

Glossy Black-Cockatoo

Scientific Name: *Calyptorhynchus lathamii*
 Atlas Number: 265

Description:

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo is the smallest of the five black-cockatoos. It has a brown-black head, neck and underparts, with red or orange-red tail panels and an otherwise dull black body. The crest is small and inconspicuous and the bill is broad and bulbous. Adult females have extensive yellow patches on the head and neck and the tail panels tend to be more orange-red with black bars, but may become less barred and more red with age. Some adult males have a



photo by Charles Dove

few yellow feathers on the head and the males' tail panels tend to be bright red. Young birds resemble adult males but have yellow spotted or streaked breasts, bellies and flanks, with some yellow spots on cheeks and sides of head. Glossy Black-Cockatoos are strongly associated with casuarina stands in wet forests.

Similar species:

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo may be confused with the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, *C. banksii*, but can be distinguished by having more brownish-black plumage on head, neck and underbody, and dull black body plumage instead of uniformly glossy black plumage. Adult females have much more yellow on head, but lack the yellow spotting over the whole body characteristic of female (and immature) Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos. Both sexes of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo have a much less conspicuous head crest and a shorter, broader, more bulbous bill. Smaller size, less strident contact calls and a marked preference for casuarina habitat further distinguishes the Glossy from the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

Distribution:

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo is widespread in eastern Australia from Eungella, Queensland south to east Gippsland, Victoria, and inland from southern central Queensland through the central west of New South Wales to north-eastern Victoria. There is also an isolated population on Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

Habitat:

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo is highly dependent on the distribution of Allocasuarina species and is found in woodland dominated by Allocasuarina and in open forests where it forms a substantial middle layer. Often confined to remnant Allocasuarina patches surrounded by cleared farmlands. Requires tree hollows for breeding.

Feeding:

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo feeds almost exclusively on Allocasuarina seeds: in a particular area, birds may feed only on a single species. It may also sometimes eat wood-boring larvae. Feeds in threes, less commonly in pairs or small groups or in large flocks of up to 60 birds. Tame and easily approached when feeding, they can be detected by the clicking of their bills and the falling debris of casuarina cones and twigs.

Breeding:

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo mates for life, with pairs maintaining their bond all year round. The female prepares the nest hollow and incubates the eggs, only leaving the nest to feed herself after the newly hatched nestling is a week old. Males feed the female and nestling throughout the incubation and brooding period. Once fledged, the young bird is fed by both parents for up to four months and remains with them until the next breeding season.

Living with us:

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo's populations have declined, with local extinctions and range contractions. This is because of land clearing practices that have removed food sources and nesting sites. More frequent and intense fires in south-eastern Australia since European settlement have also reduced suitable habitat. Both grazing, which suppresses casuarina regeneration, and forestry practices that remove casuarina have also contributed to declines.

Cover text courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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ILLAWARRA
 BIRD
 OBSERVERS
 CLUB Inc

'ONE GOOD TERN
 DESERVES ANOTHER'

Founded in 1977

Club's Aim:

To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird life around them.

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JUNE ACTIVITIES



Club Meeting:

Monday 8th at 7.30pm

Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow. Our guest speaker for June will be **Roger Truscott** with a presentation on "Birds of Ethiopia". Roger spent several weeks last year climbing Mount Kilimanjaro before heading for Ethiopia. Tonight he will regale us with his travels and birding adventures.

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

Midweek Walk:

Wednesday 10th at 9am

Leader Rupert Jarvis

Puckeys Estate

Meet at 9.00 am at Fairy Meadow Surf Club. This is at the beach (eastern) end of Elliotts Road, Fairy Meadow. Bring morning tea. There are rumours of lunch at Towradgi Bowling Club for those interested. Contact Rupert on 0403 932 635.

In the event of inclement weather phone Rupert 0403 932 635 7.30am or after

Monthly Outing:

Sunday 14th at 9am

Leader Alan Cousins

Meet at 9am at Couridjah picnic area 3K's from entrance to Lakes along a dirt road. Follow Picton Road to Trainworks, go past and follow road for about 6K's. Entrance to NP is a well-marked Brown Sign on right. Bring morning tea and lunch.

Please note that this is a change of venue advertised on the 2015 programme due to unforeseen circumstances at Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, Bargo. This venue will be rearranged at later date.

In the event of inclement weather phone Alan 0413 869 534 before 7.00am

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday 15th at 2.00pm

The meeting will be at Jann Gowans' 41 Joseph Street, Woonona

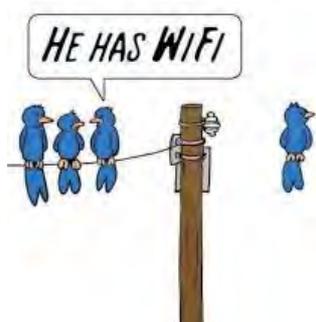
Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to attend the meeting.

Newsletter:

Deadline for articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter is the **26th June 2015**

PLEASE E-mail contributions: to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 8 Carroll Avenue, Lake Conjola 2539. Ph: 0417 422 302.

IBOC WISHES TO WELCOME ALL OF ITS NEW MEMBERS



CLUB REPORTS

Report for club meeting 11th May 2015

by Jann Gowans

Thanks to Heather Milroy, an avian specialist and Education and Training officer with Illawarra WIRES, for her entertaining and informative talk. Their mission includes helping **Wildlife**, disseminating **Information**, **Rescue**, **Education** and, of course, **Service**. There are roughly 2000 volunteers and 700 vets involved in NSW and a state-wide hotline. If you discover a native animal in trouble (make sure it is truly in need, eg, sometimes fledglings have parents near-by), make a note of where you found the animal, make sure it is safe, place it in a warm, dark suitable container (note: a cardboard box for a cockatoo may find the bird escaped and in your passenger seat quick smart!). Do not give it food or water and ring WIRES.

The top reasons animals need rescue include habitat destruction, motor vehicle accidents, separation from parent and cat/dog attacks. Among other reasons, poisoning is sadly becoming more common. If you see a fresh animal road accident, check the pouch for a youngster, if applicable. The club took up a gold coin donation for WIRES to help with their activities. Volunteers are most welcome as well to help in a variety of roles. Other things you can do to help include slow down at dawn and dusk to prevent animal injuries from road accidents and keep predatory pets inside. Heather mentioned perhaps she might join us on one of our walks where she would be most welcome!

Report for Midweek Walk 13th May 2015

Macquarie Rivulet Walk

by Neil Wheway

Twelve hardy people braved the cold westerly wind and wandered along the rivulet stopping in spots sheltered from the wind and warming up in the sun. Prior to starting our journey Alan commented that he wished that he had worn long pants instead of shorts. I thought anyone with shorts must have lost their marbles you wouldn't read about I found a marble in the gutter which I then returned to Alan. I think he was happy to have had one back. Strolling along looking at the birds through the binoculars I thought that they were doing a lot hopping and jumping about, until I realised that it was me shaking about with the cold wind. After crossing under the highway bridge it was about morning tea time, but we were unable to find any shelter from the wind behind the plant nursery. We about faced and wandered back luckily a Mistletoe Bird was spotted and seen by those dragging the chain at the back. It was the first one that I had seen for quite some time, later he was spotted again. By this time the wind had eased off and we managed morning tea at the rivers edge enjoying the warm sun. I am not sure how many birds we spotted but it still a very enjoyable morning with excellent company.

Thank you Brian and Barbara.

Macquarie Rivulet Walk		Wednesday 13 th	12 members attended	38 species
Black Swan	White-faced Heron	Yellow Thornbill	Tree Martin	
Australian Wood Duck	Australian White Ibis	Eastern Spinebill	Red-whiskered Bulbul	
Chestnut Teal	Royal Spoonbill	Little Wattlebird	Common Blackbird	
Pacific Black Duck	Eastern Osprey	Red Wattlebird	Common Myna	
Crested Pigeon	Nankeen Kestrel	New Holland Honeyeater	Mistletoebird	
Little Pied Cormorant	Black-fronted Dotterel	Grey Butcherbird	Red-browed Finch	
Great Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Australian Magpie	House Sparrow	
Pied Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Fantail	European Goldfinch	
Australian Pelican	Rainbow Lorikeet	Willie Wagtail		
Eastern Great Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Raven		

Report for monthly outing 16th May 2015

Tallawarra Ash Ponds

by Terry Edwell

The day was fine for our walk after all the terrible weather the week before. The first bird spotted was the resident Whistling Kite and we all saw its' nest still in the huge gum tree not far from the start of the walk. There were plenty of raptors including Wedge-tailed Eagles and Sea-eagles.

The ponds were very full of water so there were not many waders but most breeds of native ducks were present. Pink-eared, Blue-billed, Freckled ducks and Shoveler were plentiful and of course all the more common ones along with Purple Swampheens and Dusky Moorhens. There was only one Royal Spoonbill that I saw and the usual Black Swans and dozens of Eurasian Coots.

There were not many little birds one or two Red-browed Finches, several European Goldfinch, Yellow Thornbills and Grey Fantails. Apart from that there was the usual Willie Wagtail, Mud-lark, Magpie etc.

After spending a good time at the big pond with binoculars working overtime and the scopes trained on various ducks we had our morning tea and then walked the round track back to the cars. Near the cars and in the lantana we saw Mistletoebirds and a female Golden Whistler.

After driving back through the gates we turned right and drove out to the end of the road to have lunch. Two Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos were down on the ground under the pine trees eating pine nuts a few of us had a good view of them. During lunch we saw a Caspian Tern hunting along the warm water channel and a Little Egret sitting just near the bridge. Darrel found a Striated Heron and Azure Kingfisher in the same area.

There were 22 of us walking and thanks to Alan for being inducted and collecting the key to the gates. Thanks to all for a great day.

Tallawarra Ash Ponds		Saturday 16 th		22 members attended		67 Species	
Musk Duck	Eastern Great Egret	Caspian Tern	Golden Whistler				
Freckled Duck	Cattle Egret	Silver Gull	Grey Shrike-thrush				
Black Swan	Striated Heron	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Grey Butcherbird				
Pink-eared Duck	White-faced Heron	Galah	Australian Magpie				
Australasian Shoveler	Little Egret	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Fantail				
Chestnut Teal	Nankeen Night-heron	Crimson Rosella	Willie Wagtail				
Pacific Black Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Eastern Rosella	Australian Raven				
Hardhead	Black-shouldered Kite	Azure Kingfisher	Magpie-lark				
Blue-billed Duck	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Superb Fairy-wren	Silvereeye				
Australasian Grebe	Whistling Kite	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Welcome Swallow				
Hoary-headed Grebe	Brown Goshawk	Yellow Thornbill	Fairy Martin				
Crested Pigeon	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Eastern Spinebill	Tree Martin				
Bar-shouldered Dove	Little Eagle	Lewin's Honeyeater	Common Myna				
Little Pied Cormorant	Nankeen Kestrel	Noisy Miner	Mistletoebird				
Great Cormorant	Purple Swamphean	Red Wattlebird	Red-browed Finch				
Little Black Cormorant	Dusky Moorhen	New Holland Honeyeater	European Goldfinch				
Australian Pelican	Eurasian Coot	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike					

Children's Day at Integral Park May 17th.

By Sylvia Garlick

We were worried about the weather it did not look promising. But come the morning the weather was perfect. At 9.45 all the children their parents and even a grandfather were ready for the walk all the paperwork completed. 18 guests altogether, 10 were children walked around the bush track and saw lots of birds and when they came back to morning tea I was surprised to hear lots of bird names. Several children had been on previous walks and remembered a lot of information. Morning tea completed. Colouring Competition Sheets were handed out. A good day was had by all. Thank you to Anne and Alan Cousins Barbara and Brian Hales Chris Cartledge and David Garlick for leading the walk.

Report on Gloucester Camp 11th-18th April 2015

by Elizabeth Hudson

Arriving at the caravan park in Gloucester on Wednesday I was advised that the camping areas were very wet due to severe flooding the previous week. It took a long time to find an area that was sufficiently dry to put the tent up. Thursday morning I finished all the setting up and shopped on a cold windy morning. In the afternoon I went to Copeland Tops N. P. and walked part of the Hidden Treasure Track which was supposed to be good for rainforest birds. Maybe because of the cold & wind they had left the area but I saw nothing except beautiful dry rainforest scenery while hearing Bell Miners calling from the adjacent Eucalyptus Forest. Returning to camp I joined the Wylie's & Wheway's for the evening.

By Friday the weather was improving and getting warmer, but Tera had developed a bad case of laryngitis so stayed in camp. Joan, Tom & I went to look for a patch of Rainforest on the Manning River at Knorrit Flat. It was an amazing drive, following the route of the north coast railway along the Gloucester River to Bundook. We were very excited to see a Pheasant Coucal perched in a tree which eventually flew away. A pleasant morning tea stop was beside the Manning River bridge at Tiri. Walking around we found to our dismay that we were covered in "Devils Pitchforks " as Joan called them and spent some time getting rid of them while Tom checked out the fishing potential. Plenty of small birds were calling in the dense scrub at the top of the gravel banks. Moving on we headed towards Mt George on the Wingham Road, passing a very promising area of rainforest in a deep gully with no obvious access. A scenic drive followed, back to camp for lunch.

Kathryn arrived in the late afternoon 1.5hrs before her text message saying "she was just leaving Canberra" arrived!! The ground was a little drier and we soon had her tent up and organised.

The next day Kate & I headed to Gloucester Farmers Markets for some great produce before driving to Woko NP to check it out for a visit. A great spot with 2 good walks 1 a very hard grade 5. We spent a very pleasant time there beside the Manning River which here was quite shallow & narrow and walked the easy track hearing a Green Catbird & flushing 2-3 Wonga Pigeons from in front of us. Small birds could be heard calling along the river but due to the number of people camping there they kept to the vegetation. Again Bell Miners calling, dominated the air waves, and Superb Fairy-wrens came to share lunch with us. Leaving Woko NP we continued on the flood detour road with a steep descent to the Curricabark Road where we washed the mud from the car tyres on a causeway over the Manning River. We made a detour to try to find Glory Vale Reserve again on the Manning but the entrance was so awkward that we missed it both ways and returned to camp for dinner and the first campfire of the week, everyone else having arrived.

By this time we already had quite a list of birds, including the very large flock of Rainbow Lorikeets which were feeding in the flowering gums at the other side of the CVP. Sunday morning saw us head out into Gloucester park adjacent to the CVP and along the Gloucester River. Almost the first bird we saw was a Tawny Frogmouth roosting for the day in an ancient gum tree just inside the park, a good photo opportunity for all. Walking along the river bank we saw both Shining Bronze & Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos, by the end of the morning we had an impressive list. White-headed Pigeons were seen feeding on berries in the CVP as we returned. We recorded a total of 70 species during the week in the caravan park & adjacent Gloucester Park.

After lunch we headed out to Gloucester Cemetery where a Grey-crowned Babbler and nest had been seen on Friday. No Bird but the nest was easily seen. (18 species recorded) Moving on we went north of Gloucester and turned along the Avon Valley road towards Waukivory to look for a promising track alongside a timbered creek. Finding the turning OK we drove for quite a way on a narrow winding road before our road turned left where to our surprise there was a "Road Closed " sign. Parking; we inspected the ford it was too boggy to drive through. A few decided they could walk over on branches etc most made it dry if with wet feet, and walked some way up the track before returning and reporting few birds and a long way to the timber. We reluctantly returned to camp checking out the birds on all the dams & wetlands along the way.

Monday saw us head for the high country of Gloucester Tops with our first stop at Gloucester Tops Campsite a great spot for a bush camp. On the way we all had a good view of a Pheasant Coucal standing on the road. Finding Sharpies Creek track for a walk through the rainforest we had a short climb before we reached the first of several crossings of the creek, each harder than the last. At the fourth we decided that enough was enough, as we had seen few birds (17 species recorded) and returned to our cars for the long ascent to Gloucester Tops for lunch. Walking the Falls track we found that it was much longer than expected as the direct route was closed due to a slip and the falls itself was not visible. Returning we saw several Red-browed Treecreepers amongst other birds. After a leisurely lunch in a sheltered picnic area we set off for the Antarctic Beech Walk, very interesting but again few birds. (24 species recorded) Driving back down we passed several patches of prolific birds, but hard to identify, as they were rapidly flitting across the road. We ended the day with 27 species, feeling that the rainforest was disappointing with its birds.

Tuesday saw us heading out to "Woodlands" at Rawdon Vale where we had camped in 1989, 2000, & 2005. David Bignall had asked if we could update his list for the property. Our thanks to Pam for contacting David and arranging for us to visit the property. It was a fine warm day as we drove

along with several Pipits seen on the Rawdon Vale Road and a tree with a flock of BFCS. On our arrival we were met by David & Narelle with the offer of morning tea which we declined. Kate & I transferred to Pam's car as the track was 4x4 only and David led a procession of cars to the old house on an adjacent property for the start of our walk. After a leisurely morning tea we walked up Boronel creek alongside vegetation full of little birds including a Rose Robin, before an exciting crossing. No wet feet so far! A steady steep climb through rain forest was our reward, but birds were scarce. A fallen tree was a temporary hindrance but was soon passed. The track was still disappearing up the hill but the rain forest was less dense with eucalypts becoming more pronounced. Topknot Pigeons were feeding in the high branches and people in front & behind had some good sightings of Spectacled Monarch, & Superb Lyrebird. Finally reaching the ridge 200m above the valley we were rewarded with panoramic views and a shady spot for lunch once the cattle had moved on. The downward walk was a cattle track in the grass with loose stones under foot. Progress was very slow and hard on the toes. Across the creek again with help from Neil M & Tom & so back to the cars where Pam led the procession back to the house where we were treated to a cuppa and biscuits, spending an interesting 30 mins talking to their NZ visitors & admiring the beautiful garden. (61 species recorded)

After campfire that night some of us went spotlighting in Gloucester Park. Not many birds but a Brush-tail Possum and 2 roosting Kookaburras.

The next day with the weather improving daily, we headed out to Woko NP on the Upper Manning River. A very pleasant place now that the majority of the campers had left. Being too early for morning tea we walked along the river and were rewarded with an Azure Kingfisher, Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Shrike-tit among many others. We wandered back for morning tea adding steadily to the list, then walked the Brush Turkey track which was very quiet, only a Green Catbird heard on the return along the road and a Wonga Pigeon (48 species recorded). We arrived back at the cars to find that Mike had managed to join us after ensuring that Carol was safely on the Sydney train. After lunch by the river everyone went their own way. Mike walked the grade 5 Cliff walk! Kate & I drove along Bowman River Road hoping for something different in the open farmland. No luck but a pleasant drive. That evening we all adjourned to the Avon Valley Hotel for a nice sociable evening and a very good meal.

Next morning we set off early for our long trip to Barrington Tops ensuring that we had some warmer clothes as the area is 1460m high. The drive took us over the grazing land of the river flats after crossing Copeland Tops and then began the long climb at first on a roughly maintained council road until entering the NP the road was under repair – loads of clayey gravel being tipped onto the surface and rolled to form a new surface. As the sun was slow to penetrate the shade the road was very greasy in patches. Once past the road works the road was good. Keeping going to the furthest point of our trip we reached The Firs, an experimental pine plantation with a mixture of species flushing a Flame Robin from the road on the way. It was supposed to be very easy to see Lyrebirds here due to the lack of vegetation beneath the trees. All we saw were recent scratching! (12 species recorded) Those who explored the grassy areas surrounding the firs found to their horror that they had hitch-hikers on them – Leeches!!!. The chill in the air forced us to move on back to Polblue Swamp for morning tea in the sunshine. A walk around the swamp gave the first good look at the Flame Robin as well as a good list of other birds with lunch beckoning we headed back to the picnic area (24 species recorded) before heading to Devils Hole a lookout just off the road (9 species recorded). The most spectacular lookout was not accessible for our large number of cars due to very limited parking. On the way we passed a Wombat with a nice long coat walking along the road before it found its hole. Here we had the best sighting yet of a very obliging Flame Robin perched in the full sun facing us. The view was very impressive despite the blue haze – on a good day you are supposed to be able to see Forster on the coast. Another stop was made at Honeysuckle Walk which passed through Beech Forest and a stand of soft tree ferns, mountain Honeysuckle the *Banksia integrifolia* "Monticola" grew in the picnic area. (12 species recorded). We all decided that time was getting late and headed back towards camp dropping steadily down the mountain until halted by the road works again. This time the problem was a broken down road roller stopped in the middle of the road with only just enough room for cars to pass at a precarious angle on the outside. A few people tried to visit Cobark Park but access was closed, as it was in the middle of the road works. At the campfire that night we decided to visit The Glen NR the next day giving Hidden Treasure Walk a miss.

For our last day we drove south to Craven and then took the Glen Road for several km through great scenery while the road got ever narrower eventually entering the NR where we stopped for morning tea and explored some of the tracks. A Long-nosed Turtle caught Kate's eye and we spent time watching it in the creek to the persistent calling of the Bell Miners. This track also produced a Spectacled Monarch and for me a very good sighting of a Rufous Fantail flitting through the low vegetation. Driving further along the road we found a spot for lunch in a rainforest area but few birds. Thinking we were almost out of the reserve we decided to keep on to the main road. Surprisingly it was a much longer drive than anticipated through dense rainforest bisected by

creeks, but no tracks to explore and no birds in evidence. (38 species recorded) Returning to camp along Walkivory Road there were several wetlands with water birds.

After spending most of the afternoon getting everything packed that we could, Kate & I headed into Gloucester for a meal. After checking all the other options we went to the hotel again. Surprise! Surprise! almost ¾ of camp were already there. Finding out that Tera & Neil were celebrating an anniversary we sent Ken into the IGA with a shopping list, which he added to. At Campfire we had a little party with sparklers and squeakers.

In conclusion it was a great camp for 27 members in good weather with 125 species recorded even though the rainforest birds were thin on the ground. My thanks to everyone, who helped make it such a great success. An extra special thank you to Tom who meticulously kept the bird lists throughout the week, no mean feat! I think this is due to what Bill called our being like a family, after all, many of us had camped together for over 20 years.

Gloucester Camp 11 th -18 th April 2015		27 members attended	125 Species
Musk Duck	Collared Sparrowhawk	White-browed Scrubwren	Olive-backed Oriole
Black Swan	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Large-billed Scrubwren	Grey Butcherbird
Australian Wood Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Brown Gerygone	Pied Butcherbird
Grey Teal	Brown Falcon	White-throated Gerygone	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Purple Swamphen	Striated Thornbill	Pied Currawong
Hardhead	Dusky Moorhen	Yellow Thornbill	Rufous Fantail
Australasian Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Rock Dove	Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Willie Wagtail
White-headed Pigeon	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Raven
Spotted Dove	Galah	Striated Pardalote	Little Raven
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Little Corella	Eastern Spinebill	Torresian Crow
Crested Pigeon	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Spectacled Monarch
Peaceful Dove	Rainbow Lorikeet	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Bar-shouldered Dove	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	White-eared Honeyeater	White-winged Chough
Wonga Pigeon	Australian King-Parrot	Bell Miner	Jacky Winter
Topknot Pigeon	Crimson Rosella	Noisy Miner	Flame Robin
Tawny Frogmouth	Eastern Rosella	Red Wattlebird	Rose Robin
Australasian Darter	Pheasant Coucal	Scarlet Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Little Pied Cormorant	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Silvereye
Great Cormorant	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	White-cheeked Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Little Black Cormorant	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-naped Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
Pied Cormorant	Southern Boobook	Noisy Friarbird	Bassian Thrush
Pelican	Azure Kingfisher	Grey-crowned Babbler	Common Starling
White-necked Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Eastern Whipbird	Common Myna
Eastern Great Egret	Superb Lyrebird	Varied Sittella	Double-barred Finch
Cattle Egret	White-throated Treecreeper	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Red-browed Finch
White-faced Heron	Red-browed Treecreeper	White-winged Triller	Beautiful Firetail
Australian White Ibis	Green Catbird	Crested Shrike-tit	House Sparrow
Straw-necked Ibis	Satin Bowerbird	Golden Whistler	Australasian Pipit
Black-shouldered Kite	Superb Fairy-wren	Rufous Whistler	
Whistling Kite	Variegated Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Brown Goshawk	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Australasian Figbird	

A detailed list of the birds recorded at each location has been posted on the club web site

Gloucester Thank You

Neil & Tera Wheway

Tera and I arrived at the caravan park a few days early; she was a bit sniffily but soldiered on. Her condition worsened and she later lost her voice, club members arriving at camp offered sympathy and helpful remedies for which I say thank you. I still think hot lemon juice sweetened with sugar or honey fortified with generous splash of brandy is an excellent cure.

Taking walks and bird watching Tera was able take part in most of the day's activities. One outstanding outing was to a property of a cousin of Pams it was fairly steep terrain after we struggled to the top a ridge the panoramic view was worth it and went on for miles. Thank you Pam for arranging the visit it was certainly a wonderful location and worth every step, even though I got the tyres on my car muddy.

Betty in her usual style got us into some very beautiful and idyllic places one that springs to mind was the Woko National Park walking along the river bank, it was very soothing just looking at the many birds in a few hundred metres. At one point I had stopped walking turned around there was a Superb Blue-wren at my feet. Betty for all your tireless time and effort finding these places thank you.

I believe the camp was a great success apart from all of the interesting visits and birds, but best of all we were able to sit around a fire at night swapping stories and yarns. However the biggest surprise came the night of 17th with celebration for Tera's and my Golden Wedding Anniversary. It stunned us both not having a large family of our own; our bird club family sure gave us a night to remember. For all your wishes and gifts we were heartily moved, it made a very special evening for us both thank you.

A few pics from Gloucester by Pam Hazelwood



Tawny Frogmouth



Lyrebird



Brown Thornbill



Yellow-faced Honeyeater



Bassian Thrush



Azure Kingfisher



Superb Fairy Wren



Lewin's Honeyeater

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Norfolk Island Bird Week

23 - 30 November 2015 from Sydney

24 November - 01 December 2015 from Brisbane

Tim O'Reilly from Wild Mob (wildmob.org), a not-for-profit organization recently contacted IBOC inviting our members to attend their Norfolk Island Bird Week.

Many of us remember the IBOC trip to Lord Howe Island a few years back and a few have also ventured out to Norfolk Island. The Norfolk Island group is a breeding site for several 100,000 seabirds including the Masked Booby, Grey Ternlet, White Tern, Sooty Tern, & Wedge-tailed Shearwater. Phillip Island supports one of the largest breeding populations of Red-tailed Tropic-birds in Australia. Norfolk itself is home to the endemic & endangered Norfolk Island Green Parakeet, & other endemic birds such as the Norfolk Island Golden Whistler & Norfolk Island Scarlet Robin.

The Wild Mob run regular projects through the year on Norfolk Island, removing weeds, replanting natives and eradicating rats and Argentine ants. They also run a Bird Week there each November with local naturalist Marg Christian. This is partly to raise the profile of Norfolk and its wonderful birds (including eight endemic species/sub-sp.) and also help stimulate the island's economy, which has really struggled in recent years. The locals take great pride in their unique island environment, but without tourism there will not be the resources (human and otherwise) to sustain such work in the long term. So they see the Bird Week as ultimately contributing to preserving the island's biota.

The Norfolk Island Travel Centre are offering a Holiday Package which includes:

- Return economy class 'seat & bag' airfare ex Sydney or Brisbane to Norfolk Island
- All pre-paid airline taxes
- Return airport transfers on Norfolk Island
- 7 night's twin share accommodation
- 7 days car hire per unit including surcharge (petrol is extra and payable direct whilst on the island)
- Discover the world of Norfolk Island's unique & endemic bird fauna with Margaret Christian (Green Eyes Tour), followed by picnic lunch
- Experience Norfolk Island Birds by night
- Guided birding tours of Norfolk Island's rainforest & seabird breeding colonies
- Meet a local Park Ranger over dinner at Mariah's Restaurant (Includes Green Parrots presentation)
- Half Day Island Tour
- Exclusive Use & Entry to Fletcher's Mutiny Cyclorama
- Welcome Dinner at Hilli's Restaurant, followed by welcome briefing
- Farewell Dinner followed by closing presentation & photo display
- Complimentary Miniature Golf – golf your way through Norfolk's history
- Complimentary "A Walk in the Wild" – a unique rainforest walk
- Bonus Norfolk Island discount shopping card

From \$1699pp twin share ex Brisbane

Future Events in the Region

- 1: **Bird Calls of the Greater Sydney Region** with Fred Van Gessel
 Saturday September 12th 9:15am – 1.30pm
 BirdLife Australia Discovery Centre, Newington Armory, 1 Jamieson St, Sydney Olympic Park.

Field trip to Mitchell Park September 13th 8am – 1pm

Fred is the current president of the Australian Wildlife Sound Recording Group (AWSRG), a past president and founder member of the Hunter Bird Observers Club, a member of Birding NSW and over the past 35 years has recorded over 25,000 calls of 547 species of birds. He is the producer of Bird Calls of the Greater Sydney Region, Bird Calls of NE Queensland and Bird Calls of the Northern Territory.

More information is available on the website, and the registration form can be downloaded from the Southern NSW Events page. <http://birdlife.org.au/group-events/birdlife-southern-nsw/>
 Or to request a registration form, email: wendy.fox@birdlife.org.au or phone (02) 9647 1033

- 2: **Learning about Raptors: Course and Field Day**
 Course: Saturday July 25th Sydney Olympic Park from 9:15 am to 1.30 pm
 Birds of prey, by virtue of their powers of flight and vision, their imposing manner and their impressive predatory capabilities, have captured the imagination of humans.
 Have you ever been confused about their identity?

Are you looking at an eagle, kite, harrier, buzzard, hawk and falcon? If so which species?

Are you curious about their habits, territory or conservation status?

If yes, then these two courses are for you

Course Objectives:

The course aims to help birders understand the global and local context, relationships and characteristics of our raptors, to identify them in the field and in the hand, and to provide some future direction for raptor study in Australia.

Presenter:

Dr Stephen Debus Bird ecologist, author of Australian raptor field guide "The Birds of Prey of Australia", honorary research associate in zoology, UNE; editor of Australian Field Ornithology (BirdLife Australia's journal) and Boobook (journal of BLA's special-interest group, the Australasian Raptor Association); conduct spare-time observational studies on diurnal raptors. His new edition of "The Birds of Prey of Australia" will be available at the course.

Field Day: Sunday July 26th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (numbers limited)

We will be spending the day in the Hawkesbury swamps/ lowlands areas.

Objective:

The field day will aim to find and observe a representative range of local raptors, highlight their field characters, and provide identification tips.

More information is available on the website, and the registration form can be downloaded from the Southern NSW Events page. <http://birdlife.org.au/group-events/birdlife-southern-nsw/>

Or to request a registration form, email: wendy.fox@birdlife.org.au or phone (02) 9647 1033

Why birds matter:

From economic ornithology to ecosystem services

Abstract

Birds are conspicuous in many habitats, occur worldwide, are ecologically diverse, and are better known than other vertebrate groups. Birds devour pests, pollinate flowers, disperse seeds, scavenge carrion, cycle nutrients, and modify the environment in ways that benefit other species. Investigation of these ecosystem functions directly as ecosystem services has grown immensely over the last two decades and the ecological relevance of birds is well established. Birds are also observed, fed, and used as artistic and spiritual inspiration by millions of people around the globe. Yet the economic relevance of birds is not widely appreciated and the economic relevance to human society of birds' ecological roles is even less understood. Quantifying the services provided by birds is crucial to understand their importance for ecosystems and for the people that benefit from them. In this paper, we briefly review the rise and fall of economic ornithology and call for a new economic ornithology with heightened standards and a holistic focus within the ecosystem services approach. Birds' ecological roles, and therefore, ecosystem services, are critical to the health of many ecosystems and to human well-being. By understanding and valuing bird services and disservices through careful natural history research, we can better assess the environmental consequences of bird declines and extinctions and communicate these findings to the public and policy makers, thereby increasing public support for the conservation of birds and their habitats.

Communicated by E. Matthyssen.

Eastern Quolls – extinct on mainland, to be reintroduced in NSW national park

About 40 of the carnivorous marsupials, which were wiped out by habitat loss and the spread of foxes and feral cats on the mainland, will be released.

Eastern quolls survived in Tasmania but have not been seen on the mainland since 1963; they eat insects, fruit and animal carcasses. Eastern quolls are set to be released on the Australian mainland, 50 years after they were wiped out by a combination of habitat loss and the spread of foxes and feral cats.



The quolls, which once spread from the southern reaches of South Australia up to Brisbane, have not been seen on the Australian mainland since 1963, when a roadkill victim was found in the Sydney suburb of Vacluse. It is stored in the Australian Museum.

Now an ambitious project aims to release about 40 of the carnivorous marsupials in **Booderee National Park in Jervis Bay, NSW**. It will be the first uncontrolled release of the quolls since they disappeared from the mainland.

Eastern quolls, which weigh up to 1.3kg and feast on insects, fruit and animal carcasses, are still found in Tasmania. Animals for the release will be taken from wildlife sanctuaries in Tasmania or from Australia Ecosystems Foundation, which has been breeding quolls in Lithgow, west of Sydney. The project is being overseen by Parks Victoria, managers of Booderee National Park and Rewilding Australia. **The Australian National University and Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council are also involved.**

The park has been cleared of introduced predators such as foxes and has already hosted the release of a small number of endangered poteroos.

Threatened Ground Parrot
hidden among the grasses

This eastern ground parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*) was spotted foraging in the grasses for some breakfast in Jervis Bay National Park, NSW.

This rare Eastern Ground Parrot is camouflaged beautifully in the grasslands it inhabits



IMAGE CREDIT: Christopher Grounds

"The Eastern ground parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*) is a vulnerable species in NSW. It is a beautiful bird, difficult to see and of restricted distribution.

This bird was browsing sedge and grass seed early in the morning, in a Jervis Bay National Park heathland area. Christopher Grounds said. The preoccupation with eating and a very, very non-intrusive observation allowed for a special photographic opportunity."



Owing to the two east coast lows I've recorded just over 350 mm of rainfall in our back garden over the past fortnight. Apart from the occasional outburst of sun, the sky has been predominately grey, grey, grey. No wonder that in conditions so reminiscent of the British Isles, there has appeared a species that seems to be enjoying them: the common blackbird. A pair has made several visits today (May 2nd), mainly foraging on the back lawn; the male out in the middle whilst its mate kept close to the border plants. Our lunch-time on the back verandah came with an accompanying serenade from the male, perched in the now almost denuded robinia, for a good quarter of an hour. We thought of the Beatles number with rewritten lyrics: Blackbird singing in the robinia tree... Mike Morphett



MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: April/May 2015

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Black Swan	24	5/05/2015	Swamp Rd, Dunmore	Wetland	David Eddington
White-headed Pigeon	13+	4/05/2015	West Wollongong	Privet Trees-res.	Peter Butler
Brush Bronzewing	1	6/05/2015	Porters Creek	Side of road	Charles Dove
Bar-shouldered Dove	6	16/05/2015	Tallawarra	Ash Pond 1-2	Darryl Goldrick
Black-browed Albatross	5	15/05/2015	Wardens Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Shy Albatross	2	15/05/2015	Wardens Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	15/05/2015	Wardens Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Northern Giant-Petrel	1	15/05/2015	Wardens Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Australasian Gannet	2a7im	15/05/2015	Wardens Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Eastern Reef Egret	2	2/05/2015	Killalea State Rec Park	Rock Platform	Bruce Coyte
Straw-necked Ibis	200+	11/05/2015	Meroo/Bombaderry	Wetland	Patsy Noble
Black-shouldered Kite	1	08-May-15	Shellcove	O'head residential	Joshua Coyte
Black-shouldered Kite	2	May	Balgownie P/School	Trees-roosting	Amelie Macleod
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	11/05/2015	Dunmore	O'head	Patsy Noble
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2	1/05/2015	Bellambi	O'head	Tom/Joan Wylie
Brown Goshawk	1	16/05/2015	Bulli Showground	Top of Floodlight	Mike Morphet
Brown Goshawk	1	16/05/2015	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphet
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	2/05/2015	Balgownie	O'head/Escarpment	Terry Edwell
Peregrine Falcon	1	6/05/2015	Porters Creek	Over Dam	Charles Dove
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	11/05/2015	Bellambi Lagoon	Water Edge	Ross/Jann Gowans
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	4	20/05/2015	Lake Conjola	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	4	6.11/05/2015	Tarrawanna	O'head	Joan Zealey
Eastern Rosella	2	15/05/2015	Ulladulla	Grass	Charles Dove
Southern Boobook	1	10/05/2015	Burrill Lake	Rain forest	Charles Dove
White-eared Honeyeater	10+	3/05/2015	Lake Conjola	Forest	Charles Dove
Noisy Miner	2	10/05/2015	Tarrawanna	Yard- bird bath	Alan/Anne Cousins
Red Wattlebird	50+	17/05/2015	Lake Conjola	Forest	Charles Dove
Scarlet Honeyeater	1m	17/05/2015	Lake Conjola	Flowering Gum	Charles Dove
White-cheeked Honeyeater	10+	3/05/2015	Lake Conjola	Forest	Charles Dove
White-naped Honeyeater	10+	3/05/2015	Lake Conjola	Forest	Charles Dove
White-naped Honeyeater	10+	6/05/2015	Porters Creek	Flowering Gum	Charles Dove
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	19/05/2015	Lake Conjola	Forest	Charles Dove
Leaden Flycatcher	1 fem	30/04/2015	Balgownie	Yard	Terry Edwell
Rose Robin	1m	9/05/2015	Kings Point	Forest	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1f	9/05/2015	Burrill Lake	Forest	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1f	13/05/2015	Lake Conjola	Forest	Charles Dove
Bassian Thrush	2	20/05/2015	Lake Conjola	Forest floor	Charles Dove
Mistletoebird	1 m	10/05/2015	Jamberoo	Powerline wires	Kara Eddington
Red-browed Finch	30+	16/05/2015	Bulli S'ground/Grevillea Park	Scrub	Mike Morphet
House Sparrow	31+	1/05/2015	Corrimal	Telegraph wires	Mike Morphet

REMINDER

For all your bird sightings please remember to send to Darryl Goldrick on sightings@iboc.org.au or post to 149 Reddall Parade, Lake Illawarra South 2528.

Membership Renewal 2015

The fees are Singles \$40 & Families \$50 as from 1.01.2015
Renew at next meeting or download membership form from website
www.iboc.org.au

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