

Issue No. 386

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

November 2014

Common Bronzewing

Scientific Name: *Phaps chalcoptera*

Atlas Number: 34

Description:

Common Bronzewings are medium-sized, heavily built pigeons. The male has a yellow-white forehead and pink breast. Both sexes have a clear white line below and around the eye and patches of



photo by Charles Dove

green, blue and red in the wing, characteristic of all bronzewings. The Common Bronzewing is a cautious pigeon, and rarely allows close approach. If startled, it flies away with a clatter, keeping low to the ground while moving in a steady, direct manner. Young Common Bronzewings are duller and browner than the adults. The metallic wing patch is absent or not easily seen.

Similar species:

Common Bronzewings can be distinguished from the similar Brush Bronzewing, *P. elegans*, by their pinkish-grey breast, light brown nape and back, and pale throat (rather than grey breast and chestnut nape, back and throat).

Distribution:

Common Bronzewings are one of the most plentiful and commonly seen pigeons in Australia.

Habitat:

Common Bronzewings are found in almost every habitat type, with the exception of the most barren areas and densest rainforests. Common Bronzewings are normally seen alone, in pairs or in

small flocks, and are rarely found far from water.

Feeding:

The Common Bronzewing feeds on seeds and other vegetable matter. The birds feed on the ground and in small parties. These small groups need to drink frequently, and visit waterholes during either the day or night.

Breeding:

Common Bronzewings build an untidy nest of sticks and twigs. It is normally placed low down in a tree or bush, but may be up to 20 m above the ground. The creamy-white eggs are incubated by both parents. Both adults also share the care of the young birds, which are born naked and helpless and are completely dependent on their parents. Bronzewings, like other pigeons, secrete a special milk-like substance from their crop, which is fed to the young chicks

Text 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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NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:

Monday 10th

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

The November meeting is the AGM and will also be a **members night** so please bring along your photo's etc. or any other item you may think is of interest.

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

Midweek Walk:

Wednesday 12th

Leader Rupert Jarvis

Little Lake Area

Meet at 8.45 a.m. at the Car Park in Jason Ave, Warilla. From Shellharbour Rd. turn left southbound or right northbound into Barrack Ave. Then take the 3rd left which is Jason Ave. Before you reach the main car park for Warilla Bowls there is a car park on the left (our meeting point) Bring morning tea.

Contact Rupert 0403 932 635 if the weather looks doubtful.

Monthly Walk:

Sunday 16th

Leader Betty Hudson

Barren Grounds Nature Reserve

The November monthly walk will be to Barren Grounds in the morning & weather permitting to Carrington Falls in the early afternoon.

Meet at Barren Grounds car park by the picnic area, approx. 1km from the entrance, at 8.00am prompt. Travel south along the Princes Hwy to Yallah and then take the Illawarra Hwy to Albion Park. Keep straight on to Jamberoo and then turn right immediately over the Minnamurra River bridge onto Robertson Rd. On reaching the top of the Pass the entrance to Barren Grounds is immediately on the left.

Bring a carry morning tea and lunch will be in the picnic area. Ensure that you have a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Contact Betty on 42360307 before 7.15am or after that time text mobile 0432 892 945 noting that reception is poor on the pass.

Committee Meeting:

Monday 17th

The November IBOC Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 17th November 2014 at 7.30pm at Alan & Anne Cousins' home, 4 Adelaide Place Tarrawanna. This meeting will include all out going committee members as well as newly elected committee members. 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 **22nd November**

Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 32 Martin Avenue Ulladulla 2539. Ph: 0417 422 302.

IBOC has pleasure in welcoming all our New Members

The Christmas Picnic will again be at Integral Park and will be on 6th December at 5pm. A BBQ will be provided consisting of sausages, onions and bread. If you wish to bring your own meat please do so. Bring your own salads and drinks.



CLUB REPORTS

Report for Club Meeting 13th October 2014

Alan Cousins

Our presentation for October was given by Leon Fuller; the author of 'Wollongong's Native Trees' and was in the form of an interactive forum involving the club members. Leon first said that he has seen more birds in exotic trees e.g. Privet than native trees in his area and asked that if native trees were removed would birds suffer? He then promoted native plants indigenous to the Illawarra and then had a good discussion regarding the types of trees that would attract birds. He mentioned that he had seen changes in the bird population since 1974 e.g. Lorikeets, Wattlebirds, Galahs and Cockatoos etc. which are now in large numbers in the Illawarra probably due to the droughts in the north and many birds have become suburbanised. He also said that he would like to see more indigenous trees on our city streets, we have 80-90 species but only about 10 are generally used. Leon then stated that an interactive website is being set up to enable the public to have their input

onto the site with photographs, information on where to obtain and grow indigenous plants e.g. soil conditions etc. (clay soils in the Wollongong area are very good for these plants and seed is available). He said that native ferns are not grown much and asked if they attract birds and are they normally used for nesting, a discussion followed. Leon then showed us some video footage that he had shot in streets of Brisbane showing the many different species of native trees that line the streets and photographs of the Illawarra Escarpment and the University of Wollongong Campus and pointed out how the vegetation has increased over the years since the cessation of logging on the Escarpment and the planting out of the University Campus of which he had had a big part. Thanks to Leon this was a very thought provoking presentation with good interest by the members given the input.

Last Midweek Walk Cancelled due to bad weather conditions in October

No Weekend Walk in October due to Camp at Lake Cargelligo

Library DVD's.

Would all members please check their DVD library for any that might belong to IBOC, there are a number missing that have not been recorded as on loan, thank you

Note for your diary.

The Christmas Picnic will again be at Integral Park and will be on 6th December at 5pm. A BBQ will be provided consisting of sausages, onions and bread, if you wish to bring your own meat please do so. Bring your own salads and drinks.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

9 WEEKS AWAY

by John Barkla

We have recently returned from a 14,381 kilometre trip across southern Australia. We were on the road from 10th June to 13th August and saw 230 species of birds.

The purposes of the trip were to:

1. conduct a reconnaissance for a trip I am co-leading for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT), which starts on Monday;
2. travel with Chris & Andrew Galbraith, long standing medical friends of Alison and show them some new birds; and
3. visit Neale Junction in Western Australia to look for 3 special birds;
 - a. **Princess Parrot**;
 - b. **Scarlet-chested Parrot**; and
 - c. the recently split **Sandhill Grasswren**, which none of us had seen before.

Our first major stop was in the Nullarbor National Park, where we camped for 3 days in near or below zero night-time temperatures. We saw Spotted Harrier, Australian Bustard, a pair of Inland Dotterels, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, our first of many Rufous Treecreepers, White-winged Fairy-wren, Shy Heathwren, Rufous Fieldwren, Redthroat, Slender-billed Thornbill, Southern Whiteface, Crimson, Orange & White-fronted Chats (including all three species together) and eleven Nullarbor Quail-Thrush.

Leaving the Nullarbor, we spent 3 nights at the wonderful BirdLife Australia Eyre Bird Observatory where the highlights were more Major Mitchell's Cockatoos, Mulga Parrots, Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens, the yellow-rumped form of Spotted Pardalote and Purple-gaped & White-fronted Honeyeaters.

From Eyre, we visited our site near Balladonia, where we had previously recorded numbers of immature Scarlet-chested Parrots. We hoped to find adult birds preparing for nesting, but the area was very quiet and no parrots could be found.

Next, we drove to Cheynes Beach, via Esperance and Jerramungup, recording Purple-crowned Lorikeets, lots of Elegant Parrots and our first Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos, Western Rosellas and Red-capped Parrots. Others notables were Western Spinebill, Western Wattlebird, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Chestnut Quail-Thrush and Southern Scrub-Robin. Three nights at Cheynes Beach allowed us sufficient time to find all of the big three – Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Bristlebird and Western Whippbird. We did brilliantly, seeing (not just hearing) two Scrub-birds, three Bristlebirds (one photographed) and two Whippbirds (one photographed). Everything else we saw was a bonus, but is worth mentioning we added Emu, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Southern Boobook, Barn Owl, Splendid & Red-winged Fairy-wrens, Southern Emu-wren, White-cheeked & Swan River Honeyeaters and White-breasted Robin. We also had small parties of Red-eared Firetails on the lawn outside our cabins. A possible Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross beyond Bald Island was too distant to be certain and did not go on the list.

From Cheynes Beach, we drove west to Albany and Torndirrup National Park. Here we found 15 Rock Parrots and I had the opportunity to photograph one which was particularly obliging. Near Northcliffe we encountered a large flock of Baudin's Black-Cockatoos and further on Western Thornbill. We continued west to Cape Leeuwin, but missed all of the wonderful seabirds which other birders had reported days before, when winds were more favourable. It was extremely cold, but calm when we were there. To give ourselves another chance of seabirds we drove north to Cape Naturaliste, but once again the conditions were unfavourable and we saw nothing.

At this point our plan had been to go to Lake McLarty, but locals advised it was quiet and carrying too much water for all but a few ducks. We therefore decided to drive to



Inland Dotterel



Orange Chat



Red-browed Pardalote



Red-eared Firetail

another of our favourite places, the Lions Village at Dryandra. We were greeted by our friends, the wonderfully welcoming wardens, John and Lisa, and settled into Wattle Cottage for a few days. The new habitat of Mallet woodland produced lots of birds for our list: among them Tawny Frogmouth, Brown Goshawk, seven Bush Stone-curlew, Painted Button-quail, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, White-browed Babbler, Varied Sittella and Hooded Robin.

From the Dryandra woodland, we continued into Perth and spent eleven nights with Alison's brother. This pleasant time did not include much birding.

On 13 July we left Perth, heading north to Nambung National Park, the site of The Pinnacles. It was geologically fascinating, but almost completely devoid of birds. The place being overrun during the school holidays did not help. We spent the night camped on the beach at Green Head. Sixteen Ruddy Turnstones and two Grey Plovers feeding in the beach-washed weed was a surprise, but it was too dark for photos.

Continuing north, we reached Kalbarri National Park, where we spent two nights. Highlights here were Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Lesser Crested Tern, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, White-backed Swallow and Little Woodswallow. The drive to Monkey Mia was great, with stops at the Murchison River, where we saw a Black-eared Cuckoo, and at the Billabong Roadhouse, where we found Crimson Chats.

Monkey Mia, where the dolphins are hand fed, was somewhat disappointing as it was completely overrun with school holiday campers. For an hour I tried very hard to find one of the famously tame Western Grasswrens in the car park and eventually succeeded. Walking out into the sand dunes was more profitable with good numbers of Variegated & White-winged Fairy-wrens and an abundance of Crimson Chats and Chiming Wedgebills. Visits to Francois Peron National Park produced Yellow White-eye, many Pied Honeyeaters and Little Crows. We drove right to the northern tip of the National Park and I was taking note that the very sandy 4WD track was completely unsuitable for the bus I would be bringing back with the VENT group. Before leaving, we visited the stromatolites at Hamelin Pool.

From Monkey Mia, rather than heading back south as we had planned, we continued north to Carnarvon, which is the southern limit for some northern Australian species. We succeeded in finding Star Finch at the Sewage Works and Brahminy Kite, Dusky Gerygone and Mangrove Grey Fantail at Bush Bay. Here I had something of a minor disaster. When I packed up and returned to camp, I did not realise I left my backpack, with camera gear and photo backup hard-drive, hanging in the mangroves. It was not until the next day, when we were 55km to the east at Rocky Pool on the Gascoyne River, that I realised my mistake. We drove back expecting the worst, but I was jubilant to find my gear still hanging in the tree, out of reach of the incoming tide. Perhaps not as many people go wandering in the mangroves as I had imagined. Back at Rocky Pool, I followed up a call from a Red-browed Pardalote, which was a new bird for Alison, Chris and Andrew. Concentrating on finding the Pardalote, meant I did not chase up the Blue-winged Kookaburra, which was also calling. An Australian Owlet Nightjar which was calling during the previous night had also not been sought.

We studied our maps and decided to follow some less well-marked tracks east to Cue, stopping the first night only 46 km from Gascoyne Junction due to the time lost returning for my backpack. The next day we drove along some infrequently used roads and saw a Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush at a marked fossil site 60km south of Gascoyne Junction, a Black-breasted Buzzard flying beside the road and two Slaty-backed Thornbills in a dry creek bed at S26° 11.386 E 116° 23.795. We eventually reached Cue and our goal, the wonderfully bird rich Nallan Station. For three nights we slept in the shearers' quarters, which were absolutely freezing. During the days we travelled extensively around Nallan's tracks but found the birding unusually quiet. We still managed eight Budgerigars, one pair of Bourke's Parrots, Western Bowerbird, with a bower right outside the shearers' quarters, Grey-crowned Babblers and more Slaty-backed Thornbills. A day trip from Nallan produced Chestnut-breasted Quail-Thrush at the 10km post west of Cue (thanks to Frank O'Connor advising me of this reliable site) and some wonderful aboriginal rock art at Walga Rock.



Sandhill Grasswren



Southern Scrub-Robin



Western Grasswren

From Nallan we drove back to Cue and then to Lake Austin, 20km further south. On the dry bed of the lake I was staggered to hear a Black Honeyeater calling from low samphire bushes. I have never before heard of them occurring in this habitat. After some careful searching and many brief, inconclusive views, we eventually saw it well – a single male. The Rufous Fieldwrens were not unexpected. We drove 50km east of Mount Magnet heading towards Leinster and camped beside the road. The next day we dawdled, not wanting to enter the aboriginal permit area before the date on our permits. We camped 3km west of the Goldfield's Highway on the road to Weebo, only about 32km south of Leinster.

27 July was a highlight day. Driving through Nambi Station north-east of Leonora, we made one of our regular stops to look and listen. I heard an unmistakeable Emu-wren only a few metres from the road. With a bit of pishing we were all soon looking at Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, another new bird for Alison, Chris & Andrew. In high spirits, we arrived in Laverton around 4.30pm and checked into one of the very well maintained units in the Laverton Caravan Park. The next day we planned to drive towards Neale Junction to start our search for Princess and Scarlet-chested Parrots. We only got 80km out of town when a blowout shredded one of my tyres. Not wanting to continue without a spare, we returned to Laverton. We found a tyre business, but he did not stock anything which was suitable. The choice was wait 2 days for tyres to come up from Perth or drive the 700 km or so to Kalgoorlie and back. We chose the latter to save a day.

On 30 July we had almost reached Neale Junction. We camped on Spackman Track, two kilometres south of the Anne Beadell Highway. I rose before dawn and walked some kilometres without seeing a great deal. On returning to camp and with the others enjoying some breakfast, I heard a Grasswren calling not far from our car. I whistled to the others and soon we were all looking at the recently split Sandhill Grasswren (split from Striated). If this split is accepted, it will be a new bird for me!! For the next three days we searched in Marbled Gums habitat for Princess Parrots, without success. The consolation was Alison finding a pair of Scarlet-chested Parrots and more Sandhill Grasswrens. The common honeyeater was Grey-fronted Honeyeater.

On 3 August we realised we were not going to find Princess Parrots, so we set out south along the Connie Sue Highway to Rawlinna. From there, on the advice of a local, we drove east to Haig and then south to Cocklebiddy. We spent another two nights at the Eyre Bird Observatory. From Eyre we went back across the Nullarbor, camping on the Old Telegraph Road, one kilometre east of the road to Cook. A pair of Nullarbor Quail-Thrushes and many Rufous Fieldwrens were seen.

Returning home, we stopped at the Arid Garden in Port Augusta for Chirruping Wedgebill and lunch. Coming back into Victoria, we decided to spend a night in our favourite Murray Sunset National Park. During the night we heard Spotted Nightjar and in the morning we were surprised when we heard on local radio, that the overnight temperature had dropped to -6°C. No wonder it felt cold sleeping on the ground. We reached home late in the evening of 13 August and next Thursday I will be back in Western Australia with 13 visitors from the United States.

Poisonous Snake Slithers Inside Camera Lens

The photo taken on September 28, 2014 shows a poisonous snake staying inside the camera lens of British photographer Sylvia Fresson. [Photo: CFP] 72 year old British photographer Sylvia Fresson lies down to take a picture of a poisonous snake, but was shocked when it slithered inside her lens.

The 60cm snake stayed inside the lens for 20 minutes while Sylvia had to stay completely still.

The moment happened when she was on a wildlife tour in South Downs of Britain.



Feral Cat from the SA arid lands



THE STOMACH CONTENTS OF A FERAL CAT FROM THE SA ARID LANDS.

THE EPIC MIGRATION OF SHOREBIRDS FROM AUSTRALIA

The epic migration of shorebirds from Australia to their Arctic breeding grounds is said to be in imminent danger of collapse.

Birds are disappearing by the tens of thousands on their globe-spanning flights, mainly because of the loss of all-important "refuelling" habitat, scientists warn.

Once-familiar summer patrollers of Australian tidal flats such as the stately eastern curlew, and its smaller cousin, the curlew sandpiper, are now plummeting towards local extinction.

"I have been working on threatened species for more than 30 years and have never heard such a tale of woe," said Stephen Garnett, chair of the Australasian Shorebird Conference, where the crisis was detailed this week.

Around 36 Australian bird species use the East Asian-Australasian Flyway for the mass migration which sends them north to food-rich Arctic summer nesting habitat, then south to capitalise on the austral summer.

Hunting in the northern hemisphere, and coastal development in Australia, are costing the birds.

But the most critical danger appears to be at staging grounds in south-east Asia - and particularly around the Yellow Sea bordered by China and the Koreas.

The conference heard most Yellow Sea tidal flats are disappearing under accelerating industrial development and invasive grasses, while in the few remaining food-rich silt lands, pollutants like DDT have accumulated.

Birds arriving there on migration already have burned through their energy stores, and with these feeding areas lost, fly on to die exhausted.

One study, of the great knot, a high alpine Siberian breeder that once summered widely in Australia, found at least 80,000 simply disappeared after the world's longest sea wall closed off South Korean tidal flats at Saemanguem.

At the far southern end of the flyway, in Tasmania, eastern curlew numbers have collapsed by 75 per cent while just five per cent of curlew sandpipers remain, ornithologist Eric Woehler said.

Around Australia, curlew sandpiper numbers are declining 10 per cent a year, meaning it faces extinction within a decade, according to Deakin University's Marcel Klaassen.

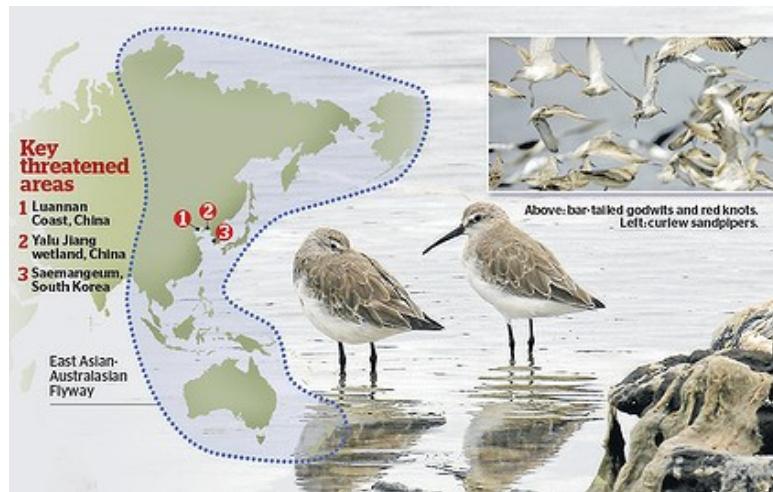
Both the curlew sandpiper, and the eastern curlew, are set to become the first migratory shorebirds to be added to the Australian threatened species list, mandating recovery plans for them.

The University of Queensland's Richard Fuller said a long-term lack of political will was at fault for the losses.

"There have been international migratory bird agreements in place since the 1970s, and yet habitat loss has been going on at more or less the same rate," Dr Fuller said.

"Clearly this sort of work needs to be stepped up," he said. "The most important thing is to protect the habitat that remains." One sign of hope is the formation of an East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership, which brings together 30 government and non-governmental organisations. It has registered a network of 113 sites, and identified around 900 more, but only some are protected.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/great-shorebird-migration-under-threat-20140926-10m1xt.html#ixzz3EgRCXsb6>



World's first falcon cataract surgery a success

October 8th, 2014 · by Daniela Ogden

Doctors have performed the first cataract surgery on a falcon. The patient is a domesticated female Lanner Falcon named Banner who lives at the New Hampshire School of Falconry. She suffered from cataracts for two years, cataracts so debilitating that she couldn't fly. A veterinary team at Caves Animal Hospital performed the operation where they removed the cataracts and inserted new lenses on the bird's corneas. From a *Discovery News* article:

It took a worldwide team of specialists to design the artificial lenses that would be placed in Banner's eyes. Canadian ophthalmology equipment manufacturer I-Med made the lenses and donated them to the surgical team in New Hampshire. The lenses themselves are only about 6 millimeters wide.

Banner is expected to make a full recovery.



A stressful youth makes for a devoted finch dad

Stress is our coping response. Whether emotional or physical, stress is how organisms react to upheaval in their lives. And in many cases, that response requires tradeoffs. An animal will make it through now, but may come out with fewer fat stores or a shorter life span. But a new study shows that under certain conditions, developmental stress in male zebra finches might have a positive effect, in the form of more offspring to carry on his genes.

Ondi Crino, a biologist now at Macquarie University in Sydney, examined how stress during development might affect reproductive success in male zebra finches. She purchased 10 male and 10 female zebra finches from pet shops near the University of Montana. The birds were allowed to pair off and nest. When the first batch of chicks was 12 days old, Crino fed half of the male offspring peanut oil, and half peanut oil with the hormone corticosterone mixed in.

Both humans and finches produce stress-related hormones. Humans produce cortisol, while finches produce corticosterone. These two hormones increase during times of stress and cause many of the negative effects we associate with worry and pressure. So administering corticosterone is one method of "stressing" an animal without changing anything else in its environment. The dose was in the range of what a young bird might experience in the midst of a natural upheaval such as a cold snap or famine.

After 16 days of the peanut oil supplement, the young male birds receiving corticosterone were smaller than their relaxed counterparts. They also had a larger spike in their own corticosterone levels when they were stressed. But over time, the chicks that received corticosterone appeared to grow out of their stressful upbringing. By adulthood they were the same size as controls, and they did not show frazzled feathers or pale colors that might indicate a rough chickhood.

Then, Crino released five stressed males and five control males into a cage with 10 females to see how developmental stress affected their mating abilities. Crino had hypothesized that stress during development would hurt the birds' reproductive success. She was wrong. Not only did the stressed males mate as well as control males, they also produced more offspring than their unstressed brethren.

This impressive paternal achievement appears to be the result of a different parenting strategy between stressed and relaxed males. Male finches that received corticosterone during development fed their offspring more, resulting in baby birds with a higher weight for their size.

The stressed fathers also didn't waste resources raising chicks that weren't their own. And their mates didn't mate as much with other males. The results suggest that fathers that received corticosterone during development might spend more time with their mates, resulting in more of their own offspring rather than those from another male. A stressed childhood resulted in a more devoted dad, Crino and her colleagues [report](#) October 8 in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

The results show that a bit of a tough upbringing might, under certain conditions, produce fitter finches. "We are currently undergoing a paradigm shift in how we think about developmental stress," Crino explains. "Scientists are starting to think of developmental stress as a cue that induces phenotypic changes that help animals cope in stressful environments." Sometimes, that coping might produce a benefit by passing on a bird's genes to the next generation.

"Few studies have actually looked at the [reproductive] fitness costs of growing up in a harsh environment, and this study goes a long way to redress this imbalance," says Karen Spencer, a behavioral neuroendocrinologist at the University of St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland. "This is one of the most convincing pieces of evidence in favor of the idea that experiencing stress during development may not be all bad."

It is not certain how this extra parenting effect is achieved. Creagh Breuner, a behavioral endocrinologist at the University of Montana and an author on the study, says in the families of stressed fathers, both the male *and* the female finches fed their chicks more food as they were growing. It's not clear how the stressed male is recruiting the female to the cause.

The underlying mechanism allowing the stressed dads to switch their parenting strategy is still unknown. Breuner hypothesizes that the corticosterone treatment might have made the adult finches less aggressive. They might then spend less time fighting other males, and more time guarding their mate and spending time with the kids. Stress could make the males more lover than fighter.

But it's not necessarily all positive. The stressed finches could be "investing more heavily in their current reproductive bout," says Crino, putting more parenting effort in the short term in anticipation of a shorter life span. Other [studies](#) have shown that developmental stress shortens finch life span. They might have won the current reproductive battle, but if they live shorter lives and therefore have fewer chances to reproduce, they may still lose the war.



As we are coming to the end of the year I would like to thank those many members and in particular Pam Hazelwood for the research and supply of the many articles we have published in our newsletter throughout the year. Thank You

Charles Dove Editor

Autumn 2015 Camp Gloucester

11th – 18th April 2015

The IBOC Autumn 2015 Camp will be at Gloucester Holiday Park, Denison Street, Gloucester from Saturday 11th April to Saturday 18th April 2015. Nb this is the second week of the school holidays and the week after Easter.

This is a large holiday park on the banks of the Gloucester River close to the centre of the town. Travel north along the freeway to Newcastle and then north on the Pacific Hwy towards Taree. Take the Gloucester road (The Buckets Way) a left turn 18km north of Raymond Terrace.

Accommodation:

Cabins: There are 9 ensuite cabins @ \$90 for 2 people per night.

Configurations vary but 2 have 2 bedrooms and the rest 1 bedroom. Bedding is provided for the main bed only. Few details & no plans are available on their web site.

Powered Site: \$35 for 2 people per night

Unpowered sites \$14 per person per night

(note these sites cannot be booked in advance but are plentiful).

Additional people are an additional charge for all accommodation.

To make a booking you will need to phone the park as there are no online booking facilities.

Phone 02 6558 1720 or email info@gloucesterholidaypark.com

They charge a \$2 fee for credit card payments

The park have suggested that we make bookings as soon as possible due the school holidays



The Scarlet Honeyeaters entertained Terry Edwell's yard for most part of October

Looking forward to many memorable moments from members for the great Lake Cargelligo Camp with 159 species recorded.

The Australian Pratincole and Avocets is just a couple of the many magic moments for me.

Charles Dove



My Magic Moment –

IBOC Camp Lake Cargelligo 19-26 Oct 2014

Late on the last afternoon of the camp I wanted to have one more look at the birds at the Lake Cargelligo sewerage ponds. I sat out a mini dust storm while watching a team from the Australasian Bird Fair Annual Bird Race (Twitchathon) race around the ponds trying to steady their sighting scope in the strong wind. As the wind was dying down and the dust settling I ventured through the gate to the ponds and immediately saw a small bird fly away from the edge of the path ahead. Another Sparrow, perhaps? But I've learned to make sure, so I had a look through the binoculars. Wow, what a pretty head! I found myself looking at four Plum-headed Finches, so up came the camera. A pair of the finches obliged by remaining atop a shrub while I rattled off several shots - photos, that is. Here is one of them. Magic!

Peter Salvair



MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: September/October 2014

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Magpie Goose	2	11/10/2014	Dapto	Waterside	Kara Eddington
White-headed Pigeon	13	12/10/2014	Jamberoo	Roof of House	Kara Eddington
White-headed Pigeon	2	11/10/2014	Jamberoo	Garden	Betty Hudson
Fluttering Shearwater	300+	?	Off Kiama	Pelagic	Rupert Jarvis
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	7/10/2014	Bolong Rd.	Paddock	Kara Eddington
Black-shouldered Kite	1	13/10/2014	Hill 60	overhead	C & J Dove
Square-tailed Kite	1	27/09/2014	Heathland Forest	overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	1/10/2014	Heathland Reserve	Gum Tree	Charles Dove
Spotted Harrier	1	21/10/2014	Jamberoo	Overhead	Kara Eddington
Nankeen Kestrel	1	27/10/2014	Woonona	O'head	Mike Morphett
Grey Plover	1	25/09/2014	Manyana	Sandspit	C Dove /E Siglar/B Hanon
Latham's Snipe	2	21/10/2014	Jamberoo	Paddock	Kara Eddington
Whimbrel	1	25/09/2014	Manyana	Sandspit	C Dove /E Siglar/B Hanon
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	21/09/2014	Woonona Pool	Tidal Rocks	R & J Gowan
Ruddy Turnstone	5	21/09/2014	Woonona Pool	Tidal Rocks	R & J Gowan
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	2	8/10/2014	Towradgi	Overhead	Mike Morphett
Eastern Koel	heard	11/10/2014	North Nowra	Residential	Sheila Emery
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1? Heard	24/09/2014	Nowra	1st season hearing	Sheila Amery
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	7/10/2014	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine	Mike Morphett
Sacred Kingfisher	1	21/10/2014	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Sacred Kingfisher	1	9/10/2014	Jamberoo	Hyams Creek	Betty Hudson
Dollarbird	2	11/10/2014	Tarrawanna	Tree	Ken Brown
Dollarbird	1	6/10/2014	Balgownie	Swamp Tree	Terry Edwell
Dollarbird	heard	11/10/2014	North Nowra	Residential	Sheila Emery
Dollarbird	1	1/10/2014	Kiama	Spring Creek	Rupert Jarvis
Superb Lyrebird	1	16/10/2014	North Nowra	Upper Grotto	Sheila Amery
Variegated Fairy-wren	2	26/10/2014	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
White-browed Scrubwren	2	10/10/2014	Balgownie	Cnr of Yard	Neil McKinley
Scarlet Honeyeater	7+	All Oct 14	Balgownie	Yard	Terry Edwell
Noisy Friarbird	2	12-22 Oct/14	Primbee	Coral Tree	Walter Boles
Noisy Friarbird	1	11/10/2014	Thirroul	Residential	Mike Morphett
Rufous Whistler	1	8/10/2014	Balgownie	Swamp Tree	Terry Edwell
Australasian Figbird	2	12/10/2014	A/Park Rail	Suburban Tree	Peter Fackender
Olive-backed Oriole	2	2/10/2014	Mt. Ousley	Mulberry Tree	Judy Baker
Olive-backed Oriole	1	11/10/2014	Thirroul	Residential	Mike Morphett
Satin Flycatcher	6	2/10/2014	North Bombo Headland	Bush	Rupert Jarvis
Black-faced Monarch	1	6/10/2014	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine	Mike Morphett
Fairy Martin	8	8/10/2014	Jamberoo	Creek Culvert	Rupert Jarvis
Mistletoebird	1	15/10/2014	Nowra	Bridge	Sheila Emery
Red-browed Finch	2A+3Juv	10/10/2014	A/Park Rail	Bird Bath	Peter Fackender

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