

Australasian Darter

Scientific Name: *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Featured bird groups: Water birds

Atlas Number: 101

The Darter is a large, slim water bird with a long snake-like neck, sharp pointed bill, and long, rounded tail. Male birds are dark brownish black with glossy black upperwings, streaked and spotted white, silver-grey and brown. The strongly kinked neck has a white or pale brown stripe from the bill to where the neck kinks and the breast is chestnut brown. Females and immatures are grey-brown above, pale grey to white below, with a white neck stripe that is less distinct



photo by Charles Dove

Lake Illawarra

young birds. The Darter is often seen swimming with only the snake-like neck visible above the water, or drying its wings while perched on a tree or stump over water. While its gait is clumsy on land, it can soar gracefully to great heights on thermals, gliding from updraft to updraft. It has a cross-shaped silhouette when flying.

Distribution:

In Australia, the Darter is found from Adelaide, South Australia, to Tennant Creek, Northern Territory and then to Broome, Western Australia. It is also found in south-western Australia, from Perth to Esperance. Worldwide, it has been thought of as one of two main *Anhinga* species (the other, *A. anhinga*, is found in North America), found in the southern half of Africa, Madagascar, Iraq, Pakistan, India, south-east Asia, Indonesia and New Guinea. However, *A. melanogaster* is now considered to be further divided into three species, with *rufa* being found in Africa, *melanogaster* in south Asia and *novaehollandiae* in New Guinea and Australia (the Australasian Darter).

Habitat:

The Darter is found in wetlands and sheltered coastal waters, mainly in the Tropics and Subtropics. It prefers smooth, open waters, for feeding, with tree trunks, branches, stumps or posts fringing the water, for resting and drying its wings. Most often seen inland, around permanent and temporary water bodies at least half a metre deep, but may be seen in calm seas near shore, fishing. The Darter is not affected by salinity or murky waters, but does require waters with sparse vegetation that allow it to swim and dive easily. It builds its nests in trees standing in water, and will move to deeper

waters if the waters begin to dry up.

Darters can move over long distances (over 2000 km) when not breeding, but populations tend to contract to breeding areas during summer.

Feeding:

The Darter catches fish with its sharp bill partly open while diving in water deeper than 60 cm. The fish is pierced from underneath, flicked onto the water's surface and then swallowed head first. Smaller items are eaten underwater and large items may be carried to a convenient perch and then swallowed. Insects and other aquatic animals, including tortoises, may also be eaten, as well as some vegetable matter.

Breeding:

The Darter is usually a solitary bird, forming pairs only while breeding. Breeding is erratic, happening whenever water levels and food supplies are suitable, but most often occurs in spring and summer. Nests are usually solitary, but Darters may nest within loose colonies with other water birds that nest in trees, such as Cormorants, Spoonbills and Ibis. The male decorates a nest-site with green leafy twigs and displays to attract a mate, with elaborate wing-waving and twig-grasping movements. The male carries most of the nest material to the nest-site, which is normally in the fork of a tree standing in water, usually about 3.5 m above the water's surface. Both sexes complete the nest, incubate the eggs and raise the young. Chicks can swim after about four weeks in the nest and start to fly at about 50 days.

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

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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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MAY ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:

Monday 13th May

"Travels in Zambia" presented by David Winterbottom.

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

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

Midweek Walk:

Minnamurra Billabong

Wednesday 15th May

leader Rupert Jarvis

Meet at 9.0am on Swamp Road. To get there take the turnoff on the Princes Highway south of Dunmore signed Riverside Drive--- Minnamurra, Kiama Downs and Jamberoo. At the top of the off ramp turn right onto Swamp Road (signed to Jamberoo) Follow the road for 3.8 km. The road leaves low hills for flat flood plain and you cross a river on a low level bridge with a flood depth indicator. Immediately on the left is a gate with the sign "Cuttamoo" ; park just after this gateway on the left. Carry morning Tea.

Contact Rupert Jarvis 0403 932 635

Monthly Outing:

Tallawarra Ash Ponds

Saturday 18th May

Leader Charles Dove

Meet at 8.30 am on Yallah Bay Road. Coming South along expressway take Fowlers road exit & turn left onto Princes H'way then turn left at Tallawarra exit Yallah Bay Road.

Coming north along Princes H'way take Dapto Exit after Yallah then turn right onto Princes H'way then turn left at Tallawarra exit Yallah Bay Road. Take morning tea and lunch

Contact Charles on 0417 422 302.

Committee Meeting -

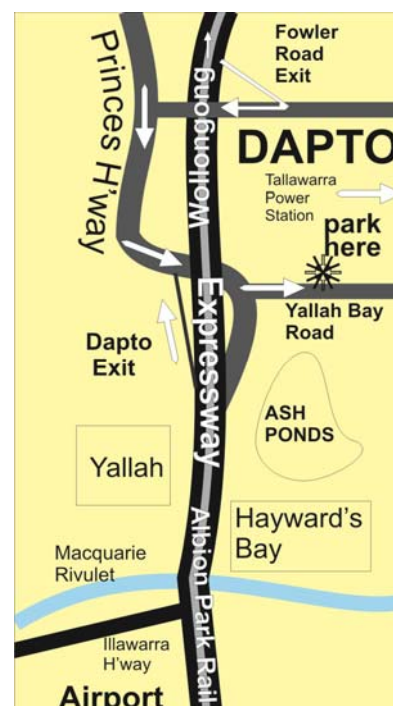
Monday 20th May

The next IBOC Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 20th May 2013 at 7.30pm at Betty Hudson's home, 1 Drualla Road Jamberoo. Ph 42360307

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 **24th May 2013**. Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph: 0417 422 302.



IBOC has pleasure in welcoming all our New Members

BOOK SALE nothing over 5 dollars (\$5). To be held at MAY meeting



CLUB REPORTS

NO REPORT DUE TO NO MEETING BEING HELD IN APRIL

Midweek Walk - Wednesday, 10th April

Richard Miller

Joes Bay to Kully Bay Warrawong

It wasn't a mid-week sale or the mobile pie shop which attracted a 'select' group of 8 walkers to gather at the southern end of Harvey Norman's car park on Wednesday 10th April. We were there to enjoy a stroll around the shores of Lake Illawarra with an eye to the birdlife from Joes Bay to Kully Bay. Many of the regular Wednesday walkers were away on The Club's Easter camp.

What an excellent morning to be out, the wonderful light boded well for helping our identification, and the clear views across Lake Illawarra to the Illawarra Escarpment were enjoyed by all. Crossing King Street a cleared grass walkway passed a local property where a few found gaps in the hedge to glimpse some unexpected (aviary) birdlife in the neighbouring property, while in the adjoining more natural setting our best sighting was the European Goldfinch. We skirted a fenced off waterboard property, bringing us down to the lake edge at Joes Bay with easy sightings of our first waterbirds. This stretch of shore has not been 'doctored' and the natural cove was a quiet corner for birds resting and feeding, Coot, Silver Gull, Chestnut Teal, Pied Cormorant and Australasian Grebe were readily visible and a Large White Egret searched stealthily along the reed edge.



Photo by Chris Cartledge

We retraced our steps towards the road and then followed the divide between the grassed verge and the adjoining bush. On the fringe, introduced vegetation, including the lantana and castor oil plants, gave good cover to several Superb Fairy Wrens and a good feeding spot for the New Holland Honeyeaters and Grey Fantails. Red Browed Finch and Yellow Thornbills were also seen. Our track then took us back to the lake shore where considerable construction work has provided a 'quayside walkway'. Most of us were interested to see the cable ski jump park facilities which have recently opened in this area, though the only jumping taking place today was from several large fish. More enjoyable was the sight of a Pacific Black Duck leading her brood of 18 very young ducklings all paddling hard to keep their rather straggly line intact. At the end of the quay a long wooden jetty protrudes into the lake and forms a very popular perch for many gulls and cormorants and for 6 Darter, both adult and immature.



Pacific Black Duck & 18 ducklings
Photo by Charles Dove

Our stroll continued on the cycle track round the NE corner of Kully Bay where a creek feeds into the lake over a small weir. This provided a popular sheltered corner of water for resting birds including Dusky Moorhen, several White Eyed Duck and Pacific Black Duck including a mother with 4 'teenagers'. A metal screen fence at the top of the weir provided a great perching spot and the small lagoon on the north side held many more water birds who reacted in a way that made us think that they were expecting a visit from locals with their left-over bread. Amongst the 50+ waterbirds in the area were 3 stand outs of the 'Heinz 57' variety.

The open playing fields at Kully Bay Park had a different birdlife - Australian Magpie, several Magpie Larks, Masked Lapwing and a Crested Pigeon while the creek mouth as it spilled out into the lake had another large collection of waterbirds, new sightings included White Ibis and White-faced Heron. As we all slowed under the morning sun, Charles had planned for a morning tea stop at a shelter table in the park from where we were able to watch a Caspian Tern over the water. Later we watched it fishing successfully as we were able to observe its characteristic thrust of its throat as it moved its catch from bill to stomach.

We returned the same way but spotted a Purple Swamp Hen now at the weir. We then watched a pair of Hoary Headed Grebes, fairly still in the water, giving all the group time to get a good view as Charles pointed out the identification points. As our walk was coming to an end a Yellow Robin appeared in characteristic pose on the trunk of a trackside tree as if to 'see us off the premises', capping off our sightings for the 3 hours at 40 species.

There has been so much work and changes around The Lake in recent years so it was good to have a refresher on one corner which is now much more accessible for an easy stroll and we can all gain the benefit of sharing another stretch of Charles's 'other backyard'. Thanks to the other walkers for their companionship along the way.



Hoary-headed Grebe
Photo by Charles Dove

Bird list for Wednesday 10th April

| Joese Bay to Kully Bay | 41species | 8 persons attended |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Grey Teal | Australian White Ibis | New Holland Honeyeater |
| Chestnut Teal | Brown Goshawk | Australian Magpie |
| Pacific Black Duck | Purple Swamphen | Grey Fantail |
| Hardhead | Dusky Moorhen | Willie Wagtail |
| Hoary-headed Grebe | Eurasian Coot | Australian Raven |
| Spotted Dove | Masked Lapwing | Magpie-lark |
| Australasian Darter | Caspian Tern | Eastern Yellow Robin |
| Little Pied Cormorant | Rainbow Lorikeet | Silvereye |
| Great Cormorant | Laughing Kookaburra | Welcome Swallow |
| Little Black Cormorant | Superb Fairy-wren | Red-whiskered Bulbull |
| Pied Cormorant | Yellow Thornbill | Common Myna |
| Australian Pelican | Yellow-faced Honeyeater | Red-browed Finch |
| Eastern Great Egret | Little Wattlebird | European Goldfinch |
| White-faced Heron | Red Wattlebird | |

Weekend Walk Haywards Bay

Sunday, 14th April

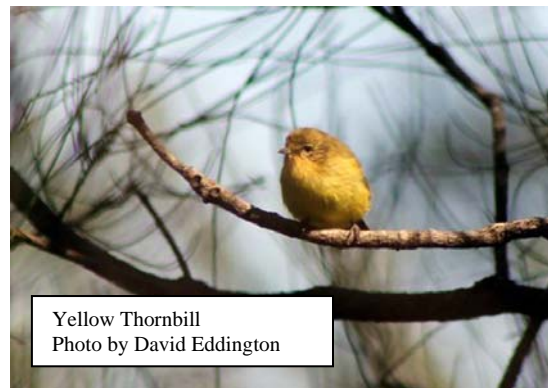
Charles Dove

With brilliant sunshine eight of us set off, first alongside the rivulet where numerous ducks highlighting the waterway, Chestnut Teal, Grey Teal and Pacific Blacks along with a number of Cormorants, as we continued down the pathway a lone Cattle Egret was seen amongst the sheep on the adjacent bank of the river. The Great Egret looked splendid in flight as it moved down the waterway. A reminder of the BIKE RIDERS that continue to decimate the landscape passed by in a couple of cars and utility with 2 motor cross bikes covered in mud, thankfully they were leaving.

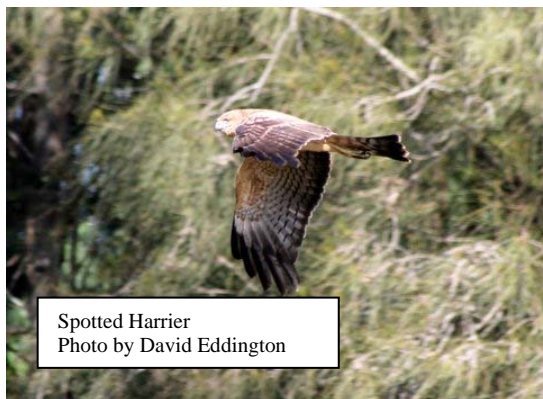
Keeping close to the river as we moved east, we came across a couple of Black-fronted Dotterels on a sandbar in the river, first time I have seen them so far up the rivulet. Whilst we undertook observations of the Dotterels a Black-shouldered Kite flew over so all eyes went up then back to Dotterels. Stopping a bit further upstream for morning tea under a partial shady tree and just enjoyed the ambiance of the picturesque setting.

Unfortunately we had to move on, deviating from the rivulet we headed off to walk around the 'Haywards Bay' itself. Sighting a number of different species, including the Royal Spoonbill and Golden-headed Cisticola, a Whistling Kite distracted us as it passed over, giving us great views with the sun helping to accentuate its features.

We then started back around the Bay, unfortunately a lot of the bushland had recently been burnt so not as many birds as one would have liked, however we did manage to see the European Finch, Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Yellow Thornbills along a small, undamaged line of trees that were adjacent the bay.



Yellow Thornbill
Photo by David Eddington



Spotted Harrier
Photo by David Eddington

'One couple left us early to retrace their steps to recover a couple of misplaced chairs, I heard later that after recovering the lost chairs they rested by the river and managed to capture photo of a Spotted Harrier.'

As we circled H/Bay and headed north, we reached a larger bush area on the northern side of the Bay, the temperature and mosquitos increased by now, so we stopped for lunch and repellent under a dense shady spot. After having lunch I walked further into the bush to check it out but but it had also been recently burnt with no sign of birdlife.

We decided to head back to the carpark passing the ponds that line the houses of the Haywards Bay estate, the ponds had little birdlife on them apart for the odd Pacific Black Duck, Eurasian Coot and 6 Little Black Cormorants which is a lot less than what you would normally come across in these ponds.

Thanks for the company from those that attended and made it a really enjoyable day.

| Haywards Bay Bird list | | 43 species | 8 persons attended |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Black Swan | | Royal Spoonbill | Yellow-faced Honeyeater |
| Grey Teal | | Black-shouldered Kite | Little Wattlebird |
| Chestnut Teal | | White-bellied Sea-Eagle | Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike |
| Pacific Black Duck | | Whistling Kite | Grey Butcherbird |
| Spotted Dove | | Spotted Harrier | Australian Magpie |
| Crested Pigeon | | Purple Swamphen | Grey Fantail |
| Australasian Darter | | Eurasian Coot | Willie Wagtail |
| Little Pied Cormorant | | Black-fronted Dotterel | Magpie-lark |
| Little Black Cormorant | | Masked Lapwing | Golden-headed Cisticola |
| Australian Pelican | | Caspian Tern | Welcome Swallow |
| Eastern Great Egret | | Silver Gull | Common Myna |
| Cattle Egret | | Laughing Kookaburra | Red-browed Finch |
| White-faced Heron | | Superb Fairy-wren | European Goldfinch |
| Little Egret | | Yellow Thornbill | |
| Australian White Ibis | | Yellow-rumped Thornbill | |



THE BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

By YOU

I know some members are writing articles for this section

'Don't be shy I am sure you have a story to tell'

Keep the Stories going..... Send in your story of your own backyard garden and the birds PLEASE even a few paragraphs is OK

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

NSW & ACT TWITCHATHON REPORT TO BIGnet FOR ITS MEETING 6-7 APRIL 2012 Alan Morris, Twitchathon Co-ordinator

The following information is provided about the Twitchathon

Funds raised in 2012 From information that I have received, indications are that \$31,100 was raised in Twitchathon 2012, of which \$200 is still outstanding. This is the best effort by far for a Twitchathon and I wish to thank all teams for their support and enthusiasm. This year eleven teams raised over \$1000 each, and the following people raised more than \$1000 viz Warren Chad (\$3895), Tiffany Mason (\$1978), Margaret Harmon (\$1399), Elisabeth Karplus (\$1360), Dan Williams (\$1327), Peter West (\$1180), Alan Morris (\$1133) & Mick Roderick (\$1000). Warren Chad, Tiffany Mason & Margaret Harmon were the winners in this section.

Handover of prizes for the 2012 Twitchathon. This has almost been completed whereby the winning prizes for (1) The person who raised the most sponsorship, will be presented to Warren Chad (Chaddy), (2) the Rarest Bird Prize to Neal Courtance, and (3) the Team that raised the Most Money (the Cowra Woodland Bird-brainers), and (4) The Night Pirots Team for winning the Champagne Race at this BIGnet Meeting Arrangements are in hand to post one prize out and the other be presented in May 2013.

Proceeds from the 2013 Twitchathon. This year it was the turn of Birdlife NSW to determine the project for which funds will be allocated. It is being proposed that the funds in 2013 should again go towards supporting the Greater Sydney Region Powerful Owl Project. This Project is a citizen science research project looking at the urban-based population of the Powerful Owls throughout the Sydney Basin. The project was initiated by a motivated member of the public, with no formal science based training and by other interested birding community members. The project is managed by Birds in Backyards, and is currently funded through the NSW Environment Trust & Twitchathon 2011 proceeds and is led by BirdLife Australia. The project is about mapping all the known urban based breeding territories of Powerful Owls in the Sydney Basin & Central Coast and looking at breeding success and nest-site fidelity in relation to disturbance proximity, environmental variables and incidents such as car-strike. In addition the project is looking at long-term trends in diet based on data collected over 10 years ago within the Sydney area and the data that is being collected by volunteers currently as part of this project. Courses have been held to help volunteers correctly identify the contents of Powerful Owl pellets and this has led to increased interest.

The project is also focused on developing education resources, aimed at land managers, community groups and school children. These resources will engage with the community on protection and management of habitat and education about the value of urban biodiversity. The main use of the Twitchathon funds will go towards wages for David Bain to keep the project running for another season. This new funding will see him able to continue to collect information and observations through the 2014 breeding season until at least spring, giving him three full breeding seasons of data. David's tasks will focus on continued management of volunteers and the owl database, continued community and land manager engagement and ensuring that all information gathered through the project is published in some form or another. More detailed use of the funds will be available later in the year.

At their meeting at Port Macquarie on 7 April 2013, BIGnet endorsed the Powerful Owl Project as the recipient of Twitchathon Funds in 2013.

Proceeds from the 2014 Twitchathon funds. As is the usual practice, member groups of BIGnet can nominate projects to be considered for the proceeds of the 2014 Twitchathon. Nominations are sent in writing to the Co-ordinator and would be voted on at the March/April 2014 BIGnet Meeting which will be held in Canberra ACT.

Amendments to the Twitchathon Main Race Rules

At the BIGnet Meeting at Port Macquarie on 7 April 2014, the opportunity was taken to amend the Main Race Rules as it had become necessary because of the situation in the current rules whereby if teams failed to stop for the three hour break in the period Midnight to Five AM, no penalty was ascribed. After some discussion, it was decided by a majority vote that failure to stop for the three hours would constitute automatic disqualification.

Therefore in **Section 10 Safety** of the rules, fifth line, has been altered to say:

"For safety reasons, all teams must stop for three consecutive hours between midnight and five AM. Teams booked for traffic offences during the Twitchathon and for teams failing to stop for the three hour break, midnight to five AM, will be automatically disqualified."

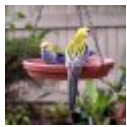
An amended set of rules is attached to this memo.

Alan Morris
Twitchathon Co-ordinator

Feeding birds: Despite being commonplace overseas, particularly in the UK and North America, the feeding of birds is a controversial practice in Australia. Many people take great pleasure from feeding birds, yet there are concerns about the impacts of feeding on the birds themselves.

Birds in Backyards are supporting this survey as part of PhD research at Griffith University, examining why people feed birds (comparing findings in Australia and the UK). Investigations will be made into wildlife feeder's connection with nature and what impacts this has for an individual's conservation values. In addition to this, gaining an understanding of feeding attitudes will help to formulate best feeding practice guidelines in Australia.

Therefore we are looking for people who currently take part in feeding birds in their own gardens or elsewhere to complete this simple survey.



[Access the Feeding survey](#)

[Who's using the data? Feeding survey](#)

How long-lived is a piece of string?

Bill King ABC Environment 18 Mar 2013



Oystercatcher looking sleek, apart from injured knee *Credit: Bill King*



Oystercatcher looking unhealthy and missing a leg *Credit: Bill King*

Fishing line strangles and injures countless wildlife every year. However, degradable line is available. What will it take for it to be commonplace?

THE BIRD IN THE PHOTOS is a sooty oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*). They mostly forage along the shorelines of rocky coasts for shellfish, crabs and marine worms. You might call them a semi-rare species. They currently have 'near threatened' conservation status in Victoria, meaning they may be getting rarer.

I took the two photographs at Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary in south-eastern Melbourne, a few months apart. When I took the first photographs last autumn, I expected I would have a beautiful picture, as they are very appealing birds. Then I noticed it had something wrong with its left leg, which looked very puffy around the knee. Scrolling in on my review screen, I saw it had fishing line tangled around its left leg and was trailing about a foot of it behind.

I was back at Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary a few weeks ago and saw a sooty oystercatcher land nearby. I strolled over and saw it was the same bird I had photographed in autumn but that it now only had one leg. It was also looking a lot less sleek that it had in autumn.

The sooty oystercatcher had fishing line wound around its knee.



Unfortunately, coastal birds and other marine life have frequent encounters with lost and discarded fishing tackle. I was recently discussing this with Sean Dooley, editor of *Australian Birdlife*, who told me he is building up quite a horror file of photos like mine. You can see a fair bit of the "big picture" of environmental problems reflected in the story told by these photographs, at least those parts of the big picture concerning waste and the relentless human pressures on wildlife. In a nutshell: too many things which should be made to last are instead made to fall to pieces in a short time and too many things which should be made to fall to pieces quickly

are instead made so they last virtually forever.

Many of the adverse environmental impacts of recreational fishing stem from inappropriate materials being used in fishing tackle. Some of the inappropriate materials are toxic, like lead used in sinkers and jig heads and lures made from phthalate-containing plastics, but mostly the materials are simply too durable. Conventional monofilament and fluorocarbon fishing line may persist for hundreds of years in the environment after it is lost or discarded. Stainless steel fish hooks also last an extremely long time in the environment.

Fishers could easily hold on to waste line and bin it instead of tossing it into the water, as too many currently do. However, no matter how careful and considerate individual fishers are, their tackle will get snagged underwater regularly and most of the time retrieving it will be practically impossible. In other words, it's not only an awareness problem.

Rather, the inevitability of hooks and lost or discarded line ending up in the water means that fishing tackle should be manufactured to have low toxicity and also to degrade within reasonable time frames. Fish hooks which will corrode in salt water have always been available, because anything but stainless steel will do that. However, there are now hooks designed for faster corrosion in salt water. These are particularly beneficial for the fish that get away but they are also beneficial for birds and marine mammals and reptiles that get hooked. Biodegradable fishing line, based on dissolvable surgery suture technology, has also become available in Australia in the past five years, as have biodegradable lures. These products have a practical life of around one year of performing just as well their conventional alternatives.

The engineers who developed these products and the manufacturers that are now providing them to consumers should be recognised as having made a great contribution to environmental sustainability. However, it won't do enough to reduce the adverse impacts of recreational fishing if products like biodegradable fishing line and biodegradable lures remain boutique products used by only the greenest fishing enthusiasts, while conventional line, stainless steel hooks and lead sinkers constitute the cheapest and easiest options for everybody else. Non-biodegradable tackle needs to be regulated out of the market and all of the choices available to consumers should be products that meet or exceed adequate biodegradability standards.

While the best currently available tackle provides a good starting point for more sustainable fishing, it is possible that the bar needs to be lifted in the longer term. I was a somewhat concerned to read the following on a website advertising "eco friendly" fishing gear:

"This biodegradable fishing line performs as well as monofilament fishing line, however, it will break down in the environment within 5 years as opposed to 500+ years with conventional fishing line."

Five years is a way better timeframe than 500 years for fishing line to degrade - and I believe this figure is the time-frame for the line to degrade totally. The time-frame for line to no longer be life-threatening to animals tangled in it is presumably much shorter. However, it might still not be such a good figure for any individual animal that gets tangled in newly lost line. Longer term, biodegradability standards should drive innovation enough to give an oystercatcher, say, a reasonable chance of sloughing off fishing line before its leg is amputated by it.



Juvenile Koel – Richard Miller

The repetitive calling from the pine tree initially attracted my attention. When I first glimpsed the bird, its squat posture and fluffy light coloured head and brown and black striped wing pattern made me think it was a young Kookaburra, though, when I saw its beak was rather small and pointed it made me think again. It then hopped higher and was hidden from view but I waited to see if any adult birds would respond to its persistent calling. The first visitor was a Butcher bird but it didn't approach



closely but a minute or two later two little wattle birds flew into the tree to feed the impatient youngster and I realised then that it was a 'cuckoo', a young Koel. A short while later it flew into the *agonis* at the back of our garden where Emily was able to get a photo (attached). 'My surprise to see a young bird still being fed so late in the season, long after the adult birds appear to have migrated north' - Hope the parents left a good map before they took off!

Editor's note: This seems a regular occurrence these days with the young Koel showing up late in the season after the Adults have left, did see 3 juveniles last year end of April – May, not sure if they know which way to go but there seemed a lot more Koel this year.

DO YOU HAVE A MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM GILGANDRA TO SHARE WITH IBOC MEMBERS?



Part of the Gilgandra crew



Brown Falcon

**Just a couple of Pics from Gilgandra Camp recently held
by Alan and Anne Cousins**

Sightings for March – April 2013 - compiled by Darryl Goldrick

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Musk Duck | 1 m | 27-29/3/13 | Korrongulla | Wetland | Charles Dove |
| Freckled Duck | 3 | 26-Mar-13 | Moss Vale (priv. prop) | Wetland | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Freckled Duck | 7 | 22-Apr-13 | Ash Ponds Tallawarra | Wetland | Darryl Goldrick |
| Pink-eared Duck | 1 | 26-Mar-13 | Moss Vale (priv. prop) | Wetland | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Pink-eared Duck | 25 | 22-Apr-13 | Ash Ponds Tallawarra | Wetland | Darryl Goldrick |
| Australasian Shoveler | 3 | 26-Mar-13 | Moss Vale (priv. prop) | Wetland | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Hoary-headed Grebe | 5 | 08-Apr-13 | Purry Burry Point | Lake | Charles Dove |
| White-headed Pigeon | 1 | 01-Apr-13 | Thirroul | Garden | Richard Miller |
| Nankeen Night-Heron | 3 | 30-Mar-13 | Purry Burry Point | Casuarina | Charles Dove |
| Eastern Osprey | 1 | 23-Mar-13 | East Corrimal | Lagoon | Ian McKinlay |
| Black-shouldered Kite | 1 | 27-29/3/13 | Korrongulla | O'head | Charles Dove |
| Square-tailed Kite | 1 | 21-Mar-13 | Nowra | Stanley Sawkins Res. | Lindsay Smith |
| Whistling Kite | 1 | 06-Apr-13 | Primbee | O'head | Charles Dove |
| Collared Sparrowhawk | 1 | 04-Apr-13 | Primbee | O'head | Charles Dove |
| Australian Hobby | 2 | 02-Apr-13 | Primbee | O'head | Charles Dove |
| Grey Goshawk | 1 | 01-Apr-13 | Thirroul | O'head | Mike Morphet |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | 02-Apr-13 | Primbee | O'head | Charles Dove |
| Sooty Oystercatcher | 1 | 25-Mar-13 | Coledale Beach | Rock Platform | Mike Morphet |
| Sooty Oystercatcher | 10 | 19-Apr-13 | Sandon Point | Headland rock shelf | Richard Miller |
| Double-banded Plover | 37 | 30-Mar-13 | Windang Island | Rockshelf | Charles Dove |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 1 | 26-Mar-13 | Moss Vale (priv. prop) | Wetland | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Red-kneed Dotterel | 1 | 26-Mar-13 | Moss Vale (priv. prop) | Wetland | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 4 | 19-Apr-13 | Sandon Point | Headland rock shelf | Richard Miller |
| Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo | 6 | 01-Apr-13 | Thirroul | O'head | Mike Morphet |
| Eastern Koel | 1(Juv) | 08-Apr-13 | Thirroul | Garden | Richard Miller |
| Fan-tailed Cuckoo | 1 | 02-Apr-13 | Korrongulla Wetland | Shrub | Charles Dove |
| Red-browed Treecreeper | 1 | 01-Apr-13 | Box Vale Track | Tree stump | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Variegated Fairy-wren | 6 | 21-Mar-13 | Thirroul | Garden | Mike Morphet |
| Eastern Bristlebird | 12 | 26-Mar-13 | Barren Grounds | Pathways | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Rockwarbler | 1 | 01-Apr-13 | Box Vale Track | Scrub | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Spotted Quail-thrush | 1 | 01-Apr-13 | Box Vale Track | Scrub | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Golden Whistler | 1m +1f | 08-Apr-13 | Primbee | Casuarina | Charles Dove |
| Spangled Drongo | 1 | 04-Apr-13 | Primbee | Powerlines | Charles Dove |
| Rufous Fantail | 1 | 18-Mar-13 | Thirroul | Garden | Mike Morphet |
| Rufous Fantail | 1 | 08-Apr-13 | Thirroul | Garden | Richard Miller |
| Leaden Flycatcher | 1 | 04-Apr-13 | Primbee | Casuarina | Charles Dove |
| Rose Robin | 1 m | 01-Apr-13 | Box Vale Track | Scrub | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Australian Reed-warbler | 1 | 13-Apr-13 | Korrongulla Wetland | Reeds | Charles Dove |
| Bassian Thrush | 1 | 01-Apr-13 | Box Vale Track | Scrub | C&J Dove-T Edwell |
| Beautiful Firetail | 6+ | 26-Mar-13 | Barren Grounds | Track | C&J Dove-T Edwell |

The sightings of Freckled Duck at Moss Vale and Tallawarra Power Station have been the highlight of this month. The Freckled Duck is a rare nomadic visitor to the coast and is listed under Schedule 2 of The Threatened Species Conservation Act as Vulnerable meaning, the species is likely to become endangered unless circumstances and factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate. Shortlands Wetland Centre has been undertaking a successful breeding program of the Freckled Duck for several years now. What seems unusual about this species presence at coastal locations between Richmond/Pit Town and the Illawarra at the moment is that inland areas(where the species is more prevalent) are reasonably 'well watered' .Any opinions/comments would be welcome.

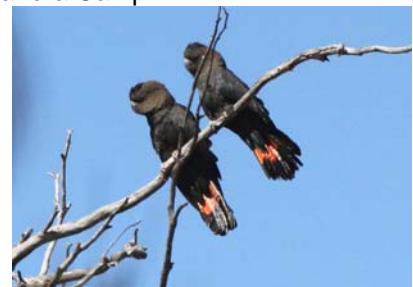
Photos by Terry Edwell – a few more Pics from the Gilgandra Camp



Southern Boobook



Red-capped Robin



Glossy Black

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