

the car park. We will carry morning tea and lunch. This is a full day walk with some short steep & rough sections. I aim to be back at the cars no later than 2.30pm.

COMMITTEE MEETING This will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th March at Tom and Joan Wylie's, 4 Daphne Street, Corrimal. (4284 2051) Members of the club are always welcomed to attend Committee Meetings.

APRIL NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next *IBOC News* is Thursday 21st March. Please send items to the editor, cashman5@bigpond.com (Please note our newish email address) or mail them to 5 Madden Street, Fernhill 2519

WELCOME to new club members, Peter Rowland, Ros Costa & Piet Van Opstal, and Chas & Janina Dove. It's nice to have you join us.

Robertson & Belmore Falls Walk 16th February 2008. Betty Hudson

Four members met at Robertson Rain Forest on a cool cloudy & misty morning, to be greeted by a Wonga Pigeon feeding in the carparking area. Donning shower proof jackets we entered the magical world of the rainforest with the mist swirling between the trees. Birds were very scarce but this was more than made up for by the scenery & plants.

Leaving here we drove on to Belmore Falls lookouts, the road being very potholed and slippery due to the recent weather. Again birds were very scarce but the falls were roaring down and

26 birds for the day

provided good photo opportunities with the mist cloaked gorges

We then proceeded on over the rather deep water on the causeway to Fitroy Falls Dam. A walk along the shores of the water and through the forest provided plenty of birds including several Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos. The highlight was a Latham's Snipe flushed twice from long grass in swampy areas. Due to the inclement weather we moved on the main picnic area at the dam wall for an early lunch, taking advantage of the picnic shelter with boiling water on tap.

Australian Wood Duck	Eastern Rosella	Grey Shrike-thrush
Pacific Black Duck	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Fantail
Little Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-faced Heron	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Butcherbird
Latham's Snipe	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Magpie
Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Pied Currawong
Wonga Pigeon	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Eastern Spinebill	Satin Bowerbird
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	

Little Terns

Local Windang resident, Ian Shaw, is committed to protecting Little Terns on Windang Island. He observes them and keeps extensive records. The 2007 year has seen more chicks than usual survive to the fledgling stage. Below are some figures to show this

Between 16th November 2007 to 25 January 2008

- 16 nests were laid on the island, with 40 eggs laid
 - 3 nests were lost, and 7 eggs were lost
 - 26 chicks hatched
 - 14 chicks fledged
- 7 eggs to hatch to this date. 6 chicks not fledged

Bristlebirds on the move

Those *Feathered Rats*, the endangered Eastern Bristlebirds, are on the move. This time they will be leaving their home at Barren Grounds to set up digs further north. Jack Baker and Jean Clarke will be selecting the lucky birds for translocation. It's all going to happen from March to May. Saturday, 1 March is the first moving day. If you would like to know more about it or get involved, give Jack a call on 0417 663 519.



A Prayer for Birds

Michael Leunig

Dear God,

We pray for birds. All types of birds. Small birds and large birds. Domestic fowls, migratory birds and birds of prey, hooting birds, whistling birds, shrikes, coloured parrots and dark darting wrens. Birds too numerous to mention. We praise them all.

We mourn the loss of certain species and pray for the deliverance of endangered ones. We pray too for farm birds, that they may be released from cruelty and suffering.

We give thanks for eggs and feathers, for cheerful songs in the morning and the wonderful haunting, night prayers of owls, mopokes, and all nocturnal fowls.

We praise the character of birds, their constancy, their desire for freedom, their flair for music and their talent for flying. May we always marvel at their ability to fly. Especially we praise their disregard for human hierarchy and the ease with which they leave their droppings on the heads of commoners and kings regardless. Grant them fair weather, fresh food and abundant materials for building their nests in spring. Provide them too, with perches and roosts with pleasant aspects. Dear God, guide our thoughts to the joy and beauty of birds. Feathered angels. May they always be above us. Amen

From Michael Leunig's *A Common Prayer*

ORDER PLEASE !

The Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds by Les Christidis and Walter E Bowles has recently been published (\$65). This will become the standard for the names and order of recording birds seen. There are 740 birds on the list, and it varies somewhat from the existing order. We will swap over to it in the future.

COMMITTEE NEWS

- The Treasurer reported a balance of \$839.02 at 31 January 08. If you haven't paid your subs yet, please do so. Cut off date is the 30 April.
- Bank signatures for cheques were agreed on.
- In principal agreement was given to change our Insurance Policy to BOCA (Bird Observers and Conservation of Australia) Some details still to be confirmed but it should cost us quite a bit less
- Chris Brandis reported that BigNET would meet in Canberra on 4,5 April. Any takers?

I.B.O.C. PROGRAMME 2008

March	Meeting	10.03.08		Illawarra bird population changes
		David Winterbottom		
	Mid week walk	12.03.08	Joan & Tom	Brokers Nose
	Outing	Sun 16.03.08	Betty Hudson	Wilson Ck Helensburgh
April	Meeting	14.04.2008		
	Mid Week Walk	16.04.08	Joan & Tom	Tom Thumb Lagoon
	No walk due Camp			
	Autumn Camp	19.04 - 26.04.08	Betty Hudson	Grenfell Caravan Park
May	Meeting	12.05.08	Martin Cocker	Bird Identification & Field Craft
	Mid week Walk	14.05.08		
	Outing	Sat 17.05.08	Betty Hudson	Southern highlands
June	Meeting	9.06.08		
	Mid Week Walk	11.06.08	Chris Brandis	Jerrara Dam & Dunmore
	Outing	Sun 15.06.08	Chris Brandis	Tallawarra
July	Meeting	14.07.08		
	Mid Week Walk	16.07.08		
	Outing	Sat 19.07.08	Betty Hudson	Macquarie Pass NP
August	Meeting	11.08.08		
	Mid Week Walk	13.08.08		
	Outing	Sun 17.08.08	Betty Hudson	Bangadilly NP Canyonleigh
September	Meeting	8.09.08		
	Mid Week Walk	10.09.08		
	Outing	Sat 13.09.08	Betty Hudson	Booderie NP & Gardens
October	Meeting	13.10.08		
	Mid Week Walk	15.10.08		
	Outing	Sun 19.10.08	Betty Hudson	Illawarra Area
	Spring Camp	25.10 - 1.11.08	Betty Hudson	South Coast
November	Meeting/ AGM	10.11.08		
	Mid Week Walk	12.11.08		
	Outing	Sat 15.11.08	??	Waders Waterbirds TBA
December	Christmas Picnic	Sat 6.12.08		
	Christmas Meeting	8.12.08		
January 2009	Committee Meeting	13.01.2009		
February 09	Mid Week Walk	4.02.09		
February 09	Meeting	9.02.09		

Bird of the Month

Betty Hudson, our erstwhile Secretary, introduced this feature to our meeting last month. Betty spoke about the habits and characteristics of the Pink-eared Duck. In March, the Bird of the Month will be the Red-necked Stint. Martin Cocker will speak about it.



Val cooking fish for dinner Photo *Tera Wheway*

the LHI Museum raffle (a framed photograph of three local birds flying in formation).

Tom and Joan Wylie Treasured moments of Lord Howe Island

- The first sight of the deep blue colour of the water
- White Terns perched on tree branches with their chicks
- Snorkelling in North Bay and seeing the beautiful coral and fish
- Playing with the turtle at Settlement Beach
- The fishing was an added bonus. Thanks Val for cooking the catch for the group

Sylvia and David Garlick The captain on our glass bottomed boat gave a good commentary on the corals, fish and changes in water temperature around the island. The coral colours ranged from cream to brown to green-blue and pink. All shapes and sizes: some soft and moving, others hard and still. The water was crystal clear. There were large and tiny beautifully patterned and coloured fish – truly amazing.

Our list of birds increased by 15. The favourites were White Terns, Sooty Terns and the Red-tailed Tropicbirds.

Anne Cousins I enjoyed the ease of going around the island by walking and cycling and seeing numerous wading birds on North Bay and the Red-tailed Tropicbird at the Gulch. In fact I enjoyed it all with lots of good people

Alan Cousins The week was memorable: everyone got on so well with each other. It was both structured and unstructured: we were able to do as little or as much as we wanted. The boat trip, snorkelling, followed by a beach walk to see waders was great, as was the tea and coke ! And the views from Kim's Lookout were memorable.

Tera Wheway Highlights of Lord Howe Island

LORD HOWE ISLAND

Chris Cartledge As a pleasant place to discover new birds Lord Howe Island will take some beating! Day 1, five added to my list, Day 2 another five and Day 3 six more. One of the highlights was my final new sighting. It was a wet round trip to the viewing platform opposite Mutton Bird Island and there the Masked Booby were plentiful. Another delight was the numerous sightings of the Red-tailed Tropicbird. Thanks again to Barbara and her 'other half' for a very memorable holiday. PS: I won

1. The excitement of seeing a new bird: another tick in my book. White Terns feeding whole fish to their young. Young birds of all ages and stages-some fluffy, some mottled, some flying, all calling for food.
2. Picture postcard views at every walk or climb.
3. Snorkelling in an underwater garden. The beautiful colour and shapes of fish, the different coral formations and the fright of swimming with a shark.
4. The feeding of fish Ned's Beach and fish for the people. Tom, Pam and Neil providing fish for dinner for all 29 of us. Val cooking, me eating Yum Yum!
5. After dinner a stroll to see the Flesh-footed Shearwater arrive at dusk.
6. Good company, good food, good birding.



Neil Wheway Lord Howe Island is a sub tropical paradise and all aspects are memorable and leave a lasting impression in my mind. The Woodhen on the brink of extinction some years ago can now be seen wandering around at many locations on the island. On arriving at our accommodation we were informed that no keys were used there or anywhere on the island. After coming from a culture where everything that isn't nailed down must be locked, it took a little time to adjust to this. After a while I just left everything I didn't want to carry where it was in the room. A push bike, the mode of transport, was left at the start of walks or at the beach with anything not wanted left in the basket, on returning nothing

White Tern with fish for dinner. *Tera Wheway* disturbed. The local policeman set up a speed camera for the 25 klm limit. His main concern was to ensure all bike riders wore crash helmets and rode on the correct side of the road. It wasn't until I returned home that I realized how good it was no speeding, no litter and the complete absence of graffiti, friendly passers bye saying hello and waving to each other.

Lord Howe Island Sightings

Australian Shelduck	Bar-tailed Godwit	Black Noddy
(Hybrid) Mallard	Whimbrel	Emerald Dove
Pacific Black Duck	Ruddy Turnstone	Sacred Kingfisher
Black-winged Petrel	Red-necked Stint	Magpie-lark
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Pacific Golden Plover	LHI Golden Whistler
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Double-banded Plover	LHI Pied Currawong
Red-tailed Tropicbird	Masked Lapwing	Welcome Swallow
Masked Booby	Caspian Tern	Silvereye
White-faced Heron	White Tern	Song Thrush
Nankeen Kestrel	Grey ternlet	Common Blackbird
Buff-banded Rail	Sooty Tern	LHI Woodhen
Purple Swamphen	Common Noddy	

Proposed Killalea Developments

Chris Brandis filled us in about the proposed developments at the Killalea State Park at our IBOC February meeting. Chris again represented IBOC members, in discussions with the Developers at Killalea. As well as overall plans and concepts for the development, Chris filled us in on some of the history of the park, (it was originally a dairy), possible effects and problems resulting from the development, as well as showing us maps and photos of some of the birds and the flora seen in the park. Some 177 bird species have been seen in the park since records began in 1985.

Only 7% of the park area is allocated to the development which will contain 202 eco- lodges for visitors, as well as a restaurant, an

John Cashman

Administration building and no doubt a camp store. Moreover the Developer has given an undertaking to tackle the noxious weeds which have invaded some areas of the park. Chris reported that at the meetings he attended, the Developer had been cooperative.

But should difficulties arise, there could be problems of accountability, as the leaseholder, the builder, and the manager of the development are three separate companies. Some members wondered too, can a Developer really be 'green' and a developer at the same time? But initially, so far so good. Special thanks to Chris for all the work he has put in on our behalf.

IBOC UNUSUAL/INTERESTING SIGHTINGS. JAN/FEB, 2008

Compiled by Martin Cocker

Species	Number	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Australian Brush-turkey	1	08-Jan-08	Balgownie	Crossing the road!	Danie Ondinea
Black Swan	500+	20-Jan-08	Why Juck Bay	estuarine	Martin Cocker
White-faced Heron	2A2F	10-Feb-08	Illawarra Sports High School	suburban	Michelle Rower
Little Egret	1	20-Jan-08	Why Juck Bay	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Little Egret	1	Jan.	Myambar Wetland, Shellharbour	wetland	Michelle Rower
Striated Heron	1	25-Nov-07	Gerroa, Crooked River	estuarine	M & P Potter
Striated Heron	1	01-Jan-08	Why Juck Bay	lakeside	Martin Cocker
Striated Heron	2	03-Feb-08	Mullet Creek, Kanahooka	lakeside	Martin Cocker
Nankeen Night Heron	4	25-Nov-07	Gerroa, Crooked River	estuarine	M & P Potter
Straw-necked Ibis	200	20-Jan-08	Woonona/Bulli	overhead	Roger Truscott
Osprey	1	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	overhead	Michelle Rower
Black-shouldered Kite	2	15-Feb-08	Primbee Oval	overhead	Ron Imisides
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	01-Jan-08	Kanahooka Point	estuarine	Martin Cocker
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	1-Jan and 28-Jan	Purrah Bay, Lake Illawarra	overhead	Martin Cocker
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	29-Jan-08	Primbee	overhead	Ron Imisides
Grey Goshawk	1	18-Dec-07	Bulli Tops	urban	M & P Potter
Grey Goshawk (White Morph)	1	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	forest	Michelle Rower
Little Eagle	1	13-Jan-08	Plantation Point, Jervis Bay	Overhead	Nigel Jackett
Peregrine Falcon	1	27-Dec-07	Brokers Nose	overhead	M & P Potter
Peregrine Falcon	1	13-Jan-08	Kanahooka Point	overhead	Martin Cocker
Peregrine Falcon	1	14-Feb-08	Primbee	overhead	Ron Imisides

Nankeen Kestrel	2	04-Feb-08	Tullimbar Riparian Corridor	overhead	Darryl Goldrick
Nankeen Kestrel	2	27-Jan-08	Primbee Beach	overhead	Ron Imisides
Australian Spotted Crake	1	26-Jan-08	Tallawarra Ash Pond	rural/swamp	Darryl Goldrick
Latham's Snipe	3	22-Jan-08	Five Islands Road, Unanderra	storm water drain	Darryl Goldrick
Latham's Snipe	1	04-Feb-08	Tullimbar Riparian Corridor	Creek side	Darryl Goldrick
Eastern Curlew	12	20-Jan-08	Windang Estuary	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Common Sandpiper	1	20-Jan-08	Shoalhaven Heads	estuarine	M & P Potter
Grey-Tailed Tattler	2	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	estuarine	Michelle Rower
Ruddy Turnstone	1	15-Feb-08	Barrack Pont	coastal	Michelle Rower
Pied Oystercatcher	15	06-Feb-08	Windang Estuary	estuarine	IBOC
Pied Oystercatcher	2	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	estuarine	Michelle Rower
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	08-Feb-08	Barrack Pont	coastal	Michelle Rower
Black-winged Stilt	2A, 2J	20-Jan-08	Why Juck Bay	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Black-winged Stilt	2A, 4J	03-Feb-08	Purrah Bay, Lake Illawarra	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Kelp Gull	1	07-Feb-08	Barrack Pont	breaking shellfish dropping from height	Michelle Rower
Caspian Tern	1	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	estuarine	Michelle Rower
Crested Tern	200+	20-Jan-08	Windang Entrance	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Little Tern	6	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	estuarine	Michelle Rower
White-headed Pigeon	1	03-Feb-08	Bulli	suburban	Mike Morphett
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	4	13-Jan-08	Scarborough	rain forest/garden	Danie Ondinea
Peaceful Dove	1	07-Jan-08	Bargo	forest	Michelle Rower
Wonga Pigeon	2	29-Jan-08	Scarborough	rain forest/garden	Danie Ondinea
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	11-Jan-08	Bomaderry Creek	woodland	Nigel Jackett
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	13-Jan-08	Shoalhaven Heads	woodland	Nigel Jackett
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Red-rumped Parrot	1	11-Jan-08	Figtree	tennis courts	Joan Zealey
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2 Juvenile	11-Feb-08	Mt. Warrigal	Currawong feeding	Chas Burke
Sooty Owl	1	14-Jan-08	Kembla Hights	forest	Jill Molan
White-throated Needletail	Flock	13-Jan-08	Old Erowal Bay	Overhead	Nigel Jackett
White-throated Needletail	6	25-Nov-07	Husskinson, Lady Denman Reserve	overhead	M & P Potter
White-throated Needletail	12	20-Jan-08	Windang Entrance	overhead	Martin Cocker
White-throated Needletail	12	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	overhead	Michelle Rower
Fork-tailed Swift	1	13-Jan-08	Old Erowal Bay	Overhead	Nigel Jackett
Azure Kingfisher	1	25-Nov-07	Gerroa, Crooked River	estuarine	M & P Potter
Sacred Kingfisher	3	07-Jan-08	Bargo	forest	Michelle Rower
Dollarbird	10+	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	forest	Michelle Rower
White-fronted Chat	3	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	salt marsh	Michelle Rower
Logrunner	3	11-Jan-08	Cambewarra Ranges NP	forest	Nigel Jackett

Crested Shrike-tit	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Crested Shrike-tit	2	05-Feb-08	Lady Fuller Park/Excelsior	forest	Mike Morphett
Rufous Whistler	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Black-faced Monarch	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Black-Faced Monarch	4	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	forest	Michelle Rower
Spectacled Monarch	2	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Leaden Flycatcher	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Restless Flycatcher	3A 2J	07-Jan-08	Bargo	forest	Michelle Rower
Rufous Fantail	1	7-10-Jan-08	Scarborough	rain forest/garden	Danie Ondinea
Rufous Fantail	2	10-Jan-08	Scarborough	rain forest/garden	Danie Ondinea
White-winged Triller	4	26-Jan-08	Tallawarra Ash Pond	rural/swamp	Darryl Goldrick
Figbird	2A 6J	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	forest	Michelle Rower
Figbird	1A1F	02-Feb-08	Barrack Pont	suburban	Michelle Rower
Pied Butcherbird	1	19-Jan-08	North Engadine, Sutherland	present for several months	J & M Blomstedt
Green Catbird	1	12-Jan-08	Kangaroo Valley	woodland	Nigel Jackett
Satin Bowerbird	1	12-Jan-08	Primbee (full coloured male)	garden	Ron Imisides
Double-barred Finch	9	13-Jan-08	Nowra Hill	woodland	Nigel Jackett
Rufous Songlark	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen

Thank you for all your records! You may be interested to know what happens to all this information and how it fits into the State and National record structure. Every month I send our records to Alan Morris who is Editor of the Birding NSW Annual Bird Report in which all of our Unusual Sightings are included. In addition Chris Brandis uses the lists compiled from our monthly and mid week walks as a basis for sending records to NSW Bird Atlassers. In addition, of course, Birds Australia is the guardian of the national "Atlas of Australian Birds" and can be reached through www.birddata.com.au. Unfortunately these entities do not appear to talk to each other and data bases are jealously guarded. However I will send our monthly and mid week walk records to Birds Australia so all avenues are covered.

The question often asked is what sightings are worthy of being recorded and what is not? This depends on what the question is! Atlassers should be recording all sightings within each of their nominated squares whereas Annual Bird Reports normally only include interesting or unusual observations. Chris Chafer has put together a listing of the species and the suggested minimum number of individuals that he suggests should be used as a basis for reporting "Unusual Sightings". The web page can be found by "Googling" for "Wild Illawarra". However I am

always wary about restricting the species or the minimum numbers of birds that should be reported for unless someone is monitoring the commoner birds how will we know when they have become uncommon or rare? For instance it has been reported that Kestrel numbers have dropped by 50% in the last few years but this species is excluded from our current reporting listing, I have not seen one for months! The more observant of you may have noticed that I have changed the title of this listing to "Unusual/Interesting sightings" as this is what our monthly Newsletter should include.

In the end you have to be the best judge regarding the birds of your locality. If a sighting is unusual for your locality or the bird is exhibiting unusual behaviour, just because the species is common in our study area is no reason to exclude the sighting from your records. The external parties who have access to our data base can extract what they want from it and we can use it as a valuable record of the ebb and flow of bird populations in our area. If in doubt, send it in

If you would like to join the 40+ members who have given me their email address and so receive more regular updates than is possible through the Newsletter then please advise me: cocker@speedlink.com.au.
Good Birding! Martin Cocker