

SILVEREYE

Scientific Name: *Zosterops lateralis*

Atlas Number: 574

DESCRIPTION:

The Silvereye is a small bird with a conspicuous ring of white feathers around the eye, and belongs to a group of birds known as white-eyes. The Silvereye shows interesting plumage variations across its range. The grey back and olive-green head and wings are found in



photo by Charles Dove

Primbee

birds through the east, while western birds have a uniformly olive-green back. Breeding birds of the east coast have yellow throats, pale buff flanks (side of the belly) and white on the undertail. Tasmanian birds have grey throats, chestnut flanks and yellow on the undertail. To complicate this, the birds in the east have regular migrations within Australia and may replace each other in their different areas for parts of the year. Birds in Western Australia have yellowish olive, rather than grey, backs.

SIMILAR SPECIES

There is only one similar species found on Australia's mainland. The Yellow White-eye, *Z. luteus*, lives in Australia's north and north-west. It is more brightly coloured above, is lemon yellow below and has a smaller white eye-ring. The ranges of the two species do overlap slightly.

DISTRIBUTION

Silvereyes are more common in the south-east of Australia, but their range extends from Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, through the south and south-west to about Shark Bay, Western Australia. They are also found in Tasmania.

HABITAT

Silvereyes may occur in almost any wooded habitat,

especially commercial orchards and urban parks and gardens.

SEASONAL MOVEMENT

In the south of their range, Silvereyes move north each autumn, and move back south in late winter to breed.

FEEDING

Silvereyes feed on insect prey and large amounts of fruit and nectar, making them occasional pests of commercial orchards. Birds are seen alone, in pairs or small flocks during the breeding season, but form large flocks in the winter months.

BREEDING

Silvereye pairs actively defend a small territory. The nest is a small, neatly woven cup of grasses, hair, and other fine vegetation, bound with spider web. It is placed in a horizontal tree fork up to 5m above the ground. The nest is constructed by both sexes, who both also incubate the bluish-green eggs. If conditions are suitable two to three clutches will be raised in a season.

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.

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



AUGUST ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:

Monday 14th October

Seabird Rescue presentation on 'The Role of Australian Seabird Rescue, presented by Kirsten Hort *Branch Co-ordinator and* Tracey Wong

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:

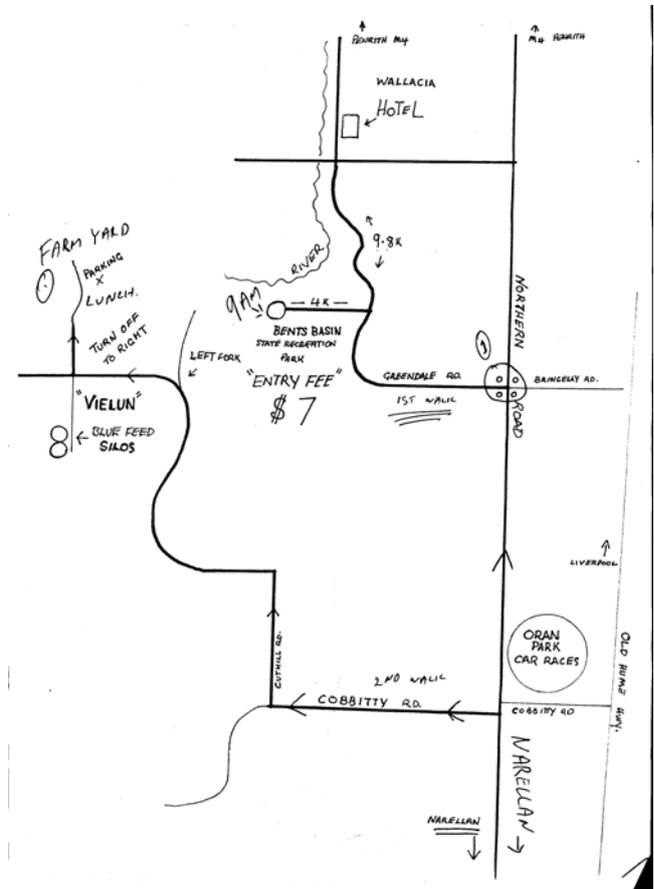
Wednesday 16th October
BENTS BASIN

leaders Jim Dixon / Charles Dove

Meet at **9.00 am** at the gates to Bents Basin State Recreational Park.

Park Fees apply
 Bring Morning Tea and Lunch

Contact Charles on 0417 422 302



**DUE TO THE CAMP AT HOWLONG NO
 WEEKEND WALK
 HAS BEEN ARRANGED**

Committee Meeting -
NO COMMITTEE MEETING DUE TO CAMP

Newsletter -
 Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **25th October 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 REPORTS

Club Report - Monday 12th August

Alan Cousins

Birds and Sea Monsters; Richmond and Beyond

Motivated by their bird watching interests and an addiction to fossil hunting Joan and Bill Zealey (and their Irish Setter) spent four months travelling 13,000 km through NSW, Queensland, The Northern Territory and South Australia in 2012. Their slides of the birdlife of Karumba, Kakadu and The Macdonnell Ranges stimulated the audience to recall memories of similar trips they had made, sometimes decades before. A must for anyone's trip

are visits to the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens at Port Augusta. Bill and Joan's trip included a week in the less well-known Eyre Peninsula where they encountered Cape Barren Geese, Field Wrens and Rock Parrots. Although not twitches, they were saddened that they failed to spot Gouldian Finches, Gibber Birds and Letter-wing Kites; maybe the next trip?

Club Report - Monday 9th September

Alan Cousins

Our speaker for September was Leah Royle, Development Officer, Australian Wildlife Conservancy and her presentation was entitled "Fighting back : restoring northern Australia's native birdlife". I think that the introduction give us all a wakeup call.

Australia has the worst mammal extinction record in the world : 22 species have become extinct in the last 200 years, around half of the world's mammal extinctions in this period have occurred in Australia and a further 65 mammal species – 23% of our surviving mammal species are threatened with extinction, that is one in four! Populations of Australia's threatened mammal species continue to decline as a result of feral animals, particularly cats, foxes and habitat loss. For example the Woylie (Brush-tailed Bettong) population has declined 90% in the last decade. Around half of the world's mammal extinctions in this period have occurred in Australia.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy has a proven track record in establishing feral predator-free areas and restoring wildlife populations. They manage more fox and cat-free land on mainland Australia than any other organisation and have conducted over 60 translocations of threatened mammals and protect

some of the largest remaining populations of key species such as Bilbies and Burrowing Bettongs.

Australia is one of the most biological diverse areas on the planet: in fact it has more biodiversity than any other developed nation in the world. Many of Australia's native animal and plant species are unique, 87% of our mammal, 93% of our reptile, 94% of our frog and 45% of our bird species are found only in Australia but our record of protecting our remarkable fauna and flora is poor. Over 1,700 species of plants and animals are listed by the Australian government is at risk of extinction. The factors that have propelled this extinction crisis have been feral predators (foxes and cats) competition with feral herbivores (rabbits, goats, sheep and cattle) and the destruction of habitat including vegetation clearance. It is estimated that feral cats kill 75 million native animals across Australia EVERY NIGHT!!

Australian Wildlife Conservancy has over 20 sanctuaries around Australia and in some of these sanctuaries feral proof fences have proved successful but it costs \$50,000 to erect just over 1 kilometre of fence, at Mount Gibson for example they are erecting a fence 43 kilometres (subject to funding).

September Midweek Walk - Wednesday, 11th September

Terry Edwell

There were sixteen members who attended the walk that began at Barbara and Brians' home at Albion Park Rail. It is a beautiful spot overlooking wetlands and bush. The wetlands are where the Painted Snipes were seen a couple of years ago. The only birds we saw there were a pair of Masked Lapwing and a Nankeen Kestrel that had caught a lizard in its talons. Black-winged Stilts and Royal Spoonbills could be seen on the lake foreshores along with various ducks.

After morning tea, which we had at the Hales' place, we walked along a track with bush on one side and a sheep paddock on the other. We saw a few little birds here as the Lantana was in flower and the Superb Blue Wrens were dancing in and out. There was a Yellow-rumped Thornbill and a couple of Silvereyes along with a Grey Fantail around this area too. A large furry dog came and

welcomed us, he seemed to be very glad to see us: I think he was probably looking after the sheep.

After retracing our steps we continued our walk by going along Shearwater Drive and to the reserve alongside the Macquarie Rivulet. There were plenty of fish jumping but not as many birds as usual. There was only one Darter that day where generally quite a few can be seen. In the paddock opposite we saw two Red-kneed Dotterels and a Black-fronted Dotterel in a large pond. The Olive-backed Orioles were heard and seen quite often and we spotted Long-billed and Little Corellas in the grass. It was a very pleasant day the weather was good and we all enjoyed each others' company and seeing the birds, sixty in all. Welcome back to Charles and Janina after their trip to Toowoomba and glad Charlie is recovering well after his stroke/heart attack.

Bird List for Koon Bay & Macquarie Rivulet Walk 11.09.13				58 species	16 members
Black Swan	Australian White Ibis	Rainbow Lorikeet	Australian Magpie		
Australian Wood Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Crimson Rosella	Pied Currawong		
Grey Teal	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Eastern Rosella	Grey Fantail		
Chestnut Teal	Nankeen Kestrel	Laughing Kookaburra	Willie Wagtail		
Northern Mallard	Dusky Moorhen	Superb Fairy-wren	Magpie-lark		
Pacific Black Duck	Eurasian Coot	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Raven		
Crested Pigeon	Black-winged Stilt	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Silvereye		
Australasian Darter	Black-fronted Dotterel	Spotted Pardalote	Welcome Swallow		
Little Pied Cormorant	Red-kneed Dotterel	White-plumed Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul		
Great Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Little Wattlebird	Common Blackbird		
Little Black Cormorant	Silver Gull	Red Wattlebird	Common Starling		
Australian Pelican	Galah	New Holland Honeyeater	Common Myna		
Eastern Great Egret	Long-billed Corella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	House Sparrow		
Cattle Egret	Little Corella	Olive-backed Oriole			
White-faced Heron	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Butcherbird			

Monthly Outing

Yalwal and Surrounds 14.9.13

Neil Wheway

Saturday morning turned out to be somewhat damp; but four of us decided to drive down to Nowra and see how the day panned out. Tera and I were driven down in Tom and Joan's new clean white car, it looked different when we came home. After discussing where to go, Huskisson or Greenwell Point, it was agreed that we would venture out to Danjerra Dam Yalwal just to see how far we could get before having to turn around and come back. We got to Flatrock Dam wondering if anyone else was there, no IBOC members around so we carried on.

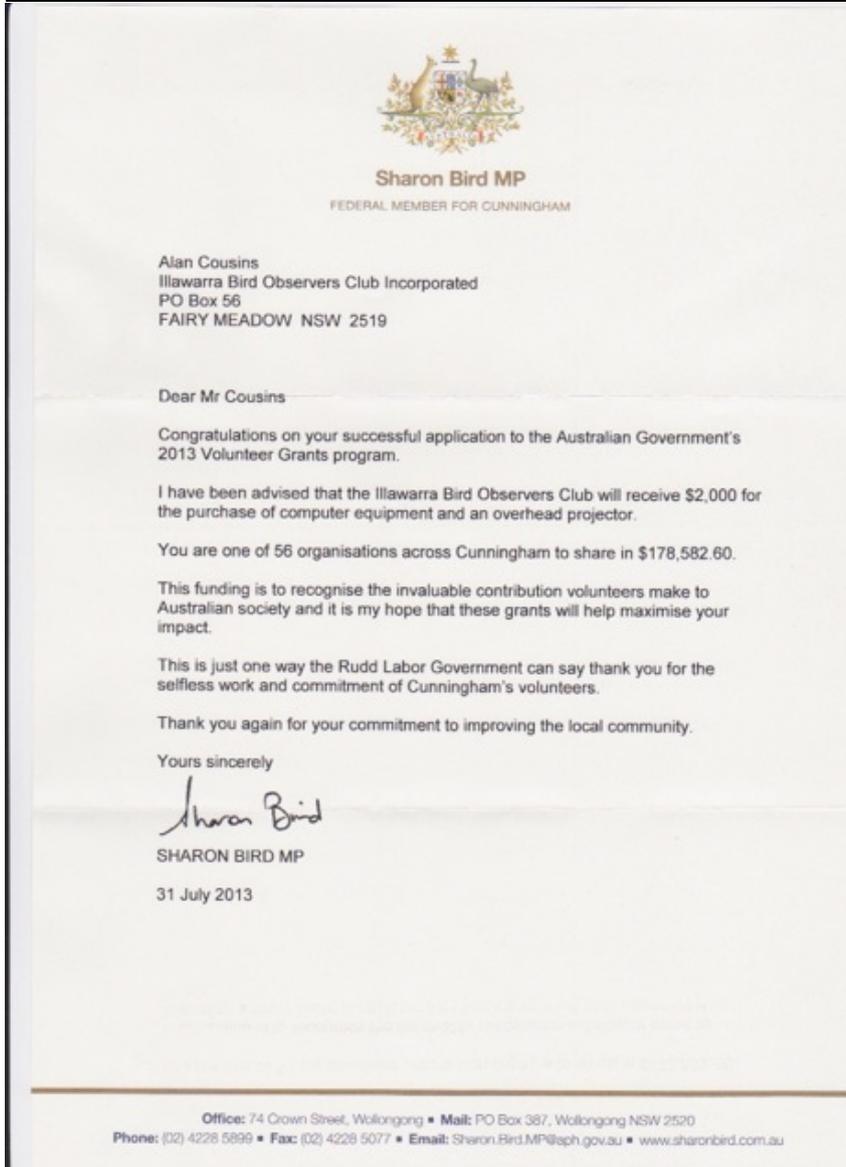
We hit the Yalwal dirt road in the rain and foggy mist, wildflowers were growing in profusion each side of road, but our view was obscured because of the fog. We did see magnificent rock formations along the way. Birds were flitting here there and everywhere, the road surface was good initially climbing up to the top of the ridge. Once at the top and along the flat it became a bit muddy but Tom soldiered on going down the other side towards the dam the road improved to a good solid rock road. (It was acknowledged we were lucky Tom was driving, because at times, when I drive the car ceases to proceed in a forward direction.)

Arriving at the dam camping areas there were no tables or shelters but lots of Purple Swamp Hens,

Wood Duck and Jacky Winters. A short drive back to the picnic area for morning tea had us enjoying coffee and tea under the roof of the park information board. Still raining lightly we watched a Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Superb Fairy-wrens, Grey Fantails and Yellow Robins just to name a few. With the rain easing we wandered around the area and were well rewarded with sightings many different birds. Scrub-Wrens, Eastern Whipbird, Spine-bills, Lewin's Honeyeater, Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbills and an Oriole just to name a few. Watching the Fan-tail Cuckoo I thought was quite special it was easy to see all its colours while preening its self.

Driving back out caused no dramas apart from adding more mud to the car, the fog had lifted allowing views of gullies and surrounding bush. There will be enough mud to make house bricks after Joan has hosed her car off. We called in at Grady's and after introducing ourselves we walked around the caravan and camping ground. We saw Wattlebirds, Friarbird and Bowerbirds. After lunch we stopped at Flatrock Dam spotting a Reed-warbler and Yellow-Tufted Honeyeater. We didn't get lost, wet or bogged; this area will well worth another visit at a later date.

Yalwal and Surrounds 14.9.13		This is a combined list of all our sightings.	
Australian Wood Duck	Purple Swamphen	Brown Gerygone	Dusky Woodswallow
Grey Teal	Eurasian Coot	White-throated Gerygone	Grey Butcherbird
Chestnut Teal	Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong
Australasian Grebe	Galah	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Spotted Dove	Rainbow Lorikeet	Lewin's Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Crested Pigeon	Crimson Rosella	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Wonga Pigeon	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Little Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Australasian Darter	Laughing Kookaburra	Red Wattlebird	Jacky Winter
Little Pied Cormorant	Sacred Kingfisher	Noisy Friarbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Little Black Cormorant	Superb Lyrebird	Eastern Whipbird	Australian Reed-Warbler
White-necked Heron	White-browed Treecreeper	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Silvereye
Cattle Egret	Satin Bowerbird	Golden Whistler	Welcome Swallow
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Common Blackbird
Brown Goshawk	White-browed Scrubwren	Olive-backed Oriole	European Goldfinch



IBOC has Recently received a grant from the 2013 Volunteer's Grants Program requested by our committee and implemented by IBOC president Alan Cousins for the upgrade on our projector and the addition of a club laptop has been gratefully received and the purchase for these goods has been undertaken.

The club now has a Hi Definition projector Epson EH- TW550 and a ISUS Laptop i5 with Microsoft Office (powerpoint)

Projector features include.
 3,000 Lumens Light output
 Easy setup
 1.2x Optical zoom
 Auto vertical keystone(#30degrees) and sliding horizontal keystone corner.
 HDMI input for high quality, high definition video- delivers both audio and brilliant HD video content.
 3 in 1 USB plug and play.

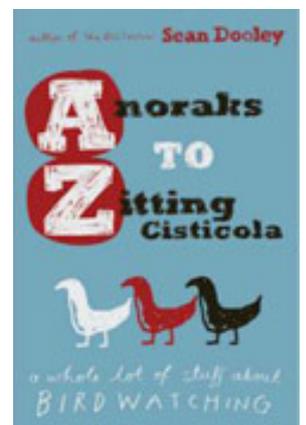
Plus many more features specs available.

Anoraks to Zitting Cisticola - A Whole Lot of Stuff About Birdwatching

Sean Dooley

This is an amusing and informative guide to everything you ever wanted to know about bird watching. It covers dedicated mailing and e-mail campaign to targeted bird watching media and organisations. Anoraks to Zitting Cisticola is a witty and entertaining guide to the secret world of bird watching. It tells you everything the other guides don't want you to know - how to look cool in binoculars, how not to get stuck with a bird bore, what not to wear, and much more!

Presented in an easy-to-use A-Z format, it provides readers with a unique insight into the language, behaviour, haunts and habits of both birders and birds, as well as looking at bird watching from the perspective of environmental issues, politics, literature, and sociology - all with a deft touch that at once informs and entertains. So whether it's A for Anoraks, P for Parabolic Grot, S for Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet contains the first recorded argument over bird identification!) or G for Gonads, this volume is guaranteed to keep even the most casual bird nerd amused.



This Book has been purchased by our library and is now available for lending out



THE BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

By Ralph Stadius

It's all Bob's fault.

In 2002 my wife Denise and I bought some vacant land at Bellowongarah (Berry Mountain) to build a home for retirement. The land is mostly sub-tropical rainforest on the escarpment slopes with about 30 acres cleared to pasture. It has 3 creeks and we installed 4 dams in a cascade and built the house and native garden overlooking them.

We were content. Having been a bit interested in birds all my life; I was enjoying the nice variety that included Kookaburras, Ducks and the occasional Wedge-tailed Eagle. My binoculars at the time were a very old pair of the small travel type and not useful in the dark forest or along the creeks.

But life was simple and the warbling of the Magpies was pleasant until I met **Bob Ashford**.

Denise had become friends with Bob's wife, and over a dinner one night, I mistakenly mentioned birds to Bob and his response was "aren't you keeping a list?" I asked what sort of list? He informed me I needed an '**on or from list**'. Apparently as part of my new rural lifestyle, I was supposed to be keeping a list of all the birds I saw on or from my property. His enthusiasm is dangerously infectious.

Well that was the start of it. You good people of IBOC know what I am talking about. Better binoculars, field bird guides, also helped by Bob who cheerfully informed me that my old Simpson and Day wasn't enough and I clearly needed a couple more.

And then the list, which starts simply enough, casual observations of White Faced Heron, Pacific Black Duck, Welcome Swallow quite easy really. Then Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo (not too hard, it wasn't white and it has a yellow tail) 4 different Cormorants and so on. Then one day a White form of the Grey Goshawk flew past only about 8M from me and at eye level, FANTASTIC bird. And a few months later, a Brown Goshawk took an almost fully grown Australian Wood Duck off the water only 15m from me. Oh no I think I am hooked!

About 3 years ago and again over dinner, Bob asks how my list is going and I proudly told him I am up to 71 species. To which he says very good, he is being polite because I am pouring the wine. He now has 104 by the way, and asks me to e-mail him the list. The result was reminiscent of feeding Christians to the lions. Normally taking several days to respond to my e-mails, his response came back within 5 minutes.

"The Australian Pelican is a good sighting" This is Bob code for 'are you sure, that's a bird I don't have'. More to the point, was his response to my entry of Forest Kingfisher, it just said "unlikely, well out of range". He would be correct of course. It was almost certainly a Sacred Kingfisher; if only I knew then what I know now. Bit like the story of life isn't it. I still wish I had taken a photo; for ever more I will have a nagging doubt it really might have been a Forest Kingfisher 'rubbish' I can hear Bob say. Now I check the range maps before I claim a bird; and take photos when I see something unusual, recently a Swamp Harrier, and last year a pair of Black Winged Stilts. It is amazing the new water birds as the dams have become vegetated. The latest arrivals are some Eurasian Coots, quite a common bird, but not up here before.

But now 6 years later the 'on or from' list is at 86 species and every time I even glimpse something unusual, I am running for my bins.

What used to be a small flock of busy little chirping birds, became Thornbills. Now I am in debates with the very same Bob as to whether it was a Yellow-rumped or a Buff-rumped Thornbill. Someone really should train Thornbills to sit still.

Seriously, **Bob Ashford has been a great help**. Like the first time I saw a Brown Button Quail sized ground bird deep in the rainforest, I had no idea where to start, Bob correctly and in just a couple of questions said a Logrunner. And the time he came round to confirm my sightings of a Latham's Snipe. I will be forever grateful for his encouragement.

Just how to beat his 104 birds?

I looked at his list one day and he has lots of Honeyeaters, I only had a couple of obvious ones, and Eastern Spinebill and a Lewin's Honeyeater. So now I am planting lots of Banksias and other flowering natives in the garden.

My wife Denise tries to help, but birding isn't really her thing. Once she rang me excitedly, when I was interstate, to tell me there was a 'low swimming duck' on the top dam. It was a Little Pied Cormorant, still there when I got home several days later.

Sometimes I would like my simple life back when I thought a Magpie Lark was just a small Magpie, just joking must go I can hear what might be a Barking Owl again.

By Ralph Stadius

PS. It was just the neighbor's dog !

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

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Saving the Gouldian Finch from extinction

Northern Australia is considered one of the last great wild places on the planet. However, in the past 10-20 years the region's internationally significant biodiversity values have been eroding, with initial declines being observed in key guilds like seed-eating birds. To illustrate the scale of the extinction crisis, several species are now extinct or are on the brink of extinction. This article will examine how changes in land management strategies have affected the most sensitive of all species, the Gouldian Finch.

Gouldian Finches are small, brightly coloured seed-eating birds restricted to the northern savannas of Australia. Formerly ranging from Cape York Peninsula in Queensland, through the Top End of the Northern Territory, to the Kimberley region in Western Australia, Gouldian Finches were once believed to be amongst the most common finches of the region. In recent times however, Gouldian Finch populations have undergone significant declines. From flocks that numbered in the thousands, the total population is now believed to be less than 2,500 breeding adults and is now listed as nationally endangered.



Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), a non-profit organisation dedicated to saving Australia's threatened wildlife, is playing a critical role in driving research to better understand the key factors causing the decline. AWC is uniquely placed to lead such research as Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary in the Kimberley is the stronghold for Gouldian's, as well as 33 other species of seed-eating birds (including ten species of parrot, eleven species of finch, seven species of pigeon, one quail species and four button-quail species).

What AWC has revealed from its research is that vegetation change through inappropriate fire regimes and grazing impacts of stock and feral herbivores are key factors propelling these declines in Gouldian Finch populations.

The contemporary fire regime in northern Australia is dominated by frequent, extensive, hot, late dry season wildfires, with large tracts of the region burning every year. This regime differs markedly from that delivered by indigenous people prior to European settlement when fire patterns were heterogeneous in time and space, creating a mosaic of burnt and unburnt patches on the ground.

The current fire regime is known to affect seed productivity in key wet season grasses that Gouldian's rely on to tide them over the *resource bottleneck* period that occurs early in the year. Both cockatoo grass and curly spinifex seed production is reduced in areas burnt in successive years. This is due to a combination of decreased production of flowers and fruits, higher predation of seeds when on the ground (especially from ants), increased browsing by introduced herbivores, as well as direct mortality of recruits. Fire also affects the availability of tree hollows for nesting and Gouldian's tend to avoid hollows that have been burnt. The biodiversity declines are so serious that some species have disappeared from large parts of northern Australia. Of the 32 state and nationally threatened birds and mammals in the north, 23 list inappropriate fire as a key threatening process.

Intensive grazing has also aided the decline in Gouldian Finches across Northern Australia. Key Gouldian Finch wet-season grasses (cockatoo and golden beard grass) are selectively grazed (and hence their incidence and extent reduced) by cattle and horses and can also reduce seed production in residual populations of these species. Cattle and buffalo can also reduce and degrade waterholes used by Gouldian's in the dry season by trampling and eating surrounding vegetation.

Urgent intervention using a new model for conservation is required if we are to arrest and reverse the decline of Gouldian Finches and other seed-eating birds across northern Australia's tropical savannas. AWC represents this new model for conservation: one that is heavily focused on achieving measurable outcomes through the delivery of practical land management informed by strong science. At Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary, AWC has demonstrated that active land management can be effective at reversing the decline in seed-eating birds. AWC has achieved this outcome at Mornington in a cost-effective manner by undertaking key management actions, including:

- Creating a 40,000 hectare feral-herbivore free area; and

- Implementing of an innovative prescribed burning program over 4 million hectares of the Kimberley (EcoFire) that has successfully changed the seasonality of fire patterns from late hot dry season wildfires to cool, patchy, early dry season, controlled burns. There is no other example of a non-government organisation conducting fire management on this scale.

As a result of these effective on-ground management strategies, AWC has achieved a more heterogeneous mix of age classes across 4 million hectares of land in the Kimberley. This has helped improve annual seed availability, by protecting 3+ year old vegetation like spinifex, and ensured the safeguarding of critical habitat and breeding areas for Gouldian's. Furthermore, in areas of good fire management and feral herbivore control, Gouldian populations (as well as other non-declining seed-eating birds) have stabilised, whereas elsewhere populations are continuing to decline.

The outcomes generated by AWC's research and on-ground land management demonstrates that it is not too late to stop and reverse the decline of seed-eating birds in northern Australia and that it can be achieved very cost effectively. EcoFire for example is delivered at < 9 cents per hectare! This is less than half the cost of large-scale fire management delivered by government agencies in north Australia.

To find out more, or to help, please visit www.australianwildlife.org or telephone Leah Royle on (02) 9324 4209.

BLSN Bird Survey in the Mudgee-Wollar IBA

5, 6 and 7 October 2013



Dear Birders

BirdLife Southern NSW (BLSN) has selected the Mudgee-Wollar IBA as a suitable one for our members and their friends to monitor. It is about 300 Km from Sydney to the very pleasant Honeyeater Flat Field Study Area and Campground in the middle of the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve. The Key species of this IBA are all delightful birds, being Regent Honeyeater, Rockwarbler and Diamond Firetail. The whole area of this IBA abounds with birds, there having been more than 200 species recorded in the IBA.

The BLSN committee has established 20 survey sites around the IBA and invites members and their friends to undertake an initial survey of these sites on the October long weekend. Surveys will be conducted on the mornings of Sunday 6 October and Monday 7 October. We suggest surveyors arrive in time for a 4 pm Saturday afternoon briefing on the sites to be surveyed and how the surveying is to be done. If there is any interest we will run a tutorial on Atlassing after the briefing.

Honeyeater Flat Field Study Area and Campsite

The Honeyeater Flat camping area provides an attractive camping area for tents and caravans. It has a drop toilet and a number of fireplaces. There is NO water supply at the site and campers need to bring with them all of the water they will require. It is suggested that surveyors come with a gas stove for cooking to reduce the pressure on wood for fires.

Accommodation is available in Mudgee and there are a number of B&B and cabin accommodation options in the area for those not wishing to camp. Some of these can be found at

http://www.visitmudgeeregion.com.au/WhereToStay/where-to-stay-in-mudgee#.Uh_8oZlcbAw.



Regent Honeyeater



Rockwarbler



Diamond Firetail



Give threatened birds a voice - Campaign Update

Dear Supporter, Yesterday afternoon a senate inquiry into the effectiveness of threatened species and ecological communities' protection in Australia released its final report.

The inquiry concluded that:

"recovery plans are not implemented and/or are not given sufficient funding to effectively implement them (by both Commonwealth and state and territory governments)";

"both conservation advices and recovery plans (should be) funded, implemented, monitored and reviewed"; and

"there needs to be a clear avenue for funding of activities under recovery plans and conservation advices."

A well resourced, identified and understood funding stream for threatened species recovery is exactly what BirdLife Australia is campaigning for. So give threatened birds a voice in this election campaign by signing on to the BirdLife Australia petition at www.savethebirds.org.au.

Get involved, receive regular supporter updates and share this note as widely as you can with your friends, family and social media networks. The final report of the Inquiry and BirdLife Australia's submission can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

Paul Sullivan Chief Executive Officer



Red-browed Finch – Mike Morphet

Since we've had the movable cage for the Canaries & Gouldian Finches on the back verandah to counteract the rat threat in the aviary, more wild birds have been visiting this spot, capitalising on spilt seed from the cage. Red-browed Finches had previously been only very occasional visitors to our backyard, but over the past month or so their numbers have increased from a pair to twenty. In ones and twos the Finches appear on the verandah, but at the slightest movement seen as a threat, they take off en masse; and this pattern of behaviour becomes the norm. They are delightful to watch, jostling among themselves for a feed, tolerating the presence of a young Spotted Dove or a White-browed Scrubwren, and waiting in the latticed wings for Rainbow Lorikeets, Crimson Rosella, King Parrots, and lately a pair of Brown Cuckoo-doves to have their fill. Ironic, isn't it? Had it not been for the rat invasion, we would not have had the pleasure of witnessing of what up until now is a daily spectacle. Postscript: The morning after my writing this article saw a continuation of periods of sudden gusty winds.



One such blast caused the shallow plastic seed bowl I've been placing under the Canary/Finch cage to overturn and trap one of the Redbrows underneath. Amusing to see the bowl lift very slightly a couple of times as the Finch tried to escape until I came to its rescue. Hopefully it won't feel too 'browbeaten'.

a nesting Falcon is perhaps the most remarkable Nature shot that I've ever seen

The Brown Goshawk and Collared Sparrowhawk ID is always seems to be difficult for some reason this Great Picture by Pam Hazelwood proved yet another problem of the 15 experts I asked to deliberate the ID on I had 7 for Brown Goshawk and 8 for Collared Sparrowhawk all with a positive ID feature .

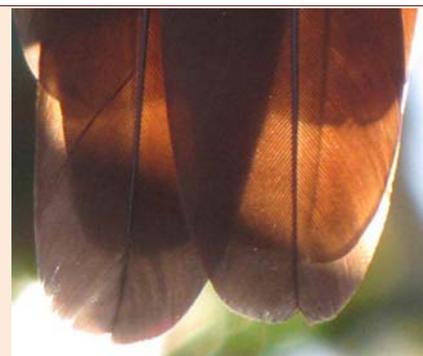


Charles Dove Editor

Brown-cuckoo Dove – Mike Morphet

While having lunch on our back verandah, I had the added pleasure of watching a pair of Brown Cuckoo-doves resting on a branch of our Naked Robinia. Now and then the one on the right preened the left one's head. They appeared to thoroughly enjoy the warmth of the winter sun, and I delighted in observing the sun shine through the tips of their tail-feathers, highlighting the barbs, and create a golden outline around their heads.

I've travelled many a kilometre on the lookout for birds in all their glory, but they haven't come much better than today's simple, no-cost backyard witnessing of these generally shy birds





This interesting Picture of the King Parrot in transition. By Pam Hazelwood



Living adjacent the bush can invite a backyard hazard like Red bellied Black Snake sunbaking in the Backyard at Terry Edwells



14 Ducklings is a bit of a handful for this Wood Duck at the Science Centre- by Alan Cousins



Interesting Photo of an Olive Back Oriole eating a Monarch butterfly very unusual with the butterfly being one of the poisonous species. Photo Terry Edwell

The past few days I've been reconfiguring a section between the vegetable garden and the washing-line area, which has entailed removing overgrown vegetation, shifting pot plants, and making new plantings. I had to down tools several times to watch an Eastern Yellow Robin (One of two or three that have been regular visitors for many weeks now) watching out for, and pouncing on, various invertebrates I had disturbed.

It has a number of different favoured perching spots round the garden, including the rusting bird sculpture (made in China), it uses as lookout posts. Its behaviour has reminded me so much of the Robin Redbreast of my childhood days in Kent. This species and other insectivores make very efficient natural pesticides.

Mike Morphet



Terry Edwell was pleasantly surprised to see the Pacific Baza once again has returned for a visit to the Lemon Scented Gum, seems to be a favourite of the Baza



Very hard to photograph! On the move through our casuarina, its plumage blending with the twigs and scale-leaves.

Its call was interspersed with its foraging in the upper half of the tree for a good five minutes. Reminding me of the Song Thrush back in England, it was a welcome visitor on the last day of our generally warm winter.

Mike Morphet



Red-necked Stint 1 This time of year we see an influx of waders from the Northern Hemisphere reporting the sightings of these will assist in aiding them to continue their enormous annual flight



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

We need your help with the White Ibis Survey Sunday 20th October 2013 anywhere in Australia



is greatly appreciated

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is conducting its annual White Ibis survey to get a better understanding of the distribution and abundance of this bird in NSW. This year we are requesting participation from across Australia.

The survey has been running since 2003 and the information collected has assisted considerably with our knowledge of these distinctive birds.

Increasingly, Ibis are moving into our urban environments bringing them into conflict with human's e.g. affecting aircraft safety, water quality and biodiversity. To participate simply report the number of Ibis you see via the below website. Reports within a week of the 20th are accepted. Additional information such as breeding, the number of nests or wingtags (pictured above)

Go to

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/surveys/WhiteIbisSightingForm.htm

An elusive often heard not always seen bird.

The Eastern Whipbird

25th September

Neil Wheway



After a day of gale force westerly winds, Tera and I were wandering around enjoying the warm afternoon sun. Walking towards our shed in the back corner to see what damage the wind had created. Tera had to duck to avoid a low flying bird which flew into the open roller door. We had thought that it was a Rainbow Lorikeet, on closer inspection it turned into an Eastern Whipbird flying around inside the shed. We have never heard let alone seen a Whipbird anywhere in the vicinity of our yard. Tera raced inside to get her camera to record this unusual

event, trying to photograph a bird flying around the usual shed clutter and a caravan was not easy. Eventually it flew past the caravan and the open door and proceeded to forage in the leaf litter under the Macadamia Nut Trees, apparently none the worse for its inspection of our shed.

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: August - September 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.

Darryl Goldrick

Bar-shouldered Dove	8	03-Sep-13	Jerrara Dam Rd	Roadside	Kara Eddington
Wonga Pigeon	1	01-Aug-13	Mt Keira	Backyard	Val Dolan
White-necked Heron	2	late Aug	Dapto	Farmland	Bruce O'Brien
Striated Heron	2	15/09/2013	Berkeley Harbour	Foreshore	C & J Dove
Brown Goshawk	2	4/09/2013	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	13/09/2013	Lake Illawarra Beach	Overhead	Charles Dove
Grey Goshawk	1 W/Morph	20/07/2013	Croome	Mixed Trees	C & J Dove
Grey Goshawk	1	6/09/2013	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	10-Sep-13	Coedale	Roadside	Mike Morphett
Nankeen Kestrel	1	23/07/2013	Heritage Park Windang	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Purple Swamphen	1	06-Sep-13	Hyams Creek	Creek	Betty Hudson
Buff-banded Rail	1	27-Aug-13	Albion Park Rail	Creek	Neil Wheway
Buff-banded Rail	1	05-Sep-13	Botanic Garden	Creek	Joan Zealey
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	7	16/09/2013	Pelican View Reserve	Sand Bar	Charles Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	06-Sep-13	Hyams Beach	Beach	Sheila Emery
Double-banded Plover	1	13/09/2013	Windang Island	Rocky outcrop	Charles Dove
Latham's Snipe	3	15/09/2013	Berkeley Harbour	Island Shoreline	C & J Dove
Eastern Curlew	5	16/09/2013	Pelican View Reserve	Sand Bar	Charles Dove
Red-necked Stint	2	13/09/2013	Lake Illawarra Beach	Dunes	Charles Dove
Kelp Gull	5 +2 juv	1/08/2013	Woonona Point	Shore	Tom Wylie
Kelp Gull	2 a + 2 juv	16-Aug-13	Bellambi	Beach	Tom Wylie
Eastern Koel	1	2/09/2013	Primbee	Gum Tree /yard	C & J Dove
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	12/09/2013	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	7	28-Aug-13	Audley	Riverside	Kara Eddington
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	11-Sep-13	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	1	15/09/2013	Kanahooka Point	Casurina	Charles Dove
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	1	15/09/2013	Berkeley Harbour	mixed trees	C & J Dove
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	2	24-Aug-13	Dapto	Suburban	Bruce O'Brien
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	23/07/2013	Heritage Park Windang	Casurina	Charles Dove
Southern Boobook	1 juv	3-Sep-13	Woonona	Garden	Meri Stefanidakis
Eastern Barn Owl	2	31/08/2013	Primbee / Park	Casurina	C Dove - A Roberts
Noisy Pitta	1	03-Sep-13	Blackbutt	Forest	Kara Eddington
Green Catbird	1	09-Sep-13	Tarrawanna	Garden	Peggy McKinlay
Variegated Fairy-wren	2	11-Sep-13	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Rockwarbler	1	28-Aug-13	Wattamolla	Rock Platform	Kara Eddington
White-browed Scrubwren	2ad+2fled	14-Sep-13	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Olive-backed Oriole	1	31-Aug-13	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Olive-backed Oriole	3	10/09/2013	Primbee	Casurina	Charles Dove
Jacky Winter	2	09-Sep-13	Bangalee Res, Nowra	Picnic area	Sheila Emery
Rose Robin	1 m.dead	15-Aug-13	Dapto	Suburban	Bruce O'Brien
Australian Reed-warbler	2	8/09/2013	Primbee	Creek	Charles Dove
Bassian Thrush	1	06-Sep-13	Greenfield Reserve	Picnic area	Sheila Emery
Bassian Thrush	1	09-Sep-13	Bangalee Res, Nowra	Scrub	Sheila Emery
Mistletoebird	5	15/09/2013	Kanahooka Point	Grasses	Charles Dove
Red-browed Finch	50+	28/08/2013	Primbee / Park	Grass	Charles Dove

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While all due care has been taken to ensure that the content of this newsletter is accurate and current, there may be errors or omissions in this newsletter and no legal responsibility is accepted for the information in this newsletter.

The Current President, Vice President and Secretary will not be re-nominating for these positions so please consider as a member of IBOC if you would be able to take on one of these position.

I.B.O.C. 2013 Annual General Meeting Monday 11th November 2013

Nomination Forms for Positions on 2014 Committee

These forms are included in this newsletter to allow time for completed nomination forms to reach the Secretary no later than Monday 4th November 2013. Completed Nomination Forms should be posted to the club mailbox, P.O. Box 56 Fairy Meadow or handed to the Secretary prior to this date.

Please note that all nominations must be signed and dated by the Nominee, the Nominator and the Seconder, as well as clearly indicating the position sought. If any of these are missing the nomination will be invalid.

If no valid nomination forms are received for a position, then nominations will be called from the floor of the Annual General Meeting on 11th November 2013.

The positions to be elected are President; Vice-President; Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Committee Members.

If you are interested in assisting in any of the non elected positions i.e. Records Officer, Activities Officer (Monthly Walks), Activities Officer (Mid Week Walks), Editor, Librarian, please let the President know prior to the AGM

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Inc

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS - 2014

The AGM will be held at the start of the November meeting and nominations are invited for the following positions:

President; Vice-President; Treasurer; Secretary and Four (4) Committee Members.

Nominations should be received in writing by the Secretary no later than 7 days prior to the meeting.

****This year nominations are required to reach the Secretary by Monday 4th November 2013****

Position nominated: _____

Members Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date _____

(Nominee)
Nominated by: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Seconded by: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: All other positions are also available but these are not Committee positions and nominations are not required.