

Scarlet Honeyeater

Scientific name: *Myzomela sanguinolenta*
 Family: Meliphagidae
 Order: Passeriformes

Featured Bird Groups

Honeyeaters

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



photo by Charles Dove Primbee NSW

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.

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.

information courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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'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.

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2011 JULY ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:**Monday 8th August 2011**

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

Dr. Walter E. Boles: *Scientific Officer and Collection Manager, Ornithology Section, Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.* Will be doing a presentation.

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

August Midweek Walk:**Wednesday 10th August 2011**

Rocklow Creek, Dunmore.

Leader Ted Simpson.

Meet at the Dunmore/ Shellharbour railway station at 9 o'clock, If the parking area is full we may have to park on the road. Bring morning tea. This is a relatively easy flat walk.

Contact number Ted on 0425 121 221

August Monthly Outing:**Saturday 13th August 2011**

Stingray Swamp Flora Reserve, Penrose.

Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at the western side of Penrose Station at **9.30am**. Bring a carry morning tea, and lunch will be in the vicinity of the cars. This is an easy walk along level fire trails. We will split the walk into two sections to avoid a wet creek crossing in the cold. This is a diverse area on the edge of Penrose State Forest with the potential for Flame Robins and several honeyeaters.

Travel from Wollongong via Moss Vale, Sutton Forest & Bundanoon, continuing on towards Penrose and Wingello. Approx 0.5km after passing Penrose station on your right, there is a right turn (with a yellow road sign). Cross the railway here and immediately turn right again following the railway back to the station.

Please note the late meeting time. The walk will finish around 2.00pm.

Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or mobile 0432 892 945

August Committee Meeting -**Monday 15th July 2011**

Next committee meeting 7.30pm, To be held at of Sue & Ken Brown, 12 Meads Avenue, Corrimal.

All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee.

Contact Ken. Ph42840525.

September 2011 Newsletter -

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **24th August 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

The Following Items are for sale by the club at the Library Table each monthly meeting.

Club Logo Green Fleece Tops – Sizes medium & Large	\$37.00 each
Fabric Logo Badges	\$ 4.00 each
Logo Studs	\$ 3.00 each
Logo Pin	\$ 3.00 each
Large Car Stickers	\$ 2.00 each

Please see Anne Cousins or Joan Wylie at monthly meetings
or telephone Joan on 4284 2051 or Anne on 0413 869 534



CLUB REPORTS

Report for club meeting Monday 11th July 2011

Alan Cousins

Our speaker for this month was Lynne Iverson a volunteer from Taronga Zoo. Her talk was entitled "TAILS" from Taronga. She started by giving us an insight into the history of Taronga Zoo. The first Sydney Zoo was opened in 1854 in Billygoat Swamp at Moore Park; they had working elephants in 8-15 acres but had numerous problems. All the animals were transferred to Mossman walking along the roads and then by ferry, barge etc. as the bridge was not yet constructed. This is now the site of the Sydney Girls School. The Mossman site was opened in 1916 and took only four years (two of them being war years) to build. The Indian Temple for the elephants was built to honour the area from which they came. It is now historically listed and renovated. There are also many original structures still in Taronga Zoo today. The zoo was a fun place to start with and elephant rides were taking place between 1917 - 1976. The modern zoo hosts concerts in February and March each year and is securing a shared future for wildlife and people. The five elephants currently at the zoo were a gift from the King of Thailand for breeding. The program has so far resulted in the birth of five calves. The elephants were in quarantine for

eighteen months prior to coming to Australia and were further quarantined here. The conservation program at the zoo includes Pygmy Hippos, five of which have been born in Australia and it is estimated that only about 3,000 exist in the wild. The Regent Honeyeater Recovery Program began in 1996 at Taronga and when the birds are ready they are released back into the wild. (Only 500-1500 is estimated to be left in the wild). The Tasmanian Devil Program is also running to try to overcome the virus instigated cancerous facial tumor decimating the wild population. Wild disease free animals are being removed from Tasmania and will be released back when the disease has been eradicated. Taronga Zoo is the only zoo in the world with Leopard Seals. The vets at Taronga treat injured wild animals and hopefully return them to the wild. Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo has the Mongolian Horse which is extinct in the wild, is very successful with the Black Rhino breeding program as it is estimated that there are less than 1,000 of these magnificent animals in the wild and has some King Cheetahs of which no more 60 exist in the wild. This was a very interesting and informative presentation given in a very passionate and easy going manner.

Mid-week Walk – Spring Creek ; Kiama

Wednesday 13th July 2011

Rupert Jarvis

It was a dull overcast day with increasing wind gusts. Nevertheless, we had 16 participants and were able to cover the variety of habitats Spring Creek has to offer; i.e. saltwater lagoon, freshwater lake, mixed woodland, open farmland and water meadow. We were not able to access the area close to Bombo beach as 2 foot of water covered the

path under the road bridge. Come morning tea, most of us squeezed ourselves into the bird hide. The numbers of waterbirds were very low even though a good range of species (Duck, Grebe, Swan, Cormorant etc) was recorded. Birds generally were keeping a low profile but we did well to record 42 species, making it a worthwhile outing.

Spring Creek Bird List

42species

list by Tom Wylie

Black Swan	Nankeen Kestrel	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong
Grey Teal	Purple Swamphen	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Lewin's Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Hardhead	Eurasian Coot	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Spotted Dove	Silver Gull	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Topknot Pigeon	Galah	New Holland Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Little Pied Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	Common Starling
Australian Pelican	Satin Bowerbird	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Myna
Cattle Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Rufous Whistler	Red-browed Finch
White-faced Heron	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	
Black-shouldered Kite	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie	

Twelve of us waited at the gate to be let into the parking area. Louie the bloke who gave us a presentation at a club meeting earlier this year about his bee keeping let us through the locked gate. He was going in to work on his bee hives.

Weatherwise it didn't look to be a very promising day, luckily things turned out much better. We had quite a few sightings while waiting for the gate to be unlocked, and before leaving the cars we had sightings of the Scarlet Honeyeater, Spangled Drongo, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Yellow Thornbills rich in colour.

We wandered along the tracks in very light drizzle picking out numerous birds, while heading towards the beach. There were several boats fishing and surf skis being paddled out on the water, some what difficult to see because of a rain squall or mist over the water. However there were plenty of Ravens and Silver Gulls down the beach, also a couple of Gannets out over the water.

Heading back to the cars for morning tea the light drizzle became more insistent which caused umbrellas to open. Morning tea was

taken in the cars whilst watching the golfers on the green and adjacent tee. On the green 2 Wood Ducks were wandering around not sure what their handicap was. The only other person out in the rain was Linda going from car to car offering Apple Cinnamon Tea Cake, which she had baked it for us, even struggling with her fingers bandaged having dislocated two when falling at work. She's a real trooper.

Resuming the walk the weather improved with the appearance of the sun and shedding of jumpers. Several Spotted Pardalotes were spied and others who missed the Scarlet Honey-eater earlier were not disappointed this time. We had to be back at the gate before 1pm so Louie could lockup. We had a short drive across the road into The Heritage Park for lunch. It was a very short walk to the bird hide to have a look at the bird activity on the lake and foreshore.

We were blessed with the weather, Linda's cake and with the birds 58 species being sighted in total.

Primbee Sand Dunes 49 species

list by Tom Wylie

Australian Wood Duck	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Rock Dove	Rainbow Lorikeet	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Spotted Dove	Crimson Rosella	Scarlet Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crested Pigeon	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Silvereye
Bar-shouldered Dove	Laughing Kookaburra	White-naped Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Australasian Gannet	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Whipbird	Common Starling
Australian Pelican	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler e-race	Common Myna
Australian White Ibis	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Mistletoebird
Nankeen Kestrel	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Magpie	Red-browed Finch
Purple Swamphen	Brown Thornbill	Pied Currawong	European Goldfinch
Dusky Moorhen	Spotted Pardalote	Spangled Drongo	
Masked Lapwing	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail	
Silver Gull	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail	

Heritage Park Waders 14 species

list by Tom Wylie

Black Swan	Little Black Cormorant	Little Egret	Masked Lapwing
Grey Teal	Australian Pelican	Australian White Ibis	Silver Gull
Chestnut Teal	Eastern Great Egret	Royal Spoonbill	
Little Pied Cormorant	White-faced Heron	Black-winged Stilt	

I would like to acknowledge the help I received from Daniel Payne and his wife, of "nature lodge optics" in Huskisson. My Bushnell binoculars strap was continually becoming unattached from the frame. They ordered a new strap and fitted it; however, that was unsuccessful they advised contacting and sending them to Bushnell. Tascos Binocular are the agents for Bushnell, something I didn't know. The binoculars were posted on Monday afternoon and Friday afternoon a courier arrived with a brand spanking new pair with improved strap fastening. I was very pleased and impressed with the Payne's help and Bushnell's service. Well worth the trip to Huskisson.....
Neil Wheway

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

With the approach of the Bird Migratory Season soon upon us it is always amazing what these birds undertake to reach our shores. This is just a bit of an idea of the pathways that they have to go through, and the fact that some countries are starting to realise the effect that they are having on these migratory birds.

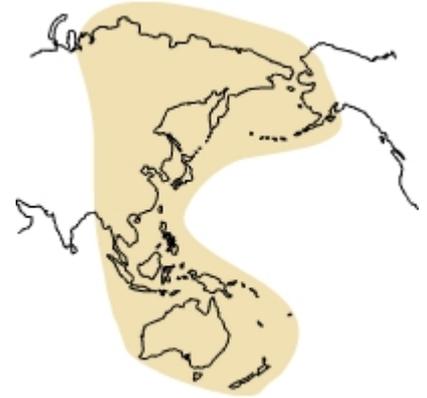
About Flyways

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Illustration after Wetlands International.

Flyways are broad corridors used by migrating birds. For waders (shorebirds) birds eight flyways have been defined in the world. Three flyways are important for migratory waders in the Asia Pacific region. These are, (from East to West), the Central Pacific, the [East Asian-Australasian](#), and the Central Asian Flyways.

Some species or individuals cross from one Flyway to another. Thus in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Ruffs breeding in East Siberia are known to migrate westwards to Europe and Africa joining the East Atlantic Flyway. Grey Phalaropes and Pectoral Sandpipers breeding in East Siberia mainly migrate to spend the non-breeding season in South America in the Pacific Flyway.

The numbers of waders in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway are unknown. They are probably a minimum of 4 million migratory waders. Within Australia there are estimated a minimum of 1 million resident waders and a minimum of 2 million migratory waders.



Effective conservation requires an "all flyway" approach

Flyways are a useful concept for the management and conservation of migratory wading birds. The birds often use many countries within a Flyway during their migrations. It is of limited value to use large resources protecting them in one country, if they are not also protected in the other countries through which they migrate, or where they spend the breeding and non-breeding seasons. Conservation agreements are made between countries which are based on the principle of shared birds within a Flyway.

There are nine bilateral agreements for migratory bird conservation in the East Asian Australasian Flyway, involving 7 countries.

The three agreements involving Australia are [JAMBA](#) (Japan/Australia migratory bird agreement), [CAMBA](#) (China/Australia migratory bird agreement) and [ROKAMBA](#) (Republic of Korea/Australia migratory bird agreement). These agreements are followed up actively with meetings between governments every 2 years.

In addition to bilateral agreements there are two multilateral agreements which are relevant to Flyway conservation of waders. Ramsar Bureau <http://ramsar.org> Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat) promotes wetland conservation, and the [Bonn Convention](#) (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) provides a multinational framework for the conservation of migratory species. In the East Asian-Australasian Flyway 15 of the 22 countries in the Flyway have signed the Ramsar Convention.

REMINDER

IBOC Spring Camp October 22nd - 29th 2011 Mylestom approx 20km south of Coffs Harbour.

This is just a reminder that the next camp will be at Mylestom staying at the North Beach Caravan Park at the entrance to the Bellingen River and adjacent to the ocean beach. Phone 02 6655 4250

Full details of the accommodation etc were in the June Newsletter.

A day trip will be made to Dorrigo National Park to see the birds of the subtropical rainforest, including Paradise Riflebird, Green Catbird, Regent Bowerbird, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Emerald Dove, Wonga Pigeon amongst others.

On the coast there are a number of National Parks to visit with the closest having several walks including a rainforest walk along close to the beach.

Further details, map etc will be in the September Newsletter.

Please let Betty know if you are coming.
phone 4236 0307 or email - secretary@iboc.org.au

We often pass by many fungi in the forests and pathways we take during our Birding ventures, always nice to have an idea of what we see and what it is.

Types of fungal fruiting bodies (or sporocarps)

This section contains macroscopic descriptions of the commonest types of fruiting bodies. The standard mushroom (stem, cap, gills) is familiar to everyone, but not all mushrooms have stems. Some species that grow on wood have caps that grow out directly from the wood. In some cases the cap is semi-circular and attached by the straight edge (as shown in this species of *Crepidotus* below) while in others (that grow on the underside of fallen logs or trunks) the cap is circular but attached by its upper side. The second picture shows a species of *Resupinatus*, found growing on the underside of a rotting branch that was lying on the ground. You can see the gills on the small, circular cap (up to a centimetre in diameter).



Crepidotus sp.



Resupinatus sp.

Apart from mushrooms there are a variety of other forms of sporocarps, sometimes with very descriptive common names. You can find out more about various common types by following the links below. But remember, whenever you see one of these - you're only seeing the spore-producing part of the fungus. There's an out-of-sight mycelium around - in soil, wood, dung or whatever the sporocarp is growing from.



[Boletes & polypores](#)

Boletes are mushroom-like, but with pores under the cap. Polypores vary from flat to mushroom-like and also have pores.



[Coral & jelly fungi](#)

Coral fungi are coral-like in shape, while jelly fungi are jelly-like to the touch.



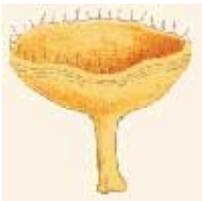
[Stinkhorns, puffballs & birds nest fungi](#)

Stinkhorns are smelly, puffballs are powdery and birds nest fungi are cup-like with "eggs" inside.



[Steroid & paint \(or skin\) fungi](#)

Steroid fungi are mushroom-like to bracket-like, with a smooth underside. A paint (or skin) fungus looks like an extra skin growing on the surface of some wood.



[Cup fungi](#)

The fruiting bodies are typically shaped like shallow cups or saucers



[Flask fungi](#)

These produce their fruiting bodies in small chambers



[Truffle-like fungi](#)

Truffle-like fruiting bodies are generally out of sight, underground.

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/fungi/types-of-fungi.html>

Australian Fungi Website

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Australian National Herbarium

Sponsored by

the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

Again, a Few More Interesting Recoveries of Banded Birds.

Over the years we've listed some interesting records of birds banded and then turning up a long way from the banding place, a long time after banding, recaptured many times and so on. These records, taken from **Corella**, the journal of the Australian Bird Study Association (ABSA), give us a sense of the lifespan and mobility of some of our birds.

Below are listed a few records from recent issues of **Corella**, Dec. 2010, March. 2011 and June. 2011. All of the species selected are birds we see around the Illawarra. As before, **oldest** means the longest time since original banding for the species and **furthest** means the greatest distance from the banding place for the species. The website of the ABSA, www.absa.asn.au, lists the oldest / furthest records for Australian bird species banded and recaptured.

- Whimbrel.** Banded in Nov, 1993 at Yamba (NSW) and recovered dead ("shot for food or sport") at Opala River, Russia, **16 years 9 months** after banding and 9,056 km away. **Oldest.**
- Red-necked Stint.** "Banded" (actually marked, in a party of stints, with a leg flag) in Jan.1990 in southern Victoria. Flag sighted at Putorana Plateau, Siberia, in July 2010, **12,702 km away**. And that's a bird weighing about 25gms, less than 3 one-dollar coins. **Furthest.**
- Southern Boobook.** Banded in January. 1994 at Black Mountain, ACT. Band number read in field near banding place in Dec 2009, **15 years & 11 months** after banding. **Oldest.**
- Striated Pardalote.** Banded in June 1993 near Kellerberrin, WA. Found dead after colliding with a window in August, 1995, **45 km** away. **Furthest.**
- Lewin's Honeyeater.** Banded in July 1986 in Kirrama State Forest near Kennedy, Qld. Recaptured at banding place in June 2002, **15 years & 10 months** after banding. **Oldest.**
- Yellow-faced Honeyeater.** Banded in May 2000 at Minnie Waters, N of Woolgoolga, NSW and recovered dead near Tumut, NSW in Oct. 2001, **770 km** away. **Furthest.**
- Red Wattlebird.** Banded in Feb 1987 near Manjimup, WA and recovered dead at Stoneville, NE of Perth in Jan, 1990, **271 km** away. **Furthest.**
- Tawny-crowned Honeyeater.** Banded in Sept 1986 near Forreston, SA, recaptured at Cromer Cons.Pk, SA in Oct 1986, **5 km** away – note, moved only 5km but still, **Furthest.**
- Golden Whistler.** Banded in April, 1999 at Scheyville, W of Sydney, and recaptured 3 times at Barren Grounds NR, most recently in Feb 2000, **120 km** from banding place. **Furthest.**

And a bit more about banding.

The band that's placed on a bird's leg is stamped with an Australian identifier and a unique number so that, wherever that bird goes, it carries its own ID. That ID, through the records of the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes in Canberra (the ABBBS, who manage banding), can be traced back to its place of banding.

To band a bird we need of course to have it in our hands and that gives us the opportunity to note details of its general appearance, the colour of its feathers and "soft parts" and to take measurements, all of this helping us to understand sexual differences and the changes associated with ageing, location, season and so on.

Banders do what they do in order to contribute to our library of bird information and for the simple pleasure of handling these beautiful animals. A bonus comes when one of "your" banded birds is recaptured and you learn where it's gone.

Over some years I've been banding in Balgownie and in the Rhododendron Park, mostly using mist nets to catch the birds. I've had one of "my" Pied Currawongs shot dead in an orchard behind Mt. Kembla ("taken to protect crops"), another Pied Currawong shot dead in Balgownie (reason unknown), a beautiful mature male Satin Bowerbird caught in a backyard trap in Balgownie and badly injured, an Australian Magpie caught by hand in Woonona and released and a Green Catbird found dead on a track in the Rhododendron Pk. with damage suggesting hawk attack.

Luckily, most recaptures have a happier ending. When banding in the Rhododendron Park I set up several nets a few tens of metres apart and at exactly the same places each visit. One of my favourite birds and a joy to handle is the **Rufous Fantail**, a lively little ball of fluff with a perky tail, rusty rump and a lovely necklace – a beautiful bird. I've caught and banded quite a few in the Park and several I've recaptured a year or more later. They come to us in our summer, then head off to the top of Australia for our winter. That means that any bird recaptured in the Park has done a round trip of 5,000 km or so for each winter it's been away. And that's a bird weighing about 11 gms, not much more than the 9.0 gms of a one dollar coin. What's more, each time I've recaptured a Rufous Fantail, it's not just been back in Wollongong, not just back in the Rhododendron Park **but back in the very net in which it was first caught** – how's that for navigation?. Next time you're in the Rhododendron Park in summer, keep your eyes open in the thicker forest for the Rufous Fantails, you might see one with a tiny silver band on its right leg.



includes Letters to the Editor

Do you have a favourite walk you could lead?

I am looking for members interested in leading an occasional weekend walk for the club. If you have a favourite walk you would be prepared to lead, I would be interested in hearing from you, so that it could be incorporated in the program over the next year or two. Please contact me indicating the area of the walk, and the most appropriate month for it.

Phone Betty Hudson on 4236 0307 or email secretary@iboc.org.au



Kelp Gulls at Sandon Point.

Mike Morphett

Some great Pics from Alan Cousins when he was out and about



Nankeen Kestrel



Satin Bowerbird



Yellow Robin



Satin Bowerbird

PHOTOS WANTED

We would like to select a range of photos of birds that live and visit the Illawarra to create a perpetual gallery on the internet

all photos credited to the photographer

LIKE TO SEE YOUR BIRD PHOTO ON THE WEB

Send it to newsletter@iboc.org or place on disc and give to Charlie at club meeting night

Film Night

Barbara and Brian Hales are hosting a film night at 32 Shearwater Boulevard, Albion Park Rail, Saturday, 6th August starting at 7.30 p.m.

Come along and see the extraordinary footage showing nature at work on a grand scale at Lake Eyre as well as stunning still photography of the area.

Please bring along a small plate to share for supper and if you have a camping chair pop that into your car too in case we need extra seats. Film nights have always proved to be a very enjoyable experience so please come along and join in. It would be helpful if you could phone Barbara and Brian on 42574431 so that we can get some measure of the number expected to attend.

ALLAN SEFTON MEMORIAL LECTURE 2011

Tuesday 23rd August 2011

6.30pm

Building 11 First Floor University of Wollongong

“Shakespeare, the Tale of Gengi and Migratory Shorebirds – What’s the connection?”

Alison Russell-French

Immediate Past President, Birds Australia

Abstract

This Lecture will present a journey through the halls of academia, government policy making, industry and the non-government sector examining how various players influence and affect decision making about conservation of the Australian landscape and, in particular, that of birds and their habitat.

This talk will focus on the value of connections through these areas to advocate and champion the conservation of birds generally and in particular those remarkable migrants of the avian world – migratory shorebirds. As a passionate advocate of conservation with a particular emphasis on birds Alison Russell-French has travelled a fascinating and challenging life through national and international arenas in pursuit of outcomes to achieve this objective. She has represented Australian interests in environmental conventions such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and played a major role in the establishment of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway, the migratory pathway for Shorebirds in this region.

Alison participated in government over a period of major new environmental initiatives that reflect the growing imperative of addressing environmental issues in mainstream policy and program development. As part of this new focus she has championed the increasing importance of science and the contribution scientists make to good decision-making in the bureaucratic process.

Alison will discuss the philosophy that there are no limitations on how to pursue conservation goals – all avenues can lead to achievements if sufficient persistence and lateral thinking are applied.

Brief CV Alison Russell-French

Alison is a former Australian Public Servant. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from Sydney University and a part completed law degree from the Australian National University. Her career spanned natural resource management areas of the Australian Public Service in the Department of Primary Industry in fisheries and across many areas of the Department of Environment, Heritage and the Arts. She has wide experience in policy and program management and administration across a range of national and international programs including the Coasts and Clean Seas Program, Coastcare, National Reserve Systems, the National Wetlands Program, national and international migratory waterbird conservation, national and World Heritage policy and management. Before her retirement, Alison was a Senior Executive of the Australian Government's Natural Resources Management Team managing delivery of the National Heritage Trust and National Salinity Program funding. She has substantial international representation experience including leading Australian delegations at meetings of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the APEC Marine Resources Working Group, Wetlands International, and the Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements with Japan and China. She also has considerable experience across a range of Indigenous related programs and was the Australian Government member on Landcare Australia, the Board of Members of Wetlands International, and Chair of the Wetlands International - Asia Pacific Council. Alison took a leading role in the development and acceptance in the Asia Pacific region of the Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001 - 2005 and the East Asia-Australasian Flyway which aims to protect the habitat and vital staging sites for migratory birds. Alison is currently engaged in selected consultancy work. She is a keen bird watcher with a lifetime interest in conservation of Australia's birds, and served on Council of Birds Australia since 1999 for 13 years.

Members June/July Sightings 2011

by Darryl Goldrick

Hardhead	40+	10-Jul-11	Korrongulla Reserve	Water	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	9-Jul-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Whistling Kite	1	5-Jul-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	11-Jul-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Peregrine Falcon	1	11-Jul-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Kelp Gull	2	17-Jul-11	Sandon Point	Rock Platform	Mike Morphet
Southern Emu-wren	3	2-Jul-11	Pelican View Reserve-Lake Sth.	Scrub	Charles Dove
Striated Thornbill	1	19-Jul-11	Bellambi	Sand Dunes	Alan Cousins
White-naped Honeyeater	20+	12-Jul-11	Primbee Dunes	Forest	Charles Dove
Crested Shrike-tit	1	01-Jul-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphet
Bassian Thrush	2	12-Jul-11	Primbee Dunes	Ground	Charles Dove
Bassian Thrush	2	17-Jul-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphet
Bassian Thrush	1	01-Jul-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphet

Email your unusual or not so unusual bird sightings to sightings@iboc.org.au

Illawarra Bird Observers Club is now on facebook
 for your convenience ...
 let members know the birds that are in your area today

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for further information contact Charles newsletter@iboc.org.au

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