



IBOC

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 395

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

September 2015

Curlw Sandpiper

Atlas Number: 161
Scientific Name: *Calidris ferruginea*

Description:

The Curlw Sandpiper is a small to medium-sized wader (migratory shorebird). It has a long, black bill with a down-curved end and black legs and feet. In its non-breeding plumage, it is grey-brown above, white below, with a white wing bar visible in flight. In breeding plumage, it is bright reddish brown below and the wings are barred black.



photo by Charles Dove

Similar species:

The similar Red Knot, *Calidris canutus*, is larger and has a straight bill.

Distribution:

The Curlw Sandpiper is a common summer migrant from north-eastern Siberia and Alaska, found in many Australian coastal sites and may also be seen inland in suitable habitats. It is most common in the far south-east and north-west of Australia. It is also found in Africa, across southern Asia to Indonesia and New Guinea, and in New Zealand.

Habitat:

The Curlw Sandpiper is found on intertidal mudflats of estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, as well as beaches, rocky shores and around lakes, dams and floodwaters. Its breeding habitat is the lowland tundra of Siberia.

Seasonal movements:

The Curlw Sandpiper is a migratory species from the Northern Hemisphere, moving south to Australia, Africa, the Persian Gulf, India and South-east Asia. It arrives in September and returns in April. Some birds, usually juveniles, overwinter in Australia. According to the Australian Wader Studies Group (AWSG), a flagged (marked with a tag) Curlw Sandpiper was

sighted in Sri Lanka on 20 August 2005. This is the first Australian wader ever to be reported from that country and suggests that the migration route of this species extends further west than originally thought.

Feeding:

The Curlw Sandpiper feeds on insects and their larvae when breeding. Otherwise, it feeds on small marine invertebrates, especially polychaete worms.

Breeding:

The Curlw Sandpiper breeds in the northern summer in Siberia and Alaska. The female builds the nest, incubates the eggs and raises the young alone. The exposed nest is a shallow depression on a ridge in the lowland tundra.

Living with us:

All waders are affected by coastal development, including drainage and land-clearing in their preferred habitats.

text courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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ILLAWARRA
BIRD
OBSERVERS
CLUB Inc

'ONE GOOD TERN
DESERVES ANOTHER'

Founded in 1977

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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

www.iboc.org.au

Club Contacts:

PRESIDENT: Bill Zealy T. 02 4383 4687
SECRETARY: Pam Hazelwood T. 02 4284 6140
E-mail: secretary@iboc.org.au

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP:

Ken Brown T. 02 4284 0525
Email: membership@iboc.org.au

EDITORS:

Charles Dove, M. 0417 422 302
E-mail: newsletter@iboc.org.au

RECORDS OFFICER:

Darryl Goldrick
Email: sightings@iboc.org.au

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:

Monday 14th at 7.30pm

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

Silversea Expeditions

Leanne Fonagy will introduce the diverse range of expeditions aboard *Silver Discoverer*, *Silver Explorer* or *Silver Galapagos*, offered by Silversea Cruises & Expeditions, a small family-run Italian company that specialises in small ship luxury adventures around the world.

Their expedition cruises provide outstanding opportunities to avid bird-watchers, such as members of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club.

Their small luxury ships offer enormous opportunities for you to explore the 7 continents and over 800 fascinating destinations. Fully immerse yourself in the world's most unspoiled landscapes, from the primeval Galápagos Islands to the lush, tropical edens of Polynesia to the frosted wilderness of Antarctica.

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

Midweek Walk:

Wednesday 16th at 9am

Leader Terry Edwell

Croome Road Sporting Complex Albion Park

Please meet at the Croome Road Sporting Complex, Albion Park. Note if coming from the Albion Park Rail end of Croome Rd (near the railway museum) take the turn with Tennis in the list of sports. Drive past the driveway (dirt) on the left that leads to the car park for the tennis courts and travel a further 100-150 metres to where there is a large carpark near an oval on the RIGHT. Meet in this carpark at 9.00am. If coming from Jamberoo way you go past the basketball stadium and through the roundabout into Croome Rd. Go past the cemetery on the right and take the next driveway LEFT into the Croome Rd Sporting Complex and park in the first carpark you come to on the RIGHT. Bring morning tea and Mosquito repellent – the mozzies can be brutal here.

In the event of inclement weather phone Terry 0414 848 236 7.30am or after

Monthly Outing:

Saturday 19th at 9am

Leaders Alan & Anne Cousins

The Australian Raptor Care & Conservation Inc.

Meet at 9am at The Australian Raptor Care & Conservation Inc. 599 Redhills Road, Fitzroy Falls. Bring morning tea and lunch. We will have a presentation by Peggy McDonald followed by a walk in the adjacent National Park. Drive through Robertson to the Sheepwash Lane crossroads on the Illawarra Highway, turn left and proceed to the Nowra/Fitzroy Falls Road, turn right and travel for about 6K's then turn left into Redhills Road, 599 is the last house at the end of the dead end road. you can check out the website australianraptorcareandconservation.com

*In the event of inclement weather phone Alan or Anne Cousins
on 4283 3197 or 0413 869 534 by 7am.*

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday 21st September at 2.00pm

Next Meeting will be 2pm at Pam Hazelwood's 34 Hunter Street, Balgownie. 4284 6140
Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to attend the meeting.

Newsletter:

Deadline for articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter is the **23rd September 2015**

PLEASE E-mail contributions: to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au
or post to 8 Carroll Avenue, Lake Conjola 2539. Ph: 0417 422 302.

IBOC WISHES TO WELCOME ALL OF ITS NEW MEMBERS

CLUB REPORTS

Report for club meeting 10th August

by Terry Edwell

Nic Van Oudtshoorn was our guest speaker for August, and he presented a very interesting DVD on butterflies. Nic and Daphne took most of the footage on their property. The Monarch Butterfly is featured and it has an amazing life cycle. The Monarch lays its' eggs on poisonous Milk Weed and when the egg hatches, the Caterpillar eats the shell for its' first meal. The Caterpillar grows and after shedding its' skin several times, it forms a Chrysalis. Days or weeks later, it emerges as a beautiful Butterfly, to start all over again. The birds seem to be aware of it being poisonous and they won't eat it.

Thank you, Nic and Daphne, it is a great DVD. We all appreciate learning about another important part of our environment.

Nics` Butterfly DVD is available from Nic for ten dollars.



If you are interested in encouraging Butterflies into your yard, Nic has a pamphlet, available at no cost. His email address is: - nic@maximedia.com.au

Report for Midweek Walk 12th August Coomaditchy Lagoon and Hill 60

by Rupert Jarvis

Eight of us fronted up at the meeting point and were shortly joined by Max who was here for his first outing with IBOC. The open water of the lagoon had a few water birds Coot, Pacific Black Duck, Purple Swamphen and a solitary Australasian Grebe.

We then made our way round the Eastern side of the lagoon where there is more trees and vegetation. There were concrete paths to follow which were badly overgrown in places. At the furthest point we had a good view over the two small islands which were crowded with White Ibis, Pelicans and Cormorants. As we were leaving, a local indigenous woman drove up to say hello and to tell us that they were planning to fix up the overgrown paths and tidy the place up.

We drove up to Hill 60 for morning tea and afterwards drove down to park by the sewage works. From here we walked and scrambled down onto the rocks to the point opposite Big Island. There are often large numbers of seabirds here but this morning it was relatively quiet. We found a pair of Sooty Oystercatcher and watched a pair of Gannets performing spectacular dives.

Returning to the picnic area and just before leaving we were interviewed by WIN television soliciting our opinion on the plan to develop Hill 60 as a brighter tourist attraction.

COOMADITCHY LAGOON		8 members	31 birds
Pacific Black Duck	Little Egret	Rainbow Lorikeet	Australian Raven
Australasian Grebe	Australian White Ibis	Laughing Kookaburra	Magpie-lark
Spotted Dove	Black-shouldered Kite	Superb Fairy-wren	Welcome Swallow
Little Pied Cormorant	Nankeen Kestrel	White-browed Scrubwren	Common Blackbird
Great Cormorant	Purple Swamphen	Spotted Pardalote	Common Starling
Little Black Cormorant	Eurasian Coot	New Holland Honeyeater	Common Myna
Australian Pelican	Silver Gull	Grey Fantail	House Sparrow
Eastern Great Egret	Galah	Willie Wagtail	

HILL 60		22 Birds	
Little Wattlebird	White-faced Heron	Red Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Rock Dove	Sooty Oystercatcher	New Holland Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Australasian Gannet	Crested Tern	Eastern Whipbird	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Pied Cormorant	Kelp Gull	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Myna
Great Cormorant	Silver Gull	Australian Magpie	
Australian Pelican	Superb Fairy-wren	Willie Wagtail	

Report for monthly outing Sunday 16th August

Bargo River Ramble

Neil Wheway

Sundays walk was a top day:

Arriving precisely at 9am at the parking area I was asked if we had gotten lost on the way up, we only missed one turn in Bargo but quickly corrected and away we went. Getting a miscalculation in Bargo was only a minor inconvenience compared with forgetting my binoculars; luckily Joan had the club's pair so all was not lost.

Nine people decided a river ramble was just the right way to spend the day, it wasn't too few nor too many just a nice number. Also the weather wasn't too cold or too hot but just the right temperate for the stroll. We ambled around the parking area before heading off along the track; time for morning tea the ladies carried on walking whilst the men brought cars up, morning tea was taken at this time.

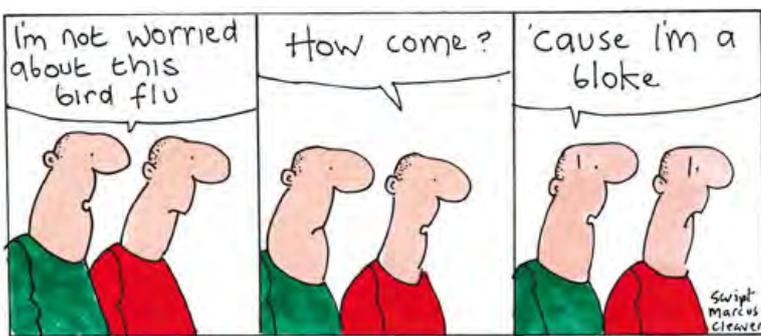
Wandering along the track the birds were busy keeping our binoculars in constant use, we were able to spot plenty of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, keeping cameras clicking away. After a while we began to spread out, myself and two others were dragging the chain whilst relating a yarn. I happened to turn my head and only a couple of metres away, on the ground, was a Spotted Pardalote

keeping an eye on us. We stood completely still wondering what he was going to do, it was a standoff; for a while. Suddenly he was gone disappearing into a tunnel he was digging watching through binoculars we could see him excavating his tunnel. For such a little bird he was scratching dirt at a rate of knots. On our return to the cars for lunch we all stood around awaiting his return to the tunnel, all of sudden there he was back in digging away. He must have felt that we posed no threat and was happy constructing his nest site.

Walking continually searching the rock faces hoping to see Rockwarblers, Ipods were chattering away without any result. After lunch we headed off to the Avon Dam sure to see Warblers there. After a stroll along the dam wall we stopped at the upper level car park for a pit stop and a quick look around. Opening the car door a Rockwarbler scratching under the bushes next to the car was seen, others were then sighted under bushes on the lawn and one under Tom's car. It was a very pleasant relaxed day, Joan and Tom thank you.

BARGO BIRD LIST 16/8/15		9 members	33 Birds in total
Peaceful Dove	Superb Fairy-wren	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Little Pied Cormorant	Brown Gerygone	New Holland Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Straw-Necked Ibis	Yellow Thornbill	White-naped Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Galah	Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Whipbird	Silveryeye
Little Corella	Eastern Spinebill	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Welcome Swallow
Crimson Rosella	Lewin's Honeyeater	Golden Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Eastern Rosella	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	
White-browed Treecreeper	Bell Miner	Grey Fantail	

AVON DAM		16 Birds	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Superb Fairy-wren	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Crimson Rosella	Rockwarbler	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Azure Kingfisher	Brown Thornbill	Noisy Miner	Welcome Swallow
Satin Bowerbird	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong	Common Blackbird



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Queensland Conservation battle to protect elusive Night Parrot

Queensland conservationists are establishing a secret reserve to protect the elusive night parrot, thought to be extinct 100 years ago. Images of the small, ground-dwelling, green and gold bird were snapped in 2013, in a discovery researchers described as "the find of the century". After combing the bush for 18 months, conservation group Bush Heritage Australia captured and tagged a bird in April.

They are now establishing a 56,000 hectare reserve at a secret location in Queensland's west to keep the precious bird safe from feral cats and poachers. "This species and their eggs could potentially attract large amounts of money on the black market," said Jim Radford, Bush Heritage Australia's science and research manager.



Scientists say the bird was "very common" in the 1800s until the introduction of feral animals almost wiped it out. There were no confirmed reports for 67 years, and only fleeting sightings in the past few decades. That was until wildlife photographer John Young took a photo and video two years ago, sending the conservation community into a frenzy. "In many ways it was the find of the century," Dr Radford said. "So little is known about it ... we don't even know its weight." The inconspicuous parrots only live in spinifex of a certain height and density, emerging only at night to forage. They are also exceptionally quiet and don't often call. Researchers have set up cameras to learn more about their feeding and breeding habits. They are hoping to find other populations tucked away in remote parts of the outback. "They live in an arid habitat, so there is such a large canvas on which it could be found," Dr Radford said.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/conservation-battle-to-protect-elusive-night-parrot-20150811qjwi9e.html#ixzz3jQpimoQJ>

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BIRDS CRY WOLF TO SCARE PREDATORS

One of Australia's smallest birds has found a cunning way to protect its nest from predators by crying wolf, or rather hawk, and mimicking the warning calls of other birds.

Researchers from ANU Research School of Biology found that the tiny Brown Thornbill mimics the hawk warning call of a variety of birds to scare off predators threatening its nest, such as the larger Pied Currawong. "It's not superbly accurate mimicry, but it's enough to fool the predator," said Dr Branislav Ijic, who carried out the study during his PhD at ANU Research School of Biology.

"A physical attack on a Currawong would be no good. They are 40 times the size of a Thornbill and will eat adults as well as nestlings.

AUSTRALIA'S ONLY CASSOWARY REHABILITATION CENTRE TO CLOSE

A north Queensland vet says he could be forced to euthanise injured and orphaned Cassowaries after the closure of the only rehabilitation centre for the endangered species.

The Department of Heritage Protection has announced the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre in Mission Beach would close once three birds now in care were ready to be released.

Dr Graham Lauridsen, who is involved in the program, says he'll have nowhere to take birds that have been injured or orphaned by cars.

UPCOMING BIRDLIFE EVENTS

International Plover Appreciation Day September 16th, 2015!

This special day is aimed at raising awareness of the plight of ground-nesting plovers around the world! There is also a competition! You can find more details out

via: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/beach-nesting-birds/plover-appreciation-day>

Also join us on the Plover Appreciation facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1628299300762808/>

Threatened Species Day

National Threatened Species Day is fast approaching. Held on 7 September each year, Threatened Species Day encourages the community to prevent further extinctions of Australia's fauna and flora and to secure threatened species and ecological communities in the wild. To celebrate and raise awareness of the plight of many of our native birds, BirdLife Australia will be profiling five endangered woodland birds during the week of September 7th. Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Black-throated Finch & Mallee Emu-wren. Stay tuned for further updates on social media and help us raise awareness of these five iconic birds.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/protecting-australias-threatened-species>

Sea Eagles at BirdLife Australia Discovery Centre, Sydney Olympic Park

Both eggs hatched on 7 August, and our resident Sea-Eagles have been hunting and feeding the chicks. As in the past few years, we can follow their progress with live-streaming from our cameras, night and day: www.birdlife.org.au/visit-us/discovery-centre/eagle-cam

Keep up to date on www.facebook.com/sea.eaglecam

Regent Honeyeater Surveys – September and October

As part of the **Capertee Regent Recovery** project, surveys are undertaken in August, September and October.

The September and October surveys are coordinated by Cumberland Bird Observers Club and Birding NSW respectively.

For more information, see <http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-southern-nsw/projects-initiatives-sn>

We are in need of more volunteers! Anyone interested in taking part in the September or October surveys should contact the relevant CBOC and Birding NSW contacts for further information; read more about it at: <http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-southern-nsw/projects-initiatives-sn>

The September surveys (conducted by CBOC) will be on 12-13 September.

The coordinator is Cathy Goswell cathycrg@bigpond.com

The October surveys (Birding NSW) will be on 3-4 October.

The coordinator is Elisabeth Karplus emhodson@exemail.com.au

Backyard Bird Count

The annual Aussie Backyard Bird Count is back for 2015.

Celebrate National Bird Week 2015 by taking part in the biggest citizen science project to hit Aussie shores! From 19-25 October, thousands of people from across the country are heading out into their backyards, local parks or favourite open spaces to take part in the second annual AUSSIE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!

To get involved all you need is 20 minutes, your 'green patch' of choice, and some keen eyesight (or binoculars!) And it doesn't matter if you're a novice or an expert—we'll be there to help you out along the way. Simply record the birds you know and look up those you don't on our Aussie Bird Count app (updated version available for download in September) or our website. You'll instantly see live statistics and information on how many people are taking part near you and the number of birds and species counted across your neighbourhood and the whole of Australia! Last year we counted 800,000 birds — let's make it a million this year! Click on <http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/> to register.

CHILDREN'S BUSH WALK LOOKING FOR BIRDS

will be on

Sunday 27th September.

At Integral Park Darkes Rd. Dapto 9.30 to approx. 11.30.

Meet at Covered BBQ picnic area.

We will need some helpers to walk around with parents and children.

An attendance sheet will be sent around at the September Meeting.

Sylvia Garlick 42579750

NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATIONISTS APOLOGISE

New Zealand conservationists apologise over accidental shooting of endangered takahē. An inquiry is under way into how a cull of somewhat similar-looking pukeko birds has led to the slaughter of 5% of the wild population of takahē.

Four critically endangered takahē (left in picture) were mistakenly shot by hunters contracted to cull the abundant pukeko (right in picture) – despite takahē being flightless and twice the size.

The head of New Zealand's national deerstalkers' association has apologised "to the country at large" after four critically endangered takahē were mistakenly shot by hunters carrying out a cull of a somewhat similar-looking bird.

Deerstalkers were contracted by the Department of Conservation to carry out a cull of pukeko, a non-endangered, very common relative of the takahē, on an island sanctuary in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf.

Conservation staff discovered four dead takahē killed by shotgun pellets, on Motutapu Island on 17 August.

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association president, Bill O'Leary, has said he was "quite frankly ... appalled" by the error and apologised "to the department and to the country at large". The takahē is a threatened species, native to New Zealand and listed as nationally critical. It was thought to be extinct until a bird was rediscovered in 1948. The conservation department has since invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in rebuilding the population, with its public-private recovery program aiming to establish 125 breeding pairs by 2002.

There are now about 300 birds alive in New Zealand, only between 70 and 80 of which are in the wild. The loss of the four dead birds discovered on Monday amounts to a 5% decrease in the population.



Square-tailed Kite at Bellambi
by Terry Edwell



Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Wilford Lane Wetlands
charles dove 08/2015

Yellow-billed Spoonbill at Milton
by Charles Dove

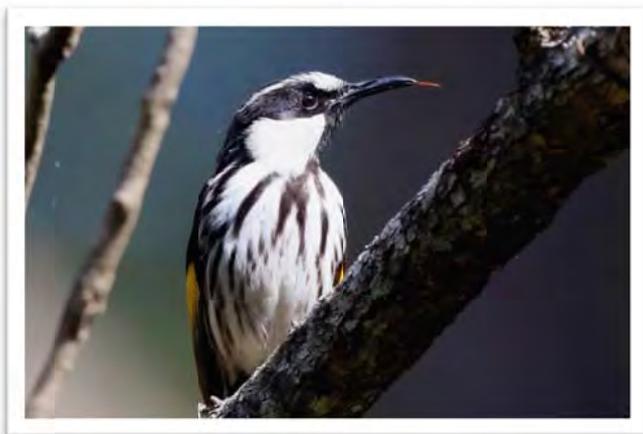
MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: July/August 2015

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Australasian Shoveler	6 pair	29/07/2015	Wilton Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Grey Teal	50+	29/07/2015	Wilton Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Hoary-headed Grebe	5	28/07/2015	Burrill Lake	Lake	Charles Dove
Hoary-headed Grebe	2	15/08/2015	Murrays Road Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Black-browed Albatross	5	28/07/2015	Warden Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Shy Albatross	3	28/07/2015	Warden Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Northern Giant-Petrel	1	28/07/2015	Warden Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Fairy Prion	100+	28/07/2015	Warden Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Fluttering Shearwater	100+	28/07/2015	Warden Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Royal Spoonbill	2	18/08/2015	Balgownie	O'head	Joan Zealey
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	11/08/2015	Wilton Lane Milton	Wetland	C Dove /C Brandis
Great Cormorant	80	31/07/2015	Manyana	Water	Charles Dove
Eastern Osprey	1	17/08/2015	Lake Conjola	Overhead	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1juv	29/07/2015	Wilton Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Whistling Kite	1 pr	19/08/2015	Brokers Nose-Mt Pleasant	O'head	Joan Zealey
Buff-banded Rail	5	27/07/2015	Burrill Lake	Marsh area	Charles Dove
Black-fronted Dotterel	15	29/07/2015	Wilton Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	15/08/2015	Murrays Road Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Masked Lapwing	30+	29/07/2015	Wilton Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Whimbrel	1	30/07/2015	Manyana	Sandbar	Charles Dove
Marsh Sandpiper	1	29/07/2015	Wilton Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
Curlew Sandpiper	1	8/08/2015	Wilton Lane Milton	Wetland	Charles Dove
White-fronted Tern	5	28/07/2015	Warden Head	Ocean	Charles Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	22	24/08/2015	Balgownie	O'head	Bill Zealey
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	6	24/08/2015	Lake Illawarra South	O'head	Darryl Goldrick
Powerful Owl	1	31/07/2015	Excelsior No 2 Mine	Forest	Mike Morphett
Lewin's Honeyeater	1	12/08/2015	Burrill Lake	Creek	Charles Dove
Scarlet Honeyeater	10+	29/07/2015	Lake Conjola	Various trees	Charles Dove
White-cheeked Honeyeater	4+2nests	11/08/2015	Lake Conjola	mixed bush	Charles Dove
Varied Sittella	20+	29/07/2015	Lake Conjola	Various trees	Charles Dove
Scarlet Robin	2 m/f	27/07/2015	Kioloa NU campus	Open field	C Dove/C Brandis

REMINDER

For all your bird sightings please remember to send to Darryl Goldrick on sightings@iboc.org.au or post to 149 Reddall Parade, Lake Illawarra South 2528.



White-cheeked Honeyeater by Charles Dove



Red-necked Stint by Charles Dove