

Brown Cuckoo-Dove

Scientific Name: *Macropygia amboinensis*
 Atlas Number: 29

Description:

The Brown Cuckoo-Dove is a large brown pigeon of rainforests, with a very long, tapering tail. There is a pale streak below the blue-grey eye and a red eye-ring. The female has a brighter chestnut cap and a scaly pattern on the breast. The legs and feet



photo by Terry Edwell Jamberoo NSW

are red. Their flight is strong and graceful, usually low among the trees. This species is also known as the Brown, Pheasant or Large-tailed Pigeon.

Similar species:

The large size and graduated tail distinguishes the Brown Cuckoo-Dove from any other pigeon in the region.

Distribution:

The Brown Cuckoo-Dove is found throughout north-eastern and eastern Queensland, including off-shore islands, and eastern coastal areas of New South Wales. Its range is expanding down the coast of New South Wales. This species is also found from the Philippines, south through Borneo to Sumatra, through the Moluccas and Sulawesi to New Guinea.

Habitat:

This is a pigeon of rainforests and wet sclerophyll forest, particularly at the forest edges, along creeks and rivers. Brown Cuckoo-Doves are often found in regrowth along roads, in clearings and in weedy areas like lantana.

Seasonal movements:

No large-scale seasonal movement, but move locally in search of fruit.

Feeding:

Brown Cuckoo-Doves feed on fruit, berries and seeds from a variety of rainforest trees, shrubs and vines. They usually feed in the trees in the early morning and the late afternoon, often hanging upside down to reach fruit. They come to the ground to drink and to eat grit. They can digest very hard seeds.

Breeding:

Brown Cuckoo-Doves nest in rainforest trees, shrubs and the tops of vines and ferns, with the nest being a scanty collection of twigs and sticks placed sideways on a branch. The young are covered with long thick down when first hatched. Both parents share the incubation and care of the young.

information courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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**ILLAWARRA
 BIRD
 OBSERVERS
 CLUB Inc**

**'ONE GOOD TERN
 DESERVES ANOTHER'**

Founded in 1977

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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Club Contacts:

PRESIDENT: Alan Cousins, T. 02 4283 3197
SECRETARY: Betty Hudson, T. 02 4236 0307
 E-mail: secretary@iboc.org.au

TREASURER: Ken Brown,
EDITORS: Charles Dove, M. 0417 422 302
 E-mail: newsletter@iboc.org.au
 Val Dolan, T. 02 4229 6737

RECORDS OFFICER: Darryl Goldrick
 Email: sightings@iboc.org.au



2012 JULY ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:**Monday 9th July 2012**

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

A presentation by Bob Ashford- 'Birding in Bhutan'

Bob has birded since he was knee high to a Common Swift and honed his skills around the mud flats and sewage farms of the UK. During his school years he happily slaved away as a volunteer at RSPB reserves before travelling and birding many parts of the world. He is a recreational birder not an expert ornithologist. He still enjoys birdwatching and leads the occasional trip around the South Coast. In 1980 he first visited Bhutan and made several trips until 1984. He returned again in April this year. Bhutan had changed in many ways but the birds were just as exciting.

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

Midweek Walk:**Wednesday 11th July 2012****Wiseman Park:****Leader Ted Simpson**

Meet at 9-0 clock near the tennis courts at the end of Vickory St. off Gipps Rd, Gwynne Ville. As the park is a small area, after walking around it we will carry on along the creek. Bring morning tea.

Contact No. Ted. 0425121221.

Monthly Outing:**Saturday 14th July 2012****Bargo Gorge****Leader Betty Hudson.**

Meet at 9.00am at the junction of Avon Dam Road & Arina Road Bargo. Travel from Wollongong via Picton road and then south along the Hume Hwy towards Goulburn. Take the Bargo exit, turn right and immediately right again where we will meet. From here we will drive to the start of the walk. Bring a carry lunch and morning tea. Bring a warm top layer in case it is cold.

Please note that there is no off ramp from the Hume Hwy if travelling north from Mittagong. You will need to travel along the Old Hume Hwy and then Remembrance Drive to Bargo, crossing the railway on the outskirts of Bargo to turn right on to the Avon Dam Road. The walk will finish around 2.00pm.

Contact Betty Hudson ph. 4236 0307 or mobile 0432 892 945

Committee Meeting -**Monday 16th July 2012**

The next committee meeting is at 7.30 pm at the home of Charles & Janina Dove, 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee. 0417 422 302

Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to attend the meeting.

Newsletter -

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is 24th July. Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph: 0417 422 302

IBOC has pleasure in welcoming all our New members



CLUB REPORTS

REPORT FOR CLUB MEETING 11th June 2012 -

Alan Cousins

Our speaker for this month was our renowned parrot expert Walter Boles. Most of us will remember his fascinating presentation last year concerning the Night Parrot. This presentation was no exception and was entitled "Mysterious Parrots" followed by an Aboriginal bird name quiz.

Parrots have been part of history for many years and the first parrot to be seen in Europe was taken there by Alexander the Great in c327BC and the first reference to parrots was recorded in 397BC, in these early years parrots were treasured birds.

References are noted in:

Africa 1550 and by:

Gerard Mercator 1567

Francis Willoughby 1678

Sydney Parkinson 1770

Australia was also known as the "Land of the Parrots"

Mysterious Parrots are divided into three categories:

- 1) Some extinct - were known to be.
- 2) Bones and sub-fossils - identified by bones and sub-fossils.
- 3) Hypothetical - May have been but no evidence exists.

Parrots were traded between islands in the Indies so their actual place of origin cannot be substantiated. There is a long list of parrots in danger of extinction due to loss of habitat etc (Australia is probably one of the prime candidates for this honour). Walter had some fascinating slide prints of parrots, some were painted/drawn long ago and the birds are either unrecognisable or extinct (some of John Lewin's paintings recently on show at the State Library prove this point as he painted some in England from dead specimens sent over from Australia which were hard to identify but fascinating and some very odd looking but those he painted from live specimens whilst he was in Australia are recognisable) Parrots are considered to be extinct if they have not been seen for 50 years. This interesting and informative presentation was followed by a quiz in which the audience was shown a bird and its current name and asked whether it was an Aboriginal name or not. Very few of our answers were correct but it proved to be an educational as well as humorous exercise.

Many thanks Walter - what can you come up with next?

Midweek Walk— Mangerton 13-06-2012

Robin Cashman

It was the waifs and strays, 8 of us, who MIGHT have been sporting with the rare birds of Bowra, who gathered in threatening rain for a walk in Mangerton Park.

We were warned that gumboots would be useful, but mine are so heavy that I could see myself sunk irretrievably in the mud - so I did without.

We were met by Lyn Cavanagh, leader of the landcare group, whose members are making a determined onslaught on the ferocious weeds. She assured us that no leeches lurk there, or ticks! Does anyone know why not? So, what's a bit of mud then!

John commented that initially it looked like "slim pickings", but Lyn had said that plenty of birds lived in the park, so we ventured onwards in faith.



We wasted a lot of time trying to spot the whip birds, teasing us unmercifully so close but so invisible. Stomping on under a tall dark canopy, we arrived at a mown slope behind some houses, and as we peered down into the vegetation, it was on for one and all! Eastern Yellow Robins sat yards from our noses on branches and tree trunks, Lewin's Honeyeaters bustled about in the foliage and raced off to elsewhere and back, so did Eastern Spinebills. Superb Fairy-wrens and Red-browed Finches flitted, Brown Gerygones, Pardalotes (spotted and striated), Grey Fantails, and Brown Thornbills added to the fun.

Morning tea was taken in the playground, where Rupert had a swing, and then came the rain, so after a slightly faster walk back along the track, we went our separate ways. Thanks Ted for taking us - it was the sort of place you could take some sustenance and a chair, and just sit - the birds will come to you!

Bird List for Midweek- Mangerton 13-06-2012		21 species	
Peregrine Falcon	Brown Gerygone	New Holland Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Rainbow Lorikeet	Spotted Pardalote	Golden Whistler E-race	Red-browed Finch
Laughing Kookaburra	Striated Pardalote	Australasian Figbird	
Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Magpie	
White-browed Scrubwren	Lewin's Honeyeater	Pied Currawong	

photos by Charles Dove

Monthly Outing – Cascades & Clover Hill Sunday 17th June 2012

Terry Edwell

Sunday was a beautiful day after all the rain the day before. We started our walk at the bottom of Macquarie Pass where a lot of work has been done since I was last there. There are good stairs and a viewing platform and a decent track to the waterfall. There were not many birds and it was a very cold as the sun had not reached the track yet. The trees are very tall and there is a lot of lantana cleared away. It is sad for all the little birds that use it for protection. On coming back to the clearing we had good sightings of a Fan-tailed Cuckoo that sat on a tall tree branch in the sun. We then crossed over the road to the other side where the sun was out to warm us up and we saw a pair of Bassian Thrushes busy hunting for their breakfast.



We then travelled up the Pass a couple of kilometres to start the walk to Clover Hill. Again it was cold and windy in places, but this didn't stop all the Lyrebirds calling. They were all the way along the track and it was a delight to hear all the different bird calls resounding through the bush. As we continued on we saw quite a few little birds. They are so busy, it is very hard to identify them, but some of us managed to. At the end of the track we saw Red-browed Finches and a beautiful Golden Whistler. We Turned to retrace our steps and an Olive-backed Oriole was seen, a first for one of our members.



There was once an old house near the end of the track, but there is no sign of it now. It seemed a long walk back so it must have been very lonely living there years ago. It was an enjoyable day and thank you to Alan and Anne for leading the walk. It is wonderful to be able to walk in our beautiful bush.

Eleven Members Attended

Bird List Outing- Macquarie Pass – 17/06/2012		27 species	
Australian White Ibis	White-throated Treecreeper	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Straw-necked Ibis	Superb Fairy-wren	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian King-parrot	Southern Emu-wren	Golden Whistler e-race	Welcome Swallow
Crimson Rosella	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Bassian Thrush
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-browed Scrubwren	Olive-backed Oriole	Red-browed Finch
Laughing Kookaburra	Brown Gerygone	Australian Magpie	
Superb Lyrebird	Striated Thornbill	Pied Currawong	Silvereye



THE BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

By Could be YOU

Be inspired.....

Keep the Stories going..... Send in your story of your own backyard garden and the birds PLEASE even a few paragraphs is OK

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Birdlife Australia – Events List

Travelling around? Going interstate? For a list of forthcoming birding events around Australia visit Birdlife Australia's website and click on 'What's On – View all events' or go to <http://www.birdlife.org.au/events> There is also a direct link on the IBOC website 'Bird Links' page.



8th Australasian Shorebird Conference

"The Role of Science in the Conservation of Shorebirds"

Napier Building, University of Adelaide, South Australia, 29/30 September 2012

The theme for the 8th Australasian Shorebird Conference is the Role of Science in the Conservation of Shorebirds. However papers may be presented on any aspect of shorebird research especially relating to the East Asian Australasian Flyway.

Conference Registration

Registration is encouraged and is open to anyone interested in the study and conservation of shorebirds. To avoid disappointment please **register early**.

Call for abstracts of papers or posters

Abstracts, of no more than 200 words, should be sent to the **Conference organisers** as soon as possible with a title, author(s) and affiliation(s). The closing date for all abstracts is 30 June 2012.

Australasian Shorebird Conferences are held every two years at a time and location to focus on local issues and to provide the best opportunity for attendees to see shorebirds at key shorebird sites in the company with local experts, as well as to hear about the latest research and developments in Australia and the wider East Asian Australasian Flyway.

The conference organisers endeavour to encourage researchers from other countries in the Flyway. However opportunities for financial assistance to attend the ASC is limited and is available only to students, or researchers in South East Asia, that demonstrate a need for financial assistance after the receipt of an abstract. For further information or to apply for funding assistance please contact the Conference Convenor:

Paul Wainwright

One of the world's loveliest herons, the Great White Egret, has nested in Britain for the first time, as new bird species continue to move here from the south, perhaps because of the warming climate.

A pair of the elegant, Long-necked and Long-legged Waterbirds – a century ago, persecuted for their snow-white feathers which were used in women's hats – has set up home in the Avalon marshes near Glastonbury in Somerset, and the nest site, deep in a reed bed, is being monitored around the clock.

Activity on the site strongly suggests the birds may already have young and conservationists hope to confirm this soon, thus proving that.

Protected native birds released on Hauraki Gulf Islands

Tuesday, 19 June, 2012 - 12:37

A milestone in re-establishing The Whitehead (Popokotea) in the Auckland region has been achieved with the release of the protected native bird on two pest-free islands in the heart of Auckland.

Whiteheads disappeared from the Auckland mainland in the 1880s, driven out by rats, stoats and the loss of native forest. They are being restored to the region and the release of 50 Whiteheads on pest-free Motutapu and Motuihe islands on Sunday June 17 means these birds are now just 30 minutes by ferry from downtown Auckland. The Whiteheads were captured on pest-free Little Barrier Island (Hauturu) and held in temporary aviaries. They were placed in transport boxes and flown to Motuihe and Motutapu islands by helicopter. Thirty Whiteheads were released on Motutapu and 20 on Motuihe. The transfer was carried out by the Department of Conservation (DOC) in partnership with the Motuihe Trust and the Motutapu Restoration Trust and in consultation with local Kiwi. The 20 Whiteheads released on Motuihe, were released into native forest planted by volunteers organised by the Motuihe Trust. Motuihe Trust chairperson John Laurence is thrilled to have Whiteheads on Motuihe. "They're a



Whitehead and Yellowhead

welcome addition to the Tuatara, Little Spotted Kiwi, Kakariki, Bellbirds, Saddleback or Tieke and other native wildlife we've released onto the island since it was made pest free in 2005." Thirty Whiteheads released into native forest planted on Motutapu by Motutapu Restoration Trust volunteers. Motutapu Restoration Trust chair Chris Fletcher says there's plenty of room on Motutapu and Rangitoto for a large Whitehead population. "We've been adding to the wildlife on these islands since they were declared pest-free last year and are looking forward to having flocks of lively Whitehead for the public to enjoy." Rangitoto and Motutapu were declared pest free in August last year. Since then three threatened birds - Takahc, Tieke (saddleback) and Shore Plover - and two freshwater native species with declining populations - Koura (freshwater crayfish) and Redfin Bullies - have been released on Motutapu. Tieke were also released on Rangitoto. Tieke (saddleback), captured on Little Barrier Island over the same period as the Whiteheads, were also released on Rangitoto and Motutapu. Ten were released on Rangitoto and 10 on Motutapu, joining Tieke transported from pest-free Tiritiri Matangi Island last year. The new arrivals from Little Barrier will increase the genetic diversity of the Tieke population on Rangitoto and Motutapu. Tieke were almost wiped out by ship rats, stoats and feral cats. By 1964 the population of North Island Tieke had been reduced to 500 living on Hen Island in Northland. They were saved from extinction by being moved onto pest-free islands. Today North Island Tieke live on 15 islands. The Tieke released onto Rangitoto and Motutapu last year began producing chicks just 10 weeks after their release. DOC Auckland Area manager Jonathan Miles says creating a genetically robust, self-sustaining Tieke population on Rangitoto and Motutapu is another step in securing the future of these noted songbirds. "Having removed the animal pests we're now able to use these islands to bring our unique wildlife to the heart of our largest city."

Further information on Rangitoto and Motutapu islands-

Rangitoto is the largest and youngest of the volcanic cones and craters in Auckland. It erupted from the sea in a series of dramatic explosions around 600 years ago. Rangitoto has no soil but out of its black volcanic rock grows the world's largest Pohutukawa Forest and more than 250 other native trees and plants. A short bridge joins Rangitoto to neighbouring Motutapu. Motutapu was one of the first places settled by Maori when they arrived in Aotearoa about 800 years ago. Maori were living on the island when Rangitoto erupted. European settlers began farming Motutapu in the 1840s, clearing the native forest.

The Motutapu Restoration Trust began restoring the native forest on Motutapu in 1994. They have established a nursery and have planted more than 400,000 native trees creating a home for the wildlife released since Motutapu and Rangitoto were declared free of animal pests on August 27, 2011. A number of native birds have returned to Rangitoto and Motutapu on their own since the pests were removed. Bellbirds (Korimako) and Kakariki have flown from pest-free Motuihe and Rakino islands, and are now breeding on Motutapu and Rangitoto. Pateke and Spotless Crakes have also been seen on the islands

Richard Branson bringing native birds back to Virgin Islands

Billionaire philanthropist says the reintroduction of 3 bird species marks the first time they've been seen on the island chain in more than 100 years. Fri, Jun 15 2012



Photo: Charlie Smith/Virgin

While Richard Branson works to rebuild his fire-damaged home on Necker Island in the Caribbean, he's also lending a hand to reintroducing native birds that once dominated the landscape.

In a recent blog entry, the 61-year-old explained how he's working to rebuild populations of Scarlet Ibis, the Flamingo, and the Roseate Spoonbill. All three have not been seen in the British Virgin Islands for 100-150 years.

"We have had fantastic success with the Flamingos, with 70 young ones born this year," he writes. "The Scarlet Ibis, one of the most beautiful birds in the world, is also doing fantastically — we had our first baby born recently."

"This is the first Scarlet Ibis born in the British Virgin Islands for over 100 years," he continues. "They are completely different colour to their parents, which I suspect is so they are not so noticeable to predators when they are young. They turn the incredible scarlet colour after a couple of years."

All three species were either hunted or pushed to extinction in the region due to human development and loss of habitat.

So far, Branson's plan has drawn a lot more praise than the Lemur relocation idea he proposed — and then shelved — last year. The businessman was going to offer up his 120-acre Mosquito Island as a sanctuary for the threatened species, but received flak from some conservation experts.

"I do think it's a bad idea ... we have experience over and over and over again that when you transplant organisms from one part of the Earth to another part of the Earth, the results are usually bad," Anne D. Yoder, a Lemur expert and director of the Duke Lemur Centre in North Carolina, told Reuters.

Other species that Branson is currently working to reintroduce in the Caribbean include the Stout Iguana, White-cheeked Pintail (a type of duck), Crested Anole (a reptile), and Red-footed Tortoises.



Nola & Laurie Williams had an unusual sighting of a White Barred-tailed Godwit this bird at Lemon Tree Passage Port Stephens

The Rose Breasted Cockatoo

Don't ever call me a bloody Galah, it's a thing you might live to rue,
 I'm no Galah, me name is Ralph, the rose breasted cockatoo.
 I think I'd like to find the 'Galah', that gave me that awful name,
 'Spotting him' would be a delight and he'd never look quite the same.
 As a cockatoo, I'm no show-off — I don't have that sulphur crest,
 And I don't have those beady Corella eyes, as a looker I'm the best.
 My colours are pastel, rose and grey. I'm not offensively white,
 And when me and me mates go grazing, we are a wonderful sight.
 There's Galah's in all our Parliaments, billionaire Miners too,
 But none of these lay claim to be — a rose breasted cockatoo,
 There is one thing that worries me, it causes me lack of sleep,
 If we're named after these Galahs, I get depressed and want to sleep,
 So don't you ever call me a Galah, it's a name you should eschew,
 For I'm no Galah, me name is Ralph — **The Rose Breasted Cockatoo**

Bigruss April 2012



I.B.O.C. PROGRAMME: July -September				
MONTH	ACTION	DATE	Speaker/Leader	VENUE
JULY	Meeting	09/07/12	Bob Ashford	Bhutan
	Mid-Week Walk	11/07/12	Ted Simpson	Wisemans Park
	Outing	14/07/12	Betty Hudson	Bargo Gorge
AUGUST	Meeting	13/08/12	Jann Gowan	American Birds
	Mid-Week Walk	15/08/12	Ted Simpson	Mt Brown
	Outing	19/08/12	Neil Wheway	Carrington Falls
SEPTEMBER	Meeting	10/09/12	Peter Fackender	TBA
	Mid-Week Walk	12/09/12	Ted Simpson	Hooker Point
	Outing	14/09/12	Betty Hudson	Walk Conjola NP
OCTOBER	Meeting	08/10/12	Andy & Anna Knowlson	TBA
	Mid-Week Walk	10/10/12	Ted Simpson	Hill 60
	Outing	14/10/12	Betty Hudson	RNP Audley Weir
	SPRING CAMP	20-27/10/12	Betty Hudson	Mallacoota
NOVEMBER	Meeting/AGM	12/11/12	MEMBERS NIGHT	
	Mid-Week Walk	14/11/12	Ted Simpson	Slacky Flat Park
	Outing	17/11/12	Betty Hudson	SRA Bulli
DECEMBER	Christmas Picnic	08/12/12		
	Christmas Meeting	10/12/12		
JANUARY	Committee Meeting	14/01/13		
FEBRUARY	Mid-Week Walk	06/02/13		Lake Illawarra
	Meeting	11/02/13		

Members Sightings May - June 2012

Please keep your sightings coming in, everything you consider unusual or interesting.

Compiled By Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
White-headed Pigeon	4	03-Jun-12	Jamberoo	Oval	Paul Nesbit
White-necked Heron	1	19-Jun-12	Kangaloon Road	Grass Verge	A & A Cousins
Brown Goshawk	1	19-Jun-12	Primbee	Overhead	C Dove
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	19-May-12	Primbee Sand Track	Dune forest	R Imisides
Grey Goshawk	2	01-Jun-12	Excelsior site	Rainforest	Ian McKinlay
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	19-Jun-12	Purry Burry Point	Overhead	C Dove
Kelp Gull	2	15-Jun-12	Lake Entrance	Estuary	C Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	17	05-Jun-12	Koona Bay	Casuarina	B & B Hales
Weebill	1 +	10-Jun-12	Clover Hill Pass	Rainforest	A & A Cousins
Striated Pardalote	2	06-Jun-12	Albion Park Rail	Riparian	Paul Nesbit
Eastern Whipbird	1	19-May-12	Primbee Sand Track	Dune forest	R Imisides
Spangled Drongo	1	19-May-12	Primbee Sand Track	Dune forest	R Imisides
Bassian Thrush	5	01-Jun-12	Excelsior site	Rainforest	Ian McKinlay

KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR THE UNUSUAL & NOT SO UNUSUAL BIRD SPECIES BUT NOT ALWAYS A REGULAR IN YOUR AREA TO REPORT FOR UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS.

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