next Committee Meeting - Monday 21<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 21st March 2011 at 7.30pm, Tom & Joan Wylies', 4 Daphne Street, Bellambi. All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee.

**April 2011 Newsletter –**

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **Thursday 24th March**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph: 4275 2383

**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 the Newsletter in glorious colour!**

For your convenience a membership form is attached to this newsletter or it can be downloaded from the club Website [www.iboc.org.au](http://www.iboc.org.au)

**Please note that fees were 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 membership renewal form along with payment please.*

**Please complete this form and post together with your cheque or Money Order to:**

**I.B.O.C. PO Box 56 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519**

**Or bring completed form along with payment to the next meeting to give to treasurer**

Title..... Name .....Family Name.....

Other Family members.....

Address .....

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 please....*

Family \$35 Single \$30 Junior \$10

Enclosed is a cheque or Money Order for \$35 \$30 \$10 Other amount \$.....

## REPORTS

### Report for club meeting Monday 14th February.

*Alan Cousins*

Our speaker for this evening was Inspector Michael Gray from the NSW Rural Fire Service. Michael is at present the acting District manager for the Illawarra Region; but his usual reference, is Community Safety, (now known as Community Engagement).

He explained the organisation of the service as regards to the Illawarra and NSW in general. His main emphasis was on bush fire safety, he explained the changes to the bush fire ratings following the catastrophic fires in Victoria on 7th February 2009 (black Saturday). An explanation of fire spread by embers etc., the dangers of smoke, using swimming pools, raised tanks as a refuge and his thoughts on

bunkers, indicating that the jury is still out on the use of these structures as a safe refuge from fire. He explained the triangle of fire and also procedures to follow if caught travelling in a motor vehicle in a bushfire.

Michael also explained total fire bans indicating what you can and cannot do when these bans are in force. The brochures and bushfire safety plans were presented to the audience for them to take away.

There were many questions and anecdotes from the floor but we had to bring the meeting to a close as I think we would have continued until after midnight!!

### Windang Walk. Wednesday 09/02/2011.

*S. Garlick*

Although the weather was unkind to us with a heavy shower earlier in the afternoon, 21 members assembled at the Norfolk Island Pines Picnic Area and we walked around the track towards the ocean, past the breeding area of the Little Terns and Pied Oyster Catchers and Plovers. It was very pleasant

walking as the scenery is beautiful, not a lot of birds were seen (list following). With another light shower we turned around and headed back to the cars. We enjoyed a nice picnic dinner with lots of talk and laughter. We are all looking forward to the first meeting of the year. .

### Bird List for Lake Illawarra Entrance Walk 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011

27 species were recorded

Chestnut Teal	White-faced Heron	Eastern Koel	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Superb Fairy-wren	Willie Wagtail
Spotted Dove	Sooty Oystercatcher	Red Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Crested Pigeon	Masked Lapwing	New Holland Honeyeater	Magpie Lark
Little Pied Cormorant	Crested Tern	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Black Cormorant	Silver Gull	Australasian Figbird	Common Starling
Australian Pelican	Galah	Grey Butcherbird	

### Huskisson-Vincentia Report 20/02/2011

*By Andrew Wood*

The White-bellied Sea-eagle would in all probability have gone unnoticed, save for the group of enthusiasts several hundred metres below. That's the thing about birdwatchers; just sitting down to lunch, as we were above Blenheim Beach on a hot February afternoon, presents an opportunity to see; and what we see is truly remarkable. I'll never forget the flight of that beautiful bird, and look forward to many similar experiences.



The trip started several hours earlier, when twenty or so IBOC members, having made an early start in Wollongong, arrived at the Lady Denman Museum in Huskisson at 8:30am. From here we walked along a short bush track to the mangrove boardwalk, seeing along the way several small species including Fantails, Wrens and Robins. Along the boardwalk a Sacred Kingfisher presented itself on a branch of a nearby tree. This was a highlight for me, as, still being relatively new to this activity, every time I venture out with more experienced people I'm still seeing 'new' birds even locally; and this sighting was a personal first.

It wasn't the only one. Leaving the boardwalk and re-entering the forest, among the many birds seen, the White-throated Treecreeper and Variegated Fairy-wren; I was privileged to be shown for the first time a Golden Whistler. What a strikingly dazzling yellow the male of this species possesses.



Following morning tea back at the Museum, while wandering back to the cars we saw an adult and an immature Grey Butcherbird. Given its lack of colour, it is still a beautiful looking species.



Near the cars an Eastern Whipbird was making its presence obvious by its distinctive call, and then flew out of its hidden roost into full view onto a branch of a nearby tree. For the first time, having heard it so often, I finally got a perfect view, and was able to add it to my list.

Travelling on to the Huskisson Township, we had what might be called a 'near and far' experience. Perched only about two metres above us, in a tree under which we had assembled in the park, near the local swimming pool, sat several Little Corellas. It's always lovely to see this smaller Cockatoo species. Further afield on a far bank over the water, apart from a flock of ubiquitous Silver Gulls interspersed with Crested Terns, were four Eastern Curlews. At one point they took off and flew in a line low across the water. Wonderful!



It was from here that we made our way to lunch near one of the beautiful small beaches found along Jervis Bay. It was very hot by then and when we ventured into the nearby bush afterwards many of the birds had obviously gone into siesta mode, as only a few common species were seen – although we had seen that majestic White-bellied Sea-eagle.

As the attached list shows, about seventy species were seen on this trip among the whole group. I'd like to thank Betty for her organisation and all the other members who attended for a very enjoyable and friendly day.

*Photos by Charles Dove & Tera Wheway*

**Bird List for Huskisson Walk**

*Huskisson Mangrove Board Walk & Adjacent Forest*

*8.30am to 10.30am*

*48 Species*

Chestnut Teal	Galah	Yellow Thornbill	Pied Currawong
White-throated Needletail	Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Rufous Fantail
Spotted Dove	Australian King-Parrot	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Little Pied Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Willie Wagtail
Little Black Cormorant	Brush Cuckoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Australian Pelican	Laughing Kookaburra	Little Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
White-faced Heron	Sacred Kingfisher	Red Wattlebird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Eastern Osprey	White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Whipbird	Silvereye
Grey Goshawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler –E Race	Welcome Swallow
Masked Lapwing	Variegated Fairy-wren	Rufous Whistler	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Silver Gull	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Butcherbird	Common Myna
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Striated Thornbill	Australian Magpie	Red-browed Finch

*Huskisson Harbour*

*11.30am to 12.00pm*

*10 Species*

Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Eastern Curlew	Silver Gull	Noisy Miner
Sooty Oystercatcher	Crested Tern	Little Corella	Common Myna
Masked Lapwing	Little Black Cormorant		

Rock Dove	Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Laughing Kookaburra	Red Wattlebird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crested Tern	Variegated Fairy-wren	New Holland Honeyeater	Silvereye
Silver Gull	White-browed Scrubwren		



*includes Letters to the Editor*

**Black Lab Comes Home With Deadly Snake Wrapped Around His Snout.....**



Bronson is a retriever Extraordinaire. Ducks his specialty, and sometimes cell phones and out-of-place odds and ends. But this 11-year-old black lab recently came to his owners with a startling quarry: A deadly snake, as you can see by the photo , the snake was coiled around his snout. The snake's head appears to be clamped firmly in Bronson's mouth. Bronson looks rather forlorn at his predicament. This Australian dog was lucky his owners, Deborah and Peter Allen, were home when he arrived with his frightening muzzle. While they quickly tried to figure out what to do, Deborah grabbed a camera and snapped this shot to document the event. The **Herald-Sun** reports the extremely obedient Bronson stood stock still — rigid, in fact — because he has been trained not to move his head while carrying anything he retrieves. His owners were able to use his excellent training to help them get him out of his scary situation alive. Deborah put a chaff bag on the ground and pulled it up over the bottom of the snake and released its coil from Bronson's snout. Then she gave the command.. "And as soon I said 'Give' he dropped it right into the bag and we sealed up the ends," she says. They rushed Bronson to their local vet, where tests showed he had been bitten at some point during his adventure. He spent four days on a drip at the vet's, and is now fully recovered. He has undoubtedly struck slithering objects from his retrieving repertoire permanently. We hope...

*Story supplied by Peter Butler*

Hi Charles,

Having recently discovered the Birds Australia library where I work at Homebush Bay, I have been trying to get the word out about this resource. I wish I had known of this library before I started here!

So I wondered if you would you be able to put a paragraph in your next newsletter to let others know about this? I have put together some suggestions below...

### FOR A RAINY DAY – BIRDS AUSTRALIA LIBRARY

Whether you want some bedtime reading, need to expand your bird knowledge, or have a specific birding question that needs answering, the Birds Australia Discovery Centre library in Homebush Bay has you covered. There are over 1200 titles ranging from the generalist to the academic and from local studies to foreign language journals. Most titles are available for loan free of charge to IBOC members, and photocopy services are also available. Best to give a call to the Discovery Centre, on 9647 1033 or email [basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au) so we make sure the library is open on your visit.

Any questions, just give me a buzz.

Cheers,

**Peter Ridgeway | Volunteer  
Coordinator | Birds Australia Discovery Centre**  
[p.ridgeway@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:p.ridgeway@birdsaustralia.com.au)  
0401 481 037

All the birds are back after hiding over Xmas, It was a very noisy day.

*Margaret Hannah Manyana*



Tera Wheway could not help herself after the Cape York trip and had to go back and get one more Photo - The Paradise Kingfisher

### Dear members of IBOC

I'm a producer with ABC Illawarra. At the ABC we have a new initiative called ABC Open, seeking input from people from the local community.

At the moment we're preparing an "Illawarra Sound Profile", which will be a collection of sound recordings of our region, from the Southern Highlands, to the escarpment, to the sea. The sounds will eventually be attached to an on-line map of the Illawarra.

As part of this project I'm conducting sound recording workshops.

I was wondering if the members of the Illawarra Bird Observers club, or individuals in the Club, may be interested in working with me to record some locations, and the sounds of birds within those locations.

I'd be happy to conduct a half or one day workshop.

I'm also interested in recording interviews with some IBOC members about their interest in bird watching, and their knowledge of birds of the region.

If you're interested, please contact me on this email [O'Brien.Sean@abc.net.au](mailto:O'Brien.Sean@abc.net.au) or on 0429 426 654.

I look forward to your response.

Regards,  
Sean O'Brien



My son Greg Baker took these photos at Jones Beach Kiama, last week. Good ones of the whip birds.

*Judy Baker*



More from Margaret Hannah courtesy Russell Hannah,  
more birds contributing to the great noise from all the birds



### Lake Cargelligo Camp

16th to 23rd April 2011

#### **Some last minute information on the camp.**

Lake Cargelligo is full to overflowing. So hopefully there will be plenty of bird life around the Lakes and river. Part of the Lake is a Bird Sanctuary. We will also be visiting the mallee country of Round Hill Nature Reserve, to the north.

The town has good mobile reception but in the surrounding district reception is patchy. No mention of which phone company/s.

The town has an IGA Supermarket and other shops which have EFTPOS, a bank and ATM, and 3 service stations for petrol. In Foster Street there is a Tourist Information Centre, which should have information on local birds. There is also a selection of pubs, hotels and clubs etc.

The weather will be cool overnight with warm days, averaging 10° to 25°, with an April average of 25mm of rain.

Contact for the camp will be Betty Hudson, on my home number 4236 0307 until the morning of the 14th April and then on my mobile 0432 892 945. I anticipate arriving in camp on the afternoon of the 15th

## **Birds in Copenhagen are giving new meaning to the phrase "bird calls."**

Danish ornithologists say that birds, especially Starlings, have begun incorporating the sound of a ringing cellular phone into their own songs. So far, reports of wireless warbling have been restricted to Copenhagen, where birds seem to favor Nokia's classic ring tone.

Birds imitating sounds produced by technology is nothing new. They choose simple tunes to reproduce. The standard ring tone on a phone usually comprises any combination of nine tones. And the tunes themselves don't typically contain harmonies, which are made by playing multiple musical tones at the same time.

Usually, birds copy what they hear the most. Birds in rural areas have added the sound of horses whinnying, lawn mowers and even chainsaws to their repertoires. In cities, birds have added car alarms, the warning beep of a truck backing up and police sirens to their calls, experts say.

Ornithologists expect birds in other cities where cell phone penetration is high to begin adding ring tones to their tunes.

Imagine the possible confusion, says Andrew Smith, spokesman for London-based Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. A single ringing phone can already cause a room of mobile phone owners to reach for their pockets.

A few Starlings armed with a Nokia tune crowing on a crowded city block "could bring a place like San Francisco to a stand still," Smith said.

Starlings, which are found in many areas of the world, in addition to mockingbirds, catbirds, brown thrashers and others, constantly look for new tunes for their songs, which are sung to attract the opposite sex, experts say.

The longer the song, the more macho the bird appears to be, according to Allison Wells, director of outreach for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

"It makes the males who sing that much more attractive," she said.

But if some mischievous bird manages to indeed force an entire city sidewalk of pedestrians to check on their phones, there is some revenge on the way.

Companies have started offering bird calls as ring tones, Smith said.

## ***Sparrows Don't Dig Oldies, Research Shows***



### **Birds don't like oldies, new research has found.**

The Who. The Police. The Spice Girls. This year, it seems the only band not embarking on a reunion tour is the Byrds. According to new research written up in the journal *Evolution*, that's no accident. Turns out, an evening of oldies wouldn't go down nearly so well among our feathered friends.

Elizabeth Derryberry, a biologist at Duke University in North Carolina, compared recordings of sparrow hits from 1979 to those of 2003 and found that the newer songs have a much slower rhythm and dip

further down into the lower registers. And upon playing the different versions to hip, modern-day sparrows in a variety of areas, she found that today's birds are much more into current chart hits than those of 30 years ago.

The 20 males that heard Derryberry's two recordings reacted much more aggressively to the new tunes, ready to defend their territory against the crooning interloper. And the chicks? They responded by becoming more open to sexual advances when the new music was played. The oldies didn't turn them on at all.

"I'm not saying a female bird won't respond to an old song, but not as much as she would to the newer version," Derryberry told the newspaper the *Daily Telegraph*. "They regard the old songs as not as interesting, not as good as the new ones."

The scientist, who carried out her experiment near Yosemite National Park in California, has been studying bird song recordings made over the last three decades to determine how tunes evolve and whether the changes have to do with mate selection or habitat. The results of her test, she says, show that stylistic differences develop rather quickly, affecting mating and the passing on of genetic information. It could even provide clues to how new species develop.

Regional dialects among songbirds have long been recognized, as has the fact that birds -- like humans -- respond more strongly to local songs than to those from abroad. However scientists were previously less knowledgeable about changes over time.

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

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## Turnstone Flies 27,000 km – Twice !!

Wader researchers from the Victorian Wader Study Group, Australia, have just recaptured a Ruddy Turnstone which has completed a 27,000 km round trip migration for the second time. This is the first time a wader has been tracked with a geolocator on its complete migration in successive years.

The bird had a one gram light-sensor data logger (geolocator) attached to its leg. This device recorded where the bird was each morning and evening. In each year the device was attached to the bird in mid April on a beach at Flinders, Victoria, in southeast Australia.

Ruddy Turnstones are a small wader weighing less than 100 grams and spend the summer months on many of the beaches around Australia. They are one of the family of waders that migrate huge distances to Siberia in Russia to breed. Researchers have used these data-logging devices over the last two years to find out the key stopover locations which are so important for the birds to refuel on their long journey. Members of the study group include Dr Clive Minton, Ken Gosbell, Penny Johns and Prof Marcel Klaassen (of Deakin University). "This is a fantastic result for our study group, which is also supported by a fantastic group of volunteers," Dr Minton said. "The data retrieved so far shows that the birds generally start their northward migration with an initial nonstop flight of around 7,600km in six days to Taiwan or adjacent regions. There they refuel on the tidal flats before moving north to the Yellow Sea and northern China. They then make a flight of over 5,000km to the breeding grounds in northern Siberia, arriving in the first week of June."

"One of the interesting findings is that after breeding, the return journey shows considerable variation, no two birds following the same route. Some return through Asia while an amazing alternate route has been demonstrated by these new results. This is a trans-Pacific route where the bird moves east to the Aleutian Islands off southwest Alaska before making the huge journey across the Pacific, stopping only once or twice before reaching Australia in early December."

The first record of this flight was in 2009 when the bird spent nearly two months in the Aleutians before setting off southward over the Pacific Ocean and making a nonstop flight of 7,800km to Kirabati (formerly Gilbert Islands), where it stayed for six weeks before making the 5,000km trip back to Flinders, Victoria. In 2010 the same bird undertook a similar incredible journey, this time stopping off in the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu in the Pacific before returning to Australia.

Turnstones live up to 20 years and such a bird following this 27,000 km trans-Pacific route would have flown over 500,000 km in its lifetime.

Scientists from the Australasian Wader Studies Group of Birds Australia and Deakin University are still puzzling over why individual Ruddy Turnstones from the same breeding and non-breeding population should use such widely differing routes for their annual migrations. The study shows the importance of key regions within the flyway. Scientists are concerned about the ability of these and similar birds to cope with the massive habitat changes occurring as a result of large reclamation and urban development projects.

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## THANK YOU JOAN WYLIE

*Most members will by now know that Ted Simpson has taken over the role of organising and leading the monthly midweek walks. Thanks Ted for continuing the magnificent work that Joan Wylie has carried out over numerous years. Our past walks have been varied, organised and very well led. Thank you Joan for all your work in organising those walks, it could not have been an easy job. The variance of these great excursions to see the Australian bird life is much appreciated by all members of the club. We hope that you enjoy the future walks as much as we enjoyed those that you organised yourself. Thank You Joan.*

**MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS - February 2011**

Compiled by Betty Hudson

SPECIES	No.	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brown Cuckoo-dove	1	23.01.2011	Hyams Creek Jamberoo	Rainforest	Betty Hudson
Brown Cuckoo-dove	1	4.02.2011	Coledale Eco Centre	Rainforest	IBOC
Topknot Pigeons	40+	4.02.2011	Coledale Eco Centre	Rainforest	IBOC
Pacific Baza	2	1.02.2011	Cope Place Bulli	Rainforest	Roger Truscott
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	16.02.2011	Currenbene Creek Huskisson	Estuarine	Betty Hudson
Grey Goshawk	1	11.02.2011	Fred Finch Park Berkeley	Overhead	Charles Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	10.02.2011	Windang Island	Overhead	Charles Dove
Peregrine Falcon	1	15.02.2011	Farmborough Hts	Overhead	Andrew Wood
Pacific Golden Plover	120+	16.02.2011	Shoalhaven Heads Wetlands	Wetlands	Betty Hudson
Red-capped Plover	30+	16.02.2011	Shoalhaven Heads Wetlands	Wetlands	Betty Hudson
Double-banded Plover	1	16.02.2011	Shoalhaven Heads	Beach Dunes	Betty Hudson
Greater Sand Plover	1	6.02.2011	Windang	Estuary	Charles Dove
Eastern Curlew	25	16.02.2011	Shoalhaven Heads Wetlands	Wetlands	Betty Hudson
Eastern Curlew	1	8.02.2011	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Lake	Charles Dove
Ruddy Turnstone	1	16.02.2011	Shoalhaven Heads Wetlands	Wetlands	Betty Hudson
Ruddy Turnstone	7	11.02.2011	Bellambie Harbour	Kelp-rocks	Charles Dove
Red-necked Stint	30+	16.02.2011	Shoalhaven Heads Wetlands	Wetlands	Betty Hudson
Red-necked Stint	3	6.02.2011	Windang Island	Estuary	Charles Dove
Little Tern	8	8.02.2011	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Lake	Charles Dove
Little Tern	1	11.02.2011	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Lake	Charles Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo	3	7.02.2011	Bellambie Dunes	Dune Woodland	Anne & Alan Cousins
Gang-gang Cockatoo	3	Early Jan	North Nowra	Garden	Sheila Emery
Gang-gang Cockatoo	1	4.02.2011	Berry Showground	Parkland	Hales & Garlick's
Gang-gang Cockatoo	1	8.02.2011	Berry Township	Residential	Brian Hales
Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo	1	4.02.2011	Coledale Eco Centre	Rainforest	IBOC
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	1 imm.	12.02.2011	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Azure Kingfisher	1	31.01.2011	Shearwater Bld Albion Park Rail	Garden	Brian Hales
Azure Kingfisher	1	13.02.2011	Top of Paynes Rd W Dapto	Rainforest	Ian McKinley
Sacred Kingfisher	1	12.02.2011	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Dollarbird	2+2 imm.	8.02.2011	Albion Park Rail	Residential	Peter Fackender
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	1	4.02.2011	Coledale Eco Centre	Rainforest	IBOC
White-winged Triller	1	4.02.2011	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Crested Shrike-tit	1	4.02.2011	Coledale Eco Centre	Rainforest	IBOC
Olive-backed Oriole	1	4.02.2011	Coledale Eco Centre	Rainforest	IBOC
Rufous Fantail	4	4.02.2011	Coledale Eco Centre	Rainforest	IBOC
Black-faced Monarch	2	4.02.2011	Coledale Eco Centre	Rainforest	IBOC
Golden-headed Cisticola	10+	15.02.2011	Commaditchi Lagoon	Grassland	Charles Dove
Australian Reed-warbler	10+	15.02.2011	Commaditchi Lagoon	Reedy Grassland	Charles Dove
Bassian Thrush	1	4.02.2011	Coledale Eco Centre	Rainforest	IBOC

Please keep your sightings coming in, everything you consider unusual or interesting.

Compiled By Betty Hudson

**Bird's New Tune 2010**

The hum of the city traffic is causing a common Australian bird to change its tune. A University of Melbourne study has found the city dwelling silvereye is singing more simply, slowly and at a higher pitch than its country cousins – so its tweets can be heard above the urban drone. The four month study looked at the behavior of the species common across urban and rural suggestions of evolutionary changes in the city species, student and lead author Dominique Potvin found.

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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

### 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



photo by Charles Dove

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.

#### Similar species

Comparable raptors (birds of prey) are the similar-sized but stouter Australian Hobby, *Falco longipennis* (30 cm - 35 cm) which has blue-grey upper parts, red-brown underparts and a long, square-shaped tail, and the larger Brown Falcon, *F. berigora* (41 cm - 51 cm) which lacks the rich rufous colouring.

#### 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 male supplies the food.

Nankeen Kestrel information; supplied courtesy of [www.birdsinbackyards.net/](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/)

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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](http://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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**APRIL ACTIVITIES 2011**

**APRIL 2011 Monthly Outing:                    Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011.**

**Rhododendron Park & Mt Keira Ring Track**

Leader Wal Emery

**DUE TO AUTUMN CAMP THIS OUTING WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD TO THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE MEETING, NOT THE ONE AFTER AS USUAL**

Meet in the small Escarpment Park carpark area in Parrish Avenue, about 200 metres south of the **Rhododendron Park entrance at 8.30am**. From here we will walk a service track & a 1Klm section of the Ring Track to Byarong Park, where we will have morning tea & check out the birdlife. Toilets & tables at park. Carry morning tea only. We will then return through the rainforest via the lower section of Mt. Keira Ring Track to the cars, then having lunch at the Rhododendron Park & spending as much time as we desire exploring the park. There is a \$2.00 per car admission fee to the Rhododendron Park Society going towards the upkeep of the park. A number of steps are encountered climbing up Geordies Flat, but the rest of the track is in general easy walking.

Contact Wal Emery Ph 4284 0139

**Club Meeting –**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow

**Guest Speaker** Louie Kelbert- apiarist- Talking on Bees and the breeding of Bees.

*'Honey could be available'*

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

**April Midweek Walk:**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**Balgownie Escarpment**

Leader. Ted Simpson.

Meet at the northern end of Brokers Rd. Map 25 E15. It is street parking. To get there head up Caldwell, left into Foothills, right into Margaret (unfortunately no street sign,) right into Duncan, which brings you to Brokers Rd. Start at 8-30 and bring morning tea.

Contact Ted on Mobile No 0420933589.

**Next Committee Meeting -**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**NO COMMITTEE MEETING IN APRIL....** Next committee meeting will be advised in the May Newsletter.

All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee.

**April 2011 Newsletter –**

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

**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 to receive the Newsletter in glorious colour, through your Email.**

For your convenience a membership form is attached to this newsletter or it can be downloaded from the club

Website [www.iboc.org.au](http://www.iboc.org.au)

<b>Please complete this form and post together with your cheque or Money Order to: I.B.O.C. PO Box 56, FAIRY MEADOW, NSW 2519 Or bring completed form along with payment to the next meeting to give to treasurer.</b>	
Title.....	Name .....Family Name.....
Other Family members.....	
Address .....	
Telephone Number.....	E-mail address.....
<b>YES I would like to save IBOC postage costs and the trees for the birds by having my Newsletter delivered by e-mail please....</b>	
Family \$35 Single \$30 Junior \$10	
Enclosed is a cheque or Money Order for    \$35    \$30    \$10    Other amount \$.....	

**We would like to WELCOME**  
New Members to IBOC  
and hope they enjoy many Happy Birding Hours  
*Terry Newham, Lesley Kerr and Peter Butler*

# REPORTS

## Report for club meeting Monday 14th March 2011.

Alan Cousins

Firstly thank you to Neil and Tera Wheway for the short presentation on the birds that they went back to Queensland to see including the Buff-breasted Paradise-kingfisher. Our main speaker for the evening was Emily Sehmelitschek from Taronga Zoo. Emily is a native of the Illawarra, so she was familiar with her surroundings. The presentation was entitled '**REGENT HONEYEATER RELEASE**'.

The population of Regent Honeyeaters has gone from South Australia, rarely seen in Queensland and is patchy in New South Wales and Victoria. The present population is estimated at between 800-2000 birds and is listed as 'ENDANGERED'. There is a captive breeding program in place, Taronga Zoo is a holding and quarantine base for the project. The releases have been 2007 - 50, 2008 - 27, 2009 - 100, 2010- 44. The birds are released in Victoria in April and May and are fitted with transmitters, either a harness on the back or on the tail feathers. The transmitters have a battery life of about twelve weeks and 70% of birds were known to be alive after 11 weeks!!!. The last release was of captive bred and wild birds with no results yet known.

This was a very professional, most interesting and informative presentation and it is evident that Emily and the other researchers are passionate about the magnificent job that they do, with little or no publicity. We all hear about the births of Elephants, Giraffes, Pandas etc, but not about endangered bird projects.

## Greenhouse Park Walk.

Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Ted Simpson.

A pleasant morning saw the attendance of 19 members at Greenhouse Park. Once a refuse tip, the site has been transformed into an area suitable for walkers or birders. Many volunteers over a long period of time have planted trees and shrubs, and are still doing ground work. Perhaps this contributed to the good number of bird sightings we have regardless of the heavy local traffic.



A few highlights from a very enjoyable Morning

Pics by Charlie

## Bird List for Greenhouse Park Walk 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011

8.30am to 11.30am 39 Species

Chestnut Teal	Masked Lapwing	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Rock Dove	Silver Gull	Little Wattlebird	Leaden Flycatcher
Spotted Dove	Galah	Red Wattlebird	Maggie-Lark
Crested Pigeon	Rainbow Lorikeet	New Holland Honeyeater	Golden-headed Cisticola
Little Pied Cormorant	Sacred Kingfisher	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Silveryeye
Little Black Cormorant	Satin Bowerbird	Australasian Figbird	Welcome Swallow
Australian Pelican	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Butcherbird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
White-faced Heron	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Magpie	Common Starling
Brown Goshawk	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Fantail	Common Mynah
Nankeen Kestrel	Spotted Pardalote	Willie Wagtail	

**Thirlmere Lakes Walk**

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Alistair Lethbridge

Despite grey skies, twelve club members chanced overcast skies and ventured out to Thirlmere Lakes. Early arrivals at the main picnic area were rewarded with the repetitive “ooming” of a Tawny Frogmouth - though no sightings. After roll call, we soon moved to the shore of the lake, where we were greeted by the calls of Black-fronted Dotterel, which were patrolling the extensive mud flats\* on the far bank. The deeper water in the middle of the lake revealed a number of Australasian Grebe, members scanning the lake edges quickly, identified Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, White-faced Heron and Little-pied Cormorants and Little-black Cormorants. We left the waterbirds for the forest trail that skirts the lake, in anticipation of White-throated Gerygone, which had been heard calling in the distance. The narrow track offered a pleasant easy walk through relatively open woodland, proving quite popular with the local spiders, which had strung numerous webs across the path. There was no sign of the Gerygone, but the usual LBJ’s were active in the understory. The walk around the lake continued after a brief stop for morning tea, and for the stragglers bringing up the rear there were good views of White-eared and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters. Rain interrupted the walk not long after and it was a soggy walk back. Fortunately the picnic tables were covered, so lunch was a mostly a dry affair, but the rain had settled in; so we called it a day. NSW National Parks and Wildlife report that 140 bird species have been recorded in the Thirlmere Lakes National Park - we only managed 34, so definitely worth a return visit.

\*Note: the large areas of exposed mud evident at Thirlmere Lakes, at present are the result of recent declines in water levels. Some have blamed the decline on nearby longwall mining, which they claim has breached the aquifers that supply the lake.



**Bird List for Thirlmere Lakes Walk 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

8.30am to 12.30pm 34 Species

Grey Teal	Crimson Rosella	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Rufous Whistler
Pacific Black Duck	Brush Cuckoo	Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Australasian Grebe	White-throated Treecreeper	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Butcherbird
Tawny Frogmouth	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Spinebill	Rufous Fantail
Little Pied Cormorant	Variegated Fairy-wren	White-eared Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Little Black Cormorant	White-browed Scrubwren	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Australian Raven
White-faced Heron	White-throated Gerygone	Eastern Whipbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Black-fronted Dotterel	Striated Thornbill	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Australian King Parrot	Yellow Thornbill	Golden Whistler – E Race	

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST



Media Release

13

January

2011

**Another Fowl Political Decision**

At last the drought is over, and rather than allowing our besieged waterfowl populations to recover after 13 years of debilitating drought, Victoria’s new Baillieu State Government has responded by approving the 2011 Recreational Duck Shooting Season for the widespread slaughter of native wildlife.

While most people would throw a lifeline to our besieged waterfowl and put an end to the annual massacre (as has happened in most other states), the Government has instead extended the duration of the Duck Shooting Season to 12 weeks and increased the bag limit of ducks that can be shot up to 10 ducks for every day of the season. That is, every hunter can legally kill up to 840 ducks this year (if they were laid from end to end, they would stretch more than 3½ times the length of the MCG).

Birds Australia vehemently opposes the expansion of the Recreational Duck Shooting Season, and emphatically rejects that it should be allowed to occur at all.

"The level of mortality and wounding of these native birds for the amusement of a handful of shooters cannot be justified in a modern society," said Dr Graeme Hamilton, Birds Australia CEO. "Young, inexperienced ducks will bear the brunt of the onslaught, which could be disastrous for the overall waterfowl population for years to come".

Polls have regularly shown overwhelming support for the abolition of duck shooting in Victoria, and yet successive governments have insisted on pandering to a small number of shooters, especially in rural constituencies.

"There can be no realistic justification for this decision. Our wildlife should not be sacrificed for political purposes. Victoria's Recreational Duck Shooting Season should be abandoned once and for all", said Dr Hamilton. "After all," he added, "there are substantial penalties if you kill virtually any other native wildlife, but you can happily shoot native waterfowl for the fun of it".

## Orange-bellied Parrot

**Scientific name:** *Neophema chrysogaster*

**Conservation status in NSW:** [Critically Endangered](#)

**National conservation status:** [Critically Endangered](#)

### Description

The Orange-bellied Parrot is a small, stocky, ground-dwelling parrot, primarily a deep, grassy green. It is noticeably smaller than the superficially similar and much more familiar Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*. It has a blue forehead-band (that does not extend behind the eye), a green (not yellow) face, and blue wing-edges. The orange patch on the yellow belly is not a very reliable field mark. It sometimes feeds with the very similar Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysotoma*. Its buzzy alarm call is also unique.



### Location and habitat

#### Distribution

The Orange-bellied Parrot breeds in the south-west of Tasmania and migrates in autumn to spend the winter on the mainland coast of south-eastern South Australia and southern Victoria. There are occasional reports from NSW, with the most recent records from [Shellharbour](#) and Maroubra in May 2003. It is expected that NSW habitats may be being more frequently utilised than observations suggest. Typical winter habitat is saltmarsh and strandline/foredune vegetation communities either on coastlines or coastal lagoons. Spits and islands are favoured but they will turn up anywhere within these coastal regions. The species can be found foraging in weedy areas associated with these coastal habitats or even in totally modified landscapes such as pastures, seed crops and golf courses.

#### Habitat and ecology

- On the mainland, the Orange-bellied Parrot spends winter mostly within 3 km of the coast in sheltered coastal habitats including bays, lagoons, estuaries, coastal dunes and saltmarshes. The species also inhabits small islands and peninsulas and occasionally saltworks and golf courses. Birds forage in low samphire herbland or taller coastal shrubland.
- Diet mainly comprises seeds and fruits of sedges and salt-tolerant coastal and saltmarsh plants. Occasionally, flowers and stems are eaten.
- Orange-bellied Parrots are known to forage among flocks of Blue-winged Parrots.
- Recent records from unexpected places, including Shellharbour and Maroubra suggest that the species may be expanding their selection of habitats and foraging plant species. Birds seen in NSW in 2003 were foraging on weed species several hundred metres from the coast.

### Threats

- The population is very small (<200 birds) and has a restricted breeding distribution (in Tasmania) that may be impacted by catastrophic events such as fire or storms.
- Fragmentation and degradation of coastal overwintering habitats on the NSW coast including saltmarsh and dune habitats from grazing, agricultural and residential impacts.
- Fox and cat predation are known threats to Orange-bellied Parrots.
- Competition for food resources with other seed eaters.
- Psittacine Circoviral Disease (PCD) has been recorded in captive and wild populations.

#### Recovery strategies

Priority actions are the specific, practical things that must be done to recover a threatened species, population or ecological community. The Department of Environment and Conservation has identified [4 priority actions](#) to help recover the Orange-bellied Parrot in New South Wales. .

## BOWRA

Bowra is a hotspot for Australia's threatened birdlife. It is renowned as one of the country's most rewarding birdwatching destinations, featuring iconic species such as Hall's Babbler, Chestnut-breasted Quail Thrush and the Grey Falcon.

Located in the heart of the Mulga Lands, on the Warrego River plains, Bowra is a vitally important property for the conservation of Australia's wildlife.

After being in the McLaren family for five generations, Ian and Julie McLaren made the difficult decision that Bowra must be sold. Fortunately, Australian Wildlife Conservancy secured the contract to acquire Bowra to ensure that its diversity of habitats and extraordinary wildlife - particularly its birds - will be protected in perpetuity.

The Federal Government made a generous grant from the National Reserve System to assist with the purchase of Bowra.

We have received generous assistance from Birds Australia, the Bird Observer's Club and other groups committed to providing a secure future for Bowra and ensuring that birdwatchers from around Australia (and the world) can continue to enjoy this remarkable destination. Please join the campaign to protect Bowra.



### LOCATION

Bowra is located near Cunnamulla in southern Queensland. It is in a **high priority bioregion**: the Mulga Bioregion has less than 5% reservation level.

### AREA

Bowra covers approximately 14,000 hectares (35,000 acres).

### ECOSYSTEMS

Bowra protects 15 regional ecosystems, none of which occur on other AWC properties:

Six of these broad ecosystem types are listed as threatened.

Five of the ecosystems are not found in any national parks, while another seven are poorly protected in national parks.

The condition of Bowra is very good. There is a fine-scale mosaic of habitat types, with good structural complexity, thus supporting a diversity of wildlife.

Features of Bowra include:

Mulga communities, often mixed with Poplar Box and Bloodwoods, dominating the low scarp and elevated ridges in the northern section of the property.

- The southern section of Bowra comprises mainly alluvial plains decorated by Gidgee and Coolabah open woodlands. Low sand ridges rise marginally above the plains, hosting Cypress Pine and more Bloodwood and Poplar Box.
- Majestic River Red Gums guard the length of Gumholes Creek, the property's major watercourse.
- Permanent, deep waterholes are a feature of this creek. Bowra lies within the catchment of both the Warrego and Paroo Rivers, two of the most biologically significant rivers within the Murray-Darling basin.
- Bowra hosts numerous other wetlands ranging from Bluebush swamps to gilgais and other smaller swamps.

### WILDLIFE

Bowra is home to:

- over 200 bird species - *a remarkable number for a property of this size* ([click here](#) for more information on Bowra's birds);
- an estimated 31 mammal species;
- 65 reptiles and over 20 amphibians.
- There are at least 12 rare and threatened species.

<http://www.australianwildlife.org.au/Bowra/Birds.aspx>



*includes Letters to the Editor*

## Welcome to Birding Stories

anonymous

The extraordinary world of birding and nature exploration is full of marvelous stories and tales. For anyone who goes into the forests, deserts, high seas, mountains, plains or tundras of the world, the world in turn opens up its vast wealth of beauty and wonder. The following are such stories:

### [AUNT MAY STORIES](#)

Birding has become a major passion for me over the years, and I would like to pay homage to the woman who started it all, my Great Aunt Avis May Herrick of Mayfield, Fulton Co., New York. Here are her stories of birding adventures dating back to 1910. Being a most precocious and mischievous kid, I quickly became her favourite, and she imparted to me the many secrets of nature and the birds she loved with all her heart. I still have her original list first started in 1910 and almost daily updated. Her list ended with 436 total species. Before her death, she told me how much fun all our adventures had been and that she hoped I would always keep my interest in birds. Well my dear Aunt May, as I cross the 5,000 mark at the age of 40, I have you to thank for giving me a part of my life that has taken me to all continents, 116 nations and countless adventures in the most wonderful places imaginable. Although her body now rests beneath the glacial soil of the southern Adirondacks, I know her spirit is always there with me in the rainforests, deserts, mountains and valleys. Every time I see a new bird and think of my Aunt May, I am sure that somewhere it opens a window for her to see it as well. So all you aunts and grannies, who have young, uncontrollable whippersnappers, if you just plant the right seeds in their soul, the resultant tree may just be amazing.

### [Go to Aunt May Story Index](#)

### **Shoalhaven Birders next walk is April 17th –**

Shoalhaven Heads, Comerong Island:  
meet Shoalhaven Heads Van Park - carpark near public toilet.  
Contact Peter and Julie 0402076548  
Stan and Su Brown 0438952136

## THE SOOTY OYSTERCATCHER



I am an Oystercatcher; I can eat them by the score,  
I can eat 100 oysters, And then can eat some more.  
I like them for my dinner, And I like them as a snack,  
And folk all know that oysters, Are an aphro-dis-iac.  
Oysters are not hard to catch, it's really rudimentary,  
For oysters never dart around, They are a bit sedentary.  
I don't like oysters mornaye, I don't like them in a sauce,  
I like them to be in a shell, 'Au naturale' of course.

I am a native Aussie; I don't fly to distant lands,  
I live my life along the coast, And nest among the sands.  
You'd think I'd be prolific, With oysters as my fare,  
But lately something's happened, And I'm becoming rare.  
A sea change tide of humans, Drifts up and down the coast,  
They've brought cats and dogs and vermin, An invading deadly host.  
So though I am a lover, With 'oyster passion' in my blood,  
Our eggs and chicks don't make it, Through that preda-tory flood.

I am the only seabird, whose plumage is all black,  
Perhaps it is our colour, Makes us easy to attack.  
So don't disturb our nesting sites, Restrain those pet egg snatchers  
So we can live and breed in peace,  
**We Sooty Oystercatchers.**

Bigruss March 11

**Members Sightings February & March 2011** compiled by Betty Hudson

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HABITAT</b>	<b>OBSERVER</b>
Australian Brush-turkey	1	6.03.11	Lower Fire Trail Bulli	Rainforest	Terry Newham
Brown Quail	1	7.03.11	Pelican View Reserve Lake South	Scrub	Charles Dove
White-headed Pigeon	1m	24.02.11	Balgownie	Garden	Terry Edwel
White-headed Pigeon	1j	12.03.11	Jamberoo	Back Verandah	Betty Hudson
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	2	11.03.11	Regal Hts Albion Park	Garden	Bruce Coyte
Topknot Pigeon	4	20.03.11	Bulli Pass	Overhead	Richard Miller
Tawny Frogmouth	1	27.02.11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Tawny Frogmouth	1	19.03.11	Thirlmere Lakes NP	Open Forest	IBOC
Little Black Cormorant	147	3.03.11	Off Picnic Island Lake South	Lake	Charles Dove
White-faced Heron	54	3.03.11	Off Picnic Island Lake South	Lake	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	20.03.11	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2	21.03.11	Coalcliff Beach	Overhead	Mike Morphett
Brown Goshawk	1	8.02.11	Dapto	Garden	Tera Wheway
Brown Goshawk	41	16.03.11	Greenhouse Park Wollongong	Revegetated Area	IBOC
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	24.02.11	Balgownie	Garden	Terry Edwel
Nankeen Kestrel	1	6.03.11	Gerrington	Open Heathland	Dove's & Garlick's
Nankeen Kestrel	1	16.03.11	Greenhouse Park Wollongong	Revegetated Area	IBOC
Australian Hobby	1	20.03.11	Heritage Park Windang	Overhead	Charles Dove
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	8	3.11.11	Off Picnic Island Lake South	Lake	Charles Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	7.03.11	Windang Island	Tidal Rocks	Charles Dove
Double-banded Plover	9	7.03.11	Northern Warilla Beach	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	2.03.11	Bellambi	Lagoon	Charles Dove
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	11.03.11	Couridjah Lake Thirlmere Lakes	Small Lake	Betty Hudson
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	19.03.11	Couridjah Lake Thirlmere Lakes	Small Lake	IBOC
Eastern Curlew	12	3.03.11	Off Picnic Island Lake South	Lake	Charles Dove
Grey Tailed Tattler	3	7.03.11	Windang Island	Tidal Rocks	Charles Dove
Ruddy Turnstone	2	12.03.11	Woonona Point	Rock Platform	Nerida Hudspith
Ruddy Turnstone	12	2.03.11	Sandon Point Rock	Platform	Richard Miller
Red-necked Stint	4	7.03.11	Northern Warilla Beach	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Little Tern	4	11.03.11	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Lake	Charles Dove
Kelp Gull	1	7.03.11	Windang Island	Tidal Rocks	Charles Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	8.03.11	Tarrawanna Village Green	Native Trees	Anne Cousins
Fantailed Cuckoo	1 imm	26.02.11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Brush Cuckoo	1	19.03.11	Thirlmere Lakes NP	Open Forest	IBOC
Southern Boobook	1	28.02.11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Azure Kingfisher	1	10.03.11	Hyams Creek Jamberoo	Riverine	Betty Hudson
Sacred Kingfisher	1	6.03.11	Gerrington	Wetland	Dove's & Garlick's
Superb Lyrebird	1	8.03.11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forested Areas	Mike Morphett
Superb Lyrebird	1	13.03.11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forested Areas	Mike Morphett
Green Catbird	2	20.03.11	Bulli Pass	Garden	Richard Miller
Satin Bowerbird	2	7.03.11	Back Yard/Creek Tarrawanna	Residential	Sue & Ken Brown
White-throated Gerygone	1	19.03.11	Thirlmere Lakes NP	Open Forest	IBOC
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	few	19.03.11	Thirlmere Lakes NP	Open Forest	IBOC
Bell Miner	Few	12.03.11	Marshall Mt Road	Forest	Andy & Anna Knowlson
Australian Logrunner	1	4.03.11	West of Firetrail Bulli	Rainforest	Ian McKinlay
Eastern Whipbird	Several	14.03.11	Mt Kembla Track	Forest	Andrew Wood
Crested Shrike-tit	2	13.03.11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forested Area	Mike Morphett
Rufous Whistler	1	13.03.11	Mt Kembla Ring Track	Forest	Andrew Wood
Grey Shrike-thrush	1	9.03.11	Albion Park Rail	Garden	Brian & Barbara Hale
Australasian Figbird	18	10.03.11	Primbee	Garden	Ron Imisides
Australasian Figbird	Few	16.03.11	Greenhouse Park Wollongong	Revegetated Area	IBOC
Rufous Fantail	1	19.03.11	Thirlmere Lakes NP	Open Forest	IBOC
Leaden Flycatcher	1 f	24.02.11	Balgownie	Garden	Terry Edwel
Leaden Flycatcher	1	16.03.11	Greenhouse Park Wollongong	Revegetated Area	IBOC
Black-faced Monarch	1	4.03.11	Escarpment Firetrail Bulli	Rainforest	Ian McKinlay
Black-faced Monarch	2 imm	13.03.11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forested Areas	Mike Morphett
Eastern Yellow Robin	Many	13.03.11	Mt Kembla Ring Track	Forest	Andrew Wood
Golden-headed Cisticola	1	16.03.11	Greenhouse Park Wollongong	Creek reeds	IBOC
Bassian Thrush	1	4.03.11	Escarpment Firetrail Bulli	Rainforest	Ian McKinlay
Bassian Thrush	1	11.03.11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forested Area	Mike Morphett
Bassian Thrush	1	13.03.11	Mt Kembla Ring Track	Forest	Andrew Wood

Please keep your sightings coming in, everything you consider unusual or interesting.

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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

**Scaly-breasted Lorikeet**

Scientific name: *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*  
 Family: Psittacidae  
 Order: Psittaciformes

**Description**

The Scaly-breasted Lorikeet's beak and eyes are red, and it is the only lorikeet with an all-green head combined with a red beak. Sexes appear the same, with green upper-wings and body, marked with yellow 'scales' on the breast and neck. In flight, Scaly-breasted Lorikeets have two-tone, red-orange underwings with



photo by Terry Edwell

grey trailing edges.

**Similar species**

The Scaly-breasted Lorikeet is similar in size and shape to the Rainbow Lorikeet, *T. haematodus*, but can be distinguished by its all-green head and body.

**Distribution**

The Scaly-breasted Lorikeet occurs across coastal regions of eastern Australia from the tip of Cape York in Queensland, through to Wollongong in New South Wales.

**Habitat**

The Scaly-breasted Lorikeet lives in lowland eucalypt forests and woodlands but also occurs in heathlands and well-treed urban areas, including parks and gardens.

**Seasonal movements**

Appears to be sedentary, although numbers in any particular area often fluctuate in response to seasonal flowering of eucalypts.

**Feeding**

Scaly-breasted Lorikeets feed in flocks, sometimes joining flocks of Rainbow Lorikeets. They feed on nectar and pollen that they harvest with their brush-tongues, mostly from eucalypts, but also from shrubs such as melaleucas, callistemons and banksias. They also forage from a range of garden plants, including nectar, pollen, fruits and seeds from umbrella trees.

**Breeding**

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet females lay their eggs on a bed

of decayed wood in a hollow limb, or where a branch has broken from the trunk of a eucalypt tree, at a height of between 3m and 25m above the ground. Both the male and female modify the nest hollow by chewing off pieces of wood, and this can take six weeks. Only the female incubates the eggs, but the male feeds her on the nest. Both sexes feed the young.

**Living with humans**

Scaly-breasted Lorikeets are sometimes found in urban parks and gardens, particularly those with flowering eucalypts and umbrella trees. There is anecdotal evidence that they are declining in Sydney due to competition with Rainbow Lorikeets, which have increased in abundance, possible because of the provision of artificial food.

**Urban habitat requirements**

Scaly-breasted Lorikeets will visit well-treed urban areas with flowering eucalypts. They sometimes visit bird-feeders, but are often excluded from artificial food sources by Rainbow Lorikeets. Maintaining tree hollows in old trees is likely to benefit this species.

[Scaly-breasted Lorikeet info; supplied courtesy of www.birdsinbackyards.net/](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/)

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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](http://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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**MAY ACTIVITIES 2011**

**Club Meeting –**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow  
**Guest Speaker:** *Jodie Dunn* – Introduction to the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program including biology of our four threatened shorebirds, threats to their nests and chicks on the beach, management of these threats and nest protection techniques, the role of shorebird volunteers and data from a decade of the program. Also lots of great photo's!

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

**May Midweek Walk:**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**Botanic Gardens.**

**Leader Ted Simpson.**

Meet at the Discovery Centre car park of Botanic Gardens at the end of Madoline St. Wollongong. (Not the Murphys Ave car park) 8-30 sharp, bring morning tea. I have acquired parking permits as this is necessary for longer than two hour stay. The permits are free, only needing a registration No. See you there.

Contact Ted, mobile No 0425 121 221.

**Monthly Outing:**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011.**

**Bents Basin SRA.**

**Leaders Charles Dove & Jim Dixon (CBOC)**

Meet 9am at the Gates to Bents Basin then a transport drive to the farm at Cobbitty for Lunch with a walk around after eating. National Park Fees Apply. Non Pensioners and National Park Card Holders free otherwise \$7 per car. Coming up from the Gong. get on to Narellan Road towards Camden, where it crosses Camden Valley Way it turns into the **Northern Road**, follow this to **Greendale Road**, [traffic lights] at Bringelly turn left then follow signs to Bents Basin SRA. sign [**Wolstenholme Avenue.**] drive to end on this Avenue.

Contact Charlie on mobile 0417 422 302

**Next Committee Meeting -**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Next committee meeting to be held at Ted Simpsons. 18 Covington Green, Dapto.

All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee.

Contact Ted, mobile No 0425 121 221

**June 2011 Newsletter –**

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **27<sup>th</sup> May 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

**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 to receive the Newsletter in glorious colour, through your Email.**

For your convenience a membership form is attached to this newsletter or it can be downloaded from the club

Website [www.iboc.org.au](http://www.iboc.org.au)

**Please complete this form and post together with your cheque or Money Order to:  
I.B.O.C. PO Box 56, FAIRY MEADOW, NSW 2519  
Or bring completed form along with payment to the next meeting to give to treasurer.**

Title..... Name .....Family Name.....

Other Family members.....

Address .....

Telephone Number..... E-mail address.....

**YES I would like to save IBOC postage costs and the trees for the birds by having my Newsletter delivered by e-mail please....**

Family \$35 Single \$30 Junior \$10

Enclosed is a cheque or Money Order for \$35 \$30 \$10 Other amount \$.....

**We would like to WELCOME**

New Members to IBOC

and hope they enjoy many Happy Birding Hours

# REPORTS

## Report for club meeting Monday 11th April 2011.

Alan Cousins

We've had the birds, We've had the trees and now we've also had the bees!! What a fantastic introduction to the world of bees and bee keeping. Our speaker for the night was Louie Kelbert, an expert apiarist was ably assisted by, as he puts it, 'his lady' Michelle, opened the presentation explaining Louie's history and that he started with bees at the age of 7. She explained that there are between 80 - 100,000 bees per hive and the big problem at the moment is keeping them disease free from the hive beetle. She showed examples of the different types of honey - and sent a jar around for tasting - yum!! there is creamed, comb, clear etc. and it is also used for medicinal creams, cosmetics, soaps (good for eczema) and wax for furniture polish (with lemon added) 'Everything in the hive is used' Louie began by talking about the Asian bee which carries a mite. These bees are extremely aggressive -and attack bees in the hive. The Federal funding for the eradication of this pest has been withdrawn in favour of containment. Without bees humans could not exist as pollination could not take place and all plants would die. He then showed the tools of his trade, how a queen bee is introduced to the hive and the smoke bellows used for

calming the bees and the safe method of use. His neif subject was called 'Test Tube Babies', he showed us IVF grafting tools and explained the complicated process of the production of bees. A short video followed showing the process at the hive and also a news item about the threat to bees and the hives that have died out, hives must be kept in tip top condition and cleanliness is paramount. Louie pointed out a beautiful queen bee on the hive. The bees were flying all around Louie, but he looked as if he was immune to them. Numerous questions to Louie followed and he explained that Toyo of bees in Europe have already gone and that 113 of all mouthfuls of food came from the action of bees. Bee predators are dragonflies, spiders, cane toads etc. and queen bees can live for 4'7 years and drones 18'24 weeks. We unfortunately had to wind up the presentation at this point as we had run out of time' All of the large attendance had a wonderful insight into the fascinating world of bees and Louie and Michelle kindly answered many other questions over a drink and a bite to eat and their lovely unadulterated honey was available for anyone to purchase.

## Mid-week Walk – Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2011

### Balgownie Escarpment

Jann Gowans

A select group of 9 birdos assembled on a beautiful sunny morning to tackle the escarpment off Brokers Rd. A sizeable list of parrots and common birds was recorded before we even set out. Considerable twittering accompanied our journey into the rainforest with numerous Brown Gerygones, Thornbills and Wrens.

As we headed further up the escarpment, a brief sighting of a Logrunner by Charlie generated some excitement. Sadly, I missed out again and still look forward to seeing one! Maybe next time....

A mountain bike rider with his dog wended his way through the group to later hurtle down the track with his dog keeping pace. Tracks cover the area and some show evidence of the popularity of mountain biking with jumps and bumps.

We had morning tea in a clearing surrounded by car parts of a nearby dismantled vehicle and numerous neighborhood kids passed by on their bikes. Fortunately, despite our many sightings of cyclists, they were all very polite

and willing to share the track and no near-misses were recorded.

A Collared Sparrowhawk was identified (be assured---not by me!) when we reached the clearing by the power lines but only put in a brief appearance. As our morning walk was coming to a close, we were treated with Grey Fantails, Yellow Thornbills and a Rufous Fantail perched on a nearby fence.



It was a great finish to an enjoyable morning outing let by Ted.

## Bird list, which tallied to 30

Spotted Dove	White-browed Scrubwren	Pied Currawong
Brown Cuckoo-dove	Brown Gerygone	Rufous Fantail
Collared Sparrowhawk	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Willie Wagtail
Rainbow Lorikeet	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Raven
Australian King-Parrot	Eastern Spinebill	Magpie-lark
Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Silvereye
White-browed Treecreeper	Eastern Whipbird	Welcome Swallow
Satin Bowerbird	Grey Butcherbird	Common Myna
Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie	Red-browed Finch

Mt. Keira Ring Track & Rhododendron Park 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Charles Dove

Arriving early in the carpark we were greeted with brilliant sunshine, it seemed unusual that no sign of any birdlife was around when we arrived; they are normally seen in abundance in this area. Deciding to investigate a bit further I wandered in past the gates to be interrupted by a great flurry in front of me, a Brown Goshawk erupted from the tree directly in front of me, no wonder the birds were hiding. The Clouds then came over with a gust of wind, placing them overhead for the rest of the day. We started off at 8.30 along the lower level pathway and walked down to the Girl Guides Camp for morning tea, the track had an abundance of growth on either side with the birds being infrequent and showing up in little hot spots, not really the norm for this area, but still kept everyone busy. The Satin Bowerbird greeted us as we arrived at camp, we strolled around for a bit after morning tea and did come across a number of King Parrots feeding in the trees during a slight shower of rain.

We decided to walk up the Mt. Keira road to reach the upper section of the track, upon arriving at the pathway, the rain had stopped and the temperature went up, making it very humid for our ascent up the stairway (around

145 steps) then an up and down descent,



I was hoping to come across a Logrunner or two but not to be, still plenty of Yellow and Brown Thornbills, Brown Gerygone, Silvereye etc, the Eastern Whipbird kept us searching. Wal always kept us enthralled with his many stories of his adventures on the Mt. Keira Ring Track; one of his favourite places to visit. Moving on to the Rhododendron Park for lunch and a look around was very difficult with the rain proving the winner in this case, but we managed to see a few ducks on the pond. Having lunch under cover of the Pergola was a relief so we stayed and chatted for awhile hoping the rain would ease but it had now set in so we all just headed home.

Thanks Wal for a great day.

## Bird list totalled 44 in all.

Australian Wood Duck	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Butcherbird
Pacific Black Duck	Satin Bowerbird	Australian Magpie
Australasian Grebe	Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong
Wonga Pigeon	White-browed Scrubwren	Rufous Fantail
Topknot Pigeon	Brown Gerygone	Grey Fantail
Australian Pelican	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Raven
Brown Goshawk	Brown Thornbill	Black-faced Monarch
Dusky Moorhen	Spotted Pardalote	Magpie-lark
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Spinebill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Rainbow Lorikeet	Lewin's Honeyeater	Silvereye
Australian King-parrot	New Holland Honeyeater	Bassian Thrush
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	Common Myna
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Mistletoebird
Laughing Kookaburra	Golden Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Superb Lyrebird	Grey Shrike-thrush	

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## FREE WORKSHOP

### Attracting native birds to your garden

Saturday 14 May

9:30 am - 12 noon

Find out how to attract local native birds to your own garden in this hands-on workshop led by a local bird expert.

The workshop will cover how to identify local birds, the types of habitats native birds need, and how to create these in your garden. A short bird-watching walk will also be included.

To book, please call 4221 6111 or email [biodiversitycorridorinfo@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au](mailto:biodiversitycorridorinfo@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au)



#### The Allan Sefton Memorial forthcoming speaker

information for interested IBOC members, the evening is open to all

The Sefton Lecturer for 2011 will be Alison Russell-French, the Chair of Birds Australia.

The lecture will be on Tuesday 23 August at about 7 pm. I will forward more details closer to the event.

R. John Morrison  
BHP Professor of Environmental Science,  
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences,  
University of Wollongong,  
NSW 2522, AUSTRALIA

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Web: [www.uow.edu.au/science/eesc/eesstaff/UOW002988.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/science/eesc/eesstaff/UOW002988.html)

**Lake Cargelligo Camp** impressions by Charles Dove

April 2011

*Just a few moments from our recent trip to The Spring Camp at Lake Cargelligo.*

We arrived on the Thursday afternoon the 14<sup>th</sup> April and unpacked, a number of IBOC members had already set up camp and were wandering around.

I was immediately impressed with the view over the lake and the sounds of birds whistling in the trees. After many hours of research on the internet prior to coming I had created a wish list, with 60 particular species to photograph on this trip, but it might be a bit ambitious with 50 of these birds being a tick for me.

Keen to get started and have a look around '*(I had not heard of "BUCK FEVER" as yet!)*'. I headed up to the headland just up the road, the welcoming birdlife added my 1<sup>st</sup> tick the White-fronted Woodswallow sitting around casually watching everything around them, feeling pleased about my first tick, I was soon joined in my celebrations with the Restless Flycatcher dancing around with the whistling from the Rufous Whistler in the background



White-fronted Woodswallow



Restless Flycatcher



Rufous Whistler

Getting back to camp, I ran into Ron Imisides and showed him a few of the Pics that I managed in my first hour at the campsite, careful he says, '*you have to watch out for that "BUCK FEVER"!*'

Next morning we headed out to the former sewage ponds, lots of water and birds, just a slow stroll around, little Fairy-wrens heard everywhere, Cockatiels high in the trees, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters to the left – Australian Shelducks and Black-fronted Dotterels to the right and we only just started; we all were starting to get a bit excited as we ventured further around the ponds. Little & Rufous Grassbirds were seen and heard, along with the Australian Reed-warbler, a Black-tailed Native Hen startled a few of us from the shoreline as a Brown Falcon cruised overhead. Were we really seeing all this, as a call came out "*White Chats*", is this the "*BUCK FEVER*" that Ron was talking about. We were nearly halfway now, as we followed some Wrens along the fence line, only being interrupted for a moment with Red-rumped Parrots, jumping around in the trees as we passed by them, then another call '*can you see them "out there"!*' '*just passed that post.*' '*No!*' '*I cannot pick see them*', what am I looking for", "*White-winged Fairy-wrens*" was the quick response. After 10mins, with still not seeing them, I moved on; sorry I missed that opportunity for another tick on my list. Now, nearing the end of walk around we came across a number of Red-kneed Dotterels, '*tick*' just mulling around in the shallows, they did not seem to be to worried about us being there, so I wandered down to get closer to them and managed to get a few close up photos.

After leaving the sewage ponds we went up to the road to have a look near the want-a-be-golf course and were surprised when the Major Mitchell's came in to greet us, a couple of us managed to walk up very close to them and just about hand fed them.



Red-rumped Parrot



Red-kneed Dotterel



Major Mitchell

After lunch we headed up the road to just north of Murren Bridge, I had been reading about the Ground Cuckoo-shrike being sighted recently at this location. A few of us set out to have a look and ended up stopping to have a look around at Murren Bridge first, lots of Babblers, Red-rumped Parrots and numerous other species, moving on to try and find the Cuckoo-shrike. Tom, Joan, Tera and Neil left the party and decided to go on to Euabalong, they reported over the two-way as to seeing a tree full of finches along the road we were travelling on. While still looking for the Cuckoo-shrike, we eventually came across the tree with 50 odd Zebra Finches '*tick*' and a Budgerigar '*tick*', the rain and spotted sunshine did make it very humid. The mosquito's seemed to enjoy the weather and came out in large numbers, I soon sprayed Aeroguard over my exposed area's, and asked Ron if he would like some Aeroguard, "*No, they normally do not bother me*", 5 minutes later and Ron was saying '*you got some of that spray*', '*they are biting me through my shirt*'.

In the rain whilst getting some shots of the Finches & Budgerigar and trying to fight the mosquitoes' off; Ron spotted 4 Ground Cuckoo-shrikes, sitting on the fence 100 meters up the road, heading up the road I managed to get 1 photo '*tick*' before the alighted and out of sight. O'well back to the Finches in the rain and then back to town. Travelling back to town we did not travel far down the road, when Ron calls '*out pullover*', '*is that an Owl in the tree*' after I stopped the car, Ron jumped out and headed in to get a closer look, '*just a Nankeen Kestrel*' he called out, but as he back to the car he startled a couple of Quail, '*did you see where they landed*', Ron asked '*over there to the left Ron*' I answered, '*OK*' he as moved over to have a look, next thing you know White-wing Fairy-wrens started jumping up and down the fence, so Pam, Neil and quickly joined Ron in the grass and mosquitoes' to grab a few photos. '*tick*'. '*BUCK FEVER*' had now spread to a number in our party!

My wish list had started to gather a few ticks by now, every where we go more birds and more excitement of getting another tick on wish list.



Ground Cuckoo-shrike



Zebra Finch



White-winged Fairy-wren

Arriving back at the Campsite, Betty and a number of other members had arrived and to start the Official Camp outings on the Saturday. By the end of camp and lots of venue's including Round Hill and Whoey Tanks (both fantastic) I managed to collect 21 species for my wanted list (even with BUCK FEVER). Leaving many more exciting adventures & holding many memories of a fantastic place. **Thanks Betty for the great Autumn Camp and introducing us to Lake Cargelligo.**

Betty had over 150 species on the bird list when we left camp. Below just a few of more Pics from Lake Cargelligo.

6 Buckets



Weebill 'tick'



Inland Thornbill 'tick'



Crested Bellbird 'tick'



Red-capped Robin



Spotted Bowerbird 'tick'



Superb Parrot 'tick'



Striped Honeyeater 'tick'



White-plumed Honeyeater



Mixed Swallows & Fairy Martins



Sunrise over Lake Cargelligo



Southern Scrub-robin 'tick'



Tonys' Birthday cake



Blue Bonnet 'tick'



Green Frog enjoying Happy Hour



Sunset from Camp

**PS: at the time of writing this, Ron Imises is still at Lake Cargelligo with a few others with "Buck Fever" and might need rescuing. Since we left on the 22<sup>nd</sup> they have added another 50+ species and still going on the 28th.**

### Lake Cargelligo

Chris Cartledge

Barbara played the call to the assembled the night before using her nifty iPod and external speakers. I was fortunate to be amongst the group that went to the right in the Round Hill Nature Reserve that morning. Walking towards a waterhole we had seen on the way in we heard the call, then again. And then it just flew towards us and landed in a tree close to the track – full frontal. Charlie was quick to get a pic. It was the bird many were looking for and there it stood in all its glory – Gilbert’s Whistler.

This sighting was the highlight of the camp for me, though the Crested Bellbird, sighted in nearby Mallee scrub came a close second. Before we left for home there were another 9 ‘firsts’ for my twitch list. All up, a great time and thanks once again to the IBOC Committee and our very able camp leader, Betty.



Enjoying morning tea at Curlew Lake.



includes Letters to the Editor

### ON BEING IN PERTH

"A view that's been a joy to me,  
Is sunrise, where the sky meets sea,  
And when it does then safely bet,  
That over land, the sun will set.

But here in Perth it's rather strange,  
The sun pops up behind a range,  
Which leads me to a funny notion,  
That at night it slips into the ocean.

I've run this problem through my mind,  
Only one solution can I find,  
That is of course, in Perth at least,  
That EAST IS WEST and WEST IS EAST."

Bigruss                      april 03



In our autumnal robinia tree this morning. One of them scored both dead mice from our aviary; the other missed out.



Carol & Mike

Dolphins surfing the waves with Brendan at our beach on his day off, how cool!!

Margaret



Russell Hannon



More of the Dolphins at play



Going up Mt. Keira against the traffic (Mt Keira Walk)

I was down at Windang Island late this morning and while walking back along the southern breakwater a pair of these birds flew across in front of me from the northern breakwater. One obligingly stopped on the breakwater and posed for its photo.

Juvenile Striated Herons

Betty Hudson



Success at last.

Went over this pm on the rising tide. Your large nudge into the right habitat paid off. I soon found all 4 Grey-tailed Tattlers foraging in the receding waves below the edge of the rock platform. They seemed to enjoy the seasquirts.

Betty Hudson



Australian King Parrot (Mt Keira Walk)

Alan Cousins



Grey Butcherbird (Mt. Keira walk)

Alan Cousins





4 Anonymous Pictures

### Members Sightings March/April 2011

compiled by Betty Hudson

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brown Quail	1M (dead)	27.03.11	Thirroul	Drowned in Garden Water container	Mike Morphett
White-headed Pigeon	20+	9.04.11	Churchill St Jamberoo	Overhead wires & trees	Betty Hudson
Eastern Great Egret	1	9.04.11	Primbee	Lake	Charles Dove
Little Egret	2	9.04.11	Primbee	Lake	Charles Dove
Eastern Osprey	1	6.04.11	Picnic Island Lake Illawarra South	Power Pole	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1Juv	23.03.11	Sandon Point Woonona	Top of Norfolk Pine	Mike Morphett
Brown Goshawk	2	8.04.11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	10.04.11	Barren Grounds	Heath	Roger Truscott & Greg B
Grey Goshawk	1	8.04.11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Grey Goshawk	1	29.03.11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	2.03.11	Maddens Plains	Low overhead	Anne & Alan Cousins
Red-capped Plover	36	2.04.11	Lake Illawarra Entrance (sth side)	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Double-banded Plover	25	2.04.11	Lake Illawarra Entrance (sth side)	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Grey-tailed Tattler	4	29.03.11	Windang Island (Nth Side)	Tidal Rocks	Charles Dove
Grey-tailed Tattler	4	31.03.11	Windang Island (Nth Side)	Wave Washed edge of rock platform	Betty Hudson
Kelp Gull	1	31.03.11	Entrance Lake Illawarra	Exposed Sand	Betty Hudson
Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	10.04.11	Barren Grounds	Heath	Roger Truscott & Greg B
Ground Parrot	1	10.04.11	Barren Grounds	Heath	Roger Truscott & Greg B
Powerful Owl	1	23.03.11	Heard Calling 0530 Excelsior Mine Site Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Powerful Owl	1	31.03.11	Heard Calling 0630 Excelsior Mine Site Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Eastern Spinebill	6	5.04.11	Primbee	Paperbark Tree	Charles Dove
Eastern Spinebill	1	10.04.11	Oak Flats	Garden	Sylvia Garlic
Scarlet Honeyeater	1M 1F, 5juv.	5.04.11	Primbee	Paperbark Tree	Charles Dove
Leaden Flycatcher	1	7.04.11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Beautiful Firetail	3	10.04.11	Barren Grounds	Heath	Roger Truscott & Greg B
<i>Late entries</i>					
Black-faced Monarch	2 juv	11/4/2011	Primbee	Casuarinas'	Charles Dove
Spangled Drongo	1	12/4/2011	Primbee	Casuarinas'	Charles Dove
Please keep your sightings coming in, everything you consider unusual or interesting. <span style="float: right;">Compiled By Betty Hudson</span>					

### Shy Heathwren

Scientific name: *Hylacola cauta*

Family: Acanthzinae

**Endangered**

#### Description

The Shy Heathwren is a small (11.5 - 14cm). The plumage is warm brown above, with the head and neck greyer, contrasting with the pale, but heavily streaked, underparts. The flanks and thighs have a light grey-brown wash. The crown is in bold contrast to the clean, white eyebrow with the rump and tail coverts a striking,



photo by Ron Imisides

Round Hill NSW

fiery rufous-chestnut. The tail, which is held cocked, darkens from chestnut to dark brown, and a prominent white tip. The flight feathers are white at the base, forming a prominent white wing patch when the wing is folded. The eye is red-brown or yellowish-brown, the legs slate-brown and the bill blackish. The female's underparts have a cream base colour while juveniles can be distinguished by lack of streaking on the underparts and generally duller plumage overall.

#### Similar species

The Shy Heathwren is distinguished from the related Chestnut-rumped Heathwren by the presence of the white wing spot.

#### Distribution

Occurs across southern Australia extending from the wheatbelt in southern Western Australia east to central NSW.

#### Habitat

Generally occurs singly or in pairs, where it can be secretive, keeping within dense vegetation. Inhabits mallee woodlands with a relatively dense understorey of shrubs and heath plants. Appears to occur in all age classes of vegetation, though believed to prefer either one to five years following fire when the resprouting eucalypts provide dense vegetation cover or in long unburnt (greater than 40 years) areas which have a well developed shrub layer.

#### Seasonal movements

Appears to be sedentary,

#### Feeding

Feeds on the ground, almost entirely on insects (cockroaches, grasshoppers, bugs, lerps, beetles, caterpillars, moths, ants, spiders and insect eggs) and rarely on seeds, including those of saltbush.

#### Breeding

Breeds late winter to early summer and builds a dome-shaped nest in a concealed location on the ground, using a variety of plant materials.

#### Living with humans

This species is found in the following catchment management authority regions and is classed as endangered. Lachlan - Lower Murray/Darling - Murrumbidgee - Western.

#### Threats:

Fragmentation, resulting from clearing or degradation of habitat, may reduce the size of populations and increase the extent to which they are isolated; small, isolated populations have a greater risk of extinction due to genetic effects and chance events (e.g. drought and fire).

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'ONE GOOD TERN  
DESERVES ANOTHER'

**Founded in 1977**

#### Club's Aim:

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

#### ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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**Club Meeting:****Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue &amp; Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow

**Members Night:** members are invited to do a 10 – 15min presentation through a slide show, talk, and short movie or display etc on this night. Please Contact Alan Cousins Ph 4283 3197—Prior to the night and give him details of your presentation. NB: this is a Public Holiday

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

**June Midweek Walk:****Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011****Mt Nebo:** Kembla Heights .

Leader Ted Simpson.

Meet and Park at the end of O'Brien's Road, Figtree at 8-30am. Near the water tank, this is the end of the road and is a steep climb. Bring morning tea and maybe some warm clothes as this walk is high up. See you there. Contact Ted, mobile No 0425 121 221.

**June Monthly Outing:****Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011.****Heathcote National Park**

Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at the northern end of Warabin Street, Waterfall at 9.00am.

To reach Warabin St., proceed via the freeway to the end and take the first left turn as if going to Waterfall Station. **DO NOT turn right** over the bridge but continue on to the end of the street and park by the roadside. This will be an all day walk so bring a morning tea & lunch to carry with you.

We did this walk in 2000 when 35 species were identified, among them Variegated Fairy Wren, Scarlet Honeyeater, Scarlet Robin, White-naped & Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters & Beautiful Firetail as well as large numbers of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, and again in May 2007 when 35 species were seen with the most notable being the Pilotbird and Superb Lyrebird.

Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945.

**Next Committee Meeting -****Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

Next committee meeting to be held at Betty Hudsons - 1 DRUALLA ROAD JAMBEROO NSW 2533

All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee.

Contact Betty 4236 0307

**July 2011 Newsletter -**

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **27<sup>th</sup> June 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

**Spring 2011 Camp 22-29<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at Mylestom near Coffs Harbour**

The IBOC Spring 2011 Camp will be held at North Beach Caravan Park, Mylestom ph.02 6655 4250.

Mylestom is a small village (pop 382) situated between the northern bank of the estuary of the Bellinger River and the Ocean. It is approx 20km south of Coffs Harbour and 3 km east of Repton. The Caravan Park is located in beach Parade and is on the beach front.

There are 7 cabins	<u>5 sleep 4 in 2 rooms with a Q-bed &amp; a bunk bed</u>	<u>\$ 95 per night for 2</u>
	<u>1 sleeps 5 in 2 rooms with a D bed , single bed &amp; bunk bed</u>	<u>\$110 per night for 2</u>
	<u>1 sleeps 6 in 2 rooms with a Q-bed, 2 bunk beds</u>	<u>\$110 per night for 2</u>

Additional people are \$15 per night per person

All cabins are ensuite, with full cooking facilities. You need to supply linen & towels

Powered sites are \$28 per night for 2 people.

Unpowered sites are \$22 per night for 2 people

Travel is north along the Pacific Hwy towards Coffs Harbour. 3 km after passing Urunga and crossing the Kalang River look for the left exit to Bellingen and Raleigh & Repton via Waterfall Way. Follow the sign posts to Raleigh & then Mylestom. A detailed map will be in a later newsletter.

I would suggest that most members would take 2 days to reach Mylestom especially those with vans or camping.

There is a General Store cum café, take-away, post office and service station as well as a Bowling Club with a Chinese Restaurant and a Pizzeria.

**Please let Betty Hudson know if you are coming to camp and what accommodation you have booked.**

**NB:** if further accommodation is needed there is another caravan park in Repton approx 2km west. It has 1 cabin and 12 on-site vans. Prices unknown Bellinger River Tourist Park, 96 Mylestom Drive Repton ph 6655 4755

**ALL MEMBERS of IBOC would like to WELCOME New Members**

Angela Raymond, Meri Stefanidakis and Walter Boles.

Hoping they enjoy many Happy Birding Hours with our club.



# CLUB REPORTS

## Report for club meeting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Alan Cousins

I think that all will agree that we have been very fortunate with the very high standard of presentations this year and tonight was no exception. Jodie Dunn from the NPWS Shorebird Recovery Program gave us a very interesting and informative introduction to the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program, including biology of our threatened species, threats to their nests and chicks on the beach, management of these threats and nest protection techniques, the role of shorebird volunteers and data from a decade of the program.

The shorebirds under threat are:

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Little Tern         | status ENDANGERED            |
| 2) Hooded Plover       | status CRITICALLY ENDANGERED |
| 3) Sooty Oystercatcher | status VULNERABLE            |
| 4) Pied Oystercatcher  | status ENDANGERED            |

The main causes of this decline are: 1) Inundation 2) Ravens 3) Gulls 4) Humans - recreation 5) Foxes and dogs Reasons 1 and 2 are natural but the others are manmade ie: the fault of us humans (eg: Foxes were introduced for sport)

To monitor and hopefully try to halt the decline of these species, Jodie and her colleagues along with a band of faithful local volunteers; search for threatened shorebirds, monitor breeding and behaviour, find nests and note breeding success. There are now over 42 dedicated volunteers. They are given a manual and training and after 50 hours of work are rewarded with an All Parks Pass from NPWS. Training is given on bird identification, how to find eggs and chicks, identifying threats, protecting nests and data etc. Jodie also explained some of the methods of predator control including fox baiting (1080) and shooting. It was interesting to note that ravens are very intelligent so if you are looking for a shorebird nest when ravens are around do not approach the nest as the ravens will follow and discover the nest site. She also had some great photos of the threatened species and also some of the methods used to protect eggs and chicks. It would appear from the data graphs that this much needed program is having a welcome success -Congratulations to Jodie and her colleagues and band of faithful volunteers.

---

## Mid-week Walk – Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2011

Robyn Cashman

Below zero in Goulburn! And the wind was swooping over the hill from thereabouts, so a beanie parade ensued as 13 members gathered to wander through the Wollongong Botanic Gardens. The early pathetic rays of sunshine soon vanished, and many birds decided to cuddle up out of sight and keep warm. But not all: White-headed Pigeons, Australian King-Parrot and male Satin Bowerbirds greeted the first on the scene, and we soon set off to explore the forest near the glasshouse. Small birds, hard to identify in the dim light, kept us peering. Once into the rainforest, an Eastern Yellow Robin sat sweetly giving all a fine view, and Grey Fantails, a female Golden Whistler, Gerygones and Lewin's Honeyeaters were added to the list. At one stage, a burst of twittering and much ado from up high in the canopy caused Hazel to wonder if the birds had spotted an owl. Tom suggested that a raptor might have passed over, but none were seen in the lowering sky. A Grey Butcherbird, an Australasian Figbird and a Topknot Pigeon were seen, plus plenty of the usual residents of our area – Magpie-larks, Crested Pigeons, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Common Mynas and Rainbow Lorikeets. A fly past of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos made for a nice finale – earlier they had been noticed in the foliage of the rainforest, 'sittin' round minding their own business.'

There was a good congregation of water fowl on the pond – Purple Swamphens, Dusky Moorhens, Pacific

Black Ducks, Chestnut Teal etc., and a couple of menacing geese – Betty says that they are "greasy



eating" so I will not venture to change our Christmas menu!

The Gardens were looking lovely – after years of drought and water restrictions much new planting has been done, and those of us with horticultural leanings found that our eyes and our chat often turned to the trees, shrubs and flowers that the birds, butterflies and bees enjoy so much. Even Tom was observed closely studying the silky pink flowers of a Powder puff tree.

Thanks, Ted, for leading a great walk in the habitat of our local birds.

**Bird List for Wollongong Botanic Garden Walk 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

8.30am to 12noon 42 Species plus 3 exotic waterbirds

Australian Wood Duck	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Willie Wagtail
Chestnut Teal	Galah	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Raven
Northern Mallard	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Maggie Lark
Pacific Black Duck	Rainbow Lorikeet	Noisy Miner	Eastern Yellow Robin
White-headed Pigeon	Australian King-Parrot	Little Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Spotted Dove	Crimson Rosella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Myna
Crested Pigeon	Eastern Rosella	Golden Whistler – E race	
Topknot Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Australasian Figbird	Graylag Goose
White-faced Heron	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Butcherbird	Muscovy Duck
Purple Swamphen	Brown Gerygone	Australian Magpie	Mallard X Muscovy Duck
Dusky Moorhen	Yellow Thornbill	Pied Currawong	
Silver Gull	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail	



Owl – Photo by Tera Wheway

**Report for the Bents Basin Walk 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

by Lyndall Dawson

One of the wonderful things about this club is that it gets you out and about to places interesting and new with great company, fabulous birds and (usually) lovely weather - well, at least that's what happened on the May Sunday walk to Bents Basin. Despite a very chilly morning (we saw white frost on our way there) the sun came out and it turned into a day of perfect autumn weather. A lucky group of 16 gathered near the entrance to the State Recreation Reserve, where we met our guide (invited by Charlie), Jim Dixon from the Cumberland Bird Club. I don't know whether Jim knew the area so well that he was able to provide the birds 'to order' but it seemed like that. We hadn't been there more than 10 minutes or so when we identified a pair of Pacific Baza close by, and while we watched one swooped on a Noisy Miner and finished it off for its breakfast before our eyes! Then it was the turn of the Rose Robins - at least 4 of them feeding in a large casuarina tree near the water and at times sitting still in the sun (would you believe) so we could admire their brilliant colour. A short walk along the side of the lake produced several more little birds, including a Rock

Warbler, but surprisingly only a few waterbirds. As we returned to the casuarinas we found the Rose Robins still at work, and in another nearby tree so many little birds that Joan was heard to say "I just don't know which way to look!" Among all these the highlight was the Varied Sittella, and an unusual looking Silvereye that Jim identified as the Tasmanian race.

After morning tea and another walk around the picnic areas we got back in the cars and drove to Vielun Farm near Cobbitty. This area contained a string of ponds where we saw quite a few more water birds, as well as several Restless Flycatchers, a beautifully posed Eastern Yellow Robin, Firetail Finches, Double-barred Finches and (another first for me), a Chestnut-breasted Mannikin.

Then back into the cars for a short drive to another nearby farm to see a spectacular sight of two White-bellied Sea Eagles sitting side by side in full view on a high branch quite close to their huge stick nest, where we were told they had been returning to for 15 years. All in all one of the most pleasant and productive walks - thanks Charlie for organizing it for us.



Pacific Baza



Restless Flycatcher



Rose Robin

**Bird List for Bents Basin Walk**

15<sup>th</sup> May 2011

9.00am to 12.30pm 47 Species

Crested Pigeon	Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Little Pied Cormorant	White-throated Treecreeper	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Cattle Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Bell Miner	Australian Raven
Pacific Baza	Rockwarbler	Noisy Miner	Restless Flycatcher
Grey Goshawk	White-browed Scrubwren	Varied Sittella (orange –wing)	Maggie-lark
Purple Swamphen	Weebill	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Jacky Winter
Dusky Moorhen	Brown Gerygone	Golden Whistler E-race	Rose Robin
Masked Lapwing	Striated Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Eastern Yellow Robin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Yellow Thornbill	Olive-backed Oriole	Silvereye
Australian King Parrot	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	Welcome Swallow
Red-rumped Parrot	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie	Common Myna
Azure Kingfisher	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong	

**Bird List for Vielun Farm Cobbitty Walk****15<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

1.00pm to 3.15pm

37 Species

Black Swan	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Yellow Thornbill	Restless Flycatcher
Australian Wood Duck	Purple Swamphen	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Magpie-lark
Pacific Black Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Bell Miner	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australasian Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Silvereye
Little Pied Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Grey Shrike-thrush	Welcome Swallow
Australian Pelican	Eastern Rosella	Grey Butcherbird	Fairy Martin
Eastern Great Egret	Azure Kingfisher	Australian Magpie	Common Myna
Cattle Egret	Laughing Kookaburra	Willie Wagtail	Double-barred Finch
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Raven	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Straw-necked Ibis			

**LAKE CARGELLIGO CAMP**Club Visit to Lake Cargelligo*Sylvia and Tony Loader.*

After a good trip of about 568kms which took us about 8 hours Tony and I arrived at our cabin in Lake Cargelligo Caravan Park, full of enthusiasm and anticipation!

As usual, Betty had planned our bird watching activities for each day very thoroughly, which we all appreciated.



As it was Tony's 77th birthday on Sunday the 17th I asked Anne and Barbara if they would order a birthday cake for Tony from the local bakery as a surprise for him. The bakery produced a lovely slab cake, with 'Happy Birthday Tony', an ornamental bird and a candle which played the Happy Birthday tune. We heard that it was also Tera and Neils 46th Wedding Anniversary on the same

day, so we cut the cake into 36 pieces and celebrated both occasions!!

Tony was really taken by surprise, so thanks to all those who helped to keep it a secret and a special thanks to Anne and Barbara who ordered the cake and collected it for me!!

We had one rather wet day and a couple of other showers, though we were walking red mud throughout the caravan park due to the wet days before we arrived.

On Wednesday evening we all went out for dinner to one of the local hotels and although some had to wait a very long time for their meal, the meals were fine and we enjoyed a good social get together. Some of us went out on a couple of other evenings for dinner and also met in the local bakery for coffee and a tasty cake a few afternoons after bird spotting.

We were amazed that about 157 different bird species were recorded during the week and collated by Betty each evening at our 8pm gathering. One evening a green frog, about 4 or 5cms long sat on the table waiting for the meeting to begin and then decided to hop onto Charlie's arm, a BIG surprise for Charlie as he hadn't seen it on the table.

Tony and I really enjoyed the special friendly atmosphere of the camp, getting to know a new and interesting area and of course seeing unusual birds, but we definitely need a camera with a longer lens!!!

*Many thanks to those behind the scenes, who help to run these popular camps twice a year.*

**SUNLIGHT, STEPS and SOUNDS**Some SIDELIGHTS of the LAKE CARGELLIGO Camp*John Cashman*

Some lucky early birds at camp inspected an experimental sunlight and heat gathering project, a few k out of town. The project had eight tall towers with what initially looked like water tanks on top. In fact these 'water tanks' were huge bricks of graphite joined into solid blocks and surrounded by insulation. Around the base of each tower were numerous mirrors concentrating and directing sunlight at the graphite blocks. These blocks can heat up to 700 degrees C and only lose 7% of heat a day.

The idea is that the heat can then be used to make steam to drive turbines to make electricity. The project is being tested and refined. It is a private operation, but eventually will be offered for sale around the world- a great harnessing of sunlight!

Steps! Later in the camp some camp members talked themselves into an inspection of a fish ladder by a weir on the Lachlan River. It is being built of natural stone at a cost of some \$2-3 million. The

ladder, long corridors of water filled steps, will enable fish to bypass the weir. At one stage there is a rest area for the fish and near the top there is a trap to catch carp, but still let native fish through. Back at camp, a local chap showed us a photo of the lake taken 13 months before. In it the lake's huge area of water was virtually dried up, and the lake bed was covered with millions of dead carp. This chap said the stench was horrendous! -not something to be savored!!

And Sounds! Several members at the camp had I-pads which held photos of our Australian birds. Not only were the birds pictured, but their calls could be played, sometimes with up to three or four call variations. As well, two birds could often be placed side by side on the screen to highlight their differences and similarities. Ahh! Wonderful modern technology! I have to confess that I am not the greatest bird observer in the club, but I can say that I heard a lot of birds!

**LAKE CARGELLIGO AND OTHER PLACES****Ron Imisides**

Upon learning details of the IBOC Lake Cargelligo camp, Rita and I decided to build a small trip around the camp. Following previous satisfying bush camps, we decided to re-visit some of these good spots along the Murrumbidgee River. We set a target of a four week trip, finally blowing out to five weeks.

We set out at daylight, Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>, and whilst travelling the Picton road, picked up our first trip bird, a Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Following a steady run south along the Hume Highway, we proceeded to Sandy Beach, on the Murrumbidgee River, via Gundagai, Kimovale, Nangus and Wantabadgery.

Sandy Beach is well maintained by the Junee Shire, with ample camping space, water on tap, two well separated "windy loos", and following recent rains, was a lush green. Here we recorded our only Stubble Quail for our trip. Quite a number in an adjacent field. Five beaut days here.

Our next stop was Oura Beach, a short 20 kilometre drive west, and located 20 odd kilometres east of Wagga Wagga . Camping by the river, in such a beautiful spot, with the peace and quiet of the night; the sound of the Murrumbidgee gently flowing by was just something. We had our first campfire here and heard three Southern Boobooks and a single Tawny Frogmouth. The gradual increase in mice numbers took our attention, and it was obvious that all the lush growth, due to the big wet, was in their favour.

It was a 220 kilometre run, plus a mighty tyre blow out on the caravan, to Birdcage Reserve, again on the Murrumbidgee, and located mid-way between Narrandera and Hay. We have had good birding here on previous trips, and hoped to get some good pics of the Superb Parrot. However it wasn't to be .There was rain for three of our five days, and we were reduced to Sudoku and knitting, and quick forays of birding between bursts of rain. Our trip list was growing very slowly, and it took fourteen days to pass the fifty mark. The recent deluges had scattered the birds all over the place. There was plenty of water about but water bird species, in particular, were fairly scarce. We did see a number of Superb Parrots but no photo opportunities. There is a beaut open forest here, but the recent flooding left the forest floor with layers of mud and rotting Carp, so no Painted Button-quail this trip. A prelude to the rest of the trip, was the flushing of numerous Brown Quail from the long grass.

After extricating our rig from the now muddy Birdcage Reserve, we pointed our trusty Jeep towards Lake Cargelligo, and the much awaited IBOC camp. We proceeded via Darlington Point, Griffith, and Rankins Springs. A night stopover at a rest area just west of Rankins Springs produced many more Brown Quail, with some good photo opportunities. A Barn Owl was heard that night, being our lone record for our trip.



Brown Quail

Upon arriving at Lake Cargelligo on Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, were warmly greeted by the lovely Brigit, the park manager. We noted a large string of 'vans behind us, among them the Wylie's and the Wheway's. The park was quite full, and we eventually found out that a caravan club was having a few days stopover. By the next morning we had eleven "early birds", so popped down to the local sewage ponds and in fairly short order had 46 species, including Australian Shelducks, Australasian Shovelers, a lone Black-tailed Native-hen, Black-winged Stilts, Red-kneed Dotterels ,White-winged Fairy-wrens and White-fronted Chats.

Our numbers had swelled to about twenty by Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> with showers most of the day. A morning run north of town produced four Ground Cuckoo-shrikes. An afternoon visit to Deadman's Point, just out of town, yielded thirty one species, with our first Great Crested Grebe and Striped Honeyeater.



Red-kneed Dotterel

A forty kilometre drive to Lake Brewster weir on a bright sunny Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> yielded fifty species, including Nankeen Night Heron, Varied Sittella, Olive-backed Oriole, and Diamond Firetail. Some nice camping spots here and certainly worth a re-visit.

More interesting spots were visited during the rest of the camp; State forests, Euabalong, Murrin Bridge, and the fabulous Round Hill, where we experienced some of the wonderful mallee birds, many of them lifers for a number of members. Some of the best; Chestnut-rumped & Inland Thornbills, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Gilbert's Whistler, Southern Scrub-robin, and Tom Wylie's sighting of a Mallee Fowl!

The camp was a wonderful experience, with 38 members enjoying great birding and good companionship. The camp break up was as usual a bit saddening, but most good things have to end. We clocked up 158 species for the duration of the camp. By Saturday, only the Wylie's, Emery's and ourselves were left. Tom and Joan were staying on, while Wal and Hazel left with us and headed to Round Hill for a few days bush camping.

Perfect conditions greeted us at Round Hill, and remained during our stay. Windless sunny days, crisp starry nights, and cosy camp fires with serenading Boobooks and Owlet-nightjars. On top of that 65 species for our camp, including some great mallee birds; Mulga Parrot , "Yellow-rumped"(Spotted) Pardalote, Shy Heathwren, Southern Scrub-robin, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Gilbert's Whistler. We dipped on Mallee Fowl and Red-lored Whistler.



Shy Heathwren



Red-capped Robin



Gilbert's Whistler

A great compact little trip, with 149 species --- **We'll be back!!**

Okay so I dipped out on Gilbert's Whistler at Round Hill, you just have to be in the right place at the right time and I was in the other group further up the road. Our site turned out to be pretty quiet but lovely to walk around. As planned, we all met for lunch with much bragging going on and mud maps were drawn to show us unfortunates just what bird watching was all about "Road! Waterhole! Tree! Crested Bellbirds there! Gilbert's Whistler full frontal here!" etc. etc. With great expectations the afternoon shift took off only to be thwarted by the weather and we abandoned the drive as the red dirt quickly became blancmange like in the heavy rain and we still had a 3 km drive back to the tarmac. The drive back to the tar was fun though I am not sure how my three passengers viewed it as they all seemed to want to be in my seat. (Shades of Penny driving to the rescue at Baradine camp came to mind). However all was not lost as I had spied another lifer on the morning shift, it being the male Inland Thornbill and to be honest I think he is more

handsome than Gilbert so I was happy. The camp was in a great location with beautiful lake views and as usual we thoroughly enjoyed being there with scores of birds being seen, some of my favorites' were the male White-winged Fairy-wren, Red-capped Robin and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo and of course the Inland Thornbill. It doesn't really matter if you don't see any new birds; you can feed off the happiness and enthusiasm of your fellow Birdos as they come across a particular species for the first time, reliving the highs with them, it's very infectious. You could see Pam and Charlie were in seventh heaven photographing the White-winged wren and even Wal had a lifer on this trip. Added to the bird watching we were given an excellent tour of Lake Cargelligo's solar thermal power station which is soon to be completed and on line and we also visited a fish ladder under construction at one of the weirs and watched kites and herons fishing. Another terrific camp folks, see you at the next one.

Some Barbara moments



## Lake Cargelligo Bird Camp

Betty Hudson

### Report on Lake Cargelligo Camp 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011

What a great start to camp! The first birds I saw were a pair of Major Mitchell Cockatoos flying over.

**Sunday** morning saw us head out to Lake Brewster and Brewster Weir on the Lachlan River. The lake was full and water was rushing down the channel to Lake Ballyrogan and also some down stream towards Hillston. What a contrast to the last few years when no water came down river at all. A fantastic birding spot, 68 species being sighted. A first for me, the Great Crested Grebe seen here.

The afternoon was a very rewarding visit to the old sewerage ponds, with Red-kneed Dotterel sighted. Many visits were paid to this spot over the week to give us a total of 62 species.

**Monday** saw us head west to Murrin Bridge for a short stop at a small reserve, and then on to Euabalong, stopping on the way at the spot where Charlie had seen White-winged Fairy-wrens with the added bonus of four Ground Cuckoo-shrikes, Spotted and Swamp Harriers.

Morning tea at Euabalong Caravan Park, and then we explored the reserve across the road and by the river. Early birds reported Spotted Bowerbirds by an old tank stand so everyone hurried over to see them. After lunch we decided to head up to Whoey Tank which from the maps didn't look too far to go. How deceptive it was. We all thought we had got lost, when suddenly there was the track. Parking by the road as the track might be too soft for cars, we spent time exploring both the Whoey Tank Track and the opposite side of the road. The Splendid Fairy-wren was added to our sightings as well as both White-browed and Grey-crowned Babblers & both Singing and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters.

**Tuesday** we decided to head out to Curlew Lake where we had been told of a property with good birding but no directions. After a futile search we decided to keep going when a battered, dusty ute pulled up alongside and asked if we had a problem. On being informed we were bird watchers, he informed us that he was the owner of the property we were looking for. What a coincidence! A quick trip for Betty in the ute to see the way in and the tracks and we were on our way. A total of 39 species plus a camel and dingoes were seen. From here we headed to Lake Cargelligo Weir, with Ground Cuckoo-shrikes being seen on the way. After lunch by the channel with few birds around, we

had a walk in the reserve by the weir which provided good birding, and an opportunity to look at the fish ladder that was being built beside the weir. Returning, we walked along the channel to Sheet of Water where numbers of Black Swans & other water birds, especially cormorants were seen. On the return trip a Shingleback Lizard was found sunbaking by the road. 51 species sighted.

**Wednesday** our long awaited visit to Round Hill & Nombinnie Nature Reserves. This is Mallee country and we hoped to see some different birds here. Unfortunately the weather was changing and shortly after lunch we had to make a hasty exit to the bitumen when the rain really set in & turned the red clay to a very slippery surface. Crossing the East-West Railway the landscape changed from grazing to red soil mallee. We stopped here as the ranger had advised that Malleefowl had been seen in this area. No luck, but a Southern Scrub-robin was seen. A goods train whistling at the crossing ensured that every bird around took off. Splitting the group into 2 we headed to either Round Hill or to Nombinnie Old Wheat Paddock. Birds were hard to find at first in Nombinnie, but a good look at an Inland Thornbill was a reward for patience, as was a Southern Scrub-robin. After Lunch, Tom had the good fortune to see a Malleefowl. 14 species sighted. The Round Hill Track produced a Crested Bellbird, Gilbert's Whistler & Hooded Robin amongst others. 13 species sighted.

**Thursday** A very foggy morning persisting as we set out for Yelkin State forest on the Rankin Springs Road. Finding the track we stopped by the side of the road and walked into the forest. At first it seemed very quiet but as the fog lifted the birds came to life. While walking we had fun upsetting the Processionary Caterpillars crossing the road turning them back on themselves. Dew spangled Cobwebs also added to the magic of the day. 32 species were sighted. After morning tea we headed to another track in the forest. A beautiful walk, with the vivid green moss contrasting with the trees, but few birds. 12 species sighted. After returning to camp for lunch, we set off to find "Chat Alley" that we had heard about. A grid reference and the map soon located it and plenty of birds were seen especially the White-winged Fairy-wren, & Zebra Finch. A further visit the next day added the Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Brown & Rufous Songlarks and the Australasian Pipit, as well as the Spotted Harrier. A total of 10 species. We then went with Bruce and Josh to where they had flushed several quail from a grassy roadside area. We had many sightings of quail but they were too quick to identify except as 2 different types. Identification had to wait until Josh looked at his photos on the computer. He identified four different species.

That night we said farewell to those who were in the cabins.

**Friday** Those of us remaining we decided to make a return visit to Whoey Tank, despite the tremendous storm in the area the night before. Evidence of the flash flooding could be seen beside the bitumen. The hot sun was rapidly drying out the surfaces. Walking round the area across from the Whoey Tank Track we had excellent birding and a good sighting of a male Splendid Fairy-wren in Breeding plumage, as well as many females & eclipse phase males. As we were returning to the cars birds erupted from the vegetation at our feet, 'where to look'? The Southern Whiteface, 5 species of Thornbill, Diamond & Peaceful Doves amongst other.

A very successful camp with 38 members attending for all or part of the week and a total of 158 species recorded. Wal Emery managed to get a new bird –a Wood Sandpiper

I would like to thank everyone for making this camp so welcoming, friendly & such a success, and for accepting a change of program for a few days after I hurt my leg in an argument with a stick.

**Lake Cargelligo Camp April 2011 Full Bird List 158 species sighted**

**by Betty Hudson**

Emu	Black Kite	Sacred Kingfisher	Rufous Whistler
Malleefowl	Brown Goshawk	Brown Treecreeper	Grey-Shrike-thrush
Stubble Quail	Spotted Harrier	Spotted Bowerbird	Crested Bellbird
Brown Quail	Swamp Harrier	Superb Fairy -wren	Olive-backed Oriole
Black Swan	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Splendid Fairy-wren	White-breasted Woodswallow
Australian Shelduck	Little Eagle	White-winged Fairy-wren	Grey Butcherbird
Australian Wood Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Variegated Fairy-wren	Pied Butcherbird
Australasian Shoveler	Brown Falcon	Shy Heathwren	Australian Magpie
Grey Teal	Australian Hobby	Speckled Warbler	Rufous Fantail
Chestnut Teal	Grey Falcon	Weebill	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Black Falcon	Western Gerygone	Willie Wagtail
Hardhead	Purple Swamphen	Striated Thornbill	Australian Raven
Australasian Grebe	Black-tailed Native-hen	Yellow Thornbill	Little Raven
Hoary-headed Grebe	Dusky Moorhen	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Restless Flycatcher
Great Crested Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Magpie-Lark
Rock Dove	Black-winged Stilt	Buff-rumped Thornbill	White-winged Chough

Common Bronzewing	Black-fronted Dotterel	Inland Thornbill	Apostlebird
Crested Pigeon	Red-kneed Dotterel	Southern Whiteface	Jacky Winter
Diamond Dove	Masked Lapwing	Spotted Pardalote	Red-capped Robin
Peaceful Dove	Wood Sandpiper	Striated Pardalote	Hooded Robin
Bar-shouldered Dove	Painted Button Quail	Singing Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Tawny Frogmouth	Little Button Quail	White-eared Honeyeater	Southern Scrub -robin
Australasian Darter	Whiskered Tern	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Pied Cormorant	Silver Gull	White-plumed Honeyeater	Little Grassbird
Great Cormorant	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Noisy Miner	Rufous Songlark
Little Black Cormorant	Galah	Yellow-throated Miner	Brown Songlark
Pied Cormorant	Little Corella	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Silvereye
Australian Pelican	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-fronted Chat	Welcome Swallow
White-necked Heron	Cockatiel	Brown Headed Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
Eastern Great Egret	Superb Parrot	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Tree Martin
White-faced Heron	Crimson Rosella (yellow form)	Little Friarbird	Common Blackbird
Little Egret	Australian Ringneck (mallee form)	Striped Honeyeater	Common Starling
Nankeen Night Heron	Blue Bonnet	Grey-crowned Babbler	Mistletoebird
Australian White Ibis	Red-rumped Parrot	White-browed Babbler	Zebra Finch
Straw-necked Ibis	Mulga Parrot	Varied Sittella	Double-barred Finch
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Budgerigar	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	Diamond Firetail
Eastern Osprey	Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	House Sparrow
Black-shouldered Kite	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Australasian Pipit
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Southern Boobook	Red-lored Whistler (Heard)	
Whistling Kite	Laughing Kookaburra	Gilbert's Whistler	

The list is also on the IBOC website with locations etc

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## BIRDING along the NEPEAN RIVER CYCLEWAY

Mike MORPHETT

Cartographic green is a colour that has long attracted me. Looking for somewhere not too far from home to do a spot of bird study during the recent school Easter holiday period, I turned to my *UBD 2011 Sydney Street Directory* and zoomed in on the patches of green on page 343. And as a result Carol and I headed off to Camden on 14<sup>th</sup> April to explore the Nepean River Cycleway, which in its length of just over three kilometres traverses five reserves bordering the west bank.

Leaving the car park at the bottom of Chellaston Street, we first walked across the footbridge over a quiet stretch of the river and followed some narrow fishermen tracks through the bush on the other side and came out on the perimeter of the River Reserve open space. Retracing our steps, we then headed north to Cowpasture Bridge, firstly through King's Bush Reserve, where what appeared to be a family of four Olive-backed Orioles was busy foraging mid-storey beside the track. The reserve contains a remnant mix of Cumberland plain woodland and Sydney coastal river flat forest. It is named after the Reverend C.J. King, grandson of Governor King and longest-serving minister of St John's Anglican Church (1892-1927), whose steeple can be clearly seen above the tree-line; he grazed horses close by. Further along we mounted two lookout platforms beside the elongated wetland pond to view waterbirds, which were obviously accustomed to and unperturbed by human activity. Immature Dusky Moorhens and Eastern Swamphens fed alongside adults and Pacific Black and Australian Wood Ducks.



Nepean River north from footbridge



Dusky Moorhen

After lunch we strolled south past the lofty and lengthy Macarthur Bridge, where a colony of Bell Miners was evident to the ear but not the eye; but further on, where vegetation was lower in height, they were quite visible. Later that day we came across more colonies of this species at Cobbitty, Greendale, Silverdale and Wallacia. Camden Council obviously has an uphill battle trying to rid the cycleway area of balloon vine, African olive and privet, thwarted by the dispersal of seeds by birds and winds acting like an elusive combined resistance movement. Time ran out for us to survey Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve, near which an Eastern Rosella settled on a branch, displaying a striking scarlet breast and yellow belly in the lowering autumnal mid-afternoon sun. Not far from our starting-point I was much amused to observe over in the paddocks backing on to Lerida Avenue

residences a fully grown fox, with the bushiest tail I've ever seen, in hot pursuit of two plump chickens. It stopped short when confronted by three prancing, barking dogs on the other side of the fence, and decamped chookless.

With a tally of 30 bird species (excluding the surviving *Gallus gallus domesticus*) in 3½ hours of continual sunshine, I'd recommend the Nepean River Cycleway to other birdwatchers. It is of a generally level grade, well maintained by the local council, and is plenty wide enough for us slow movers not to get in the road of other folk participating in faster forms of exercise pursuits.



Pacific Black Ducks



Bell Miner in African Olive



Balloon Vine

Australian Wood Duck  
Pacific Black Duck  
Spotted Dove  
White-faced Heron  
Purple Swamphen  
Dusky Moorhen  
Masked Lapwing  
Sulphur-crested  
Cockatoo

Rainbow Lorikeet  
Crimson Rosella  
Eastern Rosella  
Variegated Fairy-wren  
White-browed Scrubwren  
Yellow Thornbill  
Spotted Pardalote  
Lewin's Honeyeater

Yellow-faced Honeyeater  
Bell Miner  
Noisy Miner  
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike  
Olive-backed Oriole  
Grey Butcherbird  
Australian Magpie  
Grey Fantail

Willie Wagtail  
Australian Raven  
Magpie-lark  
Eastern Yellow Robin  
Common Blackbird  
Common Myna

## AWSG News Alert:-

## World Migratory Bird Day

### 1/ "Migrants Under Threat"

A Call for Help to Save the Enigmatic Spoon-billed Sandpiper

An International Action Plan for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper has been produced on behalf of BirdLife International and the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species. Along with actions related to habitat protection, site management, awareness raising and education particularly in the non-breeding grounds, the possibility of establishing a captive breeding program was explored. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) in conjunction with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), British Trust for Ornithology, Birdlife International and Birds Russia have now embarked on an ambitious breeding program. This will entail extensive field operations in Chukotka in the Russian Far East, in the forthcoming summer of 2011.

While the RSPB and WWT are largely funding the breeding program a major appeal has been launched to help fund the ongoing program. The AWSG supports this program and invites anyone interested in saving this species to provide financial assistance. Birds Australia have agreed to handle funding in Australia with no charges to the project.

Visit our website to see how you can become involved and read more about World Migratory Bird Day.

<http://www.awsg.org.au/news.php>

### 2/ "Time is running out for Australia's migratory shorebirds"

While you are reading the article linked below another hectare of shorebird habitat will have disappeared in the Yellow Sea!

Habitat that is essential for migratory shorebirds stopping to feed on their way from Australia to their breeding grounds in Siberia and Alaska.

The AWSG urge you to voice your concern **now**, read more <http://www.awsg.org.au/news.php>

Phil Straw

Vice Chairman

Australasian Wader Studies Group

[philip.straw@awsq.org.au](mailto:philip.straw@awsq.org.au)

[www.awsg.org.au](http://www.awsg.org.au)

Tel: 61 2 9597 7765

Mob: 0411 249 075

**“Conservation Wins and Challenges for Birdlife on Lord Howe Island”**

A Talk by Ian Hutton, OAM  
 Sunday 7 August, 2 - 4pm,  
 Building 22, Newington Armory, Sydney Olympic Park.

Ian will present a very brief history of Lord Howe Island, involving introduced animals and the effect on the birdlife and then follow this with details of the Woodhen rescue (one of most successful captive bird breeding projects in the world); the extra benefits for all birdlife of eradicating cats and pigs from the island; challenges with rat eradication and the possibility of reintroduction of subspecies closely related to the extinct birds; other threats to seabirds - long line fishing and plastic ingestion - and then finish with best locations and times to visit seabird colonies.

Please register your name with Pixie on 9647 1033  
 or to [basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au)

Everybody welcome so please let your club members know.



Linda Cohen at Lord Howe Island earlier this year

**Pixie Maloney | Administration Assistant**  
[basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au)



*includes Letters to the Editor*



**See nature at its most exotic and extravagant!**  
 With more glamour than a cabaret show, the male birds of paradise put on a spectacular display - fabulous feathers, hip hop dance moves and beatbox birdsong. Their single-minded purpose? To seduce the female of the species. Here, in the isolated vine-tangled rainforests of New Guinea and Northern Australia, sexual selection has worked its magic to create some of the strangest, most exotic birdlife on Earth.

Enter this exhibition and experience the brilliant lives of the birds of paradise and discover the people who have shared their lush forest habitats for thousands of years. With ritual dancing, spectacular head dresses and painted faces, these ancient cultures celebrate a deep spiritual relationship with the birds of paradise. Take the time to reflect on your own funky fashions, glam make-up and social rituals in this family-friendly exhibition and ask: are we more alike than you think?  
**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**  
 Open 9.30am – 5.00pm  
 6 College Street, Sydney 02 9420 6000  
[www.australianmuseum.net.au](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au)

Found this Blue-faced Honeyeater the last afternoon we were at Mylestom.



Judy Baker

**SHOALHAVEN BIRDWATCHING OUTINGS 2011**

Every third Sunday meeting at 8.30 am.

- JUNE 19 Moona Moona Creek, Huskisson: meet picnic area Moona Moona Creek.
- JULY 17 Granite Falls, Boyd’s Lookout: meet Bewong Roadhouse.
- AUGUST 21 Bellawongarah: meet Berry Apex Park.
- SEPTEMBER 18 Dean’s Gap Road: meet Turpentine/Braidwood Roads.
- OCTOBER 14 Weekend: Merimbula Van Park (suggest 3 nights)
- OCTOBER 16 Bass Point: meet Berry Apex Park.
- NOVEMBER 20 Colymea N.R. Mintbush Trail: meet roundab out Kalandar/Kinghorn Streets.
- DECEMBER 18 Noel Southwell’s, Yurrunga Drive 5 pm: BYO picnic/drink for after a short walk.

Contacts: Barry and Susan 44641389; Peter and Julie 0402076548; Stan and Su 44434828.

## Members Sightings April/May 2011

compiled by Betty Hudson

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
White-headed Pigeon	25+	2-May-11	Keith Irvine Oval Jamberoo	Beneath Figtree	Betty Hudson
Cattle Egret	8	7-May-11	Primbee	Foreshore Jetty	Charles Dove
Striated Heron	1	10-May-11	Primbee	Lake Foreshore	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2	3-May-11	Bellambi Hind Dune	Dune Forest	Anne & Alan Cousins
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	13-May-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	2	8-May-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Grey Goshawk	3	4-May-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	13-May-11	Red Gum Estate Figtree	Light Pole	Colin Markham
Peregrine Falcon	2	29-April-11	Bulli Pass	Rainforest	Roger Truscott
Black-winged Stilt	6	7-May-11	Primbee	Lake Foreshore	Charles Dove
Sacred Kingfisher	1	3-April-11	Rail Corridor Austimer	Rail-side Vegetation	Bruce O'Brien
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	20+	5-May-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
White-plumed Honeyeater	10+	7-May-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Bell Miner	Numerous	14-April-11	Nepean River Cycleway Camden	Riverine	Mike Morphett
Noisy Friarbird	1	8-May-11	Towradgi Park	Garden	Jack Baker
White-napped Honeyeater	10+	5-May-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Olive-backed Oriole	4	14-April-11	Kings Bush Reserve Camden	Riverine	Mike Morphett
Spangled Drongo	1	12-April-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Black-faced Monarch	2Juv	11-April-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1	18-May-11	Blackbutt Forest	Bushland	C & J Dove - T Edwel
Bassian Thrush	2	15-May-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forested Area	Mike Morphett
Red-browed Finch	6	13-May-11	Red Gum Estate Figtree	Urban	Colin Markham

Please keep your sightings coming in, everything you consider unusual or interesting

### More moments from Lake Cargelligo Ron Imisides



Yellow (crimson) Rosella



Australian Shelduck

White-winged Fairy-wren

Yellow-rumped (spotted) Pardalote

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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

**Black-winged Stilt**

Scientific name: *Himantopus himantopus*  
 Family: Recurvirostridae  
 Order: Charadriiformes

**Description**

The Black-winged Stilt is a large black and white wader with long orange-red legs and a straight black bill. It has black on the back of the neck, a white collar and a red iris. Both sexes are similar, and the plumage does not change during the year. Black-winged Stilts give a



photo by Charles Dove Purry Burry Point Primbey NSW

repeated high-pitched barking call. Young Black-winged Stilts lack black on the back of the neck and have grey-brown wings and back, speckled with white. They have a smudged grey crown, which extends down the back of the neck as the birds get older.

**Similar species**

Black-winged Stilts are related to Banded Stilts, *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*, which have a broad chestnut band across the breast (absent in young birds) and lack the black on the back of the neck. Young Banded Stilts can be separated from young Black-winged Stilts by their all white back and black wings.

**Distribution**

The Black-winged Stilt has a wide range, including Australia, Central and South America, Africa, southern and south-eastern Asia and parts of North America and Eurasia. More locally it also occurs through Indonesia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the Philippines and New Zealand. Although widespread on the Australian mainland, it is an uncommon visitor to Tasmania.

**Habitat**

The Black-winged Stilt is a social species, and is usually found in small groups. Black-winged Stilts prefer freshwater and saltwater marshes, mudflats, and

the shallow edges of lakes and rivers.

**Feeding**

Black-winged Stilts feed mainly on aquatic insects, but will also take molluscs and crustaceans. They rarely swim for food (unlike the Banded Stilt), preferring instead to wade in shallow water, and seize prey on or near the surface. Occasionally, birds plunge their heads below the surface to catch sub-aquatic prey.

**Breeding**

As with other activities, Black-winged Stilts nest in small colonies; within these, the mated pairs strongly defend their individual territories. The nest may be anything from a simple shallow scrape on the ground to a mound of vegetation placed in or near the water. Both sexes incubate the eggs and look after the young.

information courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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**ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB Inc**

**'ONE GOOD TERN DESERVES ANOTHER'**

**Founded in 1977**

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

**ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.**  
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# 2011 JULY ACTIVITIES

**Club Meeting:**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow

Lynne Inersa - volunteer from Taronga Zoo giving us a talk

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

**July Midweek Walk:**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

**Spring Creek:** Kiama.

Leader Rupert Jarvis.

Meet and park at end of Glenbrook Drive Kiama at 9.00 am. To reach turn into Kiama, right at second roundabout onto Terralong St. heading for Jamberoo. Turn right into Dido St. and right again into Glenbrook Drive. Dido St is down the hill beyond the turn off to Wollongong. Bring morning tea.  
Contact Rupert on 4233 1912 or 0403 932 635

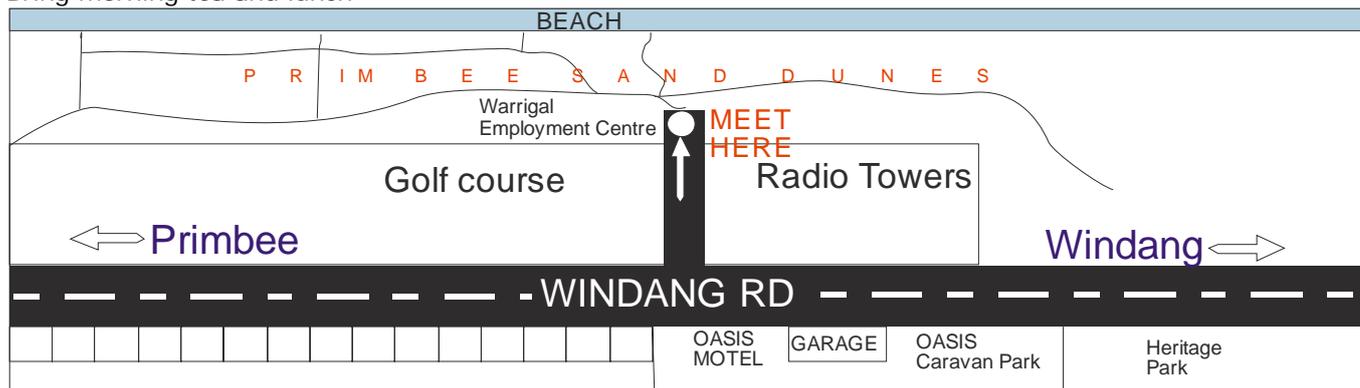
**July Monthly Outing:**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011.**

**Primbee Sand Dunes: 8.30 am start**

Leader Charles Dove.

Meet at the end of the road that is adjacent the end of Windang Golf Club opposite The Oasis Motel.  
Bring morning tea and lunch



Contact Charles on 4275 2383 or 0417 411 302

**July Committee Meeting -**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

Next committee meeting to be held at Charles Doves – 2/39 Purry Burry, Avenue Primbee 2502

All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee.

Contact Charles on 4275 2383 or 0417 411 302

**July 2011 Newsletter -**

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **26<sup>th</sup> July 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

The Following Items are for sale by the club at the Library Table each monthly meeting.	
Club Logo Green Fleece Tops – Sizes medium & Large	\$37.00 each
Fabric Logo Badges	\$ 4.00 each
Logo Studs	\$ 3.00 each
Logo Pin	\$ 3.00 each
Large Car Stickers	\$ 2.00 each
Please see Anne Cousins or Joan Wylie at monthly meetings or telephone Joan on 4284 2051 or Anne on 0413 869 534	



# CLUB REPORTS

## Report for club meeting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Alan Cousins

This evening was a member's night the evenings presentations were made by Neil Whewy, Peter Fackender and Ron Imisides followed by a DVD entitled "Out of the Ashes".

Neil showed us some short clips of birds enjoying water given to him by a friend; they were from the USA and showed a hummingbird drinking on the wing from an ornamental water fountain and a robin splashing around in a bird bath.

Peter showed us his brilliant photographs of all the parrots in Western Australia with the advantage of the calls of most of them. There are a number of different races of the same species for many of the parrots and Peter had them. It must have taken many patient hours to get this collection together. We hope that you are able to get away next winter Peter to get some more of your magnificent photographs.

Ron then followed with his patiently taken photographs of an immature male Satin Bowerbird developing into its beautiful blue-black plumage. The immature male is at first like the adult female (Anne and I saw five feeding on fallen oranges in the Wollongong Botanic Gardens a few days later and had a

problem determining the sexes). The bird has its bower in Ron's yard and he took the transformation photographs over a 30 week period of time starting with a small black patch on its back and developing into a full adult male. Your patience was well rewarded Ron.

The DVD "Out of the Ashes" followed and showed the devastation following the 7th February 2009 bushfires in Victoria and the amazing natural regeneration of flora and fauna with a lot of references to the recovery of bird life. In one of the interviews with a resident she recollected that the next morning she heard a magpie singing and it brought tears to her eyes.

Thank you to all of the presenters on what was a very enjoyable evening.

**Film Night**  
 A date to mark on your Calender, Saturday 6th August, 7.30 p.m. We hope to show footage and photographs of Lake Eyre. Full details will appear in August newsletter.

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## Mid-week Walk – Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2011

Charles Dove

Arriving at the water tank at Mt Nebo; I was surprised and delighted to see that I was not the only sole who braved the conditions for the IBOC walk. I had never been to Mt Nebo prior to this outing and was looking forward to the walk on this brisk morning (although the forecast was a lot harsher than we encountered). Five of us set out on the easy walking pathway come road. We enjoyed a lot of magnificent views from various points along this road encountering a few hilly sections, but even under the conditions the birds sounds seemed to air for most of the walk we did. I had to avoid one particular steep section to the left of the pathway and we did not attempt a very steep uphill section of the path even though it was sealed, but definitely worth going back and completing this walk when the conditions are a lot calmer. With 21 birds on the list for a short mornings walk for the 5 of us seemed a good total.

Thanks Ted for showing us this great place and I will be going back soon to have another look.



### Bird List

Wonga Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Lewin's Honeyeater
Grey Goshawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Whipbird
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-browed Scrubwren	Golden Whistler e-race
Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Gerygone	Australian Magpie
Crimson Rosella	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Laughing Kookaburra	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
Superb Lyrebird	Eastern Spinebill	Silvereye

**Report on Heathcote N.P. Walk 18.06.11**

Betty Hudson

A cold but fine morning saw fifteen members meet at the start of the Kingfisher Pool Track in Heathcote National Park. Following the very wet marked track we soon found ourselves scrambling down a very steep rocky path with water running over in some places. Some members decided that it was too rough and turned back to investigate the birds on the fire trail. Reaching the bottom, we realised that not a bird had been seen or heard, but a patch of sunshine gave us our first sightings, a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo sitting in the end of a hollow branch in the sun, a well coloured male Variegated Fairy-wren, and several different honeyeaters. Finally we reached a well maintained fire trail which turned a corner to cross the creek to the next section of the Kingfisher Pool Track. We came to an abrupt halt. Water a few feet deep and wide was rushing down the creek. Could we get across without getting wet? There was a lot of discussion and Rupert got across and tried throwing rocks in to make stepping stones. No luck, the water was too deep. Reluctantly we gave up and took the fire trail route back to the cars, a steep but smooth walk. Part way we met those we had left at the top. Birds, especially honeyeaters were plentiful, White-eared, White-naped, New Holland, & Yellow-

facd Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebill being seen. Despite the abundance of Banksia ericifolia in flower they didn't seem to be feeding on the flowers. After morning tea, accompanied by good sightings of an Eastern Yellow Robin & a Golden Whistler.

Shortly before getting back to the cars, we decided to explore the Dharawal State Conservation Area at Darkes Forest, as this was on the way home.



This walk was along a well maintained level fire trail through heath with mature eucalyptus trees.

Birds were plentiful but no new species were sighted until we were looking for a lunch spot, when four Gang-Gang Cockatoos were seen a male, female and two juveniles being fed by the adults. One juvenile was obviously a male as it had the red crest feathers, but not the red head of the adult. Out came the cameras for the many photo opportunities. The birds were still in the same small area when we left an hour later, after lunch. Returning to the cars we came across a small flock of immature Variegated Fairy-wrens., to make a good finish to a great day.



**Bird List for Start of Kingfisher Pool Walk**

9.30am to 10.30am

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-browed Scrubwren	White-eared Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Cockatiel *	Yellow Thornbill	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	New Holland Honeyeater	Maggie-lark
Superb Lyrebird	Spotted Pardalote	White-naped honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Variegated Fairy-wren	Eastern Spinebill	Golden Whistler e-race	Silvereye
Rock Warbler	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	

\* This is obviously an escapee. It was seen outside an aviary containing Cockatiels.

**Bird List for Dharawal State Conservation Area**

11.30am to 1.30pm

Gang-gang Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	White-eared Honeyeater	Australian Magpie
Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Spinebill	Little Wattlebird	Pied Currawong
Variegated Fairy-wren	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	New Holland Honeyeater	Silvereye
White-browed Scrubwren			

Photos by Charles Dove

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## A DISMEMBERED EGRET REMEMBERED WITH REGRET

Mike MORPHETT

After thirty-one years of bushcombing the old Excelsior Number 2 mine site between Thirroul and Austinmer, I still get the occasional surprise wildlife finding, alive or dead. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> last I came across a thin trail of white feathers on the ground and at first thought yet another pigeon or perhaps a cockatoo victim. I followed the line up a short incline and behind the thick trunk of a turpentine found something quite different: a head, a starboard wing, and a leg scattered within a diameter of about a metre. A cattle egret in non-breeding plumage. Way out of its coastal habitat of paddocks, pastures, wetlands and mudflats. I rearranged the body parts to take photographs (a camera has become an essential item of equipment on a par with binoculars). Back at home I dug out my

Excelsior survey records: twelve months ago I had stumbled on the carcass of a little penguin and six months later that of a wedge-tailed shearwater (respectively reported in *IBOC Newsletter* #s 338 & 343). Never before had I encountered out-of-place dead bird species (apart from racing pigeons) in this regenerated forested foothills former coalmine area. These three dead birds were located within a comparatively short distance of each other. I don't think it would be a stretch of the imagination to suggest a link between them by concluding that their predator might well have been the white-bellied sea-eagle, a periodic visitor to Wollongong's northern suburbs.



Cattle egret: *Ardea* Latin=heron (originally *Ardeola*=little heron)  
*ibis* Latin=ibis.

Interesting that *ibis* isn't included in the scientific nomenclature of our three local ibis species or for that matter any of the worldwide Threskiornithidae family.

According to Graham Pizzey's 1980 field guide, eighteen cattle egrets were released in the western Kimberley from Calcutta in 1933 to combat the cattle tick, but did not establish. Pizzey's 1997 edition refers to its colonisation in the Northern Territory in the 1940s, probably from Indonesia, as part of its worldwide expansion.

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## DISCOVERY CENTRE OPEN DAY

Sunday, 10 July 2011

Birds Australia Discovery Centre, Newington Armory, Sydney Olympic Park

Birds Australia would like to invite bird lovers of all ages to an open day at the Birds Australia Discovery Centre in the Newington Armory, Sydney Olympic Park.

Come along and enjoy a Bird Art workshop hosted by Newington Armory Artist in Residence, Alexis Appelbaum. Adults will learn to make bird art-cards and bookmarks using collage and simple print making techniques in this two hour workshop, taking inspiration from the parks birdlife. The workshop runs from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

While the adults are busy making cards and bookmarks, children can enjoy face painting and balloon twisting from 11am – 1pm.

In the afternoon kids and adults alike can participate in a bird call competition, and be in the running to win exciting prizes. There will be three rounds: kids, beginners, and experts. First prize is an iPod Nano loaded with Fred Van Gessel's 'Bird Calls of the Greater Sydney Region'.

To book a place at the Bird Art workshop or register for the bird call competition, please contact the Birds Australia Discovery Centre:

Phone: (02) 9647 1033 E-mail: [basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au)

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## INTRODUCTION TO BIRD PORTRAITURE

*"If you are a bird lover wanting to draw and paint, or an artist wishing to engage with birds, this is the workshop for you"*

A TWO DAY WORKSHOP with professional artist, PETER WALE, on Saturday July 23 and Sunday July 24 from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm at the Birds Australia Discovery Centre, Newington Armory, 1 Jamieson St, Sydney Olympic Park.

During the workshop, participants will learn and practice basic drawing and painting techniques specific to bird portraiture.

Being guided through a simple, step-by-step approach, you will learn the fundamental skills enabling you to draw and paint birds employing pencils, coloured pencils, watercolour pencils or paints.

### WORKSHOP GOALS

The species to be studied will be Australian parrots and by the end of the workshop you will have:

- Gained a working knowledge of the materials required to produce a bird portrait.
- Examined and practiced drawing the basic geometric shapes and construction lines which make up the form of a bird.
- Made a study of bird anatomy and, working from photographic reference material, applied your findings to create a linear drawing of a bird.
- Learnt about light and form, enabling you to create a tonal pencil drawing of a bird.
- Seen demonstrated and been taught how to apply coloured pencils, watercolour pencils and watercolour paints, enabling you to use one, or a combination of these mediums to create a full colour bird portrait.

Plenty of tutor demonstrations, exercises and "one-on-one" coaching will be given to help you master the techniques being taught in a friendly, supportive environment.

Numbers are limited on this course so book early by returning a registration form to our Sydney office. To request a registration form, email: [basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au) or call Pixie on 02 9647 1033. It's \$99 for BA/BOCA members and \$119 for non-members (incl. GST).

What to bring: Lunch, snacks, refreshments (Sat & Sun)

### MATERIALS LIST

- 1 X A3 Size Layout or Sketch Pad.
- 2H, HB and 2B Pencils
- Pencil Eraser
- Coloured Pencils and/or Watercolour Pencils and/or Watercolour Paints.
- Coloured pencil colourless blender.
- Sheet of Hot Press 300gsm Watercolour paper
- Watercolour Palette and watercolour brushes sizes 6,3 and 000.
- Water container, paint rag and tissues.

For queries or help on course content or materials, please contact Peter Wale on 02 4784 2377 or 0432 327 089. For registration contact Pixie at [basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au)

## "Conservation Wins and Challenges for Birdlife on Lord Howe Island"

A free talk by Ian Hutton, OAM 2 - 4pm, Sunday 7 August, Building 22, Newington Armory, Sydney Olympic Park.

Ian will present a very brief history of Lord Howe Island, involving introduced animals and the effect on the birdlife and then follow this with details of the Woodhen rescue (one of most successful captive bird breeding projects in the world); the extra benefits for all birdlife of eradicating cats and pigs from the island;

challenges with rat eradication and the possibility of reintroduction of subspecies closely related to the extinct birds; other threats to seabirds - long line fishing and plastic ingestion - and then finish with best locations and times to visit seabird colonies.

This is a free talk, but please register your name with BASNA office. Call 9647 1033

or email [basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au)

**Pixie Maloney | Administration Assistant**  
[basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au)

## ***ALLAN SEFTON MEMORIAL LECTURE 2011***

***Tuesday 23 August 2011***

***6.30pm***

***Building 11 First Floor University of Wollongong***

### **“Shakespeare, the Tale of Gengi and Migratory Shorebirds – What’s the connection?”**

**Alison Russell-French**

**Immediate Past President, Birds Australia**

#### **Abstract**

This Lecture will present a journey through the halls of academia, government policy making, industry and the non-government sector examining how various players influence and affect decision making about conservation of the Australian landscape and, in particular, that of birds and their habitat.

This talk will focus on the value of connections through these areas to advocate and champion the conservation of birds generally and in particular those remarkable migrants of the avian world – migratory shorebirds. As a passionate advocate of conservation with a particular emphasis on birds Alison Russell-French has travelled a fascinating and challenging life through national and international arenas in pursuit of outcomes to achieve this objective. She has represented Australian interests in environmental conventions such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and played a major role in the establishment of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway, the migratory pathway for Shorebirds in this region.

Alison participated in government over a period of major new environmental initiatives that reflect the growing imperative of addressing environmental issues in mainstream policy and program development. As part of this new focus she has championed the increasing importance of science and the contribution scientists make to good decision-making in the bureaucratic process.

Alison will discuss the philosophy that there are no limitations on how to pursue conservation goals – all avenues can lead to achievements if sufficient persistence and lateral thinking are applied.

#### ***Brief CV Alison Russell-French***

Alison is a former Australian Public Servant. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from Sydney University and a part completed law degree from the Australian National University. Her career spanned natural resource management areas of the Australian Public Service in the Department of Primary Industry in fisheries and across many areas of the Department of Environment, Heritage and the Arts. She has wide experience in policy and program management and administration across a range of national and international programs including the Coasts and Clean Seas Program, Coastcare, National Reserve Systems, the National Wetlands Program, national and international migratory waterbird conservation, national and World Heritage policy and management. Before her retirement, Alison was a Senior Executive of the Australian Government's Natural Resources Management Team managing delivery of the National Heritage Trust and National Salinity Program funding. She has substantial international representation experience including leading Australian delegations at meetings of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the APEC Marine Resources Working Group, Wetlands International, and the Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements with Japan and China. She also has considerable experience across a range of Indigenous related programs and was the Australian Government member on Landcare Australia, the Board of Members of Wetlands International, and Chair of the Wetlands International - Asia Pacific Council. Alison took a leading role in the development and acceptance in the Asia Pacific region of the Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001 - 2005 and the East Asia-Australasian Flyway which aims to protect the habitat and vital staging sites for migratory birds. Alison is currently engaged in selected consultancy work. She is a keen bird watcher with a lifetime interest in conservation of Australia's birds, and served on Council of Birds Australia since 1999 for 13 years.

**I.B.O.C. PROGRAMME JULY TO DECEMBER 2011**

Month	Action	Date	Speaker/Leader	Venue/Topic
<b>July</b>	Meeting	11.07.11	Lynne Inersa	Taronga Zoo
	Mid Week Walk	13.07.11	Ted Simpson	Spring Creek Kiama
	Outing	Sunday 17.07.11	Charlie Dove	Primbee Dune Forest
<b>August</b>	Meeting	8.08.11	Walter Boles	Australian Museum
	Mid Week Walk	10.8.11	Ted Simpson	Rocklow Creek Dunmore
	Outing	Saturday 13.08.11	Betty Hudson	Stingray Swamp Nature Reserve Penrose
<b>Sept.</b>	Meeting	12.09.11	Bill Zealey	
	Mid Week Walk	14.09.11	Ted Simpson	Bellambi Lagoon
	Outing	Sunday 18.09.11		Tallawarra Ash Ponds
<b>Oct.</b>	Meeting	10.10.11	Leah Royle	Australian Wildlife Conservation
	Mid Week Walk	12.10.11	Ted Simpson	Macquarie Rivulet
	Outing	Saturday 15.10.11	Betty Hudson	Shoalhaven Heads Comerong Island
	Spring Camp	22.10.11- 29.10.11	Betty Hudson	Mylestom nr Coffs Harbour
<b>Nov.</b>	Meeting/ AGM	14.11.11	IBOC Club member	
	Mid Week Walk	16.11.11	Ted Simpson	Barrack Point
	Outing	Sunday 20.11.11	Betty Hudson	Either Drawing Room Rocks (if accessible) or Bangalee Reserve Nowra
<b>Dec.</b>	Christmas Picnic	Saturday 10.12.11		TBA
	Christmas Meeting	12.12.11		



*includes Letters to the Editor*

**What's in Wingspan (Vol. 21 No. 2)**

A précis of articles that may be of interest to members

- 'A Code for Bird Names' – A proposed shorthand for recording sightings in the field.
- 'Woodland Birds: The next generation' – How the Woodland Birds for Biodiversity project is working towards recovery some of our woodland gems.
- 'Flight of the Turnstone - The story of a Ruddy Turnstone fitted with a geolocator that travelled 27,000 Kms around the globe in 2009 and 2010.
- 'The fall of a sparrow' – Love them or loathe them, it seems that the familiar scene of House Sparrows hopping and chirping in our city streets may be a thing of the past.
- 'Sympathy for the Devil' – Just how bad is the Common Myna, an article by Sean Dooley.
- 'Barbarians at the gate' – It's not the Rock Dove, nor the Spotted Dove but the Barbary Dove. This bird gets a mention on [www.feral.org.au](http://www.feral.org.au)

(This magazine is available from the Club Library)

**Do you have a favourite walk you could lead?**

I am looking for members interested in leading an occasional weekend walk for the club. If you have a favourite walk you would be prepared to lead, I would be interested in hearing from you, so that it could be incorporated in the program over the next year or two. Please contact me indicating the area of the walk, and the most appropriate month for it.

Phone Betty Hudson on 4236 0307 or email [secretary@iboc.org.au](mailto:secretary@iboc.org.au)



Three Pacific Baza's at Yallah Power Station  
20th June 2011  
Lucas McKinnon

**A universal shorthand system to record sightings in the field?**

**Chris. Cartledge**

Using code sets to describe objects is nothing new. In the 1960's Telstra (then the PMG) designed a four-letter code set to uniquely identify the 2,500 telephone exchanges located throughout Australia so that Wollongong = WLGG, Port Kembla = PKEM, Kiama = KIAM etc.

Many birders use their own shorthand code for species names when they are recording field observations. It is certainly less cumbersome than using the standardised English names, but what to one observer seems perfectly decipherable will to another seem as inexplicable as the hieroglyphs on an Egyptian tomb. Exchanging and accessing information on species would be far easier if all birders used the same codes.

The latest Wingspan (Winter 2011 Vol.21 No2) has an article about Ken Rogers' proposal for a standardised four-letter code for our bird species that could be used by all birders as a universal shorthand system. The bird list is based on the Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds by Les Christidis and Walter Boles, 2008.

Ken Rogers' proposed code set can be found on the IBOC website at <http://www.iboc.org.au/html/links.html>

In the North America standard four letter codes have been used to describe bird sightings for many years. Perhaps we could adopt a similar system here in Australia. The American system follows the five simple rules given below. (The examples refer to Australian species.)

1. If the common name is a single word, use the first four letters: e.g. Apostlebird, APOS.
2. If the common name consists of two words, use the first two letters of the first word, followed by the first two letters of the second word: e.g. Jacky Winter, JAWI.
3. If the common name consists of three words (with or without hyphens), use the first letter of the first word, the first letter of the second word, and the first two letters of the third word: e.g. White-plumed Honeyeater, WPHO.
4. If the common name consists of four words (with or without hyphens), use the first letter of each word: e.g. White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, WBCS.
5. If the common name consists of five words, treat it as four words. Fortunately, there is no Australian bird with a five word name so we don't need to worry about this mystifying instruction.

Applying these rules to the 2008 Australian checklist of Christidis and Boles seems to work rather neatly with relatively few cases where different bird names give rise to the same code. (For instance, Striated Fieldwren and Star Finch would both come out as STFI.) In such cases we could reserve the 'standard' code for the most common or widespread species and subjectively tweak the code of the competing name by replacing the second letter of the code with the last letter of the first word in the species' name.

If you would like to read the article in Wingspan or a copy of the proposed codes. Contact Chris. Cartledge. Phone 02) 4226 2323 or email [webmaster@iboc.org.au](mailto:webmaster@iboc.org.au)

**More great Pics from Lake Cargelligo**

**by Pam Hazelwood**



**White-fronted Chat**



**Common Bronzewing**



**Hooded Robin**



**Mulga Parrot**



**Red-capped Robin**



**Southern Whiteface**

## Members Sightings May/June 2011

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Wonga Pigeon	1	20-Jun-11	Mt Keira	Backyard	Val Dolan
Tawny Frogmouth	1	15-Jun-11	Garden	Figtree P/S	Tera Wheway
Black-browed Albatross	6	22-Jan-00	Off Bellambie Boat Harbour	Overhead	Charles Dove
Australasian Gannet	4	12-Jun-11	Shellharbour Harbour	Overhead	Charles Dove
Cattle Egret	5	24-Jan-00	Bellambie Lagoon	Bushland Scrub	Charles Dove
Pacific Baza	3	23-Jun-11	Trans-Grid Sub-Station Yallah Rd. Yallah	Woodland	Lucas McKinnon
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	3	19-Jun-11	Huskisson	Forest	Hales/Garlicks
Nankeen Kestrel	1	16-Jun-11	Fairy Meadow	Lampost	Anne Cousins
Peregrine Falcon	1	14-Jun-11	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	5	23-Jan-00	Windang	Sand Dunes	Charles Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	3	24-Jan-00	Windang Island	Rocky ledge	Charles Dove
Ruddy Turnstone	6	12-Jun-11	Bellambie Harbour	Shoreline	Tom Wylie
Whiskered Tern	1	22-Jan-00	Bellambie Lagoon	Overhead	Charles Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	4	16-June-11	Thirroul	Urban Garden	Mike Morphett
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2A 2J	18-Jun-11	Daharwal	Heathland	IBOC
Gang-gang Cockatoo	4A 1J	19-Jun-11	Huskisson	Forest	Hales/Garlicks
Green catbird	1	13-Jun-11	Tarrawanna	Garden	Peg McKinlay
Satin Bowerbird	1	24-Jun-11	Bellambi Dunes	Bush	Anne Cousins
Satin Bowerbird	1	12-Jun-11	Balgownie	Garden	Neil McKinlay
Southern Emu-wren	7	24-Jun-11	Pelican View Reserve – Lake Illawarra Sth	Scrub	C & J Dove
White-plumed Honeyeater	2	19-Jun-11	Bellambie Dunes	Sand Dunes	Tom/Joan Wylie
Crested Shrike-tit	1	17-Jun-11	Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Golden Whistler	1	3-June-11	Figtree	Urban Garden	Colin Markham
Australasian Figbird	5+	28-May_11	Kiama	grounds	Betty Hudson
Spangled Drongo	1	10-Jun-11	Primbee Sand Dunes	Bush	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1	10-Jun-11	Primbee Sand Dunes	Bush	Charles Dove
Eastern Yellow Robin	1	08-Jun-11	Albion Park Rail	Garden	Barbara Hales
Bassian Thrush	1	28-May-11	Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Please keep your sightings coming in, everything you consider unusual or interesting					

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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

### Scarlet Honeyeater

Scientific name: *Myzomela sanguinolenta*  
 Family: Meliphagidae  
 Order: Passeriformes

#### Featured Bird Groups

#### Honeyeaters

The adult male Scarlet Honeyeater is a vivid scarlet red and black bird with whitish underparts. The females and immature birds are dull brown with dull white underparts and a reddish wash on the chin. In both



photo by Charles Dove Primbee NSW

sexes the tail is relatively short, the bill strongly curved and the eye is dark. This species is a small honeyeater, usually seen alone or in pairs, but occasionally in flocks, high in trees.

#### Similar species

The male Scarlet Honeyeater can be confused with the male Red-headed Honeyeater, *M. erythrocephala*, where their ranges overlap (east coast of Cape York Peninsula). It can be distinguished by having more extensive red colouring over the back and down the breast. Female and immature Scarlet Honeyeaters may be confused with similarly coloured honeyeaters, including females and immatures of the Red-headed and the Dusky Honeyeater, *M. obscura*, as well as the Brown Honeyeater, *Lichmera indistincta*. They differ from the Red-headed in being more olive-brown and lack red on the forehead. They are smaller and more compact than the Dusky, with a shorter bill and tail, as well as having different calls. They are smaller than the Brown Honeyeater and lack this species' eyespot.

#### Distribution

The Scarlet Honeyeater is found along the east coast of Australia, from Cooktown, Queensland to Gippsland, Victoria, but it is less common south of Sydney, being a summer migrant in the south. It is also found in Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Lesser Sundas, Indonesia and in New Caledonia.

#### Habitat

The Scarlet Honeyeater lives in open forests and woodlands with a sparse understorey, especially round wetlands, and sometimes in rainforests. It can be seen in urban areas in flowering plants of streets, parks and gardens.

#### Seasonal movements

Resident in the north of its range, seasonally migratory in south, with movements associated with flowering of food plants. It is considered nomadic around Sydney, following autumn- and winter-flowering plants.

#### Feeding

The Scarlet Honeyeater feeds mainly on nectar and sometimes on fruit and insects. It tends to feed in the upper levels of the canopy, foraging in flowers and foliage, usually singly, in pairs or small flocks. Often evicted by larger, more aggressive honeyeaters such as friarbirds.

information courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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'ONE GOOD TERN  
DESERVES ANOTHER'

#### Founded in 1977

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

#### ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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# 2011 JULY ACTIVITIES

**Club Meeting:****Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue &amp; Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow

**Dr. Walter E. Boles:** *Scientific Officer and Collection Manager, Ornithology Section, Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.* Will be doing a presentation.

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

**August Midweek Walk:****Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

Rocklow Creek, Dunmore.

Leader Ted Simpson.

Meet at the Dunmore/ Shellharbour railway station at 9 o'clock, If the parking area is full we may have to park on the road. Bring morning tea. This is a relatively easy flat walk.

Contact number Ted on 0425 121 221

**August Monthly Outing:****Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

Stingray Swamp Flora Reserve, Penrose.

Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at the western side of Penrose Station at **9.30am**. Bring a carry morning tea, and lunch will be in the vicinity of the cars. This is an easy walk along level fire trails. We will split the walk into two sections to avoid a wet creek crossing in the cold. This is a diverse area on the edge of Penrose State Forest with the potential for Flame Robins and several honeyeaters.

Travel from Wollongong via Moss Vale, Sutton Forest & Bundanoon, continuing on towards Penrose and Wingello. Approx 0.5km after passing Penrose station on your right, there is a right turn (with a yellow road sign). Cross the railway here and immediately turn right again following the railway back to the station.

**Please note the late meeting time.** The walk will finish around 2.00pm.

**Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or mobile 0432 892 945**

**August Committee Meeting -****Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

Next committee meeting 7.30pm, To be held at of Sue & Ken Brown, 12 Meads Avenue, Corrimal.

All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee.

Contact Ken. Ph42840525.

**September 2011 Newsletter -**

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **24<sup>th</sup> August 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

### The Following Items are for sale by the club at the Library Table each monthly meeting.

Club Logo Green Fleece Tops – Sizes medium & Large	\$37.00 each
Fabric Logo Badges	\$ 4.00 each
Logo Studs	\$ 3.00 each
Logo Pin	\$ 3.00 each
Large Car Stickers	\$ 2.00 each

Please see Anne Cousins or Joan Wylie at monthly meetings  
or telephone Joan on 4284 2051 or Anne on 0413 869 534



**Report for club meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

Alan Cousins

Our speaker for this month was Lynne Iverson a volunteer from Taronga Zoo. Her talk was entitled "TAILS" from Taronga. She started by giving us an insight into the history of Taronga Zoo. The first Sydney Zoo was opened in 1854 in Billygoat Swamp at Moore Park; they had working elephants in 8-15 acres but had numerous problems. All the animals were transferred to Mossman walking along the roads and then by ferry, barge etc. as the bridge was not yet constructed. This is now the site of the Sydney Girls School. The Mossman site was opened in 1916 and took only four years (two of them being war years) to build. The Indian Temple for the elephants was built to honour the area from which they came. It is now historically listed and renovated. There are also many original structures still in Taronga Zoo today. The zoo was a fun place to start with and elephant rides were taking place between 1917 - 1976. The modern zoo hosts concerts in February and March each year and is securing a shared future for wildlife and people. The five elephants currently at the zoo were a gift from the King of Thailand for breeding. The program has so far resulted in the birth of five calves. The elephants were in quarantine for

eighteen months prior to coming to Australia and were further quarantined here. The conservation program at the zoo includes Pygmy Hippos, five of which have been born in Australia and it is estimated that only about 3,000 exist in the wild. The Regent Honeyeater Recovery Program began in 1996 at Taronga and when the birds are ready they are released back into the wild. (Only 500-1500 is estimated to be left in the wild). The Tasmanian Devil Program is also running to try to overcome the virus instigated cancerous facial tumor decimating the wild population. Wild disease free animals are being removed from Tasmania and will be released back when the disease has been eradicated. Taronga Zoo is the only zoo in the world with Leopard Seals. The vets at Taronga treat injured wild animals and hopefully return them to the wild. Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo has the Mongolian Horse which is extinct in the wild, is very successful with the Black Rhino breeding program as it is estimated that there are less than 1,000 of these magnificent animals in the wild and has some King Cheetahs of which no more 60 exist in the wild. This was a very interesting and informative presentation given in a very passionate and easy going manner.

**Mid-week Walk – Spring Creek ; Kiama**

Wednesday 13th July 2011

Rupert Jarvis

It was a dull overcast day with increasing wind gusts. Nevertheless, we had 16 participants and were able to cover the variety of habitats Spring Creek has to offer; i.e. saltwater lagoon, freshwater lake, mixed woodland, open farmland and water meadow. We were not able to access the area close to Bombo beach as 2 foot of water covered the

path under the road bridge. Come morning tea, most of us squeezed ourselves into the bird hide. The numbers of waterbirds were very low even though a good range of species (Duck, Grebe, Swan, Cormorant etc) was recorded. Birds generally were keeping a low profile but we did well to record 42 species, making it a worthwhile outing.

**Spring Creek Bird List**

42species

*list by Tom Wylie*

Black Swan	Nankeen Kestrel	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong
Grey Teal	Purple Swamphen	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Lewin's Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Hardhead	Eurasian Coot	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Spotted Dove	Silver Gull	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Topknot Pigeon	Galah	New Holland Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Little Pied Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	Common Starling
Australian Pelican	Satin Bowerbird	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Myna
Cattle Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Rufous Whistler	Red-browed Finch
White-faced Heron	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	
Black-shouldered Kite	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie	

Twelve of us waited at the gate to be let into the parking area. Louie the bloke who gave us a presentation at a club meeting earlier this year about his bee keeping let us through the locked gate. He was going in to work on his bee hives.

Weatherwise it didn't look to be a very promising day, luckily things turned out much better. We had quite a few sightings while waiting for the gate to be unlocked, and before leaving the cars we had sightings of the Scarlet Honeyeater, Spangled Drongo, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Yellow Thornbills rich in colour.

We wandered along the tracks in very light drizzle picking out numerous birds, while heading towards the beach. There were several boats fishing and surf skis being paddled out on the water, some what difficult to see because of a rain squall or mist over the water. However there were plenty of Ravens and Silver Gulls down the beach, also a couple of Gannets out over the water.

Heading back to the cars for morning tea the light drizzle became more insistent which caused umbrellas to open. Morning tea was

taken in the cars whilst watching the golfers on the green and adjacent tee. On the green 2 Wood Ducks were wandering around not sure what their handicap was. The only other person out in the rain was Linda going from car to car offering Apple Cinnamon Tea Cake, which she had baked it for us, even struggling with her fingers bandaged having dislocated two when falling at work. She's a real trooper.

Resuming the walk the weather improved with the appearance of the sun and shedding of jumpers. Several Spotted Pardalotes were spied and others who missed the Scarlet Honey-eater earlier were not disappointed this time. We had to be back at the gate before 1pm so Louie could lockup. We had a short drive across the road into The Heritage Park for lunch. It was a very short walk to the bird hide to have a look at the bird activity on the lake and foreshore.

We were blessed with the weather, Linda's cake and with the birds 58 species being sighted in total.

**Primbee Sand Dunes** 49 species

*list by Tom Wylie*

Australian Wood Duck	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Rock Dove	Rainbow Lorikeet	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Spotted Dove	Crimson Rosella	Scarlet Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crested Pigeon	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Silvereye
Bar-shouldered Dove	Laughing Kookaburra	White-naped Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Australasian Gannet	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Whipbird	Common Starling
Australian Pelican	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler e-race	Common Myna
Australian White Ibis	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Mistletoebird
Nankeen Kestrel	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Magpie	Red-browed Finch
Purple Swamphen	Brown Thornbill	Pied Currawong	European Goldfinch
Dusky Moorhen	Spotted Pardalote	Spangled Drongo	
Masked Lapwing	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail	
Silver Gull	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail	

**Heritage Park Waders** 14 species

*list by Tom Wylie*

Black Swan	Little Black Cormorant	Little Egret	Masked Lapwing
Grey Teal	Australian Pelican	Australian White Ibis	Silver Gull
Chestnut Teal	Eastern Great Egret	Royal Spoonbill	
Little Pied Cormorant	White-faced Heron	Black-winged Stilt	

I would like to acknowledge the help I received from Daniel Payne and his wife, of "nature lodge optics" in Huskisson. My Bushnell binoculars strap was continually becoming unattached from the frame. They ordered a new strap and fitted it; however, that was unsuccessful they advised contacting and sending them to Bushnell. Tascos Binocular are the agents for Bushnell, something I didn't know. The binoculars were posted on Monday afternoon and Friday afternoon a courier arrived with a brand spanking new pair with improved strap fastening. I was very pleased and impressed with the Payne's help and Bushnell's service. Well worth the trip to Huskisson.....  
*Neil Wheway*

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

*With the approach of the Bird Migratory Season soon upon us it is always amazing what these birds undertake to reach our shores. This is just a bit of an idea of the pathways that they have to go through, and the fact that some countries are starting to realise the effect that they are having on these migratory birds.*

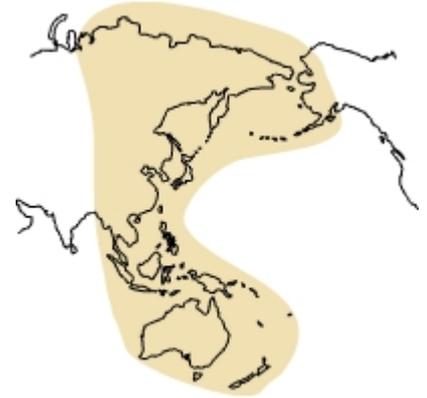
## About Flyways

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Illustration after Wetlands International.

Flyways are broad corridors used by migrating birds. For waders (shorebirds) birds eight flyways have been defined in the world. Three flyways are important for migratory waders in the Asia Pacific region. These are, (from East to West), the Central Pacific, the [East Asian-Australasian](#), and the Central Asian Flyways.

Some species or individuals cross from one Flyway to another. Thus in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Ruffs breeding in East Siberia are known to migrate westwards to Europe and Africa joining the East Atlantic Flyway. Grey Phalaropes and Pectoral Sandpipers breeding in East Siberia mainly migrate to spend the non-breeding season in South America in the Pacific Flyway.

The numbers of waders in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway are unknown. They are probably a minimum of 4 million migratory waders. Within Australia there are estimated a minimum of 1 million resident waders and a minimum of 2 million migratory waders.



### Effective conservation requires an "all flyway" approach

Flyways are a useful concept for the management and conservation of migratory wading birds. The birds often use many countries within a Flyway during their migrations. It is of limited value to use large resources protecting them in one country, if they are not also protected in the other countries through which they migrate, or where they spend the breeding and non-breeding seasons. Conservation agreements are made between countries which are based on the principle of shared birds within a Flyway.

There are nine bilateral agreements for migratory bird conservation in the East Asian Australasian Flyway, involving 7 countries.

The three agreements involving Australia are [JAMBA](#) (Japan/Australia migratory bird agreement), [CAMBA](#) (China/Australia migratory bird agreement) and [ROKAMBA](#) (Republic of Korea/Australia migratory bird agreement). These agreements are followed up actively with meetings between governments every 2 years.

In addition to bilateral agreements there are two multilateral agreements which are relevant to Flyway conservation of waders. Ramsar Bureau <http://ramsar.org> Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat) promotes wetland conservation, and the [Bonn Convention](#) (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) provides a multinational framework for the conservation of migratory species. In the East Asian-Australasian Flyway 15 of the 22 countries in the Flyway have signed the Ramsar Convention.

## REMINDER

**IBOC Spring Camp October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 Mylestom approx 20km south of Coffs Harbour.**

**This is just a reminder that the next camp will be at Mylestom staying at the North Beach Caravan Park at the entrance to the Bellingen River and adjacent to the ocean beach. Phone 02 6655 4250**  
**Full details of the accommodation etc were in the June Newsletter.**

**A day trip will be made to Dorrigo National Park to see the birds of the subtropical rainforest, including Paradise Riflebird, Green Catbird, Regent Bowerbird, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Emerald Dove, Wonga Pigeon amongst others.**

**On the coast there are a number of National Parks to visit with the closest having several walks including a rainforest walk along close to the beach.**

**Further details, map etc will be in the September Newsletter.**

Please let Betty know if you are coming.  
 phone 4236 0307 or email - [secretary@iboc.org.au](mailto:secretary@iboc.org.au)

We often pass by many fungi in the forests and pathways we take during our Birding ventures, always nice to have an idea of what we see and what it is.

## Types of fungal fruiting bodies (or sporocarps)

This section contains macroscopic descriptions of the commonest types of fruiting bodies. The standard mushroom (stem, cap, gills) is familiar to everyone, but not all mushrooms have stems. Some species that grow on wood have caps that grow out directly from the wood. In some cases the cap is semi-circular and attached by the straight edge (as shown in this species of *Crepidotus* below) while in others (that grow on the underside of fallen logs or trunks) the cap is circular but attached by its upper side. The second picture shows a species of *Resupinatus*, found growing on the underside of a rotting branch that was lying on the ground. You can see the gills on the small, circular cap (up to a centimetre in diameter).



*Crepidotus* sp.



*Resupinatus* sp.

Apart from mushrooms there are a variety of other forms of sporocarps, sometimes with very descriptive common names. You can find out more about various common types by following the links below. But remember, whenever you see one of these - you're only seeing the spore-producing part of the fungus. There's an out-of-sight mycelium around - in soil, wood, dung or whatever the sporocarp is growing from.



### [Boletes & polypores](#)

Boletes are mushroom-like, but with pores under the cap. Polypores vary from flat to mushroom-like and also have pores.



### [Coral & jelly fungi](#)

Coral fungi are coral-like in shape, while jelly fungi are jelly-like to the touch.



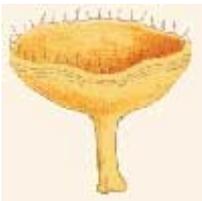
### [Stinkhorns, puffballs & birds nest fungi](#)

Stinkhorns are smelly, puffballs are powdery and birds nest fungi are cup-like with "eggs" inside.



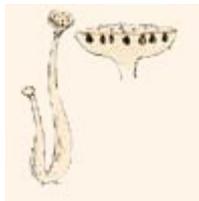
### [Steroid & paint \(or skin\) fungi](#)

Steroid fungi are mushroom-like to bracket-like, with a smooth underside. A paint (or skin) fungus looks like an extra skin growing on the surface of some wood.



### [Cup fungi](#)

The fruiting bodies are typically shaped like shallow cups or saucers



### [Flask fungi](#)

These produce their fruiting bodies in small chambers



### [Truffle-like fungi](#)

Truffle-like fruiting bodies are generally out of sight, underground.

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/fungi/types-of-fungi.html>

## Australian Fungi Website

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Australian National Herbarium

Sponsored by

the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

## Again, a Few More Interesting Recoveries of Banded Birds.

Over the years we've listed some interesting records of birds banded and then turning up a long way from the banding place, a long time after banding, recaptured many times and so on. These records, taken from **Corella**, the journal of the Australian Bird Study Association (ABSA), give us a sense of the lifespan and mobility of some of our birds.

Below are listed a few records from recent issues of **Corella**, Dec. 2010, March. 2011 and June. 2011. All of the species selected are birds we see around the Illawarra. As before, **oldest** means the longest time since original banding for the species and **furthest** means the greatest distance from the banding place for the species. The website of the ABSA, [www.absa.asn.au](http://www.absa.asn.au), lists the oldest / furthest records for Australian bird species banded and recaptured.

- Whimbrel.** Banded in Nov, 1993 at Yamba (NSW) and recovered dead ("shot for food or sport") at Opala River, Russia, **16 years 9 months** after banding and 9,056 km away. **Oldest.**
- Red-necked Stint.** "Banded" (actually marked, in a party of stints, with a leg flag) in Jan.1990 in southern Victoria. Flag sighted at Putorana Plateau, Siberia, in July 2010, **12,702 km away**. And that's a bird weighing about 25gms, less than 3 one-dollar coins. **Furthest.**
- Southern Boobook.** Banded in January. 1994 at Black Mountain, ACT. Band number read in field near banding place in Dec 2009, **15 years & 11 months** after banding. **Oldest.**
- Striated Pardalote.** Banded in June 1993 near Kellerberrin, WA. Found dead after colliding with a window in August, 1995, **45 km away**. **Furthest.**
- Lewin's Honeyeater.** Banded in July 1986 in Kirrama State Forest near Kennedy, Qld. Recaptured at banding place in June 2002, **15 years & 10 months** after banding. **Oldest.**
- Yellow-faced Honeyeater.** Banded in May 2000 at Minnie Waters, N of Woolgoolga, NSW and recovered dead near Tumut, NSW in Oct. 2001, **770 km away**. **Furthest.**
- Red Wattlebird.** Banded in Feb 1987 near Manjimup, WA and recovered dead at Stoneville, NE of Perth in Jan, 1990, **271 km away**. **Furthest.**
- Tawny-crowned Honeyeater.** Banded in Sept 1986 near Forreston, SA, recaptured at Cromer Cons.Pk, SA in Oct 1986, **5 km away** – note, moved only 5km but still, **Furthest.**
- Golden Whistler.** Banded in April, 1999 at Scheyville, W of Sydney, and recaptured 3 times at Barren Grounds NR, most recently in Feb 2000, **120 km** from banding place. **Furthest.**

### And a bit more about banding.

The band that's placed on a bird's leg is stamped with an Australian identifier and a unique number so that, wherever that bird goes, it carries its own ID. That ID, through the records of the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes in Canberra (the ABBBS, who manage banding), can be traced back to its place of banding.

To band a bird we need of course to have it in our hands and that gives us the opportunity to note details of its general appearance, the colour of its feathers and "soft parts" and to take measurements, all of this helping us to understand sexual differences and the changes associated with ageing, location, season and so on.

Banders do what they do in order to contribute to our library of bird information and for the simple pleasure of handling these beautiful animals. A bonus comes when one of "your" banded birds is recaptured and you learn where it's gone.

Over some years I've been banding in Balgownie and in the Rhododendron Park, mostly using mist nets to catch the birds. I've had one of "my" Pied Currawongs shot dead in an orchard behind Mt. Kembla ("taken to protect crops"), another Pied Currawong shot dead in Balgownie (reason unknown), a beautiful mature male Satin Bowerbird caught in a backyard trap in Balgownie and badly injured, an Australian Magpie caught by hand in Woonona and released and a Green Catbird found dead on a track in the Rhododendron Pk. with damage suggesting hawk attack.

Luckily, most recaptures have a happier ending. When banding in the Rhododendron Park I set up several nets a few tens of metres apart and at exactly the same places each visit. One of my favourite birds and a joy to handle is the **Rufous Fantail**, a lively little ball of fluff with a perky tail, rusty rump and a lovely necklace – a beautiful bird. I've caught and banded quite a few in the Park and several I've recaptured a year or more later. They come to us in our summer, then head off to the top of Australia for our winter. That means that any bird recaptured in the Park has done a round trip of 5,000 km or so for each winter it's been away. And that's a bird weighing about 11 gms, not much more than the 9.0 gms of a one dollar coin. What's more, each time I've recaptured a Rufous Fantail, it's not just been back in Wollongong, not just back in the Rhododendron Park **but back in the very net in which it was first caught** – how's that for navigation?. Next time you're in the Rhododendron Park in summer, keep your eyes open in the thicker forest for the Rufous Fantails, you might see one with a tiny silver band on its right leg.



*includes Letters to the Editor*

**Do you have a favourite walk you could lead?**

I am looking for members interested in leading an occasional weekend walk for the club. If you have a favourite walk you would be prepared to lead, I would be interested in hearing from you, so that it could be incorporated in the program over the next year or two. Please contact me indicating the area of the walk, and the most appropriate month for it.

Phone Betty Hudson on 4236 0307 or  
email [secretary@iboc.org.au](mailto:secretary@iboc.org.au)



Kelp Gulls  
at Sandon Point.

Mike Morphett

Some great Pics from Alan Cousins when he was out and about



Nankeen Kestrel



Satin Bowerbird



Yellow Robin



Satin Bowerbird

**PHOTOS WANTED**

We would like to select a range of photos of birds that live and visit the Illawarra to create a perpetual gallery on the internet

*all photos credited to the photographer*

**LIKE TO SEE YOUR BIRD PHOTO ON THE WEB**

Send it to  
[newsletter@iboc.org](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org)  
or place on disc and give to Charlie at club meeting night

**Film Night**

Barbara and Brian Hales are hosting a film night at 32 Shearwater Boulevard, Albion Park Rail, Saturday, 6th August starting at 7.30 p.m.

Come along and see the extraordinary footage showing nature at work on a grand scale at Lake Eyre as well as stunning still photography of the area.

Please bring along a small plate to share for supper and if you have a camping chair pop that into your car too in case we need extra seats. Film nights have always proved to be a very enjoyable experience so please come along and join in. It would be helpful if you could phone Barbara and Brian on 42574431 so that we can get some measure of the number expected to attend.

## **ALLAN SEFTON MEMORIAL LECTURE 2011**

**Tuesday 23rd August 2011**

**6.30pm**

**Building 11 First Floor University of Wollongong**

### **“Shakespeare, the Tale of Gengi and Migratory Shorebirds – What’s the connection?”**

**Alison Russell-French**

**Immediate Past President, Birds Australia**

#### **Abstract**

This Lecture will present a journey through the halls of academia, government policy making, industry and the non-government sector examining how various players influence and affect decision making about conservation of the Australian landscape and, in particular, that of birds and their habitat.

This talk will focus on the value of connections through these areas to advocate and champion the conservation of birds generally and in particular those remarkable migrants of the avian world – migratory shorebirds. As a passionate advocate of conservation with a particular emphasis on birds Alison Russell-French has travelled a fascinating and challenging life through national and international arenas in pursuit of outcomes to achieve this objective. She has represented Australian interests in environmental conventions such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and played a major role in the establishment of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway, the migratory pathway for Shorebirds in this region.

Alison participated in government over a period of major new environmental initiatives that reflect the growing imperative of addressing environmental issues in mainstream policy and program development. As part of this new focus she has championed the increasing importance of science and the contribution scientists make to good decision-making in the bureaucratic process.

Alison will discuss the philosophy that there are no limitations on how to pursue conservation goals – all avenues can lead to achievements if sufficient persistence and lateral thinking are applied.

#### ***Brief CV Alison Russell-French***

Alison is a former Australian Public Servant. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from Sydney University and a part completed law degree from the Australian National University. Her career spanned natural resource management areas of the Australian Public Service in the Department of Primary Industry in fisheries and across many areas of the Department of Environment, Heritage and the Arts. She has wide experience in policy and program management and administration across a range of national and international programs including the Coasts and Clean Seas Program, Coastcare, National Reserve Systems, the National Wetlands Program, national and international migratory waterbird conservation, national and World Heritage policy and management. Before her retirement, Alison was a Senior Executive of the Australian Government's Natural Resources Management Team managing delivery of the National Heritage Trust and National Salinity Program funding. She has substantial international representation experience including leading Australian delegations at meetings of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the APEC Marine Resources Working Group, Wetlands International, and the Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements with Japan and China. She also has considerable experience across a range of Indigenous related programs and was the Australian Government member on Landcare Australia, the Board of Members of Wetlands International, and Chair of the Wetlands International - Asia Pacific Council. Alison took a leading role in the development and acceptance in the Asia Pacific region of the Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001 - 2005 and the East Asia-Australasian Flyway which aims to protect the habitat and vital staging sites for migratory birds. Alison is currently engaged in selected consultancy work. She is a keen bird watcher with a lifetime interest in conservation of Australia's birds, and served on Council of Birds Australia since 1999 for 13 years.

## Members June/July Sightings 2011

by Darryl Goldrick

Hardhead	40+	10-Jul-11	Korrongulla Reserve	Water	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	9-Jul-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Whistling Kite	1	5-Jul-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	11-Jul-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Peregrine Falcon	1	11-Jul-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Kelp Gull	2	17-Jul-11	Sandon Point	Rock Platform	Mike Morphet
Southern Emu-wren	3	2-Jul-11	Pelican View Reserve-Lake Sth.	Scrub	Charles Dove
Striated Thornbill	1	19-Jul-11	Bellambi	Sand Dunes	Alan Cousins
White-naped Honeyeater	20+	12-Jul-11	Primbee Dunes	Forest	Charles Dove
Crested Shrike-tit	1	01-Jul-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphet
Bassian Thrush	2	12-Jul-11	Primbee Dunes	Ground	Charles Dove
Bassian Thrush	2	17-Jul-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphet
Bassian Thrush	1	01-Jul-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphet

Email your unusual or not so unusual bird sightings to [sightings@iboc.org.au](mailto:sightings@iboc.org.au)

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Illawarra Bird Observers Club is now on facebook  
 for your convenience ...  
 let members know the birds that are in your area today

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

for further information contact Charles [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au)

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[www.iboc.org.au](http://www.iboc.org.au)

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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

**Australian King-Parrot**

Scientific name: *Alisterus scapularis*  
 Family: Psittacidae  
 Order: Psittaciformes

**Featured Bird Groups**

Parrots

**Description**

Male Australian King-Parrots are the only Australian parrots with a completely red head.



photo by Terry Edwell

Balgownie NSW

Females are similar to males except that they have a completely green head and breast. Both sexes have a red belly and a green back, with green wings and a long green tail. King parrots are normally encountered in pairs or family groups.

**Similar species**

The adult Crimson Rosella, *Platycercus elegans*, is similar to the male Australian King-Parrot, but differs by having blue cheeks, shoulders, and tail, a whitish, rather than red, bill and a dark eye. Immature Crimson Rosellas also differ from female and immature King-Parrots by having blue cheeks, a whitish bill and a more yellow-green rather than dark green colouring.

**Distribution**

King-Parrots are found along the east coast and ranges of Australia, ranging from Cooktown in Queensland through to Port Campbell in Victoria.

**Habitat**

King-Parrots are usually found in rainforests or wet sclerophyll forests

**Seasonal movements**

Largely sedentary.

**Feeding**

The King-Parrot mostly forages in trees for seeds and fruit.

**Breeding**

King-Parrots lay their eggs on a bed of decayed wood-dust at the bottom of a deep hollow in the trunk of a tree. Often the entrance is high in the tree (10 m) but the eggs are near the ground (0.5 m).

**Living with us**

Urban habitat requirements

The King-Parrot appears to be increasing in abundance in well-treed suburbs. In urban areas it feeds at artificial feeding stations and fruiting trees.

information courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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'ONE GOOD TERN  
 DESERVES ANOTHER'

**Founded in 1977**

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

**ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.**

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# 2011 SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

**Club Meeting:****Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue &amp; Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow

**Bill Zealey:** Will be doing a presentation on Travels in Britain and Europe*Please bring a plate of goodies and a cup for supper after the meeting.***Midweek Walk:****Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011****Bellambi Lagoon.**

Leader Ted Simpson.

Meet in the Bott Drive Reserve, car park at the end of Bott drive. 9.00 am.

Travel down the Northern Distributor and turn into Rothery St. travel towards Bellambi beach, at the bend turn right into Bott Drive. Bring morning tea.

Contact Ted on 0425121221.

**Monthly Outing:****Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011****Tallawarra Ash Ponds****Full day walk.**

Leader Brian Hales

Meet at the small car park about 300m down the road to Tallawarra from the old highway **8.30am sharp**. The gate will be locked behind us which will prevent late comers from catching up with us. This is a full day walk around the ash pond area and the new service track by Duck Creek. Followed by lunch and a walk at the picnic area by the boat ramp Bring a carry morning tea and lunch to be eaten in the vicinity of the cars.

Contact Brian on 4257 4431, (or Betty on 0432 892 945 on the morning of the walk).

Note: Travelling from the north you will need to take the Hayward's Bay exit from the freeway, turn right to cross the bridge and retrace your steps, taking the Dapto exit from the freeway, to the Old Highway and then turn right at the T-junction to reach the Tallawarra Access Road approx 0.5km on your left.

From the south take the Dapto exit from the freeway as above.

**Committee Meeting** -**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Next committee meeting 7.30pm, To be held at of Anne &amp; Alan Cousins, 4 ADELAIDE PLACE, TARRAWANNA NSW 2518 4283 3197. All welcome.

**Newsletter** -Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **24<sup>th</sup> September 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302**The Following Items are for sale by the club at the Library Table each monthly meeting.**

Club Logo Green Fleece Tops – Size Large only	\$37.00 each
Fabric Logo Badges	\$ 4.00 each
Logo Studs	\$ 3.00 each
Logo Pin	\$ 3.00 each
Large Car Stickers	\$ 2.00 each

Please see Anne Cousins or Joan Wylie at monthly meetings  
or telephone Joan on 4284 2051 or Anne on 0413 869 534



# CLUB REPORTS

## Report for club meeting Monday 8th August 2011

### GOOD NIGHT, PARROT!

As the Ground Parrot or more specifically, the Barren Ground parrot, is still on my wish list, I must confess that I had paid scant attention up to now to his more elusive cousin but this oversight was rectified at the August meeting. Walter Boles, Ornithology Collections Manager at the Australian Museum, brought us up to speed (from 1845 to the present day) with the comings and goings (mostly the latter) of the "Midnight Cockatoo" as it was first nicknamed, aka the Night Parrot aka *Pezoporus occidentalis* meaning "the western one which goes about on foot".

The Night Parrot is the avian equivalent to the Thylacine, said Walter. Reports of sightings have been few and far between (so much so that Walter was able to tell us about most of them) since the first specimen was obtained in 1845 during Sturt's expedition to the Cooper Creek. They are terrestrial, nocturnal and, as if that wasn't enough, highly secretive. Unrelated to the Kakapo of New Zealand but in the same group as the rosellas, they are distinguished from the Ground Parrot by having a shorter tail and claws and no orange above the beak. Since their habitat is that of the arid lands - samphire, chenopod and particularly liking to roost in thick spinifex - can we summon any wonder at all at the reluctance of a sane-minded person to wander around jumping into clumps of it (might I remind you, AT NIGHT!) in the hopes of flushing one?

#### A BRIEF HISTORY

Following that first 1845 sighting, a second specimen was acquired at Mount Farmer WA in 1854 and the species was named by John Gould. Then, the first live exhibit was captured in 1865 and taken to England where it unfortunately died. Reports continued through the 1870s when, the first of only two people to deliberately go out looking for the Night Parrot, F W Andrews made several trips to the Gawler Ranges and of 22(!) specimens collected, Andrews himself bagged 16! These (comparatively-speaking) plague-like proportions were directly related to a number of years of very high rainfall and a corresponding abundance of spinifex seed. Very sadly, Andrews was killed in 1884. Later, the Horne Expedition of 1894, stopping in at the Telegraph Station in Alice Springs,

*by Alison Foley*

reported some wall-mounted birds which turned out to be Night Parrots. On quizzing the manager, they were told "the cat kept draggin' 'em in". After this, records declined to the point that in 1917 it was declared extinct. However, no one had told the Night Parrot, which continued to put in an appearance throughout the twentieth century - reports that got filed and buried until 1979 when Shane Parker of the South Australian Museum realised that many records were coming from non-spinifex areas so he organised a camel trek to the Cooper Creek and four birds were



seen. Good times were here again.

Then in 1990, our intrepid presenter Walter, who was showing an American friend around the outback, almost stepped on one (a claim to fame which sadly would not be appreciated at most cocktail parties). Somewhere between Dajarra and Boulia in western Queensland, they had stopped their cars in a horrid, barren landscape and having leant in the window of his friend's vehicle for a quick chat, Walter looked down at his feet to find the mummified body of a Night Parrot, a precious bit of "beef jerky", hollowed out by ants but intact. How long had it been there? Unbeknownst to these chaps, Dick Smith had announced through Australian Geographic magazine a reward of \$50,000 for any information on the Night Parrot and the lads were able to claim the prize which was ploughed back into research.

During the nineties there were a "bunch" of sightings from this same area and also from the Pilbara, Newhaven, Cloncurry and to be more precise, near Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route (2nd spinifex on the left) but a landmark moment happened again in September 2006 in Diamantina National Park, Queensland when a Night Parrot was found which had flown into a barbed-wire fence and decapitated itself. This cadaver was in much better condition (that is, it was "a late parrot" sic Monty Python) and young. So, in summing up, Walter asked us rhetorically "what does the future hold?" Well, those involved in this quest must react quickly to reports and plan what they are going to do

if they see one – catch it, tag it or follow it? If we are lucky enough to find a dead one, after much ungainly dancing and disharmonic whoops of joy, we should bag it with a note of all the particulars of the find and send it to Walter who will dance and whoop in the privacy of his own office. Ending with an anecdote, Walter told us that **three** mounted tail feathers identified as belonging to a Night Parrot turned up at a University of NSW book sale recently and the writing on the back indicated that it came from one of the very same birds seen at Alice Springs Telegraph Station back in 1894! What a co-WING-cidence!!!!

Thanks to Walter for a very interesting presentation. Please come back again soon.

**Mid-week Walk Report                      Rocklow Creek Dunmore. 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011.                      Sylvia Garlick.**

This was a very easy walk close to home for me and my friend Claire Garrish from Western Australia. Although we were close to traffic it didn't interfere with our party of nineteen people. We started at 9.00am, the walk was along a tree lined path that was in shade, with plenty of birds about. The Yellow Thornbill, which was a new bird for Claire was flitting about in the Casuarinas, also the European Goldfinch. Several Red Whiskered Bulbuls, a Grey Shrike Thrush and Lewin's Honeyeater were calling, so we were able to get a good look at them. Top Knot Pigeons flew high above us to the bush on the other side of the road. We crossed a bridge where a Little Pied Cormorant dived below the water and overhead an Australian Pelican. The Shining Bronze Cuckoo was another good sighting its call clearly identifying it. The path wandered along to the picnic spot where we had morning tea and at the far end of the park close to houses we had sightings of Fig Birds Altogether we saw 48 birds. This would be a good walk for summer because of the shade. Thanks Ted we had a very enjoyable morning. Full list of birds seen below.

**Rocklow Creek Bird List                      48 species**

*list by Tom Wylie*

Spotted Dove	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Topknot Pigeon	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Little Pied Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Little Black Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	New Holland Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian Pelican	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Eastern Whipbird	Silvereye
Eastern Great Egret	Laughing Kookaburra	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Welcome Swallow
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler E-race	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Egret	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Common Starling
Australian White Ibis	Brown Gerygone	Australasian Figbird	Common Myna
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	Mistletoebird
Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie	House Sparrow
Silver Gull	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail	European Goldfinch

**Monthly Outing Report:                      August Walk – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August                      Wal Emery**

Travelling through the frost covered paddocks and the fog shrouded valleys between Burrawang and Moss Vale. Left one with the feeling that the August outing, at the Penrose State Forest was going to be a rather frosty affair. Surprisingly by the time we had reached Bundanoon all had cleared and thousands of golden daffodils bathed in sunlight coupled with the endless display of sparkling Wattle lining the roads left you in no doubt that Spring was awakening from its Winter slumber. Twenty four not so early birds assembled for the later 9.30 start at the rendezvous adjacent to Penrose Station. A number of sightings were recorded, as the birds made the most of the morning sun, as did the birdwatchers. Superb Fairy-wren, Grey Butcherbird & Crimson Rosella kicked off the list, along with a few others. Eventually with all assembled, we drove along Webber's Road, to a clear felled area of the Pine Forest. It was decided that because people breakfasted early in order to drive the 100 + kilometres it would be a good idea to have morning tea before we set out on the walk. This was duly taken in the company of Tree Martins, White-eared Honeyeaters & Grey Shrike-thrush.

With the walk underway an unusual call was heard; the suggestion that it may be a White-throated Nightjar called for further investigation, no sighting was made & nothing recorded; but Tom did have good fortune to find a quality wood dissecting implement whilst returning to the road. Pressing on we dropped down into a small gully then wound up on the other side. Not a lot of birds were being sighted & friendly conversation filled in gaps between sightings.

The ups & downs and the occasional stop to investigate a bird caused the 24 strong group to spread out like proverbial Brown's cows. Bringing up the rear a few People were fortunate to get a good sighting of a Collared Sparrowhawk circling above the shining, silver grey trunked Eucalypts that dominate the forest. Onwards we strolled, enjoying each others company, the delights of the forest and the occasional bird sighting, when it was suggested it was strange we had not caught up to the lead group. Thanks to the marvels of modern communications a phone call revealed that the group had split. So the rear troupe sleepishly retraced their steps to a bypassed side road. Not all was lost as they were rewarded with a female Scarlet Robin perched on a branch overhanging the retraced route.

The circuit skirted the Stingray Swamp, where a number of sightings were made including White-throated Treecreepers & Brown-headed Honeyeaters. The two groups joined up again at the cars to enjoy a much appreciated lunch, topped off with male Scarlet Robins which Tom had tied to a spot for all to see.



After lunch we drove out of the forest & back into a wetter section. A short walk was curtailed by a wider creek which was in fact a part of Paddy's River. The return walk to the cars yielded Varied Sittellas, the last addition to our list which totalled 39 species.

An interesting & enjoyable outing, thank you Betty, for taking us to this Forest and thanks to all those who came along, added to the day. A good roll up, perhaps the later start was the factor. It certainly did help a late riser like me.

Wal Emery



Stingray Swamp Flora Reserve Bird List

39 species

list by Tom Wylie

Wonga Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Collared Sparrowhawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Gang-gang Cockatoo	White-browed Scrubwren	White-eared Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Galah	Weebill	Red Wattlebird	White-winged Chough
Australian King-Parrot	Striated Thornbill	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Scarlet Robin
Crimson Rosella	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Varied Sittella	Welcome Swallow
Azure Kingfisher	Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Fairy Martin
Laughing Kookaburra	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Magpie	Mistletoebird
White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Spinebill	Pied Currawong	

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## COASTAL WEEDS AND BIRDS PROJECT

Volunteers from Victoria, SA, WA, NSW and Tasmania are needed for a new coastal weeds and birds project.

Over time Australia's coastal habitats have been altered by weeds, including weeds we introduced ourselves to combat erosion. As a result, dune systems are often dominated by Marram grass, Wheat grass, Pyp grass, Sea Spurge, Sea rocket, Boneseed/Bitou Bush or other weed species.

University of Melbourne researcher Charlotte Catmur wants to find out more about the impact this is having on native wildlife.

- Are birds or insects using weeds for foraging, cover, roosting habitat, etc?
- Are weeds harbouring introduced predators or pests?
- Or are these stands of weeds devoid of life?

Charlotte needs your help to find out! If you live in Victoria, SA, WA, NSW or Tasmania it is as simple as contacting her to request an information package, which includes:

- Instructions on what you need to report
- A weed identification sheet
- An observation sheet to record your findings

And then all is left is to step out onto the beach this spring/summer to spot birds in the weeds.

For more information and to receive an information package please email: Charlotte Catmur at [catmurc@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:catmurc@unimelb.edu.au)

## COUNTDOWN TO NATIVE BIRD SLAUGHTER.

### In coming months the annual slaughter of our native birds and marsupials begins.

Indian Mynas will then commence searching for breeding hollows.

Many will already be occupied by Australian native parrots, possums and sugar gliders.

Some will try to defend their homes not realising that against Indian Mynas they will have no chance. If a pair of Indian Mynas cannot eject or kill them they will put out a call and others will join the fight. Working together they will obtain possession of the hollow.

The previous occupants will either be dead or have fled. Possums that have fled will die within two weeks as they very rarely survive when displaced from their home.

Once settled, the Indian Mynas will then check out the immediate area of their hollow for other hollows. If occupied the above scenario will be repeated, the now vacant hollows will be filled with sticks, leaves, paper, plastic and anything else the birds can find.

This is an inbred instinct; they are creating false nests so their natural predator will have trouble finding their real nest and eggs. It also has the side effect of depriving even more of our native birds and possums of alternative homes and breeding sites.

The predators they are trying to trick are monkeys who are prevalent in India and steal the eggs from the nests. There are none here in Australia but the false nest instinct is an inbred part of their survival mode.

This is also what is behind the staggering amounts of rubbish they deposit in peoples roof cavities when they gain access to breed there. The bigger the nest area, the greater the chance of hiding the eggs.



Most of what they use is combustible and creates a potential fire hazard in the following summer months. This is apart from the bird mites that enter the house once the birds have left the nest. Many people are allergic to them and suffer greatly from the effects of these mite bites.

### **Press Release from the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc re PWCS Terminal 4 Project**

Members of the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc (HBOC) are delighted that the Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4 coal export project on Kooragang Island will be subject to closer environmental scrutiny under the Australian Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act). Over a period of 10 years HBOC has been monitoring the species of birds and their numbers which use the wetlands designated for destruction by the T4 Project. HBOC has found that these wetlands form an integral part of the Hunter estuary wetland system and provide habitat for large numbers of waterfowl. They serve as a refuge for many species of birds during times of inland drought. Even more importantly, several threatened species are regularly

**Ann Lindsey –Conservation Officer for the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. 49 51 2008 or contact Liz Crawford and Chris Herbert on 0412722644**

present, for example, the Australasian Bittern, numbers of which have plummeted so dramatically over recent years that, in February 2011, the Australian Government listed it as "Endangered". Ten species of migratory shorebirds, all listed under the EPBC Act as 'matters of national significance' have been known to roost and / or forage in these wetlands over the Australian spring and summer after breeding in Siberia and Alaska in the northern summer. Migratory shorebirds fly many thousands of kilometres a year and it has been established that they often return to the same wetlands year after year. The Hunter Estuary, despite considerable modification for industrial purposes, remains the most important destination for migratory shorebirds in NSW.

### **The eaglets have landed**

Happy hatchings! The [Birds Australia Discovery Centre's](#) resident White-bellied Sea-Eagles are now proud parents of two little eaglets – all recorded live by [EagleCAM](#). The first egg hatched at 8.55 am on 14 August, with the second bird breaking free from its shell as we speak! As we wait together with fevered anticipation for such amazing moments, [EagleCAM](#) captures this special event for us. In the process, it has also chalked up nearly 280,000 watchers worldwide. If they knew, what would the sea-eagles make of such a staggering global audience? The first chick is already squawking hungrily and the parents have their work cut out as they fly back and forth from Parramatta River to the nest with a beakful of fish or an unlucky mouse. All going well, the nestlings are due to fledge in October, and all the while [EagleCAM](#) will be helping us to keep an 'eagle' eye on the family's every movement

[EagleCAM](#) news.



Unfortunately, the live stream continues to have its ups and downs. Due to the old cabling, the video feed has dropped out completely on some nights and we apologise for this. It's not for want of trying though. The efforts of Geoff Hutchinson, one of our fantastic team of volunteers, to keep the system up-and-running have been outstanding. Selflessly, he travels to and from the Discovery Centre to re-boot the system during such disruptions, and also rises each day before sunrise to reset the camera from infrared to day-settings, then returns at sunset to reverse the process.

Thanks to his dedication we are all able to witness the magic of nature in action. His hope is that our fundraising efforts will bear sufficient fruit to be able to fix these problems so that we can bring you a much improved [EagleCAM](#) next year. Today is a very sad day for Sea-Eagle CAM and everyone following these eagles.

**NB** Friday 19th August, one of the eagle chicks died in the nest. It is believed that the eaglet that perished was S1, and the first chick that hatched on Sunday 14th.

## **PICNIC DAY 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

**ALL WELCOME**

to a Combined Picnic BYO BBQ

with **Illawarra Bird Observers Club** and **Cumberland Bird Observers Club**

to be held on the

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at The Royal National Park – on the Hawkesbury**

*Full details closer to the date.*

To get an idea of numbers for the day, Please contact Charles Dove  
ph.: 0417 422 302 or E-mail: [powerart@bigpond.net.au](mailto:powerart@bigpond.net.au)  
also mention if you require or prefer transport.

***we most likely will organise a Bus for the trip***

# October camp final details

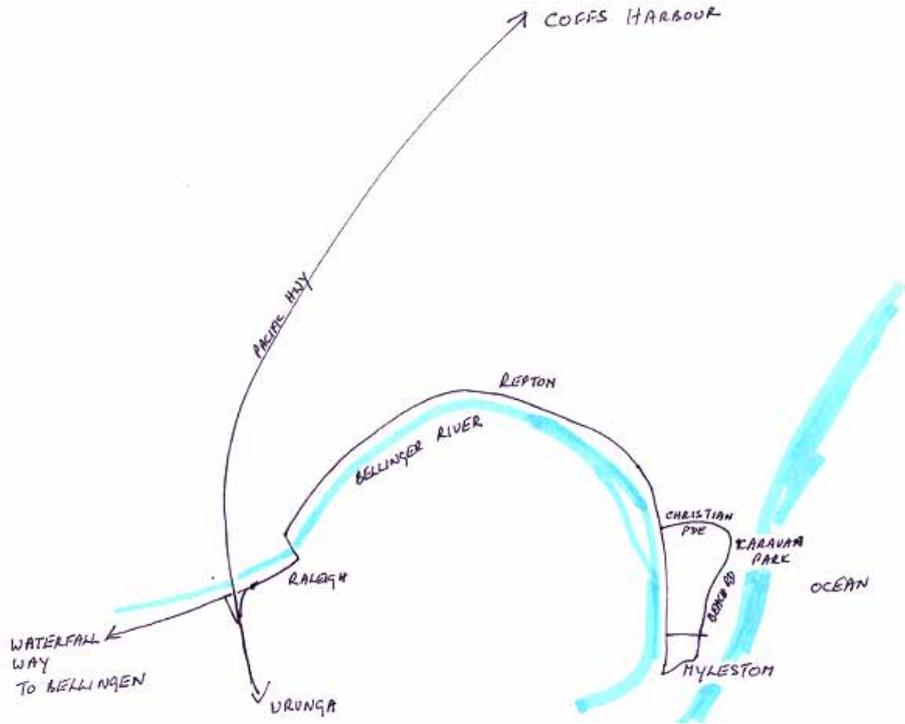
Mylestom is a small village (pop 382) situated between the northern bank of the estuary of the Bellinger River and the Ocean. It is approx 20km south of Coffs Harbour and 3 km east of Repton. The Caravan Park is located in Beach Parade and is on the beach front.

The Caravan Park has 7 en-suite cabins, powered and unpowered sites Full details were in the June Newsletter.

From Wollongong travel north along the Pacific Hwy towards Coffs Harbour. 3 km after passing Urunga and crossing the Kalang River, look for the left exit to Bellingen, Raleigh & Repton via Waterfall Way. Follow the sign posts to Raleigh & then Repton & Mylestom. See map below.

I would suggest that most members would take 2 days to reach Mylestom especially those with vans or camping.

There is a General Store cum café, take-away, post office and service station as well as a Bowling Club with a Chinese Restaurant and a Pizzeria. Other services are available in Urunga. There is also butcher in Repton



**Please let Betty Hudson know if you are coming to camp and what accommodation you have booked**



Just a few, the Red Wattlebird was swallowing water, the White winged Choughs and Common Bronzewing, didn't seem phased that we were there and note the number of bandings on the Superb Fairy Wren, (taken at Canberra Botanic Gardens)

*Alan Cousins*

# 'Tis the cuttlefish harvesting season

Mike Morphett



What the wandering albatross doesn't want...



the silver gull can make use of...



and what the gull doesn't want, homo sapiens can collect for caged birds to feed on...



then everyone's happy



fence-wending wren in wire at Sydney Olympic Park

Mike Morphett

## Trip to Alice Springs area July 2011

In July I travelled to Alice Springs, Newhaven Station (An Australian Wildlife Conservancy Property) and then through the West MacDonnell Ranges, visiting some of the well known gorges. Returning to Alice Springs I spent a week visiting the local area, including the sewage ponds of course!

The contrast between the blue sky, orange red cliffs on the ranges and the buff of the grasses was amazing. Birding was exceptionally good following a good rain season and plenty of water. I ended up with many new species and much better sightings of others.

A full report will follow in later newsletters. Here are some photos to wet your appetites. Standley Chasm, Star Finches, Spinifex Pigeon and an Orange Chat.

Betty Hudson



Orange Chat



Standley Chasm



Star Finches



Spinifex Pigeon

**IBOC HALF day Pelagic trip**

**FRIDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER**

**Time: 7.30AM TO 11.30AM**

**Cost: \$50 per person (reduces to \$40 if we have 20 people)**

**Meet at the Sandra K, Wollongong Boat Harbour (docked near the Fish Markets/Harbourfront Restaurant)**

If you've always wondered what a pelagic trip is all about, if you want to increase your life-list with a few new birds, or if you're just looking for a great day out birdwatching – then come along on this **special IBOC half day pelagic trip**. It's been designed especially for IBOC members as an introduction to pelagic seabirding – for non-boaters and non-seabirders!! So if you're interested, give it a go.

I went on my first pelagic in October last year, and I've been a regular volunteer ever since. I'm still seeing new birds! September is a good time of year for seabirds such as Albatrosses, Petrels, Jaegers, Prions, Skuas and Shearwaters.



photos by Dena Paris. The birds are Brown Skua and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross.

Did you know that SOSSA pelagics are the only pelagics worldwide to catch and band seabirds at sea? So you can see these wonderful seabirds up close. Great for photos!! Many people travel from overseas just to come on a SOSSA pelagic. Don't miss out on this opportunity on our doorstep.

**Places are limited to a maximum of 20 people – so don't leave it too late to book yourself in.**

Contact Linda Cohen on 0448 663 861 or [lcohen@uow.edu.au](mailto:lcohen@uow.edu.au) or catch me at the next IBOC meeting.

For more information check out SOSSA's website:

**SOSSA (Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association)**

<http://www.sossa-international.org>

**BLUE HERON**

*I am a white faced Heron and my name is Mr. Jakes,  
I spend my life down on the coast, and at the edge of lakes.  
Of course I have a nickname, it's not Curley, Fred or Mike,  
Folk say that I'm an old Blue Crane,  
And that's a name I like.*

*I do not dart or flitter, with me that's not the case,  
I am a bird of elegance, I walk around with grace.  
Unlike those dreadful seagulls, I never visit tips,  
I spend my days out eating fish,  
And never beg for chips.*

*And when you see me fishing, you'll note I'm quite sedate  
As I move along the shoreline, sometimes I'm with my mate.  
I hate those ornithologists, they fill me with regret,  
They've declared I'm not a heron,  
They say I'm an egret*

*Egretta Novaehollandae, is the name they've hung on me,  
But I tell you I'm a heron, and that's all I want to be.*

*And how the hell would they know, they're just a bunch of perves,  
Who hock into your private life,  
They just get on my nerves.*

*I don't want to be an egret,  
there's one here who boasts he's great,  
Others hang around the rear of cows, A most unsavoury fate.  
Egrets are all pale or white, They are birds I'll never be,  
If you want to know just who I am,  
You really should ask me.*

*I am a White faced Heron,  
My name is Mr. Jakes,  
But you can call me 'Old Blue Crane!  
'Cos you're one of my mates.*

Bigruss July 2011



My work colleague, Rittick Borah, from Assam with whom I share an office, came to work recently saying he had been for a stroll with his girlfriend, from Sandon Point along McCauley's Beach, and sighted a bird that he didn't know. When I said could he describe it he replied that they had taken a picture with their mobile phone!! I was even more surprised to find that the bird in question is usually pretty secretive and hard to get a picture at the best of times never mind with a 'quick phone pic'!! Certainly shows up the amazing camouflage in that patch of vegetation.

Brown Quail "well camouflaged"



Richard Miller

**PHOTOS WANTED**

We would like to select a range of photos of birds that live and visit the Illawarra to create a perpetual gallery on the internet

*all photos credited to the photographer*

LIKE TO SEE YOUR BIRD PHOTO ON THE WEB

Send it to  
[newsletter@iboc.org](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org)

or place on them on disc and give to Charlie at club meeting night

**Members July/August Sightings 2011**

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brown Quail	1	13-Aug-11	McCauleys Beach Thirroul	Vegetated Dunes	Rittick Borah
Musk Duck	2	19-Aug-11	Shell Cove	Wetland	Darryl Goldrick
White-headed Pigeon	1	03-Aug-11	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
White-headed Pigeon	2	06-Aug-11	Thirroul	Garden O'head	Mike Morphett
White-headed Pigeon	3	19-Aug-11	Thirroul	Overhead	Richard Miller
Wonga Pigeon	1	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Topknot Pigeon	2	04-Aug-11	Primbee	Fig Tree	Charles Dove
Topknot Pigeon	12	11-Aug-11	Primbee	Fig Tree	Charles Dove
Topknot Pigeon	2	10-Aug-11	Rocklow Creek	Riverine	IBOC
Cattle Egret	100+	19-Aug-11	Swamp Rd	Farmland	Darryl Goldrick
Pacific Baza	Dead	27-Jul-11	Calderwood	Road kill	Per comm Denis Wilson
Whistling Kite	1	19-Aug-11	Swamp Rd	O'head	Darryl Goldrick
Brown Goshawk	1	04-Aug-11	Thirroul	Garden O'head	Mike Morphett
Nankeen Kestrel	1	09-Jul-11	Bellambi	Dunes	Alan/Anne Cousins
Nankeen Kestrel	1	05-Aug-11	Wollongong	Science Centre	Alan/Anne Cousins
Sooty Oystercatcher	3	18-Aug-11	Waniora Point Woonona	Rock Platform	Richard Miller
Double-banded Plover	30+	09-Aug-11	Lake Illawarra Entrance Sth	Sandy Beach	Charles Dove
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	18-Aug-11	Bulli Beach	Beach Lagoon	Mike Morphett
Ruddy Turnstone	7	18-Aug-11	Collins Rock, Woonona	Rock Platform	Richard Miller
Kelp Gull	2 - 1imm	18-Aug-11	Sandon Point	Rock Platform	Richard Miller
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	6	19-Aug-11	Lake South	Casuarinas- lakeside	Darryl Goldrick
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Musk Lorikeet	1	01-Jul-11	Dapto	Avondale Rd	Tera Wheway
Australian King-Parrot	22	23-Aug-11	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Pale-headed Rosella	1	13-Aug-11	Horsley	Parkland	Richard Fackender
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	01-Aug-11	Pelican View Res., Lake Sth	Bushland	Charles Dove
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	10-Aug-11	Rocklow Creek	Casuarina forest	IBOC
Azure Kingfisher	1	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Rockwarbler	2	31-Jul-11	Tallowa Dam	Rock Shelf	Mike Morphett
Striated Thornbill	1	09-Jul-11	Bellambi	Dunes	Alan/Anne Cousins
Scarlet Honeyeater	several	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Scarlet Honeyeater	1m	04-Aug-11	Balgownie	Backyard ?	Terry Edwel
Brown-headed Honeyeater	1	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Varied Sittella	several	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Crested Shrike-tit	3m	01-Jul-11	Slackey Flat, Bulli	Bushland	Joan Wiley
Crested Shrike-tit	1	01-Jul-11	Bulli	Backyard	Joan Wiley
Golden Whistler E-race	1M	01-Jul-11	Dapto	Avondale Rd	Tera Wheway
Australasian Figbird	20+	04-Aug-11	Primbee	Fig Tree	Charles Dove
Australasian Figbird	4	13-Aug-11	Cordeaux Heights	Garden	Richard Miller
Olive-backed Oriole	5	13-Aug-11	Cordeaux Heights	Garden	Richard Miller
Double-barred Finch	7	03-Aug-11	Primbee	Grassland	Charles Dove
Double-barred Finch	2	06-Aug-11	Primbee	Grassland	Charles Dove
Red-browed Finch	12	08-Aug-11	Thirroul	Street Nature- strip	Mike Morphett
Australasian Pipit	1	09-Aug-11	Lake Illawarra Entrance Sth	Walkway	Charles Dove

**Email your unusual or not so unusual bird sightings to [sightings@iboc.org.au](mailto:sightings@iboc.org.au)  
Please try to have sightings in 3 days before the newsletter deadline**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY OWLS IN YOUR AREA CAN YOU PLEASE LET US KNOW  
CHARLES DOVE Ph 0417 422 302  
[newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au)**

**Illawarra Bird Observers Club is now on facebook for your convenience ...  
let members know the birds that are in your area today.**

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

NO NEED TO USE YOUR PERSONAL E-mail address WE CAN SET AN ANONYMOUS ONE FOR YOU TO USE ON IBOC FACEBOOK PAGE  
for further information contact Charles [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au)

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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

**Yellow Thornbill**

Scientific name: *Acanthiza nana*  
 Family: Pardalotidae  
 Order: Passeriformes

The Yellow Thornbill is a small to medium-sized thornbill and is the most yellow of the thornbill group. It is greenish-olive on the back, with white streaking on the cheeks and ears, and has pale to bright yellow underparts. There is a reddish brown tone on the chin and throat. The young birds are



photo by Charles Dove Primbee NSW

similar but duller.

**Similar species**

The Yellow Thornbill can be distinguished from other thornbills by its olive upperparts, yellow underparts, orange chin and a dark eye. The similar sized Striated Thornbill *A. lineata* is readily distinguished by the heavy streaking on its face, chin and throat. Sometimes confused with other birds with yellowish underparts such as the Weebill and young Fairy or White-throated Gerygones.

**Distribution**

The Yellow Thornbill is found throughout mainland eastern Australia, from Atherton Tableland, Queensland to eastern South Australia.

**Habitat**

The Yellow Thornbill is found in open forests, woodlands and shrublands which are dominated by Casuarinas, Acacias or paperbarks rather than eucalypts. Often seen in parks and gardens, preferring more established areas.

**Seasonal movements**

Sedentary.

**Feeding**

The Yellow Thornbill feeds mainly on insects, but may sometimes eat seeds. They feed almost exclusively in the foliage of trees, most often Acacias, paperbarks, casuarinas and native pines.

**Breeding**

Breeding pairs of Yellow Thornbills may sometimes have helpers to assist them with feeding the young. Females build a rounded domed nest, with a narrow, hooded entrance near the top, out of grasses, bark and other materials, lining it with feathers, fur or soft plant down. The nest is usually in twigs of upper tree branches. The female incubates the eggs alone, but both parents (and possibly helpers) feed the young.

information courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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**ILLAWARRA  
 BIRD  
 OBSERVERS  
 CLUB Inc**

**'ONE GOOD TERN  
 DESERVES ANOTHER'**

**Founded in 1977**

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

**ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.**

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# 2011 OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

**Club Meeting:****Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue &amp; Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow.

**Leah Royle**, Development Officer, Australian Wildlife Conservancy; Will be giving a talk.*Please bring a plate of goodies and a cup for supper after the meeting.***Midweek Walk:****Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011****Macquarie Rivulet.****Leader Ted Simpson.**

Meet at 9-o'clock, at the Darcy Dunster Reserve. Turn off the Princes Highway at Albion Park Rail onto the Illawarra Highway. Then turn sharp right and go past wholesale Plant Distributors, into the reserve car park. Bring morning tea.

Contact Ted on mob. 0425 121 221.

**Monthly Outing:****Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011****Shoalhaven Heads / Comerong Island Wetlands****Leader Betty Hudson.**

Meet at 8.30am **sharp** in the River Road foreshore car park at the eastern end, adjoining the Holiday Haven Tourist Park. 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 a carry morning tea and lunch etc also **insect repellent** in case of sandflies. Be prepared to get your feet wet to get close up views of waders/shorebirds and to test your identification skills.

The tide will be coming in, with a high tide about 1.40pm, pushing the birds up to us. We will be making a stop at the marshes on the way out, then visiting the forest and the beach before returning to the marshes as it gets closer to high tide. This may mean a later than usual finish.

**Committee Meeting** -**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Next committee meeting 7.30pm. To be held at Ted and Ellen Simpson's house, 18 Covington Green, Dapto 42611158. All welcome.

**Newsletter** -

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **28<sup>th</sup> October 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

**The Following Items are for sale by the club at the Library Table each monthly meeting.**

Club Logo Green Fleece Tops – Size Large only	\$37.00 each
Fabric Logo Badges	\$ 4.00 each
Logo Studs	\$ 3.00 each
Logo Pin	\$ 3.00 each
Large Car Stickers	\$ 2.00 each
Please see Anne Cousins or Joan Wylie at monthly meetings or telephone Joan on 4284 2051 or Anne on 0413 869 534	



# CLUB REPORTS

## Report for club meeting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011

by Alan Cousins

Another great presentation from our well known double act - Bill and Joan Zealey entitled "Travels in Britain and Europe 2010", Bill controlling the photos and Joan giving the presentation in her delightful Scottish burr with a few interjections from Bill. We were treated to photos and movie clips from British and European sites. The first stop was a British Birding bird fair where there was a demonstration of bird banding (ringing) and lots of opticals for sale. We were then shown photos of numerous birds such as the Great Tit and Blue Tit which like peanuts and the Greenfinch which likes mixed seeds, unfortunately these beautiful little birds are being decimated by a disease carried by Wood Pigeons who also visit seed trays. The success stories of raptors in Britain are the Ospreys in Rutland Water along with Red Kites and Peregrines. Lots of Red Kites can be seen soaring over the Cotswolds. To name all the species that Bill and Joan saw would take up much of this newsletter so here are a few.

On an RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) Outing seeing Eiders (famous for their down taken from their nests to provide filling for bedspreads and pillows), Mistle thrush, Fieldfare, Bullfinch. In Solway - Graylag Geese and a Snow Goose out of place, Goosander, Whooper Swans. Isle of Wight - Curlew and Brent Beese (also seen on Jersey). Slimbridge (Sir Peter Scott's Wetland Reserve) - Bewick Swans, Mute Swans, Pintails, Tufted Ducks and Shelducks. Blenheim Palace - Long-tailed Tit. Then off to Europe to Salzburg and Vienna - Redstart, Pied Aryhite Wagtail and also in Vienna - Nuthatch, Green Woodpecker (there are eight species of Woodpecker in Europe) and a beautiful Red Squirrel. Spain - Grey Heron, Boat Egret, Flamingo, Azure Magpie, Imperial Eagle and the rare Audouins and Slender-billed Gulls, Thekla Lark, Purple Heron and two types of Vulture, the Griffon and the Black. A wonderful presentation which this report cannot do justice to.

Thanks again Bill and Joan.

---

## Mid-week Walk Report - Bellambi Sand Dunes 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011. by Terry Edwell

The day was warm and sunny for our walk and fourteen members enjoyed a stroll along the bike-track at Bellambi. One of the first birds we saw was a Spangled Drongo sitting on a fence then dashing here and there after flying insects. There were many little birds in the Casuarina trees mainly Red-browed Finches, Silvereyes, Grey Fantails and Yellow Thornbills.

The lagoon was very full so not many waders were present only a couple of Chestnut Teals, a Dusky Moorhen or two and a sleepy Pelican.

We retraced our steps and stopped at the entrance to the next part of our walk where we had morning tea.



Spangled Drongo by Terry Edwell

Alan and Anne are part of the Bush-care group and great work has been done here. The trees that have been planted are thriving and the weeds have been removed in a lot of the area. Just near the entrance we had wonderful views of the Male Variegated Fairy-wren and the Superb Fairy-wren, their colours were just brilliant. The New Holland Honeyeater was present of course and popped up everywhere to encourage us on.

The day was very warm as we walked through the sand hills. Only a few birds were sighted although there was a lot of whistling heard. There were Southern Emu-wrens seen by a couple of lucky people and many others birds sighted by different people. It was an enjoyable walk thank you to Ted for leading us.

**Bird List for Bellambi Lagoon Walk 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

9.00am to 12noon 49 Species 14 members attended

*list by Tom Wylie*

Grey Teal	Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
Chestnut Teal	Silver Gull	Lewin's Honeyeater	Magpie-Lark
Pacific Black Duck	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Australian Reed-Warbler
Australasian Grebe	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Silvereye
Spotted Dove	Rainbow Lorikeet	New Holland Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Crested Pigeon	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-naped Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Bar-shouldered Dove	Laughing Kookaburra	Eastern Whipbird	Common Blackbird
Little Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Starling
Little Black Cormorant	Variegated Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie	Common Mynah
Pelican	Southern Emu-wren	Spangled Drongo	Red-browed Finch
Brown Goshawk	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail	Australasian Pipit
Nankeen Kestrel	Yellow Thornbill	Willie Wagtail	European Goldfinch
Dusky Moorhen			

**Monthly Outing Report: Tallawarra Ash Ponds – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October****Rupert Jarvis**

Brian was all ready for us with the keys to the gate, and we had a fine bright morning for our outing. Once through the gates we entered an extensive area, which, because of the restricted access is a haven for wildlife.

Firstly we made a loop to the north taking us to Duck Creek and along to Lake Illawarra. Shortly after setting off we came across a pair of Cuckoos in the Casuarina trees. Despite good views, we still had the "Horsfield's or Shining Bronze" discussion with the consensus, determining that they were Shining Bronze-cuckoos. The plumage was strongly green a sure sign of spring.



Along the lake, apart from a group of White-faced Herons, we encountered a stiff breeze, so we sought a protected clear spot amongst the trees for morning tea. Walking back from the lake into the woods we passed the Sea Eagles nest, an enormous construction of sticks and probably the largest nest most of us had ever seen. Generally it was a good day for raptors, with sightings of Brown Goshawk, Swamp Harrier, Nankeen Kestrel and near the end of the walk, an excellent view of a juvenile Whistling Kite perched on a tree branch.

All along the walk we frequently heard the Scarlet Honeyeater, but only caught glimpses



until near the Sea Eagle nest we were able to watch a pair quite close and get good clear sightings. Another bird often heard was the Restless Flycatcher, with its buzz-saw sound but as far as I know no-one sighted it.

The second loop took us around the large ash pond on the Haywards Bay side. Here we saw a good selection of waterbirds, even though the water level was high, there was very limited exposed mudbank. There was a flock of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper with a few Black-fronted Dotterel and Black-winged Stilts on one of the few mudbanks. On the open water were Black Swan, Hardheads and Eurasian Coots, with some Chestnut Teal and Australasian Grebe.

In the reeds we heard Reed Warblers and Little Grassbirds. The Reed Warbler was briefly sighted on a couple of occasions, but not the Little Grassbird, obviously the more expert skulker.

Returning to the cars we had covered nearly 7 klms and the list totalled 69 species; so a little tired we drove down to the picnic area for lunch and then dispersed.

Our thanks to Brian for a very enjoyable and worthwhile outing.

**Bird List for Tallawarra Walk 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

9.30am to 1.30pm 69 Species 16 members attended

*list by Terry Edwell*

Black Swan	Brown Falcon	Variegated Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie
Chestnut Teal	Purple Swamphen	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Brown Gerygone	Willie Wagtail
Hardhead	Eurasian Coot	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Raven
Australasian Grebe	Black-winged Stilt	Spotted Pardalote	Restless Flycatcher
Little Pied Cormorant	Black-fronted Dotterel	Eastern Spinebill	Magpie Lark
Little Black Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Pelican	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Golden-headed Cisticola
Eastern Great Egret	Silver Gull	Noisy Miner	Australian Reed-Warbler
Cattle Egret	Galah	Red Wattlebird	Little Grassbird
Striated Heron	Little Corella	Scarlet Honeyeater	Silvereye
White-faced Heron	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Australian White Ibis	Rainbow Lorikeet	Eastern Whipbird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Black-shouldered Kite	Crimson Rosella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Mistletoebird
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Eastern Rosella	Golden Whistler E-race	House Sparrow
Brown Goshawk	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Rufous Whistler	
Swamp Harrier	Sacred Kingfisher	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Nankeen Kestrel	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Butcherbird	

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## [Update on Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater surveys in 2011](#)

(extract from article)

Through Birds Australia's Woodland Birds for Biodiversity Project, surveys for the endangered Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater have continued in 2011. Thanks to the increasing network of extremely dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, these surveys have now been conducted for 18 consecutive years. This update is being distributed to over 1200 people throughout the mainland range of both species. Your ongoing support and participation in these monitoring programs – two of the longest running for any threatened species in the country – is appreciated enormously. As a result of the data collected, we are able to further our knowledge of these flagship

*Chris Tzaros & Dean Ingwersen*

woodland birds which puts us in the best possible position to plan for and carry-out actions to ameliorate their threats and assist in the recovery of the birds.

Again, on behalf of the Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Recovery Programs and Birds Australia, we say a sincere thank you to everyone who has raised their binoculars over the course of this year and assisted in these very important conservation programs. We hope you'll be able to stick by our side and continue to help us in 2012. The following is a synopsis of where the swifties and regents occurred this autumn-winter.

### Swift Parrots

*Chris Tzaros, Swift Parrot Recovery Coordinator, reports:*

After the breaking of the fourteen year drought, expectations were high in the sense that Swift Parrots would respond well to a much healthier winter habitat than we had seen in years. But much of the improved condition of winter habitat was in the form of phenomenal plant growth and the anticipated intensive eucalypt flowering events never really came to fruition. Across the box-ironbark-gum woodlands on the inland slopes of the divide, and on the coastal plains and valleys where the species occurs, flowering events were sparse and patchy. It was only in localised areas that some of the eucalypts managed to flower well and these events certainly attracted interest from nectar-feeding birds including swifties.

Across the autumn-winter period of 2011, Swift Parrots occupied every State and Territory of their non-breeding range. There were 292 reports of Swift Parrots submitted and this equated to a total of 2,092 birds detected.



### Regent Honeyeaters

*Dean Ingwersen, Regent Honeyeater Recovery Coordinator, reports:*

Let me be the bearer of good news - this year has been quite good for Regent Honeyeater sightings. Well, by recent standards anyway. During the early part of the year several juveniles were seen – one being fed by a couple of adults on the coast of NSW near Moruya, and another near St Albans in NSW. Obviously wherever the Regents took off to over the summer months was productive, at least for the few birds our fantastic observers could find, so we had high hopes for the remainder of the year. Another bird turned up in Bathurst in March, not long after an eagle-eyed volunteer spotted a bird in Chiltern NP in Victoria. Things were shaping up well. Following this Chiltern record, and with flowering looking promising on the Mugga Ironbark and Box-



Ironbark hybrids, we swung into action trying to search the park for any captive-released birds. And with good reason. At the start of this year none of the birds released during 2008 or 2010 had been seen after our initial intensive monitoring (which lasted about 5-6 months in each case), and we were obviously getting keen to see some of them again. In April our hard work paid off, with the one of the 2010 released birds being found close to the release site within Chiltern NP. Given the nature of the summer and the drop in honeyeater numbers in general, we're confident this bird left the park and returned only when conditions improved. Since that time there has been a steady trickle of more unbanded and banded birds back into Chiltern, and at its peak we've had a total of at least 11 birds present. And four of those have been from the 2010 release, showing the longer-term survival ability of the captive bred birds in the wild. And as exciting as this was, a fifth bird from the 2010 release was picked up by a landholder with very keen ears, near Holbrook (NSW), about 100kms from where it was released just 12 months earlier!

### A CALL TO HELP SAVE THE ENIGMATIC SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* is one of the world's strangest looking birds and certainly the most unusual wader. The species is listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered on the basis of an extremely small population, estimated at 120-200 hundred pairs, and due to an annual decline of 27%. This means that it is at an extremely high risk of extinction in the next few years. Hunting and habitat loss on the non-breeding grounds, combined with the loss of important intertidal feeding areas during its migration, have all contributed to this precipitous decline. At the last East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Meeting in December 2010, a report on the International Action Plan for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper was delivered on behalf of BirdLife International and the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS). Along with actions related to habitat protection, site management, awareness raising and education particularly in the non-breeding grounds, the possibility of establishing a captive breeding program was explored. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) in conjunction with RSPB, BTO, Birdlife International and Birds Russia have now embarked on an ambitious breeding program. This will entail extensive field operations in Chukotka, Russia, in the forthcoming summer of 2011. Ongoing husbandry will be carried out through WWT facilities in the United Kingdom. The cost of this program is very high and, while it is being funded in the short term by RSPB and WWT, the EAAF Partnership has invited Partners to provide

financial assistance to enable ongoing support and the success of this program. Although this species is not one that we see in Australasia it is, nevertheless, the most iconic wader species in our flyway.



Its current critical conservation situation should be of concern to every shorebird lover wherever they live. Moreover, the problems faced by this species are common to many of the shorebirds that migrate through our flyway. In many ways this is a flagship species that is demonstrating to the world the significant issues that are faced by these long distance migrants. As a key member of the Partnership, the AWSG wishes to provide support to this program, and the broader conservation of this species by protecting critical habitat and addressing the threats of hunting, identified as the main causes of decline.

'Exert from "**STILT**" *The Journal for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway*

#### The Wentworth Talks: Birds

*From vermin to endangered in two decades; the tale of Western Australia's Carnaby's Black Cockatoo*

**When:** Monday 24 October, 6.30pm **Where:** Wharf 1 Sydney Theatre Company's home, The Wharf at Pier 4/5, is fast becoming a living example of how all buildings – even heritage ones – can be made more sustainable. We now draw energy from the sun, reduce the waste leaving The Wharf to landfill and will soon be collecting precious rainwater from our roof. **The WA Carnaby's Black Cockatoo is headed for extinction.** The species may well go the same way as the Tasmanian Tiger in 1936. Dr Denis Saunders' (President of WWF Australia) has been detailing the ecology and behaviour of these increasingly rare birds since 1968. In that time he has observed that the clearing of native vegetation and increases in agriculture and urban development have had a dramatic effect on the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Dr Saunders tells the story of just one species and what it can teach us about human impacts on our environment.

**Dr Denis Saunders AM** is a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, President of WWF-Australia, Chair of the Sara Halvedene Foundation, and a Research Fellow with CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences. He has a BSc (Honours) from the Australian National University and a PhD from the University of Western Australia. From 1968 to 2002 he was a scientist with CSIRO, retiring as a Chief Research Scientist. He has studied the ecology, behaviour and taxonomy of cockatoos, the ecology of island bird communities and the conservation of bird communities in production landscapes.

More information: <http://www.sydneytheatre.com.au/back-stage/the-wentworth-talks-birds>

**Tickets are free** but we encourage you to get in early and book your seats by calling the STC Box Office on (02) 9250 1777

Please note: Tickets are limited to 2 per customer and must be collected 30 minutes prior to the performance.

### Recognition for One of Our Own.

Nola Williams, Foundation Member of our Club and wife of Foundation President and Life Member Laurie, has been nominated by the NSW Embroiderers' Guild for Senior Citizen of the Year (2012). It cites "Education for Children in Remote Areas".

After organising for the Guild a test run in 2003, Nola set up in 2004 a scheme titled "Fun With Stitches" for young people aged 8 to 18. She expected to attract about 20 students but, to date, she's had 158. Except for the 3 students overseas (Singapore, South Africa and USA), her students are well scattered over Australia, mostly "in the bush".

Nola's contact with the youngsters is almost exclusively by mail so, on birdwatching trips away from home, she misses few chances to make closer contact. In 2007, after birdwatching around White Cliffs and while in Wanaaring for The Wild Goat Muster, she called on the NPWS Ranger at Nocolche Nature Reserve to meet two of her students, the Ranger's daughters, who took pride in showing Nola a room set aside with radio, computer etc for that other part of their education, School of the Air. And, in 2005, coming off The Great Central Road in WA, Nola used the School of the Air base in Meekatharra to get the message out to more youngsters.

A lot of continuous work and dedication and a nomination well earned.

Our congratulations to Nola. We're proud of her.

Dave Thomson. 9/9/2011.

### **Notice of Motion to be submitted to the IBOC Membership at the 2011 AGM.**

The IBOC Committee has unanimously agreed to submit this proposal to the Annual General Meeting of IBOC on Monday 14th November 2011.

**that "Bronwyn Wilson be elected a  
Life Member of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club inc.  
in recognition of her 18 years Service as IBOC's Treasurer."**

Proposed Anne Cousins, seconded Wal Emery.

### **ATLAS DATA: A MILLION USES -**

[http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/images/stories/current-projects/atlas\\_birddata/AtlasNews15-Aug11.pdf](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/images/stories/current-projects/atlas_birddata/AtlasNews15-Aug11.pdf)

**Data collected for the Atlas project play a critical role in a multitude of conservation actions. Here are just a couple examples...**

**Aussie Bittern Protected by the EPBC Act** Last February the Australasian Bittern was given formal protection under the Federal Government's EPBC Act, where it was listed as 'Endangered', bringing its status in line with that of the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species. This happened only after it was established that the species' population had been in steady decline for decades. The Australasian Bittern is such a shy, cryptic and secretive bird, so how do we know? The Atlas was crucial in kick-starting the conservation effort to save the species. Researchers were able to track the declining number of records of bitterns submitted to the Atlas since the 1970s, and they could also see that the range of the species had contracted in that time. The collective efforts of the Atlassers provided the information which made it possible to see clearly what was going on. After the alarm bells started ringing, birdwatchers — most of them Atlassers — were mobilised to search wetlands, looking specifically for bitterns. From those surveys, it was established just how perilously low the population had become, and that a conservation effort was necessary to save the species. And thus the Bittern Survey Project was born. Atlas to the rescue!



## Basna Coming Events.....

**contact for all events** For a registration forms or to enquire about the courses or activities, please email [basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au) or call Pixie on 02 9647 1033

### Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association Boat Trip: Sunday 23 October

Come along and meet some of our critically endangered wildlife including albatrosses, shearwaters and petrels.

Venue: Wollongong Harbour (Not Port Kembla)

Time: Boat leaves at 7am – returns at 4pm

Bring: Lunch, drink, camera, binoculars and motion sickness tablets if required.

Cost: \$90 per person Limited spaces are available on boat.

### Twitchathon: 29-30 October

After the success of last year's twitchathon, in which BASNA members and friends raised \$25,000 for conservation projects, we are aiming to get even bigger and better in 2011 – raising enough money to fund a Powerful Owl Project Officer for the 2012 winter-spring breeding season of the Powerful Owl.

To join the Twitchathon contact Pixie at the BASNA Office for your 2011 Twitchathon Kit then form a team with two or even a dozen friends and family and go birdwatching over this October weekend. You can travel anywhere in NSW and/or the ACT. See how many species of birds your team can find from 4 pm Saturday 29 October to 4 pm Sunday 30 October 2011. In the weeks before this event, persuade family and friends to sponsor you so many cents or even dollars for each species your team sees.

There are prizes for the most species seen by two winning teams in the Main Race and the Champagne Race Sections, as well as prizes for the most money raised, the rarest bird seen by an individual, and prizes for children. There are also prizes to the team that sees the most birds in the shortest distance travelled, providing that they see over 180 species in the Main Race and 130 species in the Champagne. Participants in the two main races are invited to record the distance travelled from 4pm on the Saturday to 4pm on the Sunday.

The prizes include Trophies, a pair of Swarovski EL 10 x 50 Swarovision binoculars, a weekend in a motel at Leeton with a personal guided tour of the Internationally famous Ramsar Fivebough Swamp Wetlands (sponsored by the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetland Trust), two nights for two at a B&B at a known birding site, a digital camera, books, book vouchers, CDs, champagne, wine, special t-shirts and other prizes to go to the winners in the various categories of the Twitchathon.

### Learning about Raptors: Saturday 3 December

Have you ever been confused about the identity of a bird of prey? Are you looking at an eagle, kite, harrier, buzzard, hawk and falcon? If so which species? Are you curious about their habits, territory or conservation status? If yes then this courses is for you:

Venue: Sydney Olympic Park Time: 9 am-1 pm

Cost: The cost is \$59 for BA/BOCA members and \$69 for non-members.

Presenter: Dr Stephen Debus Bird ecologist, author of Australian raptor field guide "The Birds of Prey of Australia"

### Raptor Field day: Sunday 4 December

The field day will aim to find and observe a representative range of local raptors, highlight their field characters, and provide some identification tips. Numbers limited to 15.

Venue: Hawkesbury swamps/ lowlands areas

Time: 9 am to 2 pm

Cost: \$39 for BA/BOCA members, \$49 for non-members

For a registration form or to enquire about the courses or activities, please email

[basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au) or call Pixie on 02 9647 1033



If you wanted to see an image that totally captured the essence of being at peace, being secure and protected; what would that image look like? I submit that if you look right you will see that very essence in one incredible, magnificent photograph.

Talk about having your camera and being the right place at the right time. The photographer caught this special moment.

What a privilege to see.

Possibly Pink-necked Green Pigeon from Sri Lanka - unknown photographer.





We saw this Powerful Owl at Sydney Botanic Gardens in July. It was having a smorgasbord of fruit bats provided by the colony that roost near the cafe. I was wondering if you'd like to include one of the photos in the next newsletter. Many thanks Alison

*Photo by Johanna Keene*

*Though I am not terribly enamoured of snakes, I find this fellow attractive (mainly because it is small)*

*Russell Hannah*



*"Stimpson Python"*

**The Singing Garden  
THE INDIAN MYNA**

Gimme the town an' its clamour an' clutter;  
I ain't very fond of the bush;  
For my cobbors are coves of the gardens and gutter --  
A tough metropolitan push.  
I ain't never too keen on the countryfied life;  
It's the hustle an' bustle for me an' me wife.

So I swagger an' strut an' I cuss an' I swagger;  
I'm wise to the city's hard way.  
A bit of a bloke an' a bit of a bragger;  
I've always got plenty to say.  
Learned thro' knockin' about since my people came out  
From the land at the back of Bombay.

When out in the bush I am never a ranger;  
There never ain't nothin' to see.  
Besides, them bush birds got no time for a stranger;  
So town an' the traffic for me.  
I sleep in the gardens an' loaf in the street,  
An' sling off all day at the fellers I meet.

An' I swagger an' scold an' strut an' I swagger,  
An' pick up me fun where I can,  
Or tell off me wife, who's a bit of a nagger,  
Or scrap with the sparrers for scan.  
A bonzer at bluffin', I give you my word,  
For, between you an' me, I'm a pretty tough bird.

"Den"  
*Herald*, 7 January 1933, p8 - Number 25 in the Bush Birds series.

"Linus"  
Diamond Python  
still at home in  
Manyana  
  
Russell Hannah



**IF YOU HAVE ANY OWLS IN YOUR AREA CAN YOU PLEASE LET US KNOW**  
  
CHARLES DOVE Ph 0417 422 302  
[newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au)

**Members August/ September Sightings 2011**

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
California Quail	8	14-Sep-11	Towradgi Park	Bush/Grass	CDove/TEdwell/TWylie
White-headed Pigeon	2	31-Aug-11	Figtree	Garden	C Markham
Topknot Pigeon	1	24-Aug-11	Callala	Bush	R Emery
Wandering Albatross	1	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Offshore	B&J Zealey
Black-browed Albatross	4	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Offshore	B&J Zealey
Little Black Cormorant	20+	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Beach	B&J Zealey
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	24-Aug-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	24-Aug-11	Primbee	Casuarina Forest	Charles Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	25-Aug-11	Commaditchi Lagoon	Overhead	T Edwell/C&J Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	29-Aug-11	Windang Island	Post	C Dove
Brown Falcon	1	25-Aug-11	Fred Finch Park, Berkley	Bush	T Edwell/C&J Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	29-Aug-11	Lake Illawarra Entrance	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	17-Sep-11	Huskisson	Moona Moona Ck	R Emery
Double-banded Plover	1	29-Aug-11	Lake Illawarra Entrance	Foreshore	C Dove
<b>Banded Lapwing</b>	2	06-Sep-11	Windang Foreshore	Sand	C Dove
Red Knot	5	17-Sep-11	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Shoreline	C Dove
Red-necked Stint	1	15-Sep-11	Windang Foreshore	Sand	C Dove
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	3	12-Sep-11	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Shoreline	C Dove
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	9	17-Sep-11	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Shoreline	C Dove
Crested Tern	several	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Beach	B&J Zealey
Long-billed Corella	5	23-Sep-11	Slackey Flat, Bulli	Road nature strip	Mike Morphet
Long-billed Corella	50+	25-Sep-11	Warilla	Park	D Goldrick
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	20+	25-Sep-11	Warilla	Park	D Goldrick
<b>Red-rumped Parrot</b>	1m+1 fem	07-Sep-11	Market Square, W'gong	Park	Col Payne
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	19-Sep-11	East Corrimal	Residential	Mike Morphet
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	25-Sep-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphet
Southern Boobook	1	24-Sep-11	Budderoo NP	Forest	M Morphet/R Miller
Australian Logrunner	1	15-Sep-11	Hacking River	Rainforest	P Woodard
Eastern Bristlebird	1	19-Sep-11	Murrays Beach	Cliff Walk track	R Emery
Olive-backed Oriole	1	12-Sep-11	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Casuarina Forest	C Dove
Spangled Drongo	1	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Casuarina Forest	B Hudson
Tawny Grassbird	1	25-Aug-11	Commaditchi Lagoon	Grass/Reed	T Edwell/C&J Dove
Little Grassbird	3	20-Aug-11	Korrongulla	Reeds	Charles Dove

**Comments:**

The Banded Lapwing (a rare, nomadic) sighting is notable on two counts - firstly, it is unusual for it to frequent sandy foreshore/beach areas as its usual habitat is open grassy / bare habitat and secondly, this is the first Illawarra sighting since Nov 1988 at Shellharbour Swamp.

The Red-rumped Parrot (an uncommon, resident) sighting is also notable as a pair were last reported in May 1996 in the Primbee dune forest .

Darryl Goldrick, Records Officer

**Email your unusual or not so unusual bird sightings to [sightings@iboc.org.au](mailto:sightings@iboc.org.au)  
Please try to have sightings in 3 days before the newsletter deadline**

**Illawarra Bird Observers Club is now on facebook for your convenience ...  
let members know the birds that are in your area today.**

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

NO NEED TO USE YOUR PERSONAL E-mail address WE CAN SET AN ANONYMOUS ONE FOR YOU TO USE ON IBOC FACEBOOK PAGE  
for further information contact Charles [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au)

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**I.B.O.C. 2011 Annual General Meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
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 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011. 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 nomination forms are received for a position, then nominations will be called from the floor of the Annual General Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

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 i.e. 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 - 2012**

The AGM will be held at the start of the November meeting and nominations are invited for the following positions:

**President; Vice-President; Treasurer; Secretary and Four (4) Committee Members.**

Nominations should be received in writing by the Secretary no later than 7 days prior to the meeting.

**\*\*This year nominations are required to reach the Secretary by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011\*\***

Position nominated: .....

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.**



**Red-kneed Dotterel**

Scientific name: Erythrogonys cinctus  
 Family: Charadriidae  
 Order: Charadriiformes

**Featured Bird Groups**

Shore birds and waders

**Description**

The Red-kneed Dotterel is a small, plump wader with relatively long legs. It has a black cap covering



photo by Terry Edwell Fairy Meadow NSW

the eye that reaches from the upper bill to the lower hindneck. A black breast-band stand out against the entirely white chin and throat band. The breast-band grades into chestnut brown flanks. The upperparts are greenish brown and the underparts are white from the belly to the undertail. The bill is red with a blackish tip and the legs from the knees up are red, giving the species its common name. Young birds are similar to adults but the hood and breast band are brown. In all birds there is a sharp edge between the dark hood and white throat.

**Similar species**

There are no other waders that are really similar to the Red-kneed Dotterel, though the Black-fronted Dotterel, Elsyornis melanops, has a black line through the eye and a black breast-band. However this species lacks the completely dark hood and has a red eye-ring.

**Distribution**

Red-kneed Dotterels are found throughout mainland Australia and southern New Guinea.

**Habitat**

Red-kneed Dotterels are found in wetlands, lagoons and swamplands, preferring fresh water and areas prone to flooding.

**Seasonal movements**

The Red-kneed Dotterel is resident but probably moves long distances to find wetlands.

**Feeding**

The Red-kneed Dotterel feeds on aquatic insects, larvae and seeds. It probes the mud along shorelines, as well as wading and sometimes swimming while feeding.

**Breeding**

The Red-kneed Dotterel scrapes a small hollow in wet ground close to water and often sheltered by a bush and sometimes lined with grasses. Both parents share incubation and caring for the young, which can swim on hatching. The young birds will swim to shelter in a plant when their parents give an alarm call.

information courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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**ILLAWARRA  
 BIRD  
 OBSERVERS  
 CLUB Inc**

**'ONE GOOD TERN  
 DESERVES ANOTHER'**

**Founded in 1977**

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

**ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.**

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**RECORDS OFFICER:** Darryl Goldrick  
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# 2011 NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

**Club Meeting:****Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue &amp; Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow.

**Betty Hudson** will be talking on her trip to Central Australia in July 2011. The Title of the talk will be "Bird Life and Scenery of the Red Centre -A visit to Alice Springs, Newhaven Station and the West MacDonnell Ranges"

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

**Midweek Walk:****Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011****Barrack Point.****Leader Ted Simpson.**

Meet in the bowling club car park at 9am. Turn off Shellharbour Rd. then into Jason Ave, then turn into the bowling club car park. After a short walk along Little Lake inlet, we will drive to the point lookout. Then onto the small park on Junction Rd, for morning tea, after which we will continue along the coastal path.

Contact No Ted 0425121221.

**Monthly Outing:****Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011****Bangalee Reserve North Nowra****Leader Betty Hudson.**

From the north take the Princes Hwy to Bomaderry. Turn right into Illaroo Road, at the traffic lights just before the Shoalhaven Bridge. At the roundabout, veer right. Proceed for approx another 5km. passing Hockey's Lane and the Winery on your right, before turning left into Koloona Drive. (the street sign is on the light pole on the right hand side of Illaroo Rd and also has a small bright blue sign. Continue along Koloona Drive forking right at the Scout Camp Road & continuing along a narrow winding road for some way crossing a creek in a steep dip. The entrance to the reserve is at the top of a rise with a less than distinct sign. If you reach Watersleigh you have gone too far. Be aware that small buses also use the road to access Watersleigh.

Meet in the car park for the reserve at 8.30am. There are picnic & toilet facilities in the reserve. There are a wide variety of habitats, some historic ruins and good views of the river. Many interesting birds have been recorded here. Bring your sunscreen and insect repellent. We will carry morning tea, but will be returning to the cars for lunch. We will finish with a short walk after lunch. This is a 6km walk with varying grades from grassy flat tracks to short rocky scrambles. Members can do parts of the walk, with the easier portion being the early stages from the carpark.

**Phone Betty** on 4236 0307 or mobile 0432 892 945. Remember mobiles do not always have reception at the places we meet or walk.

**Committee Meeting** -**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011**

Next committee meeting 7.30pm. To be held at Alan and Anne Cousin's home, 4 Adelaide Place, Tarrawanna.2518, Phone 4283 3197. All welcome.

**Newsletter** -

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **24<sup>th</sup> November 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph: 0417 422 302

### The Following Items are for sale by the club at the Library Table each monthly meeting.

Club Logo Green Fleece Tops – Size Large only	\$37.00 each
Fabric Logo Badges	\$ 4.00 each
Logo Studs	\$ 3.00 each
Logo Pin	\$ 3.00 each
Large Car Stickers	\$ 2.00 each

Please see Anne Cousins or Joan Wylie at monthly meetings  
or telephone Joan on 4284 2051 or Anne on 0413 869 534



# CLUB REPORTS

## Report for club meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011

by Alan Cousins

Our guest speaker for October was the delightful Leah Royle,  
*Development Officer for the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC).*

Her presentation commenced by informing us that Australia is the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) most diverse nation on the planet but we have the worst mammal extinction rate in the world, twenty-two (22) species have been lost in the last 100 years and that 1,000's of species are threatened. These very disturbing and worrying statistics and disgraceful record was followed by a Channel 7 documentary 'Just Add Water' about the 7,000sq.kilometres of Lake Eyre on which new species of plant have been found since the inundation of rain. The presenter, Mike Monroe, flew over the area in a helicopter and had ground visits to this amazing spectacle.

The AWC are rebuilding the flora and fauna on its 22 sanctuaries that cover nearly 3 million hectares throughout Australia. They have removed 300 camels and are using fire management techniques and feral animal detection; they even have a cat-detection dog for cat research and management and are erecting feral proof fencing around some sanctuaries.

The AWC has a staff of 80 and an annual budget of \$9-10 million of which only 10% is spent on administration etc. Its projects have 190 species of mammals which is 67% of Australian species and 500 birds which is 85% of our species. They also carry out 90,000 trap nights per annum in their research.

One sanctuary Bowra is located on the Warrego River plains, in the heart of the Mulga Lands of Southern Queensland.

It covers more than 14,000 hectares and is protecting a unique pattern of rare habitats. It is renowned as a birdwatcher's paradise, more than 200 species of birds have been recorded here such as Hall's Babbler, Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, Bourke's Parrot and Chirruping Wedgebill. Fourteen (14) species of Parrot and eighteen (18) diurnal (active in daytime) raptor species further highlight the significance of Bowra. The Grey Falcon breeds there and it is one of the few places in Australia where the Black Falcon is regularly sighted. Bowra is also a stronghold for many other threatened and declining birds including Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Painted Honeyeater, Brown Treecreeper, Squatter Pigeon, Crested Bellbird and Diamond Firetail. Around 50 species of waterbirds also occur, including the Painted Snipe and a number of internationally protected migratory species. In addition to its abundant birdlife, Bowra provides refuge for a large number of mammals, including the threatened Kultar and Narrow nosed Planigale and over eighty (80) species of reptiles and frogs.

This magnificent Sanctuary seems to need a visit from members of the Illawarra Bird Observer Club so perhaps this may be a thought for the future. Many thanks must go to Leah for this disturbing, thought provoking but brilliant presentation.

## Mid-week Walk Report – Macquarie Rivulet 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

by Sylvia Garlick

Wednesday was a lovely day for our walk. The car park proved to be the perfect place to start with Red-browed Finches a Willy Wagtail and Brown Thornbills flitting through the trees and the grass. Superb Fairy Wrens were on the lawn and in the gardens. The path meandered under the highway and Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black and Australian Wood Duck were on the water. Cormorants- Pied, Little Black, Great and an Australasian Darter were flying overhead and resting on the branches overhanging the water. An Azure Kingfisher was sitting quietly and most of us were able to have an excellent sighting. A Dusky Moorhen and Black Swan came into view.

On the grassed area we saw several Honeyeaters in the trees a Grey Fantail, Yellow Thornbill, Spotted Pardalote and two Cockatoos. An Australian Reed-warbler was the best sighting for the day for me.

This walk is along a level concrete pathway and apart from a few cyclists you have to watch, you can spend all the time watching birds. After morning tea we made the return journey and were pleased to see a Black-faced Monarch an Olive-backed Oriole and a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. Several introduced birds were seen.

Thanks Ted for another good walk.

Macquarie Rivulet 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 Bird List

by Tom Wylie

54 Species 18 members

Black Swan	Royal Spoonbill	White-browed Scrubwren	Black-faced Monarch
Australian Wood Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Yellow Thornbill	Maggie-lark
Chestnut Teal	Dusky Moorhen	Brown Thornbill	Australian Reed-warbler
Pacific Black Duck	Black-fronted Dotterel	Spotted Pardalote	Silvereye
Spotted Dove	Masked Lapwing	Little Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Crested Pigeon	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Australasian Darter	Galah	New Holland Honeyeater	Common Blackbird
Great Cormorant	Long-billed Corella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Starling
Little Black Cormorant	Little Corella	Olive-backed Oriole	Common Myna
Pied Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Butcherbird	Red-browed Finch
Australian Pelican	Rainbow Lorikeet	Australian Magpie	House Sparrow
Eastern Great Egret	Azure Kingfisher	Grey Fantail	European Goldfinch
Striated Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Willie Wagtail	
Australian White Ibis	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Raven	

Photos from the Rivulet by Charlie



Australian Reed-warbler



Olive-backed Oriole



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Weekend Walk Report – Shoalhaven Heads 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

by Linda Cohen

A small group of 11 keen birdwatchers braved the wet weather in the hope of seeing some good birds at Shoalhaven Heads. It had poured with rain the night before, but with only light mist coming down we were encouraged to set out. I was very excited as I hadn't been here before – and I was hoping to see the White-fronted Chats that I'd heard were here.

The plan was to walk to Comerong Island following the shoreline. Part of the way there we stopped to investigate several waders – including numerous Bar-tailed Godwits, as well as Red-necked Stints, Red Knots, a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (a lifer for me!) and Ruddy Turnstones. It was interesting to see several Pacific Golden Plovers still in partial breeding plumage.

While we were watching them, we saw both the Crested Tern and the Caspian Tern arrive, providing a great opportunity to compare them both. As this was only the second time I'd seen the Caspian Tern this was great. At one point, a White-bellied Sea Eagle flew low overhead, unsettling all the waders and sending them further away from us along the shoreline.

We met a local Shorebird volunteer, who had come for his daily shift to check the 2 pairs of Pied Oystercatchers nesting behind special electric fences. It's great to see these beautiful, endangered birds being protected.

However, a sudden deluge of heavy rain appeared from nowhere and most of the group decided to head back. A few hardy souls (Charles, Tom, Tera, Linda) stayed on (once you're already wet it doesn't make much difference!). I was determined to find the White-fronted Chats, and finally we were rewarded with crippling looks of 2 pairs feeding along the shoreline. Very exciting – the only other time I'd seen them was on the IBOC Easter camp last year at Tuckerbill Swamp.

By this time, we were wet and pretty hungry (and other group members were calling us to see what we were up to as we had their morning tea!!) so we headed back, watching the Red-capped Plovers run along the beach. Charles stayed on and saw the Curlew Sandpiper, and the Greater Sand Plover. It was a good walk despite the wet weather, and somewhere I've now added to my growing list of places to get back to! Next time I'm hoping to get further towards Comerong Island.

**Seven Mile Beach**

Linda Cohen

Most of us still weren't ready to head home, so we drove on and had lunch in beautiful surroundings at Seven Mile Beach, followed by a short walk through the coastal vegetation. This was pretty quiet, but we certainly heard a few interesting birds – including one of my favourites, the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Other interesting birds included the White-throated Treecreeper, Spotted Pardalote and the White-bellied Sea Eagle. Plus there were many of the usual suspects (see following birdlist). A memorable moment for me was finally seeing a Brown Gerygone after hearing its call for ages – thank you Joan for finding me another lifer!

Two walks and two new birds – and a great day out ☺

**Shoalhaven Heads Bird List 54 species**

by Tom Wylie

Black Swan	Lesser Sand Plover	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Australian Wood Duck	Greater Sand Plover	Rainbow Lorikeet	Golden Whistler
Chestnut Teal	Masked Lapwing	Eastern Koel	Grey Shrike-thrush
Crested Pigeon	Bar-tailed Godwit	Shining Bronze-cuckoo	Grey Butcherbird
Bar-shouldered Dove	Eastern Curlew	Laughing Kookaburra	Australian Magpie
Little Pied Cormorant	Ruddy Turnstone	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail
Little Black Cormorant	Red Knot	Spotted Pardalote	Willie Wagtail
Australian Pelican	Red-necked Stint	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Eastern Great Egret	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Noisy Miner	Magpie-lark
White-faced Heron	Curlew Sandpiper	Little Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Caspian Tern	Red Wattlebird	Common Myna
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Crested Tern	White-fronted Chat	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Pacific Golden Plover	Silver Gull	New Holland Honeyeater	
Red-capped Plover	Galah	Eastern Whipbird	

Second walk taken after the rain

**Seven Mile Beach Bird List 16 species**

by Tom Wylie

White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Brown Gerygone	Eastern Whipbird	Grey Fantail
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Golden Whistler	
Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird	
White-throated Treecreeper	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Pied Currawong	



Greater Sandplover



White-fronted Chat



Red-necked Stint



Red Knot



Curlew Sandpiper



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – RN stints

Birds from the Shoalhaven heads by Charles Dove

**Report for Pelagic Trip 23.09.11**

Linda Cohen

On a fine sunny and still morning 20 members of IBOC and friends gathered at Wollongong Harbour for a trip out beyond the Five Islands to look for pelagic birds. Accompanied by Lindsay Smith and his helper we boarded the Sandra K. after a safety talk. Leaving the harbour we soon started burling to attract the birds. At first these were mostly Silver Gulls, but soon Wedge-tailed Shearwaters joined in the feeding frenzy.

As we left the shore further behind, we began to see more birds, but the boat started to roll on the swell, making movement awkward. One hand held to onto the boat and one for our binoculars. We began to see other small fast moving birds flying low over the waves – Fluttering Shearwaters and the dark hooded otherwise similar Hutton's Shearwater. These small birds never approached the

boat. A lone Black-browed Albatross stayed with us for some time but again never came near the boat.

Soon the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters overcame their shyness and approached close to the boat enabling some to be caught in the net and banded. This gave everyone a chance to have a close look at them, keeping a respectful distance from their beak.

On the return to shore we passed close to the islands and were rewarded with good sightings of Australian Fur Seals, and a Common Dolphin.

Thanks to Linda for arranging the trip, with many people stating that they would like another in the main Albatross season next year.

I personally would not recommend the non-drowsy travel pills. Not very effective! but otherwise an excellent morning.



SOSSA pelagic – Linda Cohen holding an Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross.

**Bird List for Half Day Pelagic Trip 23.09.11**

20 people sailed. 15 species sighted

Black-browed Albatross (1)	Little Pied Cormorant	White-fronted Tern
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Great Cormorant	Common Tern
Fluttering Shearwater	Little Black Cormorant	Crested Tern
Hutton's Shearwater	Australian White Ibis	Kelp Gull (2 A 1 Imm)
Australasian Gannet	Australian Pelican	Silver Gull
Common Dolphin	Australian Fur Seal	

Pics by Charlie



Black-browed Albatross



Wedge-tailed Shearwater



Australasian Gannet



Kelp Gull



Fluttering Shearwater



Fur Seals

Tom, Joan, Neil and I went to Rhododendron Park on the 3/10/11. Very enjoyable day with a lot of birds keeping us company. Tera Wheway

Australian Wood Duck	Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Australian King-Parrot	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong
Brown Cuckoo-dove	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Wonga Pigeon	Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Topknot Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Noisy Miner	Eastern Yellow Robin
Grey Goshawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Little Wattlebird	Bassian Thrush
Dusky Moorhen	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	Common Myna
Galah	White-browed Scrubwren	Golden Whistler E race	Red-browed Finch
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Gerygone	Grey Butcherbird	

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## California Quail in Wollongong.

The local birdwatching fraternity has learned in the last couple of months that we have in Wollongong a population of the introduced **California Quail**. The first formal record of this seems to be a note dated 14<sup>th</sup> August on the Net at "Birdline NSW / Recent Sightings".

They're being seen on a well-maintained grassed area on either side of a very busy bike track near Towradgi Beach, between the surf clubhouse and the retirement village / caravan park to the south. The vegetation on the sea side is dune "forest" (casuarinas, banksias etc) with the surf about 100m beyond. There's an unappealing creek to the west. The birds graze on the grassed area and are fairly approachable, but, if pressed, seek refuge in the thickets. They share the area with a few wild rabbits.

The number of birds we've seen in a covey seems to vary from 1 to 9, but, because some mixed-gender groups have been seen with 5 males and some with 5 females, we obviously have at least 10 birds.

Discussion with a non-birdwatcher acquaintance who has regularly walked this path and over many years suggests that the birds have been here for "at least 10 years" and he mentions seeing chicks at some stage. While I think his observations to be reliable, it's puzzling that some of our local birdwatchers have themselves regularly and for many years walked the track but have never noticed a California Quail.

Both "Introduced Birds of the World" (J.L.Long) and "HANZAB" (BA) record that California Quail (stock from NZ where they were introduced in the 1860's and are now thriving) have been introduced successfully into Tasmania's King Island and into Norfolk Island, but **un**successfully into other Australian islands and into the mainland, though "HANZAB" notes a few recent, but seemingly unsubstantiated, records from the mainland. Some of the Australian introductions go back to the late 1800's.

Maybe the population in Wollongong is the only one on the mainland surviving from those early introductions - - or maybe it's a population breeding from aviary escapees of some years back - - or maybe they're just recent escapees (though with at least 10 birds in the population this seems unlikely).

**But now we have a reliable datum from which to start – 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2011.**

**Keep your eyes open.**

Dave Thomson. 8/10/2011.



California Quail at Towradgi Beach by Charles Dove

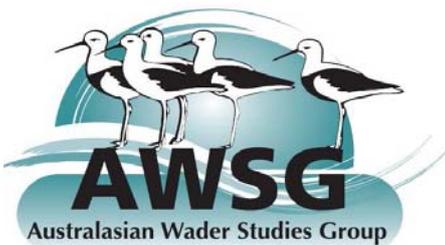
## TERNS ARE COMING

Today at around midday I sat at Sawtell Headland and counted (or tried to) the largest aggregation of Little Terns ever observed at Sawtell. I was alerted to this massive wildlife event by local volunteer Paul Parramore who had counted 2,000 + Little Terns there earlier this morning. The flock was continuous along the beach front for over 250 metres and included an estimated 2800-3200 endangered Little Terns. The large majority of them were not 'in colour' and are likely to be of the northern hemisphere (ie. non – breeding) sub-species or southern hemisphere sub-species individuals heading to their usual breeding grounds further to the south and yet to 'go yellow'. This number exceeds the previous record, recorded in HANZAB, of an estimated 1500 Little Terns seen there in the early 1970's. More recently, since the gazettal of Bongil Bongil NP in 1995 and the implementation of the species recovery plan in 1997, the largest flock counted at Sawtell was around 700 birds in 2005.

Who says NPWS Recovery Programs don't work?

Regards

**Martin Smith Ranger –  
Coffs Coast Area  
North Coast Region**



### 18th February to 10th March 2012

#### *NW Australian Shorebird and Tern Expedition*

A series of special expeditions has taken place over the years to undertake comprehensive long-term studies of the waders and terns in NW Australia. A further major NW Australia Wader and Tern Expedition will take place from 18th February to 10th March 2012. A large number of people will be needed if a satisfactory team is to be available throughout this three-week period. Anyone interested in participating in the next expedition are encouraged to participate.

For further information see the attached [pdf](#)

Clive Minton, 165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, VIC. 3193. Australia. Phone 61-3-9589 4901 <a href="mailto:mintons@ozemail.com.au">mintons@ozemail.com.au</a>	Rosalind Jessop, RMB 4009 Cowes. VIC. 3922. Australia. Ph 61-3-5952 1857 <a href="mailto:moonbird@waterfront.net.au">moonbird@waterfront.net.au</a>	Chris Hassell, PO Box 3089, Broome. WA. 6725. Australia. Ph. 61-8-9192 8585 <a href="mailto:turnstone@wn.com.au">turnstone@wn.com.au</a>	Maureen Christie, Carpenter Rocks. SA 5291. Australia Ph: 61-8-87380014  <a href="mailto:twinpeppers@icisp.net.au">twinpeppers@icisp.net.au</a>
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## SALE OF DUPLICATED BOOKS RESULTING FROM MERGER

As a result of the merger of the BOCA and BA libraries, approximately 500 books and many journals are duplicated. It has been decided that these duplicates from BOCA's Library will progressively be withdrawn from the shelves and offered for sale. More books will be added to the list as work continues. Prices will be listed as they become available, so look at the list regularly! Books which are not yet priced will not be available until priced, no pre-requests. As books are priced, they will become available by coming in to the BOCA Shop or on mail-order by ringing BOCA National Office on (03) 9877 5342 or 1300 305 342 or e-mail [information@boca.org.au](mailto:information@boca.org.au)

**UPDATE** - the list of priced books is [here](#). PDF file



Buff-banded Rail



Crimson Chat



MALLEE FOWL



Turquoise Parrot



Baillons Crake



Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Some of Terry Edwells great pics from a recent return trip to Lake Cargelligo  
**hard place to stay away from**



PAM HAZELWOOD supplied this great Pic. of the Owlet Nightjar that her brother John Hazelwood managed to see in a nest at Boondall wetland.

This Pic of the **Latham's Snipe** taken by Barbara Hales led to unforeseen sightings at Koon Bay in October with the amazing amount of **17+ Latham's Snipe** on my first outing and **5 Painted Snipe** next day. Charles Dove





These pics were taken by one of the NRW crew at Cloudbreak this week. It took a total of 5 hours for the snake to finish off the goanna. They put some signage up so it couldn't be run over. Peter Butler



Tera & Neil Wheway enjoyed a trip to the west coming back with some great Pics of some of the Birds they came across. 1) Osprey. - 2) Spinifex Pigeon. - 3) Regent Parrot



Beach Stone Curlews were the highlight on one of the days out at Urunga at The IBOC Spring Camp. Great Picture from Pam Hazelwood

The Banded Lapwing, California Quail, Latham's Snipe, Painted Snipe, Glossy Ibis, Pink-eared Duck and Yellow-billed Spoonbill have certainly excited me over the last few weeks, it seems that we are seeing a lot more birds that have been quiet for awhile in our local areas. I have noticed a lot more birds coming back to Primbee, which I did not see much of last year. The waders are coming once again to Purry Burry Point and the Brush, Horsfield's & Fantail Cuckoo along with the Sacred Kingfisher has arrived in the Casuarinas. It's time to get out and about to see what's around in your area.



Banded Lapwing ( Windang )



Yellow-billed Spoonbill (Purry Burry Pt. Primbee)



Glossy Ibis (Haywards Bay)



Laughing Kookaburra (white) Shellharbour



Pink-eared Duck (Purry Burry Point Primbee)



Latham's Snipe (Koon Bay Albion Park Rail)



Painted Snipe (Koon Bay)



(Haywards Bay Albion Park Rail)

and

**Members Sightings September - October 2011**

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	No.	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Australian Painted Snipe	5	17-Oct-11	Koona Bay	Saltmarsh	C Dove/T Edwell/ J & R Gowans
Australian Painted Snipe	2	21-Oct-11	Koona Bay	Saltmarsh	C Dove/B Hales
Australian Painted Snipe	6	19-Oct-11	Koona Bay	Saltmarsh	Darryl Goldrick
Australian Painted Snipe	8	21-Oct-11	Haywards Bay	Saltmarsh	C & J Dove/T Edwell
Bar-tailed Godwit	40+	26-Sep-11	Hooker Park, Lake Sth	Foreshore	C Dove/R Imisides
Bar-tailed Godwit	3	08-Oct-11	Purry Burry Point	Foreshore	C Dove
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	11-Oct-11	Figtree	Garden	Colin Markham
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	23-Sep-11	Thirroul	O'head	Richard Miller
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	24-Sep-11	Albion Park	O'head-Woolies c.p	Brian Hales
Common Greenshank	1	26-Sep-11	Hooker Park Lake Sth.	Foreshore	C Dove/R Imisides
Common Greenshank	1	08-Oct-11	Purry Burry Point	Foreshore	C Dove
Crested Shrike-tit	2	10-Oct-11	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
Curlew Sandpiper	1	20-Sep-11	Primbee	Sandbar	C Dove
Eastern Koel	1	21-Sep-11	Primbee	Paperbark Tree	C Dove
Eastern Koel	3	28-Oct-11	Lake Illawarra Sth	Eucalypt Trees	Darryl Goldrick
Glossy Ibis	1	21-Oct-11	Haywards Bay	Foreshore	C&J Dove/T Edwell
Latham Snipe	15	16-Oct-11	Koona Bay	Saltmarsh	C J Dove/ B B Hales/ D S Garlick
Little Black Cormorant	150+	08-Oct-11	Purry Burry Point	Lake Illawarra	Charles Dove
Little Eagle	1	21-Oct-11	Haywards Bay	O'head	C&J Dove/T Edwell
Nankeen Night-Heron	5	16-Oct-11	Macquarie Rivulet A.P. Rail	Eucalypts	Charles Dove
Red Knot	7	26-Sep-11	Hooker Par, Lake Sth	Foreshore	C Dove/R Imisides
Red Knot	17	08-Oct-11	Purry Burry Point	Foreshore	C Dove
Red-necked Stint	3	29-Sep-11	Lake Illawarra Entrance	Beach	C Dove
Red-necked Stint	4	18-Oct-11	Purry Burry Point	Foreshore	C Dove
Red-rumped Parrot	3	1/2 Oct-11	Wollongong	Old Court House	Peter Butler
Ruddy Turnstone	6	06-Oct-11	Woonona Point	Rock Platform	Nerida Hudspith
Sacred Kingfisher	1	22-Sep-11	Primbee	Powerline	C Dove
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	50+	20-Sep-11	Primbee	Sandbar	C Dove
Southern Emu-wren	2m/f	26-Sep-11	Pelican View Res. Lake Sth	Scrub	C Dove/R Imisides
Striated Heron	1	06-Oct-11	Tallawarra	O'head	Nerida Hudspith
Stubble Quail	1m	22-Sep-11	Thirroul	Garden	Richard Miller
Topknot Pigeon	2	1/2 Oct-11	Figtree	Byrong Creek Bridge	Peter Butler
Topknot Pigeon	12	03-Oct-11	Thirroul	O'head	Richard Miller
Whistling Kite	1	06-Oct-11	Tallawarra	O'head	Nerida Hudspith
White-fronted Chat	2m/f	19-Oct-11	Koona Bay	Foreshore	C Dove
White-headed Pigeon	2	1/2 Oct-11	Figtree	American Creek	Peter Butler
White-necked Heron	1	05-Oct-11	Koona Bay	Samphire	Deon Hales

**Remarks:** Some exciting and somewhat unexpected 'visitors' have graced our district this month.

The Painted Snipe (Rare-Nomadic) at Koona Bay is the biggest surprise-up to 8 in total. The last sightings were in single birds in 1970, 1971 and 1986 at Macquarie Rivulet, Wollongong (?) and Shellharbour Swamp (Marina site presumably) respectively. These birds are usually associated with the inland areas and freshwater environs not the saltwater/brackish conditions that prevail at Koona Bay.

The Glossy Ibis (Rare-Nomadic) has been sighted in the Illawarra in the 70's and 80's – the last recorded sightings were in small numbers at Tallawarra and Killalea in 2001-2-3-7. Their appearance is more likely to occur in drought years.

The Pink-eared Duck (Scarce-Nomadic) were last recorded in 1985/86 and 1999 (Primbee Peninsular?) Again generally only visits the coastal areas during inland droughts.

One could not really describe the inland areas as presently being in a drought-like state, which makes the sightings and presence of these birds in the Illawarra as particularly Unusual.

Well done to those who made these sightings. I encourage members who come across any such unusual encounters to share it with other members so they in turn can experience what could well be 'a lifer' for them

Darryl Goldrick – Vice President/Records Officer.

**Email your unusual or not so unusual bird sightings to [sightings@iboc.org.au](mailto:sightings@iboc.org.au)  
Please try to have sightings in 3 days before the newsletter deadline**

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

Scientific name: *Calidris acuminata*  
 Family: Scolopacidae  
 Order: Charadriiformes

**Featured Bird Groups**  
 Shore birds and waders

**Description**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a medium sized wader with a straight black bill that has an olive-grey base. It has a chestnut crown and nape, a white eyebrow, and



photo by Charles Dove Purry Burry Point Primbie

reddish brown upperparts, with each feather having a black centre. The rump and tail are black, with white outer margins visible in flight. The wings have an indistinct white bar. The breast and flanks are white, streaked and speckled black, with a reddish brown tinge on the chest, grading into a white belly and undertail. The legs are olive. This species is commonly seen with other waders during its migration from northern breeding grounds.

**Similar species**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is very similar to most other sandpipers, especially the Pectoral Sandpiper, *C. melanotos*, but may be distinguished from this species by having no clearcut division between the breast and belly markings, olive (rather than yellow) legs, and a chestnut (rather than dark) head.

**Distribution**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a summer migrant from Arctic Siberia, being found on wetlands throughout Australia. It is also found in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and New Zealand. It is a vagrant to India, Europe, western North America, Fiji and other parts of the central Pacific region.

**Habitat**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper prefers the grassy edges of shallow inland freshwater wetlands. It is also found

around swage farms, flooded fields, mudflats, mangroves, rocky shores and beaches. Its breeding habitat in Siberia is the peat-hummock and lichen tundra of the high Arctic.

**Seasonal movements**

Strongly migratory, arriving in Australia in August, returning to Siberia in March, with greatest numbers in south-eastern Australia.

**Feeding**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper feeds on aquatic insects and their larvae, as well as worms, molluscs, crustaceans and sometimes, seeds. It is often found in large flocks, often with other waders, foraging in shallow waters.

**Breeding**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper breeds in the short Siberian summer (June to August). Its nest is a well-hidden shallow hollow on the ground, lined with grass and leaves. The female incubates the eggs and raises the young alone.

information courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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**Founded in 1977**

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

**ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.**

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# 2011 DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

**CHRISTMAS B-B-Q** Saturday 10th December 2011 - 4.00 pm.

All are welcome.

At the Integral Energy Recreation Park, Darkes Road, Dapto. Breads, 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 H'way 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.

**Club Meeting:**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

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.

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

**December/January** ----- Christmas and New Year Break

**No Club Walks, resume February New Year 5pm at Windang foreshore 2012**

**Committee Meeting -**

**Monday 16th January 2012**

Next committee meeting 7.30pm. To be held at Betty Hudsons . 1 Drualla Road, Jamberoo ph 4236 0307. Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to attend the meeting. All welcome.

**Newsletter -**

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **24<sup>th</sup> January 2012**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph: 0417 422 302

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS IMPORTANT Renewal of IBOC Membership for 2012**

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](http://www.iboc.org.au) **Please note that fees are due on the 1st January 2012.**

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**



## PRESIDENTS REPORT 2011

*Alan Cousins*

We have had a very interesting and full year with speakers at our monthly meetings ranging from a bee keeper to a zoo keeper, a Bush Fire Brigade Officer, club members and other excellent speakers. We have heard about parrots, passerines and shorebirds etc.

February	- Michael Gray	- New South Wales Rural Fire Service
March	- Emily Sehmelitschek	- Taronga Zoo (Regent Honeyeater Program)
April	- Louie Kelbert	- Bee Keeping
May	- Jodie Dunn	- NPWS Shorebird Recovery Program
June	- Neil Wheway, Peter Fackender, Ron Imisides	- Interesting asides
July	- Lynne Iverson	- 'Tails from Taronga'
August	- Walter Boles	- Night Parrot
September	- Bill & Joan Zealey	- Travels in Britain and Europe 2010
October	- Leah Royle	- Australian Wildlife Conservancy.
November	- Betty Hudson	- 'Bird Life and Scenery of the Red Centre'

A précis of all of these presentations has been produced in the following month's newsletter.

Our monthly midweek walks and weekend outings have been to numerous locations near and far and have been well attended some despite unfavourable weather conditions and we have been lucky enough to see anything between 40-60 bird species on our trips. Thanks to Tom Wylie for his ever ready note book and of course to Ted Simpson for organising the midweek walks and Betty Hudson the weekend outings.

Our Autumn camp to Lake Cargelligo was very well attended and we had a bumper crop of bird species, some lucky people getting 'lifers'. It was such a popular and bird productive place that many members have made return visits. The Spring camp to Mylstrom, near Coffs Harbour, which unfortunately Anne and I could not attend, appears from verbal reports to have been as productive and I look forward to members reports in later newsletters.

We were lucky enough to receive a further grant from the IMB Community Foundation to enable us to reprint the highly successful 'Birds of the Illawarra' brochure. These brochures have been widely distributed and are available to any member of the club by contacting a committee member.

We have had some good local sightings this year among them being the Californian Quail (see 'Articles of Interest' from Dave Thompson in the November Newsletter), Latham's Snipe and Painted Snipe to name but three and of course we must not forget the excellent photos taken by Charlie Dove on his regular walks.

The monthly newsletter continues to bring us all up to date with the club activities and maintains its high standard. To maintain this level it is imperative that members continue to send in articles and photo's to the editor for inclusion. Thanks Charlie for another great year of production. This club could not operate without the efforts of your committee, they know who they are and I thank them sincerely for their support during 2011. It would be remiss of me not to mention our other stalwarts, Chris Cartledge for his continued work as webmaster and for taking over the duties of Public Officer, Tom Wylie - Hall Monitor, Sylvia Garlick & others Kitchen, Anne Cousins and Joan Wylie - Library and Darryl Goldrick - Records Officer. If I have omitted anybody please accept my apologies and thanks.

We are now in the process of planning the 2012 programme and are open to suggestions from any member who feels that there is an event etc. that they may wish us to persue or organise.

***My thanks to all members of IBOC for their interest and support throughout 2011***

**Report for club meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011 by Alan Cousins**

Our speaker for November was Betty Hudson our long serving secretary whose talk was entitled 'Bird Life and Scenery of the Red Centre'. Her trip was to Alice Springs, Newhaven Station and the West MacDonnell Ranges.

Betty introduced us to the area and said what an interesting geology exists and that rivers flowing north to south have formed the magnificent gorges with unbelievable rock colours. Her photographs of these formations highlighted the facts. During the presentation we were treated to the pictures of at least 52 species of birds, a Red Kangaroo and some amazing gorges and rock formations. Some of the birds Betty had to

photograph in a large aviary, as, although seen in the wild, she could not get decent shots.

The Alice Springs water hole did not have much water and the Newhaven Station has been restored to its former state.

Betty indicated how cold it can be in the Red Centre, it was 11C and cold and cloudy on her first day there. The distances travelled between places is also vast, it was a five hour drive from Alice Springs to Newhaven Station.

This was a very interesting and informative presentation and indicated to those of us who have not yet had the pleasure of a visit to the Red Centre just how diverse the area is.

Thank you very much Betty

**Mid-week Walk Report – Barrack Point**

November 16<sup>th</sup> 2011

Charles Dove

Starting off the Day at Warilla Bowls Club we meandered our way around the Little Lake Foreshore in a blustery 'Southerly Buster' sighting a number of the local Species which included the Little Cormorant, Great Egret and Common Greenshank to name a few. An interesting find of deceased bird, which proved difficult to identify even though it was undamaged, generally thought to be, but unconfirmed young Starling.

Leaving here we alighted to our cars and proceeded around a short distance, to the small parkland overlooking the Little Lake entrance for a WC stop,



as well as a look around. A Masked Lapwing with three young chicks caused a lot of interest, with

cameras clicking all around them they just wandered back and forth. Moving off around the headlands in our cars, we drove to the south side of Barrack Point, stopping at a Park adjacent the northern end of Shellharbour Beach, for morning tea. After MT we walked down the park, heading towards the Shellharbour Village, stopping occasionally to go up the short pathways that overlook the beach, a school of Porpoise were in close and entertained us as they frolicked in the shallows. A few of us continued on to



the opposite side of the road, and walked around the back of the treatment works encountering a number of species common to the wetlands.

18 members enjoyed another enjoyable walk, Thanks Ted for another great day

**Bird List total of 42 Bird species**

**Bowling Club & Little Lake**

Spotted Dove	Australian White Ibis	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Australian Magpie
Crested Pigeon	Royal Spoonbill	Rainbow Lorikeet	Magpie-lark
Little Pied Cormorant	Sooty Oystercatcher	Superb Fairy-wren	Welcome Swallow
Great Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Yellow Thornbill	House Sparrow
Little Black Cormorant	Common Greenshank	Little Wattlebird	European Goldfinch
Australian Pelican	Silver Gull	Red Wattlebird	
Eastern Great Egret	Galah	New Holland Honeyeater	
Striated Heron	Long-billed Corella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	

**Barrack Point to Shellharbour and around treatment works**

Grey Teal	Australian White Ibis	Dollarbird	Australian Magpie
Chestnut Teal	Purple Swamphen	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Yellow Thornbill	Magpie-lark
Spotted Dove	Masked Lapwing	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Crested Pigeon	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Black Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Red-browed Finch
Australian Pelican	Rainbow Lorikeet	New Holland Honeyeater	European Goldfinch
White-faced Heron	Eastern Koel	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	

**Weekend Walk Report – Bangalee Walk** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011. by Betty Hudson

On a hot humid day 10 members and 3 visitors met in the car park at Bangalee Reserve, North Nowra. There was plenty of bird sound but few to be seen until a Sacred Kingfisher was sighted and then a second. Moving on our visitors joined us, Fredrik from Holland and his hosts Matt & Sue. As we walked along the track above the Shoalhaven River Fantailed Cuckoos were heard calling and Black-faced Monarchs, the first of several seen during the day, were sighted. Superb Fairy-wrens were seen in the thick lantana along the sides of the track. The valiant work of a few Landcare Volunteers was seen to be making slow inroads into the infestation, although around the old homestead site and the Bunya Pine the change was remarkable. Eastern Yellow Robins were much in evidence much to Fredrik's pleasure, another new bird for him, and an Australasian Olive-backed Oriole was heard calling on several occasions, but could not be found. Keeping along the riverbank the path narrowed and then turned sharply away up a rocky incline, where a Figtree had grown over the track necessitating some judicious pruning to get under, then over a dry creek and up rocks to the top of the small cliff line. The forest changed sharply from rain forest to eucalyptus forest and very much dryer with little understory. Two lookouts onto the river gave sightings of both White-necked and White-faced Herons and the Eastern Great Egret, and a welcome breeze off the river. A Grey Goshawk was seen flying away through the canopy below us. As soon as we re-entered the forest from the lookouts we lost the breeze and no one was keen to linger. Walking back along the road Varied Sittella were seen to add the list. A Rhode Island Red rooster was heard calling in the forest. Where had it come from?

Back at the cars we all were thankful for the shade and took our lunch to a shady table. Only the men were keen to move after lunch and took a short stroll along the river bank to the waters edge finding a Rufous Fantail on the way. The breeze preceding the forecast change started to get up but the air was still very hot & sticky. Everyone was happy to call it a day then.

A good day's birding, despite the weather, with good sightings of the Black-faced Monarchs, always a rewarding sight. A return visit in the cooler months might be rewarding.

**Bird List****42 Species sighted**

by Tom Wylie

Common Bronzewing	Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Wonga Pigeon	Sacred Kingfisher	Red Wattlebird	Rufous Fantail
Australasian Darter	White-throated Treecreeper	New Holland Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
White-necked Heron	Satin Bowerbird	Noisy Friarbird	Australian Raven
Eastern Great Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Whipbird	Black-faced Monarch
White-faced Heron	Brown Gerygone	Varied Sittella	Magpie-lark
Grey Goshawk	Striated Thornbill	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Eastern Yellow Robin
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Golden Whistler E -race	Welcome Swallow
Australian King Parrot	Spotted Pardalote	Rufous Whistler	Silvereye
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australasian Oriole	

**Report on Mylestom Camp October 2011.**

Betty Hudson

Mylestom lived up to its promise as a great birding place, with 163 species recorded over the camp. 71 species were recorded in and around the village of Mylestom, including two Tawny Frogmouths sitting on nests only a street apart. Even Noisy Pittas were heard, but not seen, in the Caravan Park both before we arrived and after we left.

Outings took us on walks from the caravan park direct onto the dunes, the beach and the coastal forest as well as around the village and environs.

Other trips saw us head to Bongil Bongil National Park, firstly to Tucker Rocks & the Bluff trail and then to the Bonville Creek Picnic Area near Coffs Harbour followed by a paddle across the creek to see if we could manage to see the Little terns on the spit. Only one pair nesting was seen as well as a pair of Pied Oystercatchers with chicks.

Our day at Dorrigo was marred by constant rain, but we kept going and were rewarded by the sight of the many waterfalls in full flow. Morning tea was enjoyed warm & dry in the café. A list of 33 species was recorded including the Paradise Riflebird.

Shopping for everything except milk and bread necessitated a trip to Urunga. Travelling via yellow Rock Road, Raleigh & along the Kalang River we had several good sightings including the Chestnut-breasted Mannikin. A later visit with a local "Birdo" gave us a Black-necked Stork on a nest with a large youngster, as well as a Buff-banded Rail beside the road. Our only Red-backed Fairy-wren was seen here along Yellow Rock Road we recorded 23 species and at Raleigh by the railway line 31 species.

Urunga has a remarkable board walk from the edge of town through the mangroves to the entrance of the river. On a beach beside the river in the centre of town we had the great luck to see two Beach-Stone-curlews, as well as several other waders, the Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel and Little Curlew 29 species recorded.

A second wet morning saw us head to Coffs Harbour to visit the Botanic Garden. Well worth a visit for the huge variety of plants from all over the world as well as Australia, and the cultivation of orchids under threat in their natural habitat. A Ranger at Dorrigo told me that a Noisy Pitta was supposed to be around the picnic area and this was confirmed by a member of the gardens staff, but several visits later I was still looking. 41 species were recorded in the gardens.

Later that day after the rain eased some of us went to Boambee to the river and beach and saw a Curlew Sandpiper, and one of the few trains on the north coast line as it crossed the river. A Brahminy Kite finished the day with a spectacular flight low down along the river in a beam of sunlight between the menacing clouds.

This was another great camp with new sightings for many members and a place well worth another visit.

#### A total Bird List of 163 species was recorded

Emu	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Varied Triller
Australian Brush-turkey	Whistling Kite	Azure Kingfisher	Crested Shrike-tit
Brown Quail	Brahminy Kite	Laughing Kookaburra	Golden Whistler - E Race
Musk Duck	Grey Goshawk	Sacred Kingfisher	Rufous Whistler
Australian Wood Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Rainbow Bee-eater	Little Shrike-thrush
Chestnut Teal	Purple Swamphen	Dollarbird	Grey Shrike-thrush
Pacific Black Duck	Buff-banded Rail	Noisy Pitta	Australasian Figbird
Hardhead	Dusky Moorhen	Superb Lyrebird	Olive-backed Oriole
Australasian Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Rufus Scrub-bird	White-breasted Woodswallow
Rock Dove	Beach Stone-curlew	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Butcherbird
White-headed Pigeon	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Green Catbird	Pied Butcherbird
Spotted Dove	Sooty Oystercatcher	Regent Bowerbird	Australian Magpie
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Black-winged Stilt	Satin Bowerbird	Pied Currawong
Crested Pigeon	Pacific Golden Plover	Superb Fairy-wren	Spangled Drongo
Peaceful Dove	Black-fronted Dotterel	Red-backed Fairy-wren	Rufous Fantail
Bar-shouldered Dove	Red-capped Plover	Variegated Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail
Wonga Pigeon	Greater Sand Plover	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Willie Wagtail
Topknot Pigeon	Masked Lapwing	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Raven
Tawny Frogmouth	Bar-tailed Godwit	Large-billed Scrubwren	Little Raven
White-throated Needletail	Whimbrel	Brown Gerygone	Torresian Crow
Australasian Gannet	Eastern Curlew	Mangrove Gerygone	Leaden Flycatcher
Australasian Darter	Little Curlew	Yellow Thornbill	Black-faced Monarch
Little Pied Cormorant	Red-necked Stint	Brown Thornbill	Spectacled Monarch
Great Cormorant	Curlew Sandpiper	Spotted Pardalote	Magpie-lark
Little Black Cormorant	Little Tern	Striated Pardalote	Paradise Riflebird
Pied Cormorant	Gull-billed Tern	Eastern Spinebill	Pale-yellow Robin
Australian Pelican	Crested Tern	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Black-necked Stork	Silver Gull	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Golden-headed Cisticola
White-necked Heron	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Bell Miner	Tawny Grassbird
Eastern Great Egret	Galah	Noisy Miner	Rufous Songlark
Cattle Egret	Long-billed Corella	Little Wattlebird	Silvereye
Striated Heron	Little Corella	Red Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
White-faced Heron	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Scarlet Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
Little Egret	Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Honeyeater	Common Starling
Eastern Reef Egret	Scaly -breasted Lorikeet	White-cheeked Honeyeater	Common Myna
Australian White Ibis	Australian King-Parrot	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Mistletoebird
Straw-necked Ibis	Crimson Rosella	Noisy Friarbird	Red-browed Finch
Royal Spoonbill	Eastern Rosella	Australian Logrunner	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Eastern Osprey	Eastern Koel	Eastern Whipbird	House Sparrow
Black-shouldered Kite	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Australasian Pipit
Pacific Baza	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Cicadabird	

Mylestom Camp

Neil Wheway

Tera and I were having lunch on the northern bank of the Bellinger River it was sunny and warm, with very few people about the only noise was an occasional boat motoring on the river. Suddenly I felt like Rip Van Winkle waking up from a long sleep, not in the future but in the past. It felt reminiscent of an era in the 1960's and 1970's at St. Georges Basin or Sussex Inlet before the developers discovered it and bought their bulldozers to develop the bushland, it was then followed by a population explosion. Garbage and graffiti also comes with people, it was wonderful not to see any at Mylestom, however it may be a different story during school holiday times.

We were there to see the birdlife in the area we did see a great variety just to name a few, Regent Bowerbird, Scarlet Honeyeater, Drongo, Brush-turkey, Figbird, Pied Butcherbird, Noisy Miner, Black-Cockatoo all these and more before we had left the caravan park.

Many afternoons were spent sitting at the "Table of Knowledge" discussing not only birds with the aid of many cameras, iPods and a laptop computer. These were at times lively discussions solving not only Australia's problems but world events. Neil McKinlay was a very happy chappie when he saw that my new shiny tyres were covered in mud.

It was a very relaxed week although the weather did play up a little however we took this in our stride, along with leeches in our hides. Every thing went like clockwork thanks to Betty's planning and her organisational skills. [Thanks Betty](#) for choosing Magical Mylestom.



[Some great Pics by Tera from the Mylestom Camp](#)

**NOTE FROM SPRING CAMP MYLESTOM Barbara Hales**

Our spring camp at Mylestom was in a perfect location on a peninsular between the Kalang River and the ocean on the northern NSW coast. The caravan park offers a range of options from basic tent sites to cabins with all the usual facilities and close by there are some very good, value for dollar, holiday rental properties. The area by the river has a lovely swimming hole and park and there is a shop/post office/cafe for basic supplies and reasonably good coffee.

The bird list for the camp was extensive, 160+, and for starters it was so super to be nearly tripping over the Rainbow Bee-eaters on a grass verge just outside of camp. There were so many highs on this camp it is hard to pick just one. With the help of local knowledge we had the treat of seeing a Black-necked Stork (I still much prefer Jabiru) atop its nest and a perfect sighting of the Grey Goshawk perched nearby. Who could forget the Chestnut-breasted Mannikins as they happily flitted around feeding but stopping long enough for all of us to have good views, they are just so cute? The Tawny Grassbird was another new one for me, thank you Tom.

Our day at Dorrigo Rain Forest was very, very wet with absolutely no views from the Skywalk but being in the rain forest in rain or shine is always a magical experience and the National Parks centre is well worth a visit, be it for the video show, the art exhibition or even a cup of coffee.

Beach Stone Curlews! Well, didn't they get everyone smiling when we came across them on the river front sand at Urunga en-route to the wonderful boardwalk which goes out to the ocean and includes a spur off into the mangrove area? The board walk (completed Nov, 2010) is a real gem and produced another two new birds

for me, the Little Curlew and the Mangrove Gerygone. It really is a must do if you are in the area and although it was quite windy on the day it was still a very enjoyable walk.

As usual it is the participants who really make our camping trips tick. Their willingness to share stories around the table of knowledge, jokes, helpful hints, bird info and above all their caring nature all contribute to the well being and happiness of all the members. Thanks everyone, looking forward to our next camp.

## Illawarra Bird Observers Club 2012 Committee

President-	Alan Cousins
Vice President-	Roger Bogaert
Secretary-	Betty Hudson
Treasurer-	Ken Brown
Committee Members-	Darryl Goldrick
	Ann Cousins
	Ted Simpson
	Charles Dove
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Public Officer-	Chris Cartledge
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 & Judith Baker
Web Master-	Chris Cartledge
Name Tags	Neil Wheway
Hall	Tom Wylie
Notice Board	TBA
Supper	Sylvia Garlick

### I.B.O.C. Autumn Camp 2012 Tumbarumba Creek Caravan Park 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012

I.B.O.C.'s Autumn 2012 camp will be held at Tumbarumba Creek Caravan Park, Lauder St Tumbarumba from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Phone 02 6948 3330. (email [tumbacreek@blue1000.com.au](mailto:tumbacreek@blue1000.com.au) or visit website [www.tumbarumbacreek.com.au](http://www.tumbarumbacreek.com.au) )

Tumbarumba is 420km SW of Wollongong, on the southern slopes of the Snowy Mountains. It is suggested that you travel via the Hume Hwy to Gundagai, take the Tumut exit and travel via Tumut, and Batlow, to Tumbarumba.

Tumbarumba Creek Caravan Park has 14 cabins, 5 of which have 2 bedrooms one with a queen bed the other a bunk bed. The other cabins are open plan with a queen bed and bunk beds. There is also a cottage adjacent to the caravan park which sleeps 4. Linen is provided for the queen beds but can be hired for the bunks. There are also 47 powered & unpowered sites.

Charges:	Cabins 5	Kosciusko (2 bedroom) \$89 per night for 2 + \$8.00 for each extra person.
	5	Jagungal (open Plan) \$78 per night for 2 = \$8.00 for each extra person
	3	Selwyn (Small open plan) \$68 per night for 2 + \$8 for each extra person
	1	Alexander Cottage Sleeps 4 \$95 per night for 2 (min 2 nights)
	Powered Sites	\$26 per night for 2 + \$8 for each extra person
	Unpowered Sites	\$16.00 per night for 2 + \$8 for each extra person

It is suggested that you book your accommodation as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. There is however plenty of alternate accommodation in the town (see Tumbarumba Shire web site or contact Betty).

#### **Please note**

Please advise Betty by phone on 4236 0307 or email [elizabethjhudson@bigpond.com](mailto:elizabethjhudson@bigpond.com) when you have booked and the type of accommodation. The clip board will be passed round at meetings as usual for members to add their names to those attending, if not already there.

Further details in a later newsletter.



This will be a new feature for the upcoming newsletters and yes, you can do a write up and Pics if possible of your Birds in your backyard to feature in the newsletter. Thank you to Terry for kindly sharing the first of hopefully many of our members' backyard birding stories.

## THE BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

By Terry Edwell

I have always had a love for animals and birds which was passed on to me by my Mother and my Grandmother both were always a soft touch with baby birds or stray dogs etc. so when I bought a Young Galah instead of getting my hair cut my Grandmother was only too happy to go and buy a cage at three times the price of the Galah. The Galah was soon talking and was a great mimic he would laugh, sing and whistle and also had a bad smokers' cough as everyone (except me) smoked.

Then a friend gave me a young magpie and he became a brilliant mimic as well. He was never frightened of me so right from the start he slept on the top of my bedroom door. Every morning at dawn he would fly down and wake me up and I would go out in the garden and dig up worms till the squawking stopped. Eventually we fed him minced meat to shut him up. He soon began to say everything the galah said and more especially shut up! He would play with our puppy till the pup grew too big and got a bit rough. One time he took all our milk money and put it under a bush, the shiny shillings must have attracted him, we thought someone was stealing it. I could go on and on about him I really could not believe a magpie would be so intelligent and gentle. So as you can see I have always enjoyed the birds.

When we moved here to Balgownie I was amazed at the beauty and variety of the birds in the bush at the back of our home. I use to see a new bird every day and my family were sick of me saying "I saw this little bird to-day" so my son bought me a bird book and binoculars and my husband saw an article about I.B.O.C and encouraged me to join. We have been here now for 25 years and although the birds are not as plentiful as they were I still get a few surprises. Two Spectacled Monarchs built a nest at the back of our yard in 2009 and in early 2010 a Crested Shrike-tit and a Bar-shouldered Dove visited our yard. I have never seen either of these birds here before.



Crimson Rosella



Brown Cuckoo Dove



Australian King Parrot

The King Parrots, Crimson Rosellas, Brown Cuckoo-doves and sometimes the White-headed Pigeon love any berries that come on the shrubs including the Camellia bush and Portwine Magnolia both introduced plants. I have a beautiful little plant called Browallia and the Eastern Spinebill and the Lewin's Honeyeaters love it. The flowers are orange and yellow and it flowers from July till December and this year I took a picture of a Scarlet Honeyeater on it.

The Satin Bowerbirds are always present in our yard. The male bird keeps all the females in line. Sometimes he gets up on his toes and tucks his tail under and does a funny little run around to impress the ladies I guess. He used to have a bower in our yard but I found a cat lying on it one day so sadly he left and gradually took all his collection of blue away. When I first heard the call of the Green Catbird I thought it was a baby in the street down from us of course I hear it often now and still marvel at the sound. The bird also has a one note call he usually utters as he arrives in the yard, I spent a lot of time looking for the bird that made that call never suspecting the Catbird.



Green Catbird



Satin Bowerbird



Scarlet Honeyeater

All the birds enjoy the birdbaths especially the Bower Birds. The Eastern Spinebill has many baths a day .He pops in and out really quickly and splashes so high he is gone before the water comes back down. The White-throated Treecreeper calls loudly and then seems too frightened to enter the water. He lowers himself down looking around the whole time and stupidly drawing attention to himself with his calling, but he spends quite a while bathing always late in the afternoon and calls the whole time. The Rainbow Lorikeets love to bath in fact our birdbath is deep enough for them to swim! A tame Lorikeet was here once and he could wolf whistle and say his name over and over he would say "my names Rick my names Rick" I was surprised they could be taught to speak. He had met up with a whole flock which included 3 Scaly-breasted Lorikeets. One of the Scaly-breasted visited me for 10 years but I have not seen him since early this year.

The Grey Butcherbird breeds very well and often has 2 or 3 young ones. They are funny when they are learning to call they practice whistling non-stop with each one of them in a different tree. The song is just beautiful.

This year we had a young Grey Shrike-thrush practicing his call. He was around for a month or more I missed him when he left I loved hearing his beautiful call. The Lewin's Honeyeater is another lovely songbird, if nothing else is around the Lewin's song can always be heard. The Golden Whistler is pretty hard to beat .He has the beautiful looks and the wonderful song. The first time I saw a male Golden Whistler it was on a branch of a pink blossomed Peach tree. I had no idea that a bird like that existed I was so excited I raced for my bird book trying to remember each detail. You can imagine how beautiful it looked on a pink tree with the blue sky behind. I also love the Whip Birds call it is so typically Australian I don't see them often but they are always calling each other.



Golden Whistler



Laughing Kookaburra



Rose Robin

The Kookaburras, Magpies and Currawongs are always around. The Maggies have just fledged 3 young. Two very aggressive Noisy Friarbirds attacked the Kookaburras only yesterday. The Kooks were very put out as they have had a monopoly here for years. There are five of them. The worst thing I've ever seen was a poor old Currawong rearing twin Channel-billed Cuckoos. At the last when the Cuckoos were just about reared the Currawong had hardly any feathers left on its head caused by having to shove food down their huge becks. They never stopped screaming and would chase her up the branch for food, she was frightened of them in the end and looked the part of a poor harassed mum, she hadn't had time for a bath or a preen.

There are Lyrebirds here too, they used to dig our lawn up early in the morning (my husband was not impressed.) We did all kinds of things to stop their digging. I put wire netting all over the garden and netting I bought from a hardware store on the lawn. Nothing worked until one day when I was in the yard a male Brush-turkey came out of the bush. The Lyrebirds gave up the lawn and left and the Turkey decided my garden was too hard to dig up. Now the Brush-turkey has five terrified wives. I don't know when they get together as he chases them out of the yard as soon as he sees them, but they must meet somewhere as we have young ones most years. I have only ever seen one grow to adulthood the others just disappear. They are very cute when they are young. The Male decided he owned our place and if we are away and my daughter comes here to check the house for us he chases her as well. He started coming up our back steps

(all twenty of them) and pecking on our wire door we thought he would put a hole in it so I got our large hall mirror and showed him what he looked like and he got such a shock when he saw himself with his big yellow wattle he went off for a couple of days. He's back now but hasn't ventured up the stairs.



Eastern Spinebill



Crested Shrike-tit



Grey Shrike-thrush



I thought you might like to see my images of a White-necked Heron taken at Lime Kiln Bay Wetlands near Oatley Park in September. It was actively fishing in a tidal creek that runs into Lime Kiln Bay. I think it is uncommon, nomadic down here. A first sighting for me such a lovely elegant bird.  
Gleniss Wellings

More Great Pics from the Mylestom Camp by Judy Baker



Black-necked Stork



Members Crossing in search of Terns



Tawny Frogmouth



Rufous Songlark

**Blackbird**

*There's a new irritation  
not the lost spectacles again  
not the slow greying of hair  
or wrinkling of skin  
not the same old weeds  
we've battled for years  
nor the House Sparrow.  
We grew up with Sparrows.*

*It is a sudden shock,  
striking like toothache, earache  
or rheumatism in the fingers  
like the McMansions  
springing up in our street  
an invasion of our neighbourhood  
an affront to integrity  
a taunting threat to peace and sanity.*

*This is worse than:  
spelling eczema haemorrhoids tinnitus  
being put On Hold by Telstra again  
intrusive mobile phone users  
our scandalous corrupt local Councillors.  
By comparison, the Common Mynah  
seems like an old friend;  
perhaps we'll remove the No Junk  
from our letter box  
and welcome Jehovah's Witnesses.*

*The Blackbird is a bully and a Kerr  
Wrens and Honeyeaters have been expelled  
while it skulks in the veggie patch  
destroying lettuce seedlings and murdering worms  
and worst insult to our decades of bushcare  
its nest despoiling our native garden.*

*With defiant hubris it calls  
from our prized Illawarra Flame-tree.  
Nemesis! Oh just Goddess  
no armistice  
rid our Paradise of this new enemy.*

*for Paul  
Jack Oats  
11 November 2011*

<b>Members Sightings OCT-NOV 2011</b>					
compiled by Darryl Goldrick					
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HABITAT</b>	<b>OBSERVER</b>
Brown Quail	2	01-Nov-11	Haywards Bay	Swamp	Wal Emery
Pink-eared Duck	6	29-Oct-11	Purry Burry Point	Lake Illawarra	Charles Dove
Lewin's Rail	1	06-Nov-11	Killalea State Rec Park	Firetrail	Josh/Bruce Coyte
White-headed Pigeon	3	29-Oct-11	Koona Bay	Casuarina	C Dove/W&H Emery
White-headed Pigeon	1	28-Oct-11	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Royal Spoonbill	1	02-Nov-11	Wollongong	Tom Thumb Lagoon	Steve Dillon
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	30-Oct-11	Purry Burry Point	Lake Illawarra	Charles Dove
Pacific Baza	1	12-Nov-11	Balgownie	Garden	Wal Emery
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	12-14Nov11	Figtree	O'head	Joan Zealey
Buff-banded Rail	1	15-Nov-11	Lake South	Dunes	Charles Dove
Buff-banded Rail	1	14-Nov-11	Tarrawanna	Oval perimeter	A/A Cousins
Australian Spotted Crake	1	01-Nov-11	Haywards Bay	Lagoon	Wal Emery
Sooty Oystercatcher	7	01-Nov-11	Austinmer	Rock Platform	Steve Dillon
Painted Snipe	1m+1f	28-Oct-11	Haywards Bay	Salt marsh	Wal Emery
White-fronted Tern	2	29-Oct-11	Windang	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	3	07-Nov-11	Tarrawanna	Village Green trees	A/A Cousins
Eastern Koel	2	12-Nov-11	A. P. Rail-Koona Bay	Garden	Brian/Barbara Hales
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	28-Oct-11	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Brush Cuckoo	3	28-Oct-11	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Powerful Owl	1m+1f Call	30-Oct-11	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
Powerful Owl	1 Call	28-Oct-11	Thirroul	TreeTop Glen	Steve Dillon
Green catbird	1	31-Oct-11	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
Green catbird	1	02-Nov-11	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Southern Emu-wren	1m	01-Nov-11	Haywards Bay	Swamp	Wal Emery
Large-billed Scrubwren	3	10-Nov-11	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	1	09-Nov-11	Al Pk Rail-Koona Bay	Garden	Brian/Barbara Hales
White-fronted Chat	1m+1f	01-Nov-11	Haywards Bay	Salt marsh	Wal Emery
Crested Shrike-tit	1	10-Nov-11	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
California Quail	4	17-Nov-11	Towradgi	Surf Club Cycleway	Brian/Barbara Hales

**Email your unusual or not so unusual bird sightings to [sightings@iboc.org.au](mailto:sightings@iboc.org.au)  
Please try to have sightings in 3 days before the newsletter deadline**



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – Due 1 Jan 2012**

Please print this form, complete and post together with your cheque or Money Order to:  
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Enclosed is a cheque or Money Order for

<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Other amount \$.....</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>Junior</b> under 18yrs	<b>TOTAL</b>