



THE IBOCC

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ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010



Little Tern (Endangered Species)

photo Charles Dove

Description

The Little Tern is mainly white with a dark crown, pale grey back and upperwings. The eye is dark brown. When breeding, the bill is yellow, the crown black with a short, pointed white brow and the black eye-line reaches the bill. In non-breeding plumage, the crown is mottled with white and the bill blackish. The wing tips are two-toned grey to black on the outer primaries (flight feathers). The sexes are similar and immature birds are similar to non-breeding adults with upper wings and back mottled grey and brown. The Little Tern is also known as the Black-lored Tern, the Sea Swallow, or the White-shafted Ternlet.

Similar species

The Little Tern and the Fairy Tern, *S. nereis*, are the two smallest terns in Australia. The Fairy Tern lacks the sharp pointed white brow of the Little Tern when breeding. The Little Tern is also slightly smaller, with two-toned dark to black wing tips, rather than the single-toned grey of the Fairy Tern.

Where does it live?

Distribution

The Little Tern breeds in North America, Eurasia, Western Africa and Australasia and winters in northern South America, Africa, Southern Asia and Australasia. In Australia, it breeds from Tasmania to the Gulf of Carpentaria and has bred in the Coorong and near Adelaide, South Australia. It has been recorded across Northern Australia to Shark Bay, Western Australia.

Habitat

The Little Tern is mainly coastal, being found on beaches, sheltered inlets, estuaries, lakes, sewage farms, lagoons, river mouths and deltas.

Seasonal movements

The Little Tern is migratory. Substantial numbers move north from the far south-east after breeding. In Australia generally, except in the south-west, it is almost exclusively coastal.

What does it do?

Feeding

The Little Tern eats small fish, insects, crustaceans and other invertebrates. It prefers to feed over shallower coastal waters and can hover briefly with the body

horizontal and the bill pointing down, before plunging into the water to catch prey.

Breeding

The Little Tern breeds in small colonies, with each mating pair producing a single brood. The sexes share nest-building, incubation and care of young. The nest is a shallow scrape in sand or shingle, usually just above the high tide mark on sandy shores, and is unlined but often rimmed with fragments of shell or dry seaweed.

Living with humans

The Little Tern is extremely sensitive to human disturbance when breeding and is rapidly declining in numbers and range. Nesting sites are usually located where humans swim, walk, exercise dogs, picnic and drive off-road vehicles. The mere presence of people on the beach may cause these terns to desert their eggs and eventually leave the colony altogether. In New South Wales, where they were once quite common, the breeding population of Little Terns has declined to fewer than 50 pairs and of 30 known breeding sites only a handful have been used since 1970. THE LITTLE TERN HAS BEEN DECLARED AN ENDANGERED SPECIES and the Department of Environment and Conservation is actively promoting its protection.

(information courtesy of Birds in backyards)

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'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'

ILLAWARRA BIRD
OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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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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[Introduction from the 2010 President of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club](#)

Welcome to the first IBOC Newsletter of 2010 which I hope will be another successful year for the Illawarra Bird Observers Club. We surged forward in 2009 and under my Presidency and the continued support of the committee we will aim to continue this momentum. The new editor Charles Dove has taken over the reins of the newsletter and I would like on behalf of all the members of the club to thank him for volunteering for this task, By the same token we cannot let John Cashman's sterling efforts over the last four years go unmentioned in writing. It has not been without it's critics but John has conducted himself in his usual mild, quiet and deeply humorous manner and achieved what many of us would have surely faltered over. Cheers John, now you can spend a bit more time with Robyn.

We have a varied programme of speakers, monthly outings and camps organised for the coming year.

Betty Hudson has again taken the unenviable position of Secretary and Events organiser and I know that arrangements for the Easter Camp are well in hand. Whilst mentioning camps I must congratulate Neil and Tera Wheway for organising what I am sure will be a magnificent foray into the wilds of tropical Queensland and Horne Island in August and September this year. Our thanks also go to Bronwyn Wilson who for many years as Treasurer has guided the clubs sound financial position.

I welcome all re-elected and new members to the 2010 committee and look forward to working with you to continue the work of this great club.

Of course, no club could operate without the support of its members and I look forward to seeing many of you at meetings, outings and functions.

Alan Cousins

[FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES](#)

[New Year Outing](#) **Wednesday 3rd February, 2010 at 5.00 p.m. Windang.** Meet under the pine trees on the north side of Windang estuary, east of the bridge. At Windang take Acacia Street east off Windang Road, then take the second right (south), Waratah Street. Ahead of you should be the combined entrance to Windang Caravan Park and Windang Surf Club. Follow the arrow towards the surf club and meet at the eastern end of the Norfolk Island Pines. This outing gives you a good chance to sort out the waders, terns and gulls that are usually around in good numbers at this time of the year. Bring along your cuppa and a bite to eat after the walk.

[Club Meeting](#) – **Monday 8th February 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall.**
Cnr of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way Fairy Meadow

Guest speaker **John Rawsthorne** – Interaction between Birds & Mistletoe. Mistletoe act as a keystone resource in forest and woodlands worldwide. The variety of creatures that rely on mistletoes for food is truly mind boggling, but high on the list of mistletoe-lovers is birds.

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

[February 2010 Monthly Outing](#): **Saturday 13th February 2010. Shoalhaven Heads / Comerong Island Wetlands**
Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at 8.00am **sharp** in the River Road foreshore carpark at the eastern end, adjoining the Holiday Haven Tourist Park, Shoalhaven Heads.. Travel via Gerringong, Gerroa, Shoalhaven Heads Road. Turn off to the left at the second turning to Shoalhaven Heads (just beyond the speed camera). Take the first on the right (Bailey Rd) and then left again at the end into River Road. Bring eats, drinks etc to carry, also sunscreen & **insect repellent** in case of sandflies. Be prepared to get your feet wet to get close up views of waders/shorebirds and to test your identification skills. The tide will be coming in, with a high tide about 10.00am, pushing the birds up to us. For those who are interested, weather permitting, we may return to the marshes after a walk through the forest and along the beach. This may mean a later than usual finish or if it is very hot we could finish early, returning to the cars for lunch. Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945.

[Next Committee Meeting](#) - Monday 15th February 2010 at 7.30pm – Tom & Joan Wylie 4 Daphne Street Bellambi

[March 2010 Newsletter](#) - Deadline for Articles and **Photos** in the next IBOC newsletter is Friday 19th February 2010
Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Ave. Primbee 2502. Ph:42752383

[ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS](#) - due **1st January** each year: Family \$35.00, Single \$30.00, Junior \$10.00
please pay Bronwyn Wilson Treasurer by cash, cheque or money order.

[APOLOGY](#)

by Bruce Coyte

– I would like to apologies to Ron Imisides and members of IBOC for the number of errors I made in the report on Ron's excellent presentation in the December Newsletter, I have learnt a valuable lesson in paying attention to what I scribble down, please accept my apologies.

I.B.O.C. PROGRAMME 2010 updated shortly on www.iboc.org.au

Month	Action	Date	Speaker/Leader	Venue
January	Bush Camp combined with Birding NSW	22-27.01.10	Jill Molan	Captains Flat
February	Mid week outing	3.02.10	5.00pm	Entrance Lake Illawarra
	Meeting	8.02.10	John Rawsthorne	Birds & Mistletoe
	Outing	Saturday 13.02.10	Betty Hudson 8.00am	Shoalhaven Heads/Comerong Island
March	Meeting	8.03.10	TBA	
	Mid week walk	10.03.10	Terri Edwell & Michelle Rower	Croome Park
	Outing	Sunday 14.03.10	Betty Hudson	RNP Forest Walk + Rainforest section Walumorra Track
April	Mid Week Walk	7.04.10	Alan Cousins	Puckey's Estate
	Autumn Camp	10.04.- 17.04.10	Betty Hudson	Leeton Caravan Park
May	Meeting	10.05.10	Jack Baker	Ground Parrots & Eastern Bristlebirds
	Mid week Walk	12.05.10	Charles Dove	Korrongulla Swamp
	Outing	Saturday 15.05.10	Betty Hudson	Triplarina N.R. and Bens Walk Nowra
June	Meeting	14.06.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	16.06.10	Chris Brandis	Blackbutt Forest
	Outing	Sunday 20.06.10	Wal Emery	Illawarra Escarpment SCA
July	Meeting	12.07.10	Ron Imisides	What we could expect to see on the Cairns to Cape York Trip
	Mid Week Walk	14.07.10	Terrill Nordstrom	TBA
	Outing	Saturday 17.07.10	Betty Hudson	Saddleback Mountain & Jerrara Arboretum
August	Meeting	9.08.10	Caroline Blackmore	White-browed Babblers
	Mid Week Walk	11.08.10	TBA	Moeyan Hill Track Agars Lane Berry
	Outing	Sunday 15.08.10	Betty Hudson	Wirrimbirra Wildlife Sanctuary Bargo & Nepean/Avon Dams
September	Meeting	13.09.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	15.09.10		
	Outing	Saturday 18.09.10	Betty Hudson	Drawing Room Rocks/Bellawongarra To Be confirmed
October	Meeting	11.10.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	13.10.10	Tom Wylie	Cooks Nose Barren Grounds
	Outing	Sunday 17.10.10	Betty Hudson	Abrahams Bosom Currarong
	Spring Camp	23.10.10 to 30.10.10	Betty Hudson	Sandy Hollow To be confirmed
November	Meeting/ AGM	8.11.10	TBA	
	Mid Week Walk	10.11.10	Darryl Goldrick	Killalea Lagoon
	Outing	Saturday 13.11.10	Betty Hudson	TBA
December	Christmas Picnic	Saturday 11.12.10		TBA
	Christmas Meeting	13.12.10		

Outing Tallawarra Ash Ponds 29/11/09

by Jill Molan

Fifteen IBOC members participated in an outing at the Tallawarra Ash Ponds additional to the regular program. In a very full morning, we traversed most of the area included in the Ash Ponds enclosure, along Duck Creek to the edge of Lake Illawarra, then back to our starting point through a large area of woodland and past the water-filled ponds. After lunch, four members returned to a certain point in the Ash Ponds and, after an hour or so of peering, were able to identify three cryptic and secretive crakes skulking in the

reeds, as two Baillon's crane adults with one young. In all, the list for the day included 86 species. No White-fronted Chats were seen, although they are believed to still be present in the Ash Ponds area. Other wonderful highlights included four Australian Shelduck, a scarce nomadic visitor to the Illawarra, a rarely seen Osprey over Lake Illawarra and a well developed eaglet visible in the White-bellied Sea Eagle's nest. Thanks to Chris Brandis and Darryl Goldrick for a very special outing.

Reads from left to right

Brown Quail	Black Swan	Australian Shelduck
Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal	Pacific Black Duck
Hardhead	Australasian Grebe	Crested Pigeon
Darter	Little Pied Cormorant	Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant	Pied Cormorant	Australian Pelican
Eastern Great Egret	Striated Heron	White-faced Heron
Australian White Ibis	Royal Spoonbill	Eastern Osprey
Black-shouldered Kite	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Whistling Kite
Collared Sparrowhawk	Peregrine Falcon	Purple Swamphen
Baillon's Crake	Dusky Moorhen	Eurasian Coot
Black-winged Stilt	Black-fronted Dotterel	Red-kneed Dotterel
Masked Lapwing	Bar-tailed Godwit	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Caspian Tern	Crested Tern	Silver Gull
Galah	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Brush Cuckoo	Laughing Kookaburra
Dollarbird	Superb Fairy-wren	Variegated Fairy-wren
White-browed Scrubwren	Brown Gerygone	Yellow Thornbill
Striated Thornbill	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Brown Thornbill
Striated Pardalote	Eastern Spinebill	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Scarlet Honeyeater	Noisy Miner	Eastern Whipbird
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Rufous Whistler	Grey Shrike-thrush
Grey Butcherbird	Australian Magpie	Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail	Australian Raven	Magpie-lark
Golden-headed Cisticola	Australian Reed-Warbler	Little Grassbird
Silvereye	Welcome Swallow	Fairy Martin
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Common Blackbird	Common Starling
Common Myna	Mistletoebird	Red-browed Finch
House Sparrow	European Goldfinch	

Christmas Bar-B-Q

Photo & Article by Charles Dove

Being the first time that my wife and I attended the Christmas B-B-Q certainly proved an event to keep reserved on our annual calendar. The light hearted and friendly gathering proved to be a very relaxing afternoon. I had the opportunity to lead the group on a bird walk while Tom "THE POM" with Neil Wheway got into cooking up the sausages and rissoles. We did see numerous birds ie, Brown quail, Collared sparrow hawk, Fantail & Bronze cuckoos lots of small birds being the Superb fairy wren, Thornbills etc. Whilst continuing around the park I did notice how quiet things had become; with B-B-Q's aroma drifting over the park I turned around to find the crowd rushing back to BBQ area; 15 minutes ahead of schedule as Tom (the Pom) and Neil had given strict instructions on what time to return. Latter on I found that a few of the members felt the walk was encroaching on their drinking time. Food, People, Atmosphere all great, as well lots of birds around, nothing else you could ask for.



Illawarra Bird Observers Club Christmas Meeting 14th December 2009

by Alan Cousins

It was a great privilege for me to open the 2009 Christmas meeting which had been organised by Brian Hales ably assisted by Barbara (THE PUFFINS) 45 members and guests were present at what turned out to be a very interesting and entertaining evening. The talents of members of the club were certainly in evidence as the evening took shape. The meeting opened with the usual formalities taken care of expediently. Brian assumed control of the evening which contained some great acts including poetry readings by Betty Hudson and Alan Cousins and a skit on the modern navy ably performed by Mark Edwell and his stooge, bird quiz with rhymes by Bill and Joan Zealy, a reading by John Cashman - Bill Shakespeare wants a poet!! we were then presented with

dulcet singing tones of Brian Hales re- a letter to Santa.(John Farnham eat your heart out) Peter Fackener gave us a wonderful review of his exploits in 2009 including the efforts to capture a Willie Wagtail in its nest and a Tawny Frogmouth and friends, this was the followed by another quiz re towns in Oz by Barbara Hales. We were then treated to songs by Robin & John Cashman, Lyndall Dawson, all had funny hats including John's with a beak!. The next item was a musical quiz where Martin Potter show his considerable talents with his electric guitar playing tunes that related to birds. Neil McKinley then followed with a poem re - certain car bogging at a certain camp. The entertainment concluded with a bird quiz from CharlesDove which had some unusual legs as well as parts of birds.

Many thanks again to Bronwyn Wilson's mum (Norma) for the lovely Christmas cake and to all those members and

guests who took part to make this a very successful evening.



Photos by Tera Wheway



BIRD LIST FROM THE BARADINE CAMP



Emu getting ready to drink at Bark Hut Dam Pilliga National Park

Photo & List from Betty Hudson

Bird List 144 species recorded

68 species # were recorded at Camp Cypress and 55 species * in Baradine Township.

Emu	Superb Parrot	Noisy Friarbird#*
Stubble Quail	Crimson Rosella	Little Friarbird#*
Brown Quail	Eastern Rosella#*	Striped Honeyeater#
Australian Wood Duck	Australian Ringneck (Mallee form)#*	Grey-crowned Babbler#*
Grey Teal	Australian Ringneck (Port Lincoln form)	White-browed Babbler
Pacific Black Duck#*	Blue Bonnet	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike#
Hardhead	Red-rumped Parrot#*	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Australasian Grebe	Mulga Parrot	White-winged Triller#*
Rock Dove	Turquoise Parrot#	Crested Shrike-tit#
Common Bronzewing#*	Channel-billed Cuckoo#*	Rufous Whistler#*
Crested Pigeon#*	Black-eared Cuckoo#	Grey Shrike-thrush#
Diamond Dove	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Olive-backed Oriole#*
Peaceful Dove#	Pallid Cuckoo	Masked Woodswallow
Bar-shouldered Dove#*	Brush Cuckoo	White-browed Woodswallow
White-throated Needletail*	Southern Boobook#	Dusky Woodswallow#*
Fork-tailed Swift	Laughing Kookaburra#*	Grey Butcherbird*
Australian Darter	Sacred Kingfisher#*	Pied Butcherbird#*
Little Pied Cormorant	Rainbow Bee-eater#*	Australian Magpie#
Great Cormorant	Dollarbird#*	Pied Currawong#*
Little Black Cormorant	White-throated Treecreeper#*	Grey Fantail*
White-necked Heron	Red-browed Treecreeper	Willie Wagtail#*
Eastern Great Egret	Brown Treecreeper#*	Australian Raven#
White-faced Heron	Spotted Bowerbird	Little Raven#
Australian White Ibis*	Superb Fairy-wren#	Leaden Flycatcher*
Straw-necked Ibis#*	Varigated Fairy-wren	Restless Flycatcher
Royal Spoonbill	Speckled Warbler*	Magpie-lark#*
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Weebill	White-winged Chough#*
Black-shouldered Kite#*	White-throated Gerygone	Apostlebird#*
Square-tailed Kite*	Yellow Thornbill#	Jacky Winter#
Whistling Kite	Yellow-rumped Thornbill#	Red-capped Robin#
Brown Goshawk	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Hooded Robin
Spotted Harrier	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin#*
Wedge-tailed Eagle*	Inland Thornbill	Horsfield's Bushlark
Nankeen Kestrel#*	Spotted Pardalote#	Rufous Songlark#
Brown Falcon#*	Striated Pardalote#	Brown Songlark
Australian Hobby	Eastern Spinebill#	Silvereye#*
Peregrine Falcon	Yellow-faced Honeyeater#	Welcome Swallow#
Black-tailed Native-hen	White-eared Honeyeater#	Fairy Martin*
Dusky Moorhen	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Tree Martin#
Masked Lapwing#*	Fuscous Honeyeater	Common Blackbird*
Latham's Snipe	White-plumed Honeyeater#*	Common Starling
Galah#*	Noisy Miner#*	Mistletoebird
Little Corella	Yellow-throated Miner*	Double-barred Finch#
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo#*	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater#*	Red-browed Finch
Cockatiel#	Red Wattlebird	Diamond Firetail
Musk Lorikeet*	Black Honeyeater#	House Sparrow#
Australian King-Parrot	Brown-headed Honeyeater*	Australasian Pipit
Red-winged Parrot*	Blue-faced Honeyeater#*	White Winged Wren



Poetry Brought to Life by Bird Pics

BigRuss a long time friend has been inspired by some of my bird photos he has seen lately.

Photo by Charles Dove



My name is Billy Blue-wren, and I'm variegated
 There's some that say I'm superb, I think that's pretty true
 I'm a flutterer & flitterer, I hop & jump around
 I flut & flit through the bushes, and often on the ground
 But unless I've been cuck-lded, then I can prove them wrong
 I am a great polygamist, of wives, well I've got many
 But I don't fancy any bird, they must be called Jenny
 And there's people who have cameras, with lots of time to kill
 Who try to take my photo, but I never will keep still
 And if you'd like to see me, well it really isn't hard
 Just rid yourself of pussy cats-
 And we'll visit in your yard

Billy Blue Wren AKA Bigruss Dec 09



Tawny Frogmouths

seemed to be everywhere in 2009 nesting in the City, Caravan Parks & Schools unperturbed by the hustle and bustle of traffic & people or just out the wild distanced from general civilisation.

These Tawny Frogmouths in our backyard are now 4 Tawny Frogmouths. This nest is in the Camphor Laurel tree. M. Newsham

Pics by Mark Newsham & supplied by Val Dolan



Photo by Charles Dove

I am a Ruddy Turnstone, and the food for which I've yearned,
 I get by turning over stones, I leave no stone unturned
 When overturning stones I find, the food I love to eat,
 Like crustaceans, worms and carrion, a real stoneturner treat.
 I live up in the artic North amid the frozen tundra,
 But like to spend my winters in the great brown land down under.
 I flew into the country, it was a non-commercial flight,
 So don't have any papers, I have to keep right out of sight,
 So if you spot me turning over stones, please don't dob on me,
 I couldn't stand detention, I'm a bird who should be free.
 I intend to get a passport with this picture stuck in
 But it makes me look Siamese, they think I'm a twin,
 The picture seems to indicate that I'm joined at the legs,
 It must be photo-shopped of course, or I never could lay eggs

Ruddy Turnstone AKA bigruss Dec 09

Logrunner Survey Bulli 27/9/09

A very keen group of members braved gale force winds to participate in a Logrunner Survey in Bulli, ably led by Joan Wiley. We walked up the track to the north of the Grevillea Park. Difficult as it was to hear anything over the wind, we did manage to find 33 species and have a very enjoyable walk. The cryptic and elusive Logrunners that were the object of the outing were true to form and showed only glimpses of themselves to a few of us, while the rest of us

by Jill Molan

watched hopefully without success. Two birds were seen at a point where they had been seen before beside the track uphill of the Grevillea Park. Further along the track a single bird was heard to call quite close by, and although it did not show itself, it made a total of three Logrunners for the walk. Two good sightings for the day were a pair of Black-faced Monarchs, returning from their northward migration, and a white phase Grey Goshawk.

Wader Survey Windang 7/10/09

A small group of IBOC members scanned the shorelines at Windang to see what migrants had arrived on the nominated morning of the month for the survey. It was a day of some unusual sightings for us. Five terns roosting with the Crested Terns caused quite a lot of discussion as we tried to determine their identity. It was later concluded from photos taken that they were Common Terns which are not common at Windang, however do occur here as summer migrants, arriving with the waders. No Double-banded Plovers were present as they are now in New Zealand for their breeding season. A visit to Whyjuck Bay revealed 2 Common Greenshanks, 3 Royal Spoonbills in spectacular breeding plumes,

by Jill Molan

and a Little Egret doing its dance, among others. We moved on to Purry Bury Point where we saw, among a group of 10 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, a single Grey-tailed Tattler and a Pacific Golden Plover. Nearby were 4 Whiskered Terns and another tern which was later identified by photo to be a White-winged Black Tern, a scarce summer migrant.



*White-winged Black Tern
 Photo By Charles Dove*

Wader Survey Windang 8/11/09

by Jill Molan

This month's wader survey was undertaken by a small group of IBOC members, a visitor from Florida, and two visitors from the Blue Mountains Bird Observers. The Red-capped Plovers continue in good numbers as in the past (30) and 9 Red-necked Stints were seen. Bar-tailed Godwits were present at three sites, with 6 Red Knots mixed with the flock at

one site. Two Common Greenshank were again present at Whyjuck Bay. From the breakwater at Windang a number of shearwaters were seen flying over the sea, however it was not possible to identify them. The shorebird observations will be lodged with the Shorebirds 2020 national project.

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW & ACT TWITCHATHON 2009 PRIZEWINNERS

Most of Prize Winners for the Twitchathon 2009 have now been decided and the big news is that it is expected that \$23,000 has been raised for this year's project "Monitoring the Important Bird Areas of western NSW" partly through the use of volunteers. The Winners of the Main Race were the **Menacing Monarchs** (Robert McDonald & Michael Kearns) who with 247 species, were well ahead of the 2nd place getters in the Main Race, the **Hunter Home Brewers** (Mick & Steve Roderick & Craig Anderson) who saw 234 species. The Prize for the team with the lowest ratio of kms travelled per bird seen (minimum 180 species, excluding 1st & 2nd place getters), went to the **Raven On** team (Matt Hinze, Amelia Marshall, Tony Bischoff, Ethan Marshall & Henry Siems) who saw 181 species and were in the Twitch for the first time.

Winners of the Champagne Race were the **Varied Wrenegades** (Chis & Liz Herbert, Robert & Janeen Greig) with 197. The Champagne Race 2nd Prize went to the **Crested Shrike-twits** (Lorna Mee, Paul Baird & Jim Smart) with 169 species. The Prize for the team with the lowest ratio of kms travelled per bird seen in the Champagne Race went to the **Warbler Specklers** (Frances Czwarlina, Andrew Patrick and Cathy Goswell) with 131 species. Independent expert Dion Hobcroft chose the Painted Snipe seen at Dubbo as the "Rarest Bird", by Frank Hemming of the **Bumbling Bee-eaters**; The Biggest Dip Prize went to Greg Clancy of the **Black-necked Stalkers** whose team saw a Black Noddy moments before the start of the Twitch but the bird could not be found at 4 pm!. The Lucky Twitchers Prize was won by Greg Dowd of the **Liarbirders Team**. This prize was drawn from the hat at a Birding NSW Central Coast Group activity by a Non Twitcher!

In the Childrens Section, Little Curlews Division, the **Pigeon Pair** team of Sophia & Sam Heinsohn won with 71 species and took out the prize for the most funds raised, while in the Dollarbirds Division, the **Red-necked Dorks** (Liam Trice & Brad Bolt) with 130 species, won the prize over the **Dubbo Ducks** (Eliza, Alice and Henry Smidt-Geering) who saw 97 species but Eliza took out the prize for the most funds raised in the Dollarbird Section.

The Winner of the Prize for the Most Funds Raised was David Eldridge, from the **Bumbling Bee-eaters** Team, and he raised \$3,154.50. This is a great effort by David and his team, as this is the first time that any of the team members have taken part in the Twitchathon. It is not possible at this stage to say who took out second place as it is too close to call, as the likely winners are both

members of the same team, **Chicks with Altitude** (Carol Probet, Tiffany Mason and Fiona Lumsden), and the money is not yet received.

Finally as we have done so well both financially this year and in the numbers of participants, that it was decided to award two more prizes! The first is for a prize for the team that travels under 100 kms and sees over 100 species. The **Red-faced Parrots** (Judy Harrington, Charlie Andres and Jon Irvinve), travelled 16 kms mostly on foot and on bicycle and saw 101 species! I believe that that their efforts are worthy of recognition! Secondly, I believe that it worthwhile to recognise the team each year that raises the most money. Accordingly I have awarded this prize to the **Chicks with Altitude** because of the fine effort that they have done to raise their money. In the past it was possible for a team to raise the most money but receive no recognition because no individual team member raised sufficient funds to win a prize. I believe that both the person that raises the most money and the team that raises the most money should receive some recognition for their efforts!

A big thank you to our major sponsors, the Binocular & Telescope Shop at Glebe, Swarovski Binoculars, Alison Green T-Shirts, Andrew Isles (Booksellers), Fred Van Gessel Professional Wildlife Sounds, Llansallos B & B Capetee Valley, Chorleywood B & B Moss Vale, Undercliff Wines Wollombi and Fivebough & Tuckerbil Wetland Trust, and a special thanks to all the team members and their sponsors too for making this, a most successful twitch!

Clubs should be putting their thinking caps on for Twitch 2010 and give consideration to proposing the bird conservation project for which the Sponsorship Funds can be directed. Each alternate year, the Clubs who enter teams can submit proposals to the organiser, and he will bring forward a recommendation to the next BIGnet Meeting which will be held in Sydney on 10-11 April 2010. Please contact the organiser direct if you have a proposal

Alan Morris.
NSW & ACT Twitchathon Co-ordinator



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Over the Little Tern breeding season (Oct-Mar) local volunteers are needed to help with the fencing and monitoring the Windang colony of Little terns. The number of eggs and chicks are counted regularly, signs and fences installed and repaired as well as threats to the colony are identified. You will meet like-minded people and contribute to the conservation of the beautiful beach nesting bird.

For more information,
please contact *Kylie McClelland* on 9585 6691

The Lake Illawarra entrance at Windang is the only place in the Illawarra used by the Little Tern for nesting.



Birds

A bird in a tree
A bird in a birdhouse
A bird in a cage
A bird in a house
I like birds!

Blue birds,
Yellow birds,
White birds,
Black birds,
Any kind of bird.
I like birds

Cute birds.
Ugly birds.
Poor birds,
Hungry birds,
Born birds,
Sleeping birds.
I like birds!

(anonymous author)

BASNA 2010 AGM & Symposium “Birds and the Hunter”

BASNA 2010 AGM & Symposium “Birds and the Hunter” will be held on the 20th March in the Lecture Theatre, Hunter Valley Grammar School, Norfolk St, Ashtonfield 2323 (Ashtonfield is a locality of Maitland). Hunter Bird Observers Club will be hosting the event.

There will be an outing to Walka Recreational and Wildlife Reserve on Sunday 21st March. On the outskirts of Maitland, Walka Recreational and Wildlife Reserve was the site of Newcastle’s first permanent drinking water supply. It is a very well known birdwatching location in the Hunter Region. All three Grebe species occur there -- Great Crested and Hoary-headed Grebes sometimes in large numbers. Most duck species are regularly recorded at Walka and it is the most likely place to see Blue-billed Ducks in the Hunter Region. Crakes and Rails are often seen at the muddy margins in the quieter parts of the lake and many woodland birds are also regularly sited in the area.

The AGM flyer and registration form can be downloaded from the Birds Australia website here:

<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/images/stories/calendar/BASNA-AGM-rego-sm.pdf>

or you can request a registration form by contacting BASNA office on 02 9647 1033 or email basna@birdsaustralia.com.au

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Birds Australia – Southern NSW & ACT
Birds Australia Discovery Centre
Newington Armory, Building 133, 1 Jamieson Street
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127
Ph: (02) 9647 1033
Email: basna@birdsaustralia.com.au

www.birdsaustralia.com.au

The Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre has just released research exploring bird-watching tourism in Australia. The research - ***Practices, needs and attitudes of bird-watching tourists in Australia*** included an extensive survey of national and international bird-watchers. Tour operators and accommodation providers who support this niche tourism sector also contributed to the research. The report has delivered a more comprehensive overview of bird-watching tourism in Australia by:

- Investigating the diversity and common features amongst bird-watching tourists
- Determining what bird-watchers most want to see and do in Australia
- Investigating the role of the tourism industry in bird-watching
- Investigating bird-watchers’ opinions and practices in relation to conservation

Researchers have presented 18 key findings which will be of interest to bird-watching tourism destinations, tourism operators and niche tourism government departments

For more information

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www.crctourism.com.au

MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS-October 2009*Compiled by Martin Cocker*

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brush Turkey	1 F Laying	26-Oct	Keiraville Pre-School	Garden	Mary Eskdale
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	20-Oct	Russell Vale	Urban	Julia Veltrop
Grey Goshawk	2	13-Oct	Bellambi Lagoon	Overhead	Julia Veltrop
Buff-banded Rail	1	15-Oct	Brooks Creek Kanahooka	Riparian	Gleniss Wellings
Buff-banded Rail	1	31-Oct	Tallawarra Ash Ponds	Marsh	Penny and Martin Potter
Sooty Oystercatcher	1	30-Oct	Towradgi Beach	Beach	Julia Veltrop
Spectacled Monarch	6	Early October	Balgownie	Bush	Terry Edwell

MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS-NOVEMBER 2009*Compiled by Martin Cocker*

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brush Turkey	2 Chicks	Nov	Balgownie	Bush	Terry Edwell
Brush Turkey	3F 1 M	15-Nov	Mt. Keira	Garden/Bush	Val Dolan
Brown Quail	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Shelduck	4	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Tawny Frogmouth	1 A 3 Y	14-Nov	Mt. Keira	Garden/Bush	Val Dolan
White-necked Heron	1	01-Nov	West Dapto		Bruce O'Brien
White-necked Heron	1	15-Nov	Silos Winery Nr. Berry	Farmland	Penny and Martin Potter
Striated Heron	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Eastern Osprey	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Whistling Kite	1	05-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds	Overhead	Joshua Coyte
Whistling Kite	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Collared Sparrowhawk	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Grey Goshawk	1 White Morph	08-Nov	Mt. Ousley	Forest	Terrill Nordstrom
Grey Goshawk	1	22-Nov	Russell Vale	Urban	Julia Veltrop
Swamp Harrier	1	01-Nov	Foxground	Farmland	Bruce O'Brien
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	08-Nov	Tallawarra. Lake Illawarra Foreshore	Overhead	Joshua Coyte
Little Eagle	1	08-Nov	Mt. Ousley	Forest	Terrill Nordstrom
Brown Falcon	1	08-Nov	Tallawarra	Paddock	Joshua Coyte
Hobby	1	01-Nov	Windang	Estuary	Penny and Martin Potter
Peregrine Falcon	1	16-Nov	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Peregrine Falcon	1	15-Nov	Thirroul	Overhead	Richard Miller
Peregrine Falcon	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Baillon's Crake	2A 1F	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Red-kneed.Dotterel	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Ruddy Turnstone	4	01-Nov	Woonona Beach	Rock Platform	Nerida Hudspith
Ruddy Turnstone	1	05-Nov	Coniston Beach	Shoreline	David Winterbottom
Sanderling	1	04-Nov	Lake Conjola Entrance	Estuarine	Alan Morris
Curlew Sandpiper	5	16-Nov	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Estuarine	Charles Dove
Painted Button-quail	1	30-Nov	Bellawongarah	Rainforest	Carla Jackett
Little Tern	2	08-Nov	Windang	Estuarine	Jill Molan & IBOC
Little Tern	60	04-Nov	Lake Conjola Entrance	Estuarine	Alan Morris
Little Tern	4	07-Nov	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Penny and Martin Potter

Common Tern	2	04-Nov	Lake Conjola Entrance	Estuarine	Alan Morris
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	1	08-Nov	Fitzroy Falls	Woodland	Richard Miller
Musk Lorikeet	15+	03-Nov	Croome Reserve Albion Park	Parkland	Anthony Rutter
Brush Cuckoo	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Dollarbird	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Dollarbird	1-2	Nov	Thirroul	Overhead	Richard Miller
White-fronted Chat	3	07-Nov	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Penny and Martin Potter
Scarlet Honeyeater	2	29-Nov	Mangrove Boardwalk, Huskisson	Mangrove	Penny and Martin Potter
Scarlet Honeyeater	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Rufous Whistler	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Fairy Martin	Present	29-Nov	Tallawarra Ash Ponds		IBOC
Plum-headed Finch	1	22-Nov	Cordeaux Heights	Garden	David Price

MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS -DECEMBER 2009

Compiled by Martin Cocker

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brown Quail	2	12-Dec	Byarong Creek	Creek/underbrush	Bill Zealey
Striated Heron	1	12-Dec	Kanahooka Point	Lake Shore	Peter Fackender
Eastern Osprey	1	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Swamp Harrier	1	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Buff-banded Rail	2A 5F	07-Dec	Thirroul	Garden	Dr. Ann Young/ M. Morphett
Pied Oystercatcher	1	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Pacific Golden Plover	96	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Red Knot	2	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Whiskered Tern	4	04-Dec	Purry Burry Point Primbee	Lake Shore	Charles Dove
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	1	14-Dec	Figtree	Feeding in tree	Lorraine Pincus
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	12-Dec	Budderoo Fire Trail	Woodland	Betty Hudson
Dollarbird	1	20-Dec	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Noisy Pitta	2	21-Dec	Rodway Nature Reserve via Irvines Road	Rainforest	Carla Jackett
Spectacled Monarch	Nesting	December	Balgownie	Bush	Terry Edwell

Happy New Year! I have prepared reports for the last months of the year so this wraps up 2009. We have some very interesting sightings, a first for the Illawarra is the sighting by David Price of the Plum-headed Finch at Cordeaux Heights-keep a lookout for this bird. The breeding Spectacled Monarch in Balgownie, a rare summer migrant, is this the Illawarra's first breeding record? Another pair of Noisy Pitta's have been sighted on a private property in the Bellawongarah district, further evidence of this species southwards drift and the sighting of the Baillon's Crake with young at Tallawarra capped off a good year of sightings for crakes and rails. If you would like a copy of all of 2009 sightings, in Excel, then drop me a line. Looking forward to your 2010 sightings!

Many thanks for all your records! 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. Good Birding!