

Regent Honeyeater

Scientific Name: *Anthochaera phrygia*
 Featured bird groups: Birds under threat
 Atlas Number: 603

Description:

The striking Regent Honeyeater has a black head, neck and upper breast, a lemon yellow back and breast scaled black, with the underparts grading into a white rump, black wings with conspicuous yellow patches, and a black tail edged yellow. In males, the dark eye is



photo by Charles Dove

surrounded by yellowish warty bare skin. Females are smaller, with a bare yellowish patch under the eye only, and have less black on the throat. Young birds resemble females, but are browner and have a paler bill. This species is gregarious, moving in flocks. It bobs its head when calling.

Similar species:

The Regent Honeyeater might be confused with the smaller (16 cm - 18 cm) black and white White-fronted Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris albifrons*, but should be readily distinguished by its warty, yellowish eye skin, its strongly scalloped, rather than streaked, patterning, especially on the back, and its yellow-edged, black tail.

Distribution:

Formerly more widely distributed in south-eastern mainland Australia from Rockhampton, Queensland to Adelaide, South Australia, the Regent Honeyeater is now confined to Victoria and New South Wales, and is strongly associated with the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range.

Habitat:

The Regent Honeyeater is found in eucalypt forests and woodlands, particularly in blossoming trees and mistletoe. It is also seen in orchards and urban gardens.

Seasonal movements:

Strongly nomadic, following blossoming trees.

Feeding:

The Regent Honeyeater feeds mainly on nectar and other plant sugars. It can also feed on insects and spiders, as well as native and cultivated fruits. It forages in flowers or foliage, but sometimes comes down to the ground to bathe in puddles or pools, and may also hawk for insects on the wing.

Breeding:

The Regent Honeyeater breeds in individual pairs or, sometimes, in loose colonies, with the female incubating the eggs and both sexes feeding the young. The cup-shaped nest is thickly constructed from bark, lined with soft material, and is placed in a tree fork 1 m to 20 m from the ground.

Living with us

The Regent Honeyeater has been badly affected by land-clearing, with the clearance of the most fertile stands of nectar-producing trees and the poor health of many remnants, as well as competition for nectar from other honeyeaters, being the major problems. It is listed federally as an endangered species. At the state level, it is listed as endangered in Queensland and New South Wales, while in Victoria it is listed as threatened.

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

CONTENTS:

Club Activities	Page	2
Club Reports	Pages	3 - 5
Club Notices	Pages	6
Birds in My Backyard	Page	6
Articles of Interest	Pages	6 - 8
Feather Tales	Pages	8 - 9
Monthly Bird Sightings	Page	10



**ILLAWARRA
 BIRD
 OBSERVERS
 CLUB Inc**

**'ONE GOOD TERN
 DESERVES ANOTHER'**

Founded in 1977

Club's Aim:

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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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

Club Contacts:

PRESIDENT: Alan Cousins, T. 02 4283 3197
SECRETARY: Betty Hudson, T 02 4236 0307
 E-mail: secretary@iboc.org.au
TREASURER: Ken Brown,
EDITORS: Charles Dove, M. 0417 422 302
 E-mail: newsletter@iboc.org.au
 Val Dolan, T. 02 4229 6737
RECORDS OFFICER: Darryl Goldrick
 Email: sightings@iboc.org.au

**Club Meeting****Monday 11th November**

Annual General Meeting followed by a presentation by Pam Hazelwood and Neil McKinley of their NZ trip which included the South Island, Stewart Island and the sub-Antarctic Islands of the Auckland Group, Snares Island, Campbell Island and Macquarie Island.

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**Wednesday 13th November**

leader Rupert Jarvis

Meet at **8.30 am** at William Beach Park, Dapto. The park is reached by travelling north as far as you can go on Prince Edward Drive. Prince Edward Drive turns off Kanahooka Road near the roundabout on the Princes Highway north of Dapto. Coming south there is a turnoff the freeway to Kanahooka Road. Bring morning tea.

<https://maps.google.com.au/maps?q=-34.480108,150.808489&ll=-34.480807,150.811054&spn=0.008994,0.013078&num=1&t=h&z=17>

Contact Rupert ph 4233 1912 or 0403 932 635

Weekend Walk**Saturday 16th November**

leader Charles Dove

Comerong Island - Shoalhaven Heads via Numbaa Ferry

Meet at Ferry 8-00 Start due to Ferry crossing. **Try and car pool please**, bring morning tea and lunch. Going South turn left after crossing the Shoalhaven River into Moss Street then Terrara Road then Comerong Island Road.

<https://maps.google.com.au/maps?q=-34.88396,150.710178&num=1&t=h&z=14>

Contact Charlie 0417 422 302

Committee Meeting Monday 18th November

Committee meeting 7.30pm at Bill & Joan Zealey's; 26 Lang Street, Balgownie.

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

SPECIAL EVENT**INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS FOR THE KIDS****Sunday 24th November**

from 9.30 to 11.30

Integral Park Dapto. (Princes Highway left into West Dapto Rd left into Darkes Rd to Integral Park BBQ Covered Area)

An outdoor activity for little people between 5 to 11 years accompanied by a parent to learn about our local birds with Illawarra Bird Observers Club members, please come to assist.

Featuring:- A short bush walk, colouring in sheets and light refreshment will be provided.

Contact Sylvia on 4257 9750 for more information.

Newsletter –

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **25th November 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



Club Report - Monday 14th October

Alan Cousins

Our presentation for October was "The Role of Australian Seabird Rescue" presented by the branch co-ordinator Kirsten Hort and assisted by Tracey Wong.

Kirsten first introduced Australian Seabird Rescue (ASR) by placing a slide of their mission statement which is; "Living together Reducing the Human Impact on Coastal Wildlife"

Her main topic was Pelicans of which there are eight species in the world, one of which is the Australian Pelican. They have a life span of about 30 years weighing in at 4-8Kilos with a wing span of up to 2.5metres, they eat about 1-2Kgs of fish a day. Kirsten also mentioned how different their personalities can be.

The plight of the Pelican and others is mainly caused by fishing tackle with the table of injuries as follows:-

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • <i>Boat & Powerline strike</i> | 1% |
| • <i>Pollution (Botulism, toxins etc.)</i> | 1% |
| • <i>Shooting</i> | 2% |
| • <i>Disease</i> | 4% |
| • <i>Fishing Tackle</i> | 92% |

The slides of injured birds was graphic and disturbing, as can be seen in the above table most of the damage is caused by fishing tackle; eg lines, hooks, lures etc.

We saw pictures of Pelican, Crested Tern, Silver Gull and Little Penguin all with fishing tackle wrapped around or impaled in them. Ducks and Shearwaters were also mentioned, although not shown.

The facts regarding ocean debris are also disturbing with 7 million tonnes in our oceans. Tens of thousands of Whales, Seals etc. are killed every year with PLASTIC BAGS.

THE SOLUTIONS FOR MARINE ENVIRONMENTS:-

- *Go plastic free*
- *Push the Government to go plastic free*
- *Re-usable bags for shopping*
- *Put clean dry items straight in the bin*
- *Wet smelly rubbish, in used bread liners/sheets of newspaper*
- *Composing vegetable matter*

OTHERS?

ASR is a National organisation with many volunteers who conduct clean-ups along the coast in an effort to mitigate the dreadful injuries to Seabirds some of which are rescued, treated and released back into the environment. Unfortunately some have to be euthansed due to the severity of their injuries. A great organisation doing a wonderful job, showing another example of man's disregard for nature.

Midweek Walk Bents Basin Wednesday 16th October

Charles Dove

Bents Basin, Cobbity Farm and Carrington Village all proved once again to supply an abundance of birdlife. Thanks to Jim Dixon once again for hosting our walk around Bents Basin etc. We started out with the White-throated Gerygone serenading at the entrance gate, with the Pacific Baza calling in the background. Some of the species we often see in these regions when we normally come earlier in the year were not about in the Springtime; but it is good to see how some areas cope in different seasons. We were surprised with a Red-bellied Black Snake on the pathway hanging out the wall, thank goodness know one brushed up against it. A Yellow-faced Honeyeater sitting on the nest occupied many members for a while trying to get a good look and photograph. Terry Edwell managed to recover a distressed Moth from a watery grave after many attempts. Moving on to Cobbity Farm for lunch the Eastern Rosella greeted us as we entered the property. A very relaxing day amongst a variety of habitat as we walked around the property, with both Corellas being present as well as the Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill etc, John Cashman attempted to feed a herd of cattle as we passed by with some rather jittery. As the day was getting on we progressed to Carrington Village hoping to see the Crested Grebe which were present the week before, but no sign of them when we arrived; the Red-rumped Parrots and Eastern Rosella were the first to show

themselves against the continual calling of the Noisy and Bell Miner. Overall a great day and thanks again to Jim Dixon to making himself available, he did suggest next year we go in April or May.



Yellow Robin



Red Belly Black Snake



Moth in distress



Yellow-faced Honeyeater -



Long-billed Corellas



Farmer John

Bents Basin 16 -10 – 2013		40 species	9 members & Jim
Peaceful Dove	Eastern Rosella	Yellow Thornbill	Olive-backed Oriole
Great Cormorant	Brush Cuckoo	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Butcherbird
Little Black Cormorant	Azure Kingfisher	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Magpie
White-faced Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Pacific Baza	Sacred Kingfisher	Bell Miner	Grey Fantail
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Dollarbird	Noisy Miner	Magpie-lark
Little Corella	Satin Bowerbird	Scarlet Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler	Silvereeye
Australian King-Parrot	Brown Gerygone	Rufous Whistler	Welcome Swallow
Crimson Rosella	White-throated Gerygone	Grey Shrike-thrush	Red-browed Finch
Cobbity Farm		28 species	
Australian Wood Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Little Corella	Grey Shrike-thrush
Pacific Black Duck	Purple Swamphen	Crimson Rosella	Grey Fantail
Hardhead	Dusky Moorhen	Eastern Rosella	Willie Wagtail
Crested Pigeon	Eurasian Coot	Superb Fairy-wren	Magpie-lark
Little Black Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	White-plumed Honeyeater	Australian Reed-Warbler
White-faced Heron	Galah	Bell Miner	Welcome Swallow
Straw-necked Ibis	Long-billed Corella	Noisy Miner	Red-browed Finch
Carrington Village		36 Species	
Black Swan	Swamp Harrier	Noisy Miner	Australian Raven
Grey Teal	Purple Swamphen	Little Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Chestnut Teal	Dusky Moorhen	Eastern Whipbird	Australian Reed-Warbler
Pacific Black Duck	Eurasian Coot	Rufous Whistler	Silvereeye
Hardhead	Masked Lapwing	Grey Butcherbird	Welcome Swallow
Australasian Grebe	Eastern Rosella	Australian Magpie	Fairy Martin
Spotted Dove	Red-rumped Parrot	Pied Currawong	Common Blackbird
Little Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail	Common Myna
White-faced Heron	Bell Miner	Willie Wagtail	House Sparrow

IR/IBOC outing at Killalea

6th Oct 2013

Rupert Jarvis

This outing was designed to give Illawarra Ramblers a taste of birdwatching and point out the variety of birds to be seen in the variety of habitats in Killalea State Park. As a bonus we got sightings of a number of birds, uncommon or scarce in the Illawarra.

On a fine sunny morning we set off down a gully surrounded by thick bush and woodland. Here we had a brief but clear view of an Eastern Whipbird. Other birds which we were able to show IR participants were Bulbuls, Yellow and Brown Thornbills, Red browed Finches, Fairy Wrens, Silvereeyes, Lewin's and New Holland Honeyeaters. Emerging into more open grassland we reached the lagoon. Coot, Purple Swamphen Swans and Cormorants were abundant and we picked out both Australasian and Hoary headed Grebe. Pacific Black Ducks and Hardheads were numerous but in amongst them Charlie spotted a pair of Pink-eared Duck and a pair of Freckled Duck. The reeds at the waters edge yielded brief sightings of Reed Warblers and Little Grassbirds.

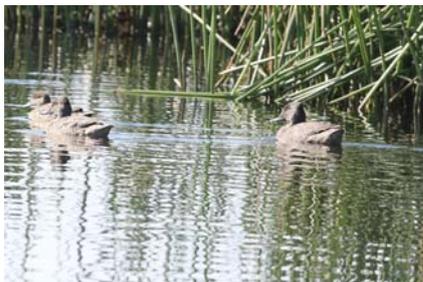
We found a good spot with a table just back from the beach for morning tea and we heard Fan-tailed and Shining Bronze Cuckoo in this area. We then made our way along the beach passing some “birds” sunbathing and found the track along the eastern side of the lagoon. At one point where there is cover and shallow water we saw a Latham’s Snipe which took off all too quickly and a Baillon’s Crake.

During the walk a number of us had commented on the absence of raptors. Ironically, just as Tom was concluding the reading of the bird list two Nankeen Kestrels and a Black-shouldered Kite made their appearance.

A fitting end to the great morning.



Alan, Tom, Joan, Anne on the Beach



Freckled Duck



Killalea Memorial Plaque

Illawarra Ramblers/IBOC outing at Killalea		6th Oct 2013	57 species
Freckled Duck	Australian White Ibis	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Grey Butcherbird
Black Swan	Royal Spoonbill	Laughing Kookaburra	Australian Magpie
Australian Wood Duck	Black-shouldered Kite	Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong
Pink-eared Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail
Grey Teal	Purple Swamphen	White-browed Scrubwren	Willie Wagtail
Pacific Black Duck	Baillon's Crake	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Raven
Hardhead	Eurasian Coot	Brown Thornbill	Magpie-lark
Hoary-headed Grebe	Latham's Snipe	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Reed-warbler
Bar-shouldered Dove	Crested Tern	Lewin's Honeyeater	Little Grassbird
Great Cormorant	Silver Gull	Little Wattlebird	Silvereeye
Little Black Cormorant	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Pied Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	New Holland Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Eastern Great Egret	Eastern Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	Mistletoebird
White-faced Heron	Shining Bronze-cuckoo	Grey Shrike-thrush	Red-browed Finch
			European Goldfinch

Report for outing with Wollongong City Council Bush care members

Saturday 12th October

Alan Cousins

Following a request from the Wollongong City Council's Bush care co-ordinator, Charles and Janina Dove along with myself, led a group of 12 bush care volunteers on a bird observation walk at Korrungulla Wetlands, Primbee on Saturday 12th October 2013. It was a warm and pleasant day with Charles leading and me bringing up the rear. Despite the recent spell of warm, dry weather there were still some muddy tracks with one unfortunate person slipping on a wet plank bridging a boggy part of the track and falling into the mud with thankfully no ill effects. The only damage being mud on clothes which soon dried. The group proved to be very interested and enthusiastic and were treated to lots of 'there's a' from Charles, so binoculars and cameras were always in evidence. We toured the wetlands for over two hours and came up with a very creditable total of 34 bird species so all in attendance were very satisfied and enthralled. Many thanks to Bush care for requesting IBOC and thanks to Charles and Janina for accompanying me and of course my thanks go to Charles for sharing his expert knowledge and enthusiasm with us all.



Koorungulla Wetland Primbee 12/10/2013		34 species 2hr joint walk IBOC & Bushcare	
Chestnut Teal	Dusky Moorhen	Brown Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Pacific Black Duck	Eurasian Coot	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Reed-Warbler
Australasian Grebe	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	New holland Honeyeater	Little Grassbird
Australasian Darter	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Golden Whistler	Welcome Swallow
Little Pied Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Grey Shrike-thrush	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Black Cormorant	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Australian Magpie	Red-browed Finch
Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail	European Goldfinch
Australian Pelican	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Australian Raven	
Australian White Ibis	Yellow Thornbill	Magpie-lark	



THE BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

By You

Be Inspired with your own backyard garden PLEASE even a few paragraphs is OK

Autumn Camp 5th -12th April 2014

Hat Head near Kempsey

IBOC's Autumn Camp will be held from 5th -12th April 2014 at Hat Head Holiday Park, Straight Road Hat Head. Ph 02 6567 7501 To view details of the park go to www.mvcholidayparks.com.au/hat-head-holiday-park/

Hat Head is 24KM east of Kempsey, on the coast and surrounded by Hat Head National Park.

We have been asked to make our bookings ASAP as by late November booking requests for April will increase greatly.

When making a Booking please ensure that you mention that you are with the Illawarra Bird Observers Club. We are being put all together on the camp sites.

Accommodation is as follows:

NB all cabins etc have en-suites

Cedar Ridge Spa Cabin CO7 2 bedrooms each with QB or DB \$123/night or \$784/week

Cedar Ridge Spa Cabins CO8 & 10 2 bedrooms QB or DB +bunk over. \$123/night or \$784/week

All these are suitable for 2 couples to share

Cabins C3-6 1 DB + bunks suitable for 1 couple \$95/night or \$595/week

Bungalows 1-2 1 DB + bunks suitable for 1 couple \$100/night or \$623/week

NB prices for cabins & bungalows include all persons & all cars.

Powered Sites \$32/ night or \$192/week

Unpowered Sites \$27 /night or \$168/week

Site prices are for 2 persons and 1 vehicle

Additional persons are \$12/day

Additional vehicles excluding tent trailers \$7/day

When making your travel arrangements everyone should consider the need to make an overnight stop each way as Hat Head is 474km from Sydney the last 24 km of which is through the National Park and wildlife could be a problem late in the afternoon.

Once you have booked, please let Betty know by email **after the end of November** as she will be away until the 25th

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Tell-Tale Toes Point to Oldest-Known Fossil Bird Tracks from Australia

Oct. 28, 2013 — Two fossilized footprints found at Dinosaur Cove in Victoria, Australia, were likely made by birds during the Early Cretaceous, making them the oldest known bird tracks in Australia.

The journal *Palaeontology* is publishing an analysis of the footprints led by Anthony Martin, a paleontologist at Emory University in Atlanta who specializes in trace fossils, which include tracks, burrows and nests. The study was co-authored by Patricia Vickers-Rich and Michael Hall of Monash University in Victoria and Thomas Rich of the Museum Victoria in Melbourne.

Much of the rocky coastal strata of Dinosaur Cove in southern Victoria were formed in river valleys in a polar climate during the Early Cretaceous. A great rift valley formed as the ancient supercontinent Gondwana broke up and Australia separated from Antarctica.

"These tracks are evidence that we had sizeable, flying birds living alongside other kinds of dinosaurs on these polar, river floodplains, about 105 million years ago," Martin says.



The thin-toed tracks in fluvial sandstone were likely made by two individual birds that were about the size of a great egret or a small heron, Martin says. Rear-pointing toes helped distinguish the tracks as avian, as opposed to a third nearby fossil track that was discovered at the same time, made by a non-avian theropod.

A long drag mark on one of the two bird tracks particularly interested Martin.

"I immediately knew what it was -- a flight landing track -- because I've seen many similar tracks made by egrets and herons on the sandy beaches of Georgia," Martin says.

Martin often leads student field trips to Georgia's coast and barrier islands, where he studies modern-day tracks and other life traces, to help him better identify fossil traces.

The ancient landing track from Australia "has a beautiful skid mark from the back toe dragging in the sand, likely caused as the bird was flapping its wings and coming in for a soft landing," Martin says. Fossils of landing tracks are rare, he adds, and could add to our understanding of the evolution of flight.

Today's birds are actually modern-day dinosaurs, and share many characteristics with non-avian dinosaurs that went extinct, such as nesting and burrowing. (Martin previously discovered the trace fossils of non-avian dinosaur burrows, including at a site along the coast of Victoria.)

The theropod carnivore *Tyrannosaurus rex* had a vestigial rear toe, evidence that *T. rex* shared a common ancestor with birds. "In some dinosaur lineages, that rear toe got longer instead of shorter and made a great adaptation for perching up in trees," Martin says. "Tracks and other trace fossils offer clues to how non-avian dinosaurs and birds evolved and started occupying different ecological niches."

Dinosaur Cove has yielded a rich trove of non-avian dinosaur bones from dozens of species, but only one skeletal piece of a bird -- a fossilized wishbone -- has been found in the Cretaceous rocks of Victoria.

Martin spotted the first known dinosaur trackway of Victoria in 2010 and a few other tracks have been discovered since then. Volunteers working in Dinosaur Cove found these latest tracks on a slab of rock, and Martin later analyzed them.

The tracks were made on the moist sand of a river bank, perhaps following a polar winter, after spring and summer flood waters had subsided, Martin says. "The biggest question for me," he adds, "is whether the birds that made these tracks lived at the site during the polar winter, or migrated there during the spring and summer."

One of the best records of the dinosaur-bird connection has come from discoveries in Liaoning province of Northeastern China, including fossils of non-avian dinosaurs with feathers. Samples of amber have also been found in Liaoning, containing preserved feathers from both birds and non-avian dinosaurs going back to the Cretaceous.

"In contrast, the picture of early bird evolution in the Southern Hemisphere is mostly incomplete," Martin says, "but with these tracks, it just got a little better."

http://www.sciencedaily.com/news/plants_animals/birds/

Bird Buffet Requires Surveillance: Sandpipers Exhibit Different Feeding Behavior Depending On Position in Group

Oct. 28, 2013 — The behaviour of semipalmated sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) feeding during low tide in the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, surprised Guy Beauchamp, an ornithologist and research officer at the University of Montreal's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. While individuals on the periphery remained alert and used short pecks to feed on the mudflats, birds in the middle of the group relaxed their vigilance and fed on a different resource. The more peripheral group members were effectively used as sentinels for the others.

Two observation seasons were needed to confirm this never-before-documented behaviour. The phenomenon attracted the attention of Britain's Royal Society, which has just published the results of Beauchamp's research in the most recent edition of its *Biology Letters*. "Both foraging modes are easy to distinguish," Beauchamp explained. "In the first case, the birds keep their heads upright while pecking at their food rapidly; they are on the lookout for predators. In the second case, their heads are kept low while they scrape the mud in search of tiny organisms." Scientists know that living in groups provides individuals with added protection and increases their chances of survival. Beauchamp's discovery provides further information about the precise mechanisms that lead to this advantage. Peripheral birds must be on the lookout for predators (in this case mainly the silhouettes of falcons, which can strike the sandpipers at any moment), allowing the central birds to use different resources. "During their stopover in eastern Canada, sandpipers must optimize their strength to continue their migration. Any advantage helps," Beauchamp said.



It took two sessions of three weeks in the field, in 2011 and 2012, for the biologist to confirm these observations. He observed 466 birds in 43 flocks before drawing his conclusions. They feed on biofilm, which requires a dangerous relaxing of vigilance that is really only possible in the safest part of the group. Biofilm refers to the smorgasbord of diatoms and phytoplankton that sandpipers filter in their beaks in a back-and-forth movement. Their other form of diet consists of amphipods, which the wading birds capture after spotting them visually.

In Beauchamp's field site, north of the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, thousands stop over to feed on the tidal mudflats. "This finding provides a novel benefit of living in groups, which may have a broad relevance given that social foraging species often exploit a large array of resources," he explained. Semipalmated sandpipers are a relatively abundant species whose survival does not appear threatened in the short term. This is not the case for all species of shorebirds, some of which suffer greatly from the ecological imbalances caused by global warming.



Anne Cousins found this whilst on there recent trip to Queensland, might jog a few memories for



This photo of a Willie Wagtail on its nest. It was so low that it is in danger of being dislodged by the garbage truck or road sweeper and is constantly hopping of the nest as unsuspecting walkers pass underneath.

Betty Hudson

A few memories of Howlong

[Charles dove](#)

Keen for our new adventure camping, this being our first time camping in a tent.

We arrived on the Friday to set up early, as this is our first time so thought it might take a while and with the assistance of good friend Tom Wiley it went really well (thanks Tom).

All's well the tent is up and secure and Janina spent a number of hours setting the interior up with the blow up mattresses etc. I went for a bit of a walk around checking out the birdlife around the camp, the Sacred Kingfisher and Yellow Rosella were in abundance. That night I went and purchased fish & chips at the local shop and we settled in for the night... Well at minus 2 degrees things were a bit on the cold side in separate beds so we had to move into the one bed with all the bedding we could muster and still froze. Next day everybody seemed to know about our plight and helped us with extra bedding and another **big thank you** to our friends Betty, Pam and Joan. We did manage to go to Wonga Wetlands during that day and only covered a small section not realising how big this area was, Pink-eared Ducks, Freckled Ducks, Yellow and Royal Spoonbills, Red-rumped Parrots as well as Juvenile Sea- Eagles and Whistling Kites; certainly proved to be well worth coming to this area. Anyway the next day Betty took us on our first walk seeing a large variety of species again, after arriving back to camp and dinner we went to our own beds with the extra bedding which helped: well! it rained that night and the brand new tent just happened to leak into both bedrooms, we were not happy, but thanks to Terry & Mark Edwell who let us bring over one of our mattresses to camp in their cabin, they certainly saved us from a soggy night... Thank You Terry & Mark. About now we had about enough and were going home, **but** as a last report I approached the owners of the Caravan Park knowing full well everything was booked out and explained our situation, well!, fortunately one of the permanent residents had just moved out and he let us rent this cabin. He did spend half a day making it habitable for us. So easy camping once again, with a dry bed, heating and amenities.

We continued on with an enjoyable camp venturing to many places and making sure we did not take the fruit over the border, seeing many many bird species at various places, including lots nesting with eggs and chicks, including the Regent Honeyeater and good sightings of the Painted Honeyeater and Little Lorikeet.



Hooded Robin



Red Capped Robin



Crimson (Yellow) Rosella



Regent Honeyeater



Regent Honeyeater on Nest



Painted Honeyeater



White-wing Triller



Australian Shelduck



Rufous Whistler

Last day and time to go, went out to see the Honeyeaters in the morning then returned to camp and packed the tent up after it had dried out. Off we go – did not make it to Holbrook before the petrol pump packed it in “bugger”, the NRMA were very good and found a local mechanic to fix it on Sunday. They transported us out to a 12 acre property called “**Blue Wren Cottage**” (can you believe that) where we were entertained by Geoff’s (mechanic) wife with the birdlife they have on the property whilst he fitted the new pump. Grey Shrike-thrush nesting in the garage with 2 chicks and Geoff knew how to do the “Tom” whistle every morning with many birds around the property, I had the camera out again and Janina the binoculars on the back porch watching the birds pass us by and in the paddocks great atmosphere along with tea, coffee and biscuits free for the afternoon.

After all that had happened that week this was truly a place of peace & love with nature.

Best Garage we have ever been to and most likely will pay them a visit next time we go down that way...



Blue Wren Cottage workshop



Peaceful Dove at Blue Wren



House sign

Let’s hear about your memorable moments at Howlong - sure you have plenty

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: September - October 2013

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

I would encourage members to avail themselves of the Club's web site to log their sightings as this is the main medium that I have at my disposal to be able to produce the back page of the newsletter- to date there is only a 'handful' of members using this facility. Spring is not far off and bird activity will be on the increase - I look forward to your postings.

White-necked Heron	30+	13-Oct-13	Bolong/Nth Nowra	Open Paddocks	Kara Eddington
Striated Heron	1	13-Sep-13	Sandon Point	Rock Platform	Richard Miller
Striated Heron	1	2/10/2013	Purry Burry Point	Shoreline	Charles Dove
Little Egret	3	2/10/2013	Purry Burry Point	Shoreline	Charles Dove
Eastern Osprey	1	13-Oct-13	Cronulla	Roosting on Crane	Bruce Coyle
Black-shouldered Kite	1	01-Oct-13	Marshall Mount	Powerlines	Mike Morphett
Baillon's Crake	1	06-Oct-13	Kiama	Spring Creek	Kara Eddington
Australian Spotted Crake	1	14/10/2013	Primbee	Reeds	Charles Dove
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2+ nest 1 egg	4/10/2013	Windang	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	13-Sep-13	Woonona Beach	Rock Platform	Richard Miller
Grey Plover	1 coloured	2/10/2013	Windang	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Hooded Plover	2	15-Sep-13	Brewherre Beach	Beach	Sheila Emery
Australian Painted Snipe	1	05-Oct-13	Moss Vale North	Farm Dam	Kara Eddington
Eastern Curlew	1	12/10/2013	Windang	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Common Greenshank	1	9/10/2013	Purry Burry Point	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Ruddy Turnstone	1	10-Oct-13	Bellambi Point	Rock Platform	Tom Wylie
Caspian Tern	7	2/10/2013	Purry Burry Point	Shoreline/Lake	Charles Dove
Kelp Gull	1	10/10/2013	Windang	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Long-billed Corella	62	26-Oct-13	Lake Illawarra South	Grassed Reserve	Darryl Goldrick
Australian King-Parrot	1	1-Oct-13	Kiama	Garden	Roger Bogaert
Eastern Rosella	2	05-Oct-13	Wiseman Park	Woodland	Mike Morphett
Eastern Koel	1	30-Sep-13	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Eastern Koel	1m+1f	1-14/10/13	Koona Bay	Casuarinas	Brian/Barbara Hales
Eastern Koel	1m	13-Oct-13	Balgownie	Residential	Pam Hazelwood
Eastern Koel	1m	12-Oct-13	Tarrawanna Garden Village	Creek-Riparian	Peg McKinlay
Eastern Koel	4	3/10/2013	Primbee	Mixed trees	Charles Dove
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2	17-Sep-13	Thirroul	O'head	Richard Miller
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	30-Sep-13	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Channel-billed Cuckoo	3	04-Oct-13	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo	1	14/12/2013	Windang	Banksia	Charles Dove
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	1	8/10/2013	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	3	8/10/2013	Primbee	Casuarina	C & J Dove
Sacred Kingfisher	2	05-Oct-13	Fairy Creek	Riparian	Mike Morphett
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	8-Oct-13	Shoal.Riv u/s 'Bundanon'	Riverbank	Anna Knowlson
Dollarbird	?	24-Sep-13	North Nowra	Heard	Sheila Emery
Dollarbird	1	30-Sep-13	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Dollarbird	1	3/10/2013	Primbee	overhead	Charles Dove
Satin Bowerbird	1m+1f	10-Oct-13	Tarrawanna	Garden	A+A Cousins
Spotted Pardalote	2 + nest	8/10/2013	Primbee	Creek edge	Charles Dove
White-plumed Honeyeater	1	14-Sep-13	Wollongong Harbour	Landscape Gardens	Richard Miller
Golden Whistler	1	05-Oct-13	Fairy Creek	Riparian	Mike Morphett
Australian Magpie(wh.back)	1	08-Oct-13	Lake Illawarra South	Reserve(opposite P.S)	Walter Boles
Australian Reed-warbler	2 + 2 chicks	14/10/2013	Primbee	Reeds	Charles Dove
European Goldfinch	4	28/10/2013	Primbee	Grass Road verge	Darryl Goldrick
Pacific Golden Plover	2	10-Oct-13	Bellambi Point	Rock Platform	Tom Wylie
Spectacled Monarch	1	03-Oct-13	Balgownie	Yard-bush	Terry Edwell

Some excellent sightings recorded this month as the migrants return to the district for the summer period. Other notable species are the rare White-backed Magpie not reported in our area since 1998, the Grey Plover (in partial breeding plumage) and Australian Brush-turkey are the first in 3 years. The Painted Snipe hasn't been reported in the Illawarra as yet even though there has been a single sighting at Moss Vale – keep a close lookout. The location of the Pacific Golden Plovers at Bellambi Point rock shelf is certainly an unusual 'habitat'- perhaps it was a 'layover' before heading further south to their usual salt marsh habitats at Shoalhaven Heads/Lake Wollumboola. Oriental Plovers have been regularly reported at the south end of the third runway in Sydney and Pectoral Sandpipers, Ruff and Glossy Ibis have all been reported at Pit Town Lagoon in western Sydney – so keep an eye out - you never know, they may just turn up on our doorsteps.

Happy Birding,

Darryl Goldrick