



extensive experience over there in bird watching, outback driving and camping, and in taking part in various bird and mammal surveys. It's nice to have you with us.

### **Bits and...**

Grevillia Park at Bulli will be open over the weekends July 22-23 and July 29-30. As well as seeing spectacular grevillias, you can also buy various native plants, and there are always plenty of birds to see. (See Mike Morphet's article) The park is located behind Bulli showground. Turn west from Princes Highway into Grevillia Park Rd, which is a little to the north of the shops on the highway at Bulli. There is a small entrance charge.

## **A Voyage To Antarctica: In The Footsteps Of Shackleton and Scott**

**Monday, 12th June, 2006**

**Val Dolan**

In spite of the holiday weekend and a very crisp night a considerable audience turned out to enjoy Tera and Neil Wheway's presentation. Leaving Bluff Harbour on the south island of New Zealand, in February, 2005, on board the Russian ship 'Spirit of Enderby', they sailed due south. Life on board was busy with informative daily lectures, five star quality meals and careful supervision of environmental protocols before and after going ashore. Neil experienced some frustration that information about the ship was all in Russian. Tera's interest in bird life led to a rewarding collaboration with a British twitcher, who had enjoyed the January trip so much that he returned for a repeat performance.

First port of call was sub Antarctic Campbell Island where nesting Albatross provided magnificent photo opportunities. One bird even stood to stretch, revealing its single egg. Albatross seen on the journey were Wandering, Royal, Black Browed and Grey Headed. At the Cape Adare landfall to inspect an historic hut many Adelie Penguins were still around. Sadly these remaining birds would not survive the encroaching winter. Already Skuas had killed many and their bloodied bodies littered the area. A happier encounter with Emperor Penguins occurred at McMurdo Sound. For half an hour these amusing animals slid on the ice, rolled in the sea, chattered to each other until chased from the shore by the arrival of a pair of Killer Whales.

Our intrepid adventurers made their way ashore in precarious conditions, trekked single file over frozen sea ice, aroused the unwelcome interest of Sealions, explored islands in pouring rain and seemingly enjoyed every minute of it! Tera compiled a list of 40 birds sighted including the Tomtit, Bellbird, Red Crowned Parakeet, Kelp Gull, South Polar and Northern Skua, Yellow Eyed Penguin and Cape and Antarctic, Snow and Wilson's Storm Petrel.

Peter Nolan thanked the Wheways for their most interesting account of their journey and many of us went home vicariously living the experience .

**Macquarie Rivulet Walk. Wednesday 14 June 2006**

**Terry Edwell**

There was plenty of sunshine and plenty of birds for our Macquarie Rivulet walk. Nineteen of us met at Barbara and Brian Hale's home. Their backyard overlooks Illawarra Lake and is an excellent place to see water birds. A grassy reserve had plenty of other birds flying in and around, including a White-bellied Sea-eagle being attacked by ravens.

As we walked we were met with a raucous chorus from the neighboring dogs. Some interesting green parrots are breeding in the reserve. They are probably Indian Ringnecks. Barbara told us there were only two at the start (obviously a pair), and now, a couple of years later, there are nine ! In the same area we were lucky to see White-fronted Chats.

During morning tea, in Barbara's backyard, we watched numerous honeyeaters, mainly New Hollands, take nectar from a banksia shrub. It was a good example of how to encourage birds into the yard. If anyone would like to plant one it is Banksia Spinulosa: a small shrub with upright orange bottle brushes. That is according to my Native Plants book.

We then walked along the pathway on the banks of the rivulet. We saw male and female Darters, drying off their outstretched wings, a Striated Heron, two beautiful Azure Kingfishers, and various water birds. Further along a Rose Robin flittered among the casuarinas showing off his bright little breast. Others saw his little mate. Following up a strange noise which I thought at first was coming from one of the factories along there, we discovered a male Restless Flycatcher. It sounded just like someone sharpening a knife on a steel. It was the strangest noise for a bird so small. He was only a couple of feet off the ground, flying from bush to bush, doing what he was supposed to do – catching flies

A very enjoyable day. Thanks Barbara and fellow bird watchers. It's always a wonderful opportunity to meet together with people of like mind, and enjoy watching our feathered friends in the great outdoors.

### Bird Sightings

Black Swan	Silver Gull	Golden Whistler
Pacific Black Duck	Spotted Turtledove	Restless Flycatcher
Australasian Grebe	Crested Pigeon	Magpie-lark
Chestnut Teal	Galah	Grey Fantail
Darter	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Willie Wagtail
Little Pied Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Australian Pelican	Eastern Rosella	Australian Magpie
White-faced Heron	Azure Kingfisher	Australian Raven
Great Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Satin Bowerbird
Striated Heron	White-browed Scrubwren	House Sparrow
Nankeen Night Heron	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Red-browed Finch
Australian White Ibis	Yellow Thornbill	European Goldfinch
Royal Spoonbill	Red Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Whistling Kite	Little Wattlebird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	White-plumed Honeyeater	Silvereve
Purple Swampphen	New Holland Honeyeater	Common Starling
Dusty Moorhen	Eastern Spinebill	Common Myna
Black-winged Stilt	White-fronted Chat	
Masked Lapwing	Rose Robin	

### ...Pieces

\* Great Truths for adults: 1. Wrinkles don't hurt. 2. Families are like fudge...mostly sweet but with a few nuts. 3. Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside. 4. Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, and not the toy! the Corrimal Garden Club Newsletter

### Two Twitchers

**Bob Ashford**

I've been painting the house lately. Wobbling at the top of very long ladders, scraping, filling and 'cutting in.' It's scary stuff and even on cool days my nerves have kept the perspiration flowing. Guiding me through my apprenticeship has been Brian (Hale). He's a Master Painter and a local birder of some renown. He was President of the Illawarra Bird Club for ten years, and is known in the Club as 'The Puffin Man.'

He's a Yorkshireman from Hull. I'm a Yorkshireman from Leeds. The painting might have gone a little slower than expected, but 'By Lad! We've 'ad a couple o' grand weeks!' I have learned a lot about painting, though you'd never know by the state of my shorts and kneecaps! But mostly both of us have spent hours reliving our Yorkshire youth. We didn't know each other back then, but we knew where to find birds in Yorkshire.

We both spent days and nights ploughing through the mudflats at Spurn Point at the mouth of the Humber River looking at thousands and thousands of waders, or hanging over the edge of the frighteningly high cliffs at Bempton looking at thousands of nesting Guillemots, Razorbills and especially, Puffins. These are all members of the Auk family and are only found in the northern hemisphere. In our hemisphere we have penguins, of which the world's smallest, the Fairy Penguin, you might occasionally see off the beaches near Berry.

As we slowly painted our way round the dodgy bits on the roof Brian's professional advice would often be interrupted by a shadow passing overhead. 'It's a Pacific (heron)! It's a Wedgie (eagle)!' Paint dried on the brush as we put names to birdsongs and tried to distinguish between the calls of the Large-billed Scrubwren and the White-browed Scrubwren. 'O, it were grand !'

Our tea breaks were full of birding war stories and Brian's passion for Puffins. Brian's birding prowess developed more after he settled in Australia, but every trip to the UK includes Bempton Cliffs! His home is named 'Puffin Place,' and is filled with Puffin memorabilia – door stops, paintings, mugs, ties, plates, tea-towels, stamps, coasters, figurines, peg-bags, teapot stands – you name it, he's got it with a Puffin on it.

Our wives argue that we are obsessive birders, verging on the psychotic! This is ridiculous when you consider some of the birders Brian and I have known. On a scale of 1 to 10, we may be 7's, whereas the totally obsessed are 10. You'll recognize a 10 instantly, far outponging the stench of a packed heronry, and their conversational skills, about as monotonous as a Black Duck's 'quack, quack, quack!' 10's do know about birds though and typically are far more involved with the science of birding. But would you want one as a friend?

All Brian's bird banter inspired me to visit Shoalhaven Heads to see one of my favourite birds, a perky wader called the Golden Plover. As a kid they filled the fields behind our house and the mud flats at Spurn Point. These are very cosmopolitan birds and regularly migrate between hemispheres. My Yorkshire 'Goldies' bred in Scotland and Scandinavia. Our Berry 'Goldies' nest in the Siberian Tundra and Alaska, and over the next few weeks that's where they will be heading.

They are at their peak physically now and look stunning in their sparkling golden breeding plumage. This northern migration has a distinct air of urgency about it. Once the birds take off they will fly almost non-stop at a steady 100 k/hour for 7 -9 days to get to their breeding sites. Early arrivals get the best mates and breeding sites. The return southern migration is far more leisurely. They arrive back here in September and October having stopped over along the coasts of China and Asia. Some brave ones take the direct route over the Pacific and miraculously find, in the middle of this vast ocean, tiny islands to rest on. I'll be there to wave them off. I'll miss them when they are gone and I'll be there on the mudflats to welcome them back.

Meanwhile if you meet me in town, and I am a bit scruffy and smelly it's because Brian and I have been busy painting and undertaking important scientific research. Really!

This article appeared in the *Berry Town Crier* March 2006



On the Macquarie Rivulet Walk, Barbara, John, Sylvia, Neil and Robyn earnestly discuss the theory of bird watching ? while Graham puts theory into practice, *Photo: Tera Wheway*

## SLACKY FLAT PARK

Mike MORPHETT

Bulli Grevillea Park Open Day on 30 April gave me a good opportunity to explore the escarpment slopes and part of the Bulli Colliery area beyond the west gate. A narrow path running left off the main track beside a 'no camping' clearing took me up to the end of a very short street, Seymour Street, which runs off Cope Place, accessed from Hospital Road. Back on track I soon reached Slacky Creek; little water running after the minimal rainfall over the past five weeks in the northern suburbs. Nearby Logrunners were calling in the undergrowth. Like most walkers that morning, I proceeded along the Vine Forest Walk in a clockwise direction. Before completing the loop, I turned left through a purposely made fence gap and soon hit a mountain bike track. A right turn brought me out into a wide open grassy area. Back over towards the creek I could hear Crested Shrike-tits and soon located a pair foraging and making a wider range of contact calls than I'd been accustomed to; I later read in Pizzey & Knight of the birds' mimicry. The female came very close in response to my imitation. After a brief look at the remnants of mining constructions, I headed back into the timber and up the slope and followed two separate bike tracks, one obviously disused and which brought me near the Scenic Reserve area. With the additional access I can recommend Slacky Flat Park for a Wednesday morning walk, particularly during the months of October through to March for the seasonal bush bird visitors to add to the 'stayers' I recorded:

Wonga Pigeon  
Rainbow Lorikeet  
Crimson Rosella  
White-throated Treecreeper  
Spotted Pardalote  
White-browed Scrubwren  
Brown Gerygone  
Brown Thornbill  
Little Wattlebird

Lewin's Honeyeater  
Yellow-faced Honeyeater  
New Holland Honeyeater  
Eastern Spinebill  
Eastern Yellow Robin  
Logrunner  
Crested Shrike-tit  
Golden Whistler

Grey Shrike-thrush  
Grey Fantail  
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike  
Grey Butcherbird  
Pied Currawong  
Satin Bowerbird  
Red-browed Finch  
Red-whiskered Bulbul  
Silveryeye

## Good Grief !

A student who has been taking an incredibly gruelling ornithology class comes in for the final identification exam and finds that the professor has set out the legs of different species of

birds for them to identify. This is the last straw as far as the student is concerned and he proceeds to storm out of the classroom proclaiming, "That's it! I refuse to take this exam!" The professor upon hearing this calls out to the student as he is storming out the door "Hey you! What is your name?" The outraged student, chuckling, pulls up his pant leg and replies "take a look at this leg, and you tell me!"

## **Bird Interest Group meeting in Griffith**

**Chris Brandis**

I represented the Club at the March BIGnet meeting which was hosted by the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalist Club in Griffith and very well hosted by their members indeed. The meeting was held in a Dept. of Primary Industry conference room surrounded by gardens and fruit trees with catering carried out by the host members featuring much of the local produce, fresh and delicious.

BIGnet is a loose group of the birding groups in NSW and ACT and loosely aligned with Birds Australia and Bird Observers Club of Australia, which promotes cooperation between the clubs and assists in data sharing, problem solving and conservation issues raised by individual clubs or those affecting Australian birds. This included progress on access to McGraths Hill STW, the function of the Environmental Defenders Office, water allocations to the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir wetlands, travelling stock routes, membership of the National Conservation Council and Important Bird Areas.

Kylie McClelland from the Dept. of Environment and Conservation gave us an overview of the Departments restructuring, how the NSW Recovery and Threat Abatement Planning and Priorities Action Statement, PAS, tied in with Recovery Plans, Key Threatening Processes, Threat Abatement Plans that lead to the Priorities Action Statement, PAS, for the species most under threat. The PAS captures all the actions in one place and can be used by Catchment Management Authorities, Local Govt. Authorities and State Govt. Departments and can be viewed on the DEC website [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au). On this site you will be able to search for the actions relevant for specific species, threat or area. This should help define what should be done and who should be responsible for doing it and the structuring was very enlightening.

We were entertained with a BBQ on Saturday evening tasting some of Bill Moller's very good home brew wine, using local grapes of course, making a very convivial evening.

Sunday morning was spent discussing the Memorandum of Understanding between the clubs to make clubs more efficient and effective, a search for a new coordinator, guidelines for conducting field trips raised by PL insurance concerns, the future direction of BIGnet, a proposed Bird Expo in Newcastle and a Fivebough Birding and Nature Fair by the local group, and arranging the next meeting in September, probably in Sydney.

It is very interesting representing the Club at these meetings and anyone can attend and get to understand a little of what goes on behind the scenes to keep birding an active and available interest as well as meeting many of the interesting driving forces behind clubs.

Of course I took the opportunity to do some birding on the way at sites like Ingalba NR, Cocoparra NP, Binya SF and a quick visit to Ooolambeyan NP, which has only just been opened but still requires guiding information to navigate the numerous farm tracks. Saw some nice birds like Blue-winged Parrots, Black Honeyeater and Black-chinned Honeyeater as well as lots of White-browed and Masked Woodswallows playing as honeyeaters in the flowering mistletoe.

## Korrungulla Swamp Primbee Forest Walk 17 June 2006 Jill Molan

A group of about 20 of us set out to walk around the Korrungulla Swamp Primbee Forest Walk. The bird life in the wetland was abundant, with 39 species in all being seen at the swamp during the morning. A large rookery had Pied and other cormorants busily engaged in breeding activity, not at all concerned about our proximity. Some birds were still building nests with fresh green leafy matter, others appeared to be sitting on eggs, and a small number were observed to be feeding young in the nest. Some of us were quick enough to observe a raven steal an egg from a cormorant nest, fly with it in its bill to a nearby Casuarina and share it with another raven, presumably its mate. Not any noticeable fuss from the cormorants, so clearly this must be a reliable easy source of food for a pair of ravens thinking about breeding themselves at this time of year. On the walk around the swamp we came across several other freshly broken empty eggs on the track, chicken-egg size or a bit larger, presumably also from the cormorant nests. A Darter was seen to be flying above the swamp, but we did not find a Darter nest.

Another highlight of the swamp included great views of a Spangled Drongo, hawking and fluttering over the treetops.

After morning tea we walked across the road to the Primbee dunes. While a small number of swamp mahogany were in flower, many more were in bud so more flower can be expected soon. We did not find any Swift Parrots or Scarlet Honeyeaters, but New Holland Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills and Silvereyes were everywhere. Yellow Robins and White-throated Treecreepers were also present and easy to see. Lunch in the dune in view of the ocean (but out of the wind) was very pleasant in the sun. We finished the afternoon with a total count of 60 species.

Many thanks to Betty Hudson for a great walk

Bird List for Korrungulla Swamp Primbee Forest Walk

60 species for the day

Black Swan	Silver Gull	Eastern Spinebill
Pacific Black Duck	Crested Pigeon	Eastern Yellow Robin
Chestnut Teal	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Eastern Whipbird
Australasian Grebe	Rainbow Lorikeet	Golden Whistler
Australasian Gannet	Crimson Rosella	Grey Shrike-thrush
Darter	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Magpie-lark
Little Pied Cormorant	White -throated Treecreeper	Grey Fantail
Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Willie Wagtail
Little Black Cormorant	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Spangled Drongo
Great Cormorant	Spotted Pardalote	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Australian Pelican	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Magpie
White-faced Heron	Brown Gerygone	Pied Currawong
Great Egret	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
Australian White Ibis	Yellow Thornbill	Red-browed Finch
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Red Wattlebird	European Goldfinch
Brown Goshawk	Little Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Nankeen Kestrel	Lewin's Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Dusky Moorhen	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Silvereye
Eurasian Coot	White-naped Honeyeater	Common Starling
Masked Lapwing	New Holland Honeyeater	Common Myna

## **News from the Committee**

1. It was decided to buy two Hand-held UHR Radios for use on Walks and Camps
2. There has been some rearrangement for the weekend walks. In August, the walk will now be at Barren Grounds, and in September the walk will be at Homebush.
3. Bronwyn reported that at the end of May our finances stood at \$3281.17
4. Val Dolan reported that Col Markham said that he would be delighted to write a foreword to the second edition of 'Birds of the Illawarra.'

## **BIRDING ABROAD Oct 2001 at Madagascar**

**David Winterbotham**

We arrived at the old colonial Hotel Colbert and had an excellent French dinner, with to our initial delight but subsequent horror, the post prandial cognac costing more than the meal! A Madagascar Kestrel was seen from the hotel window together with Mascarene Martins, a Madagascar Wagtail and some Madagascar Fodies to give us four new endemics before leaving the room.

We drove south to Ranomafanta National Park which still retains some undisturbed rainforest. The primeval humus is so thick it is positively spongy to walk on. Plenty of birds with unfamiliar names about: Blue Couas, Chabert's, Red-tailed and Madagascar Blue Vangas, Velvet Asity, and Madagascar Green and Souimanga Sunbirds. At least we could recognise more easily the Lesser Vasa Parrots, Madagascar Coucal and a Crested Drongo.

Here we saw our first Lemurs which are the small primates unique to Madagascar. A troupe of the Red-fronted Brown Lemurs peered down at us, and, later, their smaller cousins, the Red-bellied Lemur. The huge Woolly Indris (the biggest of the lemurs) hooted at us from the hill-top as we saw them swoop through the trees.

Going north and east to the Berenty estate, we met not just the delightful Ring-tailed Lemurs but several parties of Verreaux's Sifaka – a lemur that spends much of its time on the ground literally dancing through the woodland (across the path right in front of us) on their hind legs, keeping a sharp eye on us. Both Giant and Crested Couas were seen to compare with the Running and Blue Couas seen earlier. Spotlighting allowed us to see the tiny exquisite Grey Mouse-lemurs as well as the Torotoroka Scops Owl and a Madagascar Nightjar.

Near the coast there were water birds. Madagascar and Common Squacco Herons, Green-backed and Purple Herons, Black and Diamorphic Herons were seen as well as the familiar Great White and Cattle Egrets. Hammerkop, Red-billed and Hottentot Teal, White-faced and Knob-billed Ducks reminded us how close we were to Africa.

However, the countryside is not African. The earliest human colonists came from Indonesia only 1500 years ago. They brought rice and terraced paddy-fields so the landscape is unexpectedly eastern in appearance. The cemeteries have tombs painted in what seemed to us to be a bizarre fashion with motorcars, guns and stories to be told. We were so interested that we nearly missed the little Madagascar Sandgrouse scuttling away.

## **TAX TIME**

official No nothing to do with all that money stuff – but with the Taxonomic order of birds, and their correct names. The order is that used by the Birds Australia Atlas Record form, which groups and lists birds by name and families. This is old hat to experienced bird watchers, but can be quite confusing to newer and social bird watchers. And some of the listings and capitalization can make English teachers scratch their heads. Nevertheless we will do the best to meet the list, and hope sometime in the future

to have guides to help others get birds in the right 'tax' order. Then you may be able to place the Bred-whiskered Bulbul ?? straight away!

## REVEALING SOME OF EXCELSIOR'S REPTILES

Mike MORPHETT

I've now completed 26 years of walking through the bushland area of the former Excelsior No.2 coalmine, Thirroul, and studying its wildlife, especially birds. Come October there's one man-made item there that's been a stopping-point in my surveys over the past 20 years: a sheet of corrugated iron in my eastern sector, lying in a clearing of tall grasses close to the eucalypt forest and some 50 metres above the middle channel of the Flanagan's Creek system. There was an occasion when someone moved the sheeting some distance away for some reason unknown to me, so I promptly repositioned it to the original spot, where it has since remained. In addition to the growing blanket of dead leaves that now cover most of it, I have placed a few long branches across my pathway to discourage access by others.

So what's so important about this particular piece of metal? Well, at different times, while doing a 'Harry Butler' and gingerly lifting it up at one end, I've discovered four types of reptiles lying underneath it for shelter, either on isolated occasions or for periods of up to a fortnight. By far the most common has been the Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard, all full-grown. One I found dead after a burn-off in September 2001. Four days later and some 40 metres away in the middle of the main track was another casualty: this time an Eastern Tiger Snake that had previously enjoyed the sunny warmth of a depression in the ground, but got run over by a trail-bike. Over the next two months another tiger took up occupancy of the sheeting, which was rented for a day, it seems, by another blue-tongue. An identical situation arose the following February. I haven't seen a tiger there since January 2004. In the Excelsior they have appeared between the months of September and March with just two sightings outside this time-frame. From the end of last year until 11 January I was thrilled to find a Diamond Python in the spot where the other two reptile species had curled up. The same one/species reappeared on 10 April, when I was amazed to see a youngish Red-bellied Black Snake in the opposite corner; it didn't hang about. This was my first record of the black snake in the Excelsior since October 2000 after regular sightings, making me wonder if it had been usurped by the tiger.

Over time other questions have occurred to me; in particular, how do the different reptile species determine when or if they will occupy space under the sheeting, especially if another is in situ? Does the maxim that possession is nine-tenths of the law also apply in the Excelsior forest (as opposed to the jungle)? And what impact might these snakes' general presence in the Excelsior have on birds directly or indirectly? In regard to the latter, the following percentage dietary data from Richard Shine (*Australian Snakes: A Natural History* 1991) are a bit dated, I guess, but may still provide a partial answer.

species	max body size: cm	frogs	reptiles	mammals	birds
Tiger snake	82	92	2	4	2
Diamond python	150	1	14	80	5
Red-bellied black snake	106	60	31	9	0

So it appears birds and their eggs are at much less risk than frogs and mammals from these snakes. Other sources indicate that fish also feature in the diet of the tiger and red-bellied. Also, that the blue-tongue, up to 23.5 cm in length, is omnivorous, feeding on plant matter, flowers, fruit, berries, insects, snails and worms. Incidentally, I've not made mention of the Golden-crowned Snake, Blackish Blind Worm, Eastern Water Dragon, two forms of Gecko, or the Common Skink, that also frequent parts of the Excelsior; this is because they haven't been significant in this particular aspect of my studies.

When I make my cautious approaches to the sheet of galvanised iron, I often think of a variation of the 'Green Door' song: "Sheeting, what's that secret you're keepin'?" 24.4. 2006

## Unusual Records for April-May 2006

Chris J. Chafer

Send your records to: email cchafer@speedlink.com.au

Species	#	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Brown Quail	1	1-Apr	Bellambi Lagoon	grassland	GB
Streaked Shearwater	2	14-Apr	off Wollongong	pelagic	GB
Great Shearwater	1	22-Apr	off Wollongong	pelagic	GB
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	25+	22-Apr	off Wollongong	pelagic	GB
Eastern Reef Egret	1	19-Apr	Black Head, Geroa	rocky shore	BA
Royal Spoonbill	23	19-Apr	Shoalhaven Heads	estuary	BA
Osprey	1	19-Apr	Shoalhaven Heads	overhead	BA
Osprey	1	21-Apr	Lake Conjola	estuary	GB
Black Kite	1	11-May	Tallawarra	ash ponds	DG
Brown Goshawk	1	8-Apr	Berry	overhead	BA
Brown Goshawk	1	10-Apr	Regal Heights	overhead	JC
Grey Goshawk (white phase)	1	10-May	Bellawongarah	overhead	BA
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	7-May	Berry Mountain	overhead	BA
Wedge-tailed Eagle	9	19-May	Sassafras	roadside	BA
Painted Button-Quail	1	22-May	Berry Mountain	roadside	BA
Sanderling	1	25-May	Windang	sandflats	CB
Red-necked Avocet	2	11-May	Tallawarra	ash ponds	DG
Peaceful Dove	2	18-May	Mermaid Pool tk, Tahmoor	woodland	MR,TE
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	100+	30-Apr	Maddens Plains	overhead	GB
Red-rumped Parrot	25	7-May	Menangle Park weir	grassland	GB
Ground Parrot	1	21-Mar	Jervis Bay	roadside	JH
Powerful Owl	1	30/5	West Cambewarra	Forest	GD
Azure Kingfisher	1	23-Apr	Koonawarra	creek	LP
Brown Treecreeper	4	27-May	Mermaid Pool tk, Tahmoor	woodland	CJC
Rockwarbler	1	30-Apr	Broker's Nose	woodland	JM
Large-billed Scrubwren	2	25-Apr	Thirroul	garden	MM
White-plumed Honeyeater	2	13-Apr	Warrawong	garden	DF
Black-chinned Honeyeater	5	18-May	Mermaid Pool tk, Tahmoor	woodland	MR,TE
Crescent Honeyeater	few	24-Apr	Barren Grounds NR	woodland	MR
Rose Robin	1	15-Apr	Kangaroo Valley	forest	BA
Rose Robin	1	23-Apr	Thirroul	garden	MM
Rose Robin	1	16-May	Keiraville	garden	ME
Logrunner	2	30-Apr	Slacky Flat Ck	rainforest	MM
Varied Sittella	13	15-Apr	Fitzroy Falls	forest	BA
Crested Shrike-tit	2	30-Apr	Slacky Flat Ck	rainforest	MM
Spangled Drongo	1	16-Apr	Windang	woodland	DW
Spangled Drongo	1	29-Apr	Currarong	urban	RG
Spangled Drongo	1	9-May	Primbee golf course	woodland	ME
Double-barred Finch	few	25-May	Mermaid Pool tk, Tahmoor	woodland	MR,TE

**Contributors:** BA – Bob Ashford; GB – Graham Barwell; CB – Chris Brandis; CJC – Chris Chafer; MC – Martin Cocker; JC – Josh Coyte; GD – Gary Daly; TE – Terri Edwell; ME – Mary Eskdale; DF – Damien Farine; DG – Daryl Goldrick; RG – Robert Gosford; JM – Jill Molan; JH – Jamie Harris; MM – Mike Morphet; LP – Loraine Pincus; DW – David Winterbottom.

**Comment:** The Great Shearwater is the 1<sup>st</sup> record from the Illawarra region. The Black-chinned Honeyeater record is the most easterly ever recorded from the region and is an excellent record for this endangered species. The Mermaid Pool track is also the easterly known location for the Brown Treecreeper, another endangered species. Red-necked Avocets have not been recorded from Tallawarra previously. Black Kites have not been recorded from Tallawarra since 1966.