



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

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***The Whistler* – Annual Report for 2012**

All copy for a 64-page issue of *The Whistler* 6 has been reviewed and edited ready for printing and circulation in early 2013. A number of issues have contributed to delays in completing the sixth issue. However we considered it expedient to delay publication rather than meet self-imposed completion deadlines at the expense of quality.

Intriguingly a significant cause of delay was the availability of excess copy and we have held over one full and one short paper as well as two notes which have been accepted following completion of the editorial process. A further paper is provisionally accepted subject to some revision to reduce complexity. Collectively this material provides approximately half the copy necessary for volume 7 in 2013.

Our policy in selecting material for the current volume 6 was to give priority to articles which have immediate conservation significance with respect to the threats to and management of bird habitat in the Hunter Region. Other priorities were to encourage new authors, and we are delighted that there are several HBOC members who are not only first *Whistler* authors but first-ever authors. We congratulate them and trust their example will be followed by others. This policy meant that publication was not based on the chronological order articles were accepted and two of the articles held back were in fact among the first completed. We will give priority to all the material held back in volume 7 of *The Whistler* which we expect to publish in the second half of 2013.

In *Whistler* 6 we have attempted to achieve a balance of subject matter. Longer articles are both informative and an important archival resource for land managers, but are not always easy for the reader to absorb. The shorter articles balance the content and demonstrate how, by observing what birds are doing, we can both add to the knowledge of birds and enhance personal enthusiasm and fulfilment from our hobby.

Operating with one of the Joint Editors (HT) based in the UK did not present any difficulties. He hopes to be revisiting the Hunter during 2013.

Mike Newman & Harold Tarrant

Joint Editors

1 January 2013