

EASTERN BRISTLEBIRD

Scientific name: *Dasyornis brachypterus*.

Description

The Eastern Bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*) is a species of bird in the bristlebird family Dasyornithidae. It is endemic to Australia. The Eastern Bristlebird is about 18-21 cm in length and about 33-51 g in weight. It is dark cinnamon-brown above, with pale colouring around the eyes and base of the bill, an off-white chin and throat, and a rufous-brown panel on each folded wing. It is greyish-brown below, with an off-white centre to the



photo by Charles Dove

belly. It has red to red-brown irises, an off-white to pinkish-white gape, and pinkish-brown legs and feet. The sexes are alike, but females are slightly smaller than males. Juveniles are similar to the adults, but can be identified, if viewed at close range, by their pale brown or brown irises, and pale yellow gape. Other names: Brown Bristlebird, Bristlebird.

Habitat

The Bristlebird prefers to live in small, localised populations. Its natural habitats are temperate forests, temperate scrubland, and temperate grassland. The Eastern Bristlebird inhabits low dense vegetation in a broad range of habitat types including sedgeland, heathland, swampland, shrubland, sclerophyll forest, woodland, and rainforest. It occurs near the coast, on tablelands and in habitats with a variety of species compositions, but are defined by a similar structure of low, dense, ground or understorey vegetation.

Feeding

Eastern Bristlebirds forage mostly on the ground. Eastern Bristlebirds mainly feed on seeds, small fruits and invertebrates, including *Acacia*, *Carex*, *Exocarpos* and, possibly, *Lycium ferocissimum* and take nectar from *Banksia*, insects such as ants, beetles, flies, cockroaches, bugs, cicadas, grasshoppers, crickets, mantids and caterpillars, but also includes earthworms and spiders.

Breeding

The Eastern Bristlebird build their nests on the ground in areas of dense, clumped grasses and breeds from August to February. Clutches consist of two, or sometimes three, eggs. The eggs are white, cream or whitish-brown, sometimes with a pink tinge, and are marked with brownish, and sometimes some slatey-grey, spots.

Threats

The current threats to the Eastern Bristlebird are habitat degradation, disturbance by humans and human activity, in breeding depression and subsequent loss of genetic variation, predation, and collisions with vehicles, also cats and foxes are a continued major threat. It is also threatened by habitat loss with the major threat being from habitat degradation from fire.

Bird species cover text courtesy of various reports by many research papers.

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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

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CLUB MEETING:**Monday 13th at 7.30pm**

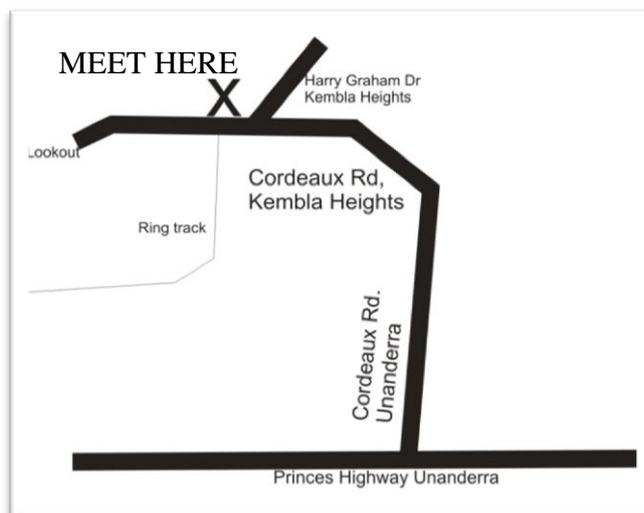
Fairy Meadow Community Hall - Corner of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.

BIRDING IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN PORTUGAL BY David Winterbottom**This talk will cover:** Vegetation and history.**Introduction:** Common birds.**Cultural landscape of Sintra:** woodland birds.**Tagus estuary:** water birds.**Historic Evora:** plains birds and eagles.**Beautiful Mertola:** hill birds.**Rio Formosa:** shore birds.**Lisbon.***Please bring a plate of 'goodies' and a mug for supper after the meeting.***MIDWEEK WALK****Wednesday 15th at 9.00am****Mt. Kembla Ring Track**

Leader Terry Edwell

Meet at 9:00am at Mt Kembla Ring Track Cordeaux Rd, Kembla Heights. Please bring morning tea to carry. Note: the ground is somewhat uneven in spots on the walking track, so wear proper footwear!

Contact Terry Edwell on 0414 848 236 after 7:30 am if the weather is doubtful.

**MONTHLY OUTING****Sunday 19th at 9.30am****BIG DAY OUT****Mollymook - Narrawallee**

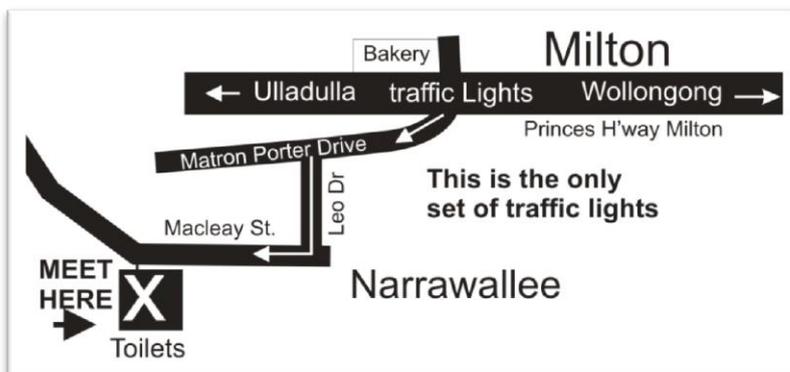
Leader Charles Dove

Meet at Matron Porter Park, Macleay Street Narrawallee.

Toilets available

Bring morning tea and lunch. Fish and Chip shop available if needed to purchase lunch &/or tea & coffee

Contact Charles Dove on 0417 422 302 after 7:30 am if the weather is doubtful

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:****Tuesday 21st June 2016**

Will now be held at **2pm Tuesday 21st June** at Betty Hudson's 1 Drualla Road, Jamberoo 4236 0307 Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to attend the meeting.

Newsletter:**DEADLINE 24th June 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, Mollymook 2539. Ph: 0417 422 302

IBOC WISHES TO WELCOME ALL OF ITS NEW MEMBERS

CLUB MEETING REPORT

Monday, 9th May - by Bill Zealey

Australian Seabird Rescue- presented by Nikki Main & Fran Thompson

Australian Seabird Rescue, South Coast was launched on 28 October 2005 and now covers the Illawarra region and south to Batemans Bay and Bermagui. Nikki Main and Fran Thompson came in Kirsten Hort's stead and ably introduced us to the problems experienced by seabirds and their role in tackling these problems. Their 70 or so members are not only engaged in bird rescue, but also fundraising, community education. Pelicans figure predominantly in their encounters, although they encounter a wide variety of seabirds including terns, little penguins and shearwaters.

NSW has about 70 breeding colonies of *Pelecanus conspicillatus* in NSW. Of the 8 species of pelican, worldwide, they have the longest bills. During their 30 year life span they often have close encounters with fishermen and their tackle, suffering horrendous injuries, particularly to their fishing pouches. Seabird Rescue has a good relationship with local veterinary

surgeons that can now successfully treat many hook related injuries.

Of the injuries encountered almost 92% are fishing tackle related, 4% disease, 2% shootings, 1% pollution related [botulism] and 1% due to powerline collisions. So the message to fishermen is "cut up your spare line into small pieces for disposal and safely dispose of old hooks and lures". The advice to anyone who hooks an avaricious seabird is - reel it in and remove the hook, don't just cut the line!

Other problems relate to the ingestion of plastic bags. Seabird Rescue runs workshops to train its volunteers in handling and treating sick and injured birds. While pelicans are large, they are comparatively light [4- 8 kg] and once captured fairly docile. It's the capturing that's tricky...separating the wary bird from its mates, luring it towards you and drawing the leg noose tight.

Thank you Nikki and Fran for making a serious topic so interesting.

Australasian Seabird rescue are always looking for volunteers- so contact them

Phone: 0431 282 238

Branch Co-ordinator: Kirsten Hort

Email: asrsouthcoast1@gmail.com - See more at:

<http://seabirdrescue.org/branches/south-coast>

The lesson here is the IMPORTANCE of notifying someone of any seabirds found dead or alive. It really is imperative to identify them and if alive to go to the best possible care.

REPORT FOR MIDWEEK WALK

Blackbutt Forest - 11th May 2016 by Rupert Jarvis

The day was bright but windy when a small group of only four members met at the Blackbutt carpark. However just as we set off walking Ken and Sue Brown drove up so we had six participants. We set off along the main track through the trees and initially apart from Crimson Rosellas and passing flocks of Rainbow Lorikeets saw few birds. Further along Ross turned off the main track to a spot where small birds were abundant and there we saw White-

browed Scrubwren, Yellow Robins, Red-browed Finches and Brown Thornbills. Returning to the main track we had only walked a short distance when we came across numerous Brown Gerygones working their way through the trees. It was a reasonably large flock but they were moving on a broad front and very quickly leading us to a discussion as to how best to arrive at numbers in such a situation.

We made our way along a side path down to the dam and on the way Jann spotted a Rufous Fantail but despite a few minutes search most of us missed it. The most notable sighting on the dam was a small group of Hardheads. Despite hopeful conversations about Noisy Pittas and Large-billed Scrubwrens there were no spectacular sightings. In fact we were

surprised by the birds which we didn't record ; no raptors, no herons and no pigeons. We did notice one advantage being that everybody saw virtually all of the 31 species recorded. Returning to the cars some of us retreated to Warilla Bowls meeting up with Brian and Barbara for lunch. Many thanks to Jan & Ross for a great day out.

Bird List for Blackbutt Forest Reserve Walk 11.05.16			31 Species	6 Members
Pacific Black Duck	Crimson Rosella	Brown Thornbill		Pied Currawong
Hardhead	Eastern Rosella	Spotted Pardalote		Rufous Fantail
Little Pied Cormorant	Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater		Grey Fantail
Purple Swamphen	Satin Bowerbird	Red Wattlebird		Australian Raven
Dusky Moorhen	Superb Fairy-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo -shrike		Eastern Yellow Robin
Eurasian Coot	White-browed Scrubwren	Golden Whistler		Silvereye
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Gerygone	Grey Butcherbird		Red-browed Finch
Rainbow Lorikeet	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Magpie		

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Wedge-tailed eagle nest forces logging halt at disputed Lapoinya coupe

By Fiona Blackwood

PHOTO: Forestry Tasmania says a search failed to identify any nests before logging began. (Supplied)

There are concerns logging operations came within metres of a wedge-tailed eagle's nest in a disputed logging coup in Tasmania's north-west. The unoccupied nest was discovered last month by a Forestry Tasmania contractor 20 metre from the harvest boundary. All operations were ceased within 500 metres of the nest. Jenny Weber from the Bob Brown Foundation was shocked and astounded by the discovery.

"Wedge-tailed eagles are an endangered species and Tasmanian logging laws do say that a 10-hectare protection zone is needed around wedge-tailed eagle nests," she said. "It's Forestry Tasmania's responsibility to be looking for these wedge-tailed eagle nests prior to the logging."

A Forestry Tasmania spokesman said ground and helicopter searches prior to the harvest did not identify any eagle nests.

The nest was unoccupied, no eagle was harmed and the nest was not damaged, the agency said. But Ms Weber said the failure was inexcusable.

"The concern about the ongoing logging of endangered species' habitat is that it hastens the path to extinction of endangered species," she said.

Forestry Tasmania said a regeneration of the coupe would be undertaken as quickly as possible to reduce long-term disturbance.

Forestry Tasmania said the community had requested a low-to-moderate intensity burn be undertaken. But Ms Weber said it should be abandoned.

Former Australian Greens leader Bob Brown was arrested at a logging protest in January at the coup and is challenging Tasmania's protest laws in the High Court.



A GREAT WHITE HERON FORAGES IN INTERTIDAL HABITAT

*Coastal wading birds shape their lives around the tides, and new research in **The Auk: Ornithological Advances** shows that different species respond differently to shifting patterns of high and low water according to their size and daily schedules, even following prey cycles tied to the phases of the moon. Many birds rely on the shallow water of the intertidal zone for foraging, but this habitat appears and disappears as the tide ebbs and flows, with patterns that go through monthly cycles of strong "spring" and weak "neap" tides. Leonardo Calle of Montana State University (formerly Florida Atlantic University) and his colleagues wanted to assess how wading birds respond to these*



changes, because different species face different constraints--longer-legged birds can forage in deeper water than those with shorter legs, and birds that are only active during the day have different needs than those that will forage day or night.

Changes in the daily schedules of tidal flooding affected smaller, daylight-dependent Little Blue Herons more than Great White Herons, which have longer legs and forage at night when necessary. The abundance of foraging wading birds was also tied to the phases of the moon, but this turned out not to be driven directly by changes in the availability of shallow-water habitat. Instead, the researchers speculate that the birds were responding to movements of their aquatic prey timed to the spring-neap tide cycle, a hypothesis that could be confirmed through a study jointly tracking predator and prey abundance.

"Wading birds are a cog in the wheel that is the intertidal ecosystem, and the intertidal ecosystem is driven by tidal forces--everything depends on tides," says Calle. "The nuances of how water levels rise and fall over time and space are very important to understand in order to assess how birds feed. Ultimately, this will help us determine if birds have enough area or enough time to fulfill their energy demands and which areas require greater attention or protection."

Calle and his colleagues conducted their seasonal surveys of foraging wading birds from 2010 to 2013, working from a boat at low tide in Florida's Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge. "First the Great White Herons would arrive, followed by the other birds," says Calle. "Sharks and rays would be on the edge of the flats

"The model developed by Calle et al. makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the factors that drive the abundance of herons and egrets in tidal areas," according to John Brzorad of Lenoir-Rhyne University, an expert on egret ecology. "Although it has been long observed that abundance varies with tidal phase, these authors incorporate time of day, moon phase, and season and allow predictions to be made about bird abundance based on modelling hectares available for foraging birds. It will be exciting to apply this model to other tidal areas."

Birdlife Australia Store

The Birdlife Australia online store has a number of products that you may be interested in purchasing.

There are bumper stickers, caps and a range of pin badges – see samples below.



There are also a number of items that would make nice gifts including tea towels, pot holder and tote bags.

Go to <https://store.birdlife.org.au/>

This message is to advise you that Australia's Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, has agreed to list under Australia's national environmental law the following migratory shorebirds as:

Critically endangered

- *Limosa lapponica menzbieri* (bar-tailed godwit (spp *menzbieri*))
- *Calidris tenuirostris* (Great Knot)

Endangered

- *Calidris canutus* (red knot)
- *Charadrius mongolus* (Lesser Sand Plover)

Vulnerable

- *Limosa lapponica baueri* (Bar-tailed Godwit (spp *baueri*))
- *Charadrius leschenaultii* (Greater Sand Plover)

These species will remain listed 'migratory' and 'marine' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The registration of the legal instruments to give effect to the Minister's decisions occurred on 4 May 2016 with the effective date of 5 May 2016. Following registration, approved conservation advice for these species will be made available through [SPRAT](#).

EXPERT OPINION AS A TOOL FOR QUANTIFYING BIRD TOLERANCE TO HUMAN DISTURBANCE

D. Philip Whitfield Marc Ruddock Rhys Bullman

Abstract

Human disturbance can have several adverse effects on wildlife and therefore is increasingly seen as a threat. A common resolution of problems associated with encroaching human activities is to separate them from sensitive wildlife areas by protective buffer zones or set-back distances within which human activity is restricted. The most common method to establish such protective regimes is to record empirically the distance at which animals show signs of disturbance to human activity. However, a literature review for 26 bird species revealed that in only six of these species were there empirical measures of disturbance distances when breeding, but buffer zones had been recommended or designated in all species, often in several instances. This inferred prescription of buffer zones despite a severe knowledge gap. As a research stopgap, for the 26 species, we surveyed over 1000 expert opinions which generated estimates of alert distance (AD) and flight initiation distance (FID) in response to an approaching human during incubation and chick-rearing. Surveyed opinions on FID were not statistically significantly different to empirical measures of FID. Opinions on AD were much greater than predictions based on body mass derived from a previous study, but other evidence inferred a problem with predictions rather than opinions. The slope of the relationship between opinions on AD and FID conformed to the 'fixed-slope rule' (i.e. $FID = 0.44 * AD$) for incubating birds, but was higher for chick-rearing birds. At both stages of the breeding cycle, however, FID was approximately half-AD, reflecting previous studies. The validation exercises therefore provided some encouragement that the expert opinion survey produced realistic results, but we recommend that their use should be temporary until more empirical measures of disturbance distances are gathered. We further recommend that existing monitoring schemes in which field surveyors routinely visit birds' nests should incorporate protocols to measure disturbance distances to amass such information rapidly and in quantity.

SPRING 2016 CAMP FORBES 15TH - 22ND OCTOBER 2016

The IBOC Spring 2016 Camp will be held at Forbes Big 4 Caravan Park, 141 Flint Street, Forbes NSW 2871, from **Saturday 15th October to Saturday 22nd October 2016.**

The park is situated in a quiet area on the outskirts of Forbes. Travelling from Wollongong, leave the Hume Hwy shortly after Yass, taking the Lachlan Valley Way to Cowra. Turn left at the Mid Western Hwy and then take a right turn to continue on the Lachlan Valley Way to Forbes. The caravan park will be on your left shortly after crossing the Lachlan River.

Forbes has all the usual services and a visitor's centre at the old railway station.

There are plenty of powered & unpowered sites as well as 10 cabins.

To contact the park ph 1800 641 207 or 02 6852 1055

Web site is www.big4forbesholidaypark.com.au

Accommodation with rates per night linen is supplied on main bed

<u>Villa</u>	2 bedrooms QB main 3 bunk bedroom 2 sleeps 7	\$135/night for 2
<u>Deluxe Bungalow</u>	2 bedrooms, 1 QB & 1 db with bunk over sleeps 5	\$125/night for 2
<u>Bungalows</u>	1 bedroom DB + 4 bunk beds sleeps 6	\$115/ night for 2
<u>Studio</u>	open plan QB sleeps 2	\$100/night for 2
<u>En-suite cabin old style</u>	DB + 2 bunks	\$90/night for 2
<u>All cabins additional persons \$15 per night</u>		
Powered Sites	\$35 per night for 2	

Once you have booked please let Betty know as usual, on 4236 0307, by text on mobile 0432 892 945 or by email elizabethjudson@bigpond.com

GOLDEN ROBINIA: an avian domestic transit lounge

By Mike Morphet

Some years ago the wattle beside our back verandah carked it. I thought replacing it with a deciduous tree would be the way to go, to give us shade in summer and light in winter. I opted for another acacia, but a 'false' one: a golden robinia, *Robinia pseudoacacia*. This species is a fast grower, and its delicate bright green leaves and white/pinkish pendulous flowers also appealed to me. It had long been popular for ornamental purposes as a streetscape feature as well as in gardens. On the minus side, it was said to send out unwanted root suckers, had brittle branches, and was susceptible to dieback, but these problems I have yet to encounter.



Robinia occupants L-R: Brown Cuckoo-Doves; Tawny Frogmouth; Dollarbird

The robinia is native to the USA and northern Mexico and has also been called the locust tree on account of its pods looking like that insect. However, it seems it has been confused with the carob tree, given a similar alternative name, and which has been claimed to be linked to John the Baptist, who, according to St Matthew's Gospel, survived in the wilderness of Judea by consuming locusts and wild honey. But some interpret the former to have been the insect species instead, maintaining that the preacher-prophet wasn't exclusively a vegetarian.

The Swedish botanist, physician and zoologist, Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) and known as the 'father of modern taxonomy', gave the species its name, but there is uncertainty as to whether it was a tribute to one or other of two Frenchmen or both. Some say it was an apothecary turned herbalist, Jean Robin (1550-1629), who first brought it into Europe in 1601. Not to be confused with his namesake, the much more recent footballer-manager of Marseille, he was appointed by King Henry

III to collect tree and seed specimens to plant in Paris and he continued as an arborist during the reigns of Henry IV and Louis XIII. Others credit his son, Vespasian (1579-1662) for its introduction 35 years later. His given name may have been inspired by the so-called Roman emperor (AD 69-79), who, in defence of his introduction of a urine tax on public toilets to swell treasury coffers, made this political statement: 'Pecunia non olet' – Money doesn't stink. At the time such facilities earned the epithet vespasians. Whilst Linnaeus may have had both Robins in mind in his nomenclature, neither recorded the robinia in their cataloguing.



Eastern Yellow Robin



Rainbow Lorikeets



Red-browed Finches

In the USA this species has been praised for its utilitarian value in various timber products. Some claim it played a major role in the convincing American victory over the British on Lake Champlain in the Battle of Plattsburgh in 1814, which led to the vanquished's withdrawal from the northern states and the Treaty of Ghent three months later, so ending the War of 1812. The American ships under Master Commandant, Thomas Macdonagh were built with locust nails in contrast to oak ones of the British. It could be that the inexperienced crew of the British Navy and the sudden death of its Captain, George Downie, crushed by a fallen cannon aboard his flagship 'Confiance' were just as significant factors in the outcome.

Our robinia has certainly provided the light and shade we wanted at the rear, northern side of our house, plus plenty of leaf litter for mulching and composting; but it has also brought other rewards. Over the years it has attracted a variety of birds, becoming a transit lounge in-between flights for the 37 species I've so far logged; 15 have been either very or fairly regular occupants, which are marked thus *:-

White-headed Pigeon
Spotted Dove*
Brown Cuckoo-Dove*
Crested Pigeon
Tawny Frogmouth
Sulphur-crested
Cockatoo*
Rainbow Lorikeet*
Australian King Parrot*
Crimson Rosella*
Eastern Koel

Powerful Owl
Laughing Kookaburra*
Dollarbird
Satin Bowerbird
Superb Fairy-wren
White-browed
Scrubwren*
Brown Gerygone
Brown Thornbill
Spotted Pardalote

Eastern Spinebill*
Lewin's Honeyeater*
Little Wattlebird*
Eastern Whipbird*
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
Grey Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Pied Currawong
Rufous Fantail

Grey Fantail*
Willie Wagtail
Australian Raven
Leaden Flycatcher
Magpie-lark
Eastern Yellow Robin*
Red-whiskered Bulbul
Common Blackbird
Red-browed Finch*

One night, after hearing its call, I was thrilled to glimpse a Powerful Owl take off from one of the main branches; I'm still hopeful this wasn't just a one-off experience, especially as this species continues to visit my neighbourhood, but at times that seem to defy a pattern. The nearest its smaller *Ninox* relative, the Southern Boobook has come to the robinia is on our washing-line. The usual nocturnal visitors have been possums, primarily the brushtail and very occasionally the shy ringtail, which use the tree as a lawn/verandah-roof route link.

Insects also frequent the robinia, notably bees that compete with the Rainbow Lorikeets for the springtime flowers. Autumn is now almost over and the robinia leaves are displaying an orange tinge and falling. The latest first-time arrival to attract my attention was a yellow, hairy caterpillar that dropped on to a pot plant as I walked by. It turned out to be that of the perfect tussock moth. Some other moth larvae of the Papilionaceae family are said to feed on the foliage of the robinia; appropriate in that it has butterfly-like pea flowers.



It was this tussock moth caterpillar which spurred me into delving into the features of the robinia, never envisaging it would take me on a geographical and historical tour, which goes to show that bird study isn't isolated from other fields of interest, but can take you to unexpected places from the comfort of a computer chair as well as in the field and the familiar surroundings of your own backyard.

MALLEE EMU-WREN NOW ONLY FOUND IN VICTORIA AFTER BUSHFIRES WIPE OUT SA POPULATION

ABC Mildura-Swan Hill By Merryl Whyte and Lauren Henry
 PHOTO: (Supplied: Dean Ingwersen)

One of the smallest birds in Australia is now only found in Victoria's Mallee, after bushfires in 2014 wiped out the species in South Australia. Mallee Emu-wrens are one of six endangered bird species in the Mallee region. A group of researchers from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and project partners La Trobe University, BirdLife Australia and Parks Victoria, have launched a project to revitalise the species. The Mallee Emu-wren Fire Ecology Project will research population numbers and the effect of fire on the birds.



Dr Natasha Schedvin, the department's protection landscape evaluator for the Mallee Murray Goulburn area, said the project would focus on species in the Wyperfeld, Big Desert, Murray-Sunset and Hattah-Kulkyne national parks. "As far as we know there are no living Mallee Emu-wrens in South Australia anymore, as a result of those really large scale fires in 2014," Dr Schedvin said.

"So now the Victorian Mallee is the global distribution of the species.

"We take our responsibility of that species really seriously, given that we're the land stewards with Parks Victoria, and we're actively trying to manage fire in these landscapes.

Jail Birds

Injured and abandoned animals are providing an unusual form of therapy to hardened prison inmates.

My old neighbour George across the back fence got sent to jail recently, at the age of about 63. I missed his greeting when working down that end of the garden, so a visit was in order to see how George was getting on at the John Morony Correctional Complex near Windsor, Sydney.

I find him in a wire enclosure with several other inmates. George sidles up, turns his head to one side, and looks at me with the same beady eye I used to see through the fence. We talk in the same old tongue-clicks. He appears to be in good nick.



George is a sulphur-crested cockatoo. He'd spent most of his life in a backyard cage in Sydney's east as the pet of a Portuguese migrant couple: Joe, who died several years ago, and Maria. Maria had kept the

house going after Joe died, but the back garden, planted with lemon and papaya trees, zucchini plants, and pots of roses and cacti, gradually got overgrown, and leaves clogged the concrete trough Joe had built for pressing grapes. A neighbour started coming in to help Maria with George - feeding him, cleaning out his cage, and telling him to shut up when he did his imitation of a raucous dog bark. When Maria died last year, at nearly 89, it was time to find a new home for George. Family and neighbours heard of sheltered accommodation where George would have company, and where his presence might do some good.

This new home is the Wildlife Care Centre, 70 kilometres away in the prison at Windsor. In 1995, Ron Woodham, later the NSW corrective services commissioner, noticed a prisoner at Windsor nurturing a lost magpie chick. It seemed a good way of encouraging a sense of care and responsibility. Now Woodham's successor, Peter Severin, proudly shows off this rehabilitation model to delegations from South Korea and other countries.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/good-weekend/jail-birds-20160425-goe3oq#ixzz49EyaU71A>



Piper at dusk

By Jack Oats.

Straining to hear them against
the grumble of ocean
breeze ruffling heath
my chattering teeth
rain on hat
the noisy raincoat
swishing away insects
buzzing around my ears
an early owl and
the call of a warm dry tent.



The survey sheet shows nothing
of the noisy wilderness static
crowding in with the dark
nor the ecstasy of those first ascending notes
rippling over Nadgee Moor.

Then the pencil pandemonium
beginning at 1842 hrs
32 minutes after sunset
7 minutes of mapping 200 calls
counting 13 birds
two seen flying as they call.

The survey sheets are filed and there's a publication
"Managing the Ground Parrot
in its fiery habitat in south-eastern Australia"
with barely a hint of their allure.

Protesters Falls near Nimbin was the site of IBOCs Big Morning Tea to raise funds for the Cancer Council. The sunny carpark in the bush provided an ideal place to have a cuppa, a chat and see birds. Neil McKinlay provided the entertainment reading an early poem written by Wal Emery. Donations collected at our last meeting and at camp totaled \$241.50. Thanks to all who contributed. Pam Hazelwood.



Anne & Alan Cousins – Sue Brown
Chris Cartlidge

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: April-May 2016

Compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Hoary-headed Grebe	5	26/04/2016	Burrill Lake	Tidal Lake	Charles Dove
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	4	1/05/2016	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphet
White-necked Heron	1	23/04/2016	Jamberoo	Paddock	Anne Cousins
Eastern Reef Egret	1	23/04/2016	Mollymook	Tidal Rock	Charles Dove
Royal Spoonbill	1	23/04/2016	Bellambi	Lagoon	Ian McKinlay
Eastern Osprey	1	26/04/2016	Burrill Lake	Power Pole	Charles Dove
Black-shouldered Kite	1	8/05/2016	Bull Showground	Floodlight Pole	Mike Morphet
Pacific Baza	1	7/05/2016	Albion Park	Sub Trop r'forest Res.	Bruce Coyte
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1m	24/04/2016	Tarrawanna Residential	O'head	Anne Cousins
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Pair	4-5/6/16	Russell Vale – Uni.	O'head	Ian McKinlay
Grey Goshawk	1	2/05/2016	University	O'head	Siobhan Christian
Little Eagle	1	2/05/2016	Albion Park	Residential - O'head	Bruce Coyte
Nankeen Kestrel	1	21/05/2016	Woonona	Flagpole - Ocean Park	Mike Morphet
Nankeen Kestrel	1	27/04/2016	Bellambi Railway Line	Telegraph Pole	Anne Cousins
Brown Falcon	1	7/05/2016	Woonona	Dunes	Ian McKinlay
Australian Hobby	1	2/05/2016	Albion Park	Residential - o'head	Bruce Coyte
Peregrine Falcon	1	5/05/2016	Gwynneville	O'head	Siobhan Christian
Australian Wood Duck	28	8/05/2016	Cradle Drive	Dam	Mike Morphet
Kelp Gull	Pair	7/05/2016	Bellambi	Beach	Ian McKinlay
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	5/05/2016	Porters Dam	Casuarina	C Dove C Brandis
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	22/05/2016	Camellia Garden Nowra	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Gang-gang Cockatoo	3	5/05/2016	Porters Dam	Casuarina	C Dove C Brandis
Galah	32	8/05/2016	Brickworks Showground	Rank Grass	Mike Morphet
Long-billed Corella	7	8/05/2016	Brickworks Showground	Rank Grass	Mike Morphet
Powerful Owl	1	3/05/2016	Primbee	Yard	Ron Imisides
Southern Boobook	1 H.	1/05/2016	Excelsior Mine environs	Forest	Mike Morphet
Azure Kingfisher	2	3/05/2016	Burrill Lake	Creek	Charles Dove
Azure Kingfisher	1	21/05/2016	Narrawallee	inlet creek	Charles Dove
Superb Lyrebird	2	22/05/2016	Thirroul	Dam-'Sylvan Woods'	Mike Morphet
Red-browed Treecreeper	5	14-May-16	Fitzroy Falls	Visitor Centre environs	B Ashford/G Davidson
Eastern Bristlebird	3	18/05/2016	Booderee N/P	walking track	C Dove C Brandis
Eastern Bristlebird	1	14/05/2016	Budderoo NP	Car park	B Ashford/G Davidson
Rockwarbler	1	14/05/2016	Fitzroy Falls	Visitor Centre environs	B Ashford/G Davidson
Large-billed Scrubwren	2	27/04/2016	Yadboro	Eucalypt Forest	C Dove C Brandis
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	14/05/2016	Fitzroy Falls	Visitor Centre environs	B Ashford/G Davidson
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	4+	18/05/2016	Booderee N/P	Heath	C Dove C Brandis
Eastern Spinebill	1	17/04/2016	Albion Park	Garden	Garth Rankin
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	80+	14/05/2016	Fitzroy Falls	Visitor Centre environs	B Ashford/G Davidson
White-eared Honeyeater	1	14/05/2016	Barren Grounds	Entrance section	B Ashford/G Davidson
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	4	19/04/2016	Booderee N/P	Flowering Scrub	Charles Dove
Crescent Honeyeater	4	14/05/2016	Barren Grounds	Entrance section	B Ashford/G Davidson
White-cheeked Honeyeater	2	18/05/2016	Booderee N/P	Heath	C Dove C Brandis
Black-chinned Honeyeater	1	14/05/2016	Fitzroy Falls	Visitor Centre environs	B Ashford/G Davidson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	20+	19/04/2016	Booderee N/P	Flowering Scrub	Charles Dove
White-naped Honeyeater	4	14/05/2016	Fitzroy Falls	Visitor Centre environs	B Ashford/G Davidson
Eastern Whipbird	3	15/04/2016	Mollymook	Dry Bush	Charles Dove
Olive Whistler	1 m	5/05/2016	Porters Dam	walking track	C Dove C Brandis
Grey Shrike-thrush	1	21/05/2016	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphet
Rufous Fantail	3	2/05/2016	Kings Point	walking track	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1	22/04/2016	Kings Point	Eucalypt Forest	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1	14/05/2016	Belmore Falls	Scrub	B Ashford/G Davidson
Golden-headed Cisticola	1	7/05/2016	Bellambi	Lagoon Edge(west)	Ian McKinlay
Bassian Thrush	1	22/05/2016	Thirroul	Forest - Excelsior Mine	Mike Morphet

Mistletoebird	3	14/05/2016	Fitzroy Falls	Visitor Centre environs	B Ashford/G Davidson
Beautiful Firetail	7	5/05/2016	Porters Dam	Casuarina	C Dove C Brandis
Beautiful Firetail	1	14/05/2016	Fitzroy Falls	Visitor Centre environs	B Ashford/G Davidson

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

'Thank you to those who posted their sightings for this edition - a wide range of species especially Charlie's ongoing contributions and Bob Ashford's 20 minute surveys at Budderoo NP, Barren Grounds, Belmore Falls and Fitzroy Falls as part of the Global Birding Day activities on 14 May 2016

Darryl Goldrick



Azure Kingfisher - Narrawallee



Southern Emu-wren – Narrawallee



Eastern Bristlebird – Booderee NP



Chestnut-rumped Heathwren – Booderee NP

Photos by Charles Dove



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