



THE IBODC



N E W S L E T T E R

Issue No. 417

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

September 2017

Scarlet Honeyeater

Scientific Name: *Myzomela sanguinolenta*
Atlas Number: 586

Description:

The adult male Scarlet Honeyeater is a vivid scarlet red and black bird with whitish underparts. The females and immature birds are dull brown with dull white underparts and a reddish wash on the chin. In both sexes the tail is relatively short, the bill strongly curved and the eye is dark. This species is a small honeyeater, usually seen alone or in pairs, but occasionally in flocks, high in trees.



photo by Charles Dove

Similar species:

The male Scarlet Honeyeater can be confused with the male Red-headed Honeyeater, *M. erythrocephala*, where their ranges overlap (east coast of Cape York Peninsula). It can be distinguished by having more extensive red colouring over the back and down the breast. Female and immature Scarlet Honeyeaters may be confused with similarly coloured honeyeaters, including females and immatures of the Red-headed and the Dusky Honeyeater, *M. obscura*, as well as the Brown Honeyeater, *Lichmera indistincta*. They differ from the Red-headed in being more olive-brown and lack red on the forehead. They are smaller and more compact than the Dusky, with a shorter bill and tail, as well as having different calls. They are smaller than the Brown Honeyeater and lack this species' eyespot.

Distribution:

The Scarlet Honeyeater is found along the east coast of Australia, from Cooktown, Queensland to Gippsland, Victoria, but it is less common south of Sydney, being a summer migrant in the south. It is also found in Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Lesser Sundas, Indonesia and in New Caledonia.

Habitat:

The Scarlet Honeyeater lives in open forests and woodlands with a sparse understorey, especially round wetlands, and sometimes in rainforests. It can be seen in urban areas in flowering plants of streets, parks and gardens.

Seasonal movements:

Resident in the north of its range, seasonally migratory in south, with movements associated with flowering of food plants. It is considered nomadic around Sydney, following autumn- and winter-flowering plants.

Feeding:

The Scarlet Honeyeater feeds mainly on nectar and sometimes on fruit and insects. It tends to feed in the upper levels of the canopy, foraging in flowers and foliage, usually singly, in pairs or small flocks. Often evicted by larger, more aggressive honeyeaters such as friarbirds.

Breeding:

The Scarlet Honeyeater breeds in pairs, with the more conspicuous male calling and displaying to the quieter females. The small cup nest is suspended from a horizontal branch or in a fork, and is made from fine bark and grass bound with spider web and lined with fine plant materials. The female incubates the eggs

Bird species cover text courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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ILLAWARRA
BIRD
OBSERVERS
CLUB Inc

'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'

Founded in 1977

Club's Aim:

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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

CLUB MEETING:

Monday 11th at 7.30pm

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

Featuring a presentation by Walter Boles

'The Australian Museum Bird Collection -- the early years'.

At the formation of the Australian Museum in 1827, ornithology, or at least the collection of bird specimens for exhibition, was a primary occupation of the institution. Collection development was a rather piecemeal activity until G. Krefft, and later E. P. Ramsay and A. J. North, adopted a more scientific approach, obtaining specimens for research. From these beginnings, the Museum's collection has developed into a major scientific resource.

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

MIDWEEK WALK

Wednesday 13th at 9.00am

Leader Ross & Jann Gowans

Cordeaux Dam

Due to the dam grounds not opening till 10am we will meet at Lisa Rd Wilton 9am. Exact location depends on parking availability but will be within 250mts of intersection on Lisa Rd.

Lisa Rd is off Macauthur Drive Wilton, turn off either Picton Rd or Wilton Rd into Macauthur Drive, drive approx. 2 KMs and turn into Lisa Rd, the only road turnoff.

We will car bird this area then proceed to Cordeaux Dam.

Pack your morning tea.

In the event of inclement weather phone phone 0490 136 231 after 730am.

MONTHLY OUTING

Saturday 16th at 9.00am

Leader Tom & Joan Wylie

Thirlmere Lakes & Caves Creek Reserve

Meet at the Car Park & Picnic area at Lake Couridjah at 9.00am.

Travel from Wollongong via the Picton Road to Picton, turn left at the Old Hume Hwy and then approx 1km after the railway bridge turn right at the sign post to Thirlmere. In Thirlmere turn right crossing the railway and immediately left passing the Railway Museum (Barbour Rd). After approx. 2km turn right into Slades Road. Follow this road for approx 2km to the Picnic Area by the Lake, passing 2 other lakes on your way.

Bring and carry, morning tea and water to drink. We will have lunch back at the picnic area.

Please make sure that you have plenty of insect repellent and sunscreen.

If the weather looks doubtful phone before 7.30 am

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Next Committee Meeting-

Monday 18th August 2017 - 2pm at Alan&Anne Cousins 4 Adelaide Place, Tarrawanna 0413 869534

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

Newsletter:

DEADLINE 26th September 2017

For all articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter PLEASE E-mail contributions:

To Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 3/15 Shepherd Street, Mollymook 2539.

IBOC gives a big welcome to all our new members

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Reports

August Meeting Talk

Neil McKinlay

Monday 14th August 2017

At our August club meeting the guest speaker was Kate Brandis of UNSW and ANSTO. Kate is running a research project that is being sponsored by UNSW and ANSTO and she currently heads a project team of one. The project aims to create a Feather Map of Australian Wetlands. The project commenced in March 2016 and has funding for another couple of years. The project relies on the collection of malted bird feathers from wetlands across Australia which are mailed to UNSW where they are stored and prepared and then analysed at UNSW and at ANSTO at Lucas Heights using a Mass Spectrometer. The feather map data will allow further scientific monitoring of wetland birds and their preferred environment without heavy reliance high tech radio and satellite trackers and banding, by being able to simply collect malted feathers and read the history directly from the feathers. For this project, the first 30 mm from the tip of the feather is being analysed.

The feathers are collected by citizen scientists, school groups, community groups, special interest club groups, interested individuals, etc. The feathers are labelled in the field with date, location found, bird species, type of feather, name of finder etc. and sent to Kate. In Queensland and Western Australia, it is a requirement that people participating in the collection process have a letter from Kate as Project Leader advising authorities that they are collecting for scientific research purposes.

Prior to the collection of feathers by citizen scientists numerous base line studies of wetlands were conducted by UNSW Research Students in order to create a data base of information from which "signature" markers were and are being extracted from the various types of feathers. Each wetland produces its own code in the feathers based around the local geology but weather and local environmental conditions also have influence. The mass spectrometry allows the presence of various Carbon atom isotopes to be tracked. Some isotopes are stable and others are unstable so their ratios tell a story. Data has been gathered from approx. 400 wetlands.

Analysis of malted feathers provides a non-invasive method of tracking the diet, the migration history and many other aspects of a birds' life. A pro-forma data sheet is available on the ANSTO website for those wishing to assist in the collection of feathers.

At the end of her presentation Kate answered many questions about the detail of her project.

Kate grew up in Western Australia and does not think she is related to our IBOC member Chris Brandis. She was not aware of Chris's bird research work until she recently saw a publication that Chris had co-authored.

MID-WEEK WALK REPORT

Bulli Escarpment 16th August 2017

Rupert Jarvis

The morning was bright but with very strong winds so there was some initial doubt whether it was a good idea to be walking under the trees. However when we met up there was a brief rain shower but the wind dropped so with 12 participants we set off. In fact, the weather remained fine for the duration of the walk.

We went up the Highlands Parade track and into the SCA. There weren't a lot of birds about, but we did see small parties of Brown Gerygones and Brown Thornbills. At one point where the power lines created an open clearing through the trees Tom sighted a flock of birds high in the sky. We weren't able to make a positive identification but believe they were Needletail Swifts.

The Brown Cuckoo Dove was heard calling and we were able to spot them on a couple of occasions. At the reedy dams we saw a few Moorhens but with a chorus of "Two more Moorhens" and "Four Moorhens" we can only hope Jann got the right number for the count.

We reached the Lower Escarpment Trail and stopped for morning tea just before a steep rise heading south. We then walked north along the trail for a short while but seeing few birds so turned around and retraced our steps back to the cars.

Highlands P'de Trail - Bulli Escarpment Walk		22 species	12 members
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Pied Currawong
White-throated Needletail	Crimson Rosella	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Australian Pelican	White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Raven
Grey Goshawk	Satin Bowerbird	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Dusky Moorhen	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Gerygone	Grey Shrike-thrush	

WEEKEND WALK REPORT

Jervis Bay National Park, Sunday 20th August 2017 - *By Jann Gowans*

Eighteen hardy birders assembled down the coast near Hyams beach, Jervis Bay on a brisk sunny day. We set off and I have to confess my focus was not 100% on the birds, as I was catching up with various folks. The mixed coastal forest had numerous She-oaks and the sandy track called for attention or you might stumble on the many roots. Many Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were calling and feeding throughout the area. When Treecreepers were spotted, it was good to see several working over the slender gum trees, as it had been awhile since I'd seen them. I thought they looked different to the usual White-throated Treecreeper and later it was confirmed that there were both Red-browed and White-throated Treecreepers. When we emerged onto Chinamans beach, there was a small tannin-stained creek (Duck creek, as it turns out but it did not live up to its name!) and Charlie and Peter S. were intent. A Rose Robin had been seen but was shy and elusive. Most of the gathered group missed seeing it.



Morning tea at Greenfield beach picnic area was very nice. Several Eastern Yellow Robins posed obligingly on the fence meters from our picnic table. A Lewin's Honeyeater and two White-browed Scrubwrens were also observed at close quarters. A Grey Fantail fluttered around several people and its acrobatic flying display was quite impressive! We set off back around through the Scribbly Gum forest and a Scarlet Honeyeater was heard, then seen. I was promised a fairly short, flat walk back to the cars but there were many stairs and we all got a good workout but the scenery, birds and company were all top notch! We got back to the cars and had lunch a short drive away at another lovely picnic spot and more birds were tallied. The Little Lorikeet, white-bellied Sea Eagle and Variegated Fairy-wren were highlights. We then drove to the Mangrove boardwalk at Huskisson and while enroute, Ross and I were treated to a Brown Goshawk nearly hitting our car as it attempted to secure a feed on the road! Even though I did not go on the boardwalk, I saw the Azure Kingfisher and there were numerous Chestnut Teal on the pond and Superb Fairy-wrens nearly at our feet. Ross noted a nesting Kookaburra as well and 13 new species were added to the day's tally. All in all, it was a fantastic day and got me thinking about a return visit in the near future. I managed to miss out on Emu-wrens again. Thanks to Anne and Alan for leading the walk, Tom for keeping the bird list, and Betty for writing it up and everyone else for their enjoyable company! We had an impressive 64 species for the day.



Australian King Parrot



Common Bronzewing

By Charles dove

Bird List for Hyams Beach Walk Sunday 20 th August		51 Species	18 Members
Spotted Dove	Little Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Australian King Parrot	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Australasian Gannet	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Willie Wagtail
Great Cormorant	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
White-faced Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	White-throated Treecreeper	Fuscous Honeyeater	Rose Robin
Brown Goshawk	Red-browed Treecreeper	Little Wattlebird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Masked Lapwing	Satin Bowerbird	Red Wattlebird	Silvereye
Crested Tern	Superb Fairy-wren	Scarlet Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Silver Gull	Variiegated Fairy-wren	White-cheeked Honeyeater	Tree Martin
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Southern Emu-wren	White-naped Honeyeater	Australasian Pipit
Galah	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Whipbird	
Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Gerygone	Grey Butcherbird	

Bird List for Huskisson Board Walk Sunday 20 th August		30 species	18 members
Wood Duck	Striated Heron	Sacred Kingfisher	Scarlet Honeyeater
Grey Teal	Australian White Ibis	Satin Bowerbird	Olive-backed Oriole
Chestnut Teal	Masked Lapwing	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Butcherbird
Common Bronzewing	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Little Pied Cormorant	Galah	Yellow Thornbill	Willie Wagtail
Little Black Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Raven
Australian Pelican	Azure Kingfisher	Lewin's Honeyeater	
White-faced Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	

29th International Ornithological Congress, Australia, 2022

A group of Australian ornithologists have recently established a National Committee to prepare a bid to the International Ornithologists' Union to host the 28th International Ornithological Congress in Australia in 2022.

[Read on »](#)

BirdLife Townsville Project: Rufous Owl Nesting Boxes

Since Yassi, BirdLife Townsville has observed a marked decline in the sighting of the Rufous Owl.

[Read on »](#)

2017 Captive Release Project & Community Monitoring Project -

Regent numbers

Thanks again to the amazing efforts of fantastic coordinators and volunteers - over the last couple of weeks since the last Update #13 the following have been recorded:

- 66 individual Regents (leg bands confirmed/birds alive) as follows:
- 21 Regents with working transmitters
- 41 additional Regents (2017 release cohort with leg bands only)
- Three returnee Regents (2015 release birds - one with a working transmitter)
- One wild Regent (now banded and wearing a working transmitter)

The other Yellow Yellow!

- While the much celebrated 2015 "Yellow Yellow Red Metal" has achieved notoriety and media acclaim, its 2017 release equivalent "Orange Metal Yellow Yellow" is also well travelled. It was one of the first birds recorded north of the freeway and has since traversed all parts of the north side of the park. But in recent times it had gone missing (it's not wearing a transmitter).
- Fortunately Dave Hancock recently confirmed it is alive and well 52 days since its last observation - - having joined a small group again on the north side.

Monitoring - your chance to participate at Chiltern

There's still heaps of volunteer monitoring opportunities - 5 days per week

(excluding Tuesday & Saturday). Please email: Liz Wemyss

["Elizabeth.Wemyss@delwp.vic.gov.au"](mailto:Elizabeth.Wemyss@delwp.vic.gov.au) to register your interest

Please ensure you provide your full name, email address, mobile phone number. (Liz will provide essential information including links to free phone apps that must be undertaken/downloaded prior to arriving on site).

Note: we have spare phones with apps already installed that are available for volunteers that have old, dodgy or no phone - or we can team you up with others that have appropriate smart phones.

Spot a Regent in the meantime?

Please let us know ASAP if you spot any or hear of Regents observations (so we can help follow-up to check for further birds etc). Remember to check for bands with binoculars and take & forward photo's where possible.

Please contact us if you have any queries dean.ingwersen@birdlife.org.au [Read on »](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Illawarra Ecosystems and Threatened Species team have decided to coordinate a last minute threatened species photo exhibition to celebrate TS day! Opening night is planned for Thursday Sept 7th at Moving Mountains gallery in Wollongong.

We are asking for local photographers to donate their photos of threatened flora, fauna or EECs to the exhibition – Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highland species only! They could be photos of species themselves or people working on projects supporting them.

Any sales from the show will be donated to a conservation NGO nominated by the photographer.

Exhibiting photographers will

Donate their best images of threatened species (3-5 max) at 350DPI for A3 size printing

Nominate a conservation NGO benefitting TS (local landcare or wildlife groups preferred)

Provide a short caption or description of each image they submit (species, date, location, project etc..)

Help promote the event through their network

OEH will:

Collate images which represent numerous species and photographers from across our region

Pay for A3 prints (to be fixed directly to gallery wall)

Set the sale price

Coordinate gallery sales and donations to nominated NGOs

Not use the photos elsewhere without further permission from photographer

Please submit your images to this dropbox link with your identity in the file name:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dvogf8hvb4ql327/AADZphulF2Zgct0o5e8-nNioa?dl=0>

Once you've uploaded your photos, send me an email with your descriptions – it'll also serve as an alert for me to move the images onto our server so they aren't accessible to others with the link.

Please submit your photos before COB Thursday August 31.

RANKINS SPRINGS BIRDING WEEKEND

FRIDAY 6 OCT – SUNDAY 8 OCT

FRIDAY EVENING: 'FANNY LUMSDEN' CONCERT

SATURDAY: EARLY MORNING & LATE AFTERNOON/EVENING BUS TRIPS TO LOCAL BIRDING HOT SPOTS. INCLUDES MORNING TEA & AFTERNOON TEA/SNACKS

SATURDAY EVENING: BBQ - RANKINS SPRINGS HALL

SUNDAY MORNING: TBA - BIRDING TRIP

ACCOMMODATION CHOICES

CAMPING/YOUR OWN VAN (POWERED & UNPOWERED SITES) AT THE CARAVAN PARK
MOTEL

LOCAL B&B & FARMSTAYS

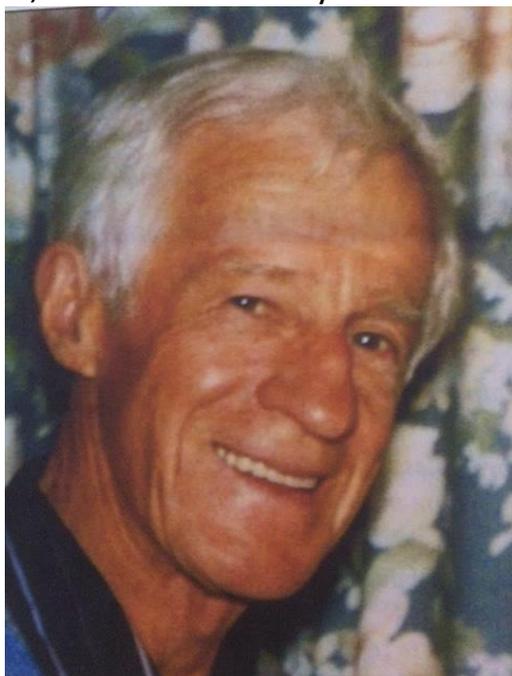
FOR MORE INFORMATION / BOOKINGS – please
email the Lachlan Fold Wildlife Action Group at :

lfwagroup@gmail.com

NOTICE

Ernest James "Jim" Robinson (Jim Robbo)

Sadly we said goodbye to "Jim Robbo" who passed away peacefully, after a short illness, on the 28th July, at the age of 92 years. Jim and his dear wife Gwen were great supporters of our club with Jim becoming our president for three years from 1986. They were regulars on our walks and with their yellow van were a fixture at our various camps. Jim was a quiet, gentle, man with lots of skills (who can forget the tick removal story) and I treasure this photo I took on our Flinders trip displaying his hairdressing skills. He had a great knowledge of our birdlife which he was always willing to share as we wandered around the various bush tracks. It has been a pleasure to spend time with this, "quiet, gentle, man and his lovely smile" RIP Jim.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Honeyeaters, Swift Parrots not spotted on the Coast

August 16, 2017 10:39am

Richard Noone Central Coast Gosford Express Advocate

AN AUDIT of Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots at 56 locations across the Central Coast has failed to find any trace of the critically endangered birds. Almost 40 volunteer birdwatchers completed the twice annual survey over the weekend of August 5-6, in which not a single bird of either species was sighted. The estimated Australian population of regent honeyeaters has crashed to only about 400 birds while there are an estimated 3500 Regent Honeyeaters. Swift Parrots breed in Tasmania before coming to the mainland to forage. The country's peak avian conservation body, has identified public land surrounding Brisbane Water and Tuggerah Lakes as "Key Biodiversity Areas" (KBAs) for these and other species. Brisbane Water and Tuggerah Lakes KBAs "guardian" Alan Morris said the lack of sightings during the audit highlighted the plight of these critically endangered birds. "Regent Honeyeaters' numbers crashed during the drought in the early 2000s and have not recovered," he said. "Swift Parrots breed in Tasmania but spend the winter on the mainland foraging far and wide depending on the available blossom. "Their breeding success has been adversely impacted by forest clearing and introduced sugar gliders in Tasmania which have been found to predate Swift Parrot nests. Most years they visit the Central Coast but so far in 2017 only three have been recorded." Any

sighting of either species is recorded and these three were spotted separately outside the twice annual audits in May and August. Mr Morris said it had been more than a decade since significant numbers of regent honeyeaters were seen on the Coast despite the creation of more suitable habitat including the Central Coast Wetland Pioneer Dairy where 120,000 trees and scrubs were planted. "For example, at the Central Coast Wetland Pioneer Dairy over 120,000 trees and scrubs were planted to provide suitable habitat for both Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots," he said.

"These trees are now reaching maturity and hopefully we will see these key species return in the near future."

The Tuggerah Lakes KBA is not only important for the Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters but also for more than 5000 Black Swans, 1000 Chestnut Teal and migratory shorebirds which use the lake and adjacent areas. Brisbane Water foreshores also supports a remnant population of Bush Stone-curlews.

Bird deaths linked to common insecticide that is banned in Europe

ABC Rural By Jess Davis

[A number of bird deaths in western Victoria have been linked to a common insecticide](#)

(Supplied: Cath De Vaus)

A commonly used chemical is being blamed for the deaths of native birds in Victoria.

Lab results obtained by the ABC confirm that the chemical, which is used as an insecticide, killed at least 12 birds near Horsham last month. The same chemical has been banned in Europe because of concerns it is behind a dramatic decline in bee populations. Cath De Vaus, from Natimuk a small town western Victoria's cropping region, started making the grisly discoveries, finding dead birds around her house last month. "I found a Corella just dead at the bottom of its tree with no obvious injuries." She said the deaths had not stopped and the numbers were adding up. "It's lovely watching them in the evenings and every morning when you see new dead ones it's incredibly sad."



Ms De Vaus, along with other residents, reported the deaths and Agriculture Victoria has been investigating. Lab results obtained by the ABC confirm traces of imidacloprid, a chemical commonly used in insecticides. Imidacloprid is used to kill insects and termites, and can often be found in flea control for pets. Farmers also use it to treat barley and wheat seeds.

[Imidacloprid, commonly used in insecticides, has been linked to bird and bee deaths in Europe](#)

(Supplied: Cath De Vaus)

In a statement, Agriculture Victoria has acknowledged that while the initial lab results show traces of chemicals used in crop management, there was not clear evidence that this was the single cause of death of the birds. Associate Professor Vincent Pettigrove, a chemicals expert from the University of Melbourne said imidacloprid affected the nervous system. "It actually mimics nicotine and it's really quite toxic to insects and it shouldn't be toxic to mammals and birds, but in certain circumstances we've found many reports of bird deaths associated with the use of this insecticide," he said. "Some work in the European Union showed that a Sparrow if it ate just one and half beet seeds would be enough to kill the bird."

European ban in place

In 2013 the European Union put a ban on these kinds of insecticides because of concerns they were behind a dramatic decline in bee populations. Associate Professor Pettigrove said research published this year backed up the EU's concerns. "There was a study in France where they looked at 103 wildlife mortality incidents and they found in 101 cases the birds had some concentrations of imidacloprid in them," he said. "It seems to be a widespread issue and we need to look at ways of reducing the risk of exposing this chemicals to birds."

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority were unable to comment on the situation as they had not been advised on the matter.

Penguins killed in fox attack on Victorian island made famous by Oddball movie

[ABC South West Vic](#) By Sue Peacock



[Photo: About 70 penguins on Middle Island were killed in the fox attack. \(Supplied\)](#)

[Related Story: Penguin-protecting Maremma dogs make way for new generation of puppies](#)

[Map: Warrnambool 3280](#)

More than a third of Middle Island's famous penguin population has been wiped out in a fox attack in south-west Victoria.

About 70 dead birds were discovered on Wednesday by volunteers during their first visit to the island, off Warrnambool, before the breeding season. Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network chairman Bruce Campbell said the discovery had been heart wrenching. "Many of them had their necks broken and had been just left to die. They hadn't been eaten. It was a terrible fox killing frenzy," he said. It is believed to be the first attack on the colony since the successful maremma guard dog program, [made famous in the movie Oddball](#), began in 2006. According to the latest count, the colony had grown to 182, compared with fewer than 10 in 2005 when foxes and burrow trampling threatened its survival.



[Photo: Fox attacks on Middle Island's penguins have plummeted since maremma dogs were introduced. \(Supplied\)](#)

No maremmas on the island

Mr Campbell said there had been no maremmas on patrol because of high tides and bad weather. "There are no dogs on the island or volunteers over winter because the conditions are just too rough," he said. "We have believed all these years that it was too rough for foxes to get across, but we've been proven wrong." The small island is located in Stingray Bay, close to the Warrnambool foreshore. At low tides, it is easily accessible to predators such as foxes and wild dogs. Mr Campbell said the maremmas had been taken down to 'scent' the beach and deter any foxes, and the Warrnambool council had placed the area under surveillance. "But what the long term management changes need to be I can't yet say. We need to sit down and talk about that," he said. "We will be doing everything we can to prevent this happening again. The maremmas will be on the beach or on the island from now on."

BALD EAGLES ADOPT BABY HAWK INTO THEIR NEST IN CANADA

The Hawk, which is usually prey for Eagles, is in excellent health after being taken in, and now 'thinks he's a Bald Eagle', according to one expert

Biologists and bird watchers in [Canada](#) are closely monitoring a young Red-tailed Hawk that has – against all odds – been adopted into a nest full of Bald Eagles and is seemingly thriving after taking on eagle-like behaviour.

The chick was first seen in the nest in British Columbia in early June, said biologists – possibly after one of the Bald Eagles raided a Hawk's nest to provide food for their young.

Surrounded by three Eaglets and oblivious to his status as prey, the Hawk probably began squawking for food, leading the Bald Eagles to begin feeding it as one of their own.

"My guess is that this little guy begged loud and hard for food – not even thinking about the danger," David Bird of the [Hancock Wildlife Foundation](#), which has been monitoring the nest on Vancouver Island, [told the Vancouver Sun](#). "Food overrides everything in these birds. He begged away and Mom and Dad said, 'OK, here's an open, gaping beak. Let's put food in it.'"



Rescuers move mountains for Maggie: one-legged 'legend' bird of Oak Flats [Angela Thompson](#) 16 Aug 2017, 7:30 p.m

No one could help Maggie, the celebrity magpie of Oak Flats, the last time calamity struck. She flew around for days with a piece of fishing line wrapped tight around one leg. People tried to catch her, to loosen the string, but she was too fast. Eventually her foot fell clean off, and Maggie, also known as Stumpy, became the most recognisable bird in Oak Flats.

Angela Hollen was among the residents who took an interest in the black and white verandah visitor. In the two years since, she has noticed the bird making a happy enough home for itself in the park at Deakin Reserve, moving into the tall trees, finding a mate, and getting on with life on two wings, one leg.

"We kept an eye on her because she'd ended up being a stumpy," Mrs Hollen said. "If there were really bad storms she'd come back under our deck and ride it out, because if it's really windy it's hard to hold on with one foot."

"This season we noticed her collecting stuff for a nest."

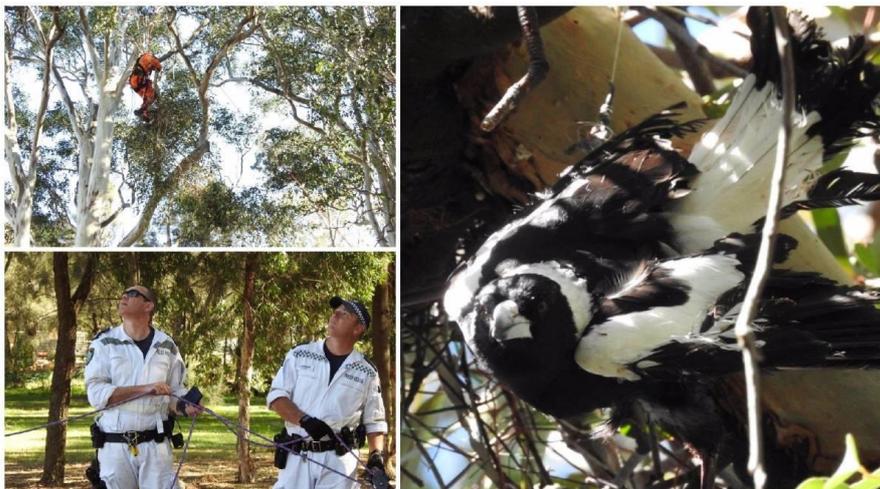
But string is a wily temptress, for a Magpie. Preparing for motherhood, Maggie recently built a nest made almost entirely of the stuff.

Mrs Hollen wondered if the magpie's delivery day had arrived on Monday, when she heard the bird loudly crying, sounding distressed. She used binoculars to find the source of the noise and saw Maggie 20 metres up, entangled once more in string and unable to fly free.

"We saw her hanging by her one good leg. Literally upside down," Mrs Hollen said. "We thought, 'oh no, how are we going to get her down', because it was way too high for us."

Mrs Hollen made several calls to emergency services before Police Rescue took an interest in the bird's plight. They called on a uniquely qualified SES volunteer – Scott Robinson, a full-time arborist and member of Coniston and Wollongong units. Mr Robinson scaled the tree while curious passers-by stopped to ask Mrs Hollen what was happening. "They all said, 'it's not the one legged magpie?'," she said. "She's a bit of a legend around here. She's a little Aussie battler. I think that's why we love her." Mr Robinson cut a branch off the tree and brought the stricken bird safely to the ground, still tethered. Mrs Hollen paid tribute to the great human effort devoted to the rescue. "I can't praise Police Rescue and the SES enough. They really went out of their way for one little bird and if it wasn't for them we would have had to watch her suffer a painful death up a tree. It would have been devastating for the whole neighbourhood."

Maggie has been placed in the care of a WIRES volunteer. At last report she was still recovering from shock and dehydration, and was awaiting a visit from a specialist avian vet.



Photographer in the Eye - supplied by Mike Morphet



Rainbow Lorikeet communal bath - supplied by Mike Morphet

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS:- July - August 2017

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

Monthly Sightings : July-August 2017

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Black-winged Stilt	50+	27/07/2017	Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	500+	21/08/2017	Ulladulla	Ocean	Charles Dove
Fluttering Shearwater	500+	21/08/2017	Ulladulla	Ocean	Charles Dove
Hutton's Shearwater	500+	21/08/2017	Ulladulla	Ocean	Charles Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	27/07/2017	Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Buff-banded Rail	3	6/08/2017	Burrill Lake	Mudflats	Charles Dove
Red-necked Avocet	2	27/07/2017	Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Double-banded Plover	2	8/8/2017	Racecourse Beach	Tidal Rock	Charles Dove
Little Corella	~ 100	20/08/2017	Lake Illawarra South	Grazing Reddall Reserve	Darryl Goldrick
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	10/08/2017	Dolphin Point	Mixed Bushland	Charles Dove
White-throated Treecreeper	3	10/08/2017	Dolphin Point	Mixed Bushland	Charles Dove
Red-browed Treecreeper	2	22/08/2017	Narrawallee	Mixed Bushland	Charles Dove
Green Catbird	1	3/08/2017	Thirroul	Frontyard	Mike Morphett
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	1m	3/08/2017	Thirroul	Backyard	Mike Morphett
Spotted Pardalote	4m4f	6/08/2017	Burrill Lake	Dirt Track	Charles Dove
Little Wattlebird	1 fledged	1/08/2017	Thirroul	Sidyard Shrub	Ian McKinlay
White-winged Triller	1imm	17/08/2017	Ulladulla	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Golden Whistler	1	1/8/207	Mollymook	Mixed Bushland	Charles Dove
Olive-backed Oriole	1	4/08/2017	Milton	Rainforest	Charles Dove
Pied Currawong	2	23/08/2017	Lake Illawarra South	Yard	Darryl Goldrick
Jacky Winter	2	17/08/2017	Ulladulla	Fence posts	Charles Dove
Mistletoebird	1	30/07/2017	Lake Conjola	Mixed Bushland	Charles Dove
Beautiful Firetail	4	13/08/2017	Dolphin Point	Casuarina	Charles Dove

Please remember to forward all your sighting that you think would be appropriate and not necessarily a rare sighting to Darryl Goldrick.



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