



*"One Good Tern
Deserves Another"*

The Newsletter of the ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

I.B.O.C. NEWS

CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the birdlife around them.

Issue No. 291 April 2006

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS due 1st January each year: FAMILY \$25 SINGLE \$20 JUNIOR \$5
Bronwyn Wilson, our Treasurer, would be delighted to see you, and take a load off your mind!**

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CLUB CONTACTS

PRESIDENT: Roger Bogaert, tel: 02 4237 8742
SECRETARY: Betty Hudson, tel: 02 4236 0307
email: elizabethhudson@bigpond.com.
TREASURER: Bronwyn Wilson, tel: 02 4283 4744
EDITORS: John Cashman, tel: 02 4284 0538
email: cashmansjr@bigpond.com
Val Dolan, tel: 02 4229 6737
RECORDS OFFICER .Chris Chafer
email: cchafer@speedlink.com.au

FORTHCOMING IBOC EVENTS April 2006

CLUB MEETING – Monday 10th April - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall. Barry Prior & Ron Parker 'First Aid for Bird Watchers.' Don't forget to bring a mug and a small plate for supper too.

MID-WEEK WALK – Wednesday 12th April 8.30am – Macquarie Pass - The Cascades Walk. Leader – Joan Wylie. Meet at the bottom of Macquarie Pass. There is a small parking area on the right hand side at the lower end of the pass. But should you lose your way, call Joan, 0407 268 279.

No Weekend Walk in April due to the Camp

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - Tuesday 18th April 2006, at 7.30pm at Norma Almond's home. 2 Shoobert Crescent, Kieraville (4229 8612). All members welcome.

EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP - Saturday 22nd – Saturday 29th April 2006, at Tumut.

MAY 2006 NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next *IBOC News* is 8pm **Thursday 20th April.** With the Camp, a rearrangement of the distribution of the News, and some family commitments there is a tight deadline for the May issue. Please submit your contributions early, by email preferably, otherwise by post, to the editor at 5 Madden St, Fernhill 2519.

From Your Committee

1. Finance Closing balance for 31.1.06 was \$1,729.22, Receipts \$855.00, Expenses \$211.10 Closing Balance at 28.2.06 was \$2,373.12

PO Box rental payment was approved in the expenses

2. The Committee decided to roll over the club's term deposit for another 12 months.

3. 2006 camp. Venues in the Myall Lakes area or the Far South Coast of NSW are still being looked at for the Spring Camp. The dates of the Spring Camp: 21 – 28 October 2006

4. We are still working to get the web site back up and running again. Chris Cartledge has taken over this job and attended the training at the PCY. The committee decided that at present we will continue with the current host server for the web site as we will then have support for any problems that arise. Thanks Chris.

LITERARY BIRD QUIZ (Answers – bottom of p.3)

1 Harry Potter's owl is called a. Hedwig, b. Wighedge, c. Cut-a hedge, or d. Hedge-your-bets ?

2 The teenager's book *Pastures of the Blue Crane* was written by a. Max Fatchen, b. Hesba Brinsmead, c. Enid Blyton or d. Captain W.E. Johns?

3 Six of the following eight birds are mentioned in the Bible. Which ones are they? Dove, Eagle, Hawk, Kookaburra, Lapwing, Owl, Robin, Sparrow.

4 The children's book *Uhu, the Owl* was written and beautifully illustrated by which one of the Macarthur-Onslow clan? a. Phoebe Macarthur-Onslow, b. Penelope Macarthur-Onslow, c. Annette Macarthur-Onslow, or d. Charles Ponsonby Fauntleroy Waterloo William IV Macarthur-Onslow.

April School Holiday Camp 22nd to 29th April 2006 Tumut Riverglade Caravan Park,

29 members and friends have booked in for the camp for varying periods. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there for a great week.

As the caravan park is close to town there is easy access to the shops (Woolies is only 5mins walk away). All other supplies should be readily available. The area is a trout fishing area so those so inclined bring your rods. The river is at the bottom of the park.

There will be a variety of walks, and included is a visit to Yarrongabilly Caves. There is a thermal pool here for those who fancy a dip. Note there is an entrance fee for the caves and pool.

Be prepared for both hot and cold weather, as we are near the mountains and the weather patterns can change very quickly. As usual, we will have a get-together each night in the open so bring things to rug up, it will be cold.

If campers wish, we will arrange a meal out one night. Usually this is at the local pub or a club.

PRESENTING PYGMIE POSSUMS Monday 13th March 2006 **ALAN COUSINS**

The presentation was given by

Teresa du Bois and entitled 'Pygmy Possums et al in the forests of Tasmania.' Teresa du Bois and Jamie Harris went to Tasmania at Christmas – in the middle of SUMMER –the weather on Cradle Mountain was worse than both of the times that Anne and I have visited 'Tassie' in the winter. Cataract Gorge did not seem much better. The photos showed them in capes and hoods on a mist shrouded, rain soaked background not conducive bird watching.

The collection of photos of small birds was rounded off with the picture of a Powerful Owl with a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo in its possession. A sight to behold was an albino Wobbaly (sorry Wallaby).

They are also carrying out research at The Royal National Park, Barren Grounds and Jervis Bay into the life of Pygmy Possums. The pictures of these little mammals in Jamie's hand reminded me of an English Olympic gold medal shot putter (Geoff Capes) who also has large hands and banana fingers and yet breeds canaries!!!

Other mammals etc. in the research areas include Antechinus –Marsupial Mouse, Swamp Rat, Bush Rat, Sugar Glider, Leaf Tailed Lizard, and FUNNEL WEB SPIDERS.

All in all, a fascinating presentation – imagine a tiny Pygmy Possum with a radio transmitter round its neck – looked like something from a space cartoon.

LETTER FROM TERESA

Dear IBOC members and visitors,

Thank you for the interest that you showed in our pygmy possum research. Generally we do fieldwork about once a month at Barren Grounds Nature Reserve and at other times of the year fieldwork is done at Royal National Park. All members and friends are welcome to come along and help set up traps and collect the following morning to experience first hand what these gorgeous little creatures are like in the flesh. The work is normally not intensive and is suitable for all ages. Don't forget to bring your bird watching gear as well! For further details on up-and-coming trapping dates, and to register as a volunteer, please email myself at tmdb66@uow.edu.au or Jamie Harris at jharri11@scu.edu.au or phone us on 4283 2773

Wednesday walk 15/03/06:Foot of the escarpment at Balgownie Teresa du Bois

There was a good turn out of 8 people to the mid week walk despite the bad weather. It was overcast for most of the walk and sprinkled with rain at one point. This walk takes you into some thick forest at the bottom of the Balgownie escarpment. There are several tracks including one which goes up to the top of escarpment and joins to Brokers nose. Other tracks not fully explored possibly link to the Corrimal mine track. This is a good place to come if you have a few spare hours to explore all the tracks. It is also alive with birds. In the hour that we were there we saw 17 confirmed bird species, plus two unidentified raptors overhead and one huge raptor which we caught a glimpse of as it flew across the gap in the canopy. Most notable was the Yellow-throated Scrubwren and Leaden Flycatcher. Unfortunately we dipped out on the Catbird, Bassian Thrush, and Pacific Baza, and even the Eastern Yellow Robin, which have been seen previously.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Rainbow Lorikeet	Little Wattlebird	Australian Magpie
Crimson Rosella	Lewin's Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Laughing Kookaburra	Leaden Flycatcher	Satin Bowerbird
Superb Fairy Wren	Rufous Fantail	Silvereye
White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail	

Literary Bird Quiz Answers

1a Hedwig. 2b Hesba Brinsmead. 3 Dove, Eagle, Hawk, Lapwing, Owl, Sparrow.
4c. Annette Macarthur -Onslow

April Meeting Guest Speakers

Neil Wheway

At the April meeting our guest speakers will be Barry Prior and Ron Parker; they will be talking to us about first aid. First I will explain the reason for asking them to become guest speakers and to talk about first aid. During the October camp one of our members slipped during a walk, whilst the fall was not life threatening it was extremely painful. It was then realized that if a serious injury or accident occurs, there is limited first aid experience amongst our members. While a first aid kit is available for walks and camps useful for minor problems, what if it was more serious, a broken limb or a heart problem.

Barry and Ron are extremely experienced in first aid having attended first aid classes and gained their certificates many years ago while working at Wongawilli Colliery. To gain more knowledge and experience they then participated in the annual inter collieries first aid competitions. After progressing to become first aid instructors they conducted classes for many coal mine employees in preparation for their examinations. Now they are among a select group who conduct examinations for first aid courses in the community, so these two gentlemen are well versed and experienced in all aspects of the St John Ambulance First Aid Courses.

While talking about a very serious subject they do so in an entertaining and amusing style this is one meeting members should not miss attending, you can never be sure when you might have to help someone or yourself at a future date.

Yarrawarra Forest Walk Sunday 19 March 2006

Betty Hudson

18 members met in Robertson on a foggy Sunday morning. After waiting 10 mins for late comers we drove along the Belmore Falls Road to the start of the walk. Once we left Robertson and dropped down the hill we left the fog behind, for a fine day. A Wonga Pigeon was seen feeding beside the road just as we started down the hill.

Leaving the cars in the grassy parking area in Wallaby Hill Road, we walked along a track between paddocks. Birds were varied & plentiful in the trackside vegetation, with a Bassian Thrush and Eastern Yellow Robin seen.

Entering the Buderoo NP Yarrawarra Forest the vegetation changed to open forest with a shrub understorey. The bird species changed but were still plentiful, a female Rose Robin being seen. The track was easy level walking making bird watching easier.

As we came to an area of heathland a diversion was made to Yarrawarra Trig for morning tea, where there was a magnificent view of the cliffs on the other side of Barrengarry Creek. This track is getting very overgrown.

Returning to the main track we took the right hand fork to Keenan's Pass. This track slowly descended with the forest gradually changing to wetter forest and then rainforest. Here we had a change in species of birds again and had good sightings of two male Rose Robins and several Rufous Fantails. The Pilot bird proved elusive. In this area we saw all three species of scrub wren, an Eastern Whipbird and heard a Superb Lyrebird.

The track came to an end at a locked gate, which we could have bypassed, but the track started to drop steeply, so we reluctantly returned the way we had come, to lunch at the top of the steeper section of the track on the trunks of fallen trees. By now the weather was hot and very humid making walking arduous.

We returned to the cars around 1.30pm and found we had a tally of 47 species for the day. Some members then went to have a look at Belmore Falls which was only a further km along the road. All agreed that it was a good day's birding.

Bird List for the Yarrawarra Forest walk

Australian Wood Duck	White-throated Treecreeper	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Pacific Black Duck	Spotted Pardalote	New Holland Honeyeater	Olive-backed Oriole
Australasian Grebe	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Butcherbird
Straw-necked Ibis	White-browed Scrubwren	Rose Robin	Australian Magpie
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Large-billed Scrubwren	Eastern Yellow Robin	Pied Currawong
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Brown Gerygone	Eastern Whipbird	Australian Raven
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Golden Whistler	Welcome Swallow
Crimson Rosella	Yellow Thornbill	Rufous Whistler	Fairy Martin
Eastern Rosella	Striated Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Silvereye
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Little Wattlebird	Leaden Flycatcher	Bassian Thrush
Laughing Kookaburra	Noisy Miner	Rufous Fantail	Common Starling
Superb Lyrebird	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Fantail	



Lyn and Terry Dawson 'Lunch with a View' on the Yarrawarra Walk *Photo Neil Wheway*

...and Pieces

The Capertee Valley Regent Honeyeater Recovery Group will hold their next tree planting on the weekend, 6,7 May. It's a great time. For information contact David Geering, at PO Box 2111, Dubbo, NSW 2830 or at david.geering@npws.nsw.gov.au

And Some More Special Recoveries of Banded Birds.

Dave Thompson

In earlier newsletters, most recently May 2004, we listed some interesting records of birds banded and then turning up a long way from the banding place or a long time after banding. *Corella*, the journal of the Australian Bird Study Association, from which these records were taken, has since then shown some more interesting records and below are a few of them. As before, “oldest” means the longest time since original banding and “furthest” means the greatest distance from the banding place, both for the species concerned. The website of the ABSA, www.absa.asn.au, lists the oldest/furthest records for bird species banded and recaptured.

Southern Giant-Petrel. Banded on 30th March, 2005 in Patagonia, Argentina (Argentine Banding Scheme) and recovered dead on 20th May, 2005 at Mandurah, WA, 11,376 km away. (*Corella Vol 29/No 4*).

Northern Giant Petrel. Banded in 1998 on Macquarie Is and subsequently recovered dead “caught on longline at sea”. And another banded in 2000 on Macquarie Is and recovered dead “caught on longline at sea” in 2001. And yet another banded in 2000 on Macquarie Is and recovered dead “caught on longline at sea” in 2003. (*Cor. 28/3*).

Wandering Albatross. Banded by the much loved “father” of our Club and albatross study pioneer, Doug Gibson, in 1971 off Austinmer and recaptured in 2005 on Ile Des Cochons, South Indian Ocean, 33 years and 6 months after banding and 8,067 km SW. And another banded by Doug in 1971 off Austinmer and recovered in 2005 on Ile Des Cochons, 33 years and 6 months later. (*Cor. 29/2*).

Black-necked Stork. Nestling banded in 2003 at Bulahdelah and recovered dead in 2004 near Casino, 400 km N. Furthest. (*Cor. 28/3*).

Red-necked Stint. Banded at Werribee Sewage Farm, Vic, in 1985 and recaptured at banding place in 2003, 18 years and 9 months later, and presumably after 18 return trips to the northern hemisphere, probably Siberia or Alaska, to breed. This for a bird weighing about 26 gms, the same as a sparrow or 3 one-dollar coins. Oldest. (*Cor. 28/1*).

Pied Oystercatcher. Banded in 2003 at Westernport, Vic, and marking sighted in field in 2004 at The Broadwater, NSW, 1,269 km NNE. Furthest. (*Cor. 28/3*).

Sooty Oystercatcher. Nestling banded on Curlew Is, Tas, in 1983 and marking sighted in field on nearby Green Is in 2000, 16 years and 10 months later. Oldest. (*Cor. 28/1*).

Pacific Gull. Nestling banded in 1983 on Shellback Is, Vic, and recaptured in 2004 “tangled in fishing gear (and later mercy killed)” on Phillip Is, Vic., 20 years and 3 months after banding. Oldest. (*Cor. 28/3*).

Kelp Gull. Nestling banded in 1982 on Green Is, Tas, and recovered dead, beachwashed, in 2005, 29 km NNE and 23 years and 2 months after banding. Oldest. (*Cor. 29/3*).

Caspian Tern. Nestling banded in 1982 at Corner Inlet, Vic, and recovered “tangled in fishing gear” in 2005 at Lawrence, NSW, over 23 years after banding and 1,173 km NNE. Oldest. (*Cor. 29/2*).

Southern Boobook. Banded in 1993 in ACT and marking read in field in 2004 at banding place, 11 years and 2 months after banding. Oldest. (*Cor. 29/1*).

White-browed Scrubwren. Banded in 1984 at Iluka and recaptured in 2001 at banding place, 17 years and 7 months after banding. Oldest. (*Cor. 28/3*).

Striated Thornbill. Banded in 1995 at Winmallee, NSW, and recaptured there 9 times since, most recently in 2005, over 10 years after banding. (*Cor. 29/3*).

Noisy Friarbird. Banded in 1995 at Munghorn Gap near Mudgee and recaptured there twice, most recently in 2005, 10 years and 7 months after banding. Oldest. (*Cor. 29/4*).

The country after Mungerannie became more desolate with few sightings of interest although there was some water over the road in places and across the gibber plains from the thunder storm we had seen near Bollards Lagoon. When we reached the Koonchera Dune we left the road and visited the Pandie Burra Bore where we had a lucky sighting of a male Yellow Chat that sat up in front of us before disappearing into the distance. There were quite a few Orange Chats about and trying to sort the flighty female Yellow and Orange Chats proved too difficult so we moved on to the vicinity of the Koonchera Waterhole. The dune was one of the highest we had seen but a quick search could not find any Eyrean Grasswrens, may be due to the sparseness of the vegetation and the strong wind. We ventured out into the lignum of Bollards Lagoon with Chris's ears quickly picking up the sounds of Grey Grasswrens in the large lignum clumps. We waited quietly in the heat and flies near a lignum clump and eventually one could be seen feeding inside the clump and eventually giving some good views as it foraged near the outside edges of the lignum. We camped there overnight and had another successful forage into the lignum in the morning before heading out sighting a couple of Cinnamon Quail-thrush on the way and only then noticing a "Keep out" sign that we must have missed on the way in.

The hot northerly wind had increased and there were dust storms on the way to Birdsville and there we got some respite in the cool of the Birdsville Pub having a Big Red Burger. We spent the afternoon in the shade beside the waterhole but could not find the elusive Red-browed Pardalote. We booked into the camping ground and, with some great perception, Chris decided we should stay in a unit This turned out to be a great idea as just as we had finished eating dinner a howling southerly buster with accompanying sand storm hit and every thing was quickly covered in fine dust and getting into your eyes and ears, which would have made tenting very uncomfortable. The next morning was still windy but quite cool so we decided to visit the famous Big Red Dune which turned out to be a let down as it was only half as high as the Koonchera Dune. The track over it though was impassable with the wind having formed a one meter lip on the approach side and the sand was also very loose. Back at Birdsville after another quick search for the Pardalote was unsuccessful, not a hint of a call at any time, we then headed east. The Cordillo Downs road sign said it was open so we set off down this rather rough track and had a good sighting of a family of Bourke Parrots, the only ones on the trip. It was slow going and we had to camp overnight by a dry tank before setting off again next morning stopping to see the largest shearing shed in Australia. The road then started to show signs of the earlier thunder storm with a few boggy bits and some rather deep creek crossings took us to the end of the road where the sign said 'Road Closed.' It was then a short run to Inanamincka where again a search for the Pardalote along the Cooper Creek proved fruitless.

Heading west again we visited the Dig Tree which had some interesting history, then we continued on. There were a few interesting waders in the water treatment ponds of one of the oil well complexes and as it was getting late we decided to camp beside the waterhole at Noccundra, a quaint old hotel in the middle of nowhere that provided a community hot shower. The bird life around the waterhole was great with the surprise being a small flock of Flock Bronzewing cruising through and the first sighting of a Pardalote, but only a Striated one. Another search beside the Bullo River at Thargominda was again fruitless, so on to Lake Bindegolly which was dry, but a we did find a pair of Painted Dragons. After Eulo we reached Carrawinya NP and camped at a delightful spot besides a waterhole at the Caiwarro ruins site. Here birdlife was quite good but the flies persisted in finding ways under the face nets to ensure maximum annoyance.

After passing through Bourke we camped at Gundabooka NP where the other campers also wore their fly nets. Conditions appeared to be quite good here with Masked and a few White-browed Woodswallows everywhere, probably getting ready to breed as some dive bombed us. In a flowering eremophila we spotted some Black and a Pied Honeyeater and on the side of the small rocky hill Chestnut Quail-thrush, just as Wal Emery had reported some years ago. The next day was a long drive home but leaving us with memories of a great experience with some 170 species sighted, but I do not think I will travel out there again until conditions improve considerably. Even where conditions appeared reasonable there was a noticeable lack of the small sedentary birds such as Thornbills, Weebills and Gerygones, the result of the prolonged drought which will take many years of good conditions to get back to reasonable bird watching times. We saw only a few lizards, mainly Central Bearded Dragons with the orange around the eyes, but no live snakes and only one road kill, very unusual

FILM REVIEW ‘Fly Away Home’

I saw this recently, most of it, missed the first part. It's a 'feelgood' film about a father and daughter, Amy, who become 'parents' to 16 baby Canada Geese. Dad and Amy realise that their birds will eventually have to migrate South. Dad is already involved in trying to make an Ultra-light plane, and after numerous experiments and many crashes (fortunately Dad and Amy never get hurt, though the planes can be write-offs) they eventually build two ultra-lights that fly. And they teach the geese to fly with them.

I remember seeing a powered hang glider flying with some migratory birds; a promo for the film 'Flying Birds' I think. 'Fly away home' is fiction, though they claim it is based on real events. One of the planes is shaped and painted like a giant Canada Goose, and it is impressive seeing the birds and plane flying together.

Eventually the day comes to fly South, and off they go. There are still plenty of problems to overcome – a Park Ranger who locks up the geese, planes running short of fuel, bad weather, another crash, a developer who wants to clear the final landing and breeding site etc, but, you can guess how it ends.

Possibly not a film for purists, but good family viewing. We saw it on a DVD Library copy.

Meetings and Walks for May, June, July 2006

May	Meeting	8.05.06	Holly Parsons	Birds in Back Yards
	Mid week Walk	10.05.06	Joan & Tom	Austinmer 9.00am
	Outing	Sunday 14.05.06	Betty Hudson	Bargo Gorge

June	Meeting	12.06.06 nb Public Holiday	Neil & Tera Wheway	Antarctica
	Mid Week Walk	14.06.06	Barbara	Macquarie Rivulet
	Outing	Saturday 17.06.06	Betty Hudson	Saddleback Mtn & Hoddles Track

July	Meeting	10.07.06	Col Markham (possible)	South America
	Mid Week Walk	12.07.06	Judy Parkinson	Scout Camp
	Outing	Sunday 16.07.06	Betty Hudson	Bass Point &/or Killalea Lagoon

Illawarra Eponymous Birds (Continued from the March IBOC News)

Mike Morphet

Gould's Petrel: Breeding on Cabbage Tree Island and in New Caledonia, it is an uncommon, summer visitor and endangered. The son of a Windsor Castle gardener, John Gould (1804-1881) became known as The Bird Man, becoming a member of the Zoological Society of London. He was a taxidermist and, like his wife, Elizabeth, an artist. His travels took him to Europe, Asia, and Australia, arriving here in 1838 and staying for 19 months, collecting and naming many birds. This particular species he called white-winged, which was changed in honour of him by the RAOU in 1913. During the years 1840-1848 he compiled seven volumes of *Birds of Australia*.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo: a moderately common, summer breeding migrant and one of nine species named after Dr Thomas Horsfield (1773-1859), an American naturalist and explorer, collecting plants and animals. His career began in Java, which was eventually taken over by the British East India Company, for whom he continued research at the India House Museum, London, on account of his poor health

Hutton's Shearwater: Breeding only in Seaward Kaikoura Range of South Island, it is an uncommon visitor to our coastline, seen mostly in winter. Originally as a sub-species, it was so named by the Australian ornithologist, G.M. Mathews in 1912. Frederick Wollaston Hutton (1836-1905) was an English geologist and zoologist, who settled in New Zealand and saw military service in the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny and was curator at the Canterbury Museum. He wrote *Catalogue of the Birds of New Zealand* (1871), and the Hutton Memorial Fund was later established to provide grants for research in zoology, botany and geology in New Zealand.

Juan Fernandez Petrel: Recorded here as accidental and in New Zealand a rare sub-tropical vagrant, it breeds on Mas-a-fuera, Juan Fernandez Islands, about 700 km off Chile. This volcanic island group was discovered by chance by the Portuguese navigator, Juan Fernandez (c1536-c1604) for the Spanish crown in 1563 (some state 1574). It seems the uncertainty of the history could be attributed to the Spanish government's restricted dissemination of voyages made in that era and area. Becoming a sailor at the age of 14, Fernandez earned the title 'brujo' (wizard) after accomplishing very quick times for his voyages when circumventing wind forces along the eastern coastline of South America. He is said to have been allowed to settle there, and the introduced goats later provided sustenance for Alexander Selkirk, the inspiration for the novel *Robinson Crusoe*, when he was marooned there in 1704. To promote tourism, two of the islands were renamed Selkirk and Robinson Crusoe Islands. After becoming a hideout for pirates in the 17th and 18th centuries, the islands have been classified as a distinct eco-region, despite the limited varieties of flora and fauna.

King's Parrot (Australian King-Parrot): A moderately common resident, favouring rain and wet sclerophyll forests, but, like some others in the *Psittaciformes* order, also visiting parklands and gardens throughout the year. It acquired its name not for any perceived regal characteristics, but after Philip Gidley King (1758-1808), third Governor of NSW from 1800-1806. Born in Cornwall, he joined the Royal Navy in 1770 and accompanied the First Fleet as second lieutenant under Captain Arthur Phillip. He founded the first European settlement on Norfolk, where he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor in 1789. After introducing many reforms, which strengthened our State's economy, he was replaced by another British naval officer, William Bligh, because of his failing health; he died within a year of returning to England. Labelled as a Tabuan (after an island in the Pacific) Parrot, there is an illustration of this avian species by the engraver, Peter Mazell in the *Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay* collection held in the State Library of Victoria.

(To be concluded)

Unusual Records for February 2006

Chris J. Chafer

Send your records to: email cchafer@speedlink.com.au

Species	#	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Little Penguin	1	25-Feb	Wollongong harbour	inshore	PM
Tahiti Petrel	1	25-Feb	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Striated Heron	1	3-Feb	Little Lake	mudflats	MR
Osprey	1	28-Feb	Windang	overhead	KB
Square-tailed Kite	2	14-Feb	Nowra	overhead	MJ
Swamp Harrier	1	27-Feb	Dunmore	paddock	RB
Swamp Harrier	1	5-Feb	Comerong Is	sandflats	CJC
Brown Goshawk	1	7-Feb	Dapto	urban	RB
Brown Goshawk	1	24-Feb	Forest Grove, Kanahooka	overhead	MC
Grey Goshawk	1	20-Feb	Tomerong	garden	TN
Grey Goshawk	1	20-Feb	Bulli	overhead	RT
Grey Goshawk	1	21-Feb	Unanderra	urban	MC
Grey Goshawk	1	28-Feb	Coniston	lightpole	MC
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	24-Feb	Bellawongarah	overhead	BA
Peregrine Falcon	1	20-Feb	Bulli	overhead	RT
Buff-banded Rail	3	14-Feb	Byarong Ck., Figtree	creek	WZ
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	3-Feb	Little Lake	mudflats	MR
Pied Oystercatcher	20	5-Feb	Comerong Is	sandflats	CJC
Sooty Oystercatcher	17	5-Feb	Crookhaven Heads	rocky shore	CJC
Sooty Oystercatcher	33	24-Feb	Coledale	rocky shore	GM
White-headed Pigeon	3	27-Feb	Jamberoo	urban	BH
Bar-shouldered Dove	3	5-Feb	Comerong Is	rainforest	CJC
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	1	23-Feb	Kangaroo Valley	rainforest	NJ
Red-rumped Parrot	4	10-Feb	Barrack Point	playing field	MR
Azure Kingfisher	1	23-Feb	Bargo River track	riverine	MR,TE
Southern Emu-wren	few	3-Feb	Manyana	heathland	IM
Pilotbird	1	26-Feb	Yarrawa State Forest	forest	BH
Pilotbird	1	26-Feb	Bargo River track	forest	CJC
White-plumed Honeyeater	6	28-Feb	Berkeley	urban	CJC
Crested Shrike-tit	3	10-Feb	Mt Kembla	forest	MR
Crested Shrike-tit	few	23-Feb	Bargo River track	forest	MR,TE
Spangled Drongo	1	23-Feb	Kangaroo Valley	garden	NJ
White-winged Triller	1	5-Feb	Tramway Ck. Thirroul	wetland	IM
Tree Martin	200+	5-Feb	Shoalhaven Heads	overhead	GB

Contributors: BA – Bob Ashford; GB – Graham Barwell; RB – Roger Bogart; CB – Chris Brandis; KB – Keith Brandwood; CJC – Chris Chafer; MC – Martin Cocker; TE – Terri Edwell; ME – Mary Eskdale; BH – Betty Hudson; NJ – Nigel Jacket; MJ – Michael Jarman; IM – Ian McKinlay; GM – Graham Meany; PM – Peter Milburn; TN – Tracey Newcombe; MR – Michelle Rower; NW – Nathan Waugh; RT – Roger Truscott; WZ – Bill Zealey

Comment: The Tahiti Petrel is the 15th record of this species in the region since the first one was observed off Wollongong in February 1986. The 20 Pied Oystercatchers at Comerong Island is the largest aggregation there for three years, while the 33 Sooty Oystercatchers at Coledale is the largest gathering ever recorded from a single rock platform in the region. Interestingly, a flock of 19 was recorded at that site in March 2002. The Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove record is the most southerly yet recorded in the Illawarra. The Buff-banded Rails were found breeding at Figtree, while the 200+ Tree Martins is the largest number recorded up until February. However in March a flock of 500+ was observed, but you'll have to wait until next month to find out where.