

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Inc  
MEMBERS' MONTHLY SIGHTINGS

**January/February 2008**

**Compiled By Martin Cocker**

Thank you for all your records! You may be interested to know what happens to all this information and how it fits into the State and National record structure. Every month I send our records to Alan Morris who is Editor of the Birding NSW Annual Bird Report in which all of our Unusual Sightings are included. In addition Chris Brandis uses the lists compiled from our monthly and mid week walks as a basis for sending records to NSW Bird Atlassers. In addition, of course, Birds Australia is the guardian of the national "Atlas of Australian Birds" and can be reached through [www.birddata.com.au](http://www.birddata.com.au). Unfortunately these entities do not appear to talk to each other and data bases are jealously guarded. However I will send our monthly and mid week walk records to Birds Australia so all avenues are covered.

The question that is often asked is what sightings are worthy of being recorded and what is not? This all depends on what the question is! Atlassers should be recording all sightings within each of their nominated squares whereas Annual Bird Reports normally only include interesting or unusual observations. Chris Chafer has put together a listing of the species and the suggested minimum number of individuals that he suggests should be used as a basis for reporting "Unusual Sightings". The web page can be found by "Googling" for "Wild Illawarra". However I am always wary about restricting the species or the minimum numbers of birds that should be reported as unless someone is monitoring the commoner birds how will we know when they have become uncommon or rare? For instance it has been reported that Kestrel numbers have dropped by 50% in the last few years but this species is excluded from our current reporting listing, I have not seen one for months! The more observant of you may have noticed that I have changed the title of this listing to "Unusual/Interesting sightings" as this is what our monthly Newsletter should include.

In the end you have to be the best judge, you are all experts regarding the birds of your locality, if a sighting is unusual for your locality or the bird is exhibiting unusual behaviour, just because the species is common in our study area is no reason to exclude the sighting from your records. Those external parties who have access to our data base can extract what they want from it and we can use it as a valuable record of the ebb and flow of bird populations in our area. If in doubt, send it in! Many thanks for your support!!

If you would like to join the 40+ members who have given me their email address and so receive more regular updates than is possible through the Newsletter then please advise me:  
[cocker@speedlink.com.au](mailto:cocker@speedlink.com.au).

Good Birding!

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Species	Number	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Australian Brush-turkey	1	08-Jan-08	Balgownie	Crossing the road!	Danie Ondinea
Black Swan	500+	20-Jan-08	Why Juck Bay	estuarine	Martin Cocker
White-faced Heron	2A2F	10-Feb-08	Illawarra Sports High School	suburban	Michelle Rower
Little Egret	1	20-Jan-08	Why Juck Bay	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Little Egret	1	Jan.	Myambar Wetland, Shellharbour	wetland	Michelle Rower
Striated Heron	1	25-Nov-07	Gerroa, Crooked River	estuarine	M & P Potter
Striated Heron	1	01-Jan-08	Why Juck Bay	lakeside	Martin Cocker
Striated Heron	2	03-Feb-08	Mullet Creek, Kanahooka	lakeside	Martin Cocker
Nankeen Night Heron	4	25-Nov-07	Gerroa, Crooked River	estuarine	M & P Potter
Straw-necked Ibis	200	20-Jan-08	Woonona/Bulli	overhead	Roger Truscott
Osprey	1	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	overhead	Michelle Rower
Black-shouldered Kite	2	15-Feb-08	Primbee Oval	overhead	Ron Imisides
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	01-Jan-08	Kanahooka Point	estuarine	Martin Cocker
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	1-Jan and 28-Jan	Purrah Bay, Lake Illawarra	overhead	Martin Cocker
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	29-Jan-08	Primbee	overhead	Ron Imisides
Grey Goshawk	1	18-Dec-07	Bulli Tops	urban	M & P Potter
Grey Goshawk (White Morph)	1	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	forest	Michelle Rower
Little Eagle	1	13-Jan-08	Plantation Point, Jervis Bay	Overhead	Nigel Jackett
Peregrine Falcon	1	27-Dec-07	Brokers Nose	overhead	M & P Potter
Peregrine Falcon	1	13-Jan-08	Kanahooka Point	overhead	Martin Cocker
Peregrine Falcon	1	14-Feb-08	Primbee	overhead	Ron Imisides
Nankeen Kestrel	2	04-Feb-08	Tullimbar Riparian Corridor	overhead	Darryl Goldrick
Nankeen Kestrel	2	27-Jan-08	Primbee Beach	overhead	Ron Imisides
Australian Spotted Crake	1	26-Jan-08	Tallawarra Ash Pond	rural/swamp	Darryl Goldrick
Latham's Snipe	3	22-Jan-08	Five Islands Road, Unanderra	storm water drain	Darryl Goldrick
Latham's Snipe	1	04-Feb-08	Tullimbar Riparian Corridor	Creek side	Darryl Goldrick
Eastern Curlew	12	20-Jan-08	Windang Estuary	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Common Sandpiper	1	20-Jan-08	Shoalhaven Heads	estuarine	M & P Potter
Grey-Tailed Tattler	2	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	estuarine	Michelle Rower
Ruddy Turnstone	1	15-Feb-08	Barrack Pont	coastal	Michelle Rower
Pied Oystercatcher	15	06-Feb-08	Windang Estuary	estuarine	IBOC
Pied Oystercatcher	2	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	estuarine	Michelle Rower
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	08-Feb-08	Barrack Pont	coastal	Michelle Rower

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Black-winged Stilt	2A, 2J	20-Jan-08	Why Juck Bay	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Black-winged Stilt	2A, 4J	03-Feb-08	Purrah Bay, Lake Illawarra	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Kelp Gull	1	07-Feb-08	Barrack Pont	breaking shellfish dropping from height	Michelle Rower
Caspian Tern	1	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	estuarine	Michelle Rower
Crested Tern	200+	20-Jan-08	Windang Entrance	estuarine	Martin Cocker
Little Tern	6	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	estuarine	Michelle Rower
White-headed Pigeon	1	03-Feb-08	Bulli	suburban	Mike Morphett
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	4	13-Jan-08	Scarborough	rain forest/garden	Danie Ondinea
Peaceful Dove	1	07-Jan-08	Bargo	forest	Michelle Rower
Wonga Pigeon	2	29-Jan-08	Scarborough	rain forest/garden	Danie Ondinea
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	11-Jan-08	Bomaderry Creek	woodland	Nigel Jackett
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	13-Jan-08	Shoalhaven Heads	woodland	Nigel Jackett
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Red-rumped Parrot	1	11-Jan-08	Figtree	tennis courts	Joan Zealey
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2 Juvenile	11-Feb-08	Mt. Warrigal	Currawong feeding	Chas Burke
Sooty Owl	1	14-Jan-08	Kembla Hights	forest	Jill Molan
White-throated Needletail	Flock	13-Jan-08	Old Erowal Bay	Overhead	Nigel Jackett
White-throated Needletail	6	25-Nov-07	Husskinson, Lady Denman Reserve	overhead	M & P Potter
White-throated Needletail	12	20-Jan-08	Windang Entrance	overhead	Martin Cocker
White-throated Needletail	12	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	overhead	Michelle Rower
Fork-tailed Swift	1	13-Jan-08	Old Erowal Bay	Overhead	Nigel Jackett
Azure Kingfisher	1	25-Nov-07	Gerroa, Crooked River	estuarine	M & P Potter
Sacred Kingfisher	3	07-Jan-08	Bargo	forest	Michelle Rower
Dollarbird	10+	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	forest	Michelle Rower
White-fronted Chat	3	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	salt marsh	Michelle Rower
Logrunner	3	11-Jan-08	Cambewarra Ranges NP	forest	Nigel Jackett
Crested Shrike-tit	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Crested Shrike-tit	2	05-Feb-08	Lady Fuller Park/Excelsior	forest	Mike Morphett
Rufous Whistler	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Black-faced Monarch	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Black-Faced Monarch	4	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	forest	Michelle Rower
Spectacled Monarch	2	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen
Leaden Flycatcher	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen

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Restless Flycatcher	3A 2J	07-Jan-08	Bargo	forest	Michelle Rower
Rufous Fantail	1	7-10-Jan-08	Scarborough	rain forest/garden	Danie Ondinea
Rufous Fantail	2	10-Jan-08	Scarborough	rain forest/garden	Danie Ondinea
White-winged Triller	4	26-Jan-08	Tallawarra Ash Pond	rural/swamp	Darryl Goldrick
Figbird	2A 6J	14-Feb-08	Comerong Island	forest	Michelle Rower
Figbird	1A1F	02-Feb-08	Barrack Pont	suburban	Michelle Rower
Pied Butcherbird	1	19-Jan-08	North Engadine, Sutherland	present for several months	J & M Blomstedt
Green Catbird	1	12-Jan-08	Kangaroo Valley	woodland	Nigel Jackett
Satin Bowerbird	1	12-Jan-08	Primbee (full coloured male)	garden	Ron Imisides
Double-barred Finch	9	13-Jan-08	Nowra Hill	woodland	Nigel Jackett
Rufous Songlark	1	05-Jan-08	Yattah Yattah NR	woodland	Richard Allen