

MAY ACTIVITIES 2011

Club Meeting –

Monday 9th May 2011

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow
Guest Speaker: *Jodie Foster* – Introduction to the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program including biology of our four threatened shorebirds, threats to their nests and chicks on the beach, management of these threats and nest protection techniques, the role of shorebird volunteers and data from a decade of the program. Also lots of great photo's!

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

May Midweek Walk:

Wednesday 11th May 2011

Botanic Gardens.

Leader Ted Simpson.

Meet at the Discovery Centre car park of Botanic Gardens at the end of Madoline St. Wollongong. (Not the Murphys Ave car park) 8-30 sharp, bring morning tea. I have acquired parking permits as this is necessary for longer than two hour stay. The permits are free, only needing a registration No. See you there.

Contact Ted, mobile No 0425 121 221.

Monthly Outing:

Sunday 15th May 2011.

Bents Basin SRA.

Leaders Charles Dove & Jim Dixon (CBOC)

Meet 9am at the Gates to Bents Basin then a transport drive to the farm at Cobbitty for Lunch with a walk around after eating. National Park Fees Apply. Non Pensioners and National Park Card Holders free otherwise \$7 per car. Coming up from the Gong. get on to Narellan Road towards Camden, where it crosses Camden Valley Way it turns into the **Northern Road**, follow this to **Greendale Road**, [traffic lights] at Bringelly turn left then follow signs to Bents Basin SRA. sign [**Wolstenholme Avenue.**] drive to end on this Avenue.

Contact Charlie on mobile 0417 422 302

Next Committee Meeting –

Monday 16th May 2011

Next committee meeting to be held at Ted Simpsons. 18 Covington Green, Dapto.

All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee.

Contact Ted, mobile No 0425 121 221

June 2011 Newsletter –

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **27th May 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS IMPORTANT Renewal of IBOC Membership for 2011

In order for the club to check and verify the details for all members held in our records, we require that a membership form is completed and attached to your membership payment for 2011. This applies to all types of payments.

Please ensure that you tick the box to receive the Newsletter in glorious colour, through your Email.

For your convenience a membership form is attached to this newsletter or it can be downloaded from the club

Website www.iboc.org.au

**Please complete this form and post together with your cheque or Money Order to:
I.B.O.C. PO Box 56, FAIRY MEADOW, NSW 2519
Or bring completed form along with payment to the next meeting to give to treasurer.**

Title..... NameFamily Name.....

Other Family members.....

Address

Telephone Number..... E-mail address.....

YES *I would like to save IBOC postage costs and the trees for the birds by having my Newsletter delivered by e-mail please....*

Family \$35 Single \$30 Junior \$10

Enclosed is a cheque or Money Order for \$35 \$30 \$10 Other amount \$.....

We would like to WELCOME

New Members to IBOC

and hope they enjoy many Happy Birding Hours

REPORTS

Report for club meeting Monday 11th April 2011.

Alan Cousins

We've had the birds, We've had the trees and now we've also had the bees!! What a fantastic introduction to the world of bees and bee keeping. Our speaker for the night was Louie Kelbert, an expert apiarist was ably assisted by, as he puts it, 'his lady' Michelle, opened the presentation explaining Louie's history and that he started with bees at the age of 7. She explained that there are between 80 - 100,000 bees per hive and the big problem at the moment is keeping them disease free from the hive beetle. She showed examples of the different types of honey - and sent a jar around for tasting - yum!! there is creamed, comb, clear etc. and it is also used for medicinal creams, cosmetics, soaps (good for eczema) and wax for furniture polish (with lemon added) 'Everything in the hive is used' Louie began by talking about the Asian bee which carries a mite. These bees are extremely aggressive -and attack bees in the hive. The Federal funding for the eradication of this pest has been withdrawn in favour of containment. Without bees humans could not exist as pollination could not take place and all plants would die. He then showed the tools of his trade, how a queen bee is introduced to the hive and the smoke bellows used for

calming the bees and the safe method of use. His neif subject was called 'Test Tube Babies', he showed us IVF grafting tools and explained the complicated process of the production of bees. A short video followed showing the process at the hive and also a news item about the threat to bees and the hives that have died out, hives must be kept in tip top condition and cleanliness is paramount. Louie pointed out a beautiful queen bee on the hive. The bees were flying all around Louie, but he looked as if he was immune to them. Numerous questions to Louie followed and he explained that Toyo of bees in Europe have already gone and that 113 of all mouthfuls of food came from the action of bees. Bee predators are dragonflies, spiders, cane toads etc. and queen bees can live for 4'7 years and drones 18'24 weeks. We unfortunately had to wind up the presentation at this point as we had run out of time' All of the large attendance had a wonderful insight into the fascinating world of bees and Louie and Michelle kindly answered many other questions over a drink and a bite to eat and their lovely unadulterated honey was available for anyone to purchase.

Mid-week Walk – Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

Balgownie Escarpment

Jann Gowans

A select group of 9 birdos assembled on a beautiful sunny morning to tackle the escarpment off Brokers Rd. A sizeable list of parrots and common birds was recorded before we even set out. Considerable twittering accompanied our journey into the rainforest with numerous Brown Gerygones, Thornbills and Wrens.

As we headed further up the escarpment, a brief sighting of a Logrunner by Charlie generated some excitement. Sadly, I missed out again and still look forward to seeing one! Maybe next time....

A mountain bike rider with his dog wended his way through the group to later hurtle down the track with his dog keeping pace. Tracks cover the area and some show evidence of the popularity of mountain biking with jumps and bumps.

We had morning tea in a clearing surrounded by car parts of a nearby dismantled vehicle and numerous neighborhood kids passed by on their bikes. Fortunately, despite our many sightings of cyclists, they were all very polite

and willing to share the track and no near-misses were recorded.

A Collared Sparrowhawk was identified (be assured---not by me!) when we reached the clearing by the power lines but only put in a brief appearance. As our morning walk was coming to a close, we were treated with Grey Fantails, Yellow Thornbills and a Rufous Fantail perched on a nearby fence.



It was a great finish to an enjoyable morning outing let by Ted.

Bird list, which tallied to 30

Spotted Dove	White-browed Scrubwren	Pied Currawong
Brown Cuckoo-dove	Brown Gerygone	Rufous Fantail
Collared Sparrowhawk	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Willie Wagtail
Rainbow Lorikeet	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Raven
Australian King-Parrot	Eastern Spinebill	Magpie-lark
Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Silvereye
White-browed Treecreeper	Eastern Whipbird	Welcome Swallow
Satin Bowerbird	Grey Butcherbird	Common Myna
Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie	Red-browed Finch

Mt. Keira Ring Track & Rhododendron Park 10th April 2011

Charles Dove

Arriving early in the carpark we were greeted with brilliant sunshine, it seemed unusual that no sign of any birdlife was around when we arrived; they are normally seen in abundance in this area. Deciding to investigate a bit further I wandered in past the gates to be interrupted by a great flurry in front of me, a Brown Goshawk erupted from the tree directly in front of me, no wonder the birds were hiding. The Clouds then came over with a gust of wind, placing them overhead for the rest of the day. We started off at 8.30 along the lower level pathway and walked down to the Girl Guides Camp for morning tea, the track had an abundance of growth on either side with the birds being infrequent and showing up in little hot spots, not really the norm for this area, but still kept everyone busy. The Satin Bowerbird greeted us as we arrived at camp, we strolled around for a bit after morning tea and did come across a number of King Parrots feeding in the trees during a slight shower of rain.

We decided to walk up the Mt. Keira road to reach the upper section of the track, upon arriving at the pathway, the rain had stopped and the temperature went up, making it very humid for our ascent up the stairway (around

145 steps) then an up and down descent,



I was hoping to come across a Logrunner or two but not to be, still plenty of Yellow and Brown Thornbills, Brown Gerygone, Silvereye etc, the Eastern Whipbird kept us searching. Wal always kept us enthralled with his many stories of his adventures on the Mt. Keira Ring Track; one of his favourite places to visit. Moving on to the Rhododendron Park for lunch and a look around was very difficult with the rain proving the winner in this case, but we managed to see a few ducks on the pond. Having lunch under cover of the Pergola was a relief so we stayed and chatted for awhile hoping the rain would ease but it had now set in so we all just headed home.

Thanks Wal for a great day.

Bird list totalled 44 in all.

Australian Wood Duck	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Butcherbird
Pacific Black Duck	Satin Bowerbird	Australian Magpie
Australasian Grebe	Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong
Wonga Pigeon	White-browed Scrubwren	Rufous Fantail
Topknot Pigeon	Brown Gerygone	Grey Fantail
Australian Pelican	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Raven
Brown Goshawk	Brown Thornbill	Black-faced Monarch
Dusky Moorhen	Spotted Pardalote	Magpie-lark
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Spinebill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Rainbow Lorikeet	Lewin's Honeyeater	Silvereye
Australian King-parrot	New Holland Honeyeater	Bassian Thrush
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	Common Myna
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Mistletoebird
Laughing Kookaburra	Golden Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Superb Lyrebird	Grey Shrike-thrush	

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

FREE WORKSHOP

Attracting native birds to your garden

Saturday 14 May

9:30 am - 12 noon

Find out how to attract local native birds to your own garden in this hands-on workshop led by a local bird expert.

The workshop will cover how to identify local birds, the types of habitats native birds need, and how to create these in your garden. A short bird-watching walk will also be included.

To book, please call 4221 6111 or email biodiversitycorridorinfo@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au



The Allan Sefton Memorial forthcoming speaker

information for interested IBOC members, the evening is open to all

The Sefton Lecturer for 2011 will be Alison Russell-French, the Chair of Birds Australia.

The lecture will be on Tuesday 23 August at about 7 pm. I will forward more details closer to the event.

R. John Morrison
BHP Professor of Environmental Science,
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences,
University of Wollongong,
NSW 2522, AUSTRALIA

Tel: (61 2) 4221 4377 Fax: (61 2) 4221 4665
Email: johnm@uow.edu.au
Web: www.uow.edu.au/science/eesc/eesstaff/UOW002988.html

[Lake Cargelligo Camp](#) impressions by Charles Dove

April 2011

Just a few moments from our recent trip to The Spring Camp at Lake Cargelligo.

We arrived on the Thursday afternoon the 14th April and unpacked, a number of IBOC members had already set up camp and were wandering around.

I was immediately impressed with the view over the lake and the sounds of birds whistling in the trees. After many hours of research on the internet prior to coming I had created a wish list, with 60 particular species to photograph on this trip, but it might be a bit ambitious with 50 of these birds being a tick for me.

Keen to get started and have a look around (*'I had not heard of "BUCK FEVER" as yet!*). I headed up to the headland just up the road, the welcoming birdlife added my 1st tick the White-fronted Woodswallow sitting around casually watching everything around them, feeling pleased about my first tick, I was soon joined in my celebrations with the Restless Flycatcher dancing around with the whistling from the Rufous Whistler in the background



White-fronted Woodswallow



Restless Flycatcher



Rufous Whistler

Getting back to camp, I ran into Ron Imisides and showed him a few of the Pics that I managed in my first hour at the campsite, careful he says, *'you have to watch out for that "BUCK FEVER"!*

Next morning we headed out to the former sewage ponds, lots of water and birds, just a slow stroll around, little Fairy-wrens heard everywhere, Cockatiels high in the trees, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters to the left – Australian Shelducks and Black-fronted Dotterels to the right and we only just started; we all were starting to get a bit excited as we ventured further around the ponds. Little & Rufous Grassbirds were seen and heard, along with the Australian Reed-warbler, a Black-tailed Native Hen startled a few of us from the shoreline as a Brown Falcon cruised overhead. Were we really seeing all this, as a call came out *"White Chats"*, is this the *"BUCK FEVER"* that Ron was talking about. We were nearly halfway now, as we followed some Wrens along the fence line, only being interrupted for a moment with Red-rumped Parrots, jumping around in the trees as we passed by them, then another call *'can you see them "out there" 'just passed that post.'* *'No!', 'I cannot pick see them',* what am I looking for", *"White-winged Fairy-wrens"* was the quick response. After 10mins, with still not seeing them, I moved on; sorry I missed that opportunity for another tick on my list. Now, nearing the end of walk around we came across a number of Red-kneed Dotterels, *'tick'* just mulling around in the shallows, they did not seem to be to worried about us being there, so I wandered down to get closer to them and managed to get a few close up photos.

After leaving the sewage ponds we went up to the road to have a look near the want-a-be-golf course and were surprised when the Major Mitchell's came in to greet us, a couple of us managed to walk up very close to them and just about hand fed them.



Red-rumped Parrot



Red-kneed Dotterel



Major Mitchell

After lunch we headed up the road to just north of Murren Bridge, I had been reading about the Ground Cuckoo-shrike being sighted recently at this location. A few of us set out to have a look and ended up stopping to have a look around at Murren Bridge first, lots of Babblers, Red-rumped Parrots and numerous other species, moving on to try and find the Cuckoo-shrike. Tom, Joan, Tera and Neil left the party and decided to go on to Euabalong, they reported over the two-way as to seeing a tree full of finches along the road we were travelling on. While still looking for the Cuckoo-shrike, we eventually came across the tree with 50 odd Zebra Finches *'tick'* and a Budgerigar *'tick'*, the rain and spotted sunshine did make it very humid. The mosquito's seemed to enjoy the weather and came out in large numbers, I soon sprayed Aeroguard over my exposed area's, and asked Ron if he would like some Aeroguard, *" 'No', they normally do not bother me"*, 5 minutes later and Ron was saying *'you got some of that spray', 'they are biting me through my shirt'.*

In the rain whilst getting some shots of the Finches & Budgerigar and trying to fight the mosquitoes' off; Ron spotted 4 Ground Cuckoo-shrikes, sitting on the fence 100 meters up the road, heading up the road I managed to get 1 photo *'tick'* before the alighted and out of sight. O'well back to the Finches in the rain and then back to town. Travelling back to town we did not travel far down the road, when Ron calls *'out pullover', 'is that an Owl in the tree'* after I stopped the car, Ron jumped out and headed in to get a closer look, *'just a Nankeen Kestrel'* he called out, but as he back to the car he startled a couple of Quail, *'did you see where they landed'*, Ron asked *'over there to the left Ron'* I answered, *'OK'* he as moved over to have a look, next thing you know White-wing Fairy-wrens started jumping up and down the fence, so Pam, Neil and quickly joined Ron in the grass and mosquitoes' to grab a few photos. *'tick'. 'BUCK FEVER' had now spread to a number in our party!*

My wish list had started to gather a few ticks by now, every where we go more birds and more excitement of getting another tick on wish list.



Ground Cuckoo-shrike



Zebra Finch



White-winged Fairy-wren

Arriving back at the Campsite, Betty and a number of other members had arrived and to start the Official Camp outings on the Saturday. By the end of camp and lots of venue's including Round Hill and Whoey Tanks (both fantastic) I managed to collect 21 species for my wanted list (even with BUCK FEVER). Leaving many more exciting adventures & holding many memories of a fantastic place. **Thanks Betty for the great Autumn Camp and introducing us to Lake Cargelligo.**

Betty had over 150 species on the bird list when we left camp. Below just a few of more Pics from Lake Cargelligo.

6 Buckets



Chestnut-rumped Thornbill 'tick'



Inland Thornbill 'tick'



Crested Bellbird 'tick'



Red-capped Robin



Spotted Bowerbird 'tick'



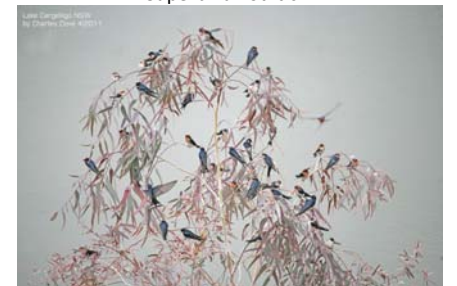
Superb Parrot 'tick'



Striped Honeyeater 'tick'



White-plumed Honeyeater



Mixed Swallows & Fairy Martins



Sunrise over Lake Cargelligo



Southern Scrub-robin 'tick'



Tony's Birthday cake



Blue Bonnet 'tick'



Green Frog enjoying Happy Hour



Sunset from Camp

PS: at the time of writing this, Ron Imides is still at Lake Cargelligo with a few others with "Buck Fever" and might need rescuing. Since we left on the 22nd they have added another 50+ species and still going on the 28th.

Lake Cargelligo

Chris Cartledge

Barbara played the call to the assembled the night before using her nifty iPod and external speakers. I was fortunate to be amongst the group that went to the right in the Round Hill Nature Reserve that morning. Walking towards a waterhole we had seen on the way in we heard the call, then again. And then it just flew towards us and landed in a tree close to the track – full frontal. Charlie was quick to get a pic. It was the bird many were looking for and there it stood in all its glory – Gilbert’s Whistler.

This sighting was the highlight of the camp for me, though the Crested Bellbird, sighted in nearby Mallee scrub came a close second. Before we left for home there were another 9 ‘firsts’ for my twitch list. All up, a great time and thanks once again to the IBOC Committee and our very able camp leader, Betty.



Enjoying morning tea at Curlew Lake.



includes Letters to the Editor

ON BEING IN PERTH

"A view that's been a joy to me,
Is sunrise, where the sky meets sea,
And when it does then safely bet,
That over land, the sun will set.

But here in Perth it's rather strange,
The sun pops up behind a range,
Which leads me to a funny notion,
That at night it slips into the ocean.

I've run this problem through my mind,
Only one solution can I find,
That is of course, in Perth at least,
That EAST IS WEST and WEST IS EAST."

Bigruss april 03



In our autumnal robinia tree this morning. One of them scored both dead mice from our aviary; the other missed out.



Carol & Mike

Dolphins surfing the waves with Brendan at our beach on his day off, how cool!!

Margaret



Russell Hannon



More of the Dolphins at play



Going up Mt. Keira against the traffic (Mt Keira Walk)

I was down at Windang Island late this morning and while walking back along the southern breakwater a pair of these birds flew across in front of me from the northern breakwater. One obligingly stopped on the breakwater and posed for its photo.

Juvenile Striated Herons

Betty Hudson



Success at last.

Went over this pm on the rising tide. Your large nudge into the right habitat paid off. I soon found all 4 Grey-tailed Tattlers foraging in the receding waves below the edge of the rock platform. They seemed to enjoy the seasquirts.

Betty Hudson



Australian King Parrot (Mt Keira Walk)

Alan Cousins



Grey Butcherbird (Mt. Keira walk)

Alan Cousins





4 Anonymous Pictures

Members Sightings March/April 2011

compiled by Betty Hudson

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brown Quail	1M (dead)	27.03.11	Thirroul	Drowned in Garden Water container	Mike Morphett
White-headed Pigeon	20+	9.04.11	Churchill St Jamberoo	Overhead wires & trees	Betty Hudson
Eastern Great Egret	1	9.04.11	Primbee	Lake	Charles Dove
Little Egret	2	9.04.11	Primbee	Lake	Charles Dove
Eastern Osprey	1	6.04.11	Picnic Island Lake Illawarra South	Power Pole	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1Juv	23.03.11	Sandon Point Woonona	Top of Norfolk Pine	Mike Morphett
Brown Goshawk	2	8.04.11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	10.04.11	Barren Grounds	Heath	Roger Truscott & Greg B
Grey Goshawk	1	8.04.11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Grey Goshawk	1	29.03.11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	2.03.11	Maddens Plains	Low overhead	Anne & Alan Cousins
Red-capped Plover	36	2.04.11	Lake Illawarra Entrance (sth side)	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Double-banded Plover	25	2.04.11	Lake Illawarra Entrance (sth side)	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Grey-tailed Tattler	4	29.03.11	Windang Island (Nth Side)	Tidal Rocks	Charles Dove
Grey-tailed Tattler	4	31.03.11	Windang Island (Nth Side)	Wave Washed edge of rock platform	Betty Hudson
Kelp Gull	1	31.03.11	Entrance Lake Illawarra	Exposed Sand	Betty Hudson
Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	10.04.11	Barren Grounds	Heath	Roger Truscott & Greg B
Ground Parrot	1	10.04.11	Barren Grounds	Heath	Roger Truscott & Greg B
Powerful Owl	1	23.03.11	Heard Calling 0530 Excelsior Mine Site Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Powerful Owl	1	31.03.11	Heard Calling 0630 Excelsior Mine Site Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphett
Eastern Spinebill	6	5.04.11	Primbee	Paperbark Tree	Charles Dove
Eastern Spinebill	1	10.04.11	Oak Flats	Garden	Sylvia Garlic
Scarlet Honeyeater	1M 1F, 5juv.	5.04.11	Primbee	Paperbark Tree	Charles Dove
Leaden Flycatcher	1	7.04.11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Beautiful Firetail	3	10.04.11	Barren Grounds	Heath	Roger Truscott & Greg B
<i>Late entries</i>					
Black-faced Monarch	2 juv	11/4/2011	Primbee	Casuarinas'	Charles Dove
Spangled Drongo	1	12/4/2011	Primbee	Casuarinas'	Charles Dove
Please keep your sightings coming in, everything you consider unusual or interesting. Compiled By Betty Hudson					