

Painted Button-quail

Turnix varius
Turnicidae

Description

The female is the larger and more coloured of these small, plump, well-camouflaged ground-dwellers. The overall colouration is grey, with large white spots on the breast which fade to off-white around the legs and vent. The face has small black-edged white spots with a white eye-brow. The wings and back of the female are mostly chestnut, with white spots



photo by Charles Dove

and black, white-edged bars on the wing. The male is similar but the chestnut colour is replaced with buff.

Similar Species

The Painted Button Quail can be confused with the Buff-breasted Button Quail and the male Black-breasted Button Quail, but are generally sufficiently distinct that they can be identified without confusion in the areas where they occur.

Distribution

These birds range almost continuously, in appropriate habitat, from about the Atherton Tableland in Qld, round the coast to the Eyre Peninsula and north to the southern Flinders Ranges in SA, avoiding only the driest regions of Qld and NSW. A second population occurs in southwestern WA up to Shark Bay. They also occur in Tasmania and on all the larger, coastal islands.

Habitat

Temperate and eastern tropical forests and woodlands form the habitats of this species. They appear to prefer closed canopies with some understory and deep leaf litter on the ground.

Feeding

Painted Button Quail are active during the evening, night and early morning, feeding on the ground. They are usually seen in pairs or small family parties, searching for seeds, fruit, leaves and insects. They create distinctive "soup-plate"

depressions when foraging, by spinning alternately on either leg and using the other to scrape away the leaf litter, leaving circular depressions in which they look for food.

Breeding

While not much is known, the indications are that the female is polyandrous, that is, she courts a male, mates and lays his clutch of eggs, then leaves him and searches for a second male to repeat the process. Females in captivity have had 3-4 mates and clutches in a breeding season. The female builds a domed nest of leaves, sticks and grasses beneath a tussock of grass, or at the foot of a rock or sapling, and lays 3-4 eggs at a 2-3 day laying interval between each egg. The male incubates the eggs once the clutch is complete, and all the eggs hatch at the same time. The chicks leave the nest immediately and are only fed by the male for 7-10 days. The chicks can fly 10 days after leaving the nest.

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

CONTENTS:

Club Activities	Page	2
Club Reports & Articles	Pages	3 - 6
Feathered Tales	Page	7
Monthly Bird Sightings	Page	8



'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.com.au

Club Contacts:

PRESIDENT :	Ross Gowans president@iboc.org.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Bill Zealey vice-president@iboc.org.au
SECRETARY:	Betty Hudson secretary@iboc.org.au
TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP :	Ken Brown membership@iboc.org.au
EDITORS:	Charles Dove, Janina Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au
RECORDS OFFICER:	Darryl Goldrick sightings@iboc.org.au

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

CLUB MEETING:

Monday 12th at 7.30pm

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

AGM ELECTIONS

After the AGM business had been completed.

A presentation **by Terry Dawson** 'Understanding kangaroos, especially their role in rangeland collapse'. A few people may be interested in this problem.

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

MIDWEEK WALK

Wednesday 14th at 9.00am

Leader Rupert Jarvis

Farmborough Heights

Meet at 9.00 a m on Farmborough Road. Turn off the Princes Highway at traffic lights about 750 mtrs south of Unanderra shops into Farmborough Road. At the roundabout bear left continuing along Farmborough Road for about 3 kms where there is a boom gate and some space to park. Bring morning tea. The walk is on surfaced road with woodland on both sides.

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

MONTHLY OUTING

Saturday 17th at 8.30am

Leaders Alan and Anne Cousins

Bangalee Reserve, North Nowra.

From the north take the Princes Highway to Bomaderry, turn right just before the Shoalhaven bridge

and proceed along Illaroo to Koloona Drive, turn left here and travel along until you reach a fork in the road, take the right-hand fork to Scout Camp Road and continue for some way crossing a creek in steep dip. The reserve is on the left at the top of the rise. Meet at the car park where there are toilet and picnic facilities at 8.30am.

We will carry morning tea and return to the car park for lunch.

In case of uncertain weather contact Alan or Anne Cousins on 0413 869 534 before 7.15am

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Next Committee Meeting on the 19th November 2018

The next IBOC Committee Meeting will be on Monday 19th November at 2pm at the home of Jann & Ross Gowans, 41 Joseph St Woonona.

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

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE 23rd October 2018

For all articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter PLEASE E-mail contributions: early To Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 3/15 Shepherd Street, Mollymook 2539.

REPORTS

IBOC October Monthly Meeting Report

by Ross Gowans

Monday 8th October General Meeting members presentations, arriving at the venue and hoping, we've only heard from two members wanting to present but not to worry we have the trusty Australian Geographic videos standing by if all else fails.

All turned out very well with a number of presenters coming forward.

Betty Hudson got the ball rolling with an unusual theme: nearly all the birds in the show were captive but some also rare, the photos were taken at venues such as the Desert park in Alice Springs.

Next a presentation from an absentee Peter Fackender who sent a short video of a fox family and their adventures. This was shot on a trip near Barraba; very interesting and well put together, a cute mother and seven kits.

Bill and Joan Zealey's latest excellent adventure to the Aleutians Islands was another great short show of their travels down the archipelago and areas inland featuring many birds and animals normally seen on nature shows and yes, Brian, there were lots of Puffins.

Alistair and Rosemary Mcilgorm took us to more islands, namely the big one, Tasmania and the smaller, Bruny. They displayed their rapidly improving photographic and bird IDing skills, this was achieved with a good range of photos, a number of which were endemic to Tasmania.

More islands coming up: Andy Knowlson took us to Christmas and the Cocos Islands. Andy showed a number of species seen at the islands' Bird Week, including how to identify all the local Frigate Birds, then flying to Cocos for a few more species and some tourism.

To round out the evening, Jenny Starling presented a number of different species photographed on her travels around Australia: very good photos from many differing locations.

All went very well, now I can put the old videos away for a while longer and thank you everybody for your presentations, especially you Bill, for setting up the computer.

NOTICES & ARTICLES OF INTEREST

ANU SCIENTISTS DEVELOP NEW WAY TO TRACK SWIFT PARROTS

2 October 2018

Researchers from The Australian National University (ANU) could be a step closer to saving the critically endangered Swift Parrot, after showing it's possible to predict where the parrots will settle to breed.

Swift Parrots are nomads that move to a new location to breed each year depending on where their preferred food, nectar from flowering trees, is most abundant. Because food availability fluctuates across Tasmania, the movements of the parrots have been difficult to predict. This limits the ability of conservationists to protect the species. The Difficult Bird Research Group have found that



by assessing flower bud development in food trees, it is possible to predict where Swift Parrots will settle to breed up to a year ahead of time. "This is a game-changer for Swift Parrots because, until now, managing swift parrots has been very difficult, especially in terms of protecting their habitat from deforestation," lead author of the study Dr Dejan Stojanovic said. "Being able to predict where swift parrots would settle enabled us to deploy nest boxes ahead of the breeding season and so increase the availability of nesting sites. "The study found providing nest boxes allowed more parrots to breed at preferred sites, despite a shortage of natural nests. "Accurately predicting where birds will settle allows managers to implement proactive management actions at important sites," Dr Stojanovic said. "This contrasts against the reactive approaches currently in place for managing swift parrot habitat." Over the last 20 years, one quarter of remaining Swift Parrot habitat has been logged in the Southern Forests of Tasmania, which are an important breeding area. The scientists are concerned that without better protection of Swift Parrot habitat, other conservation interventions like nest boxes may not be enough to prevent the species from going extinct. "Although it's great that nest boxes can be used to augment habitat availability at important sites where Swift Parrots will breed, if we are serious about preventing this species from going extinct, then we need to stop logging its remaining habitat," Dr Stojanovic said.

More information about their work can be found at www.difficultbirds.com.

The research has just been published in [The Journal of Wildlife Management](#).

Autumn 2019 Camp

John Oxley Caravan Park Coonabarabran

30th March to 6th April 2019

The IBOC Autumn 2019 Camp will be held in Coonabarabran in North Western NSW at John Oxley Caravan Park from **Saturday 30th March to Saturday 6th April 2019.**

Please note the changed dates of the camp.

John Oxley Caravan Park, Newell Highway, Coonabarabran 2357. **Ph 02 6842 1635.**

Email michaelkelly6@bigpond.com.au . Web site www.johnoxleycvm.net (no online booking available) please phone or email the caravan park for bookings

Accommodation

Cabins

Single Room (nos. 15 & 16)	Double Bed & Single Bunk	\$80 per night or 480 per week
Small Family Cabin (No 27)	Queen Bed & 2 x Single Bunks	\$75 per night or \$450 per week
Small Family Cabin (nos. 28 & 29)	Double Bed & 2 Single Bunks	\$75 per night or \$450 per week
Small Family cabin + patio (No 6)	Queen Bed & 2 single Bunks	\$79 per night or \$474 per week
Large Family Cabin (Nos. 23 & 24)	Queen Bed 4x Single bunks & Futon	\$83 per night or 498 per week
Large Family Cabin (nos. 30)	Queen Bed 4x Single bunks & Futon	\$90 per night or \$ 540 per week
Large Family Cabin No (31)	Queen bed Pillowtop, 4 bunks & Futon	\$90 per night or \$ 540 per week
Deluxe Cabin (no 22)	Queen Double beds & Single Bunk	\$99 per night or \$ 594 per week
Deluxe Cabin + Veranda (no 7)	1xQueen &1x Double Pillow Top Beds	\$99 per night or \$ 594 per week
Deluxe Cabin + Veranda (No 8)	2 x Double Pillow Top beds	\$99 per night or \$ 594 per week

All charges are for 2 persons per cabin. Charge for 1 person is \$10 less for cabins 6, 15, 16, 27 28 29

Powered sites	No en-suite	\$28 per night for 2 or \$168 per week
Powered sites	with en-suite	there are none at CVP

All cabins are air-conditioned. Linen is supplied on all beds All Cabins except no22 have under bench fridges. No 22 has a full size fridge

When booking a deposit of 1 nights fee is normally required

It was recommended that members requiring cabins book before the beginning of December as the CVP is used by tradesmen who make block bookings for the next period between school holidays (ie Jan to April) starting in December.

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

Directions: From Wollongong travel

- 1) via the Hume Hwy Yass. Then travel via Harden, Wallendbeen, & Young then Forbes to the Newell Hwy
- 2) or alternatively via the New England Hwy to Quirindi & Caroona thence direct to Coonabarabran
- 3) or via the Blue Mtns to Orange then the Mitchell Hwy to Dubbo & the Newell

These are only a few suggestions there are many other ways.

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

Birds of prey flocking to cities to escape drought, data shows

By [Shelley Lloyd](#) ABC Posted 9 Oct 2018,

Photo: Peregrine Falcon eggs hatched recently on the rooftop of a Melbourne CBD building.

Eagles, Hawks and other large birds of prey are flocking to cities and towns, with the drought forcing them out of the parched countryside, bird watchers say.

Data compiled by Birdlife Australia from citizen scientists has revealed large numbers of birds of prey are moving into urban areas.

Figures from past the four years of the Aussie Bird Count revealed 27 of Australia's 34 raptor species have been spotted in capital cities.



Birdlife Australia's Sean Dooley said nearly all raptor species are on the decline in rural area across most of Australia.

"You wouldn't think of Eagles, Hawks and Owls as being suburban birds but they certainly do occur and they're being attracted into cities looking for food," he said.

"The cities can offer raptors rich pickings ... what we are seeing is more inland raptors, like barn owls and even Black-shouldered Kites coming towards coastal and city areas in search of water and food."

He said last year, a very rare forest Owl decided to roost in the pulpit of a church in Toowoomba.

"Masked Owls sometimes roost in caves and this owl had decided that the church pulpit looked very much like a cave and took up residence ... you just never know what will turn up," Mr Dooley said.

"Famously there are the Peregrine Falcons that nest in the skyscrapers in Collins Street in Melbourne and there are thousands of people around the world watching them on web cameras."

City life brings risks for birds Mr Dooley said, warned there were dangers for the birds in cities.

"It's a fraught choice coming into the city for a raptor because there's potentially a lot of food but there's also a lot more danger for the birds from vehicle strike, collisions with buildings, overhead powerlines and poisoning from pesticides," he said. "What people don't realise, if you put rat poison out, the rats eat the poison and go away to die but raptors will eat the rat and the toxins can kill the bird. "This is having a disastrous effect on our native birds of prey."

Photo: Brahminy Kites are renowned for being scavengers which look for food at tips and roadsides. ([ABC News: Shelley Lloyd](#))

And he does have a word of warning for city dwellers and their pets.

"There is a slight, very remote chance that your pets could be at risk, particularly if they're out at night," he said.

"The powerful Owl, which is found in places like Sydney, Brisbane and even Melbourne, have been known to feed on cats, so people should keep their cats indoors at night because your moggie may go missing."



A SPECIAL MOMENT IN TIME FOR US –

Charles Dove

Over the last few years Janina and myself have not be able to attend a lot of the IBOC Camps, but this year we had the camp in our backdoor in Ulladulla. We managed to see a lot of our friends from the Illawarra and met a few new members to the Illawarra Bird Observers Club. The week ahead held many memorable moments for ourselves and many others, with a few seeing new species of birds as well as enjoying some of the floral splendor of the Heathlands. Over 150 species for the week certainly kept the Binoculars and cameras busy. Some birds that highlighted the days were the Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Baillon’s Crake, Square-tailed Kite, Hooded Plovers, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Common Cicadabird plus many more. We had lots of moments to catch up with our friends as we walked over 50klm in the week with just a little rain on the odd occasion.

A very splendid week indeed.

Just a few images from the camp



Baillon’s Crake



Chestnut-rumped Heathwren



Red-necked Avocet
 Wilford Lane Wetlands - Milton NSW charles dove 10/2018

Red-necked Avocet



Common Cicadabird
 Manlyana NSW charles dove 10/2018

Common Cicadabird



Glossy Black Cockatoo
 Manlyana NSW charles dove 10/2018

Glossy Black-cockatoo



Red Knot
 Lake Wellumboodle NSW charles dove 10/2018

Red-Knots

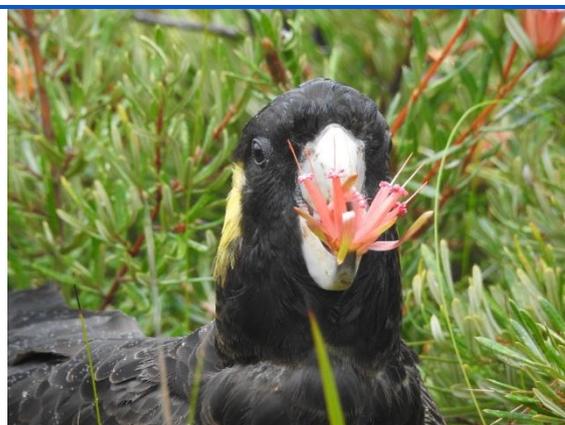
Memories of IBOC's Ulladulla Camp 2018

Charlie laid on a smorgasbord of walks for our October camp. No two were the same habitat and we had visited very few of them even though they were less than two hours from Wollongong.

The closest, the South Pacific Heathland Reserve was only five minutes from our caravan park. This 14 hectare flora and fauna reserve is administered by a voluntary group in which Charlie is heavily involved, documenting and photographing the flora. The park lies on the cliffs between Rennies' Beach and Racecourse Beach at the southern end of Ulladulla. Its many tracks offer both spectacular heathland and coastal views, with lookouts from which we viewed the migrating whales. The flora included some of the best displays of Waratahs, Flannel Flowers and other Heath varieties we had ever seen.

It was here that Joan and I encountered a lone Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo quietly "tromping down Mountain Devils and nibbling their bright red flowers. Although only a couple of metres away it completely ignored us as it got its "sugar fix" for the day. We spent about ten minutes entranced by its actions before going on our way. Thank you, Charlie, for letting us in on the best kept secrets of the south coast.

Bill & Joan Zealey





After a few days in Hospital Colin Markam enjoyed sitting out the front of his home to watch the birds come in.



A young rainbow lorikeet's repeated begging-type sound (as if it wanted to be fed) attracted my attention from my neighbour's jacaranda. My binos revealed it was being quite vigorously preened by its parents. So its calls might have meant Give me more or else Give me a break. Shortly after, all three appeared at my verandah seed feeder.

At first glance, one might well think this crimson rosella was about to fall off its perch. No way: it was just luxuriating in the sunlight and shortly turned round to bear its back to the sun; then back to this pose.

By Roy Tighe

Here is a photo of a lovely little robin I encountered in Ireland recently. It might bring some joy to members via the newsletter.

Pam



MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: -September/October 2018

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	Qty	Date	Location	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Grey Teal	24	23/09/2018	Fisherman's Paradise	River	Charles Dove
Australasian Grebe	4	25/09/2018	Dolphin Point	Dam	Charles Dove
White-headed Pigeon	1	Oct	Jamberoo	Garden	Betty Hudson
Brown Cuckoo-dove	4	2/10/2018	Thirroul	Backyard robina	Mike Morphett
Crested Pigeon	7	27/09/2018	Milton	Rainforest	Charles Dove
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	Oct	Bellambi	?	Tom/Joan Wylie
Wonga Pigeon	1 heard	29/09/2018	Balgownie	Escarpment Lands	Joan Zealey
Topknot Pigeon	2	Oct	Balgownie	Riparian	Joan Zealey
Tawny Frogmouth	1	21/10/2018	Thirroul	Backyard	Mike Morphett
Tawny Frogmouth	1	Oct	Avondale	?	Neil Wheway
Eastern Great Egret	1	24/09/2018	Dolphin Point	Dam	Charles Dove
Nankeen Night-heron	1	19/09/2018	Dolphin Point	Dam	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	26/09/2018	Woonona Pool	Overhead	A/A Cousins +R/J Gowans
Swamp Harrier	2	27/09/2018	Wilford Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Baillon's Crake	6	25/09/2018	Dolphin Point	Dam	Charles Dove
Red-necked Avocet	75	27/09/2018	Wilford Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Pacific Golden Plover	2	20/09/2018	Shoalhaven Heads	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Red-capped Plover	2	30/09/2018	Ulladulla	Beach	Charles Dove
Hooded Plover	2	30/09/2018	Ulladulla	Beach	Charles Dove
Red-kneed Dotterel	6	27/09/2018	Wilford Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	3	24/09/2018	Thirroul	Neighbour's Banksias	Mike Morphett
Long-billed Corella	~200	20/10/2018	Lake Illawarra South	School grounds	Darryl Goldrick
Crimson Rosella	7	23/09/2018	Ulladulla	Bushland	Charles Dove
Eastern Koel	1 heard	2/10/2018	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine area	Mike Morphett
Eastern Koel	1 heard	20/10/2018	Lake Illawarra South	PCYC grounds	Darryl Goldrick
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Oct	Avondale	Overhead	Tera Wheway
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	23/09/2018	Excelsior Mine Edge	Rainforest	Mike Morphett
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	Oct	Wollongong	Puckey's Reserve	Tom/Joan Wylie
Powerful Owl	1	28/09/2018	Excelsior Mine	South-east Forest	Mike Morphett
Southern Boobook	1	28/09/2018	Excelsior Mine	South-West forest	Mike Morphett
Satin Bowerbird	4	27/09/2018	Milton	Rainforest	Charles Dove
Pilotbird	1	Oct	Marshall Mount	Rainforest Creek	Andrew Knowlson
Brown Thornbill	5	27/09/2018	Milton	Rainforest	Charles Dove
Eastern Spinebill	5	19/09/2018	Burrill Lake	Garden	Charles Dove
Noisy Friarbird	6	7/10/2018	Shoalhaven Heads	Mountain View Resort	Darryl Goldrick
Eastern Whipbird	2	23/09/2018	Ulladulla	Heath	Charles Dove
Australasian Figbird	30	28/09/2018	Milton	Figtree	Charles Dove
Australasian Figbird	2	Oct	Balgownie	Street Trees	Joan Zealey
Grey Butcherbird	1	22/10/2018	Lake Illawarra South	Yard	Darryl Goldrick
Australian Raven	10	19/09/2018	Wilford Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Eastern Yellow Robin	2	24/09/2018	Ulladulla	Bushland	Charles Dove
Red-whiskered Bulbul	1	22/10/2018	Lake Illawarra South	Yard	Darryl Goldrick
Australasian Pipit	1	19/09/2018	Wilford Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove