

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

Scientific name: *Calidris acuminata*  
 Family: Scolopacidae  
 Order: Charadriiformes

**Featured Bird Groups**  
 Shore birds and waders

**Description**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a medium sized wader with a straight black bill that has an olive-grey base. It has a chestnut crown and nape, a white eyebrow, and



photo by Charles Dove Purry Burry Point Primbie

reddish brown upperparts, with each feather having a black centre. The rump and tail are black, with white outer margins visible in flight. The wings have an indistinct white bar. The breast and flanks are white, streaked and speckled black, with a reddish brown tinge on the chest, grading into a white belly and undertail. The legs are olive. This species is commonly seen with other waders during its migration from northern breeding grounds.

**Similar species**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is very similar to most other sandpipers, especially the Pectoral Sandpiper, *C. melanotos*, but may be distinguished from this species by having no clearcut division between the breast and belly markings, olive (rather than yellow) legs, and a chestnut (rather than dark) head.

**Distribution**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a summer migrant from Arctic Siberia, being found on wetlands throughout Australia. It is also found in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and New Zealand. It is a vagrant to India, Europe, western North America, Fiji and other parts of the central Pacific region.

**Habitat**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper prefers the grassy edges of shallow inland freshwater wetlands. It is also found

around swage farms, flooded fields, mudflats, mangroves, rocky shores and beaches. Its breeding habitat in Siberia is the peat-hummock and lichen tundra of the high Arctic.

**Seasonal movements**

Strongly migratory, arriving in Australia in August, returning to Siberia in March, with greatest numbers in south-eastern Australia.

**Feeding**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper feeds on aquatic insects and their larvae, as well as worms, molluscs, crustaceans and sometimes, seeds. It is often found in large flocks, often with other waders, foraging in shallow waters.

**Breeding**

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper breeds in the short Siberian summer (June to August). Its nest is a well-hidden shallow hollow on the ground, lined with grass and leaves. The female incubates the eggs and raises the young alone.

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 DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

**CHRISTMAS B-B-Q** Saturday 10th December 2011 - 4.00 pm.

All are welcome.

At the Integral Energy Recreation Park, Darkes Road, Dapto. Breads, Sausages and Sauces etc provided. Bring your own salad, [special meat](#) requirements and eating utensils.

**Arriving from the North** via Southern Expressway take the Kanahooka exit, turning right at the traffic lights. Drive straight ahead, cross railway line continue until gate entrance is found on right hand side.

**Arriving from South** take Princess H'way to Dapto continue until roundabout then turn left into Darkes Road. Drive straight ahead, cross railway line continue until gate entrance is found on the right hand side.

## Club Meeting:

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

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

## **CHRISTMAS MEETING**

No guest speaker but instead, for your entertainment, numerous people will pull out all stops to keep you amused with an evening of song, verse, music, slide shows and brain training quizzes. (Brush up on bird names and towns). Dress in your bird/Christmas/favourite T-shirt and join the parade. Great prizes to be won. So come along and bring that extra special plate for supper and be assured of a happy and fun filled evening.

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

**December/January** ----- Christmas and New Year Break

**No Club Walks, resume February New Year 5pm at Windang foreshore 2012**

## Committee Meeting -

**Monday 16th January 2012**

Next committee meeting 7.30pm. To be held at Betty Hudsons . 1 Drualla Road, Jamberoo ph 4236 0307. Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to attend the meeting. All welcome.

## Newsletter -

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **24<sup>th</sup> January 2012**. Email contributions to Charles Dove [newsletter@iboc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@iboc.org.au) or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph: 0417 422 302

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS IMPORTANT Renewal of IBOC Membership for 2012**

In order for the club to check and verify the details for all members held in our records, we require that a membership form is completed and attached to your membership payment for 2011. This applies to all types of payments. Please ensure that you tick the box for electronic newsletters if you wish to continue to have it sent this way or wish to change to electronic delivery. **You get to see it in glorious colour!**

For your convenience a membership form is attached to this newsletter or it can be downloaded from the club web site [www.iboc.org.au](http://www.iboc.org.au) **Please note that fees are due on the 1st January 2012.**

There has been no change to the fees for each type of membership. Singles \$30, Family \$35 and Juniors \$10. **please fill in and post the updated membership renewal form with payment included in this newsletter.**

I would like to sincerely thank numerous assistants for all their help and guidance during the past year in the presentation of the I.B.O.C. Newsletter and also to the many members who made the time to write reports, stories, memories and send in photos.

**THANK YOU**

Charles Dove Editor

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**



## PRESIDENTS REPORT 2011

*Alan Cousins*

We have had a very interesting and full year with speakers at our monthly meetings ranging from a bee keeper to a zoo keeper, a Bush Fire Brigade Officer, club members and other excellent speakers. We have heard about parrots, passerines and shorebirds etc.

February	- Michael Gray	- New South Wales Rural Fire Service
March	- Emily Sehmelitschek	- Taronga Zoo (Regent Honeyeater Program)
April	- Louie Kelbert	- Bee Keeping
May	- Jodie Dunn	- NPWS Shorebird Recovery Program
June	- Neil Wheway, Peter Fackender, Ron Imisides	- Interesting asides
July	- Lynne Iverson	- 'Tails from Taronga'
August	- Walter Boles	- Night Parrot
September	- Bill & Joan Zealey	- Travels in Britain and Europe 2010
October	- Leah Royle	- Australian Wildlife Conservancy.
November	- Betty Hudson	- 'Bird Life and Scenery of the Red Centre'

A précis of all of these presentations has been produced in the following month's newsletter.

Our monthly midweek walks and weekend outings have been to numerous locations near and far and have been well attended some despite unfavourable weather conditions and we have been lucky enough to see anything between 40-60 bird species on our trips. Thanks to Tom Wylie for his ever ready note book and of course to Ted Simpson for organising the midweek walks and Betty Hudson the weekend outings.

Our Autumn camp to Lake Cargelligo was very well attended and we had a bumper crop of bird species, some lucky people getting 'lifers'. It was such a popular and bird productive place that many members have made return visits. The Spring camp to Mylstrom, near Coffs Harbour, which unfortunately Anne and I could not attend, appears from verbal reports to have been as productive and I look forward to members reports in later newsletters.

We were lucky enough to receive a further grant from the IMB Community Foundation to enable us to reprint the highly successful 'Birds of the Illawarra' brochure. These brochures have been widely distributed and are available to any member of the club by contacting a committee member.

We have had some good local sightings this year among them being the Californian Quail (see 'Articles of Interest' from Dave Thompson in the November Newsletter), Latham's Snipe and Painted Snipe to name but three and of course we must not forget the excellent photos taken by Charlie Dove on his regular walks.

The monthly newsletter continues to bring us all up to date with the club activities and maintains its high standard. To maintain this level it is imperative that members continue to send in articles and photo's to the editor for inclusion. Thanks Charlie for another great year of production. This club could not operate without the efforts of your committee, they know who they are and I thank them sincerely for their support during 2011. It would be remiss of me not to mention our other stalwarts, Chris Cartledge for his continued work as webmaster and for taking over the duties of Public Officer, Tom Wylie - Hall Monitor, Sylvia Garlick & others Kitchen, Anne Cousins and Joan Wylie - Library and Darryl Goldrick - Records Officer. If I have omitted anybody please accept my apologies and thanks.

We are now in the process of planning the 2012 programme and are open to suggestions from any member who feels that there is an event etc. that they may wish us to pursue or organise.

***My thanks to all members of IBOC for their interest and support throughout 2011***

**Report for club meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011** by Alan Cousins

Our speaker for November was Betty Hudson our long serving secretary whose talk was entitled 'Bird Life and Scenery of the Red Centre'. Her trip was to Alice Springs, Newhaven Station and the West MacDonnell Ranges.

Betty introduced us to the area and said what an interesting geology exists and that rivers flowing north to south have formed the magnificent gorges with unbelievable rock colours. Her photographs of these formations highlighted the facts. During the presentation we were treated to the pictures of at least 52 species of birds, a Red Kangaroo and some amazing gorges and rock formations. Some of the birds Betty had to

photograph in a large aviary, as, although seen in the wild, she could not get decent shots.

The Alice Springs water hole did not have much water and the Newhaven Station has been restored to its former state.

Betty indicated how cold it can be in the Red Centre, it was 11C and cold and cloudy on her first day there. The distances travelled between places is also vast, it was a five hour drive from Alice Springs to Newhaven Station.

This was a very interesting and informative presentation and indicated to those of us who have not yet had the pleasure of a visit to the Red Centre just how diverse the area is.

Thank you very much Betty

**Mid-week Walk Report – Barrack Point**

November 16<sup>th</sup> 2011

Charles Dove

Starting off the Day at Warilla Bowls Club we meandered our way around the Little Lake Foreshore in a blustery 'Southerly Buster' sighting a number of the local Species which included the Little Cormorant, Great Egret and Common Greenshank to name a few. An interesting find of deceased bird, which proved difficult to identify even though it was undamaged, generally thought to be, but unconfirmed young Starling.

Leaving here we alighted to our cars and proceeded around a short distance, to the small parkland overlooking the Little Lake entrance for a WC stop,



as well as a look around. A Masked Lapwing with three young chicks caused a lot of interest, with

cameras clicking all around them they just wandered back and forth. Moving off around the headlands in our cars, we drove to the south side of Barrack Point, stopping at a Park adjacent the northern end of Shellharbour Beach, for morning tea. After MT we walked down the park, heading towards the Shellharbour Village, stopping occasionally to go up the short pathways that overlook the beach, a school of Porpoise were in close and entertained us as they frolicked in the shallows. A few of us continued on to



the opposite side of the road, and walked around the back of the treatment works encountering a number of species common to the wetlands.

18 members enjoyed another enjoyable walk, *Thanks Ted for another great day*

**Bird List total of 42 Bird species**

**Bowling Club & Little Lake**

Spotted Dove	Australian White Ibis	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Australian Magpie
Crested Pigeon	Royal Spoonbill	Rainbow Lorikeet	Magpie-lark
Little Pied Cormorant	Sooty Oystercatcher	Superb Fairy-wren	Welcome Swallow
Great Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Yellow Thornbill	House Sparrow
Little Black Cormorant	Common Greenshank	Little Wattlebird	European Goldfinch
Australian Pelican	Silver Gull	Red Wattlebird	
Eastern Great Egret	Galah	New Holland Honeyeater	
Striated Heron	Long-billed Corella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	

**Barrack Point to Shellharbour and around treatment works**

Grey Teal	Australian White Ibis	Dollarbird	Australian Magpie
Chestnut Teal	Purple Swamphen	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Yellow Thornbill	Magpie-lark
Spotted Dove	Masked Lapwing	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Crested Pigeon	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Black Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Red-browed Finch
Australian Pelican	Rainbow Lorikeet	New Holland Honeyeater	European Goldfinch
White-faced Heron	Eastern Koel	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	

**Weekend Walk Report – Bangalee Walk** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011. by Betty Hudson

On a hot humid day 10 members and 3 visitors met in the car park at Bangalee Reserve, North Nowra. There was plenty of bird sound but few to be seen until a Sacred Kingfisher was sighted and then a second. Moving on our visitors joined us, Fredrik from Holland and his hosts Matt & Sue. As we walked along the track above the Shoalhaven River Fantailed Cuckoos were heard calling and Black-faced Monarchs, the first of several seen during the day, were sighted. Superb Fairy-wrens were seen in the thick lantana along the sides of the track. The valiant work of a few Landcare Volunteers was seen to be making slow inroads into the infestation, although around the old homestead site and the Bunya Pine the change was remarkable. Eastern Yellow Robins were much in evidence much to Fredrik's pleasure, another new bird for him, and an Australasian Olive-backed Oriole was heard calling on several occasions, but could not be found. Keeping along the riverbank the path narrowed and then turned sharply away up a rocky incline, where a Figtree had grown over the track necessitating some judicious pruning to get under, then over a dry creek and up rocks to the top of the small cliff line. The forest changed sharply from rain forest to eucalyptus forest and very much dryer with little understory. Two lookouts onto the river gave sightings of both White-necked and White-faced Herons and the Eastern Great Egret, and a welcome breeze off the river. A Grey Goshawk was seen flying away through the canopy below us. As soon as we re-entered the forest from the lookouts we lost the breeze and no one was keen to linger. Walking back along the road Varied Sittella were seen to add the list. A Rhode Island Red rooster was heard calling in the forest. Where had it come from?

Back at the cars we all were thankful for the shade and took our lunch to a shady table. Only the men were keen to move after lunch and took a short stroll along the river bank to the waters edge finding a Rufous Fantail on the way. The breeze preceding the forecast change started to get up but the air was still very hot & sticky. Everyone was happy to call it a day then.

A good day's birding, despite the weather, with good sightings of the Black-faced Monarchs, always a rewarding sight. A return visit in the cooler months might be rewarding.

**Bird List****42 Species sighted**

by Tom Wylie

Common Bronzewing	Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Wonga Pigeon	Sacred Kingfisher	Red Wattlebird	Rufous Fantail
Australasian Darter	White-throated Treecreeper	New Holland Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
White-necked Heron	Satin Bowerbird	Noisy Friarbird	Australian Raven
Eastern Great Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Whipbird	Black-faced Monarch
White-faced Heron	Brown Gerygone	Varied Sittella	Magpie-lark
Grey Goshawk	Striated Thornbill	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Eastern Yellow Robin
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Golden Whistler E -race	Welcome Swallow
Australian King Parrot	Spotted Pardalote	Rufous Whistler	Silvereye
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australasian Oriole	

**Report on Mylestom Camp October 2011.**

Betty Hudson

Mylestom lived up to its promise as a great birding place, with 163 species recorded over the camp. 71 species were recorded in and around the village of Mylestom, including two Tawny Frogmouths sitting on nests only a street apart. Even Noisy Pittas were heard, but not seen, in the Caravan Park both before we arrived and after we left.

Outings took us on walks from the caravan park direct onto the dunes, the beach and the coastal forest as well as around the village and environs.

Other trips saw us head to Bongil Bongil National Park, firstly to Tucker Rocks & the Bluff trail and then to the Bonville Creek Picnic Area near Coffs Harbour followed by a paddle across the creek to see if we could manage to see the Little terns on the spit. Only one pair nesting was seen as well as a pair of Pied Oystercatchers with chicks.

Our day at Dorrigo was marred by constant rain, but we kept going and were rewarded by the sight of the many waterfalls in full flow. Morning tea was enjoyed warm & dry in the café. A list of 33 species was recorded including the Paradise Riflebird.

Shopping for everything except milk and bread necessitated a trip to Urunga. Travelling via yellow Rock Road, Raleigh & along the Kalang River we had several good sightings including the Chestnut-breasted Mannikin. A later visit with a local "Birdo" gave us a Black-necked Stork on a nest with a large youngster, as well as a Buff-banded Rail beside the road. Our only Red-backed Fairy-wren was seen here along Yellow Rock Road we recorded 23 species and at Raleigh by the railway line 31 species.

Urunga has a remarkable board walk from the edge of town through the mangroves to the entrance of the river. On a beach beside the river in the centre of town we had the great luck to see two Beach-Stone-curlews, as well as several other waders, the Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel and Little Curlew 29 species recorded.

A second wet morning saw us head to Coffs Harbour to visit the Botanic Garden. Well worth a visit for the huge variety of plants from all over the world as well as Australia, and the cultivation of orchids under threat in their natural habitat. A Ranger at Dorrigo told me that a Noisy Pitta was supposed to be around the picnic area and this was confirmed by a member of the gardens staff, but several visits later I was still looking. 41 species were recorded in the gardens.

Later that day after the rain eased some of us went to Boambee to the river and beach and saw a Curlew Sandpiper, and one of the few trains on the north coast line as it crossed the river. A Brahminy Kite finished the day with a spectacular flight low down along the river in a beam of sunlight between the menacing clouds.

This was another great camp with new sightings for many members and a place well worth another visit.

#### A total Bird List of 163 species was recorded

Emu	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Varied Triller
Australian Brush-turkey	Whistling Kite	Azure Kingfisher	Crested Shrike-tit
Brown Quail	Brahminy Kite	Laughing Kookaburra	Golden Whistler - E Race
Musk Duck	Grey Goshawk	Sacred Kingfisher	Rufous Whistler
Australian Wood Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Rainbow Bee-eater	Little Shrike-thrush
Chestnut Teal	Purple Swamphen	Dollarbird	Grey Shrike-thrush
Pacific Black Duck	Buff-banded Rail	Noisy Pitta	Australasian Figbird
Hardhead	Dusky Moorhen	Superb Lyrebird	Olive-backed Oriole
Australasian Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Rufus Scrub-bird	White-breasted Woodswallow
Rock Dove	Beach Stone-curlew	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Butcherbird
White-headed Pigeon	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Green Catbird	Pied Butcherbird
Spotted Dove	Sooty Oystercatcher	Regent Bowerbird	Australian Magpie
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Black-winged Stilt	Satin Bowerbird	Pied Currawong
Crested Pigeon	Pacific Golden Plover	Superb Fairy-wren	Spangled Drongo
Peaceful Dove	Black-fronted Dotterel	Red-backed Fairy-wren	Rufous Fantail
Bar-shouldered Dove	Red-capped Plover	Variegated Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail
Wonga Pigeon	Greater Sand Plover	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Willie Wagtail
Topknot Pigeon	Masked Lapwing	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Raven
Tawny Frogmouth	Bar-tailed Godwit	Large-billed Scrubwren	Little Raven
White-throated Needletail	Whimbrel	Brown Gerygone	Torresian Crow
Australasian Gannet	Eastern Curlew	Mangrove Gerygone	Leaden Flycatcher
Australasian Darter	Little Curlew	Yellow Thornbill	Black-faced Monarch
Little Pied Cormorant	Red-necked Stint	Brown Thornbill	Spectacled Monarch
Great Cormorant	Curlew Sandpiper	Spotted Pardalote	Magpie-lark
Little Black Cormorant	Little Tern	Striated Pardalote	Paradise Riflebird
Pied Cormorant	Gull-billed Tern	Eastern Spinebill	Pale-yellow Robin
Australian Pelican	Crested Tern	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Black-necked Stork	Silver Gull	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Golden-headed Cisticola
White-necked Heron	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Bell Miner	Tawny Grassbird
Eastern Great Egret	Galah	Noisy Miner	Rufous Songlark
Cattle Egret	Long-billed Corella	Little Wattlebird	Silvereye
Striated Heron	Little Corella	Red Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
White-faced Heron	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Scarlet Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
Little Egret	Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Honeyeater	Common Starling
Eastern Reef Egret	Scaly -breasted Lorikeet	White-cheeked Honeyeater	Common Myna
Australian White Ibis	Australian King-Parrot	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Mistletoebird
Straw-necked Ibis	Crimson Rosella	Noisy Friarbird	Red-browed Finch
Royal Spoonbill	Eastern Rosella	Australian Logrunner	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Eastern Osprey	Eastern Koel	Eastern Whipbird	House Sparrow
Black-shouldered Kite	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Australasian Pipit
Pacific Baza	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Cicadabird	

Mylestom Camp

Neil Wheway

Tera and I were having lunch on the northern bank of the Bellinger River it was sunny and warm, with very few people about the only noise was an occasional boat motoring on the river. Suddenly I felt like Rip Van Winkle waking up from a long sleep, not in the future but in the past. It felt reminiscent of an era in the 1960's and 1970's at St. Georges Basin or Sussex Inlet before the developers discovered it and bought their bulldozers to develop the bushland, it was then followed by a population explosion. Garbage and graffiti also comes with people, it was wonderful not to see any at Mylestom, however it may be a different story during school holiday times.

We were there to see the birdlife in the area we did see a great variety just to name a few, Regent Bowerbird, Scarlet Honeyeater, Drongo, Brush-turkey, Figbird, Pied Butcherbird, Noisy Miner, Black-Cockatoo all these and more before we had left the caravan park.

Many afternoons were spent sitting at the "Table of Knowledge" discussing not only birds with the aid of many cameras, iPods and a laptop computer. These were at times lively discussions solving not only Australia's problems but world events. Neil McKinlay was a very happy chappie when he saw that my new shiny tyres were covered in mud.

It was a very relaxed week although the weather did play up a little however we took this in our stride, along with leeches in our hides. Every thing went like clockwork thanks to Betty's planning and her organisational skills. [Thanks Betty](#) for choosing Magical Mylestom.



[Some great Pics by Tera from the Mylestom Camp](#)

**NOTE FROM SPRING CAMP MYLESTOM Barbara Hales**

Our spring camp at Mylestom was in a perfect location on a peninsular between the Kalang River and the ocean on the northern NSW coast. The caravan park offers a range of options from basic tent sites to cabins with all the usual facilities and close by there are some very good, value for dollar, holiday rental properties. The area by the river has a lovely swimming hole and park and there is a shop/post office/cafe for basic supplies and reasonably good coffee.

The bird list for the camp was extensive, 160+, and for starters it was so super to be nearly tripping over the Rainbow Bee-eaters on a grass verge just outside of camp. There were so many highs on this camp it is hard to pick just one. With the help of local knowledge we had the treat of seeing a Black-necked Stork (I still much prefer Jabiru) atop its nest and a perfect sighting of the Grey Goshawk perched nearby. Who could forget the Chestnut-breasted Mannikins as they happily flitted around feeding but stopping long enough for all of us to have good views, they are just so cute? The Tawny Grassbird was another new one for me, thank you Tom.

Our day at Dorrigo Rain Forest was very, very wet with absolutely no views from the Skywalk but being in the rain forest in rain or shine is always a magical experience and the National Parks centre is well worth a visit, be it for the video show, the art exhibition or even a cup of coffee.

Beach Stone Curlews! Well, didn't they get everyone smiling when we came across them on the river front sand at Urunga en-route to the wonderful boardwalk which goes out to the ocean and includes a spur off into the mangrove area? The board walk (completed Nov, 2010) is a real gem and produced another two new birds

for me, the Little Curlew and the Mangrove Gerygone. It really is a must do if you are in the area and although it was quite windy on the day it was still a very enjoyable walk.

As usual it is the participants who really make our camping trips tick. Their willingness to share stories around the table of knowledge, jokes, helpful hints, bird info and above all their caring nature all contribute to the well being and happiness of all the members. Thanks everyone, looking forward to our next camp.

## Illawarra Bird Observers Club 2012 Committee

President-	Alan Cousins
Vice President-	Roger Bogaert
Secretary-	Betty Hudson
Treasurer-	Ken Brown
Committee Members-	Darryl Goldrick
	Ann Cousins
	Ted Simpson
	Charles Dove
<u>Ex Officio positions:</u>	
Public Officer-	Chris Cartledge
Newsletter Editor-	Charles Dove
Activities Officer Monthly Walks & Camps -	Betty Hudson
Activities Officer Mid Week Walks-	Ted Simpson
Records Officer-	Darryl Goldrick
Librarian-	Ann Cousins & Judith Baker
Web Master-	Chris Cartledge
Name Tags	Neil Wheway
Hall	Tom Wylie
Notice Board	TBA
Supper	Sylvia Garlick

### I.B.O.C. Autumn Camp 2012 Tumbarumba Creek Caravan Park 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012

I.B.O.C.'s Autumn 2012 camp will be held at Tumbarumba Creek Caravan Park, Lauder St Tumbarumba from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Phone 02 6948 3330. (email [tumbacreek@blue1000.com.au](mailto:tumbacreek@blue1000.com.au) or visit website [www.tumbarumbacreek.com.au](http://www.tumbarumbacreek.com.au) )

Tumbarumba is 420km SW of Wollongong, on the southern slopes of the Snowy Mountains. It is suggested that you travel via the Hume Hwy to Gundagai, take the Tumut exit and travel via Tumut, and Batlow, to Tumbarumba.

Tumbarumba Creek Caravan Park has 14 cabins, 5 of which have 2 bedrooms one with a queen bed the other a bunk bed. The other cabins are open plan with a queen bed and bunk beds. There is also a cottage adjacent to the caravan park which sleeps 4. Linen is provided for the queen beds but can be hired for the bunks. There are also 47 powered & unpowered sites.

Charges:	Cabins 5	Kosciusko (2 bedroom) \$89 per night for 2 + \$8.00 for each extra person.
	5	Jagungal (open Plan) \$78 per night for 2 = \$8.00 for each extra person
	3	Selwyn (Small open plan) \$68 per night for 2 + \$8 for each extra person
	1	Alexander Cottage Sleeps 4 \$95 per night for 2 (min 2 nights)
	Powered Sites	\$26 per night for 2 + \$8 for each extra person
	Unpowered Sites	\$16.00 per night for 2 + \$8 for each extra person

It is suggested that you book your accommodation as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. There is however plenty of alternate accommodation in the town (see Tumbarumba Shire web site or contact Betty).

#### **Please note**

Please advise Betty by phone on 4236 0307 or email [elizabethjhudson@bigpond.com](mailto:elizabethjhudson@bigpond.com) when you have booked and the type of accommodation. The clip board will be passed round at meetings as usual for members to add their names to those attending, if not already there.

Further details in a later newsletter.



This will be a new feature for the upcoming newsletters and yes, you can do a write up and Pics if possible of your Birds in your backyard to feature in the newsletter. Thank you to Terry for kindly sharing the first of hopefully many of our members' backyard birding stories.

## THE BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

By Terry Edwell

I have always had a love for animals and birds which was passed on to me by my Mother and my Grandmother both were always a soft touch with baby birds or stray dogs etc. so when I bought a Young Galah instead of getting my hair cut my Grandmother was only too happy to go and buy a cage at three times the price of the Galah. The Galah was soon talking and was a great mimic he would laugh, sing and whistle and also had a bad smokers' cough as everyone (except me) smoked.

Then a friend gave me a young magpie and he became a brilliant mimic as well. He was never frightened of me so right from the start he slept on the top of my bedroom door. Every morning at dawn he would fly down and wake me up and I would go out in the garden and dig up worms till the squawking stopped. Eventually we fed him minced meat to shut him up. He soon began to say everything the galah said and more especially shut up! He would play with our puppy till the pup grew too big and got a bit rough. One time he took all our milk money and put it under a bush, the shiny shillings must have attracted him, we thought someone was stealing it. I could go on and on about him I really could not believe a magpie would be so intelligent and gentle. So as you can see I have always enjoyed the birds.

When we moved here to Balgownie I was amazed at the beauty and variety of the birds in the bush at the back of our home. I use to see a new bird every day and my family were sick of me saying "I saw this little bird to-day" so my son bought me a bird book and binoculars and my husband saw an article about I.B.O.C and encouraged me to join. We have been here now for 25 years and although the birds are not as plentiful as they were I still get a few surprises. Two Spectacled Monarchs built a nest at the back of our yard in 2009 and in early 2010 a Crested Shrike-tit and a Bar-shouldered Dove visited our yard. I have never seen either of these birds here before.



Crimson Rosella



Brown Cuckoo Dove



Australian King Parrot

The King Parrots, Crimson Rosellas, Brown Cuckoo-doves and sometimes the White-headed Pigeon love any berries that come on the shrubs including the Camellia bush and Portwine Magnolia both introduced plants. I have a beautiful little plant called Browallia and the Eastern Spinebill and the Lewin's Honeyeaters love it. The flowers are orange and yellow and it flowers from July till December and this year I took a picture of a Scarlet Honeyeater on it.

The Satin Bowerbirds are always present in our yard. The male bird keeps all the females in line. Sometimes he gets up on his toes and tucks his tail under and does a funny little run around to impress the ladies I guess. He used to have a bower in our yard but I found a cat lying on it one day so sadly he left and gradually took all his collection of blue away. When I first heard the call of the Green Catbird I thought it was a baby in the street down from us of course I hear it often now and still marvel at the sound. The bird also has a one note call he usually utters as he arrives in the yard, I spent a lot of time looking for the bird that made that call never suspecting the Catbird.



Green Catbird



Satin Bowerbird



Scarlet Honeyeater

All the birds enjoy the birdbaths especially the Bower Birds. The Eastern Spinebill has many baths a day .He pops in and out really quickly and splashes so high he is gone before the water comes back down. The White-throated Treecreeper calls loudly and then seems too frightened to enter the water. He lowers himself down looking around the whole time and stupidly drawing attention to himself with his calling, but he spends quite a while bathing always late in the afternoon and calls the whole time. The Rainbow Lorikeets love to bath in fact our birdbath is deep enough for them to swim! A tame Lorikeet was here once and he could wolf whistle and say his name over and over he would say "my names Rick my names Rick" I was surprised they could be taught to speak. He had met up with a whole flock which included 3 Scaly-breasted Lorikeets. One of the Scaly-breasted visited me for 10 years but I have not seen him since early this year.

The Grey Butcherbird breeds very well and often has 2 or 3 young ones. They are funny when they are learning to call they practice whistling non-stop with each one of them in a different tree. The song is just beautiful.

This year we had a young Grey Shrike-thrush practicing his call. He was around for a month or more I missed him when he left I loved hearing his beautiful call. The Lewin's Honeyeater is another lovely songbird, if nothing else is around the Lewin's song can always be heard. The Golden Whistler is pretty hard to beat .He has the beautiful looks and the wonderful song. The first time I saw a male Golden Whistler it was on a branch of a pink blossomed Peach tree. I had no idea that a bird like that existed I was so excited I raced for my bird book trying to remember each detail. You can imagine how beautiful it looked on a pink tree with the blue sky behind. I also love the Whip Birds call it is so typically Australian I don't see them often but they are always calling each other.



Golden Whistler



Laughing Kookaburra



Rose Robin

The Kookaburras, Magpies and Currawongs are always around. The Maggies have just fledged 3 young. Two very aggressive Noisy Friarbirds attacked the Kookaburras only yesterday. The Kooks were very put out as they have had a monopoly here for years. There are five of them. The worst thing I've ever seen was a poor old Currawong rearing twin Channel-billed Cuckoos. At the last when the Cuckoos were just about reared the Currawong had hardly any feathers left on its head caused by having to shove food down their huge becks. They never stopped screaming and would chase her up the branch for food, she was frightened of them in the end and looked the part of a poor harassed mum, she hadn't had time for a bath or a preen.

There are Lyrebirds here too, they used to dig our lawn up early in the morning (my husband was not impressed.) We did all kinds of things to stop their digging. I put wire netting all over the garden and netting I bought from a hardware store on the lawn. Nothing worked until one day when I was in the yard a male Brush-turkey came out of the bush. The Lyrebirds gave up the lawn and left and the Turkey decided my garden was too hard to dig up. Now the Brush-turkey has five terrified wives. I don't know when they get together as he chases them out of the yard as soon as he sees them, but they must meet somewhere as we have young ones most years. I have only ever seen one grow to adulthood the others just disappear. They are very cute when they are young. The Male decided he owned our place and if we are away and my daughter comes here to check the house for us he chases her as well. He started coming up our back steps

(all twenty of them) and pecking on our wire door we thought he would put a hole in it so I got our large hall mirror and showed him what he looked like and he got such a shock when he saw himself with his big yellow wattle he went off for a couple of days. He's back now but hasn't ventured up the stairs.



Eastern Spinebill



Crested Shrike-tit



Grey Shrike-thrush



I thought you might like to see my images of a White-necked Heron taken at Lime Kiln Bay Wetlands near Oatley Park in September. It was actively fishing in a tidal creek that runs into Lime Kiln Bay. I think it is uncommon, nomadic down here. A first sighting for me such a lovely elegant bird.  
Gleniss Wellings

More Great Pics from the Mylestom Camp by Judy Baker



Black-necked Stork



Members Crossing in search of Terns



Tawny Frogmouth



Rufous Songlark

**Blackbird**

*There's a new irritation  
not the lost spectacles again  
not the slow greying of hair  
or wrinkling of skin  
not the same old weeds  
we've battled for years  
nor the House Sparrow.  
We grew up with Sparrows.*

*It is a sudden shock,  
striking like toothache, earache  
or rheumatism in the fingers  
like the McMansions  
springing up in our street  
an invasion of our neighbourhood  
an affront to integrity  
a taunting threat to peace and sanity.*

*This is worse than:  
spelling eczema haemorrhoids tinnitus  
being put On Hold by Telstra again  
intrusive mobile phone users  
our scandalous corrupt local Councillors.  
By comparison, the Common Mynah  
seems like an old friend;  
perhaps we'll remove the No Junk  
from our letter box  
and welcome Jehovah's Witnesses.*

*The Blackbird is a bully and a Kerr  
Wrens and Honeyeaters have been expelled  
while it skulks in the veggie patch  
destroying lettuce seedlings and murdering worms  
and worst insult to our decades of bushcare  
its nest despoiling our native garden.*

*With defiant hubris it calls  
from our prized Illawarra Flame-tree.  
Nemesis! Oh just Goddess  
no armistice  
rid our Paradise of this new enemy.*

*for Paul  
Jack Oats  
11 November 2011*

<b>Members Sightings OCT-NOV 2011</b>					
compiled by Darryl Goldrick					
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HABITAT</b>	<b>OBSERVER</b>
Brown Quail	2	01-Nov-11	Haywards Bay	Swamp	Wal Emery
Pink-eared Duck	6	29-Oct-11	Purry Burry Point	Lake Illawarra	Charles Dove
Lewin's Rail	1	06-Nov-11	Killalea State Rec Park	Firetrail	Josh/Bruce Coyte
White-headed Pigeon	3	29-Oct-11	Koona Bay	Casuarina	C Dove/W&H Emery
White-headed Pigeon	1	28-Oct-11	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Royal Spoonbill	1	02-Nov-11	Wollongong	Tom Thumb Lagoon	Steve Dillon
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	30-Oct-11	Purry Burry Point	Lake Illawarra	Charles Dove
Pacific Baza	1	12-Nov-11	Balgownie	Garden	Wal Emery
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	12-14Nov11	Figtree	O'head	Joan Zealey
Buff-banded Rail	1	15-Nov-11	Lake South	Dunes	Charles Dove
Buff-banded Rail	1	14-Nov-11	Tarrawanna	Oval perimeter	A/A Cousins
Australian Spotted Crake	1	01-Nov-11	Haywards Bay	Lagoon	Wal Emery
Sooty Oystercatcher	7	01-Nov-11	Austinmer	Rock Platform	Steve Dillon
Painted Snipe	1m+1f	28-Oct-11	Haywards Bay	Salt marsh	Wal Emery
White-fronted Tern	2	29-Oct-11	Windang	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	3	07-Nov-11	Tarrawanna	Village Green trees	A/A Cousins
Eastern Koel	2	12-Nov-11	A. P. Rail-Koona Bay	Garden	Brian/Barbara Hales
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	28-Oct-11	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Brush Cuckoo	3	28-Oct-11	Primbee	Casuarina	Charles Dove
Powerful Owl	1m+1f Call	30-Oct-11	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
Powerful Owl	1 Call	28-Oct-11	Thirroul	TreeTop Glen	Steve Dillon
Green catbird	1	31-Oct-11	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
Green catbird	1	02-Nov-11	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Southern Emu-wren	1m	01-Nov-11	Haywards Bay	Swamp	Wal Emery
Large-billed Scrubwren	3	10-Nov-11	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	1	09-Nov-11	Al Pk Rail-Koona Bay	Garden	Brian/Barbara Hales
White-fronted Chat	1m+1f	01-Nov-11	Haywards Bay	Salt marsh	Wal Emery
Crested Shrike-tit	1	10-Nov-11	Thirroul	Excelsior Mine Site	Mike Morphett
California Quail	4	17-Nov-11	Towradgi	Surf Club Cycleway	Brian/Barbara Hales

**Email your unusual or not so unusual bird sightings to [sightings@iboc.org.au](mailto:sightings@iboc.org.au)  
Please try to have sightings in 3 days before the newsletter deadline**



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<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Other amount \$.....</b>
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