

Leaden Flycatcher

Scientific Name: *Myiagra rubecula*
 Atlas Number: 365

Description:

The Leaden Flycatcher is a small bird, mainly dark blue grey above and white below, with a small crest and a broad black-tipped blue bill surrounded by small bristles. It is sexually dimorphic (two forms), with males having entirely dark blue-grey upperparts, head and chest, while females have a blue-grey head and back with a distinctive reddish orange chin,



photo by Charles Dove

throat and breast merging gradually into white lower parts, as well as a pale eye-ring. Young birds are brown-grey above with streaked wings and mottled brown chests with a reddish wash.

Similar species:

The Leaden Flycatcher is similar to both the Broad-billed Flycatcher, *M. ruficollis*, and the Satin Flycatcher, *M. cyanoleuca*. Both sexes of the Broad-billed Flycatcher are similar in colouring, but lighter and less glossy, to the female Leaden Flycatcher. They differ by having a broader, wide-based bill and a brighter orange on the chest; this species is also found only in far northern tropical habitats. The very similar (and sexually dimorphic) Satin Flycatcher has females and young birds that tend to be darker above, while the males have more glossy heads and chests and a darker chest, wings and tail.

Distribution:

The Leaden Flycatcher is found across northern Australia and down the east coast of Australia, from the Kimberley region, Western Australia to eastern Victoria. It is a vagrant to the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia and to Tasmania. It is also found in New Guinea and nearby islands.

Habitat:

The Leaden Flycatcher is found in tall and medium open forests, mainly in coastal areas, preferring drier habitats than the Satin Flycatcher.

Seasonal movements:

Southern populations make seasonal movements northwards in winter to northern Queensland and Papua New Guinea, returning south to breed in spring. Northern populations tend to be sedentary or only locally nomadic.

Feeding:

The Leaden Flycatcher feeds on insects caught while on the wing or gleaned from foliage. They feed in the mid-canopy, darting from tree to tree in pairs or alone, perching only briefly on exposed twigs where they call and fan their short crests.

Breeding:

The Leaden Flycatcher builds a shallow, cup-shaped nest of bark and grass held together by spider web and decorated with pieces of bark and lichen, on an exposed limb about 3 m to 25 m above the ground. Both sexes build the nest, incubate the eggs and feed the young. Unlike most other flycatchers, both adults may call from the nest.

Bird species cover text courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

CONTENTS:

Club Activities	Page	2
Club Reports	Pages	3 - 7
Articles of Interest	Pages	7 - 10
Feather Tales	Page	11
Monthly Bird Sightings	Page	12



**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

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APRIL ACTIVITIES

CLUB MEETING:

Monday 11th at 7.30pm

Fairy Meadow Community Hall - Corner of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.

The Birds of Christmas Island Neil and Tera Wheway & Betty Hudson

Christmas Island is not just a temporary home to asylum seekers. It's position close to the southern continental shelf of Indonesia provides a unique nesting location to large numbers of seabirds. It is the home of Frigatebirds (two species), Boobies (three species) and spectacular Tropicbirds (two species). The island also has its own unique rainforest ecology, with seven of the 13 land birds being endemic to the island, including the inquisitive Christmas Island Thrush. Neil, Tera and Betty will introduce us to their experiences of this unusual birding destination.

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

MIDWEEK WALK

Wednesday 13th at 8.30am
"Hillview" Marshall Mount

Leader Anna Knowlson

Meet at 8.30am at the end of North Marshall Mount Road, Marshall Mount. Access from either north or south - turn off the southern Freeway into Yallah Road then proceed all the way down Yallah Road to the T-Intersection. Turn left (south) onto Marshall Mount Road then proceed a couple of kilometres up the hill to a T-Intersection on the right at the old School House. Turn west into North Marshall Mount Road and proceed to end of road. Bring morning tea to carry.

In the event of inclement weather phone Anna or Andrew on 4257 1042 7.00am or after.

MONTHLY OUTING

Sunday 17th at 10am
The Australian Botanic Garden Narellan Road, Mount Annan

Leader Bill Zealey

Meet at the Visitor Centre Car Park at 10am (Garden does not open until 10 this time.)
Bring morning tea and lunch.

Contact Bill Zealey on 0414 747644 if weather is doubtful

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday 18th April 2016

The Next Committee Meeting will be at Jann Gowan's home 41 Joseph Street, Woonona, at **2.00pm**
Ph Jann 4285 9070

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

Newsletter:

DEADLINE 22nd April 2016

For all articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter PLEASE E-mail contributions:
To Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 3/15 Shepherd Avenue, Mollymook 2539.
Ph: 0417 422 302

IBOC WISHES TO WELCOME ALL OF ITS NEW MEMBERS

CLUB MEETING REPORT

Monday, 14th March by Ken Brown

GOULDIANS AND MORE from Andy, Anna, Pam and Neil.

We had a very informative and entertaining night at our March meeting, taken along on the trip to the Northern Territory last August with Pam's photos, Anna's preparation of the presentation, Andy's delivery and comments, and I'm sure Neil provided some inspiration. Most of their trip was with an 8 day Mike Jarvis tour out of Darwin (Experience The Wild).

Before leaving Darwin on the tour they already had an impressive list of birds and some excellent photos. The tour party was seven altogether, including a couple of twitchers from Norfolk. The first day of the tour took them from Darwin to Pine Creek where they saw the Hooded Parrot, a number of honeyeaters and finches, and Gouldian Finches at Fergusson River the next morning. Day 2 was on to Victoria River Roadhouse for sighting of the Blue-winged Kookaburra, Red-collared Lorikeets, Yellow-rumped Mannikin and the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren. Pam played us the recording of the Blue-winged Kookaburra which is very different to their relatives we are more used to.

Day 3 was on to Gregory National Park and a walk up to the escarpment for the Banded and Brown Honeyeaters, and White-browed Woodswallows. Then the Red-backed Kingfisher and more Gouldians at Timber Creek and on to Policeman's Point and Dingo Creek near the WA border for the Black-necked Stork,

Hooded Robins, Buff-sided Robins, more finches, honeyeaters and Manikins before returning to Timber Creek for the night.

Next day was more birdwatching in the Gregory NP and then to Katherine Gorge for the Great-billed Heron and the Australian Bustard which inspired one of the UK visitors into humorous verse writing. It was interesting here to also see immature Gouldian Finches which are very plain compared to the adults.

After a night in Katherine, day 5 took them up into Kakadu with some interesting sightings along the way. The afternoon cruise on Yellow Waters provided a different environment to see some of the water birds and also saltwater crocodiles. The next 2 nights staying at Jabiru gave them a full day in various locations within Kakadu and many more interesting sightings. Then the last day of the tour took them back to Darwin with a number of stops including yet more Gouldians and the wide variety of birds at Fogg Dam.

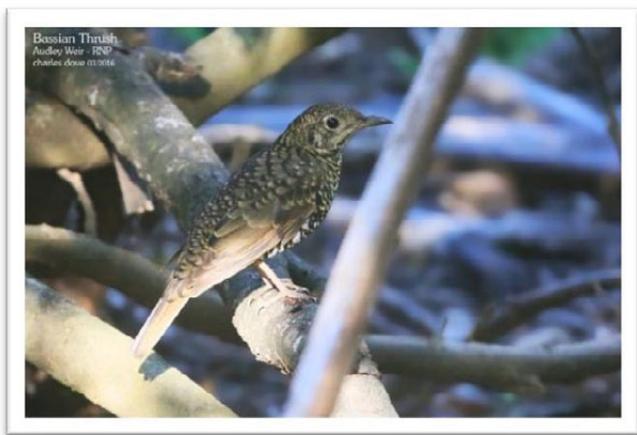
After the tour they hired a car for a short trip down to Litchfield NP where they picked up some more great photos including one with the light and dark morphs of the Eastern Reef Egret together. It sounded like a great trip with Mike Jarvis getting them to some very **good sites**. Andy and Anna's added nearly 40 new species to their list.

REPORT FOR MIDWEEK WALK

Wattle Flat and Lady Carrington Drive - 9th March 2016 by Joan Zealey

Another unrelentingly hot sunny day with a large group of IBOC and CBOC birders, with some visitors gathered at Wattle Flat car park at 8.30am to beat the heat. Also there were an advertising team from Rivers, and one of their cameramen accompanied Charlie and the group along the trail – the results are due to appear on YouTube. Highlights on the Wattle Flat side of the river were good sightings of Green Catbirds, Brown Cuckoo-doves and Black-faced Monarchs, the flash of a Wonga Pigeon lifting from the ferns, and Rufous Fantails and Large-billed Scrubwrens chasing each other through the palm leaves and the relentless calling of the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. The Azure Kingfishers were as delightful as ever and there were unexpected Bar-shouldered Doves. No Powerful Owls however, so

after morning tea we tried our luck across the river. Still no owls, but we had great views of a pair of Crested Shrike-tits and a whole family of Golden Whistlers. Our final highlight of the day as we headed for the cars was two Beautiful Firetail and Rockwarblers just beside the track.



AUDLEY WEIR RNP JOINT OUTING CBOC/IBOC 9/3/2016 54 species 24 Attended			
Australian Wood Duck	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Large-billed Scrubwren	Australasian Figbird
Chestnut Teal	Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Gerygone	Olive-backed Oriole
Pacific Black Duck	Australian King-Parrot	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Brown Cuckoo-dove	Azure Kingfisher	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Magpie
Bar-shouldered Dove	Laughing Kookaburra	Eastern Spinebill	Pied Currawong
Wonga Pigeon	Superb Lyrebird	Lewin's Honeyeater	Rufous Fantail
Topknot Pigeon	White-throated Treecreeper	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Little Pied Cormorant	Green Catbird	Noisy Miner	Black-faced Monarch
Great Cormorant	Satin Bowerbird	New Holland Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Whipbird	Bassian Thrush
Eastern Osprey	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Red-browed Finch
Purple Swamphen	Rockwarbler	Crested Shrike-tit	Beautiful Firetail
Dusky Moorhen	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Golden Whistler	
Eurasian Coot	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	

REPORT FOR WEEKEND WALK

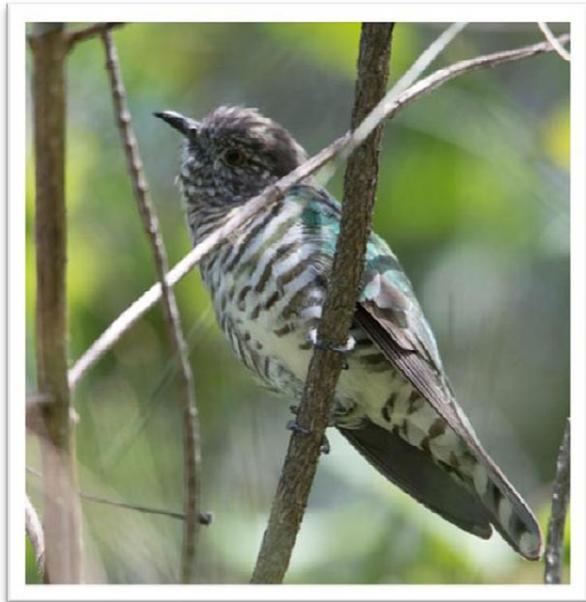
Tallawarra Walk - 19 March 2016 - by Anna & Andrew Knowlson

Although missing our fearless leader (Darryl) 16 Members gathered at the gate on Yallah Bay Road just before 9am. The key to the gate was arranged and unlocked by other members who had recently undertaken the Energy Australia induction. Thanks Tera for picking up the key and Tom for ensuring gates unlocked and locked again.

We parked the cars inside the gated area for the Ash Ponds and proceeded to walk in easterly direction around the ponds. Many birds were active along the Duck Creek treeline including Rufous Fantails and Rainbow Lorikeets. Once into the Casuarina forest area it was a bit more difficult to see the birds but good sitings were had of a pair of Rufous Whistler and Yellow Thornbills.

Morning Tea was had on the track with good sitings of many Black Swans and other water birds on the main Ash Pond. Blue Billed Ducks were a highlight for some as well as a few Freckled Duck and good numbers of Pink-eared Duck along with Black-winged Stilts and several others. We continued around the southern edge of the pond and saw a Golden-headed Cisticola and Dotterels. Wandering back to the cars a siting was made of a Fantail Cuckoo and Cattle Egret grazing with the horses.

On the way out the first car (Jan & Ross) were lucky enough to see the Azure Kingfisher at the bridge over Duck Creek. We made our way down to the picnic area by the boat ramp for lunch and bird call. Most of us opted out of the walk after lunch, but a few hardy souls continued on down the track before the inlet canal and found a few more birds to add to the list such as Satin Bowerbird, Shining Bronze-cuckoo and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos.



Shining Bronze-cuckoo



Golden-headed Cisticola

Photos by Pam Hazelwood

TALLAWARRA ASH PONDS 19/03/2016		75 Species	16 Members attended
Musk Duck	Cattle Egret	Rainbow Lorikeet	Grey Shrike-thrush
Freckled Duck	White-faced Heron	Crimson Rosella	Grey Butcherbird
Black Swan	Straw-necked Ibis	Eastern Rosella	Australian Magpie
Pink-eared Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Shining Bronze-cuckoo	Rufous Fantail
Australasian Shoveler	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Grey Fantail
Grey Teal	Whistling Kite	Azure Kingfisher	Willie wagtail
Chestnut Teal	Swamp Harrier	Satin Bowerbird	Australian Raven
Pacific Black Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Superb Fairy-wren	Leaden Flycatcher
Hardhead	Australian Hobby	White-browed Scrubwren	Magpie-lark
Blue-billed Duck	Purple Swamphen	Yellow Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australasian Grebe	Dusky Moorhen	Brown Thornbill	Golden-headed Cisticola
Hoary-headed Grebe	Eurasian coot	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Reed-Warbler
Crested Pigeon	Black-winged Stilt	Lewin's Honeyeater	Silvereye
Australasian Darter	Black-fronted Dotterel	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Little Pied Cormorant	Red-kneed Dotterel	Little Wattlebird	Fairy Martin
Great Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	New Holland Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Black Cormorant	Silver Gull	Eastern Whipbird	Common Myna
Australian Pelican	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Golden Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Eastern Great Egret	Galah	Rufous Whistler	

CANBERRA WEEKEND TRIP

27 & 28 February 2016 by Anna & Andrew Knowlson

17 Members eventually arrived at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve south of Canberra for the 10 am start to the weekend activities. There were various holdups for some, including loose wheels and confusion about their location. Morning coffee was purchased at the cafe while we waited for the few late arrivals. The weather had thankfully cooled down a bit from the previous days 35deg to a nice sunny and warm day.

We carpoled to enter the Nature Reserve and drove up to the Sanctuary parking area. Entered the Sanctuary Loop walk thru the feral proof fence and strolled around the ponds. Good sitings were had of White-Eared, White-Naped and Yellow Faced Honeyeaters. We found a lonesome male Musk Duck, 2 Brolgas and Pied Magpie Geese which we were told by the reserve volunteer rangers were all permanent residents at the sanctuary. Some also saw a black snake lazing by the weir and most had excellent sightings of the platypus. The round walk took almost 2 hours and everyone was pleased to get back to the carpark for a picnic lunch in the shade.

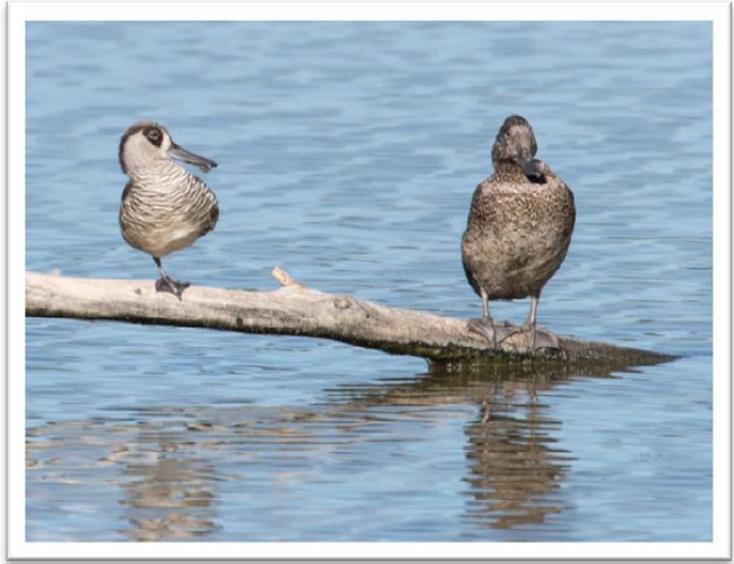
After lunch we drove back to the Eucalypt Forest where the Koala enclosure was and undertook the round walk. Good sitings of Leaden Flycatcher and Southern Brush-Tailed Rock Wallabies. We finished up the day with a good birdlist kept by Jan and dispersed to **various accommodations' for the evening.**

On the Sunday morning 11 members gathered at Jerrabomberra Wetlands in Fyshwick. We visited the bird hides on the east side of Kelly's Swamp early to have the sun behind us. Saw Pink-Eared, Freckled and Shoveler Ducks to name a few. The Sacred Kingfisher and Dollarbird were around the pond along with Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Striated Pardalote on the pathway to name a few. After morning tea we walked on the western side and caught sight of a Nankeen Night Heron. It was warming up a bit and about half the group decided to head home, while others made our way over to the National Botanic Gardens for lunch and a walk.

An enjoyable weekend full of nature experiences and some of us also managed to take in some cultural experiences like visits to the Art Galleries and other exhibitions.



White-eared Honeyeater



Pink-eared and Freckled Duck



Musk Duck – m



Sarus Crane

Photos by Pam Hazelwood

Bird List for Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (Visitor Centre Area) 27.02.16			
Emu	Masked Lapwing	Noisy Miner	Australian Raven
Australian Wood Duck	Galah	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-Lark
White-faced Heron	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Butcherbird	Welcome Swallow
Brown Falcon	Eastern Rosella	Australian Magpie	
Peregrine Falcon	Laughing Kookaburra	Willie Wagtail	

18 Species 17 Members Attended

Bird List for Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (Sanctuary/Eucalypt Forest) 27.02.16			
Magpie Goose	Dusky Moorhen	Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Musk Duck	Eurasian Coot	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong
Black Swan	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Grey Teal	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-eared Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Pacific Black Duck	Crimson Rosella	Red Wattlebird	White-winged Chough
Little Pied Cormorant	Laughing Kookaburra	White-naped Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian Pelican	White-throated Treecreeper	Noisy Friarbird	Silvereye
Brolga	Superb Fairy-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	White-browed Scrubwren	Rufous Whistler	
Purple Swamphen	Striated Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	

37 Species 17 Members Attended

Bird List for Jerrabomberra Wetlands 28.02.16			
Freckled Duck	Eastern Great Egret	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Australian Magpie
Black Swan	White-faced Heron	Sacred Kingfisher	Grey Fantail
Pink-eared Duck	Nankeen Night Heron	Dollarbird	Willie Wagtail
Australasian Shoveler	Australian White Ibis	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Raven
Grey Teal	Straw-necked Ibis	White-browed Scrubwren	Magpie-lark
Chestnut Teal	Collared Sparrowhawk	Brown Gerygone	Australian Reed-warbler
Pacific Black Duck	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Silvereye
Hardhead	Purple Swamphen	Striated Pardalote	Welcome Swallow
Australasian Grebe	Dusky Moorhen	Eastern Spinebill	Common Starling
Rock Dove	Eurasian Coot	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Common Myna
Crested Pigeon	Masked Lapwing	White-plumed Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch
Australasian Darter	Little Corella	Red Wattlebird	House Sparrow
Little Pied Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater	
Australian Pelican	Crimson Rosella	Rufous Whistler	

54 Species 12 Members Attended

Website Statistics

Chris. Cartledge

Each month I report to the IBOC Committee on website activity for the previous month and the statistics are interesting.

In February 2016 we had 351 unique visitors to the IBOC website, in January 375. If the same person came back a number of times during the month that would be counted only once – hence unique.

There were a total of 472 visits to www.iboc.org.au in February and 474 in January 2016. I'm always amazed at how consistent we humans are. A difference of only two month to month – about 0.5% variation.

The number of pages each visitor looks at is also very consistent – on average about 2 per visitor.

The statistics for Facebook are also interesting. The number of hits on IBOC's Facebook page following the recent posting of the Swan and Dolphin in the water was 430! That's greater than the number of unique visitors to the IBOC website around the same period.

Watch this space – Charles Dove is currently developing a new website. The old website is over 10 years old and is showing its age. We will keep you posted on this exciting development.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

NEWS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1: Killalea State Park

IBOC has been asked to provide input into the provision of hides around the proposed boardwalk at Killalea Lagoon. Darryl, Neil M and Bill visited Killalea State Park a couple of weeks ago and were driven around the area by one of the rangers. We were pleasantly surprised by the extent of the plans for improving the path around the lake to provide wheelchair access and plans for the provision of hides. We are now putting together a proposal to assist Killalea management in developing this plan and identifying funding. We are collating past bird records to strengthen the case.

2: Tallawarra Power Station and Ash Ponds

Darryl, Anna and Bill attended the first Tallawarra Community Liason Group meeting since 2015. Energy Australia described plans to proceed with the sale of super-lots on the flank of Mount Brown north of the power station access road. At this time they were withdrawing the land surrounding the ash-ponds from the proposed sale, although there was no commitment that such development would not proceed sometime in the future.

Michelle Rower made a presentation on the ornithological importance of the ash-ponds and in particular Ash-Pond 3. Over the past ten years it has developed breeding populations of Blue-billed Duck and host to flotillas of Pink-eared Ducks.

Energy Australia are now aware that both ILB and IBOC need to be kept informed of developments, and IBOC will be represented at future meetings by Darryl, with Anna as his backup.

3: We need to get a wider engagement with the general public. This could come from publicising our meetings, but also from providing speakers for other local clubs e.g. U3A, Rotary etc. Bill is in the process of contacting local societies to gauge their interest in having some of our members as guest speakers.

SEA EAGLE UPDATES birdlife Australia

We have not recorded any sightings of our female Sea-Eagle "Mum" since 21st February, when the pair was seen on their mangrove river roost on the Parramatta River. Before that date, both had been seen in Burns Bay, along the river and in the nest area, but only the male since. We feel the female had been showing signs of distress for some time and sadly has now disappeared. While we shall continue to keep watch for possible sightings, given the amount of time now passed, her return is unlikely. From observations in the past, there are lone adults or juveniles, searching for a mate or territory. We shall be watching with great interest to see if another eagle appears. We ask that everyone reports any other eagles seen in the area or nearby by emailing.

sea_eagle60@bigpond.com

REGENT HONEYEATER TREE PLANTING – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The first Capertee Valley tree planting for 2016 will be held on the weekend of 29th April - 1st May. **The site to be planted is on a property ("Junjira") on the Rylstone road, where a very successful planting was undertaken in 2004.** You will have a first-hand opportunity during the weekend to see how just well this site is doing, 11 years down the track.

The planting itself will take place on Saturday 30th April but as usual, we are also seeking assistance with laying out the plants and tree guards on the 29th. If you would like to join us please follow this link to our webpage and download the flyer and registration form: <http://birdlife.org.au/group-events/birdlife-southern-nsw/> or you may contact Wendy at (02) 9647 1033, or

southernsw@birdlife.org.au (BirdLife Southern NSW)

GLOBAL BIG DAY—14 MAY, 2016

The second Global Big Day. We need **your** help to make it the biggest day of birding the world has ever seen. **With less than three months until the day, it's time to get started!**

Last year, thanks to participation from eBirders worldwide, we were able to engage more than 14,000 people in 135 countries to submit almost 45,000 checklists, featuring 6,085 species of birds. All in a single day.

There are many ways to get involved with Global Big Day. At its simplest, participation in GBD2016 just means that you go birding and submit an eBird list from that day. To have your sightings be included in the Global Big Day, they have to be entered in eBird as one or more checklists. Go to

eBird.org/globalbigday to learn more. Don't forget, every bird counts for the Global Big Day. We'll be posting additional information over the coming months on the eBird homepage and Facebook page, ramping up even more in mid-April - at which point we'll be in touch again. We're excited to see what we can build together as a part of #GBD2016. We'd love to hear any suggestions that you have for engaging birders, and we can't wait to see GBD2016 develop. Thank you for taking part in 2015, and we eagerly anticipate your 2016 Global Big Day reports. In case you couldn't tell, we're really looking forward to this, and hope you are too! (e-Bird)

BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA STANDS UP FOR SHOREBIRDS

The Moolap Saltworks, on the outskirts of Geelong, is an internationally important site for shorebirds. Over the summer months, its shallow salt ponds teem with thousands of migratory shorebirds which migrate there from the Northern Hemisphere every year — **it's their destination of choice** after an epic 12,000-kilometre flight.

It sounds idyllic, but the salt ponds were decommissioned in 2007, and since then the site has become a target for developers. The latest proposal — a 4000-home residential development complete with a marina — **would see all of the site's ecological values destroyed.**

This would be a disaster — the 21 species of migratory shorebirds that occur at Moolap are listed under the EPBC Act, and the wetlands also provide crucial habitat for other protected species such as resident shorebirds, the Critically Endangered Orange-bellied Parrot and the Vulnerable Fairy Tern. **The site's importance is magnified by its location, situated between Ramsar sites on the western shores of Port Phillip Bay and on the Bellarine Peninsula.**

BirdLife Australia proposes that the Moolap Saltworks site should be managed as an international bird sanctuary, with ongoing management to maintain key habitats, and with appropriate public access and adjacent zoning, to be enjoyed for its recreational and environmental values.

BirdLife Australia has made a submission to the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, and a decision is pending. (Birdlife)

FOUND! WESTERN GROUND PARROTS REDISCOVERED

In recent months, it seems that news about the critically endangered Western Ground Parrot has **been overwhelmingly bad, but at last there's some good news** — Western Ground Parrots have been rediscovered in Nuytsland Nature Reserve (which is adjacent to Cape Arid National Park) in the south of Western Australia — a decade after they were last recorded there. **Small numbers of the species were heard calling by staff from Western Australia's Department of Parks and Wildlife and volunteers from Friends of the Western Ground Parrot during a survey earlier this month.**

This time last year, there were an estimated 140 Western Ground Parrots in the wild, making it one **of the world's rarest parrots. Then, last October, up to 90 per cent of the Western Ground Parrot's** prime habitat in Cape Arid National Park in southern Western Australia was burnt by devastating bushfires. It is unknown how many birds were killed by the flames, and it was genuinely feared that this could push the species to the very brink of extinction.

A few pockets of shrubby heathland were spared from the flames, however, and after the fires had passed, researchers desperately searched these remaining patches of habitat for any surviving parrots. Two birds were found (they were captured and sent to the Perth Zoo to participate in a captive-breeding program).

If that weren't enough, in November came another round of fires that took out this remaining habitat in the National Park and the situation looked dire. Then in December, the two birds rescued from Cape Arid National Park died in captivity before they'd had a chance to participate in the breeding program at Perth Zoo.

With a population now almost certainly much smaller than 140 birds, any records of the Western Ground Parrot are important, and to find them in areas where it was feared they may have disappeared is especially encouraging, though the species is far from out of the woods. (Birdlife)

WETLANDS CLOSED BUT SEASON CONTINUES (Birdlife)

Despite a horrendous drought and overwhelming public opposition, three Australian states — Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia — are currently hosting duck shooting seasons, ignoring robust scientific data suggesting that the season should have been cancelled altogether this year.

The prevailing drought has resulted in a sharp decline in waterbird numbers and drying wetlands across eastern Australia. When conditions were last this dire — back in 2008 — the Victorian government suspended the duck shooting season as a response. And yet, in 2016, the shooters are allowed to blast away.

Although the shooting has begun, there has been some good news. A number of wetlands were closed to shooting and BirdLife Australia played a significant role behind the scenes to achieve this.

Lake Elizabeth, near Kerang in northern Victoria, was closed to shooting the day before the season

opened. This closure was a reaction to a significant number of Blue-billed Ducks on the wetland. Blue-billed Ducks are classified as Endangered in Victoria.

The presence of Blue-billed Ducks also halted shooting at Heywoods Lake State Game Reserve, in north-western Victoria, **and Round Lake, at Lake Boga, also in Victoria's north.**

Another wetland in northern Victoria, Johnson Swamp, was also closed, due to the "significant presence" of Australasian Bitterns. This would not have occurred just a few years ago, but thanks to the advocacy of BirdLife Australia, the species was classified as Endangered under the EPBC Act in 2010, meaning that the species now receives the full protection that the powers of the Act provide.

Win for Critically Endangered Bird in Court Decision

11 March 2016

In a desperately needed win for the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater, the NSW Land and Environment Court today found in favour of a challenge to the approval of a development which **would have destroyed its habitat. In the decision, it was recognised that the Regent Honeyeater is in "grave peril" and that Cessnock City Council acted improperly in approving a Development Application for a steel fabrication facility in Regent Honeyeater habitat in the Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ) in the Lower Hunter Valley, NSW.**

Friends of Tumblebee, represented by community legal centre EDO NSW, claimed that a Species Impact Statement (SIS) should have been carried out to properly assess the impacts of clearing for the development on Regent Honeyeaters. The Court agreed, concluding that in the absence of an **SIS, the approval issued by Council is invalid. The Court added: "Preservation of this area is therefore of vital importance to the long term survival of the species. Habitat destruction is a primary reason for its imperilled status." The Regent Honeyeater may number as few as 350-400 birds in the wild. The decision also recognises the important contribution BirdLife's Regent Honeyeater data made to informing the decision, a testament to the huge amount of effort our volunteers put into searching for this elusive species each year.**

BirdLife Australia is well aware of the significance of the HEZ for Regent Honeyeaters. In 2007/08 one of the most significant known Regent Honeyeater breeding events of the last decade (approximately 20 nests and up to 100 individuals) was recorded within the HEZ. Dean Ingwersen, **BirdLife Australia's Regent Honeyeater Recovery Coordinator, said "the Lower Hunter Valley is one of only four known core areas for Regent Honeyeaters and the HEZ site is possibly the most important part of these lowland forests for the species." Dean added, "the biggest threat to the species is loss of habitat, so this is a common sense decision in the conservation of these birds. Further to the breeding event in 2007/08, this site has been one of the most consistently used in NSW in the past decade and is likely to be an important refuge under drying climatic conditions in the future."**

The HEZ is situated on one of the largest wooded remnants in the Hunter Valley and was rezoned for industrial purposes by the NSW Government in March 2002 after minimal ecological investigations. Since rezoning occurred, numerous ecological studies have shown that the HEZ contains a remarkably large range of threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities, including being one of the most important single sites for Regent Honeyeaters.

The Lower Hunter Valley Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) was recognised as one of five **"IBAs in Danger" across Australia in a report** by BirdLife Australia in 2014, due mainly to the threat posed by the broader HEZ development. **The decision is welcome by BirdLife's Woodland Birds for Biodiversity Project Coordinator, Mick Roderic; "from the start this proposal failed to consider the ecological impacts the development would have on a range of threatened species. The ruling supports our long-held view that loss of these woodlands would imperil the Regent Honeyeater, a species our organisation and volunteers work tirelessly to save."**

The decision also demonstrates that cumulative impacts of smaller proposals within larger "staged" developments need to be properly considered by consent authorities.

Just In: Carnaby's Cockatoos at risk under land use plan

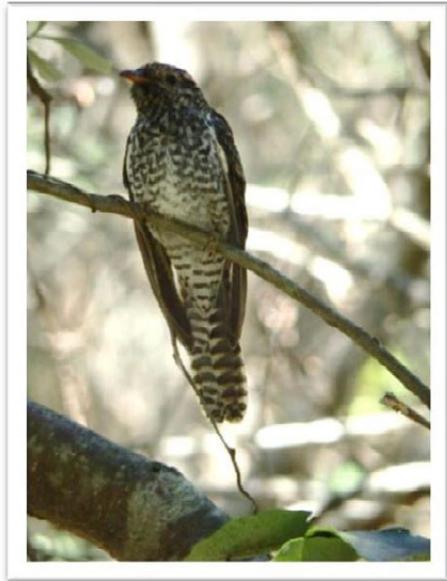
Half the remaining Carnaby's Black Cockatoos would be wiped out under State Government land-use plans to meet the Perth-Peel region's population growth over coming decades, a leaked report shows.

Land use plan for Perth-Peel population growth will include land clearing cockatoo habitats

23,000 hectare Gnaragara Pine Plantation would be cleared to preserve water source

The Government commissioned a Population Viability Analysis of the endangered black cockatoo as part of its draft Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan to meet the challenge of supporting a project...

Read the full story: <http://ab.co/1QSKXp3>



Possible Brush Cuckoo- immature
Jann Gowans

Olive-backed Oriole at Puckeys Estate
By Pam Hazelwood



A Few more images by Pam Hazelwood from the Canberra Outing



Australasian Grebe



Striated Pardalote



Australian Reed Warbler



Yellow-faced Honeyeater

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: Feb-Mar 2016

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	Nº	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	6	20/03/2016	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Wonga Pigeon	1	27/02/2016	Nth Bendalong	Street	Ian McKinlay
Topknot Pigeon	1	7/03/2016	Balgownie	Yard	Pam Hazelwood
Topknot Pigeon	1	13/03/2016	Balgownie	Garden	Joan Zealey
Striated Heron	1	26/02/2016	Tallawarra Power Station	O'flow Channel	Wylie/Hazelwood/Wheway
Eastern Reef Egret	1dark ph	27/02/2016	Bendalong	Rock Platform	Ian McKinlay
Little Pied Cormorant	1	26/02/2016	Tallawarra Power Station	O'flow Channel	Wylie/Hazelwood/Wheway
Eastern Osprey	1	11/03/2016	Killalea	O'head-beach	Josh Coyte
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	28/02/2016	Washwerwoman's Bch,B/dalong	O'head	Ian McKinlay
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	18/03/2016	Bellambi Lagoon	O'head	Peg/Pam McKinlay
Grey Goshawk	1dark ph	26/02/2016	Tallawarra Power Station	Trees	Wylie/Hazelwood/Wheway
Grey Goshawk	1	21/03/2016	Balgownie	O'head/yard	Neil/Pam McKinlay
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	9/03/2016	Bulli Tops	O'head	Tom/Joan Wylie
Brown Falcon	2(pr)	14/03/2016	Jamberoo	Powerlines	Kara Eddington
Brown Falcon	1	18/03/2016	Bellambi Lagoon	O'head	Peg/Pam McKinlay
Australian Hobby	2	26/02/2016	Tallawarra Power Station	O'head	Wylie/Hazelwood/Wheway
Australian Hobby	1	11/03/2016	Albion Park	O'head - farmland	Bruce Coyte
Australian Hobby	2	16/03/2016	Bellambi Lagoon	O'head	T&J Wylie
Peregrine Falcon	1	5/03/2016	Bulli Tops	O'head	Ian McKinlay
Peregrine Falcon	1	24-Feb-16	Bellambi	Boat ramp- o'Head	Pam Hazelwood
Eastern Curlew	1	21/02/2016	Shoalhaven Heads	Mud Flats	D&K Eddington
Caspian Tern	2	8/03/2016	Bellambi Dunes	Lagoon	Ian McKinlay
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	3	4/03/2016	Balgownie Rd	O'head	Bill/Joan Zealey
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	several	26/02/2016	Tallawarra Power Station	O'head	Wylie/Hazelwood/Wheway
Gang-gang Cockatoo	1	6/03/2016	Thirroul	Excelsior-o'head	Ian McKinlay
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	4/03/2016	Balgownie	Northwards o'head	Bill/Joan Zealey
Dollarbird	1	26/02/2016	Thirroul	Powerlines	Mike Morphett
Superb Lyrebird	1h	16-17/3/16	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine	Mike Morphett
Superb Lyrebird	1h	21-22/3/16	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
Southern Emu-wren	1	8/03/2016	Bellambi Dunes	Lagoon /dune edge	Ian McKinlay
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	3	26/02/2016	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine environs	Mike Morphett
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	26/02/2016	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Environs	Mike Morphett
Striated Pardalote	1	11/03/2016	Balgownie	Residential TV antenna	Pam Hazelwood
Crested Shrike-tit	2	6/03/2016	Back of Bulli	Forest, l/ escarp trail	Mike Morphett
Golden Whistler	1	16-Mar-16	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Olive-backed Oriole	1	22/03/2016	Puckey's Estate	Littoral Forest	Neil/Pam McKinlay
Grey Butcherbird	1	26-Feb-16	Tallawarra Power Station	Trees	Wylie/Hazelwood/Wheway
Grey Butcherbird	1	23/03/2016	Lake Illawarra South	Yard/tree	Darryl Goldrick
Rufous Fantail	1	27/02/2016	Nth Bendalong	Hind Dune Track	Ian McKinlay
Rufous Fantail	1	6/03/2016	Thirroul	Gibson Track/R/forest	Ian McKinlay
Rufous Fantail	1	06-Mar-16	Back of Bulli	Forest,Ll/ escarp trail	Mike Morphett
Black-faced Monarch	4	6/03/2016	Back of Bulli	Forest, L/escarp trail	Mike Morphett
Eastern Yellow Robin	4	6/03/2016	Back of Bulli	Forest, L/escarp trail	Mike Morphett

REMINDER

For all your bird sightings please remember to send to

Darryl Goldrick sightings@iboc.org.au

or post to 149 Reddall Parade, Lake Illawarra South 2528

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