



" One Good Tern
Deserves Another"

I.B.O.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

<http://www.iboc.org.au/>

Founded in 1977

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

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Double Banded Plover
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Photo: Charles Dove

CLUB MEETING Monday 9th March - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall Our evening will commence with our usual member's spot with Charlie Dove sharing his experiences and images of "The Birds of Primbee". Our main speaker is our valued member Kevin Mills who as an environmental consultant has travelled widely and has a wealth of knowledge and experience. Kevin's talk is "Petrels, Plants and Pests - A History of Phillip Island, Norfolk Island Group". So come along for this quality double bill, join the gang and bring some supper and a cup please.

MID-WEEK WALK Wednesday 11th March, Jamberoo – Meet at **9am** at Nick and Daphne van Oudtshoorn's home, 9 North Curramore Road, Jamberoo (02 4236 0571) Coming from the North, travel down the freeway from Wollongong until the freeway ends and you see the sign pointing to Jamberoo. Follow that road (Jamberoo Road) through Albion Park, pass the Jamberoo Recreation Park on the right, then cross Turpentine Creek. When you see a sign saying Curramore turn right into Curramore Road. At the first intersection turn right into North Curramore Road. Ours is the first property on the left, with a big white gate and white picket fencing. The gatepost has the number 9. After turning into the property the driveway splits - keep to the right-hand driveway and park on the turning circle near the house.

The drive from Wollongong to the property takes about 30 minutes.

MONTHLY OUTING :Sunday 15th March 2009 Illawarra Escarpment Walk, Maddens Plains to Stanwell Park. Leader - Betty Hudson

Meet at the car park adjacent to the surf club in Beach Road, Stanwell Park, at **8.00am very sharp**.

Travelling north on Lawrence Hargrave Drive take the right fork (the old Road) into the town and immediately turn right into Lower Coast Road and then turn left into Beach Road

The walk will commence from Maddens Plains and finish at Stanwell Park unless the day is going to be very hot when we will only walk the first section in the forest and return to Maddens Plains. Depending on the predicted weather we will either take all cars up to Maddens Plains and park by the transmitter towers or leave enough cars in Stanwell Park to ferry the drivers back to Maddens Plains at the end of the walk.

We will carry morning tea and lunch. This is interesting full day walk through moist forest along the edge of the escarpment, with some short, steep & rough sections. I aim to be back at the cars no later than 3.00pm.

Contact Betty Hudson on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 16th March at 7.30pm at Loraine Pincus's home, 20 Cottonwood Crescent, Figtree. (Phone 4225 9789)

The following motion was passed at the February committee meeting after much discussion and revising.

"Club Members are welcome to come to committee meetings if they have ideas or issues to raise, however, they would be unable to participate in the formalities of the meeting".

APRIL 2009 NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next IBOC News is Friday 20th March 2009. Please don't leave your contributions to the last minute! Submit them by email to the editor: cashman5@bigpond.com. or post them to 5 Madden Street, Fernhill 2519

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS due 1st January each year: Family \$35, Single \$30, Junior \$10. Please pay Bronwyn Wilson, our Treasurer, by cash, cheque or mail order.

APRIL EVENTS

Due to Easter there will be no Club meeting in April, and because of the Camp later in the month there will be no Monthly Outing in April too. However, there will be the Wednesday Walk in the Botanic Gardens on 15 April and the Camp will be held from 18th to the 25th of April. See the Camp Notices for more information.

FROM the TOP END to “GLUEPOT”

Martin Cocker

If you missed Peter Fackender’s presentation then you really missed a treat! Peter is a skilled field ornithologist a gifted photographer and a skilled sound recordist. This powerful combination has set a high benchmark for the rest of the year’s speakers! Peter had carefully prepared his presentation and structured it into segments such as “Atherton to Cairns”, “Cape

York to Lawn Hill”, “Darwin to Kakadu” and Gluepot Reserve. The images and his recordings were combined and provided a wonderful insight into the birds of each region. The images and recording of the Chiming Wedgebill were wonderful.. Many thanks for this wonderful evening, keep travelling and please come again!

Bird of the Month – Spotted Crake by Gleniss Wellings

A few months ago, as reported, Kanahooka Point was visited by a pair of Spotted Crakes a ‘Scarce and Nomadic’ bird in our regions. The bird was seen by a number of members but Gleniss’s camera skills and patience were rewarded with some excellent images that were shared with us all. Thank you Gleniss for an interesting and informative insight into this elusive species.

CASH PLEASE!

If you have booked into the bus for the trip to Featherdale Farm in May, but haven’t yet coughed up, please ensure you bring your cash to the March meeting . Rumour has it that the bouncers are saying ‘Pay up your cash! or be coshed!!!’

LAKE’S ENTRANCE EVENING WALK

Darryl Goldrick

Well, after a long sabbatical from meetings/outings I joined up with 28 club members - many new faces from my perspective - to kick off the 2009 birding year in the customary manner with the twilight walk - high tea at the Lake's entrance.

Tea was taken by most and the ensuing conversations were congenial and very relaxed as all expressed their anticipation for a rewarding birding year.

The birding component didn't reveal any startling sightings as you can see from the list but nonetheless this did not detract from the very pleasant fellowship in the near perfect weather conditions.

It seemed that my long absence didn't go by unnoticed and I was about to receive my 'penance' with Betty asking me to pen a few lines for the newsletter. Be warned - if you are going to be absent for a while - don't bump in to Betty on your return - she'll make you pay dearly.

Lake Illawarra Walk - Bird Species Sighted

Spotted Dove	Double-banded Plover	New Holland Honeyeater
Crested Pigeon	Masked Lapwing	Australian Figbird
Little Pied Cormorant	Bar-tailed Godwit	Australian Magpie
Little Black Cormorant	Red-necked Stint	Willie Wagtail
Australian Pelican	Crested Tern	Australian Raven
Eastern Great Egret	Silver Gull	Magpie Lark
White-faced Heron	Galah	Silvereye
Australian White Ibis	Superb Fairy-wren	House Sparrow
Black-shouldered Kite	Little Wattlebird	
Red-capped Plover	Red Wattlebird	

BANGALEE RESERVE 14/02/2009**Lorraine Pincus**

Bangalee Reserve was private property, farms for stock. The area has never been logged which is obvious by the amount of beautiful old, tall Spotty Gums, Flowering Eucalyptus, Turpentine and other beautiful trees. The day dawned with rain, but traveling south to Nowra the weather improved a little. 15 eager members met at Koloona Drive. The count started here with Scarlet Honeyeaters, we drove the 3.5kms, with Lyrebirds crossing our path, to the car park and picnic areas which is on the banks of the Shoalhaven River. A large cleared area with tables surrounded by trees and shrubs and plenty of birds. A male and female Common Bronzewing paraded themselves for all to see and photograph with ease. A Green Catbird was observed feeding on berries before we started the walk along a bush track. We hadn't walked far when out came the raincoats, and we all took cover under a huge old double trunk Bunya Pine. While we were waiting for the rain to stop we could hear numerous birds calling, and Tom had a good view of a Rufous Fantail having a bath by jumping on the branches and letting the water fall on it. Rain stopped we decided to continue and had a wonderful day.

Grey Fantail, Rufous Fantail, Bronzewing, Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin, Eastern Whipbird, Superb Lyrebird were all plentiful in sight and sound. There were unusual sightings of Weebill, Black-faced Monarch immatures being fed by parent.

The Rufous Fantail were seen in pairs frequently darting across our path, while Grey Fantails were keeping company with almost all the bush birds we saw.

The track continued on flat ground for about 5 kms, through rainforests. To the left of where we walked were rocky limestone outcrops which the track wound up and along the top overlooking the track below and then back to the picnic area for lunch. A few of the last stragglers were lucky enough to view feathers moving at the base of a Yellow-throated Scrubwren's old nest when out flew a Leaden Flycatcher.

After lunch another short Forest walk through rainforest, but no bird to be seen, so we thanked Betty for a memorable walk.

Bangalee Reserve - Birds Species Sighted

Spotted Dove	Superb Fairy-Wren	Golden Whistler
Brown Cuckoo Dove	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush
Common Bronzewing	Weebill	Olive-backed Oriole
Little Pied Cormorant	Brown Gerygone	Australian Magpie
Striated Heron	Striated Thornbill	Pied Currawong
White-faced Heron	Yellow Thornbill	Rufous Fantail
Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Striated Pardalote	Australian Raven
Galah	Eastern Spinebill	Leaden Flycatcher
Rainbow Lorikeet	Lewin's Honeyeater	Black-faced Monarch
Australian King Parrot	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Magpie-Lark
Crimson Rosella	Red Wattlebird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Laughing Kookaburra	Scarlet Honeyeater	Silvereye
Sacred Kingfisher	New Holland Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Dollarbird	White-naped Honeyeater	Common Blackbird
Superb Lyrebird	Noisy Friarbird	Common Mynah
White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Whipbird	
Green Catbird	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	

CAMP NOTICES

Autumn Camp 2009 Lake Burrinjuck Leisure Resort Yass NSW 18th to 25st April 2009.

The IBOC Autumn camp is to be at the Lake Burrinjuck Leisure Resort, 560 Woolgarlo Rd Yass. Ph (02) 6227 7271. Only unpowered sites are still available. Alternative accommodation may be available at the Royal Tara Motel in Binalong (20km) @ \$96 per double per night or in Yass (30km) where there is a choice of 6 motels ranging from \$68 to \$110 per night.

As the only water is tank water, I suggest that we bring our own drinking water. Remember that the nights can be very cold as we are on the edge of the mountains. As we are by the lake, insect repellent could also be useful.

There is a small store at the caravan park and at the State Park, otherwise we will make sure that

we visit a village with a store every other day. We will be going into Yass at least once in the week where there is a supermarket.

Directions: To get to camp take the Hume Hwy south passing Goulburn and Yass. Approx 16km south of the Yass Service Centre take a left turn marked with a brown road sign to Burrinjuck Dam SRA or Burrinjuck Waters State Park. Follow this road for approx 4km then turn left into Woolgarlo Rd a gravel road, and follow this to the caravan park.

Betty Hudson can be contacted on 4236 0307 or mobile 0432 892 945.

Spring Camp 2009 Camp Cypress Baradine NSW 25st October to 1st November 2009.

The IBOC Spring camp is to be at Camp Cypress, Lachlan St. Baradine, North Western NSW, Ph (02) 6843 1035. Baradine is between 660 and 700km from Wollongong depending on your route. You can travel via the Blue Mtns; the Hunter Valley & Merriwa or Yass & Orange. The camp has 4 Cabin blocks each with 4 rooms. Each room has 2 bunk beds or a double bed, it's own ensuite & reverse cycle airconditioning. Each cabin block has a common room with a kitchenette containing a microwave, kettle, toaster, bar fridge, china & cutlery. There

is a BBQ available. There is a bistro style dining hall where the local ladies provide any meals required. An evening meal will cost \$12 -\$25 depending on your choice. Cooked breakfasts and packed lunches can also be arranged.

I suggest that members wishing to book rooms get together and 4 couples book 1 entire cabin block.

The campsite has 20 powered sites and unlimited unpowered sites, 2 toilet blocks and laundry facilities.

Charges Individual Rooms \$60-65 per night for 2 people
Powered sites \$20 per night per site
Unpowered sites \$15 per night per site

A 20% deposit will be required to confirm bookings

THE MANAGEMENT AT CAMP CYPRESS ARE HOLDING 8 ROOMS AND 10 POWERED SITES for IBOC until 14th March 2009

You are advised to make your bookings with the Resort as soon as possible, especially for the cabin rooms and powered sites.

Once you have booked please let Betty know either by email or phone 4236 0307 detailing the accommodation you have booked.

This is an outstanding birding area with the potential for many new species for members. Birding in the Baradine area is centred on the Pilliga Forest which is Ironbark and Cypress Pine with many drivable roads & tracks. There

are 225 bird species on the Baradine bird list, many of which such as Spotted Bowerbird; Red-winged Parrot, Barking Owl; Chestnut-rumped Thornbill; Spiny-cheeked, Striped & Blue-faced Honeyeaters; Yellow-throated Miner; are common in this area but not in our area. A Birds Australia 3 day camp at Barradine of 21 members recorded 151 species!!

We will also include a trip to the Warrumbungle Mountains.

BIRDING ABROAD Galapagos

Over the past few years David and Elizabeth Winterbottom have been going overseas to look at birds and other things. Here is a vignette from a voyage in January 2009.

Snorkelling with penguins darting all round, some within touching distance, was a whole new experience in bird watching! Fantastic. They are exquisite creatures and, like all those on the Galapagos, totally unconcerned about people. In fact, one had to be quite careful not to step on the Marine Iguanas – and horrible beasts they are too, when seen close up.

The flightless Cormorants may be streamlined in the water but look really mangy hanging out their stunted moth-eaten wings to dry when on land. However, the Flamingos are as beautiful and impressive as always, and added to the exotic atmosphere of the place. The only relatively ordinary birds were the shorebirds – Whimbrel, Turnstones, Sanderling, and Semipalmated Plovers although the gorgeous American Oystercatchers (with young) bucked the trend.

The much vaunted Darwinian Finches were a real problem. Our National Park guides were well up in natural history and geology but, lamentably, not birdos. We think we positively identified ten out of the fourteen species on the islands, but, gee, some were hard to tell apart. We went there with the impression of natural selection at work and the differences being obvious. We were wrong. Only the Warbler Finch is obviously different (it has a thin beak), and the Mangrove Finch, which we did not see, is almost extinct.

TWITCHATHON

Alan Morris of Birds Australia has announced the preliminary results of last years Twitchathon. The winning team in the main race was the Hunter 'Home Brewers' who saw an incredible 237 species in the 24 hours allowed. Second was another Hunter club team, the 'Menacing Monarchs,' with 236 species seen, and third was a Birds Australia team, the 'Rampaging Raptors' who recorded 226 species. In the race the teams may travel anywhere to see birds in the 24 hour period. Each species is to be seen by two members of the team of three.

David Winterbottom

Wandering through the colonies of nesting Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies, Magnificent Frigatebirds (with scarlet throats ballooning) and Waved Albatrosses was something else again. The chicks are so ugly and adults so glorious and graceful it is quite amazing. At sea they were joined by Red-billed Tropicbirds, Galapagos Shearwaters, Brown Noddys, Pelicans, Lava Gulls and three species of Storm-Petrels - which also required close inspection to distinguish.

Apart from the seabirds and finches, Mockingbirds were common with each island seemingly having its own species, the brilliant Yellow Warbler was ubiquitous, as were Galapagos Hawks, Galapagos Flycatchers and Galapagos Doves. Wandering Tattlers and the Galapagos and Great Blue Herons were common on rocky shorelines.

The islands have been isolated for so long that nearly all the birds seemed to be either endemics or accidental! Anyway we saw heaps of new birds. The Giant Tortoises are pretty incredible too, and whilst wild, concentrate in places where people organise ponds and other incentives. Tourism is big business and the human population is exploding. The government is hell bent on a huge increase in mass tourism, rather than being selective and sticking to eco-tourists. It struck us that most tourists were there so that they could tell friends back home that is where they went, rather than for the unique experience. So go there if you can, before it is swamped.

PS. The baby fur seals and sea lions are so cute it is hard not to try and cuddle them.

Besides being extraordinarily eagle sighted the teams show imagination and humour in selection of team names, namely the Wacked-out Woodswallows, the Dodgy Drongos, the Complete and Utter Bustards, the Grey Toilet Thrushes, the Crested Shrike-Twits, the Spineless Spinebills, the Wooden Spoonbills, the Red-faced Parrots, the Lucky Bustards, Out for a Lark and many others. A documentary of the Twitchathon was made and shown on SBS some time ago.

REGENT HONEYEATERS

The first Capertee Valley tree planting for 2009 will be held on 2nd & 3rd of May. All volunteer tree planters most welcome. Tiffany Mason can be contacted about the weekend on 6332 7643 and Tiffany.Mason@environment.nsw.gov.au Tiffany spoke about the planting for the Regent Honeyeaters to our club in July last year.

MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS - FEBRUARY 2009

A lot of records to catch up with for this first report of the year. I have started a new data base in honour of 2009! I have also closed the books on 2008 but will happily send this to anyone who would like to sort and play with the numbers.

An interesting month this month with quite a few surprises the Fork-tailed Swifts at Bass Point are a rare sighting in our area, the Black Bittern is another rarity, the record of the breeding Royal Spoonbills on one of the Five Islands is probably the first maritime breeding record, the Double-Banded Plover is an early arrival for this regular winter visitor and the breeding record for the Pied Butcher bird is the culmination of previous irregular records from this area. Perhaps the drought is impacting on the range of this species. Another bird well "out of range" was the Long-tailed Jaeger that was picked up in an

Compiled by Martin Cocker

exhausted state by WIRES personnel in Kangaroo Valley.

On a much more modest level while walking the dog the other morning I was transfixed by the sight of a large bird of prey floating down the road towards me at head height, it turned right at the intersection and then left again before disappearing from view. Swamp Harrier! The local Common Myna population watched all of this in stunned silence and it was only as the bird disappeared from view that they were able to collect their wits and shriek their customary alarms. So you can never tell what will turn up anywhere!

Many thanks for all your records, additional contributors are Joan Zealey, Betty Hudson, Sylvia Garlick and Ian McKinley

Species	No.	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Stubble Quail	4	01-Dec	Bellawongarah	Forest/Paddock	Bob Ashford
Shelduck	1	16-Dec	Tallawarra Ash Ponds	Ponds	Chris Brandis
Great Crested Grebe	1	02-Jan	Bundeena Pondage, Kangaroo Valley	Lake	Bob Ashford
Emerald Dove	1	05-Dec	Jerrara Dam	Bush	Chris Brandis
Common Bronzewing	several	14-Feb	Bangalee Reserve, Nowra	Bush	IBOC
White Throated Needletail	20+	6-Dec	Cambewarra Mountain Five Islands Reserve	Overhead First marine	Bob Ashford
Royal Spoonbill	5+	1-Dec	Nesting	breeding record	Lindsay Smith
Fork-tailed Swift	20+	23-Jan	Bass Point Quarry	Overhead	Charles Dove
Black Bittern	2	10-Feb	Nowra Creek, Ben's Walk, Nowra	Riparian	Bob Ashford, Nigel Jackett
Striated Heron	1	14-Feb	Bangalee Reserve, Nowra	Bush	IBOC
Square-tailed Kite	1	04-Jan	Cudmirrah Nowra Creek, Ben's	Overhead	Kevin Mills
Black Kite	1	21-Nov	Walk, Nowra	Overhead	via Alan Morris
Brown Goshawk	1	06-Jan	Kiama	Overhead	Kevin Mills
Swamp Harrier	1	04-Jan	Far Meadow, Berry	Rural	Bob Ashford
Swamp Harrier	1	18-Feb	Kanahooka Point	Sub Urban	Martin Cocker
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	06-Feb	Jamberoo	Overhead	Kevin Mills
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	28-Jan	Mittagong	Overhead	Lorraine Pincus
Wedge-tailed	2	00-Jan-	Bellawongarah	Forest/Paddock	Bob Ashford

Eagle		00			
Hobby	1	02-Feb	Heritage Park Primbee	Riparian	Charles Dove
Buff-banded Rail	1	03-Feb	Balgownie	Garden	Wal Emery
Red-kneed Dotterel	1	09-Feb	Greenwell Point	Shore	Nigel Jackett
Grey-tailed Tattler	11	09-Feb	Greenwell Point	Shore	Nigel Jackett
Double-banded Plover	1	04-Feb	Windang Estuary	Shore	Terrill Nordstrom
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	15-Feb	Kangaroo Valley Bangalee Reserve,	Storm Driven. Picked up by WIRES	Carla Jackett
Weebill	1	14-Feb	Nowra	Bush	IBOC
Scarlet Honeyeater	several	14-Feb	Bangalee Reserve, Nowra	Bush	IBOC
Logrunner	1	07-Dec	Bellawongarah	Forest/Paddock	Bob Ashford
Pied Butcherbird	Breeding with young	Dec-Jan	Forbes Valley, Engadine Ridge	Garden	John Blomstedt
Spangled Drongo	1	18-Jan	Duck Creek, Dapto	Woodland	Neil Wheway
Leaden Flycatcher	1	14-Feb	Bangalee Reserve, Nowra	Bush	IBOC
Tawny Grassbird	1	11-Jan	Myimbar Wetlands	Wetland	Lorraine Pincus

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



Sacred Kingfisher on a picnic table - Bangalee Photo: Betty Hudson

Richard Zann

Sadly among the 200 plus victims of last month's devastating bushfires in Victoria was Dr Richard Zann, his wife and a daughter. Dr Zann taught at Monash University and is the author of a monograph on Zebra Finches