

STRIPED HONEYEATER

Scientific Name: Plectorhyncha lanceolata

Atlas Number: 585

Description:

The medium-sized Striped Honeyeater is grey-brown above, with a grey-white head and upper neck boldly striped black, and has whitish underparts with faint streaks on the belly and undertail. The feathers of the upper breast and



throat are long and pointed, giving the head a shaggy appearance. Females are browner on the back than males, with more greyish underparts, while young birds are duller and less streaked overall. The bill and legs are blue-grey and the eye is dark.

Similar species:

The Striped Honeyeater is much smaller than the similarly shaped wattlebirds and has much whiter, less streaked underparts.

Distribution:

The Striped Honeyeater is found in eastern Australia, mainly inland, from the Yorke Peninsula, South Australia to the coast of New South Wales, around Toukley, and north to Charters Towers, Queensland.

Habitat:

The Striped Honeyeater is found in forests and woodlands, often along rivers, as well as mangroves and in urban gardens.

Seasonal movements:

Sedentary; may be nomadic in drier areas.

Feeding:

The Striped Honeyeater feeds mainly on insects and spiders, but will also eat nectar and other plant sugars, along with seeds, berries and fruit. It is mainly arboreal, feeding in pairs or small flocks in dense foliage, at the lower levels of the canopy.

Breeding:

The Striped Honeyeater defends a breeding territory, becoming quite vigorous and aggressive during the breeding season (it is normally much less conspicuous than many other honeyeaters). Both sexes care for the young and communal breeding has been recorded for this species. The nest is a suspended cup made from grass and fibres, including emu feathers, which is lined with grass and placed at about 1 m - 6 m from the ground.

Bird species cover 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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JUNE ACTIVITIES

CLUB MEETING:

Monday 11th at 7.30pm

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

"Record-breaking Birds" presented by Martin Potter

The Illawarra is home to some superlative birds. We will be looking at our local birdlife to see which species stand out in their field. We will also be travelling the world in search of the avian superstars that are the best at what they do – the fastest, the strongest, the smartest and other remarkable birds that we can never hope to compete with.



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

MIDWEEK WALK

Wednesday 13th at 9.00am

Leader Rupert Jarvis

Woonona Pool Area

Meet at 9.00 am at Ocean Park which is at the beach end of Campbell Street, Woonona. Campbell Street is accessed from the Princes Highway or by a turn off from the Northern Distributor, 'northbound only'. Bring morning tea.

In the event of inclement weather phone Rupert 0403 932 635 7.30am or after

MONTHLY OUTING

Saturday 16th at 9am

Leader Alan Cousins

Bents Basin, Wolstenholme Avenue, Greendale.

Meet at 9am at the gates to Bents Basin State Recreational Park.

Fees apply \$8

Bring morning tea and lunch

There are different ways of reaching the park so make your way along Northern Road from Narellan to the traffic lights at Bringelly, turn left into Greendale Road and follow to Wolstenholme Avenue and turn left, proceed along for about 4k's to gate. We will have morning tea in the park and hopefully lunch at Cobbitty.

Contact Alan or Anne on 42833197 or 0413869534 before 7am if the weather is doubtful

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Next Committee Meeting on the 18th June 2018

The Committee Meeting in June will be held on Monday 18th June 2018 at 2pm at Betty Hudson's Home, 1 Drualla Road Jamberoo. Any member with an issue to raise is welcome to attend.

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE 21st June 2018

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.

Wishing all those members who are not well a speedy recovery

NOTICES & ARTICLES OF INTEREST

STUDY FINDS MISTLETOE KEY TO LANDSCAPE

Wednesday, 11 July 2012 [Anna Salleh](#) ABC

A unique experiment has shown the subtle but key role parasitic mistletoe plays in the ecology of Australian woodlands. The work is published today in the journal [Proceedings of the Royal Society B](#).

"This is a future textbook example of not just how an ecological keystone works but how you go about testing it," says ecologist Professor David Watson of [Charles Sturt University](#).

A keystone species has a huge effect on the richness and distribution of species around it, through interactions it has with other organisms.

For example, the big rainforest cassowary bird, which is the only species that is able to disperse seeds that have large fruit, is believed to be a keystone species.

If it was not there, many trees would no longer be dispersed and the birds that depend on these would in turn be affected.

But, says Watson it is often difficult to test whether something is a keystone species.

He says the best test is to remove the species and see what happens, but this is often difficult and ethically fraught. For example, he says removing cassowaries in the Daintree would be a "non-starter".

In the first test of putative keystone plant species, Watson and colleague Matthew Herring carried out an experiment to see what would happen when mistletoe was removed from Australian woodland.

'Removal' experiment

Mistletoe is a relic from Gondwana and there are now 91 species of mistletoe in Australia.

It is a parasitic plant that lives by sucking out nutrients from the trees and shrubs it lives in, but as the latest evidence shows this is far from detrimental to the ecology.

In 2001, Watson noticed that many birds nested or fed in mistletoe and he suggested that the plant may be a keystone resource. He secured funding from the Australian Research Council to carry out a five-year experiment to test this hypothesis in the southern Riverina area of south eastern Australia.

The experiment involved the painstaking task of removing mistletoe from the tree canopy in 17 field sites ranging from five to 25 hectares in size.

"It was a royal pain in the ass. It took teams of volunteer's months and months to remove about 46 tonnes. It was a considerable logistical exercise," says Watson.

The researchers also had 11 control sites where mistletoe was left and 12 sites in which mistletoe was naturally absent.

Three years later, they went back to determine the impact of removing the mistletoe, which formed a relatively small proportion of the biomass in the woodland.

"Just taking out this single plant from the canopy ... we lost a third of the woodland bird species, within three years," says Watson.

He says the effect was far greater than anticipated and gives strong support to the keystone hypothesis.

Subtle role

Interestingly, the results showed that mistletoe's keystone role is different to what was predicted.

The birds most affected, were not, as expected, those who fed or nested in mistletoe, but those which fed on insects, says Watson.

He says other research shows that mistletoe drops fertilising litter at a far greater rate than non-parasitic plants. This litter, says Watson, has an impact on litter-dwelling insects, which in turn impacts on insectivorous birds that feed on them.

"This not a bird effect, this is an insectivore effect," he says. "We're seeing a complete shift in the food webs in these woodlands."

"It's a pretty subtle series of interactions that manifests as losing a third of your species when you take that tiny little tweak and remove that one plant."



Threatened Bird Network May 2018 Newsletter

This week is National Volunteer week, an annual celebration that recognizes the work of volunteers across Australia. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the incredible work *you* do, donating your time to worthy bird conservation causes. Since our establishment in 1996, over 11,000 TBN members have contributed tens of thousands of hours in volunteer support to a diverse range of threatened bird projects. Without your dedication none of this would be possible and we would like to sincerely thank every one of you.

May is a busy time for the TBN, check out our [newsletter blog](#) to see all of the exciting events we have coming up around the country.

[THANK YOU!](#)

Without your hard work, the Threatened Bird Network would not be possible.

[National Malleefowl Newsletter now available](#)

Check out the latest edition of 'Around the Mounds'.

[National Malleefowl Forum, Mildura VIC \(August 17 -20\)](#)

Registration is now open for the Sixth National Malleefowl Forum.

[Screening: The Desperate Plight of the Orange-bellied Parrot, Healesville VIC](#)

See this film on June 1st in Healesville.

[Volunteers needed in the American River area- Kangaroo Island](#)

Help protect Glossy Black-Cockatoos on Kangaroo Island.

[Sign the petition to protect our threatened birds!](#)

Ask our Party Leaders to Act for Birds by strengthening our environment laws.

[Indigenous Grant for Bird Research and Conservation](#)

Applications for the Fifth Indigenous Grant for Bird Research and Conservation are now being accepted.

[2018 Australasian Shorebird Conference. Call for Papers and Posters](#)

Submit an abstract or poster for this conference in Hobart, 27-28 October.

[Your observational records of Grey Falcons are critical for their conservation](#)

Grey Falcon data are needed.

[Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Surveys](#)

It is not too late to participate in the May Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater surveys.

[Introducing CockyWatch, WA](#)

Learn about this new citizen science initiative for Black-Cockatoos in Australia's Southwest.

[Wings on King Autumn surveys a success!](#)

Read about the Autumn King Island surveys.

[Help enter bird records](#)

We are seeking volunteers to help with two data entry projects.

[Community Conservation at Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary](#)

Conservation Volunteers Australia are holding events in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

For more information on the Threatened Bird Network click [here](#), also see our [Facebook](#) page.

WHEN THE DINOSAURS DIED, SO DID FORESTS -- AND TREE-DWELLING BIRDS

Date: May 24, 2018 Source: Field Museum

The asteroid impact that eliminated non-avian dinosaurs destroyed global forests. Here, a hypothetical surviving bird lineage -- small-bodied and specialized for a ground-dwelling lifestyle--flees a burning forest in the aftermath of the asteroid strike.

Credit: Phillip M. Krzeminski

Sixty-six million years ago, the world burned. An asteroid crashed to Earth with a force one million times larger than the largest atomic bomb, causing the extinction of the dinosaurs. But dinosaurs weren't the only ones that got hit hard -- in a new study, scientists learned that the planet's forests were decimated, leading to the extinction of tree-dwelling birds.

"Looking at the fossil record, at plants and birds, there are multiple lines of evidence suggesting that the forest canopies collapsed," says Regan Dunn, a paleontologist at the Field Museum in Chicago and a co-author on the study in *Current Biology*. "Perching birds went extinct because there were no more perches."

"We drew on a variety of approaches to stitch this story together," said Daniel Field, the paper's lead author, of the Milner Centre for Evolution at the University of Bath. "We concluded that the temporary elimination of forests in the aftermath of the asteroid impact explains why arboreal birds failed to survive across this extinction event. The ancestors of modern arboreal birds did not move into the trees until forests had recovered from the extinction-causing asteroid."

The project's pollen expert, Antoine Bercovici of the Smithsonian Institution and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, helped determine that the world's forests were destroyed by looking at microscopic fossils of pollen and spores. Dunn explains, "After a disaster like a forest fire or a volcanic eruption, the first plants to come back are the fastest colonizers -- especially ferns." That's because ferns don't sprout from seeds, but from spores, which are much smaller -- just a single cell. "Spores are minuscule, the size of a grain of pollen, so they're easily dispersed. They get picked up by the wind and go further than seeds can, and all they need to grow is a wet spot."

"The spores are tiny -- you could fit four across a single strand of your hair," says Dunn. "To see them, we take a sample of rock from the time frame just after the collision and dissolve it in acid. Then we purify it so that all that remains is the organic debris, like pollen, spores and little leaf bits, then we look at them under a microscope."

Immediately after the asteroid hit, the fossil record shows the charcoal remains of burnt trees, and then, tons of fern spores. An abundance of fern spores in the fossil record often comes on the heels of a natural disaster that destroyed larger plants like trees.

"Our study examined the fossil record from New Zealand, Japan, Europe and North America, which showed there was a mass deforestation across the globe at the end of the Cretaceous period," says co-author Bercovici.



And with no more trees, the scientists found, tree-dwelling birds went extinct. The birds that did survive were ground-dwellers -- birds whose fossilized remains show longer, sturdier legs like we see in modern ground birds like kiwis and emus. The Cretaceous equivalent of robins and sparrows, with delicate little legs made for perching on tree branches, had no place to live.

"Today, birds are the most diverse and globally widespread group of terrestrial vertebrate animals -- there are nearly 11,000 living species," says Field. "Only a handful of ancestral bird lineages succeeded in surviving the mass extinction event 66 million years ago, and all of today's amazing living bird diversity can be traced to these ancient survivors."

And while fossil animals like dinosaurs and birds often get more love than fossil plants, Dunn says that plants are critical to understanding life on earth. "Plants are everything, plants are the context in which all terrestrial life evolves and survives. They're primary producers, they make energy available to all life forms by capturing it from the sun -- we can't do that."

She also notes that while the dinosaurs and their perching bird neighbours died 66 million years ago, their plight is relevant today. "The end-Cretaceous event is the fifth mass extinction -- we're in the sixth," says Dunn. "It's important for us to understand what happens when you destroy an ecosystem, like with deforestation and climate change -- so we can know how our actions will affect what comes after us."

Story Source:

Materials provided by Field Museum. *Note: Content may be edited for style and length.*

Journal Reference:

Daniel J. Field, Antoine Bercovici, Jacob S. Berv, Regan Dunn, David E. Fastovsky, Tyler R. Lyson, Vivi Vajda, Jacques A. Gauthier. Early Evolution of Modern Birds Structured by Global Forest Collapse at the End-Cretaceous Mass Extinction. *Current Biology*, 2018; DOI: [10.1016/j.cub.2018.04.062](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2018.04.062)

Spring 2018 Camp

Ulladulla – Kings Point Retreat 13th - 20th October 2018

The IBOC Spring 2018 Camp will be held at Ulladulla on the NSW Coast south of Wollongong at Kings Point Retreat from Saturday 13th October to Saturday 20th October 2018. Ulladulla is a major tourist centre and regional town situated 140km S of Wollongong. Kings Point Retreat is at the southern end of the town just before Burrill Lake.

Kings Point Retreat **300 Kings Point Drive, Ulladulla 2539. Ph 02 4454 4261.** (Do not book online as Charles has arranged for special rates for IBOC) please phone the caravan park for bookings and mention the Bird Club.

Accommodation

Cabins all ensuite and include kitchen wear (plates, cups, pots, cutlery etc,) and linen.

8x1 Bedroom Cottages,

1 bedroom with Queen Bed. Sleeps 2 \$110 per night for 2

3x2 bedroom cottages

1 bedroom with Queen Bed & 1 with double bed + bunk over \$195per night for 4

11x2 bedroom cottages

2 bedrooms, 1 queen bed and other single bed + bunk Bed \$195 per night for 4

1x3 bedroom cottage

2 bathrooms Queen bed 1 room, bunk bed other 2 dishwasher 2x TV's

\$245 per night for up to 4 adults.

Powered sites No en-suite \$38 per night for 2

Powered sites with en-suite \$50 per night for 2

When booking a deposit of 1 night's fee is required as a deposit

It was recommended that members requiring cabins and sites book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as they can get very busy at certain periods especially weekends

When booking, remember to tell them that you are with the Illawarra Bird Observers Club

Directions:

From Wollongong travel via the Princes Hwy to Ulladulla. Continue south through the town and turn right 1.5km south of the second roundabout into Kings Point Road. The entrance to the Retreat is on the left immediately round the corner

Once you have booked please let Betty know as usual, on 4236 0307, by text on mobile 0432 892 945 or by email elizabethjHUDSON@bigpond.com

FROM GRIFFITH CAMP COMES A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

This photo is of just one of three tables each with 2x1metre long pizzas plus bowls of salad and pasta. This was only the main course. 33 attended for a great night out. By Alan



Pam Hazelwood managed some great pics whilst at the camp



Striped Honeyeater - from Cocobarra NP



Blue Bonnet - at Griffith Golf Course

The Yellow-throated Miner was a constant. The Pink-eared Ducks were at the poo ponds in Whitton. The birds in flight were at Tuckerbil Swamp near Leeton. Thousands of Grey Teal took to the sky as a sea eagle flew OH. Pam Hazelwood



Yellow-throated Miner
By Pam Hazelwood



Pink-eared Ducks
By Pam Hazelwood



Grey Teal by Pam Hazelwood

Jann Gowans organised a Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer whilst we were away. Which proved a great success



MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: - April/May 2018 compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	Qty	Date	Location	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Black-browed Albatross	1A+1sub Ad	15/05/2018	Bellambi	Offshore	Bill/Joan Zealey
Australasian Gannet	4	15/05/2018	Bellambi	Offshore	Bill/Joan Zealey
White-faced Heron	1	18/05/2018	Balgownie	Front Yard	Pam Hazelwood
Straw-necked Ibis	30	3/05/2018	Factory Lane, Jamberoo	Paddock	Darryl Goldrick
Eastern Osprey	1	6/09/2018	Burrill Lake	Power Pole	Charles Dove
Black-shouldered Kite	2	3/05/2018	Swamp Rd, Jamberoo	Roosting in dead tree	Darryl Goldrick
Sooty Oystercatcher	15	22/08/2018	Ulladulla	Tidal Rockshelf	Charles Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	15/05/2018	Bellambi	Rocks	Bill/Joan Zealey
Red-capped Plover	3	7/09/2018	Dolphin Point NSW	Tidal Rockshelf	Charles Dove
Hooded Plover	3	22/08/2018	Ulladulla	Tidal Rockshelf	Charles Dove
Hooded Plover	7	7/09/2018	Dolphin Point NSW	Tidal Rockshelf	Charles Dove
Kelp Gull	1 imm	15/05/2018	Bellambi	Rocks	Bill/Joan Zealey
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	5/09/2018	Porters Crk Dam	Gumtree	Charles Dove
Crimson Rosella	10	22/08/2018	Ulladulla	Heathland Forest	Charles Dove
Eastern Rosella	1	22/05/2018	Albion Park	School Yard	Darryl Goldrick
Rockwarbler	3	25/08/2018	Porters Crk Dam	Rock Lookout	Charles Dove
White-browed Scrubwren	7	22/08/2018	Ulladulla	Heathland Forest	Charles Dove
Large-billed Scrubwren	5	7/09/2018	Narrawallee	Biodiverse region	Charles Dove
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	3	3/09/2018	Ulladulla	Heathland Forest	Charles Dove
Yellow Thornbill	12	28/08/2018	Mollymook	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Brown Thornbill	5	22/08/2018	Ulladulla	Heathland Forest	Charles Dove
White-eared Honeyeater	8	5/09/2018	Porters Crk Dam	Forest	Charles Dove
Crescent Honeyeater	15	5/09/2018	Porters Crk Dam	Forest	Charles Dove
Brown-headed Honeyeater	15	21/08/2018	Ulladulla	Heathland Forest	Charles Dove
Australasian Figbird	1	30/04/2018	Hewitts Lagoon	Riparian	Ian McKinlay
Spangled Drongo	1	6/09/2018	Mollymook	Bottlebrush	Charles Dove
Spangled Drongo	1	24/04/2018	Corrimal East	Dunes	Ian McKinlay
Common Blackbird	1	13/05/2018	Tarrawanna	Garden	Laurie/Nola Williams

Sightings of our birdlife helps us to collect and maintain knowledge base of the movement and populations of species so we can note any specific changes that might occur. Please take note when your out and send your sightings to

[Darryl Goldrick, records officer](#)

A Spangled Drongo and White-bellied Sea Eagle from the Shoalhaven by 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