

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Inc
MEMBERS' MONTHLY SIGHTINGS

August 2008

Compiled By Martin Cocker

Many thanks for all your records. It has been very cold recently, as if you need reminding, but it is an interesting time for birding as there is an overlap of our winter visitors and spring migrants. The first Latham's Snipe of the season was reported from the Hawkesbury on the 19 August so keep your eyes peeled for this elusive bird in swamps and marshes and look out for the first Sharp Tailed Sandpipers. Now is the time to be recording the first date seen for our summer migrants so I would welcome records of these and also breeding activity for our commoner birds.

Birds Australia is looking for people to participate in their Australian National Waterhole Count on 11 October. All you need is a pair of binoculars, a place where birds come to drink whether it is a leaky tap in your back yard or a water trough on the Canning Stock Route. More details can be obtained from BA on www.birdsaustralia.com.au.

The ABC will televise the Twitchathon based film "Chasing Birds" on Thursday the 23rd October. This film traces the experiences of three teams in the 2003 Twitchathon and will be a must see for all birders. No time slot has been announced as yet but keep a look out for the advertised time.

Several of you have provided me with sightings and equally important non-sightings of logrunners in suitable habitat. The most sightings have been provided by Bob Ashford at Lothlorien and Black Ash Reserves. Obviously a good place to start to hone our ID skills on this bird for a planned census later in the year.

Jann and Ross Gowans have sent me a record of a Barn Owl at Bellambi Dunes. Their sightings were of a bird perched close to the path, a good view of a bird in flight and the immediate sighting of a freshly dead individual. I hope that there was one survivor. It is not uncommon to see Barn Owls hunting in daylight hours, however, these sightings may be the result of extreme food shortages when the birds are desperate for food which could have decided the fate of the dead individual found by Jann.

Below are the unusual and interesting sightings for the month, other records have been provided by: Ian McKinley, Alan Cousins, Mike Morphett, David Bourke, Jean Clarke, and Tom Wylie

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Eastern Osprey	1	August	Corrimal Beach	Seashore	Jack Baker
Collared Sparrowhawk	1 F	23-Jul-08	Bellawongarah	Forest	Bob Ashford
Swamp Harrier	1	13-Jul-08	Dunmore	Reedbeds	Martin and Penny Potter
Swamp Harrier	1	12-Aug-08	Gerroa	Reedbeds	Martin Cocker
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	30/07/08 & 17/08/08	Bellawongarah	Forest	Bob Ashford
Peregrine Falcon	1	20-Jul-08	Foxground	Overhead	Martin and Penny Potter
Peregrine Falcon	1	12-Aug-08	Foxground	Overhead	Martin Cocker
White-fronted	4	August	Off Wollongong	Pelagic	Chris Brandis

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Musk Lorikeet	21	04-Aug-08	Ben's Walk Nowra	Riverside	Martin and Penny Potter
Superb Parrot	1	August	Wollongong Botanic Gardens	Garden	Jann and Ross Gowans
Eastern Barn Owl	1	18-Aug-08	Bellambi Dunes	Dunes	Jann Gowans
Eastern Barn Owl	1	19-Aug-08	Berry North Street	Rural/Urban	Bob Ashford
Rockwarbler	2	04-Aug-08	Ben's Walk Nowra	Riverside	Martin and Penny Potter
Crescent Honeyeater	Several	August	Bellawongarah	Forest	Bob Ashford
			Last record in 2003 in this location		
Logrunner	5	07-Aug-08	Bellawongarah & Black Ash Reserve	Forest	Bob Ashford
Logrunner	1	July	Bellawongarah & Black Ash Reserve	Forest	Bob Ashford
Logrunner	1	June	Bellawongarah & Black Ash Reserve	Forest	Bob Ashford
Varied Sittella	2	17-Aug-08	Pioneer Park Kangaroo Vaalley	Rural	Bob Ashford
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	August	Thirrroul	Garden	Jann and Ross Gowans
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	10-Aug-08	Thirrroul	Garden	Ian McKinley
Figbird	1 M	16-Aug-08	Mount Warrigal	Garden	Norma Burke
Rose Robin	2 Pair	18-Aug-08	Pioneer Park Kangaroo Vaalley	Rural	Bob Ashford
Bassian Thrush	1	23-Jul-08	Wollongong Botanic Gardens	Parkland	Martin and Penny Potter
Bassian Thrush	1	28-Jul-08	Carrington Falls	Picnic Ground	Jill Molan
Bassian Thrush	2	August	Austinmer	Bush	Joan Wylie
Common Blackbird	1	07-Aug-08	Thirrroul	Residential Garden	Mike Morphet
Common Blackbird	1	14-Aug-08	Kanahooka Point	Residential Garden	Martin Cocker

Thanks again for all your records. Note that our web master Chris Cartledge, places these records on our web page so don't forget that this resource is available at www.iboc.org.au.