



2011 OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:**Monday 10th October 2011**

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

Leah Royle, Development Officer, Australian Wildlife Conservancy; Will be giving a talk.*Please bring a plate of goodies and a cup for supper after the meeting.***Midweek Walk:****Wednesday 12th October 2011****Macquarie Rivulet.****Leader Ted Simpson.**

Meet at 9-o'clock, at the Darcy Dunster Reserve. Turn off the Princes Highway at Albion Park Rail onto the Illawarra Highway. Then turn sharp right and go past wholesale Plant Distributors, into the reserve car park. Bring morning tea.

Contact Ted on mob. 0425 121 221.

Monthly Outing:**Sunday 15th October 2011****Shoalhaven Heads / Comerong Island Wetlands****Leader Betty Hudson.**

Meet at 8.30am **sharp** in the River Road foreshore car park at the eastern end, adjoining the Holiday Haven Tourist Park. Travel via Gerringong, Gerroa, Shoalhaven Heads Road. Turn off to the left at the second turning to Shoalhaven Heads (just beyond the speed camera). Take the first on the right (Bailey Rd) and then left again at the end into River Road. Bring a carry morning tea and lunch etc also **insect repellent** in case of sandflies. Be prepared to get your feet wet to get close up views of waders/shorebirds and to test your identification skills.

The tide will be coming in, with a high tide about 1.40pm, pushing the birds up to us. We will be making a stop at the marshes on the way out, then visiting the forest and the beach before returning to the marshes as it gets closer to high tide. This may mean a later than usual finish.

Committee Meeting -**Monday 17th October 2011**

Next committee meeting 7.30pm. To be held at Ted and Ellen Simpson's house, 18 Covington Green, Dapto 42611158. All welcome.

Newsletter -

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **28th October 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

The Following Items are for sale by the club at the Library Table each monthly meeting.

Club Logo Green Fleece Tops – Size Large only	\$37.00 each
Fabric Logo Badges	\$ 4.00 each
Logo Studs	\$ 3.00 each
Logo Pin	\$ 3.00 each
Large Car Stickers	\$ 2.00 each

Please see Anne Cousins or Joan Wylie at monthly meetings
or telephone Joan on 4284 2051 or Anne on 0413 869 534



CLUB REPORTS

Report for club meeting Monday 12th September 2011

by Alan Cousins

Another great presentation from our well known double act - Bill and Joan Zealey entitled "Travels in Britain and Europe 2010", Bill controlling the photos and Joan giving the presentation in her delightful Scottish burr with a few interjections from Bill. We were treated to photos and movie clips from British and European sites. The first stop was a British Birding bird fair where there was a demonstration of bird banding (ringing) and lots of opticals for sale. We were then shown photos of numerous birds such as the Great Tit and Blue Tit which like peanuts and the Greenfinch which likes mixed seeds, unfortunately these beautiful little birds are being decimated by a disease carried by Wood Pigeons who also visit seed trays. The success stories of raptors in Britain are the Ospreys in Rutland Water along with Red Kites and Peregrines. Lots of Red Kites can be seen soaring over the Cotswolds. To name all the species that Bill and Joan saw would take up much of this newsletter so here are a few.

On an RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) Outing seeing Eiders (famous for their down taken from their nests to provide filling for bedspreads and pillows), Mistle thrush, Fieldfare, Bullfinch. In Solway - Graylag Geese and a Snow Goose out of place, Goosander, Whooper Swans. Isle of Wight - Curlew and Brent Beese (also seen on Jersey). Slimbridge (Sir Peter Scott's Wetland Reserve) - Bewick Swans, Mute Swans, Pintails, Tufted Ducks and Shelducks. Blenheim Palace - Long-tailed Tit. Then off to Europe to Salzburg and Vienna - Redstart, Pied Aryhite Wagtail and also in Vienna - Nuthatch, Green Woodpecker (there are eight species of Woodpecker in Europe) and a beautiful Red Squirrel. Spain - Grey Heron, Boat Egret, Flamingo, Azure Magpie, Imperial Eagle and the rare Audouins and Slender-billed Gulls, Thekla Lark, Purple Heron and two types of Vulture, the Griffon and the Black. A wonderful presentation which this report cannot do justice to.

Thanks again Bill and Joan.

Mid-week Walk Report - Bellambi Sand Dunes 14th September 2011. by Terry Edwell

The day was warm and sunny for our walk and fourteen members enjoyed a stroll along the bike-track at Bellambi. One of the first birds we saw was a Spangled Drongo sitting on a fence then dashing here and there after flying insects. There were many little birds in the Casuarina trees mainly Red-browed Finches, Silvereyes, Grey Fantails and Yellow Thornbills.

The lagoon was very full so not many waders were present only a couple of Chestnut Teals, a Dusky Moorhen or two and a sleepy Pelican.

We retraced our steps and stopped at the entrance to the next part of our walk where we had morning tea.



Spangled Drongo by Terry Edwell

Alan and Anne are part of the Bush-care group and great work has been done here. The trees that have been planted are thriving and the weeds have been removed in a lot of the area. Just near the entrance we had wonderful views of the Male Variegated Fairy-wren and the Superb Fairy-wren, their colours were just brilliant. The New Holland Honeyeater was present of course and popped up everywhere to encourage us on.

The day was very warm as we walked through the sand hills. Only a few birds were sighted although there was a lot of whistling heard. There were Southern Emu-wrens seen by a couple of lucky people and many others birds sighted by different people. It was an enjoyable walk thank you to Ted for leading us.

Bird List for Bellambi Lagoon Walk 14th September 2011

9.00am to 12noon 49 Species 14 members attended

list by Tom Wylie

Grey Teal	Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven
Chestnut Teal	Silver Gull	Lewin's Honeyeater	Magpie-Lark
Pacific Black Duck	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Australian Reed-Warbler
Australasian Grebe	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Silvereye
Spotted Dove	Rainbow Lorikeet	New Holland Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Crested Pigeon	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-naped Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Bar-shouldered Dove	Laughing Kookaburra	Eastern Whipbird	Common Blackbird
Little Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Starling
Little Black Cormorant	Variegated Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie	Common Mynah
Pelican	Southern Emu-wren	Spangled Drongo	Red-browed Finch
Brown Goshawk	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail	Australasian Pipit
Nankeen Kestrel	Yellow Thornbill	Willie Wagtail	European Goldfinch
Dusky Moorhen			

Monthly Outing Report: Tallawarra Ash Ponds – Sunday 18th October**Rupert Jarvis**

Brian was all ready for us with the keys to the gate, and we had a fine bright morning for our outing. Once through the gates we entered an extensive area, which, because of the restricted access is a haven for wildlife.

Firstly we made a loop to the north taking us to Duck Creek and along to Lake Illawarra. Shortly after setting off we came across a pair of Cuckoos in the Casuarina trees. Despite good views, we still had the "Horsfield's or Shining Bronze" discussion with the consensus, determining that they were Shining Bronze-cuckoos. The plumage was strongly green a sure sign of spring.



Along the lake, apart from a group of White-faced Herons, we encountered a stiff breeze, so we sought a protected clear spot amongst the trees for morning tea. Walking back from the lake into the woods we passed the Sea Eagles nest, an enormous construction of sticks and probably the largest nest most of us had ever seen. Generally it was a good day for raptors, with sightings of Brown Goshawk, Swamp Harrier, Nankeen Kestrel and near the end of the walk, an excellent view of a juvenile Whistling Kite perched on a tree branch.

All along the walk we frequently heard the Scarlet Honeyeater, but only caught glimpses



until near the Sea Eagle nest we were able to watch a pair quite close and get good clear sightings. Another bird often heard was the Restless Flycatcher, with its buzz-saw sound but as far as I know no-one sighted it.

The second loop took us around the large ash pond on the Haywards Bay side. Here we saw a good selection of waterbirds, even though the water level was high, there was very limited exposed mudbank. There was a flock of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper with a few Black-fronted Dotterel and Black-winged Stilts on one of the few mudbanks. On the open water were Black Swan, Hardheads and Eurasian Coots, with some Chestnut Teal and Australasian Grebe.

In the reeds we heard Reed Warblers and Little Grassbirds. The Reed Warbler was briefly sighted on a couple of occasions, but not the Little Grassbird, obviously the more expert skulker.

Returning to the cars we had covered nearly 7 klms and the list totalled 69 species; so a little tired we drove down to the picnic area for lunch and then dispersed.

Our thanks to Brian for a very enjoyable and worthwhile outing.

Bird List for Tallawarra Walk 18th September 2011

9.30am to 1.30pm 69 Species 16 members attended

list by Terry Edwell

Black Swan	Brown Falcon	Variegated Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie
Chestnut Teal	Purple Swamphen	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Brown Gerygone	Willie Wagtail
Hardhead	Eurasian Coot	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Raven
Australasian Grebe	Black-winged Stilt	Spotted Pardalote	Restless Flycatcher
Little Pied Cormorant	Black-fronted Dotterel	Eastern Spinebill	Magpie Lark
Little Black Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Pelican	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Golden-headed Cisticola
Eastern Great Egret	Silver Gull	Noisy Miner	Australian Reed-Warbler
Cattle Egret	Galah	Red Wattlebird	Little Grassbird
Striated Heron	Little Corella	Scarlet Honeyeater	Silvereye
White-faced Heron	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Australian White Ibis	Rainbow Lorikeet	Eastern Whipbird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Black-shouldered Kite	Crimson Rosella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Mistletoebird
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Eastern Rosella	Golden Whistler E-race	House Sparrow
Brown Goshawk	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Rufous Whistler	
Swamp Harrier	Sacred Kingfisher	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Nankeen Kestrel	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Butcherbird	

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[Update on Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater surveys in 2011](#)

[\(extract from article\)](#)

Through Birds Australia's Woodland Birds for Biodiversity Project, surveys for the endangered Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater have continued in 2011. Thanks to the increasing network of extremely dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, these surveys have now been conducted for 18 consecutive years. This update is being distributed to over 1200 people throughout the mainland range of both species. Your ongoing support and participation in these monitoring programs – two of the longest running for any threatened species in the country – is appreciated enormously. As a result of the data collected, we are able to further our knowledge of these flagship

Chris Tzaros & Dean Ingwersen

woodland birds which puts us in the best possible position to plan for and carry-out actions to ameliorate their threats and assist in the recovery of the birds.

Again, on behalf of the Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Recovery Programs and Birds Australia, we say a sincere thank you to everyone who has raised their binoculars over the course of this year and assisted in these very important conservation programs. We hope you'll be able to stick by our side and continue to help us in 2012. The following is a synopsis of where the swifties and regents occurred this autumn-winter.

Swift Parrots

Chris Tzaros, Swift Parrot Recovery Coordinator, reports:

After the breaking of the fourteen year drought, expectations were high in the sense that Swift Parrots would respond well to a much healthier winter habitat than we had seen in years. But much of the improved condition of winter habitat was in the form of phenomenal plant growth and the anticipated intensive eucalypt flowering events never really came to fruition. Across the box-ironbark-gum woodlands on the inland slopes of the divide, and on the coastal plains and valleys where the species occurs, flowering events were sparse and patchy. It was only in localised areas that some of the eucalypts managed to flower well and these events certainly attracted interest from nectar-feeding birds including swifties.

Across the autumn-winter period of 2011, Swift Parrots occupied every State and Territory of their non-breeding range. There were 292 reports of Swift Parrots submitted and this equated to a total of 2,092 birds detected.



Regent Honeyeaters

Dean Ingwersen, Regent Honeyeater Recovery Coordinator, reports:

Let me be the bearer of good news - this year has been quite good for Regent Honeyeater sightings. Well, by recent standards anyway. During the early part of the year several juveniles were seen – one being fed by a couple of adults on the coast of NSW near Moruya, and another near St Albans in NSW. Obviously wherever the Regents took off to over the summer months was productive, at least for the few birds our fantastic observers could find, so we had high hopes for the remainder of the year. Another bird turned up in Bathurst in March, not long after an eagle-eyed volunteer spotted a bird in Chiltern NP in Victoria. Things were shaping up well. Following this Chiltern record, and with flowering looking promising on the Mugga Ironbark and Box-



Ironbark hybrids, we swung into action trying to search the park for any captive-released birds. And with good reason. At the start of this year none of the birds released during 2008 or 2010 had been seen after our initial intensive monitoring (which lasted about 5-6 months in each case), and we were obviously getting keen to see some of them again. In April our hard work paid off, with the one of the 2010 released birds being found close to the release site within Chiltern NP. Given the nature of the summer and the drop in honeyeater numbers in general, we're confident this bird left the park and returned only when conditions improved. Since that time there has been a steady trickle of more unbanded and banded birds back into Chiltern, and at its peak we've had a total of at least 11 birds present. And four of those have been from the 2010 release, showing the longer-term survival ability of the captive bred birds in the wild. And as exciting as this was, a fifth bird from the 2010 release was picked up by a landholder with very keen ears, near Holbrook (NSW), about 100kms from where it was released just 12 months earlier!

A CALL TO HELP SAVE THE ENIGMATIC SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* is one of the world's strangest looking birds and certainly the most unusual wader. The species is listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered on the basis of an extremely small population, estimated at 120-200 hundred pairs, and due to an annual decline of 27%. This means that it is at an extremely high risk of extinction in the next few years. Hunting and habitat loss on the non-breeding grounds, combined with the loss of important intertidal feeding areas during its migration, have all contributed to this precipitous decline. At the last East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Meeting in December 2010, a report on the International Action Plan for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper was delivered on behalf of BirdLife International and the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS). Along with actions related to habitat protection, site management, awareness raising and education particularly in the non-breeding grounds, the possibility of establishing a captive breeding program was explored. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) in conjunction with RSPB, BTO, Birdlife International and Birds Russia have now embarked on an ambitious breeding program. This will entail extensive field operations in Chukotka, Russia, in the forthcoming summer of 2011. Ongoing husbandry will be carried out through WWT facilities in the United Kingdom. The cost of this program is very high and, while it is being funded in the short term by RSPB and WWT, the EAAF Partnership has invited Partners to provide

financial assistance to enable ongoing support and the success of this program. Although this species is not one that we see in Australasia it is, nevertheless, the most iconic wader species in our flyway.



Its current critical conservation situation should be of concern to every shorebird lover wherever they live. Moreover, the problems faced by this species are common to many of the shorebirds that migrate through our flyway. In many ways this is a flagship species that is demonstrating to the world the significant issues that are faced by these long distance migrants. As a key member of the Partnership, the AWSG wishes to provide support to this program, and the broader conservation of this species by protecting critical habitat and addressing the threats of hunting, identified as the main causes of decline.

'Exert from "**STILT**" *The Journal for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway*

The Wentworth Talks: Birds

From vermin to endangered in two decades; the tale of Western Australia's Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

When: Monday 24 October, 6.30pm **Where:** Wharf 1 Sydney Theatre Company's home, The Wharf at Pier 4/5, is fast becoming a living example of how all buildings – even heritage ones – can be made more sustainable. We now draw energy from the sun, reduce the waste leaving The Wharf to landfill and will soon be collecting precious rainwater from our roof. **The WA Carnaby's Black Cockatoo is headed for extinction.** The species may well go the same way as the Tasmanian Tiger in 1936. Dr Denis Saunders' (President of WWF Australia) has been detailing the ecology and behaviour of these increasingly rare birds since 1968. In that time he has observed that the clearing of native vegetation and increases in agriculture and urban development have had a dramatic effect on the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Dr Saunders tells the story of just one species and what it can teach us about human impacts on our environment.

Dr Denis Saunders AM is a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, President of WWF-Australia, Chair of the Sara Halvedene Foundation, and a Research Fellow with CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences. He has a BSc (Honours) from the Australian National University and a PhD from the University of Western Australia. From 1968 to 2002 he was a scientist with CSIRO, retiring as a Chief Research Scientist. He has studied the ecology, behaviour and taxonomy of cockatoos, the ecology of island bird communities and the conservation of bird communities in production landscapes.

More information: <http://www.sydneytheatre.com.au/back-stage/the-wentworth-talks-birds>

Tickets are free but we encourage you to get in early and book your seats by calling the STC Box Office on (02) 9250 1777

Please note: Tickets are limited to 2 per customer and must be collected 30 minutes prior to the performance.

Recognition for One of Our Own.

Nola Williams, Foundation Member of our Club and wife of Foundation President and Life Member Laurie, has been nominated by the NSW Embroiderers' Guild for Senior Citizen of the Year (2012). It cites "Education for Children in Remote Areas".

After organising for the Guild a test run in 2003, Nola set up in 2004 a scheme titled "Fun With Stitches" for young people aged 8 to 18. She expected to attract about 20 students but, to date, she's had 158. Except for the 3 students overseas (Singapore, South Africa and USA), her students are well scattered over Australia, mostly "in the bush".

Nola's contact with the youngsters is almost exclusively by mail so, on birdwatching trips away from home, she misses few chances to make closer contact. In 2007, after birdwatching around White Cliffs and while in Wanaaring for The Wild Goat Muster, she called on the NPWS Ranger at Nocolche Nature Reserve to meet two of her students, the Ranger's daughters, who took pride in showing Nola a room set aside with radio, computer etc for that other part of their education, School of the Air. And, in 2005, coming off The Great Central Road in WA, Nola used the School of the Air base in Meekatharra to get the message out to more youngsters.

A lot of continuous work and dedication and a nomination well earned.

Our congratulations to Nola. We're proud of her.

Dave Thomson. 9/9/2011.

Notice of Motion to be submitted to the IBOC Membership at the 2011 AGM.

The IBOC Committee has unanimously agreed to submit this proposal to the Annual General Meeting of IBOC on Monday 14th November 2011.

**that "Bronwyn Wilson be elected a
Life Member of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club inc.
in recognition of her 18 years Service as IBOC's Treasurer."**

Proposed Anne Cousins, seconded Wal Emery.

ATLAS DATA: A MILLION USES -

http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/images/stories/current-projects/atlas_birddata/AtlasNews15-Aug11.pdf

Data collected for the Atlas project play a critical role in a multitude of conservation actions. Here are just a couple examples...

Aussie Bittern Protected by the EPBC Act Last February the Australasian Bittern was given formal protection under the Federal Government's EPBC Act, where it was listed as 'Endangered', bringing its status in line with that of the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species. This happened only after it was established that the species' population had been in steady decline for decades. The Australasian Bittern is such a shy, cryptic and secretive bird, so how do we know? The Atlas was crucial in kick-starting the conservation effort to save the species. Researchers were able to track the declining number of records of bitterns submitted to the Atlas since the 1970s, and they could also see that the range of the species had contracted in that time. The collective efforts of the Atlasers provided the information which made it possible to see clearly what was going on. After the alarm bells started ringing, birdwatchers — most of them Atlasers — were mobilised to search wetlands, looking specifically for bitterns. From those surveys, it was established just how perilously low the population had become, and that a conservation effort was necessary to save the species. And thus the Bittern Survey Project was born. Atlas to the rescue!



Basna Coming Events.....

contact for all events For a registration forms or to enquire about the courses or activities, please email basna@birdsaustralia.com.au or call Pixie on 02 9647 1033

Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association Boat Trip: Sunday 23 October

Come along and meet some of our critically endangered wildlife including albatrosses, shearwaters and petrels.

Venue: Wollongong Harbour (Not Port Kembla)

Time: Boat leaves at 7am – returns at 4pm

Bring: Lunch, drink, camera, binoculars and motion sickness tablets if required.

Cost: \$90 per person Limited spaces are available on boat.

Twitchathon: 29-30 October

After the success of last year's twitchathon, in which BASNA members and friends raised \$25,000 for conservation projects, we are aiming to get even bigger and better in 2011 – raising enough money to fund a Powerful Owl Project Officer for the 2012 winter-spring breeding season of the Powerful Owl.

To join the Twitchathon contact Pixie at the BASNA Office for your 2011 Twitchathon Kit then form a team with two or even a dozen friends and family and go birdwatching over this October weekend. You can travel anywhere in NSW and/or the ACT. See how many species of birds your team can find from 4 pm Saturday 29 October to 4 pm Sunday 30 October 2011. In the weeks before this event, persuade family and friends to sponsor you so many cents or even dollars for each species your team sees.

There are prizes for the most species seen by two winning teams in the Main Race and the Champagne Race Sections, as well as prizes for the most money raised, the rarest bird seen by an individual, and prizes for children. There are also prizes to the team that sees the most birds in the shortest distance travelled, providing that they see over 180 species in the Main Race and 130 species in the Champagne. Participants in the two main races are invited to record the distance travelled from 4pm on the Saturday to 4pm on the Sunday.

The prizes include Trophies, a pair of Swarovski EL 10 x 50 Swarovision binoculars, a weekend in a motel at Leeton with a personal guided tour of the Internationally famous Ramsar Fivebough Swamp Wetlands (sponsored by the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetland Trust), two nights for two at a B&B at a known birding site, a digital camera, books, book vouchers, CDs, champagne, wine, special t-shirts and other prizes to go to the winners in the various categories of the Twitchathon.

Learning about Raptors: Saturday 3 December

Have you ever been confused about the identity of a bird of prey? Are you looking at an eagle, kite, harrier, buzzard, hawk and falcon? If so which species? Are you curious about their habits, territory or conservation status? If yes then this courses is for you:

Venue: Sydney Olympic Park Time: 9 am-1 pm

Cost: The cost is \$59 for BA/BOCA members and \$69 for non-members.

Presenter: Dr Stephen Debus Bird ecologist, author of Australian raptor field guide "The Birds of Prey of Australia"

Raptor Field day: Sunday 4 December

The field day will aim to find and observe a representative range of local raptors, highlight their field characters, and provide some identification tips. Numbers limited to 15.

Venue: Hawkesbury swamps/ lowlands areas

Time: 9 am to 2 pm

Cost: \$39 for BA/BOCA members, \$49 for non-members

For a registration form or to enquire about the courses or activities, please email

basna@birdsaustralia.com.au or call Pixie on 02 9647 1033



If you wanted to see an image that totally captured the essence of being at peace, being secure and protected; what would that image look like? I submit that if you look right you will see that very essence in one incredible, magnificent photograph.

Talk about having your camera and being the right place at the right time. The photographer caught this special moment.

What a privilege to see.

Possibly Pink-necked Green Pigeon from Sri Lanka - unknown photographer.





We saw this Powerful Owl at Sydney Botanic Gardens in July. It was having a smorgasbord of fruit bats provided by the colony that roost near the cafe. I was wondering if you'd like to include one of the photos in the next newsletter. Many thanks Alison

Photo by Johanna Keene

Though I am not terribly enamoured of snakes, I find this fellow attractive (mainly because it is small)

Russell Hannah



"Stimpson Python"

**The Singing Garden
THE INDIAN MYNA**

Gimme the town an' its clamour an' clutter;
I ain't very fond of the bush;
For my cobbers are coves of the gardens and gutter --
A tough metropolitan push.
I ain't never too keen on the countryfied life;
It's the hustle an' bustle for me an' me wife.

So I swagger an' strut an' I cuss an' I swagger;
I'm wise to the city's hard way.
A bit of a bloke an' a bit of a bragger;
I've always got plenty to say.
Learned thro' knockin' about since my people came out
From the land at the back of Bombay.

When out in the bush I am never a ranger;
There never ain't nothin' to see.
Besides, them bush birds got no time for a stranger;
So town an' the traffic for me.
I sleep in the gardens an' loaf in the street,
An' sling off all day at the fellers I meet.

An' I swagger an' scold an' strut an' I swagger,
An' pick up me fun where I can,
Or tell off me wife, who's a bit of a nagger,
Or scrap with the sparrers for scran.
A bonzer at bluffin', I give you my word,
For, between you an' me, I'm a pretty tough bird.

"Den"
Herald, 7 January 1933, p8 - Number 25 in the Bush Birds series.

"Linus"
Diamond Python
still at home in
Manyana

Russell Hannah



IF YOU HAVE ANY OWLS IN YOUR AREA CAN YOU PLEASE LET US KNOW

CHARLES DOVE Ph 0417 422 302
newsletter@iboc.org.au

Members August/ September Sightings 2011

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
California Quail	8	14-Sep-11	Towradgi Park	Bush/Grass	CDove/TEdwell/TWylie
White-headed Pigeon	2	31-Aug-11	Figtree	Garden	C Markham
Topknot Pigeon	1	24-Aug-11	Callala	Bush	R Emery
Wandering Albatross	1	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Offshore	B&J Zealey
Black-browed Albatross	4	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Offshore	B&J Zealey
Little Black Cormorant	20+	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Beach	B&J Zealey
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	24-Aug-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	24-Aug-11	Primbee	Casuarina Forest	Charles Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	25-Aug-11	Commaditchi Lagoon	Overhead	T Edwell/C&J Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	29-Aug-11	Windang Island	Post	C Dove
Brown Falcon	1	25-Aug-11	Fred Finch Park, Berkley	Bush	T Edwell/C&J Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	29-Aug-11	Lake Illawarra Entrance	Foreshore	Charles Dove
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	17-Sep-11	Huskisson	Moona Moona Ck	R Emery
Double-banded Plover	1	29-Aug-11	Lake Illawarra Entrance	Foreshore	C Dove
Banded Lapwing	2	06-Sep-11	Windang Foreshore	Sand	C Dove
Red Knot	5	17-Sep-11	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Shoreline	C Dove
Red-necked Stint	1	15-Sep-11	Windang Foreshore	Sand	C Dove
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	3	12-Sep-11	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Shoreline	C Dove
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	9	17-Sep-11	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Shoreline	C Dove
Crested Tern	several	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Beach	B&J Zealey
Long-billed Corella	5	23-Sep-11	Slackey Flat, Bulli	Road nature strip	Mike Morphet
Long-billed Corella	50+	25-Sep-11	Warilla	Park	D Goldrick
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	20+	25-Sep-11	Warilla	Park	D Goldrick
Red-rumped Parrot	1m+1 fem	07-Sep-11	Market Square, W'gong	Park	Col Payne
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	19-Sep-11	East Corrimal	Residential	Mike Morphet
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	25-Sep-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forest	Mike Morphet
Southern Boobook	1	24-Sep-11	Budderoo NP	Forest	M Morphet/R Miller
Australian Logrunner	1	15-Sep-11	Hacking River	Rainforest	P Woodard
Eastern Bristlebird	1	19-Sep-11	Murrays Beach	Cliff Walk track	R Emery
Olive-backed Oriole	1	12-Sep-11	Purry Burry Point, Primbee	Casuarina Forest	C Dove
Spangled Drongo	1	14-Sep-11	Bellambi	Casuarina Forest	B Hudson
Tawny Grassbird	1	25-Aug-11	Commaditchi Lagoon	Grass/Reed	T Edwell/C&J Dove
Little Grassbird	3	20-Aug-11	Korrongulla	Reeds	Charles Dove

Comments:

The Banded Lapwing (a rare, nomadic) sighting is notable on two counts - firstly, it is unusual for it to frequent sandy foreshore/beach areas as its usual habitat is open grassy / bare habitat and secondly, this is the first Illawarra sighting since Nov 1988 at Shellharbour Swamp.

The Red-rumped Parrot (an uncommon, resident) sighting is also notable as a pair were last reported in May 1996 in the Primbee dune forest .

Darryl Goldrick, Records Officer

**Email your unusual or not so unusual bird sightings to sightings@iboc.org.au
Please try to have sightings in 3 days before the newsletter deadline**

**Illawarra Bird Observers Club is now on facebook for your convenience ...
let members know the birds that are in your area today.**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Illawarra-Bird-Observers-Club-NSW-Australia/223624561002229>

NO NEED TO USE YOUR PERSONAL E-mail address WE CAN SET AN ANONYMOUS ONE FOR YOU TO USE ON IBOC FACEBOOK PAGE
for further information contact Charles newsletter@iboc.org.au

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While all due care has been taken to ensure that the content of this newsletter is accurate and current, there may be errors or omissions in it and no legal responsibility is accepted for the information in this newsletter

**I.B.O.C. 2011 Annual General Meeting Monday 14th November 2011
Nomination Forms for Positions on 2011 Committee**

These forms are included in this newsletter to allow time for completed nomination forms to reach the Secretary no later than Monday 7th November 2011. Completed Nomination Forms should be posted to the club mailbox, P.O. Box 56 Fairy Meadow or handed to the Secretary prior to this date.

Please note that all nominations must be signed and dated by the Nominee, the Nominator and the Seconder, as well as clearly indicating the position sought. If any of these are missing the nomination will be invalid.

If no valid nomination forms are received for a position, then nominations will be called from the floor of the Annual General Meeting on 14th November 2011.

The positions to be elected are President; Vice-President; Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Committee Members.

If you are interested in assisting in any of the non elected positions i.e. Records Officer, Activities Officer (Monthly Walks), Activities Officer (Mid Week Walks), Editor, Librarian, please let the President know prior to the AGM

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Inc

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS - 2012

The AGM will be held at the start of the November meeting and nominations are invited for the following positions:

President; Vice-President; Treasurer; Secretary and Four (4) Committee Members.

Nominations should be received in writing by the Secretary no later than 7 days prior to the meeting.

****This year nominations are required to reach the Secretary by Monday 7th November 2011****

Position nominated:

Members Name: Signature.....

Date:

(Nominee)

Nominated by: Signature:

Date:

Seconded by: Signature:

Date:

IMPORTANT NOTE: All other positions are also available but these are not Committee positions and nominations are not required.

