

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.

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

CONTENTS:

Club Activities	Page	2
Club Reports	Pages	3 - 7
Articles of Interest	Pages	8
Feather Tales	Page	9 - 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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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

www.iboc.org.au

Club Contacts:

PRESIDENT: VACANT
VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Zealey T. 02 4283 4687
SECRETARY: Pam Hazelwood T. 02 4284 6140
 E-mail: secretary@iboc.org.au

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP:

Ken Brown T. 02 4284 0525
 Email: membership@iboc.org.au
 Charles Dove, M. 0417 422 302
 E-mail: newsletter@iboc.org.au
 Chris Cartledge & Ron Imisides

EDITORS:

RECORDS OFFICER:

Darryl Goldrick
 Email: sightings@iboc.org.au

JULY ACTIVITIES

CLUB MEETING:

Monday 11th July at 7.30pm

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

Pam Hazelwood Presents.

Japan Travels with some bird Photos.

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

MIDWEEK WALK

Leader Ken Brown

Wednesday 13th July at 9.30am

WOLLONGONG BOTANIC GARDENS

Meet at 9.30am at the Discovery Centre car park of the Botanic Gardens at the end of Madoline St, Gwynneville (not the Murphys Ave car park). Parking permits will not be required because of the school holidays. Fortunately the kids program will be on the first week of the holidays and not while we are there. Bring morning tea to carry.

In the event of inclement weather Contact Ken on 0438 298 057.

MONTHLY OUTING

Leaders Alan & Anne Cousins

Saturday 16th July at 9am

PRIMBEE SAND DUNES

Meet at the car park in Perkins Road at the end of Boundary Road, Windang. If coming from the north Boundary Road is the first turn left off Windang Road just past the Illawarra Golf Range. If coming from the south turn right off Windang Road at the traffic lights into Wattle Street opposite Jetty's by the Lake retirement village then turn left into Perkins Road, car park is at the end. Bring and carry morning tea. Lunch will be back at the cars. If weather is permitting and members are interested we can visit Korrongulla Swamp after lunch.

In the event of inclement weather please contact Alan or Anne on 42833197- 0413 869534 by 8am

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday 18th July at 2pm

Next Meeting will be held at Pam Hazelwood's 34 Hunter Street, Balgownie at 2 pm, 4284 6140.

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

Newsletter:

DEADLINE 22nd July 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, Mollismook 2539.

Ph: 0417 422 302

IBOC WISHES TO WELCOME ALL OF ITS NEW MEMBERS

Jim & Cheryl - Eduardo & Thelma

CLUB MEETING REPORT

Bill Zealey

June club meeting

Guest speaker- **David Winterbottom** "Birding in Central and Southern Portugal"

A series of travel problems caused David and Elizabeth Winterbottom to spend a week in Southern Portugal discovering the joys of Portugal's World Heritage site. Although not claiming to be experts on Portugal birds they nevertheless got a taste of the local bird life in the short time they were overseas. David's talk introduced us to Lisbon and the glories of the Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, Belem. The landscape of Sintra yielded many woodland birds, including the Azure-winged Magpie, now termed the Iberian magpie. Its glossy black top to the head, white throat and long azure blue tail make it unmistakable.



In addition to the common water birds on the Tagus estuary (Spoonbills, Godwits and Kentish Plovers) they were lucky to spot an unexpected Steppe Eagle, several hundred miles west of its normal range. The hill-top town of Evora, with its Roman temple, made another great stop-over; the surrounding plains are home to Red-legged Partridges, Quail and both Great and Little Bustards. The Rio Guadiana runs by the historic town of Mertola creating deep and dramatic rocky gorges forming part of the Natural Vale do Guadiana. This arid corner of Portugal supports a rich wildlife, including Black Storks, Black Vultures, Griffon Vultures, as well as both Golden and Imperial Eagles.

Finally David and Elizabeth travelled to Faro, on the Algarve. Many species of west European waders occur in large numbers here, during the spring and autumn Europe-African migrations. These include Flamingos, Terns, Pied Avocet, Bee-eaters and Cettis Warbler. Oh and don't forget the gulls...Southern Europe abounds with them!

Thank you to David and Elizabeth for sharing their short, but productive trip with us.

REPORT FOR MIDWEEK WALK

Terry Edwell

Mt. Kembla Ring track 15th June

It was a pleasant walk along the ring track and eleven of our bird watchers were keen to get out after all the recent rain and wind. There were still some puddles of water and Yellow-throated Scrubwrens were enjoying a bath. Yellow Robins were busy on the sides of the bushes and a Bassian Thrush was doing its' running and stop action keeping just ahead of us. A Lyrebird was calling and we were lucky enough to have one run in front of us so those up front had a good look with Judy managing a good picture. We also saw the Whipbird a number of times along with the Golden Whistler.

There were a lot of branches that had been cut up and pushed to the side of the track after the wind storm. I wonder where all the birds go when the wind is so wild. I have a Lewin's Honeyeater that spends overnight just outside by back door in a shrub and it is never there when its windy. It has been coming for years.

We walked most of the track hearing and seeing different birds and enjoying the outing. We stopped for morning tea and continued on for another hour or so and it was time to turn back. A few of the men finished the track which ends in a lot of stairs up to the road. We arrived back to the car where it was lovely to see Barbara and Brian waiting for us to go for lunch at the pub at Mt Kembla.

MOUNT KEMBLA RING TRACK 15 th June		30 species	11 members
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Green Catbird	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Little Corella	Satin Bowerbird	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Superb Fairy-wren	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian King-Parrot	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Little Wattlebird	Silvereye
Crimson Rosella	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	Bassian Thrush
Laughing Kookaburra	Brown Gerygone	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Red-browed Finch
Superb Lyrebird	Brown Thornbill	Golden Whistler	
White-throated Treecreeper	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Shrike-thrush	

REPORT FOR WEEKEND WALK

Charles Dove

Narrawallee – Mollymook Sunday 15th June

With the weather forecast not the best with heavy rain on the way for Sunday it was doubtful that the walk would continue. Anyway as Sunday came around, a not so wet morning looked promising to allow the walk not to be cancelled. With 12 members arriving in Narrawallee in the Narrawallee Park. We had a quick look around and sighted a pair of Pied Oystercatchers, White-faced Herons, a Striated Heron diving into the inlet from a Mango tree catching small fish. After waiting for 15 minutes from the arrival time we departed down the road to Garrads reserve which has been a favourite of mine since it opened a couple of years ago, and continues to impress me with some of the species that I have sighted recently. As we walked the pathway a range of different species kept us busy, especially the Thornbills and Fairy-wrens with a varied habitat it allowed us to see a large number of species, even with the weather a continued threat and some of the more familiar species not allowing themselves to be exposed the number of species soon increased to a respectable number. Morning tea was by the lake in the peace and quiet of the surrounding bushland with various Honeyeaters, Cormorants and other species including the Azure Kingfisher, Spotted Pardalote, Red-browed Finch, Fan-tailed Cuckoo with the Southern Emu-wren just showing a glimpse as we left the serenity of this peaceful setting.

After arriving back at the cars we headed off to Mollymook Beach Surf Club, adjacent to the Fish Shop and a number of seating areas overlooking the Beach. We settled in for lunch observing the moderate surf and hoping to see a few Humpback Whales which regularly pass us by; then the rain came. We did manage to observe the Australasian Gannet, Black-browed Albatross and a few of the regular sightings as well. We decided not to pursue the afternoon walk along the Mollymook walkway. So with that; a few departed for home to try and avoid the storm that was looming, and a few came over to our place for a chat and coffee. Thank you to all those who braved the conditions and hopefully the 3rd outing down this way will be a fine sunny day.

NARRAWALLEE – MOLLYMOOK 15 th June		49 Species	14 members
Spotted Dove	Sooty Oystercatcher	Southern Emu-wren	Grey Butcherbird
Bar-shouldered Dove	Caspian Tern	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Magpie
Little Pied Cormorant	Silver Gull	Brown Gerygone	Pied Currawong
Great Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Little Black Cormorant	Australian King-Parrot	Spotted Pardalote	Willie Wagtail
Australian Pelican	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Magpie-lark
White-necked Heron	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Eastern Great Egret	Azure Kingfisher	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Silveryeye
Striated Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Little Wattlebird	Common Blackbird
White-faced heron	White-throated Treecreeper	Red Wattlebird	Red-browed Finch
Little Egret	Satin Bowerbird	New Holland Honeyeater	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Whipbird	
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler	

MOLLYMOOK BEACH 15 th June		9 Species	
Australian Wood Duck	Australasian Gannet	Crested Tern	Magpie-lark
Black-browed Albatross	Masked Lapwing	Galah	Welcome Swallow
			Common Myna

Mt Warning Camp

Betty Hudson

Report on Mt Warning Camp May 2016

27 IBOC members & friends attended our Autumn Camp at Mt Warning Rainforest Retreat Caravan Park near Murwillumbah.

Mt Warning is in an area that IBOC has not visited before. The entire area is the remains of a "Shield" volcano which covered the entire area with debris & lava in ancient times. The lava etc has now eroded leaving the "spire" of Mt Warning and a landscape of steep high ridges, many reaching 1100m, deep valleys and many rivers including the Tweed.

The hillsides are covered in subtropical rainforest at the lower levels becoming dryer with Myrtle forest at higher levels and eucalyptus on the drier western slopes. The river valleys are deep & steep sided with vines scrambling over the trees. In the lower reaches they are broad flat and silting up, making them liable to severe flooding after heavy rain. Two water supply dams were located on minor rivers and provided habitat for water birds as did the lower reaches of the Tweed River.

With such diverse habits the bird life was very varied with pigeons and fruit doves very common in the fruiting trees and surprisingly the Large-billed Scrubwren was recorded at all but one of the places we visited while Lewin's Honeyeater was recorded at all locations.

Mt Warning Rainforest Retreat was entirely in rainforest with plenty of fruiting trees which gave us Rose-crowned Fruit Doves, White-headed Pigeons, Wonga Pigeon, Topknot Pigeons, Brown Cuckoo-Doves on the first morning. A Sooty Owl was heard screaming at 4am one morning while a Southern Boobook Called as we walked to the campfire as well as Tawny Frogmouths calling. Yes, we did have a real fire thanks to Ross and his team of early birds who collected & chopped the wood. Altogether we recorded 52 species in camp.

During the week we visited Lyrebird walk at the foot of Mt Warning where the notable species were the Little Shrike-thrush, Pale Yellow Robin and Rufous Fantail from the 14 species seen. We spoke to 2 young ladies who were sitting up to their knees in the creek to cool down their quivering jelly legs after descending Mt Warning. Josh & Bruce made the climb in the dark one morning hoping to see sunrise from the top but had to take the consolation prize of watching it from part way up before completing the climb. They admitted that their legs were like jellies on returning to camp.

Visits to both the dam wall and the distal end of Clarrie Hall Dam gave us a good list of water birds, including Comb-crested Jacanas, Plumed Whistling Ducks, Blue-billed Ducks, while many raptors were seen over the distal end at Cramms Farm. This was a great site but on the afternoon we visited a party being instructed in canoeing rather disturbed the birds and the sun was in the wrong direction. Everyone had a good look at a Wompoo Fruit-Dove in an old Fig Tree at the car park. By the dam wall 2 frogmouths were seen but there was a discussion over whether they were Tawny or Marbled. Betty settled the issue by comparing the birds on her e-book with a photo. Tawny Frogmouths have short square tails while Marbled ones have longer tapered tails. The birds in the photos had square tails. (the dam wall area gave 30 species & the Cramms Farm area 49 species)

Next day we headed to Nimbin where a great bakery provided cakes etc for our Biggest Morning Tea which Pam had kindly organised. Coffee was also had by early arrivals at the cafe. Due to the road conditions we were unable to travel in convoy as usual and had to arrange to meet at a strategic point. Leaving Nimbin we headed 15 km into the bush along Terrania Creek Road to a remarkable spot Protesters Falls Picnic Area in Nightcap NP. Here we stood enjoying the sunshine and all the goodies provided for morning tea while Ross read an old poem of Wal Emery's about his early days learning the correct names of birds. Feeling well fed we then tackled the board walk & track up to the falls themselves. Despite the lack of rain & therefore water, the falls were still an impressive sight falling 60m. With help over the rocky sections everyone made it to the base of the falls. The history of the name Protesters Falls is that Terrania Creek was the site of the first and very prolonged protest against logging of old growth rainforest which eventually led to the Nightcap National Park being established. On the return trip we were very lucky to get a good look at a group of Australian Logrunners one of which was panicking as it was on the wrong side of the board walk with groups of us blocking both ways. It suddenly darted at speed across to vanish in the forest with the others. (16 species recorded)

Leaving here we headed back towards Nimbin and then turned again into the hills to explore Mt Nardi a peak at 900m crowned with communication towers. Unfortunately the promised picnic area with facilities no longer existed so we sat by the roadside having lunch and making phone calls as we finally had reception. A walking track from here goes for 23km across the park above Protesters Falls to Rummery Camp ground. Exploring the start of the track Ross was vigilant enough to spot a Paradise Riflebird one of only two sightings for the week. Other birds sighted were Noisy Pitta, Regent Bowerbird, Rose & Pale Yellow Robins, Bassian Thrush (not Russet-tailed as we were above 240m.) in addition to an Albert's Lyrebird heard calling. (35 species recorded)

Next day heralded a free morning followed by lunch at Mt Warning Hotel in Uki. The hotel is a rebuilt replica of the original burnt down in recent years. This was followed by our visit to Cramms Farm.

Now came our much anticipated visit to the Border Ranges NP hopefully to find that elusive Albert's Lyrebird. This necessitated an early start along the Kyogle road's many hills & bends, meeting at the start of the road to the NP shortly after crossing a ridge & leaving the Tweed River Valley to enter the Richmond River catchment. After crossing Jerrys Creek we started our 900m climb up to Bar Mountain, stopping at a lookout on the way where the bush mechanics removed a stone from one of the brakes on Ken's vehicle. This gave the rest of us time to admire a large python slithering past after being disturbed. The views across to Mt Warning and the Scenic Rim in Queensland were spectacular (8 species recorded).

Once the car was fixed we pressed on to Bar Mountain Picnic Area hoping to see the Lyrebirds. No luck, not even one was heard. Talking to rangers fixing a vandalised toilet we learnt that they see a number of them regularly on misty, overcast mornings wandering around on the grass between the tables. So they are not a Myth!! The toilet vandalism was a new twist on what happens locally. The entire toilet pan for the composting toilet is unbolted from the floor and removed, some several times. This leaves a large hazardous hole in the floor. The rangers are now going to devise a way to bolt steel bands down to thwart them. After morning tea we took the short walk along the

Falcostrum loop through the Antarctic Beech Forest so named for the Falcostrum Orchids clinging to the tree trunks in the only place they grow.. A few more energetic people walked a little way on the long Bar Mountain Circuit. (14 species here)

Next stop was Sheepstation Creek at the western entry to the park and a popular camping area. In the rain forest here birds were plentiful with Eastern Yellow Robins showing off their brilliant yellow rumps so different from their southern cousins. Regent Bowerbirds, all 3 scrubwrens, Bell Miners, Crested Shrike-tit & Little Shrike-thrush were the most notable sightings. A walk along the start of the Rosewood loop track took us to a creek and several small cascades. With time getting away & the trail deteriorating we returned for lunch. (20 species recorded)

The road took us back part way along our route in before diverting to Brindle Creek Picnic Area – in name only 1 decrepit table! A very good small creek through lush rainforest and excellent loop walking tracks both ways. Some went one way and others upstream. Birds were in short supply with only 3 species recorded- Yellow-throated & White-browed Scrubwrens and a Lewin's Honeyeater.

The next brief stop was the Antarctic Beech Forest almost on the rim of the park where again 3 species were recorded Lewin's Honeyeater, Silvereye & Red-browed Finch.

We now stopped at 2 lookouts over the Tweed Valley to Mt Warning, spectacular views but no birds. The Pinnacle Lookout was on a knob of rock accessed from a narrow neck of rock by a set of steps. On leaving here we made our way back down the mountain, with a few stopping again at Bar Mountain before the long drive back to camp.

Another day, another place to visit, this time Rocky Creek Dam near Dunoon. This dam supplies water to Lismore, Ballina & Byron Bay and is set in the foot hills of the Nightcap Ranges. The dam is large with some water birds and a large surrounding area of diverse forest including rainforest along the creek. The dam area is surrounded by manicured grounds with good picnic facilities. There were several walks of varying lengths and steepness. After morning tea we walked across the dam and spillway to the forested area. Birds were very shy in the dryer eucalyptus forest on the higher slopes but down by the creek in the rainforest many more were recorded. After a walk down a long steep track we found that the way was made difficult by rough stepping stones across a creek. Those adventurous members got across easily but us uncertain ones turned back and walked up the hill. And then up hill & down again to the dam & then the picnic area. A great work out for leg muscles. The group crossing the creek had by far the best of the bird watching with Emerald Doves seen and the Superb Fruit Dove heard calling Green Catbird & Regent Bowerbird. In the eucalyptus forest Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos, Eastern & Crimson Rosellas, King Parrots, and a Variegated Fairy-wren just as we started the climb back up from the dam. After a late lunch it was decided to call it a day & return to camp (48 species)

During the week Bill & Joan stopped several times at Byalgum Bridge over the Tweed River (the first bridge over the river after leaving Murwillumbah) and were rewarded with a good list of birds including several not seen elsewhere including Striated & Nankeen Night Herons, Buff-banded Rail, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Restless Flycatcher, Golden-headed Cisticola, Australian Reed-Warbler, & Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (38 species)

For our last day we visited yet another National Park this time nestling on the slopes below Border Ranges. A narrow windy but very interesting drive led to the Picnic area and camp ground which was full of Queenslanders packing up from a weekend camp. Finding sufficient parking was a challenge but we soon settled for morning tea and a discussion of where to walk. We settled on the track down through the rain forest to the creek. A long downhill trek and then a flat walk through the riverside scrub to a good waterhole. The White-headed Pigeons, Emerald Doves, Brown Cuckoo Doves & Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Leaden Flycatcher, along with a Paradise Riflebird were all seen along with Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos & Sulphur Crested Cockatoos in the dryer eucalyptus dominated forest on the ridge track with the list of 24 species concluding a remarkable week.

To crown the week we had two very unusual sightings the first was by Andy & Anna of two Cape Barren Geese feeding by the roadside halfway between Uki and the Mt Warning turn off. Along way from home!! The second was by Lyndall sitting in her chair in camp one morning watching for birds in the tall trees on the skyline of the opposite ridge, when she saw a lump in one tree. A Koala she thought. Watching it for a time she was amazed to see it spread its arms and fly away. A "Koala Bird" she called it for want of a better name. NO! she was informed by someone with binoculars, it was a large flock of Topknot Pigeons taking flight as the sun warmed the valley below.

My thanks to everyone who assisted me & those who also contributed in many other ways to make this a rewarding and happy camp.

This camp will be a hard act to follow. Has anyone any suggestions for 2017 camps?

A detailed list of what was seen at each location visited has been posted on the IBOC website

Australian Brush-turkey	Australian White Ibis	Forest Kingfisher	Golden Whistler
Brown Quail	Straw-necked Ibis	Noisy Pitta	Rufous Whistler
Wandering Whistling- Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Albert's Lyrebird	Little Shrike-thrush
Cape Barren Goose	Eastern Osprey	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Shrike-thrush

Black Swan	Black-shouldered Kite	Green Catbird	Australasian Figbird
Australian Wood Duck	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Regent Bowerbird	Olive-backed Oriole
Chestnut Teal	Whistling Kite	Satin Bowerbird	Grey Butcherbird
Pacific Black Duck	Grey Goshawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Butcherbird
Hardhead	Swamp Harrier	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie
Blue-billed Duck	Wedged-tailed Eagle	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Pied Currawong
Australasian Grebe	Nankeen Kestrel	White-browed Scrubwren	Rufous Fantail
White-headed Pigeon	Purple Swamphen	Large-billed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail
Spotted Dove	Buff-banded Rail	Weebill	Willie Wagtail
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Dusky Moorhen	Brown Gerygone	Torresian Crow
Emerald Dove	Eurasian Coot	White-throated Gerygone	Leadren Flycatcher
Crested Pigeon	Masked Lapwing	Striated Thornbill	Restless Flycatcher
Bar-shouldered Dove	Comb-crested Jacana	Yellow Thornbill	Black-faced Monarch
Wonga Pigeon	Crested Tern	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Magpie-lark
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Paradise Riflebird
Superb Fruit-Dove	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Rose Robin
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Galah	Striated Pardalote	Pale-yellow Robin
Topknot Pigeon	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Spinebill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Tawny Frogmouth	Rainbow Lorikeet	Lewin's Honeyeater	Golden-headed Cisticola
Australasian Darter	Scaly -breasted Lorikeet	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Pied Cormorant	Australian King-Parrot	Bell Miner	Silvereye
Great Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	Noisy Miner	Welcome Swallow
Little Black Cormorant	Eastern Rosella	Brown Honeyeater	Bassian Thrush
Australian Pelican	Pheasant Coucal	White-naped Honeyeater	Russet-tailed Thrush
White-necked Heron	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Common Myna
Eastern Great Egret	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Noisy Friarbird	Mistletoebird
Intermediate Egret	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Australian Logrunner	Red-browed Finch
Cattle Egret	Southern Boobook	Eastern Whipbird	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Striated Heron	Sooty Owl	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Australasian Pipit
White-faced Heron	Azure Kingfisher	Varied Triller	
Nankeen Night Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Crested Shrike-tit	

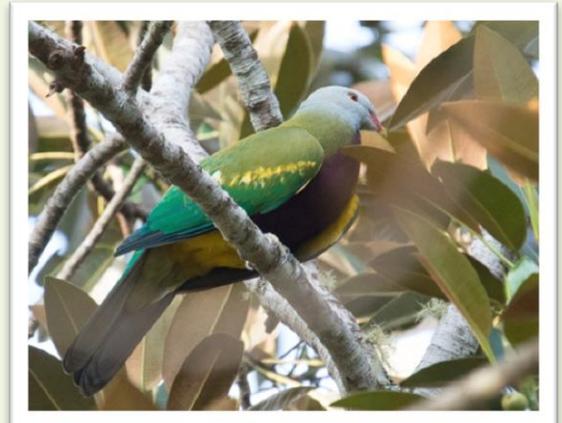
Total species for the camp was 138

The two Cape Barren Geese were seen on the roadside verge ½ way between Uki & the Mt Warning Road turn off. They are very unusual vagrants in this area and may have strayed from a property.

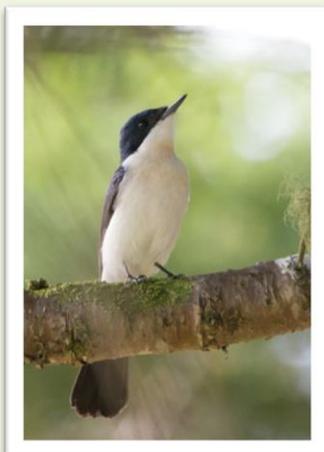
Photos by Pam Hazelwood from Mt. Warning Camp



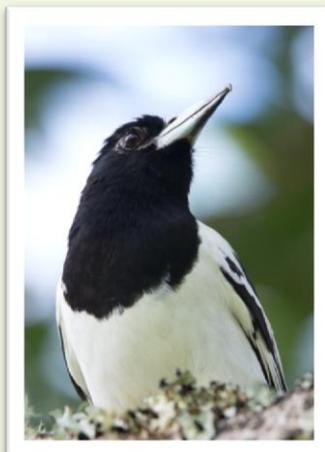
Australian Logrunner



Wompoo Fruit Dove



Restless Flycatcher



Pied Butcherbird



Rose Robin

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Stop Press: Sensational Slimbridge Spoony Scoop!

The big news is that this season the Slimbridge WWT Wetland Centre Spoon-billed Sandpiper Captive Breeding Programme has seen its first eggs, the first ever Spoon-billed Sandpiper eggs laid in captivity.

This is an historical moment in the battle to save this species from extinction. There is still a long way to go and many hurdles to cross, but at last there is a glimmer of hope that this species can be saved from extinction, if not in the wild, then perhaps in captivity; Martha's lesson learned.



The Orange Bellied Parrot – by John Barkla

The migratory Orange-bellied Parrot is on the verge of extinction in the wild, but thanks to a long term recovery program, there are a few hundred in captive breeding. The wild bird population is being augmented by releases from the captive population in the hope that the wild population can recover to its former numbers. In the old days, I took busloads of observers to the WTP and we never failed to see them in groups of five to thirty. Those days are gone and nowadays seeing any anywhere in Victoria or South Australia is a highlight worth reporting. Most of the wild birds have been banded and are being carefully monitored. They feed on the tiny seeds of a range of samphire and other plants and need to feed for long periods to ensure they get a sufficient food intake. Details of where the few remaining birds can be found is kept secret, to minimise disturbance which might cause the birds to stop feeding or to fly, thus using vital energy reserves.

This year three birds have returned from their breeding site on the west coast of Tasmania, to the Western Treatment Plant. The site has become widely known because it has been used for a number of years. Birders are mostly careful not to disturb them and with patience the birds can be seen. I was unable to locate them last Sunday, but did see them on Thursday and Friday. Quite remarkably, on both days the birds were feeding out on the saltmarsh (where access is not allowed), but flew into the Melaleucas beside the assembled group of observers, where they commenced preening. After taking dozens of photos of the distant birds when they were feeding, we all had the chance for much closer photos. On Thursday there was a dense fog and my photos suffered as a result. On Friday, however, I was able to obtain more acceptable results. While the birds were very quiet and seemed completely unperturbed by the assembled birders and photographers, everybody was careful not to approach the birds too closely. This meant the 700 or so photos I took over the two days needed some cropping. Here are just a few of the better ones. I hope you enjoy them.





Birds battling against battering bad weather

Mike Morphett

The meteorologists were spot on with their forecast of heavy rain and strong winds along most of our eastern seaboard over the first weekend of winter. After such a mild May, this east coast low made us very much aware of the power and majesty of natural forces that caused widespread flooding, fallen trees, and damaged homes. The numerous mini-waterfalls descending from the edge of the Illawarra Coast Range on to the roadside between The Elbow and the top of Bulli Pass were evidence enough of major topographical changes. From the Friday night to Sunday night I recorded 336 mm rainfall in our backyard at Thirroul.

In its coverage of our regional devastation, the June 8th edition of the *Illawarra Mercury* reported that "It was a bad day to be a bird on Saturday, as the Illawarra was drenched with rain and strong winds"; but none of the column's ten photographs featured a feather, let alone a bird. Prior to my reading this, I had felt inspired to make some written tribute to what I perceived to be avian stoicism in such adverse circumstances.



Crimson Rosella

Saturday morning I first observed a Crimson Rosella in our now scantily-leaved Robinia. This bird has been a regular house-caller, looking out for our mixed seed bowls on the back verandah. Distinguishable from its conspecifics, it has displayed the unusual characteristic of frequently nudging its upper mandible against something wooden, such as a branch or the edge of our verandah enclosure. Because of this behaviour, I have wondered if it was originally someone's pet and subsequently an escapee. It remained in this position on a branch for many minutes without stirring, drenched in the downpour as if in defiance of the natural elements. In contrast, Red-browed Finches and Variegated Fairy-wrens did the rounds of the garden, taking refuge in foliage; the former making customary forays to the seed bowls.

In the afternoon I drove to Sandon Point and walked across the soggy grass to the Surf Club. Facing into the strong nor'easter, a Welcome Swallow alternately clung on to some driftwood and a rock between swoops over the sand to catch prey I couldn't see. Others of its kind were much more on the move in the air, flying at different circular levels. This foraging area was shared by three Willie Wagtails; they made greater use of the leeward side of the building for respite. Piping calls told me there was at least one Sooty Oystercatcher close by. At the edge of the rock platform three of them were seeking food while negotiating the relentless tide.



Saturday view south from Sandon Point Surf Club & Sunday view north

Overnight the wild weather intensified, prompting me to make a return visit to this location on the Sunday morning. Like other onlookers, it was hard for me to keep my balance in the buffeting wind and driving rain or to take photographs of the dramatic spectacle of the crashing waves and surf, while hanging on to my headgear. Standing behind a Norfolk pine offered me minimal protection from the wind that hissed and whistled through its branches. When walking towards the end of the headland, I've always appreciated the stereophonic counterpoint sound of the sea, but this day the sensation was more like a continuous discordant crescendo to my ears.

The concrete path and steps down to the Surf Club were awash. There I again encountered Welcome Swallows and Willie Wagtails, both species flying out into the open for aerial food and seeking shelter on the southern side of the building: swallows under the ceiling and wagtails on the ground. I decided against walking out to the exposed rock platform, as I had no need to and lacked the desire to get further saturated; the dry warmth of home was beckoning. If Saturday was a bad day to be a bird, then Sunday was at least doubly so. Whilst I've

often marvelled at birds in flight (excluding the ratites, of course), sometimes to the point of envy, after this weekend's observations in very hostile weather conditions, I felt content not to be one.



Welcome swallow either side of Willie Wagtail

WA's Carnaby's cockatoos tracked by high-flying technology

By Briana Shepherd

New technology is being used to track the movements of WA's Carnaby's cockatoos, after the bird's population declined by 50 per cent over the past 50 years.

The Black Cockatoo Ecology Project, which involves a team from Murdoch University's School of Veterinary and Life Sciences, is working on halting that decline.

The researchers are tagging wild Carnaby's cockatoos which have been injured, and later rehabilitated at the Perth Zoo. While tagging the threatened species was not new, the technology, which can determine the activities and movements of the species to a deeper level, is. The new approach allows for a greater understanding of the best type of habitat. The cockatoos are placed under anaesthesia and then intubated for the 40-minute procedure.

First, the satellite transmitter is sutured and glued onto the two central tail feathers. Then the solar-powered GPS tracker is attached through a panel placed on the cockatoos back feathers. Lastly, the birds are marked for identification and tracking purposes. Each bird has an individual number on a silver leg tag, and their feathers are marked.

Dr Jill Shephard said it was exciting research.

"We get an image in three-dimensional space of what the bird is doing at that very moment," she said.

"So it could be flying, it could be roosting, it could be eating, it could be on the ground drinking water."

"The level of detail is very high and the data allows us to make more informed decisions for conservation planning."

Twenty-four cockatoos are currently being tracked, with the study to be conducted over a five-year period.



Researchers Dr Jill Shephard (L) and Kris Warren attach a satellite transmitter to a Carnaby's cockatoo (ABC News: Briana Shepherd)

The lost history of Australian penguins

TRAVIS PARK, PALAEOANTHROPOLOGIST



A little penguin in a collection of fauna at Museum Victoria. (Ben Healley)



Travis Park compares the fossilised wing bone of a seven-million-year-old penguin with a modern penguin skeleton. (Museum Victoria/Ben Healley)

Little penguins might be the only species of penguin currently found in Australia, but it wasn't always that way. Researchers at Museum Victoria and Monash University are looking deep into the past in an attempt to uncover millions of years of lost penguin history. Giant, 1.5 metre-tall penguins moved about the Australian coast five million years after they'd become extinct everywhere else in the world.

I'm very biased, but it's an important piece of history and it's one that has traditionally been left out of the global narrative.

[Listen to the full interview](#)

[Download](#)

More than a passing parade

Mike Morphett

Much of Tuesday morning straight after the Queen's Birthday public holiday I was treated to some free entertainment.



Two Brown Cuckoo-doves appeared at the same time in our backyard with the same goal: to feed on seed mix we had put out on our verandah. They evidently weren't related (except taxonomically) or disposed to cooperation or compromise, as they clashed for the goods with charges and counter-charges round the seed-box area and through the branches of the adjacent robinia and the back-fence casuarina. The frequent opening of their beaks and gruntings and flapping of wings were further signs of antagonism. The ongoing conflict gave neither bird much chance to feed at all. And the dove is a reputed symbol of peace? The only situation when they did unite was to chase off two Crimson Rosellas, also after the seed. Eventually one of them became the victor and took over the seed-box, thence shooing off the much smaller regular visitors, the red-browed finches and White-browed Scrubwrens.



After all this dramatic display in our winter sunshine, I soon came to the conclusion that my enjoyment of this avian theatre far exceeded that had I been among the thousands of picnickers lining The Mall in London in the summer rain to catch a glimpse of the ninety year-old sovereign passing by.

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: May-June 2016

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	N ^o	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Hardhead	5	20/05/2016	Bellambi	Lagoon	Ian McKinlay
Bar-shouldered Dove	2	27/05/2016	Murrays Road F/paradise	Paddock	Charles Dove
Tawny Frogmouth	1	20/06/2016	Mt Pleasant	Roadkill	Mike Morphet
White-faced Heron	1	26/05/2016	Balgownie	Judy Masters Park	Mike Morphet
White-faced Heron	1	29/05/2016	Macauleys Hill, Thirroul	Yard	Ian McKinlay
Nankeen Night-heron	5	3/06/2016	Lake Tabourie	Creek	Charles Dove
Royal Spoonbill	3	11/06/2016	Swamp Rd,Dunmore/Jamberoo	Rural	David Eddington
Nankeen Kestrel	1	5/05/2016	Corrimal	Yard	Tera Wheway
Nankeen Kestrel	2	12/06/2016	Swamp Rd,Dunmore/Jamberoo	Rural pasture	Josh Coyte
Brown Falcon	1	7/5/2016	Woonona	Beach	Ian McKinlay
Peregrine Falcon	1	1/06/2016	Macauleys Hill, Thirroul	Norfolk Pine sub yard	Ian McKinlay
Sooty Oystercatcher	22	7/06/2016	Sandon Point	Rock Platform	Neil/Pam McKinlay
Red-necked Avocet	2	13/06/2016	Berkley-Fred Finch Park	Lake	David Winterbottom
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	30/05/2016	Bens Walk Nowra	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1 heard	20/05/2016	Bellambi	Lagoon - Pioneer Est	Ian McKinlay
Azure Kingfisher	1	17/06/2016	Garrads/R-Narrawallee	Creek	Charles Dove
Southern Emu-wren	3	17/06/2016	Garrads/R-Narrawallee	Grassy Heath	Charles Dove
Yellow Thornbill	10	9/06/2016	Lions Park L/Burrill	light Forest	Charles Dove
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	10	5/06/2016	Ulladulla	Grass area	Charles Dove
Spotted Pardalote	1	28/05/2016	Garrads/R-Narrawallee	Bush	Charles Dove
Eastern Spinebill	1	5/06/2016	Oak Flats	Yard	Sylvia Garlick
Fuscous Honeyeater	7	3/06/2016	Lake Tabourie	Gum Trees	Charles Dove
Noisy Miner	1	1/06/2016	Macauleys Hill, Thirroul	Fig Tree	Ian McKinlay
Red Wattlebird	1	29/05/2016	Macauleys Hill, Thirroul	Fig Tree	Ian McKinlay
White-naped Honeyeater	1	6/06/2016	Primbee	Yard	Walter Boles
Noisy Friarbird	1	26/05/2016	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphet
Golden Whistler	1	23/05/2016	Hewitts Creek	Casuarina Grove	Ian McKinlay
Magpie-lark	100+	30/05/2016	Avondale	Urban - o'head	Neil Wheway
Jacky Winter	8	27/05/2016	Murrays Road F/paradise	Paddock	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	2m	8/06/2016	Croome Reserve	Bush	Kara Eddington
Golden-headed Cisticola	1	7/05/2016	Bellambi	Lagoon	Ian McKinlay
Mistletoebird	1	29/05/2016	Macauleys Hill, Thirroul	Fig Tree	Ian McKinlay
Australasian Pipit	4	12/06/2016	Port Kembla	Foreshore -grassy verge	Tom/Joan Wiley

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.



Copyright 2015 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