



*" One Good Tern
Deserves Another"*

I.B.O.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.
 POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
<http://www.iboc.org.au/>

Founded in 1977

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

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Hooded Plovers – Photo Charles Dove

The Editor and the Committee wish all members and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. 'For unto us a child is born.....'

Christmas BarBQ Saturday 6th December 4pm at Byarong Park, Mt Kiera Road, opposite the Archery club. Sausages and onions provided. Bring other goodies to eat and share around

CLUB MEETING Monday 8th December 2008 - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall - Mad Hatters Christmas Party. Wear a mad hat (sane hats also permitted, just) an evening of quizzes, games, items and raffles, so bring your cash, some Christmas fare, and a cup for supper.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 18th January, 2009 at 7.30pm at Betty Hudson's home 1 Drualla Road, Jamberoo. Phone 4284 2051 (This initial meeting will be simply for the Committee)

FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next IBOC News is Thursday 21st January 2009. Please don't leave your contributions to the last minute! Submit them by email to the editor: cashman5@bigpond.com. or post them to 5 Madden Street, Fernhill 2519

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS due 1st January each year: Family \$35, Single \$30, Junior \$10. Please pay Bronwyn Wilson, our Treasurer, by cash, cheque or mail order.

President's Report For 2007-2008

It is a pleasure to provide a report on the activities of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club last year.

The club has continued to provide an excellent program of field trips, camps and monthly presentations. Betty Hudson has taken a proactive role in maintaining an effective bird program assisted by other members. The committee has recognized the importance of providing a varied program to ensure that field trips appeal to the majority of members. Field trips help members learn about the environment and how it affects the birds of the Illawarra. They are also important social and conservation activities.

What activities did the club implement last year that raised the profile of the club in the Illawarra and NSW? The Illawarra Mutual Building Society has sponsored the club enabling it to produce a birding brochure of the Illawarra. The brochure will be distributed to all tourist information centers in the area for use by visitors. Penny Potter is to be congratulated on obtaining the sponsorship. The brochure will profile many bird locations enabling visitors to access hot spots for bird watching.

The Mt Keira Scout camp continues to develop their birding program at the camp. Kevin MacGregor has been working with the group to create a bird hide and education centre to enable the scouts to learn more about their environment. Other resources have been provided by club members such as binoculars and photographs.

During the year John Cashman, Penny Potter and Val Dolan did a great job editing and publishing our newsletter. Thanks also to Norma Almond and Peg McKinlay who helped to send it out. The website continues to expand thanks to the expertise of Chris Cartledge who has developed a professional website to promote the club activities to the public and members.

Martin Cocker has managed the unusual sightings data base a valuable resource for the club, recording members' sightings each month.. Thank you Martin for providing this service in this region. The Lake Illawarra bird survey is being coordinated by Chris Brandis who is currently monitoring the Little Terns at Windang in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife. Chris is also the club's representative at BIGNET, a network of interested birdwatchers in NSW. Special thanks for his support and commitment.

Much of our activities are carried out by keen members who are not on the committee but make a huge contribution to the success of the club. My special thanks to these many unnamed helpers as well as those I have named.

The committee has worked effectively together to ensure the club continues to provide a variety of activities for members. A club can only be successful if it is financial secure and has active members. Bronwyn Wilson continues to do a great job as Treasurer. Thank you Bronwyn.

The committee has approved an increase in fees for 2009. The increase will be \$5 per membership and will enable the club to purchase more audio resources for our monthly meetings.

The club has affiliated with the Bird Observers Conservation Association to promote the club's activities. The club will now obtain insurance cover under BOCA saving the club a considerable amount of money each year.

Finally I thank everyone who assisted me over the last year. I will not stand for President this year, but I have enjoyed working with the committee, and I look forward to working with the new President and committee.

Thank you, Roger Bogaert.

AGM 2008

Previous President, Kevin McGregor conducted the elections with precise aplomb. Elected were:

President: Martin Cocker
 Vice-President Lorraine Pincus
 Secretary: Betty Hudson
 Treasurer: Bronwyn Wilson
 Committee: Anne Cousins, Jill Molan, Penny Potter and Tom Wylie

Numerous members were appointed or volunteered for other positions, namely -

Activities Officer Betty Hudson, Badge Officer Neil Wheway, IBOC Representative and Public Officer Chris Brandis, Librarian Anne Cousins, Hall Manager Tom Wylie Editor John Cashman, Noticeboard Officer Martin Potter, Records Officer Martin Cocker, Supper Supervisor Betty Hudson, Webmaster, Chris Cartledge, Official Bouncers and Small Beastie Extractors Neil Wheway and Tom Wylie (The editor has poor hearing, but he thinks he heard this last appointment correctly)

Finances

Treasurer Bronwyn Wilson presented the Financial report for July 2007 to June 2008. In summary Income was \$5,021.00 (Largest items were Subscriptions \$2,510.00 and IMB Grant \$2,000) while Expenditure was \$3,637.97 (Large items were Postage/Envelopes \$737.50, Stationary/Printing \$486.70, Rent - Hall & PO Box \$565.00, Insurance \$700.00, Equipment \$315.05.) The Opening Balance in July, 2007 was \$2,226.80 and the Closing Balance in June, 2008 was \$3,609.83. As well, over the year our Term Deposit increased from \$1,699.26 to \$1,796.54.

The President

Roger Bogaert has served the club as President for the last three years. Avoiding excess words, he chaired club meetings with precision and direction. Likewise at the Committee Meetings, while allowing ample discussion he brought the more loquacious members back to the point at issue. And rather than just discussing items he encouraged all both to make decisions and to find ways to implement them.

Roger has always encouraged us to make the club's various activities relevant and educational as well as informative and entertaining. He called us to explore different ways to make the club appealing to members and to the community. He has been very supportive too. Roger, our thanks to you for your Presidency. Well done Sir!

"Big Dead Ducks: giant extinct Australian birds" Oct meeting - Lyndall Dawson

Lyn's interest in the extinction of Australia's marsupial megafauna led unexpectedly to an interest in the extinct giant birds from Australia and the rest of the world. A famous fossil bone from Wellington Caves in NSW, discovered in 1830, was so big it was thought then to be from an elephant. It wasn't till over 150 years later that it was finally identified as part of a huge bird, one of a totally extinct group, the dromornithids, or mihirungs, that only occurred in Australia. About 8 species are now known. Most became extinct by about 5 million years ago, but the smallest known species, *Genyornis newtoni*, survived in eastern Australia until about 30,000 years ago. What sort of birds were dromornithids? First of all, most were huge, among the largest birds to ever have lived, with the biggest species, *Dromornis stirtoni* possibly weighing 500 kg. Of course, they were flightless, so it was initially assumed that they were related to the ratites, the group of birds that includes the emu, ostrich, kiwis and moas of New

Zealand, and the elephant bird from Madagascar. But the discovery of well preserved skulls of dromornithids from the Northern Territory showed they were not close to the ratites, but indicated that their closest relatives in the living fauna are in the Order Anseriformes, the ducks, geese and screamers. In fact they were most like giant geese, heavy bodied, with thick limbs, short 'toes', and stout beaks. Their skulls also distinguished them from another group of giant extinct birds, the phorusrachids, or Terror Birds of South America. These birds were carnivores and scavengers, possibly eating mainly rodents. They flourished in South America during the Miocene period, becoming extinct there about 5 million years ago. Although it has been a matter of some debate, it seems that dromornithids were not ferocious carnivores, but rather vegetarians with relatively narrow food preferences. They lacked a sharp hooked beak and clawed talons that would be expected if they were predators, and their

heavy limbs suggest that they were not fast runners. Analysis of the carbon in their fossil egg shells has suggested that they specialised in herbaceous plants, reeds and grasses. Unlike the emu, that eats a wide range of plants and insects, they may have required higher quality food, and this may explain in part, why they (the dromornithids) all became extinct while emus survived to this day. There are many theories as to why these giant birds became extinct. The last

Wallaga Lake Camp

First Impressions

Jann & Ross Gowans

Finally, it seemed that the planets aligned properly to allow Ross and me to arrange our schedules to attend our first IBOC camp! We arrived safely on Saturday afternoon with our new-to-us Kamparoo pop-top camper and quickly slipped into the rhythm of the camp. Our first bird walk on Sunday found me reaching for tissues more frequently than my binoculars, but nevertheless, it was very exciting to see a nesting Hooded Plover and a perched Black-shouldered Kite (who sat patiently for awhile but not long enough for the crack photographers to see him). Whistling Kites seemed abundant and a sea eagle soared overhead highlighting the difficulties the Hooded Plovers would face in protecting their chicks. During our stay we visited numerous different habitats from the beach, coastal lagoons and lakes to several different forest environments. Not only did we see numerous birds (and heard many more), we also saw a wide variety of wild-life including wallabies, kangaroos, an echidna, goannas and masses of rabbits at the campground. One goanna made both a nuisance and fantastic photo op for itself by begging food at the picnic area at Mumbulla Falls (more of a trickle). We continued to learn more about identifying birds from their calls, appearance and behaviour, especially regarding the cuckoos. Tuesday felt a bit like 'Where's Wally', particularly with the fan-tailed cuckoos calling right along the path. Thankfully, Joan spotted one in the thick forest. Perhaps rivaling the pink/rose robin identification controversy was the

Other Impressions

Sylvia & Tony Loader

Tony and I really enjoyed our second camp. Sincere thanks to members continuously spotting and identifying birds. We'll endeavour to remember some of them! The happy and friendly atmosphere of the week was fantastic, with lots of laughter. As usual Betty's organization and planning was exceptional. Thank you Betty!

survivor in Australia, Genyornis, may have succumbed to aboriginal hunters, or may have been unable to adapt to changing vegetation caused by aboriginal fire practices. The debate continues. Perhaps one day we will find the 'Rosetta Stone' - a fossil that helps us put all the pieces of the puzzle together. But one thing's for sure - we won't spot one of these 'ducks' on any of our walks with the IBOC!

appearance in Bermagui of a pair of white-rumped brown-breasted waders or greater white tits out of season. We really enjoyed the camaraderie and fun of the camp, picked up some ideas to enhance our camp set-up (thanks Neil and Tera!) and had a wonderful time. Thanks to Betty for her organization, not only of the camp, but keeping track of endless bird lists and to everyone for their great company. We look forward to our next camp!

Terry & Mark Edwell

We thoroughly enjoyed our first Bird camp. We stayed in a little self contained cottage overlooking Wallaga Lake (the only way to camp!) There were many highlights during the week. We enjoyed sitting in a big circle around the campfire and discussing the day's sightings -the trips way out in the bush to places we would never have been able to see - the dinner outing - Happy hour each night - the goannas that came out of the bush to scavenge food right under our feet - The last day we went to Merimbulla with Charlie and Janina. We walked around the lake on a board walk and saw many Rufus Whistlers while bell birds chimed all the way. Charlie took a great picture of an Osprey - Neil and Tera were wonderful and took us in their 4WD each journey - Betty did a marvelous job mapping our trips and leading the way. Thanks to all who organised things. It was a great way to get to know our fellow Birdos, see plenty of birds and enjoy a great holiday

Charles & Janina Dove

Janina and I enjoyed the many happy occasions that arose on the trip, Janina was particularly thankful that all the walks happened to have the benefits of a convenient place to relieve oneself instead of going behind a tree. I enjoyed the many sightings of birds from all different species as well the many splendid views and animals encountered during our walks, goannas, echidnas, whales etc

and the many floral wonders that abounded in the forests.

Great walks, Great people, Great Happy Hours, Great surroundings. What more do you need.



We saw more than birds at camp!

Barbara & Brian Hales

This was another terrific camp, members spotting 140+ different species of birds in a location being as close to perfect as you could wish for. We added a newbie to our list: the Hooded Plover, viewed from just a few metres away. Lots of raptors were seen including the majestic White-bellied Sea Eagles often with no need for binocs. Spotting echidnas, long-necked turtle, lace monitors, roos, wallabies, snakes, scenery and flowering plants added to our enjoyment. Words don't adequately describe the high we got watching the magnificent whales as they made their way south along the coast, so easy to see off the headland in Bermagui. Of course it is the people attending camp that really make it so successful. Dinner at the Country Club was good, lunch at Tilba pub was good, and fish n chips at the wharf were good. Our thanks go especially to Betty for her unwavering dedication to our camps, to Dr. Neil and Nurse Tom for sharing their life-saving talents, to Tony and Sylvia for offering to help the nearly homeless, to David and Sylvia for dragging us into those coffee shops and to everyone else in camp for providing us with side splitting laughter for the week. Hope you can all make it to Burrinjuck

Chris. Cartledge

The highlight for me was the day we spent in the Wadbilliga National Park. The drive through Cobargo and Yowrie, the stop in the cow paddock by the creek for our first look at the locals and

then, the winding road around the mountain. On to the picnic area for morning tea and the final part of the journey, over the Wadbilliga River causeway for lunch.

The red belly black snake by the water, the lace monitor in the tree and of course, the Golden Whistler in full sun, the Black-faced Monarch (a first for me) and the near 'adventure' with the large grey kangaroo on the way home. A wonderful day, now in my memory - thanks Betty!

Alan & Anne Cousins

Another great camp with a high number of attendees - the word must be spreading. The walks were really good as usual and the surroundings "MAGIC". Anne is still talking about her close encounter with that big brown snake! The days were kind to us weather wise and lots of different bird species seen. We enjoyed the "Happy Hour" and "Campfire" which most people attended each evening as a high sense of camaraderie existed. On the bird front, which we went to camp to see, the Whistling Kites were numerous and the sound of the bell birds is still ringing in our ears. Thanks again Betty.

Neil Wheway – Ticked Off

In recent years we have had accidents at camp, slipping and tripping causing a sore back and a broken limb. However these pale in significance to this year's emergency. While at the Country Club, my soup course was interrupted by a member in great distress. It appeared that a Wee Beastie was gnawing away in a delicate area of his anatomy. I approached a club official for some surgical instruments and we were joined by the Wee Beastie inspector. A pair of tweezers were found. We suggested that barbeque tongs and a filleting knife might be needed if an amputation was necessary. At this point the patient collapsed. He quickly recovered but was in great pain. The Wee Beastie inspector assisted with the procedure by holding him down and in due course the Beastie was removed. After leaving the gents cum operating theatre we three triumphantly rejoined the party to sustained cheers. I should mention that the club official offered her services as a nurse but we declined because she was laughing too much. Later she announced over the club PA system that the operation was a great success. So, now should I forward this report to the *Lancet*?

Report on Wallaga Lake Camp- 25 October to 1 November - 2008 Betty Hudson

34 members of IBOC enjoyed a week of good birding at Regatta Point Holiday Park, Wallaga Lake, Arriving on a cold showery afternoon the advance party soon settled in, started checking the local birds and potential walks. And by Saturday the weather was fine and warm.

The early arrivals visited Akolele, a settlement over Wallaga Lake Bridge, where Scarlet Honeyeaters, and a Wonga Pigeon were seen, as well as a Superb Fairy-wren with a nest in dense grass. This was the first of many nesting birds that were seen during the week.

On a fine but windy Sunday morning a walk to the entrance of Wallaga Lake via the board walk and headland added a Black-shouldered Kite which sat in the top of a tree letting the budding photographers snap away. At the headland, we saw a pair of Masked Lapwings chasing a Whistling Kite away. Pied & Sooty Oystercatchers, Red-capped Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwits & Red-necked Stints were seen on the near shore. On the sand bank that has built up over the entrance, a pair of Hooded Plovers were nesting in the protected area. Although windy this was a great morning to start camp, with many members seeing Hooded Plovers for the first time. A short afternoon walk in the forest behind the coastal dunes to Camel Rock added an Emerald Dove, and an Eastern Reef Egret, & the remains of a Shy Albatross and a Wedge-tail Shearwater were found on the beach. As we returned a white phase, Grey Goshawk flew overhead.

Monday saw the first long excursion: to Mimosa Rocks N.P. near Tathra. After crossing a succession of narrow wooden bridges we found the track to Middle Inlet picnic area. A cool sea breeze stirred the trees as we set off to explore the camp ground and picnic area with a small dam. As usual the Eastern Whipbird was one of the first calls heard. These birds were found throughout the area. The chorus of Bell Miners almost drowned out the smaller calls, but a number of good sightings were made including both Golden & Rufous Whistlers. With the morning warming up, morning tea in the shade was appreciated before we made our way along the track to the entrance to the inlet. Black Swans monopolised the lagoon with Chestnut Teal & an Eastern Great Egret, as well as Little Pied & Little Black Cormorants and a Great Cormorant. Continuing on we stopped to check the whereabouts of a Red-capped Plover's nest before walking over a small sand dune alongside the dry entrance channel. On cautiously checking over the dune, we found that a pair of Hooded Plovers had decided to nest right in front of us, some way from

the marked and protected nesting area, and extremely vulnerable to big seas – a wonderful photo opportunity for all. We checked the Red-capped Plovers nest, before proceeding along the beach, where Hooded Plovers were again seen but in the protected area, where the nests were protected by wire netting to prevent avian predators and foxes etc.

It was decided to go on to Mumbulla Falls in the inland section of the park for lunch. A drive along forest roads brought us to the falls picnic area.. Opening car doors everyone exclaimed at the heat - the sea breeze had masked this earlier. After lunch at the delightful picnic area, we followed graded paths to look down on the falls, which despite the low rainfall had a small flow. On the way we had a sighting of a robin, which caused much discussion. Was it rose or was it scarlet? The consensus was a Rose Robin. This was confirmed the next day when 3 members returned and found it again. As the heat was building we left for camp by a different track with some cars stopping at Barragoota Lake, being rewarded with a good list of waterbirds and raptors, including the Musk Duck, Intermediate Egret, and Collared Sparrowhawk.

Tuesday and the weather was cool and overcast for our visit to Bermagui Nature Reserve. Parking by the track we walked along a less used trail into the reserve. Birds were scarce at first then a small pocket of denser vegetation was found with many calls, a fine spot for morning tea. Moving on again birds were scarce and only one further bird friendly area was found, where Wonga Pigeon, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, & Fan-tailed Cuckoo were heard as well as Sacred Kingfisher, Dollarbird, Black-faced Monarch & White-throated Treecreeper. The afternoon was spent by all going their own ways. Many went whale hunting from the headlands and had good luck getting close views of adults and calves. Others visited Bermagui Swamp, the Harbour and the town park. Swamp Harrier, Australian Figbird and Latham's Snipe, amongst others were seen.

Wednesday was a short day as we were to dine at the Country Club. We parked just off the main road and walked the 2km along the Bermagui State Forest Scenic Drive, following a small back water of the lake to a Picnic Area. Birds were plentiful with White-naped Honeyeater, Rufous Fantail, and Black-faced Monarch, being seen amongst others. A side walk along a rainforest bordered dry creek produced unexpected results – large ticks! as well as the Bassian Thrush.

Thursday was the very long trip to Wadbilliga N.P. NW of Cobargo (65km each way). Travelling on bitumen roads we made good time to reach the Yowrie River, where we continued on gravel roads. Just before entering the park we stopped in a paddock along side the river to check the birds, finding Yellow Robin & Grey Fantail nests. This small area had water and plenty of bird life including an elusive Sacred Kingfisher. Moving on we started the long 300m climb up the ridge on a narrow track with a steep drop one side down to the river. Crossing the saddle we changed to the Wadbilliga River Valley. The forest was still very dry open forest with little understorey. We now descended the 300m. As we approached the river the vegetation thickened with a good understorey. Suddenly we reached the camp site area, high above a flowing river– morning tea. Where to look, birds were everywhere, as were the March flies. An Azure Kingfisher, and a Cicada Bird were the highlights here. As it was very hot, and there were no picnic tables it was decided to move onto the picnic area at the river crossing 5 km along the road. Forging the river in a patch of good rainforest with a dense fern understorey we parked and then went for a stroll back along the river, first fording the crossing. As we reached the far side a rustling was heard- a Red-bellied Black Snake slipped along the rocks beside the road before heading bush. Along the road a Rose Robin kept flying down to feed on something on the road, providing more photo shots – if you were quick. Many other

birds were seen or heard here including the Bell Miner, the only Sulphur-crested Cockatoo we saw and one of the few Pied Currawongs of the trip. A Brown Quail was flushed into the grass beside the track where it quickly got lost. A check of the time saw us reluctantly start the long trip back. Lace Monitors were seen frequently and a Superb Lyrebird scuttled across the track at one point tail up and looking for all the world like a raptor landing. This was a long but very worthwhile day out both birding and scenery wise.

Friday was another very hot and windy day, and our trip to Bodalla State Forest, along the Mt Dromaderry access track was cut short after morning tea. We stopped by 2 fords with running water where birds were plentiful. At the second ford a large brown snake was seen crossing the road close to one member. Everyone was then very wary of getting into the bush to chase bird calls. A return was made to Tilba Tilba, due to the increasing strength of the wind., some enjoying a second morning tea at the local shops, others explored different roads in the area, before returning to camp for lunch and surveying the problems again caused by the strong N.E.Wind. The afternoon was spent on our own preferred walks or whale watching.

A total of 144 birds were seen over the week. A detailed breakdown of the birds seen on each walk will be posted on the website.

Bird List - 144 species recorded (For lists of sightings at specific locations, see the club websight)

Brown Quail	Purple Swamphen	Spotted Pardalote
Musk Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Eastern Spinebill
Black Swan	Eurasian Coot	Lewin's Honeyeater
Australian Wood Duck	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Grey Teal	Sooty Oystercatcher	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
Chestnut Teal	Black-winged Stilt	Bell Miner
Pacific Black Duck	Red-capped Plover	Noisy Miner
Australasian Grebe	Masked Lapwing	Red Wattlebird
Hardhead	Hooded Plover	Little Wattlebird
Hoary-headed Grebe	Latham's Snipe	Scarlet Honeyeater
White-headed Pigeon	Bar-tailed Godwit	New Holland Honeyeater
Spotted Dove	Whimbrel	White-naped Honeyeater
Emerald Dove	Eastern Curlew	Noisy Friarbird
Crested Pigeon	Red-necked Stint	Eastern Whipbird
Wonga Pigeon	Caspian Tern	Varied Sittella
Topknot Pigeon	Crested Tern	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-throated Needletail	Silver Gull	Cicadabird
Wedgetailed Shearwater	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Golden Whistler
Short-tailed Shearwater	Galah	Rufous Whistler
Shy Albatross	Little Corella	Grey Shrike-thrush
Australasian Gannet	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Australian Figbird
Australian Darter	Rainbow Lorikeet	Olive-backed Oriole
Little Pied Cormorant	Australian King-Parrot	Dusky Woodswallow
Great Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	Grey Butcherbird
Little Black Cormorant	Eastern Rosella	Australian Magpie

Australian Pelican	Eastern Koel	Pied Currawong
White-necked Heron	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Rufous Fantail
Eastern Great Egret	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Grey Fantail
Intermediate Egret	Pallid Cuckoo	Willie Wagtail
Cattle Egret	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Australian Raven
White-faced Heron	Powerful Owl	Leaden Flycatcher
Eastern Reef Egret	Azure Kingfisher	Black-faced Monarch
Australian White Ibis	Laughing Kookaburra	Magpie-Lark
Royal Spoonbill	Dollarbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Straw-necked Ibis	Sacred Kingfisher	Rose Robin
Eastern Osprey	Superb Lyrebird	Australian Reed-Warbler
Black-shouldered Kite	White-throated Treecreeper	Silvereeye
Square-tailed Kite	Red-browed Treecreeper	Welcome Swallow
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Satin Bowerbird	Fairy Martin
Whistling Kite	Superb Fairy-wren	Tree Martin
Brown Goshawk	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Bassian Thrush
Collared Sparrowhawk	White-browed Scrubwren	Common Blackbird
Grey Goshawk	Large-billed Scrubwren	Common Starling
Swamp Harrier	Brown Gerygone	Common Mynah
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Striated Thornbill	Red-browed Finch
Nankeen Kestrel	Yellow Thornbill	House Sparrow
Brown Falcon	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Australasian Pipit
Peregrine Falcon	Brown Thornbill	European Goldfinch

Cordeaux Dam - Wednesday 12.11.08

As usual Tom welcomed us at the turn-off into Cordeaux Dam Road, where arrangements were made for movements of cars. For the amount of bush there were only pockets of birds, Brown Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, many Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. We enjoyed the sight and sound of the Sacred Kingfisher. After reaching the cars we then drove the rest of the way to the picnic area, which is a large open area with manicured lawns and areas for BBQs and picnics. There were large trees in flower, gardens, bush regenerating areas, and a wide sweeping view of the water and land below.

We had another walk before morning tea, and had plenty to see and hear without moving far. Noisy Miners chased Noisy Friarbirds who in turn chased the Pied Currawong. Crimson Rosella, Eastern

Lorraine Pincus

Rosella and Australian King Parrots enjoyed themselves on the lawns.

The Noisy Miners were constantly nearby during morning tea, on the ground, as well as above. Unfortunately Joan received an unwelcome gift. Morning tea finished, we walked to the dam wall, the entrance has a grand cement structure about 12 metres high. The water from the spillway roared way below, while the Welcome Swallows either rested on the structure or flew closer to the roar.

Some of the group walked further along the wall and saw a Fairy Martin, while the rest enjoyed the sunshine. We decided to call it a day with a count of 40 species. We walked back up the hill to the cars and where a Common Bronzewing was spotted quietly feeding in the shade. We could quite clearly see its colours. Thanks Joan and Tom for an enjoyable walk.

40 bird species seen

Australian Wood Duck	Sacred Kingfisher	New Holland Honeyeater
Pacific Black Duck	White-throated Treecreeper (heard)	Noisy Friarbird
Common Bronzewing	Superb Fairywren	Eastern Whipbird
Australian Pelican	White-browed Scrubwren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Masked Lapwing	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Galah	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Australian King Parrot	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Crimson Rosella	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Eastern Rosella	White-eared Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Noisy Miner	Fairy Martin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo (heard)	Little Wattlebird	
Laughing Kookaburra	Red Wattlebird	

Shoalhaven Heads/ Comerong Island. Saturday,15.11.08 Lorraine Pincus.

The car park at the end of River Road is the information centre for the birds observed on the foreshores of Comerong Island. At 8am the day was cool and dull with fine misty rain: not good light to be viewing waders, but 13 keen people came to try.

At first view Black Swans were in abundance. On the mud flats one Eastern Curlew stood out from the many Bar-tailed Godwits and a smaller wader, we all discussed and viewed and agreed it was a Red Knot. As we walked further along the shore the tide had turned and water was starting to run into low depressions in the sand. There were signed and fenced off areas for the breeding of Red-Capped Plovers, Pied Oystercatchers and Little Terns, all 3 were observed not necessarily on nests. Red-Capped Plovers were seen running with a wader their same size 6 Red-necked Stints. Fine misty rain was intermittent, heavier at times and

near 9.30am Betty asked for a vote to call it quits or go on. Six decided to continue, two stayed on the mud flats to observe the waders.

The birds in the forest were plentiful, Brown and Yellow Thornbills, Lewin's Honeyeater, Brown Gerygone, Shining Bronze and Fan-tailed Cuckoo. By the time we reached the beach the rain had stopped and the day was much brighter. The beach walk was birdless except for the 12 or so dead Short-tailed Shearwaters washed in by the tide, with many more flying on the horizon. The 3 women took a track inland back to the foreshores, we hadn't gone far before we met the tide in low areas, feet a little damp but we added a Pacific Golden Plover to the list of 57 birds. Back at the cars we had lunch and all agreed it was a great walk and were sorry the rain had divided the group. Thank you Betty for a great walk.

57 bird species seen

Black Swan	Eastern Curlew	Brown Thornbill
Chestnut Teal	Red Knot	Eastern Spinebill
White-headed Pigeon	Red-necked Stint	Lewin's Honeyeater
Crested Pigeon	Little Tern	Little Wattlebird
Bar-shouldered Dove (heard)	Caspian Tern	New Holland Honeyeater
Short-tailed Shearwater	Crested Tern	Eastern Whipbird
Australasian Gannet	Silver Gull	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Little Pied Cormorant	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Golden Whistler
Great Cormorant	Galah	Grey Shrike-thrush
Australian Pelican	Crimson Rosella	Australian Magpie
Eastern Great Egret	Eastern Koel	Pied Currawong
White-faced Heron	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (heard)	Grey Fantail
Straw-necked Ibis	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Willie Wagtail
Buff-banded Rail	Laughing Kookaburra	Australian Raven
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Dollarbird	Magpie-lark
Pacific Golden Plover	Satin Bowerbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Red-capped Plover	Superb Fairywren	Silveryeye
Masked Lapwing	Brown Gerygone	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Bar-tailed Godwit	Yellow Thornbill	Australasian Pipit

MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS-NOVEMBER 2008

Compiled by Martin Cocker

A short list this month, which may have something to do with me, as I am rushing to get away on holidays!! The number of Crake sightings and the Red-Kneed Dotterel numbers may be telling us something about what is going on inland although on a recent trip to Orange I was pleasantly surprised to see how green the grass and full the dams and creeks were. On my local patch it is interesting how the permanent opening of Lake Illawarra is changing the shorebird feeding areas as I have never seen so many Bar-tailed Godwits as regulars to the Kanahooka Point area

Our records for the year are about the 700 mark so keep them coming in and I will provide a summary of the year's records in the New Year. In the meantime thanks again for all your contributions it has been a great start to my first year as Records Officer. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. And of course - Good Birding!

Species	No.	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Common Tern	8	02-Nov	Black Head Gerroa	Coastal	Bob Ashford
Red-capped Plover	2	26-Oct	Fred Finch Park	mudflat	David Winterbottom
Bassian Thrush	1	17-Nov	Bellawongarah	Rainforest/Open Paddock	Bob Ashford
Pink-eared Duck	1	15-Nov	Sheepwash rd/Illawarra Hwy	Farm Dam	Bob Ashford
Emerald Dove	1	12-Oct	Balgownie	Garden	Terry Edwell
Striated Heron	1	20-Oct	Puckies Reserve	tidal creek	David Winterbottom
Striated Heron	1	10-Nov	Puckies Reserve	tidal creek	David Winterbottom
Striated Heron	1	17-Nov	Puckies Reserve	tidal creek	David Winterbottom
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	18-Nov	Woonana East	Garden (with prey)	Nerida Hudspith
Swamp Harrier	1	15-Nov	Moss Vale	Rural	Bob Ashford
Buff-banded Rail	2	08-Nov	Figtree	Creekside	Joan Zealey
Baillon's Crake	1	07-Nov	Tallowarra Ash Pond	mudflat	Chris Brandis
Spotted Crake	3	07-Nov	Tallowarra Ash Pond	mudflat	Chris Brandis
Red-kneed Dotterel	6	07-Nov	Tallowarra Ash Pond	mudflat	Chris Brandis
Brush Cuckoo	1	16-Nov	Windang	Coastal Scrub	David Winterbottom
Azure Kingfisher	1	07-Nov	Fred Finch Park	Lake Edge	David Winterbottom
Large-billed Scrubwren	2	17-Nov	Bellawongarah	Rainforest/Open Paddock	Bob Ashford
Scarlet Honeyeater	Several	09-Nov	Bulli Old Mine Site	Forest	Roger Truscott
Crested Shrike-tit	2	09-Nov	Bulli Old Mine Site	Forest	Roger Truscott
Spangled Drongo	1	11-Nov	Fred Finch Park	Cassurina	David Winterbottom
Satin Flycatcher	2	09-Nov	Bulli Old Mine Site	Forest	Roger Truscott
Rose Robin	1	14-Nov	Bundeena, Kangaroo Valley	woodland	Bob Ashford

Please send in your sightings to cocker@speedlink.com.au and don't forget that these lists are on our website www.iboc.org.au

#Ross Armstrong of Grenfell reports they have had good rain and grass. 'Plenty of parrots. Wish you were here now !'