



**October 2006 NEWSLETTER** Deadline for articles for the next *IBOC News* is **Friday 22nd September**. Contributions from all members welcomed, but please submit your contributions early, by email preferably, otherwise by post.

Please note **Penny Potter** will be helping me out by now editing the November issue of the News. So next month send items to me, John Cashman, and the following month to Penny

## **Lake Illawarra Entrance Works Project – Stage 2** **Chris Brandis**

As the Club's representative on the Community Liaison Group for the next 10 months or so I can update members on the current progress of the works.

The first meeting was held on the 25th May after a site visit with some 22 community, contractor and government representatives present. The first stages of the building of a spur wall off the southern rock wall and then the building of the northern rock wall is hoped to start in mid June once the Dept. of Planning give their final approval. This is hoped to get the construction area away from the Little Tern nesting area and if there are concerns then the project will be stopped.

It is hoped that the beach will continue to build up on both the northern and southern sides of the wall, as it is doing now, to provide suitable nesting area for both the Little Terns and the Red-capped Plovers. The channel is planned to be dredged on the southern side leaving sand flats and shallows on the northern bank for wader feeding and roosting although with the lower Lake levels many are now in the western entrance areas. The Club will continue the survey of the bird populations in the entrance as we have done since 1999. This will affect those visiting the area and our February walk at Windang as some of the area will be classified as a construction zone.

For project updates visit the web site [www.lia.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lia.nsw.gov.au) and check the progress.

Any member wishing to know more, make suggestions, assist in surveys, be a relief member please let me know you thoughts.

Other groups that the Club has representatives on are:

- The Bird Interest Group of NSW and ACT, BIGnet, that meets twice a year at various NSW club areas.
- The Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee, ORAC, that assess unusual bird record sightings submitted in NSW and meets one a year.
- The Tallawarra Community Consultative Committee that meets every 2 months to liaise with TRU Energy on the effects of the construction of the new power station at Tallawarra on the community. Construction has now started on the slab and the area around the scout camp site is busy with trucks carting rubble. IBOC have provided a report for the EIS consultants on the bird life on the site from our records.

Check the web site [www.truenergy.com.au](http://www.truenergy.com.au) for updates on the progress.

## **Dolan on Nolan** **Val Dolan reports on Peter Nolan's talk on some US raptors et al.**

Every November since 1991 Peter Nolan has packed his shorts and sandals and headed for the U.S.A. to enrich his knowledge of raptors. With friends made over the years he is able to travel to places that would not be available to most visiting birdwatchers. In 2005 his first week was spent in Arkansas, where a friend was continuing to regenerate flat farmland for the benefit of wildlife. Landowners are encouraged to improve their land this way with an annual government payment of \$50,000 and further tax credits. River banks were cleared of exotic trees and water plants introduced to replace them, to encourage ducks. Seven species of ducks are now present but the aim is for 12 species. Former rice paddies have been planted with a variety of native grasses. Peter showed us a slide of these and assured us that a flock of White

Throated Sparrows were in his shot. He also sighted Red Headed Woodpeckers, Great Blue Herons and many cormorants that were indicators of a good spot to fish.

While out one night on a deer count Peter pointed out a bird that he fleetingly thought was a quail. This unusual sighting turned out to be an American Woodcock. It was taken home to be weighed, measured and photographed as further proof that the regenerated wildlife areas were in fact working. This nocturnal bird was returned to its habitat 2.30am. That's dedication!

Peter spoke of the contradiction of allowing two weeks hunting at great expense to the shooter, and 50 weeks of nurturing wildlife. But as he said - "it seems to be working". From Arkansas he moved into the spectacular eroded sandstone country of Utah where he expected to find Eagles. The long drought had affected their flight path and not one eagle was spotted, only many crows. Due to local knowledge Peter was able to make a worthwhile detour to a site with petroglyphs thought to be 7000 years old!

The Pawnee National Grasslands, in Colorado, are home to over 300 bird species in summer but in November only 12 species call this home. Peter spotted 7 of these during his stay, one of which was the Whistling Sparrow. A friend invited Peter to assist with his studies of Red Tailed Hawks by throwing down a moose trap to imitate road kill. In one day nine birds were caught; seven were the larger females and two the smaller males, apparently typical of the gender ratio at this time of the year.

While awaiting his flight home in San Francisco Peter drove 40 minutes out of town to visit Muir Woods, a magnificent stand of ancient redwoods that were saved in the 1860's. Peter took 130 shots on his new digital camera but as many new users have done pressed a button and deleted the lot! From the few slides he showed us I'm sure Muir Woods is imprinted on his memory. Kevin McGregor thanked Peter for his presentation and remarked on his obvious enthusiasm for bird watching. He also suggested that a recorder might be a good idea for capturing those pesky Whistling Sparrows!

### **Dunmore Archery Centre Walk Wednesday 16 th August – Chris Brandis**

14 members met at the end of Rocklow Road on a bright sunny day picking up Red-browed Finch and Superb Fairy-wren on the way. Around the parking area Brown and Yellow Thornbills were sighted in the paperbarks before we set off through the gates and down the steep track into the valley leased by the Shellharbour Bow Hunters from the nearby quarry. We could hear the monotonous call of a nearby pigeon and some saw a White-headed Pigeon take off and later a few Brown Cuckoo-Doves were flushed out of thick brush but no good looks were obtained. The wild tobacco bush was still just fruiting and should bring in the fruit pigeons shortly and hopefully a return of the Green Catbirds seen before.

Down on the flat area the Bowhunters have made it a home away from home with shelter sheds, showers and toilets all set out amongst numerous trails and targets. Down one trail some saw a Bassian Thrush scamper off while a White-throated Treecreeper poked about over head and Eastern Whipbirds called from behind the lantana. Lewin's Honeyeaters were quite common as some mistletoe was coming into flower.

While having morning tea in the warm sun a parade of birds soared overhead including Straw-necked and Australian White Ibis, a white phase Grey Goshawk, a pair of Brown Goshawks, Collard Sparrowhawk and a Wedge-tailed Eagle being harassed by a Little Eagle. We then made the slow climb back out of the valley back to the cars and a little way down the road and had a look in a swampy area which had a Black Swan building a nest and Black-winged Stilts wading in the shallows.

Thanks to the Shellharbour Bowhunters who have allowed us to visit the site, but not on weekends when the arrows are flying.

### **Bird Sightings**

Black Swan	Pacific Black Duck	Grey Teal
Little Pied Cormorant	Pied Cormorant	Pelican
White-faced Heron	Australian White Ibis	Straw-necked Ibis
Brown Goshawk	Grey Goshawk	Collard Sparrowhawk
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Little Eagle	Black-winged Stilt
Masked Lapwing	White-headed Pigeon	Brown Cuckoo-dove
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Rosella	Laughing Kookaburra
White-throated Treecreeper	White-throated Scrubwren	Brown Gerygone
Brown Thornbill	Yellow Thornbill	Little Wattlebird
Lewin's Honeyeater	New Holland Honeyeater	Eastern Spinebill
Eastern Yellow Robin	Eastern Whipbird	Golden Whistler
Grey Shrike Thrush	Magpie Lark	Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail	Grey Butcherbird	Australian Magpie
Pied Currawong	Australian Raven	Satin Bowerbird
Red-browed Finch	European Goldfinch	Welcome Swallow
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Bassian Thrush	

### **IBOC Spring Camp 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Smiths Lake Field Station UNSW.**

Some further information from Betty Hudson (4236 0307)

The usual IBOC signs will be put at the Seal Rocks road turn and at the turn off that road to the Field Station. This turn is opposite the Fish Co-operative building.

To enlarge on the cooking facilities: there are 5 gas burners in the outside BBQ area, 2 wood burnings BBQ's and a gas stove inside. All crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils are provided. Microwaves are not shown as being supplied. You will need to bring tea towels. IBOC will supply dish washing liquid, dishcloths, scourers etc.

In the dormitories you will need to bring all your bedding needs, as well as a pillow.

Please ensure that you bring insect repellent as the area is notorious for ticks. And after the rain the mossies will be very active.

Supermarket, Butcher, Baker and Fuel within 15min drive.

To date I have confirmed bookings for 6 rooms and possible bookings, for the last 1 rooms, from another 2 groups. Please contact Betty Hudson ASAP if you have indicated that you may possible come, to confirm or otherwise your booking. There is plenty of room for tents and for 3 more campervans / trailers or 1 caravan.

### **Bird Sleuthing around Berry**

**Bob Ashford**

Every now and then I get a phone call, or I'm stopped in the street, and I'm questioned regarding the identity of a bird. I enjoy these interactions though sometimes the information provided is sparse. One such question prompted this column. "I saw a black bird. What is it?" My first response is invariably "Oh. How interesting?" However, inside my head a little voice says "Yeah Right!"

I love the detective work required to identify birds - unfamiliar calls, tantalising glimpses of a disappearing tail, unusual behaviours. That intensely satisfying feeling when all falls into place - "Ah! That's what you are." But, I'm hard pushed to hit the jackpot with just 'black'!

Around Berry there are probably a dozen 'black' birds we are likely to see. That's not counting those that look black due to bad light or contrast or who are skulking in thick scrub.

In this case the bird was in fact a Blackbird. This is a non-native bird commonly found throughout the UK and Europe. The female is a drab brown but the male plumage is black. The male also has an orange-yellow bill and a yellow eye-ring. This is often the case with all-black birds, invariably they have some other feature that helps quickly identify them.

The male Satin Bowerbird is a glossy purple-black with an ivory coloured bill. Male Koels are black with a wicked red eye. The Koel is the cuckoo that calls monotonously through the night in early summer. Those they keep awake have red eyes too! You are likely to see each of these birds in your gardens.

In paddocks and dams around Berry there are more black birds. There are Starlings, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos perhaps even a Spangled Drongo. Other subtle features easily identify each of these species. For example, Black Swans can occasionally be seen on the dam alongside Agars Lane. Anyone who has difficulty identifying that one, see me after class! If you head out to the coast you are likely to encounter Sooty Oystercatchers, Little Black Cormorants and Great Cormorants, identified by what is known in birding circles as 'jizz'.

Jizz is that unique combination of characteristics (size, flight pattern, shape, posture, general behaviour, etc) that allows a parent to instantly identify their child among the 3 o'clock throng at school. Combine jizz with setting (Blackbird-garden, Cormorant-coastal rocks) and you are well on the way to becoming a successful birding sleuth.

Another quite common black bird around Berry is the Australasian Raven. Every now and then there are reports of Little Ravens near Berry. In fact there are five species of Ravens and Crows in Australia, which are wickedly difficult to tell apart. Fortunately, each species inhabits different habitat and parts of the country – mostly! But every now and then two, or more, species overlap!

Many years ago a group of keen birding novices, including me, were out on a field trip in southern Queensland with a very experienced birder when we came across some Raven/Crows. As mild panic swept through the group our guide gave us the low-down on how to identify the two different species of Raven/Crow we were watching.

“One is black with a bit of grey at the very base of its breast feathers and it calls ‘Caw, caw, caawww’. The other is black with a bit of grey/white at the very base of its breast feathers and it calls ‘Caw, caw, caawww’”. Each of us nodded politely and said “Oh. How interesting” but inside each head a little voice said “Yeah Right!”

Bob wrote this article for the April issue of the *Berry Town Crier*

## **MONTHLY OUTING – Buderoo Plateau 20.8.06                      Nerida Hudspith**

There was a good turn out on this chilly morning on Jamberoo Mountain, 17 keen birders, with 3 friends of mine who are potential members, Trish Whitelaw, Marie and Peter Stanley.

At the meeting point on the fire trail there was little bird activity, ( a sign of what was to come), as we wandered along the gravel fire trail. This walk took us through low marsh vegetation, to pockets of tall gums, with evidence of a recent fire, with the vegetation in both areas still recovering. As usual the group split into a front and back end, members being engrossed in different birds.

We came across some New Holland and Lewin's Honeyeaters and some wattlebirds. The Scarlet Robin was an absolute delight, and seeing my first Southern Emu Wren and Grey

Currawong was exciting. Being new to birding there is always something new to see. So I am excited by birds that are significant to me. The bird list gives a full count of birds for the day.

We had lunch on a trail which led down to a river, and after lunch it was decided that we would call it a day and head back to the cars. Being fairly close to the river, Trish, Marie, Peter and I chose to stay and go to the river.

We timed our walk from the lunch spot, 25 minutes. This excluded the time take out when we came across a bathing puddle and had the privilege of watching a Brown Thornbill taking an afternoon bath. Keeping quiet while watching him we soon became surrounded by a small group of 6 to 8 Striated Thornbills who took it in turns to have a bath and preened themselves on a dead Hakea.

Closer to the river it became evident why there was a lack of bird life, as the fire had burnt out large areas of vegetation which were only just beginning to recover. The trails no long existed due to fallen Banksias and Hakeas. But it would be well worth another visit when the regrowth has happened. We bush bashed our way to the falls and had a welcome afternoon tea break. Trish set a steady pace back, which took us 2 hours from the falls.

**Bird List for Budderoo Fire Trail Walk 20.08.06 - 28 species for the day**

Nankeen Kestrel	Brown Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crimson Rosella	Striated Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird
Ground Parrot	Red Wattlebird	Grey Shrike-thrush
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
White-throated Treecreeper	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Currawong
Red-browed Treecreeper	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Superb Fairy-wren	Crescent Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch
Southern Emu-wren	New Holland Honeyeater	Beautiful Firetail
Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Spinebill	
White Browed Scrub Wren	Scarlet Robin	

**Bits and...**

The 2006 Allan Sefton Memorial Lecture will be held in the UniCentre Function rooms of the University of Wollongong on Tuesday, 19 September commencing at 6.30pm with light refreshments and a poster display. The official welcome will be at 7.15pm.

The Lecturer will be Dr John Woinarski, Biodiversity Conservation Group, NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts. His presentation is titled, "Beyond the Pale: An ecological and land management perspective from Northern Australia."

Dr Woinarski is Principal Scientist with the NT's Dept. Of Natural Resources..., a project leader with the Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Unit, and Adjunct Professorial Fellow with Charles Darwin University. He has lived in Darwin for 20 years, and worked across the north on a broad range of conservation and management issues, including the impacts upon biodiversity of fire regimes and pastoralism, reserve design, biogeography; environmental history, and management of threatened plant and animal species. His published works include over 150 scientific papers and book chapters. He was awarded the Eureka Prize for biodiversity research in 2001, and the Seventy Medal for his lifetime contribution to research on Australian birds

More info about this lecture from Penny Potter, whose daytime work number is 4221 3550



**'The hand that rocks the cradle' Little Wattle Bird nest : Wednesday walk** *Photo Tera Wheway*

## **Birding Abroad Sept 2002 At Lesbos, Greece**

**David Winterbottom**

Billed as the autumn migration magic, this proved to be magic but not quite what we expected in the way of migratory birds. This being Greece, the weather was mostly hot and sunny and the first day showed a few Honey Buzzards and Lesser Spotted Eagles and a single Booted eagle riding a thermal. Later, a Long-legged Buzzard joined the eagle.

Near to the hotel the coastal marshes and foreshores yielded a host of waders. We saw Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Little Ringed Plover, Temminck's Stint, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Greenshank, and a couple of Black-tailed Godwits. More exciting for us were Black Storks, Eurasian Spoonbill and thousands of Greater Flamingos.

Driving through the parched landscape, with stone walls around olive groves and vineyards, there were lots of Spotted Flycatchers, with Tree Pipits, Wood Warblers, Red-backed Shrikes and Blackcaps. Amongst the oak trees were a Western Rock Nuthatch and a few Chiffchaffs and amongst the native pines, the rare Kruper's Nuthatch and a party of Long-tailed Tits.

On the other side of the island the scenery is spectacular with a traditional fishing village in the foreground and the Turkish coast not far away across the straits. The local sheep have the curious habit of forming a compact circle with their heads all pointing into the centre. Many of the farm cottages have chimney cowls made from the back end of a mortar or rocket. A Short-toed Eagle with a snake in its claws flew over the road on the way back.

There were more birds of prey to be identified – Elinora's Falcon, Lesser-spotted Eagle, Sparrowhawk, Lesser Kestrel, Kestrel and Red-footed Falcon. Less spectacular sightings were Sombre, Blue and Great Tits as well as a Short-toed Treecreeper. The startling Blue Rock-thrush seemed common enough and Red-rumped Swallows were seen in numbers every day. Crested Larks abound.

We had come hoping for mass migrations of Storks, Buzzards and other large spectacular birds but they were few and far between. It seems they are best seen in the spring going the other way. We did see a good few of the small migrants – Whinchats, Willow, Garden and Cetti's Warblers, Northern, Isabelline and Black-eared Wheatears, amongst others. Never mind, Greek food and wine more than made up for any fleeting disappointment.

### **...Pieces**

- Congratulations to Neil and Tera Wheway who both competed in and completed the Sydney to Surf race with other members of their local Probus Club

- Alan and Anne Cousins have returned after traveling on the Indian Pacific to Perth, holidaying there, and then flying home. Great !
- Transport? New member, Jane Kinsella, top of Hospital Rd, Bulli, would appreciate contact with other northern members who could offer her a lift to meetings and walks. Jane would like to contribute to costs. So phone Jane on 4284 1202 if you can help

## **FRIENDS**

from **Lyn Walker, Jamberoo**

This tribute's to the feathered friends of many a size and hue  
 Encountered golfing intrastate on cared-for courses treed & true...  
 I'll mention too the ones I view on regular rounds at Jamberoo,  
 Where tinkling thornbills on the sixth converse in easy view.

The acrobatic dollarbird has yearly visitations  
 With diving, rolling aerial flights & jarring recitations.  
 The cheeky willie wagtail – confident, dictatorial –  
 Dressed up ready for the ball – he's swaggering & sartorial.

Wellington has apostlebirds – terrestrial & gregarious -  
 Whilst seeking seeds & insects they're noisy & conspicuous.  
 Bee-eating birds can be seen on the Gwydir  
 Flashing orange plumage & streaming stabilizers.

There's a family of frogmouths at Griffith greeted yearly –  
 Father keeps the watch above while babies snuggle warmly.  
 I marvel at their strategy to each take turns with food  
 Whilst chameleon disguises give protection to the brood.

One Riverina honeyeater's the largest ever seen  
 With golden-olive feathers & a turquoise facial sheen,  
 And Major Mitchell's cockatoo with fiery-coloured crest  
 Displays his crimson beauty at its narcissistic best.

It's hard sometimes to sympathize with rakish, rasping ravens  
 Seen swooping down on egg-like balls with slow, descending victory calls!

Time now to address another ball & engage in conversations  
 'Bout modern generations or the politics of nations...

## **Committee News**

\* Car Pooling for walks (and meetings) was discussed. Environmentally, and with high petrol prices it makes good sense.

\* Walks in 2007. Nerida Hudspith suggested taking a train to Heathcote and walking back to Waterfall. Tera Wheway suggested going to Mt Annan for September to see the bird banding. Thanks, Nerida and Tera, and more suggestions please. Ring Tom Wylie on 4284 2051  
 Mike Morphet has agreed to lead a walk to the Excelsior Mine site next March.

\* Chris Cartledge reported on his work of redesigning and updating the club Website.

\* Kitchen Roster for Club Meetings. Our Secretary and a number of very faithful senior members have been serving us in the kitchen for years. We need to release Betty for her many other tasks, and share the load around. How about putting your name down on the roster for a shift in the kitchen ?

## **NSW and ACT Twitchathon 2006**

### **Proceeds to go to the Australian Bird Study Associations Research Fund**

This year the Australian Bird Study Associations Research Fund will be the recipient of our fund raising conservation efforts. The Research Fund provides grants to students at Australian Universities who are doing research on Australian birds. We aim to increase the value of the investment fund so that more funds can be granted for research. In recent years the Research Fund has been able to provide small grants to two students per year to assist in their field work and research.

In 2006 the Australian Bird Study Association awarded grants to Grant Palmer and Dean Portelli. Grant has a long term study underway investigating the response of bird communities to alternative land uses in the rural living zone surrounding the large regional centre of Ballarat (Vic). Dean's research is part of his PhD studies at NSW University into the social organisation and breeding biology of Hall's Babbler. By increasing the amount of the Investment fund more money will be made available to students like Grant and Dean for important research into the biology and conservation of Australian birds. This Twitchathon Project aims to increase the Investment Fund from the current \$25,000 to \$40,000 or more!

How to join the Twitchathon 2006 October 28-29

1. Contact Alan Morris for your 2006 Twitchathon Kit
2. Form a team with one 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 3 pm Saturday 28 October to 4 pm Sunday 29 October 2006. Note the new starting and finishing time as trialled in 2004.
  1. Get sponsors. 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. You just need either lots of little sponsorships or a few big ones!
  2. There are prizes for the most species seen by three winning teams as well as prizes for the most money raised, the rarest bird seen by an individual, and prizes for children. The prizes include trophies, a weekend in a motel at Griffith with a personal guided tour of the Ramsar Internationally famous Fivebough Swamp Wetlands (sponsored by the Fivebough Wetland Trust), a weekend cottage stay in the country, a valuable gift voucher to be used to purchase a pair of binoculars (sponsored by ABSA), books, book vouchers, champagne, wine and other prizes to go to the winners in the various categories of the Twitchathon. Contact Alan for a full list.

You don't have to be an A class birdwatcher to take part. Whichever method you chose for your Twitchathon – the laid back (ie the Champagne Race), the deadly serious, or the donor only version, remember it is all about educating others into the importance of nature conservation, particularly the conservation of Australian birds.

Last year we raised \$14000, and the two years before &10,500 & \$13548 respectively! In the past five years we have raised over \$60,000. This is a great achievement and we have been able to make a significant difference for the birds in the Capertee Valley, the Murray Valley, the Cowra District, Newhaven Station (NT) & the Education Unit at Gluepot Reserve. I know that you will join me in making a fantastic contribution one way or another. So, do ask me for your Twitchathon Kit **TODAY** or sponsor a Twitchathon team in your bird club or group! I can put you in touch with a team if you do not know of one in your area!

**Alan Morris** Twitchathon Co-ordinator (For Birds Australia, Southern NSW & ACT)

c/- 3 Murray St Bateau Bay NSW 2261, Ph 02 43 342776, Email [amorris@ceinternet.com.au](mailto:amorris@ceinternet.com.au)

## Unusual Records for July 2006

Chris J. Chafer

Send your records to: email cchafer@speedlink.com.au

Species	#	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Australian Brush-turkey	1	23-Jul	Mt. Keira	rainforest	RT
Brown Quail	1	12-Aug	Bellambi Lagoon	woodland	PMP
Antarctic Prion	1	22-Jul	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Grey-headed Albatross	1	24-Jun	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Grey-headed Albatross	1	22-Jul	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Buller's Albatross	1	24-Jun	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Buller's Albatross	1	22-Jul	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Eastern Reef Egret	1	22-Jul	Cudmirrah	rocky shore	KM
Osprey	1	12-Jul	Berrara	overhead	BA
Whistling Kite	1	12-Jul	Berrara	overhead	BA
Swamp Harrier	2	6-Jul	Far Meadow	overhead	BA
Swamp Harrier	1	15-Jul	Dunmore	overhead	KM
Grey Goshawk	1	1-Jul	Shoalhaven Heads	overhead	BA
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	16-Aug	Kangaroo Valley	urban	NJ
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	3-Jul	Gerroa	overhead	BA
Brown Falcon	1	5-Aug	Dharawal State Recreation Park	woodland	CJC
Peregrine Falcon	1	12-Aug	Albion Park Rail	overhead	PF
Hooded Plover	2	8-Jul	Berrara	beach	KM
Pacific Gull	2	22-Jul	off Wollongong	marine	PM
Caspian Tern	68	24-Jul	Windang	sandflats	TN
Arctic Tern	4	22-Jul	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
White-headed Pigeon	1	20-Jul	Bulli	rainforest	RT
Common Bronzewing	1	16-Jul	Brundee (e of Nowra)	forest	KM
Bar-shouldered Dove	3	29-Jul	Primbee dune track	woodland	RI
Musk Lorikeet	40	29-Jul	Keiraville	garden	CJC
Musk Lorikeet	20	30-Jul	Wollongong Botanical Gardens	parkland	BO
Tawny Frogmouth	1	6-Aug	Pleasant Heights	parkland	NW
Tawny Frogmouth	1	12-Aug	Lake Heights	dead on road	CJC
Azure Kingfisher	1	8-Jul	Swan Lake	lake edge	KM
Azure Kingfisher	2	13-Aug	Gerroa	riverine	PMP
Weebill	2	12-Aug	Shellcove	pine trees	CB
Scarlet Robin	2	2-Jul	Hill Top	rural	KM
Scarlet Robin	1	12-Aug	Croome Rd Park, Albion Park	woodland	MR
Spangled Drongo	1	29-Jul	Primbee dune track	woodland	RI
Figbird	22	17-Jul	Wollongong	CBD	TN

**Contributors:** BA – Bob Ashford; CB – Chris Brandis; CJC – Chris Chafer; PF – Peter Fackender; DG – Daryl Goldrick; RI – Ron Imisides; NJ – Nigel Jacket; PM – Peter Milburn; KM – Kevin Mills; TN – Terrill Nordstrom; BO – Bruce O'Brien; PMP – Penny & Martin Potter; MR – Michelle Rower; RT – Roger Truscott; NW - Neil Wheway.

*Please keep the Unusual Sightings coming in, but they won't appear in next month's IBOC News as Chris will be taking a brief holiday in Thailand*

### Good Grief !

\* I understand that a crow has one less pinion feather than a raven. Therefore how do you tell a crow from a raven? It's a matter of opinion. (*Ahhh!*)

\* Two vultures were in the desert eating a dead clown. The first vulture asked the second vulture: "Does this taste a bit funny to you?" (*Can it get any worse ?*)