



" 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.

<p>IBOC NEWS Contents</p> <p>Club events p 2</p> <p>Program for 2009 p 3</p> <p>The Alice Trip p 4</p> <p>BOCA Ethics p 5</p> <p>BOCA Photography Ethics p 6</p> <p>Committee News p 7</p> <p>'White Wonder' p 8</p> <p>Of Birds and Poems p 9</p> <p>Illawarra Thornbills p 10</p>	<p>Club Contacts</p> <p>PRESIDENT : Martin Cocker, tel: 0418 429 132</p> <p>SECRETARY: Betty Hudson, tel: 02 4236 0307 email: elizabethhudson@bigpond.com</p> <p>TREASURER: Bronwyn Wilson, tel: 02 4283 4744</p> <p>EDITORS: John Cashman, tel: 02 4284 0538 email: cashman5@bigpond.com Val Dolan, tel: 02 4229 6737</p> <p>RECORDS OFFICER: Martin Cocker email:cocker@speedlink.com.au</p>
--	---



Happy Birding in 2009

Picture sent to Alan Cousins

CLUB MEETING Monday 9th February 2009 - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall - Speaker Peter Fackender "From The Top end to Gluepot." Peter is a classy photographer. So come along, join the gang, and bring some supper and your cup please.

MID-WEEK WALK Wednesday 4th February, 2009 at 5.00 pm Windang. Meet under the pine trees on the north side of Windang Estuary, east of the bridge. Bring along a picnic supper for after the walk. At Windang take Acacia St east off Windang Rd, then take second right (south), Waratah St. Ahead of you should be the combined entrance to Windang Caravan Park & Windang Surf Club. Follow the arrow towards the surf club and meet at the eastern end of the Norfolk Island Pines.

MONTHLY OUTING: Saturday 14th February 2009 Bangalee Reserve North Nowra Leader: Betty Hudson. From the north take the Princes Hwy to Bomaderry. Turn right into Illaroo Road, at the traffic lights just before the Shoalhaven Bridge. At the roundabout, veer right. Proceed for approx another 5km, passing Hockey's Lane and the Winery on your right, before turning into Koloona Drive. (the street sign is on the light pole on the right hand side of Illaroo Rd and also has a small bright blue sign.) Meet here at 8.00am, when we will travel a further 3.5km to the reserve. There is a wide variety of habitat, some historic ruins and good views of the river. Many interesting birds have been recorded here. Bring your sunscreen and insect repellent. We will carry morning tea, but will be returning to the cars for lunch. We will finish after lunch. A 6km walk with varying grades from grassy flat tracks to short rocky scrambles. Members can do parts of the walk, with the easier portion being the early stages from the carpark. Phone Betty on 42 360 307 or mobile 0432 892 945. Remember mobiles do not always have reception at the places we meet or walk

MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next IBOC News is Thursday 19th February 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: The new charges for Club membership are - Family \$35, Single \$30, Junior \$10. Please pay Bronwyn Wilson, our Treasurer, by cash, cheque or mail order. Note. Unless you have already settled with Bronwyn, your subs are now *overdue!!!*

IBOC INSURANCE Club members are now insured with BOCA. BOCA require that we read, mark, and inwardly digest their two pages in this Newsletter, pages 5 and 6 Thank you!

Customers Please! Customers are required for bus trip to Featherdale Park, the Monthly Outing on Saturday 16th May. About two dozen members have indicated that they would like to be driven to and from Featherdale at Doonside by bus. Another 10 or so customers would make the bus trip financially viable (about \$20 pp) If you are interested, but haven't yet registered, please phone Neil Wheway on 4261 3230 **pronto!**

Welcome to new member **Gloria Stephens**. Nice to have you join us. Gloria's husband, David, is already a member and they both participated in, and enjoyed the Wallaga Lake camp last year. In turn David was introduced to the club by their son, who now lives further north. Gloria and David live at Ulladulla and are probably our most southern members

Brochure Penny Potter reported she is making good progress with the Illawarra Birding Brochure. The text is almost finalised, a map is being drawn and photos are being collected. The current draft has been sent out for review and will soon be passed on for layout design and then printing.

I.B.O.C. PROGRAMME 2009

Month	Action	Date	Speaker/Leader	Venue
February	Mid week outing	4.02.09	Betty Hudson	Lake Illawarra 5.00pm
	Meeting	9.02.09	Peter Fackender	“Top End to Gluepot”
	Outing	Sat 14.02.09	Betty Hudson	Bangalee Reserve Nth Nowra
March	Meeting	9.03.09	Kevin Mills	
	Mid week walk	11.03.09	Nick & Daphne van Oudtshoorn	Curramore Rd Jamberoo Property
	Outing	Sunday 15.03.09	Betty Hudson	Forest Walk Madden Plains to Stanwell Park
April	No Meeting	Easter		
	Mid Week Walk	15.04.09	Ross & Jan Gowans	Wollongong Botanic Gardens
	No Outing due to Camp		School Holidays	10-24.04.09
	Autumn Camp	18-25.4.09	Betty Hudson	Lake Burrinjuck Leisure Resort
May	Meeting	11.05.09	Bob Ashford	
	Mid week Walk	13.05.09	Alan Cousins	Darkes Forest
	Outing	Sat16.05.09	Neil Wheway	Featherdale Park
June	Meeting (nb this is Public Holiday)	8.06.09	Terril Nordstrom	
	Mid Week Walk	10.06.09	Lorraine Pincus	Killalea State Park
	Outing	Sun 14.06.09	Betty Hudson	Seven Mile Beach N.P.
July	Meeting	13.07.09	Members night	
	Mid Week Walk	15.07.09	Wal Emery	Tarrawanna
	Outing	Saturday 18.07.09	School Holidays 13-24.07.09	Bass Point
August	Meeting	10.08.09	Roger Truscott	
	Mid Week Walk	12.08.09	Chris Brandis	TBA
	Outing	Sun16.08.09	Betty Hudson	Stingray Swamp N R Penrose
	Field Trip	20.08.- 11.09.09	Betty Hudson	Flinders Ranges
September	Meeting	14.09.09	Nick van Oudtshoorn	
	Mid Week Walk	16.09.09	Alan Cousins	Mangerton Park
	Outing	Sat. 19.09.09	Betty Hudson	Crookhaven Heads & Lake Wollumbula
October	Meeting	12.10.09	Graham Barwell	
	Mid Week Walk	14.10.09	Lorraine Pincus	Robertson Lookout
	Outing (School Hols 5-16.10.09)	Sunday 18.10.09	Lorraine Pincus	Mt Kembla Ring Track
	Spring Camp	24-31.10.9	Betty Hudson	Barradine
November	Meeting / AGM	9.11.09	Ron Imisides	
	Mid Week Walk	11.11.09		
	Outing	Sat 14.11.09	Betty Hudson	Towra Point N.R. Taren Pt
December	Christmas Picnic	Sat12.12.09		
	Christmas Meeting	14.12.09		
	School Holidays		21.12.09 to	26.01.2010
January 2010	Committee Meeting	18.01.2010		
February 2010	Mid Week Walk	3.02.2010		Lake Illawarra
February 2010	Meeting	8.02.2010		

HIGHLIGHTS OF A TRIP TO 'THE ALICE'

Val Cooper

These highlights will be few as birding was poor due to drought conditions in the west! We were pleased to see many emus including a Dad with sixteen chicks crossing the road !

We spent some time around Cobar spotting the Blue Bonnets and a not so Crimson Chat! I was delighted to find a Chirruping Wedgebill on every second tree near Broken Hill and one day when we were out on the plains in this area my brother called me to check out a Redthroat through the scope. When I arrived the small bird had flown but a beautiful Cinnamon Quail Thrush was strolling in the sights allowing us time to have a really good view! Though seen once before I was delighted to see several Banded Lapwings in a field near Peterborough in S.A. and further on at Port Augusta a Banded Stilt!

After spending a little time at Woomera and Coober Pedy, both interesting places, we continued on to Eridunda where we stayed overnight at a cottage on a cattle property. The owner said that all the birds disappear during the drought and reappear after the rains - "Where do they go" he asked! (They had reduced their number of stock from seven to four thousand at the time)

Following a few days around the "Rock" and adjacent places of interest which were breathtaking we spent a week in the Alice. Our first stop there was the Olive Pink Gardens - I have always been intrigued by the name and discovered that a lady by that name had owned the land there ! On arrival we were greeted by two Red-browed Pardalotes followed by entertainment of three Western Bower birds around a nicely constructed bower .We got within a few feet of the latter to take photographs which was quite exciting!

Alice Springs Desert Park

Mike Morrphet wrote appreciatively of their visit to the Alice Springs Desert Park in the October 2006 edition of the IBOC News. Here are several aboriginal names of birds of woodlands and scrublands in the Uluru National Park. Can you guess or work out what birds they might be in English? Tjintir-tjintirpa, Piyar-piyarpa, Pititjaku-pititjaku, Kurparu, Kalaya, Kirkinpa. Can you match these birds with Willy Wagtail, Galah, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Emu, and Brown Goshawk

We made the trip to Kunoth Well but there was no water and no birds and the same story elsewhere near Alice ! However our visit to the Desert Park was very rewarding. This is several kilometre from the town where there are many different native trees, shrubs, flowers, birds and some animals including the Bilby and Mala. Of course, most of the creatures are in enclosures but some of the aviaries are so full of native shrubs, that the birds appear to be in natural habitat. The "show" is great where birds from the "wild" come in on cue for a handout! These included a Black-breasted Buzzard which was left an Emu egg. It promptly picked up a stone and finally broke the egg for the reward inside !

On leaving the lovely town of Alice we headed north to the Threeways looking in on the wonderful Devils Marbles en route! I enjoyed seeing the western towns of Queensland for the first time along with the many flocks of Budgerigars: those great flashes of green as they rapidly wheeled about us.

After four weeks we arrived back at my family's home south of Gladstone on the Qld central coast having covered over eight and an half thousand kilometres: a lot of desert between waterholes, few new birds but pleased to have seen this part of the country and to arrive home safe and well.

PS. a local sighting - four Dollar Birds on a dead tree near the picnic area of Lake Narrawallee squabbling or courting : two going into a "roll" for about twelve metres toward the ground while we watched. When they left the tree two Rainbow Lorikeets appeared out a hollow just a few feet away so maybe they had taken up the Dollar Bird's nesting sight ?



Code of Birding Ethics

Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (BOCA) states one of its objectives as being:
"To foster ethical bird observing as a social and individual activity directed to benefit Australian birds."

To help achieve this objective, BOCA has adopted the following code:

Birds ...

- ❖ **The welfare of the birds must always have the highest priority**
Do not cause stress to birds or expose them to danger during observation, photography or recording. Do not approach too closely or interfere with their natural behaviour. Try not to put resting birds to flight.
- ❖ **Adjust your behaviour to the location**
Walk slowly, speak quietly, drive cautiously.
- ❖ **Approach nests carefully and do not stay nearby for long periods.**
Your visit may assist predators to find eggs or young & your continued presence may drive the parents away.
- ❖ **Do not harass birds by repeated disturbance**
Accept good distant views of a bird rather than risk causing stress through approaching too closely or putting them to flight. Excessive spotlighting, or repeated playback or imitation of calls can cause stress. Shining spotlights or laser lights directly into bird's eyes is unacceptable. Beating bushes or dragging ropes to flush birds is inappropriate.

Habitat...

- ❖ **Keep habitat disturbance to a minimum**
Where possible, walk or drive on formed roads, tracks and paths to minimise disturbance to bird habitat and to the birds. Avoid disturbance around nests, display areas and roost sites.
- ❖ **Consider the consequences of attracting birds**
Providing food, water or artificial nest hollows can be beneficial, but may, in some situations, expose birds to predation.

People...

- ❖ **Respect the rights of landholders**
Always obtain permission to enter their land. Always leave gates as you found them and do not damage property.
- ❖ **Follow all rules, laws & regulations governing public areas**
- ❖ **In groups, respect the rights of others**
 - Raising your voice or pointing excitedly may cause the bird to fly away or spoil the sighting for others.
 - Consider whether you are blocking other observers and if so, when you have seen the bird, move away to make room for them.
 - Be helpful to beginners and always try to encourage others to appreciate birds.
 - On group outings, the group leader must accept responsibility for enforcing the BOCA Code of Birding Ethics.
 - The leader must take into account the cumulative effect of a number of people approaching a bird.

Remember that all bird observers will be judged by your actions.

September 2007

Application of the Code of Birding Ethics to Photography

Photography can disturb birds

Bird photographers must recognise that their activities are in many instances different from those of bird observers. Typically, a photographer will usually spend more time in close proximity to a bird.

In order to capture the best images photographers may inadvertently:

- move too close to birds;
- spend too much time near birds; and
- intrude on other birds while concentrating on those they wish to photograph.

- ❖ **Nesting sites should not be altered or interfered with in any way**
Usually, photography at a nest should be avoided. It is important to remember the removal of foliage around the nest site is not acceptable. Birds choose nesting sites because of the protection offered; altering the site may result in the elimination of shade or open the nest to predators.
- ❖ **Great care should be taken if birds are to be fed**
The feeding of birds to encourage them into a more 'photogenic' position, should only be practised with the greatest of care. Where feeding a bird may expose it to danger, feeding should be avoided.
- ❖ **The use of temporary hides requires careful consideration**
Birds should not be stressed by the use of a hide. Birds can become accustomed to a hide over a period of days, by gradually moving it into position for photography. Care must be taken to ensure the hide is not so close as to cause disturbance to the bird.
- ❖ **Care needs to be exercised if a flashlight is to be used**
Use of a flashlight may cause birds to be temporarily blinded, putting them at risk. Using a flashlight near a nest may cause birds to abandon the nest or cause the young to fall.
- ❖ **On group outings, the group leader must accept responsibility for enforcing the BOCA Code of Birding Ethics**
The leader must take into account the cumulative effect of a number of people approaching a bird. It may be acceptable for one person to spend 10 minutes photographing a particular bird, but 10 photographers each spending 10 minutes, could cause the bird distress.

Photographers must be aware of the stress caused to birds by their presence and move back at the first indication that a bird is becoming unduly stressed or agitated.

The above points should be read in conjunction with the Code of Birding Ethics.

BIRD SCULPTURES

Just before Christmas a stunning presentation of bird sculptures, made from recycled materials, were on display at the 'ng gallery' in Chippendale. The artist, Jane Gillings, sculptured numerous birds from packing case tape, foam, pieces of plastic and numerous other bits and pieces. Quite extraordinary! Even though these 'birds' were not cheap (Welcome Swallows \$95 to a Barn Owl \$1200) they were so colourful and creative most were snapped up quickly. Some of Jane's birds can be viewed on <http://jane.gillings.com.au/>

Alice Springs Desert Park Answers: Tjintir-tjintirpa is Willy Wagtail, Piyar-piyarpa is Galah, Pititjaku-pititjaku is Pied Butcherbird, Kurparu is Australian Magpie, Kalaya is Emu, and Kirkinpa is Brown Goshawk.

March BIGnet meeting The biannual meeting of the combined birding interest groups will be held on March 21 – 23 at the Wetland Centre in Newcastle with an Advocacy training

Committee News Martin Cocker - President

Your new Committee held its first meeting recently so I thought I would start off this regular spot to keep you up to date on what is happening. Can you remember who was voted in at the last AGM? The Office Bearers are:

President-Martin Cocker
Vice-President-Lorraine Pincus
Treasurer-Bronwyn Wilson
Secretary-Betty Hudson

who are ably supported by Committee Members:

Penny Potter
Jill Molan
Tom Wylie
Anne Cousins

We are very fortunate to start the new year with a completed activity plan for the next twelve months so your Committee is already thinking about 2010! In addition we will be discussing a number of initiatives that have been proposed that include:

- Increasing the frequency of mid week walks.
- Introducing a programme of weekend Field Surveys/Counts
- Re-examining the Newsletter look and style.
- Re-examining the role of the Committee and finding a suitable meeting venue.
- Look for alternative Club meeting venue.

Good Birding!

session for those who are interested in progressing conservation matters. As well other subjects such as data bases, improvements in the function of BIGnet will be discussed. Any one interested in becoming involved in the birding bigger picture can let me know on 4296 2837. Chris Brandis

IBOC Committee. Three small ideas adopted concerning the Committee meeting, are

- 1.Moving the Committee meeting night to the Monday night following the Club meeting ie 3rd Monday of the month
- 2.Having a trial run at meeting at the same place for three months
- 3.Reducing our feast of supper to a Clayton's or Weight-watchers supper

Little Terns Chris Brandis reported that regretfully four Little Tern nests on a sand island at the mouth of the Lake Illawarra estuary had been wiped out. The destruction was caused by winds, vandals, and then the very high king tides just after Christmas.

- Pursue grants for equipment, camping equipment, binoculars, cameras, GPS, presentation equipment, computers
- Introduce Beginners Walks
- Develop a programme of promotional activities.
- Consider brochure distribution and ongoing programme.

In addition the Committee is acutely aware that the Club's success is dependent upon a large number of people who unselfishly give of their time and expertise. The Committee will be actively discussing how all this talent can be used in the most effective manner and how communication between this group and the Committee can be enhanced and maintained.

In discussing these and other issues the Committee wishes to respond to the views of the members so we are always anxious to receive input from you about what the Club should be doing to enhance the range of activities and services that we provide to members and to raise the profile of IBOC and Birding in the local community. I will undertake to keep you informed about Committee developments and matters through this Newsletter, your input and comments are vital and always welcome.



‘And now for something completely different!’ Photo Chris Brandis

This is one of two Laughing Kookaburras that visit the home of Chris and Marlene Brandis. They are mostly white but do not have pink eyes, and therefore are not true albinos, but their eyes are pale as are their feet and beaks. They visit

us from Blackbutt Reserve. I took the photo with my el cheepo, do every thing compact camera.

Newsletters-Save Those Trees!! Martin Cocker

As you await and absorb the contents of this Newsletter give a thought to the amount of preparation, proof reading, printing, packaging and postage that has to get it into your mail box. If a carbon tax was levied to these activities the total cost would be prohibitive! Also the Club’s resources do not extend to regular colour editions so you are often missing out on being able to fully appreciate the photographic content.

Many of you have email facilities and I would strongly urge you to accept delivery by this method. Its quicker, far less expensive for your Club, you will see it in colour and it is dial up friendly being only 600kb. Please email Bronwyn Wilson on Bronwyn.Wilson@SESLAHS.HEALTH.NSW.GOV.AU to convert to this eco friendly method

Interesting and Unusual Sightings will appear in next month’s IBOC News

Of Birds and Poems

John Douglas Pringle

The Scot, John Pringle, came to Australia, shortly after World War II. Pringle was editor of the Sydney Morning Herald, and later editor of the Canberra Times. This essay was published some 35 years ago, in his book, On Second Thoughts, and records his astonishment at seeing the birds of Australia, which we so easily take for granted. The previous section was in IBOC News of May 2008 Issue No 314

I mean to concentrate only on my special favourites. But I cannot leave out all mention of the lyrebird, perhaps the best known, and least seen bird in Australia, whose display, when the cock raises its lyre-shaped tail over its head, and its marvelous powers of song and mimicry have made it famous throughout the world.

When the lyrebird is not displaying it is a quiet sober, pheasant-like bird which lives in the undergrowth of the coastal ranges. But though shy and secretive, it is not as rare as is supposed. Shortly after I arrived in Australia I was taken to see a lyrebird's nest in French's Forest, just above the busy Roseville Bridge, near Sydney, by Alec Chisholm, one of Australia's most distinguished – and kindest – ornithologists. The nest was just beside a little creek overhung with bushes, and we were able to hide quite easily and watch until the hen returned to her nest. She immediately started

to clean the nest of the chick's droppings which she took and dropped into the creek. This ingenious method makes it even more difficult for predators – and ornithologists – to find their nests as the droppings are washed downstream. On another occasion I was boating with my wife and children on the river on Sydney's National Park, just south of the city, when I noticed a lyrebird – a cock this time – feeding on the bank. We allowed the boat to drift in and sat watching it scratching vigorously through some dead leaves a few yards away while other boatloads of picnickers rowed noisily by. The lyrebird hardly looked up.

But alas I have never seen the cock display. To do that one must know their secret places and go at dawn through the dew-soaked forest to watch them. Is it just laziness that I have never gone or can I steal Judith Wright's excuse?

Over the west side of this mountain,
That's lyrebird country.
I could go down there, they say, in the early morning.
And I'd see them, I'd hear them.

Ten years and I have never gone.
I'll never go.
I'll never see the lyrebirds-
The few, the shy, the fabulous,
The dying poets.

I should see them, if I lay there in the dew:
first a single movement
like a waterdrop falling, then stillness,
then a brown head, brown eyes,
a splendid bird, bearing
like a crest the symbol of his art,
the high symmetrical shape of the perfect lyre.
I should hear that master practising his art.

No, I have never gone.
Some things ought to be left secret, alone;
some things – birds like walking fables –
ought to inhabit nowhere but the reverence of the heart.

FOUR ILLAWARRA THORNBILLS

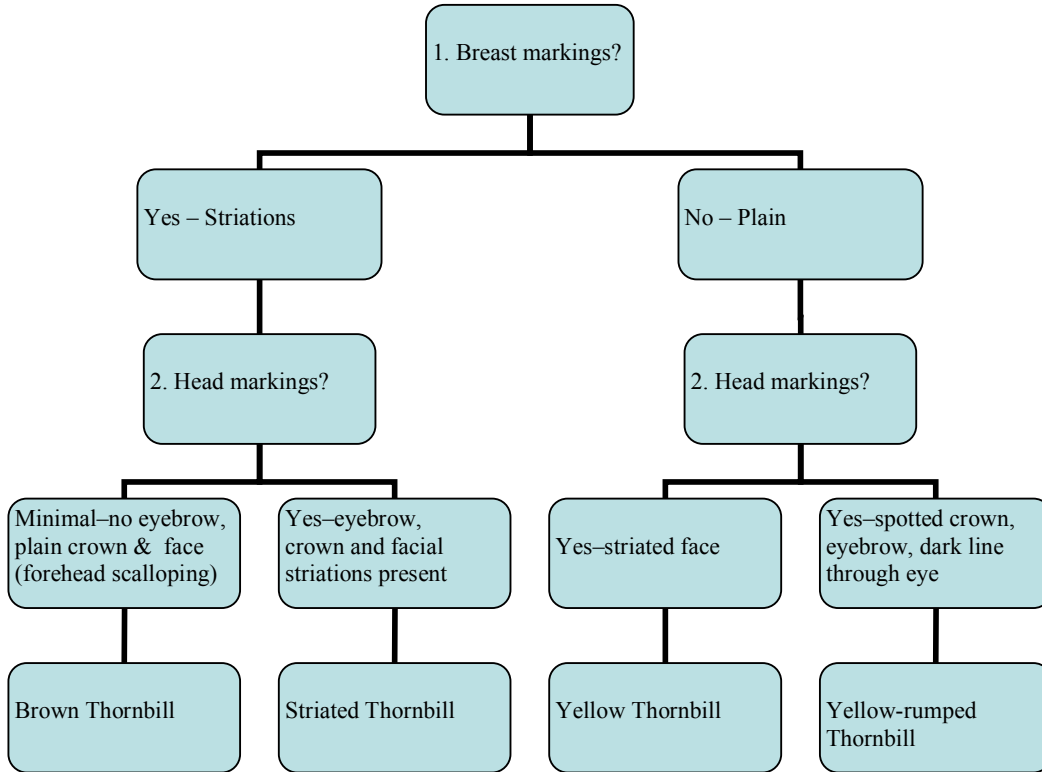
Jill Molan gave the Bird of the Month presentation last November, talking about the identification of four of the Thornbills that occur in the eastern part of the Illawarra. These are the Brown Thornbill, the Striated Thornbill, the Yellow (or Little) Thornbill, and the Yellow-rumped Thornbill.

Identification of all birds depends on a number of features—field marks, call, behaviour and habitat. This presentation concentrated specifically on field marks only and leaves the remaining features to the observer to note in the field.

Jill outlined a simple system using three features for identifying these tricky Thornbills:

1. Breast markings – striated or plain.
2. Head markings – crown, face and eyebrow.
3. Eye colour – dark or pale.

(Jill’s presentation did not go into eye colour because of the limits of time. All four eastern Illawarra Thornbills have dark eyes.)



The step-by-step process of Thornbill identification is outlined in the flow chart above.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - Due 1 Jan 2009

Please print this form, complete and post together with your cheque or Money Order to:
I.B.O.C. PO Box 56 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519

Title	Family Name	Other Name

Telephone Number	E-mail address
[]	

I would like to save IBOC postage costs and the trees for the birds by having my Newsletter delivered by e-mail

Enclosed is a cheque or Money Order for \$35 \$30 \$10 Other amount \$.....
Family Single Student TOTAL