

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

Scientific Name: Lichenostomus chrysops
 Featured bird groups: Honeyeaters
 Atlas Number: 614

Description:

The Yellow-faced Honeyeater is a medium to small, plainly coloured honeyeater with a slightly down-curved bill. It is dark grey-brown above, with some brown streaking on the head, and paler below with lighter



photo by Charles Dove

streaks. It has a distinctive, broad yellow face-stripe, bordered with black. The males are slightly larger but the sexes are otherwise similar. Young are paler and unstreaked on the head. It can be seen in large flocks when migrating, and in smaller groups when feeding.

Similar species:

The Yellow-faced Honeyeater may be confused with several honeyeaters with similar yellow and black face markings, including the Singing, Varied, Mangrove, Bridled and Eungella Honeyeaters; however, it is much smaller than all of these and the eye stripe appears to run through the eye, rather than below it.

Distribution:

The Yellow-faced Honeyeater is widespread in eastern and south-eastern mainland Australia, from northern Queensland to eastern South Australia.

Habitat:

The Yellow-faced Honeyeater is found in open forests and woodlands, often near water and wetlands. It uses ridges, sand dunes, valleys and rivers when migrating. It is often found in urban areas, including in remnant bushland, as well as parks and gardens. It will use areas infested with weeds such as Scotch Broom and Blackberry.

Seasonal movements:

Partially migratory, with regular movements to and from south-eastern Australia; moving north in autumn and south in spring.

Feeding:

Yellow-faced Honeyeaters feed on nectar, pollen, fruit, seeds, insects and their products. They tend to forage in the flowers and foliage of trees and shrubs, as well as mistletoe, and are rarely seen on the ground.

Breeding:

Breeding pairs of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters defend territories during the season. The female builds a neat, woven, sometimes fragile, cup from green materials such as moss, in the understorey of forests or in hedges, vines and other garden shrubs. She incubates the eggs alone, but both parents feed the young. The nests can be parasitised by the Shining and Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoos, as well as the Fan-tailed, Brush and, particularly, Pallid Cuckoos.

Living with us

The Yellow-faced Honeyeater can be injured by cats. It has also been known to damage fruit in gardens and orchards.

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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SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:**Monday 8th**

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

Shorebird Recovery Programme presented by Jodie Dunn

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

Midweek Walk:**Wednesday 10th***Leader Charles Dove***Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, Jamberoo**

This will be a joint outing with the Cumberland Bird Observers Club. Meet at the Picnic Area in the Nature Reserve off the Jamberoo Mountain Road between Robertson and Jamberoo. It is signposted. Members are reminded to car pool with friends wherever possible.

Bring Morning Tea and Lunch

Ph Charles 0417 422 302 if the weather looks doubtful.

Weekend Walk:**Sunday 14th***Leader Betty Hudson*

Yalwal Reserve: The September monthly walk is to Yalwal Reserve and Danjera Dam on the edge of Morton National Park west of Nowra. Meet at entrance to Bamarang Reservoir on Yalwal Road approx. 7KM west of the Albatross/Yalwal Road Junction, Nowra at 8.45am. Please park on the grass or beside Yalwal road as we must not block access to the reservoir for water board vehicles.

From Wollongong drive south to Nowra, turn right at the Greenwell Point Road lights and then left at the roundabout onto Albatross Road. After 1km turn right into Yalwal Road.

Once we leave the reservoir we will continue along Yalwal Rd to a Y junction, take the left fork, a gravel road, which leaves the river and climbs up into forest- beware of motorbikes! The last section of this road is a steep narrow road for several Km's down to Yalwal reserve.

If the weather is doubtful contact Betty on 4236 0307 before 7.30am or text mobile 0432 892 945. NB there is no mobile reception at Yalwal Reserve.

You need to allow extra time for travel due to the road works at Gerringong & reduced speed limits.

Committee Meeting -**Monday 15th**

The next IBOC Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 15th September 2014 at 7.30pm at Betty Hudson's home, 1 Drualla Road Jamberoo 2533.

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 **26th September**

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



CLUB REPORTS

Report for Club Meeting 11th August 2014

Charles Dove

Rainforest - The Secret of Life narrated by Jack Thompson

This very enjoyable DVD was the highlight of the meeting on the 11th August and explained many of the features that our rainforests contain.

Rainforests hold the key to the secret of life on our planet. They are the most abundant and diverse land environments on earth. Not only do they safe guard the genetic bounty of our past, they also hold the very key to the future of our world. *Rainforest – The Secret of Life* captures rare and fascinating wildlife sequences, including the mating rituals of lyrebirds and bowerbirds, and explores the intricate web of life that evolved in these rainforests. It also leads to the recent scientific discovery of the greatest secret of all – how rainforests form part of a vast global system that regulates the world's climate. This DVD is now available in the club library if anyone wishes to borrow it.

Midweek Walk – Byarong Creek Wednesday 13th August

by Ken Brown

After the bad weather on Tuesday we half expected to wake up to find the walk was called off. However the sky was clear, the wind had dropped, quite cool but the sun was out and it looked like a beautiful day ahead when a dozen of us gathered in the car park next to the soccer field at the end of Wallawa St. After watching a few of the common birds around the car park we headed around the field to the creek and started the walk upstream. About 50 metres later we had our first debate about whether we were looking at a female Golden Whistler or Robin, before a better view confirmed the Whistler.

Another 50 metres and we were into King-Parrot territory with several in the tree just above us and more just over the creek. The open fields gave us long views and a little further on we got into another debate over whether a pair of birds high up in a distant tree was Orioles or Figbirds. Eventually improving views confirmed the Oriole.

Keeping to the southern bank of the creek we left the bike track to cross the bridge and walked into another cleared area as an Egret flew over our heads, triggering another debate which eventually determined it was a Cattle Egret. In this area we picked up some more birds including Eastern Spinebills, White-browed Scrubwrens and Superb Fairy-wrens and at the end of the flat we approached the Uralba St. crossing. Just before we reached we heard a strange sound and found what appeared to be a very old squawking Sulphur-crested Cockatoo attended by two others.

Across the creek we were entertained by a very friendly Grey Fantail showing off for us and we then headed further up the southern bank. After the next flat we moved

into a narrower strip between the creek and the back fences of houses. Along this stretch we passed under a Grey Butcherbird above us and came to a small sunny clearing with benches thoughtfully supplied by the neighbouring house. A perfect spot for morning tea, which we all enjoyed.



Australian Wood Ducks
by Judy Baker

After morning tea it was only a short distance on to the community hall at the junction of Langson Ave. and Whelan Ave. We crossed the creek here where the Pacific Black Ducks were in the water and a Yellow Thornbill was waiting for us on the other bank. Heading back on the north side we crossed Uralba St again and then split up with some on each bank, until we got back to the bike track bridge.

The gentle walk continued back to the car park where we finished with the bird count, which totalled 37. Overall it was a very pleasant morning with nice flat walking, a surprisingly clean and natural creek, and a good selection of birds.

Thanks Rupert.

Bird List for Byarong Creek Walk 13.08.14		37 Species	14 Members Attended
Australian Wood Duck	Australian King Parrot	Noisy Miner	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Crimson Rosella	Little Wattlebird	Willie Wagtail
Spotted Dove	Laughing Kookaburra	Red Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Crested Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Magpie-lark
Cattle Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler	Silvereye
White-faced Heron	White-browed Scrubwren	Olive-backed Oriole	Welcome Swallow
Masked Lapwing	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	Common Starling
Silver Gull	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Magpie	Common Myna
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Spinebill	Pied Currawong	House Sparrow
Rainbow Lorikeet			

Monthly Outing – Saturday 16th July: WALK AT BANGADILLY NATIONAL PARK CANYONLEIGH

by Terry Edwell

Rain was forecast for our Saturday walk so we were lucky it was just overcast and were able to have the morning and afternoon walks. The bush was very dry but there were three variety of Wattle flowering and the Boronia was just starting. In another couple of weeks it will be beautiful. I had not been to this place before so I was eager to see what birdlife there was. Just as we were about to arrive three Glossy Black Cockatoos flew over our car and landed in a tree at the side of the road. How really beautiful they are when they spread their tails out just as they take off. Our day was made before we started to walk.

So nine IBOC members and two visitors from Birdlife Southern Highlands began the one and a half kilometre walk to the Mt. Penang Trig. One of the first sightings was a Scarlet Robin hurrying through the bush. He had a spectacular scarlet chest and very black and white wings. We sighted the robin a number of times so maybe a couple of males were around. The track was a good one and Betty had marked out our path with pink wool so we wouldn't stray onto the wrong one as many tracks crisscrossed. Just before we started the short climb to the trig we saw two Wedge-tailed Eagles soaring above us, what a sight. There were good views of the mountains and valleys from the edge of the cliff where the trig was and Welcome Swallows were dipping and diving for insects as we turned to retrace our steps back to the cars for lunch. Just before we reached the cars we had a little party of Thornbills

that came into the trees whistling and calling. There were Striated, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Buff-rumped and Brown Thornbills along with a White-browed Treecreeper and a White-naped Honeyeater. We were all very busy with our binoculars.

After lunch we walked a loop track and walked back along the road. We didn't see many birds on this track but towards the end we heard Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos and after much searching in the trees we spotted them. Not much further along we heard Gang Gangs and after a bit of



Gang Gang by Terry Edwell

hunting managed to find them in a tall tree well hidden in the branches but then they flew right towards us and Joan, Tom and I walked back to the car very pleased with the day. Thanks Betty for leading us once again we had a great time.

Bird List for Bangadilly NP Walk 16.08.14		31 species	9 members & 2 visitors from Birdlife Southern Highlands attended
Wedge-tailed Eagle	White-throated Treecreeper	Striated Pardalote	Australian Magpie
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Weebill	Eastern Spinebill	Pied Currawong
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Striated Thornbill	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Yellow Thornbill	White-eared Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Noisy Miner	Scarlet Robin
Crimson Rosella	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Red Wattlebird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Brown Thornbill	White-naped Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Laughing Kookaburra	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Shrike-thrush	White-winged Chough

Late sighting added of the White-winged Chough

Proposed Subscriptions Increase-

At the July committee meeting we considered the club's budget. Over the last couple of years we have been making small losses and this is likely to continue if we do not address it. The club's subscription rates have not changed since 2009 and past history shows an increase has been necessary at intervals of about 6 years. The committee is proposing the subscriptions increase to \$40 single and \$50 family for the 2015 calendar year. Our constitution requires the increase to be approved by the Annual General Meeting of the club in November. If you have any concerns about this proposal, please discuss it with one of the committee members.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

National Bird Week

National Bird Week 2014 will take place between **Monday 20 October and Sunday 26 October**. The celebration of National Bird Week has its origins back in the early 1900s when 28 October was first designated by our predecessor, the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, as the first 'Bird Day'. BirdLife Australia organises and promotes Bird Week with the goal of inspiring Australians to take action and get involved in bird conservation efforts.

Aussie Backyard Bird Count

www.aussiebirdcount.org.au

BirdLife Australia and the Birds in Backyards team have come together to launch this year's national Bird Week event the **Aussie Backyard Bird Count!**

Celebrate National Bird Week 2014 by taking part in the biggest citizen science project to hit Aussie shores! From 20-26 October, thousands of people from across the country are heading out into their backyards, local parks or favourite open spaces to take part in the first ever **Aussie Backyard Bird Count!**

To get involved all you need is 20 minutes, your 'green patch' of choice, and some keen eyesight (or binoculars!) And it doesn't matter if you're a novice or an expert—we'll be there to help you out along the way! Simply record the birds you know and look up those you don't on our new Aussie Bird Count app (available for download in September) or our website. You'll instantly see live statistics and information on how many people are taking part near you and the number of birds and species counted not just across your neighbourhood but the whole of Australia!

Not only will you get to know your feathered neighbours, but you'll be contributing to a vital pool of information from across the nation that will help us see how Australian birds are faring.

So get your friends and family together, head into the great outdoors and start counting!

Mustard Bellied Snake:

Not a well-known Snake and a very uncommon and beautiful snake that frequents the valley between Macquarie Pass and Albion Park.

Genus: Drysdalia

Description: The Mustard-bellied Snake is a small brown elapid snake with a distinct dark head and a lighter brown band on the nape of the neck.

Distribution: Found along the coast and in the ranges of southern New South Wales from the Newnes Plateau in the north to Merimbula in the south. It is quite common in leaf litter or under logs but can be found on rocks and sand in spring.

Comments: While its venom has been classified as Mild or Asymptomatic by the Queensland Museum the snake should be left alone.



Peter Butler

Giant penguin fossil shows bird was taller than most humans



Analysis of 37m-year-old fossil unearthed in Antarctica shows species would have dwarfed today's *Palaeudyptes klekowskii* would have dwarfed today's biggest living penguin, the emperor penguin. Photograph: Tui De Roy/Corbis.

A penguin species that lived millions of years ago would have dwarfed today's biggest living penguins and stood as tall as most humans, according to analysis of fossils by a team of researchers from the La Plata Museum in Argentina.

Palaeudyptes klekowskii has already been dubbed the "colossus penguin", and is the most complete fossil ever uncovered from the Antarctic. The unearthed bones are 37m years old.

Now is the TIME TO BE AWARE for Beach-nesting Birds

BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds project has been working with community volunteers across Australia since 2006 to achieve the following:

- Raise awareness among beach users about beach-nesting birds
- Train local volunteers to monitor beach-nesting birds, identify threats and improve management
- Protect eggs and chicks through temporary fencing, signage and artificial shelters
- Research new ways of protecting birds and improving breeding success

What are beach-nesting birds?

Many different types of birds live in Australia's coastal areas - Gulls, Terns, Cormorants and shorebirds, to name a handful - but only a few of them actually nest on the beach.

There are five species of Australian shorebirds which nest only or usually on the beach:



Left to right
Red-capped Plover
Hooded Plover
Sooty Oystercatcher
Beach Stone-curlew
Pied Oystercatcher

Photos by Charles Dove

"Because beach-nesting birds have such poor breeding success, their numbers are declining and it won't be long before they become extinct. They are in desperate need of a helping hand"

We tend to think of beaches being covered in clean white sand, but not all beaches are sandy. Beach-nesting birds live on many different types of beaches. Sooty Oystercatchers prefer rocky coasts, where they search for food among the rocks. Pied Oystercatchers are more likely to be seen on sandy beaches where there are a few rocks about as well. Beach Stone-curlews usually live on sheltered beaches with muddy sand and mangroves growing nearby. Red-capped Plovers are often seen on sheltered muddy shores, but they also occur on sandy ones, and are abundant around wetlands, both saline and freshwater.

Hooded Plovers (in their eastern range) only occur on sandy beaches that are exposed to the ocean swells and backed by sand dunes; of course, these beaches are where most people choose to go. Beach-nesting birds, including Hooded Plovers, lay their eggs directly on the sand in a simple, shallow nest scrape. The nest can be anywhere above the high-tide mark, on the beach or in the dunes. Some other beach-nesting species, particularly Oystercatchers, may also nest in rocky areas and on offshore islands.

Why are beach-nesting birds threatened?

The greatest threat to Australia's beach-nesting birds is disturbance from people visiting the beach. This disturbance is greatest in spring and summer, when beach-nesting birds usually lay their eggs, coinciding with the peak period of recreational use of beaches.

Hooded Plovers are the most threatened of them all, as they are the birds which inhabit the beaches most people like to visit. Their eggs are small (about the size of a 20-cent piece) and very well camouflaged, so they are easily trodden on by accident. If the incubating adult is scared off the nest by passers-by, the eggs may literally bake in the sun, or become too cold in the cool weather; either way, it kills the chick developing in the egg, and the egg will not hatch. Similarly, when people disturb a fluffy chick, it quickly runs into the sand dunes and hides. While it is running, the chick uses up valuable energy, and while it is hiding it is unable to feed (they usually forage at the water's edge), so that a chick that is forced to run and hide throughout the day could easily starve.

Hunter Wetlands Trip

23-26th February 2015

Sufficient expressions of interest have been received to enable this trip to go ahead.

The dates will be Monday 23rd to Thursday 26th February 2015. I suggest that members arrive on the Monday afternoon and depart Thursday afternoon. This will give us 2 full days and 1 half days bird watching. These dates have been chosen as the tides will be highest around the middle of the day pushing the waders towards the shore.

We will be staying at Karuah Jetty Caravan Park, about 30km north of Hexham bridge. Unfortunately suitable accommodation is not available at closer parks. Karuah is situated on the northern arm of Port Stephens.

Directions: Take F3 motorway from Hornsby and follow signs to Newcastle, then take Pacific Hwy north towards Taree. From Hexham Bridge continue north for approx 30km until you reach the Karuah turn off where you turn right.

Address 88 Holdom Rd Karuah Ph 02 4997 5520 email bookings@big4karuahjetty.com.au
Karuah has an RSL Club, and Shops.

Accommodation:

No minimum booking applies to this period

Cabins

3 x Spa Villas	Sleep 4 in 2 bedrooms	\$135/night or \$405 for 3 nights for 2 people
11 x Queen Villas	Sleep 4 in 2 bedrooms	\$125/night or \$375 for 3 nights for 2 people
3 x Family villas	Sleep 6 in 2 bedrooms	\$155/night or \$465 for 3 nights for 2 people
4 x Garden Villas	Sleeps 2 - open plan	\$95/night or \$285 for 3 nights for 2 people

Sites

29 x Powered Sites	\$32/night or \$96 for 3 nights for 2 people
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Please advise Betty when you have booked on 4236 0307 or email elizabethihudson@bigpond.com or fill in on the board at club meetings.

13 newly-discovered birds declared extinct

Jeremy Hance mongabay.com August 18, 2014.

The only believed drawing of an Oceanic parrot (Ecleetus infectus) from life made in 1793 in Tonga. Illustration by: Unknown.

In a [recent update of the IUCN Red List](#), scientists have identified 13 new bird species that have gone extinct since 1500. In total the list now finds that at least 140 bird species gone extinct in the past five hundred years, representing 1.3 percent of the world's total known birds. The new extinct birds were added to the list for a number of reasons. Seven of the 13 were due to recent discoveries of fossil birds on Bermuda, Mauritius, Rodrigues, and Tonga. Four were due to taxonomists splitting species that were considered subspecies prior to this update. Finally, two of the extinct birds—Finsch's Duck (*Chenonetta finschi*) and Hodgen's Waterhen (*Tribonyx hodgenorum*)—were found to have survived longer than previously believed, making them eligible for the IUCN Red List data. The IUCN Red List only tracks species that were present on the planet as of 1500 AD.



All of the newly-added extinct birds were island birds that were decimated by overhunting and invasive species, such as rats. While most of the now recognized species went extinct over a hundred years ago (and many longer), the South Island Snipe (*Coenocorypha iredalei*) from New Zealand survived until 1964 when its last two individuals died in captivity.

But even as these 13 extinct birds were added to the list, another six extinct birds were removed. Most of these were removed due to lack of evidence that the bird existed, for example some of these removed birds were based on a single mention from a historical scientist. Others were removed because recent evidence showed they were not a full species in their own right, but rather a subspecies.

Drawing of the North Island snipe (Coenocorypha barrierensis), which went extinct on New Zealand in the 1870s. Illustration by: Unknown.

The new update also named three additional species as possibly extinct. The New Caledonian Buttonquail (*Turnix novaecaledoniae*) has not been seen in over a century, but may still survive on the island. Another bird from a hugely important biodiversity hotspot may also be extinct: the New Caledonian Nightjar (*Eurostopodus exul*). This species was only recorded once in 1939—and hasn't been seen since. Unlike the others, the last species is a mainland species. Once found in Colombia, the Sinu Parakeet (*Pyrrhura subandina*), hasn't been seen since 1949. For these three species, in-depth surveys are needed to determine if they are extinct or survive in small populations.

One additional species was also listed as Extinct in the Wild in the new update: the Guam Kingfisher (*Todiramphus cinnamominus*). After being decimated by invasive snakes, biologists took the last remaining Guam Kingfishers off the island in 1986. Today, 124 of these birds are found in zoos across the U.S.



As one of the world's most studied animal groups—100 percent of birds have been evaluated by the IUCN Red List—bird losses are further evidence that the world has entered a mass extinction crisis due to ongoing human impacts, including deforestation, habitat destruction,

invasive species, over exploitation, and, increasingly, climate change and ocean acidification. Scientists warn that if large-scale action isn't taken to protect biodiversity hotspots and counter environmental threats, the Earth could see a mass extinction event to rival the comet that killed the dinosaurs.

Extinct Birds Added to the IUCN Red List

- Bermuda Flicker (*Colaptes oceanicus*) -
- Bermuda Night-heron (*Nyctanassa carinocatactes*) --
- Christmas Sandpiper (*Prosobonia cancellata*) --
- Hodgen's Waterhen (*Tribonyx hodgenorum*) --
- North Island Snipe (*Coenocorypha barrierensis*) --
- Rodrigues Blue-pigeon (*Alectroenas payandeei*) --
- Tristan Moorhen (*Gallinula nesiotis*)

- Bermuda Hawk (*Bermuteo avivorus*)
- Bermuda Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius gradyi*)
- Finsch's Duck (*Chenonetta finschi*)
- Mauritius Turtle-dove (*Nesoenas cicur*)
- Oceanic Parrot (*Ecluctus infectus*)
- South Island Snipe (*Coenocorypha iredalei*)



Illustration of the **Tristan Moorhen** (*Gallinula nesiotis*), which went extinct at the end of the 19th Century. Illustration by: J. Jury.



Guam Kingfisher (*Todiramphus cinnamominus*) at the Bronx Zoo. This species is extinct in the wild, but survives in captivity. Photo by: Rhett A. Butler.



2014 GOULD LEAGUE BIRD STUDY CAMP CLUB
being held in collaboration with BirdLife Northern NSW

This will be our 74th camp.

The 2014 camp will be over 10 days from 5.00 pm Tuesday September 23rd to 9.00 am on Thursday Oct 2nd 2014 at 'Mt Hyland Wilderness Lodge' at Dundurrabin near Dorrigo.

The bird of the camp is the Paradise Riflebird. Other interesting species on the list include Noisy Pitta, Regent Bowerbird, Masked Owl, Powerful Owl, Sooty Owl, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Bassian Thrush and Russet-tailed Thrush. Waterbird and seabird species may be seen on longer trips.

Please contact Greg Clancy for more information and your official membership application for the Gould League Bird Study Camp Club for 2014

MAPS 1:25000 Marengo 9337-1-S Chaelundi 9337-1-N

Dundurrabin 9437-IV-S Dorrigo 9437-111-N

Organiser: Greg Clancy 02 6649 3153 e-mail: gclancy@tpg.com.au

PO Box 63 Coutts Crossing NSW 2460



Great to see the Magpie Geese at Kanahooka by Terry Edwell



This is the bower of the great bowerbird we found in Coen by Judy Baker



Australasian Bird Fair and Birding Groups

Working together for bird conservation

The inaugural Australasian Bird Fair (www.birdfair.com.au) has been designed specifically to raise awareness among the public about the conservation of so many of our wild bird populations that are in decline. It will raise funds for threatened species recovery programs in line with the 'BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Program', with all profits going towards species conservation. We will be promoting the philosophy of everyone 'acting locally, but thinking globally' as the only way to succeed against the odds and protect our birds across national and international boundaries. The Australasian Bird Fair will be held over the weekend of 25-26 October however ticket sales will go online 1 July 2014. You will automatically go in the draw for some great prizes for each ticket purchased, plus an additional draw for each month you are registered up until the event! This will be the first Bird Fair of its size to be attempted in Australia and has no connection with earlier Australian events.

The Australasian Bird Fair is not just for dedicated birdwatchers. It will be offering activities for the whole family, from children's activities to talks by world experts from across the globe. Some of our most iconic birds will be highlighted in some of the most ambitious programs ever attempted. We have attractions catering to a wide range of interests, from feeding birds in your backyard, touring the most impressive landscapes, choosing binoculars to suit your needs and pocket, selecting works of art for the home or learning about wildlife photography from the experts.

Your voice

Although the event will be focused on the Sydney Olympic Park, we would like to offer an opportunity for all bird clubs and individuals in Australia and New Zealand to have a voice at the Australasian Bird Fair. Australasian Bird Fair 2.

We would love to see you there personally at your own group's stall, to show everyone something about your birds and birding areas, and particularly your efforts to conserve birds and their habitat.

Your presence to spread the word

Although a venue in the centre of Australia's most populous city comes with significant costs, it should be a major advantage, as we aim to bring our message to as many people as possible. As we do not have an overall sponsor for the event we have to share costs for display spaces. However we have kept these to a minimum by dividing some of the larger marquees into smaller stall spaces. These will normally be areas of 9m² (e.g. 3m x 3m) with options of additional items such as trestle tables and chairs. We will help where we can with the design and printing of posters at favourable prices if required. You are welcome to sell appropriate items at the event to offset some of the costs of being there. In addition there are special rates for accommodation for the event to help you with the expense involved. If you are interested in taking up this offer please contact us at your earliest convenience at admin@birdfair.com.au or speak to Phil on 02 9567 9743 or 0411 249 075 so that we can work out costs with you.

Your virtual presence

If you cannot attend the Bird Fair you may be able to come to an arrangement with one of the bird clubs who will have a stall to display some of your material, including posters and handouts. We will have a list of participating groups in due course and will contact you if you have registered your interest.

Volunteers

Perhaps some of your members would like to help at the Australasian Bird Fair as volunteers?

If you have communication skills and are keen to help others this could be a rewarding opportunity. We have lots of interesting jobs for you while you enjoy the atmosphere generated by so many passionate people. All volunteers will be given a volunteer pack including a high visibility vest branded with the 2014 Australasian Bird Fair, a souvenir of your participation in this historical event.

Volunteers will of course have free access to the event. Contact admin@birdfair.com.au with your details and why you would like to help or ask for a list of volunteer roles. Australasian Bird Fair 3

The Australasian Bird Fair is an opportunity for us all to get the message across to the largest gathering of people passionate about birds and the environment yet experienced in Australia.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we have been taught."

That famous saying, by the Senegalese conservationist Baba Dioum, sums up why education plays a vital supporting role in wildlife conservation. Through educational outreach we empower our members, the public, the media and decision-makers to effectively weigh in for birds and their conservation.

If we can match the attendance of just one of the many hunting expos held annually in Australia that typically attract 15,000 passionate hunters we would be doing well for our first event. We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbours in October.

Keep an eye on our website and newsletters for up to the minute updates and for early bird ticket sales. Be in the draw to win some great prizes, the earlier you buy your ticket to more entries you will receive.

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: July/August 2014

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Freckled Duck	25	24/07/2014	Burrill lake	Dam	Charles Dove
Hardhead	16	24/07/2014	Burrill lake	Dam	Charles Dove
White-headed Pigeon	1	11/08/2014	Thirroul	Street	Mike Morphett
Topknot Pigeon	2	All July	Balgownie	Trees	Terry Edwell
Wandering Albatross	1	8/08/2014	Off Bellambi	off shore	Tom Wylie
Fluttering Shearwater	100+	8/08/2014	Off Bellambi	off shore	Tom Wylie
Eastern Reef Egret	1	24/07/2014	Racecourse Beach Ull.	Tidal rock	Charles Dove
Black-shouldered Kite	1	31/07/2014	Milton	Overhead	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	14/08/2014	Lake Conjola	Dead Tree	C Dove & C Brandis
Whistling Kite	1	14/08/2014	Lake Conjola	Overhead	C Dove & C Brandis
Spotted Harrier	1	26/07/2014	Killalea	Headland O'head	Joshua Coyte
Swamp Harrier	1	24/07/2014	Burrill lake	overhead	Charles Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	2	31/07/2014	Milton	Overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Falcon	1	31/07/2014	Milton	Overhead	Charles Dove
Australian Hobby	1	13/08/2014	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Lewin's Rail	1	29/07/2014	Burrill lake	Creek	Charles Dove
Buff-banded Rail	1	24/07/2014	Burrill lake	Creek	Charles Dove
Buff-banded Rail	1	July/Aug	Russell Vale	Golf Course	Max Davies
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2	12/08/2014	Minnamurra	Estuary	Rupert Jarvis
Sooty Oystercatcher	14	24/07/2014	Racecourse Beach Ull.	tidal rock	Charles Dove
Double-banded Plover	5	24/07/2014	Racecourse Beach Ull.	tidal rock	Charles Dove
Hooded Plover	8	24/07/2014	Racecourse Beach Ull.	tidal rock	Charles Dove
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	5/08/2014	Porters Creek Road	Forest	C Dove & C Brandis
Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	7/08/2014	Bangadilly N.P	Dry Eucalypt Forest	Betty Hudson
Musk Lorikeet	50+	31/07/2014	Fisherman,s Paradise	Flowering Ironbark	Charles Dove
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	July	Kembla Grange	Golf Course	Max Davies
Southern Boobook	1	24/07/2014	Racecourse Beach Ull.	Cliff face	Charles Dove
Eastern Spinebill	2	5/08/2014	Budderoo NP	Shrub	David Eddington
Varied Sittella	20+	3/08/2014	Sportsground Ulladulla	Forest	Charles Dove
Olive Whistler	1	5/08/2014	Porters Creek Road	Road	C Dove & C Brandis
Grey Butcherbird	4	5/08/2014	Jamberoo	Rural	Kara Eddington
Jacky Winter	1	14/08/2014	Yatte Yattah	Dead Tree	C Dove & C Brandis
Jacky Winter	4	3/08/2014	Yalwal Reserve	Grassy Acacia regrowth	Betty Hudson
Rose Robin	1 m	3/08/2014	Sportsground Ulladulla	Forest	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	2	July/Aug	Marshall Mount	Rainforest Edge	Anna Knowlson
Bassian Thrush	1	24/07/2014	Burrill lake	Edge of Creek	Charles Dove
Bassian Thrush	2	3/08/2014	Yalwal Reserve	Grassy Acacia regrowth	Betty Hudson
Beautiful Firetail	5	5/08/2014	Porters Creek Road	Casuarina	C Dove & C Brandis
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	8/08/2014	Thirroul	O'head	Mike Morphett

It would be most helpful if members when filling out their sightings on the Record Sheet at Club Meetings if you could be more precise with the date entry. Try and Include Month and Date please.

Darryl Goldrick

The NSW Bird Atlasers Atlas of NSW Birds publication Vol. 1 is of 736 pages covering the birds found in NSW from the Emu to the Plains-Wanderer with Vol. 2 and 3 to cover the remaining species and still in preparation. The data covers from the start of record keeping in NSW to 2006.

Copies are available from Dick Cooper, PO Box 717, Woolgoolga 2456 or email origma505@yahoo.com.au.

The cost is \$95 plus \$25 postage for a member and \$135 plus \$25 postage for non-members or can be picked up from Dick on arrangement.

Payments can be made by cheque or into BSB 704328 a/c 200434 with the reference Atlas-your name.