

Varied Sittella

Scientific Name: Daphoenositta chrysoptera
Atlas Number: 549

Description:

The Varied Sittella is a small, short-tailed, dumpy bird which is usually heard before it is seen in the upper branches. There are five sub-species, differing in the patterns on the head and neck, the amount of streaking and in the wing patterns. The iris is orange-yellow, and



photo by Charles Dove

the eye-ring, legs and feet are yellow. The bill is long and slender and slightly up-turned. All adults are greyish above and white below, with varied streaking. The upper tail coverts are pale, with dark-barring underneath. The tail is dark with a white tip. The upper wings are dark; in southern and eastern birds the underwings have an orange-rufous band, while in the north the band is white. Males have longer bills than females and tend to feed lower. Sittellas are usually seen in flocks, moving swiftly between trees or foraging busily over branches or the trunk. This species has many names including Black-capped or Orange-winged Sittella, Nuthatch or Barkpecker.

Similar species:

The Varied Sittella's distinctive shape, size, calls and foraging behaviour make this species unmistakable.

Distribution:

Varied Sittellas are endemic (only found in) and widespread in mainland Australia.

Habitat:

Varied Sittellas are found in eucalypt woodlands and forests throughout their range. They prefer rough-barked trees like stringybarks and ironbarks or mature trees with hollows or dead branches.

Feeding:

Varied Sittellas feed mainly by gleaning on tree trunks or branches, moving downwards or along branches, searching for insects. They land at the top of a tree and work downwards, searching and poking into cracks and under things, chattering noisily.

Breeding:

The Varied Sittella's nest is a deep open cup, like a cone, of bark and spider web, decorated on the outside with long pieces of bark, camouflaged to look like the fork or branch where it is placed. This species usually breeds cooperatively, with the breeding pair having several helpers. They will sometimes also breed in single pairs. Only the breeding female incubates the eggs and broods the young. All help to feed the young and remove faecal sacs.

Living with us

Varied Sittellas may have declined in some areas following the clearing of habitat and removal of woodland

Text courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

CONTENTS:

Club Activities	Page	2
Club Reports	Page	3 - 4
Articles of Interest	Pages	5 - 8
Feather Tales	Pages	9
Monthly Bird Sightings	Page	10



'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.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Club Contacts:
PRESIDENT: Bill Zealy T. 02 4383 4687
SECRETARY: Pam Hazelwood T 02 4284 6140
 E-mail: secretary@iboc.org.au
TREASURER: Ken Brown,
EDITORS: Charles Dove, M. 0417 422 302
 E-mail: newsletter@iboc.org.au
 Chris Cartledge & Ron Imisides
RECORDS OFFICER: Darryl Goldrick
 Email: sightings@iboc.org.au

MARCH ACTIVITIES



Club Meeting:

Monday 9th at 7.30

Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.
Our speaker(s) for March will be **Bill & Joan Zealey** who spent seven months of last year birding around Australia. Their 26,000 km trip included Cape York, Kakadu, The Broome Bird Observatory, the Pilbara and SW Australia. Their talk "**Bill & Joan's Excellent Adventure**" will recall the highlights of the landscape and birdlife that they encountered and hopefully bring back memories for those who have done similar trips.

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

Midweek Walk:

Wednesday 11th at 8.30am

Leader Charles Dove

Audley Weir - Royal National Park

COMBINED PICNIC/BBQ WITH CUMBERLAND BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB – COME AND JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY

Meet at 8.30 at the Audley end of the park in the Wattle Forest Picnic Area. **Coming north** through the park, turn sharp left just before the café, kiosk & carpark (NB this is before you reach the weir). **Coming south** through the park from Loftus cross the weir, and immediately after the café & kiosk fork right. In either case then follow this road right, across a white painted wooden bridge, turn sharp left, following the road for some distance into a large picnic area.

Attracts the normal National Parks parking fee. Remember your sunscreen and insect repellent.

In the event of inclement weather phone Charles Dove 0417 422 302 7am or after

Monthly Outing:

Saturday 14th at 8.30am

Leader Rupert Jarvis

Killalea State Park

Meet at the carpark adjacent to the kiosk and toilets at 8.30 am. To reach Killalea leave the Princes Highway at the Shell Cove / Shellharbour Village exit. The route is then signed to Killalea State Park. Entering the park through a boom gate the kiosk is about 0.5 km on the left. On previous visits we have had good sightings of waterbirds (waders, ducks and rails).

Bring and carry morning tea. Lunch will be eaten near the cars. Bring plenty of sunscreen and insect repellent (just in case!)

Contact Rupert 0403 932 635

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

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday 16th at 7.30pm

The meeting will be at Ken & Sue Brown's home. 12 Meads Avenue, Tarrawanna. At 7.30 pm. 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 March 2015**

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



Report for club meeting 9th February 2015

The Kokoda trail - Mark Edwell

by Bill Zealey

We broke from tradition in February with a talk not directly related to birding and birds. Mark described one of the most important campaigns fought by Australian soldiers in WWII. His description of the landscape and jungle conditions that confronted our troops, and trials and tribulations they overcame was vivid. His view, as a military historian, of the significant events in the campaign and the

reasoning behind them was compelling listening.

We all went away with a understanding of the significance the Kokoda Track played in the defence of Australia in WWI and the personalities involved. Mark also made links to the present by describing his work with schoolchildren, as one of the guides for the Kokoda Memorial Walkway. A great start to IBOC's 2015 social calendar.

Report for Midweek walk Wednesday 4th February 2015

Berkeley Boat Harbour

On a fine warm evening 24 members met at the car park on the corner of Holborn St. Berkeley for the first outing of the year. A stroll eastwards along the edge of the lake rewarded us with several Masked Lapwings and Galahs. Reaching a track leading to the water we soon found ourselves on the outer wall of the wetland by the harbour. Pam spotted a Latham's Snipe as it was flushed from the grass close to the track. A royal Spoonbill was taking advantage of the late afternoon sunshine and a Striated Heron was stalking something on the edge of the water. Crossing a rough section over the ocean inlet we arrived at the harbour, where the breakwater provided a well-used roost for Australian Pelicans, Silver Gulls and various cormorants. While some members availed themselves of the opportunity to buy Fish & Chips for tea, the rest continued on the walking track to Wollamai Point where the rainforest on the cliffs provided excellent habitat for a variety of birds including Sacred Kingfisher, Superb Fairy-wren, Yellow Thornbill, Silveryeye, and the Red-whiskered Bulbul. Dead trees on the top of the cliffs made excellent vantage spots

for a Grey Goshawk and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. Returning to the harbour we had excellent views of a Royal Spoonbill and Striated Heron resting on a weir. As we walked back along the grassy edge of the wetlands to our cars, two more Latham's Snipe were flushed, flying fast & low over the water to disappear over the trees on the far bank. The evening finished with a sociable picnic tea at the well-designed new picnic shelter, while we all watched the rain sweep in along the ocean side of the lake before sending us scurrying to our cars.

By Betty Hudson



Striated Heron by Peter Salvair

Berkeley Boat Harbour Bird List		35 Species	24 members attended
Grey Teal	White-faced Heron	Latham's Snipe	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Chestnut Teal	Australian White Ibis	Caspian Tern	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Silver Gull	Magpie-lark
Spotted Dove	Grey Goshawk	Galah	Silveryeye
Crested Pigeon	Nankeen Kestrel	Rainbow Lorikeet	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Pied Cormorant	Purple Swamphen	Sacred Kingfisher	Common Starling
Little Black Cormorant	Dusky Moorhen	Superb Fairy-wren	Common Myna
Australian Pelican	Eurasian Coot	Yellow Thornbill	House Sparrow
Striated Heron	Masked Lapwing	Noisy Miner	

Report for Weekend walk 15th February 2015

Booderie NP Jervis Bay

We all met at the Jervis Bay Booderie National Park entrance on the Sunday morning and the trip down from Wollongong was quick and easy with little traffic. 22 birders gathered for the day including two visitors from Sydney. Charles Dove was our leader for the day. At the Park entrance we saw Rainbow and Little Lorikeet, Newholland Honeyeater and Little and Red Wattlebird in the flowering trees. We parked at Murrays



Beach carpark and walked south on the Murrays Beach Circuit Track a 5km walk from coastal forest to heathland. The return along the coast gives spectacular views of the coastal cliffs and the whole of Jervis Bay. Birds seen were White-

throated and Red-browed Treecreeper, White-eared, White-cheeked, Scarlet, Tawny-crowned and Lewin's Honeyeaters, Leaden Flycatcher, Figbird, Eastern Bristlebird and Southern Emu-wren among others. While warm and humid the storms out to sea stayed away.



Lunch was at the picnic facilities in the Botanic Gardens within the Park followed by a walk to Lake McKenzie. Around the Picnic Shed and nearby we saw Varied Sittella, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Monarch, Australasian Grebe and Pacific Black Duck.

Thanks to Charles Dove for leading the walk.

Bird list Booderie NP Jervis Bay		54 Species	20 members 2 guests
Pacific Black Duck	White-throated Treecreeper	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Shrike-thrush
Australasian Grebe	Red-browed Treecreeper	White-eared Honeyeater	Australasian Figbird
Little Pied Cormorant	Satin Bowerbird	Little Wattlebird	Pied Currawong
Great Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Red Wattlebird	Rufous Fantail
Whistling Kite	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Scarlet Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Collared Sparrowhawk	Southern Emu-wren	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Sooty Oystercatcher	Eastern Bristlebird	New Holland Honeyeater	Leaden Flycatcher
Silver Gull	White-browed Scrubwren	White-cheeked Honeyeater	Black-faced Monarch
Rainbow Lorikeet	Weebill	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Little Lorikeet	Brown Gerygone	Eastern Whipbird	Silvereye
Australian King-Parrot	Brown Thornbill	Varied Sittella	Welcome Swallow
Crimson Rosella	Spotted Pardalote	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Red-browed Finch
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Spinebill	Golden Whistler	
Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Rufous Whistler	

Trevor Quested Barbara Hales

Sadly I have to tell you that Trevor died in the early evening of Wednesday, 11th February, 2015, cruelly taken, far too early, by motor neurone disease at 66 years of age.

Trevor was our guest speaker on a number of occasions from 1993 and also led a walk in the Windsor area and how privileged we were that he shared his travels with us. I think my favourite was his Madagascar trip, you almost felt as if you had been there with him; he was such an animated, passionate speaker and his excitement rubbed off on you and his funny stories had you in stitches. As well as sharing his beautiful slides of birds he also included other wildlife, flowers, scenery and people and when he described the children appearing out of the bush singing you could almost hear them. Trevor was lost to us as a speaker when he moved to Bundaberg but I know that all the members who met him will not forget this lovely, warm human being.

Final Information on Autumn Camp at Gloucester 11-18th April 2015

Our Autumn Camp is fast catching up with us. Gloucester is north of Newcastle. At Hexham take the Pacific Hwy towards Taree and turn left at Buckets Way, 18km beyond Raymond Terrace. Gloucester is 81km from the Hwy turn off The Caravan Park is on Denison Street Gloucester. On reaching Gloucester turn left at the Denison Street intersection, the visitors centre is to the right. The park entrance is on the bend in Denison Street.

Gloucester is a good sized service town for a large area, and as a result has all the services you would expect. Woolworth's (newly opened) & Foodworks supermarkets; Bakery, 3 cafes; 2 service stations; 3 banks (CBA,NAB, Westpac). In addition there is a Farmers Market on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 8-12noon in Billabong Park, and Farm Gate Sales at the Tucker Patch in Cemetery Rd each Friday 10-12.30pm. I assume that there will also be a butcher & chemist etc although none seemed to advertise. There is also the hospital.

If you haven't already booked the details are as follows ph 02 6558 1720 or email info@gloucesterholidaypark.com. They do not have on line booking facilities.

Cabins are all \$90 for 2 persons & powered sites are \$35 again for 2 persons. Unpowered sites cannot be booked in advance but are in plentiful supply, \$19 per person per night. Full details were in the November Newsletter. As usual, please let me know if you make a booking ph 42360307.

The manager advised me that the nights can be very cold at that time of year. So make sure you have warm clothes and if in a van or tent, warm bedding.

For those who are interested the caravan park has a basic web site, the town has an informative one and the visitors centre plenty of information easily accessed.

Looking forward to seeing you in Camp on the 11th. Betty Hudson

Electronic Newsletters

IBOC receives several newsletters from other clubs electronically. The Committee has decided to make one paper copy to be held in our library and able to be borrowed by members. The pdf electronic files make it easy to email to members if they so desire so they can be read on a computer or tablet. Please let me know if you would like to receive all that are received electronically.

Pam Hazelwood
Hon. Sec.

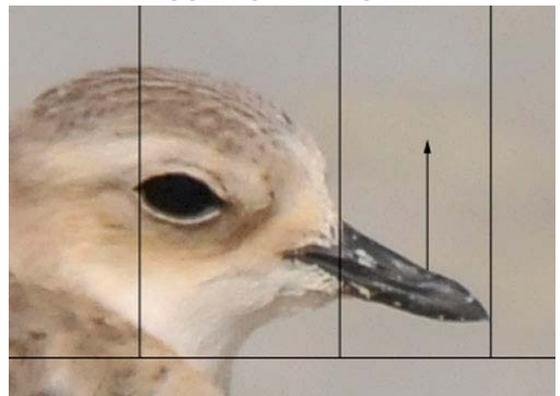
ARTICLES OF INTEREST

GREATER SANDPLOVER



For Greater Sandplover the ratio is almost equal - distance eye to bill same as bill length - bill has a dagger like tip *plus nail is less prominent but almost half bill length and tip is pointed.

LESSER SANDPLOVER



For Lesser Sandplover the bill length is always much shorter *plus bill is more robust and nail is more prominent but it is only around one third bill length - bill has a blunter tip.

BirdWatching
www.BirdWatchingDaily.com

Worth a look on the internet

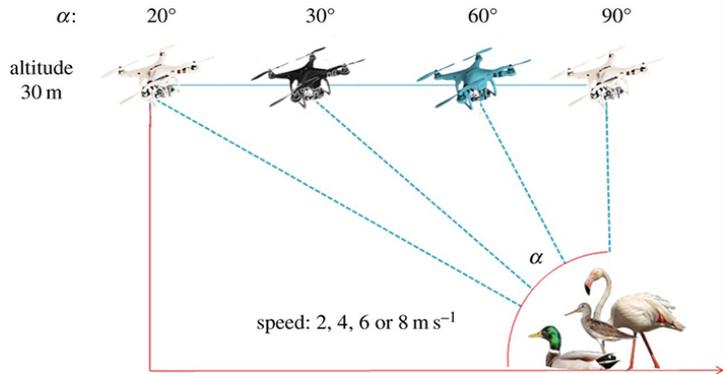
Approaching birds with drones: first experiments and ethical guidelines

Small unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) have become increasingly affordable, and this is currently leading to their widespread use for wildlife observations and ecological research. In ornithology, fixed-wing drones are already being widely used for census work and observations, and dozens of videos available on the Internet testify that researchers, and the general public, are keen to use drones to approach birds. As the technology is in its infancy the impact on birds is as yet unknown and there are very few guidelines for best practice.

French researchers, near Montpellier, tested the impact of drones on three species of waterbirds, because drones are already being extensively used for surveys within wetland/coastal areas. They tested the impact of colour, speed and flight angle on the behavioural responses of Mallards *Anas platyrhynchos* in a semi-captive situation, and of wild Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*).

It was demonstrated that in 80% of all cases one specific drone type could fly to within 4 m of the birds without visibly modifying their behaviour. They also demonstrated that approach speed, drone colour and repeated approaches did not have any significant impact on bird reaction, but that approach angles had marked impacts across all three species. Drones approaching a bird vertically was usually more disturbing, maybe because it was associated with a predator attack.

The researchers were surprised that they managed to fly so close (4m) to seemingly undisturbed birds, as in particular Wild Flamingos and Greenshanks are known, from previous studies, for their extremely high sensitivity to disturbance. These results suggest that, when carefully flown, drones may be used in ornithology for a wide range of population censuses, measurements of biotic and abiotic variables, and recordings of bird behaviour. Those applications could be immensely useful, especially in inaccessible areas such as mountains or large wetlands.



Flight plan for approaching birds with the Phantom drone. The drone was first ascended to 30 m, and then moved at speeds of 2,4,6 or 8 m s⁻¹ towards the birds at angles α of 20°, 30°, 60° or 90°. Drones of three colours were used (white, black and blue)

Elisabeth Vas *et al*
February 2015
Source

Elisabeth Vas , Amélie Lescroël , Olivier Duriez , Guillaume Boguszewski , David Grémillet. Approaching birds with drones: first experiments and ethical guidelines. *Biology Letters*, DOI: [DOI: 10.1098/rsbl.2014.0754](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2014.0754)

ALEX the Grey Parrot

THE last time Irene Pepperberg saw Alex she said goodnight as usual. "You are good," said Alex. "I love you." "I love you, too." "You'll be in tomorrow?" "Yes, I'll be in tomorrow." But Alex (his name supposedly an acronym of Avian Learning Experiment) died in his cage that night, bringing to an end a life spent learning complex tasks that, it had been originally thought, only primates could master.



In science as in most fields of endeavour, it is important to have the right tool for the job. Early studies of linguistic ability in apes concluded it was virtually non-existent. But researchers had made the elementary error of trying to teach their anthropoid subjects to speak. Chimpanzee vocal cords are simply not up to this—and it was not until someone had the idea of teaching chimps sign language that any progress was made.

Even then, the researchers remained human-centric. Their assumption was that chimps might be able to understand and use human sign language because they are humanity's nearest living relatives. It took a brilliant insight to turn this human-centricity on its head and look at the capabilities of a species only distantly related to humanity, but which can, nevertheless, speak the words people speak: a parrot.

The insight in question came to Dr Pepperberg, then a 28-year-old theoretical chemist, in 1977. To follow it up, she bought a one-year-old African Grey parrot at random from a pet shop. Thus began one of the best-known double acts in the field of animal-behaviour science.

Dr Pepperberg and Alex last shared a common ancestor more than 300m years ago. But Alex, unlike any chimpanzee (with whom Dr Pepperberg's most recent common ancestor lived a mere 4m years ago), learned to speak words easily. The question was, was Alex merely parroting Dr Pepperberg? Or would that pejorative term have to be redefined?

Do parrots actually understand what they are saying?

KNOW YOUR BIRD-RELATED AUGURIES

 RAVEN DEATH	 SPARROW GOOD LUCK	 EURASIAN KESTREL NOBODY WILL EVER LOVE YOU
 BARNACLE GOOSE RENT IS DUE	 CRESTED IBIS YOUR ZIPPER IS UNDONE	 DWARF CASSINARY YOU NEED TO STOP DRINKING
 FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK YOUR SPOUSE LOATHES YOU YEARS OF HATRED HAVE CALCIFIED INTO CONSTANT QUIET HATE WHICH TAKES ITS MOST PAINFUL FORM IN YOUR FUTURE HATE-SMILES AND PASSIONLESS SEX.	 PTERODACTYL THE TIME MACHINE WORKED	 PASSENGER PIGEON THE TIME MACHINE WORKED A LITTLE.

smbc-comics.com

ORANGE BELLED PARROTS' WILD POPULATION DOUBLES AFTER SCIENTIFIC RECOVERY PROGRAM

One of the world's rarest species, the orange bellied parrot, has bucked its long-term trend of decline and almost doubled its wild population.

The critically endangered birds, which spend winter in South Australia and Victoria, have just migrated to the remote Melaleuca outpost in Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area for the breeding season.

Last November, fewer than 10 wild breeding pairs returned to Melaleuca, prompting a recovery program to arrange for the population to be artificially increased.



A GROUP OF SILENT OVERSEERS IS KEEPING WATCH ABOVE THE WAVERLEY CEMETERY

Kaufman Field Guides encourages you to make 2015 a year for the birds!

Here are 5 simple things YOU can do to help birds in the new year!

- 1) Share the joy of birding with someone new
- 2) Drink Birds & Beans bird-friendly coffee (birdsandbeans.com)
- 3) Buy a Duck Stamp (bsbo.org/conservation-stamps)
- 4) Keep Cats Indoors (abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats)
- 5) Prevent bird injuries and deaths by picking up abandoned fishing line

Situated high on a cliff-top, the 137-year old graveyard overlooks the ocean between Bronte and Clovelly beaches in Sydney's eastern suburbs. In the cemetery, amongst the white-marbled gravestones decorated with Victorian and Edwardian monuments, one can easily feel alone. But visitors to the cemetery are under the close watch of a higher presence with a corporeal purpose. Waverley cemetery is home to some of Australia's most fascinating birds of prey. Some are capable of flight speeds of up to 300 kilometres per hour, yet once they pinpoint a target – as small as a matchbox – they can effortlessly maintain a position, before dropping, and performing a final swoop. Nankeen Kestrel, Black-shouldered Kite, Peregrine Falcons – and occasional Goshawks – are just some of the birds that have taken up residence at the iconic cemetery

FLYING DINOSAURS

According to John Pickrell, the editor of Australian Geographic and author of new book *Flying Dinosaurs*, we live in a golden age of dinosaur discoveries. The most important of these may be that the dinosaurs didn't die out when an asteroid hit earth 66 million years ago. In fact, they still live among us... as birds. Imagine, if you will, a world filled with billions of dinosaurs. A world where they can be found in thousands of shapes, sizes, colours and classes in every habitable pocket of the planet. Imagine them from the desert dunes of the Sahara to the frozen rim of the Antarctic Circle, from the balmy islands of the South Pacific to the high peaks of the Himalayas.

You don't have to imagine very hard. Dinosaurs didn't die out when an asteroid hit the Earth 66 million years ago. In fact, wherever you live, you can probably step outside and look up into the trees and skies to find them: birds are dinosaurs and they are all around you.

We have learned more about dinosaurs in the two decades since *Jurassic Park* than we did in the thousands of years before it. Everything I was told as a child was wrong.



birds are in our nature



Annual General Meeting & Seminar

All members are invited to our AGM and seminar on Extreme Birds on Saturday 28th March 2015, 10am – 4pm.
Venue: Building 22, Newington Armory, Jamieson St, Sydney Olympic Park

Wanted: people with enthusiasm and ideas

We all love birds, but would you like to do more to help BirdLife Southern NSW do more for birds and birders? At the AGM on 28 March, all BirdLife Southern NSW committee positions become available. The existing committee would welcome more representatives from our region. You don't have to be Sydney-based, several of our current members phone in for the 6-8 meetings we usually have each year. All you need is enthusiasm and some ideas about what we can do to help birds and birders in the Southern NSW region. Last year we organised some successful talks and seminars, and helped out at the Youth Ecosummit, Bird Fair, and the World Parks Congress.

We're planning some more exciting events in 2015 and would love you to help build local support for birds and birding. Contact Pixie at southernsw@birdlife.org.au for a nomination form. Nominations must be received by 6th March.

Seminar Registration, Committee Nomination and Proxy forms are on the Southern NSW Events page under the AGM entry, and be found by clicking here or email southernsw@birdlife.org.au for a form.

Extreme Birds seminar preliminary program

- Yuna Kim - Gould's Petrels - their foraging journeys
- Julia Salnicki - Topic to be advised.
- Ding Li Yong - Birds of the Boreal Taiga and Gobi Desert, Mongolia. Ding Li has done fieldwork in the region and will discuss the general bird life found there and conservation issues specific to the region.
- Chris Lloyd - Powerful Owls
- Miles Keighley - Palm cockatoos and their use of drums and vocalisations.
- Jane Younger - Emperor penguins.

Newington Armory Bird Walks

Our regular 10am, last Sunday of the month.

FREE Guided Bird Walks around the Newington Armory – on the last Sunday of the month, for one hour, leaving from the Armory Visitor Centre, just inside the gates to the Armory, at 10am. This fascinating walk around the Newington Armory helps people of all ages to identify and spot birds in their natural habitat. Tours are led by knowledgeable guides who will open up the world of birds for you. The walk is suitable for all ages.

Please call (02) 4376 1001 or email southernsw@birdlife.org.au if you require any information. Bookings not necessary, just meet at the Visitors Centre inside the gate to the Armory at 10am.

Farewell Shorebirds

Saturday 21 March, 1:00-3:00pm

We will be looking for the departing Bar-tailed Godwits at Hen and Chicken Bay – fair, fat and fuelled up ready for their long flight north. The godwits are colouring up nicely and building condition for their journey.

Hen and Chicken Bay is one of the important feeding sites in the Parramatta River estuary. We shall try to have a close look at the birds on the mudflats, on the receding tide, as they feed and prepare for their flight. Meet on the edge of the bay along Wymston Pde, at the Halliday Park end. At Wareemba or Five Dock is the more familiar suburb nearby.

More details will be available later or on the Farewell Shorebirds site

Contact: Judy Harrington 0403 026 660 sea-eagle60@bigpond.com or southernsw@birdlife.org.au
There will be a display at the Discovery Centre on the Shorebirds and their wonderful migration with information on local species, news from the Flyways, as well as and activities for kids.



A Pair of Tawny Frogmouths at Balgownie were a great sight – Terry Edwell



White-rumped Sandpiper at lake Wollomboula certainly created a lot of interest – Pam Hazelwood



A pair of Sooty Oystercatchers in for a dip at Barrack Point – Colin Markham



Southern Boobook at Albion Park – Terry Edwell



A few local Birds

- White-headed Pigeon
- Brown Cuckoo Dove
- Red-browed Finch and nest

Mike Morphet

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: January/February 2015

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Pink-eared Duck	2	8/2/2015	Moss Vale	Cecil Hoskins Lagoon	Tom Wylie
White-headed Pigeon	4	20/02/2015	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
White-headed Pigeon	2	9/2/2015	Thirroul	Garden	Richard Miller
White-headed Pigeon	2	28/1/2015	Albion Park Rail	Casuarina - lakeside	B & B Hales
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	31/1/2015	Jerrara Dam	Re-vegetation areas	Anne/Alan Cousins
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	14/1/2015	Jamberoo	Garden	Betty Hudson
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	2	9/2/2015	Balgownie	Creekside	Joan Zealey
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	2	28/1/2015	Albion Park Rail	Casuarina - lakeside	B & B Hales
Topknot Pigeon	4	6/2/2015	Balgownie	Duncan Park - creek	Joan Zealey
Topknot Pigeon	30	7/1/2015	Bulli Pass	O'head	Max Davies
Tawny Frogmouth	2	31/2/2015	Lake Conjola	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Tawny Frogmouth	2	6/2/2015	Balgownie	Residential-Tree	Terry Edwell
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	?Feb	Wollongong University	Lagoon/Pond	S&C&A Macleod
Square-tailed Kite	1	7/02/2015	Lake Conjola	Overhead	Charles Dove
Square-tailed Kite	2	? Feb	Wollongong University	Woodland Garden	S&C&A Macleod
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	7/2/2015	Kioloa	O'head -beach/residential	A. Macleod
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	3/2/2015	Balgownie	O'head	Pam Hazelwood
Nankeen Kestrel	2	6/2/2015	Killalea State Rec Park	O'head	Anne/Alan Cousins
Buff-banded Rail	1	6/02/2015	Burrill Lake	Reeds	Charles Dove
Hooded Plover	4 3a 1j	23/02/2015	Ulladulla	Tidal Rock	Charles dove
Whimbrel	2	1/02/2015	Narrawallee	Sandbar	Charles Dove
White-rumped Sandpiper	1	27/01/2015	Lake Wollomboula	Sandbar	Charles Dove
White-headed Pigeon	2	21/1/2015	Jamberoo	Roadside Powerlines	Betty Hudson
Little Tern	100+	4/02/2015	Lake Conjola	Sandbar	Charles Dove
Musk Lorikeet	20+	5/2/2015	Lake Conjola	Flowering Gum	Charles Dove
Eastern Koel	1m + 1f	9/2/2015	Bulli Pass	Curry Leaf Trees	Richard Miller
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	1/2/2015	Jamberoo	O'head	Betty Hudson
White-browed Treecreeper	2	26/01/2015	Lake Conjola	Forest Trees	Charles Dove
Green Catbird	2	31/1/2015	Thirroul	Coast Street	Mike Morphett
Satin Bowerbird	3m	9/2/2015	Bulli Pass	Curry Leaf Trees	Richard Miller
White-browed Scrubwren	2	31/1/2015	Jerrara Dam	Re-vegetation areas	Anne/Alan Cousins
White-browed Scrubwren	2	16/1/2015	Jamberoo	Garden	Betty Hudson
Yellow Thornbill	5	7/2/2015	Penrose	Garden Shrubs	Neil Wheway
Noisy Friarbird	1	15/1/2015	Jamberoo	Garden-Casuarina	Betty Hudson
Little Friarbird	1	18/1/2015	Tarrawanna	Garden	Anne/Alan Cousins
Cicadabird	1m	Jan/Feb	Marshall Mount	Rainforest edge	Anna Knowlson
Grey Butcherbird	3 1 a/2j	7/02/2015	Lake Conjola	Forest Trees	Charles Dove
Grey Butcherbird	2 A +3 J	6/2/2015	Penrose	Garden	Tera Wheway
Grey Fantail	1	30/1/2015	Jamberoo	Park Rainforest	Betty Hudson
Leaden Flycatcher	2 1m 1f	28/01/2015	Narrawallee	Forest Trees	Charles Dove
Black-faced Monarch	1	28/01/2015	Narrawallee	Gum Tree	Charles Dove

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.