



THE IBOC



NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 416

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

August 2017

Striated Thornbill

Scientific Name: *Acanthiza lineata*

Atlas Number: 470

Description:

The Striated Thornbill is a medium-sized thornbill with greenish upperparts, an orange-brown cap, streaked distinctively with white and off-white to cream underparts, heavily streaked on chin, throat and breast. The sexes are similar and young birds are only slightly different to adults, with less streaking on the underside.



photo by Charles Dove

Similar species:

The Striated Thornbill can be distinguished from the similarly sized and shaped Brown Thornbill, *A. pusilla*, by its orange-brown cap streaked with white and by black streaking on its yellow-white underparts. It also has a thinner, higher pitched call than the Brown Thornbill and is more commonly found higher in trees.

Distribution:

The Striated Thornbill is found only in south-eastern mainland Australia from southern Queensland to eastern South Australia.

Habitat:

The Striated Thornbill is found in open forests and woodlands, mainly those dominated by eucalypts, with a well-developed understorey. Sometimes seen in parks and gardens, preferring areas that are more than ten years old. Also common in agricultural areas, particularly in areas with remnant patches or tree corridors near forests or woodlands.

Seasonal movements:

Sedentary.

Feeding:

The Striated Thornbill feeds mainly on insects, but may sometimes eat seeds, nectar or fruit. They mainly feed in trees in small flocks, but may sometimes feed on the ground. Will be seen feeding in mixed flocks with other small insect-eating birds. Striated Thornbills may be important in reducing

psyllid infestations after Bell Miners (which 'farm' the psyllids) have been removed from an area.

Breeding:

Striated Thornbills breed in small related groups, defending a particular nesting territory. Both members of a pair of Striated Thornbills help to build the oval, domed nest, with a hooded entrance near the top, out of bark mixed with lichen, mosses and spider webs and egg sacs (the nest is commonly covered with white material), lining it with feathers, fur or soft plant down. The nest is usually in the outer branches of trees, shrubs and vine-covered saplings, mainly of eucalypts. The female incubates the eggs and both parents feed the young, along with other members of the breeding group. Nests may be parasitised by Horsfield's and Shining Bronze-cuckoos, as well as Fan-tailed Cuckoos.

Living with us

The Striated Thornbill is adversely affected by logging and habitat loss.

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

CONTENTS:

Club Activities	Page	2
Club Reports & Notices	Pages	3 - 7
Articles of Interest	Pages	7 - 11
Feather Tails	Pages	11
Monthly Bird Sightings	Page	12



'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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

www.iboc.org.au

Club Contacts:

PRESIDENT: Bill Zealey
VICE PRESIDENT: Ross Gowans
SECRETARY: Alan Cousins

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP: Ken Brown
Email: membership@iboc.org.au
EDITORS: Charles Dove,
E-mail: newsletter@iboc.org.au
Janina Dove

RECORDS OFFICER: Darryl Goldrick
Email: sightings@iboc.org.au

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

CLUB MEETING:

Monday 14th at 7.30pm

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

Featuring a presentation by Kate Brandis of the Feather Map of Australia

Wetlands are habitats that are critical for Australia's waterbirds, but they are under threat from reduced river flows and flooding, drought, climate change and land use changes. A joint research project between the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) and the University of NSW (UNSW) is enlisting citizen scientists to gather bird feathers from wetlands.

Each feather will be analysed to understand the diet and environmental conditions that grew the feather. Each feather is like a memory chip of where that bird has been. For example, a feather found in a wetland in NSW, once analysed, can reveal the bird has been living in the Western Australia. Scientists will compare feathers from diverse parts of Australia to identify differences and create a map to understand more about these ecosystems. This information will help inform wetland and water managers regarding the importance of a wetland for waterbirds, with the aim of improving wetland management and waterbird habitats to support waterbird populations.

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

MIDWEEK WALK

Wednesday 16th at 9.00am

Leader Rupert Jarvis

BULLI ESCARPMENT

Meet at 9.00 am at Highlands Pde Bulli. From the lights at the Bulli end of the Northern Distributor take Hospital Road. Follow Hospital Road to the end and turn left into Highlands Parade. Proceed to the end of the road and park there or in Sturt Place.

Bring morning tea.

In the event of inclement weather phone Rupert on 0403 932 635

MONTHLY OUTING

Sunday 20th at 9.00am

Leader Alan & Anne Cousins

JERVIS BAY NATIONAL PARK

The August monthly walk will be the White Sands Walking Track in the Jervis bay National Park.

Meet at the northern end of Cyrus Street by the entrance to Chinaman's Beach at 9am, at the south end of Cyrus Street is Hyams Point and Hyams Beach where there are facilities if required after a lengthy drive. (there is ample parking in Aster Street adjacent to the park).

We will carry morning tea and spend some time in the nice picnic area at Greenfields Beach where on our last visit there was an abundance of birdlife. We will return to the cars and proceed south along Cyrus Street to a small picnic area for lunch. After lunch we will go to Huskisson Mangrove Walk at Lady Denman (Now called Jervis Bay Maritime Museum) if people feel up to it.

If the weather looks doubtful phone Alan or Anne on 0413869534 before 7.30 am

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Next Committee Meeting-

Monday 21st August 2017 2pm at Mark and Terry Edwell's home, 28 Blanchard Crescent, Balgownie, NSW 2519

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

Newsletter:

DEADLINE 25th August 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.

IBOC gives big welcome to all our new members

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Reports

July Meeting Talk

by Terry Edwell

Guest speaker Nicholas Carlile Monday 12th of July
Acting Principal Scientist Office of Environment & Heritage

Our guest speaker was very interesting and we were all impressed to find there is so much bird life on the islands off Port Kembla. We were told the main reason for the birds' decline originally was due to introduced vegetation which hampered the birds' nesting and survival. Bitou Bush, Morning Glory Vine and Kikuyu Grass were among some of the worst, especially the Kikuyu as it stops the Petrels and Little Penguins from burrowing and prohibits the regeneration of native vegetation.

The Five Islands Nature Reserve is a 26 Hectare reserve comprising of Flinders Islet (toothbrush Island) Bass Islet, Martin Islet, Big Island (called Rabbit or Perkins Island) and Rocky Islet. Restoration was done by clearing and spraying in 2014 and 2015 and recovery of native plants with some planting and natural regeneration has been monitored. Over 20 hectares of the reserve had fallen into disrepair.

So now the birds are returning to live or breed. There is a population of Little Penguins, 1000 pairs of Wedge-Tailed Shearwaters, 50 pairs of Short-tailed Shearwaters, along with Crested Terns, Pelicans, Sooty Oyster Catchers, Kelp Gulls, Silver Gulls, Storm Petrels and numerous other birds. Flinders Islet is an Aboriginal Site with stone tools having been found there. There is a section of native grass on this island and also about 90 Australian Fur Seals that feed on lobster and shell fish. There are no Penguins here on this island because of the Fur Seals.

The Friends of The Five Islands Nature Reserve help with restoring vegetation, monitor breeding and also with chipping the Penguin Chicks. There are also data loggers put on the birds all over the world, tiny little ones that hardly weigh much. One little Penguin was found on the big island and it was from Port Phillip Bay in Victoria. Modern technology is also being used to call in the Storm Petrels with a device that plays their call all night.

It was all very interesting to hear about the research and monitoring that is being carried out. Also to find that the birds are coming back when the natural food and environment is right. Thank you to Nicolas for sharing his knowledge and also to hear about the dedication of the Friends of The Five Islands Nature Reserve who give their time and hard work to the return of the natural habitat and the return of the seabirds.

MID-WEEK WALK REPORT

Bellambi Lagoon & Blue Lagoon 14th July

by Tom & Joan

The morning was cold and windy but bright and sunny. We met in Recreation Park at the end of Bott Dr for a 9am start, where 18 keen birders braved the cool as we started the walk along the cycle way, to the Lagoon. At first, the birds were quiet, but at the Northern end of the Lagoon we found a pocket of birds, which produced 10 or 12 different species.

The Lagoon was full, so there were no wading birds, just the usual Coots, Ducks and a few Cormorants.

A quick walk around the oval before heading to the surf club area where we enjoyed morning tea. The view of the creek and ocean was serene. The Albatross and Gannets could be seen in the distance.

After a cuppa, we crossed the bridge on the bike track toward the Blue Lagoon, where we added a few more birds to the list. A new area for some of the group.

A good day was had by all! Thanks to those who participated.





Photos by Mike Morphett

IBOC at Lagoon at Woonona



Hardhead

Bird List for Bellambi Creek 12 th July		39 Species	18 Members Attended
Pacific Black Duck	Crested Tern	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
Grey Teal	Kelp Gull	Spotted Pardalote	Magpie-lark
Chestnut Teal	Silver Gull	Lewin's Honeyeater	Silveryeye
Spotted Dove	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Pied Cormorant	Little Corella	New Holland Honeyeater	Common Blackbird
Australian Pelican	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Whipbird	Common Starling
Dusky Moorhen	Rainbow Lorikeet	Golden Whistler	Common Myna
Eurasian Coot	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie	Red-browed Finch
Sooty Oystercatcher	Variegated Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail	European Goldfinch
Masked Lapwing	Yellow Thornbill	Willie Wagtail	

Bird List for Blue Lagoon Bellambi 12 th July		20 species	18 members
Pacific Black Duck	Australasian Darter	Australasian Swamphen	Superb Fairy-wren
Hardhead	Little Pied Cormorant	Dusky Moorhen	Little Wattlebird
Australasian Grebe	Little Black Cormorant	Eurasian Coot	Australian Raven
Black-browed Albatross	Eastern Great Egret	Masked Lapwing	House Sparrow
Australasian Gannet	White-faced Heron	Silver Gull	

WEEKEND WALK REPORT

IBOC Monthly Outing Saturday 15th July by Richard Miller

I was woken early by bird calls, not an orchestral dawn chorus as such but the raucous calling of about 300 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos circling over the lower forest of the Illawarra Escarpment at the back of Thirroul. Where do they all find roosting & nesting hollows I wondered? A quick check of the clock and I knew I was going to be pushed to get to the meeting point at Audley on time especially as my own home menagerie expect, no less demand, their room service before I depart for the day. Still Betty, as outing leader, had to get there on time from Jamberoo while I was probably housed closest to the Royal National Park and our starting point. Fortunately, I figured that taking the Princes Highway through to Loftus rather than the suggested turnoff at Waterfall and on to Audley via Sir Bertram Stevens Drive would save me some time so 12 of us gathered at Willow Flat Picnic Area around 9am. Much to our surprise a quite muddy parking area with pools of surface water showed that The Park had been getting quite a few heavier showers than we had further down the coast.

The early morning chill was gradually being tempered by the warming winter sun and the early morning cloud cover was gradually being pushed out by the increasing patches of blue sky. The car park here is close to the banks of the Hacking River so it was an easy location to start boosting our species count – the grassed areas around the car park gave us Cockatoos and Parrots, the river with a mix of clear flow and extensive aquatic plants gave us Ducks and Grebes while the opposite bank of mature woodland gave us Honeyeaters and Pardalotes. One large eucalypt in our line of sight on the opposite bank created most interest as we watched a pair of Australian Wood Duck possessing a large nesting hole some 20 metres up – what a fall the youngsters are going to be faced with when they outgrow their time as nestlings!

Our first stroll took us along Lady Carrington Drive, so easy, dry and wide. The morning sun seemed to have inspired the small birds to be active around us though the tall forest trees meant we all had aching necks trying to pinpoint the flitting forms in the upper canopy. We were relieved when a group

of 10 variegated wrens were spotted in the lower shrubs although it took quite a while to get a firm identification as they were hardly stopping on the vegetation fluttering off immediately to the next in seemingly playful pursuit of each other. As we ambled in the morning sun the plentiful small birdlife – mostly New Holland and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebill kept us alert until the distant calls of the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos approaching caught our attention, 10 flew over in 2's and 3's. Meanwhile Joan & Bill Zealey at the head of the group had stopped to watch a female Superb Lyrebird which was scratching intently just a few metres in off the track. We were able to watch closely for a long time to the advantage of those with cameras, until it eventually doubled back and crossed the track behind us like an Aussie Roadrunner and disappeared down a near vertical embankment to a small creek below and recommenced it's scratchings in the damp surrounds. We moved on to an area of palms on the south side of Lady Carrington Drive and lingered in the hope of seeing a Powerful Owl at roost but if one was there it was keeping well hidden, though we were rewarded instead with a beautiful male Golden Whistler alongside the track. Betty and morning tea were beckoning so we doubled back towards the cars and passed 3 Australian King Parrots along the way. Despite the late morning hour IBOC morning tea was not to be hurried. Camp seats, folding tables and chairs all appeared and were set up to capture the morning sun, while teas and coffees were supped at leisure.

Back at the cars we drove across Audley Weir and down to Reids Flat parking area to commence our second walk on a track which mostly followed the alignment of the Hacking River, now in it's tidal phase. A few boaties and paddlers were enjoying the serene waters while beneath the warm sun and a large tree Neil Wheway nobly volunteered to remain seated and guard our table for lunch. The track we followed may have led us to Grays Point and judging by a well-constructed old stone bridge with paved surface must have been in regular use in days past however we were not following it all the way. An Australian Raven was on the track ahead and a variety of Cormorants cruising the river and an Australasian Darter resting on a fallen tree kept us all enjoying a lovely day out while a trick of reflected light had some of us puzzled as to whether we were seeing a Willy Wagtail, Magpie-lark or Pied Cormorant which concluded when we all concurred with Tom Wylie's identification of an 'elbow' on a branch catching the sun. Along the way we were all pleasantly surprised when Joan Wylie pointed out a White-throated Treecreeper just a few metres off the track on a large trunk foraging intently just above head height. Not often do we get such a good close-up of these birds. We also spent a long time watching a pair of Spotted Pardalote on dangling branches in front of a giant boulder, no doubt anxious to dip into their prospective nesting burrow but prepared to show more patience than a group of IBOCers who after observing, photographing and enjoying this little gem of nature moved off and left them to their family gathering. Instead we enjoyed the variety of bark on different eucalypts. Returning along the same route, again the cameras were out as we spotted two types of Greenhood Orchid along the edges of the track. We wondered why we had missed them all on our outward journey but I think as birdwatchers our eyes were focused on a different level but once we started to look near our feet, more and more could be seen. When we arrived back at Reids Flat Neil had exerted his 'squatters rights' around the picnic table and we all enjoyed another leisurely break over a sandwich and cuppa along with tales of childhood lolly shops while being 'entertained' by the resident Laughing Kookaburras who had taken up strategic perches on a nearby tree with a good view of happenings around the BBQ facilities. A group of Asian friends had a well spread table with plentiful fare and were gathered around it but when the items of choice were brought from the BBQ a Kookaburra took off and plunged into the serving platter and the lunch items scattered as well as the panicking picnickers. We know at least one of the 'guests' had a good lunch!

Back to our cars and over the weir and the white bridge, turning left down to Wattle Flat picnic area for an afternoon walk, this time along the south bank of the Hacking River. Crossing the mown activity area we entered some scrubby woodland and then, between the area at the back of the river bank and the area where the land rises up the wooded hillside, there is an extensive area of damp ground and palms. I wandered on searching for birds but gradually the area became quiet and I realised that everyone else must have turned back or passed me by. I moved up onto the embankment to overlook the river where 4 Coot were diving for weed and a Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Grey Fantail were chasing insects in the afternoon sunlight. An Eastern Whipbird called several times from the undergrowth and it continued for several minutes before he elicited any response from a lady. Movement under the shady palms caught my attention and a beady eyed Bassian Thrush, with an attendant Eastern Yellow Robin, passed me by intent on routling through the leaf litter. Eventually I left them to their late afternoon snacks and headed back to the car park, mine being the only car left mean't the Thrush, Fantail and Whipbird could not immediately be added to Tom's list for the day.

Thanks Betty for a well-planned day, we all enjoyed the perfect weather for exploring the banks of the Hacking River at Audley.

Bird List for Audley Weir Walk 15 th July		45 Species	12 Members Attended
Australian Wood Duck	Eurasian Coot	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird
Chestnut Teal	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Brown Gerygone	Golden Whistler
Pacific Black Duck	Little Corella	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Hardhead	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Magpie
Australasian Grebe	Rainbow Lorikeet	Eastern Spinebill	Pied Currawong
Australasian Darter	Australian King Parrot	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Little Pied Cormorant	Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Great Cormorant	Superb Lyrebird	Noisy Miner	Magpie-lark
Little Black Cormorant	White-throated Treecreeper	Red Wattlebird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Scarlet Honeyeater	Silvereye
Australian Swamphen	Variiegated Fairy-wren	New Holland Honeyeater	Bassian Thrush
Dusky Moorhen			

CORRECTION - For the Report on Bingara Copeton Camp

The report on the Bingara Copeton Camp incorrectly showed a "White-browed Treecreeper" as having been sighted along the Gwydir River. This was a typographical error.

It should have read "White-browed Scrubwren and White-throated Treecreeper".

Please accept my apologies. Betty

Notes from the President

Just over halfway through the year ...the sun is shining, and though cold the birding is getting better. Albatross are to be seen close inshore again and many of our local birds are beginning to gather nesting material.

Our migrant IBOC members who headed off for warmer climes in April and May have now returned as well.

Our Committee is now at full strength for the first time this year thanks to Alan Cousins volunteering to fill the role of Secretary until the AGM, and Terry Edwell filling a vacant committee position.

Just a reminder its almost time to gather photos and memories of the Spring Camp or other travels together for the October meeting. It may seem a long way away, but it has a way of sneaking up on you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIGnet Meeting - Weekend 9/10 September 2017

Here's an update on how planning is progressing for the forthcoming BIGnet Conference in Urunga on the weekend 9/10 September. If you intend going you should have completed the registration form and returned it by 31 July to Richard Jordan by email to emutours@gmail.com or by mail to Richard Jordan, P.O. Box 449, Bellingen, NSW 2454. However contact Richard and see if they accept late registrations.

Sue Proust (BLNNSW Conservation Officer) is putting together the 'conservation' program for Saturday morning. It will be chaired by Sam Vine (BirdLife Australia Conservation Officer) and will cover the latest on TSRs and KBAs. Sue is looking for other ideas for agenda items, so please include yours on the registration form.

Richard Jordan, Convenor, BirdLife Northern NSW is responsible for the 'seminar' program on Saturday afternoon. Paul Sullivan (BirdLife Australia CEO) has agreed to attend. He will be looking to the future with, amongst other ideas, the latest plans for a new membership and 'Birdlife Protector' structure for BirdLife Australia. There will be the chance for a Q and A session with Paul.

The Coastal Emu Alliance will talk on their plans to save an endangered population of the species along the north coast. It looks as though this could have valuable spinoffs in protecting and enhancing corridors of natural vegetation. There will also be talks by at least one of the PhD researchers being sponsored by BLNNSW (topics include the ecology of Quails and Button-quails, and the ingestion of plastics by seabirds off Lord Howe Island).

The BIGnet business meeting is on the Sunday, and BIGnet is looking for your ideas for agenda items. Other activities over the weekend will include birding around the estuary of the Kalang and Bellinger Rivers (Beach Stone-curlews, migratory waders and a diverse collection of raptors). There will also be the chance to visit the newly-established Urunga Wetlands. An old antimony mine has been transformed into a facility which is already proving popular with visitors of all ages. The first pair of Magpie Geese recently took up residence!

So please come along to the mid-north coast in springtime. Why not stay on for longer, and even join the BirdLife Northern Campout around Lightning Ridge the following weekend - <http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-northern-nsw/campouts-nn>

If you are going than please complete the registration form would be a big help to the organisers.

Richard Jordan, Convenor, BirdLife Northern NSW.

Email: emutours@gmail.com

Tel: 0428 385 677

Birding NSW's Annual Photographic Competition.

Until 2016 this competition has been open only to members of Birding NSW. This year Birding NSW would like to involve members of other clubs.

The entries are judged in early October and the images are displayed at our November club meeting on 7 November. Prize money of over \$1,000 is available. There is an entry fee of \$20 for non-members of Birding NSW.



A copy of the entry form is also available on the Birding NSW website www.birdingsnw.org.au

Mail a CD or USB of your images with the completed entry form to PO Box Q277, QVB Post Shop, Sydney, NSW 1230 to arrive before 25 September 2017

If you win a place in the Photographic Competition your winning photograph (properly acknowledged) will be published in the Birding NSW Website and/or in the newsletter

Tom Karplus
President
Birding NSW

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Flock of regent honeyeaters found near Cessnock

5 Jul 2017, 2 p.m.

One of the regent honeyeaters that was spotted at Poppethead Park, Kitchener in November 2016. Picture: Shelly Zvingulis

The local bird-watching community is in a spin, with a flock of critically-endangered Regent Honeyeaters spotted near Cessnock a number of times over the past six weeks.

The flock of at least 20 birds was seen feeding on the nectar of flowering spotted gum trees on a Quorrobolong property that is monitored regularly by BirdLife Australia. Up to 50 of the birds were present at the same site in 2012 — the last time Regent Honeyeaters were seen in such numbers anywhere.

BirdLife Australia's Woodland Birds for Biodiversity project coordinator Mick Roderick said the latest sighting was a rare find.

"You just don't see flocks of Regent Honeyeaters like this these days," he said.



"The only place you'll see a flock of more than 10 is around Cessnock, when the spotted gums start flowering."

Mr Roderick said the forests around Cessnock are so important to Regent Honeyeaters, they have been recognised internationally as a key biodiversity area for the critically-endangered species.

The Regent Honeyeaters is one of Australia's most threatened bird species, with recent population estimates at 350-to-400 adult birds left in the world.

In November last year, [a pair of adult regent honeyeaters was found at Kitchener](#) by a member of the Hunter Bird Observers Club, and they were accompanied by a young bird — evidence that breeding had occurred somewhere nearby.

"This record illustrates just how important these spotted gum forests are for the survival of the Regent Honeyeaters, because they not only provide food in the winter, they're also breeding sites in the spring," Mr Roderick said.

The forest on the property is protected under a conservation agreement that was brokered by BirdLife Australia.

The organisation maintains a national database of sightings of regent honeyeaters. Anyone who sees one is encouraged to call (03) 9347 0757 or email woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au.

Winged battle (SMH Letters 6 July 2017_

It has been with impotent despair and fury that I have watched the same Grey Goshawk pick off our birds' mates one by one over the last few months. If all is quiet in the back garden for a few days with not a bird in sight I now know that the wretched Goshawk is somewhere circling. I can't see it even with binoculars but the birds know it is there and go nervously to ground. Hallelujah! Yesterday, after an ominously quiet few days, I saw a most wondrous sight – our two local Lapwings, high in the sky, repeatedly swooping, dive bombing and shrieking at the Goshawk refusing to let up until the intruder finally fell away over the horizon. Today I passed one of those valiant Lapwings beside the road. I wanted to stop the car, get out and give him a solo standing ovation.

Susan Newman Mona Vale

Key Biodiversity Areas [KBAs] in Danger

(taken from the BirdLife Australia report KBAS IN DANGER, THE STATE OF AUSTRALIA'S KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS IN 2017 by Samantha Vine, Golo Maurer, Jenny Lau, Margaret Quixley and Connie Warren

<http://birdlife.org.au/documents/KBA-report-2017.pdf>

BirdLife Australia's 'KBAs in Danger' campaign is part of a global effort to identify sites that are 'in Danger' and campaign for the conservation solutions needed to protect critical habitat and prevent extinctions. In the current year 19 of Australia's 315 KBAs are 'in Danger' of losing the species they were declared for. Australia's 'KBAs in Danger' include areas under pressure from development, forestry, unsustainable water management, inappropriate fire regimes and invasive species. Many of these threats are adversely affected by climate change.

KBA Name	State	Key species threatened	Threat	Threat in 2017
Bellarine Wetlands	VIC	Wetland birds	Development	Very High
Billiatt	SA	Mallee Emu-wren	Fire	Very High
Bruny Island	TAS	Swift Parrot	Forestry	Very High
Coorong	SA	Fairy Tern	Water	Very High
Christmas Island	WA	Abbott's Booby	Invasive species	Very High
Gwydir Wetlands	NSW	Wetland birds	Water	Very High
Lake Corangamite Complex	VIC	Wetland birds	Water	Very High
Lower Hunter Valley	NSW	Regent Honeyeater	Development	Very High
Macquarie Marshes	NSW	Australasian Bittern	Water	Very High
Menindee Lakes	NSW	Wetland birds	Water	Very High
Moreton Bay & Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Eastern Curlew	Development	Very High
Murray-Sunset, Hattah and Annuello	VIC	Mallee Emu-wren	Fire	Very High
Narran Wetlands	NSW	Straw-necked Ibis	Water	Very High
Northern Swan Coastal Plain	WA	Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	Development	Very High
Patho Plains	VIC	Plains-wanderer	Agriculture	Very High
Port Fairy to Warrnambool	VIC	Hooded Plover	Recreation	Very High
Port McArthur Tidal Wetlands System	NT	Chestnut Rail	Climate Change	Very High
Riverina Plains	NSW	Plains-wanderer	Agriculture	Very High
Wyperfeld, Big Desert and Ngarkat	VIC & SA	Mallee Emu-wren	Fire	Very High

The focus of BirdLife Australia in 2017 is on five 'KBAs in danger'. They include national parks that many would have considered 'safe', as well as urban areas and popular holiday destinations. To address these threats, BirdLife Australia is calling on:

- The Australian Government to commit to an end to mining on Christmas Island and to continue to improve the control of invasive species, including tight quarantine to stop the arrival of new species.

- The Australian Government to reject the Murray–Darling Basin Authority’s recommendation to reduce the amount of water recovered for the environment in the Northern Basin by 70 gigalitres per year.
- The Australian Government to terminate the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement that is hastening the extinction of the Swift Parrot.
- The Tasmanian Government to immediately cease clearing of Critically Endangered Swift Parrot breeding habitat.
- The Western Australian and Australian Governments to halt the clearing of critical Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoo feeding habitat on the Swan Coastal Plain and to ensure no net loss of habitat in the broader Perth–Peel region.
- The Australian Government to uphold its obligations under the Ramsar Convention and reject the current Toondah Harbour development proposal.

Shellharbour Museum Taxidermy Display

Over the past few months IBOC has been helping Tamara Hynd, the Shellharbour Museum Curator, to develop new display of their collection of taxidermy birds from the Illawarra, c.1850. Originally owned by John Brown of Brownsville, Dapto. It was acquired by Alfred Swan, and passed down through generations of the Swan family, before being donated to the museum on William (Bill) Swan’s death in 2016. Taxidermy was a very popular past time in Australia in the early 1800’s. This was an era when European settlers were still discovering new and interesting species in Australian. There are many accounts of taxidermy collections displayed at agricultural shows, from their earliest beginnings. Local collectors donated hundreds of specimens to the country’s oldest museum, the Australian Museum, founded in 1827.

This unique collection includes 23 birds that were common in the Illawarra in the 1850s, and is a great snapshot of the wildlife at that time. Amongst the collection, is a *Regent Honeyeater*, which is now on the critically endangered list.



Aussie Backyard Bird Count

It’s that time of year again – the Aussie Backyard Bird Count is on from 23-29 October. Here’s a quick update of what we have planned for this year and how you can get involved.

1. **Data Vetting-** The data set for the ABBC is becoming quite large, with over 1.4 million records submitted in 2016. This year I’m hoping to have a team of people around Australia that would be keen to help vet the data for their state. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please get in touch. I’m currently working up a plan on how we would go about this and will circulate once it’s done.
2. **Education Kit-** We have developed lesson plans for primary aged children, these are available to anyone that’s interested, you can download them straight from the ABBC website, or send me an email

BirdLife Australia

Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

T 03 9347 0757 ext 253 | F 03 9347 9323

stacey.maden@birdlife.org.au | birdlife.org.au

ABN 75 149 124 774



CLUB NOTICES

CLUB FLEECES

Club fleeces are available for purchase. All sizes, full or half zip cost approx. \$40
Single orders taken. Contact Anne Cousins 0413869534 or at monthly club meeting.

Trip Leaders

IBOC FIELD OUTING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Please would all walk leaders ensure that the IBOC Field Outing Attendance Record is completed before each walk and after the walk. Make sure all attendees sign the form please and check that they return from the walk before you leave for home. Bring the form to the next monthly club meeting or hand it to a committee member for filing.

FIRST AID KITS

The CLUB now has three in date First Aid Kits if required for use on club activities. Please ensure that as a walk leader you obtain a kit either on a monthly club night prior to walks or contact a committee member.

If you can't make the meeting then email the Secretary at secretary@iboc.org.au and they will send you the form. Ensure that you collect a first aid kit at the same time.

PALM COCKATOOS

An Australian native Cockatoo has unique drumming abilities, new research has found.

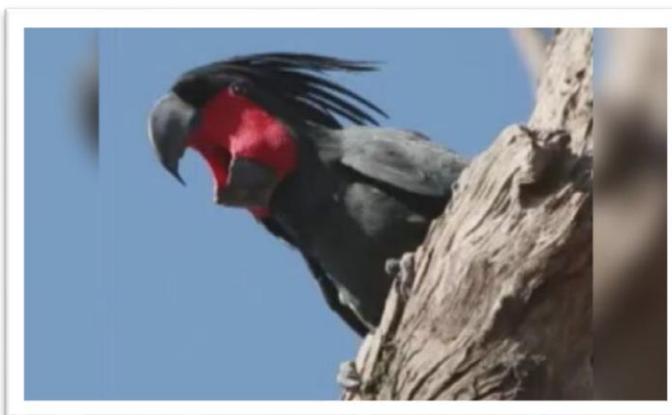
Key points

- Some animals can bob along to a rhythm
- But these cockatoos actually set a beat themselves
- Findings may shed light on origin of drumming in humans

Just like a human drummer, male Palm Cockatoos (*Probosciger aterrimus*) use drumsticks from branches and seed pods to beat out a steady rhythm, according to research published today in the journal Science Advances.

And it appears they use their drumming, along with a complex array of calls and wing-flapping, to attract female birds.

"Basically the male Cockatoo is showing off his prowess at making the drumstick, and then how cleverly he can use that drumstick," said lead author Professor Robert Heinsohn, from the Australian National University.



While some animals have been known to bob along to rhythms made by others, the Palm Cockatoos are the first to deliberately set their own rhythm.

And while other animals make tools, it's almost always for the purposes of foraging for food — like a chimpanzee fishing for termites with a stick or cracking nuts with a stone.

Australia's birds face uncertain future

The world's 10,000 bird species have been described as 'feathered, toothless wonders' — or even 'living dinosaurs'.

Australia is richly endowed with many brilliant, unusual, and 'tuneful' bird species and it's now widely recognised that songbirds originated in Australia, little more than 30 million years ago.

But with 22 species of birds going extinct since European settlement and population crashes for many other species in recent decades, the question is now — what about the 900 species of birds in this country?

Are they safe and thriving?



Hooded Plover



White-bellied Sea-Eagle - immature



Superb Fairy-wren - female



Southern Giant-Petrel

A few images from down south by Charles Dove

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS:- June-July 2017_

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	Nº	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Hoary-headed Grebe	5	18/07/2017	Burrill Lake	Water	Charles Dove
Bar-shouldered Dove	1 heard	27/06/2017	Bellambi	Dune vegetation	Ian McKinlay
Tawny Frogmouth	2	28/06/2017	Millard's Crk Ulladulla	Forest	Charles Dove
White-necked Heron	1	7/07/2017	Lang St , Balgownie	Flood detention basin	Joan Zealey
Eastern Great Egret	1	16/07/2017	Sandon Point	Stalking in long grass	Mike Morphett
Southern Giant-Petrel	1	3/07/2017	Ulladulla	Ocean	Charles Dove
Caspian Tern	1	16/07/2017	Sandon Point	In-flight over rock platform	Mike Morphett
Pacific Gull	1Juv	16/07/2017	Ulladulla	Harbour	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	17/07/2017	Oak Flats	O'head residential	Darryl Goldrick
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	24/06/2017	Bombo	o'head North headland	Ian McKinlay
Grey Goshawk	2	7/07/2017	Balgownie	High O'head (circling)	Joan Zealey
Nankeen Kestrel	1	27/06/2017	Hill 60-Red Point	O'head	Alan/Anne Cousins
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	25/06/2017	Bellambi	Beach Rock platform	Alan/Anne Cousins
Masked Lapwing	14	1/07/2017	Bellambi	Boat Ramp Carpark	Max Davies
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	2	27/06/2017	Hill 60-Red Point	O'head	Alan/Anne Cousins
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	20	28/06/2017	Escarpment Foothills	In- flight	Mike Morphett
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	6	20/07/2017	Balarang School	Power lines	Darryl Goldrick
Rainbow Lorikeet	21	23/07/2017	Thirroul	Back Yard	Mike Morphett
Musk Lorikeet	1	7/07/2017	Balgownie	School Yard	Terry Edwell
Musk Lorikeet	10	2/07/2017	Moona Moona Crk Vincentia	Forest	Charles Dove
Eastern Bristlebird	1	2/07/2017	Booderee NP	Heathland	Charles Dove
Spotted Pardalote	1	27/06/2017	Bellambi	Dune vegetation	Ian McKinlay
Fuscous Honeyeater	8	2/07/2017	Moona Moona Crk Vincentia	Forest	Charles Dove
White-plumed Honeyeater	1	27/06/2017	Bellambi	Dune vegetation	Ian McKinlay
Red Wattlebird	1 daily	23/07/2017	Lake Illawarra South	backyard Grevillea	Darryl Goldrick
Scarlet Honeyeater	6	2/07/2017	Moona Moona Crk Vincentia	Forest	Charles Dove
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	6	2/07/2017	Booderee NP	Heathland	Charles Dove
White-cheeked Honeyeater	12	2/07/2017	Moona Moona Crk Vincentia	Forest	Charles Dove
White-naped Honeyeater	10	2/07/2017	Moona Moona Crk Vincentia	Forest	Charles Dove
Grey Butcherbird	1	22/07/2017	Lake Illawarra South	Yard	Darryl Goldrick
Pied Currawong	2	18/07/2017	Lake Illawarra South	Yard	Darryl Goldrick
Spangled Drongo	1	4/07/2017	Bellambi	Playing Field	Joan Wylie

Please remember to forward all your sighting that you think would be appropriate and not necessarily a rare sighting to Darryl Goldrick.



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

Copyright 2017 All rights reserved.

While all due care has been taken to ensure that the content of this newsletter is accurate and current, there may be errors or omissions in this newsletter and no legal responsibility is accepted for the information in this newsletter