

Hooded Plover

Scientific Name: *Thinornis rubricollis*
 Atlas Number: 138

Description:

The Hooded Plover is a medium-sized sandy-brown plover. It has a black head and a white nape, and the black hindneck collar extends around and forks onto the breast. The underparts are white. The iris is dark brown, with a red eye ring. The legs are pink. Males and females are similar. Juveniles look like adults, but without the black head,



photo by Charles Dove

hindneck and front of mantle, which are sandy-brown instead. Juvenile legs are pale orange. This species is also known as the Hooded Dotterel or Hoody. The genus name used to be *Charadrius*.

Similar species:

The Hooded Plover is similar to the Sanderling. The juvenile Hooded Plover is distinguished from the Sanderling by having brown, more uniformly marked plumage and behaving in a plover-like fashion i.e. it bobs its head up and down when looking for food, and runs quickly and stops suddenly.

Distribution:

The Hooded Plover occurs on sandy beaches between Jervis Bay, New South Wales and the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia, as well as in Tasmania and between Esperance and Perth in south-west Western Australia. They are not abundant.

Habitat:

In Victoria and far South Coast of NSW the highest densities of Hooded Plovers occur on beaches with large amounts of beach-washed seaweed. Densities are lowest on narrow, steep beaches, where there are few or no dunes, and where human activities are most intensive. In the south-west, they also occur on inland salt lakes.

Seasonal movements:

The Hooded Plover is non-migratory. Little detailed

information exists regarding its movements within Australia. Local movements to salt lakes immediately behind beaches occur in winter in the east. In the west, they move from the coast to salt lakes some distance inland in winter.

Feeding:

The Hooded Plover's diet includes insects, sandhoppers (*Orchestiasp.*), small bivalves, and soldier crabs (*Mictyris platycheles*). It forages at all levels of the beach during all tide phases. It is most usually seen in pairs or small groups, darting about at the water's edge as waves recede, bobbing and pecking along the shore.

Breeding:

The Hooded Plover excavates a shallow scrape in sand or fine gravel situated above the high-tide mark on ocean beaches or among dunes. This nest may be encircled or lined with pebbles, seaweed and other beach debris. Usually one or two eggs hatch after about 30 days of incubation and the downy young leave the nest within a day or two. Its incubation period is longer than that of other Australasian-breeding plovers.

Information 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.

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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June ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting: Monday 9th

7.30pm at Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.

Betty Hudson with a presentation on "MY TRIP TO TASMANIA".

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

Midweek Walk: Wednesday 11th Leader Rupert Jarvis

Fred Finch Park and Hooka Point

Meet at **8.45 am** at the end of Holborn Street / Sussex Street Berkeley.

Bring morning tea. Contact Rupert 0403 932 635

If the weather is bad a decision to cancel is made by 7.15am to enable people to travel to the venue. It is your responsibility to contact either myself or Alan on 0413 869 534 after 7.00am to check if the walk is still on.

Weekend Walk: Saturday 14th Leader Betty Hudson

Dharawal National Park Darkes Forest

Meet at the intersection of Princes Highway and Darkes Forest Road at 8.45am. From here we will travel together along Darkes Forest Road to the start of the fire trail, on a bend in the road, parking will be alongside the road.

Travelling from Wollongong take the old Highway from Bulli Tops, **not** the Freeway, then ensure that you are in the far left lane otherwise you will end up on Appin Road. Continue until you pass Boomerang Golf Course and then cross the freeway. Darkes Forest Road is immediately after the bridge on the left.

We will carry morning tea but return to cars for lunch. After lunch we will have another short walk.

Phone Betty on 4236 0307 or text on mobile 0432 892 945.

You may also phone Alan Cousins mobile on 0413 869 534.

Remember mobiles do not always have reception at the places we meet or walk. If the weather is bad a decision to cancel is made by 7.15am to enable people to travel to the venue. It is your responsibility to contact either myself or Alan after 7.00am to check if the walk is still on.

Committee Meeting - Monday 16th

The next IBOC Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 16th June 2014 at 7.30pm at Alan & Anne Cousins home, 4 Adelaide Place Tarrawanna 4293 3197

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

Newsletter:

Deadline for articles and photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **27th June**

Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 32 Martin Avenue Ulladulla 2539. Ph: 0417 422 302.

IBOC has pleasure in welcoming all our New Members



CLUB REPORTS

Report for Club Meeting 12th May 2014

Alan Cousins

The presenter for our May meeting was Judy Harrington from the Sydney Olympic Park Authority who also volunteers at Birdlife's Discovery Centre. The presentation was entitled 'Sea Eagles-their life in a busy city' and related to the failed breeding of the White-bellied Sea-Eagles at Sydney Olympic Park.

White-bellied Sea-Eagles have been observed in the Homebush Bay area for many years, with very limited breeding success observed prior to 2008. After the death of another breeding pair in 2004, toxicological tests were conducted. The report on those and a previous death concluded that 'Further study of raptors needs to be undertaken at the Homebush Bay site to provide information on the breeding success of White-bellied Sea-Eagles. Comparisons of breeding success and other life history data from Homebush Bay with long-term monitoring should include a program of toxicological screening.' This study also found 'The birds (both birds found in 2004 and the bird found in 2001) were found to contain a range of chemical contaminants common to urbanised, industrial areas as well as those specific to the contamination found in the area where the birds lived.'



Following these recommendations, Birdlife Southern NSW, supported by Sydney Olympic Park Authority, has developed a project to observe and monitor breeding behaviour of White-bellied Sea-Eagles at this site, by CCTV cameras mounted near the nest and direct observation nearby. As these raptors are sensitive to nest disturbance, strict protocols have been implemented to reduce disturbance during early nest renovation, incubation and early nestling stages by maintaining a strict buffer zone around the nest.

The current pair has successfully raised 1 or 2 young to fledging each year since 2008 – a total of 7 young. In 2013 the eagles renovated the existing nest, laying 2 eggs in early July. Incubation (from literature and previous observations) is around 40-42 days. The first egg would have been expected to hatch 15-17 August and the second 18-20 August. When the eggs failed to hatch by the expected date, hatching failure appeared highly probable, with the eggs non-viable. Permission was obtained to retrieve the eggs and test for fertility and for toxicity.

The eggs were x-rayed and CT scanned at the Animal Referral Hospital in Flemington. Both eggs were shown to be infertile, though in good apparent condition otherwise. The contents of the eggs were then sent to the National Measurement Institute for chemical analysis. The contents of the eggs were analysed for a variety of different chemicals known collectively as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's), which have been previously detected in White-bellied Sea-Eagles nesting in the Homebush Bay area. There were elevated levels in the local environment considered to be relevant, at least in part, to past chemical activity on nearby Rhodes Peninsular.

Although POP's may be different in appearance, they share the same number of hazardous qualities including toxicity to humans and wildlife, persistence in the environment (resistant to breakdown) and bioaccumulation (building up) in the food chain by dissolving in body fat. The risk from these compounds has been assessed by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) who have now banned or strictly controlled their use. POP's can however remain present and active in the environment for years or even decades after first being introduced.

The location and past industrial history of the Homebush Bay site relative to the Rhodes peninsula represents a unique habitat for wildlife. Although there are elevated POP levels in this environment, the failure of an individual eagle egg to develop may be due to a number of unrelated factors and underlines the importance of ongoing study and observation in order to understand the White-bellied Sea-Eagle life cycle more fully.

The presentation was very well attended and was well received, evident by the questions following and the time Judy spent after.

Midweek Walk - CATHEDRAL ROCKS BOMBO Wednesday 16th

Terry Edwell

The weather was really beautiful for the walk on Wednesday. Rupert had chosen a good spot at Bombo where some of us had never been before. It was an off leash area for dogs so there were lots of furry creatures around big and small. The sea was very calm and the view was stunning on such a clear day. We saw Australasian Gannets and Silver Gulls along with a Caspian Tern cruising along looking for a feed far out on the water and a little Australian Pipit on the grass on top of the cliff. The Bombo sewerage works was in full view with Pacific Black Ducks the most prominent species on the ponds. The track was a good easy one with lantana and native vegetation either side. There are always plenty of little brown birds to try to identify where ever we go and here was no exception. We did see some interesting birds on the ground near the sewerage works and Charlie ended up identifying them as Starlings.



We saw a Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Bassian Thrush, plenty of Red-whiskered Bulbul and Silvereyes. There were a couple of ponds created by blue metal mining and Eurasian Coots and Black Swans were seen here. There are plenty of areas for some interesting birds, Rupert said he had a total of over 50 birds for this area.

The track goes along the cliff and ends up with a good view down to Kiama in the south and Bass Point in the north. We had morning tea here sitting on the rocks and then ambled back not seeing many birds but enjoying the beautiful day together. Most of us ended up at Jamberoo for lunch in a nice little restaurant. We had a great day all round .

Thank you Rupert, for organising the walk.

Wednesday Walk Cathedral Rocks Bombo 14/05/2014		17 members	41 Species
Black Swan	Silver Gull	Eastern Whipbird	Welcome Swallow
Grey teal	Crimson Rosella	Golden Whistler	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Chestnut Teal	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Grey Shrike-thrush	Bassian Thrush
Pacific Black Duck	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Australian Magpie	Common Blackbird
Australasian Gannet	Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong	Common Starling
Great Cormorant	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail	Red-browed Finch
Pied Cormorant	Spotted Pardalote	Willie Wagtail	House Sparrow
White-faced Heron	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Raven	Australasian Pipit
Purple Swamphen	Lewin's Honeyeater	Magpie-lark	
Eurasian Coot	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin	
Caspian Tern	New Holland Honeyeater	Silvereye	

Monthly Walk - Sunday 18th May

Terry Edwell

LAKE ALEXANDER GIBBER GUNYAH CREEK SECTION OF CIRCUIT TRACK MITTAGONG

Seventeen of us began our walk from the car park at the lake after Betty had given us a lesson on how to read the map. We were surrounded by Pacific Black Ducks, all resting on the lawn while Little Corellas tried to tear the canvas roof over the picnic area. So this was the beginning of the walk.

We were hoping to see the Olive Whistler which had been seen in this area, but no luck this time. The first bird we saw was an Eastern Yellow Robin, always a delight. There was evidence along the track that many birds had been in the area. White feathers were sticking to the bushes and droppings on the leaves we came to the conclusion it was the Corellas roosting there at night. Not many birds were seen mostly Thornbills and birds high up in the trees. A female Golden Whistler and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were seen. I saw a very late or very early Waratah flowering most of them had seeds ready to burst. We had good sightings of a Rock Warbler and some of us saw a White-cheeked Honeyeater and a Red-browed Treecreeper and the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos were heard a couple of times.



We had our morning tea near the freeway bridge spanning a deep raven. It was a huge structure, with massive pylons holding it up, amazing when you are underneath and seeing huge trucks going over it. After morning tea, some of us went down what seemed like a hundred steps to the creek. We saw Bell Miners and Eastern Spinebills there after crossing the creek. We returned (with lots of puffing not Puffins) to the rest of our walkers and proceeded back to the lake to have lunch. There were plenty of ducks on the lake along with Eurasian Coots and Australasian Grebes. There is a fountain in the middle of the lake, backed by trees which were very pretty with their autumn leaves. Many families and picnickers were there enjoying the area.

After lunch we went on a short walk to the Sixty Foot Falls. It seemed quite a long walk for a short walk and only six brave souls completed it to the falls. We saw more Rock Warblers and more White-cheeked Honeyeaters along with a few White-throated Treecreepers and Eastern Yellow Robins. It was a very good day for walking the weather was cool but very pleasant.

Thank you, Betty, for another great day.

All photos by Terry Edwell

Lake Alexandria Mittagong 18/05/2014		17 members	50 species
Australian Wood Duck	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Magpie
Northern Mallard	Rainbow Lorikeet	Eastern Spinebill	Pied Currawong
Pacific Black Duck	Crimson Rosella	Lewin's Honeyeater	Spangled Drongo
Hardhead	Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Australasian Grebe	White-throated Treecreeper	White-eared Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Crested Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Bell Miner	Australian Raven
Little Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Noisy Miner	Magpie-lark
Purple Swamphen	Rockwarbler	Little Wattlebird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Dusky Moorhen	White-browed Scrubwren	Red Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Eurasian Coot	Large-billed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	Common Myna
Masked Lapwing	Striated Thornbill	Golden Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Little Corella	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Sweet marsupial threatens endangered parrot

Newly-published research has found the sugar glider is the biggest killer of the swift parrot in Tasmania.

A team of researchers from the Australian National University has spent three years looking at swift parrot populations on mainland Tasmania where sugar gliders live and on islands without them.

The research is the first to identify sugar gliders as the primary cause of death for any bird.

Chief investigator Dejan Stojanovic says the little possums were the only predators of the swift parrot.

"And that predation was so severe that, on average across mainland Tasmania, only 17 per cent of swift parrot nests were actually successful and all of those failures were as a result of sugar gliders eating the swift parrot, either the females or their eggs or both," he said.



Mr Stojanovic found sugar gliders were also more likely to prey on the birds in deforested areas.

"The important part of our research is that we found that that predation is really closely linked to the availability of old growth forests across Tasmania," he said.

The reason for the link is unclear, but the researchers believe it could be that forest loss forces the animals to live closer together.

EGYPT DETAINS SUSPECTED 'SPY' SWAN

In a case that's ruffling feathers in Egypt, authorities have detained a swan that a citizen suspected of being a spy.

Officials say a man brought the suspected winged infiltrator to a police station on Friday in the Qena governorate, some 450 kilometres southeast of Cairo.

Officials say the man suspected the bird was an undercover agent because it carried an electronic device.

The head of security in Qena said on Saturday that officials examined the bird and the device.

Mohammed Kamal said the device was neither an explosive nor a spying device. It likely could be a wildlife tracker.

With turmoil gripping Egypt, authorities and citizens remain suspicious of anything foreign.

Earlier this year, a security guard filed a police report after capturing a pigeon he said carried microfilm.



Zebra Finch



Chirruping Wedgebill



Singing Honeyeater



Grey-fronted Honeyeater

Pam Hazelwood sent some photos from their travels.

No success with Grass Wrens yet but we will still keep looking. We have been to the Flinders Ranges and are now heading back to Port Augusta and then going north to the Alice.

Pam Hazelwood, Neil McKinley, Anna & Andy Knowlson

A few birding highlights from Joan & Bill Zealey first month away from home.

At Ipswich, our first campsite in Queensland, locals fed the Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets which gathered expectantly opposite our caravan. Fossil hunting at nearby Claypave Quarry, we were distracted by small birds in the bushes including Double-barred and Plum-headed Finches. Looking for petrified wood at Wandoan I blundered into one side of a small tree and an indignant Tawny Frogmouth flew out. A Little Eagle soared above the Glasshouse Mountains at Mary Cairncross Park, and in the rainforest we had excellent views of Green Catbird, female Paradise Rifle Bird and White-browed Scrubwrens. We stopped for coffee at Lake Moondaran, and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos flew from the trees, while White-bellied Sea-Eagles, Fairy and Tree Martins with Welcome Swallows put on superb flying displays along the dam wall. The botanically fascinating Joseph Banks Park at the town of 1770, gave us glimpses of Little Shrike-thrushes and Yellow-bellied Sunbirds, while Brown Boobies and Crested Terns fished in the bay beneath. Rockhampton is surrounded by wetlands full of water birds. As we drove along Thomson Point Road above the Fitzroy estuary, a huge flock of Magpie Geese lifted off. We stopped. A Pheasant Coucal blundered off, four Red-backed Wrens along with two Golden-headed Cisticola appeared on the roadside fence. Among other waterbirds we counted 400 Plumed Whistling-Duck, and in the hour we spent there a Brown Falcon, Wedge-tailed Eagle mobbed by a Whistling Kite, Little Falcon and a Spotted Harrier flew past. We returned to Rosslyn Bay Harbour where a pair of Osprey have built their nest on a light in the ferry carpark so Bill could photograph them.



Had I But Wings Like Thine

by: Martha Lavinia Hoffman (1865-1900)

Had I but wings like thine,
Free bird of flight,
To scale the heights that only wings can reach,
Or steer my passage o'er yon seas of light,
Whose cloudy beach
Is ever shifting like the sands of time!

Had I but wings like thine
To soar between
Those airy deeps and lower deeps more real,
Above the wrecks and ruins of the main,
The joy to feel
Of freedom on unfailing pinions mine!

Had I but wings like thing
To visit lands
Of ancient story and undimmed renown;
To roam and rest beside those glittering strands
That ages crown
With words and thoughts that lustrous gems
outshine!

Had I but wings like thine!
In yonder skies,
Thy graceful form becomes a speck to
view;
Had I but wings like thine I would arise,
A bird of passage too,
To pass beyond this narrow prison line!

Had I but wings like thine!
'Tis vain to long;
Ah! rather let me feel those hidden wings,
That to a higher, broader, flight belong;
Be mine a heart that ever soars and sings
Above the wrecks of wrong!



A few more pics from Pam Hazelwood as their travels continue, still no grass wren.

Top left: - Redthroat
 Top centre: - White-winged Fairy-wren
 Top right: - Wedge-tailed Eagle

Bottom Left: - Elegant Parrot
 Bottom Centre: - Budgerigar

Report for Hat Head Camp April 2014

by Betty Hudson

The 1st week of April saw 26 enthusiastic IBOC members gather at Hat Head Caravan Park for our Autumn Camp. It was especially pleasing to welcome Mavis to her first camp and Peter S & Judy to their second.

The weather was very pleasant after the heavy rain of the first day, getting almost too warm at times and very blustery whenever we ventured onto the headlands. Several members also swam regularly in the lagoon which was apparently nice and warm even getting toward dusk.

Over the week we visited a variety of locations and habitats, within a reasonable distance of Hat Head and were rewarded with a good list of birds for the week - 134 species. Many of our visits were to wetlands, rivers or the coast with a variety of vegetation on the coastal fringes ranging from heath land to windswept grass or tea tree woodland with occasional patches of rainforest making for a wide selection of birds to see. Further inland we were able to find two good areas of rainforest with the birds you would expect and some exciting finds as well as a reserve of dry forest with yet another different population of birds.

The camp site and the adjacent ocean & Korogoro Creek saw us with several sightings of birds we rarely see, Eastern Reef Egret, Spangled Drongo, Brahminy Kite, Australasian Bittern (found by Terry & Lyndall), Tawny Frogmouth (Kathryn), amongst others. While a trip to Hungry Head and Kinchela Trig saw us marvelling at the aerobatics of a pair of Peregrine Falcons riding the thermals and then swooping low to the ground as well as Brahminy Kites.

All the wetlands were full of water following the weekend's heavy rain, but finding places to stop and check for birds along Belmore River posed some problems with 8 cars and a road with narrow shoulders and no nature strips as well as lots of farm traffic. We were all surprised when a family of 5-6 Peafowl including a Peacock suddenly appeared at the roadside from a farm gate, most likely belonging to the owners. Ducks including Australasian Grebe were plentiful but very wary, while a Darter spread its wings to dry in the sunshine and cormorants snoozed in the riverside trees. Cattle Egrets in their hundreds kept the cows company and White-necked & White-faced Herons; Straw-necked & White Ibis as well as Royal Spoonbills were in evidence. The adjacent very large Belmore Swamp produced the first real surprise of the week – up to 60 or more Glossy Ibis feeding on the grassy edges, while a Hobby tried to find a way to get the chick the Magpie-larks were feeding in a tree across the road. While a Swamp Harrier patrolled the reed beds looking for unlucky frogs. As we were leaving the Hobby flew over a gully on the far side of the swamp and suddenly hundreds of Straw-necked Ibis popped their heads up and rapidly took flight. A Golden-headed Cisticola was singing in the roadside reeds and a Australasian Pipit patrolled the road after insects.

A visit to Ryan's Cut in Hat Head NP, a Lagoon used to drain the swamp out to sea, provided a pleasant morning tea spot and some new birds, Australian Wood Duck; Brown Goshawk; Brown & White-cheeked Honeyeaters; the strong sea breeze keeping birds away from the shore. Returning through Gladstone we stopped in a park by the river for lunch and saw a large flock of Little Corellas.

That night Kathryn managed to find and identify the owner of the weird calls we had been hearing every night. They were small all red fruit bats which judging by the pictures at Wingham Brush were Little Fruit Bats.

We then turned our attention to finding some different habitats for the next few days. Stopping at Crescent Head the next morning for morning tea on the sea wall we were rewarded by a flock of Common Terns sitting very close on the rocks, shifting as the waves washed their feet, a new bird for some of us, including myself. We then continued south to Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve where a patch of Rainforest was promised. What passed for a road was in a bad condition most of the way. Finally crossing a bridge we came to the entrance to the Big Hill Picnic Area and Camp Ground. Immediately on parking we started seeing small birds and found that there was a small waterhole in the little creek behind us. A walk up the Big Hill Track through the Coastal forest resulted in few birds while the entrance to the lagoon rewarded us with a Sooty Oystercatcher. The view from the seaward side was worth the steep climb. On our return we stopped to look for birds on the creek and looking over the bridge saw a very large Mud Crab trying to climb the concrete wall of the salt water barrier. Returning to the picnic area for lunch, we then explored the camp grounds and got good views of the birds on the creek and adjacent forest, 5 honeyeaters, Varied Triller, Azure Kingfisher, Golden Whistler, Eastern Yellow Robin and Superb Fairy-wren (our only sighting of the week) were amongst many observed. A large Lace Monitor was disturbed basking in the sun and leisurely walked off after checking us out. 38 species were recorded here.

Some of the group then braved the next section of the track to another campground but it was even worse. They came across a caravan that had come loose from its towing vehicle. With assistance from many passersby it was reunited with the tow vehicle much to the relief of the owner, I am sure. Kathryn & I went back into Kempsey to catch the visitors centre before it closed, to check on the condition of the track for the next day, as we had gathered that there was a bridge which had collapsed but did not know where. Thankfully it was not on the way we were proposing to take, but we received a stern warning not to stray from the marked roads as it was extremely easy to get lost as the surrounding forest was still actively managed by State Forests and tracks and names changed without any warning. On the way we were fortunate enough to see Brown Quail flying up from the side of the road as we left Limeburners Creek. Others returned to Crescent Head for afternoon tea.

The next day we headed NW to Cedar Park in Ngambaa N.R. to what was billed as a good area of rainforest with a picnic ground and walking track. In spite of the warnings from the visitors centre we had no problem following the track in from Eungai Creek. The track was good and the signs all in place. No Danger of getting lost in the maze of surrounding forestry tracks. On arrival we were greeted by a large Lace Monitor which reluctantly moved off and finally climbed a tree, but reappeared to check out our lunch, basking in the sun on a large fallen tree trunk. The walking track was unfortunately partially closed due to dangerous trees, but a small waterhole in the creek with a very convenient low bridge for a seat, gave good sightings of bush birds. Walking up the entry track Peter F heard a Noisy Pitta, but no sightings. White-headed Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove and Wonga Pigeon were seen, as well as a female Regent Bowerbird. 34 species were sighted here. After lunch we returned to Eungai Creek the way we had come and then turned east to Mt. Yarrhapinni & the Lookout. At over 500 m we had extensive views over the flat countryside. When the view and birds were exhausted we drove on down to The Pines Picnic Ground in Yarriabini NP. An amazing track following a palm lined creek in the rain forest. Arriving at the picnic area, named for the huge pine trees surrounding it, many people felt lazy and sat enjoying the sunshine. A group found a short wading track along the creek and were greatly rewarded with sightings of a Superb Lyrebird, a pair of Australian Logrunners and a Rufous Fantail. Peter F was fortunate to get some good pictures of the pair of logrunners showing both male & female clearly. The Lyrebird walked in front of the group back to the road and then proceeded to scratch around on the edge of the road for photos to be taken, but unfortunately a flash went off and it took fright.

From there it was back to camp with shopping and checking out the next day's walk on the way. Peter S, Kathryn & I went to Boyters Lane at Jerseyville to look for reported Brolgas, and sure enough there were a pair and as a bonus Sharp-tailed Sandpipers on one patch of wetland. A happy Kathryn left the next morning having added yet another 2 species to her list.

Next morning we all headed out hoping that the promise of many birds was true. It certainly was, on a 2km section of a gravel track between paddocks and ephemeral wetlands, we recorded 53 species, adding Brolga, Whistling Kite, Australasian Shoveler, Intermediate Egret, Black-winged Stilt, Black-fronted Dotterel, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Yellow Thornbill, Scarlet Honeyeater, Striped Honeyeater, & Rufous Whistler to our list for the week. Lunch was at the historic Trial Bay Goal campground in Arakoon SRA. A pleasant but crowded campsite. Some visited the historic Gaol and others walked the Monument Track from there to the next picnic area. Ken kindly driving to the far end, walking in the reverse direction to meet up with us, and ferrying the walkers back to their cars. A blustery sea breeze had sprung up but sheltered in the scrub & heath land we found some birds, Glossy Black Cockatoos, (heard by Terry E), Variegated Fairy-wren (Betty), Nankeen Kestrel, New Holland Honeyeater (the only sighting of the trip). That night we said goodbye to the early leavers and searched the maps for another possible area to explore with a different habitat. We came up with Yarraval NR west of Kempsey on the Armidale Road, followed by a tour around the back roads crossing the Macleay River at Sherwood.

Next morning, those of us left, travelled to Yarraval NR with several short stops to consult the Kempsey District Map, as I didn't have a local topographic map to clearly show the entry track. Stopping yet again there was the sign and the track across the road from us. How lucky. Driving in we saw that the area was much drier forest

which promised different birds. After morning tea we explored the area but the cold strong wind kept the birds out of sight with only the Striated Thornbill added to the list. Back to the main road, where I left them to return to camp and Ross took over the lead and took them via Sherwood back to Kempsey getting a Pheasant Coucal and only our second sighting of the week of a Common Myna.

While we were out Lyndall & Terry stayed in camp and walked along the creek to find a pair of Australasian Bitterns and get another sighting of the Eastern Reef Egret. This made the total for the week 134.

My thanks to all of you for making this a great week especially those who assisted me in so many ways with various tasks, camps could not happen without this spirit of cooperation.

Hat Head Bird list			
134 species recorded at 13 sites and whilst moving around between sites.			
Brown Quail	Straw-necked Ibis	Pheasant Coucal	Eastern Whipbird
Indian Peafowl	Royal Spoonbill	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Black Swan	Eastern Osprey	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Australian Wood Duck	Black-shouldered Kite	Azure Kingfisher	Varied Triller
Australasian Shoveler	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Laughing Kookaburra	Crested Shrike-tit
Grey Teal	Whistling Kite	Sacred Kingfisher	Golden Whistler - E Race
Chestnut Teal	Brahminy Kite	Noisy Pitta	Rufous Whistler
Pacific Black Duck	Brown Goshawk	Superb Lyrebird	Grey Shrike-thrush
Hardhead	Swamp Harrier	White-throated Treecreeper	Australasian Figbird
Australasian Grebe	Nankeen Kestrel	Regent Bowerbird	White-breasted Woodswallow
Rock Dove	Australian Hobby	Superb Fairy-wren	Dusky Woodswallow
White-headed Pigeon	Peregrine Falcon	Variegated Fairy-wren	Grey Butcherbird
Spotted Dove	Brolga	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Pied Butcherbird
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Purple Swamphen	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Magpie
Crested Pigeon	Dusky Moorhen	Large-billed Scrubwren	Pied Currawong
Bar-shouldered Dove	Eurasian Coot	Brown Gerygone	Spangled Drongo
Wonga Pigeon	Sooty Oystercatcher	Striated Thornbill	Rufous Fantail
Tawny Frogmouth	Black-winged Stilt	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Australasian Darter	Black-fronted Dotterel	Brown Thornbill	Willie Wagtail
Little Pied Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Striated Pardalote	Australian Raven
Great Cormorant	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Eastern Spinebill	Torresian Crow
Little Black Cormorant	Common Tern	Lewin's Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Pied Cormorant	Crested Tern	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian Pelican	Silver Gull	Noisy Miner	Golden-headed Cisticola
Australasian Bittern	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Little Wattlebird	Silvereye
White-necked Heron	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Scarlet Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Eastern Great Egret	Galah	Brown Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
Intermediate Egret	Little Corella	New Holland Honeyeater	Common Starling
Cattle Egret	Rainbow Lorikeet	White-cheeked Honeyeater	Common Myna
Striated Heron	Scaly -breasted Lorikeet	White-naped Honeyeater	Mistletoebird
White-faced Heron	Little Lorikeet	Noisy Friarbird	Red-browed Finch
Eastern Reef Egret	Australian King-Parrot	Striped Honeyeater	House Sparrow
Glossy Ibis	Crimson Rosella	Australian Logrunner	Australasian Pipit
Australian White Ibis	Eastern Rosella		

A spreadsheet with full details of each location visited and the birds recorded there will be posted on the club web site.







Top Left - Glossy Ibis *Belmore Swamp*

Top Centre - Common Tern *Crescent Head*

Top Right - Brahminy Kite in the Evening sun *Korogoro Creek*

Bottom Left - Lace Monitor *Cedar Park Ngambaa NR*

All photos by Betty Hudson

Dusky Grasswren at last!



By Pam Hazelwood



When I was at Hat Head I took a photo of a flower and it turns out that it is a noxious weed. How do these things come to be in our environment? It is the national flower of Zimbabwe and they gave queen Elizabeth a brooch the shape of it for her 21st birthday. So there you go never know what flower you are likely to come across. It's called Gloriosa Superba.

Terry Edwell

I.B.O.C. Spring Camp 2014 Lake View Caravan Park, Lake Cargelligo

I.B.O.C.'s Spring 2014 camp will be held at Lake View Caravan Park, Naradhan Street, Lake Cargelligo

Sunday 19th October to **Sunday** 26th October 2014.

Phone 02 6898 1077. *(no email or website)* When phoning to make a booking please **ask for Liz the Park Manager** & tell her you are from the Illawarra Bird Observers Club.

Please note the change in the dates for the camp, Sunday to Sunday instead of the more usual Saturday to Saturday. (No cabins were available on the Saturday night).

Lake Cargelligo is 530km WNW of Wollongong. It is suggested that you travel via the Hume Hwy to just south of Yass, take the Harden exit and travel via Wallendbeen, Temora, West Wyalong and then Lake Cargelligo. Lake View Caravan Park has 8 cabins, 6 of which have 2 bedrooms both with double beds the other 2 cabins have 1 bedroom. Linen is provided for the main bed. There are also 48 powered and 50 unpowered sites. *Unfortunately one of the small cabins is not available on the night of the 19th October*

The charges listed below are those presently current, but could be subject to review and increase by the Lachlan Shire Council, owners of the Park. The rates applying at the time you book & pay your deposit will be honoured for your entire stay.

Charges:	2 small Cabins	\$85 for the 1 st night & \$65 each night thereafter for 2 persons.
	6 Larger cabins	\$95 for the 1 st night & \$75 each night thereafter for 2 persons
	Powered Sites	\$23 per night for 2 persons
	Unpowered Sites	\$18.00 per night for 2 persons

Please note To ensure that cabins are available and to take advantage of the current charges for cabins & sites, I would advise booking as early as possible.

Please advise Betty by phone on 4236 0307 or email elizabethjudson@bigpond.com when you have booked and the type of cabin. The clip board will be passed round at meetings as usual for members to add their names to those attending, if it is not already there.

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: April/May 2014

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Freckled Duck	10+	9/05/2014	Ash Ponds	Water	Charles Dove
Pink-eared Duck	50+	9/05/2014	Ash Ponds	Water	Charles Dove
Australasian Shoveler	15+	9/05/2014	Ash Ponds	Water	Charles Dove
Blue-billed Duck	3	9/05/2014	Ash Ponds	Water	Charles Dove
Hoary-headed Grebe	50+	4/05/2014	Purry Burry Point	Water	Charles Dove
White-headed Pigeon	20+	4/05/2014	Jamberoo	Park(Lilli Pilli trees)	Betty Hudson
White-headed Pigeon	5 Juv	7/05/2014	Jamberoo	School (Camphor Laurel trees)	Betty Hudson
White-headed Pigeon	16+	11/05/2014	Jamberoo	Kevin Walsh Oval " "	Betty Hudson
Tawny Frogmouth	2	April	Russel Vale	Urban/Street	Julia Veltrop
Australasian Gannet	11	4/05/2014	Werri Beach	Offshore	K.+ D Eddington
Australasian Gannet	7	6/05/2014	Nth Warilla Bch	Fishing	Charles Dove
Striated Heron	1	24/04/2014	Purry Burry Point	Shoreline	Charles Dove
Eastern Reef Egret	1	6/05/2014	Windang Island	Tidal Rocks	Charles Dove
Nankeen Night-heron	1	27/04/2014	Primbee	Gum Tree	Charles Dove
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	30/04/2014	Haywards Bay	Lake	Charles Dove
Black-shouldered Kite	1	24/04/2014	Windang Island	Sky & Scrub	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	21/05/2014	Woonona	Off-shore	Mike Morphett
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1 Adult	13/05/2014	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Whistling Kite	1	26/04/2014	Primbee	O'head	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	28/04/2014	Thirroul	Yard	Mike Morphett
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	6/05/2014	Jerrara Dam	Bushland	K Eddington/ T Edwell
Collared Sparrowhawk	2	26/04/2014	Primbee	O'head	Charles Dove
Grey Goshawk	1 -wh.ph	11/05/2014	Albion. Park School	O'head	Bruce Coyte
Brown Falcon	1	5/05/2014	Primbee	Light Pole	Charles Dove
Australian Hobby	1	30/04/2014	Haywards Bay	Dead Tree	Charles Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	23/05/2014	Waniora Point, Bulli	In Flight	Mike Morphett
Red-capped Plover	2	14/05/2014	Gerroa	7 Mile Beach	R Stadius / B Ashford
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	26/04/2014	Balgownie	O'head	Terry Edwell
Crested Tern	6	4/05/2014	Werri Beach	Offshore	K + D Eddington
Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo	10	19/05/2014	Bellawongarah	Bushland	Ralph Stadius
Powerful Owl	1	5/05/2014	Kiama	Street - night	Rupert Jarvis
White-throated Treecreeper	2	19/05/2014	Bellawongarah	Rainforest	Ralph Stadius
Variiegated Fairy-wren	4	14/05/2014	Gerroa	7 Mile Beach	R Stadius / B Ashford
Fuscous Honeyeater	1	14/05/2014	Bomaderry Creek		Ralph Stadius
Noisy Miner	1	18/05/2014	Tarrawanna	Garden (1st time)	Anne/Alan Cousins
Dusky Woodswallow	5	4/05/2014	Purry Burry Point	Structures	Charles Dove
Pied Currawong	>100	19/05/2014	Bellawongarah	Bushland	Ralph Stadius
Rose Robin	1	30/04/2014	Jerrara Dam	Bushland	K Eddington/ T Edwell
Golden-headed Cisticola	5	24/04/2014	Windang Island	Scrub	Charles Dove
Tawny Grassbird	1	30/04/2014	Haywards Bay	Reeds	Charles Dove
Bassian Thrush	2	11/05/2014	Robertson	Scrub/Brush	Bruce Coyte
Common Blackbird	1	11/05/2014	Bellambi	Yard	Tom Wylie



Eastern Reef Egret at Windang travelled South over the week to greet us just after we arrived in Ulladulla -- believe it or not. Charles Dove

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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.