

Rainbow Lorikeet

Scientific Name: Trichoglossus haematodus
 Atlas Number: 254

Description:

The Rainbow Lorikeet is unmistakable with its bright red beak and colourful plumage. Both sexes look alike, with a blue (mauve) head and belly, green wings, tail and back, and an orange/yellow breast. They are often



photo by Charles Dove

seen in loud and fast-moving flocks, or in communal roosts at dusk.

Similar species:

Rainbow Lorikeets are such colourful parrots that it is hard to mistake them for other species. The related Scaly-breasted Lorikeet is similar in size and shape, but can be distinguished by its all-green head and body.

Distribution:

The Rainbow Lorikeet occurs in coastal regions across northern and eastern Australia, with a local population in Perth (Western Australia), initiated from aviary releases.

Habitat:

The Rainbow Lorikeet is found in a wide range of treed habitats including rainforest and woodlands, as well as in well-treed urban areas.

Seasonal movements:

Largely sedentary with some nomadic movements in response to seasonal flowering or fruiting of plants.

Feeding:

The Rainbow Lorikeet mostly forages on the flowers of shrubs or trees to harvest nectar and pollen, but also eats fruits, seeds and some insects.

Breeding:

The eggs of the Rainbow Lorikeet are laid on chewed, decayed wood, usually in a hollow limb of a eucalypt tree. Both sexes prepare the nest cavity and feed the young, but only the female incubates the eggs.

Living with us

The Rainbow Lorikeet appears to have benefited from artificial feeding stations and prolific-fruiting and flowering trees and shrubs.

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

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'ONE GOOD TERN
 DESERVES ANOTHER'

Founded in 1977

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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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MAY ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:

Monday 12th

7.30pm at Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow.
Judy Harrington from the Sydney Olympic Park Authority with a presentation on '**Sea Eagles - their life in a busy city**'

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

Midweek Walk:

Wednesday 14th

Leader Rupert Jarvis

Bombo Headland, Kiama

Meet at 9.00 am at the Bombo Beach carpark. As you approach Kiama from the north there is an exit signed Riverside Drive – Bombo etc. Take this exit and follow the signs to Bombo Beach. It takes you under a railway bridge and then shortly back under the railway towards the sea. Keep going until you reach the amenities block and carpark. Bring morning tea.

Contact Rupert 0403 932 635

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

Weekend Walk:

Sunday 18th

Leader Betty Hudson

Gibbergunyah Creek section of the Mt Alexander Circuit Track Mittagong

Meet at the Picnic Shelter in Lake Alexandra Reserve at **9.00am sharp**.

To reach the reserve from Wollongong via Picton, exit from the freeway at the Mittagong exit and take the Old Hume Hwy towards Bowral. Immediately after passing the Information Centre turn right into Helena St, take the 4th left into Alfred St, and then 2nd right into Victoria St. Park here and walk into reserve. From Bowral, take the first left immediately after the traffic lights at the intersection of the Bowral Road and the Old Hume Hwy, this is Victoria St. NB get into the left lane at the lights - there is no left turn.

We will be walking the 1st part of the Mt Alexander Ring track stopping where it passes under the freeway and then returning via fire trails. This is the section along the ferny creek gorge with the sound of Lyrebirds to speed us on our way. Rock Warblers can also be seen here. After lunch there is a relatively level short walk we can do towards Sixty Foot Falls

Bring a carry morning tea. We will return to the reserve for lunch. We should finish about 2pm.

This walk is well worth the effort for the scenery without the birds.

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

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

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

Committee Meeting -

Monday 19th May

The next IBOC Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 19th May 2014 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 **23rd May**.

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



CLUB REPORTS

Report for Club Meeting 14th April 2014

Alan Cousins

The topic for our April meeting was a presentation by Andrew Knowlson of his and his wife Anna's trip to Norfolk Island. The first glimpse was of Mount Bates and Mount Pitt, both visible at the rear of the airport and also a snapshot of Kingston Historic Precinct. Andrew mentioned that there is evidence of Polynesian presence 600 years before Captain Cook and was a convict settlement between 1815 -1856. He also said that the settlement in Sydney only survived with the supply of food from Norfolk Island. One of the early headstones on a grave is dated 1793 with names Elizabeth Thornby and Henry Knowls (not Knowlson) and also a 1906 headstone indicating Pitcairn and Christian (Mutiny on the Bounty!). There is a residential population of about 1800 on Norfolk Island and they have a self-governing Legislative Assembly. The well-known Norfolk Pine was thought by Captain Cook to be suitable for ships masts but was subsequently proved to be useless. There is a 50km speed limit on the Island with cows and geese having right of way and all external supplies are brought in by ships and unloaded onto lighters (even motor cars and buses) as there is no suitable port.



Legislative Assembly building
the Island is self governing

Andrew and Anna also took a trip to Phillip Island on a boat that has to be lifted from a trailer into the water as there is no suitable dock. The crossing is very rough to an island that has a very rugged coastline and lots of land erosion due to feral animals which were introduced for food. The island has however an endemic skink.

The bird list that Andrew and Anna compiled is very interesting starting with feral chickens all over the island plus Californian Quail, Rock Dove, Grey Ternlet, Masked Booby, White-capped Noddy, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Sooty Tern (sometimes known as Whalebirds), Black-winged Petrel, the Crimson Rosella which is rife and has become a competitor for the Green Parakeet, Sparrow, Blackbird, Long-tailed White-eye (endemic), Grey Warbler (endemic), Golden Whistler (male and female identical, endemic), Norfolk Robin (endemic), Grey Fantail, Norfolk Island Green Parakeet, White Tern, Nankeen Kestrel (introduced in 1960's), Sacred Kingfisher (endemic), European Goldfinch, Wood Swallow, Song Thrush, Emerald Dove, Sooty Tern, Red Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, White-faced Heron, Purple Swamphen, Great Egret, Feral ducks and geese (food source), Pacific Golden Plover, Frigatebird, Wedge-tailed Shearwater. Around 59 species are resident or migrant and 60 visitors.



Norfolk Island
Green Parakeet - Endemic

The Island has beautiful scenery with a National Park and also a wetland around Government House, Captain Cook first landed in 1774 and his lookout is maintained. It was a very interesting presentation which gave us all a good insight into Norfolk Island.

Midweek Walk - Jerrara Dam Wednesday 16th

Neil Wheway

It was a beautiful morning to be at Jerrara Dam always a great place to see a few birds. Even though a few familiar faces were missing we still had 14 wandering around, with Jane from Gerringong, Peter a mate of Rupert's and 3 of Judy's

grandkids. They didn't seem to be that bored collecting and swinging sticks about not to mention a bit of tree climbing.

For the first ¾ of an hour the birds kept appearing and disappearing at fast and furious pace. A Bassian Thrush sitting in a tree allowing good viewing, Dollarbird, Golden Whistler and Crested Shrike-tit were early birds. Evidence of the heavy rain was apparent with the creek running well and the dam full of water again. Walking through the gate into a paddock proved easy because of a wide mown track, however heading down toward the dam the ground was water logged requiring careful placement of feet to keep them dry and leech free. Not everyone managed that.



After morning tea back at the car park we moved off across the creek causeway which was overflowing to see what we could find. This side proved to be less colourful with birds, but the leeches were still there sadly no Rose Robin.



Jerrara Dam is always a very pleasant place to visit with one of the visitors, Jane, having never been, the other Peter not for some time. We hope that they enjoyed the tranquility of the grounds and the birds observed.

Jerrara Dam Wednesday 16th		14 Participants sighting 49 Species	
Nankeen Kestrel	Eastern Spinebill	Lewin's Honeyeater	Satin Bowerbird
Welcome Swallow	Silvereye	Golden Whistler	Large-billed Scrubwren
Common Myna	Galah	Brown Gerygone	Rainbow Lorikeet
Masked Lapwing	Eurasian Coot	Grey Shrike-thrush	Common Blackbird
Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Teal	Red-browed Finch	Willie Wagtail
Cattle Egret	Purple Swamphen	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Dusky Moorhen
Brown Thornbill	White-faced Heron	Hardhead	Eastern Great Egret
Eastern Whipbird	Common Starling	Australasian Grebe	Australian Wood Duck
Grey Butcherbird	Australian Magpie	Little Black Cormorant	Magpie-lark
Grey Fantail	Spangled Drongo	Bar-shouldered Dove	Yellow Thornbill
Bassian Thrush	Brown Goshawk	Crimson Rosella	
Australian Raven	Eastern Yellow Robin	Brown Cuckoo-dove	
Pacific Black Duck	Pied Currawong	Laughing Kookaburra	

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Conservation

During the drought affecting eastern Australia, it's duck-hunting season in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. These states form crucial drought refuges — BirdLife Australia believes a season [should not have been declared](#). BirdLife Horsham and BirdLife Echuca District were pivotal in closing six wetlands by identifying concentrations of Freckled and Blue-billed Ducks; we're keen to [receive further reports](#)

BOWER BIRD

The male bird creates a "bower" which is made up of two semi-circles connected by a metre-long avenue

(Source: sunphlo/Flickr)

In a move that would make Houdini proud, researchers have found male bowerbirds are embracing the power of illusion to get their girl.

In a study published today in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, Australian researchers have found a strong link between male mating success and the quality of their illusions.

Lead researcher Professor John Endler, from [Deakin University](#), has previously found that male great bowerbirds (*Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis*) build a bower that restricts the female's view.

However in this latest work, Endler and colleagues also find the males make rapid and colourful movements within this restricted field of vision and build bowers from materials that alter the female's perception of colour.

Endler says while the activities do not increase mating success directly, it could play a role in getting the girl.

"I think the reason [for doing this] is, it is a way of getting and holding the female's attention," says Endler, of the Centre for Integrative Ecology.

This view is supported by the team's observations of the birds in the wild that show the longer the female is kept in the avenue watching the male's performance, the higher the rate of mating success.

Females observed males from within the avenue over times that varied from a few seconds to up to 17 minutes.



Courtly display

The study by Endler and colleagues at [James Cook University](#) involved observing and filming two populations of male great bowerbirds in north Queensland across three breeding seasons.

The male bird creates a "bower" which is made up of two semi-circles (or courts) connected by a metre-long avenue. The courts are generally made of uncoloured or bleached objects, while the avenue is made from reddish sticks.

At each bower the researchers measured the females' field of vision and the type and colour of all objects at each bower.

Endler says their study shows the reddish light in the avenue induces "chromatic adaptation" which leads to heightened experience of colours such as red, green and lilac, the colour of the male bowerbirds' nuchal crest.

During breeding season the female enters the avenue and sits in the middle while the male stands just out of sight in one of the courts at the end of the avenue.

At various intervals the male will briefly pop his head, neck and objects in his beak around the corner into her field of vision to surprise her.

At times he will toss a coloured object across to the other side creating a flash of colour across the female's vision.

The researchers found the male bird was also particular about varying the colour of objects and "could choose colours in a completely non-random order", says Endler.

Fitness traits

While the use of colour and movement does not directly influence mating success, Endler suggests it may emphasise some fitness traits.

The ability to display coloured objects without repetition could show a greater cognitive and foraging ability, he theorises.

"We are not sure if it is the cause or effect," he admits.

The researchers found that when foraged objects were not being actively displayed almost all them were kept out of sight of the female.

To test whether this was intentional the researchers moved the coloured objects outside the court into view, and found as soon as it could the male bowerbird retrieved them.

"This suggests the hidden location of decorations is very important to the birds," Endler says.

They also tested the role of chromatic adaptation by looking at the coloured objects collected against how "red" the avenue was.

"Over the entire range of bowerbirds it varies in how reddish the twigs are in the avenue," says Endler due to what sticks are naturally available. Where not enough reddish sticks are available, those that are, are placed at bowerbird eye level.

"That then predicts that in places with deep red walls the males shouldn't use red objects at all (because they will look duller under chromatic adaptation) and they do this."

Endler says those females that mate are "chromatically adapted" and would perceive colours differently by the end of the male's display. This may affect the female's mate assessment and attractiveness abilities in the male's favour, he posits.

Indian Myna Action Group

The Canberra Indian Myna Action Group has been crowned with **Environmental Innovation and Protection** at the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Sustainable Cities Awards 2013. The event was held in the City of Cockburn, WA.

Before CIMAG started in 2006, Mynas were the 3rd most common bird in Canberra, where the birds were having catastrophic impacts upon the local fauna. Over the 7 years of the community-action trapping and education program, CIMAG members have reduced Mynas to the 20th most common bird around Canberra. Small birds are back in people's gardens, rosellas are back nesting in tree hollows and in garden nest-boxes, and there is peace.

With the support of the RSPCA and other key bodies they have also developed innovative, cheap, and humane techniques to dispatch the captured birds using the CO exhaust fumes from a standard petrol powered car, killing the birds very quickly and painlessly which has proven to be a success promoter for the project.



Bull Ants — Alan Cousins was surprised at the Hat Head Camp when he was **bitten and stung by a bull ant**, resulting in a large very painful blister on his heel and needed to attend hospital as a result, it needed to be lanced, treatment has been ongoing and it has finally started to show signs of improvement at time of publication.

So beware of the ants when standing around on tracks birdwatching

Australian Bull ants *Myrmecia* spp., are one of the most spectacular ants in the world. As far as ants go, bull ants are the giants.



They are the largest ants in Australia, with only a few species which rival them in other parts of the world. They are instantly recognisable by their huge mandibles on the front of their heads, and a long, slender body. There are almost 100 different species of bull ants, all but one are endemic to Australia. New Caledonia has a single rare species.

Bull ant colonies are relatively small, with numbers of individuals in the low hundreds rather than thousands like many other ant species. They have a fertile queen whose sole role is to lay eggs, and infertile female workers who carry out all the work required to keep the colony alive. Seasonally, fertile male and female (new queen) bull ants are produced. These have wings and leave the nest to start new colonies.

Of course, bull ants are a very well-known ant. Campers and bushwalkers are acquainted only too well with the insects by way of the painful stings bull ants can inflict while defending their nests. They can be extremely aggressive when defending their nests, and have excellent eyesight enabling them to locate intruders. Many people who are stung believe the large mandibles inflict the pain; however, it is a sting located in the abdomen that causes this severe discomfort. Bull ants can sting multiple times – just like wasps – and use this for capturing insect prey as well as for defence.

They are active by day and night, and the workers forage over long distances on their own rather than in trails like many other ants. Workers collect insects which they overpower and sting, taking them back to the nest to feed the young. Despite their large jaws, the adult bull ants feed mainly upon sugars such as nectar from flowering plants.

Bull ant 'babies' are called larvae. They are helpless, small white grubs which are kept deep in the nest and are tended to by the workers as they develop and grow. Dead and paralysed insects are brought to them to feed upon until they are ready to pupate. Pupation is the same process a caterpillar goes through to 'metamorphose' into a butterfly. Bull ants do this within a brown paper-like case or cocoon. When the adult bull ants emerge they are fully formed, but just a little lighter in colour than their older counterparts.



Feather Tales



Alan Cousins sent in some great Pics from the memorable Hat head Camp.
1. Yellow Robin, 2. Little Corella, 3. John resting in a tree.



Orange Bellied Parrot by Andy Knowlson from a recent flying trip to Tasmania with Pam, Neil, Anna.



Glossy Black Cockatoo Box Vale Track photo by Charles Dove



Black-shouldered Kite – Windang Island photo Charles Dove



Hooded Robin at Barrallier on the Wollondilly River.

By Andrew Knowlson



Tawny Frogmouth



Land Mullet Skink



Lace Monitor



Brahminy Kite



Common tern



Osprey



Scaly-breasted Lorikeet



Eastern Reef Egret



Beach-stone Curlew



Brolga



White-cheeked Honeyeater

Photos by Terry Edwell

from the recent
IBOC camp at Hat-Head.

Looks like there was a great
lot of birds
from the superb photos
Terry has taken

The Shining Bird

by: [Marjorie Allen Seiffert](#) (1885-1970)

*A bird is three things:
Feathers, flight and song,
And feathers are the least of these.*

At last I hold her in my hands
The shining bird whose flight along
The perilous rim of trees
Has made my days adventuresome, my spirit strong.

And now her wings
Are still--her vivid song
But ceaseless twitterings.

Her words are feathers, falling
Lightly, relentlessly, and without rest,
Revealing to my face
Her pinched and starveling breast
Like poultry, dead and unashamed
And naked in the market place.

*A shattered flash of wings,
A broken song,
Echo and shine along the rim of trees.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Birdlife Australia e-News

You don't have to be a member to have this excellent monthly newsletter emailed to you.

Simply email your full name, contact number and email address to membership@birdlife.org.au
In the 'Subject' field type "Subscription to e-News".

**This Space was made available
For a last minute inclusion of a
MEMORABLE MOMENT
FROM HAT HEAD?**

Oh well!

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: March/April 2014

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Freckled Duck	4	13-Apr-14	Jerrara	Jerrara Dam	Kevin Mills
Hardhead	Heaps	13-Apr-14	Jerrara	Jerrara Dam	Kevin Mills
White-headed Pigeon	1	24/03/2014	Integral Park	Powerline	C&J Dove
White-headed Pigeon	1	15/04/2014	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	2/04/2014	Tawradgi Park	Bushland	Jack Baker
Striated Heron	1	23/04/2014	Primbee	Shoreline	Charles Dove
Straw-necked Ibis	> 100	20-Mar-14	Dunmore	Rural	Darryl Goldrick
Royal Spoonbill	2	30/03/2014	Bulli	Slacky Creek	Mike Morphett
Eastern Osprey	2	16-Apr-14	Bombo	Beach- O'head	Rupert Jarvis
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2A	11/04/2014	Primbee	overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	27/03/2014	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	31/03/2014	Bellambi Lagoon	Overhead	C & J Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	1/04/2014	Windang Dunes	Overhead	Charles Dove
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	04-Apr-14	Woonona	O'head	Ross/Jann Gowans
Australian Hobby	1	20-Mar-14	Jamberoo	Swamp Rd	Kara Eddington
Peregrine Falcon	2	24/03/2014	Primbee	overhead	Charles Dove
Black-fronted Dotterel	4	31/03/2014	Bellambi Lagoon	Shoreline	C & J Dove
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	22/04/2014	Box Vale Track	Bushland	C & J Dove & T Edwell
Little Corella	~ 100	10-Apr-14	Kanahooka	Lakeside	Joan Riley
Powerful Owl	1 heard	10-Apr-14	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine	Mike Morphett
Powerful Owl	1 heard	02-Apr-14	Balgownie	Cabbage Tree Ck Park	P. Hazelwood/N. McKinlay
Southern Boobook	1	2/04/2014	Bulli	Residential complex	Mike Morphett
Azure Kingfisher	1	1/04/2014	Primbee	Creek	Charles Dove
Sacred Kingfisher	1	3/04/2014	Primbee	Casuarina	C & J Dove
Satin Bowerbird	1f+1juv	07-Apr-14	Oak Flats	Back yard	Silvia Garlick
Noisy Friarbird	40+	24/03/2014	Integral Park	Overhead	IBOC
Noisy Friarbird	1	2/04/2014	Tawradgi Park	Bushland	Jack Baker
Varied Sittella	15+	22/04/2014	Box Vale Track	Bushland	C & J Dove & T Edwell
Golden Whistler	2	25/03/2014	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Golden Whistler	1	30/03/2014	Shellharbour	Window Sill	Russell Hannah
Olive-backed Oriole	1	21/04/2014	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Dusky Woodswallow	20+	22/04/2014	Box Vale Track	Bushland	C & J Dove & T Edwell
Dusky Woodswallow	3+1	20/3+14/4	Kiama/Werri Beach	Farmland/urban P/lines	Kara Eddington
Spangled Drongo	3	3/04/2014	Primbee	Paper bark tree	Charles Dove
Spangled Drongo	1	14-Apr-14	W. W'gong/Dempster St	Yard	Chris Cartledge
Rufous Fantail	1	2/04/2014	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Leaden Flycatcher	1	25/04/2014	Thirroul	Yard	Mike Morphett
Black-faced Monarch	3	25/03/2014	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1f	3/04/2014	Primbee	Casuarina	C & J Dove
Eastern Yellow Robin	3	10-Apr-14	Thirroul	Back Yard	Mike Morphett
Red-browed Finch	22	24/03/2014	Thirroul	Yard	Mike Morphett



Golden-headed Cisticola – Windang Island – Charles Dove



Double-banded Plover – immature Windang Island Charles Dove

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