

Issue No. 412

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

April 2017

Eastern Whipbird

Scientific Name: *Psophodes olivaceus*
Atlas Number: 421

Description:

Adult Eastern Whipbirds are mostly dark olive-green above, with a long tail, and a grey-white belly. The head and breast are black, with a broad white patch on the side of the face and a black crest. The eye is pale cream and the bill is black. Young whip birds are generally



photo by Charles Dove

duller, with a smaller crest. The white cheek patch is absent in very young birds, and increases in size as the birds mature.

Similar species:

Eastern Whipbirds are hard to confuse with any other Australian bird. The much rarer Western Whipbird, *Psophodes nigrogularis*, of southern and south-western Australia, has an olive-brown crest and a smaller white face patch. It is also smaller, measuring 22 to 24 cm.

Distribution:

The range of the Eastern Whipbird is from northern Queensland to Victoria along the coastal band of eastern Australia.

Habitat:

Eastern Whipbirds live in wet habitats, including rainforest, eucalypt forest and dense scrub near watercourses, in dense vegetation near the ground. The birds are secretive, but can be curious, and will be seen if the observer remains patient.

Seasonal movements:

Sedentary; The birds remain in the same area all year round.

Feeding:

The Eastern Whipbird feeds on insects and other small invertebrates, which are caught on the ground by bill. Feeding takes place alone, in pairs or in small family groups.

Breeding:

A breeding pair of Eastern Whipbirds occupies a territory, which is defended year round, with the mates staying together for many years. The female makes a cup nest of sticks and bark, which is lined with finer grasses, and placed in dense vegetation near the ground. The female also incubates the eggs. The young birds are fed by both parents. Sometimes two broods are raised in a single season.

Living with us

In the north, the Eastern Whipbird's distribution has become patchy where its habitat has been cleared.

Bird species cover text 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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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APRIL ACTIVITIES

CLUB MEETING:

Monday 10th at 7.30pm

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

Spotting Spotted Tailed Quolls presentation

By Dr Katarina M Mikac

Senior Lecturer, Science Postgraduate Degrees Coordinator.

Quolls have been recorded in the Illawarra and Southern Highlands since European settlement. Illawarra residents have always held a fascination with the secretive quoll and as early as 1910, the Illawarra Mercury reported sightings of the 'native cat' at Albion Park showgrounds. Even in recent times quolls remain elusive and secretive and not much is known about their population numbers and movement patterns even in geographic locations where they are deemed to have a 'strong hold', like in the Illawarra and South Coast regions. The work of Team Quoll is to understand the basic ecology, movement and behaviour of quolls to assist in their conservation and public education and awareness. In this talk you will learn about quolls, their importance to ecosystems, standard wildlife monitoring techniques used to survey populations (camera traps) and how the data is being used to advance the conservation of quolls locally. I will also show you the many images that I record of birds at the study sites and ask for comment and discussion on the usefulness of camera trapping to survey avifauna.



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

MIDWEEK WALK

Wednesday 12th at 8.30am

leader Rupert Jarvis

Koonawarra Bay Area

Meet at 8.30 am in Murra Murra Rd Kanahooka. Turn off Southern Motorway onto Kanahooka Rd and follow it eastward to the end where there is a left turn into Murra Murra Road. A short distance down this road there is a pull off with parking for 3 or 4 cars which is our meeting point. Bring morning tea.

In the event of inclement weather phone Rupert on 0403 932 635 7am or after

MONTHLY OUTING

No Scheduled walk due to camp and School Holiday's

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday 18th April at 1pm

For the next Committee Meeting, will be at the residence of Bill Zealey
26 Lang Street Balgownie NSW 2519 mob 0414 747 644

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

Newsletter:

DEADLINE 19th April 2017

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 Street, Mollymook 2539.
Ph: 0417 422 302

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Reports

Report of Club Meeting: IBOC 40th Anniversary Celebrations 25th February 2017

by Bill Zealey

IBOC members celebrated the 40th Anniversary in traditional style with an afternoon meeting, attended by members of IBOC and ILB. Six of our ten presidents and their wives were present and all gave new insights about the events that lead to IBOC's success. Our inaugural President Laurie Williams told of the founding of the club began in 1977, following a very successful WEA course given by Doug Gibson. Although few of the students had previous birding experience they wanted to maintain the camaraderie of the WEA classes. With no funds and few contacts in the field they established a newsletter, monthly talks and walks and longer camping trips. They literally went from farm property to farm property to find sites for IBOC camps.

Brian Hales remembered taking on the Presidency from Jim Robinson and with Barbara throwing themselves into the Xmas parties, while holding down a full-time job and raising a family. Kevin McGregor took over at a time when the IBOC constitution needed rethinking so that we became and incorporated body....limiting the liabilities of the Committee members. Darryl Goldrick and Alan Cousins remembered the friendships they had made within IBOC and the contacts that they established as President. Bill Zealey reviewed the last ten years, a difficult period during which The Illawarra Birders split from IBOC, providing the Illawarra with two bird clubs.. one more involved in bird recording and conservations; the other a more bird club focused more on social activities.

Robyn Cashman and the IBOC Singers provided a musical item "We Are All Members of IBOC" which we all joined in[in spite of the Master of Ceremonies failing to copy the last three verses].

Who would have believed that the statistics compiled by Jann Gowans would show that the Cape York in 1996 would top our list of most prolific sighting of for 384 species. The top camp was

Mylestom Oct 2011 with 162 species and the top outing was Sandy Hollow 19/10/84 with 108 species. IBOC certainly travelled in the 80s!

We were very lucky to have Wal Emery read a poem he published in one of the early newsletters. He like many new birdos initially found it difficult to identify birds seen on club outings. However he certainly persevered and has taught several generations of IBOC to identify birds both by sight and song.

One of the final presentations was by the present President Bill Zealey, who used old prints, slides and modern digital images to compare the 1980 and 2008 IBOC trips to Lord Howe Island. Lots of great memories of an idyllic birding week with great scenery and company. Some of the comments in the IBOC Newsletters included "*The week was memorable: everyone got on so well with each other. It was both structured and unstructured: We were able to do as little or as much as we wanted.*" and "*Wow! This was one very special IBOC trip.*" We all agreed that we should make another visit before too long.

Finally there was a short presentation of Walter Boles' talk to IBOC in 1981 on "One View of Bird Evolution". The report in the Newsletter was illustrated by superb cartoons of Pterodactyls and Archaeopterix chicks.

Afternoon tea was superb [everyone brought a plate] and included an excellent celebratory fruit cake. We all had time to chat and reminisce over old times. Our memories were stimulated by 120 photos of IBOC activities from 1977 to the present which were laid out on tables. These were the result of countless members providing pictures but particularly to the work of Dave Thomson, who digitized slides and prints of IBOC from 1977 to 2000.

Once again a thank you to all the IBOC members who pulled together to create a great afternoon, worthy of a 40th anniversary. Now we need to prepare for the 50th.



Audience



IBOC Singers



Laurie and Nola Williams



Wal Emery reciting poem

Jann Gowans

NO WALKs to report due to cancellation from the harsh weather conditions in March

REPORT FROM THE PAST

Walter Boles

One view of Bird Evolution



Circa 1981

At the club night in June, Walter Boles, from the ornithological section of the Australian Museum in Sydney, came to speak to the Group on 'Adaptations for Flying'. Whether through other personal commitments, the onset of the colder weather or travel away from the area, the attendance at this meeting was lower than usual. This was a pity as it was an enjoyable and educational evening. For those who missed out a brief résumé may be of interest.

It all started with a frog. Well, if not a frog, a pterodactyl. They are cousins albeit a few generations removed and both are related to lizards, alligators, turtles, crocodiles and a few other reptiles that are no longer with us such as the dinosaur and the ichthyosaur. Come to think of it, the pterodactyl isn't around much anymore either.

'Which came first? . . .'



He was a creature dissatisfied with his lot. His head was always in the clouds. This was not altogether unfortunate as the pterodactyl had wings but alas no feathers. For it's feathers make a bird and that was what the pterodactyl aspired to be. Unless the pterodactyl could grow feathers he was through. In that case he was no longer a pterodactyl. Nor could he make it as a bird. Feathers just didn't suit the pterodactyl yet a bird's not a bird without them. His featherless friends shunned him. He lost his zest for life and died out completely.

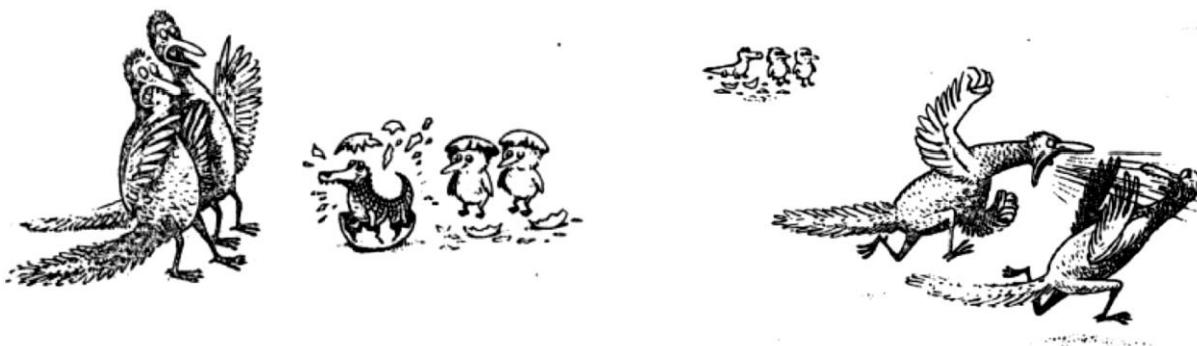
Nonetheless, it was apparent that something peculiar was happening to certain reptiles. Sure a few of the fartherout members of the group had sprouted wings, as we have seen, and they'd all been laying eggs from the beginning. But one hundred and forty million years ago, give or take a few, some eggs were beginning to hatch out a little feathery and the offspring tended to hop and flap around. Something was happening to them alright, they were going to the birds.

The first one was the archaeopteryx, or 'ancient wing'. Despite some unsightly and definitely reptilian characteristics, such as a claw or two at the end of his wings and a jaw crammed full of teeth, the archaeopteryx had feathers. Thus he was a true bird, and in those days any bird was a rare bird indeed.



Well, there was an occasional throwback . . .

And then there was perfect hell to play.



Time passed. Many eggs were laid. Barring a few ups and downs, such as the disappearance of the archaeopteryx, birds slowly increased and multiplied. By the time the paleocene epoch of the cenozoic era rolled around (some seventy or eighty million years after the first bird was hatched), the feathered creatures were pretty well established and the many species which we know today were starting to appear. Now there are about one hundred billion birds in the world and less than four billion people, making about twenty-five birds swooping in and out of every man's life.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Why is Bird Watching So Popular?

Many hobbies require a lot of training and equipment to get started. Not so with bird watching. With bird watching, all you really need is some interest, a little extra time on your hands, a suitable pair of binoculars, and a good resource to help you tell the difference between the thousands of bird species you may come across. Bird watching can be a fun, enjoyable hobby for people in their seasoned years. Of course, like many things in life, you may have to experience bird watching to truly appreciate it. Give bird watching a chance and you may find yourself becoming one of the millions of birders entranced by the pastime.

Here are some reasons to start bird watching:

Bird watching is relaxing. Looking for and observing birds can be very calming. Concentrating on their world can help take your mind of any stresses in your own world.

Bird watching can be a form of exercise. You may choose to watch birds while sitting in your own backyard or from a park bench. But you may also choose to do so on foot, walking along a forest trail or seaside path.

Bird watching can help you “treasure the moment” and feel a sense of accomplishment. Correctly identifying the species of a bird or spotting a bird that is difficult to find can be exhilarating and rewarding.

Bird watching can be social. Bird watching is a hobby you can enjoy on your own, but you may want to join a bird watching group (in person or through the Internet) where you'll meet people with shared interests.

Bird watching gives you something to think and talk about. Sharing information with others can start conversations and create bonds that might otherwise never have happened.

Bird watching is entertaining. Once you become familiar with different bird species and their behaviors, you will begin to notice the intricacies of their world, understand how different species interact with each other and even identify specific personality traits in individual birds.

Bird watching gives you a reason to spend time outdoors. It gets you out of the house for a while where you can enjoy the beauty of nature and get some fresh air.

Bird watching is convenient. You can start bird watching in your own backyard or neighborhood park

Bird watching is an inexpensive, uncomplicated hobby. There's no pressure to perform or compete. You set your own pace and your own goals.

BOODEREE NATIONAL PARK SHOWS WHAT SYDNEY LOOKED LIKE BEFORE DEVELOPMENT

RN

By [Ann Jones](#) for [Off Track](#)

About two hours' drive south of Sydney is the [Jervis Bay Territory](#), a peninsula of land cut off the map of New South Wales and surrendered to the Commonwealth Government in 1915.

Surrounding the military facilities that exist there, within land owned and jointly managed by the local Wreck Bay Community, is an astonishing national park called Booderee.

Within its 7,500 hectares are six major biomes, feather-tail gliders weighing just 10 grams, sedgelands, grass trees hundreds of years old, turtles that walk overland and sometimes bury themselves in a drought, and cliffs some 130 metres high which plunge into the ocean.

The surrounding marine environment is bountiful and protected, in part, by the Jervis Bay Marine Park.

The cliffs themselves look like a stack of crepes rising from the ocean, thin layers of sedimentary rock formed over millions of years.

This is part of the Sydney sandstone sequence, which continues virtually all the way up to Newcastle.

"In many respects, this place is Sydney without all the development," says Professor David Lindenmayer from the Australian National University.

"It [has] extraordinary cliffs, amazing heath vegetation, forest, an unbelievably exquisite bay, beautiful marine environments — except without the development."

Media player: "Space" to play, "M" to mute, "left" and "right" to seek.

[Audio: The sounds of Booderee National Park \(Off Track\)](#)

Professor Lindenmayer says Booderee looks the same as Sydney Cove's natural heritage "before they added five million people to it".

Just as in Sydney Cove, Professor Lindenmayer also stresses the extreme natural variance contained within the park.

"You might walk 200 metres and in that time go from shin high sedgeland, through to warm temperate rain forests, and then back into sedgeland again."

"Across all those different environments there'll be different plants, different birds, different assemblages of mammals, and even reptiles.

"You get this extraordinary diversity of things as they change from one environment to the next."

Professor Lindenmayer, who has been involved in environmental monitoring of Booderee since 2002, works alongside Parks Australia and his ANU colleague Christopher MacGregor to help manage the park.

They are also ably assisted by the Wreck Bay community. "One of the reasons this place exists is because of thousands of years of Indigenous management," says Mr MacGregor.

"Booderee National Park wouldn't exist if it wasn't for a lot of work by Wreck Bay people in fighting against the development that was going to occur — the nuclear power station — and they have to be applauded for doing that.

"It's a continued struggle. At the moment, they're [fighting for sole management of the area.](#)"

For a park that is only 7,500 hectares, Booderee receives a phenomenal 450,000 visitors a year, a feat only possible due to strict management and the best environmental monitoring in the world, according to Professor Lindenmayer.

The park is home to many rare and endangered species, including the Eastern Bristlebird: a small ground-dwelling bird that was almost brought to extinction by the introduction of foxes and cats.

"It's a beautiful place, and a lot of people love it for its beaches, but this landscape is incredible — you won't find any place like it on this very populated east coast of Australia," says Mr MacGregor.

Professor Lindenmayer says Australians should recognise the utility of nature, not just for aesthetic reasons — but also its economic benefits.



"Australians need to embrace this amazing set of natural endowments that the country has, and not see them as costs, but in fact, vast benefits to the country," he says.

"My great desire would be for Australians to wake up to the fact that our natural environment is a wonderful part of Australia's culture, its psyche and increasingly part of our economy, and revere these wild and natural places for all the values that they bring.

"The flip side of that is to make sure that we manage them effectively. And the only way that we can do that is to monitor them well, to understand how to manage them well.

"I know that we're living in a post-truth world — but evidence is important if you're going to seriously manage precious things like these environments."

Birding For Your Health

Discover how birdwatching can do wonders for your physical and mental well-being.

By Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman

Birding activities like identifying a new bird in your backyard help keep your brain strong.

You know the old saying "An apple a day keeps the doctor away"? Well, you could say that about birds. Sure, birdwatching, photographing and feeding birds is a fun hobby, but there's much more to it than that. This simple activity can provide major health benefits and add to the quality of life for just about anyone.

We're always trying to persuade more people to take up an interest in birds, and now we have one of our best reasons yet. Go birding—it's good for you! Take a look at how a little dose of feathered friends and Mother Nature can have a big impact on your well-being.

Birding Makes You Happy

Although it's possible to do a lot of birding just by looking out the window, sooner or later birds will lure us outdoors. While this alone can lift your spirits, there really is a scientific tie between your mood and being outside. When we're outdoors moving around and breathing fresh air, we tend to take deeper breaths. With more oxygen transported to all the cells of our bodies, including our brains, we become more alert, and our mood is likely to be elevated. Also, during half an hour in the sun, we can soak up almost a whole day's requirement of vitamin D. Vitamin D is important for our physical health in a variety of ways, and it also helps to alleviate anxiety and depression.

Birdwatching Makes Friends

Studies have shown repeatedly that a strong network of friends will help you to stay happy and healthy. And if you take up bird-watching, you'll probably discover many new friendships. An interest in birds brings together people from all walks of life and of all ages and backgrounds. Birding crosses all social and economic barriers and creates a sense of camaraderie that can help forge lasting friendships. Sharing our love of birds with new friends—and with those who have never tried birding—is beneficial for the birds, too! The more people we can get interested in birds and nature, the more support we build for conservation.

Birding Keeps You Physically Active

Birding can be as low-key and relaxing as sitting in a comfy chair and watching the birds at your feeders. But it can also qualify as wonderful exercise. Simply going for a walk might be boring, but going for a walk to look for birds gives you a focus and a reason to keep going. And if you get serious about seeking new and different birds, you may find yourself hiking long distances and carrying all kinds of birding gear. Even if you stay close to home, bird feeding also requires some physical activity. This is especially true if, like us, you live in an area where you've got to shovel several inches of snow (or sometimes several feet!) from around your feeding station in winter. Use the birds in your backyard as inspiration to keep moving.

Birdwatching takes you out into nature, where beautiful scenes like this improve mental health. Beth (beth311)

Birdwatching Takes You Places

Pursuing birds in their natural habitats is bound to shake us out of our normal routines and haunts. Watching the sun rise over a meadow, going out into the woods at night to look for owls, even going to the landfill to see a rare gull—all of these take us beyond ordinary experiences. For many birders, once they've gotten to know the birds in their area, there's an insatiable curiosity about species elsewhere in the world. Birding can be the motivation to travel far and wide. For instance, Kenn has watched birds on every continent. We're not suggesting that everyone should go to that extreme, but visiting new and different places and exploring the bird life there is an exciting way to expand your knowledge of the world at large.

Birding Feeds the Brain

Keeping our minds active and healthy is essential for our overall sense of well-being. The Alzheimer's Association suggests that if we want to keep our brains healthy we need to keep learning new things. What better way to do that than by continuing to learn about birds? If you are new to bird-watching, just identifying the birds you see can be a challenging mental puzzle. If you are an experienced birder, you can still learn new things every day about the behavior of your local birds. Studies have shown that these kinds of mental exercises can help form new neural paths that can help fight back against diseases like Alzheimer's, other forms of dementia and Parkinson's.

Birdwatching Leads to New Experiences

Variety is the spice of life. This is an old saying, but it's true. Lack of variety in our lives can lead to boredom and a general sense of fatigue. Adding variety can make us more energized and positive, giving us more to look forward to. And of course, in terms of variety, birds offer a dizzying array of colors, calls and behaviors. You can't predict all the birds you'll see while going out birding. On any given day, some of the expected birds will be nowhere to be seen while totally unexpected ones may pop up at any moment. So birding offers both a reassuring sense of the predictable and an exciting sense of the unpredictable, keeping us on our toes and alive to the possibilities.

An interest in birds can be the gateway to a world of discovery. Once you go outdoors and start looking around, it's almost impossible to just see the birds. Before long, a beautiful butterfly, an intriguing mushroom or some unfamiliar turtle will distract you. It's OK to be distracted—the birds won't mind. As we're fond of saying, when you learn more about nature, your view of the world becomes more three-dimensional. Some of our best friends are humans, but there are about a million other species of living things out there that are also worth knowing. And new experiences make life worth living!

MILLIONS OF ADÉLIE PENGUINS CALL ANTARCTICA HOME

Adelie penguins, near Casey research station

(Photo: Peter Layt)

15th March 2017



Scientists have their best estimate yet of how many Adélie penguins live in East Antarctica, numbering almost six million, 3.6 million more than previously estimated.

The new research by a team of Australian, French and Japanese scientists used aerial and ground surveys, tagging and resighting data, and automated camera images over several breeding seasons.

The researchers focused on a 5000 kilometre stretch of coastline in East Antarctica, estimating 5.9 million birds and extrapolating that out to likely global estimate of 14-16 million birds.

Australian Antarctic Division seabird ecologist, Dr Louise Emmerson, said up until now population estimates only took into account breeding pairs and did not include non-breeding birds.

"Non-breeding birds are harder to count because they are out foraging at sea, rather than nesting in colonies on land," Dr Emmerson said.

"However, our study in East Antarctica, has shown that non-breeding Adélie penguins may be as, or more, abundant than the breeders."

"These birds are an important reservoir of future breeders and estimating their numbers ensures we better understand the entire population's foraging needs."

The research has implications for both terrestrial and marine conservation, with more birds potentially interacting with human activities on the continent and in the Southern Ocean than previously thought.

Lead author of the study seabird ecologist, Dr Colin Southwell, said the rocky, ice-free areas preferred by the penguins for nesting is also a region preferred for research stations due to ease of resupply.

"There are currently nine permanently occupied research stations in the ice-free areas of East Antarctica and we found over one million birds, or 29% of the population, breed within 10 km of a station, and 44% within 20 km of a station," Dr Southwell said.

"Of the 16 Antarctic Specially Protected Areas in the study region, eight contain breeding Adélie penguins, encompassing about 10% of the breeding age population.

"By identifying significant penguin breeding populations near stations we can better identify which areas may need enhanced protection into the future," Dr Southwell said.

The research also estimates the amount of prey (krill and fish) needed to support the Adélie penguin population.

"An estimated 193 500 tonnes of krill and 18 800 tonnes of fish are eaten during the breeding season by Adélie penguins breeding in East Antarctica," Dr Emmerson said.

This information will be used by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources to set sustainable krill fishery catch limits.

More information

[Adelie penguins](#)

Night parrot sighting in Western Australia shocks birdwatching world

RN By [Ann Jones](#) for [Off Track](#)

Updated Thu at 4:36pm

Photo: The discovery is the first confirmed sighting of a night parrot in WA for nearly a century. (Supplied: Bruce Greatwich)

Related Story: More night parrots discovered in central-west Queensland

Map: Broome 6725

A group of four birdwatchers from Broome has photographed Australia's most mysterious bird, the night parrot, in Western Australia.

The sighting is all that more remarkable when you consider that the night parrot was not confirmed as still alive in Australia until three years ago, and that the photograph was taken in a patch of spinifex 2,000 kilometres from where the bird was rediscovered in Western Queensland.

While the group described the parrot as a "fat budgerigar", the sighting was the equivalent of winning the bird watching lotto.

"I grew up knowing that the bird was extinct and didn't expect to ever see one in my life," says Adrian Boyle from Broome, part of the group that found the bird.

"I just knew it was a fairly small green and yellow parrot that used to live in deserts in spinifex countries that was sort of the unseeable, that it was the holy grail if you get to see one."

To find the bird, the team travelled to a habitat they identified by poring over detailed aerial maps, and camped out, listening for the calls of the largely nocturnal parrot.



Photo: Adrian Boyle, Nigel Jackett, George Swann and Bruce Greatwich, who discovered the parrot in WA.

(Supplied: Bruce Greatwich)

"The night before, we actually heard the birds, which sounded very unusual to us actually. We couldn't sleep, we were just pondering the question: 'what was making this noise?'" says Nigel Jackett, a warden at the Broome Bird Observatory.

"There were quite a few of them, there was at least five or six of these things calling around us, so we didn't know what they were, but we saw the habitat was beautiful and thought that they could be night parrots."

"The next day we walked out into that area and one just burst out from under our feet from the spinifex."

In that moment, one of the members of the group, Bruce Greatwich, managed to take a photo of the south end of the northbound bird. It was definitely a night parrot.

The men's discovery is the first confirmed sighting of a night parrot in Western Australia for nearly a century. There have been other rumours of sightings throughout the 2000s, but no evidence accompanied them.



The sighting increases the known range of animals by thousands of kilometres, from the site in Western Queensland all the way across the Northern Territory to a patch of rocky spinifex in Western Australia, the exact location of which is not being disclosed.

The birds are so difficult to spot, even in their known Queensland habitat, that even the chair of the Night Parrot Recovery Team, Allan Burbidge, hasn't even seen one.

"Not for lack of trying too," says Dr Burbidge, also a principal research scientist with the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife. "It's a species that is really hard to detect."

"It's active at night, you don't see them walking around in the day time, and until relatively recently, we didn't know what the calls were, so we didn't know how to look, where to look."

While it is unlikely that the bird consistently appears across the whole arid interior, this find gives scientists and birdwatchers hope that pockets of population live in areas relatively undisturbed by development, other human-caused habitat degradation or feral animals.

"Having a photograph now, being absolutely certain [about the birds' presence], hopefully our regulators will be able to use that," says Dr Burbidge.

"So if anyone's sceptical about they can say: 'We have definite evidence that they're in Western Australia and we really do need to survey adequately for them where there are development proposals.'"



Tawny Frog Mouth Babies Stuart Park Wollongong
Kieran Biddle



The displacement of pigment in many of our birds seems to becoming very common as we home feed a lot of our species with incomplete diet.
Photos courtesy of Colin Markhan

"Together at the Edge Trust Me"
Poem from Noel Davis's book

Wonga Pigeon

O so shy
your visits always a surprise
a joy to be shared.
When our eyes meet
The world pauses
Watchful, enraptured.
There's no coat of many colours
to dazzle the eye
no raucous carry on.
Rather a modest display of whites and greys
and a presence that delights
invites inner quiet
moves the one gifted by you
to rejoice and give thanks.
when you move away my eyes follow
till the stage is bare and I am left to ponder
a moment of enchantment as the world hastens on.



Wonga Pigeon -
Bogangin NSW
Charles Daley

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS – February-March 2017

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	Nº	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Black-winged Stilt	1A2J	01-03-17	Purry Burry Point	Sandbar	Charles Dove
Wonga Pigeon	1	16-03-17	Balgownie	Rainforest	C/J Dove T Edwell
White-throated Needletail	8	13-03-17	Bellambi	O'head	Tom Wylie
Little Egret	1	01-03-17	Purry Burry Point	Sandbar	Charles Dove
Crested Tern	10	04-03-17	Sandon Point	Rock platform	Alan/Anne Cousins
Eastern Reef Egret	1	16-03-17	Ulladulla	Tidal Rocks	Charles Dove
Eastern Osprey	1	06-03-17	Burrill Lake	Power Pole	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	11-03-17	W'gong Golf Course	O'head	Peter Fackender
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	18-03-17	Lake Ill/ Sth - Bevans Is.	O'head	Darryl Goldrick
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	26-02-17	Balgownie	O'head	Pam Hazelwood
Grey Goshawk	1	23-03-17	Balgownie	O'head	Pam Hazelwood
Grey Goshawk	1 wh/ph	20-03-17	Macauley's Beach	Powerline	Ian McKinlay
Australian Hobby	1	12-03-17	Rural Jamberoo	Powerline	Kara/Dave Eddington
Peregrine Falcon	1	12-03-17	Rural Jamberoo	Powerline	Kara/Dave Eddington
Sooty Oystercatcher	3	24-03-17	Towradgi	Beach	Alan/Anne Cousins
Sooty Oystercatcher	8	04-03-17	Sandon Point	Rock platform	Alan/Anne Cousins
Ruddy Turnstone	8	04-03-17	Sandon Point	Rock platform	Alan/Anne Cousins
Ruddy Turnstone	3	05-03-17	Bellambi Boat Ramp	Rock platform	Darryl Goldrick
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	2	09-03-17	Jamberoo	Garden	Betty Hudson
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	11-03-17	A./Park Rail	Urban Tree	Peter Fackender
Bar-tailed Godwit	5	01-03-17	Purry Burry Point	Sandbar	Charles Dove
Eastern Rosella	1	26-02-17	Balgownie	Yard	Pam Hazelwood
Powerful Owl	1 heard	14-03-17	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine	Mike Morphett
Southern Boobook	2	12-03-17	Ulladulla	Coastal Forest	Charles Dove
Sacred Kingfisher	1	05-03-17	Narrawallee	Gumtree	Charles Dove
Green Catbird	1	16-03-17	Balgownie	Rainforest	C/J Dove T Edwell
Satin Bowerbird	5	16-03-17	Balgownie	Rainforest	C/J Dove T Edwell
Crested Shrike-tit	1	16-03-17	Balgownie	Rainforest	C/J Dove T Edwell
Golden Whistler	1 imm	21-03-17	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
White-breasted Woodswallow	32	05-03-17	Narrawallee	Coastal Forest	Charles Dove
Grey Butcherbird	1	12-03-17	Ulladulla	Coastal Forest	Charles Dove
Rufous Fantail	1	05-03-17	Narrawallee	Coastal Forest	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1	05-03-17	Narrawallee	Coastal Forest	Charles Dove
Welcome Swallow	300+	02-03-17	Dapto	Shopping Centre Carpark	Peter Fackender

Keep an eye out for unusual bird sightings around your area and report them to
Darryl Goldrick
sightings@iboc.org.au

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW DUE – SEPARATE FORM AVAILABLE



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