THE IBOC NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 368 ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER April 2013

Brown Gerygone

Scientific Name: Gerygone mouki

Featured bird groups: Small insect-eating birds

Atlas Number: 454

Description:

The Brown Gerygone is a small bird, olive-grey (race *richmondi*, in south) to buff-brown (race *mouki*, in north) above, with a pale grey face and underparts, with the flanks washed brown. It has a long white eyebrow and a red-brown eye. The tail band is dark and the tail tips are white. It is usually seen in pairs or small parties, fluttering around foliage. Also known as the Brown Warbler.

photo by Charles Dove Bass Point, Shellharbour

Similar species:

The Brown Gerygone is similar to both the Large-billed, *G. magnirostris*, and Mangrove,*G. levigaster*, Gerygones. It differs from the former by having a distinctive white eyebrow and a grey-tinged face. The Mangrove Gerygone, while having a white eyebrow, lacks the grey face, has more white on the flanks and has a redder eye.

Distribution:

The Brown Gerygone is found along the east coast of Australia, in two disjunct (unconnected) ranges: the northern race, *mouki,* is found north from Tully, Queensland at altitudes above 250 metres; the southern race, *richmondi,* is found south from Cooktown, Queensland to Sale, Victoria. In Victoria there has been a westward expansion of this species, with confirmed sightings in the Dandenong Ranges, east of Melbourne.

Habitat:

The Brown Gerygone is found in coastal and mountain rainforest, wet gullies and mangroves. It has been seen in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Seasonal movements:

Sedentary.

Feeding:

The Brown Gerygone forages at all heights of the canopy, snapping up flying insects while fluttering around the foliage.

Breeding:

The Brown Gerygone builds a rounded dome nest with a tapering 'tail' from roots, plant fibres, spider web, moss and lichens, which is suspended from a low branch or vine. Both parents feed the young.

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

CONTENTS:

Club Activities	Page	2
Club Reports	Pages	3 - 5
Articles of Interest	Pages	6
Feather Tales	Page	7
Monthly Bird Sightings	Page	8

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.

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APRIL ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:

NO MEETING IN APRIL

NEXT MEEETING WILL BE MAY 13TH AS USUAL

Midweek Walk: **Wednesday 10th April**

Joes Bay to Kully Bay Warrawong Leader Charles Dove

Meet at 9-0 am in the Southern end of the car park at Harvey Norman's King Street Warrawong. We will cross the road and walk from there with morning tea at Kully Bay

Contact Charles on 0417 422 302.

Monthly Outing: **SUNDAY 14th April**

Haywards Bay near Yallah Leader Charles Dove

Meet at 8.30 in the carpark on the South side of Haywards Bay Cnr Riverside Cres and Haywards Bay Drive. Carry morning tea and lunch

Contact Charles on 0417 422 302.

Committee Meeting - **Monday 22nd April**

The next IBOC Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 22nd April 2013 at 7.30pm at Ken & Sue Brown's home, 12 Meads Avenue, Corrimal. Please note that this meeting is a week later than normal due to camp.

Ph 4284 0525

Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to attend the meeting.

Newsletter –

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **23rd April 2013.** Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph: 0417 422 302.

IBOC has pleasure in welcoming all our New Members

CLUB REPORTS

REPORT FOR CLUB MEETING

Alan Cousins

Monday 11th March 2013

Our speaker for March was the well-known member Lindsay Smith ably assisted by wife Janice who are both stalwarts of the Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association (SOSSA). Lindsay has, through his devotion to the subject, become one of Australia's experts on seabirds especially Albatross and he still thinks of himself as an amateur! He believes that the Illawarra coastline is one of the most unique places in the world for marine wildlife. He also said that the great Albatrosses are amongst the most regal of birds but many Albatross and Petrel species are threatened with extinction mainly due to the impacts of longline fishing. We were treated to some glorious photographs of seabirds and also some personalities capturing and banding seabirds many years ago, two names familiar to us all were Doug Gibson and Alan Sefton. His photographs included Albatross, Petrel, Shearwater, Prion, Storm Petrel, Skua, Jaeger, Gannet, Booby and Tropicbird. Lindsay has a fantastic memory for names and recognition of seabirds, there are so many different species that most of us would be running for our birds books or accessing our bird 'Apps' to name a bird. This was a great evening; the number of members present was a good indication as to the interest in this subject and the knowledge of the presenter.

Many thanks Lindsay and Janice for a very interesting evening.

Midweek Walk - Wednesday, 13th March

Charles Dove

Audley Weir Joint B-B-Q with IBOC and CBOC

We welcomed the morning Audley Weir – Wattle Forest Park getting to meet individual members of CBOC . Some of the group undertaking an early morning coffee before Jim Dixon from Cumberland Bird Observers Club led us all on a walk, first to the pathway though dense undergrowth, the sightings that had started in the carpark continued with new birds showing up the instant we started on the pathway, Brown Thornbills, Rufous Fantails; as we walked deeper into the dense shrub the Cabbage Palms proved a bit of an obstacle at times. The Yellow Throated Scrubwren, Superb Lyrebird kept keen eyes occupied for a while as well as a couple in the group obtaining a new sighting to their personal list. A big surprise turned up nearer to the end of the pathway, hidden deep in the undergrowth, low down on a branch the Powerful Owl stood proud it did not flinch one bit whilst everybody took advantage of this occasion; photographing or just looking in awe.

We returned to the Wattle Forest Park and had a casual morning tea and a bit more of a wander, with the Azure Kingfisher and Water Dragons on display; Sulphur Crested Cockatoos and Magpies kept us alert continuing to break the peaceful surrounding and reminding us of just where we are; good old aussie bushland.

Continuing into the late morning, we drove to the other side of the creek to Lady Carrington Drive, for a walk along the dirt road, very popular with Pushbikes and walkers. The birdlife did not lets us down and neither did the company of fellow birders. The male Satin Bowerbirds in the trees next to Brown Cuckoo Doves

feasting on berries and trying to ignore us whilst more pics where captured, numerous Thornbills, Red-browed Finches and Scrubwrens kept us busy along the edge of the roadway with a few Black-faced Monarchs in the trees including some juveniles. We returned to the park for lunch but had to move down to where the Kiosk is for the use of the only B-B-Qs in that area, some needed to cook up a bit of lunch.

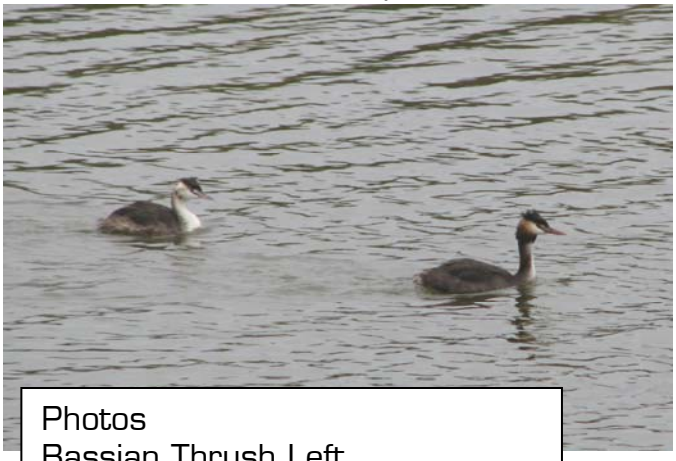
A very enjoyable day and hopefully we can undertake this once more as Joint Picnic Day in 2014. Definitely one of the highlights was the Powerful Owl and congratulations for those who now have a few more new birds on their list, enjoyable day, enjoyable company, enjoyable surroundings and enjoyable birds: do need much else……

Audley Weir Picnic Day IBOC & CBOC Bird list 56species		32 Attended
Australian Wood Duck	Eurasian Coot	Golden Whistler e-race
Purple Swamphen	Australian King-Parrot	Grey Shrike-Thrush
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Crimson Rosella	Australasian Figbird
Eastern Whipbird	Powerful Owl	Olive-backed Oriole
Rainbow Lorikeet	Azure Kingfisher	Grey Butcherbird
Australian Magpie	Laughing Kookaburra	Pied Currawong
Satin Bowerbird	Superb Lyrebird	Rufous Fantail
Noisy Miner	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Fantail
Noisy Friarbird	Green Catbird	Willie Wagtail
Brown Thornbill	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Australian Raven
Chestnut Teal	White-browed Scrubwren	Leaden Flycatcher
Pacific Black Duck	Large-billed Scrubwren	Black-faced Monarch
Brown Cuckoo-dove	Brown Gerygone	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crested Pigeon	Striated Thornbill	Silvereye
Little Pied Cormorant	Spotted Pardalote	Bassian Thrush
Great Cormorant	Eastern Spinebill	Red-browed Finch
Little Black Cormorant	Lewin's Honeyeater	House Sparrow
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	
Dusky Moorhen	New Holland Honeyeater	

Report and Bird Lists for Fitzroy Dam & Fitzroy Falls Walk Saturday 16th March

Betty Hudson

On a cool misty morning 18 members gathered at the car park in the Fisherman's area on the banks of Fitzroy Dam. As a cool breeze was pushing the birds away from us to seek shelter on the opposite side of the lake we took the spotting scopes down to the lake edge. Disappointingly, there were very few water birds to be seen, a few Eurasian Coot skulking along the edges of the reeds and a number of Australasian Grebe riding the swell on the lake. A White-faced heron was spotted sitting quietly on a gate in the distance. Then a lone Great Crested Grebe appeared in the distance. Later 3 more were seen on another part of the lake.



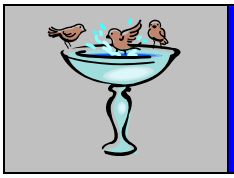
Photos
Bassian Thrush Left
Great Crested Grebes right
By Betty Hudson

Returning the scopes to the vehicles, we walked along the edge of the lake, through eucalyptus forest, birds were few and far between. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos were heard calling and then seen flying overhead. Two Whistling Kites gave everyone a good look as they flew slowly past low down. We made such slow progress along the shore, that morning tea was had sitting on a convenient bank beside the edge of the lake enjoying the sun which had broken through the mist.
The walk then took us away from the lake edge through the forest where more small birds were seen. Varied Sittellas, White-browed Scrubwrens, Superb Fairy-wrens, White-throated Treecreepers, Red-browed Finches and both Striated and Brown Thornbills were found here as well as an Eastern Yellow Robin. Reaching the start of the dam wall we retraced our steps and found a much easier site to climb to get back onto the road where we returned to the cars. A total of 35 species were recorded here despite an apparent scarcity of birds.

The next stop was Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre Picnic area where we had lunch. One group observed an adult eastern Yellow Robin feeding a well grown fledgling, which clung to tree trunks and the edges of the BBQ's. As we were finishing a Bassian Thrush came into view and ran across the track to a grassy area where it spent time getting grubs out of the turf. Joining the second group at another table, we had a good look at a female Superb Lyrebird foraging in the bush. Due to intervening twigs no photographs were possible. Jerry, our American visitor, was very excited as she had not seen one before. We then walked to the Falls Lookout to see the falls which were running well and then walked the start of the Eastern Rim Track in very warm bright conditions. Birds were almost non-existent, so we decided to return to the picnic area but again birds were taking their afternoon siesta, however the few seen included several honeyeaters which had not been recorded previously that day. A total of 16 species were recorded.

Fitzroy Dam List	35 species recorded		
Pacific Black Duck	Whistling Kite	Sacred Kingfisher	Grey Shrike-thrush
Australasian Grebe	Australian Hobby	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Butcherbird
Great Crested Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie
Little Pied Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	White-browed Scrubwren	Pied Currawong
Great Cormorant	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Striated Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Little Black Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
White-necked Heron	Australian King Parrot	Eastern Spinebill	Eastern Yellow Robin
White-faced Heron	Crimson Rosella	Varied Sittella	Red-browed Finch
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Laughing Kookaburra	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Fitzroy Falls List	16 species recorded		
Crimson Rosella	Brown Thornbill	Little Wattlebird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Superb Lyrebird	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Silvereye
White-throated Treecreeper	Lewin's Honeyeater	Pied Currawong	Bassian Thrush
White-browed Scrubwren	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail	Red-browed Finch

Monthly Outing –



THE BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

By YOU

I know some members are writing articles for this section

Be inspired……

Keep the Stories going….. Send in your story of your own backyard garden and the birds PLEASE even a few paragraphs is OK

I wish to apologise to all those who have sent in articles and pictures during February and March for the April Newsletter. Due a failure on the computer some of this material cannot be accessed in time for this edition

Charles Dove editor

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

POWERFUL OWL VOLUNTEERS/SIGHTINGS WANTED

BirdLife Australia's Birds in Backyards program is continuing and expanding its Powerful Owl Project based on a hugely successful project last year. The project will continue to help us to understand important new information about the status, distribution, site fidelity, breeding success and habitat requirements of these large forest owls and expand the project through the Sydney, Central Coast and Newcastle region. This information will ultimately inform conservation measures for this threatened species. Last year the project recorded 47 territories and 30 successfully fledged chicks.

The project is again looking for interested members of the public to help us find out more about these birds by becoming volunteers or just submitting sightings. Volunteers within the Sydney, Central Coast and Newcastle region are being sought to become Owl Observers and participate in surveys. Owl Observers will check in on a breeding pair of Powerful Owls near them and report back regularly on what is happening at the nest. Owl Observers do not need to monitor at night (although some dusk visits may be needed).

The project is also looking for sightings of Powerful Owls from Sydney to Newcastle and west to the Blue Mountains. To find out more, register as an Owl Observer or to just submit a sighting (please include accurate location, when and anything else interesting) please visit our website.
http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/surveys/Powerful-Owl-Project
or email us directly at powerfulowl@birdlife.org.au .

Details for Half Day Pelagic Trip Friday 5th July 2013

The proposed pelagic trip has been booked for Friday 5th July 2013.
To date we have 22 members who have expressed an interest in participating in the trip depending on the date. The 19 places on the trip will be allocated in the order in which payment is received by the treasurer Ken Brown either in person or by posting to P O Box 56 Fairy Meadow 2519.
NOTE NO money will be received before the club meeting on May 13th, thus giving everyone an equal chance of a place.
The cost of the trip will be $50 per person. This money is payable in full no later than 17th June 2013. If more than 15 people join the trip there will be a small refund of up to $10, made on the day of the trip.
No Booking will be accepted after 21st June 2013 as a list of names of those going has to be forwarded to SOSSA on 22nd June 2013
We will be meeting at Belmore Basin wharf, by the fish market, at 7.00am with the boat leaving at 7.30am and returning at 11.30 am. There is ample long term parking close to the wharf. The name of the boat is the Sandra K. Please ensure that you are punctual as the boat leaves on time and we have to have a safety talk and board.
I strongly recommend that you prepare for spray coming aboard and bring warm clothes and wet weather gear, including waterproof pants. It can be very cold when we leave the wharf until the sun if any warms up.
I also strongly recommend you take Quells or something similar as the boat can move in the swell when we stop to look at birds.

Feather Tales

We went up to Audley Weir because we had missed out earlier in the week to try and find the Powerful Owl seen on Wednesday 13th, during the joint Picnic day with IBOC and CBOC but did not see the owl. Lots of birds Yellow-throated Scrubwrens, Azure Kingfishers, Bassian Thrush, Golden Whistler etc but no owl.

Azure Kingfisher
By Terry Edwell

Crescent Honeyeater Ulladulla *new bird for me*

Whistling Kite Fitzroy Dam

Musk Duck Korrongulla Wetland Primbee

White-bellied Sea Eagle Korrongulla Wetland Primbee by Charles Dove

Members Sightings

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Topknot Pigeon	25	01/01/13 to 02/02/13	Marshall Mount	Rainforest	Anna Knowlson
Kelp Gull	1	17/03/13	Sandon Point	Beach	Carol & Mike Morphett
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	3	01/12/12 to 02/02/13	Tarrawanna	Rainforest	Ann Cousins
Sacred Kingfisher	1	13/01/13	Tarrawanna	Garden	Ken Brown
Superb Lyrebird	1	23/01/13	Jamberoo	Rainforest	Betty Hudson
Black-faced Monarch	1	23/01/13	Jamberoo	Rainforest	Betty Hudson
Bassian Thrush	1	23/01/13	Jamberoo	Rainforest	Betty Hudson

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

White-headed Pigeon	3	7-8/3/13	Thirroul	Garden	Richard Miller
Topknot Pigeon	~ 20	05-Mar-13	Excelsior Mine	Garden/Eucpt forest	Mike Morphett
Tawny Frogmouth	1	16-Mar-13	Thirroul	Garden	M+C Morphett
Eastern Osprey	1	13-Mar-13	Corrimal	O'head Beach+ film	John Dermol
Eastern Osprey	1	01-Mar-13	Bellambi	Lagoon	B+J Zealey
Black-shouldered Kite	1	09-Mar-13	Towradgi Park	Sports Field	Joan Wiley
Beach Stone-curlew	1	01-Mar-13	Orient Point	Beach	C.Eddington
Sooty Oystercatcher	4	03-Mar-13	North Beach,Wollongong	Beach	A+A Cousins
Ruddy Turnstone	20	08-Feb-13	Bellambi	Beach	J Wiley/T Edwell
Pacific Gull	1a+2 Juv	03-Mar-13	North Beach,Wollongong	Beach	A+A Cousins
Gang-gang cockatoo	4	11-Feb-13	West Wollongong	Residential	Ron Imisides
Barking Owl	1(heard)	16-Mar-13	Lake Illawarra South	Bevans Island	Darryl Goldrick
Southern Boobook	1(heard)	21-Mar-13	Lake Illawarra South	Residential	Darryl Goldrick
Superb Lyrebird	3	24-Feb-13	Excelsior Mine	Forest	Mike Morphett
Green Catbird	1	20-Feb-13	Jerrara Dam	Woodland	Rupert Jarvis
Green Catbird	1	08-Mar-13	Tarrawanna	Garden	Peggy McKinlay
Bell Miner	3	10-Feb-13	Marshal Mount	Dry Rainforest	Anna Knowlson
Rufous Fantail	1	08-Mar-13	Thirroul	Garden	M+C Morphett
Leaden Flycatcher	1m+1f	18-Feb-13	Jerrara Dam	Woodland	Rupert Jarvis
Black-faced Monarch	1m	20-Feb-13	Jerrara Dam	Woodland	Rupert Jarvis

Congratulations to one of our newer members who keeps racking up new sightings for herself

Hall's Babbler	3	08/03/13	Lightning Ridge	Roadside verge	Carol Eddington
White-breasted Woodswallow	20	08/03/13	Lightning Ridge	Telegraph Wire	Carol Eddington

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