

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Inc  
MEMBERS' MONTHLY SIGHTINGS

**February 2009**

**Compiled By Martin Cocker**

A lot of records to catch up with for this first report of the year. I have started a new data base in honour of 2009! I have also closed the books on 2008 but will happily send this to anyone who would like to sort and play with the numbers.

An interesting month this month with quite a few surprises the Fork-tailed Swifts at Bass Point are a rare sighting in our area, the Black Bittern is another rarity, the record of the breeding Royal Spoonbills on one of the Five Islands is probably the first maritime breeding record, the Double-Banded Plover is an early arrival for this regular winter visitor and the breeding record for the Pied Butcher bird is the culmination of previous irregular records from this area. Perhaps the drought is impacting on the range of this species. Another bird well "out of range" was the Long-tailed Jaeger that was picked up in an exhausted state by WIRES personnel in Kangaroo Valley.

On a much more modest level while walking the dog the other morning I was transfixed by the sight of a large bird of prey floating down the road towards me at head height, it turned right at the intersection and then left again before disappearing from view. Swamp Harrier! The local Common Myna population watched all of this in stunned silence and it was only as the bird disappeared from view that they were able to collect their wits and shriek their customary alarms. So you can never tell what will turn up anywhere!

Many thanks for all your records, additional contributors are Joan Zealey, Betty Hudson, Sylvia Garlick and Ian McKinley

Species	No.	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Stubble Quail	4	01-Dec	Bellawongarah	Forest/Paddock	Bob Ashford
Shelduck	1	16-Dec	Tallawarra Ash Ponds	Ponds	Chris Brandis
Great Crested Grebe	1	02-Jan	Bundeena Pondage, Kangaroo Valley	Lake	Bob Ashford
Emerald Dove	1	05-Dec	Jerrara Dam	Bush	Chris Brandis
Common Bronzewing	several	14-Feb	Bangalee Reserve, Nowra	Bush	IBOC
White Throated Needletail	20+	6-Dec	Cambewarra Mountain	Overhead	Bob Ashford
Royal Spoonbill	5+	1-Dec	Five Islands Reserve Nesting	First marine breeding record	Lindsay Smith
Fork-tailed Swift	20+	23-Jan	Bass Point Quarry	Overhead	Charles Dove
Black Bittern	2	10-Feb	Nowra Creek, Ben's Walk, Nowra	Riparian	Bob Ashford, Nigel Jackett
Striated Heron	1	14-Feb	Bangalee Reserve, Nowra	Bush	IBOC
Square-tailed Kite	1	04-Jan	Cudmirrah	Overhead	Kevin Mills
Black Kite	1	21-Nov	Nowra Creek, Ben's Walk, Nowra	Overhead	via Alan Morris
Brown Goshawk	1	06-Jan	Kiama	Overhead	Kevin Mills
Swamp Harrier	1	04-Jan	Far Meadow, Berry	Rural	Bob Ashford

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Swamp Harrier	1	18-Feb	Kanahooka Point	Sub Urban	Martin Cocker
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	06-Feb	Jamberoo	Overhead	Kevin Mills
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	28-Jan	Mittagong	Overhead	Lorraine Pincus
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	00-Jan-00	Bellawongarah	Forest/Paddock	Bob Ashford
Hobby	1	02-Feb	Heritage Park Primbee	Riparian	Charles Dove
Buff-banded Rail	1	03-Feb	Balgownie	Garden	Wal Emery
Red-kneed Dotterel	1	09-Feb	Greenwell Point	Shore	Nigel Jackett
Grey-tailed Tattler	11	09-Feb	Greenwell Point	Shore	Nigel Jackett
Double-banded Plover	1	04-Feb	Windang Estuary	Shore	Terrill Nordstrom
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	15-Feb	Kangaroo Valley	Storm Driven. Picked up by WIRES	Carla Jackett
Weebill	1	14-Feb	Bangalee Reserve, Nowra	Bush	IBOC
Scarlet Honeyeater	several	14-Feb	Bangalee Reserve, Nowra	Bush	IBOC
Logrunner	1	07-Dec	Bellawongarah	Forest/Paddock	Bob Ashford
Pied Butcherbird	Breeding with young	Dec-Jan	Forbes Valley, Engadine Ridge	Garden	John Blomstedt
Spangled Drongo	1	18-Jan	Duck Creek, Dapto	Woodland	Neil Wheway
Leadon Flycatcher	1	14-Feb	Bangalee Reserve, Nowra	Bush	IBOC
Tawny Grassbird	1	11-Jan	Myimbar Wetlands	Wetland	Lorraine Pincus

Please send in your sightings to [cocker@speedlink.com.au](mailto:cocker@speedlink.com.au) and don't forget that these lists are on our website [www.iboc.org.au](http://www.iboc.org.au)